

Kwajalein Scuba Club, June 2010

The First Stage

Welcome to the revived “First Stage”, the monthly newsletter of the Kwajalein Scuba Club!

Through this newsletter, you will be kept informed of all the great and exciting events to come this year, as well as relevant information that is pertinent to the club and its members.



Kwajalein Scuba Club, 1957

June Meeting, 7pm, June 9th CRC Room 1

This meeting is a swap meet for used scuba gear. Clean out your closets and dive lockers. One man’s junk is another man’s treasure. Swap meet starts at 6:30pm.

Special presentation by visiting Videographers and writers for Wreck Diver Magazine,, Barbara Buchanan and Charles George. Wait till you see the camera Barbara uses!

Before the meeting, please go to www.kwajaleinclub.com, click forms and review the purposed changes to the club constitution.

KSC elects new officers for 2010...

This past month, the club membership elected new officers for the coming year, which runs from June 2010 to June 2011. Let’s meet the new officers!

Bill Williamson- President: Bill is a Florida native, and he is in his fourth tour on Kwaj. Bill learned to dive in 1976, on Grand Turk Island, which is part of the Eastern Missile Test Range. Lacking a pool on the island, all dives were held in the ocean, and the certifying agency was Los Angeles County. Later that year he completed his PADI Advanced Diver on Ascension Island. Before 1976 was over, he completed both Rescue Diver and Divemaster on Roi-Namur. In 1992, he qualified as a Dive Instructor, and in 1993 became a Master Scuba Diver Trainer. Bill has the credentials to teach 10 specialties. This year, Bill was elected President of the Kwajalein Scuba Club for the 5th time, and he is the only person who has served as the President of the Roi-Namur Dolphins Scuba Club and the Kwajalein Scuba Club at various times. Bill started the annual KSC “Scuba Doo” event, the “President’s Ball”, and in 2005 he created and

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coordinated the 'Light Up the Lagoon' event to memorialize those lost in the 9/11/01 attack on the World Trade Center.

J.B. Scott- Vice-President: J.B. is in his second tour on Kwajalein, and next month he will have been here for 7 years. His first tour was from 1987 to 1991. J.B. has worked for the Optics group for almost 11 years as both a Software Engineer and a Systems Engineer. He has been the Vice-President of the Kwajalein Scuba Club for four consecutive terms, and he was the acting President when 'Cowboy' Galloway PCS'd from the island. J.B. is a PADI Divemaster, a Master Scuba Diver, and he is a member of the Dive Supervisor Council. J.B.'s goals for the coming year are to get the buoy effort underway to replace buoys on dive locations within the atoll, as well as to get the Pacific Club fixed up and turned into a real clubhouse for the scuba club. J.B.'s hobbies include scuba diving (who knew?), racquetball, and underwater photography.

Chuck Kuzy- Treasurer: Chuck is a Huntsville native who came to Kwajalein in 2005 with 3D Research Corporation, as the Chief Engineer for the RTS Weather Station. In 2008, he began working for KRS as a Hardware Engineer for Mission Safety. His time is divided between the ground-based flight termination systems on Kwajalein, and the mobile systems aboard the KMRSS Worthy. A "once or twice a year diver" on arrival at Kwajalein, Chuck quickly discovered new friends/divers and is now a regular at the marina. His favorite dive sites include anywhere Oceanside, and when accessible, Troy's coral head. Chuck's goals as the Treasurer are to bring better transparency to the club's finances. As a member of the Executive Council, he believes in operating within the boundaries of the club's constitution, letting the appointed committees operate without micro-management, and carrying out the wishes of the club in a timely fashion. Currently, Chuck is a PADI Divemaster, and he will be attending an Instructor Development Course and taking the Instructor Exam this summer.

Dan Farnham- Secretary: Dan arrived on Kwajalein in December 2005, and he has been here for almost four and a half years. Dan worked as a firefighter until February 2010, and he now works for KRS in Plans and Operations at Building 1010. Dan learned to dive on Kwajalein, and he got his Open Water certification in 2006, followed quickly by his Advanced Open Water. Currently he is a Rescue Diver, and he has plans to complete the Divemaster course this year. Dan has had a life-long interest in World War II aviation history, and he is a published underwater photographer and writer. He has written several articles for different aviation history magazines, as well as the Kwajalein Hourglass, about the World War II plane wrecks in Kwajalein's lagoon. Dan's hobbies include underwater photography, wreck diving, World War II history, writing, scuba diving, traveling, and a wide array of other things. His goals for the club for the

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coming year include getting the buoy program underway, carrying out the wishes of the club in a timely fashion, helping organize fun events for the KSC membership, and making sure that the duties of the Secretary are carried out in a timely fashion.

Did you know?

facebook

KSC is on Facebook! Do a search for Kwajalein Scuba Club, and sign up now!

It's back!! The Point System...

Yes, you will get points for participating in club activities! For example, each meeting you attend, you get one point. Wearing a scuba shirt is an additional point. Extra points will be awarded when you are asked to bring certain items to a meeting, such as dive computers for the July meeting. Work projects will be assigned a point value, as well as club events. If you don't think you can carve a pumpkin underwater, wait until you see how many points it will be worth!! Other points are awarded for Best Dive Story of the Month, Monthly Photo Contest, and others.

The point system starts at the June 9th meeting, and the President sets the point value for each event or activity. The Executive Council is working on prizes. The end will be at the April 2011 meeting, where the member with the most points for the year will win something really cool. Don't believe it? Just ask Christie Gaustella- in 2005 she won a paid vacation to Chuuk Lagoon, and spent a week on the *Thorfinn* live-aboard dive boat!

Note: Executive Council and Dive Supervisory Council members are not eligible to participate in the Point System.

Safety message

Plan your dive, and dive your plan. Stay safe out there- only fools break the rules!

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Best Dive Story of the Month

Got a good dive story to share? Tell it at a scuba club meeting!

The rules are simple- it has to have happened in the last thirty days to a Kwaj diver anywhere in the world. It must be dive related- it could have happened not only in the water, but on a boat, a plane or a train.

Up to three stories can be told at a meeting. They have to be short and sweet (or not sweet if you're telling on someone). Prizes and one point will be awarded to the winner, so make it interesting!

Monthly Photo Contest

Got a great underwater picture that you want to share with your fellow divers? Bring it to a meeting! The best photo is chosen by the members attending the meeting that month.

The Monthly Photo Contest will be announced at the June 2010 meeting, and kicked off at the July meeting.

Here are the rules- the photo must have been taken at Kwajalein Atoll within the past year. No one can win two months in a row. There will be three judges that receive the photo entries each month. The judges will pick the three they like, and present them to the club membership for voting at each regular monthly meeting.

Note: Judges cannot be winners.

The winner will receive a cool prize, as well as one point. The winning photo each month will be posted on the Kwajalein Scuba Club website.

Each month could feature a theme, such as Wrecks, Cleaning Stations, People, etc. The monthly theme will be set by the President.

Safe Diving is No Accident!

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Appointed Officers

The EC has chosen the following appointed officers and will ask for a simple majority vote of members at the June meeting to approval.

Safety & Training Officer – Instructor Lisa Shier

Dive Locker Officer – Sharon Skalko

Chief Diver Supervisor – Divemaster Ivy Springer

Infrastructure

Charles Cable, is the new Pacific Club Manager, and has some great plans to improve the club.

Trace Fleming, will stay on as Webmaster. Thank you Trace, for all the years of a great website.

The 2010 to 2011 year is going to be a fun year for the Kwajalein Scuba Club, so be sure to attend each meeting and rack up those points! Who knows, you could be the winner, and who knows what will happen then...

More to come in next month's newsletter...

Did you know that Kwajalein Scuba Club is the only Divers Alert Network, Diamond Dive Club Donor in the World!

Are you a DAN member ????

www.diversalertnetwork.org