



Deep Sea Digest

Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs
Spring 2008

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TGCC Meetings **Next Meeting May 8th**

TGCC meets the second Thursday of every odd number month at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Bellaire, Texas . For more information, visit us online at:
www.tgccdiving.org



DID YOU MISS THE CLEAN-UP???

The picture above is from TrashFest 2007. Did you know: TrashFest is the longest running environmental clean-up in the country? Dozens of other clean-up projects are modeled off of what we do... **Makes you proud, doesn't it???**

6-Legged Octopus???

We've all heard of octopuses, but how about a hexapus?

That's what zookeepers at the Blackpool Sea Life Centre in northern England call their six-legged octopus, who was fished out of the Irish Sea off Wales last month. Henry the Hexapus, as he's been dubbed, came about his reduced status as a result of a birth defect, not injury as is common among octopuses, squid and their cuttlefish cousins.

"We've scoured the Internet and talked to lots of other aquariums and no one has ever heard of another case of a six-legged octopus," supervisor Carey Duckhouse told Agence France-Presse. Henry's unusual configuration wasn't noticed until a few days ago, when the hexagonal mollusk finally attached himself to the glass wall of his tank, astonishing staffers. He'll be going on display soon as part of a larger octopus exhibit entitled "Suckers," according to the Times of London.



TGCC Awards Banquet



TGCC held its annual awards banquet at Chabucca's on February 2, 2008. There were approximately 60 people in attendance enjoying great food, comraderie and awards presentations for Diver of the Year (and a whole lot more)...

RECALLS ON DIVE GEAR

Oceanic Regulators: Oceanic Regulator First Stages Model CDX5 Certain serial numbers from 30202856 through 51312641 -and- Purchased from May 2006 through October 2007
Model FDX10 Certain serial numbers from 51408026 through 51411813 -and- Purchased from May 2006 through October 2007
Models CDX, DXi, DX3, DX4, and TDX5 All serial numbers -and- Serviced from May 2006 through October 2007

AERIS Regulator First Stages Model AT400 Certain serial numbers from 30200036 through 51311560 -and- Purchased from May 2006 through October 2007
Balanced Diaphragm All serial numbers -and- Serviced from May 2006 through October 2007

M&J Engineering: SW-3000 Aga OmniSwivel

Innovative Scuba Concepts: HO110 Swivel



Club Calendars

March, 2008

16 – HUC General Meeting
20 – Chum Club General Meeting
26 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org

April, 2008

1 – BAD Board Meeting – Ryan’s Webster Location
4-6 – CHUM Comal Trip, www.chumclub.org
7 – HUPS General Meeting, www.hups.org
9 – Lunarfins General Meeting – www.lunarfins.com
14 – Space City Ski Club, Sports and Social Clubs Expo – www.bayareadivers.org
16 – HUC Board Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
17 – Chum Club General Meeting, www.chumclub.org
18 – HUC General Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
24-28 – CHUM Clipper Trip, www.chumclub.org
30 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org
30 – May 18th – HUC Thailand Trip, www.hucscuba.org

30 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org
May, 2008

5 – HUPS General Meeting
6 – BAD Board Meeting – Ryan’s Webster Location – www.bayareadivers.org
14 – Lunarfins General Meeting – www.lunarfins.com
14-26 – HUPS Bali Trip, www.hups.org
15 – Chum Club General Meeting, www.chumclub.org
17-24 – CHUM Bonaire Trip, www.chumclub.org
21 – HUC Board Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
23 – HUC General Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
28 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org

June, 2008

2 – HUPS General Meeting, www.hups.org
3 – BAD Board Meeting – Ryan’s Webster Location – www.bayareadivers.org
11 – Lunarfins General Meeting – www.lunarfins.com
18 – HUC Board Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
19 – Chum Club General Meeting, www.chumclub.org
20 – HUC General Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
25 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org
21-28 – Lunarfins Utila Trip, www.lunarfins.com

July, 2008

1 – BAD Board Meeting – Ryan’s Webster Location – www.bayareadivers.org
7 – HUPS General Meeting, www.hups.org
9 – Lunarfins General Meeting – www.lunarfins.com
16 – HUC Board Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
17 – Chum Club General Meeting, www.chumclub.org
18 – HUC General Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
30 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org

August, 2008

4 – HUPS General Meeting, www.hups.org
5 – BAD Board Meeting – Ryan’s Webster Location – www.bayareadivers.org
13 – Lunarfins General Meeting – www.lunarfins.com
20 – HUC Board Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
21 – Chum Club General Meeting, www.chumclub.org
22 – HUC General Meeting, www.hucscuba.org
27 – BAD General Meeting, www.bayareadivers.org
29 – Sept 9 – Lunarfins Costa Rica Trip, www.lunarfins.com
TBA - Bill Jones Cozumel Trip (BAD/Lunarfins)

October, 2008

4 – Trashfest 2008
18-25 – Captain Randy’s CoCo View Trip
18-25 – Lunarfins Roatan Trip, www.lunarfins.com



Watch for more events to be added to the calendar!

FREAKISHLY LARGE SEA CREATURES FOUND NEAR ANTARCTICA

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

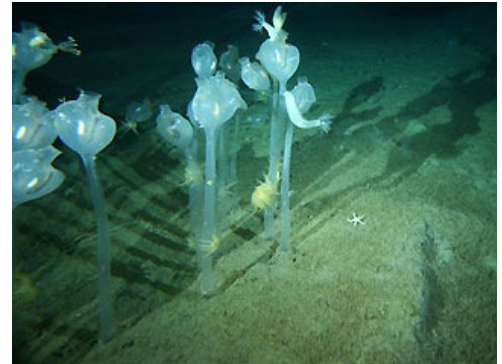
Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Scientists investigating the icy waters of Antarctica said Tuesday they have collected mysterious creatures including giant sea spiders and huge worms in the murky depths.

Australian experts taking part in an international program to take a census of marine life in the ocean at the far south of the world collected specimens from up to 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) beneath the surface, and said many may never have been seen before.

Some of the animals far under the sea grow to unusually large sizes, a phenomenon called gigantism that scientists still do not fully understand.

"Gigantism is very common in Antarctic waters," Martin Riddle, the Australian Antarctic Division scientist who led the expedition, said in a statement. "We have collected huge worms, giant crustaceans and sea spiders the size of dinner plates."



The specimens were being sent to universities and museums around the world for identification, tissue sampling and DNA studies.

"Not all of the creatures that we found could be identified and it is very likely that some new species will be recorded as a result of these voyages," said Graham Hosie, head of the census project.

The expedition is part of an ambitious international effort to map life forms in the Antarctic Ocean, also known as the Southern Ocean, and to study the impact of forces such as climate change on the undersea environment.

Three ships — Aurora Australis from Australia, France's L'Astrolabe and Japan's Umitaka Maru — returned recently from two months in the region as part of the Collaborative East Antarctic Marine Census. The work is part of a larger project to map the biodiversity of the world's oceans.

The French and Japanese ships sought specimens from the mid- and upper-level environment, while the Australian ship plumbed deeper waters with remote-controlled cameras.

"In some places every inch of the sea floor is covered in life," Riddle said. "In other places we can see deep scars and gouges where icebergs scour the sea floor as they pass by."



Among the bizarre-looking creatures the scientists spotted were tunicates, plankton-eating animals that resemble slender glass structures up to a meter (yard) tall "standing in fields like poppies," Riddle said.

Other animals were equally baffling.

"They had fins in various places, they had funny dangly bits around their mouths," Riddle told reporters. "They were all bottom dwellers so they were all evolved in different ways to live down on the sea bed in the dark. So many of them had very large eyes _ very strange looking fish."

Scientists are planning a follow-up expedition in 10 to 15 years to examine the effects of climate changes on the region's environment.



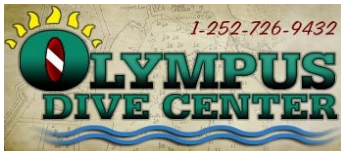
Trashfest 2007 Sponsors

Manufacturer's News \$100,000 Prize Giveaway

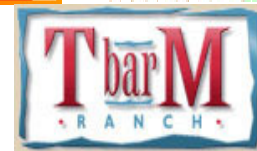
Tabata USA produces a full line of diving equipment under the TUSA brand, Reef Tourer snorkeling equipment, VIEW swim equipment, and distributes Sea&Sea underwater imaging products in the U.S., Caribbean, South America and Mexico. This year marks Tabata's thirtieth year of corporate operations in the U.S. and to celebrate this special anniversary, TUSA is giving away more than \$100,000 of fantastic prizes.

A consumer-based promotion offering divers, snorkelers or any watersports enthusiast an opportunity to win hundreds of prizes, including TUSA masks, fins, computers, BCs, accessories, Sea&Sea digital cameras and instant-rebate coupons, every person who plays wins!

Select products have been shipped to participating TUSA authorized retailers with affixed "Win Big" promotion stickers. Customers who purchase these products will have the opportunity to visit the Tabata USA website, enter the promotion code found on the sticker back and instantly win products or instant-rebate coupons. It's that simple—get your chance to win! For more information and specific promotional details consult the "TUSA \$100K Give Away" official rules at the website: www.tusa.com.

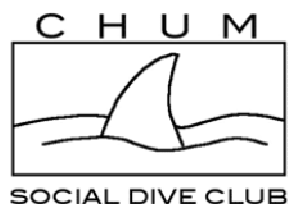


Justin Branam
Underwater
Photography



More great Trashfest Sponsors...

Club Listings



www.lunarfins.com



www.chumclub.org
www.shoekrewe.net



www.hucscuba.org



www.hups.org

Ceviche

Ceviche is an interesting change of pace and an excellent way to prepare a number of different kinds of fish. People love this recipe.

Get about 15 limes. The big ones are juicier. That should make near 2 cups of juice. Cut up fine, a handful of fresh cilantro. Clean 2 bunches of Scallions and cut them small like for a salad. Put all this and about 1 1/2 cups Picante Regular Medium Salsa, all together in a bowl that is good for about 5 cups at least.

There are variations on the next step.

Now, take this with you on a dive boat and find some fish with light meat, like rockfish. Quickly, fillet them and cut the meat into cubes, perhaps 1/2 inch by 1/2 inch by 3/8 inch thick or thereabouts. Put in the bowl with the mix and keep refrigerated. About 2 to 3 hours later, serve it with Ritz crackers or whatever you choose.

Some people don't go for this, most people demolish it. Sometimes, it will surprise you who likes it. It is tasty and tangy.

This same recipe works with many different kinds of fish, though it may take different times for the mix to cook the fish all the way through. It is chemically cooked, cold, mostly by the lime juice. The recipe also works real good with scallops and shrimp.

Recipe courtesy of ScubaNaked.com

Did You Know???

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Meetings

Dates, Agendas, and Transcripts

Did you know that you can access public meetings of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department? Through their website, you can also access both audio recordings of the meetings as well as transcripts of the meetings. Archived audio has been available on about 1/2 of the meetings since April 2006. Transcripts of meetings and special called meetings are archived back to 1998. If you have a concern, like many of us do about how TP&W is spending our tax dollars, this is a great forum to ask questions and make comments. Please remember though, you need to send a message to the TP&W board that you wish to address them, along with which meeting you wish to attend and what the topic of your questions/comments are. The board meetings are generally not open to the public, but general meetings and special called meetings are open to the public. If you wish to contact the TPWD, please visit their website at:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/feedback/meetings/>



TGCC Dive Clubs
P.O. Box 2314
Bellaire, Texas 77014

[Place Address Label Here]

The Future of Scuba Diving

You plunge into the sea to ogle exotic wildlife, why not stay a while and get an even closer view? Cave-diving engineer Bill Stone makes that possible with the most user-friendly version yet of a rebreather, a device that recycles your exhaled air, removes carbon dioxide, and adds oxygen. (A scuba device quickly burns through tanks of fresh air.)

On a typical dive, the Poseidon Discovery lets divers stay underwater at least three times as long as scuba gear can, and since you don't exhale into the water, you don't create bubbles or noise that can scare off fish. Military and advanced divers have used rebreathers for decades, but they're pricey rigs (about \$10,000) that require extensive training on how to manually mix gases in case the gear fails. Stone's recreational model automates the safety system with built-in computers that check all components pre-dive, plus two oxygen sensors that monitor the gas mix. If the system spots an air-recycling malfunction, the mouthpiece vibrates and blinks an alert. Just flip its lever to inhale from a small fresh-air tank and return safely to the surface.

