

Kwajalein Scuba Club, September 2011

--The First Stage--

Congratulations to Lisa Shier for winning the August 2011 KSC Photo Contest! The subject was "People", and Lisa won with this picture of Betina Dodd off Emon Beach.



Photo by Lisa Shier

September monthly meeting-

We're going back to the Pacific Club for the next few meetings. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14th, at 7pm.

Important reminder...

Do not remove any items from any wreck at Kwajalein Atoll. The looting or removing of any items from any wreck is against both U.S. law and RMI law, and it is a felony offense. Violators are subject to disciplinary action. Diving wrecks is a privilege for KSC members, so let's protect our Kwajalein history and help ensure that we do not lose that privilege.

Orientation Dives-

Do you have a visitor coming that wants to dive at Kwajalein? An orientation dive is REQUIRED. The Kwajalein Scuba Club website lists all club's active Divemasters, and any of them can give orientation dives. Most of the club divemasters are available after work and on the weekends. Also, Kim Morris is available during the day by prior arrangement. Note: only professional and commercial divers who are diving in a work capacity are not required to do orientation dives. However, if they are diving recreationally, they are still required to do an orientation dive. Even Dan Orr, President of Divers Alert Network, had to do an orientation dive during his visit to Kwajalein!



facebook

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.

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



In Memorial...Steve Malone

Rudolph "RJ" Johnson and John Pennington organized a memorial service for 19 Kwajalein residents to say farewell to a friend. Steve Malone was a Kwajalein Police Department officer who spent nearly all of his free time diving, snorkeling, relaxing in a hammock, and urging others to do the same. Steve returned home in April to spend time with his family but unexpectedly passed away quietly in a hammock after caving and hiking adventure in July.

RJ made arrangements for a portion of Steve's ashes to be sent to Kwajalein so friends could hold a small service here. Steve absolutely loved diving on the Palawan and his Facebook profile picture was of him posing at the wheel in July 2010. To honor Steve's memory, three B-boats with thirteen KSC divers and two boat-watches met at the Palawan. The divers shared a few words top-side before emplacing a sealed container with Steve's ashes near the Palawan steering wheel at a depth of 130 feet. The divers spent a few minutes of reflection, took some pictures, and then returned slowly back to the surface.



The boats then joined the crew of the Panacea at Bigej for a hot meal of grilled burgers and bratwursts to fuel a couple hours of snorkeling and socializing that Steve loved to do so much. Steve's temporary memorial will remain at the Palawan for a few months for other divers to pay their respects. The container will then be relocated ocean-side near Gea and released to deep water to its final

resting place below that of recreational diving limits. Melissa Oliver said that she was with Steve Malone on his last several dives on Roi and she felt this tribute was an awesome thing to celebrate Steve.

Participants included:

KSC Divers- Rudolph "RJ" Johnson, John Pennington, Tracy Pennington, Mac McNeil, Melissa Oliver, Lynn Whatley, Kathy Reith, Kinley Goodman, Mike Dougherty, Roger Williams, Eric England, Charles Chavez, and Blair Barnett.

Boat watches- Crystal Sung and Don Muse.

Panacea crew- Rich Johnston, Peter Brown, Marissa Brown, Mike Cohen, Christen Goodnight, and Jeff Ganson.

Nitrox has arrived!!

After three years of hard work on the part of the KSC Nitrox Committee, and many others, Nitrox has finally arrived on Kwajalein and is now in operation!

The Nitrox compressor arrived at the tank house on Thursday, August 25th. Several KSC members met after work to move the compressor into the tank house.

(All photos in this story were taken by Lisa Shier)



The Nitrox compressor waiting to be moved into the tank house.



Bill Glynn, Charles Cable, James Polan, and Leonard Grandbois move the compressor onto a set of pipes so it can be slid through the door.

The following weekend, on August 28th and 29th, a “Nitrox Working Party” was held. Several KSC members spent all day Sunday and most of Monday hooking up the compressor, changing nearly 100 club tanks over for Nitrox use, and filling those tanks with Nitrox for the first time.



Brian Bussey puts the new protective caps on the tanks.



Leonard Grandbois and Scott Phillips removed the valves on the tanks to convert the old O-rings to nitrox-compatible O-rings.

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Nitrox has arrived!! (continued from page 3)



Bob Greene applies the Nitrox markings to a tank.



Members of the Nitrox Committee and working party pose with the first KSC club tank to be converted and marked for Nitrox use.

Kwajalein Scuba Club would also like to thank past USAKA Commander Colonel Clarke, Jim Bishop, Jim Walters, Bryan Herrington, Kristi Harrington, Chuck Kuzy, John Pennington, Pat Gorman, Bill Glynn, and a host of others that made this all happen. We would also like to thank the Lock Shop, Plumbing Shop, Electrical Shop, and especially the Quality of Life Committee. Thanks to everyone's combined efforts, KSC has joined the 21st Century!

Rental Gear-

Jim Bishop, John Pennington, and Bill Williamson have rental gear available if needed. Contact any of them for details and pricing. Bill's rental gear is available at Bill's Dive Shop, located at the AAFES store.

September special from John Pennington's Scuba Shop-

Any size/style rashguard or diver flip-flops - \$25.
Call 5-3290 or email penningtonscuba@gmail.com

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

Classes by Lisa Shier-

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

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

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

***Splash for Trash*** - Please note that the date has changed!

Due to conflict with Roi Chili cook-off, the date for "Splash for Trash" has been changed to Monday, September 26, 8:00am-1:00pm. Volunteers are needed for an island-wide clean-up on land and under water. Lunch provided for all volunteers. Contact John at [penningtonscuba@gmail.com](mailto:penningtonscuba@gmail.com) or 5-3290 to sign up. Co-Sponsored by KRS Community Activities and prizes will be awarded. Come have fun and help our environment!

***Want to dive Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon?***

The Odyssey live-aboard is offering a discount for Kwaj residents who book a trip and travel in the next 60 days. The discount is roughly equivalent to the cost of the Continental/United airfare/hotel package to get there. There are still rooms available for the following 2011 trips-

October 23 - 30

October 30 to November 6

November 6 - 13

They offer an amazing experience - just ask anyone who's been there!

The website for additional information is [www.trukodyssey.com](http://www.trukodyssey.com), or you can call their office at 800-757-5396.

Make sure you mention you're a Kwaj resident!



***Don't forget- Wednesday, September 14th, 7pm at the Pacific Club for the monthly meeting.***

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