



All In A Day's Training

Kevin Watson

Enthusiastic trainees raise the A-flag

ScotSAC is organising a number of training events throughout 2007 and we report on some spring action from Loch Fyne ...

IN THE early part of 2007 ScotSAC formulated an action plan for the year aimed at moving the organisation forward, giving members a sense of belonging and encouraging potential members to join.

One of the issues, which was raised repeatedly was that ScotSAC no longer held any training days. This has been true in the last few years, however Kevin Miller, the NDO had stated that he wanted to reinstate the ScotSAC training days and also include a specific University training day, due to the restricted nature of the university calendar.

I was asked by the NDO to organise the first of these training weekends. The first ScotSAC training weekend took place on the weekend of March 31 – April 1 near Furnace on Loch Fyne.

It started on the Friday when three members of Pentland branch set up a

series of concrete blocks as moorings along with buoys on the outer part of the reef so that rescues and ascents could be practiced. A further block and buoy was sited in the middle of the training bay to be used for the compass course, however there were issues about the nature of the seabed and it was moved during the course of the weekend.

The moorings on the outer reef were all linked by a base line with approximately 10 metres of line between each block. Each of the buoys had a running shot line so that it remained tight at all states of the tide. These moorings and buoys were left for future use by university branches or indeed any other branch or organisation.

Of the four universities in ScotSAC, three were represented - Napier, Strathclyde and Stirling. There were also members of Pentland, Dunoon and Clydebank present at the event, though they either trained amongst themselves, dived for fun or assisted with the training.

One examiner and two Regional Instructors (all RCs) attended to assist the branch Instructors. One of the RIs was the NDO and the other was Andy Murray, the ScotSAC Secretary.

In total 27 members were present and 93 dives took place with a number of assessments completed. More importantly, an assortment of skills were practised.

Stirling University branch did an intensive training week based at Oban for the week but opted to spend the Saturday with us and then did their own thing on the Sunday.

The ScotSAC rescue mannequin was used for the first time, with mixed results to start with, but by the end of the day, the rescues were completed successfully. More of that elsewhere in the magazine.

All in all it was a very successful and incident free day with excellent spring sunshine, sadly the visibility wasn't too good, but it did get slightly better as the weekend progressed. Hopefully the rest of the years training events will be as successful.

Thanks have to go to a number of individuals who made the training weekend possible. All the Branch Instructors who gave up their time and showed tremendous patience. Andy Murray and Kevin Miller and the Regional Instructors who attended. The Quarry View Tearoom staff for putting up with us. Julie Young and Marc Forrest from Pentland who assisted with setting the moorings and buoys. Kenny Young for supplying the concrete blocks and buoys.

The event was incident free, enjoyed by all involved and marked the beginning of what will be regular ScotSAC training events. See you at one soon.





Sunny day, sunny disposition



Stirling Uni students get kitted up



Carina takes a rest



Jan Crawford



relaxing after a hard day's training



Ralf and Marie chill out in the sun



Steve, Paul & Carina

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