



Atlanta Underwater Explorers AUE Bubbles

October 15, 2013
Volume 1 Issue 2

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Death: A Diver's Risk

By Jon Calloway, Founding AUE Member

Experiencing a hit on the head by a wayward golf ball is about the worst thing that can happen to a golfer. Taking a nasty fall is what cyclists fear the most. Even the rough and tumble sport of football does not often come with more to be alarmed about than the possibility of a concussion. If only those laments were all scuba divers have to face. Scuba diving is one of the few sports activities in which the death of the participant is as likely to happen as not to happen. So many variables factor into what separates underwater life support.

Properly serviced equipment, sea conditions, diver competency and experience are among the most critical variables. At the top of the safety pyramid, is the bond between two dive buddies. In years past, scuba divers of color were assigned to blue-eyed dive partner who cared very little about our safety.

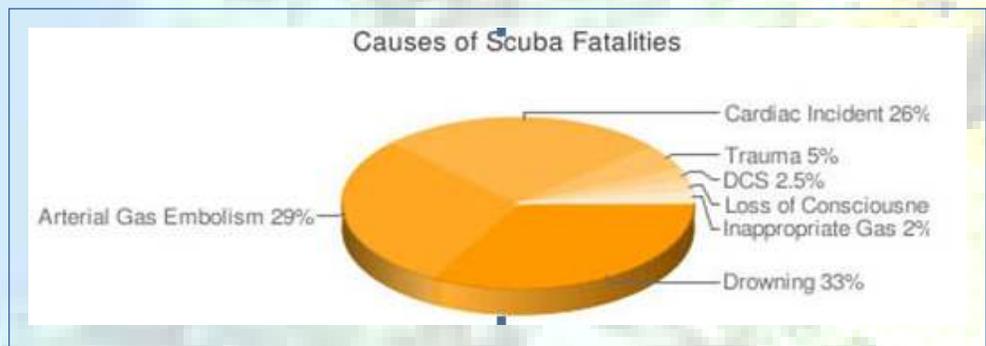
Now we have the National Association of Black Scuba (NABS) Divers and its hundreds of members. Thanks to NABS and its affiliate clubs, our members are now some of the most competent “fish people” on this planet.

Join and participate with your local NABS club. Not only for your safety, join for the safety of the generation of aspiring young Black divers coming along behind us. [Scuba diving accidents Statistics](#)

Cause of Scuba Fatalities graphic and diver photo are from Scuba Diving in Andaman website. For more information, access web link above.



Diver out of air emergency



Why Do We Dive?

By Alex Adams



“Not even the frigid waters of Iceland, where the North American tectonic plate meets the European plate, are off limits to scuba divers.”

As we all know, scuba diving is an expensive hobby. Estimated to be in excess of several billion dollars annually, the scuba diving industry will continue to grow by double digits in the near term.

Many people enjoy scuba diving for a variety of reasons. For some, diving is a lifelong goal. For others, it may be a chance opportunity for adventure while traveling to an exotic tropical island. While for others, it is a challenge, and diving provides a means of exploring the underwater environment to view or study marine life beneath the sea. Perhaps it is just something to do that is different from the norm. Whatever the reason, scuba diving is an endeavor experienced by millions of people around the world daily.

Divers enjoy their sport in a variety of locations around the planet. Many have ventured not only the world’s oceans, but divers also explore many lakes, springs, and rivers located inland around the globe. Not even the frigid waters of Iceland, where the North American tectonic plate meets the European plate, are off limits to scuba divers. World traveler and AUE member, Marie Richards participated in this diving adventure a year ago. She described the experience as exhilarating with extremely clear conditions, but very cold water. Dry suit certification was required for this dive.

Erik Denson, NABS member and Diverse Orlando dive club president, once told me that he is an “oxygen junkie.” He is also a dive master, and his experiences include NOAA research. By contracts, AUE president and longtime diver, Elleen Yancey enjoys the peacefulness and serenity of being under the ocean surface. Personally, I have a feeling of flying when I dive. If all things are working well, I feel like all is right and peaceful with the world.

Divers are a strange lot. Why else would we jump off a perfectly good boat in the middle of the ocean? This is a question often asked by my brother. He loves the water, but diving is not for him. Many divers enjoy not only the adventure. We also develop lasting friendships, and we share camaraderie with people who have similar interest. No matter the reason, scuba diving is an exciting, fun filled sport that grows in numbers of participants annually.

For the love of the sea, the challenge it presents, curiosity, social interactions, or an interest in the marine sciences; scuba diving offers an experience unlike many others. As long as we remain healthy, many of us will be divers for life.

Seven Tips for Diving in Low Vis

By Jim Bartlett

Learning to be comfortable in low viz will increase the range of sites where you can enjoy diving. Try these seven tips:

- 1. Understand what's missing.** Most aspects of the low-viz dive site are similar to other sites you've dived – water density, buoyancy characteristics, depth – the only thing that's changed substantially is the amount of light that's being absorbed (refracted/reflected) by particles suspended in the water.
- 2. Line it up.** An anchor line from your dive boat is absolutely the best way to descend (and ascend) on low-viz dives. Once you reach agreed-upon depth, consider playing out a high-visibility line from a wreck reel connected to the anchor line.
- 3. Slow down.** It's smart to slow down in all respects while diving in such conditions – even more than normally.
- 4. Relax and acclimatize.** Allow your eyes and body to relax and acclimate to the new conditions. This will help you begin to absorb all of the signals your senses gather.
- 5. Depend on other senses.** Once we lose the majority of our sight underwater, it's amazing how we can begin to sense even tiny changes in water movement against our skin, or differences in sound – things we may have ignored when our eyes gave us more data.
- 6. Bring a dive light.** Depending on how soupy things are, you may benefit from additional light in some situations.
- 7. Plan your strategy.** Depending on how poor the viz is, you may not be able to use hand signals. Consider sound signals, such as tapping on your tank, or using your dive light to generate “flash” signals. Agree on the plan for meeting up if you get separated, especially if it's going to be different than standard operating procedure.

Article published in October 2013 Edition of Scuba Diving Magazine.

[Seven Tips for Diving in Low Vis](#)



Shark and diver in low visibility
Terry Gross

“Allow your eyes and body to relax and acclimate to the new conditions.”

Upcoming AUE Activities

- *Diving With A Purpose Coral Restoration - October 14-16, 2013 in Key Largo, Florida*
- *AUE General Meeting - Saturday 3:00 p.m. October 19, 2013, 400 Flat Shoals Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA 30313*
- *NABS Summit - November 9th to 16th, 2013 at the Fantasy Island Resort, Roatan Honduras*
- *AUE General Meeting - Saturday 3:00 p.m. November 16, 2013, 400 Flat Shoals Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA 30313*
- *AUE Christmas Party - Early December 2013 (Date TBD) A Gala Event is in the planning stage*

Recent AUE Activities

- *Annual AUE Cookout/Picnic - Saturday, August 17, 2013 at Sweetwater Creek State Park - Members and friends shared great food, great fun, and fellowship. Chris Brown did an excellent job as head chef. The barbeque was great. Over 35 members and invitees attended.*
- *AUE General Meeting - September 2013 - See publish meeting minutes for highlights and details.*

Editor's Corner

Fellow AUE Members:

Our purpose in publishing *AUE Bubbles* is to keep members informed with the latest information on club activities, dive related events, dive news, industry trends and general information related the dive community at large. Your suggestions, comments and story ideas are always welcomed.

Completed story submissions must be received two weeks prior to the publishing date (Quarterly on the 15th of the month). The next edition will be published February 15, 2014. All stories are reviewed for content and edited to meet standard publishing guidelines prior to publication.

Please submit your story ideas and comments to my attention via email.

Dive safely,

Alex Adams,

Publisher & Editor

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