



Expedition Officer's report 2008-2009

This year the club was in a luxurious situation as we had two Expedition officers. Expedition organisation tasks were split and it was agreed that Valerie le Gallou would focus on local/Benelux expeditions and Peter de Maagt would be focussing more on the international trips.

Local/Benelux Expeditions

June 2009 – Nemo 33 (Brussels):

A club trip to 'Nemo 33' in Brussels, which claims to be the world's deepest pool (33 m), is being organised. Nemo is considered an excellent place for trainees for a first deep-diving in perfect conditions (clear water, 32 degrees Celsius). The most likely weekends are 13/14 June or 20/21 of June.

Summer 2009

A club diving week-end is being planned in Zeeland. Exact location and time will depend on availability of instructors.

International Expeditions

An expedition plan for 2008/2009 was proposed with options which should accommodate most people's schedule and budget and consisted of three trips;

one in the medium price range (<1500 euros) in November 2008 to Cozumel (Mexico)

one exclusive trip in March 2009 to Micronesia: Yap (Manta mating season) combined with Palau (participating in the international shark week).

one in the modest price range (+750 euros), most likely to the Red Sea or Bonaire somewhere autumn 2009.

The information was sent well in advance, so you people could anticipate dates/ finances and plan things ahead – so that they could react in the shortest time possible when the formal and detailed announcement was made.

15-23 November Cozumel

Participants:, Anthony Thirkettle, Alessandro Atzei, Goran Pilbratt, Michel van Pelt, Vladimir Pletser, Wim van Leeuwen, Jayne Pletser, Corien Koelman and Peter de Maagt.



Some of the most colorful reefs of the Caribbean can be found near Cozumel, an island near Yucatan. We staid in Hotel Vista del Mar, which was located just near the dive shop. The rooms were clean, and moderate luxurious.

The dive operator was Aqua Safari. This is a PADI 5* facility which already has been on the island for 35 years and is working with some experienced dive guides.

After arriving in Cancun we took a taxi ride to the harbour and got in the holiday mood complete with silly hats and Margaritas. The holiday started well with sunshine and a large amount of margaritas and cool beers, not forgetting the nachos, tacos, fajitas and beans.

There was some initial hick-up because the Harbour Master closed the harbour because of a bit of wind, but we managed to enjoy our selves and some of us went to see the Maya temples on Yucatan and some of us drove around on Cozumel.

On the second day the diving started with diving. The visibility was not as good as possible because it was "only" 20m!! The visibility slowly improved when the week progressed.

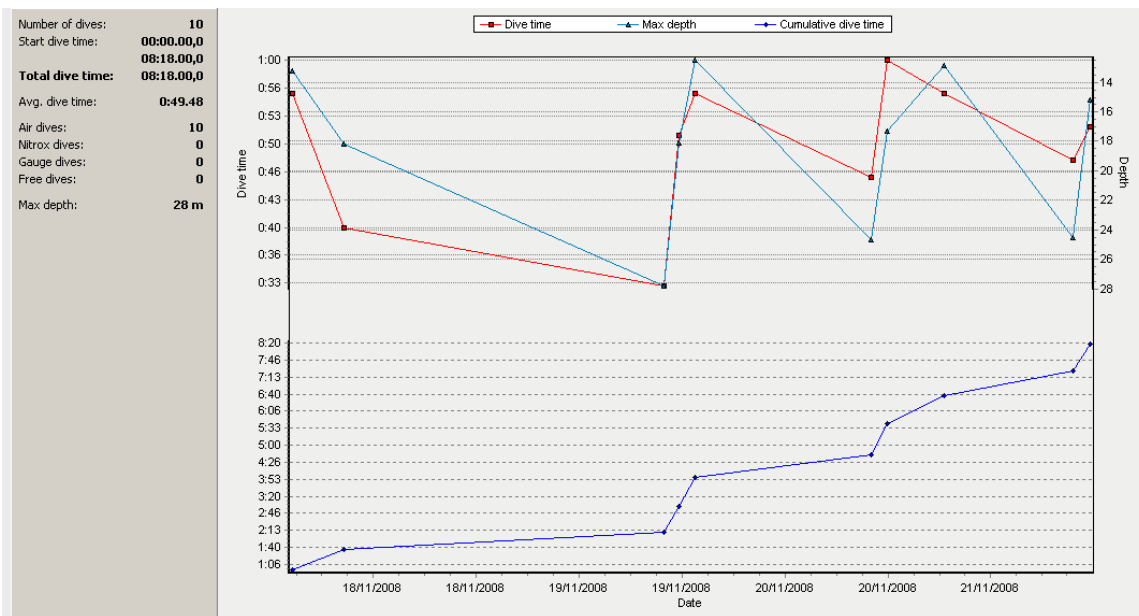
Tormentos reef, Paradiso Reef, Palancar Caves, Yucab Reef, Paradiso Reef , Palancar Bricks, El Paso del Cedral, Santa Rosa reef and Parque Chankanaab are just a few of the many dive spots that are woth diving on.

Every reef has it's own characteristics, but most of the diving was "armchair diving" as the reefs gently drift by with such little effort and diving with some fabulous swim-throughs!

We also did a night dive in Paradiso Reef.

In the end we did 10 dives and typically spent about 8 hours underwater. Tpycial statistics can be seen in the next curve.

Dive Statistics Cozumel



5 -23 March Micronesia: Palau and Yap

Participants: Anthony Thirkettle, Wim van Leeuwen, Vladimir and Jayne Pletser, Ruth and Zoran Sodnik, Brigitte Van Brug, Bas Galewicz and little Dave, Natt and Sally Carthew, Consuelo Cebrian Lozano, Luis Mendes, Audrey Paterson Corien Koelman and Peter de Maagt



Micronesia is a wide spread nation of islands, covering thousands of kilometres between Japan and New Guinea. Some of the main islands are Palau and Yap.

Palau is the most western island of Micronesia. It is located approximately 750 kilometers southeast of the Philippines. Most of the 25 islands are uninhabited and are coral islands. The capital of Palau is Koror where two third of the population is living. Palau is covered with lush tropical forest and its flora and fauna is one of the richest of all Micronesia.

Yap is built out of four islands very close together and connected with bridges. Yap is not a volcanic island and is covered with forest. Yap has some very unique mangrove forests which you can discover by kayak. On both Palau and Yap, old traditions play a big role in everyday live.

The hotel we stayed in Palau was Rose Garden Resort and in Yap it was the Manta Ray Bay Hotel. On Palau we were diving with PADI diveschool Fish 'n Fins which was the first diveschool of the island. On Yap the dive school we were using is called Yap Divers and is PADI 5star.

Palau is known for its steep walls, big fishes, blue holes, wrecks and coral gardens. Palau is also very known for the sharks which can be found at the divespot called 'the blue corner'. The blue corner is the most popular divespot. Diving in the famous jellyfish lake is a unique experience.

We participated in the international shark week and followed lectures in the evening and were specifically diving for sharks during daytime. We also did a nightdive to see the Mandarin fish.

Yap is especially known for its manta rays. The mantas are part of a group that 'live' around the island. Every day they are visiting the cleaning stations where they get rid of parasites by shrimps and small fishes. Also here we did a night dive to see the Mandarin fish.

The hotel we stayed in Palau was Rose Garden Resort and in Yap it was the Manta Ray Bay Hotel.

In the end we did 14 dives and typically spent about 13:30 hours underwater in Palau and 11 dives and 11:30 hours underwater in Yap. Typical statistics can be seen in the next curve.

Dive Statistics Palau

