



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

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July 2024

This Month's Meeting: Dinner and a Movie Night

The Four Lakes Scuba Club is replacing its July meeting with a dinner and movie night featuring *The Life Aquatic* with Steve Zissou.

July 10 at Rob and Mary's (contact them for address).

Dinner/social at 6:30pm, movie starting at 7:00pm.

Meat (hamburgers, brats, and a vegetarian option), buns, and condiments will be provided, but please bring a dish or snack to pass and your own beverages.

Watch your email for a survey with the number attending and your choice of food! Hope to see everyone there!



Upcoming Club Events:

August 10: Dive, Eat Float

August 14: Mini golf outing at Vitense Golfland

September 11: Meeting with speaker David Faber discussing free diving

There will also be club dives planned. Keep an eye on our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for updates!

Liveaboard Safety

By Brad Acker

With the news several weeks ago of [yet another liveaboard sinking in Egypt's Red Sea](#), it's always a good idea to consider your safety when you go on a trip aboard a liveaboard or dive boat. Liveaboards are a fun way to pack lots of dives in at pristine locations.

You should get a safety briefing prior to departing, including description of evacuation protocols, location of safety equipment, and crew night safety watch. Make sure they show you all of the exits so you can be sure emergency hatches can be opened and aren't blocked. The briefing should be professional and comprehensive. Research the operator online before you go; many publish their protocols online. [Here's the Red Sea Aggressor's](#) for example.

Pay attention to policies about charging electronics. Do they prohibit charging electronics in cabins when unoccupied? Is there a designated charging station? Are drinks or wet towels frequently set near that charging station? Are the plugs rusted?

Consider keeping your most important small valuables in a tiny dry bag in your cabin, as well as a small flashlight (or smartphone) so you can grab and go if an emergency happens in the middle of the night and don't waste any time

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looking for things.

As for safety equipment to bring on the dive, there are a number of options (safety sausage, signal mirror, light) that each have advantages. From [this old Scubaboard thread](#), tell the crew or other divers what you're carrying, since it changes the techniques that searchers use to look for you and can improve their effectiveness.

Lastly, consider the difference between dive insurance and travel insurance, and strongly consider having both. See [this DAN article](#) for more information.



Above: Brad getting ready for a dive on the Red Sea Aggressor IV.

Below: A portion of the Red Sea Aggressor IV's evacuation plan, which is posted on their website.

EVACUATION PLAN



Thank you!

A big thank you goes out to our June speaker, Vice Commander C. H. "Chas" Hague with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Chas gave a very interesting presentation about the history of the Coast Guard and how they help boaters today.

He also brought up the possibility of having a boater safety class for our club, but we need to have a large group to get it scheduled. If this is something you are interested in attending, please contact Ellen or Nikki and keep an eye out for updates.



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