



# Kwajalein Scuba Club

## The *First Stage* Newsletter – December 2012



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### **USAKA Water Regulation 385-9 Has Been Updated!!!**

After many months of negotiations, fact finding, risk review, and solid efforts by several key players, the local rules have been updated!!! The KSC did not receive the full 24x7 diving that we used to enjoy but we have a great deal of hours added compared to the last two years. The revised regulation has been uploaded to the KSC website and should be reviewed by each and every KSC member ASAP as these changes are in effect immediately. Please follow these rules, dive after work more, and enjoy the free (no more \$74 on-call fee) night diving any evening of the week again. Please be sure to thank our Kwajalein leadership for working with us so they see this was worth the many hours invested to restore dive privileges.

In general diving hours of Sunrise to 10:00PM are in effect every day now so go enjoy those after work dives again. We still have to file a night dive plan and have two light sources if you will be under water after dark. As a simple example, you wouldn't go in after 6:00PM without filing a night dive plan with KPD and you will call them within 30 minutes of exiting to close the plan. A new Exception To Policy form is being created for to assist non-resident divers and for special organized night dive events so look for that to be posted on the KSC Website this month. More details will be provided by the KSC Executive Council and the Chief Dive Supervisor at the December meeting.



### **KSC Under-Water Turkey Hunt Update**

After a two-year hiatus, the traditional KSC Turkey Hunt was returned by event host and KSC President John Pennington. It was a tremendous success and fun was had by divers of all ages. Not counting the 8 volunteers, there were 38 KSC divers and 7 snorkelers looking for instant prizes, colored "turkey eggs", roasting forks, and rubber chickens in the lagoon. What?...rubber chickens underwater?

Yes, that's right, there were two rubber chickens hidden off Emon Beach and the person who found them each won a large whole turkey for Thanksgiving. There were also two roasting forks hidden which were redeemed for spiral sliced hams. Numerous "instant prizes" of KSC coffee mugs and two dozen KSC koozies were also submerged in depths ranging from 8 to 43 feet. There were another 20+ prizes for those lucky searchers who found the colored "turkey eggs" which seemed amazingly similar to Easter eggs you might see in the Spring. Many of the turkey eggs were numbered and redeemed for a KSC t-shirt, KSC Beach towel, or even Aqua Lung rash guards and sandals donated for the event.

Prizes were also awarded for the most turkey eggs each found by male and female divers. All participating divers won something and had a great time. Ron Gamble won a turkey, Father Victor Langhans won a ham, but the big winners were Sam & Melissa Engelhard who won both a turkey and ham! Many divers joked that all divers would meet at their house for a Thanksgiving dinner.

A really big THANK YOU goes out to volunteers who helped John Pennington restore this traditional event. KSC supporters included Dive Locker manager Marissa Brown, Matt & Chris Ziemba and Geoffrey & Melina Lake who hid the eggs/prizes, and Beachmaster Melissa Oliver. Also thank you to several folks who helped haul tanks to/from the event. KSC community events cannot happen without leadership and selfless volunteers like those who supported this latest event for our KSC families to enjoy. This has been a great summer for the KSC with more to come!!!







Notice: If you took any pictures of this event on land or underwater, please send them to John Pennington or upload them to the KSC facebook page so they can be shared with others. Thanks!

## **KSC Upcoming Events – Save these dates on your calendar!**

### ❖ **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

#### **KSC Monthly meeting,**

Wednesday at the Pacific Club. Dive Locker access will be 6:30-7:00 as well as a meet/greet social with desserts/beverages for TDY folks and regular members to share stories or find a new dive buddy. Meeting starts at 7:00. KSC Christmas Party tickets on will be for sale.

### ❖ **December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

#### **Kwajalein Scuba Club Welcomes Scuba Santa and the KYC Parade of Lights**

Sunday, sunset at Emon beach. The KSC Christmas tree, Scuba Santa, and some of his Elves will emerge from the lagoon followed by the Yacht Club's Parade of Lights. Kids of all ages will enjoy the free chem-lights and chance to see Scuba Santa.

### ❖ **December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

#### **Kwajalein Scuba Club Christmas Party & Diver's Alert Network (DAN) fundraiser event**

Monday, 6:00pm – 9:00pm at the American Legion. Dinner is a Mongolian BBQ where you pick your fresh vegetables, meat, and sauces that are grilled up for you. A dinner ticket also includes soda/water, desert and one entry into the prize raffle. A silent auction and raffle will be part of the fun with proceeds going to the Diver's Alert Network. DJ Neil Dye will be providing the music and bartenders will be on duty with a ca\$h bar for those interested in holiday libations.

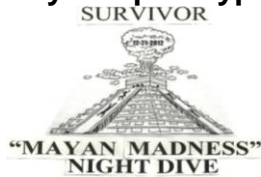
#### Ticket rates:

- \$10 KSC active member in good standing
- \$10 KSC kids 8-18 (kids under 8 eat free)
- \$20 Spouse/date of active member.
- \$20 Roi Dolphin
- \$30 Invited guest of KSC member

Contact KSC President John Pennington or KSC Secretary Cindy Cullen for tickets or additional information if you miss the December meeting.

❖ **December 21st , 2012**

**Mayan Apocalypse Night Dive**



Friday, 6:30PM-10:00 at the Ski Area Steps. This is a KSC sponsored event so dive buddy teams should meet at the Steps no later than 6:30PM for the safety briefing. Two working dive lights per diver required but chem-light markers will be provided. If you would like a regular air tank delivered and be included on the group night dive float plan contact Doug Hepler at 5-2681 or sign up at the next KSC meeting on December 12th, at the Pacific Club. EANx divers may be included on the group float plan but must bring your own tanks. Special T-shirts for all divers and refreshments will be provided.

❖ **December 31st , 2012**

**New Year's Eve dive???** (Not Confirmed yet and NOT a organized KSC event)

John Pennington and several students are looking into USAKA approval for a 11:00-1:00AM dive window for those who want to ring in the new year without the parties and champagne. If interested in this possibility please call or email John by December 19<sup>th</sup> to be added to the request.

## **The Tank House Combination is changing!**

The new tank house combination must NOT be provided by you to any diver that you cannot personally verify on the Current Member spreadsheet in the tank house. If you cannot verify using the list, then please refer the diver in question to any Dive Supervisory Council Dive Master or Instructor.

## **KSC First Stage Improvements?**

We really 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 your input to [penningtonscuba@gmail.com](mailto:penningtonscuba@gmail.com) for consideration.