

Taiwan High Speed Whales



Newsletter “Bullshit pages”

Introduction

The Taiwan High Speed Whales has been formed by a group of like minded diving (experts) people working on the new Taiwan High Speed Rail project in 2005.

Diving has initially been in Kenting in the south of Taiwan and as the group move around the island diving will move to these new working locations where possible. The idea behind this new letter is to foster the idea that there is life after work and that whilst we are here we can arrange social and sporting meeting (diving) as much as possible. Over the next few months the diving conditions improves and so does the water visibility. There are some first class dive sites here in Taiwan of which we should attempt while we are residents on the island.

A highly prized (A) Taiwan High Speed Whale “tee shirt” is in the process of being arranged “cost will be notified on completion

Initial Group Members



Wayne Sutcliffe, Master Instructor, MI 467671 “Psycho”

First learnt to dive in 1976 with the Royal Australian Navy. As his son took junior open water course in Thailand in 1999 he renewed his interest in diving. From there he worked his way through the PADI system and has recently completed his Master Instructor Rating.



Clive Hunter , Dive Master, PADI DM 636749 “ The Enforcer ”

Diver for 5 year, newly qualified DM, share holder in dive club in UK, much of the diving also done in UK cold waters, what a dream being here, in my shorty

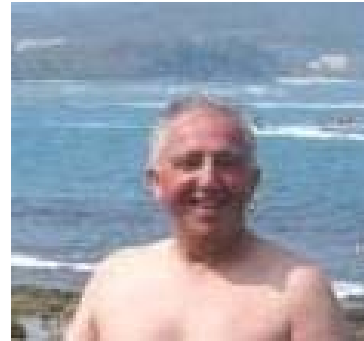
What part of not thinking much did you not understand / do it again

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John Day , (Trainee Rescue Diver)
Advanced "Father John"

Yes my son



George Smith,
Advanced "Gorgeous George"

Not like England here



Ernesta, Rescue "Hard Core"
"Like to play with the big boys"
Has just completed her Rescue course and is in the process of going back to South Africa – Bad luck "boys"



Peter Gillen,
This is harder than writing manuals and procedures



Jason `Swatton
"Candles"

There no need to write nasty letter about this



Allan Lovel
Well, I tried and survived somehow

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Previous Trips



“The first group trip”

Father Johns Dive weekend with Wayne

Everything seemed to be going ok when Wayne and I met a driver outside Kaohsiung station. His new VW bus looked great. We faced a quick trip down to Kaohsiung and cold beers at the pizza place in a couple of hours at the most.

We got moving and there was only us two - luxury.

But a U-turn in front of the station and we stopped. The driver got out and we wondered what was happening.

No disappointment though when six girls and all their stuff appeared. We had a good laugh with them until they got off just before Kenting.

We borrowed Sammy's van the next day. It's leaking rear tyre made anything more than a couple of kilometers a bit of a gamble but we checked out some areas where we will be able to dive in future when the sea is more calm.

During a couple of nice dives on Saturday in the flower garden area I learnt a lot from watching how a very experienced diver like Wayne saves energy by keeping his buoyancy in control and is very economical in his movements. (Got to suck up some how to pass the courses)

The wind rattling of the Fu-dog guest house doors kept us awake (well that's my excuse) on Saturday night despite all the beer we had drunk and the pouring rain sent us back without a Sunday dive. The bus next morning was early leaving but so late arriving because of floods everywhere and we swore that we would not travel that way again. (How wrong I would be)

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Clive's first taste of Taiwan.

Come diving its great here, put a little shorty on and away you go, (Lying B*****).

Forward planning, get a car, drive three hours south, no were to stay, contact (Sammy in Kenting gone AWOL), no tanks, good start. Keep calm, remember your only a DM, not paid enough yet to make decisions.

Sammy's wife, not to chuffed either.

Drive out to next town and find a warehouse, with surprisingly good clean beds, great double bed each. Plan (who said that word again) to get up early and collect what equipment we need from Sammy's. Drive back collect tanks, stop off again at Sammy's. Find dive site, lovely beach adjacent, could not work out why nobody was on it. Climbed Everest (well it felt like it to get in the sea) and woo had a good dive, water temp for those who are bothered was 31%, viz 15 metres, (when I last dived in the UK it was 16% 4m viz).

Find a way out, (impossible) beach looks a good option, 400m swim, end up washed up with tide, to be greeted by whistles boo's camera's flashing, nearly like royalty, (didn't now they knew about me down here yet). They do now, we got out on what is know as turtle beach, trespasser punishable by death, or heavy fine, well they let me off when I told them who I was.

Things did not go any better the second dive, murder to get in, BCD blocked with sand, no buoyancy (complete lack of professionalism) Take me home.

Second day far better Hooby Ho, and flower garden, two relatively descent dives. John realised Rescues tickets are not got from luck bags, but he stuck in really well

Sounds terrible Kenting, but I like it that much I have been back three time's since, and more if it would not have been for the typhoons.



"Look's George is not having a good time"

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Jason's life changing experience.



Well it was a lovely Saturday afternoon and my fellow learner “Ear Muffs” or “Muffy” to his friends, and myself were all set for another diving lesson this time in Tainan swimming Pool to practice our skills. The two dives went very well this time I managed not to spill my own claret everywhere and I'd cleared my ears beforehand of wax, which I subsequently donated to a local temple for them to make into candles (again!!).

I was feeling very confident during the second dive and “Muffy” was having a whale (hence the dive logo) of a time. Then things went down hill for a few seconds, whilst carrying out the buddy breathing skill with Clive, I went to press the bilge button on the regulator and start breathing again the button wasn't on the front of the regulator like I was used too but on the side, I swallowed loads of water, and still couldn't find the button, by now I was looking for my regulator whilst drinking half a dive pool and doing Gold Fish impressions, big eyes and all!!!!

I was ready to make a bolt to the surface but, Clive and Wayne were there to sort the situation, get me my regulator, and make me control the situation again, the lesson I learnt that day was the best lesson yet, (1) You can recover situations under water and carry on, no matter how bad they seem (2) Keep control, think logically and follow your drills (3) and most important of all know your buddies kit!!! Especially his regulators.

Thanks again Fellas.

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Father John's Rescue diving weekend 20/21 August Kenting

Some of us are having a struggle with the concept that we are here to dive and that the project is a way of filling in time between weekends. That said for those of us who have grasped this fundamental point, had a great weekend in Kenting in the sun while the rain poured all over Tainan. We learnt that one of the best ways to get from Kaohsiung was to take a taxi at \$300 per head and wished we could have got one back rather than by bus which lasted forever.

Clive should get an Oscar for his scarily realistic demonstration of decompression sickness and shock. How he could make himself have cold and clammy skin and look so sick I will never know. What does he look like if he is really sick?

I learnt something from this and tried my skills as a panicked diver quite successful that I ended the day as the rescuer's patient and not the rescuer.

We have to say that Wayne's diving is better than his driving. We thought we were goners more than once. Wayne can pack a dive bag in a blink of an eye though and remained amazingly patient in the face of his students' repeated mistakes. Those little blue trucks are ideal for getting round Kenting with all the gear.

We stayed in the babysitter's house. I decided to be polite and have the Chinese breakfast provided. We will never know what it consisted of but there is little likelihood of repeat performance by me or any of the others.

The Rescue diving course is not an easy course but it does cover a wide area and changes the focus from learning the skills to look after your self, to the skills of looking after others. It really does make you feel confident in the water but is also humbling (time for a quick sermon) in that it teaches you how much there is yet to learn.

Ernesta passed the course and demonstrated all the skills well (particularly in her pink bikini). I still have to perfect some skills but no complaints. It was fun no matter how tiring it got.

We should take advantage of the knowledge & experience that Wayne and Clive have got to offer.

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Erensta hard at work “saving John”

Training in Progress

John Day	– Rescue course
Peter Gillen	– Open Water
Allan Lovell	– Open Water
Jason Swatton	– Open Water
George Smith	- Nitrox
Clive Hunter	- Nitrox

Next Dive Trip

The next open water session to finish off the qualifications for Peter and Jason will be the 10th of September in Kenting. John’s rescue will be continuing also.

After these guys are qualified it will make the logistics of a weekend a little easier in case that Clive or Wayne can not come down or are doing other training courses.

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Next Dive Meeting

Where: Willy's, Tainan

When: To be confirmed

Forth coming events

- 27 August Try dive in Tainan at the Pool

From 2pm onward a "try" session will be held for people who want to experience what it is like to breathing under water.

It will be conducted in the large swimming pool initially, in the shallow end. Two simple dive skills will be shown, after each candidate has mastered those we will then enter the deeper plunge pool to experience the feeling of breathing at a deeper depth.

All that is required to participate in the try dive is your swim wear, tee-shirt, Towel and a sense of adventure. All other equipment will be provided for you.

Please contact Wayne at mail address wayne@blueseadive.com to confirm your attendance
The cost for this is a mere 500NTD approx. Final cost will be confirmed before Saturday.

Interesting Reading Links

- **Palau - dive sites**

<http://images.google.com/images?svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&q=Palau&btnG=Search>

- **PADI - dive information**

<http://www.padi.com/english/default.asp?o=ap>

- **Blueseadive - photos of the latest trips**

www.blueseadive.com

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Quote of the week,

“To Look is one Thing, To See What you Look at is Another, To Understand What you see is Another, To Learn from What you Understand is Something Else, But to Act on What you Learn is all that Really Matters.

For sale

Ernesta is leaving and has some things for sale. If you are interested in anything please contact her at : sheksie@yahoo.com

- Air Con (National)
- Washing machine (Toshiba)
- BBQ
- TV Cabinet
- Wardrobe
- Scooter 125 Cc

Birthdays, weddings, barmitsers and divrces.

Congratulations to Mitch on his forth (is that the number of time's) coming wedding this weekend.

Closing note for this time :

Send this one anyone you know who is interested in diving.

Thanks to those that took the time to send some things in