



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

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August 2017

This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, August 10th
7:30 PM

Babe's - 5614 Schroeder Road

Speaker

This month Jesse Weinzinger from the Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin will be presenting.



Over half of Wisconsin's 51 native mussel species (also known as clams) are listed as species of greatest conservation need or we need information on where they currently occur. Threats like habitat alteration (dams, siltation) and the presence of invasive mussels (zebra mussels) pose major threats to the existence of our native mussels. The Mussel Monitoring Program of Wisconsin would like your help in finding out what mussels occur in your area!

Please join us in welcoming Jesse!

Dive Eat Float 2017

By Brad Acker

An annual Four Lakes Scuba Club tradition, this year's Dive Eat Float had great weather and a great turnout. The event consists of three parts: a dive in Red Granite quarry, then a cookout, and finally a float down the Mekan River.

First we dove in Red Granite Quarry. It was cold and the visibility wasn't great, but there was a lot of treasure. Gayle and I found a couple of kid's masks. Others found unopened soda cans and even a working GoPro! There was a lot of trash, especially near the cliffs that the kids spend their weekends jumping off of.

Then we headed over to Randy's cottage in Dakota to grill out. Everyone brought a dish to share and meat for the grill. Randy's frozen oyster crackers were a hit, and the chocolate pudding was excellent. Several people brought cookies, so there were plenty.

Finally, we floated down the Mekan River.

The water was high, cold, and flowing pretty fast. Despite the partially submerged sharp branches, all of the tubes made it back fully inflated. It was perfect weather for a lazy float. It was a great event. Thanks Randy for hosting the cookout, and I look forward to next year!



Turks & Caicos Trip Report

By Brad and Nikki Acker

Back in April, we visited Turks & Caicos for a week on the T&C Aggressor. This was our first time on an Aggressor liveboard, and we really enjoyed it.

The day consisted of five dives per day, including a night dive. Between the dives, there were snacks and some downtime to relax, recharge the GoPro battery, and get ready for the next dive. Those who do all of the dives earn the Iron Diver medal; Brad did all the dives, including the 5AM dive on the last day!

Our diving was entirely off of the Northwest Point of Provo and West Caicos, and consisted of wall dives. On most of our dives, lone sharks cruised by. We also spotted several turtles, an eagle ray, and Nikki got very close to a small group of dolphins while Brad was distracted with a nudibranch or something. Above the wall was flat and sandy, and there were sometimes over a dozen stingrays visible in the sand, plus quite a few barracuda and big fields of garden eels.

One of the highlights was "The Dome," the site of a French game show where contestants free-dove into a Thunderdome 35 feet down to get pearls in the final competition. There were also *mermaids* that contestants could trade tokens earned through the show for a breath of air on an octo. But one of the mermaids was evil and had her octo disabled, prompting a mad dash to the surface. Miraculously, nobody died in the filming of this gameshow—it didn't make it past the pilot due to safety concerns—but it's also the reason the island has a recompression chamber. Nowadays, it's partially collapsed and it's a favorite spot of schools of fish and at night moray eels, crabs, and lobsters crawl all over it.

We wore 3mm suits with Fourth Element Thermoclines below, and after five dives started getting a little cold. Hoods would have kept us warm, though the hot chocolate with Bailey's after the night dive certainly helped.

Check out Brad's video: <https://vimeo.com/226667397>



Message From the President

By Bill Hoernke

Sorry, I've been a bit out of it lately. We've had a death in our family. My mom's husband has been sick with cancer and passed away last week. I've been spending a lot of time with family. What does this have to do with scuba club? I really don't know... It does make me think a bit about my life and priorities. Several cliches come to mind. "Family is number one!" "Do what makes you happy." "Life is too short." So, take a little time to think and reflect about your life. You probably won't regret taking the time for that.

Again, I appreciate club members taking charge and making things happen! I wasn't able to attend the Dive, Eat, Float event but I'm glad that people in the club made it happen. Hopefully you all had fun. When I hesitated to say, "Yes" to being the club president, several people said, "We'll help you." And they sure have! Thanks! This wouldn't be a club without everyone being willing to help out and make things happen. Great job!

We're looking for presenters! The next couple months are open. Do you have something that you'd like to share with the club? Be creative. We'd even entertain the idea of a couple short presentations. You don't have to speak for the full 45 minutes. How about a couple people who just do 20 minutes? If so, please let me know. Any ideas are welcome.

Your Article Could Be Here!

We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter! Please send your trip reports, articles, photos, etc. to news@fourlakesscubaclub.org. All submissions must be received by the first Wednesday of the month to be added in that month's newsletter.

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