

## Kwajalein Scuba Club, July 2011

### --The First Stage--

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#### *Equipment Alert!!*

Myflex HP hoses: there have been reports on the internet of several of these hoses blowing out. So far, there are no report of injuries. If you have Myflex hoses on your gear, please check with the manufacturer to see if you need to replace them.

#### *July monthly meeting-*

We're going back to the Pacific Club for the next few meetings. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 13th, at 7pm.

We really need a new name for the Pacific Club, so if you have any suggestions, please bring them to the meeting.

#### *The Point System-*

The Point System is alive and well! Points start counting at the June 8th meeting. Congratulations to Kinley Goodman for winning last year's point contest! He won the free trip to Kosrae. **YOU** could be the next winner!

Points are easy- attend meetings and help out at events. Officers are not eligible for points, however KSC Divemasters are (unless they are being paid to DM an event). Wear a KSC shirt to a meeting and receive an extra point. The rules are subject to change.

#### *The Scuba Tank shuffle-*

In preparation for NITROX, a few club tanks have been relocated to rack numbers 366 to 407. These numbers are in the first rack on the left as you enter the main door. The private tanks have been moved out of those numbers.



Are you on Facebook? If so, so is KSC! We use it to post meeting and event announcements. By using Facebook, you can help us judge how many are attending events. Do a search for Kwajalein Scuba Club.



*SBD's at '13 Planes'*

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

***July Safety Topic***- "Coral Cuts" by Dr. Lisa Shier, KSC Safety Officer

Coral cuts are the most common injury to divers at Kwajalein Atoll. Coral cuts are generally not serious, but in a few cases nasty infections can develop. Prevention and proper treatment of coral cuts can dramatically reduce the chances of getting a serious infection.

Coral cuts can be prevented by maintaining proper buoyancy control and staying off the coral. This protects both the diver and the coral. Divers can also protect themselves by covering up with dive skins, wet suits, and gloves. Gloves are especially recommended when working with anchors. Wetsuits are a great solution for divers who get cold while diving. Dive skins work great if thermal protection is not required.

Basic treatment of coral cuts is to clean the cut with soap and water, removing any coral debris in the wound. Cover the wound and stay out of the water until it is healed. Consult the Kwaj Hospital if the wound is deep, won't stop bleeding, or if redness, swelling, and pain persists.

***Fish of the Month*** by Scott Johnson

"Helfrich's Dartfish" (*Nemateleotris helfrichi*)

I started taking photos of small fish seriously back in 1975, when I got an external close-up diopter called a "Microlens" for my Nikonos camera. Or at least I *tried* to start taking pictures seriously.



Some of the fish I tried my hardest on were members of the dartfish family. Most of the dartfish are rather long and slender, and hover a few inches or a foot or two above their hidey-holes in the bottom. They can literally vanish into a hole faster than the blink of an eye. We soon christened one kind of dartfish, a common shallow-water species called the fire dartfish or firefish, *Nemateleotris magnifica*, the "disappearing fish." It had a habit of darting into its hole just as I moved my finger to release the camera's shutter, leaving me with an often well-exposed photo of sand and rubble that was right behind where the fish had been a split-second before. It didn't help that my Microlens required me to get the camera within 10 inches of the subject for it to be in focus. Disappearing fish did not care for something that large coming that close.

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A less common but even more attractive and equally photographically aggravating fish was Helfrich's dartfish, *Nemateleotris helfrichi*, named for Dr. Philip Helfrich, longtime director of both the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology in Kaneohe Bay on Oahu and the Mid-Pacific Marine Laboratory on Enewetak Atoll here in the Marshalls. He was essentially my boss's boss the several years I worked at the Enewetak lab in the early '80s.

Jeanette managed to convince this specimen to not only hold still long enough for her to take the photo, but also to stretch out its fins to their full glory. Helfrich's dartfish is a small but pretty, mostly lavender fish with a yellow head and yellowish tail. A bright magenta streak runs across the top of the head from the eyeballs back to its tall dorsal fin, and the fish flicks that fin constantly while it hovers over its hole. The remaining fins are trimmed with orange and blue. These gorgeous little fish are usually found paired and reach only up to about 63mm (or 2.5 inches) long. The books report them as living from about 25 to 70 meters depth, or roughly 80 feet down to over 200. In fact, here at Kwaj we sometimes see them out on the oceanside of Carlson as shallow as about 60 feet, or less than 20 meters.

Keep an eye out for them hovering a few inches above the bottom out there on the slope. But keep in mind that at that depth, they will look more bluish purple in natural light. Their true colors come through only when you get a light on them. And if you get close, they will disappear.

***Hey, do you like these “Fish of the Month” entries in the newsletter each month? We thought so! Which is why, for this month only, we are bringing you the “Fish of the Month Double Feature!” Here’s Part 2, also written by Scott Johnson...***

“Multicolor Angelfish”(*Centropyge multicolor*)

One of the pretty little pygmy angelfish inhabiting the reefs of Kwajalein is the multicolor



angel, *Centropyge multicolor*. They are not very hard to find, as long as you go to the right place.

These little angels are pretty much exclusively out on the oceanside dropoff, but you have to go down a little ways to see them. I think the shallowest I have come across one was at a depth of about 50 feet, and I was surprised to see it that shallow. Yet only another 10 feet deeper they are uncommon but present. Along

some parts of the oceanside dropoff, once you hit a depth of about 80 feet, these start to get relatively common.

Like most of the other pygmy angels, they tend to live in small territorial groups of what appear to be three to maybe five individuals. They are always hard to count, because they tend to be rather secretive fish that are always flitting in and out of holes and small caves on the drop. If you want to see them, you'll have to look closely and carefully.

Like most other angels, these are probably protogynous hermaphrodites, meaning a particular fish grows up to be a female first but is capable of switching to a male later. They are reported to reach about 90mm (between three and four inches), but more commonly a decent-sized male seems to be about 65 to 70mm (a bit more than two and a half inches). Because the male stage is the later one, the male is generally the largest individual in a small group; the rest constitute his harem of females. If something happens to the male, the dominant female will change into a male.

The multicolor is found primarily in the small islands of Oceania (e.g., much of Micronesia, the Society Islands, Fiji). It was originally described and given its scientific name in 1974. The type locality, meaning the place where the holotype specimen was collected, is Enewetak Atoll, Marshall Islands. The holotype specimen is one specimen designated as the model for a particular species' description. Put another way, the specific specimen originally described as *Centropyge multicolor* came from Enewetak. Other specimens may be included in the original description, but only one of them can be the holotype.

Although an attractive aquarium fish, care must be taken if one is collected. Like most reef fish, these have an internal gas bladder used to maintain neutral buoyancy. Angels are notoriously slow to adjust the amount of gas in the bladder, and of course I don't have to remind any diver about Boyle's Law, right? If you were to catch one of these at its typical depth of 80 feet or so and bring it to the surface, the gas bladder will greatly expand, crushing or damaging the fish's internal organs and causing it to struggle, floating upside down in your bucket on the boat until either the crushed organs or the stress kills it. If you **MUST** bring one up, the best way is to do it slowly--I mean spending hours and multiple dives moving the fish shallower a bit at a time, giving it time to adjust to the reduced pressure.

But I prefer just chasing them with a camera.

*(All photos in these articles by Jeanette Johnson)*

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

## *Diving with dolphins...*

Ever have the desire to dive with dolphins?

NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) has a great website with some important information that you should know.



Check it out-

[http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd\\_swim\\_with\\_wild\\_dolphins.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_swim_with_wild_dolphins.html)

## *Upcoming Scuba Classes... (all are PADI unless otherwise noted)*

### Classes by Bill Williamson-

Divemaster - begins November

### Classes by Lisa Shier-

Enriched Air Diver (Nitrox)- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month, all summer long

Advanced Open Water- open now, custom schedules for groups of 3 or more

Rescue Diver- new class starts in mid-July

Divemaster- class will start in late August

## *Tribute to the troops-*

KSC's "Tribute to the Troops" is on the way to US Scuba Club Germany.

Go to <http://usmilitarydiverseurope.club.officelive.com/default.aspx>

and read what they say about KSC.

***Don't forget- Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Pacific Club for the monthly meeting.***

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