



April, 2006

▶ **Issue 48**

DIVEMASTERS Association Diver-Down Newsletter

April DMAV Meeting Canceled

Our April 5 meeting will not be held next month, instead our regularly scheduled meetings will begin on May 3, 2006. If you need any additional information about this cancellation, please contact Jim Cook at 826-3945.

Memorial Plaque for Bob Shourot on Bobby's Reef

Well, the weather did not cooperate for two weeks. Bobby's Reef was determined and located and named off Lucaya, Grand Bahama. The mooring buoy was set in place, however, inclement weather prohibited Blackbeards from being able to return to the site in order to place the plaque. By the second week, rough seas damaged the concrete on board, and the attempt to place the plaque was not completed.

However, Blackbeards has set aside April 1 - 7 to complete this task. Rick Davis will return on Blackbeards to follow through with his quest.

Jim Cook will also join him, as will Elizabeth Cook – the writer and photographer who is representing the DAN Diver Alert Magazine. Elizabeth will be able to take photos, as well as write the story first hand, as she will now be on board.

There are 9 spots available on Blackbeards. The cost is \$879 per person.

If you were unable to go in February and would like to sign up for this memorable trip, please contact Chris Shourot at 826-3945. Space is limited.

Raffle Kitty starts out the New Year with a Growl

The raffle kitty has yet to be tamed and after a long winter's nap, it's starting out the new dive season with a big growling challenge. February's raffle winner was Vicki Ross, but the Queen remained hidden.

Raffle tickets cost \$1 per ticket (or 3 tickets for \$2). Half of the funds from the raffle are placed in the Raffle Kitty. The other half is used by the DMAV to help fund special club activities for all club members. The kitty is up to \$802.00. Can you tame the kitty? Make sure to attend our May meeting to stake your claim!

In addition, the winner selects one card at random from a deck of standard playing cards. If they select the Queen of Hearts, they win all the monies in the Raffle Kitty and a wonderful complimentary 3 day / 2 night vacation of their choice from one of over 90 destinations.

Inside this issue:

Animal of the Month	2
Alternate Meeting Place	2
Test Your Knowledge	3
Va. Aquarium Volunteers needed	4
Attendance Wild Card	4
2006 Meeting Schedule	4

Dives of Special Interest.

- * Belize, March 18-25
\$1700
- * Fiji in 2006 \$2650
Sept. 21 – 30

2006 Schedule

Regularly scheduled meetings will begin May 3.

See page 4 for our updated 2006 schedule.



Seahorse – Animal of the Month

Article provided by Pete Newman



Lined Seahorse

Scientific Name: Hippocampus erectus

Habitat at VAMSC: Marsh Pavilion

Size: Up to 5"

Identification characteristics:

Upright body position with a "horse-like" head set at right angles to the body. Tapered prehensile tail without a caudal fin.

Coloration changes with background:

Light brown, gray, blackish or brick red. Sometime speckled with fine white dots or dusky lines. The scales have been replaced by rings of about 50 rectangular bony plates that encase the body in a semi-rigid skeleton.

Range:

Usually associated with eelgrasses or sargassum from Nova Scotia to Argentina. Also found in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

During summer in the Chesapeake Bay the lined seahorse is found in channels and flats. In the winter it retreats to deeper water.

Interesting Facts:

They are poor swimmers that rely on camouflage. The prehensile tail is used only when the seahorse is moving in the forward direction.

Seahorses practice monogamy, members of a pair perform mating dances every morning to confirm their bonds and are slow to find a new mate if their partner dies.

Male seahorse have an incubation pouch in which the female sprays 250 to 650 eggs. These eggs incubate for 20 to 21 days. After hatching, the free embryos remain in the pouch until they can swim freely. At about 5/8 of an inch, the male ejects the babies. In 8-10 months they will reach their maximum size.

Male and female seahorse communicate using snapping and clicking sounds, which are made by tossing their heads.

Seahorses prefer eating small living crustaceans, which they suck into their snouts..

Alternate Meeting Location?

At our February meeting, a suggestion was presented to change our meeting location from Rosalita's Restaurant. Second Street Restaurant was proposed as one possible location but it was decided to solicit recommendations from all of the club members prior to making a selection.

Do you have an alternate meeting location that you would like to propose? We would like to hear your suggestions. Bring them to the next club meeting or email us (divemas@divealot.com) or contact Chris Shourot or Jim Cook at 826-3945 and let them know your suggestion.

This is your club and it functions best when its members participate in club decisions. We look forward to hearing from you!



Test Your Knowledge

- Maui is the product of the merging of two volcanoes. Lava flows from the volcanoes met, forming the seven-mile-wide isthmus that gives Maui its nickname :
 - The Volcano Island.
 - The Valley Isle.
 - The Lava Island.
 - The Island of Fire.
- The Hawaiian Islands were annexed by the United States in 1898 and became a state in:
 - 1953
 - 1957
 - 1959
 - 1963
- On August 31, 1985 the wreck of the Titanic was found at a depth of 12,500 feet off the coast of:
 - Newfoundland
 - Scotland
 - Wales
 - Denmark
- When composing a photograph, the area behind the subject – everything in the photo that is not the subject is referred to as:
 - Framing
 - Negative Space
 - Positive Space
 - The secondary subject
- The area in the foreground of a photograph to the area in the background of a photograph that is in focus is known as the:
 - Depth of Field
 - Subject
 - Composition
 - Positive Space
- Sea Hares are hermaphrodites, which means they:
 - Can change from female to male
 - Can change from male to female
 - Possess both male and female reproductive organs
- What is the rated working pressure of the scuba cylinder shown in Figure 1 below :
 - 3000 psi
 - 123456 psi
 - 2250 psi
 - 6498 psi
- The cylinder shown in figure 1 can be:
 - Overfilled by 10 %
 - Overfilled by 12 %
 - Overfilled by 15 %
 - Not overfilled at all.
- Cylinders need to be inspected :
 - Semi- annually
 - Annually
 - On two year intervals

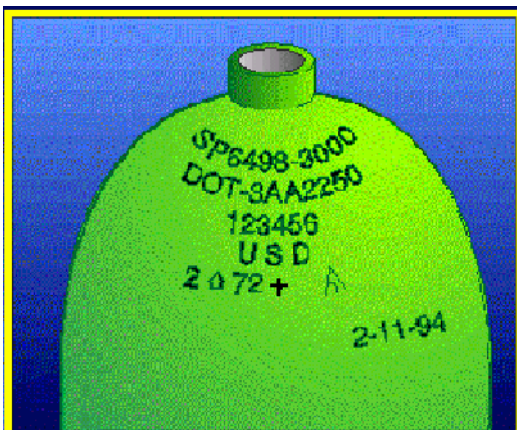


Figure 1
For questions 7, 8, and 9

Answers to questions
 1 - B 4 - B 7 - C
 2 - C 5 - A 8 - D
 3 - A 6 - C 9 - B

DIVEMASTERS Association of Virginia



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The DIVEMASTERS Association of Virginia was founded in 1998 by Bob Shourot, a well known professional in the dive industry since 1950. The DIVEMASTERS Association is open to all seafarers - young and old alike. You don't have to be a divemaster, or even a diver, to join. If you want to become a certified diver or advance your current certification level, the DIVEMASTERS Association will help you succeed.

With a roster that includes many advanced divers, membership in the DIVEMASTERS Association provides newly certified divers the opportunity to learn and gain experience that will help make their diving adventures safe and more enjoyable.

DIVEMASTERS Association of Virginia
 SAFETY THROUGH EDUCATION

Our web site address!

We're on the web!
www.divealot.com

Virginia Aquarium Volunteers



Would you like to put your scuba skills to good use helping others?

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center now has openings for new Dive Team volunteers.

Please call the Virginia Aquarium at 471-2269 for details.

2006 Meeting Locations Now on Wednesdays

Our general meeting location for the year 2006 dive season is:

Rosalita's Restaurant
 (formerly Caravella's)
 11295 Jefferson Ave.
 Newport News, Virginia
 757-596-7316

Please come out and support your club. Don't forget those 2006 perfect attendance awards to be awarded at the 2006 Christmas party.

If you signed the attendance sheet at our club cookout, you will receive your attendance wild card credit for this year.

Your attendance wild card can be used to make up for a missed club meeting during the 2006 season.

Schedule for 2006

Year 2006 Dive Club Meeting Schedule

February	2- 1-06
April	cancel
May	5- 3-06
June	6- 7-06
July	7- 5-06
August	8- 2-06
September	9- 6-06
October	10-4-06
December Party	12-2-06