



May-June, 2006

▶ **Issue 49**

DIVEMASTERS Association Diver-Down Newsletter

DMAV Cookout sign-up

Signing up for the July 22 DMAV cookout is required by July 5. Sign-up at Underwater Adventures. Cost for the cookout is \$30 per person and includes entrance to Lake Rawlings and lunch.

We also need volunteers to help with Saturday morning set-up, cooking, and Sunday morning tear down. If you can help, sign up as a volunteer when you sign up for the cookout.

There will also be a games sign-up sheet for the Treasure Hunt, Navigation, and Capture the Flag. If you are interested in playing any of these games, don't forget to sign up for those as well. Only those games with enough players will be implemented.

Nominations for Club Officers will accepted in July

At our next meeting, nominations for 2006 club officers will be accepted. The current club officers are:

President: Jim Cook
Vice President: Nicole Travis
Secretary: Ed Acton
Treasurer: Chris Shourot
Historian: Nicole Travis
Trip Officer: Bob Miller

Make sure to attend our next meeting and nominate your favorite club member.

Raffle Kitty Growls louder

The raffle kitty has yet to be tamed. Last month's raffle winner was Sharon Acton, but the elusive Queen evaded capture once again.

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 \$900.00. 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
Membership Dues	2
Test Your Knowledge	3
Electronic Only Newsletter.	4
Attendance Wild Card	4
2006 Meeting Schedule	4

Dives of Special Interest.

- * Roatan, August 2006 \$1799 / person
- * Fiji in 2006 \$2650 Sept. 21 – 30

2006 Schedule

Regularly scheduled meetings began on May 3.

See page 4 for our updated 2006 schedule.



Common Octopus – Animal of the Month

Article provided by Pete Newman



Common Octopus

Scientific Name: Octopus Vulgaris

Size: Up to 24-36 inches (body + arms)

Identification characteristics:

Globe shaped with four pairs of arms. Usually reddish brown but color is highly variable. Their arms are thick with 2 alternating rows of suckers. A tubular siphon under the neck is used for propulsion.

Range:

Connecticut to Florida and Texas. Found amount rocks and coral near shore. Octopuses are secretive, hiding during the day in caves, crevices, and under rocks..

Interesting Facts:

Structures called chromatophores allow the octopus to change color. Coloration may reflect the “mood” of the octopus, red is for anger and white is for fear.

Coloration also allows the octopus to blend in with the environment. The skin surface texture can also be altered to blend in with the environment..

Prey is killed using a horny beak and a pair of poison glands. They have a radula or raspy tongue and feed mainly on crustaceans, fish and bivalves.

When frightened, octopuses use jet propulsion to escape, often releasing a purple cloud of ink. This ink is toxic in high concentrations.

Octopuses have separate sexes and internal fertilization. The male uses a modified arm to place the sperm in the female in the early spring. After about 2 months, the female releases up to 500,000 fertilized eggs, each enclosed in a transparent capsule. The eggs are usually attached to a substrate and taken care of by the female for the next 50 days (hatching time is dependent on water temperature and egg size). The female cleans the eggs with her suckers and squirts them with jets of water to oxygenate them. Hatchlings feed on the plankton.

Octopuses have the most complex brain of all invertebrates. They have short term and long-term memory and can problem solve.

Their large eyes are camera like and their vision is acute.

Octopuses can compress their body dramatically; an octopus with a 30 cm arm span can squeeze through a nickel size opening.

Life expectancy is 12 – 18 months.

Octopus fisheries land 20,000 – 100,000 tons a year.

DMAV Annual Membership Dues are due.

Membership dues for the 2006 / 2007 dive season are due. Single member dues are \$25.00 and family membership dues are \$35.00 .

A dues statement is included with this newsletter. Please ensure your membership payments are up to date.

Test Your Knowledge

1. To date, almost 2 million currently living species of plants and animals have been described and classified. This organizational system is referred to as the system of:

- A. Specification B. Organization C. Morphological classification D. Taxonomic classification

2. To be grouped in the same species, adult males and females of the same species should be able to:

- A. Avoid preying on one another B. Reproduce C. Evolve D. Enjoy a weekend together.

3. In Mayan language, the Mexican town known as Akumal means:

- A. Everyone is welcome here B. Coastal paradise C. Place of the turtles D. Home of the Sea Lions

4. In wreck diving, the "deadly ceiling" refers to:

- A. A sharp object overhead B. An overhead environment that prevents you from simply 'going up' to the surface.
C. Anything you might bump your head on D. The credit limit on your charge card .

5. Snorkels are not usually worn by wreck divers because:

- A. They can easily snag in confined areas B. They increase drag
C. They are hard to color coordinate with a wet suit D. All of the above

6. The effect of the Earth's rotation, which combines with other forces that drive the winds to create huge wind spirals known as high- and low-pressure areas is known as :

- A. Coriolis force B. Gravitational force C. Cyclonic force D. Gyroscopic force

7. In addition to the insulating properties of the neoprene wet suit material itself, thermal protection is provided by:

- A. Aerobic exercise B. The water trapped between the wet suit and your skin
C. Air trapped between the wet suit and your skin D. Hot coffee in your lap

8 Increased levels of nutrients (nitrates and phosphates from fertilizers and sewage) discharged into coastal waters can cause prolific algae growth which threatens corals. This nutrient input problem is termed:

- A Edification B Eutrophication C The Greenhouse Effect D Effusion

9 Coral bleaching occurs when coral polyps expel their symbiotic algae, known as:

- A Zooplankton B Phytoplankton C Zooxanthallae D Phytoplasm

10 Researchers believe coral bleaching is caused by:

- A Abnormally high water temperatures B Excessive rainfall (added sedimentation)
C Tropical storms (direct damage) D All of the above

Answers to questions

1 - D 2 - B 3 - C 4 - B 5 - A 6 - A 7 - B 8 - B 9 - C 10 - D

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

Electronic Only Newsletter

Beginning with this issue, the DMAV newsletter is moving to electronic copy only.

A suggestion was raised by a fellow club member that the DMAV newsletter can transition to an electronic copy in Adobe PDF format.

This would save on printing and mailing costs and is a viable option for those members that primarily read the electronic on-line version at the clubs web site.

For individuals that do not have internet access, they can sign-up for a hardcopy subscription.

A hardcopy subscription to the newsletter is \$10 / year.

Hardcopy subscriptions are available to members and non-members alike .

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 sign 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	cancelled
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