



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Mark Tokle

Vice-President: Mark Chapman

Treasurer: Ed Burridge

Secretary: Elaine Riesmeyer

Events: Mark & Kellie Addison

Membership: Linda Burridge



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Brandon Scuba Club

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If that was summer...

Well, the all-too short summer is over. Many of you are planning your winter get-a-ways, while others of us have the memories of our local summer dives.

There was no summer edition of the newsletter as we didn't think there was much to report on.

Mark and Kellie Addison attended the MUC AGM in Winnipeg in April. We made some contacts and hope to have raised a bit of awareness that other dive sites do exist outside West Hawk!

The dive site at Clear Lake was opened in May by a handful of dedicated members. Many thanks to those who helped.

The next event was the Scavenger Hunt dive held in June. Attendance was better this year than last, with six divers and the BBQ was a big success with almost 20 people!



The Park asked the Club to help out with Park Clean-Up Day in July. Feedback from divers and the Park was that we did some good and we hope to make this an annual event.

The last diving event we had planned for the season was the Melon Dive. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough interest and this event was cancelled. Hopefully we can give it another go next year.

Any feedback/advice/suggestions anyone has to make this, or any other event more appealing would be greatly appreciated!

President's Message

Mark Tokle

Hello to everyone. Well another Manitoba dive season has come and gone. We certainly had some struggles and frustration weather wise this year, but it is important to remember the weather is always great under the water's surface. I would like to make the same plea I have made before; participation. The Brandon Scuba Club will only be as strong as the support it receives from the membership. I urge you to

get involved. There are approximately 5 meetings throughout the year which are open to everyone so please come and share your thoughts and help the executive make the club the best it can be. I realize many people are fair-weather or southern divers, but there are things to be made, and diving locally is a great opportunity to maintain your skills. BSC hosts a few dive events every season and

honestly they are poorly attended. They are generally attended by the same people, essentially limited to the executive. If you are a current member, we look forward to seeing in 2011. If you are a past member we'd like to see you back in 2011. Remember, diving is a social event so come out and get involved and let's all have some fun together!

Have a safe and healthy winter.

Scavenger Dive pics



Mark Tokle finding a puck



Photos courtesy of Dan Schmidt



Want to share
your adventures
with the rest of the
club? We'd love to
hear about it and
see your pictures!

Email
brandonscuba@
wcgwave.ca

Important info for those diving Glen Beag

Effective immediately, all divers must report to the park gates upon entrance to the park when diving. This is a request made by the park for liability and safety purposes.

Park security will be checking the dive site regularly. We now have a pretty good working relationship with the park, so we ask that you please comply with their wishes.

Upcoming Events



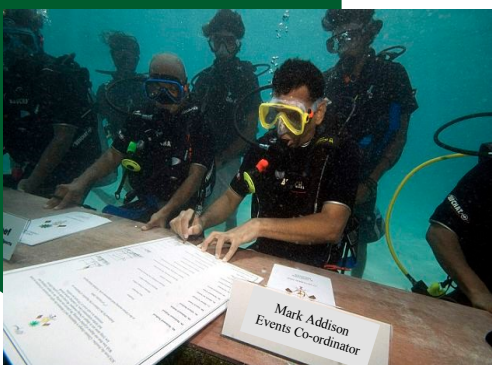
Nov 20—**Annual Brandon Scuba Club Christmas Party**

C&L Scuba have graciously supplied their poolhouse for the festivities. Thank you Kim and Brian! Cocktails at 6:30, Supper at 7:30

This will be a pot-luck so dig out those secret recipes! BYOB and a \$10 non-alcoholic wrapped gift.

Jan 13/11—**Brandon Scuba Club AGM**

7:00 in the back meeting room of the Roll n' Pin restaurant Please make plans to attend if at all possible. The club really needs fresh faces, and fresh ideas.



High Maintenance

This is a true story, but the names have been changed.

It had been almost two years since Don and Jane last went diving. Life had gotten in the way, but things were slowly getting back to normal and they were happy to be back in the water. The chance to get wet came together quickly, without having ample time before their dive to prepare. Suddenly, they found themselves halfway through their dive, cruising over a gently sloping reef and Jane, who had been a little apprehensive, was starting to relax, remembering how much she loved the sport. As she inhaled through her regulator, she felt the cool, dry air enter her lungs. As Jane stopped inhaling, though, the air didn't stop coming. Suddenly Jane got scared.

The Divers

Don and Jane had been certified for about 10 years, but neither had received any further training since their initial certification course. They dived whenever they could, mostly in tropical locations. But the past couple of years had been tough financially, and the pair hadn't been diving in some time. They kept reading and talking about diving, but hadn't made it to the water.

The Dives

The opportunity to dive suddenly arose when Don and Jane ran into an old friend from their dive club who told them about an upcoming weekend trip — two days from then. There were two openings, the price was perfect and they jumped at the chance to go. They barely had time to make the necessary arrangements. Don grabbed their dive-gear bags off a shelf and checked through them to make sure everything was there. He

was relieved to see that everything was where he packed it after that last trip. They were excited to be on a dive boat that morning. The dives were typical for the area, with shallow depths between 40 and 60 feet.

The Accident

Don and Jane were cruising along the reef in about 50 feet of water. There was a current running across the dive site and neither diver had gotten much exercise lately, so they were both breathing a little harder than expected. Don had wandered away while Jane stopped to look at a coral formation. As Jane inhaled she got a normal breath, but immediately after that, her regulator began free-flowing. Air bubbles surrounded her face. She tried to breathe, but the air was coming too fast. She choked on the air rushing into her mouth and couldn't catch her breath. Jane panicked. The rush of incoming air had her scared, so she wasn't thinking clearly. She was only thinking that she was going to run out of air — both in her tank, but more importantly in her lungs. Jane didn't know where Don was, so she did the only thing she could think of — bolting for the surface, spitting out her regulator as she went. Jane never made it to safety. She lost consciousness before reaching the surface. She stopped swimming and floated back down to the bottom. Don was the first to reach Jane and brought her to the surface. Resuscitation efforts on the boat were unsuccessful.

Analysis

This dive accident began long before Don and Jane left for their dive trip. After a layoff of nearly two years, the divers jumped back in the water without really thinking about what that time away from diving would mean.

They didn't take the time to prepare their gear and have it properly serviced, or prepare themselves to dive again. After the last dive trip, they packed their gear away and hadn't looked at it since. It sat idle in the garage next to their lawnmower and suffered through temperature extremes. But maintaining dive gear isn't as simple as maintaining a lawnmower — and shouldn't be treated as such. Without annual servicing — even when it's not being used — the O-rings and seals in regulators can dry out. This can cause the regulator's diaphragms and valves to malfunction, leading to increased breathing resistance, slow response with each breath, or even a free-flow. Had Don and Jane taken the time to have their gear serviced by a qualified technician before taking the trip, the problem might never have happened. Annual servicing is as important to a diver's safety as it is for the equipment's warranty.

Dive gear, especially regulators, has become dramatically more reliable through the years. The likelihood of a regulator's catastrophic failure — assuming the gear is appropriately serviced — is minuscule. Modern scuba regulators are known as “downstream valves.” That means if they malfunction, they'll continue supplying air, compared with older regulators that would shut off air when they broke. Scuba regulators are demand valves, supplying air when the diver inhales — demands — air. When that valve can no longer properly function, it will stick in the open position. While a free-flowing regulator constitutes an emergency, it's certainly better than an instant out-of-air situation for a diver.

Some divers learn to breathe from a free-flowing regulator during their

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initial open-water training. But most never practice this skill again after those classes. By holding one bite tab from the mouthpiece between her teeth and allowing the excess air to escape from her mouth — instead of rejecting her regulator — Jane could have cautiously breathed from the cloud of air bubbles escaping from the regulator while she tried to resolve the problem. If Jane had only remembered how to breathe this cautiously, she could have survived the incident. She could have signaled or swam to her buddy, or made a safe ascent to the surface while breathing like this.

If Don had been close by, he could have easily donated his octopus regulator to Jane and turned off her air to keep it from being totally depleted. Their dive would have been over, but they could have dived again later. While all divers wander away from their buddies from time to time, it's important to stay reasonably close and to make sure you have an idea where your buddy is at all times. In

the event of an emergency, you might not have time to look around.

Lessons for life

1. Have your gear serviced annually by a qualified gear technician. Even if you're not sure when you'll be diving again, dive gear is life-support equipment. You need to care for it with that in mind.
2. Regularly practice critical skills. All divers learn the simple techniques to handle most emergencies as part of their training. The only way to recall critical skills in the event of a problem is practice.
3. Maintain buddy contact. While dive accidents are rare, when a problem occurs, a buddy's presence can keep a problem from turning into a disaster.
4. Be prepared to handle a dive accident. While there's no indication that the resuscitation efforts here were faulty, it's important to know how to administer CPR and

provide oxygen in the unlikely event of a dive accident.

Eric Douglas is the director of Training for Divers Alert Network. He also co-authored the book Scuba Diving Safety and has written a series of dive adventure novels and short stories as well. Check out his website, www.booksbyeric.com



"You might want to make yourself comfortable. I may be down there for awhile."

The Last Word

It's that time of year again! Time for club dues.

Dues for this year are the same as last: \$20 per person, \$25 per family (residing in the same household)

Cheques may be made payable to Brandon Scuba Club. We will be collecting dues at the Christmas party, the AGM or they can be mailed/dropped off to:

20 Wankling Blvd, Brandon, MB, R7B 3G5

Members that were certified this past summer need not worry about dues until January 1, 2012.

Other Links of Interest

www.manunderwater.com

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



www.brandonsclub.com

Our website

This is a constant work in progress.

Progress has slowed to a crawl.

Enough said.



Y'ALL COME
BACK NOW...YA'
HEAR?

We hope to see everyone at the Christmas party!

Catch up with old friends, make some new ones, share your dive adventures, have a few laughs!

Please see details inside this newsletter.

Any questions, please email brandonsclub@wcgwave.ca.

