

Kwajalein Scuba Club, May 2011

--The First Stage--

There was no video or photo contest at the April meeting, and there will not be one at the May meeting either. Thank you to all the participants of the photo and video contests over the past year, and keep shooting! Rumor has it the contests will resume again...

May monthly meeting-

Wednesday the 18th, 7pm, in the MP Room at the High School.

It is mandatory for all KSC divers to attend one of the annual safety meetings. This is the final meeting for you to complete the annual safety requirement.



Nitrox? Yes, it's possible!

On May 18th, the doors will open at 6:15pm, and the meeting will start at 7pm. Bring your certification card with you to these meetings. Please arrive early enough to complete the renewal application before 7pm. It is understood that many people will have work requirements that night and may not be able to attend the meeting. This meeting is also voting for club officers for the new membership year.

We are pleased to announce that Dan Orr, President of Divers Alert Network, will be our guest speaker at the May meeting. Dan Orr and wife will be on- island from May 17 through May 21.

During the May meeting we will also be a voting on NITROX. This is an important vote, we feel it is fair to have as many as possible to participate in this decision making. Everything you ever wanted to know about NITROX will be explained. This includes how it will be paid for and by whom. I can tell you that unless you sign up for NITROX your dues will not be increased.

In light of the coming vote, and to keep all KSC members as informed as possible, here are some common questions and answers regarding Nitrox-

What is Nitrox?

Nitrox is simply any mixture of oxygen and nitrogen. Air is made up of 21% oxygen and 79% nitrogen. The name "Nitrox" usually refers to oxygen-nitrogen mixtures containing more than 21% oxygen. Other names for this gas are EANx, Enriched Air Nitrox and Safe Air.

~~~ Ascend slowly from every dive! ~~~

Is Nitrox popular?

Yes! Nitrox has been accepted by N.O.A.A., IANTD, SDI, SSI, TDI, NAUI, NASDS, and PADI and is the breathing mixture of choice for thousands of divers. In fact, the success and popularity of Nitrox today is a result of the remarkable safety record of many thousands of *recreational* divers using Nitrox since 1985.

Why should I use Nitrox?

The main benefit to diving with Nitrox is the reduced amount of nitrogen in your breathing gas. Less nitrogen means less risk of getting decompression sickness (DCS), or "the bends". Using Nitrox can also extend your bottom time. Because no-decompression limits are based on nitrogen absorption, less nitrogen means more bottom time. Many divers also claim that they feel less fatigued after diving with Nitrox (as compared to diving with air).

Why do I need a Nitrox Course?

The Enriched Air Diver course will teach you special procedures for Nitrox diving. You will learn about oxygen toxicity and how to avoid it. You will learn how to use your dive computer for a Nitrox dive and how to determine the oxygen content of a dive cylinder. A Nitrox certification from a recognized training agency is required to dive with Nitrox anywhere.

Nitrox Equipment?

Most of your regular scuba equipment will work without modification for use with Nitrox. You will need a Nitrox Yellow and Green tank sticker. If you haven't purchased your equipment yet, Nitrox ready regulators have longer life using Nitrox than regular regulators. That is it! Your regulator, pressure hoses and other equipment will work just fine.

What are the Prerequisites?

The prerequisites for the Nitrox certification are simple. You must be at least 15 years old and a certified Open Water Scuba diver.

Nitrox and Oxygen Toxicity

Recreational Nitrox divers are NOT at risk of oxygen toxicity as long as they stay within the Recreational Nitrox Diving Limits. Just as there are dive tables for Air diving there are dive tables for Nitrox diving. Students in the Recreational Nitrox Diver Program will learn about these tables just as they learned about other tables in their first Scuba diving program.

Does Divers Alert Network Promote the Safe Use of Nitrox?

Attend our May 18th meeting and hear what Dan Orr, President of DAN has to say about Nitrox.

As a KSC member, I don't want to use Nitrox. Do I have to pay?

No, only those using Nitrox will pay an additional \$48.00 a year.

Will buying the Nitrox system bankrupt KSC?

No, with the recent cost saving measures in the tank house operations and watching what money is spent on, we see no reason that KSC will not remain financially healthy for many years to come.

What Nitrox mix will KSC offer? Why?

28%. Unlike the more popular 32% oxygen mixture, 28% is safe to 130fsw.

Where can I get a Nitrox certification?

The Nitrox course is available on island.

Will KSC continue to fill tanks with air?

Yes, KSC will always have air available to those that wish to use it. We expect 40% of our divers to be using Nitrox in two years.

Do I need to buy an O2 sensor?

No. KSC will buy 2 and keep them in the tank house, just like the pressure gauges.

If the tank house has both air and Nitrox tanks, how will I know which is which?

Nitrox tanks will be marked with the standard Nitrox green and yellow labels. In addition, members paying for and certified in Nitrox will have access to the Nitrox portion of the tank house, as well as the air side.

How much does it cost?

Compressor/Membrane	\$24,224
Construction & Electrical	\$1,200
Tank House Mods.	\$1,000
Freight	\$1,000
Labor Cost	\$3,000
Contingency (10%)	\$3,042
Total	<u>\$33,466</u>
Quality of Life Funding	\$13,712
Balance of KSC	\$19,754

The labor cost may not be needed due KSC members volunteering their time.
The contingency cost is a 10% buffer that we hope not to need.

Nitrox will be voted on at the May 18th meeting.

Tankhouse notice-

If you have tanks on your boat, at home, or otherwise not in the tank house, please return them immediately. This is the time of year for the annual inventory, and we need to get all the club tanks accounted for. Thanks for your help!

Coming Events with Dan Orr, President of Divers Alert Network-

May 17th (Tuesday) - arrives with wife Betty Orr. There will be a "Meet and Greet" at the Pacific Club, 6:30 to 7:30pm. Snacks and drinks will be served.

May 18th (Wednesday) - Annual Safety Meeting, doors open at 6:30. Meeting starts at 7pm. We need help setting up the room at 5:30.

May 19th - (Thursday) - Beach Cookout and Potluck at Emon Beach, housing people please bring a dish to share, BQ dwellers bring chips, dips, water and drinks. This event starts at 6:30pm.

Please wear DAN or KSC shirts to all events.

KSC holds annual "Underwater Easter Egg Hunt"



The Kwajalein Scuba Club hosted another great annual underwater Easter egg hunt for kids of all ages on April 17th. The event was attended by 26 scuba divers and about 30 snorkelers who looked for eggs and prizes hidden in the lagoon at Emon Beach.

There were many very nice prizes donated by the KSC, Jim Bishop, John Pennington, and Bill Williamson that were awarded for collecting a certain number of plain eggs or by finding specially marked ones scattered throughout the three large search areas.

There were also "instant winner" prizes hidden underwater to include KSC coffee mugs, special KSC collectors glasses, and rubber AquaLung luggage tags.



“Underwater Easter Egg Hunt” (continued)

A fun time was had by all who participated in the hunting, folks staffing the event, or those just watching the fast-paced swarms of buddy teams in the thrill of the hunt to collect their share of over 300 eggs.

Special thanks alphabetically to the volunteers who staffed the event to include: Lisa Ansley, Jim Bishop, Betina Dodd, Ron Gamble, Melissa Manske, event leader John Pennington, Joshua Pennington, Tracy Pennington, Danielle Rivera, Lisa Shier, and finally Ivy Springer who served as the KSC Beach Master.

A special thanks also to John Pennington, Tracy Pennington, and Marc Rivera for the event photography.

Reminder to all boat owners- March was registration month at the Small Boat Marina. The cost was \$25 during March. If you did not register your boat before March 31st, the cost is now \$35.

Boating safety tips- by Dr. Lisa Shier

Consider weather conditions when choosing a dive site, particularly wind strength and direction. Troy's Coral Head and the Twin Peaks are not good sites when winds are over 12- 15 knots. Large chop builds up on that side of the lagoon and exiting the water at the stern of a B-boat can be hazardous. Oceanside west reef dive sites have been challenging when there is south- east to west winds or south- east to south swell.

Use an appropriate speed. In general, slow down in choppy conditions to avoid excessive stress to the hulls and hurting passengers. Nasty conditions in the passes are best handled with more speed, not less. A strong inflowing tidal current and a strong north east trade wind can lead to hazardous conditions.

When anchoring a boat, use an adequate amount of anchor rope. The amount of rope out should equal or exceed 5 times the water depth. Since B-bats have 120 ft of anchor rope, do not anchor in more than 25 ft of water: leave a buddy team on the boat at all

times. The grapnel anchors on B-boats will not hold in sand, anchor in coral instead. Don't want to chew up the coral? Consider a bruce or danforth anchor.

The best time to call the marina with a problem is as soon as possible. Call in all problems, even if you think you can solve them; the marina will monitor your situation and send help if required. If the problem is boat-related, always stay with the boat, even if it capsizes. Boats are easier to find than people in the water. In case of a medical problem, return to the marina immediately, but call ahead so EMS can meet you at the dock.

~~~ *Ascend slowly from every dive!* ~~~

### *Boating safety tips* (Continued)

Know the location and function of safety gear on your boat. Small children and anyone who cannot swim should wear a life jacket. Know the location of the distress button on your radio. It will send out an ID coded signal. KPD will know who is in trouble and probably where, based on your float plan.



### *Check it out!!*

The new Rum Reggae Dolphin Dive shirts are in and will be on sale at the May 18th Safety Meeting!!

Ladies, we have a very limited supply of sun dresses with this design.

~~~~ *The Classifieds* ~~~~

Pennington Scuba
May Madness Sale

Limited Time Only / **May 1st - 14th**

- **10% off** any Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Shoes, Gloves, or Bag in stock
- Suunto Vyper Nitrox wrist computer - \$275
- **Wetsuit closeout** - 15% off any remaining inventory in stock!
- AquaLung Travel Package Promo - \$899 & still includes the iPod
- Deluxe AquaLung Starter Package - \$750

Includes:

- AquaLung / SeaQuest **Pro LT** weight-integrated BCD
- AquaLung **Titan** balanced regulator PLUS an alternate regulator
- Suunto **ZOOP** Nitrox computer console with pressure gauge
- Large mesh AquaLung bag to carry it all

John Pennington is located at quarters **135-C**
so just call **5-3290** and set your time to stop by.
Email any questions to: penningtonscuba@gmail.com



~~~ *Safe diving is no accident!* [www.diversalertnetwork.org](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org) ~~~