

[→Click to view this email in a browser](#)

SCUBAnauts International, Inc.

e-naut newsletter

Table of Contents

-2009 Summer Expedition
 -Coral Spawning
 -Investigating Deep Reefs
 -Ocean for Life
 -Dive Safety
 -Elections
 -NOSB
 -New Chapter!



Volume I, Issue 3

Summer Success!

Reminder

Deadline for adults to qualify to vote in Chapter elections is January 1st. [Click for more information.](#)

Expedition News

The Nauts' 2009 Summer Expedition fundraiser brought in \$11,000. Gale P. and Troy M. (Tampa Bay) each raised \$1,000 and were awarded a very cool steel dive knife. Thanks to all the Nauts who participated!



Dive Safety

Proper use of integrated weight systems in BCDs.

By SNI DSO, Dr. Chris Moses

About 70% of BCDs in use by SCUBAnauts are weight integrated, meaning that the diver does not wear a weight belt, rather the BCD contains the weight. It is important to know the proper way to distribute the weight in the various weight storage compartments. Most of the weight integrated BCDs have places to store "ditchable" and "non-ditchable" weights. Let's imagine a diver that needs 10 lbs of weight to be neutral at the safety stop at 15 fsw with a 1/3 full tank (i.e., slightly buoyant tank) at the end of their dive.

2009 Summer Expedition

Key West, the southernmost city in Florida, was the site for SCUBAnauts International's 8th annual Summer Expedition. Three chapters (Tampa Bay, Tarpons Springs and Key West) participated in a week of marine science, marine archeology and advanced diving.



Nauts measured, identified, documented their findings, practiced buoyancy, decompressed and fought off raccoons. They compiled all this information (except for the raccoons) and presented it to special guests and supporters at the VIP picnic.

The Expedition was a chance for the three chapters to interact and get to know each other, as well as collaborate on training and scientific missions.

A big "Thank You" goes out to [Able Body Labor](#), and the ELLMAR



Foundation for their support of the Summer Expedition; and to the [Special Forces Underwater Operations School](#) which graciously provided their outstanding facilities for the entire program. In appreciation for the use of their facilities, Nauts collected 14 bags of trash from the surrounding beach and marina.

A special thanks to scientists, parents, guests and our hosts, the Key West Chapter. Your enthusiasm and dedication ensured the 2009 Summer Expedition's success; we couldn't have done it without you!

- 3 lbs should go in each of the two front pockets (total of 6 lbs of ditchable weight).
- 2 lbs should go in each of the trim weight pockets (on the rear of the BCD; total of 4 lbs non-ditchable weight).

This strategy places most of the weight in ditchable pockets so that in an emergency, the diver can gain 6 lbs of positive buoyancy by removing the weight pockets. However, the 4 lbs of non-ditchable weight is positioned behind the shoulders of the diver helping to improve the ease of maintaining proper horizontal trim during the dive.

Questions about dive safety?

[e-mail Dr. Chris Moses](#)

NOSB

The [National Ocean Sciences Bowl](#) (NOSB) is a national, high-school science competition sponsored by the [National Oceanographic Partnership Program](#) and managed by the [Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education](#) (CORE). The competition tests students on their knowledge of oceanography, this includes the subjects of biology, chemistry, geology, geography, social science, technology, and physics. Currently there are 25 regions in the U.S., each with their own regional competitions. Each year approximately 2,000 students from 300 schools across the nation compete for prizes and a trip to the national competition. The goal of this organization is to increase knowledge of the ocean among high school students and, ultimately, magnify the public understanding of ocean research.



Nauts have participated in the last two regional competitions, and this February they placed third among 16 teams.

Fundraising

Coral Spawning

By Carli Segelson, Tampa Bay Fundraising Officer



This year the Tampa Bay Chapter had an opportunity to help scientists with an exciting discovery. SNI Tampa Bay worked hand in hand with scientists from the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) and the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) (NOAA) to

document the spawning of Acroporid corals in the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#). Much to everyone's delight, this study also unexpectedly documented the reproduction of nursery-raised Staghorn coral for the first time, ever!

Dr. David Palandro approached NOAA last year to see if they were interested in funding AAUS divers to help monitor the spawning event. Once Dr. Palandro received approval from NOAA, Mark Flory began the tedious task of planning the logistics. Kevin and Joy Merschdorf and Elizabeth Bunbury made sure that no Naut went hungry and that was no small feat!

During their trip, the Florida Keys Dive Center took students to Molasses Reef and White Bank Shoal reefs, where they made several dives each night until the spawning occurred. With the help of FWC and NOAA scientists, SCUBAnaut students scientifically documented the event with still and video pictures and collected sperm and eggs released by the spawning corals. NOAA will use the samples to promote new coral growth and assist in recovering the species.



After observing the coral spawning, Ken Nedimyer ([Coral Restoration Foundation](#)) invited the students to dive at his coral nursery where they helped with scheduled maintenance and installed some new recruitment blocks. Dr Palandro hopes this project will foster continued collaboration between the FWC, NOAA, and the SCUBAnauts. [Read more about the Nauts' experience.](#)

Investigating Deep Reefs

By Julie Galkiewicz, Tarpon Springs Education Officer

Julie Galkiewicz is currently conducting her Ph.D. research at the University of South Florida. She joined a group of scientists to study deep sea coral reefs off the coast of Cape Canaveral, Florida August 6 through 17.

The corals that I study are part of a large





Satisfy your need for seafood while conserving ocean ecosystems. SNI will be producing a sustainable seafood cookbook based on [Monterey Bay Aquarium recommendations](#). The cookbook will be available in time for the holidays - so you can share your favorite recipes with your family and friends, and help educate while raising funds for your chapter. [e-mail your recipes to Dr. Beth Moses](#)

Volunteer Update

Active citizenship is an integral part of being a Naut. Besides supporting their chapters by helping to raise funds and community outreach, Nauts give of their time to many different causes. Here are a few organizations that benefit from Naut involvement:

Clearwater Marine Aquarium
Toys for Tots
Hospice
Metropolitan Ministries
Faith Children's Home
USF Oceanography Camp for Girls
Meals on Wheels
St. Anthony's Hospital
Suncoast Primate Sanctuary
Ronald McDonald House
We Feed the Hungry

Uniform Update

Uniform requirements and vendor contact information can now be found on the SNI website -www.scubanautsintl.com. Click on your chapter then on the "store" button on the left hand side of the screen.

group of corals that live in the deep ocean. That's right, tropical reefs aren't the only habitats that contain coral! The coral [Lophelia pertusa](#) can be found throughout the world's oceans, often living on seamounts or along the continental slope. It can form huge reefs that are 35 m tall and hundreds of kilometers long! Many fish and invertebrate species call these reefs home, but not a lot is known about the habitat.



The best way to see what's going on in these deep reefs is to go visit them. The submersible [Johnson-Sea-Link II](#) launched from the R/V Seward Johnson is the perfect way to observe and sample the reefs. The sub fits four people - two scientists and two sub crew, and can dive up to 900 m. There's a robotic arm controlled by the sub pilot that can be used to grab or suction up samples to place in the sampling bins in front of the sub.

A typical sub dive lasts about four hours, depending on how long the battery power lasts. The sub is completely independent from the main ship, but radio contact is maintained the entire dive. Descending and ascending take very little time because we don't have to worry about decompression, and the only light you see is from bio-luminescence and the fading sunlight. When we reach the bottom, the submersible positioned itself to collect samples for the scientists on board the ship. It's like visiting a different world, and the lights from the sub are the only light some of these creatures will ever see. [Click here to read more about Julie's deep sea adventure.](#)

Ocean for Life

High school students from Western and Middle Eastern countries were selected to participate in a group field experience in the United States. Two SCUBAnauts, Sean D. (Tampa Bay) and Morgan L. (Tarpon Springs) took part in the [Ocean for Life](#) field study taking place in California's Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries from July 26 through August 9. Highlights of the trip included introduction to kelp forest ecology, exploration of rocky intertidal and sandy beach habitats, Año Nuevo field visit to observe northern elephant seals, and a full moon kayak tour of Monterey Bay just to name a few.



The Ocean for Life program seeks to establish cultural connections that ultimately leads to better understanding and the strengthening of our global relationships. The main themes of the Ocean for Life program are: a sense of place, interconnectedness, and ocean conservation and stewardship.

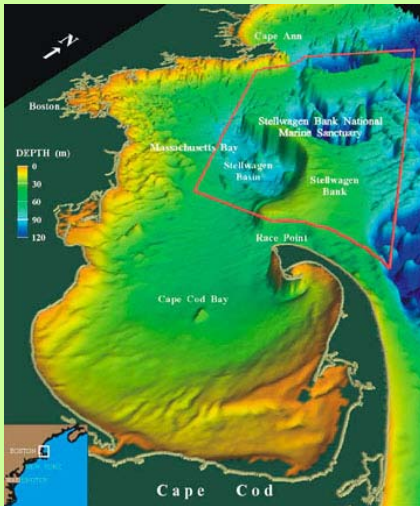
The participants are encouraged to use their experience to become better stewards of their local environment, promote its connection to the ocean, and strengthen the links they have built to the communities and cultures of their fellow



Do you have a great underwater picture? Send it to us and we'll share it in the next newsletter. [Click here to submit.](#)

Stellwagen Bank

The Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary sits at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay. Click on map to read more about it.



participants.

The Ocean for Life program is a partnership between the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#), the [GLOBE](#) (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) Program, and SCUBAnauts International. It is presented in collaboration with the [National Geographic Society](#), [American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking](#), the [Meridian International Center](#), and the [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#).

SNI Welcomes a New Chapter: Lake Hitchcock

SNI is very excited to report the addition of a 4th Chapter, the Lake Hitchcock Chapter of Massachusetts, named after an ancient glacier lake located in parts of what is now Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. For more information on the ancient glacial lake [click here](#). The Hitchcock Chapter of SNI will operate in the northwest part of Massachusetts, an area bracketed by the Harriman Reservoir (Vermont) to the northwest and the Connecticut River (Massachusetts) to the east.

The Lake Hitchcock Chapter will be lead by Doug Wilkins, Chapter President, Cathy Wilkins, Chapter Education Officer, and Blake Gilmore, Chapter Dive Safety Officer. We look forward to hearing about Lake Hitchcock Chapter's progress, cold water diving, and science and service missions.

**EDUCATION
THROUGH
EXPLORATION**

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."
- Mark Twain -

Newsletter Submissions

Have a story you'd like to bring to our attention? Let us know - [send us an e-mail](#).

Chapter Elections

All adults who, as of the first day of a calendar year:

- meet the Minimum Adult Leadership Qualifications,
- paid all membership fees and other monies that had become due or



Search the web with GoodSearch.com and each time you do a search, GoodSearch will donate about a penny to our cause!

Shop on-line at GoodShop.com and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to our cause! More than 600 top stores are participating including Amazon, Target, Staples, Best Buy and more!

Mission Statement

The mission of SNI is to guide young men and women, ages 12 through 18, along an exciting pathway for personal development by involving them in the marine sciences through underwater research activities such as special environmental and undersea conservation projects that builds character, promotes active citizenship, and develops effective leadership skills.

SCUBAnauts International, Inc. and each of its chapters are non-profit corporations and recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) publicly-supported charitable organization.

was owed to Chapter or SNI, and

- participated in Chapter Operations for at least 20 hours during the prior calendar year,

Are qualified to vote in the election of Chapter President, which will be held during January of that calendar year. In the event an adult is qualified to vote but is unable to attend the election of the Chapter President, the Adult Leader may give his or her proxy to another Adult Leader for purposes of casting his or her vote.

Minimum Adult Leadership Qualifications means the adult has:

- submitted his/her fingerprints to SNI and a background investigation was completed by SNI, which was acceptable to the SNI President;
- completed an SNI-approved child protection training program;
- a current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
- a current certification in standard or basic first aid;
- a current certification in the administration of 100% oxygen;
- been trained in the recognition and treatment of DCS and AGE; and
- agreed to abide by the SNI Standards of Character, Citizenship and Leadership.

Adult Participation Requirement:

- Unless an exception is granted by the SNI President, each SCUBAnaut and SCUBAnaut Trainee must have at least one parent, guardian, or adult sponsor who meets the Minimum Adult Leadership Qualifications.

[Forward this message to a friend](#)

[Sign up for our quarterly newsletter!](#)

