



# Clearwater

*Dhahran Dive Association Newsletter*

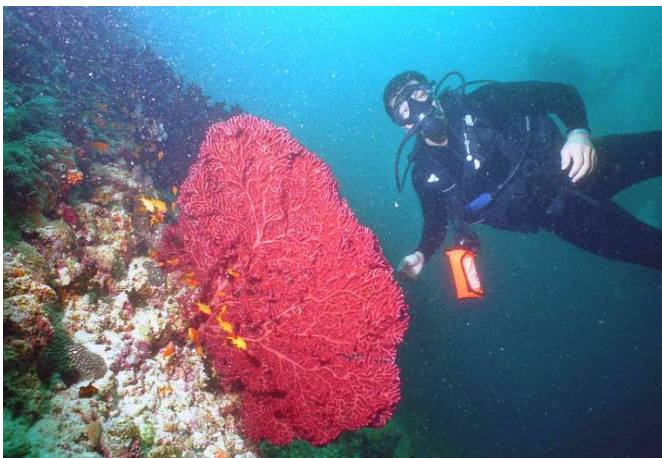
*Feb/March 2006*  
*"Moray Eel Edition"*

## **A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

***Radi Adzemovic, President 2006***

The DDA is a very special club. It is one of the largest groups to visit the Kingdom's Red Sea reefs and islands every year. As I wrote last year, 'we have opportunities not only to dive these sites and improve our skills as divers, videographers, photographers, and naturalists but also to consider undertaking the study of these sites in a disciplined and regular manner'. In an effort to move in this direction the DDA membership voted to add a board position with the task of coordinating a marine life awareness effort for both those in the DDA and as well as for the schools in the area.

Last year I wrote that, 'perhaps the DDA will be able to provide environmental assessments in order to foster greater environmental awareness as well as examine the benefits and risks of ecotourism'. It is our hope that the DDA will now be better able to share our experiences and appreciation of the marine life with the greater community.



*Adel with fan coral by Colin Knight*

The DDA will participate in the annual Funfest, which will give the club our second opportunity to get the word out about the beauty of the Red Sea, the activities of the DDA, and information about dive certification courses.

Our first DDA social of the year will be held on Monday March 27. If you haven't seen the latest photographs and videos that our members have taken and have shown at DDA meetings last year you have missed some superb Red Sea footage. Come and have dinner on March 27 and catch up with divers about upcoming trips and recent adventures.

I look forward to a great year of safe diving in some of the best reef systems in the world!!

## **DDA MONTHLY MEETINGS**

DDA monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at Ad-Diwan, Room 1, doors open at 6:00pm with a catered buffet dinner and door prizes.

**SR40 for members / SR50 for guests / SR20 for kids aged 12 and under (this month only).**

### ***Our first meeting for the year is:***

- **Monday, March 27** (the last Monday of the month) "DDA Monthly Meeting" to be held in Ad-Diwan, ROOM 1 @ 6.00pm.

## **DDA FUNFEST – MARCH 2**

Come one come all and join in the festivities of the 2006 SAEA Funfest to be held on Thursday March 2, from 1100-1700 hrs at the Kings Road Park area. Volunteers are needed with the planning and during the event. Last years event was a great success and a lot of fun. If you are available, please contact Deb at 878-1489.

Come along and support the club. A BBQ will follow this event at Deb's place for those people involved.

## **U/W PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION**

DAN Europe has an excellent competition website for underwater photographers and enthusiasts. Get your entries in or just browse the collection of photos.

**"<http://www.daneurope.org/photocontest/eng/>"**

## CREATURE PROFILE FEATURE

By James Vandervyver

### WHALE SHARKS *Rhincodon typus*



The sole living member of its family, the whale shark is the world's largest living fish. Its massive, fusiform body reaches lengths in excess of 46' (14m). It has alternating thin white vertical bars and columns of spots on a dark background, with long ridges along the upper side of the body and a prominent lateral keel. The narrow mouth extends across the full width of its flattened head. The eyes are small and far forward on the head. Each nostril has a small barbel and the gill slits are long and extend above the pectoral fins. Above the relatively small pelvic fins are the first of two dorsal fins. The powerful caudal fin is semicircular.

It has well-developed internal spongy filters at the gill arches, which help to retain small prey within its huge mouth. This mechanism may impede the flow of water through the mouth during swimming, which limits the amount of plankton the shark can strain. So, as well as filter feeding, it can also pump water into its mouth to feed on concentrated patches of plankton.

#### Diet

This shark swims slowly near the surface, consuming small crustacean plankton, small fishes, such as sardines and anchovies, and even larger fishes such as mackerel.

#### Reproduction

The whale shark is a live-bearer. Pregnant females were recently found to contain hundreds of young, up to about 2' (60cm) long.

#### Habitat

The whale shark is found in all tropical and subtropical oceans, along coastal regions, and enters lagoons on tropical islands. It is mostly seen on the surface where divers and snorkelers can swim with this gentle, curious creature.

#### Range

The whale shark ranges throughout the western and eastern Atlantic Ocean, the Indo-West, central, and eastern Pacific Ocean.

#### Distinguishing Characteristics

\*Harmless\* Seasonally, day and night.  
Appears curious with humans.

*Originally published by Kwazulu Natal Nature Conservation Service*

## NEWS

**B.C. divers given go-ahead to sink Boeing 737** Fri, 02 Dec 2005

**Submitted by Alfred Vouk**

Diving fans in British Columbia have been cleared to sink a Boeing 737 in waters off the coast of Vancouver Island. The Artificial Reef Society of B.C. announced earlier this week that it had received final approval from Environment Canada to lower the de-commissioned plane into the waters off Chemainus, about 70 kilometres north of Victoria.

The project, which has been in the works since 2002, also received approval from six local First Nations groups. After the 1970s era plane is lowered by crane into the water on Jan. 14, 2006, it will sit on 4.5-metre high stands on the ocean bottom so divers can swim under it.

The plane's future resting place was chosen for its lack of sea life, due to a century of forest-industry debris, said the ARSBC. In its stripped form, the 30-metre long plane will weigh 15 tonnes. The sinking will be filmed for the Discovery Channel series Mega Builders, said a news release from the society.

The ARSBC has already created six other artificial reefs in the province using ships. The society expects the new reef to be home to dozens of species of sea life within a couple of years.

## The PROEAR2000™ Mask Review

By David R. Gruno



Some are wondering what it is being written up here in this document. Basically it is a mask that not only serves the purpose of a regular mask by bringing our air environment into the water to allow you to see, but is also has attached cups that enclose your ears with the same silicone double seals that so effectively keep water out of your mask and keeps pressure-equalized air around your ears as well. How this is done will be explained later. Why this is done and why you might want this I will explain with a brief history.

For those of you like me who seem to get rapid and frequent ear infections (Otitis External – Swimmers Ear, occasional or discernable hearing loss, the feeling that you need to tilt your head and shake something out of your ears), you know how awful it is to start feeling that burning itch in your outer ear canal knowing that soon to come is an ear infection and blockage that will not allow you to dive deeper then 2 meters without excruciating pain.

Keeping your ears clear of infection is best for SCUBA divers and although there are many forms of preventive measures used such as taking twice a day one of the following: Otic Domeboro solution, or a home brew of a 50:50 mixture of white wine vinegar and isopropyl alcohol, or simply acetic acid and water mixtures, the best thing is to keep your ears dry so that the warm, moist environment that the bacteria love so much does not form in the first place. This is where the ProEar2000™ mask comes to the forefront.

The ProEar2000™ mask and ear cup combination form a water tight seal around your face and ears respectively. Air from your mask is able to travel through an attached tube to each ear cup from your mask. As you equalize your mask you also equalize the pressure in the ear cups so that both your mask and ear cups are at ambient pressure. If you put the mask and ear cups on properly, and of course try and keep excessive amounts of hair out of the cups, then your ears stay dry. If you have the unfortunate occurrence where a leak does occur, and believe me you know it, even in warm tropical water when your nice dry warm ears all of a sudden get an inflow of cooler sea water it gives you a small shock and quiver all up and down your body, then similar to clearing your mask you hold the tops of your ear cups and your mask in place with both hands and just exhale through your nose. The air passes through the tubes in your mask to the top of the ear cup and just like clearing your mask your ear cups also clear out the bottom of the cup where there are small drainage cuts made for this purpose.

### Personal testimonial:

In January 2006 I went to the Maldives again Colin Knights trip. This time I wanted to try out the new ProEar2000™ mask to see how effective it was. I had used it during my Dive Master training but usually you only do 4 or 5 dives in a week. I did 24 dives in 6 days and did not get any ear infections or troubles. My conclusion is: the ProEar2000™ mask works! - A real bonus considering the cost of a big trip like that.



David wearing ProEar 2000 by Anthony Murdoch

### Other observations using the mask:

I found that equalizing was made easier. I normally have trouble with one ear more than the other. I had almost no trouble this trip. On occasion I was even able to equalize using the BTV (Beance Tubaire Voluntaire) method (basically just swallowing and blowing through my nose) instead of the more usual Valsalva Manoeuvre (nose pinch). The reason for this is because the air around your ear seems to have a bit of a buffering feature. You first have the water pressure affecting your ear cup and secondly ear cup pressure onto your ear drum. It seems to give you a bit more time to equalize. By exhaling through your nose often you automatically increase the pressure in the ear cup.

**Sound:** At first you can't believe the new sounds you can hear. There is a different frequency range of sound available to you when you don't have water in your outer ear canal. I'd swear that at times you can also sense direction of sound in the water. When I got close to a trigger fish I could hear its teeth grinding on some coral. The hardest thing is to get used to the much louder sound of your own exhaust bubbles around you. Once you get used to it you'll like it.

**Warm Ears:** Keeping your ears dry also keeps them warm. Air is a terrific natural insulator. By having a good seal and keeping the air equalized in your ear cups definitely keeps your ears warm. Some people experience dizziness when cold water hits their outer ear canal. This will be eliminated. After some dives I came up and there was condensation inside the ear cup. The warm air from around my ears buffered against the cooler water temperature outside of the ear cups.

**Positioning:** The mask takes a bit to get used to. In order for the ear cups to be in line with the mask, strap and your ears, the mask strap is positioned a little lower on the back of your head. This can give you the feeling that the strap will slip down or gives a feeling that your mask is not secure. You get used to it after a while but if you have trouble there is a strap you can place over the top of your head that attaches to the front of the mask top and the mask strap to keep the strap from falling down. I never used this auxiliary strap nor did my buddy Anthony Murdoch.

You may read testimonials at the ProEar2000™ website, <http://www.proear2000.com> DAN Europe <http://www.daneurope.org/eng/english.htm> or look

in Research Medicine Questions and Answers, Ears and Diving section. This is where I first found out about ProEar2000™ when I started doing research on how to combat my problem with frequent (2 a year) ear infections.

Personally, I will continue to use this mask henceforth. In colder water dives where a hood is required I will have to figure out what to do then but for the tropical water dives that we all seem to do here and on dive vacations we normally take it is now an "essential" piece of my dive gear.



### DIVE HUMOUR

*Two antennas meet on a roof, fall in love and get married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.*

*Two hydrogen atoms walk into a bar. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says, "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive..."*

*Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"*

*An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at, either.*

*Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.*

*I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any.*

*I went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a mussel.*

*Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly; but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it too!*

*What do you call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.*

*Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "DAM!"*

*A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."*

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**...Just DDA It !!**  


## NEVER PANIC AGAIN

Submitted by Helmut Bock

Aug 2005 issue Scuba Diving magazine by John Francis



*It starts slowly and gains momentum until it's nearly impossible to stop. The good news: Panic is almost always preventable.*

Why do divers sometimes panic? It's an important question because panic may be the single most common cause of death among divers. James Jones put it well in his novel *Go to the Widowmaker*: "Panic was the biggest danger, enemy, the only danger that there was in diving." "Most of us in diving research believe that panic is the overwhelming cause of the majority of injuries and fatalities in diving." Any experienced dive guide or instructor will tell you the same thing. But it doesn't have to happen to you. Though dangerous, panic is generally preventable.

### Why Divers Panic

Dr. David F. Colvard is a Raleigh, N.C., psychiatrist specializing in mood and anxiety disorders, a clinical investigator and a diver for more than 30 years. In 2000, he surveyed more than 12,000 readers of this magazine who had experienced panic while diving to discover why. The result was not what he expected. Respondents were offered a list of 43 possible causes of panic like "sharks," "darkness," "out of air" and so on virtually every scary threat a diver could imagine. They were arranged in three categories: dive conditions, equipment problems, and physical or psychological problems. Divers were asked to check those threats that were present when they had their panic attacks. Out of all 43 possible threats, the three boxes checked most often were the last in each category: "Other." So the event that most often triggered an attack of panic didn't even make the "Top 40" scary threat list. In most cases, apparently, the

cause that made a diver panic was something mundane or routine, something that in a calm moment none of us would ever think was a reason for panic. "Figure out what causes panic in diving and you'll win the Nobel Prize," says Colvard, only half kidding. In fact, panic almost always seems in retrospect to have been unnecessary. When you read the Divers Alert Network reports on injuries and fatalities in diving each year, it's striking how often it seems the dive could have ended happily if only a diver had kept his head and remembered the most basic elements of training. For instance, "Don't hold your breath and rocket to the surface." You read the narratives of dives gone bad and tell yourself, "I'd never do anything that dumb".

But don't be too sure. A panic attack is about as voluntary as a heart attack. Panic is not cowardliness; it's not a lack of guts. It's an involuntary reaction to a massive secretion of adrenaline into your bloodstream by your sympathetic nervous system, a primitive part of your brain that evolved when saber-toothed tigers ate *Homo sapiens*, and fight or flight were your hardwired responses. When faced with an overwhelming threat, your heart rate, your body temperature and your blood sugar all shoot up. You feel "butterflies" in your stomach or nausea. You start to sweat. Your skin may flush or turn pale. You breathe faster, shallower and in an irregular pattern. Something called "perceptual narrowing" takes place. Your visual field may narrow to something like tunnel vision so that you don't see what's right next to you. Most important, you feel flustered and can't think clearly. As a result, you become so focused on one problem that you fail to see another and so focused on the wrong solution that you don't see the right one. Given the right conditions, anyone can panic. "If I gave you a really big shot of adrenaline right now, you would panic," says Colvard flatly. And once a full-blown panic attack is underway, there is little the rational, "executive" part of your brain can do to stop it immediately because it takes your body several minutes to metabolize that adrenaline. Like a driver on top of a rampaging elephant, you're pretty much along for the ride at that point.

### A Telltale Symptom

How? There's a clue in the Colvard survey that seemed so inconclusive at first. Though divers were all over the map on what they thought had caused their panic attacks, they tended to agree

that they began hyperventilating before they felt panic. Hyperventilation rapid, shallow, irregular breathing is a classic sign of anxiety. Anxiety is just an accumulation of everyday stress to the point you're afraid you can't solve problems and begin to feel helpless. It's the uncertainty, worry, fatigue, frustration and fear that are so much a part of modern life. So here is what probably happens: The diver, like most of us, is stressed before he even gets wet. Maybe he remembers his last dive as difficult or scary and is tense about this one. Maybe dive conditions today are unusually challenging. Or maybe he just stayed up too late last night, got held up by traffic this morning and had to sprint for the dive boat carrying 50 pounds of gear. Now he can't seem to mount his regulator right side up or get that office project out of his mind, and where's that other damned glove? By the time he hits the water, he's harassed, irritated, half-exhausted, less able to cope and therefore easily frightened. He's breathing harder than normal, taxing his regulator more than usual, when something unexpected happens his mask comes off, maybe, or his fin gets entangled. He hyperventilates, but can't seem to get enough air. Now he thinks he's suffocating and about to drown, and panic is next.

Of course, not every diver who gets held up in traffic in the morning panics that afternoon. There's evidence that some people are more anxious about stress than others and are more vulnerable to panic. Our individual panic threshold may even change from day to day. What should be reassuring in this picture is that an underwater panic attack is rarely sudden, like a saber-toothed tiger leaping from behind a bush. In most cases, stress has been building for hours and even days. Finally, one more challenge is too much, the diver feels overwhelmed, and fear of failure triggers panic. He's like a juggler with three plates in the air, then four, then five. Finally, one more plate is one too many, and they all come down in a shower of crockery. The cause of his loss of control is not the sixth plate; it's having too many plates in the air. Any of them, like any of a hundred underwater threats, can be the trigger. Panic can be prevented, therefore, by taking some of those plates out of the air by reducing the stresses you take into the water with you and not adding unnecessary new ones.

### **Give Pause**

One of the best ways to reduce and avoid stress is to build a series of pauses into your dive day,

when you stop what you're doing for a couple of minutes, rest, take stock of the situation, and think through what you're going to do next. Schedule those pauses for the natural transition points in the day. When you've parked your car but before you unload it, pause a minute or two and relax. When your gear is on board but before you gear up, pause. When you're ready to dive but before you step off the boat, pause. When you're in the water but before you submerge, pause. And so on throughout the dive. There are at least three good reasons why frequent pauses reduce stress and prevent panic. First, regular pauses reduce your fatigue by giving you short rest breaks. They let your adrenaline level subside, your heart rate slow, your breathing get slower and deeper, and your carbon dioxide level decline toward normal. Second, pauses are chances for a mental rest as well moments without stress when you can slow down the rush of events, catch up with the demands on you and take stock without more new demands presenting themselves. Finally, frequent scheduled pauses are opportunities to think about the next task and plan how to do it.

These pauses can also be an opportunity to get your breathing under control. Colvard is one of many psychiatrists and counselors of anxiety patients who believe that rhythmic breathing with your diaphragm, not your chest, will itself go a long way to reduce anxiety. "Breathing with your chest wall is energy-intensive," he says. "You're using the wrong muscles. But breathing with your diaphragm is the natural way to breathe, the way babies breathe. It produces a relaxed state." Yes, it sounds odd at first, but it seems to work. To practice breathing with your diaphragm, Colvard suggests putting one hand on your stomach and one on your chest. When you inhale, your stomach should push out, but your chest should not expand. In any event, it's critical to keep your breathing under control because hyperventilation is known to lead to anxiety and then panic. It's impossible to suck as much air from your regulator as you can get by open-mouthed gasping on the surface, and when you can't get as much air as you want, the fear of suffocation and drowning, always in the background under water, sets off alarm bells in your sympathetic nervous system. Finally, when a dive doesn't feel right, don't do it. When you have that queasy feeling about a dive, when you just don't want to do it for some reason you can't identify, don't. Don't let peer pressure force you

beyond your comfort level, because you'll be starting the dive already stressed and already more susceptible to panic. If it's hard to "just say no," claiming your ears won't equalize is a face-saving out.

## Seven More Stress Busters

**1. Be overtrained.** Under pressure, we remember only the skills we know best, the ones that come almost as second nature. All of us learned survival skills like air sharing and emergency ascents in open-water training, and most of us filed them away "for future reference" in our mental filing cabinets. But when the alarm goes off and panic approaches, we're going to grab what's already on the desktop. That's the value of practicing the essential skills over and over, mentally rehearsing what you would do, so you can quickly lay your hands on what you need.

**2. Be physically fit.** Develop the muscular strength to handle weights and tanks without too much strain, and develop your cardiovascular efficiency so you can fin into a current without huffing and puffing. Get enough sleep the night before a dive, and don't start the day with a hangover. When you have greater reserves to meet the physical challenges of diving, you are less likely to find yourself unable to cope. Almost as important, you feel more confident.

**3. Stay warm.** Cold saps energy, increases fatigue and leaves you with fewer resources to deal with a current, say, or an entanglement. Discomfort itself is stress.

**4. Check your gear days ahead.** You'll need time to replace that missing glove, or to change the batteries in your dive light. Organize your gear bag so gearing up is simple.

**5. Leave home early** so you don't sweat about missing the boat. Gear up early and get to the briefing early so you always feel you have plenty of time. Don't be playing catch-up.

**6. Try to leave shoreside worries ashore.** "Leave your cell phone in the car," says John McFadden, a PADI course director.

**7. Minimize task loading.** Don't try to cope with a new camera and a new BC and a new dry suit all on the same dive. Give yourself just one new challenge at a time.

## DIVER FIGHTS OFF WHITE SHARK

From:  THE AUSTRALIAN

By Ryan Emery and Alana Buckley-Carr, 1/16/06

A SHARK-repelling device may have saved the life of a Perth diver after he was bitten by a white pointer. Bernard Williams, 52, was scuba diving 5.5km from Perth's City Beach when he was attacked from behind, suffering a deep laceration to his elbow. As temperatures reached the low-30s, City Beach, a popular swimming spot, remained open despite the attack.

Police Inspector George Putland said a fishing vessel had noticed a shark circling the boat at about 11am and contacted the Department of Fisheries, warning that divers were nearby. The boat owner was asked to rev his engine to warn the divers of the shark, but 20 minutes later Mr Williams surfaced with a bite near the elbow.

Mr Williams, of the northern beachside suburb of Sorrento, was diving with two friends, one of whom activated a sonar shark shield when he saw blood as Mr Williams struggled. "The shark attacked from behind, grabbing and biting him," Inspector Putland said. "He hit out with his spear gun to frighten it away."

He was taken to shore by surf lifesavers and treated by paramedics before being taken to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Air patrols failed to find the shark.

Boat users and other divers in the area were told of the attack by officers in the patrol vessels and warned of the potential dangers if the shark was still in the area. "While some divers left the water, several chose to remain despite the warning."

## HANDY LINKS

1. Ocean Biogeographic System – Species Database: Mapped database of Marine Species of the world. <http://www.iobis.org>
2. Scuba Diving Magazine and other interesting dive articles. <http://www.scubadiver.com>
3. DAN Europe divers alert network for dive insurance. <http://www.daneurope.org>
4. The Wet Gazette free monthly Scuba Diving newsletter. <http://www.thewetgazette.com>

## MALDIVES TRIP

By Colin Knight



In January 2006, over the Eid holiday, Twenty six divers and family members visited the Maldives. Since I first visited the turquoise waters of the Maldives in 1986, it has become a diving hotspot accessible from both Europe and Asia. Charles Darwin's observations in the Maldives in resulted in his theory of coral atoll formation from a volcanic base. The word atoll comes from the Maldivean language, Dhivehi - **atholhu** means 'administrative district'. The Maldives consist of 26 atolls covering 860 Km North to South and 120 Km East to West. They are found SSW of Southern India and Sri Lanka, the southern part crosses the equator.



Over the years the infrastructure in the Maldives has improved dramatically and some of the resorts are now regarded as some of the best diving facilities in the world. It is just a few hours away from Saudi Arabia, accessible by daily flights using Emirates and Qatar airways. My resort of choice, Bandos Island Resort, offers excellent facilities for divers and family members including Nitrox, a new hyperbaric chamber for 6 people and a modern medical facility. Much of the infrastructure on the island has been completely rebuilt over the last few years, including the dive shop, reception, restaurants & swimming pool. The latest accommodations are two story luxury detached villas with whirlpool Jacuzzi baths. Bandos has an excellent house reef with a wreck, enabling you to snorkel or dive any time of the day or night. It is only 20 minutes boat ride from the airport.

The dive shop now offers two dives on the morning boat trip and one in the afternoon, giving the opportunity to visit many of the more exotic reefs in North Male Atoll. Many turtles were seen, both Green and Hawksbill, along with moray eels (Giant morays, Honeycomb or Leopard morays, Golden morays, Blue Ghost morays or Ribbon eels). Eagle rays and large Stingrays were also seen with the usual array of reef fish such as Sweetlips, Napoleon (humphead) wrasse, Butterflyfish, Surgeon fish, Barracuda, Emperor Angelfish, Clowne Triggerfish, Titan Triggerfish, Gray reef sharks, Whitetip and Blacktip sharks. Other creatures of note were octopus, cuttlefish, lobster and turtle on night dives on the Bandos house reef, plus dolphins spinning out of the water while we motored by.

Maldives diving is ideal for recently certified divers who wanted to broaden their experience. After a couple of days our 'novices' were confidently diving all the sites and enjoyed them all. It is also an excellent introduction to drift diving, where the current takes you along the reef and you can enjoy the scenery with little effort. The shoreside was relaxing too, with socialising at the sunset bar by the dive shop following the afternoon dive. At dusk the night divers would pass the group after kitting up in the lagoon below.

Trip participants were Colin and Sue Knight, Bill Kasischke (from Indonesia, 9<sup>th</sup> visit), Andrew Corley (from Kuwait, 3<sup>rd</sup> visit), Adel Al-Bassam (8<sup>th</sup> visit), Geoff Nicholson (3<sup>rd</sup> visit), Anthony Murdoch and David Gruno (2<sup>nd</sup> visit), Joy Cleveland (3<sup>rd</sup> visit), Tim Roberts, Maggie Fletcher, Helen Rowlands, Therese Cameron, Lorrie Burns, Jack Horner, Roger and Lolita Gopal, Graeme Macpherson, Graeme and Vanessa Stringfellow, Abdullah Al-Saleem, Mahdi Al-Ali, Karen & Adrian Sanders, Bill and Lauren Valbracht.

Use of the hyperbaric chamber is covered by a \$15 insurance fee if you do not have your own insurance. Full details are available on their web site: [www.divebandos.com](http://www.divebandos.com).

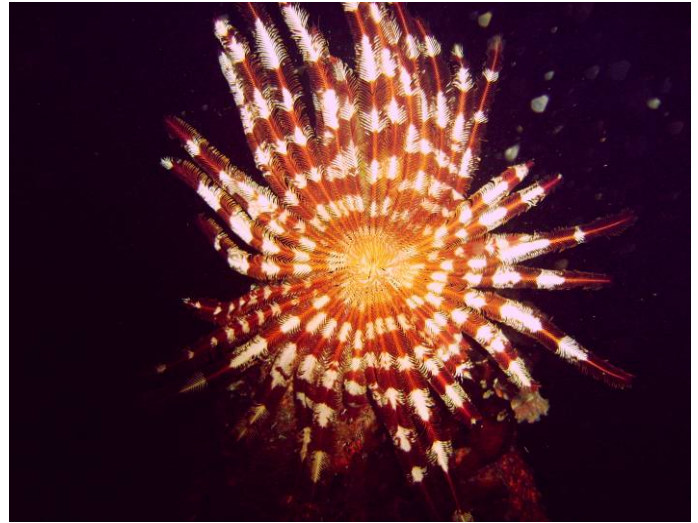
Dhahran Divers are entitled to discounted hotel and dive rates at any time – contact Colin Knight for details. You can view everyone's photos on: <http://colindiver.smugmug.com/Maldives%20January%202006>

...Just DDA It !!

The next trip will be over the Aramco Holiday in 19 to 26 October 2006 (2 L days) - you are welcome to join us for some of the most exotic diving in the world. Some of the January group have already signed up for the trip. For details contact Colin: [colin.knight@aramco.com](mailto:colin.knight@aramco.com)



*Parrot fish at night in cocoon by Anthony Murdoch*



*Featherstar by David Gruno*



*Whaleshark by Gideon on Sheryl's trip Sun Island Maldives*



*Geoff, Lorrie, Bill & Lauren*



*Whaleshark by Gideon seen on Sheryl's trip Sun Island Maldives*



*Ali demonstrates the new Recompression Chamber controls  
Photo by Graeme Macpherson.*

**...Just DDA It !!**  


**Lost World (part two) found in the Caribbean.** *By Charles Clover*  
**Submitted by Colin Knight**

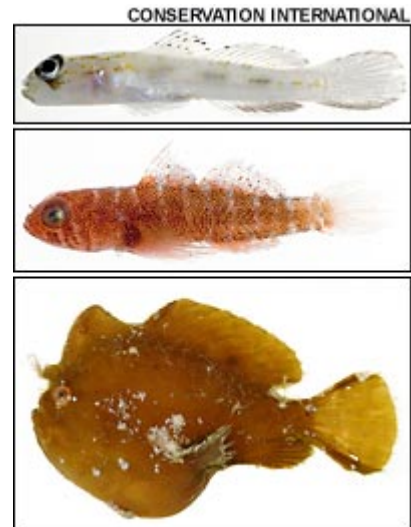
A treasure trove of undiscovered marine life has been found on an underwater mountain top in the Caribbean. Scientists found an average of a new species a day on a 14-day dive on the little-studied Saba Bank Atoll, a submerged volcano which is the world's third largest coral atoll. The expedition, which was plagued by high winds and strong currents, found 200 species of fish where only 50 were recorded before, among them two new and undiscovered species of goby. The expedition, mounted by scientists from Conservation International, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Netherlands Antilles government, found vast beds of seaweed, which included a dozen new species.



the coral reef at the top of the sea mount, 150 miles south-east of Puerto Rico in the Dutch Windward islands, extends to 90 square miles. The sea mount rises from the abyssal depths to just 25ft below the surface.

Michael Smith, the director of Conservation International's Caribbean Biodiversity Initiative, said the atoll was one of the least explored parts of the Caribbean - despite it being in an important shipping lane and where supertankers frequently anchored on their way to an oil terminal on St Eustatius Island nearby. The discovery of the marine riches on Saba Bank Atoll is the second big find in two months for the American-based charity, which was also partly responsible for the expedition that last week announced it had found a "lost world" with unknown species of birds and plants in the west of New Guinea.

"We have been looking for the kinds of places that seem to have fallen through the cracks and not been studied very well," said Mr Smith. The scientists said the fragile ecosystems of Saba Bank became damaged by anchors and chains of ships that avoid anchoring fees in the territorial waters of St Eustatius. The large ships also endangered local fishermen of Saba in their small boats, forcing them away from traditional lobster and reef fish grounds and causing the loss of fish pots that become so-called "ghost traps", which harmed fish stocks.



**The atoll has revealed 200 fish species, including gobies [top two] and anglerfish**

that avoid anchoring fees in the territorial waters of St Eustatius. The large ships also endangered local fishermen of Saba in their small boats, forcing them away from traditional lobster and reef fish grounds and causing the loss of fish pots that become so-called "ghost traps", which harmed fish stocks.

Mr Smith said the unprecedented richness of marine life and vulnerable status of the atoll's coral beds made Saba Bank a prime candidate for protection as a particularly sensitive sea area under the International Maritime Organisation's rules. This could help to protect it from pollution and damage. Leroy Peterson, a Saba fisherman, said the expedition was crucial in protecting



The Saba Bank Atoll rises from the abyssal depths to just 25ft below the surface

The expedition, which was plagued by high winds and strong currents, found 200 species of fish where only 50 were recorded before, among them two new and undiscovered species of goby. The expedition, mounted by scientists of Conservation International, Smithsonian Institute, Netherlands Antilles government, found vast beds of seaweed, which included a dozen new species. The area of

Saba Bank's unique marine life. "There should be 'no-anchor' zones. For things to survive there must be stricter controls," he said.

The atoll is within the 200-mile limit of Saba, whose citizens claim descent from pirates, speak English as their main language and are Dutch citizens. Next month, the Netherlands navy will launch a six-week survey of Saba Bank by the Snellius, a 265ft research vessel capable of conducting comprehensive bottom coverage using sonar and other technology. Information from the diving expedition and hydrographical survey would help to prepare the campaign to get Saba Bank designated as a protected area, said Mr Smith.

### **PADI DIVE FORUM IN BAHRAIN, Feb 7**

The 2006 PADI Dive Forum was held at the Hilton Hotel in Bahrain on February 7 and several members from the DDA were in attendance. The presenter from PADI International was Peter Driessel who is the Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East. The presentation topics covered at the Forum were:

**PADI Standards & Quality Management** A review of frequently asked training questions and a look at the Quality Management process.

**Business Tools for the dive Professional** Optimising the three E's.

**Marketing Continuing Education** How do you get divers to take the next step.

**New Products for Continuing Education** Expand your teaching toolbox.

**Risk Management** A case study .

**Risk Management** The basics for your business.

**Attracting new Divers** Marketing tools and Programmes.

### **The National Geographic Diver Programme**

The Risk Management case study showed a film which focused on a particularly interesting court case with the outcome emphasizing the importance of adhering to PADI standards. Peter also pointed out some changes and misconceptions with existing PADI standards and tested the audience with Q's and A's. Peter was very approachable and the Forum is an extremely valuable information sharing opportunity for

Divemasters and Instructors. Next year it is hoped that more PADI Members will attend so that PADI International will keep the Forum coming to the Middle East. Attendees included: Colin Knight, Adel Al-Bassam, Mike Yeomans, Paul Catley, Linda Boevingloh, Sheryl Wright, and Lorrie Burns.

### **MARINE LIFE AWARENESS BOARD POSITION by Linda Boevingloh**

The Coral Reef ecosystem is home to 25% of the known marine plant and animal species. The environment is one of the most species-rich in the world, yet the most fragile and endangered. As a Diver or Snorkeler, you have both the privilege to visit these magnificent resources, and the responsibility to protect them. The DDA Board first started talking about creating a position for Reef Awareness and Education a year ago and at the AGM in November the position was officially sanctioned by the General Membership. The DDA is a group of avid divers.



Some of us are new to diving and some of us have many years of experience. We are Open water Certified through to Instructor level. We dive deep or just enjoy peering at the underwater world from the surface. We see changes and to put it simply they are not good. We ask ourselves what we can do to assure that this natural resource is around for us and for our children. This position was created to explore these issues, to be a clearing house for ideas and suggestions and to coordinate our activities. The most important thing we have is numbers. 'We' are a valuable resource to share. We will continue our activities of the past; school visits, library displays, beach cleanup, creating artificial reefs, and we will add new activities. Please share your ideas and concerns to help build this position and add value to the DDA beyond a group of people who dive.

## MORAY EELS by Colin Knight

Moray Eels by Colin Knight, written after his finger recovered from a moray eel bite!



True eels are classified in the fish order Anquilliformes, which consist of 15 families and over 600 species. There are many other eel-like fishes which belong to different orders, such as wolf-eels which are actually blennies.

A sub group of true eels are the family Muraenidae - Moray eels. These are divided into 15 genera with about 200 species. They're found worldwide in tropical to sub-tropical seas in shallow to moderate depths. Morays range from a foot in length (such as the Ribbon or Ghost morays that many of us have seen at Potato Reef <http://www.wetwebmedia.com/moraysii.htm>) to the largest *Gymnothorax* species which grow to over 10 feet.

Morays do not have scales, caudal, pelvic or pectoral fins, instead they move using their long, continuous dorsal and anal fins. They keep their mouth open to maintain water flow over their gills as they have small, restricted gill openings without covers. Muraenids (Morays) have port lateral line pores on their protruding heads, but not on the body as they spend most their time with just their head sticking out of cover.

Eels are popular subjects for underwater photographers as they are often stationary in their holes and allow divers to get good close-up shots. They also make interesting video shots when they are found free swimming. You can see some photos and videos of morays on Maldives trip: <http://colindiver.smugmug.com/Maldives+January+2006>

Moray eel bites: Morays are opportunistic predators, feeding on fish or invertebrates slow

enough to grab. Their great sense of smell is coupled with bad vision. Some species and individuals are highly dangerous if provoked or excited by food-smell. Not all morays are nocturnal, shy or retiring. They can be unpredictable, and cannot distinguish where food stops and your fingers start. Unless they feel threatened most will leave you alone. If they bite out of fear, looking for food or by mistake, a moray will usually let you go. The worst reaction is the most common and dangerous - to jerk your hand back which results in cutting yourself further on the recurved teeth. Read about this serious wounding case when a moray attacked apparently unprovoked (where feeding had previously taken place <http://www.wemjournal.org/wmsonline/?request=get-document&issn=10806032&volume=015&issue=03&page=0194>)

Bites from morays produce ragged wounds that are prone to infection, due to bacteria living in the eel's mouth. The razor-sharp teeth can inflict muscle, tendon, or nerve damage if the bite is serious, and such wounds should be given immediate medical attention. The real problem with most of these bites is secondary infection. Microbes in the water, whether associated with the moray's mouth or not, may infect you through any break in your skin caused by a bite, scratch or puncture. Treat all these seriously. Clean by scrubbing the wound using disinfectant, cover & periodically inspect. A visit to a medical centre is recommended. All ocean wounds, large and small, carry the risk of tetanus (lockjaw), a deadly bacterial infection. Update your tetanus booster shot approximately every 5 years if you get frequent marine cuts. If you aren't sure about the date of your last tetanus shot, get a booster after a marine cut. Marine wounds site: <http://www.aloha.com/~lifeguards/alsting1.html#morayeel>

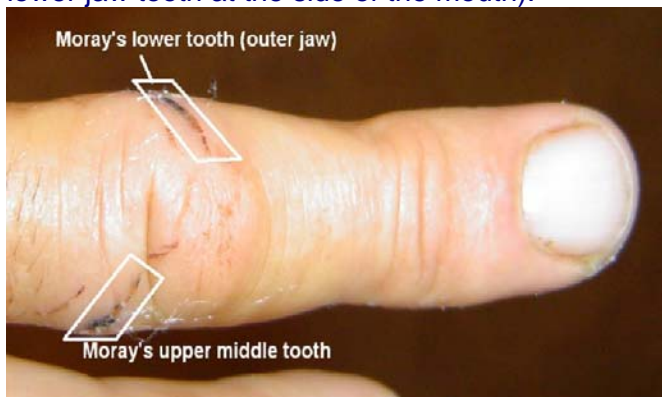
A moray eel can appear dangerous because it continually exposes its mouth and teeth. However, this action is not hostile, but simply the way an eel breathes. Morays have large mouths and powerful jaws with a vice-like grip. Most species have sharp, thin teeth that protrude from the upper and lower jaws, and sometimes from the roof of the mouth. The moray's teeth point backwards to prevent slippery prey from escaping. Generally morays are not aggressive to divers unless disturbed or frightened. A mistake that some divers make is to use rocky areas as a hand-hold, which is what I did. Such an action may frighten a moray eel living in a nearby hole to lash out and bite in self-defense.

Like many other "dangerous" sea creatures, they usually do not bite unless first provoked.



*Gymnothorax* in coral with *Anthias* by Roger Gopal

Personal case history of a moray bite: I was taking a photo of a Lionfish at the end of a dive, and steadied myself on the reef with my finger. There was no sign of a moray before I did this. Then I felt an amazing thump as a moray bit my finger and let go. Two wounds on my middle finger were deep and bleeding (one from the tooth in the middle of the upper jaw and one from a lower jaw tooth at the side of the mouth).



Once I was away from the reef, I saw a small golden moray's head watching me! After a safety stop, during which I clamped my other hand around the damaged finger to reduce bleeding, we climbed onto the boat, where two nurses in our group (Maggie and Lorrie) used the boat's first aid kit to wash the wounds with disinfectant (povidone-iodine solution), and they then applied a dressing. 40 minutes later I visited the medical centre at Bandos, where a nurse washed the wounds again and applied a dressing. She advised that they do not stitch deep bite wounds as that could allow deep infection to cause problems. She also gave me a tetanus booster and advised if infection occurred they would provide antibiotics. I had started a 5 day course of

general antibiotic the night before because of an ongoing ear infection. Of course I couldn't dive again, and missed the last 3 boat dives. I continued washing and dressing the wound daily, and it was sufficiently healed after one week that it no longer needed a bandage. Fortunately it was never painful, and I can reflect that I am lucky not to have been bitten before as I have done the same thing countless times in the past. I never wear gloves unless the current is strong on the bottom and gloves would not have made any difference. I believe that wearing gloves encourages divers to touch the reef, to the detriment of both the reef and the diver.

#### **Moray Eel references:**

<http://www.wetwebmedia.com/morays.htm>

<http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/FamilySummary.cfm?ID=56>. <http://www.i4at.org/army/appf.htm>

## **HISTORY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARIES**

**Submitted by Colin Knight**

**Sunday, February 26 9-11pm -- Titanic's Final Moments: Missing Pieces** - In August 2005, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, hosts of Deep Sea Detectives, led an expedition to the wreck of RMS Titanic. Diving 212 miles down in Russian submersibles, they searched outside the known debris field for new evidence. On their final dive they made an extraordinary find: two large intact sections of the bottom hull of the Titanic in pristine condition with the red bottom paint still on them. For four months, a team of historians, marine architects, and engineers has been conducting a forensic analysis of this find. All agree that it's the most significant new discovery since the wreck was located in 1985. Analysis is ongoing, but preliminary indications are that these bottom sections will change our understanding of how the ship broke apart, and rewrite the story of the final moments of the Titanic.

**Monday, February 27, 2006 10-11pm -- Deep Sea Detectives - Pharaoh's Lost Treasure.** In 290 BC, the Egyptian Pharaohs construct one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the tallest lighthouse ever built: the Lighthouse of Alexandria. In the 14th century, an earthquake toppled her and the tower's remains fell into Alexandria harbor where they were forgotten for centuries. Now, researchers believe they have found the stones from the lighthouse. But others say these can't be her stones because they believe the lighthouse stood in a very different location. Join our deep-water detectives, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, as they dive in Alexandria for the archaeological ruins that hold the key to solving this ancient mystery.



## DIVE COURSES ON OFFER:

➤ **Adel Al-Bassam:** 873-7696/Cell: 055861940/email: [adel.bassam@aramco.com](mailto:adel.bassam@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response/CPR/First Aid, DAN Oxygen Provider; Dive Master Courses ongoing. Can be tailored to meet your specific needs, Refresher classes anytime. Specialty courses please enquire. Please call for details.

➤ **Helmut Bock:** 872-7449 or 878-9727/email: [helmut.bock@aramco.com](mailto:helmut.bock@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response, DAN Oxygen Provider, Nitrox and Divemaster Courses ongoing. Families welcome -- please call for details. Refresher classes anytime. Advanced and Specialty courses (*Nitrox, U/W Navigation, U/W Photography, Boat Diver, U/W Naturalist, Multilevel Diver, Deep Diver, Night Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Wreck Diver and more*) during dive trips, please enquire.

➤ **Lope J. Caacbay:** Home tel. 861-1573 or Mobile 058108699, email: [lope.caacbay@aramco.com](mailto:lope.caacbay@aramco.com)

**PADI** Master Instructor/ IDC Staff and EFR Instructor No. 600175. **IANTD** Advanced Nitrox Instructor No. 2796. **IDEA** Instructor Trainer. Year round training on PADI recreational to extended range diving/IANTD courses. Don't hang up that gear, we can still train all year round! Flexible class schedule to accommodate participants' needs. Call for more details. For further reading about IANTD, visit: <http://www.iantd.com>

➤ **John Nilsen:** 878-3839/email: [john.nilsen@aramco.com](mailto:john.nilsen@aramco.com) **NAUI** Scuba Diver (entry-level) through AI/DM.

➤ **Randy Demaree:** 878-8521 or 873-9089

**PADI** Open Water and Advanced Open Water, Rescue and Dive Master, Emergency First Aid/CPR, DAN Oxygen Provider. Other courses: PADI Deep Diver, Boat Diver, Underwater Naturalist, Wreck Diver. Courses can be tailored to meet your specific needs -- please call for details. Refresher classes anytime.

➤ **Farid Zoldjalali:** Home 875-1845 or Mobile 0504984166, email: [Farid.Zoldjalali.1@aramco.com](mailto:Farid.Zoldjalali.1@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response/CPR/First Aid, Dive Master courses are ongoing. Courses can be conducted in both Arabic and English and can be tailored to meet your specific needs. Refresher courses can be arranged anytime. For Specialty Courses, please call for details.

➤ **Colin Knight** (874-0726/878-1022/Cell: 050 101 4874 /email: [colin.knight@aramco.com](mailto:colin.knight@aramco.com))

**PADI and DAN course dates will be set up to suit you.**

- Open Water courses – schedules set up to suit the student's needs.
- Advanced Diver courses conducted during Red Sea trips
- Rescue Diver / Emergency First Response Course / DAN Oxygen Administration
- DAN Hazardous Marine Animal Course (new)
- Specialty courses in the Red Sea & Half Moon Bay (*U/W Navigation, Search & Recovery, U/W Photography, Boat/Wreck Diver, U/W Naturalist, Multilevel Diver, Deep Diver, Night Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy*)
- Nitrox courses run anytime.
- Dive Master Course- academics & water skills can be started immediately.

➤ **Ibrahim K. Al-Haidan** (874-1257) Mobile: 050 581 9642 /email: [ibrahim.haidan@aramco.com](mailto:ibrahim.haidan@aramco.com)

- Basic Open Water Diver/Open Water Diver
- Advanced Open Water Diver
- Master Diver
- Assistant Instructor
- Nitrox Diver, Scuba Master Diver and Medical First Aid 1 and 2.



Courses can be conducted in both Arabic and English and can be tailored to meet your specific needs. Refresher courses available anytime and for Specialty Courses, please call for details.

➤ **Sheryl Wright:** 878-2796/email: [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com) **PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Dive Master, Emergency First Response and Refresher courses. Female only classes are also available on request.

## 2006 DDA BOARD MEMBERS

### The Official DDA 2006 Board

We are proud to present to you the 2006 elected board members. These board members are a dedicated volunteer team that is there to ensure that all the DDA members' needs are met.

Board Positions	Contact Person	Contact Number
President	<a href="#">Radi Adzemovic</a>	874-6022
Vice-President	<a href="#">Michael Pham</a>	874-7146
Treasurer	<a href="#">Farid Zoldjalali</a>	873-6707
Secretary	<a href="#">Sean Rahati</a>	873-4672
Membership Director	<a href="#">Debbie Nanninga</a>	877-6108
Air Station Director	<a href="#">Rene Seco</a>	873-0547
Air Station Director	<a href="#">David Gruno</a>	874-5696
Equipment Director	<a href="#">Ibrahim Haidan</a>	874-1257
Equipment Director	<a href="#">Sadeq Al-Qaffas</a>	877-8502
Training Director	<a href="#">Adel Bassam</a>	873-7696
Dive Activities Director	<a href="#">Ahmad Al-Ahmari</a>	874-0883
Social Activities Director	<a href="#">Aida Rouhana</a>	877-8173
Clearwater Editor	<a href="#">Sheryl Wright</a>	874-6107
Member at Large	<a href="#">Bruce Jahnke</a>	874-7947
Website Coordinator	<a href="#">James van der Vyver</a>	874-6671
Marine Life Awareness	<a href="#">Linda Boevingloh</a>	577-2299



## 2006 DDA MEETING/SOCIAL SCHEDULE

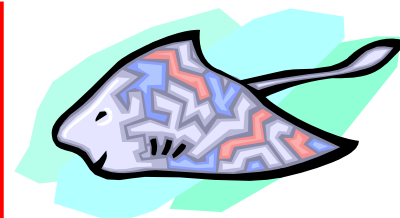


Meeting Date	Venue	Guest Speaker	Topic
Monday, March 27	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	DDA	Presentation and Buffet Dinner
Monday, April 24	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	Colin Knight	Magnificent Maldives and Dinner
Monday, May 29	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	Graeme Corfield	Trimix Diving Sth China Sea and Dinner
Monday, June 26	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	DDA	Presentation and Buffet Dinner



**GET YOUR NAME IN PRINT!**  
**SEND IN YOUR DIVE ARTICLES**  
**TELL US YOUR STORY!!**

**HELP!** Email to [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com)  
or send to P.O. Box 10496, Dhahran



# DDA 2006 DIVE SCHEDULE

DDA Dive Activities Director, Ahmad Al-Ahmari announces the following dive trips to help you plan early. For further information contact Ahmad Al-Ahmari by email: [ahmad.ahmari@aramco.com](mailto:ahmad.ahmari@aramco.com), or the relevant trip leader (see contact list below). **To sign up for any of these dive trips contact the trip leader directly.**

Date	Destination	Trip Leader/ Contact	Max Persons	Details/Cost (Approx.)
March 2 and 3	Jeddah	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	20 <b>FULL</b>	SR1500 Inclusive sleep on boat. Depart 8am on Thursday and return 8pm on Friday.
March 29 to April 1	Abu Latt Is. Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	22	SR2500 Camp and dive 3 day long weekend trip. Depart 2pm Wednesday and return 10pm on Saturday.
May 4 and 5	Yanbu	Farid Zoldjalali/ <i>(please contact directly for more details)</i>	16	SR 600 for 5 boat dives (3 Thu & 2 Fri) Around SR 450/night/person accommodation, transportation & food. Return Aramco Flight arrangement is Diver's responsibility.
May 16 to 19	Abu Latt Is. Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Tuesday and return 10pm on Friday.
June 8 and 9	Yanbu	Farid Zoldjalali/ <i>(please contact directly for more details)</i>	16	SR 600 for 5 boat dives (3 Thu & 2 Fri) Around SR 450/night/person accommodation, transportation & food. Return Aramco Flight arrangement is Diver's responsibility.
June 29 to July 1	Rabigh Outer Reefs	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm Saturday.
July 25 to 28	Yanbu	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Tuesday and return 10pm on Friday.
Aug 30 to Sept 2	Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	20	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm Saturday.
Sept 20 to 23	Abu Latt Is. Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	TBA	SR2500 Camp and dive 3 day long weekend trip. Depart 2pm Wednesday and return 10pm on Saturday.
October 19 to 26	Maldives	Colin Knight <i>(please contact directly for more details)</i>	No max.	Maldives Dive trip (Bandos Island Resort). 2 L days for 6 days of diving. Cost is approx. SR7,200 sharing room and SR7,900 single room.
October 24 to 27	Jeddah Durrah AlArrus Resort	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	No max.	SR3000 hotel all inclusive. Depart 8am Tuesday and return 10pm Friday.
November 9 to 10	Jeddah	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	20	SR1500 Inclusive sleep on boat. Depart 8am on Thursday and return 8pm on Friday.
December 13 to 15	Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm on Friday.

**TRIP LEADERS/CONTACTS:**

<b>Farid Zoldjalali:</b> <b>Helmut Bock:</b> <b>Linda Boevingloh:</b>  <b>Bruce Jahnke:</b> <b>Colin Knight:</b> <b>Michael Pham:</b> <b>Rene Seco:</b>	email: <a href="mailto:farid.zoldjalali.1@aramco.com">farid.zoldjalali.1@aramco.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:helmut.bock@aramco.com">helmut.bock@aramco.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:linda.boevingloh@aramco.com">linda.boevingloh@aramco.com</a> <a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:bruce.jahnke@aramco.com">bruce.jahnke@aramco.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:colin.knight@aramco.com">colin.knight@aramco.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:michael.pham@aramco.com">michael.pham@aramco.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:reynaldo.seco@aramco.com">reynaldo.seco@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 873-6707/ 050-498-4166 Tel: 872-5951/ 878-9727 Tel: 878-6870 Mob: 0509268062  Tel: 878-6068 Tel: 874-0726/ 878-1022 Tel: 874-7146 Tel: 873-0547
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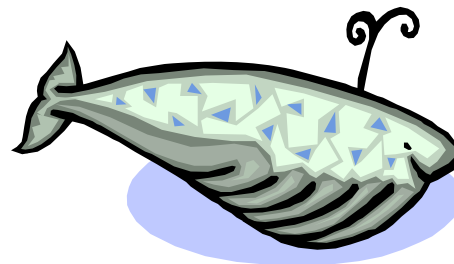


## TANK FILL SCHEDULE



### TANK-FILL TIMES!

Opening April 3 till Sept 18  
From 4:30 - 5:00 pm  
Mondays at the Air Station



The DDA Air Station is Located behind the Third Street Pool - entry off Walnut Street. For the new 2006 Dive Season the Airstation will open on April 3 and operate until September 18.

The Air Station will be open every Monday from 4:30pm (16:30).

If you urgently require an air fill you can also contact one of the Air Station Directors (Rene Seco - 873-0547 or David Gruno - 874-5696) or one of the members on the **2006 Air Station Duty Roster** and make some private arrangements.

Mona Attas (Equipment Director) reported that we completed hydrostatic testing for all the DDA tanks and some DDA member's tanks (and they all passed). The following link explains the steps of a hydrostatic test along with pictures: <http://www.deep-six.com/page37.htm>

### Memberships Reminder

If anyone has not submitted their photos, completed the 2006 application form; with the liability waiver initialed and a copy of their most recent dive certification, please do so as soon as possible. Deb Nanninga would like to complete all of the cards and get them out. Then the database can be updated and completed.

### DDA T-Shirts

The DDA will have dive logo polo and t-shirts available to the membership in 2006. A shirt sample and order forms will be available at the March monthly meeting.

Remember to visit our new DDA website:  
[www.dhahrandiving.com](http://www.dhahrandiving.com)



"Clearwater" Editor, Sheryl Wright

Tel: 874-6107/ 878-2796, Box 10496 Dhahran,  
Email: [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com)

