

Kwajalein Scuba Club, February 2011

--The First Stage--

Congratulations to Erikka Collins for her winning entry at the December 2010 club meeting. The theme was "anything red", and Erikka shot a great picture of a red crab.

There were no entries for the Monthly Photo Contest at the January club meeting.

February monthly meeting-

Wednesday the 9th, 7pm, at the CRC Room 4. Remember to wear any dive shirt for extra points!



'Red Crab' by Erikka Collins

New USAKA 50ft. No Chamber Dive Rule-

The KSC EC and DSC are actively working with UASKA leadership to address concerns and provide them the accurate information they need to reverse this decision. Please be patient while the club leadership works through this problem.

February Photo Contest- we're going "video" this month!

At the February meeting, we are going to do something different- for February, we are going to have a video contest! That's right- for those of you who like to shoot underwater video, here's your chance to show your stuff! Videos must be no longer than five minutes. As with the Photo Contest, the membership present will vote on the winner, who will receive a \$50 gift certificate for the Dive Locker.

Coming in February-

"Russian on the rocks"- On February 16, 1986 the Soviet oceanliner 'Mikhail Lermontov' ran aground near Picton, New Zealand, and shortly afterward sank in 120 feet of water. The 'Lermontov' was carrying 743 passengers and crew. Recently, Dan Farnham traveled to New Zealand as part of a dive expedition to film the wreck of the 'Lermontov'. Dan will present a slide and video show of the expedition at the end of the February meeting.



Fish of the Month- by Scott Johnson

(photo by Jeanette Johnson)

“Ornate Pipefish” *Solenostomus paradoxus*

It seemed appropriate to start the new year with something rare and unusual. The Ornate Ghost Pipefish is a bizarre but beautiful little fish. Like the other

species of ghost pipes, it hovers mouth down in the water, looking nothing like a normal fish. They are apparently not rare farther west in the Pacific, such as in the waters of Indonesia and the Philippines. There they are highly variable in color and reported to normally live near crinoids (feather stars), gorgonians, or soft corals, against which they can be very difficult to see. All the ghost pipes are hard to find in the Marshalls, but this one is the rarest so far. We have seen only this one specimen, found next to *Halimeda* algae in an oceanside Ninni surge channel in October, 2010. But it is not the first record for the Marshalls. The first, and as far as I know, the only other record was of a juvenile being picked up in a plankton tow off Bikini Atoll in the early 1950s. In a plankton tow? Yes, it seems that many of the ghost pipe species spend most of their lives drifting around in the plankton, probably eating tiny planktonic shrimp and larvae. They settle down to reefs only for breeding. I suspect they don't live all that long once they settle out, so there is only a rather small window of their lives where they might be stumbled upon by divers.

This little beauty, which measured about about 35-50mm (1.5-2 inches) in length, happens to be a male. Females differ in that the pelvic fins (the large fin that here appears to be in the middle of the underside of the fish) are larger and attached along one long edge to the body posterior of the base of the fin, forming a brood pouch for the eggs. This is a feature that differentiates them from their somewhat distant relatives, the pipefish, in which the male broods the eggs.

At present, there are only about four or five known valid species of ghost pipes worldwide, and probably at least a couple more species known but not yet given names. We happen to have at least three of the named ones at Kwaj and at least one or two of the unnamed. All Kwaj's ghost pipes (and the other pipefish we have here) can be seen on the web at <http://www.underwaterkwaj.com/uw-misc/pipefish/pipefish.htm>.

Continuing Education- by Dr. Lisa Schier

Completion of the Open Water Diver course is required to dive anywhere, and USAKA requires completion of the Advanced Open Water course. There are many other scuba diving courses available and continuing your education in diving can help you to explore new activities and to become a better diver. Some of the possibilities include:

Rescue Diver teaches you how to deal with accidents and potential accidents in and around the water. It teaches you how to recognize problems and respond to them in a way that minimizes risk for everyone. PADI's surveys of students indicate that this course is the one that students most consistently enjoyed.

Enriched Air Diver (nitrox) allows you to use breathing mixtures other than air for extended bottom time. Nitrox is available in many resort destinations worldwide, so this class is useful for those planning dive travel.

Underwater Digital Photography teaches you to get the most out of your underwater camera, from a point-and-shoot model to a dSLR.

Wreck diver introduces you to special techniques that are used in wreck diving.

Divemaster is a course that will change your diving and make you a much better diver. This course teaches you to organize and lead dives. You enhance your skills at preventing and handling dive related problems. This course requires a significant investment of time and is the first step into the world of professional diving.

Are you interested in taking CPR? Kim Morris, Nurse and Divemaster, teaches at the Kwajalein Hospital.

"Scuba Lovers"

Valentine's Day is about Love and Hearts!

Come learn how to save a heart.

Basic CPR and AED Class

Feb. 14th Monday 2-6 pm

Kwajalein Hospital Conference Room

Class is limited to 6 people

Reserve your space today

Call 5-2223 or 5-2224 after 6pm to sign up



Safe Diving Is No Accident!

Are you a DAN member??

www.diversalertnetwork.org



Ascend Slowly from Every Dive!

Bill's



Dive Shop

In The Mall, next to the Mic Shop !

Store Hours:

Friday & Saturday 4:30 – 6:30, Monday 10 - 2

Special of the Month

Oceanic Veo 3.0 Wrist Computer \$260.00

Oceanic Price Buster Packages, starting at **\$699.00**

OceanPro BC, GT3 Sport Regulator, Octo, Veo 100 combo. Sizes starting at XXS.

PADI Divemaster Course February 1, 2011

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