



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

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Going Global but Thinking Local *Diving Komodo with a Indonesian Dive Club*

Article by: Jim McKnight



For some time, I had been looking for an alternative to the big name, big dollar south Pacific live-a-boards when I came upon a *Scubaboard* post offering a one week diving trip on the *Sea Safari VII* (www.seasafaricruises.com) for about \$1200. The price sparked my interest and I called the posted contact in LA. Carl Gennaro, author of the *Scubaboard* post, explained that the entire boat had been chartered by Kapal Selam (www.kapalselam.org), a Indonesian dive club, located in Jakarta. There were a few open spots on the trip scheduled for Nov. 14 to 22 to Komodo Island and the club wanted to fill them. Wow! This looks too good to be true. I was a bit apprehensive since I was dealing with a private club and not a tour or live-a-board operator so I checked out the respective web sites as well as *Undercurrent*, the scuba trip news service. When I couldn't find any negative news so I decided to take a chance and go for it.

After fruitless attempts to use my Delta frequent flyer miles, I made my own airline reservations using Expedia. I traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia on EVA Airlines via SF and Taipei. I rendezvoused with Carl and his wife Maria in Taipei and traveled with them to the hotel in Jakarta. I hadn't been to Jakarta before, so arriving with the Gennaros was nice indeed. After a couple of days going around Jakarta and enjoying the fine local hospitality, Carl and I flew on to Denpasar, Bali and then by road to Tulamben, the best dive site on Bali. The diving there is shore diving with rocky beaches as bad as New England although the water temperature (80F) and viz (50 ft.) are a bit better. Tulamben is a four hour drive over a twisting mountain road which allows some beautiful vistas of the terraced rice paddies of Bali. We encountered a long funeral procession and a road blocking accident, but we weren't in any hurry. After two nights in Tulamben, we returned to Denpasar where many of the other divers had arrived. That night we had a big dinner where I got the chance to meet my fellow divers before leaving the next morning for Bima on the island of Sumbawa, where we would board the *Seasafari VII*. All told I had to get on five airplanes in order to get to Bima from Boston.

The Sea Safari VII is a wooden vessel 124 ft. long with a beam of 35 ft. and a cruising speed of 7 or 8 knots. She is a very comfortable, well equipped dive boat with more deck area than could be used by our group. The boat can accommodate up to 30 passengers while we were only 17 in number. Meal service was basically Chinese/Indonesian, I was satisfied with it. The dive routine had the divers gear up on the boat and use small outboards to get to the dive sites. The divers were picked up by the boats without mishap, but we all carried sausages just in case. Last year, four divers drifted away from their group and were not picked up for several days. Fortunately, they were able to swim ashore.

The dives sites were located around Sanggerang, Banta, Komodo and Rinca islands, see the map below. All the sites were very healthy. I didn't see any man made debris or experience any pollution in the water as I had on my previous Indonesian trip to Lambeh Strait & Bunaken National Park. The only bad spots were the result of illegal dynamite fishing which destroys all the coral where the explosion took place. The dives themselves varied from muck type dives with macro photo opportunities to drift dives in very strong currents. My favorite dive sites were Chrystal Rock and Cannibal Rock which yielded some spectacular reef images; I could have done all the dives right at these two sites. Two of the other dives were a waste of time at least for me. There were very strong currents which made picture taking impossible; staying in control was a real challenge. Marine life included a dense concentrations of reef fish, nudibranchs, feather stars, turtles, cuttlefish, octopus and a wide variety of macro subjects. I was able to get a nice shot of a pygmy seahorse. This tiny creature was located on a huge fan coral; the dive guide was able to point out the subject and I was able to hover long enough to let the auto focus perform.

My diving companions included three other Americans, two Europeans from Hong Kong and the rest were Chinese from Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. There were no diving skill issues and no serious injuries or incidents.

How does the Sea Safari VII experience stack up against the Aggressor and Peter Hughes type operators? I think it represents great value for the money. My total cost for the boat including charges for shore transportation, a larger tank, private cabin and tips amounted to \$1600. I believe that's less than half of the advertised price of many dive operators. Of course the Sea Safari may not have all the amenities of the larger operations, but I am willing to make allowances and use the savings to pay for the airfare. If anyone is interested in Kapal Selam just let me know.



Changes to the 2010 Boston Sea Rovers Clinic

This upcoming year will mark the 56th anniversary of the annual Boston Sea Rover's Clinic. This is a transition year for the Sea Rovers and it will be noticeably different. There will be no daytime presentations or exhibits. There will be the evening film-festival. In celebration, world-famous ocean explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle will host an exclusive Boston Sea Rovers Saturday Evening Film Festival at the New England Aquarium's Simons IMAX Theater on March 6th, 2010. The evening will also include an after-show reception aboard the 175-foot-long Motor Vessel *Majesty*, which will be moored alongside the Aquarium. The Sea Rovers' underwater film festival is legendary, and this year's show will be among the most memorable in history. There are only 400 tickets available for this year's show. If your interested get your tickets early.

President's message

On behalf of the Board for 2010 I want to thank Jeff, yes Jeff, and the entire Board of 2009 for their commitment and work last year. I also want to thank Derek Smith for doing double duty, serving as the Vice President and the club's Web Master. I must admit I am excited to be on the board this year and serving as your president once again. I feel the Board for 2010 is a great mix of old and new. The new board has met a couple times and plans are well under way for this year. We will have board meetings the first Thursday of the month beginning in January at Slattery's. If anyone has suggestions for events, speakers, meetings or anything please let us know. Remember members are welcome to attend board meetings. We have already begun working on a calendar of events for this year we hope all will enjoy. This calendar will be a dynamic schedule, able to change as our needs require. Those of you that wish to help out or run your own event feel free! We can plug it right in. Like the board, the events planned so far will be a mix of old and new. I want to take this chance to remind everyone, the club belongs to no one individual or subgroup. This is our club, this is your club. Club meetings are the place to ask your questions, air your concerns, and yes, express your complaints. Issues cannot be addressed, problems cannot be resolved unless the board is made aware. I want to encourage each member to feel comfortable speaking and addressing matters at meetings. We intend to have a suggestion box at meetings. This way if you are uncomfortable addressing a matter at a meeting you can pop your comment into the suggestion box. One thing I hope every member understands is that this is your club. Working together we can have the best club! I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. Until then...

Safe Diving,

Mark

Cold Water diving

By Jeff Goodreau

Some of the best diving in New England takes place in the winter months. The water is cold and often very clear this time of year. In the past we have had days that are so clear on the Poling we can see the entire wreck end to end and then some from 30' of water. It is dives like that, that make the rigors of winter diving not only fun but worth it. That's right I said FUN. Winter diving can be very enjoyable and fun with a few extra precautions taken ahead of time. So here are a few pointers that I have picked up over the years that should get you started.

For you dry suit divers,

1. You don't wear your summer shorts in the winter, so don't wear your summer under garments in the winter. If you are going to dive in the winter on a regular basis, you need heavy under garments. You can't beat a good pair of DUI 450's this time of year. If you are only going to do a couple of winter dives a year you have to bulk your summer undies up a bit. Start with a good pair of moisture wicking base layers. I wear these all year; I am not comfortable if I feel damp from sweat. A wool sweater, vest or fleece top over your regular garment can help along with several pairs of wool socks. I wear three pairs this time of year. Experiment a bit, and remember you will need more weight so do a try out dive before jumping off the boat into 100' of water.
2. Dry gloves are huge, If your going to get serious about cold water a ring system is for you, if your only diving a couple of times a winter then a dry glove with a latex seal will suffice. If you don't want dry gloves go with a pair of three finger mitts instead five finger gloves.
3. Cup O' Noodles are your friend, when doing your sit interval nothing gets your core temp up faster than a hot cup of soup. You need to keep yourself warm between dives, I am wearing a fur bomber hat and winter gloves ANY time I am not in the water. Hypothermia is a real concern this time of year and little things like this can help keep you from shivering both in and out of the water.
4. Heater packs, battery socks, and chemical packs. I can't tell you what to do here. I get asked about these things all the time. As a disclaimer I DO NOT RECOMENED THAT YOU USE THEM. On that note I have used the shake and bake activated charcoal heaters before with so / so results. What I have found is that they are hot for a few minutes and then become starved for oxygen as your suit squeezes

around them, particularly in the toes. I have never used them with Nitrox nor would I recommend that you do that. I do know a local diver that was burned so badly by one of these on a dive that he needed skin grafts. For the record I no longer use these for diving. As far as Battery socks, I used them a couple of times before coming to the conclusion that putting alkaline batteries in your dry suit is just a bad idea. If your suit ever flooded your life would suck very badly for lack of better wording.

For the wetsuit divers: the biggest trick to keeping you warm in cold water slowing the rapid loss of body heat.

1. Wearing a base layer of good quality moisture wicking top and bottoms and socks under your wetsuit will trap the water between your skin and suit keeping you much warmer. It will also cut down on that horrible, cold water intrusion into your suit by limiting the amount of water transfer inside your suit.
2. The sacrificial lamb as I like to call it is a big part of the equation. It is a large heavy coat and / or pants that you can wear over your suit and not care that it gets wet. Putting this on as soon as you get in and out of your suit while hanging around will help you retain some additional body heat.
3. Warm water, this is a trick that I learned years ago and works well but you have to be very careful. Before leaving in the morning fill a thermos with LUKE WARM tap water to pour down your suit after the first dive. The key is to remember that water that is cool to the touch with warm hands can burn and scald frozen skin very badly. Always test the water with your frozen finger first before pouring it down your suit. While it is fun for your buddies to watch you dance around on the rocks, burns suck!
4. This one goes for everyone, KEEP YOUR DIVE and DIVE SITE SIMPLE! Quick and easy in and outs are critical with frozen feet. Sites like Back Beach, and Cathedral Rocks with close up parking are ideal. Having to run for the car at sites like Old Garden isn't fun while frozen and shivering. Also get your gear ready to go the night before in your nice warm house. Standing in the snow shivering is not the way to start a dive in 37 degree water.

I hope that these few pointers help you on your next winter dive. The biggest key of all is experience, getting out there and seeing what works for you. Don't be afraid to ask others what they are doing to keep warm, most of us divers don't bite (I will if you want me to) and are quite friendly folks.

Dive Safe,
Jeff Goodreau

Lake Nubanuset "The Deep Spot" By Mark Bowers

It was a beautiful late fall day. There was a breeze. The air temperature was about 47 degrees. It was a great ride to the lake. We drove along route 123 and 124 in southern New Hampshire. The last time I made this drive the trees were full and the foliage brilliant. Along the way there was a noticeable pause in conversation. I don't remember who said it first but I think we all noticed the top of Mount Monadnock being white at the same time. This just added to the entire experience of what was yet to come. Rick Boucher, Kris Lusco, Jim Manuel and myself departed Fitchburg about 9:00 AM. Our destination was Lake Nubanuset in Hancock New Hampshire.

For me this dive was actually conceived a couple years ago when planning my first dive at Lake Nubanuset. There was talk about the lake having a deep spot. Over time I have heard talk of depths from 70 to 100 feet. Recently Rick had shared a topography map with me that showed a maximum depth of 97 feet. Over the course of the week prior to this dive we talked about going to the ocean with Nubanuset as an alternative. As weather would have it Nubanuset would be our destination. We discussed some different plans from the usual entry point but always came back to trying to locate the deep spot. With the topo map Rick procured, Google Earth and a little knowledge of the lake we all believed we had the area of the deep spot pinpointed. Even with our research and modern technology it was more the sense of adventure that drove us. As a result our quest to access the "deep spot" proved successful.

We decided to split into two teams, Rick and I, Jim and Kris. Rick and I did the first dive. We each planned dive times of 30 to 40 minutes. Rick and I entered the water which was a comfortable 45 degrees. Visibility was not as good as normal we had on average no greater than 15 feet.

The deeper we went the deeper the green hue of the water became. The descent took only about 8 minutes. The topography was very interesting. It was rather gradual down to about 12 to 15 feet. It then became quite steep down to about 70 to 80 feet. Along the way there were scattered large boulders and piles of material like burnt wood or coke. Somewhere beyond 70 feet the decline became much more gradual and reaching 90 feet took a bit of a swim. The bottom, on descent varied from rock to a couple of inches of silt. The bottom around 75 feet proved different. Kris was the most adventurous of the group by trying to determine the thickness of the silt. He burrowed into the silt with his hand to the side of his mask. He never felt anything firm. The rest of us agreed he was the most adventurous of our group.

We swam a short distance on the bottom trying to see if it went any deeper or if there were any rocks or anything else to break up the featureless bottom. We paused to come back and I looked to Rick to see if he had taken a compass heading. He signaled he had not, neither did I. We turned and followed the edge of our silt trail back. The ascent was as adventurous and interesting as the descent. We performed our safety stop and surfaced. The dive was a success! We found the deep spot!

Kris and Jim were dressed and ready when we surfaced. We got out and helped them get in the water. I asked if they had taken a compass heading. No need to tell them we did not. They had a very similar dive. They ended up following some fishing line past the entry point. Kris came back with a Loch Ness sized fishing lure. If there is something that big in the lake I am glad we did not see it. We all had great dives. We discovered the "deep spot". I really enjoy doing dives a little out of the ordinary. As I reflected on the dive I realized it was the deepest fresh water dive I have done in this area. The only fresh water dives I have done deeper were in the Great Lakes or the St. Lawrence River. We loaded the truck, locked in 4 wheel drive and off we went.

A note from the new guy

I appreciate the opportunity to work on this newsletter, we had some minor technical issues and I hope that you can all forgive me for it not looking quite as perfect as Kris' but I promise the next will look ten times better! I want to thank everyone who contributed, I really appreciate the Pieces your time and patience. I hope to see more input from the club members, you can reach me a million and a half different ways, the best being troufos@student.fsc.edu. I look forward to suggestions, articles and complaints.

'Till next time,
Tom

Some more pictures from Dive Global, Think Local



January/February 2010

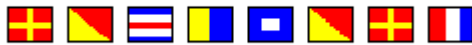
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10	11	12 Website Meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 General Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4 BOD Meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 General Meeting	19	20

Birthdays!!!



January 10 - Amy Newberg
 January 12 - Jim Manuel
 January 18 - Mike Michealson
 January 24 - Andrew Capite
 January 28 - Michelle Mostello
 January 12 - Joseph Yu
 February 3 - Terri VivoAmore
 February 16 - Mariah Brailsford
 February 23 - Melissa Renaud

ROCKPORT



Rockport 42°40'N 070°37'W

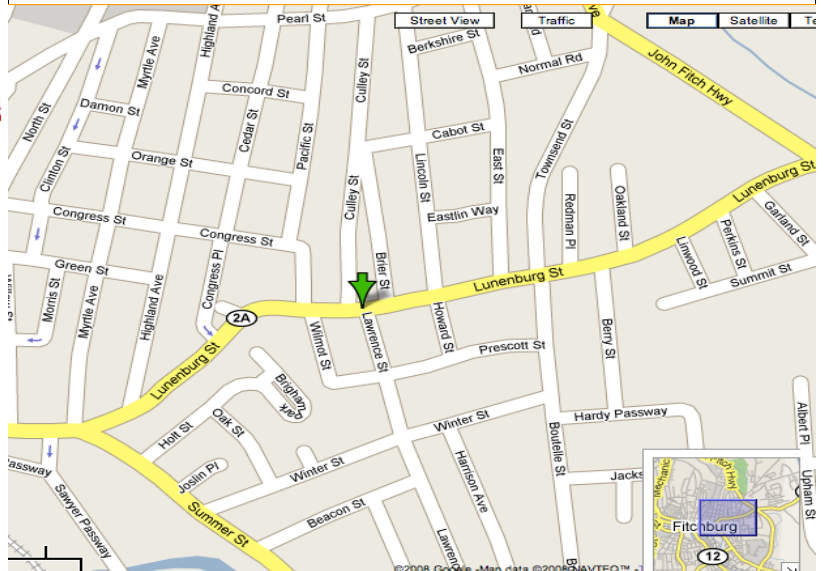
DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				Sun		Moon
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Thursday	21	2:34	8.3	2:50	8.0	8:42	1.0	8:57	0.8	7:06	4:41	
Friday	22	3:15	8.4	3:37	7.7	9:28	1.0	9:41	1.0	7:05	4:42	
Saturday	23	4:00	8.4	4:30	7.5	10:20	1.1	10:31	1.2	7:04	4:44	
Sunday	24	4:52	8.5	5:29	7.3	11:19	0.9	11:28	1.3	7:04	4:45	
Monday	25	5:49	8.7	6:34	7.4	12:22 PM	0.7			7:03	4:46	
Tuesday	26	6:51	9.0	7:39	7.7	12:30	1.1	1:26	0.3	7:02	4:47	
Wednesday	27	7:52	9.5	8:40	8.2	1:32	0.8	2:26	-0.3	7:01	4:49	
Thursday	28	8:52	10.1	9:36	8.7	2:33	0.3	3:22	-0.9	7:00	4:50	
Friday	29	9:48	10.5	10:28	9.3	3:30	-0.2	4:14	-1.4	6:59	4:51	
Saturday	30	10:42	10.9	11:19	9.8	4:25	-0.8	5:05	-1.8	6:58	4:53	☀
Sunday	31	11:34	11.0			5:18	-1.1	5:54	-1.9	6:57	4:54	
Monday	01	12:08	10.10 ft	12:26	10.82 ft	6:12	-1.32 ft	6:43	-1.77 ft	6:56	4:55	
Tuesday	02	12:58	10.23 ft	1:19	10.41 ft	7:05	-1.28 ft	7:32	-1.41 ft	6:55	4:57	
Wednesday	03	1:49	10.16 ft	2:13	9.81 ft	8:00	-1.03 ft	8:23	-0.86 ft	6:54	4:58	
Thursday	04	2:41	9.92 ft	3:10	9.12 ft	8:57	-0.64 ft	9:16	-0.21 ft	6:53	4:59	
Friday	05	3:36	9.55 ft	4:11	8.44 ft	9:57	-0.18 ft	10:13	0.44 ft	6:52	5:01	
Saturday	06	4:34	9.14 ft	5:16	7.88 ft	11:02	0.25 ft	11:15	0.99 ft	6:51	5:02	
Sunday	07	5:37	8.80 ft	6:24	7.55 ft	12:09 PM	0.53 ft			6:49	5:03	
Monday	08	6:41	8.59 ft	7:29	7.45 ft	12:20	1.33 ft	1:14	0.63 ft	6:48	5:05	
Tuesday	09	7:43	8.56 ft	8:28	7.54 ft	1:23	1.44 ft	2:14	0.57 ft	6:47	5:06	
Wednesday	10	8:38	8.66 ft	9:18	7.72 ft	2:20	1.35 ft	3:06	0.44 ft	6:46	5:07	
Thursday	11	9:26	8.81 ft	10:02	7.94 ft	3:11	1.15 ft	3:51	0.29 ft	6:44	5:08	
Friday	12	10:09	8.95 ft	10:40	8.14 ft	3:55	0.93 ft	4:30	0.17 ft	6:43	5:10	
Saturday	13	10:46	9.04 ft	11:14	8.32 ft	4:34	0.72 ft	5:05	0.10 ft	6:42	5:11	
Sunday	14	11:21	9.05 ft	11:46	8.47 ft	5:10	0.56 ft	5:36	0.09 ft	6:40	5:12	☀
Monday	15	11:55	8.97 ft			5:44	0.46 ft	6:06	0.14 ft	6:39	5:14	
Tuesday	16	12:16	8.59 ft	12:28	8.83 ft	6:18	0.40 ft	6:36	0.23 ft	6:38	5:15	
Wednesday	17	12:47	8.67 ft	1:02	8.62 ft	6:53	0.39 ft	7:08	0.36 ft	6:36	5:16	
Thursday	18	1:20	8.73 ft	1:39	8.37 ft	7:29	0.42 ft	7:43	0.53 ft	6:35	5:18	
Friday	19	1:56	8.75 ft	2:19	8.10 ft	8:10	0.48 ft	8:22	0.73 ft	6:33	5:19	
Saturday	20	2:36	8.75 ft	3:05	7.82 ft	8:55	0.57 ft	9:06	0.95 ft	6:32	5:20	
Sunday	21	3:22	8.73 ft	3:58	7.57 ft	9:47	0.65 ft	9:58	1.14 ft	6:30	5:21	

Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery's located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30p.m. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any of the board members.



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Dive Log

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The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in SCUBA diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands-on experience in a variety of areas including: safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystems, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



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