

“CAVE
CRITTER”

Discovered . .

Startling Details PAGE 5

underwater speleology

UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

published bi-monthly
beginning in February
by

The Cave Diving Section of
The National Speleological Society

Membership in the NSS Cave Diving Section is open to any NSS member in good standing that is interested in cave diving and has paid the dues (\$3.00 for 1979). Immediate family of members not wishing to receive a newsletter may also join for \$1.50. Persons not wishing to join may subscribe for \$5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to "NSS Cave Diving Section" and sent to the treasurer, Stephen Maegerlein.

Deadline is the second Friday of the preceeding month. Send articles and correspondence to the editor, Gene Melton.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NSS Cave Diving Section.

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Box 119K, Byron, GA 31008

COVER

Beware this newly discovered creature. Curt Deyon nearly became lunch in order to bring us the first sighting of the fabled "SCADGENT". See the article for more info. Cover Rendition by Mary Melton

CORRECTION

The price for Basic Cave Diving
is: RETAIL \$2.95
N.S.S. MEMBERS \$2.50
Wholesale (10 or more) \$1.75

Please remit the correct amount when ordering to:

N.S.S. Cave diving Section
10259 Crystal Springs Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Editors Note

The editor appologizes for the lateness of the Aug. issue. A job change also resulted in the loss of my typist.

This issue has the first of a series of articles on Devils Eye Spring, a warning from U S Divers Co., a report on the Pittsfield Convention, as well as some miscellaneous news.

CALENDAR

Nov 3-4 FSDA/NACD Seminar, Gainesville, FL, contact George Ryschkewitsch (904 372-8975).

Dec 29-30 12th NSS/CDS Work-shop
G Troy Young, Rt 3 Box 119K,
Byron, Ga 31008.

ADDRESS CHANGE

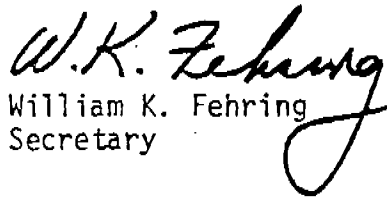
Mary Ellen Eckoff
Rt 1 Box 502
Live Oak, FL 32060
(904) 362-6349

ATTENTION

Dear NSS/CDS Member:

We are pleased to announce that the 12th NSS/CDS Cave Diving Workshop will be held at the Women's Club in Branford, Florida on December 29-30. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and the presentations will begin at 9:00 AM. Topics to be presented will include, among others, batteries, battery chargers, the use of topographic maps to find potential dive sites, the use of cave maps in planning a dive and deep diving physiology. Pre-registration is \$3.00 for members and \$5.00 for non-members. Registration at the door will be \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Pre-registration fees should be forwarded to the program coordinator: G. Troy Young, Rt. 3, Box 119K, Byron, GA 31008.

In order to be able to conduct the election of officers for the upcoming year prior to the workshop, we are requesting that members submit nominations for the offices of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and training director. Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief biographical sketch of the person nominated. In addition, members are requested to submit any proposed revisions to the constitution which they feel should be considered in this election. Nominations and proposed revisions should be forwarded by October 31 to the section chairman: John L. Zumrick, Jr., 2114 NW 55th Blvd., Apt. 12-A, Gainesville, FL 32601. Election ballots will be forwarded to the membership by mid-November.


William K. Fehring
Secretary

WARNING!!

DIVERS ARE WARNED

U.S. Divers, Inc, has voluntatily recalled their 1083 and 1084 Calpso regulators.

The company recieved a report of a malfunction in the first stage of the regulators. After extensive testing by their engineering department, they were able to duplicate the malfunction. The recall calls for a field retrofit by their authorized distributors and repair stations.

Owners of these regulators are being advised not to dive with the regulators until they have been retrofited. They are potentially hazardous.

Ed-Anyone knowing of the malfunction please advise the Ed.

DOLPHIN TO THE RESCUE

It is reported in the SPUMS Journal of July-December 1978, that a 23-year-old diver, Keith Momery, became unconscious and sank while diving off Penzance, in England. Beaky, a dolphin well known to local divers, swam down and brought him to the surface where he kept him afloat until help arrived.

(from June 79 PRESSURE)

CONTACT LENSES AND DIVING

David R. Simon and Mark E. Bradley, Department of Hyperbaric Medicine and Physiology, Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md 20014

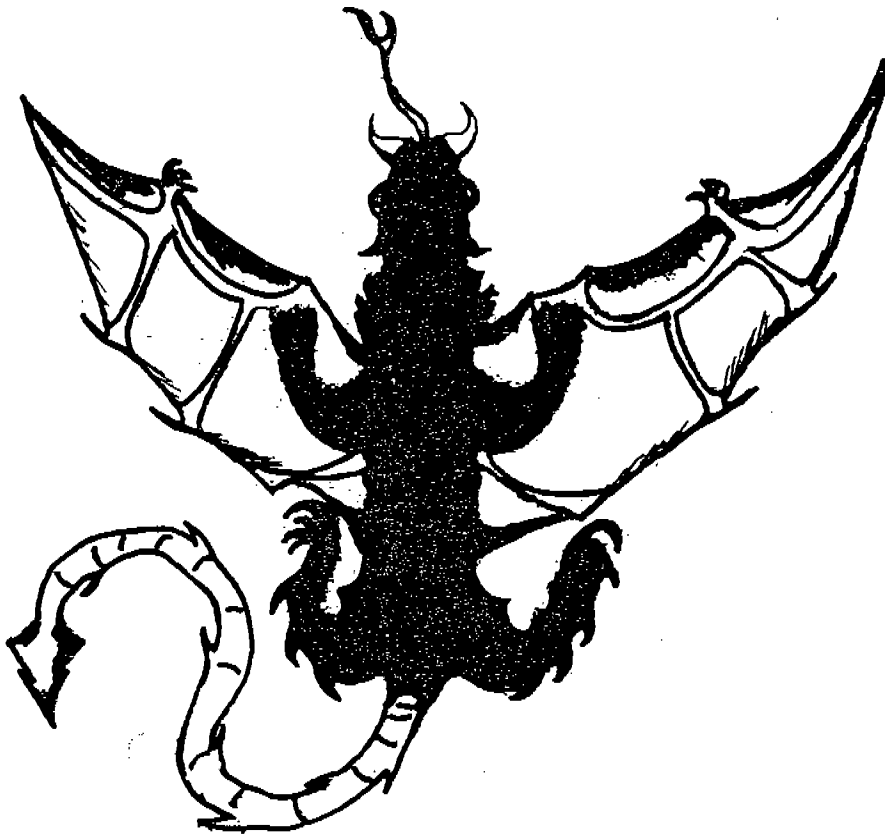
Polymethylmethacrylate (hard) contact lens wearing Navy divers experienced ocular discomfort, halos, specular highlights and decreased visual acuity during and after decompression from 150 foot for 30 minute dry chamber dives. We show that these symptoms are related to bubbles in the tear film between the cornea and the hard contact lens. The bubbles develop during the decompression phase of the dive and represent the trapping (by the hard contact lens) of nitrogen outgassing from the cornea and precorneal tear film. The bubbles interfere with the metabolic exchanges that normally occur between corneal epithelium and the precorneal tear film and effect nummular patches of corneal epithelial edema persisting up to several hours after diving. This cornea edema carries a potential risk since the possibility of corneal infection is greater when the integrity of the corneal epithelium is compromised. None or few of the bubbles were present when membrane (soft) contact lenses or fenestrated (0.1 mm hole in the center) hard lenses were worn during these dives. The reasons why gas trapping and corneal edema do not occur with these types of lenses are discussed and recommendations for contact lens wear by divers are made.

Ed- This is the abstract of a paper given at the UMS convention in Miami 79. For more info contact the Authors.

ATTENTION

We need more articles. Get those pens and typewriters going.

DANGER —



Curt Deyon

This Information has been obtained by the NSS Cave Diving Section
(NSS : National Scadgent Searcher)

This is a newly discovered specimen of SCADGENT (battarouchucus).
If seen, avoid contact, they are known to be extremely aggressive
and unpredictable.

Location-Found in the fresh waters of North Florida Springs, Caves
and Cavernes.

Feeding Habits -This creature is nocturnal, meaning it eats only at
night (in the Dark). Since its always dark in the caves, this thing
is always HUNGRY! (Keep those lights burning.)

Prev- Unsuspecting divers. It will still eat you even if you are
suspecting. Favorite diet-experienced divers of caves.

Ed- More detailed information is needed, (size, weight, color) please
forward information about this and OTHER elusive underwater cave
creatures to the Editor.

"DEVIL'S EYE VITALS DISCOVERED"

-- EARLY 1971 --

by John Harper (NSS 8352)

"Devil's Eye" had always been one of my special spots to go for a fun dive. December, 1967 was the last time I was to dive in this remarkably beautiful spring--unaware of the adventures I would subsequently experience. As my partner, Randy Hylton--who was to later play an important part in nearly all my diving explorations--and I made this 45 minute, 65 foot dive, we renewed our friendship with this system that we had heretofore assumed to be familiar. We "Walled" the cave and enjoyed its tranquillity. It seemed to be so innocent, so pure, but it ironically had a mystic quality too. "Devil's Eye" was a very nice place to go after the ultra serious dives we were mostly involved with.

Not until August 9th, 1969 did we again enter "Devil's Eye". Actually, we generally entered the system by way of the "Ear" thus saving time with considerably less difficulty placing safety line. My partners, this time, were two relatively inexperienced divers--Carl Lovo and Max Reed. I was doing my usual thing in this cave back in the "Last Room". A permanent line was in place through this room so we sort of just roamed about individually enjoying ourselves. Being an explorer I have always spent the majority of my time checking out areas in which flow is emanating. This day again I was poking into quite small areas and was surprised to find an area in which after going around several bends it seemed to become a pronounced flow. I made a mental note to check this out further in the future. And retreated.

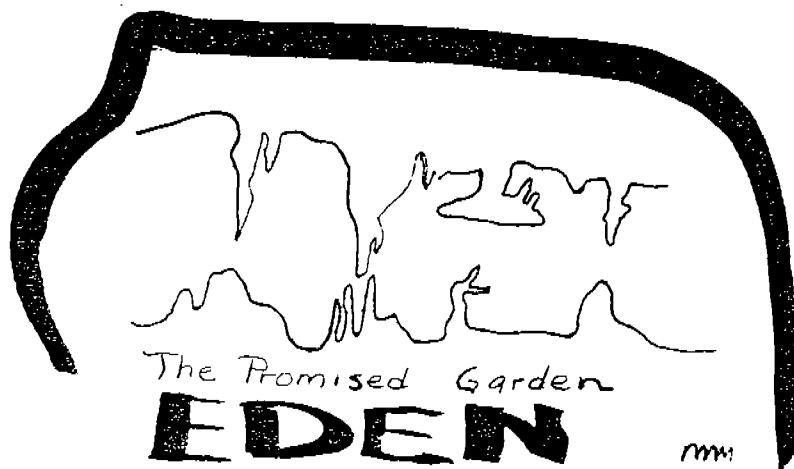
It has always amazed me that I, or someone else for that matter, had never found that lead before. I guess that is one of the facets of cave diving that it so appealing--There seems to never be a system so familiar that something new and sometimes quite significant cannot be found. During this period of time we were enthusiastically exploring two very large systems--These were "Hornsby" and the "Peacock Slough" systems. We were also doing explorations in "Wakulla", "Eagle's Nest", "Little River", and

"Madsion Blue" to name some other major systems still being "Pushed". That was my excuse for neglecting "Devil's Eye" for over a year and a half.

I decided to check out the lead in "Devil's Eye" on February 20, 1971, while diving with Paul Havins from Orlando, Florida. Because of the nature of the restriction it was planned for Paul to wait while I entered into the unknown area and checked it out further. After entering a very short distance I decided that it had to be "Going", it was opening up, the flow was quite evident, and there was no silt problem. I "Flashed" for Paul to join me. We then proceeded to systematically explore inward into this new discovery which I later named the "Vitals".

The tunnel took on a vertical configuration. The further we went the more promising it became. After going about 140 meters, we finally came to a small room with the apparent flow coming from a slightly smaller tunnel to the left. We, however, had to "Call" the dive for lack of more safety line. I tied off; leaving the line for the next assault. To this point it had been an interesting and quite exciting dive. But, really feeling remorseful, if we had just a little more line we would have seen something we would not have been prepared for in "Little old Devil's Eye". It would have revealed the "New Dimension Room" and the fact that "Devil's Eye" was now a major system.

It is ironic that exactly one year after the discovery of the "Vitals" that this anniversary should be noted by the tragic death of my very best friend Randy Hylton. Although Randy was not present on the initial discovery, he, along with Jim Lockwood, were with me on all subsequent dives. While our team was still intact during 1971, we penetrated over a third of a mile into this fantastic cave. Sheck Exley and company took over there after.



RECENT LONG CAVE DIVES

By Sheck Exley

(1) Penetration of 2650 m (8692 ft) at Cocklebidy Cave Australia in early June 1979, by Hugh Morrison (Perth Australia), Simon Jones (Perth Australia) and Keith Vickers (New Zealand) PLUS SIX back-up divers. The dive included a 650m (2132 ft) dive to an air-filled lake room, then a 2000 m (6560 ft) dive beyond to a point where the average ceiling depth gradually descends from 5 m (15 ft) to 15 m (50 ft). This is logistically the same as a 8692 ft penetration since there is no exit from the lake room. The 6560 ft dive beyond the lake room took FIVE hours.

(The above information was furnished to Sheck Exley by phone from Phil Prust of Australia on 6/26/79, who hopes to extend exploration at that site soon.)

(2) Longest penetration in Europe (other than 6000 ft traverse at Keld Head, G.B.) 1320 m (4330 ft) at Grotte de la Bourne, France, by Bertrand Leger. Maximum depth 20 m (66 ft).

Second longest- 1060 m (3477 ft) at Source Landenouze by Olivier Isler of Switzerland. Maximum depth 43 m (141 ft).

(Information furnished by French diver Claude Toujoumon on 5/27/79 at the 11th NSS Cave Diving Workshop, Branford, Fl.)

Ed-Thanks Phil and Claude for keeping us up on cave diving around the world.

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BASIC CAVE DIVING

- a blueprint for survival



by Sheck Exley



cave diving section

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COVER

Basic Cave Diving - a Blue Print for Survival by Sheck Exley is the latest publication by the N.S.S. Cave Diving Section. Written for the cave diver with little experience or training, veteran divers will also find the text useful and informative. Although North Florida caves are discussed, the information can be used worldwide. Each Chapter starts with an accident report, follows with an analysis and then discusses technical hardware, techniques and training that could have prevented the accident. The 46-page booklet is "a Blue Print for Survival". Order from: Publications Committee
N.S.S. Cave Diving Section
10259 Crystal Springs Road
Jacksonville, Fla. 32221
Payable to:
N.S.S. Cave Diving Section
Price: \$2.95 Retail: \$2.50
N.S.S. Member: \$1.75
Wholesale (10 or more)

EDITORIAL

Basic Cave Diving by S. Exley should do more to prevent cave diving accidents than anything else in the past eight years. Written clearly, concisely, and to the point, it provides the reader with the knowledge of what is necessary and WHY to cave dive safely. Good job, Sheck!

CALENDAR

July 29 - Aug. 4, 1979; "Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar" Albany, N.Y. Contact: National Cave Rescue Seminar, 834 Louise, Petacuma, CA., 94952, (707) 763-4884.
Aug. 5-12, 1979; Cave Diving Session and Annual Section Meeting at NSS Convention, Pittsfield, Mass.
Sept. 1981, Fifth International Cave Diving Camp, Bowling Green, Ky.
Contact: Joe Lieberz - address on left