



# Kwajalein Scuba Club

## The *First Stage* Newsletter – February 2013



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### **Proposed 2013 Changes to KSC Constitution**

The KSC Executive Council discussed and agreed with the following changes to the KSC Constitution and presented them to the membership in attendance January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please review so we can vote on these at the February meeting.

Article IV – Elected Officers. Proposed change: Add term limits of two consecutive years and five year cumulative lifetime to section C of Term of Office for elected officers.

Rationale: Look at our Congress and House of Representatives to see why term limits are needed and it is a simple fact that qualified people are hesitant or even unable to unseat incumbents. New and innovative ideas usually happen in the first two years for newly elected persons and rarely spring out of longtime incumbents or people who seek positions of power more for personal reasons. Focus should be on supporting the membership and make it a club people want to actively participate in. Enforcing term limits affords the opportunity for vitality and keeping an active club. Since Appointed officers are changed by the incoming EC it has been determined not to set a lifetime limitation on those positions but require the positions to be announced to allow people to express interest and qualifications for consideration.

Article V – Appointed Officers. Proposed change: Update from 4 positions to 5 by adding an Event Coordinator Officer position.

Rationale: Look at this last year and ask yourself if the KSC has been more active that past years? Then ask where this effort has this come from and you'll see the same officer(s) hosting events. Adding an Event Coordinator Officer who wants to help plan and oversee these events will help spread the workload to ensure fun and creative events continue. This is NOT a paid position and only a free membership for their time.

Article V – Appointed Officers, D.3 Qualifications. Proposed change: Reverse the 2011 decision for the Safety and Training Officer qualification and restore it to require an Instructor level certification.

Rationale: For decades the KSC ST&O has been a position that required an Instructor level rating based on the duties for coordinating training activities, investigating violations, and investigating injuries. This was changed in 2011 since several instructors to include the incumbent ST&O were leaving Kwajalein. There was concern that with only four instructors remaining there may not be one who would volunteer so it was opened up to only a Dive Master rating. Technically, that could allow someone with only 50 dives and initial professional training to be appointed the ST&O. The ST&O should revert to Instructor rating since the requirements, training focus, and liability/risk analysis is much higher at the instructor level. The current EC feels the 2011 change wasn't needed and potentially reduces ST&O experience requirements/qualifications.

One additional change, to Article IV – Elected Officers Section B, has been suggested by several members. Proposed change: Amend to include provision of verified proxy voting specifically if a

KSC member is a current resident but is off island for vacation, TDY, or Medical during the May voting. Proxy voting should not be allowed if a person came to the April Safety meeting but just doesn't want to attend in May and should ONLY be considered if the resident is a current member who is off island at the May voting. The logistics of this will have to be discussed and accountability should be verified by the user emailing proof of absence and candidate selection to the KSC Secretary which we preclude some anonymity of voting but still allow the member's vote to count.

**Looking for a great dive trip in 2013?**

In 2009, the KSC President established a dive trip committee lead by Bob Greene to seek out the best group rate for a live-a-board trip. Bob's research found the best quality and pricing was the Odyssey so KSC members filled the whole boat at no cost to the KSC. With Spring and Summer breaks coming, a few KSC members have been looking at vacation options and the information below might help:

Odyssey Adventures has a great "short notice discount" program for folks living on Kwajalein and Guam that Kwajalein Scuba Club members have been enjoying. This discount is for available space within a 60 day window from the date of booking. The discount amount is **25%** off their standard rate of \$3,095 so the discounted rate would be \$2,321. There are some good opportunities to take advantage of this savings but the program is ongoing so the 60 day window is always advancing. The following is a current list of available dates:

<u>2013 Available Dates</u>	<u>Seats Currently Open</u>
Mar. 10 – 17, 2013	2 spaces
Mar. 17 – 24, 2013	1 space
Mar. 24 – 31, 2013	2 spaces
Mar. 31 – Apr. 7, 2013	10 spaces
Apr. 7 – 14, 2013	8 spaces
May 5 – 12, 2013	4 spaces
May 12 – 19, 2013	3 spaces
May 19 – 26, 2013	7 spaces
June 2 – 9, 2013	6 spaces
June 9 – 16, 2013	1 space
June 30 – July 7, 2013	2 spaces
Aug. 25 – Sept. 1, 2013	3 spaces
Oct. 13 – 20, 2013	4 spaces
Oct. 27 – Nov. 3, 2013	6 spaces
Nov. 10 – 17, 2013	4 spaces
Dec. 8 – 15. 2013	9 spaces

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Cliff Horton by phone-toll free: 1-800-757-5396 or e-mail: info@trukodyssey.com for more info. You may also visit www.TrukOdyssey.com for additional details.

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

❖ **February 11th, 2013 10:00AM-3:00PM**  
**KSC Swap Meet**

Did you get nice dive gear over the holidays and now you have an extra BCD, DPV, knife, or weights laying around that you would like to trade for cash? Are you interested in obtaining

good prices on new and used gear? Have you made a New Year's resolution to do some house cleaning? If you answer YES to any of these questions then come out for the swap meet. Members can sign up for one free table to display your goods so come on down.

The hours were intentionally scheduled to bridge boating hours so you don't have to decide on diving or looking for new gear. Additional tables for member tables or dive vendors will be available for a small fee and on a limited basis relevant to pre-registration counts. Contact John Pennington with questions or to reserve a table.

❖ **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**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. KSC Constitution changes to be discussed.

❖ **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Dive Supervisory Council Meeting**

Quarterly meeting for KSC Instructors and Dive Masters on the DSC. Contact Chief Dive Supervisor Ivy Springer for details.

## **KSC First Stage Improvements? Any KSC 2012 Pictures to Share?**

We hope you have enjoyed the information and pictures in the First Stage last year but we are always looking for input from KSC members to improve this 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. Also, if you have any pictures of the MANY activities this year, please share them with us. John Pennington is creating albums on the KSC Facebook page and would like to add pictures that you have taken at KSC event or other great pictures of diving in/around Kwajalein.

Please send your input to [penningtonscuba@gmail.com](mailto:penningtonscuba@gmail.com) for consideration. Thanks!!!