



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

May 2010

Volume IX Issue V

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World's deepest known undersea volcanic vents discovered

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April 12, 2010

CARIBBEAN — A British scientific expedition has discovered the world's deepest undersea volcanic vents, known as 'black smokers', 3.1 miles (5000 metres) deep in the Cayman Trough in the Caribbean. Using a deep-diving vehicle remotely controlled from the Royal Research Ship James Cook, the scientists found slender spires made of copper and iron ores on the seafloor, erupting water hot enough to melt lead, nearly half a mile deeper than anyone has seen before.

Deep-sea vents are undersea springs where superheated water erupts from the ocean floor. They were first seen in the Pacific three decades ago, but most are found between one and two miles deep. Scientists are fascinated by deep-sea vents because the scalding water that gushes from them nourishes lush colonies of deep-sea creatures, which has forced scientists to rewrite the rules of biology. Studying the life-forms that thrive in such unlikely havens is providing insights into patterns of marine life around the world, the possibility of life on other planets, and even how life on Earth began.

The expedition to the Cayman Trough is being run by Drs Doug Connelly, Jon Copley, Bramley Murton, Kate Stansfield and Professor Paul Tyler, all from Southampton, UK. They used a robot submarine called Autosub6000, developed by engineers at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in Southampton, to survey the seafloor of the Cayman Trough in unprecedented detail. The team then launched another deep-sea vehicle called HyBIS, developed by team member Murton and Berkshire-based engineering company Hydro-Lek Ltd, to film the world's deepest vents for the first time.

"Seeing the world's deepest black-smoker vents looming out of the darkness was awe-inspiring," says Copley, a marine biologist at the University of Southampton's School of Ocean and Earth Science (SOES) based at the NOC and leader of the overall research programme. "Superheated water was gushing out of their two-storey high mineral spires, more than three miles deep beneath the waves." He added: "We are proud to show what British underwater technology can achieve in exploring this frontier -- the UK subsea technology sector is worth £4 billion per year and employs 40 000 people, which puts it on a par with our space industry."

The Cayman Trough is the world's deepest undersea volcanic rift, running across the seafloor of the Caribbean. The pressure three miles deep at the bot-

tom of the Trough -- 500 times normal atmospheric pressure -- is equivalent to the weight of a large family car pushing down on every square inch of the creatures that live there, and on the undersea vehicles that the scientists used to reveal this extreme environment. The researchers will now compare the marine life in the abyss of the Cayman Trough with that known from other deep-sea vents, to understand the web of life throughout the deep ocean. The team will also study the chemistry of the hot water gushing from the vents, and the geology of the undersea volcanoes where these vents are found, to understand the fundamental geological and geochemical processes that shape our world.

"We hope our discovery will yield new insights into biogeochemically important elements in one of the most extreme naturally occurring environments on our planet," says geochemist Doug Connelly of the NOC, who is the Principal Scientist of the expedition.

"It was like wandering across the surface of another world," says geologist Bramley Murton of the NOC, who piloted the HyBIS underwater vehicle around the world's deepest volcanic vents for the first time. "The rainbow hues of the mineral spires and the fluorescent blues of the microbial mats covering them were like nothing I had ever seen before."

The expedition will continue to explore the depths of the Cayman Trough until 20th April.

In addition to the scientists from Southampton, the team aboard the ship includes researchers from the University of Durham in the UK, the University of North Carolina Wilmington and the University of Texas in the US, and the University of Bergen in Norway. The expedition members are also working with colleagues ashore at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Duke University in the US to analyse the deep-sea vents.

The expedition is part of a research project funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council to study the world's deepest undersea volcanoes. The research team will return to the Cayman Trough for a second expedition using the UK's deep-diving remotely-operated vehicle Isis, once a research ship is scheduled for the next phase of their project.

Additional information

(1) The expedition aboard the RRS James Cook began in Port of Spain, Trinidad on 21st March and ends in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 21st April. It is part of a £462k research project funded by the UK Natural Environment Research Council.

(2) The RRS James Cook is the UK's newest ocean-going research ship, operated by the Natural Environment Research Council. The current expedition is the 44th voyage of the ship.

RECALL: Ocean Management Systems (OMS) Buoyancy Compensators

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of Product: Buoyancy Compensators used for Scuba Diving

Units: About 20,000

Manufacturer: Ocean Management Systems Inc., of Middletown, N.Y.

Hazard: The buoyancy compensator seal ring could crack, posing a drowning hazard to divers.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves buoyancy compensators with the following model numbers. Buoyancy compensators provide buoyancy control for scuba divers by allowing them to inflate or deflate the devices. The compensators were sold in black or red. "OMS" is printed on the front inside of the compensators. Item and serial numbers are printed on the warning label located in the non-inflation area of the buoyancy compensator. A list of serial numbers included in this recall is available from the firm.

Item Number Description

BC-TCPS- B TACOPS® BC ; Black
BC-TCPS-R TACOPS® BC ; Red
BC116-32B16 B Non retraction single tank BC 32 lb. lift / Black
BC116-32R Non retraction single tank BC 32 lb. lift / Red
BC-LGS45 Larry Green Signature Series 45 lb. lift BC
BC-LGS70 Larry Green Signature Series 70 lb. lift BC
BC118 - K Dual Bladder BC [inflated] 94 lb. lift Black or Red
BC115 - KB Dual Bladder BC, 60 lb. lift in Black
BC115 - KR Dual Bladder BC, 60 lb. lift in Red
BC118 - K Dual Bladder BC [deflated] 94 lb. lift Black or Red
BC117 - K45 Single Bladder BC 45 lb. lift / Black
BC117CR - K45 Chemically Resistant 45 lb. lift / Black
BC117 - K60 Single Bladder BC, 60 lb. lift / Black
BC117 - KB Single Bladder BC, 94 lb. lift / Black
BC117 - KR Single Bladder BC, 94 lb. lift / Red
BC116-45B Non-retraction Single Bladder BC 45 lb. lift/ Black
BC116-60B Non-retraction Single Bladder BC 60 lb. lift/ Black
BC116-60R Non-retraction Single Bladder BC 60 lb. lift/ Red
BC116-60C Chemically Resistant 60 lb. lift / Black

Sold at: Dive stores nationwide from May 2006 through August 2008 for about \$400.

Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the diving equipment and contact Ocean Management Systems to receive a free repair.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Ocean Management Systems toll-free at (877) 791-0315 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, visit the firm's website at www.omsdive.com, or email the firm at recall@omsdive.com

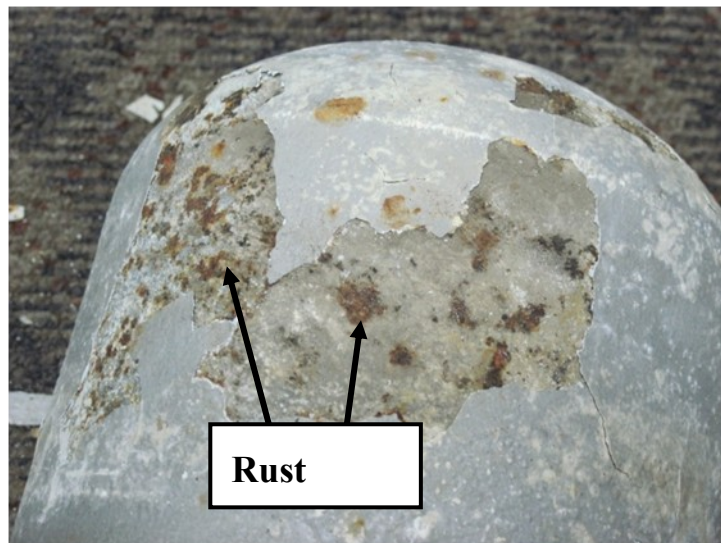
CPSC is still interested in receiving incident or injury reports that are either directly related to this product recall or involve a different hazard with the same product. Please tell us about it by visiting <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx>

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's Hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (301) 595-7054. To join a CPSC e-mail subscription list, please go to <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>. Consumers can obtain recall and general safety information by logging on to CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Announcements:

For members that renewed their membership prior to the end of the April meeting your “Air Fill Card” will be distributed at the May meeting.

When is the last time you took your tank boot off? It is a good idea to take the tank boot off at least 2 times a year to wash and let dry. Notice the chipped and flaked paint. You could be in for a surprise, perhaps an expensive surprise!



Circle May 20th on Your Calendar

Special Indonesia Night with Two Presenters

At the May 20th meeting, your club will host two back-to-back presentations by two local diving photographers. Club member Jim McKnight traveled to Indonesia last November visiting Jakarta, Bali and the Komodo Island area. Jim spent a week with a local Indonesian dive club on a live-a-board diving Komodo and nearby islands. At the same time, Mike Walsh visited Lembeh Strait and the Raja Ampat area. Mike joined a live-a-board group lead by professional underwater photographer/producer Jonathan Bird for the Raja Ampat area. Mike, Jim and Jonathan have all made entertaining and informative presentations to the club in the past.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The water is finally warming up! I have heard temperatures in the fifties. It is time to get out and dive! I have not heard of any lobster catches yet but people are scalloping. I haven't heard how anyone has done but, they are catching scallops.

Things are happening. The Cape charter for June 6 is booked and full. After the presentation at the last meeting this should be a good trip. It is planned for the big lobsters! There is only one member that has expressed the desire for another Cape charter. If there is enough interest for another charter we can certainly book another trip.

I am really excited about the next few meetings. Our own members will be the guest speakers. It will be great to hear about their travels and see their pictures of the places they have been. Plans for the banquet are on schedule. I am excited to be putting together a banquet committee. The committee will consist of 4 or 5 members. I will present details at the next meeting. We will be posting shore dives in the coming weeks. I am planning an excursion within the next couple weeks to check out a new dive spot for a club dive. I can't tell anyone where it is just yet.

As most if not all of you know the Town of Lunenburg has been very generous in the past with permitting the club to use the town beach for Pumpkin Carving. The board has discussed offering to do a beach clean-up there. I am waiting to hear from a representative from the town to schedule this. I will have details at the next meeting. I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Safe Diving,

Mark

BUY SWAP SELL

For Sale: Zeagle Expedition grade Gatorskin Trilaminare drysuit. Front entry, good seals. Needs boots. \$500 Contact Rick Boucher.

Secretary's message...

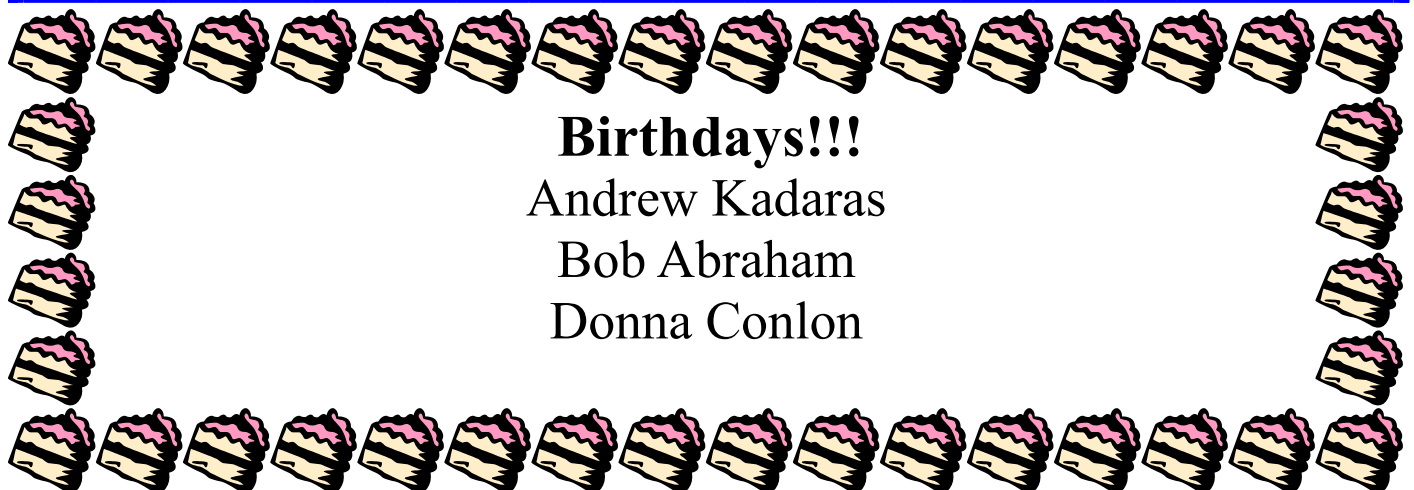
You know its that time of the year again, when finals roll around. There's that campus wide buzz of anticipation, dread and joy, as some of us stress over making the grade, and others get robes to graduate. The great thing about it though, is that it's the signal that the diving season is about to hit a three month high. Those of us who are fair and hot weather divers cannot wait to get in the water again!

MAY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 BOD	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 GM	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

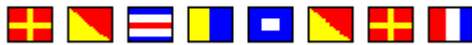
JUNE 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 BOD	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 GM	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Birthdays!!!
 Andrew Kadaras
 Bob Abraham
 Donna Conlon

ROCKPORT



Rockport 42°40'N 070°37'W

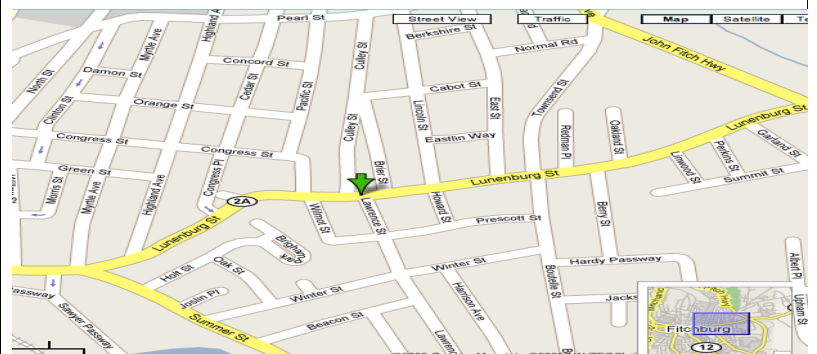
DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️		🌙
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Friday	14	12:13 PM	8.54 ft			5:59	-0.20 ft	6:02	0.79 ft	5:21	7:56	🌑
Saturday	15	12:14	9.95 ft	12:55	8.62 ft	6:41	-0.42 ft	6:45	0.71 ft	5:20	7:57	
Sunday	16	12:57	10.09 ft	1:40	8.67 ft	7:25	-0.54 ft	7:31	0.68 ft	5:19	7:58	
Monday	17	1:44	10.12 ft	2:29	8.70 ft	8:13	-0.57 ft	8:21	0.69 ft	5:18	8:00	
Tuesday	18	2:34	10.05 ft	3:21	8.74 ft	9:03	-0.51 ft	9:15	0.73 ft	5:17	8:01	
Wednesday	19	3:29	9.87 ft	4:17	8.80 ft	9:57	-0.38 ft	10:14	0.76 ft	5:16	8:02	
Thursday	20	4:28	9.63 ft	5:16	8.94 ft	10:54	-0.22 ft	11:18	0.73 ft	5:15	8:03	
Friday	21	5:31	9.37 ft	6:16	9.15 ft	11:54	-0.06 ft			5:14	8:04	
Saturday	22	6:37	9.15 ft	7:16	9.43 ft	12:25	0.60 ft	12:54	0.07 ft	5:13	8:04	
Sunday	23	7:43	9.02 ft	8:15	9.74 ft	1:31	0.34 ft	1:53	0.15 ft	5:13	8:05	
Monday	24	8:47	8.98 ft	9:11	10.03 ft	2:35	0.00 ft	2:51	0.20 ft	5:12	8:06	
Tuesday	25	9:47	8.99 ft	10:03	10.25 ft	3:34	-0.34 ft	3:45	0.24 ft	5:11	8:07	
Wednesday	26	10:42	9.00 ft	10:53	10.34 ft	4:29	-0.61 ft	4:37	0.31 ft	5:10	8:08	
Thursday	27	11:34	8.98 ft	11:40	10.31 ft	5:20	-0.74 ft	5:25	0.42 ft	5:10	8:09	🌑
Friday	28	12:22 PM	8.88 ft			6:08	-0.72 ft	6:12	0.59 ft	5:09	8:10	
Saturday	29	12:25	10.15 ft	1:08	8.74 ft	6:54	-0.56 ft	6:57	0.80 ft	5:08	8:11	
Sunday	30	1:09	9.90 ft	1:53	8.55 ft	7:38	-0.30 ft	7:42	1.04 ft	5:08	8:12	
Monday	31	1:53	9.59 ft	2:37	8.36 ft	8:21	0.01 ft	8:26	1.28 ft	5:07	8:12	
Tuesday	01	2:37	9.25 ft	3:21	8.20 ft	9:05	0.34 ft	9:13	1.50 ft	5:07	8:13	
Wednesday	02	3:23	8.90 ft	4:06	8.08 ft	9:48	0.66 ft	10:00	1.69 ft	5:06	8:14	
Thursday	03	4:09	8.55 ft	4:52	8.03 ft	10:33	0.95 ft	10:51	1.81 ft	5:06	8:15	
Friday	04	4:59	8.23 ft	5:39	8.05 ft	11:18	1.20 ft	11:44	1.85 ft	5:05	8:15	
Saturday	05	5:51	7.95 ft	6:26	8.15 ft	12:05 PM	1.39 ft			5:05	8:16	
Sunday	06	6:44	7.75 ft	7:14	8.32 ft	12:38	1.79 ft	12:53	1.52 ft	5:05	8:17	
Monday	07	7:39	7.66 ft	8:02	8.57 ft	1:33	1.61 ft	1:41	1.56 ft	5:04	8:17	
Tuesday	08	8:33	7.68 ft	8:48	8.88 ft	2:25	1.31 ft	2:29	1.52 ft	5:04	8:18	
Wednesday	09	9:24	7.81 ft	9:34	9.24 ft	3:15	0.93 ft	3:16	1.38 ft	5:04	8:19	
Thursday	10	10:13	8.02 ft	10:19	9.62 ft	4:03	0.49 ft	4:03	1.18 ft	5:04	8:19	
Friday	11	11:01	8.27 ft	11:05	9.99 ft	4:49	0.05 ft	4:49	0.93 ft	5:04	8:20	
Saturday	12	11:48	8.53 ft	11:51	10.29 ft	5:34	-0.35 ft	5:36	0.68 ft	5:03	8:20	🌑
Sunday	13	12:35 PM	8.77 ft			6:21	-0.67 ft	6:25	0.47 ft	5:03	8:21	
Monday	14	12:40	10.48 ft	1:24	8.99 ft	7:09	-0.89 ft	7:15	0.31 ft	5:03	8:21	
Tuesday	15	1:30	10.53 ft	2:15	9.17 ft	7:58	-0.98 ft	8:09	0.22 ft	5:03	8:22	
Wednesday	16	2:23	10.43 ft	3:07	9.33 ft	8:48	-0.93 ft	9:05	0.20 ft	5:03	8:22	
Thursday	17	3:18	10.18 ft	4:01	9.45 ft	9:41	-0.76 ft	10:04	0.23 ft	5:03	8:22	
Friday	18	4:16	9.81 ft	4:58	9.56 ft	10:36	-0.50 ft	11:06	0.27 ft	5:04	8:23	
Saturday	19	5:18	9.39 ft	5:56	9.64 ft	11:32	-0.17 ft			5:04	8:23	
Sunday	20	6:22	8.98 ft	6:55	9.71 ft	12:11	0.27 ft	12:31	0.16 ft	5:04	8:23	
Monday	21	7:27	8.67 ft	7:54	9.78 ft	1:16	0.22 ft	1:30	0.45 ft	5:04	8:23	
Tuesday	22	8:32	8.49 ft	8:52	9.85 ft	2:20	0.10 ft	2:29	0.65 ft	5:04	8:24	
Wednesday	23	9:33	8.43 ft	9:46	9.89 ft	3:20	-0.05 ft	3:26	0.78 ft	5:05	8:24	
Thursday	24	10:29	8.43 ft	10:37	9.90 ft	4:16	-0.18 ft	4:19	0.85 ft	5:05	8:24	
Friday	25	11:20	8.45 ft	11:24	9.86 ft	5:07	-0.25 ft	5:09	0.90 ft	5:05	8:24	
Saturday	26	12:07 PM	8.45 ft			5:53	-0.24 ft	5:55	0.95 ft	5:06	8:24	🌑



216 Daniels Street,
Fitchburg, MA 01420-4042
(978) 343-6330

Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery's located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30p.m. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any of the board members.



Dive Log

United Divers of Central Massachusetts
P.O. Box 57
Fitchburg, Ma 01420
www.uniteddivers.org

Email: For newsletter correspondence
please contact Tom at:
troufos@student.fsc.edu



The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in SCUBA diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands-on experience in a variety of areas including: safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystems, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



United Divers of Central Massachusetts
P.O. Box 57
Fitchburg, Ma 01420