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Volume 2, Issue 1

**Just For Fun!**

How much do you know about the weird and wild animals of national parks? Take this NatGeoSociety quiz and find out - [Weird and Wild Animals Quiz](#)

**Reminders**

- [NOSB Finals](#) St Pete, FL April 24 - 25
- [CHOW 2010](#) Wash DC, June 8 - 10
- [Scuba Olympics](#) Largo, FL June 10

**Science Training**

*By Julie Galkiewicz and Dr. Elizabeth Moses*

On Saturday, March 6th, 2010, the Tarpon Springs Chapter held the first SNI science training on the [Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment \(AGRRA\)](#) benthic protocols. The AGRRA Program is an international collaboration of scientists and managers aimed at determining the regional condition of reefs in the Western Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. These methods have been used to assess >800 reefs throughout the region. By learning these protocols, SCUBAnauts will be able to contribute data to a regional database and make comparisons with reefs from other locations. Protocols include a point count transect to determine benthic cover and a belt-transect to examine coral condition and size distribution. The next step will be for the Nauts to practice the methods in the water. After a few training dives, the Nauts will be ready to collect data that will help establish a baseline of the Springs Coast benthic populations. Future science trainings will include fish assessment methods and data entry and interpretation.

**New St. Petersburg Chapter Formed!**

The newest chapter of SCUBAnauts International, the St. Petersburg Chapter, was founded on 23 March 2010.

Two of its officers are founding members of SCUBAnauts International - Mr. Dave Ciliberti and Ms. Selena Kupfner. Mr. Ciliberti was a member of the original board of directors of SCUBAnauts International, and Ms. Kupfner was an assistant to SCUBAnauts International's Chief Scientist and Dive Safety Officer. Mr. Ciliberti and Ms. Kupfner join the St. Petersburg Chapter as its Vice President/Chief Operations Officer and Chief Science Officer, respectively. Mr. Ciliberti is currently the Managing Editor of News Platforms at ABC ACTION NEWS, and Ms. Kupfner is a marine science and biology teacher at St. Petersburg's Northeast High School.

Joining them will be Bob Silk, the Chapter's President, and Mr. Dustin Johnson, the Chapter's Unit Dive Coordinator (UDC). Mr. Silk is a retired Commander of the U.S. Navy and a current federal government employee. Mr. Johnson is uniquely qualified as the Chapter's UDC with past experience on the Dive Safety Board for FWRI. Mr. Ben Prueitt, a Master SCUBAnaut, joins the St. Petersburg Chapter in an adult leadership role as the Chapter's Assistant UDC and 'Naut Mentor. The Chapter leadership has a wealth of dive experience, including a SCUBA Instructor, Asst. Instructor, Divemaster, and Divemaster in Training.

The St. Petersburg Chapter is holding monthly leadership meetings and Chapter "dry" meetings.

Congratulations to Mr. Silk, Mr. Ciliberti, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Kupfner and Mr. Prueitt. We look forward to working with you!

**SNI Receives GIS Software Donation**

SCUBAnauts International, Inc. has received a software donation from [Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc \(ESRI\)](#). ESRI develops the world's leading geographic information system (GIS) technology. Headquartered in Redlands, California, ESRI software is used by more than 300,000 organizations worldwide including most U.S. federal agencies and national mapping agencies, 45 of the top 50 petroleum companies, all 50 U.S. state health departments, most universities, and many other



## Help Them Out!



### [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#)

Tank Cleaning - Ongoing  
Contact: [Dawn DeSantis](#)

### [The Pier Aquarium - St Pete](#)

Recruiting for summer programs  
Contact: [Susan Sawyer](#)

### [NOSB - St Pete](#)

April 24 - Set Up  
- Man SNI Info Table  
April 25 - Break Down  
Contact: [Dr. Beth Moses](#)

### [Tampa Bay Watch - St Pete](#)

Various & Ongoing  
Contact: [Sign Up Form](#)

### [Clam Bayou Marine Education Center - St Pete](#)

Native Plant Restoration Projects  
Contact: [Dr. Teresa Greely](#)  
OR leave message 727-552-2281

## 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"

**Recipe** - [Click here](#) for the latest sustainable seafood recipe from the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch!

**iPhone App** - New iPhone application brings the latest Seafood Watch recommendations directly to your iPhone or iPod touch. Now you can make sustainable seafood choices quickly and easily—whether you're eating at your favorite restaurant or shopping for dinner. [Click here to download.](#)

industries.

GIS is an ideal tool to help researchers model the real world, classify and observe phenomena, and predict changes over time. GIS integrates hardware, software, and data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.



ESRI's GIS software will allow SCUBAnauts to view, understand, question, interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts.

SNI would like to thank ESRI for their very generous donation. We are excited and looking forward to collaborating with ESRI.



## Nauts Participate in GLOBE Conference

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Florida SCUBAnauts and Thai GLOBE students exchanged research findings of their local coral reef environments via a virtual Skype conference. The Thai coral group, led by Dr. Krisanadej Jaroensutasinee and Dr. Mullica Jaroensutasinee from [Walailak University](#), presented on research comparing coral diversity between two small islands off the main coast of Thailand. SCUBAnauts presented research on coral and fish populations in the [Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary](#) and off the coast of [Tarpon Springs](#).

The exchange is a successful beginning to a collaboration that will allow the next generation of scientists to share methods and compare data observations regarding local coral reef environments on opposite sides of the globe. The incorporation of innovative methods of data exchange, along with the vast network provided by the GLOBE Program, will allow scientists and students worldwide to work collectively towards the conservation and protection of these important ecosystems.

The students' inclusion of local customs, such as a wonderful dance demonstration by the Thai students, added another dimension to the exchange, increasing appreciation for each other's culture.

The virtual meeting was part of a larger international meeting organized by GLOBE Thailand. The [Climate Change Education and Earth System Science \(CES2\) Conference](#) took place in [Phuket, Thailand](#) on January 6-14, 2010. Scientists, teachers, students and staff members met to investigate the relationship between clouds and climate, how seasons and biomes are changing around the world, and deep ocean ecosystems as part of the GLOBE [FLEXE \(From Local to Extreme Environments\)](#) and [Seasons and Biomes](#) Programs.

Read more about GLOBE's efforts in [Ocean Science Education](#) as well as collaborations between the SCUBAnauts and GLOBE such as [Operation: Deep Climb](#) and the [Ocean For Life](#) campaign.



## Dive Safety

### **Proper Equipment Attachment - Part 2: Submersible Pressure Gauge** **By SNI DSO, Dr. Chris Moses**

This article is the second in a series reviewing proper gear attachment (see previous column in [Vol. 1, Iss. 4](#)). Besides the regulators and the intermediate-pressure (IP) hose for the Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD) power inflator, your regulator first

## Uniforms

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

## How to Get Your Chapter into Local Newspapers

*"With all the buzz about social media, it's easy to forget that offline media attention can be equally valuable, especially for community-based nonprofits who want to get attention to local projects or recruit local members and volunteers."*

To read the rest of the article and some good advice from *Wild Apricot* click [here](#).

## Past e-naut Newsletters

- [Dec., 2009 - Volume 1, Issue 4](#)
- [Sept., 2009 - Volume 1, Issue 3](#)

stage has one more necessary attachment - the submersible pressure gauge (SPG). The SPG is typically paired with your depth indicator or dive computer, and compass into one unit called a console. The SPG must be attached to the high-pressure (HP) hose, after all, this is how it measures the pressure of gas in your cylinder.

The SPG is a critical instrument that needs to be monitored throughout the dive, but that does not mean it needs to be in your hand the entire time - quite the opposite. When not checking your remaining pressure, the SPG should be clipped off to a D-ring on the lower-left side of your BCD with a "single-ended" brass or stainless steel bolt-snap. The bolt-snap should be attached to the console using two cable ties (a.k.a., zip ties). The bolt-snap should always be attached to the console or SPG, then clipped to the D-ring, not the other way around.

Many times, regulator sets are sold with HP hoses much longer than necessary so that the console can be attached to a "retractor." However, the longer hose and the retractor combine to let the console swing further from the body during the dive, leaving the SPG seldom in the same place relative to the diver's body, making it more likely to snag on surroundings, and more difficult to find by touch. This is not an optimal arrangement.

For a better placement to minimize drag and chances for gear entanglement, the HP hose should be as short as reasonable - I prefer a 23-inch HP hose. An SPG on a short HP hose, clipped off to the lower-left of the BCD with a bolt-snap will not have any loop or slack in the HP hose, and the SPG will be attached close to the body in the same place every time, increasing the ease of reaching it. When needed, simply unclip the SPG, read your remaining gas pressure, and immediately re-clip it to the same location where it will be ready the next time you need it.

Next time we will address some options for attaching the other instruments in your console - the dive computer and compass. Safe diving!

## EDUCATION THROUGH EXPLORATION

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years".

~Abraham Lincoln~

## Newsletter Submissions

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

## 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.

## [New SCUBAnauts - GoodSearch toolbar!](#)

[Please show your support by adding the SNI - GoodSearch toolbar to your browser.](#)

Each time you search the internet or shop online at participating stores, a donation will be made to SCUBAnauts at no cost to you!



***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.***

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