



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE – November 2013

Welcome to the November E-Slate. This issue is a bit late as we were all enjoying the 2013 AAUS/ESDP Joint International Science Diving Symposium last week. I would like to personally thank all of you who pitched in to help make this a great meeting. I couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to all who participated this year and we hope to see you all back, along with those who couldn't make it to Curaçao, for Sitka in 2014! Watch the E-Slate for more details on that meeting as plans progress. Next month we will return to our typical format and we welcome news, announcements, job postings, and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

2013 AAUS/ESDP Symposium

The 2013 AAUS/ESDP Symposium, held in Curaçao was a great success! Our workshops included a Coral Reef Ecology workshop, taught by Tim White (Penn State), and a Freediving workshop, conducted by Kirk Krack (Performance Freediving International).

The scientific symposium drew 100 individuals, including 27 international participants. The annual AAUS business meeting and DSO meeting drew 67 participants and 26 organizations were represented at the organizational member poster night. The science program included a variety of topics from coral reef health and mapping to diving medicine to applications of new technology in science diving. Electronic versions of the proceedings are available for download at www.aaus.org.

The Kevin Flanagan Student Travel Award provided funds for one student, Ross Whippo (University of British Columbia), to attend this year's meeting. Look for an update on the AAUS Foundation and our symposium fundraising in next month's E-Slate. AAUS Service Recognition Awards were presented at the AAUS awards banquet to Lora Pride and Pema Kitaeff for their service as Secretary and Director, respectively. Dr. Stephen Jewett was awarded the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award for Scientific Diving Leadership and Dr. Alina Szmant was awarded the Scientific Diving Lifetime Achievement award. David Concannon delivered the keynote address entitled "What do you call one lawyer on the bottom of the ocean?" detailing his involvement with deep ocean exploration.

Our thanks go to DAN, Ocean Encounters, The Sea Aquarium, Substation Curaçao, Curaçao Tourism Board, Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort staff, workshop coordinators, and all participants for making it a productive and enjoyable week.



Freediving Workshop
Photo Credit: Derek Smith



2013 AAUS Symposium print by Kathy Johnston English

Congratulations to Dave Pence on taking home this year's raffled print. Contact AAUS to purchase this beautiful print!

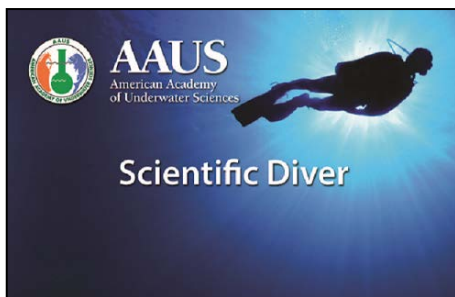


DSO Meeting
Photo Credit:
Derek Smith

AAUS Certification Program

AAUS has partnered with International Training (ITI) to launch the AAUS Certification Program. This initiative represents nearly two years of communication and cooperation between AAUS and ITI. Under this program, AAUS Organizational Members and DSOs who choose to participate will be able to offer internationally recognized AAUS diver certifications through their OM/Facility training programs.

This initiative replaces the previous AAUS certification card program and was officially launched at the 2013 DSO Meeting in Curaçao. Numerous DSOs have already registered to participate. Additional details and registration instructions can be found on the AAUS website, <https://secure.aaus.org/aaus-certification-program>. If you have questions about the program, please direct them to the AAUS Certification Program Forum on the website.



Scientific Freediver Course

Due to the interest sparked by the Performance Freediving (PFI) Workshop at the 2013 Symposium, AAUS is considering sponsoring a Scientific Freediver course. While AAUS has no intention of regulating or promulgating standards for Scientific Freediving, the program will be designed specifically for AAUS Scientific Divers and Diving Safety Officers who are also scuba instructors and may be responsible for snorkeling and breath-hold diving at their respective institutions.

The program will include the PFI Intermediate Freediver and Safety Freediver Instructor. Upon completion candidates will be able to teach the PFI Safe Buddy program. The course will run 6 days with 5 class, 4 pool and 5 ocean sessions. Potential dates for the course are July in Miami and August in Kona (exact dates TBD). If you are interested in attending, please contact the AAUS office, aaus@disl.org.

Coral Reef Ecology
Photo Credit:
Amy Moran



2014 AAUS Symposium

The 2014 AAUS Diving for Science Symposium will be hosted by University of Alaska Southeast and held September 11-14, 2014 in Sitka, AK. Look for more details in the E-Slate and online after the first of the year. Registration will begin in early spring.

New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation February 02, 2014 in Denver, please contact the AAUS office **no later than December 15** (aaus@disl.org) as we gauge interest in this event.

The mission of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences is to facilitate the development of safe and productive scientific divers through education, research, advocacy, and the advancement of standards for scientific diving practices, certifications, & operations.

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