



# E-SLATE

## American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

### EDITORIAL NOTE –January 2015

Welcome to the January E-Slate. Happy New Year! In this edition we continue our new article series, *Do You Know*, in response to our strategic planning surveys, update the strategic planning process, highlight an article on diving cold, make a final call for AAUS/OWUSS intern applications and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights and images of underwater work at [aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org). Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org).

#### Do You Know...

Thank you to all who participated in the recent strategic planning surveys. Initial review of these surveys indicated that many AAUS members were either unaware of, or misunderstood some member benefits or AAUS policies/procedures. In an attempt to increase awareness and provide clarification, we will be including a targeted informational article in each month's ESlate. If you would like to see specific issues or questions addressed, please send them to the AAUS office for consideration.

#### Online Forum

This month we will look at the topic of providing a web-based venue for posting questions and discussion, including a DSO forum, which several respondents indicated would be helpful.

When AAUS members log into their personal profile on the AAUS web page, the third item from the bottom is the "Forum." Comments and questions posted to the forum are visible to all members, and all members can respond. There is a general discussion board as well as a DSO forum. This resource has been available since June 2012 and people have posted questions on a diversity of topics, including how to manage conflicts of interest on a Dive Control Board, clarifications to the AAUS Certification Program, and collection of proprietary data. The forum is a great way to share information, both large and small, about scientific diving and how different organizational members tackle a variety of issues, so if you have questions or comments, please post! The more activity we have on the forum, the more valuable it can potentially be.

### NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### AAUS 2015 Board of Directors

The AAUS Board of Directors undergoes changes in 2015 as three long-standing members step down and three new directors join. We would like to extend our thanks, gratitude, and appreciation to Pema Kitaeff, George Peterson, and Diana Steller for their many years of service and hard work. You've been a great pleasure to work with and you will be missed!

We would also like to welcome three new Directors to the Board: Jen Smith, Tim White, and Narineh Nazarian. We look forward to working with you in 2015 and beyond.

#### 2014 Annual Statistics

Please refrain from submitting your 2014 annual statistics until 15 January 2015. While we are usually ready to accept submission on 01 January, some delays uploading back end program corrections mean that the site will not be ready until mid-January. We apologize for the inconvenience. As usual, statistics will be due 31 March, late thereafter, and your OM will be turned over to standards if no statistics are filed by 30 June.

#### Don't Dive Cold When You Don't Have To

The San Diego Center of Excellence in Diving at UC San Diego aims to help divers be effective consumers of scientific information through its "*Healthy Divers in Healthy Oceans*" mission. In a recent monograph they explore a research report from the Navy Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) that is leading some divers to think they should be cold if they want to reduce decompression risk. That is a misinterpretation of the report, and may be causing divers to miss some of the joy of diving. There is no substitute for comfort and safety on a dive. Read the monograph at [www.aaus.org/publications/Cold](http://www.aaus.org/publications/Cold)

#### NAUI Hall of Honor

John Heine, NAUI 5924, a NAUI Instructor for 35 years and a past president of AAUS, was awarded the NAUI Hall of Honor Award. John was a former NAUI Course Director and Branch Manager, was the lead author for the NAUI Master Scuba Diver textbook, and was a Contributing Editor for SOURCES for twenty five years, where he authored the Environmental Answers column.



Mike Dunst (left) presenting the NAUI Hall of Honor Award to John Heine

### Aqualung Recall

Aqua Lung is conducting a voluntary recall of all SureLock II rubber weight pocket handles. SureLock II is the mechanical weight release system found on most Aqua Lung buoyancy compensators (BCs) beginning in 2009. For additional assistance please call (855) 355-7170 or visit <http://www.aqualung.com> and click on the Recall Notice.



Both versions of rubber handle are being recalled

### Strategic Planning

The AAUS Board of Directors is moving ahead with the development of our five-year strategic plan. The results from the two surveys of the entire membership can now be viewed here ([Strategic Planning #1](#)) and here ([Strategic Plan Survey #2](#)). A third survey/worksheet addressing AAUS' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats has been distributed to BoD members (2014 and 2015) and past presidents. The final component of our information-gathering phase will be a separate survey of scientific divers working or studying at AAUS Organizational Members who are not currently individual members of AAUS. This survey is aimed at finding out how scientific divers who are not members view the AAUS and what the barriers are to membership. We will be asking Dive Safety Officers at all OMs to help us distribute the survey link and solicit responses in early January.

The Strategic Planning committee will meet with our facilitator, Thom Skalko, to create the first draft of the plan February 13-16, 2015. Thom has shepherded many nonprofit organizations through the strategic planning process and he facilitated the last AAUS strategic planning effort. He has provided key support, advice, and guidance

to the Board over the last year and we greatly appreciate his time, efforts, and knowledge!

### Self-Evaluation Form

With help from the Membership, Standards and Accreditation committees, the AAUS BOD has developed a version of the "Self accreditation checklist" which is being called the Self-Evaluation Form. This is a useful tool for any dive program and we encourage you to complete it. You will find a link on your organization's profile where you can upload the completed form as a "Misc Document File". Adding the self-evaluation form to your OM profile will help the Membership committee and other OMs to confirm that you are an active OM in good standing with AAUS. In 2015, the self-evaluation will likely become a required component of every OM profile. You may view the form [here](#) or in the resource library [www.aaus.org](http://www.aaus.org).

### New DSO Orientation

If you would be interested in attending a one day new DSO orientation in April 2015 in the Northeast, please contact the AAUS office ([aaus@disl.org](mailto:aaus@disl.org)) as we gauge interest in this event.

## STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 2015 UW-FHL Ecology Course

A course entitled *Ecology Between and Below Pacific Tides* will be offered July 20-August 21, 2015 at Friday Harbor Laboratories. The 5 week, 9 academic credit hour course is an upper-level Ecology course with tracks available for both diving and non-diving students. This course will allow students, who are qualified, to simultaneously become AAUS-certified as scientific divers, carry out subtidal research projects and earn academic credit. Please see <http://depts.washington.edu/fhl/studentSummer2015.html#Sumb-4> or contact Pema Kitaeff ([pema@uw.edu](mailto:pema@uw.edu)) for more information. Applications are due February 01, 2015.

### 2015 AAUS/OWUSS Internship

OWUSS is now taking applications for the 2015 AAUS/OWUSS scientific diving internship. Once trained as an AAUS-recognized diver-in-training, interns will participate in underwater field work at one or more locations and research facilities associated with the AAUS. The internship will be supported by funding for travel to/from site, room, board, and other internship-related expenses. Information at [https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss\\_internship](https://secure.aaus.org/aausowuss_internship). Application deadline is **January 31, 2015**. To apply, visit: <http://www.owuscholarship.org/internships>.

## Coral Reef Ecology Field Course

The 2015 Korallion Lab ([www.korallionlab.com](http://www.korallionlab.com)) coral reef ecology field course will be held August 13-22 and August 22-31, 2015. This course is designed to provide students of any level with a sound foundation in ecological concepts,



survey techniques and experimental design in field research applied to coral reef ecosystems. Please email Dr. Michael Sweet at [m.sweet@derby.ac.uk](mailto:m.sweet@derby.ac.uk) for any scientific issue regarding the course. For

any other information on the course and availability please email [info@korallionlab.com](mailto:info@korallionlab.com).

## REEF 2015 Internship

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) in Key Largo, FL is now accepting applications for the Spring 2015 Marine Conservation Internship. REEF's Marine Conservation Internship provides an in-depth look into REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project and Invasive Lionfish Program. The internship provides an array of diverse experiences including scientific diving opportunities, outreach and education, data collection and management, non-profit operations, and public speaking. <http://www.REEF.org/internship>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rebreather and Scientific Diving Training Workshop

The National Park Service (NPS), NOAA, AAUS and DAN are sponsoring a Rebreather and Scientific Diving Training Workshop at the Wrigley Marine Science Center, Catalina Island, CA the week of February 16th, 2015. The event will review standards, operating procedures, physiology, accidents, and future equipment evolution relevant to scientific diving with rebreathers. Two major goals will be pursued: 1) enhance cross agency communication, and 2) develop a best practices template available to the community. The program will include 18 hours of scheduled sessions (lecture, discussion, and hands-on elements) and ample open periods for additional interaction. Additional in-water activities will be available following the scheduled portion of the event. Find more information on topics to be cover, speakers and registration at [2015\\_rebreather\\_and\\_scientific\\_diving\\_training\\_workshop](http://2015_rebreather_and_scientific_diving_training_workshop)

## 2015 CAUS Symposium

The Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS) 2015 Annual General Meeting and Symposium is scheduled for February 25- 26, 2015 in Toronto, Ontario and hosted by

Ripley's Aquarium of Canada. CAUS members are strongly encouraged to attend, and all others interested in learning more about CAUS are welcome too. Please contact [info@caus.ca](mailto:info@caus.ca) for details.

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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## AAUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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