



E-SLATE

American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS)

EDITORIAL NOTE –September 2016

Welcome to the September E-Slate. In this issue we unveil the 2016 Kathy English AAUS print, finalize Rebreather standards changes, make available the Rebreather and Scientific Diving Proceedings, wrap up registration for the annual symposium and much more. We welcome news, announcements, job postings, program highlights and images of underwater work at aaus@disl.org. Current and past issues of the E-Slate are available at www.aaus.org.

Update from AAUS President

I want to update everyone on the activities of the BoD during the past month.

The BoD is finalizing its review of the Accreditation Guidelines and will be discussing these during the BoD meeting at the Symposium. It is also finalizing the approval of the accreditation committee members. All this work is being done to get these items out to the membership for review by Oct. 1.

I am working with ITI to get a draft DSO certification program together to present to the BoD. More to come on this once the program development starts moving a little faster. The BoD is continuing to explore options for a new computer based software tracking system divers. We have a couple of good proposals we are considering. Once the BoD chooses the direction we're going to go in, we'll make an announcement.

The Rebreather standards have been finalized and approved. Nice job and thanks to Liz Kintzing, the Standards committee and many outside rebreather users for their input in these standards.

Also, it was brought to my attention earlier this month that there had been some questions about the accreditation process and some felt lack of transparency regarding it. If anyone in AAUS membership has any questions regarding any of the activities of the BoD, please don't hesitate to contact me (rgomez@rsmas.miami.edu).

I look forward to seeing everyone in Rhode Island.

Rick

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 AAUS Symposium Print Raffle

The 2016 AAUS Symposium Print entitled *Narragansett Bay's Treasure* is now complete. Visit the annual fundraiser tab in the online store at www.aausfoundation.org to buy a raffle ticket (\$10) to win this beautiful Kathy English print! The drawing will occur at the 2016 AAUS Awards banquet but you **do not** have to be present to win. All proceeds support the AAUS scholarship fund.



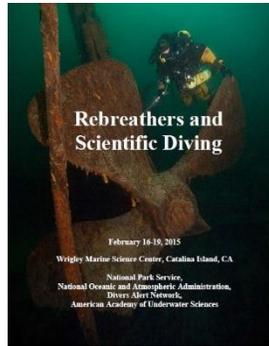
AAUS Rebreather Standards

The AAUS standards for rebreathers, Section 12, have been revised after extensive committee and community review and a vote by the Board of Directors. The new standards can be downloaded at www.aaus.org/diving_standards.

Rebreathers and Scientific Diving Proceedings

The proceedings of the Rebreathers and Scientific Diving Workshop held at Wrigley Marine Science Center, Catalina Island, CA February 16-19, 2015 are now available for download or print on demand from Lulu.com (<http://goo.gl/gzV164>) In addition to the papers from the presenters, the document contains Rebreathers and Scientific Diving Best Practice Recommendations, and a transcript of the consensus discussion.

The organizers wish to once again thank the sponsors of the workshop: the National Park Service (NPS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Divers Alert Network (DAN), and the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS). The presenters and authors contributing to this workshop and proceedings and the attendees participation and feedback were instrumental in making the workshop and proceedings a valuable resource to the scientific diving community.



2016 Blue Ocean Film Festival & Conservation Summit

The 2016 Blue Ocean Film Festival will be held November 10-13, 2016 in St. Petersburg, Florida. BLUE showcases the world's best ocean media and the people who create it. Passes and event tickets will be available starting August 15th. Film submission deadline is August 10th. More information is available at <http://www.BLUEOceanFilmFestival.org>

DEMA 2016

The Diving Equipment and Marketing Association will hold its annual show November 16-19 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV. More information at www.demashow.com.

DAN Survey

DAN needs your assistance. This past year, the donations from DAN's 2015 year-end fundraising campaign were dedicated to the enhancement of DAN's Oxygen Grant and extension of our O2 Program. The best way for DNA to enhance their program is with your input to help clarify the need for oxygen units, how they are being used and under what conditions. If you use or maintain an oxygen unit, please take a few minutes to answer this brief survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/PW2P59R>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2016 AAUS Symposium



Don't miss out! Final registration is taking place for the 2016 AAUS Diving for Science symposium, with registrations after September 01 incurring a late fee. Some workshops have a few spaces left. If you are planning to attend, please register immediately! The room blocks at the host hotels are now closed. A ride-share board has been created for airport transfers for attendees at <http://www.groupcarpool.com/t/p6vy0a> A full schedule and registration information are available at <https://www.regonline.com/2016aausdivingforscience>

National Diving Safety Officers Meeting 2016

Please submit any agenda items for the 2016 Diving Safety Officers' meeting to Jim Hayward (ucbdiver@berkeley.edu) by September 10, 2016.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2016 Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving Intern Blog

6/27/16-7/15/16

The summer is flying by! I have been working at the MarEx aquarium at Skidaway Island a lot since my last blog. I have learned so many things. I have been on reptile duty for a few weeks which includes cleaning the filters in the mud turtle, snapping turtle, and diamondback terrapin tanks, as well as providing fresh water for the snakes and lizards. I also get to feed these reptiles on occasion. At the aquarium I also help by cleaning protein skimmers and tanks and by feeding the fish. I went with the MarEx Aquarium to Beach Week on Tybee Island, which is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Our theme was marine debris education and I created posters, helped design an activity, and played a game to speak to beach-goers about marine debris. It was a lot of fun! The MarEx Aquarium has two loggerhead turtles on display. One of whom is a three-year old named Rider and it will be released into the wild soon. I was also able to aid in some sea turtle husbandry this week. I helped take Rider out of the tank and carry it to a small pool outside so that Rider could have a sun bath. The aquarium has UV lights above Rider's tank, but there is nothing quite like real sunshine! MarEx Aquarium also has weekly summer camps for kids. I was able to go fishing and trawling with the summer camp groups as a volunteer camp counselor. During the fishing trip my group caught: 18 sharks, 2 stingrays and a blue crab! The trawling trip was aboard the Sea Dawg, a MarEx vessel and we caught sharks, crabs, shrimp and various species of fish. I really enjoy spending time teaching children about marine and aquatic organisms.

This summer I have also been working with Dr. Marc Frischer, a SkIO faculty member. One of his graduate students, Ashleigh, is working on black gill shrimp research. She is doing mortality experiments on local shrimp to study black gill. Some shrimp get their gills infected with a ciliate which causes an immune response of producing melanin, thus turning the gills black. I help with daily shrimp counts where

we check the shrimp for black gill and feed them. If a shrimp dies, it gets measured and the gills are preserved for future molecular work. I helped Ashleigh break down the first experiment last week, and then went on a collection trawl in order to start the second experiment. I was also able to go on a research cruise with the Frischer lab as well. SKIO has a research vessel call the Savannah and it has a huge A frame and J frame winches for trawling, plankton tows and CTD casts. We spent 2 days on the ship doing plankton tows and CTD casts looking for gelatinous plankton called Doliolids. We did not find any Doliolids on the cruise even though the water conditions were good. We did catch some ctenophores in the plankton tows, which was pretty cool. The research cruise was a blast.

I am looking forward to my last 3 weeks of my internship! I will be traveling to Pensacola, FL next week to do some diving (finally!).

Allie Safrit

Lee H. Somers Intern 2016

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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