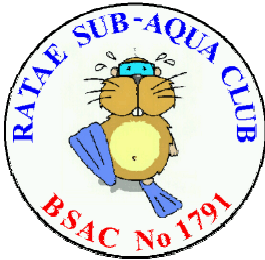


# RATAE SAC



Newsletter February 2003

Web: <http://www.ratadivers.com>

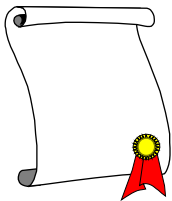
Contact: Tel 01509 827232



As half of the club is off to the Red Sea, I've tried to get this to everyone before you leave. I hope the trip is a good one and take lots of photos to show those that can't go.

## Club news

It's very very quiet out there, not much to report.



## QUALIFICATION NS

None that I've been informed of. We have taken on a number of new trainees, Sports Diver lectures have been completed, and Dive Leader lectures have a few more weeks to run. Plenty of activity.

## NITROX course

Martin Crookes is looking for people interested in attending a 2-day Nitrox/combined Nitrox course in Pembroke this summer. Let Martin know if you are interested.

## TRIPS UPDATE

The Farnes trip is now scheduled for 25/26 October and several people have expressed an interest.

## STONEY COVE DIVING



A number of club members are still actively diving.

## Sports Council

I attended the Sports Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Improvements to the shed are still being promised as happening "soon." The college is bidding for other sports facilities, so it looks like the disabled changing rooms may not happen. A general point was raised about the state of the pool, but as this was directed as litter and not mud, it might not have been directed at us. The issue of lifeguards was mentioned again though.

## Diving Internet

"This month, I have mostly been surfing photography." Having just got an underwater camera, I thought to myself "what do I do with this?" A quick search on the web and I found hundreds of web pages dedicated to the underwater art. Below are a few of the best, ranging from tips, expert advice, shops and reviews. For anyone interested in photography, I urge you to take a look at Underwater Photography Magazine. It's

excellent and free, apart from the excessive time it takes to download!.

<http://www.uwpmag.co.uk/> - a free bimonthly web magazine that is excellent. If you want inspiration then look no further. Now has 11 editions (each of ~ 70 pages) – can be supplied on CD for those that want it.

<http://www.bsoup.org/> - British Society of Underwater Photographers – lots of articles ranging from the basics through to the advantages of larger format film.

<http://www2.scubadiving.com/photo/gear/> - Rodale's section on underwater photography – tips and reviews (warning American site)

<http://www.divernet.com/photo/photo1.htm> - DIVER's section on photography. Excellent tips and reviews.

<http://www.digideep.com/> - digital underwater site with excellent photos. Good example photos for each camera if you consider buying digital.

<http://wetpixel.com/> - more digital camera info, but mainly for those with bottomless pockets!

<http://www.oceanoptics.co.uk/> Specialist in underwater cameras – been very helpful with my camera. Mainly a Nikonos (and equivalent) dealer.

<http://www.camerasunderwater.co.uk/> - camera shop with lots of useful info. They sell everything from underwater housings (some of which look like expensive plastic bags) through to Nikonos kit.

“Next month, I will mostly be surfing the local dive shops.” Ray asked for advice, so how do we rate the local toyshops? I know which ones I trust, and which I don't, so pass on your opinions to me and I'll include the printable ones!

We could arrange for web pages to be downloaded and viewed at the club for those without internet access, is that of interest?

Rob Cuss

## EVENTS CALENDAR

TRIPS CALENDAR 2003			
February 2003	Red Sea Trip		Martin Crookes
MAY 2003	WEYMOUTH TRIP		Paul Lucas- names to Paul early in New Year.
5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> July 2003	Plymouth trip	£89	Mark Hessey- FULL
23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2003	Anglesey trip	tbc	Ian Petchey
25/26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2003	FARNE ISLANDS		Rod Hill