

## NOVEMBER NOTES

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### PUMPKIN DIVE AT POSSUM KINGDOM LAKE – OCTOBER 2019

For this monthly outing, we did something a little different. My Scuba Shop of Weatherford hosted a pumpkin carving contest which we decided to join the fun. Rebels; John, Gena, Robyn, Jim, Linda, Dale, Jeff & Susan were in attendance. The other half of the group included the owners and folks from their neck of the woods.

Seven divers competed for seven prizes, everyone was a winner.

Jim's cat pumpkin was chosen 1<sup>st</sup> place, Robyn's scary face was 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gena's spooky pumpkin was 4<sup>th</sup>, and Dale's puking pumpkin came in at 6<sup>th</sup>.

We didn't go hungry, as there were batches of chili, meatballs, pasta salad, broccoli salad and a variety of accompanying items, including some almost too hot to eat homemade salsa.

It was good seeing Jeff and making new friends out west at Inland Divers Association property.

Jim Magnuson



These could be your bubbles.  
Come join us.



Happy Thanksgiving!



## Dive Propulsion

I would like to share with our club an idea that I have had for a major improvement to our dive equipment. The idea came to me some years ago as I watched my SCUBA tank being filled. Anyone who has watched a high-pressure compressor work has probably noticed by way of noise and heat, that a lot of energy is expended compressing the air that goes into the tank. Since we know that energy cannot be destroyed, I got to thinking about all of that energy that we bottle up inside of that tank and how we could but that to better use then just filling up our lungs.

What if we were to take the high-pressure output of the tank and instead of reducing the pressure to an intermediate pressure via a spring-loaded valve, what if we ran it through an air piston engine like those used in air impact tools common to automotive repair shops? Then rather than turn a socket wrench we could turn a trolling motor style propeller. The propeller would be attached to the diver's tank to propel him through the water. Just think no more need to kick, no more leg cramps, greater distance underwater what a boon to the sport.

A diver-controlled clutch would act as the gas pedal and help avoid comical if not lethal results. The output of the air motor would be put through a filter to remove any particulate contamination coming from parts wear.

This filtered air would then be presented to the divers second stage for final reduction to breathing pressure. Obviously when tank pressure reached some diminished level the motor would need to be bypassed as there would be insufficient pressure to run it and still be above intermediate pressure. But when you consider that most mechanics tools run at below 100 PSI, this should not be a problem. I have thought for some time that this might be a slick little invention and have even considered seeking a patent for it. Now for the rest of the story....

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit the San Jose Technology Museum. In my touring of the exhibits of how the semiconductor was invented, technology in the kitchen, I came across an exhibit on technology under the ocean. In this exhibit, to my surprise I came face to face with "my" invention. It had a regulator going to an air motor and also had the small propeller attached to the tank. On the little plaque attached, it announced the date that this futuristic device was built: 1958

Jim Magnuson — (Would-be inventor)

## Questions on Dive Propulsion

### Question:

How would you control the pressure when released? You would need a stabilizer bar? By Selena Woodward

### Answer:

If attached to the tank, I think all you would need would be an actuator pressure switch. You would of course have a bypass pressure regulator to keep the 2nd stage at normal pressure so you don't have to scoot to breathe steering could be done with your fins.

**If you have questions or comments for Jim, please send to  
"woodwse@gmail.com"**

# EASY STEPS TO BECOMING A GREAT DIVER

Posted by [Elizabeth Wilkie](#) | Oct 5, 2019 | [Diving Knowledge](#)

Being a great diver is more than just passing your first open water course. It's not even about passing the next course, or the one after that; some great divers stop after just a couple of qualifications. And while spending time in the water is certainly going to improve your diving skills, being a great diver is more than just logging dive after dive. You might have 50 dives, 100 maybe, or even upwards of 200 – but it's possible to have many dives in your logbook and still not really understand what it takes to become a safe, skilled diver. Like with most worthwhile activities, diving takes time, effort, and practice, but making that transformation from 'good' to great can be made simple with a few easy steps.

## Great divers are respectful

Being a great diver is very much the same as being a great person; usually they are respectful, caring, and modest. A really great diver knows how difficult and dangerous diving can be, so they listen carefully to briefings. They respect how hard their dive professionals work, and pay close attention to them both above and below water. They have a deep respect for the ocean, and work hard on their skills to make sure they don't damage aquatic life. They know that there's always something more to learn.

## Great divers do their research

Ever heard the phrase, "all the gear and no idea"? Just because a diver has all the latest underwater bells and whistles, doesn't make them great! There's no point having the latest computer if you don't know how it works. Take your time before investing in your own kit to figure out what's right for you, and don't buy it all on the internet – go to your local dive shop to try some kit on and ask for recommendations. See below about asking for advice!

## Great divers ask for advice

So it's been a while since you've last dived and suddenly it all seems a bit overwhelming even before you've jumped in: putting your gear together, getting into a wetsuit, the buddy check. Want to be a great diver? Ask your dive professional to talk you through whatever you're unsure of. No instructor or divemaster is ever going to mind helping you put your gear together, but struggling on alone and putting your BCD on the tank backwards will make them wonder about your capabilities in the water.

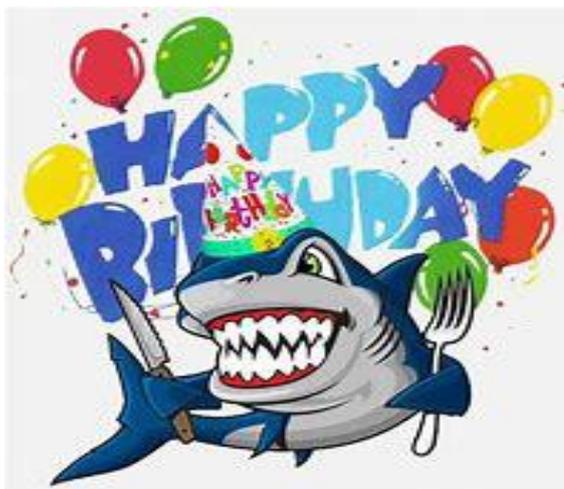
## Great divers keep their skills fresh

Like anything else, diving takes practice. Perfect trim and buoyancy come with time spent in the water, as well as an active effort to get better and better. Don't get lazy because you've hit triple figures in your dive log: you can always aim to improve somewhere, be it trim, air consumption, using fewer weights, or even downsizing to a smaller tank.

And finally...

## Great divers help each other out

Being a great diver is about more than having perfect trim and all the know-how. If you see someone in your club or dive group who's struggling, ask them how you can help them. If you can't, then put them in touch with someone you know who can. Offer to practice skills together, and if you've got some golden advice you've taken away from your own dive courses and instructors, then share! In the end, great divers want everyone to love being underwater as much as they do.



**David Woodward**      **October**      **2**

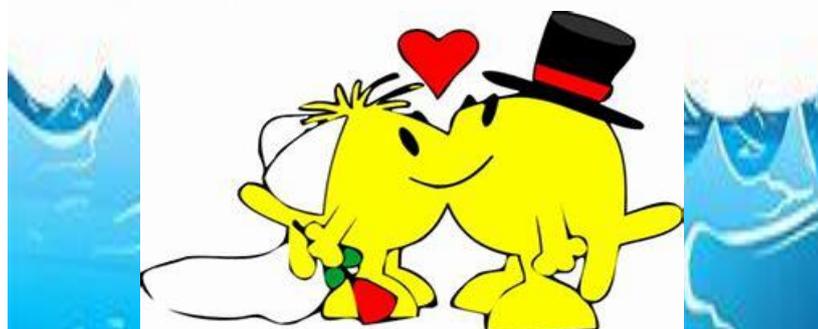
**Allen Bothwell**      **November**      **8**

**Johnny Griffin**      **November**      **9**

**Steve Herman**      **November**      **12**

**Mark Smith**      **November**      **6**

**Happy Wedding Anniversary!**



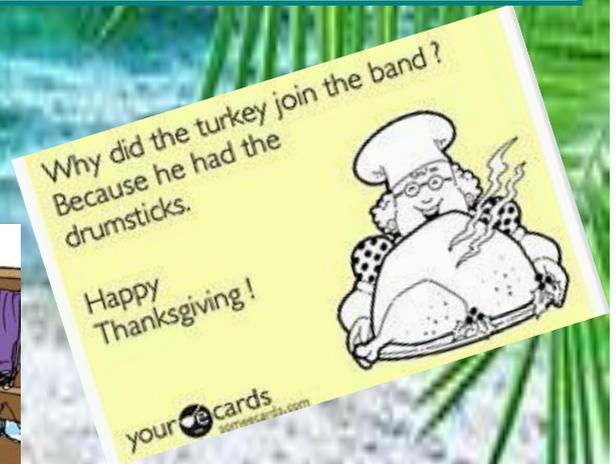
**Gerald & Dorothy Bartz**      **November 1, 2017**



# SCOOP DIVE HUMOR



One day a scuba diver was enjoying the aquatic world 20 feet deep. He noticed a guy at the same depth he was, but he had on no scuba gear whatsoever. The diver went 20 feet deeper, but the other guy joined him a few minutes later. The diver went down another 25 feet, but minutes later, the same guy was there too. Confused, the diver took out a waterproof chalk-and-board set, and wrote, "How are you able to stay under this deep without equipment?" The guy took the board and chalk, erased what the diver had written, and wrote, "I'M DROWNING, YOU IDIOT!!!"



"You must be new to diving, because 'freediving' doesn't mean that all the dive equipment is free."



# The COMPLETE DIVER

