

SCOTTISH DIVER

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CONTENTS

September/October 2006
VOL 46 No.5

- 5 Going Overboard
- 6 Shotlines
- 10 Solstice Dive Report
- 14 Diver Profile
- 12 *Obliging Orkney*
- 16 Diving in Skye
- 18 Police Diver
- 20 Armchair Dive
- 24 Tigers & Turtles
- 28 Seasearch Update
- 35 Diveshop
- 38 Branchlines

COVER PHOTO:
Hugh Fraser at
Solstice Dive
Image courtesy of
Jack Morrison



AFTER TWO weeks of outrageous sunshine it's difficult to believe that the Summer Solstice dive took place on a dreich day in the middle of June. The Solstice dive, a tradition for many years, has just been revived as part of the NDC's desire to see more social events on the ScotSAC calendar. Furnace Quarry was the official location but a number of branches up and down the country did their own thing to celebrate the start of summer - you can read about Ullapool's annual Isle Martin Barbeque in this edition - please form an orderly queue for next year's coveted invitations!

Despite the fantastic weather a lot of work has been going on in the background to bring you a whole raft of new course dates - from Branch Instructor to Oxygen Administration there are now plenty of dates in the diary, and what's more you can chose which date you want to attend.

To get yourself booked on the course of your choice first make sure you fulfil the pre-requisites (which may include obtaining a recommendation from your Branch Diving Officer and/or Regional Coach) then send in your booking form and deposit cheque to HQ. Booking forms and recommendation forms are available to download from the ScotSAC website at www.scotsac.com.

If you're already a Branch Instructor, and have completed the Master Diver Award, you may be interested in becoming a Regional Instructor (R.I.) - to find out what it's all about and how to get involved take a look at the R.I. article in this edition.

Course dates for the ScotSAC Basic Nitrox course, offered in association with the International Technical Diving Agency (ITDA), are starting to filter through. The first course will be run at SSAC HQ on Saturday, August 12, with more dates to follow shortly. This classroom-based, one-day course is an entry level qualification allowing divers to use up to 40% enriched air nitrox. Watch out for more details on

photo courtesy
Carl L. Myer



going overboard

the website and in future editions of
SCOTTISH DIVER.

Elsewhere in this edition we catch up with an old friend who has moved to the opposite side of the world to pursue his love of marine life - you can catch up with what Billy Sinclair has been up to in Turtles and Tigers.

Meanwhile the hot weather at home has sparked a number of unusual sightings, from fin whales in the Forth to sunfish in the Summer Isles. As ever, Seasearch volunteers have been busy documenting the plethora of life around our coasts and you can find out more about some of the surprising things they found in a welcome return to **SCOTTISH DIVER** for Calum Duncan of the Marine Conservation Society.

For the photographers amongst us Alan Lissimore shares his experience of diving the Isle of Skye and reveals how a crucial relationship (between his buddy and his camera) is developing!

Alison Fish

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