



# DILLO DIVER

WWW.SCUBADILLO.ORG

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## A Word From Your President

### March Birthdays:

Michael Greig 03/05  
Laura Greig 03/13

### Inside this Issue:

A Word From Your President 1  
Indonesia Review 2  
Did You Know? 3  
Pool Olympics 4  
Upcoming Events 4



Kevin Rusch—2009  
Scubadillo President

Well Dillos, welcome to March 09. Looks like spring is the air. Our two first dive events of the year, the JJ Pierce High School Pool Olympics and Arctic dive with the Rebels turned out to be a real success and lots of fun. It gets better every year. I'd also like to thank all of you that were involved coordinating and making both of these events possible.

Thanks also to our special guest speaker for the February club meeting, Mr. David Prichard, for his excellent presentation, Hot Dive Spots in the US and it's Territories. The club meeting this month will host the guest speaker Mr. Dustin Palmer and his personal commercial diving experience. This should be a new and interesting perspective on the dive experience.

Now moving forward this year the club is currently looking at doing a blue water dive around mid-year. We want to get a head count on those members that would be interested in participating so we can plan the event. Currently, Cozumel looks to be most popular, but we would be interested in your feedback.

As always to keep up to date with all the Scubadillo current dive and social events check out our website @ [www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)

Have fun, stay safe and let's go diving!

Kevin

## Raja Ampat / Lembeh, Indonesia

A trip review: by Shannon Roys

Before embarking on my adventure, I spent a few days in California with my family. Since I'd be gone for my birthday and given my upcoming dive trip, they made me a cake with a nice dive scene of Playmobile figures. I decided Scuba Girl needed to come on the trip with me!



I left for Indonesia at 12am on January 3, 2009. It takes a bit travel and patience to get to these parts. We had a few hours in the transit hotel in Singapore, an overnight at the Sheraton in Jakarta, then a transfer to Manado and finally arrived in Sorong (otherwise known as SoWrong for good reason!) on January 5, 2009 around noon. The crew from the Archipelago Adventurer II met us at the airport and collected our bags. We took a quick taxi ride to the dock and boarded the tenders to get to the live aboard. The boat can accommodate 16 guests, but we only had 11, so many of us had a room to ourselves, which was very nice.



Upon boarding we handed over our shoes, never to be seen again until we disembarked. We had coconut beverages and fried bananas, drizzled with blueberry sauce, while the crew

gave us our cabin assignments and a housekeeping briefing. After another light snack we were given our agenda for the next 6 days ... really for the rest of the trip as Kasawari, Lembeh was very similar.

First Breakfast—continental style, Dive

Second Breakfast—hot/made to order, Dive

Lunch—buffet style, Dive

Snack, Dive

Dinner—sit down, Bed



The following morning I was greeted by the cruise director, James, on my way to first breakfast with a big Happy Birthday! I can't think of a better way to celebrate! We dove off / around Sorong Monument. The first dive of the day, I saw my first wobbegong sharks! Interesting creatures. Very docile. We would see many more throughout the trip. We would visit Kri, Mioskoon, Kerupiar, Mansuar, Yanggelo and West Gam during our stay on the Adventurer II. On one dive we planned to go to a known manta cleaning station where we were just going to hang out and wait. I thought this would be a good dive for Scuba Girl. We didn't see any mantas, but the DM got a big kick out of Scuba Girl when he caught me taking pics of her in the coral. After seven quick days aboard the boat, we disembarked and went to Kasawari Resort in Lembeh. Kasawari is located at the end of a small, remote town near Bitung. The resort is very nice and the photo room is the nicest

I've seen. We only had two full days of diving there, but the critters you see in the "muck" are awesome.



Creature highlights of the trip included blue spotted rays, lots of scorpionfish, lionfish, devilfish, pipefish, ornate ghost pipefish, tons of nudibranches, octopus, bump head parrotfish, porcelain crabs, sweetlips, triggerfish, moray eels, ribbon eels, boxfish, puffers, leaf fish, frogfish, lobster, pygmy seahorses, seahorses, to name a few. The numerous schools of fish were amazing. Some firsts for me were wobbegong sharks, wonderpus, flamboyant cuttlefish, electric clam, juvenile ornate pipefish, juvenile lionfish, juvenile barramundi, banggai cardinalfish, pinnate spadefish, stargazer snake eel, sea moths. My BIG disappointment was the morning I decided to forgo an impromptu (decided the night before) sunrise dive at 5:30AM. The only blue ringed octopus of the trip was seen on this dive. But I saw so many fabulous critters, I just see this as an excuse to return to Indo in search of the elusive blue ringed octopus!



A highly recommended trip if ever afforded the opportunity!!



## “Did you know...?”

By Wally (Waldo's cousin that taught him to dive)

Diving exotic locations and seeing the splendor of colorful coral seascapes filled with weird and wonderful marine life is usually the hopes and dreams of all scuba divers. Many save up enough to be able to take those trips to the South Pacific or other desired destinations, yet a lack of “travel savvy” can make it a trip from hell.

Travel, to these destinations, is not cheap. Yes, use frequent-flyer miles as much as possible to reduce your trip price unless you get a really good deal from a travel agent that combines the airfare/hotel/diving costs to nearly what you would pay for just the airfare or hotel price on your own. There are packages out there like that, but they are rare and require investigation.

The first obstacle a traveling diver has to face is the airline. They all are continually making it more difficult for scuba divers to get to their destination with all of their gear without considerably adding to the cost of the trip. They have many ways in which to reach into your pocket.



If you don't have a high frequent-flyer status, then you will expect to pay \$25 for the first bag you check and perhaps up to \$50 for the second. That's one-way, so expect the same for the return flight. That's usually not quoted in your trip price, and sometimes neither is all the fees associated with air travel (landing fee, fuel surcharge, departure tax, etc.). Not to mention if you get hungry during the flight or would like an alcoholic drink – bring your credit card!

If you transfer to an international airline during your trip to Wookie Island, then you'll start appreciating this country's airlines' excessive baggage charges because many of them internationally really charge an arm and a leg for bags weighing over 30-35 pounds. Got all your dive gear and camera gear – expect to pay up to \$100 or more for your trip each way.

Some airlines, like American Airlines, have gotten even tougher on travelers by imposing a 40-minute rule on checking in your baggage. A few weeks ago I was at the self-check-in machine around 9:58 AM for a 10:40 AM domestic flight. I had punched up my flight just fine and was checking my bag when a strange message came up about alternate flights. The clock on the machine had gone to 10:01 AM and the new rule is that your bag does not go on your flight – but the next one to your destination. No leeway was given when I talked to an agent so I had to come back to the airport to get my bag.

That particular delay was an annoyance to me, but if I had been on an international trip then that could have been disastrous if I was making tight connections to other flights or trying to catch a liveaboard at my final destination. You now have to check in way early at airports if you are going to check bags.

The further you travel, the more time you need to allow for connections to other flights. It doesn't pay to make them tight. On a trip to Papua New Guinea a few years back, my wife and I purposely scheduled a few days in Cairns, Australia both coming and going to our liveaboard boat in PNG. It was a good thing we did because one of my dive bags continued on with the plane to Japan and didn't make it back until the night before our flight up to PNG. I was sweating it!

After our week on the liveaboard, our boat crew drove us to the airport, but it

was very quiet. We walked up to the counter where there was only one person and he informed us, “No plane today, maybe tomorrow.” Since we had two extra days in Cairns, it was only a slight annoyance to us since the airline put us up in a local hotel for the night, but the other divers were freaking out because they had tight connections that they weren't going to make. Scheduling some extra time around connections allows you to explore the country and act as a buffer in case of screw-ups.



If you have a layover for a long period of time at a far-away airport check to see if the airport has a hotel where you can rent a room for half a day. After being on planes for nearly a day of flying, it feels good to take a shower and lay out on a bed for a few hours before you have to check in for your next flight.

One time we flew into Singapore in the evening, checked into an onsite hotel and then took a taxi to Raffles for an original Singapore Sling drink and then a rickshaw ride around town at approximately 1 AM. We got back to our hotel for a few hours of sleep and then caught our morning flight to our destination in Indonesia.

Delays of both planes and bags can happen anywhere in the world, so do yourself a favor and schedule some extra time on your next long-haul trip to “smell the roses” of the local countryside or give yourself some breathing room in case of mess-ups.

# 2009 Scubadillo Pool Olympics



## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Meetings

**Thursday, March 5th**—This month's guest speaker is Dustin Palmer with a presentation on Commercial Diving.

"Meet, Greet and Eat" Social Hour starts at 6:30 pm. The meeting begins promptly at 7:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, April 2nd**.

### Upcoming Events

**Happiest of Happy Hours: March 20th 5:30-8:00 pm—BlackFinn 4440**  
Beltline Rd., Addison, TX 75001  
Phone: (469) 374-7667.

**April 4th—Brazos River Clean Up.**  
Tres Rios Campground—Glen Rose, TX

**May 2nd & 3rd—2009 Luau** at Lakeview Campsites, Tyler State Park

**June 7th—NTSRA Fun Day** at Clear Springs Scuba Park

**September 4th-7th Labor Day Weekend** at Lake Ouachita, Arkansas.

**October 3rd—New Braunfels Trashfest**

**October 10th—Pumpkin Dive** at Tyler State Park

See our website for up to date details on each event!

## 2009 Scubadillo Officers

President.....Kevin Rusch  
Vice President.....Mike Krieger  
Treasurer.....Shannon Roys  
Secretary.....Ann Keller  
Sgt. At Arms.....David Prichard  
Dir. Of Club Affairs.....Gary Gibbs  
Social Director.....Sylvia Evelyn  
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## 2009 Board of Directors

All above officers and  
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Judy Aschner  
Philippe Douet  
Sonny Gaither  
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[www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)