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## SCUBAnauts International, Inc.

### e-naut newsletter

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### Reminders

- Chapters are gearing up for spring training classes, challenges, and re-certifications. Please check chapter calendars for dates, times and locations.

- SLAM (Scuba, Lifesaving and Accident Management) training begins.



### Dive Corner

By SNI DSO, Dr. Chris Moses

#### Proper Equipment Attachment - Part 1: Regulators

SCUBA diving, by necessity, involves a lot of equipment. At a minimum, a diver is going to need mask, fins, snorkel, BCD, regulator/octo /SPG/inflator hose, a cylinder, and weights... then add some scientific gear on top of that for SNI divers. The BCD is the point of attachment for the bulk of the equipment. Does this mean a scientific diver needs a BCD with a dozen different attachment points (e.g., D-rings)? Of course not, things just need to be organized and attached properly for the sake of safety, and minimizing abuse to the equipment



### Space Shuttle SRB Recovery Presentation

**In December, Larry Collins, Manny DeLeon and Joseph Smitelli from [United Space Alliance](#) gave a presentation about NASA's procedure to recover the Space Shuttle's solid rocket booster (SRB) casings. Both the Tampa Bay and Tarpon Springs Chapters attended.**

The two retrieval ships which perform SRB recovery, the Liberty Star and Freedom Star, are unique vessels specifically designed and constructed for this task. Recovery Vessels (R/V) Freedom Star and the Liberty Star each retrieve one booster. Retrieving the boosters is a potentially dangerous operation and requires that the ship's crew and divers closely follow safety procedures as they work with the booster components, staying constantly aware of the ever-changing conditions around them.



The main parachutes are the first items to be brought on board followed by the frustum (the upside-down cone-shaped piece that connects the skinnier first stage to the thicker upper stage). With the chutes and frustum recovered, attention turns to the SRB and the dive teams prepare for booster recovery. Two small inflatable boats, each with eight retrieval divers aboard, are deployed. Once dive preparations are complete, the dive teams enter the water for the diver-operated plug (DOP) insertion. The DOP is 22 feet in length and weighs 1,100 pounds. It is neutrally buoyant in water, meaning it neither floats nor sinks, and is easily guided to the aft skirt at a depth of about 110 feet by the divers. After a quick inspection of the nozzle is conducted, the DOP is inserted into the booster nozzle. Once the DOP legs are locked in place and the nozzle sealed, an air hose is attached.



The second team double-checks the aft skirt and the DOP installation to ensure there are no problems. After the second dive is completed, dewatering operations begin. Air is pumped from the ship through the DOP and into the booster, displacing water within the casing. As the process continues, the booster rises in the water until it becomes top-heavy. It falls horizontally, like a log in the water. Air pumping continues until all water is expelled from the empty casing.

The final step in the ocean retrieval procedure is to connect the ship's tow line. Once the tow connection is made, the divers return to the ship and the return trip to NASA's Hangar AF at the Cape Canaveral Air Station begins.

The ships enter Port Canaveral, where the expended boosters are disassembled, refurbished and reloaded with solid propellant for reuse. [Click here if you would like to read more about SRB retrieval.](#)

Joseph Smitelli is a SRB Inspection Manager for USA Launch and



and drag in the water.

Most important are the two regulators and their intermediate pressure (IP) hoses. Neither regulator IP hose should ever have any piece of equipment strapped across it, or otherwise be restricted from their free movement. The primary regulator (the one the diver normally breathes with) should have a small brass or stainless steel bolt snap about 3-5 inches up the hose from the regulator to clip off the hose to a BCD shoulder D-ring when the regulator is not in the diver's mouth. This is a good way to always know where the primary regulator is, as well as minimizing the possibility of abuse (e.g., banging or crushing the regulator while moving equipment).

SNI divers wear the secondary regulator ("octo") on a necklace to assure accessibility in an emergency. Likewise, the necklace reduces the amount of abuse the octo is likely to take under normal circumstances. An octo should **never** be clipped or cable-tied to a D-ring, stuffed into a Velcro pocket, or otherwise have reduced accessibility, or left to dangle freely during the dive. Any such attachment (or lack of attachment) method can complicate (or completely prevent) deployment or functionality of the secondary regulator in an emergency.

**Questions about dive safety?**  
**[e-mail Dr. Chris Moses](#)**



## Sustainable Seafood SNI Cookbook

SNI has published a sustainable seafood cookbook with recipes from nauts, parents and friends. [Purchase yours now](#) and support the SCUBAnauts!

Don't forget to use the coupon code:  
**"SCUBAnauts"** so we get credit.

Recovery Systems SQ & MA (Safety, Quality and Mission Assurance) He oversees safety protocols for Shuttle Launches and SRB recycling. He has been a recreational diver since 1980. Mr. Smitelli is also C. Kolasa's (Tarpon Springs) uncle.

Larry Collins is the manager of Dive Operations & Retrieval Ground Support Equipment for the Space Shuttle SRB program. Mr. Collins has a BSBA from the University of Florida, is a Mixed Gas & Cave Diving Instructor, Diver Medical Technician and has worked in SRB Marine Operations for 28 years. Mr. Collins has worked 122 Shuttle missions, involving over 1100 dives.

Manny DeLeon is a Sr. Engineer for the Solid Rocket Booster Disassembly Facility. Mr. DeLeon is also a diver during SRB retrieval missions. Mr. DeLeon has worked in Space Shuttle SRB marine operations for 23 years. He is a Certified Dive Master, Advanced NITROX and Recompression Chamber Operator who has logged several hundred dives.

Thank you to Mr. Collins, De Leon and Smitelli for their presentation, the SCUBAnauts appreciate their time and truly enjoyed meeting them!

***With the water temperature off of Florida hovering in the high 50's (our northern chapter Lake Hitchcock probably thinks that's not so bad), winter months are typically slow diving months. While we are all pining for balmy breezes and diving without wet suits, let me introduce you to those entrusted with SNI's future and dive safety practices.***



## SNI Board of Directors

**SNI Board of Directors meeting will be held Feb. 13-14 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Members of the Board are:**

### **Ben Hayes - President and Chairman of the Board**

Ben is an attorney, and his law practice focuses on matters involving sports and entertainment law. Ben also is the President of the New York - Penn League, a Class A professional baseball league. Ben earned his Juris Doctorate with honors from University of Florida's College of Law (1992), studied political-economics at University of Florida's Graduate School (1988-1989), and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from University of South Florida (1987). While attending Graduate School, Ben coached the Florida Gator baseball team and helped lead them their first NCAA College World Series in 1988. Ben played professional baseball from 1978 through 1986 with the Cincinnati Reds and St. Louis Cardinals organizations. Ben is a NAUI-certified Dive Master and USCG-licensed Captain. Ben's daughter has been a SCUBAnaut since 2007.

### **John Liston - Vice President and Vice Chairman of the Board**

John currently serves as the Area President of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc. (NYSE: AJG) in their Clearwater, FL office. John has oversight responsibilities of a staff of 60 people which generates approximately \$150M annually in commercial property and casualty insurance premiums. John has served as both a speaker and panelist at national industry trade shows relative to various Casualty insurance topics. Additionally, John is involved in farming operations in both the Midwest as well as a founding member of a Brazilian farming operation that began in 2005. John received his BA from the University of Northern Iowa with a degree in Production Management. John's family completed the YMCA open water diver program in 2005. John's two daughters and his wife are actively involved in SCUBAnauts since 2007.

### **Anne Mongelluzzi - Board Member**

Anne is co-owner of several local businesses including [Able Body Labor](#). With more than twenty years of experience, Able Body Labor is one of the country's largest and longstanding labor staffing companies in the US. A privately held company, Able Body has more than 160 locations nationally and through its family of companies -- PreferAble Staffing, Safe Harbor HR, Craftsmen On Call and Training U -- provide industry leading solutions for customers of all sizes and providing thousands of jobs for American workers. Anne and her husband Frank are very involved in supporting local charities and non profits including the SCUBAnauts. Anne's daughter is involved in the SCUBAnauts.

### **Dr. Teresa Kennedy - Board Member**

Teresa is a Professor of Bilingual/ELL/STEM Education at the University of Texas at Tyler, and also directs the International Division of NASA's [GLOBE](#) Program at UT-Tyler for the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research ([UCAR](#)) in Boulder, Colorado (2009 - present). As Director of the International Division of GLOBE, she is a member of the GLOBE management team and is responsible for ensuring the development and ongoing support of GLOBE's 111 partner countries. Dr. Kennedy has a Ph.D. in Education, with a concentration on bilingual science education, content-based foreign language, ESL/ELL education, and also



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Tank Cleaning - Ongoing

Contact: [Dawn DeSantis](#)

### NOSB Spoonbill Bowl on March 6 & National Ocean Sciences Bowl on April 24 & 25

Various Positions

Contact: [Marietta Mayo](#)

### Tampa Bay Watch

Various & Ongoing

Contact: [Sign Up Form](#)

### Clam Bayou

#### Marine Education Center

Native Plant Restoration Projects - Ongoing

Contact: [Dr. Teresa Greely](#)

OR leave message 727-552-2281

## Uniform Update

Uniform requirements and vendor contact information can now be found on the [SNI website](#). Click on your chapter then on the "store" button on the left hand side of the screen.

## Your Pictures



Thank you **C. Hutchisson** from Tarpon Springs for submitting this picture. Conner says: "This picture isn't very clear, but I think it is a good representation of a benthic survey".

Do you have a great underwater

has a M.A. degree in the Spanish language. Her K-12 teaching experience includes 8 years at the secondary level, 7 years at the elementary/middle school level, and over 15 years teaching in higher education. She has visited 65 countries around the world through her work and educational experiences, and has published over 30 journal articles and 6 book chapters. Dr. Kennedy's research interests include online teaching and learning, content-based second language teaching and learning focusing on science and social studies, as well as brain research in relation to second language acquisition and bilingualism. Her Web site, Language Study and the Brain can be accessed at the following URL: <http://www.flbrain.org>.

### Carol Martin - Board Member

Carol is the president of the Ellmar Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) private foundation. A long time resident of Tarpon Springs, Carol is an active supporter of educational and leadership programs throughout Pinellas County including the SCUBAnauts. She was instrumental in establishing the [Jacobson Culinary Arts Academy at Tarpon Springs High](#). This 11,600 square-foot, state-of-the-art career academy provides students with one of the most sophisticated high school culinary arts academies in the United States.

### Bob Holston - Board Member

For the past 40 years Bob Holston has owned and operated a dive center specializing in instruction, retail and charters in Key West, Florida. A certified instructor with all the major U.S. certification agencies, Bob has been actively teaching for almost 40 years. Bob has been a member of the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries](#) Advisory Council since its inception, and continues to serve as a member representing Tourism. In 1993, Bob was awarded the PLATINUM PRO 5000 by SSI and SKINDIVER Magazine for his contributions to the diving industry, alongside other recipients that year Jacques and Jean-Michael Cousteau. His involvement in the industry has included: Chairman of the Board of Directors, Scuba Retailers Association, President of Florida Association of Dive Operators, Retail Advisory Council of DAN, Florida Tourism Advisory Council, current board member of Sanctuary Friends Foundation of the Florida Keys and current President of Keys Association of Dive Operators. Bob's dive shop [Dive Key West](#) regularly hosts SCUBAnauts dive missions.

### Mark Stephens - Board Member, Chapter President Appointee

Mark is Director of Business Operations for the Strategic Operations Group (SOG) of Blackbird Technologies Inc. Mark has been involved with SNI since 2007 and has served as the President of the Tampa Bay Chapter of SNI since 2008. Mark received the Chapter President Appointment to SNI's Board of Directors in 2009. Mark served with United States Army Special Forces (Green Berets) in Okinawa, Japan and Fort Bragg, NC, and his awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, 5 Bronze Stars for Valor and/or Combat, 4 Purple Hearts, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, 4 Joint Service Commendation Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, 4 Army Achievement Medals, the NATO Medal, the United States Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation with "O" device, the United States Coast Guard Special Operations Ribbon, 2 Armed Forces Expeditionary medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Armed Forces Service Ribbon, the Valorous Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge 2nd Award, the Military Freefall Jumpmaster Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Combat Diver's Badge, the Guatemalan Parachutist Badge and the Polish Parachutist Badge. Mark's son is a SCUBAnaut alumni and is presently a cadet at West Point.



## SNI Diving Control Board

SNI's Diving Control Board (DCB) provides guidance to Dive Safety Officers and has the responsibility to establish and/or approve training programs and diving projects, recommend changes in policy and procedure, review and approve proposals for research programs diving under the auspices of SNI, recommend new equipment, review, revise and assure compliance with safety policies and procedures. The DCB meets once an year.

**Ben Hayes**- President, SNI

**Chris Moses**- Dive Safety Officer, SNI

**David Palandro** - Vice President, Tampa Bay Chapter

**Casey Coy** - Dive Safety Officer, [Florida Aquarium](#)

**Marc Blouin** - Dive Safety Officer, USGS ([U. S. Geological Survey](#))

**Bill Dent** - Dive Safety Officer, [University of South Florida](#)



picture? Send it to us and we'll share it in the next newsletter. [Click to submit.](#)

**EDUCATION  
THROUGH  
EXPLORATION**

**If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less.**  
*General Eric Shinseki [Chief of Staff, U. S. Army]*

### Newsletter Submissions

Have a story or favorite fundraiser you'd like to bring to our attention? Let us know - [click to submit](#)

### 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.



### Fund-raising Ideas and Resources

[GFS \(Gordon Food Service\)](#) has several fund-raising programs available to non-profits such as Fun Funds, A La Carte and Script. Store managers can help you set up a fundraiser and are very accommodating. [Find a store near you.](#)

[The Association of Fund-Raising Distributors & Suppliers \(AFRDS\)](#) is an international association devoted exclusively to the product fund-raising industry. Their Fund-raising Toolbox can help you evaluate, choose and run a successful fundraiser.

[Grants.gov](#) is your source to find and apply for federal grants. Grants.gov is a central storehouse for information on over 1,000 grant programs and provides access to approximately \$500 billion in annual awards.

[The Community Foundation Locator](#) is sponsored by the Council on Foundations. The website displays a map of the U.S. where you can click on your region to pull up a list of its local community foundations and links to those foundation websites.

Search the web with [GoodSearch.com](#) and each time you do a search, GoodSearch will donate about a penny to the SCUBAnauts!



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!

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