

What Every Diver Wants For Christmas

SUPPORTING THE RNLI comes high on every diver's list of priorities and what better way to do this than from the comfort of your own home. The RNLI have a great range of Christmas cards, diaries, calendars and wrapping paper all at the click of a button with their online shop at www.rnlishop.org.uk.

Calendars range in style and prices with the beautiful Tall Ships at only £4.99 and their 'Heroes of the Sea' at £8.99. As usual there are the well-loved Giles Cartoon Christmas cards at £4.25 for a pack of 10, and other more traditional cards to choose from.

The Underwater Naturalist and Photographer:

Budding underwater naturalists need a waterproof fish identification guide to take on dives with them. Dive-logs do a laminated card of the 'Fish of British and Northern Europe' with 60 high quality images of the most common fish. It measures 15.2 cm wide by 22.9 cm high and comes at the reasonable price of £5.95. Buy it on line at: www.dive-logs.com.

Sue Daley is a writer, broadcaster, underwater photographer and natural history filmmaker based in Jersey. Her newly released DVD, *Secret Seas of the Channel Islands*, is a collection of four 25 minute films about the underwater life and scenery of the Channel Islands. The films range from the marine life found on local shipwrecks to the changing seasons in Jersey's Bouly Bay, all narrated by John Nettles of Bergerac fame. The price is £14 and it can be ordered from Sue Daley Productions Tel: 01534 864 541.

Ocean Weirdo's is a DVD containing two 25 minute films featuring some of the most grotesque and weird creatures found in our oceans. Produced by John Boyle and John McIntyre of Shark Bay Films, the DVD has had some excellent reviews and would make a great gift for those who like odd marine life! It costs £15 and is available from: www.fourthelement.com.

Described, as the most comprehensive reference book on Northern European marine fauna, *Marine Fish and Invertebrates of Northern Europe* is the result of 5 years work by Frank Emil Moen and Erling Svensen. It is no pocket guide at

608 pages and 1000 colour photographs, and is worth every penny at £39.99. It was featured in the January/February edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and is available from Aqua Press Tel: 0870 830 8120 or online at: www.aquapress.co.uk.

Underwater photographers are difficult to buy presents for as the equipment is fairly technical and specific to each person and camera system, but how about a new type lanyard to keep the camera safe? Cetacea have developed a lanyard that is screwed into the bottom of the camera using the standard tripod socket (make sure your recipient's camera has one). Not only is the lanyard securely attached to the camera, but it's tidy and less prone to get tangled as it is made of a short fabric covered coil which can expand up to 1m in length. It is £25 and is available from CPS Partnership: www.cpspartnership.com or tel: 01424 442663.

The Wreck Detective

For those with a passion for historical wreck diving, here is a DVD to whet the appetite. *Lost Submarines of the Royal Navy* by Innes McCartney explores a selection of seven Royal Navy submarines sunk around the shores of Britain between 1901 and 1951. The wrecks range from the *Holland 5*, *Monitor Class M2* to *HMS Affray*. The DVD costs £13.61 and is available from: www.periscopepublishing.com.

THE FESTIVE period will soon be upon us and it's time to start thinking about Christmas shopping. Buying for the diver in your life can be a bit of a nightmare, so **SCOTTISH DIVER** has come up with a few suggestions. Some of the ideas are new on the market this year, whilst others are old favourites; so whatever type of diver you have to buy for, from under water naturalist to a fashion addict, there will be something to please everyone. Alison Fuller-Shapcott is Santa Claus ...

Totally Wrecked is the DVD of Monty Hall's Full Circle Expedition. It features 10 of the wrecks dived by the expedition from Scapa to Palau and costs £14.99. Available from: www.fullcircleexpeditions.com.

The first series of the *Wreck Detectives* is now available on a double DVD just in case you missed it first time round. *The Swan*, *HMS Hazardous*, *HMS Lawford* and the *Earl of Abergavenny* are amongst those featured. It costs £19.99 (including postage and packing) and is available from the Divernet bookshop at: www.divernet.com.

Shipwrecks of the Cayman Islands, by Lawson Wood, was featured in the September/October 2004 edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER**. This book contains over 140 of the best known and identified shipwrecks around the islands. It's price is £24.99 and it is available from Aqua Press: www.aquapress.co.uk or tel: 0870 830 8120.

Every wreck diver needs a reliable back up torch. New on the market this year is the Ikelite PCm from Oceanic. It's small, so fits conveniently into a BC pocket, and well constructed. It uses 4 AA batteries and costs £27. For your local stockist, check the Oceanic UK web site at www.oceanicuk.com.

Like torches, reels have become an almost essential piece of diving equipment. Used for deploying surface marker buoys, wreck exploration to sweep searches. One of the more innovative and smallest on the market is the Bodaine mini reel. It weighs only 200grams and has a 50m line. Bodaine Developments claim it is virtually unbreakable (which must be a challenge to any diver). It costs £38 (including postage and packing). For further information see:

www.bodaine.co.uk or tel: 01376 349315.

The Club Diver

Club divers need to be prepared for any diving conditions, so a dry bag to store those important items that must not get wet is a perfect present. There are plenty on the market, but Aqua-Quest has what they claim is the lightest and most durable. The Glacier Drybag is made from double coated TPU Ripstop nylon with heat taped watertight seams. It comes in a range of colours (black, blue or yellow) and sizes (5 litres to 90 litres). Prices start at £8.99 for the 5 litre. It can be ordered online at:

www.aqua-quest.co.uk.

How many dives are lost due to broken fin straps? One of the newest products from Beaver is their version of the fin spring. Since introducing this product to their range this year, Beaver have supplied nearly 5000 pairs. Manufactured using rust resistant marine grade stainless steel to ensure hassle free long life, the easy fin springs are designed to replace the more conventional fin straps. They are easy to fit and suit most popular models of fin. Once fitted no strap adjustments are necessary. They come in four sizes; S, M, L and XL and cost £16.95 a pair. For your local stockist, check the Beaver web site at:

www.beaversports.co.uk.

Relive that diving holiday in Malta with *A World Below - Malta*, H2O Ocean Productions have produced a DVD on the wrecks of Malta. Eight wrecks are featured, including the *Rozi* and *Um El Faroud*. Each wreck is accompanied with its own soundtrack of relaxing music. The maker's description is: 'a fusion of spectacular scenery and incredible music.' The price is £14.99 and it is available from H2O Ocean Productions: www.h2o-ocean.com.

What nicer present than a personalised log book stamp. Dive-Logs let you design the stamp online with their design wizard, which helps you choose the design, font and text of the stamp. They do nine different sizes of stamp and prices start at £20. For more information:

www.dive-logs.com.

Dive guides are always helpful when planning dive trips. Underwater World Publications do a fantastic range of dive guides for the UK and new this year is *Dive West Scotland* by Lawson Wood. Reviewed extremely favourably in the March/April edition of **SCOTTISH DIVER**, this book looks at 130 of the top dive sites around the West Coast including Oban, Mull, Skye, Summer Isles and the Outer Hebrides. Available from Aqua Press at £14.95.

Tel: 0870 830 8120 or order online at: www.aquapress.co.uk.

The Fashion Addict

There was a time when every diver wore black and a neoprene hood was a necessity not a fashion accessory. However Scapa Scuba has a range of novelty diving hoods which will let divers indulge their creative side. Besides - if your buddy has a clown fish on their head, you won't have any problem picking them out underwater! They have loads of designs to choose from, and are open to suggestions for new ideas. Prices range from £50 to £80 (including postage and packing). Have a look at: www.scapascuba.co.uk.

Make a statement with a fun and zany T-shirt from Diving Daisy (and Diving Willy for males). The range of T-shirts and vests come in various colours, styles and slogan designs such as: 'Want to know my vital statistic?', 'Scuba Chick' and 'Deco Warrior'. Prices start at £18 for adults and £8 for children. See: www.divingdaisy.co.uk.

For slightly more conservative but dramatic T-shirt designs, Fourth Element does a range of T-shirts, vests and sweatshirts. T-shirts start at £19.95 and sweatshirts range from £39 for ladies to £45 for men. Go to: www.fourthelement.com for more information.

The Armchair Diver

Here are four books that any diver might appreciate for Christmas.

Shadow Divers by Robert Kurson is the true story of two divers and their discovery of a Nazi U-boat in deep water off the coast of New Jersey. The book follows their six-year quest to discover the identity of the U-boat and crew whilst undertaking some extremely courageous diving. The book is described as compelling reading, and there is talk of the film producer and director Sir Ridley Scott being interested in adapting the book for the big screen. It is available in hardback at £18.99.

DIVE: The Ultimate Guide by Monty Halls is a guide to 60 of the world's top dive sites. With 320 pages packed with photographs, maps, information and descriptions about the sites, the book acts as a divers' travel guide as well as a good read. It is produced in softback and costs £20.

Return to Midway is an account of Dr Robert Ballard (the discoverer of the *Titanic*) and his team's latest challenge; to locate and photograph the ships sunk during the epic 1942 battle of Midway between the Americans and the Japanese. The ships, including the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown*, lay over 3 miles down and within a vast search area. It is available in hardback at £14.99.

Neutral Buoyancy by Tim Ecott is now established as a diving classic. The book is a collection of essays ranging from the early beginnings of diving and subsequent technical advancements, whilst paying tribute to some of the extraordinary people who have made it happen, all inter linked with his own personal experiences. Each chapter stands alone, and all make brilliant reading. It is available in softback at £7.99.

All the above are available from Aqua Press, tel: 0870 830 8120 or order online: www.aquapress.co.uk.

Happy Christmas Shopping!



when they can't get underwater, divers like to read about their favourite hobby