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e-naut newsletter

SCUBAnauts International, Inc.

Education Through Exploration

Volume 2, Combined Issues 2, 3 & 4

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Resources

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Dive Safety

This article is the third in a series reviewing proper gear attachment (see previous columns starting in Vol. 1, Iss. 4). Unlike your submersible pressure gauge (SPG), which must be attached to the high-pressure (HP) hose, your dive computer or depth indicator and compass don't require a hose (unless your dive computer is air-integrated). Early in the history of recreational diving, the depth indicator and compass were always attached to the wrist as separate devices. More recently, it has been popular to include the SPG, dive computer, and compass in a "console." Consoles are usually made of high-impact rubber or other synthetic compounds, and serve 2 purposes: (1) they keep all your instruments in one common place, and (2) they guarantee that the diver will purchase an SPG, dive computer, and compass, rather than just one of those items (i.e., a console is as much a sales gimmick as a practical piece of equipment).

Many consoles are relatively large, and attached to an over-long HP hose. In addition, there are a variety of retractors or other attachment toys on the market. In the end, most of the popular designs result in more drag and having your critical equipment in a position that is likely to get crushed when on deck, or dragged across the reef underwater.

For a better placement to minimize drag and chances for gear entanglement, and to always have your dive computer and compass in an easy to read location, I recommend having both the compass and dive computer in a wrist-mount configuration. Even if you have purchased a console with your dive computer and compass in it, those components come in a standard "hockey puck" size and design so they can be popped out of the console and attached to a



Moving On



Morgan Liston

With mixed emotions Tarpon Springs bid goodbye to **Morgan Liston**. While they would have loved to have her stay on and be the Mama Naut, they were thrilled she was embarking on a new adventure! After graduating from the Palm Harbor International Baccalaureate program, Morgan chose to attend Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is involved in many different activities and organizations on campus. She is currently focusing her studies on Chemistry and Spanish, as she is planning to graduate with a double major in those two subjects. Morgan shared her thoughts on her time as a Naut. "Having been away from Florida and diving for about six months now, I have really come to appreciate all SCUBAnauts has to offer". **Good luck Morgan!**



Notable Nauts



Ben Prueitt

Ben Prueitt, involved with SCUBAnauts since 2004, first as a Naut and now as an Adult Leader with the St. Petersburg Chapter, has been awarded the [STREAMS scholarship](#). *Supporting Talented and Remarkable Environmental and Marine Science Students* (STREAMS) is a scholarship program exclusive to students at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg (USF-SP). STREAMS scholars are provided financial assistance, mentorship, both academic and personal, by college professors and leaders in their scientific field as well as research opportunities around Florida. Ben hopes to use this opportunity to build a strong academic basis for research and use what he's learned to perform graduate work in coral reefs around the state of Florida. **Congratulations Ben!**



Sofia Alaniz

Sofia Alaniz, a Tarpon Springs SCUBAnaut, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship as part of Raytheon's MathMovesU program. The award was presented in 2010 while she was in the 7th grade at Safety Harbor Middle School and was one of 150 awards nationwide. Sofia illustrated the importance of math in SCUBA diving; you can read her presentation by clicking [here](#).

Sofia also placed first for her Individual Display in Safety Harbor Middle School's History Fair. Her topic was the Treaty of Tordesillas, a 1494 land dispute between Spain and Portugal. Sofia advanced to the county-level competition at USF. **Congratulations Sofia!**



Cole Kolasa

More than 100 students competed in the Hernando County School District's Science and Engineering Fair. Eighth-grade Challenger student and Tarpon Springs SCUBAnaut **Cole Kolasa** spent two months off the shores of Bayport studying, measuring and photographing robust ivory coral, examining how the volume of coral affects the amount of fish and crabs that inhabit there. Cole placed 2nd and will advance to compete in the state science fair in Orlando. **Good luck Cole!**

News from Tarpon Springs

Tarpon Springs held elections in January, outgoing Chapter President Mike Waugh handed over the torch to incoming Chapter President Jim Cassick. The chapter's new officers and leaders are:

COO/VP - Mr. Hilbert
CFO - Mr. Hutchisson
UDC - Mr. Waugh
Chief Scientist - Mr. Kolasa
Chief Educator - Ms. Galkiewicz
Membership Leader - Mrs. Coronado
Fundraising/Marketing Leader - Dr. & Mrs. LaCamera
Data/Compliance Leader - Mrs. Williamson
Science Mentor - Ms. Bailey
Education Mentor - Ms. Williams
Bookkeeper - Mrs. Alaniz
Mr. Cassick's Boss - Mrs. Cassick

Fins Up!

By Mike Waugh, Chapter UDC

Listed below are the number of dives the Tarpon Springs Chapter completed in 2010 and in 2009.

2010

Total # of dives - 1022
SNI Dives - 705
Recreational Dives - 317

2009

Total # of dives - 622
SNI Dives - 357
Recreational Dives - 265

This is a 162% increase in diving over 2009!

Meet our Volunteers

wrist-mount.

The method of wrist mounting should generally be consistent from dive to dive – I prefer the compass on the left wrist, and the dive computer on the right wrist. However, keep in mind that a large steel dive watch will cause your compass to deviate because of the magnetic properties of the steel, so do not wear a steel dive watch and compass on the same wrist (rubber digital watches are fine to have on the same wrist). One, unfortunate limitation of the wrist-mount method is that many of the wrist-mounts are too large to fit securely on the small wrists of the youngest SCUBA nauts, in which case a console is the only option.

Wrist-mounted dive computers and compasses are in the easiest possible place to locate in an instant to monitor your depth and direction. Also, if you are correctly trimmed – horizontal in the water – then you can rest your hands in front of you as you swim and see your watch, dive computer, and compass all at the same time. The end result of this configuration is a more streamlined diver who can easily access the critical dive information with a reduced risk of accidental damage to the equipment.

Next time we will conclude this series on gear attachment by talking about placement of dive lights and other accessories. Safe diving!



Summer Trips



CHOW ~ The summer started with a trip to Washington D.C. and the 2010 Capitol Hill Oceans Week ([CHOW](#)) which is hosted by the [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#). Nauts from Lake Hitchcock, Tarpon Springs and St. Petersburg Chapters spent a day visiting the U.S. Congress where they met Florida Congresswomen Corrine Brown and Kathy Castor; and Congressman Allen Boyd. Topics of discussion were the BP oil spill and ocean preservation. A highlight for the Nauts was visiting with the Cousteau family and helping them celebrate Jacques Cousteau's 100th birthday! [Click here](#) to read about the Nauts' experiences in their own words!



YES ~ Three Nauts from the St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs Chapters joined the [National Association of Black Scuba Divers \(NABS\)](#) in Florida City, Florida for the 7th Annual [Youth Educational Summit \(YES\)](#). This 5-day summit was sponsored by [NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#). There were close to 50 youth and adults in attendance. Visit our [Blog](#) for more information on this exciting trip and congratulations to St Petersburg Chapter's **Jessica Silk** for being awarded Best Female Youth Diver!



Belize ~ Seven of the Tarpon Springs Chapter most senior Nauts traveled to [Glover's Reef Research Station](#) in Belize (Central America) for a week to conduct science research. The GRRS is owned and operated by the [Wildlife Conservation Society](#). According to Tarpon Springs Chapter Education Officer Julie Galkiewicz, "the experiments the Nauts thought of and conducted were amazing, and the GRRS station manager, staff and visiting scientists were extremely impressed with their presentations. I'm so proud of the kids for putting in so much time learning and working throughout the week. They improved their dive skills, became experts at various scientific survey methods, and put together science projects from start to finish in a week's time. And the whole time, they had smiles on their faces!" For more stories about this amazing research trip click [here](#).



Key Largo ~ In July, the Tarpon Springs Chapter traveled to Key Largo, Florida. The primary focus of the trip was advanced scuba training and introduction to surveying techniques, and although they encountered some challenges with the weather, they were able to accomplish many of their goals. Training included underwater navigation, performing benthic surveys and deep water dives to 60 feet. The Nauts were also able to participate in twilight and night dives to experience the changes that occur on the reefs during those times of day. In addition, the Nauts were able to increase their overall knowledge of the ecosystem with scientific classes and presentations that included an introduction to the [Coral Restoration Foundation](#) by its founder, Ken Nedimyer. The lessons learned by the new Nauts will be employed throughout the year during their surveys along the Florida Springs Coast area.

Chapter Education Officers and Leaders:

Lake Hitchcock ~ Cathy Wilkins

Mrs. Wilkins has been a science teacher for the past 28 years. Her primary disciplines are Biology and Environmental Science. She has been teaching at Greenfield High School in the Town of Greenfield, MA for the past 15 years. She is a [PADI](#) Advanced Open Water diver, and also holds a [NAUI](#) open water certification. She is a American Heart Association CPR instructor, is on the [National Ski Patrol](#) and also holds a Wilderness Emergency Care certification.

St. Petersburg ~ Selena Kupfner

Ms. Kupfner has worked for the [Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project \(CREMP\)](#) in the Florida Keys and has studied coral reefs for the [FWRI](#). She has been an active [American Academy of Underwater Sciences \(AAUS\)](#) qualified science diver since 2000 and is certified as an [SDI](#) Divemaster and [DAN](#) Diving First Aid for Professional Divers Instructor. Ms. Kupfner transitioned from science research to science education through working as a high school marine science and biology teacher at Northeast High School. She is currently the High School Science Curriculum Specialist/Staff Developer for Pinellas County Schools.

Tarpon Springs ~ Julie Galkiewicz

Ms. Galkiewicz graduated from College of William and Mary, Virginia, with a B.S. in Biology. She is currently conducting her Ph.D. research at the University of South Florida. As part of her research, she is cataloguing and categorizing the bacterial communities associated with several Pacific corals.

Tarpon Springs Education Mentor ~ Carlie Williams

Ms. Williams is currently conducting her Ph.D. research at the University of South Florida. Her research is on abrupt climate change during the last deglaciation. She received her B.S. in Marine Science from Coastal Carolina University, South Carolina.

Our educators are an inspiration to us all. Thank you!

Corporate News

Uniforms

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

Play it Safe

Jim Alaniz, SNI VP Compliance

SNI strives to provide a safe environment for both youth and adults. SNI rules, regulations and procedures are in place as good practices for a healthy and safe youth environment, follow generally accepted safe diving procedures, and ensure compliance with [American Academy of Underwater Sciences \(AAUS\)](#) standards.

Past Newsletters

[Mar 2010, Vol 2, Issue 1](#)
[Dec 2009, Vol 1, Issue 4](#)
[Sept 2009, Vol 1, Issue 3](#)

Or click [here](#).



There rules, regulations and procedures support these objectives:

- **Safe Environment for Youth Training** – This includes background checks and youth supervision training, which is required of all adults with leadership or supervisory responsibility.
- **Diver Fitness** - This includes periodic medical physicals and annual physical fitness testing.
- **Dive Training** - This includes annual advanced diving emergency, life saving and safety training.
- **Equipment Maintenance** - This includes periodic dive log submission and equipment maintenance verification.

Your Chapter Unit Dive Coordinator (UDC) plays an important role in safety and training issues. The UDC works closely with the Chapter President, the SNI Dive Safety Officer, and other SNI corporate staff on these matters. Sometimes it may feel like work to “play it safe” but SNI’s high standard of training and safety distinguishes it from other organizations. Any dive charter captain who has had Nauts dive from their boat can attest to that fact.

So when your UDC requests something from you, please remember to do it so we can **continue to “play it safe.”**



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