



Brandon Scuba Club

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Vice-President: Mark
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Treasurer: Ed Burrridge
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Events: Mark & Kellie
Addison
Membership: Linda
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Out With the Old, In With The New(sletter)

Welcome to the new newsletter! After many wonderful years of keeping you up-to-date with the Brandon Scuba Club, Ed Burrridge has decided to step down from his duty as editor. Newlyweds, Mark and Kellie Addison will attempt to fill his fins!

Along with the change in editors, it was decided at our AGM, to try and save the club some money and switch to an e-newsletter. This will allow us to distribute the newsletter cheaper and easier, and hopefully the ones who receive this will

pass it on to their non-member scuba buddies! We are also hopeful that people will be more inclined to email us with pictures and stories of their adventures for future publication. Remember, this is your newsletter and the more personal we can make it, the more interesting it will be for everyone!



President's Message

Well, it wouldn't come as much of a shock if the majority were ready for the end of winter. Luckily the weather of late seems to be cooperating and before you know you'll be donning your wetsuits like parkas for some underwater action. For those that were fortunate to have enjoyed a winter holiday I hope it was relaxing and you managed to find a little dive time. If you have any pictures please submit them to brandonscuba@wcgwave.ca for future publication in our newsletter. We are always eager for submissions, and it allows the rest of us to see some cool stuff.

Keep up to date on all the events and happenings at the website. There will

be a few planned dive events as always this year. These are a great opportunity to keep up your skills and dive with some different people. New friends and dive partners are always assured. We look forward to your involvement and to see you all at some of our events.

Have a great season and healthy happy diving!

Sincerely,

Mark Tokle
President
Brandon Scuba Club



"DON'T EAT THE HARD BIT ON ITS BACK, THEY MAKE YOU FART!"

Upcoming Events

The next meeting has been scheduled for **April 13, 2010**. It will be located in the back meeting room of the Roll'n Pin restaurant located in the Colonial Inn at 1944 Queens Ave. at 7pm. Please bring any items you wish to discuss. We're always looking for new ideas of things you would like to do as a club so please come out and support your club!



Scavenger Dive
July, 2009

Tentative dates for the following events:

MUC AGM - April 11 1-4pm @ Sport MB Building, 145 Pacific Ave. Winnipeg

Opening dive site - May long

Scavenger Hunt - June 19th

Melon Dive - September 18th

Xmas Party - November 20th

Mark and Lori's trip pictures



Pics are from Honduras,
Belize, and Cozumel.



Mark and Lori's trip pictures con't



Other Links of Interest

www.manunderwater.com

This is MUC's website.
Some useful info about diving
in Manitoba



www.brandonsclub.com

Our website. Give us your ideas
of what you'd like to see.

*If you'd like to
know what the two of us have been
up to as members of the Adelaide
University Skindiving Club, please
check out:
[http://adelaidescuba.blogspot.com/
search/label/David%20Ford](http://adelaidescuba.blogspot.com/search/label/David%20Ford)
and you'll see several of the reports
that I've written up for the
blogspot of the AUSC.*



Dave Ford aka "SuperDave"
& Katherine Hyndman

Photo from Dave Ford's
blog

Lessons From The Deep

Heads Up

August 18, 2008

From the July, 2008 issue of Scuba Diving Magazine. Matt finds out the hard way why his divemaster certification doesn't exempt him from specialized safety procedures.

By Michael Ange

When Matt came to, he looked up at the blue sky and felt the violent pitching of the boat as he lay on the deck. It hurt to breathe. Sharp pains stabbed his right side. He tried to sit up, but the mate pushed him back down. He could hear the crew calling for medical support and directing the other divers to secure their equipment. The details were still a little cloudy. The last thing Matt remembered was grabbing the bucking ladder to take off his fins when the large swells lifted him and the ladder out of the water, jamming the bottom rung into his rib cage. Then the wide swim step came crashing back down like a fin slapping the water, and everything went dark.



swells. He made a point to tell the group to take their fins off on the trail line--before approaching the ladder--so they wouldn't get jerked around and possibly injured by the bouncing stern.

Matt wasn't working as a dive-master for the group, but he took on that role by helping the divers around him with their pre-dive preparation. It was a nice gesture, but in doing so, he failed to pay attention to the briefing. He was part of a three-man buddy team, and after helping his partners into the water, he rapidly put on his own gear and jumped in the water to find one of his buddies had grown seasick bobbing in the rough seas. They immediately started their descent. Once the group reached the wreck, the seasick diver indicated that he felt better. But during their safety stop on the violently pitching anchor line he went green once again. Matt helped the sick diver to the surface. Swimming well clear of the vessel's hull, they made their way through the rising swells to the trail line behind the boat.

The Diver

Matt was a healthy, active diver in his mid-thirties. He was confident in his skills and very self-assured about his diving ability. He was also quite proud of having recently completed his dive-master certification.

The Dive

Matt traveled to South Florida with a large group of divers for a week of reef and wreck dives. Conditions were not great, and they got worse as the week wore on. On the third day of diving, the captain canceled the morning charter and told the divers to check back at noon. By midday, the seas had gone down slightly, and the group braved the three- to four-foot swells to reach a popular wreck site in about 85 feet of water. For this particular dive, the captain gave an additional briefing specific to the rough conditions and the dangers of boarding the boat in large

water, grabbed Matt and swam away from the deadly platform while holding onto the trail line. He carefully timed the low point of a trough and shoved Matt onto the platform and into the waiting hands of the captain. Two of the divers in the group helped the captain drag Matt--still in all of his equipment--onto the deck. Matt was stunned, disoriented and in a great deal of pain; the side of the boat hit his octopus so hard that it shattered and cut a hole in the side of his wetsuit, leaving cuts and bruises behind. As they removed Matt's gear, it became clear he had broken some ribs. In addition to his damaged octopus, the cummerbund of his BC was torn and his wetsuit was literally shredded in several places. Medical assistance was summoned to meet the boat at the dock. Matt was treated overnight at the local hospital for two broken ribs and a number of other cuts, bruises and minor injuries.

Analysis

Matt thought his newly earned dive-master certification replaced the need for the expert local advice the captain provided in his briefing. He also let his desire to help other divers interfere with the captain's briefing and as a result, jeopardized both his safety and the safety of others. Had Matt listened to the briefing, he would have known the preferred method for boarding this vessel in choppy seas: Without a "fins on" boarding ladder, the divers needed to remove their fins before climbing on board. But in the four-foot seas, the rear of the boat moved as much as eight feet vertically with every swell. Recognizing this, the captain told the divers to stop on the trail line before getting too close to the boat and to maintain a firm grip on the line while they removed their fins. They were then to slip the fin straps over their wrists, pull hand over hand up the trail line and approach the rear of the boat as the platform bottomed out in a trough between waves. With regulators and masks in place, they were to firmly grab the ladder and not let go

The Accident

Matt attempted to push the seasick diver toward the boat, but the buddy stopped several feet away to remove his fins. Matt assumed that the diver was confused and continued to push him toward the boat. Finally, the diver removed his fins while fending off Matt's assistance. He reached the ladder and climbed on the boat. The third member was already on board. Matt grabbed the pitching ladder and, hanging on with one hand, reached down to remove his fins. The boat dropped into a swell, and Matt's foot slipped off the bottom rung of the ladder. As the boat came up with the next wave, the ladder kicked out, catching Matt in the ribs. He was knocked back and away from the boat as the platform plummeted down on top of him. When the boat struck him a second time, Matt struggled to catch his breath and stay afloat. The mate standing on the platform jumped in the

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for any reason. They were all advised to crawl on their hands and knees to get onto the deck of the boat. Matt missed this portion of the briefing. Even so, as a divemaster he should have recognized the hazards of the exit and sought belated guidance from the boat's crew at that point. He would later admit that he was so distracted with assisting the seasick diver that he hadn't taken the time to analyze the hazards the boat presented in rough seas. He also failed to heed the concerns of the seasick diver, who successfully managed to keep Matt from pushing him into the rear of the boat. Even after Matt observed his dive buddy removing his fins in what he

thought was an odd procedure, he failed to recognize the benefits of this exit strategy. Fortunately for Matt, he was knocked back away from the boat, and the injuries that resulted from his carelessness, although painful, were much less serious than the fractured skull or broken neck he would have gotten if the platform had hit him in the head.

Lessons For Life

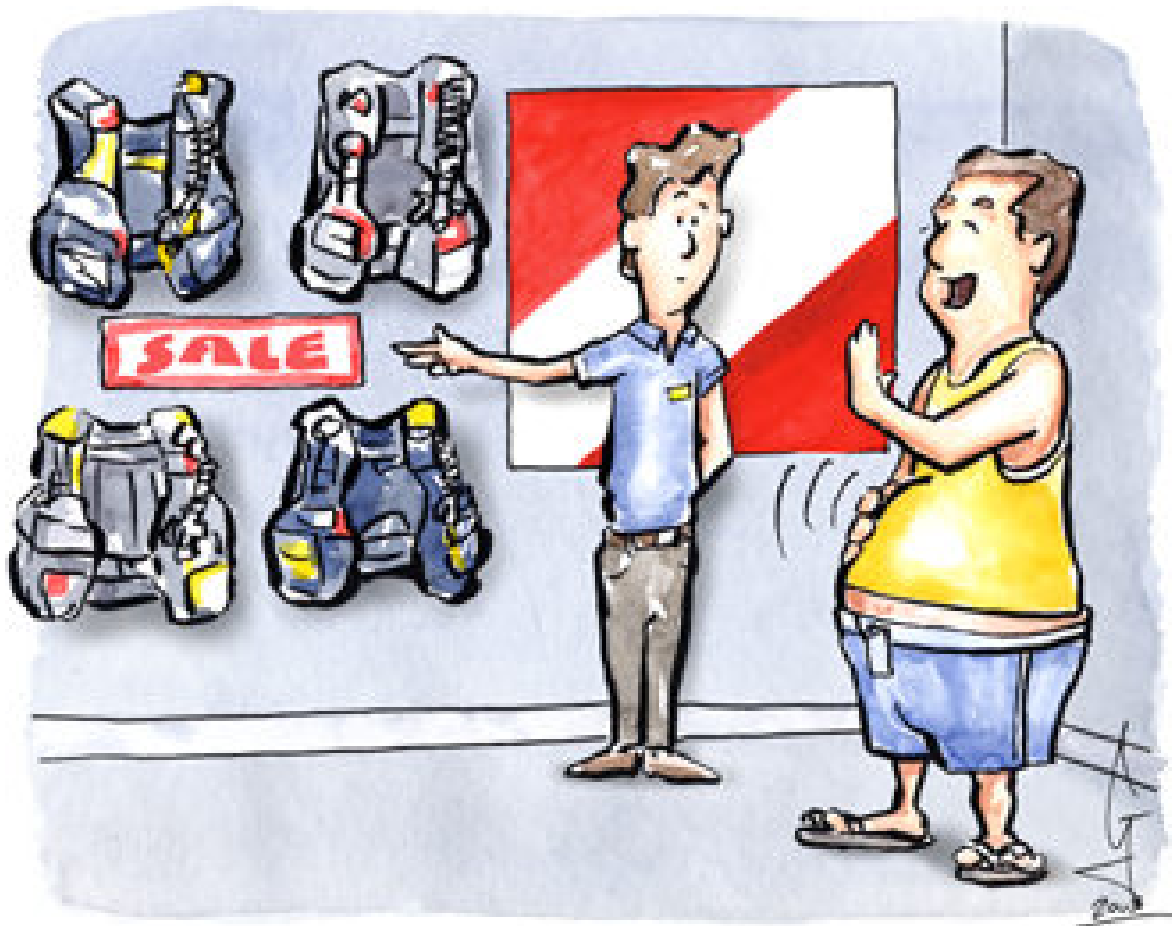
Listen to the dive briefing. There is never a good exception to this rule.

Be humble. Don't let your dive education make you overly confident in your skills. A certification at any level is no replacement for common sense.

Take care of yourself first. Helping

other divers is great, but you should not jeopardize your own safety to provide that assistance, or cause any additional harm to the diver you are helping.

Pay attention. Watch your surroundings and how the conditions impact your safety. Unusual circumstances often require unusual procedures.



"That's okay son, I already have a built-in Buoyancy Compensating Device."

The Last Word

Contact us @
brandonscuba@wcgwave.ca

We hope you have enjoyed this first
edition of your e-newsletter.

Don't forget to come and join us for
our meeting on April 13 at the Roll'n
Pin Restaurant @ 7pm

Dive naked...things look
bigger underwater!!

*Don't forget that club dues
were due January 1st. If you
haven't yet, please submit \$20/
person or \$25/family (payable
to Brandon Scuba Club) to
Linda Burrige as soon as
possible!*

