



Moles Monitor

June 2016

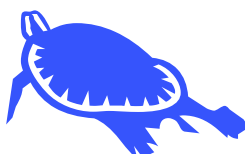
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 8th - Go Karting (Carolynn)
June 18th - 20th Plymouth (Carolynn)
June 25th - 26th MCS Photography Course (Sonja)
July 6th - Curry Night (Carolynn)
July 23rd - 30th Cornwall Trip (Andy)
July 23rd-26th Advanced Nitrox & Deco Course
August 13-14 Portland (Chris Knight)
August 18th - Golf (Carolynn)
August 20th - Family Day & BBQ
September 18th - Epsom & Ewell Village Day
September 24-25 Portland (Chris Knight)
October 8th-9th - Cycling Weekend (TBC)
October 21st - 28th Red Sea Trip (Chris Knight)
November 2nd - AGM
December 3rd - Dinner Dance
July 2017 3rd-10th - Ireland Trip (Harry)



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Aly Mitchell - Training Officer
Carolynn Royce - Social secretary
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Sonja Wood - Special Projects
Sue Wayland - Secretary
Eddie Fassnidge - Equipment Officer
Keith James- Diving Officer



Cano Island - Costa Rica

Alick



In recent years, Peggy and I have often managed to tack on a few days diving to the end of a foreign holiday and in January that's what we did in Costa Rica. Costa Rica is a great place for adventure sports, with white water rafting, zip lining, canopy walks, trekking and surfing all on offer, not to mention the hot pools, wonderful beaches and amazing birds and wildlife.

After a bit of research, we chose to dive in the marine sanctuary at Cano Island off the Pacific coast and a short boat ride from Drake's Bay in the South West of the country. Getting there from San Juan involved a scenic 45 minute hop in a light aircraft to arrive at a grass jungle airstrip. We booked in at the comfortable if not luxurious resort of Jinetes de Osa, which also offered diving packages in conjunction with Costa Rica Divers. We travel with just our masks and dive computers and rent everything else so we were pleased to find that the equipment there was of a reasonable standard.



The diving itself was excellent, with 20-30 metre visibility and plentiful marine life from sharks, rays, jacks and schools of trevally down to juvenile dragon wrasse, angelfish and the glamorous moorish idols. There were pretty rock formations with some corals and bits of sandy bottom which the rays seemed to like. At other times of the year there are vast schools of pelagics including humpback whales and dolphins migrating up the coast. The bonus in January was the calmer waters and relative absence of rain.

We dived from a hard boat with a guide in a group of six or so, usually down a shot line to depths of around 20 metres. I started off in a 5mm shorty but was soon just in a t-shirt and bathers as the water was a luxurious 30C even at the bottom.



Drake's Bay is a bit of a backpacker town set on a wide sandy beach fringed by palm trees. We are accustomed to regard Sir Francis as a national hero, bowls player and conqueror of the Armada. Here they just think he was a pirate. There are plenty of bars and restaurants as an alternative to the resort hotels as long as you remember the torch for the walk home. It has an out-of-the-way adventurous feel that you don't get in the Maldives or Red Sea for example. Direct flights from Gatwick from May will bring it a little closer for us Brits.



NOT The Easter Trip

Sonja

Who? - Tris, Sonja, Dave, Sue, Janice, Harry, Adam, Andy, Bryan, & Eddie

Where? – Weymouth, RIB launched from Portland Harbour next to Hotel Aqua.

Why? – The Easter trip is a gentle introduction at the start of the new dive season to re-acclimatise, reacquaint, and check out kit, it's a shakedown after the winter. I personally had not dived since the Malta trip last October, so this was very necessary after several months off.



Tris and I drove down to Weymouth on Friday afternoon in plenty of time to meet up with Paul, from Shorebased Servicing, to hand over some cylinders and regs for testing. After some initial confusion over which "slipway by the car park" we were meeting at, we handed over the kit and headed off to Pebble Bank Holiday Park via the fish and chip shop.

Harry Adam & Tristan launched the boat at the Sailing club and then met the divers at Portland Harbour next to Hotel Aqua.

Everyone kitted up and got ready for the first dive of the season – the 'good old' Countess of Erne. We were on the first wave along with Andy, Sue, Bryan and Janice.

The visibility on the Countess was a (better than expected) 2-3 metres. She was covered with sea squirts, plumose anemones and feathery hydroids. We also spotted a very large edible crab, several sponges and a candy striped flatworm.

For the second dive we popped outside the harbour for a very pleasant drift dive. There was a pleasant, gentle tide which decided to change direction part way through the dive.

We saw many lovely fan worms, more feathery hydroids, two massive spider crabs and an enormous wrasse, which was around 2ft long.



We arrived at our caravan, T24, ate far too many chips and then unpacked whilst awaiting the arrival of David. Sue and Janice who we were sharing with.

We were tempted down to the bar to meet up with Harry, Andy and Adam to discuss the arrangements for the following day's diving.

Saturday morning brought with it brilliant sunshine, a calm sea but also the necessity to awaken the inhabitants of T23 to ask them to move vehicles so that we could get the rib out!





NOT The Easter Trip

Sonja

Sunday saw us diving Lulworth Banks, again in bright sunshine. Janice, Tristan and myself dived together. We discussed our arrangements for diving as a three before entering the water. However, when we dropped down to 20 meters, we were met with a strong tide and any chance of our planned "formation" diving rapidly disappeared.

As we drifted we collected many large scallops from the sea bed. The smaller ones danced around us as our movement disturbed them. Janice was the only member of our team with the foresight to bring a goody bag; and so Tris and I spent 30 minutes loading the prized food into Janice's bag.

We didn't appreciate how much of a mistake this was until we tried to ascend. Even then I stubbornly refused to leave the scallops behind.

Suffice it to say; no stops were missed, but lessons have been learnt.

Many thanks to Harry for organising a great weekend and to all the boat handlers.





Word Search Results

These are the results from the word search!
Sadly we don't have any winners, but don't despair there's a new challenge for you on the next page.

ANEMONE
BRYZOAN
BUOYANCY
CRAB
GROUPE
HYDROID
LITTLEHAMPTON LOBSTER
MAKO
OCTOPUS
RAY
SEAHORSE
SHARK
SOUTHERN
SPONGE

J	O	S	M	J	X	X	P	Y	O	C	D	W	Z	B
S	Q	A	H	K	V	V	D	I	Y	I	K	Z	N	J
D	E	V	B	W	K	Z	G	R	O	U	P	E	R	Y
I	B	S	C	K	U	P	K	R	A	H	S	S	E	N
R	B	S	R	E	X	E	D	K	E	M	P	X	C	L
X	R	U	O	O	J	Y	S	U	P	O	T	C	O	J
N	Y	L	O	U	H	M	X	L	N	B	O	B	J	G
J	Z	U	F	Y	T	A	K	G	J	U	S	R	T	B
N	O	T	P	M	A	H	E	L	T	T	I	L	Q	R
R	A	N	E	M	O	N	E	S	E	X	G	G	Q	F
G	N	Z	V	T	M	K	C	R	A	B	B	K	T	M
B	O	F	T	Q	B	R	A	Y	N	F	I	Q	F	Q
T	L	P	F	G	Q	M	Q	M	Z	P	I	B	V	U
P	U	F	B	R	G	H	D	D	C	E	L	K	U	V
J	I	I	T	I	H	Z	G	O	N	S	U	V	O	Q



Marine ID Fun



Let me know how many species you can identify in this picture from Lundy.

Available in higher res at the following url:
<https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B02G6XBubmmm9A>