



Clearwater

Dhahran Dive Association Newsletter

Nov/Dec 2005

A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Radi Adzemovic, President 2005

The Dhahran Dive Association has had a good year. The website has been updated and has been migrated to www.dhahrandiving.com to allow greater access and functionality – mainly to facilitate member driven distribution list updates for our announcements and publications. Several new opportunities to highlight our club activities to the whole community have been taken advantage of for the first time this year. A huge volunteer turnout helped create our award winning tent at the Self Directed Group Fun Festival last spring and an educational and colorful display was set up in the foyer of the library. Many new members have joined the dive club and many dive trips have been organized and enjoyed. A new addition to our man made reef was made when a dive team sunk an old sloop at our dive beach. We have enjoyed excellent presentations at our monthly dinner meetings and each edition of our bimonthly magazine has been a great read – cover to cover.



Photo by Michael Pham

This year, members have been on many trips to the Red Sea, some have ventured to the Maldives and a few traveled to the Galapagos Islands. Since January dozens of DDA members have gone on hundreds of dives. Some trips have been shore based (one trip even combined camping on a desert island with daily dives).

Most trips were live-a-board adventures. This year alone many terabytes of photos and video have been taken. Two new wrecks have been discovered and other marine life 'firsts' for the club have been enjoyed and shared by way of these excellent photos and movies.



Photo by Michael Pham

Next year will see a dramatic improvement in issuing ID cards as well as a streamlined process for maintaining accurate email distribution lists. In addition to world class dive opportunities, excellent monthly presentations and the Clearwater I hope that the DDA will be able to offer photography and movie making workshops, reef awareness classes for improving our ability to assess reef health and change, attempt to create databases on reefs that are often visited by DDA members, as well as several DDA sponsored trip to Rabigh. We will continue to explore avenues for obtaining a club house and for opening the Gulf up again for DDA dive trips.

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 final meeting for the year is the AGM:

- **Monday, November 28 (the last Monday of the month) "DDA Annual General Meeting" to be held in Ad-Diwan, ROOM 1 @ 6.00pm.**

CREATURE PROFILE FEATURE

By James Vandervyver

LIONFISH

Scientific name *Pterois volitans* (Linnaeus)

Order *Scorpaeniformes* (scorpionfishes and flatheads)

Class *Actinopterygii* (ray-finned fishes)



Common names

Lionfish, lion fish, zebrafish, firefish, turkeyfish, red lionfish, butterfly cod, ornate butterfly-cod, peacock lionfish, red firefish, scorpion volitans.

Size Usually up to 38 cm.



Identification

The head is large, from 1/3 to 1/2 the standard length. Most species have numerous head spines. The dorsal fin has strong, venomous spines (8 to 17). The anal fin also has sharp, venomous spines (usually 3). The caudal fin is usually rounded or squared, but not forked. The scales are cycloid. Often with large tentacles above eyes.

The lionfish has greatly elongated dorsal-fin spines. The membranes of all fins are often spotted. The body is white or cream coloured red to reddish-brown with vertical stripes. The variation in color is usually in relation to habitat. Coastal species are generally darker, sometimes almost black in estuaries. The vertical stripes alternate from wide to very thin (with the thin stripes being more numerous) and sometimes merge along the flank to form a V.

A closely-related species, the devil firefish (*Pterois miles*), is similar to the lionfish. The devil firefish is found primarily in Indian Ocean and Red Sea (as opposed to the lionfish, which is predominantly a Pacific species); however, its range extends to Sumatra where the two species co-occur. Although it appears very similar to the lionfish, the devil lionfish has fewer dorsal- and anal-fin rays. The devil firefish generally has 10 dorsal-fin rays and 6 anal-fin rays; the lionfish usually has 11 dorsal-fin rays and 7 anal-fin rays.

Native Range and Distribution Widely distributed throughout the western Pacific from southern Japan to Micronesia, Australia and the Philippines. The lionfish occurs throughout most of Oceania (including the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia and Fiji) east to French Polynesia. Replaced by the very similar *Pterois miles* from the Red Sea to Sumatra.

Found in depths ranges of 2 - 55 m. Hides in unexposed places at daytime often with head down and practically immobile. Pelagic juveniles expatriate over great distances and the reason for their broad geographical range. Hunts small fishes, shrimps, and crabs at night, using its widespread pectorals trapping prey into a corner, stunning it and then swallowing it in one sweep. Dorsal spines are venomous; the sting can be treated by heating the afflicted part and application of corticoids

Remarks

This species can give a painful, venomous sting with its dorsal, anal and pelvic spines.



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>

DIVE INSTRUCTOR NEWS

Congratulations to Paul Catley and Sheryl Wright who qualified as PADI Dive Instructors during the November EID break at the Blu Zone Dive Center in Muscat, Oman. Congratulations also to Mike Yeomans who completed his PADI Staff Instructors while assisting them with the course. Although it was a rigorous course they did get a couple of days off to explore some great Oman dive sites abundant with a wonderful variety of sea creatures.



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/>"

...Just DDA It !!


BOOK REVIEW by Colin Knight

“The Dive” by Piplin Ferreras, world champion free diver. (Published 2004).

I read this fascinating story during my recent vacation in Australia. It deals with a subject that most scuba divers are aware of but not informed about. The idea of free diving to 170 Meters/560 feet on one breath of air amazes me. The sport came to public notice in the 1988 movie *The Big Blue* which was inspired by the rivalry of champion free divers Jacques Mayol and Enzo Maiorca.

Pipin Ferreras' story tells you all about free diving, including the physiological hazards (bends and narcosis) and arouses various emotions as he and his wife follow their chosen sport to its tragic finale. He is a native Cuban who was at one with the sea from an early age and gained the confidence of Fidel Castro to promote his chosen sport before settling in Florida in 1993. He met his future wife, marine biologist Audrey Mestre, in Cano San Lucas, Mexico. Together they made an underwater TV series and set out to break world free diving records.

The Recreation library has a copy of *The Dive* on order, plus copies in stock of *Shadow Divers* by Robert Kurson, (previously reviewed - deep divers who investigate an unknown U boat off the US coast).

Recreation library URL: <http://unicorn.aramco.com.sa/> or just write the word cassia without http://



DDA DISCOVER SCUBA DAY

DDA Dive Instructors took 26 girl scouts through the Discover Scuba Experience on Thursday, November 24 at the 3rd Street Pool. The event was organized by Nancy Schoepf and Adel Al-Bassam.



The ages of the girls ranged between 10-15 years and the experience was a lot of fun for Instructors and students.



The Instructors who were involved are planning to hold full PADI open water courses for interested girls on the weekends in the near future.



DIVE HUMOUR



Signs that a Golfer wishes he/she were Diving...

- He brags that he Lobstered the 9th hole.
- He rejects the 3-wood and asks for the blue semi-dry snorkel instead.
- He pulls out his score-card, does some quick math and announces that he is an "H" golfer and must wait three hours before teeing off.
- He introduces himself as the 1997 Masters Champion, "Tiger Shark".

Signs that your Dive Buddy is a lawyer.....

- He threatens to sue Smuckers for his Jellyfish stings.
- He exclaims, "The only Bends that I'm going to get is a Mercedes."
- He doesn't need a cage to dive with sharks because of professional courtesy.
- He reminds you not to leave your dive gloves behind, saying, "If only O.J. had listened."
- He actually reads every word of the Liability Waiver Form.

Signs Your Buddy is Narced....

- He keeps staring at himself in your mask.
- You find him buddy-breathing with a grouper.
- After you surface, he keeps trying to buddy-breathe through your snorkel.
- She keeps giving her octopus to an octopus
- He pulls off your fin and tries to breathe off your big toe.
- His mask fogs under water, and he spits in it.
- Your mask fogs under water, and he spits in it.
- He looks at you cross-eyed and slurs his bubbles.

...Just DDA It !!



A live, adult giant squid has been caught on camera in the wild for the very first time.



Japanese researchers took pictures of the elusive creature hunting 900m down, enveloping its prey by coiling its tentacles into a ball.

The images show giant squid, known as Architeuthis, are more vigorous hunters than has been supposed.

The images, captured in the Pacific Ocean, appear in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.



Documentary companies have invested millions of dollars trying to film adult giant squid in their natural environment. These efforts have met with little success - though one team has managed to capture a juvenile on film.

Japanese fishermen have taken snaps of an adult at the surface but, until now, no one had obtained images of the animal in its deep-sea hunting grounds.

Slippery customer

In their efforts to photograph the huge cephalopod, Tsunemi Kubodera and Kyoichi Mori have been using a camera and depth recorder attached to a long-line, which they lower into the sea from their research vessel. Below the camera, they suspend a weighted jig - a set of ganged hooks to snag the squid - along with a single Japanese common squid as bait and an odour lure consisting of chopped-up shrimps.

At 0915 local time on 30 September 2004, they struck lucky. At a depth close to 1km in waters off Japan's Ogasawara Islands, an 8m-long Architeuthis wrapped its long tentacles around the bait, snagging one of them on the jig.

Kubodera and Mori took more than 550 images of the giant squid as it made repeated attempts to detach itself. The pictures show the squid spreading its arms, enveloping the long-line and swimming away in its efforts to struggle free.

Finally, four hours and 13 minutes after it was first snagged, the attached tentacle broke off, allowing the squid to escape. The researchers retrieved a 5.5m portion with the line.

Severed appendage

"It was exciting to get a live Architeuthis tentacle. It was still functioning when we got it on the boat," Dr Kubodera told BBC News.

The large suckers repeatedly gripped the boat deck - and Dr Kubodera's fingers when he prodded the severed appendage. "The grip wasn't as strong as I expected; it felt sticky," he explained. But while other researchers have suggested that Architeuthis is a rather sluggish creature, the images show it is in fact an energetic predator.

Dr Steve O'Shea, of the Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, told the BBC News website that he was extremely pleased for the researchers.

Kubodera, he said, had "ever-so-quietly been working away in the background on this for a number of years". And Dr O'Shea, a world renowned expert on giant squid, added: "From the point of view of the public, who believe this squid is the largest, the meanest, most aggressive squid that we have - it is hugely significant."

Trawling threat

The Auckland-based researcher said now that the squid had been caught on camera, researchers could focus on other, lesser known squid species and on conservation. Bottom-trawling by fisheries is destroying squid egg masses on the seabed, Dr O'Shea claimed. Evidence for this comes from an efficient squid predator - the sperm whale.



"Five of the species of squid that were staple in the diet of the sperm whale are recognised in New Zealand as threatened solely as a consequence of the effects of deep-sea bottom-trawling."

"[Sperm whales] are returning from the Antarctic on their historic migratory route to one of the richest regions on Earth in terms of squid diversity. But the larder is bare and the poor things are washing up on the beaches here starved."

The giant squid is by no means the largest known. Several other species, including the colossal squid Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni, are thought to grow larger.

Angry Surfers Say Cage-Diving Changes Great White's Way

By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

CAPE TOWN, South Africa -- Every morning, tourist boats leave the southern Cape coast for a patch of sea called Shark Alley. Off a rocky outcrop populated by seals and washed by crashing waves, the boat crews throw mesh bags of ground-up fish into the water.

Great White sharks soon pick up the scent of blood and start circling. Occasionally shrieking with fear, paying customers climb into a steel cage. They are then lowered into the frigid ocean. Baited by the crew, 10-foot-long sharks arrive, snapping their jaws at the cage railing and raising gnashing teeth above the water.

This shark-diving industry, established in the late 1990s, has become big business on the Cape coast. Drawing in some 35,000 mostly American and European adrenaline junkies a year, shark divers pay some \$6.3 million in fees to 12 licensed operators, or as much as \$200 a dive, and more for hotel, food and airfare.

But there isn't just fish blood in the water. As the cage-diving industry flourishes, Cape Town beaches -- a Mecca for surfers -- have been hit by a spate of gruesome shark attacks on people. Critics blame the deaths on shark-diving practices such as baiting and chumming, or the throwing of ground fish into the ocean. Cage-dive operators, these critics say, may have taught sharks to associate humans with food, turning the ocean's apex predators into man-eaters.



Big Two Tours

Amid the outcry, a shark-diving boat was burned here last year, though the motivation for the incident remains unclear. In June, after a lethal shark attack, a coalition of surfers, fishermen, ecologists and sailors demanded the South African government ban chumming and baiting by shark-diving boats. "These people are attracting the sharks to right where we swim," says the group's leader, Craig Bovim. "The reality is that the sharks are rewarded constantly, and so the chances of something going wrong are considerably high." Mr. Bovim, a 38-year-old owner of an engineering company, knows this firsthand. On Christmas Eve 2002, he was snorkeling off the Cape

peninsula, hoping to catch lobsters for dinner. A 5-yard-long Great White shark swam up alongside. As Mr. Bovim blew the air out of his snorkel, producing a sound like a seal's, the shark opened its jaws and lunged for his head. Mr. Bovim instinctively raised his hands. The shark took a generous bite out of both of limbs, leaving Mr. Bovim's right hand snapped in two and flaying back.

Mr. Bovim somehow managed to undo his weight belt and swim to shore, some 50 yards away. After much surgery, he is still only in partial command of his hands. Before entering the water on that Christmas Eve, Mr. Bovim recalls, he laughed off a foreign tourist's question about shark risks. The last confirmed lethal shark attack in Cape Town dated back to 1976. "We were completely unscared," he says. In 2003, a Great White killed a 19-year-old surfer. A year later, an abalone poacher was bitten to death near Shark Alley, and 77-year-old Tyna Webb was torn apart by a shark in full view of sunbathers at a popular Cape Town beach. In June, medical student Henri Murray was killed by a shark while spear-fishing in nearby waters.

The last two incidents were highly unusual, sparking anger against shark-dive businesses and spurring calls to kill sharks in waters around the city. Most lethal shark encounters occur when the victims are bitten -- often in a case of mistaken identity -- and then die of blood loss and shock; Great Whites usually don't like human flesh. But Ms. Webb and Mr. Murray appear to have been swallowed and digested, with little apart from blood, a red bathing cap and a tattered wetsuit left behind. "Emotionally, it's a lot harder when people get consumed," says Gregg Oelofse, the Cape Town city government's environmental policy coordinator. "It changes perceptions."

An avid surfer, Mr. Oelofse is part of a working group of officials and academics set up last year to evaluate the effects of cage-diving on shark behavior. Scientists consider sharks to be smart and fast learners. With summer approaching in the southern hemisphere, researchers have already deployed electronic monitors and human shark-spotters to track shark movements around Cape Town to see if these predators are moving closer to the shore and showing an increased interest in bathers. A report that may lead to new regulations is expected next year. So far, Mr. Oelofse says he sees no link between recent shark attacks and practices such as chumming.

The U.S. has taken no such chances. Surfer protests against an operator offering cage-diving with Great Whites off California's Ano Nuevo Island led to a ban on commercial chumming there in 1996. In 2001, Florida also prohibited chumming on dives with relatively docile and smaller nurse sharks. This means South Africa is the only place where encounters with Great Whites can be virtually guaranteed on a daytrip from a major city.

South African shark businesses are eager to preserve this goldmine, painting the controversy as uninformed paranoia. "Every time they try to bite the cage, they taste metal," says Craig Ferreira, owner of White Sharks Projects, one of the 12 South African operators. "If you were conditioning the shark to anything, it's that humans taste like metal."

On a recent trip to Shark Alley aboard the White Pointer catamaran, sharks seemed to enjoy the metal taste. After an hour's sailing, the boat lowered anchor, chum bags fell in the water and tour guide Andre Slabber launched the bait -- a seal likeness made from black tire tube wrapped around a plastic bottle. "This is Sammy 91," he told the two dozen tourists watching agape. "The 90 other Sammys have died horrible deaths." Sammy had to be used because South Africa earlier this year banned the common practice of using live bait such as tuna heads, seeking to discourage aggressive shark behavior. Operators are also forbidden from actually feeding the sharks, though they can tease them by dangling chum in front of them.

Once the first Great White appeared, customers packed the tiny cage -- which measures about 8 feet by 4 feet -- four people at a time. Most had already filled their vacation with other thrills: bungee jumping, sky diving, jungle safaris. Rough waters murky with fish entrails tossed the divers inside the cage like laundry in a washing machine. With enough space between bars for a head or a limb to poke through, and visibility reduced to less than six feet, the divers bounced against each other for a quarter-hour in the icy waters, trying to keep their extremities inside.

Then the action began. Its fin perking up, the shark made a beeline for the chum bag, seizing a chunk of frozen fish as the crew scrambled to pull the chum out of the water. Returning moments later, the shark tried to get Sammy the seal, but Mr. Slabber pulled the bait out of danger and close to the cage. Standing above the cage, boat captain Andre Kotze shouted at the squealing tourists: "Keep your hands inside the cage! Keep your hands inside the cage! Shark right in front!"

Nearly smashing into the bars, the shark bit the railing, locking in eye contact with divers inside. Annoyed, it then made a rapid U-turn and lunged toward a white underwater camera that a crew member held from the boat at the end of a long pole. As the man yanked the camera from the water, the shark surged into the air and clenched its jaws, scraping off part of the lens hub before disappearing into the depths. Regardless of whether chumming changes shark behavior, such close encounters with humans will have consequences, environmentalists and officials warn. "You can't interact with nature without affecting nature," says Mr. Oelofse. "We are affecting things -- we just don't know how."

Divers survive shark-infested sea

Two British tourists who were stranded in shark-infested Australian waters for nearly six hours were lucky to have survived, a coastguard said.

Louise Woodger, 29, and her fiancé Gordon Pratley, 31, both from Suffolk, became separated from their dive group on the Great Barrier Reef on Saturday.

Coastguard Jon Colless said the Britons were at risk from the "large sharks". Rescuers found the pair nearly 10km (6 miles) from where they first entered the water at Wheeler Reef.

Speaking from her home in Mildenhall, Suffolk, Miss Woodger's mother Jane said: "The first I knew was when I received a call from her, telling me she was safe. Pair saw a shark

"It hasn't really sunk in. They had finished working in Sydney and were travelling before heading back home at some point next year."

The couple had joined a local tour and went diving on Wheeler Reef, about 90km (55 miles) from Townsville.

But strong currents pulled them away from the rest of the group.

When they resurfaced, they realised they could not see anyone else from their party, said Richard Boulton from the Townsville Coastguard.

Mr Boulton said the divers did not try to struggle against the strong current but inflated their life jackets and clung to each other.

Exhausted but unharmed

The skipper of their boat immediately noticed they were missing and alerted the police and coastguard to launch a search by sea and air.

After a six-hour search, Miss Woodger and Mr Pratley were spotted and taken to safety. Despite being exhausted, both were unharmed.

The coastguard said the pair had seen a reef shark, which is relatively harmless, but were on the look out for the dangerous tiger shark.

Miss Woodger worked as a nurse at West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds and Mr Pratley worked in Newmarket before they decided to travel to New Zealand and Australia in 2002.





DIVE COURSES ON OFFER:

➤ **Adel Al-Bassam:** 873-7696/Cell: 055861940/email: 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

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

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 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

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)

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 Diver, U/W Naturalist, Multilevel Diver, Deep Diver, Night Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Wreck Diver*)
- 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

- 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 22.



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.

➤ **Dave Scott:** Cell: 0503864293 email: surveyscot@usa.com Website:<http://www.seasquirtdivers.com/> **PADI**
 Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Medic First Aid, Dive Master courses ongoing. Can be tailored to meet your specific needs -- please call for details. Refresher classes anytime. Other courses, please enquire. **Specialty Courses Offered:** U/W Photography, Deep Diver, U/W Navigation, Search & Recovery Diver, Enriched Air (Nitrox) Diver, Wreck Diver, U/W Naturalist, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Boat Diver, Multilevel Diver, Night Diver, DAN Oxygen.



2005 DDA BOARD MEMBERS

The Official DDA 2005 Board

We are proud to present to you the 2005 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	Radi Adzemovic	874-6022
Vice-President	Michael Pham	874-7146
Treasurer	Farid Zoldjalali	873-6707
Membership Director	Debbie Nanninga	877-6108
Secretary	Valerie White	877-3051
Air Station Director	Rene Seco	873-0547
Air Station Director	David Gruno	874-5696
Equipment Director	Mona Attas	874-6292
Equipment Director	Sadeq Al-Qaffas	877-5802
Training Director	Adel Bassam	873-7696
Dive Activities Director	Bruce Jahnke	873-5147
Social Activities Director	Sheryl Wright (Acting)	874-6107
Clearwater Editor	Sheryl Wright	874-6107
Member at Large	Ibrahim Haidan	874-1257
Website Coordinator	James van der Vyver	874-6671



2005 DDA MEETING/SOCIAL SCHEDULE

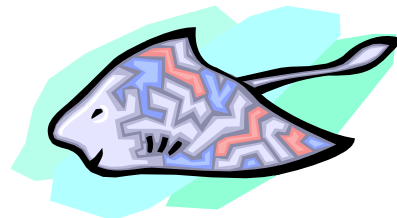


Meeting Date	Venue	Guest Speaker	Topic
Monday, November 28	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	DDA AGM	2005 Annual General Meeting



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

HELP! Email to sheryl.wright@aramco.com
or send to P.O. Box 10496, Dhahran



DDA 2005 DIVE SCHEDULE

DDA Dive Activities Director, Bruce Jahnke announces the following dive trips to help you plan early. For further information contact Bruce by email: bruce.jahnke@aramco.com, or **the relevant trip leader**. **To sign up** for any of these dive trips contact the trip leader directly.

Date	Destination	Trip Leader/ Contact	Max Persons	Details/Cost (Approx.)
Dec. 7-10 (3 days) Wed.PM-Sat.PM	Yanbu	Michael Pham	22	SR2,000 - Requires 1 'L' Day; new "Dream Master" 28-Berth Live-Aboard. Price is all inclusive with Live-Aboard and dive costs.
Dec 22/23	Red Sea Jeddah	Mike Yeomans	-	SR2,000 -Dream Voyager, includes airfare. Leaving Dammam on Saudia at 6pm on Wed 21 Dec, return at 8:20pm Fri 23 Dec. Please contact: Mike Yeomans 050 210 7319 mike@ScubaClubOnline.com or Paul Catley 050 346 6967 paul@ScubaClubOnline.com for further information.
Jan 4-12, 2006	Maldives	Colin Knight	No max.	SR2,600 approx. The Maldives-Bandos Island Resort. Diving/resort cost payable at resort. Ask for latest prices. Requires 2 'L' Days.

TRIP LEADERS/CONTACTS:

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

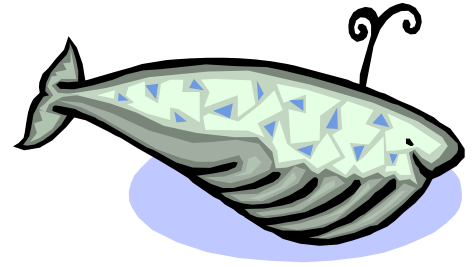
...Just DDA It !!

TANK FILL SCHEDULE



TANK-FILL TIMES!

Opening April 4 from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Mondays at the Air Station
(See details below)



The DDA Air Station is Located behind the Third Street Pool - entry off Walnut Street. For the new 2005 Dive Season the Airstation will open on April 4 and operate until October 3.

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 **2005 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 2005 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.

Remember to visit our DDA website:
www.dhahrandiving.com



"Clearwater" Editor, Sheryl Wright

Tel: 874-6107/ 878-2796, Box 10496 Dhahran,
Email: sheryl.wright@aramco.com

