

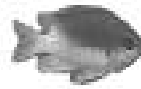


Vice President
 Mike Minges
 (910) 278-4358

Treasurer
 Brenda Vrooman
 (910)842-8390

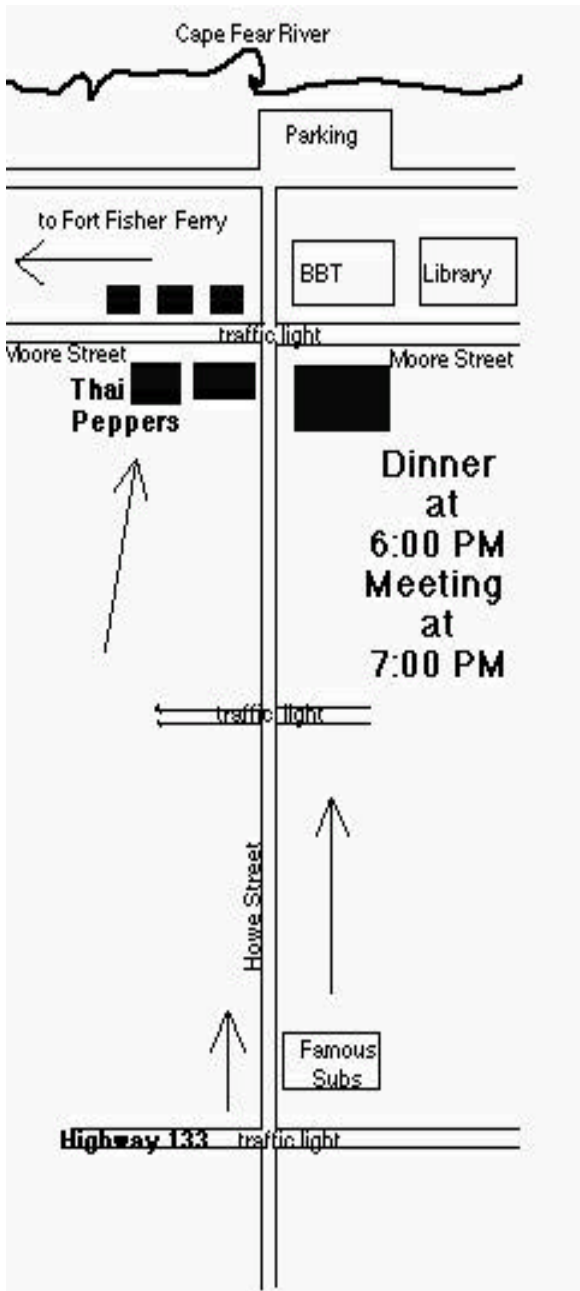
President

Steve Bland
 (910) 371-3233



Secretary
 Sally Thomas
 (910)457-9557

Newsletter
 Bryan Woodard
 (910)457-4358



Through My Mask

by Steve Bland

Boy oh boy, are things starting to roll! Plans for a full season of great dives to a variety of destinations are in the works. Easy dives for new divers and experienced divers wanting to practice thier basics. challenging dives for those who want a "next step". Even a night dive for a special thrill! Social events lined up for all of the above types of divers. Those at the rate of one every other month (or as needed!). we even put in a 3 day dive package to Morehead city.

We are also booking speakers into early summer. The next open meeting date is May. If you have a favorite speaker call Bryan or myself so we can try and line them up.

On a different course, how is your gear? Did you have that regulator serviced over the winter. Did you check the VIP and Hydro test dates on your tank? When was the last time you looked at the straps on your fins and mask? The 1999 dive season is approaching fast and those little maintenance jobs, that we all tend to put off, need to be done soon.

Other notes of interest:

1. The government is moving toward a program to save the remains of the Monitor. It calls for an immediate bracing and shoring up of the hull. This will allow access to the inside of the ship for divers to retrieve the cannons, gun turret, and other relics. At a projected cost of \$20 million dollars the price tag will not be cheap. But it is the Monitor.
2. An international group of delegates from 50 nations has proposed scrapping the entire admiralty code of laws. The group called IUNESCO



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has proposed a blanket law that pretty much says "thou shall not touch" that would include wrecks and common trash. At least that appears to be the legal view of the law as it stands now. Only government sponsored archeologist would be allowed to dive a wreck (of course!).

3. For those who may not have heard, Mel Fisher passed away last December after a bout with cancer. Best known for finding the spanish galleon *Atocha*. Fisher was a champion for individual rights. He spent vast amounts of meoney fighting the "big boys" for all of us. His passing has left us one hero short again.

4. One last reminder, dues are due.

Minutes From the Last Meeting

by Sally Thomas

About 40 members attended the February meeting

Old Business:

- Float for the 4th of July — Trex would like to keep it simple.e.g...flat bed or boat filled with a bevy of beauteous dive queens who know how to "rub a peach"
- The celebration party is receiving less than enthusiastic support with alternative suggestion being offered: Fred Walker would like to see us again support DAN and moved the a \$100 contribution be sent. Bryan Woodard seconded the motion and the vote was one short of unanimous. Trex thought that if parties are in order, then informal spring/summer cookouts would be the way to go. he would also like to see us underwrite club dive trips to encourage new divers to participate.
- Bob Beason has 23 divers going to the Anthony Key Resort on May 9.

New Business:

- Steve requested that everyone return questionnaires printed in the last newsletter outlining interests,skills etc. to update our files;

- Roy Taylor and Paul Gregory are the new owners of Aquatic Safari and were in attendance to tell us about their plans for the dive shop. They are sponsoring a spear fishing tournament May 21-23 and will have discounts on charters for club members.

Program:

- Our guest speaker was Mr. Hall Watters who presented a fascinating program describing his days as a pilot for the Menhaden fleet and dives on local wrecks, including the Ella (off the point of Balhead), the Peterhoff, and the Modern Greece. He surprised the members with pictures of a very young Wayne Strickland. We plan to have Hall back in the near future.

Club Goes on Line with New Website

www.bcinet.net/cfddiveclub

**Information about upcoming meetings, dives
and social events**

Club History

Favorite dive sites

and

Pictures



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NOAA Weather Radio

**By
USA Department of Commerce**

NOAA Weather Radio is a service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. department of commerce. As the "Voice of the National Weather Service," it provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information from local National Weather Service offices. Weather messages are repeated every 4 to 6 minutes and are routinely updated every 1 to 6 hours or more frequency in rapidly changing local weather or if a near hazardous environment condition exists. Most stations operate 24 hours daily.

The regular broadcasts are specifically tailored to weather information needs of the people within the service area of the transmitter. For example, in addition to general weather information, stations in coastal areas provide information of interest to mariners. Other specialized information, such as hydrological forecasts and climatological data may be broadcast.

During severe weather, National Weather Service forecasters can interrupt the routine weather broadcasts and insert special warning messages concerning imminent threats to life and property. The forecaster can also add special signals that trigger "alerting" features of specially equipped receivers. In the simplest case, this signal activates audible or visual alarms, indicating that an emergency condition exists within the broadcast areas of the station being monitored and alerts the listener to turn up the volume and stay tuned for more information. More sophisticated receivers are automatically turned on and set to an audible volume when an alert is received.

In the most sophisticated alerting system, NOAA Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), digital coding is employed to activate only those special receivers programmed for specific emergency conditions in a specific area, typically a county. SAME can activate specially equipped radio and cable television receivers and provide a short

emergency. SAME will be the primary activator for the new Emergency Alert System planned by the Federal Communications Commission.

Under a January 1975 White House policy statement, NOAA Weather Radio was designated the sole Government-operated radio system to provide direct warnings into private homes for both natural disasters and nuclear attack. This concept is being expanded to include warnings for all hazardous conditions that pose a threat to life and safety, both at a local and national level.

NOAA Weather Radio currently broadcasts from over 425 FM Transmitters in fifty states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and Saipan on seven frequencies in the VHF band, ranging from 162.400 to 162.550 megahertz (MHz). These frequencies are outside the normal AM or FM broadcast bands.

By nature and by design, NOAA Weather Radio coverage is limited to an area within 40 miles of the transmitter. The quality of what is heard is dictated by the distance from the transmitter, local terrain, and the quality and location of the receiver. In general, those using a high quality receiver on flat terrain or at sea can expect reliable reception far beyond 40 miles. Those with standard receivers, surrounded by large buildings in cities and those in mountain valleys may experience little or no reception at considerable less than 40 miles. If possible a receiver should be tested in the location where it will be used prior to purchase.

NOAA Weather Radio is directly available to approximately 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. population. The National Weather service is currently engaged in a program to increase coverage to 95 percent of the population.



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1999 Club Activities Calendar

The fourth weekend of the month has been designated a cub dive weekend. Members who would like to plan a dive for say the fourth weekend in April or July for example should contact Bryan Woodard. He will act as a point of contact for everyone who wants to dive that weekend. The members who attended the meeting on February 16 worked out a plan for the following dives. Members who would like to be included on these dives should contact Bryan, Steve Bland or Jerry Holden.

Saturday April 24 — Dive to the Hebe. from Little River South Carolina, Jerry is contacting charter boats and will have the cost at the next meeting.

Members signed on to date:

Jerry Holden
Bryan Woodard
Steve Bland
Vicki Merbler

Sunday May 23— Dive to the John Gill and Ledges from Wrightsville Beach. Charter will depend on how many people are interested.

Members signed on to Date

Jerry Holden
Bryan Woodard
Vicki Merbler

Saturday June 26 — night dive to SW Frying Pan Tower reef

Members signed on to Date

Jerry Holden
Bryan Woodard
Vicki Merbler

Saturday/Sunday August 28&29 Morehead city
Olympus diving.

Members signed on to date

Jerry Holden

So who wants to go diving?

Club Picnics

Sunday April 18 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

Saturday June 19 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

Sunday August 22 5:00 p.m. Southport Marina

Skills Day May 15 from 12:00 p.m to 5:00
p.m.

A day to review skills, practise emergency procedures and have a picnic

We will try and have one or more of the clubs instructors available to assist practise



Spanish Hogfish Wrasse

CAPE FEAR DESCENDERS 1998 Member Survey

Name		Member Since	
Diving Status	Beginner	Advanced	Intermediate
Number of Dives	in 1998		Instructor

Did you dive locally in 1998?	yes	no	How many dives?	
In 1998 did you dive outside the area?	yes	no	How many times?	
Destination?				
Would you recommend this location to club members?			yes	no

Are there any guest speakers you especially liked in 1998?	
Are there any topics you would like to know more about?	
Is there anyone you would be interested in seeing as a speaker in 1999?	
Would you be interested in club picnics?	yes no
Club charters?	yes no
Would you be interested in helping coordinate any club activities?	yes no
Have you taken any diver education classes in 1998?	yes no
What course? Who was the instructor?	
Did you hear about this course through the club?	
Have you purchased any new equipment?	yes no
Type of equipment purchased?	
Would you recommend to other club members?	yes no

What would you like to see the club offer in 1999?

Additional Comments?

Please return all surveys to Brenda at Cape Fear Descenders. We are going to compile this information together and insert in the club web page. Anyone with any ideas let us know.



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MEMBER BENEFITS

- Newsletter Keeps you abreast of local diving information including offshore charters, lake activities, meetings and social gatherings.
- Educational There will be interesting and educational guest speakers at each monthly meeting plus seminars and speciality courses.
- Charters Cape Fear Descenders will work hard to book comfortable boats to exciting offshore wrecks. Charter costs are usually less than typical walk- on rates.
- Socials Throughout the year the club will sponsor social events such as picnics, quarry days, and the holiday banquet. These events should draw good crowds, good company and good fun.

Club membership is based on the calendar year January 1st, through December 31st. Membership dues are payable January 1st. There is a grace period that extends through March.

CLUB DIVING INSTRUCTORS

Tom Roberson	PADI	457-4776
Wayne Strickland	NAUI	457-5201
Jeff Marlow	PADI	(910) 799-1794
Cheryl Smith	PADI	(910) 793-9799
Richard Mathews	PADI	(910) 686-9290
Scott Fowler	PADI	(910)815-3736

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**PO Box 11123
Southport , NC 28461**

