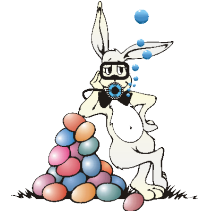




Kwajalein Scuba Club

The *First Stage* Newsletter – March 2013



Proposed 2013 Changes to KSC Constitution

The KSC Executive Council reviewed and voted to include the following changes to the KSC Constitution. These were presented to all members in attendance at the January 9th KSC membership meeting and again at the February 13th meeting. The March 13, 2013 KSC membership meeting has been properly advertised as a “Constitutional Change” meeting in the Hourglass, Roller, and Coconut-Wire which meets or exceeds the constitutional requirement for announcement.

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: New and innovative ideas usually happen in the first two years for newly elected persons but new residents and qualified candidates are hesitant run against incumbents. Focus should be on supporting the KSC membership and make it a club people want to actively participate in so enacting term limits would offer opportunity for more members to have a voice in their club. Since Appointed officers should be changed by the incoming EC it was 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.

New information to consider:

- Bill Williamson expressed objection to term limits at the February meeting.
- Follow-on research shows that other Kwajalein clubs do not have term limits. This should still be voted on for formality but we anticipate a declination on limit terms.

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

Rationale: Has the KSC has been more active lately compared to past years? These efforts tend to ride on the same KSC officer(s) and volunteers hosting KSC events. Adding an Event Coordinator Officer to help plan and oversee these events will help spread the workload to ensure fun and creative events continue from your elected Executive Counsel. This is NOT a paid position and only a free membership for this new position.

New information to consider:

- Proposal received well at meetings presented.

Article V – Appointed Officers, D.3 Qualifications. Proposed change: Reverse the 2011 decision for the Safety and Training Officer (ST&O) qualification and restore it to an Instructor certification required.

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 injury investigations. 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 a diver with only a 50 dive history 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.

New information to consider:

- Bill Williamson expressed objection at the February meeting and stated that Dive Masters have the same training that an Instructor does.
- Edward Jednacz also stated objections to this change and cited concerns should an instructor not be available or willing to serve.
- John Pennington recommends the addition of a "fail safe bullet" added to state: "Should no instructor seek appointment of the ST&O position, the EC may receive applications for a DM in active status serving on the DSC and make that appointment for one year." This addition should address the objections stated and make it clear that the desired result is to have an instructor in that position.

Article IV – Elected Officers Section B

It has been suggested by several members to be amended 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.

New information to consider:

- Proposal received well at January and February meetings presented.
- If approved, this will need a little work to implement but should not be much trouble do.

Other changes?

The current cover page is a generic one offered in Microsoft Word and will be replaced with the nicer KSC logo we use on shirts, coffee mugs, and other Dive Locker items. Minor format or spelling changes will be made but no content changes shall be made without representing new changes to the KSC membership for voting.

KSC/PADI Binders Arriving Soon

The KSC is a PADI Partner and the Diver Locker has these nice log book covers arriving in March.



Although the price to sell these has not been established, here is the mock up of what they will look like. These black nylon binders will have a red and white screen-printed KSC logo and embroidered PADI logo. Please get with Chris Ziembra to pre-order one before they are snatched up.

Kwajalein Scuba Club Easter Egg Hunt

FREE!

Prizes!!

April 1st 9:30 AM

Everyone Welcome!



Sign in from 9:30-10:00 AM

Swimmers, Snorklers, and divers of all ages are welcome to participate.

Some eggs will be hidden at shallow depth for our younger participants!

**POC:
Matthew & Chris Ziemba 5-2036**

KSC Upcoming Events – Save these dates on your calendar!

❖ **March 13th, 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. This is a “Constitutional Change” meeting to vote on proposals discussed in the last few meetings.

❖ **April 1st, 2013**

KSC Underwater Easter Egg Hunt, Monday morning at Emon beach. Look at what returned this year!!! This is a traditional KSC hosted event that is fun for all ages and for all types of folks to enjoy. KSC Easter eggs will be hidden in the water ranging from 5 inches to 50 feet from the roped off kids area on over the first drop off. Open to any Kwajalein resident swimmer, snorkeler or diver to enjoy. Over 20 prizes to be given away so come on down for this classic KSC event!!!



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 still 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 for consideration. Thanks!!!