

RRT REEF BRIEF

Volume 99, Issue 3

March 9, 1999

Important Dates

- 3/8** 1998-99 Training Class – Photography & Public Relations
- 3/10** 7:00 PM Scubans regular meeting @ Worman's on San Jose
- 3/13-14** 1998-99 Training Class Photography Dives
- 3/17** 6:30 PM RRT Board meeting @ JU's Reid Hall
- 3/17** 7:30 PM RRT regular meeting @ JU's Reid Hall
- 3/20** Photography dives in South Florida
- 4/10** **Tentative date** Annual Dive season kick-off party @ Nica's house.

From Your Coordinator

The February meeting was filled with reports on Team activities. The Public Relations committee, headed up by Jim Barnes, reported to the Team the progress that has been made in preparation for our first public display for 1999 at the Earth Day celebration held at the Jacksonville Landing. I know that the new display panels will look great. Thanks to Phyl Stoffel for her help with pictures and captions!

Ray Smith reported on the many changes he has made—all of them incredibly positive—to our website. The new look using scuba tanks for buttons looks neat. Also check out the Training section. He has posted the modules so potential members can see what they will learn throughout the training class. You can now access www.jaxrrt.org and get the current winds, water temperatures and other information from sites all along the Florida coast! Thank you, Ray, for all of your time and talent.

Phil Harville and Mike Ellis reported that the team boat is ready to go diving. Much work has been done and we are all very grateful! Speaking of boats, we are getting new flags made that will show our correct name and display our "new" logo! We will have enough flags made for all of the private boats that regularly take team members diving, as well as the Native Diver II.

Thanks to all of the members who were present at the February meeting for your nominations for Board positions and officers for 1999-2000. Thanks to all of you who stepped forward and are willing to volunteer your time to make the team function. Also, thanks to all of you who helped with the JAXSPOTS books. This will make it a lot easier to distribute them knowing that we won't have to go out and pick up any that have missing pages!

Mark your calendars for the March meeting. The dive sign-up sheets will be available along with the Earth Day sign-up sheets. The water might be warm enough to do a few JAXSPOTS dives by then.

We would also like a good turnout for the elections. It is your team—so exercise your right to vote!

Jim Cribb

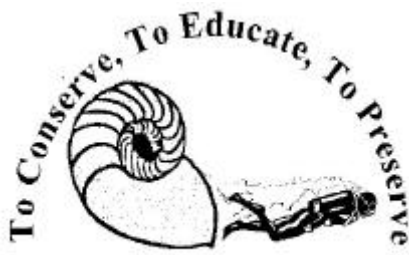
From the Safety Officer

It's time again to update your diver safety information. Failure to do so will preclude you from participating in Jacksonville Reef Research Team dives. Please fill out the forms as we have in previous years: 1- Diver Information, 2-Medical Statement/History, and 3- Diver's Activity Statement. Forms will be available at the team meetings for the next few months. Return the completed forms to the Safety Officer prior to any team diving. Remember, the Diving Safety manual provides: "Divers qualify once they show 12 dives within the last 12 months with at least 2 ocean dives deeper than 60 feet."

Thank you for your help!

Don Stadler

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Jacksonville Reef Research Team

1998-99 Training Update

The Class of 1998-99 is rapidly coming to the end. The training for fish counting went very well last month. Beth Strawbridge and the students met for the classroom session on February 9th at my house. We then went to Crystal River the following weekend to complete the in-water portion. That was Valentines weekend. In case anyone has forgotten, it was one of the coldest weekends of this winter season. In fact, it was mind numbing cold. As I am a wet suit (not dry suit) diver from Ohio that dove mostly the winter months (student checkout dives). The air temperature was 56 degrees (not counting the strong gusting winds) and the water temperature was a warm 75 degrees. Both were measured with a calibrated thermometer.

We dove with Plantation Inn & Golf Resort. The boats and dive shop were both top notch. In fact, the boats worked very nicely and were very clean. As strange as that may sound, my training class last year had a boat (from another dive shop) that required manually shifting from forward to reverse. The boat did not even have an anchor (it had a small block of cement).

I want to thank both Beth and Mary Lyons for their help with the training the past two months and their surface support at Crystal River. Mary provided the Invertebrate training this past January.

The training class will be venturing to South Florida this month to do Sci-

entific Photography with Linda and Frank Black. We will be diving with a new dive charter organization, SCUBA-TYME, founded in 1994. They are out of Pompano Beach. Check them out at their web site: www.scubatyme.com. We will be staying at walking distance from the ocean at Sands Harbor & Marina, which is located just off of I-95 turning onto Atlantic Boulevard East. The motel and dive boat are located on the Intracoastal Waterway. I have made reservations for Friday and Saturday (March 19 & 20) at Sands Harbor. We will dive both Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 PM EST. It is a two tank dive on some of the best reefs (natural & artificial) the East Coast has to offer. The cost will be reduced to \$64.00 (both days of diving), two tanks each day. Lodging is \$79.00 + \$8.69 tax (11%)= \$87.69 per night double occupancy. So in other words \$141.69 (give or take a little). Team members are welcome to attend. However, there is limited space. Therefore, naturally it is first come you know the rest!!! If interested, I need to know by March 15th!

Daniel Hughes has agreed to do the Fish ID training for the training class. With the local dive season just around the corner, this would be a good idea for ALL team members to brush up on their fish ID skills. The training will be at Daniel's house on March 23 & 31 (both nights). If interested, call me at 646-3241 in the evenings.

Brian Salzman

www.jaxrrt.org

I would like to thank everyone that has logged onto the website. We are currently at over 1,800 hits and counting. We are starting to get a lot more hits a day due to the article in Scuba Diving. If you have not gotten the March 1999 current issue of Scuba Diving (Rodale's), I would recommend that you get a copy. The Jacksonville Reef Research Team, the JAXSPOTS Guide, the Jacksonville Reef Research Team's web-

site, and Daniel Hughes' pictures are featured in this issue. We are mentioned along with the article on diving in Northeast Florida.

I have been very busy in February adding new articles, additional artificial reefs, the ability to check weather up and down both coasts of Florida, and the history of the Team to name a few. The website has been updated to include the following:

- Added the Training class schedule
- Added the Training Module Overview and Objectives
- Replaced the Drydocks and Acosta Bridge buttons with actual images
- Added an article on U-Boat Sinking Gulfamerica offshore Jacksonville
- Added an article on the Year of the Ocean
- Added the Buckman Bridge Artificial Reef
- Added the history of the Jacksonville Reef Research Team and a picture of the charter team members
- Added all the coastal Sea Buoys on the East and West coasts of Florida to check the weather.
- Replaced dive flag buttons with SCUBA tank buttons
- Added a Discussion Group to leave dive reports, sell SCUBA gear, etc.
- Added the February, 1999 Newsletter to the website

If you are interested in helping out with our website, please call me at 904-389-9668 or send me an e-mail to:

raysmith@mediaone.net.

From the Vice President

Hello everyone:

Without a lot to say, I'll be "Brief". The Mandarin High School National Ocean Sciences Bowl team made it as far as the quarterfinals in the competition at Harbor Branch last weekend.

The water temp took a nose dive with the last cold snap, probably pushing the dive opportunities for all but the most die-hard back a few weeks. I don't know about you, but it feels good to be back at JU; it's kinda like being back home.

The annual Florida Marine Science Education Association is being hosted here in Jacksonville at the Sea Turtle and Marine Science Education Center in Mayport the first weekend in May. Put it on your calendar if you are interested, and see me at the meeting for registration info if you are REALLY interested.

Have you gotten your regulator serviced for the upcoming season? If not, you might want to get on it to beat the rush. You may also want to see about your DAN renewal, so you are completely covered.

It certainly was nice of DEP to extend our window for completing the monitoring dives so we can get them all done in a timely fashion without a lot of "task loading". Here's hoping we can finally get the team boat offshore for a group dive. A lot of thanks is owed to Phil and Mike.

Lastly, have you seen the most recent issue of Rodale's Scuba magazine? We got some great coverage from Bob Friel. And Daniel got some of his photos published. Way to go, Daniel! A major PR coup for the team.

See you at JU.

Lex Waters

1999 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/03	04/10		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/17	04/24		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	May	05/08	TBA	*		BB
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		CR Culverts
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		JW
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		EEF Culverts
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		HH Barge
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		TR Anna
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		JW
Sunday	September	09/12	09/19		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/02	10/09		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/10	10/17		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/31	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/14	TBA		*	Jaxspots

Notes: M = Monitoring Dives J = Jaxspots Confirmation and Discovery Dives

Meet at Mayport Marine promptly at 7:30 for all dives, unless specified otherwise

Contact Alex Waters at 262-5001 or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

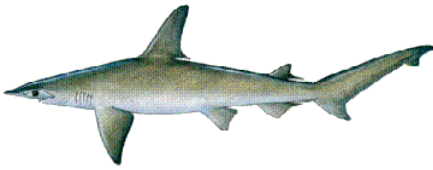
1998 Officers/Board of Directors

President - Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (W)
Vice President - Alex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Chief Scientist - John Perkner	904-273-4562 (H)	904-791-5064 (W)
Safety Officer- Don Stadler	904-384-2534 (H)	904-354-3278 (W)
Treasurer - Jim Nelsen	904-641-0717 (H)	904-448-0305 (W)
Secretary - Allison Rogers	904-751-4513 (H)	904-260-6369 (W)
Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)
Training Officer- Brian Salzman	904-646-3241 (H)	904-641-6611 (W)
Webmaster - Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)

Bonnethead Shark

Family Sphyrnidae, HAMMERHEAD SHARKS

Sphyrna tiburo



Description: broadly widened head in the shape of a shovel; only slight indentation of anal fin; front of head not notched at midline;

gray or grayish-brown in color.

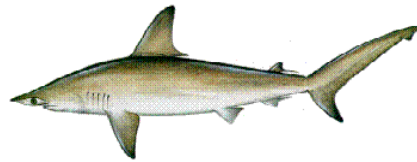
Where found: INSHORE species found in bays and estuaries. **Size:** commonly 3 to 4 feet.

Remarks: matures at about 3 feet in length and bears 6 to 12 young at one time; feeds chiefly on crabs and other crustaceans.

Scalloped Hammerhead

Family Sphyrnidae, HAMMERHEAD SHARKS

Sphyrna tiburo

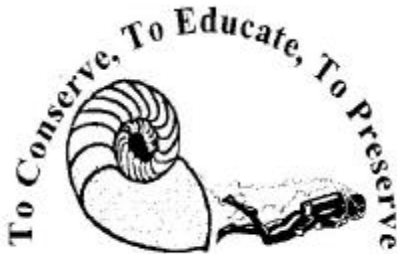


Description: fifth gill slit shorter than 4 preceding ones and located posterior to

pectoral fin base; flattened head extending to hammer-like lobes on each side; distinct indentation of the front margin of the head at its midpoint; second dorsal fin longer than tail; gray-brown to olive in color with white underbelly; teeth smooth-edged; pectoral fins tipped with black on the undersurface; tips of first and second dorsal lobes and caudal also may have dusky tips; pelvic fin with nearly straight hind margin. **Size:** common to 6 feet and can reach 14 feet.

In This Issue...

Election of Officers and Board. Don't miss this meeting!



Jacksonville Reef Research Team

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RRT REEF BRIEF is published monthly by the Jacksonville Reef Research Team, Inc. Jacksonville Reef Research Team, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit corporation. For information or comments contact Jim Cribb @ jimcribb@msn.com