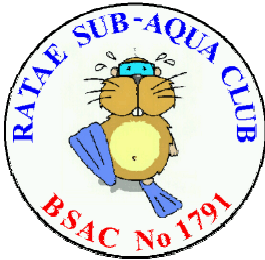


RATAE SAC



Newsletter June 2003

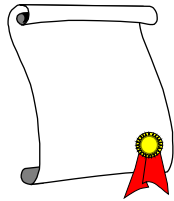
Web: <http://www.rataedivers.com>

Contact: Tel 01509 827232 / rjcu@bgs.ac.uk



Apologies for a delayed newsletter, I seem to have a million and one things on at the moment.

QUALIFICATIONS



Scott Wheatley has passed his Ocean Diver, congratulations to him.

Not a qualification as such, but Rob Cuss chalked up his 100th dive in early June.

Trips



Money is due for Plymouth and Anglesey. Contact Paul Lucas and Ian Petchey respectively. If you require a spare cylinder for either of these trips then let Graham know.

A training weekend for newer qualified divers may be planned for early September. Please let us know if you are interested.

Congratulations

Alison and Mark Hessey had their first child in late May. Georgina Elizabeth weighed 6lb8oz (~3kg). Congratulations to the Hessey family.

Buddy Emergency Cylinders

We will be exchanging the mini-cylinders on the clubs 6 BCs in July, cost is £32 each including return postage each this brings us in line with last years legislation on test and inspection.

It is not a quick turn around as hoped but it will be 1-2 weeks. Graham will drop them off to AP Valves when we visit Plymouth; if any one wants to do the same please let Graham know.

Buddy Mini-Cylinder Exchange

(notes from the AP valves website)

Mini-Cylinder & Valve

The charge for a mini-cylinder inspection and valve service is £10.00 (incl.VAT, p&p).

Mini-cylinders should be retested every 5 years according to 2003 regulations and test date-stamped the same as any other compressed gas cylinder. Alternatively, in the interests of best practice and safety, you could take advantage of our Cylinder Exchange - old for new – Scheme outlined below.

Mini-Cylinder Exchange

We offer a mini-cylinder exchange scheme whereby we exchange your old cylinder for a brand new one and service the valve at cost:

Cylinder Exchange and Valve Service = £25 + £7 postage to UK = £32 (incl.VAT, p&p)

[Obviously, the cost is £25 only if delivered/collected from the factory]

Note: If a Cylinder Exchange and valve service is requested together with a Jacket service the cost is £21 plus the cost of the jacket service (above). i.e. Total cost (incl.VAT) = £56 (collected) or £66 (posted to UK addresses).

Add £10 for 300 bar cylinders.

Kit Borrowing

Any club member can borrow kit (if its in stock) but Graham must be informed.

Trip Write-ups

Pembroke – Rob Cuss

Not the easiest trip to write up. As a group we were spread over three different B&Bs and split into three groups for diving. So here is a write-up of the Marshalling course.

After a long drive (8 hours for some!), Saturday started in the class for the four of us on the Dive Planning and Marshalling course (Catherine, Rod, Alex and Myself). I thought the day was going to be a drag as most of the content had been covered in Dive Leader, but I was wrong. The DP&M course brought everything together really well, aided by the excellent tuition of Bruce (West Wales Dive School).

Late in the afternoon we split into pairs to organize Sundays diving for the other pair. Rod and I arranged a reef dive for Catherine and Alex, while they arranged a scenic dive near the cliffs.

Saturday night saw an excellent meal at the Farmers Arms.

Sunday taught us all those lovely fine points of diving. The weather was fantastic, sunny and not very windy. We set off in our rib to the first dive, where Rod and I would be diving. On arriving there was a bit of a swell, so we headed for plan B, which quickly became plan C. Rod and I got in to discover the visibility was low at 2-3 m at best. Still we made the most of it.

It was then our turn to Marshal Alex and Catherine. We timed to hit the reef at slack, which we pretty much caught spot on (according to Bruce). The divers entered the water, only to experience the swell at the 10m depth we'd dropped then at. After a short dive they surfaced after a minor incident with a delayed SMB.

The afternoon took in another low vis dive, while we played little scenarios to keep the others on their toes. A great course.

Have a Go Day of Sport

Sunday 13th June saw the disabled day of sport. This was a well-attended day with about 12 disabled participants, a teacher and a lifeguard all getting to go in. Thanks to everyone who took someone in or helped out, especially Rachel who got "the public" side of the day dealing with the forms.

Rob Cuss

TRIPS CALENDAR 2004

10 - 11 th July 2004	Plymouth	£89	Paul Lucas
14 - 15 th August 2004	Anglesey	£70	Ian Petchey
30 - 31 st October	Farnes	~£100	Rod Hill
22 nd April 2004 – July 8 th	Hind Leys	Thursday evening diving	Bryan Spence
1 st & 3 rd Wednesday	Stoney Cove	BBQ	Mark Hessey