

First Stage Newsletter



September 2013

President
John Pennington

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
NO ARTICLE THIS MONTH

Currently, John is off-island on personal business. Please return next month for an article by the KSC President.

COVER PHOTO

This month's photo was taken by Melissa Engelhard at the Fishbowl off of Gea, Marshall Islands in August, 2013.

If you would like to have your photos highlighted in the newsletter, please send your submission to the Club Secretary at mjengelhard@gmail.com.

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Vice President— Matt Ziemba



Our Secretary asked us to provide a few paragraphs for the newsletter; I think I will use this to introduce myself. I am currently one of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians on island. I am a 16 year Army veteran with multiple combat tours as an EOD technician.

Many of you already know my super cool, Mohawked wife and Dive Locker Officer, Chris. I have three children, Brianna, William and Kiana.

I consider it quite a privileged to represent the Kwajalein Scuba Club as the Vice President. In this fluid role I will be covering down on unassigned tasks and supporting the club as necessary. I appreciate every member's opinion and I look forward to helping improve the club in any way I can. Feel free to approach me with any ideas you may have for new events, new training avenues, or anything else you think may improve the club.

Matt Ziemba

Treasurer — Shawn Mirowitz



Currently, the SCUBA Club is undergoing a financial audit. It is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

This means that any payments or checks will also be delayed.

“Successful technologies often begin as hobbies. Jacques Cousteau invented scuba diving because he enjoyed exploring caves. The Wright brothers invented flying as a relief from the monotony of their normal business of selling and repairing bicycles.”

[Freeman Dyson](#)



Secretary
Melissa Engelhard



Greetings and salutations!

I am excited this month to bring you a new look for our newsletter. Bear with us though as it is a work in progress and is not in the final format.

It is my hope to continue to refine the look and the information brought to you each month. This month we have minimal information included in the newsletter, but we hope you are getting the general idea of what will be included every month.

You may have noticed the image on the front of the newsletter. My thought and hope is that all of you wonderful photographers out there will send in your photos and maybe even information on the image with a short paragraph or two. I would like for you to include where the shot was taken, if it needed any special set up and perhaps the story behind it as well. It is exciting and fun to share our dives with others.

Look for paraphrased and shortened articles with links to the original from online diving magazines and websites.

I urge you all to continue to send in suggestions for the newsletter and let us know if there is something you would like to know more about, or if there is something that you would like to tell others about in a guest article.

Until next month—Time for water therapy!



Chief Dive Supervisor
Melissa Oliver

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

The current Dive Council Members:

Marissa Brown

Peter Brown

Rob Ewbank

Doug Hepler

Elena Huston

Ed Jednacz

Jay Lord

Jon Mitchell

Kim Morris

Melissa Oliver

Jeremy Owens

John Pennington

Bill Williamson

Maddy Greene—Youth representative

Safety and Training Officer
Doug Hepler
NO PHOTO AVAILABLE
NO ARTICLE THIS MONTH

Lessons for Life:

by Eric Douglas

- **Be familiar with your equipment.** Everyone gets new equipment from time to time, but take the time to learn how to use it properly.
- **Seek training.** Diving under the care of a dive instructor is a great way to learn new diving techniques and gain confidence. Even when you aren't in a class, don't be afraid to ask for help.
- **Stay close to your buddy in the water.** If you aren't trained in solo diving, stay with your dive buddy so you can help each other out and enjoy the dive together.
- **Practice emergency skills like emergency ascents.** Remember to exhale whenever you ascend.
- **Learn to communicate underwater.** This is something great to learn with a buddy. Develop a system or learn sign language so you can communicate more than just the basic signals.

From the Article

[Lessons for Life: Pride Can Be Deadly](#)



Dive Locker Officer
Chris Ziemba

DIVE 
LOCKER

The Dive Locker is excited to announce that we will now be offering a discount to all Active Duty and Retired US Military members. Just show your ID when you stop by the shop and save some money on your KSC shwag.



Environmental Officer
Bill Williamson

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

NO ARTICLE THIS MONTH

Bill is actively getting ready for the Splash for Trash on September 9th. Join the SCUBA Club and help clean up the island.

Project AWARE's Debris Month of Action

September is Project AWARE's Debris Month of Action.

There are more than six million tons of marine litter estimated to enter the ocean each year.

There are three ways that SCUBA divers can help:

1. Dive Against Debris

Join with the SCUBA Club during their Splash for Trash drive on Monday, September 9, 2013. Meet at the Pacific Club at 0800 for instructions.

2. Make a donation to Project AWARE

From now through September 2013, Oris Watches will match your donation to Project



Tank House Manager
Sam Engelhard



"Tanks A Lot"

Communication: Tank Problems

We have all had problems with a tank when we pull them out of the rack.

To standardize the communication I have supplied the tank house with a roll of 2 inch wide masking tape and markers. Please describe the problem as clearly as possible on the tape and date it. Then stick the tape to the tank and lay the tank down by the door to the maintenance area.

If the problem is complex please leave your name and contact number, or call me at x1824 - leave a message if no one answers.

Proper Tank Return:

1. Tanks should be returned with **at least** 500 PSI in the tank.
2. Rinse tank with fresh water. (hose outside of tank house door is connected to fresh water for your convenience)
3. Place tank in proper bin (Nitrox or Air)
4. Ensure that the tank valve opening is pointing down.
5. Vent a small amount of air out of the tank (less than a second burst) to ensure that the valve is clear of water or debris.

Pacific Club Manager

A new Pacific Club Manager is needed to take care of issues with our building. We like having a place to call our own, but it needs someone to take care of it. If you are interested, please email the Club Secretary at mjengelhard@gmail.com with a statement of interest.

Event Coordinator Officer

This month we have a current member that is interested in this position:

For any of those who don't know me, please allow me to share a little about myself. I have been diving on Kwajalein for nearly five years. I received my PADI Open Water and Advanced certifications from Mike Malone in May 2009. I then continued my training with Bill Williamson, completing my Rescue Diver in March 2011, Nitrox in Sep 2012 and Dive master in March 2013. Prior to her recent departure, I had the privilege of numerous dives with Ivy Springer, who taught me how much there was to really see with a simple walk-in dive off of Emon Beach; and indirectly how to go about sharing my passion for diving with others. I have greatly enjoyed diving on Kwaj, and now believe that it is time to 'give back' to my diving community by becoming more actively involved with KSC. I was recently accepted onto the Dive Council.

I believe that my professional background has instilled numerous skills that KSC may find valuable. I have spent the last three years (and am currently serving) as the Port Agent in the Marine Department. Prior to Kwajalein, I spent fourteen years in the Aviation industry as an Air Traffic Controller. Either of these roles clearly demonstrate my organizational abilities.

I humbly request consideration for the open position of Event Coordinator.

Thank you!

Jr. Member at Large Maddy Greene

NO IMAGE AVAILABLE
NO ARTICLE THIS MONTH

By Natalie Gibb, About.com Guide

[Not All Children and Teenagers Should Dive:](#)

Scuba diving certification agencies allow children to enroll in scuba classes, but not all kids and teenagers are ready to handle the stress of the underwater environment and the theory work required for a diving course. In "Children and Scuba Diving: A Resource Guide for Instructors and Parents", PADI suggests that if the following questions can be answered in the affirmative, a child may be ready to enroll in a scuba diving certification course.

Helpful Guidelines to Determine if a Child Is Ready for a Scuba

Certification:

- Does the child want to learn to dive? (This should not be just the desire of his parents and friends.)
- Is the child medically fit to dive?
- Is the child comfortable in the water, and can the child swim?
- Does the child have a sufficient attention span to listen to and learn from class discussions, pool and open water briefings, and debriefings and other interactions with an instructor?
- Can the child learn, remember, and apply multiple safety rules and principles?
- Are the child's reading skills sufficient to learn from adult-level material (allowing for extra reading time and the child requesting assistance?)
- Does the child feel comfortable telling an unfamiliar adult (instructor or divemaster) about any discomfort or not understanding something?
- Does the child have reasonable self-control and the ability to respond to a problem by following rules and asking for help rather than acting impulsively?
- Does the child have the ability to understand and discuss hypothetical situations and basic abstract concepts like space and time?

Rinse Off—The Final Word

By Melissa Engelhard

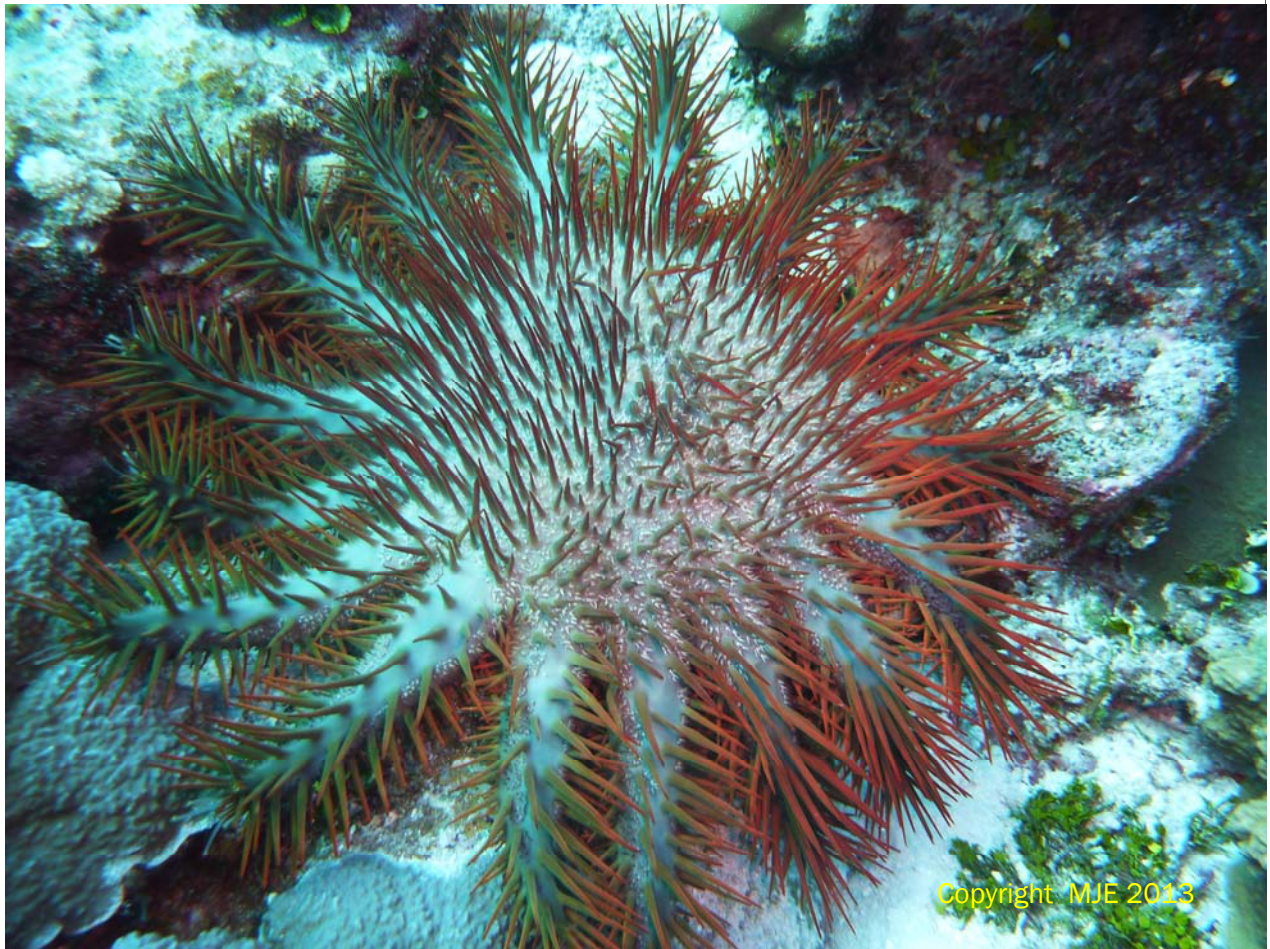
I'm going to start this last page/last word opportunity by thanking each and every one of you for your continued support of the SCUBA Club.

This last page is where I want to invite all of you to voice what you love, ideas, pictures, articles, and share anything else on your mind for the month. I know you all have an opinion and you all love to SCUBA dive. So come on—here's your chance every month to be a guest and show us your best.

The only rules are that there will be no negative personal “bashing” of others. This is where we let our love of this activity shine through. We will not always agree with each other, but we can always be respectful. I will post only those things that are relevant to the club and I will even post responses if they are respectful.

Send in your ideas, comments, questions, and thoughts!

Until then, I get to show some of my own photos so stop me if you don't want to see the next month filled with only my thoughts and photos. I KNOW you all can do better!



This photo was taken at Gea in August . We went diving out at the Fishbowl and came upon this guy slowly making his way over the coral.