



# Kwajalein Scuba Club

## The *First Stage* Newsletter – May 2013



'Happy Scuba De Mayo'

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### **Annual Safety Meeting AND Election of Officers Meeting**

Friday May 10th will be the “make-up” required safety meeting and payment of KSC dues for those who missed the meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. This year we have very interesting presentations instead of the long lived safety video most of us have seen more than once. The safety presentation portion of the May meeting will take place after a very quick business portion and election of Executive Council officers.

The individuals who received nominations and seconds at the April meeting have made a few comments for your consideration at the May vote.

#### **For the office of KSC President, John Pennington received and accepted the nomination.**

Thank you very much for the nominations to remain the KSC President this next year. For those who know me, I have been truly grateful for the privilege of serving this awesome organization and to funnel some of my energy into making it a fun club this last year. I am also VERY grateful for the key volunteers who have rallied behind me in a way that I could not have imagined. This is an awesome organization and I want to continue with my promise to make it a better club for the membership with family based events, tank life-cycle replacement program, and additional safety initiatives. Respectfully, John Pennington

#### **For the office of KSC Vice-President, Peter Brown received and accepted the nomination.**

Thanks for the nomination and second for the office of the Kwajalein Scuba Club Vice President. Most of you know me as a familiar masked face down at Emon or the Small Boat Marina. My wife and I spend an inordinate amount of time diving the lagoon and surrounding area in addition to serving the KSC and its members in our current capacity. I don't have any political views or ideas to promote - just a deep and vested interest in the Kwajalein Scuba Club and its continued success. I'm grateful for the opportunity to fill a role that supports the general and specific interests of the Club, its membership and the needs of the Executive Council. This is something I have supported in the past and am willing to continue to support this coming year. Regards, Peter Brown



**For the office of KSC Treasurer, Marissa Brown received and accepted the nomination.**

Thanks for the nomination for the office of KSC Treasurer. I spent the past year working in the Dive Locker and have been the interim Treasurer since Joy Preston left island. As Peter already so eloquently mentioned, we don't have any political views to push, we just love to dive, thus we have a keen interest in making sure the Scuba Club continues to operate efficiently. Marissa Brown

**For the office of KSC Secretary, Cindy Cullen received and accepted the nomination but has since offered to step down and take this year off with the following words:**

As Secretary of the KSC, I'd like to thank everyone who supports our club and all the members who've helped with our numerous activities. I've been a Kwajalein resident and KSC member for three years and the KSC Secretary for the last year. One of my biggest goals was to learn to dive. Since my husband and I sailed out here we thought Kwajalein was the perfect place to do it. I dive because I'm a water person, Kwaj has lovely, warm water, and great dive club to support us. Last year I was approached by two KSC council members and asked if I'd consider being KSC Secretary. I really wasn't doing much to help out the club so I agreed to take the job, that's if I was voted into office.

I started publishing the KSC Monthly Minutes on our webpage. I thought that reading the minutes at each meeting just seems so boring. Now minutes are available for anyone. Copies are also brought to all meetings and I volunteer to read them if requested to do so. Another aspect of my position that I am proud of is revising our Membership spreadsheet. It's a much more up to date, comprehensive, complete spreadsheet, and now it's user-friendly too! I couldn't have done this without input from all of the members, instructors, dive masters, and especially the treasurer (who has to go through all the paperwork before it gets to me).

As you all know, another individual is interested in the Secretary position and therefore, I've decided to step down. I've enjoyed being the Secretary, I like contributing to our club, and I'd planned to continue on for another year but we might not have such a good candidate for the position next year. I will wish whoever wins the Secretary position well and will help them with the transition. I hope to get a bit more diving in and will still see you all out there. Thank you, Cindy Cullen

**For the office of KSC Secretary, Melissa Engelhard received and accepted the nomination.**

It's a privilege to accept the nomination for the position of Secretary for the Kwajalein SCUBA club. I wanted to write a bit about my background and what I would like for the position to look like if I'm elected.

I graduated Cum Laude in 2011 from Metropolitan State University of Denver with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Technical Communications with an emphasis in technical writing and editing. I've been writing technical documents for over 17 years now and love it.

I owned my own business writing marketing materials, technical documents, editing and designing documents for customers across the United States, and designing websites for various non-profit groups. It is such a great experience when I get to work with customers to deliver products they are proud of. I've worked at numerous Department of Energy sites doing

various things, but always surrounding technical subjects. From working with the Department of Energy in Finance, Contracts, and Property to working with nuclear material, the waste it produced, and environmental clean-up. Currently I work as a Technical Writer for KRS on a temporary basis.

I've had my open water diver certification for 13 years, but only recently went through classes for my advanced open water (last year). I love the underwater life here and the passion of the divers for all things diving including the environmental awareness, mechanics, teaching and learning that happens on a daily basis. How excited I was to learn where Kwajalein was and how close to Bikini Atoll as well. It's my goal for my 50th birthday to dive Bikini Atoll with my husband. Definitely a "bucket list" thing. Our family is just beginning to explore off of the island and finding new places to dive. So many dive sites, so little time!

As for what I want to see happen with this position, there are many things that I've seen done well with Cindy. She works hard and wants the best for her position. But I love documentation, writing and information - I can't help it - grammar humor rocks. I want minutes that are out prior to the next meeting. Although there is nothing in the constitution to dictate when they should be out, it is difficult to read a long document at the next meeting so having them posted within a week or even two is much better for our club than being posted a day or two before the meeting.

I look forward to putting together the slides for the roller announcing meetings and other events. While we have a strong club, ensuring that those people who are interested in diving have the information they need to learn more about us is a great way to keep us strong. I would like to see our rosters consistently updated to reflect new members so we can receive important emails and I feel I can update this effectively.

I want to assist in the revising of documents that we currently have that may need it. The constitution mentions a Schedule of Dues, Fees, Wages, and Salaries that are not found on the website. There is no clear direction where we can find this information. Any referenced document should always be available to the club members. Documents should have great attention to detail for a club or any business in order to avoid misinterpretations, legal issues or confusion.

I also feel that keeping records for retention are important not just for current legal issues or knowledge of the club, but for the actual historical documentation of one of the largest dive clubs in the world in one of the best locations in the world.

I might not be able to put everything into place the month after elected, but one item at a time the documented "look" of the club will change and I want the new look to be something you are proud to see everywhere and helps your SCUBA life run more smoothly.

Melissa Engelhard

# **KSC Event update – Under/Water Easter Egg Hunt**

The following article was intended to be published in the Kwajalein Hourglass but missed the deadline so here it is for your reading pleasure.

An Island Tradition with a Fantastic Turnout

By Maddy Greene

Teen Representative of the KSC Diving Supervisory Council

On the day after Easter, the second of April, the annual Kwajalein Scuba Club Easter Egg Hunt took place down at Emon Beach early that morning. At around nine-thirty, a few participants began to trickle in, and it seemed as this was going to be simply a normally—or even a less-than-anticipated—attended event. The coordinators—the Ziemba family, Dive Supervisory Council members, and others—were easily signing people in without much of a wait. However, at around quarter ‘till ten, things began to get hectic. More and more people began to show up, and of all ages, as well. Not only elementary kids and their parents, but also teens and even adults came out to participate in this event. At least one hundred people came to the beach so early that morning, and even the coordinators were shocked, since scuba divers, snorkelers, free divers, and swimmers alike filled in every line on the sign-in sheet.

At ten o’clock sharp, the event began with a safety briefing by Mr. John Pennington and other divemasters. As he told everyone to begin, the majority, who were swimmers and snorkelers, swarmed the south side of the beach. The rest, mostly free and scuba divers, began on the north side, taking their time to get in, since a vast amount of eggs were hidden where the average snorkeler could not reach, the deepest eggs resting at around forty-five feet deep. Eventually, all participants were in the water, scouting and searching for prize eggs, which would help the participants achieve prizes like assorted knick-knacks, Easter baskets, flip-flops, T-shirts, and even a camera! However, if they never found eggs, participants would get a bag of chips, a water bottle, and even a few cookies for taking part in this island tradition.

Soon after, kids started coming in with their loot, some returning with more eggs than other participants. On the other hand, a few contestants stood out from the crowd. A free diver managed to get thirty-four eggs in total, and he used his rashguard and board shorts as a replacement bag, since he couldn’t find a mesh bag at home. However, the overall winner was the scuba diving duo of Elise Hebert and her father, who managed to bag a grand total of fifty eggs by noon. This was definitely an astounding achievement for the end of a successful event.

# KSC Under/Water Easter Egg Hunt Pictures

We had 103 participants sign in and 14 volunteers for this KSC traditional event.



KSC Safety Briefing is always required.



Mad dash to the shallows....event not just for divers but for the whole family!!!



## **KSC/PADI Binders Are Here!!!**

The KSC is a PADI Partner and the Diver Locker has these nice new log book covers that started arriving in March. The image below is just a sample but the KSC logo is nicely screen printed in red and white and the logo at the bottom is embroidered. The price is only \$25 and they are available at the meeting if you are interested in a thoughtful gift, souvenir, or nice log book cover for yourself.



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

### **❖ May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**KSC Membership Meeting and Election of Officers**, Friday evening in the High School Multi-Purpose Room. Here is the second chance to attend safety meeting and/or pay your dues. Please ensure you bring your current diving certification card and payment of annual dues. This is Friday May 10th and not a regular 2nd Wednesday due to availability of the MP room. Please contact John Pennington at 5-3290 with any questions.

## **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](mailto:penningtonscuba@gmail.com) for consideration. Thanks!!!