



Kwajalein Scuba Club

The *First Stage* Newsletter - October 2012



October Monthly Meeting

We apologize for the change of schedule from the 10th- it was based on several factors and mission preparation schedules. Those of us who have been here on Kwaj for any length of time are old hands at this kind of thing. John and Tracy Pennington waited at the Pacific Club from 6:30-7:10 PM to ensure the facebook and email notices let everyone know of the date change.

The New meeting is **October 24th**. The meet/greet social begins at **6:30PM** with snacks/drinks and access to the the Dive Locker. **Meeting to begin at 7:00PM**. The after meeting presentation will be postponed due to mission activities but please send Marc Rivera your pictures of Turtles to be added to the November presentation.

Splash for Trash Update

Kwajalein Scuba Club's **6th annual Splash for Trash** event was held Monday morning September 10th. About **60 volunteers** came out, including divers, snorkelers and shoreline walkers. The volunteers collected a massive pile of debris, making this a fun and productive event which helps to improve the Kwajalein community environment. KSC President John Pennington organized this year's successful event with the support of his trusty Splash-for-Trash veteran Kim Morris. KRS Community Activities provided tents, chairs, and ice while KRS donated trash bags and a vehicle to transport the supplies and collected trash. The area cleanup extended from the airport to DSC, both ocean side and lagoon side. Divers and snorkelers went in at Emon Beach, Ski area and North Point. Volunteers recorded types and descriptions of trash, junk and debris collected using a tally sheet. This information will be submitted to PADI Project Aware, who records the data for a worldwide marine environmental survey. Immediately following the cleanup, volunteers met at the Pacific Club and enjoyed free Swanby Snow cones, an awesome BBQ lunch (Grillmasters Mark Dye & Stan Edwards), and an award ceremony where nice prizes were given for several categories of trash collected. The rest of the prizes were awarded in a free raffle. Categories/Winners/Prize included:

- **Most flips flops** - Sarah Stepchew and Bruce Premo won 4 pairs of new AquaLung sandals.
- **Most plastic** - Dirk Roesler won a beach chair.
- **Most unique item** - "Magic Carpet" found in ski area - Larry Brooks, Stephanie Los and Kathryn Montgomery won an AquaLung rashguard for each team member.
- **Most cigarette butts** - Matt, Chris and Kiana Ziemba won 'His & Her' AquaLung wetsuits.
- **Most aluminum cans** - Bob Greene, Peter Brown, Keith Church and Melissa Manske won a nice personal cooler for each team member.
- **Largest fish** (not a traditional S-f-T category) - A three foot deceased back tip shark washed on shore and Lauren Sykes won a beach towel she had her eye on.

One other item found was a 5" explosive that was investigated and isolated by the KRS EOD team. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every single volunteer who supported this successful event!!!



Splash-for-Trash pictures by: Marissa Brown

KSC Upcoming Events – Save these dates on your calendar!

October 29th - **Underwater Pumpkin Carving** – See Ivy Springer’s great poster below for details.

November 19th – **Underwater Turkey Hunt** – Emon Beach dive shack 2-4 PM

December 16th – **Scuba Santa** arrives at Emon Beach (more details to be released soon)

December 21st **Mayan Apocalypse Night Dive** at Ski Wreck (more details to be released soon)

Combination change

The tank house combination change is postponed until after the mission.

Scuba Community Notices:

Aqua Lung is conducting a voluntary recall of SureLock™II weight pocket handles.

Visit this link for more details: www.aqualung.com/us/content/view/629

SureLock™II is the mechanical weight release system found on most Aqua Lung buoyancy compensators (BCs) beginning in 2009. Aqua Lung is concerned about the rubber handle pulling off of the plastic SureLock™II weight pocket assembly. If this were to occur during a dive, the weight pocket would be left engaged inside the BC. There are no known occurrences of this happening underwater, and there have not been any reported injuries, but Aqua Lung believes that a recall is the safe and prudent thing to do. Aqua Lung has made a revision to the handle assembly that strengthens it. A revised handle is easily recognized by a thickened band of rubber at the base of the handle. If you have an old style pocket, please let John Pennington know to provide a count for Kwajalein replacements. Two packages of replacement handles has already arrived and John can swap the pocket in 30-seconds per side.



Atomic Aquatics Cobolt Dive Computer Recall

Visit this link for details: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/prhtml12/12286.html>

If you own a Cobolt with a serial number in the affected Serial Lots, Jim Bishop has offered to work with you and an authorized ATOMIC AQUATICS Retailer in Honolulu to perform the inspection. The recall affects all Cobolts with serial numbers that start with any of the following numbers:

10 Series: 2210 2910 4010 4710 5010

11 Series: 1111 1711 2611 2811 3211 3311 3411 3511 3611 3711 3811 3911 4011 4111 4211 4511 4611 5211

12 Series: 0812 1112 1212 1312 1412 1612

KSC First Stage Improvements?

We are looking for input from KSC members to improve the newsletter. Please let us know if you have an interesting event or anecdote to share, a survey you would like to see, or other input to the First Stage. Please send you input to penningtonscuba@gmail.com for consideration.

Come join the fun for Kwajalein Scuba Club's Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest



Monday, October 29th 2-4 pm at Emon Beach dive shack.

This awesomely fun event is great for divers of all ages and cert levels.

Lots of good prizes and yummy refreshments.



Plan ahead for these

carving categories:

Au Natural = only knife and spoon work - no added hats, beads, etc.

Scariest = duh

Whimsical = yep, you know this one, too


Props = Best one with added props like dry ice, plastic ears, etc...

For the Kids = Best one in the age 10 to 15 junior diver group

HINT: Bring a weight belt for your pumpkin as carving has to start under water.

Buddy teams should meet at Emon Beach dive shack no later than 2:15 pm for the dive briefing and rules.



To reserve a  and have an AIR tank delivered, or other questions contact John Pennington at penningtonscuba@gmail.com or call 5-3290 no later than COB Friday October 19th.



Nitrox divers should reserve a  but must bring your own nitrox tank.