

BRANDON SCUBA CLUB

Volume 6, Number 3

Summer, 2002

I would like to thank Rick Stokes and the Stokes dive team, Camile Brodeur and Elaine Riesmeyer for the great articles they contributed for this issue of the Brandon Scuba Club newsletter.

Summer is here and we have a number of event, both diving and non-diving planned. Try to get out to them as they are always lots of fun and you may even see Elaine R. in the water.

I hope a number of people buy underwater disposable cameras and enter our club's first underwater photo contest. See the contest details in this newsletter. I am sure the photos and the stories will be a hoot.

I would like to thank Ed Riesmeyer for lending me a 1962 vintage "Aqua-lung diving manual". I am finding it an interesting read and the illustrations are very humorous. I copied some of the diving safely rules in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy them and appreciate a time when people actually taught themselves to dive



Sting Ray City, Grand Cayman

from a book. The original owner of this manual was from Brandon and his first dive logged in the back of the book was June 3rd 1962, over 40 years ago. The dive was at Clear Lake and was "the first Club dive". I guess there was a dive club in Brandon in

1962. I wonder if any of the members are still in Brandon?

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Brandon Scuba Club, Elton Adams, Rob Penny, Kellie Stocker, Mitchell Brewster, Chad Giles, Jason Rylott, Sam, Ardith, and Nick Bater, Wayne Bilenduke, and Tom Caines. For newly certified divers I highly recommend the Clear Lake Clean Up dive being held on July 20th. It is held on Parks Day and is the Brandon Scuba Club's contribution to cleaning up the park. It is lots of fun and there is a pot luck BBQ held at Glen Beag after the Clean Up dive. If you want to finish off your tank of air you can do a second dive a Glen Beag.

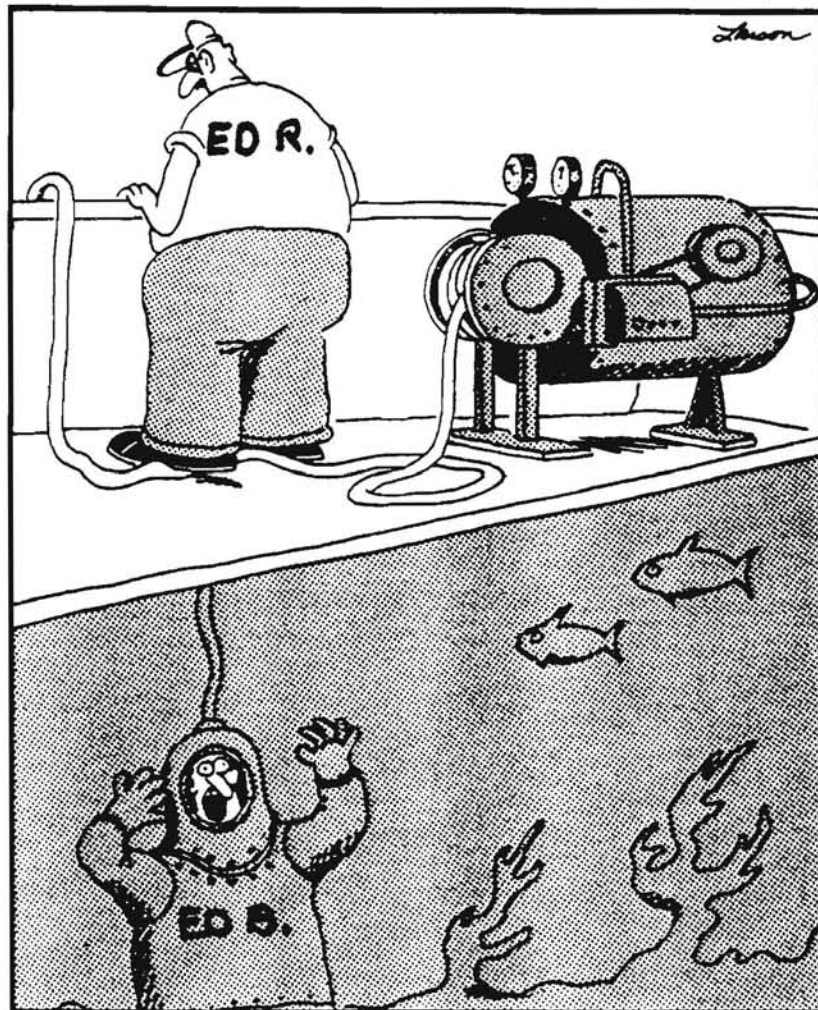
Dive Safe
Ed Burridge
burridge@mb.sympatico.ca



Sunset on a lake a number of Kilometers West of Gordon Lake, Ont.

Brandon Scuba Club's First Summer Photo Contest

The Brandon Scuba Club is holding a photo contest for its members. The contest will run between now and our Christmas party being held on November 16th. The photographs have to be taken in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Ontario. The photographs must be taken with one of the small inexpensive disposable underwater cameras. To enter buy one of the disposable cameras (I suggest you try one with the highest speed film you can get) and throw it in your dive bag. When you go on a shallow dive this summer take your camera along in your BC pocket and shoot some pictures on your dive. If you went to the underwater photo clinic our club held last winter try to keep some of the pointers we talked about in mind. When your camera is full have the prints developed and bring them along to the Christmas party. The pictures will be judged by Ed Burridge and the best one will receive a prize. I am sure there will be some great stories on how some of the pictures were taken. If you would like any more information call Jason at 727-1780





GRAND CAYMAN

We arrived in George Town, the capital of Grand Cayman, on January 31st in the middle of the afternoon. The temperature was 30 C. and sunny. When we left Winnipeg it was -26 and overcast. Needless to say we adapted easily and shorts were the order of the day. After checking in to our hotel we stopped at the on site dive operator, Dive Tech, to become familiar with our dive itinerary. Our son, Ryan, was to start the next day on the open water segment of his certification. The dive operator suggested we dive as well to become familiar with the waters of the Caymans. The next day couldn't come fast enough. To think we would soon be in water that averaged 27C. And you would actually see over a distance greater than 100ft. The next day exceeded our expectations. Ryan met his instructor and we suited up for our first shore dive. We entered the water I took a look underwater at a depth of 4ft. and saw a variety of small colourful reef fish – blue, yellow, red and ever colour in between. I couldn't wait to get to depth and explore more of the reef system. We swam out approximately 100 yards to the marker and slowly made our decent to 60 feet entering a realm of unbelievable colour and marine life. I couldn't believe 40 minutes could go by so quickly. We were like kids in a toy store not knowing which way to look first. The reef was alive with fish of all sizes and colour.

Reluctantly, we surfaced and went ashore. Donna and I sat and talked about the experience anxiously waiting for our surface interval to pass so we could dive again.

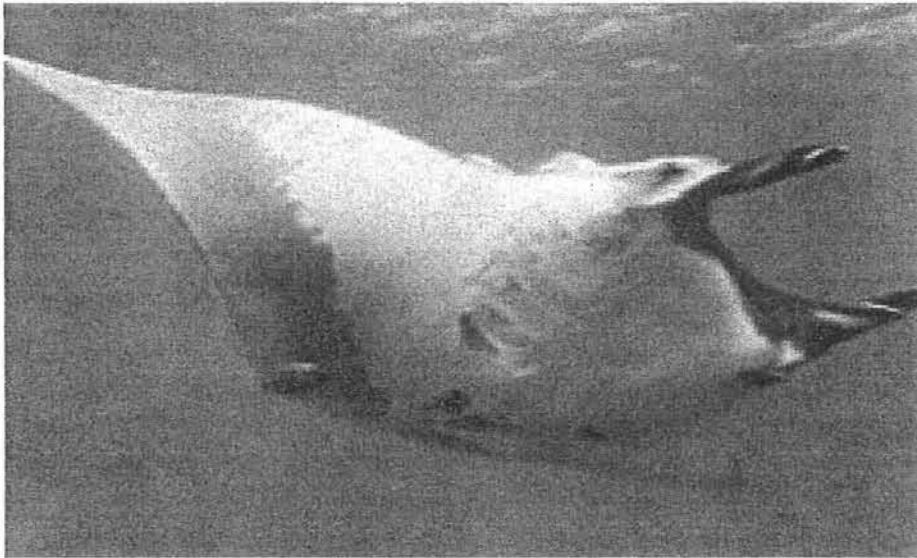
That was only the first day of diving and it only got better. Ryan completed his certification then we did five boat dives and three more shore dives at two different sites. We also got the opportunity to use motorized scooters for one shore dive. The dive operator, Dive Tech, was great. The dive masters explained things well before each dive and prepared you for each dive site. Our accommodations at the Cobalt Coast were great. It was almost like staying with family. The staff was very accommodating and wanted to be sure we enjoyed our stay. For a couple of neophyte divers both Dive Tech and the Cobalt Coast made our ten days very memorable. Yes I would go again.

One other event, which words cannot describe adequately, was a trip to Stingray City. This is a 15ft. dive where you feed southern stingrays. It's difficult to describe the experience of being covered with stingrays as they swarm around you looking for a free meal. Other than to say I was laughing so hard that I bit through the mouthpiece on my regulator.

In conclusion the trip exceeded our expectations and we can't wait to do it again.

The Stokes Dive Team

Rick, Donna and Ryan



Riding the manta ray

In March, Audrey and myself, we found ourselves on the west coast in Puerto Vallarta for a couple of weeks. I was planning to do some diving in the area but unlucky me I end up catching a cold at the airport, but I still managed to go diving for a couple of days. I went to the Marietta's island for a two tanks dive with eight others divers. It was an o/k dive (anything beat Manitoba water) with visibility of about 40 feet. We saw a variety of marine life. On our way back to town, we stop the boat to contemplate a pod of seven Humpback whales.

The following week after I recuperated from my cold I arranged to go to Los Arcos on the south side of the Banderas bay. Every thing worked out for the best because I was the only diver and the remaining were snorkelers. The dive master and myself once in the water we started to explore the surrounding and by the way the visibility was around hundred feet contrary to the previous day witch the visibility was pretty lousy.

We saw one manta ray in the water, so we swam toward it when we got close to it we saw that on the right side it had a fishing hook impale in the wing. The dive master tried to take the hook off, but he was unsuccessful because the ray gained speed and swam away. So we returned to our previous location and the manta ray came back. On the second attempt to take impaled hook, the dive master was successful and he proceed to clean it upper body, by that time I had joined him cleaning the beast. There was two remoras one each side of its body. Eric grab the tail of the remora and ask me to do the same with the one on my side, but when I grab mine it separated from the ray so instead I grab the front part of it wing. From there two scuba divers were riding on top of a 14 to 16 feet manta ray. According to my dive computer for seven minutes we were flying under water. Slowly we were descending to the abyss so once we reached 96 feet down we let it go and proceed to go back to less deep water. Back at 65 feet we saw our manta ray with a companion but the other one would not let us approach it whatsoever. But the one we helped let us approach easily, so we pat it some more and clean it some more for another five minutes. We had to surface because our air was down, but it was probably a once in a life time experience that everything felt in its proper place. For the two weeks, I watched the dive boat left the harbor with full complement of scuba divers but the day of the encounter with the mantas I was the only diver witch gave us the liberty to do what we did.

Sincerely yours
Camil Brodeur

First Club Dive of 2002

With the ice barely off the water, the die hards of our Club were out in full force. Fifteen of our members came out on May 19 to put the dive buoys in place officially opening the 2002 dive season at Glen Beag. While divers were searching for the chains, Ed was above them, warm and dry, with John, Denise, & Patti in tow waiting for the divers to surface for the buoys. Neal and Kathleen came down from Calgary to help with this yearly event as did Terry and Sam from Winnipeg to mention just a few. It's so nice that our members from out of town know where their diving roots are!

After all the buoys were placed securely in the water, everyone headed back to Ed & Elaine's cabin for a few refreshments and socializing. Their neighbours were quick to say, "Summer's here, diving started, no parking on Sprucewoods Bay".

The next morning, Tom and Jayson went diving again. They had originally planned on doing two dives but said "nah" after the first one. Water temperature was 41 F.

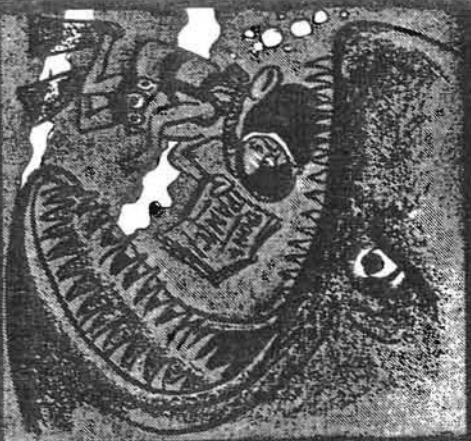
Well, now that our dive location is safe, come on out and get wet!



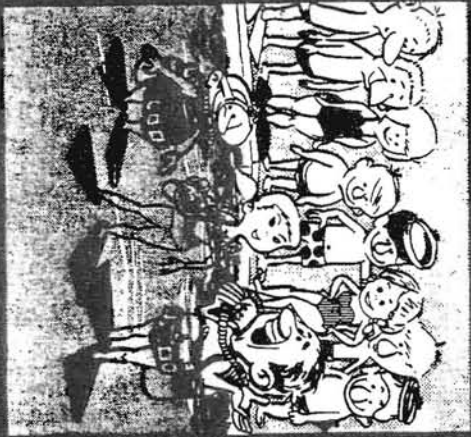
THREE - IV diving safety rules

Diving with the "Aqua-Lung" is safe and pleasurable. Many hours of relaxation and thrills will be your reward for the application of these safety rules:

rule one BE A GOOD SWIMMER FIRST



rule two RECEIVE COMPETENT INSTRUCTION



The "Aqua-Lung" cannot eliminate the inherent risks of swimming and diving. There is no substitute for the diver's alertness, common sense and self-discipline. Respect the ocean! Avoid panic. A good diver is a good swimmer first.

rule three NEVER USE OXYGEN IN YOUR TANK



Never use oxygen, always use clean filtered compressed air.

rule four NEVER HOLD YOUR BREATH WHILE ASCENDING



Never hold your breath while ascending, keep breathing while returning to the surface and slow up your rate of ascent when near the surface. Take at least 90 seconds to ascend the last 35 feet. Breeding this most important rule may result in air embolism.

rule five KNOW YOUR DECOMPRESSION RULES



Observe the safety curve rules and decompression tables if more than a single cylinder of air is used during any 12 hour period.

* IMPORTANT: The 71.2 cubic foot cylinder holds the maximum air capacity to be used in any 12 hour period without possible need for decompression. Double and triple "Aqua-Lung" cylinder blocks make it possible for the diver to stay long enough and to go deep enough to require decompression during

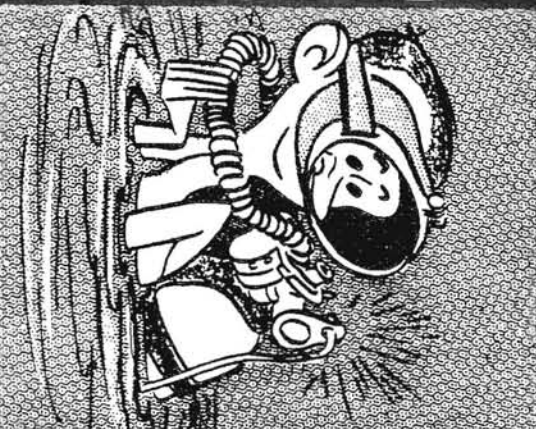
ascent. Therefore, a diver using more than one cylinder in a given 12 hour period should carry an underwater watch and submersible decompression table. Be sure, however, that enough air is left for decompression; should it be necessary, plan your dive before you make it. There is no time limit for diving within 35 feet of the surface with an "Aqua-Lung".

rule six DON'T EXCEED 130 FEET



Amateur divers should not exceed 130 feet. Even an experienced diver should have a very good reason for going below this depth.

rule seven SET YOUR AIR RESERVE LEVER

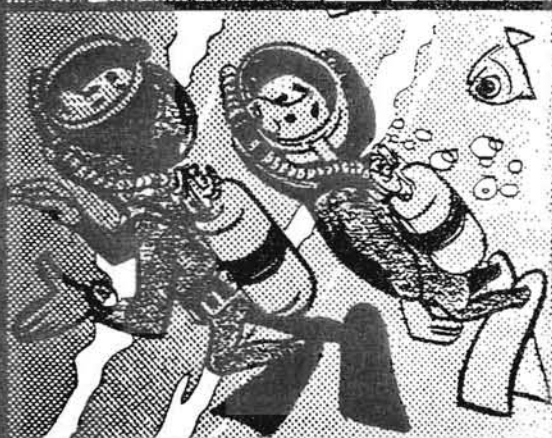


If the "Aqua-Lung" features a constant air reserve valve, make sure the air reserve is set before submerging (lever up). To release reserve, pull the lever down.

rule eight
AMATEURS DON'T EXCEED 25 FEET



rule nine
ALWAYS USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM



Beginners and users of the shallow water unit without an air reserve device should stay within a depth of 25 feet

Whenever possible, dive two or a line (buddy system)

rule ten
ALWAYS DIVE WITH A LIFE JACKET OR FLOAT



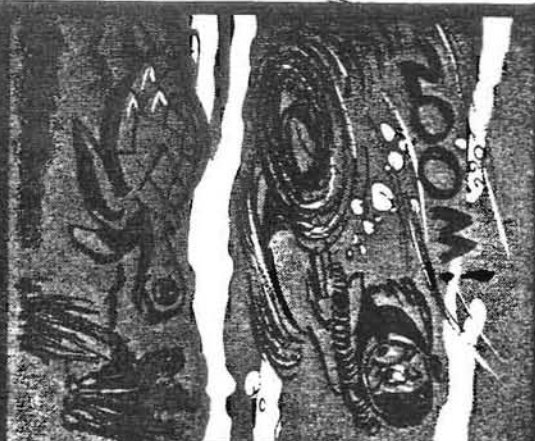
rule eleven
ALWAYS USE A SUIT IN COLD WATER



Learn to depend on yourself in case of emergency. A cardinal rule of diving is NEVER DIVE ALONE. Stay within sight of your buddy and signal him if you need aid. Always use a life jacket or float.

Extreme cold may cause accidents. Use a rubber suit when the surface water is below 70° F.

rule twelve
ALWAYS AVOID UNDOE EXERTION



Avoid undue exertion under water. Do not get out of breath.

rule fourteen
ALWAYS USE QUICK RELEASE FASTENINGS



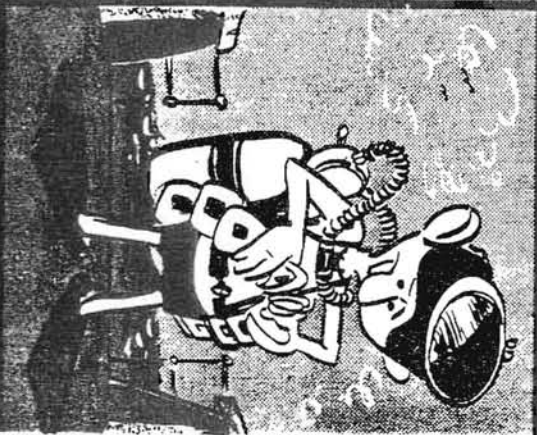
Shoulder straps, belt and weight belt must be fastened with a "quick-release". Refer to Section 3-4.

rule thirteen
ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR TANK VALVE



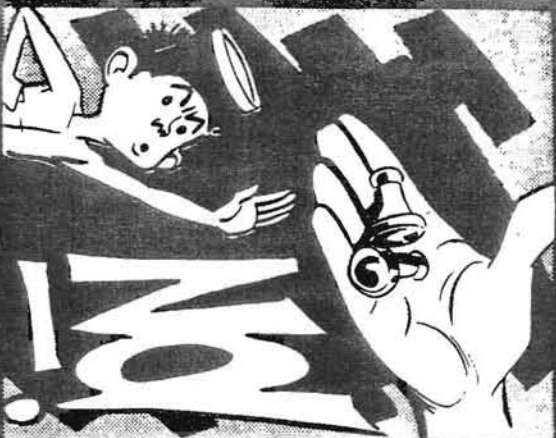
The tank valve should always be protected from rough handling. Never place the valve and tank in a position where a fall or hard blow could damage the valve. If a cylinder valve were actually broken off by a severe blow, the escape of high pressure air could dislodge or pierce the cylinder with great force.

rule fifteen
ALWAYS PUT WEIGHT BELT ON LAST



The weight belt should be the last piece of equipment secured to the diver. This will allow it to be quickly released if necessary.

rule sixteen
NEVER USE EAR PLUGS



NEVER use ear plugs while diving with the "Aqualung". Water pressure can force an ear plug into the ear canal with possible injury to the ear membrane.

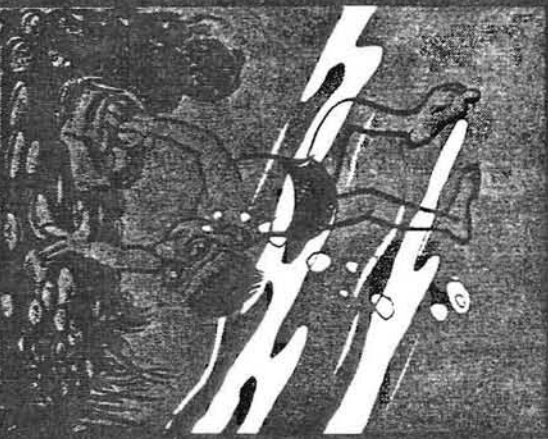
rule eighteen
DON'T DIVE WHEN ALLING



DO NOT DIVE when you have:

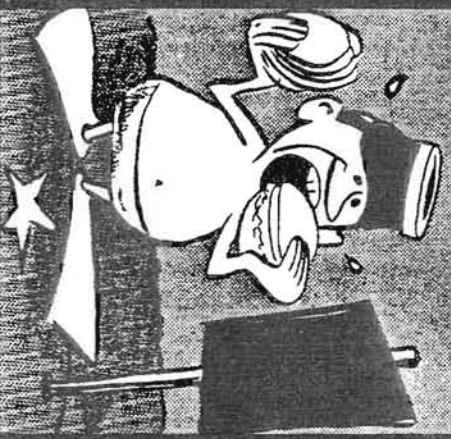
- A. Chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, emphysema, sinus trouble, hay fever or a cold.
- B. Perforated ear drums or chronic ear infection.
- C. Cardiac (Circulation) (heart trouble) or poor circulation.
- D. A history of having spit up blood or similar condition of the lungs.
- E. Use of alcohol, causing a lack of co-ordination and mental alertness.

rule seventeen
DON'T USE GOGGLES



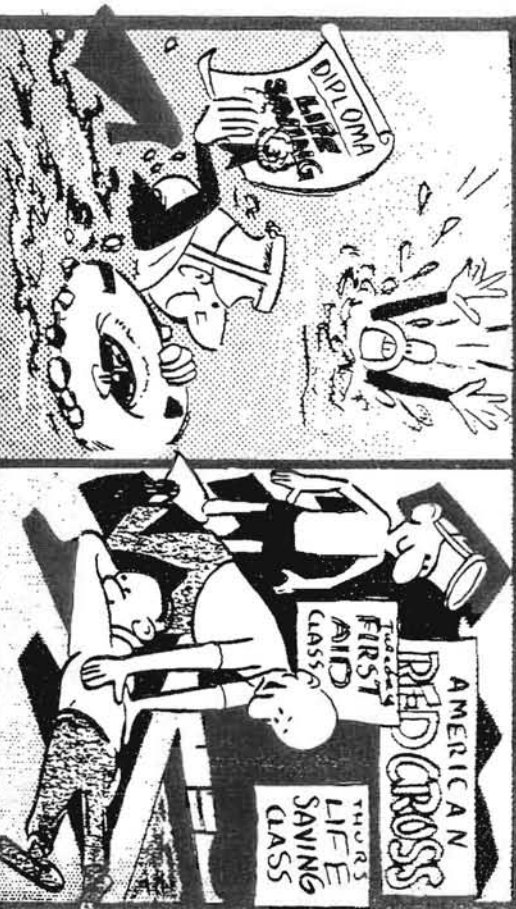
The mask covers the nose as well as the eyes. This allows the diver to equalize the air pressure inside the mask with the outside water pressure by blowing air into the mask. With goggles the pressure inside cannot be equalized and increasing water pressure causes a "squeeze".

rule nineteen
DON'T DIVE AFTER EATING



A normal meal may be eaten several hours before diving, but it should be high in carbohydrates with no gas-forming or heavy foods.

rule twenty
KNOW THE LIFE SAVING TECHNIQUES



Never attempt a swimming rescue where actual contact with a struggling victim is necessary, unless you know enough life saving technique to save yourself if you are trapped by the victim.

Diving safely can be further enhanced by securing training in first aid techniques and, most important, artificial respiration. Your local chapter of the American Red Cross offers free lessons in both. Artificial respiration is generally covered in life saving classes, but will also be part of a good first aid course.

rule twenty-one
DON'T DIVE AFTER EATING



Some find it difficult to climb back into the boat with a 2 or 3 tank block. It is good practice to slip off the harness while still in the water, get in the boat and then pull in the equipment.

The amount of weight to use to offset buoyancy can be determined by preliminary test, considering that when half of your air is used, your buoyancy must be neutral.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 28-30th** **Gordon Lake excursion.** First getaway dive of the season.
- July 20th** **Clean Up dive Clear Lake,** pot luck BBQ to be held at Glen Beag following the dive. For more info please call Elaine 763-4943 for location of clean up dive.
- July 26-28th** **Thunder Bay Rec Dive** \$65.00 for a 2 tank boat dive. For more info and booking please call Scott Aikens at 765-2290.
- August 2-5th** **West Hawk Lake** – Remember the more the merrier!!!! Book your campsites early.
- August 10-11th** **Dauphin Dolphins Spear Fishing Competition, Child's Lake** – for those new divers this is a weekend of fun, fun, fun even if you don't want to spearfish. Contact Rob Baker at 204-638-8240 for more info
- August 31-Sep 2nd** **IDEAS** anyone? Let's hear from our members. Call Jennifer 725-3212.
- September 19th** **Brandon Scuba Club meeting** - to be held at the U.F.C.W. office 759-1st , 7:30 PM. Come on out, the final details for the Pumpkin dive will be discussed.
- October 5th** **PUMPKIN DIVE 2002** – hosted by Manitoba's best dive club -US!!!!
- November 16th** **XMAS Party – place TBA at a later date.** The photographs from Brandon Scuba Clubs first summer photo contest will be judged and a prize awarded.

If any more fun events are happening during the summer, all members will be contacted by phone as the next newsletter will be in September. Hope to see you all down under!