



Expedition Officer's report 2007-2008

In the last year the following trips have been organised:

27th september => 04 october 2007 – trip to the Red See (Marsa Alam):

On 27th of September 2007, Audrey, Consuelo, Luis, Sally, Nat, Göran, Wim, Peter and Corien went on a week's diving trip to the South of the Red Sea to check out the wonders of the Red Sea. The trip organization was initiated by Valerie and carried over by Peter. They stayed at the Coral Beach hotel which immediately gives you the feeling that you have arrived in Egypt: terracotta tiles and mosaics, warm fabrics and Berber carpets. We had booked with Emperor's diving and the location of the dive-school just couldn't be better. Based inside the Coral Beach Diving Hotel, you are literally just a few meters away from the boats moored on the hotel jetty. They were rather lucky and went diving on a rather spacious boat called "PEGASUS" together with a Dutch group of about 10 divers.

There are plenty of dive-sites within half an hour to an hour sailing and the ones that some of the divers were particularly interested in were Elphinstone and Shaab Samadai.

Sites visited:

- Marsa Mubarak (depths ranging from 5 to 20 metres, reef wall, beautiful coral garden, large pinnacles, variety of groupers, butterfly fish and turtles.)
- Ras el Torfa (slightly deeper site with a maximum of about 30 metres with plenty of Moorish Idols)
- Big Shouni. Plenty of Parrotfish, Angelfish, butterflyfish, Clownfish, Emperorfish, Hawksbill turtle and lots of Lionfish.
- Elphinstone reef.
- Marsa Shouni Soraya. Depth starting from around 8 metres and reaching down to well over 40. Stunning corals which are densely populated with fish such as anthias, lion fish and groupers. Stingrays, myriad shoals of Snapper, Fusilier, Butterfly, Angel, Bat, Damsel and Sergeant fish. And several forms of Parrot, Unicorn and Trigger fish.
- Shab Samadai - Dolphin House. Horseshoe shaped reef creating a shallow turquoise water lagoon where a large school of spinner dolphins can often be seen.

Most of the divers clocked 12 dives and over 10 hours bottom time.

(As I haven't attended this trip, I used some text from Corien out of the newsletter. Thanks Corien)

08/09 march 2008 – Nemo 33 (Brussels):

18 persons went to dive 'Nemo 33' in Brussels, which claims to be the world's deepest pool (33 m).

Excellent place for trainees for a first deep-diving in perfect conditions (clear water, 32 degrees Celsius). Everybody enjoyed the nice warm and clear water there and the nice chinese food during our social dinner in Brussels.

23/25 May 2007 - three days diving week-end in Zeeland (Aquadeltapark).

During the week-end about 25 dives have been executed by 14 members of the club. A bit disappointing compared to last year. A good way to give a boost to the students impatient to get their levels (ocean, sports divers en dive leaders)! 3 non-divers also came to enjoy the barbecue and the accommodations (a really enjoyable 12 persons villa) in the very new build villa area of the aquadeltapark (these area can be recommend to any of the club members!!).

Plans for the end of the year:

- A two weeks trip to Indonesia (Bali, Komodo Island) is organised for the beginning September period if enough people confirm!

08/06/2008, Sassenheim

Valerie Le Gallou – Expedition officer

