



EDA
جمعية الإمارات للغوص
Emirates Diving Association

SPECIAL EDITION
MAY 2005

**DIVERS FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**

OFFICIAL DMEX 2005 GUIDE

DMEX

DIVE MIDDLE EAST EXHIBITION



Plus! Exhibition Map, Exhibition Highlights, Pearl Diving,
DMEX 2005 Photo Contest and more...



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DIVERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Please note that EDA's newsletter, "Divers for the Environment" includes articles written by individuals whose opinions, whilst valid, may or may not represent that of EDA. It is hoped that the newsletter can become a platform for individuals to voice their opinion on marine and diving related issues. You are welcome to submit an article for the next edition of "Divers for the Environment" released in June 2005. Send all articles/comments to Head Office edadiver@emirates.net.ae

WELCOME TO THE DIVE MIDDLE EAST EXHIBITION 2005



The Emirates Diving Association would like to welcome you to the Dive Middle East Exhibition 2005, held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. We are proud and honored to be hosting the first diving trade show in the Middle East.

The diving industry in the United Arab Emirates continues to grow and expand with the pace of development in the country. With new projects planned off the coasts of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, new opportunities for diving are being created. These new opportunities will further fuel the growth and expansion of the industry. The United Arab Emirates is also rapidly becoming a regional travel destination and we hope that we can help lead the way for responsible diving and the protection of our seas.

We hope you enjoy exploring what the exhibitors at our show have to offer. You can find the latest dive equipment, hear about technical diving specialties, see the latest dive fashions and explore some of the diving history of the United Arab Emirates. Our exhibitors come from all over the region, including Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Malaysia, Seychelles, France, America and, of course, the United Arab Emirates. These exhibitors represent dive retailers, dive manufacturers, tourism companies, environmental organizations and other marine related companies. They share in our commitment that of safe and responsible diving in our seas.

The Emirates Diving Association is dedicated to the protection of the seas and oceans off the coasts of Arabia and the promotion and growth of the commercial and recreational scuba diving industry in the United Arab Emirates.

Yours sincerely,

Faraj Butti Al Muhairbi

President of the EDA

You can find out more about our organization by visiting our website at:
<http://www.emiratesdiving.com>.



DMEX Team

تحت رعاية سمو الشيخ مكتوم بن محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم أول معرض و مؤتمر مختص بالغوص بالمنطقة

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته،

تقوم جمعية الإمارات للغوص بتنظيم أول معرض و مؤتمر مختص بشؤون الغوص في منطقة الشرق الأوسط - ديمكس و ذلك خلال الفترة 10 و 11 مايو 2005 في قاعة مركز مؤتمرات مدينة جميرا في إمارة دبي.

سيستضيف ديمكس خبراء و متحدثين و عارضين من الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية، أفريقيا، أوروبا و دول من الشرق الأوسط و آسيا و دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، الذين سيعرضون آخر ما توصلت إليه تقنيات الغوص و أحدث المنتجات المتعلقة بريضة و سلامة الغوص، كما سيجذب جميع المهتمين من غواصين و غير غواصين للإطلاع أيضا على ما سيعرض من عروض سياحة الغوص و الدورات التدريبية و ذلك من الساعة 10:00 صباحا و حتى الساعة 8:00 مساء من يومي الثلاثاء و الأربعاء 10 و 11 مايو 2005.

سيوفر ديمكس معلومات عن آخر المنتجات و الخدمات التي توصلت إليها الشركات المنتجة لمعدات الغوص من مختلف أنحاء العالم و التي يهتم أي غواص بالإطلاع عليها، إن هدف هذا المعرض و المؤتمر هو إطلاع الغواص في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة و المنطقة على مختلف المنتجات المتعلقة بريضة الغوص و الأهم من ذلك توعية الغواصين بأمور البيئة البحرية و السلامة العامة المتعلقة بريضة الغوص.

كما سيستفيد غير الغواصين المهتمين بهذه الرياضة من زيارة هذا المعرض و المؤتمر وذلك بالإطلاع على الدورات التدريبية المتعلقة بترخيص الغواصين، كما سيعرض أيضا بالإضافة إلى عروض عطلات الغوص و المغامرات، آخر ما توصلت إليه شركات الرياضات المائية، حيث سيتوفر في المعرض عروض خاصة على جميع هذه المعدات للراغبين بالشراء.

سيكون هذا المعرض بمثابة اجتماع و لقاء للقائمين على صناعة رياضة الغوص في العالم كما سيكون بمثابة منتدى دولي للغواصين من مختلف الجنسيات و كافة الأعمار.

هذا و سيتمكن الزائرون لمعرض ديمكس من الالتقاء بشخصيات دولية مشهورة بصناعة رياضة الغوص في العالم كما سيتمكنون من تبادل الآراء و الخبرات مع غواصين ذوي خبرات طويلة في هذا المجال.

و سيتمضمّن هذا المعرض و المؤتمر و الذي يعقد تحت رعاية سمو الشيخ مكتوم بن محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم مواد تعليمية خاصة بالأطفال و لكافة الزوار حول رياضة الغوص و البيئة البحرية.

كما تقام خلال هذا المعرض أول مسابقة دولية للتصوير تحت الماء في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة حيث سيقوم غواصون محترفون بالتصوير تحت الماء بعرض أجمل و أفضل الصور التي التقطوها تحت الماء في مياه دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة أو مختلف أنحاء العالم و سيعلن عن أسماء الفائزين خلال معرض ديمكس.

هذا و تقوم جمعية الإمارات للغوص للجهة المنظمة و الممولة لهذا المعرض و التي تم إشهارها للغوص بتوجيهات كريمة من صاحب السمو المغفور له الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان طيب الله ثراه وبناء على القرار الوزاري رقم (23) لسنة 95 م بتاريخ 1995/2/23 م والصادر من معالي وزير الشباب والرياضة و التي تحتفل بعامها العاشر هذا العام بتنظيم و الترويج لرياضة الغوص في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة و تضم في عضويتها أكثر من 500 من الأفراد و 29 مركز مختص بالغوص في مختلف أنحاء الدولة كما تقوم الجمعية بمهمة مراقبة و دراسة البيئة البحرية في الدولة و المحافظة عليها.

بالإضافة عن نفسي و بالنيابة عن مجلس الإدارة و الطاقم التنفيذي للجمعية نرجو أن تستمتعوا و تستفيدوا من فعاليات ديمكس 2005.

فرج بن بطي المحبري
رئيس مجلس الإدارة
جمعية الإمارات للغوص



Exhibitors	Stand Number	العارضون
	رقم	
Al Boom Diving	1	مركز البوم للغطس
Al Boom Marine	2	البوم مارين
Al Marsa Musandam	3	المرسى مسندم
Al Masood Marine and Engineering	5,6,7	المسعود البحرية و الهندسية
Al Sayegh Trading	4	شركة الصايغ للتجارة
BSAC	8	النادي البريطاني للرياضات تحت المائية
Divers Down	9	دايفرز داون
DiveXtras	29	دايف اكستراس
Diving Dolphin	10	دايفينغ دولفين
Dubai Electricity and Water Authority	30	هيئة كهرباء و مياه دبي
Dubai Police	32,33	شرطة دبي
Dubai Turtle Project	36	مشروع سلاحف دبي
Emirates Diving Association	34	جمعية الامارات للغوص
The Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency	37	هيئة ابحاث البيئة و الحياة الفطرية و تنميتها
Gulf Marine Sports	11	الخليج للرياضات البحرية
Kyodo International LLC - SeaCult as	12	كيودو الدولية
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries, UAE	35	وزارة الزراعة و الثروة السمكية - ا.ع.م
Northern Diver Kuwait	13	نورثرن دايفر كويت
Ocean World Productions	14	عالم المحيط للانتاج الفني
The Pavilion Dive Centre	15	مركز بافيليون للغوص
Qatar Scientific Club	16	النادي العلمي القطري
Scuba 2000 Diving Resort	17	سكوبا 2000
Scuba Dubai	23,25	سكوبا دبي
Scubapro	24	سكوبا برو
Scubatec	18	سكوباتك
SDI/TDI Middle East & Russia	19	اس دي اي/تي دي اي الشرق الاوسط و روسيا
Seven Seas Diving	20	البحار السبعة للغوص
Seychelles Tourism Board & Angel Fish Dive Center	21	مجلس السياحة سيشل
Steve Chambers Art	22	ستيف شامبرز
Suunto	26	سوننتو
Technical Diving International Centre (TDIC)	31	مركز الغوص التقني الدولي
Tourism Malaysia	27	السياحة الماليزية
WaveAction	28	وايف اكشن

EXHIBITION FLOOR PLAN

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STAGE

ENTRANCE TO
EXHIBITION HALL

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8	9	10	11

DMEX

DIVE MIDDLE EAST EXHIBITION

DMEX 2005 PRESENTATIONS



The Development of Technical Diving in the Middle East - Karim Helal, TDI/SDI Middle East and Russia

Diving presentation by Juan Romero

Diving Fashion Show - Al Boom Diving, Al Masood Marine and Engineering and Scuba Dubai

The Mooring Buoys Project - Emirates Diving Association

Diving in Kuwait - Wafa Al-Huraibi, Northern Diver Kuwait

The Secrets of Anilau - Kathleen Russell, Al Masood Marine and Engineering

The British Sub Aqua Club training programs - BSAC members

Video Presentation on Arabia's Cycle of Life and Arabia's Underwater World - Ocean World Productions

The Artificial Reef at the Palm Project and the SEA Concept - Kyodo International

The Xscooter - DiveXtras

Presentations may be added or changed - check the entrance of the exhibition hall for the complete schedule

Coral Reefs - Mohammed Youssef Al Jaida, Kuwait Dive Team

Sea Turtles - Dr. Mohsin Abdallah Al Mansi, Kuwait Dive Team

GETTING IN SHAPE WITH **STRIDE FOR LIFE**



WALK OR RUN YOUR WAY TO HEALTH, WELLBEING AND HAPPINESS!

Stride for Life is an initiative set up to help people of all shapes, sizes, ages and health profiles incorporate enjoyable exercise into a long term, healthier lifestyle. This is not about elite athletes training for ultra marathons (although you might end up that way if you so choose!), rather, it is about bringing exercise safely and comfortably into the lives of people who need it most - which is all of us (who are not already elite athletes) really.

BRIEFLY, THE PROGRAM WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

Lifestyle, fitness and physical activity readiness are individually assessed, and each member is given a suitable aerobic exercise starting point from which to progress gradually over time. Scientific systems for ensuring members exercise at a level that is safe, comfortable and effective are explained. Members come together to meet at a central location three times per week under the guidance and support of a trainer, to either aerobic walk or run, depending on their requirements and preferences. Proper warm up, stretching, exercise technique and timing, and cool down is facilitated. Members take part within similar ability levels and therefore find much mutual support, encouragement and even fun during the sessions. No special clothing is required, other than it be loose, comfortable and cool; however proper walking or running shoes are strongly advised/required. Progression is gradual and improvements in various aspects of health and fitness are recorded and reported back to members regularly. Believe me it really is exciting to see those numbers move as you create real, visible improvements in your own fitness and wellbeing, through taking part! Training towards specific exercise events or activities (like that spectacular hiking trail you have always wanted to do; or being able to complete the fitness tests in order to learn to scuba dive!) can be incorporated.

SO HOW DID STRIDE FOR LIFE COME ABOUT?

The increasing coverage of health issues, as well as my own personal experiences with exercise and weight management, led me to believe that it was time to be part of the solution rather than the problem. So I got off my chair, came out from behind my computer, and decided to try and share what I have learnt through experience about sustaining an active lifestyle over the long term. Not because I am any kind of expert, but just because I finally found a way that worked for me.

People often say that they are too tired or too busy to exercise. I know, because I've often said it myself in the past. For a long time I believed I was an 'un-athletic' person, not sporty, not coordinated enough for complicated gym classes (I've been known to cause five person pile ups during an aerobics class), not in good enough shape to drape myself over exercise machines! But still, from time to time I would feel bad about my body and fitness, and throw myself into a sudden spurt of exercise sessions. It would usually last about six to eight weeks, and then I would find myself either with aches and pains, or dreading the next exhausting session, or both. At that point I would be more likely to stay on the couch with a book and a biscuit, than to get out and be active. And so the cycle goes.

Research confirms that regular exercise is a powerful factor in improving health and well-being. And yet it can seem so difficult to adopt a more active lifestyle. We are creatures of habit and we develop lifestyles and routines that become ingrained as our way of life. To change the habits of a lifetime in order to lead a more healthy way of life can seem daunting, and sometimes even akin to punishment.

I decided there must be a better way to make exercise an enjoyable part of my life. I talked to people who seemed naturally (and happily) fit and active, and read books and articles on exercise and

wellbeing. A simple truth finally hit me, I was doing too much, too soon, and so making the whole experience unpleasant, possibly risky, and ultimately unsustainable for myself. Aha! - start slow, keep it simple, progress gradually I thought (and add a dash of effort and commitment). Naturally active people also seem to have a positive and even grateful attitude towards the fact that they are physically able to get out and be active at all.

So I had a mental shift. I started thinking about all the benefits of regular, moderate exercise, and what a gift it is to be able to get out there and walk and breathe and feel my muscles working to carry me forward, instead of thinking of it as guilt induced torture.

So, with this philosophy of - simple, gradual, grateful - at the core of it all, walking and running have become integral parts of my life. I have completed many fun runs, several marathons (all slowly and steadily mind you), and have even raised money for charities through running. The sense of wellbeing and achievement is priceless.

I truly believe that if I can do it, anyone can do it, and that is why I wanted to start Stride for Life. I wanted to be a part of encouraging other people to make that same commitment to themselves and their health, for life.

My family and friends might look at me strangely when I say this, but I do think of myself as an athlete in training now! So remember - when you put your shoes on and come out and walk regularly, you are an athlete in training too.

Stride for Life sessions will begin during the second half of May 2005. For more information please contact Deborah Dixon on: +971 50 6577057 or Email: deborah@strideforlife.com

UNDER THE WATERS OF THE EMIRATES WITH CAROLE HARRIS

Carole Harris began diving in the Emirates in 1986. Four years later she invested in underwater photography equipment and began chronicling the beautiful underwater life of the UAE. You can see Carole's pictures in the UAE Underwater Explorer, the UAE's first dive guide co-authored by Carole, in local dive shops, and in numerous calendars and magazines.

According to Carole, "The Emirates is a GREAT place for diving, although there have been numerous changes over the past 5 years since all the developments have been happening on the West Coast. However, the East Coast is just a fantastic haven - you just never know what you are going to see when you get down there!"

Carole's pictures attest to the beauty of diving in the Emirates. She raves about the abundance and diversity of life in the UAE's water and reefs. Many times she has travelled to a far away destination to see unique underwater life only to return to the UAE and find it right here. "My husband and I travelled all the way to South America to see schools of hammerheads and 3 weeks later diving in Dibba we saw a hammerhead. You think you are dreaming. On a holiday to the Philippines we found an unusual fish called a pygmy sea moth and around the corner from him, we found a robust ghost pipe fish, again, I thought I was dreaming about our holiday underwater when I saw these unusual visitors. It's really amazing what you can see."

Carole is a strong supporter of programs for the environment and has supported the efforts of the Emirates Diving Association and other environmental causes.



Cave Coral



Moray Twins



Seahorse in Bottlebrush



Turtle

DMEX 2005 PHOTO CONTEST

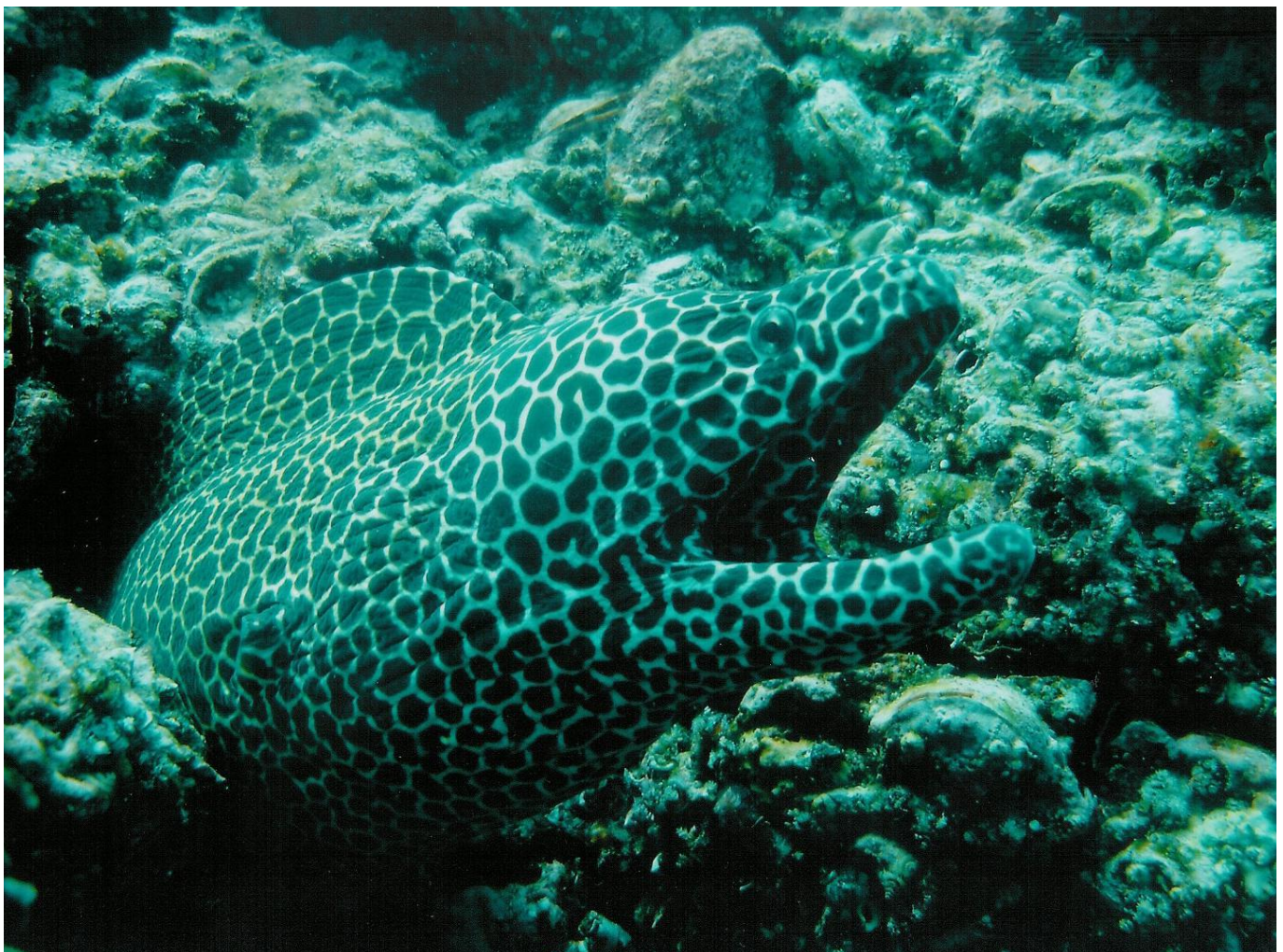
DMEX 2005 is proud to announce an underwater photo contest to correspond with the Diving Middle East Exhibition 2005. Photographers from all over the UAE and the region have been invited to submit their underwater photographs for consideration in the contest. You can view some of the best photographs in the lobby before entering the exhibition hall. Two internationally respected local underwater photographers, Carole Harris and Jonathan Ali Khan, will judge the contest. Thanks to those who entered and to all our sponsors.



Peter Mainka



Steven Beckett



Jason Sockett

THE HERITAGE OF DIVING IN THE UAE PEARL DIVING

AN EDA PEARL DIVING TRIP FOR EDA MEMBERS

By Kathleen Russell, EDA Abu Dhabi Committee and Al Masood Marine and Engineering

On the 24th March and 14th April, 46 intrepid divers and members of the EDA Board of Directors and EDA staff made a quiet splash in search of oyster beds off the Dubai Creek side on the Emirate's Diving Association Dhow. The trip began by the Creek side where the friendly staff and crew welcomed onboard excited EDA divers and provided a traditional breakfast. Ibrahim Al Zu'bi and Mohammed Bitar gave an introduction, safety briefing and informative presentation on the heritage of the pearl diving in Arabia. Experienced UAE National pearl diver Juma Bin Thalet impressed divers and explained about the local heritage and history of pearl diving in this area.

Just off the shores from the Dubai Hyatt Regency Hotel, divers carrying traditional collection bags took giant strides in hope of finding natural pearls. Divers descended to a depth of 5-6 meters and started to collect some oysters. Once everyone returned to the dhow, equipment put away, excited divers sat patiently and carefully opening one oyster or mollusk at a time in anticipation. Juma Bin Thalet demonstrated with great ease how to open the stubborn mollusk shells with traditional tools. Within the first five minutes, several excited "pearl divers" claimed their precious prize, a natural pearl from the seas of Arabia. Eventually, several pearls were found in various sizes, shapes and colors. The divers were reluctant to leave their "oyster opening posts" as they may miss the opportunity. Somehow, EDA staff persuaded everyone to join together for a sumptuous traditional lunch of saffron rice; fish grilled Sheri and tuna, fresh vegetables and plenty of fruit and drinks. Divers departed from this trip happy and left with a humbled spirit as we all envision the hardship some of UAE's forefathers had to endure to find the precious commodity; the natural pearls of Arabia.



Diver searching for oysters



An oyster with pearls

**DIVERS WERE IMPRESSED
WITH THE LOCAL
HERITAGE AND HISTORY
OF PEARL DIVING IN
THIS AREA**

COMMENTS FROM DIVERS:

"I would like to congratulate EDA for combining an experiential lesson in the fascinating culture and history of the Emirates with a great day out! The pearl dive, the enthusiasm of the EDA volunteers who briefed us on the old techniques and knowledge, and the traditional lunch aboard the dhow were superbly organized and a lot of fun!"

MICHELE SISON

"Simply Amazing! The Pearl dive organized by EDA on 14 April 2005 was my first dive after completing my Open Water certification. The experience was memorable, the organization was impeccable and professional, the facilities provided very comfortable and the lunch was just mmmmmm. The fun wasn't just limited to the dive and gathering the oysters but also continued on board the dhow with the hunt for the hidden pearls... I can't wait to dive back into the water with EDA!"

MICHEL ZEINATI

"I thought it was a GREAT experience. I had a wonderful time and learnt so much. I want to thank EDA for putting that all together for us. I'm taking my findings to the gold souq to see if I can get them set into a necklace. Thanks again!"

NICOLE

"Well organized trip, fantastic experience and marvelous hospitality."

TAHER SALEM SAEED

"Experience the Heritage and know your culture with the people that care with EDA".

AHMAD SHAMS

"It was an experience of a lifetime, and most importantly the setup, the organization, and the generosity of all the EDA group in Dubai, which made this trip a wonderful experience."

MOHAMED AL RAMAHI

"It was one of my best diving experiences, not just because of the know how and the hospitality of EDA, the experience was much more than understanding of Emirates old days, good and bad things associated with Pearl hunting craft. I'd love to do it again".

ABDULLA AYOUB

"This Pearl Diving trip proved that there's always a new challenge waiting for you to explore. Our friends at EDA have opened the door to a totally new experience."

ASHRAF AL-FOULI

"Very pleasant and relaxing Dive. The organization was very good and it is a pleasure having so much space on the Dhow."

RUI REIS

"We have learnt great lessons from heritage and practically recognized living hard ships of UAE national grand fathers in the early days. Thanks to EDA for their good organization."

MAHER AL WAZIR, GASCO DIVE CLUB CO-ORDINATOR



Pearl Divers

بقلم: جمعة بن ثالث

منسق قسم التراث

يشارك قسم التراث البحري في جمعية الإمارات للغوص بالعديد من الفعاليات والمشاركات ضمن الجدول الذي وضعه مجلس الإدارة ضمن الخطة السنوية وقد ركز القسم كل جهوده على الأشياء العلمية والثقافية وخاصة على تراث الإمارات والتعرف على مهنة الآباء والأجداد وهو الغوص على اللؤلؤ وصيد السمك وغيره من المهن التي كانت مصدر الرزق الوحيد في ذلك الزمان وكيف كانت الحياة قبل ظهور النفط في السابق وهناك عدة زيارات لقسم التراث الميدانية وذلك بالتنسيق مع جهة الاختصاص بطلب الاستضافة ومن أهم هذه الجهات هي المدارس الحكومية والخاصة بجميع مراحلها السنية وخاصة رياض الأطفال ومن أهداف هذه الزيارات التركيز على الغوص ومسمياته ومعداته التي تستعمل أثناء رحلة الغوص وهنا يبدأ الشرح عن كل أداة على حدا ومن ثم عرض اللؤلؤ الطبيعي والزراعي وذلك لكي يتعرف المشاهد أو الطالب ما مدا الفرق بين اللؤلؤ الطبيعي واللؤلؤ الزراعي كما تتم عملية فلق المحار بمشاركة الطلبة وهذا على مستوى المرحلة الإعدادية والثانوية من ذكور وإناث وذلك مع الهيئة الإدارية ليتعرف الطالب أكثر عندما يكون الشرح عملي وكيفية فلق المحار وأين يوجد اللؤلؤ.

أما الجزء الثاني من هذه الأنشطة يتم الشرح عن الأسماك المتواجدة في دولة الإمارات، وتعريف الطالب كيفية طرق صيدها في الماضي والحاضر. وما هي الأسماك الشائعة على المستوى المحلي والتعارف عليها عند أهل المنطقة مع عرض بوستر توضيحي يظهر أنواع الأسماك بأشكالها وحجمها وهنا نركز على المرحلة السنية كما تعرض بعض الأسماك على شكلها الطبيعي ومن أهمها سمكة الهامور والشعري وذلك كي نوصل المعلومة بدقة إلى أذهان المستمعين والحضور بالإضافة إلى عرض فلم لمدة عشرة دقائق يشاهد الطالب من خلاله كيفية طرق صيد السمك بالخيط والشبك والقرقرور.

أما الجزء الثالث: وهو المشاركة في إقامة المعارض في المدارس أو الدوائر المحلية أو الاتحادية والهدف من إقامة هذه المعارض تعريف الزائر ونبرز تراثنا لكي يتعرف أكثر.

ومن الأشياء التي يتم عرضها من خلال المعرض جميع أدوات الغوص القديمة التي كان يستعملها الغواص في رحلة الغوص وصور من أدوات الطواش التي كان تتم عملية البيع بها وهناك إحصائية رقمية تدل على ان قسم التراث يقوم بجهود كبيرة من اجل إظهار تراث الإمارات والمحافظة عليه وهذا يدل على حرص خدمة المجتمع في سبيل إيصال المعلومة الدقيقة والمفيدة.

اما عن الزيارات الميدانية فقد وضعت لها إحصائية دقيقة بعدد المدارس والجمعيات التي قام القسم بزيارتها وعن عدد الطلاب والطالبات الذين حضروا المحاضرات واستمعوا إلى الشرح الذي بخصوص الغوص السمك، وغيره وقد وصل العدد إلى (٨٢٠) طالب وطالبة والدليل ان هذا القسم يعمل ويتحرك وقد حصل على ما يقارب أكثر من (٤٥) شهادة تقدير وشكر.



صاحب السمو الشيخ الدكتور سلطان بن محمد القاسمي عضو المجلس الأعلى حاكم الشارقة يقوم بزيارة جناح جمعية الإمارات للغوص خلال مشاركة الجمعية في أيام الشارقة التراثية

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DIVE IN

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

The Emirates Diving Association Diving Department in cooperation with Dubai Police celebrated Earth Day 2005 by cleaning up a dive site off the coast of Dubai, the wreck of the MV Dara.



Modified Mooring Buoy with double eyelet conical buoy

BACKGROUND

The MV Dara has a storied history. It was once a busy cargo and passenger liner that suffered a massive explosion between its decks on April 8, 1961 off the coast of Dubai. The resulting fire raged for two days and the ship sank while being towed towards Dubai.

The vessel lies on her starboard side in 20 meters of water off the coast of Dubai. It is broken into three sections and a diver can still penetrate the wreck's hull. The marine life is very well established and provides an excellent dive if the conditions are favorable.

Dara is an important wreck with respect to its history and marine life. Numerous organisms have absorbed the iron oxide from the rusting wreck, giving them a metallic ruddy-brown colour such as cowries, crabs, lobsters, soft corals and many more. Also there are species found at the wreck that are not common to this region.



Decomposing trapped fish

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

MV Dara has recently become a popular site for commercial fishing. Large fishing nets are deployed close to the wreck trapping species both in and around it. These nets have become entangled. Decomposing fish trapped in these nets contaminate the water and endanger the site. In addition to the many species of fish dying from entanglement, the nets are also damaging soft sponges and coral.

EDA's diving team planned a clean up operation for Dara in order to remove the entangled nets. Safety was a key issue for the cleanup, so a week of planning and preparation was necessary before the clean up could begin. The cleanup was successful in removing all of the entangled nets and debris around the wreck.

In addition to the clean-up, a mooring buoy was deployed on MV Dara to lessen the damage and impact of anchoring on this important wreck.

For more information about Earth Day, visit:
<http://www.earthday.net/>



Divers cutting entangled nets free

EDA EVENTS

MONTHLY MEMBER TALKS

Monthly Member Talks is a discussion series on topics that EDA believes will be of interest to its members. Led by individuals who are experts in their respective fields, the talks aim to provide members the opportunity to gain knowledge whilst interacting with each other and the speaker.

DIVE MIDDLE EAST EXHIBITION 2005

May 10-11, 2005, Madinat Jumeirah

EDA GALA DINNER

The Emirates Diving Association will be holding its annual Gala Dinner to coincide with DMEX 2005. The Gala Dinner will be held on May 12, 2005 at 8:00 pm at Emirates Towers.



Congratulations to Ernst Van Der Poll for completing the Course Director Certification from PADI. Ernst is a volunteer in the EDA's Reef Monitoring Program and a Course Director at Pavilion Dive Centre.



Welcome Matthew Smith to the EDA team. Matthew is working with the EDA on the preparations for DMEX 2005.

SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

Working with Schools Campaign - Monthly basis (involves Environmental Awareness, Diving and Heritage info. etc...)

REEF MONITORING

Reef Monitoring Committee (RMC) - Monthly Basis

MOORING BUOY PROJECT

Deployment of Mooring Buoy Project - Based on RMC surveys and dive site necessity

EDA'S MAGAZINE - Quarterly Basis

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS - Yearly

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exploring arabia's natural history & maritime heritage

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We start production on the 2nd series of ARABIA'S CYCLE OF LIFE, sponsored by JEEP & SONY Broadcast & Professional, for AL ARABIYA and SHOWTIME in August 2005.

We have also started pre-production on a new series called ARABIA'S UNDERWATER WORLD, (12 x 40 minutes episodes) featuring Arabia's marine natural history and maritime heritage. These exciting projects create great brand exposure and PR benefits to all levels of sponsors.

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EDA
جمعية الإمارات للغوص
Emirates Diving Association

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The Secretary General Mr Jamal Bu Hannad

Financial Director Mr. Khalfan Khalfan Al Mohiari

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Graphic Designer

Ally Landes

MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve, protect and restore the U.A.E. marine resources by understanding and promoting the marine environment and promote environmental diving.

LEGISLATION

Emirates Diving Association (EDA) was established by a Federal Decree, No. (23) for the year 1995 article No. (21) on 23/02/1995 and chose Dubai as its base. The Decree stipulates the following responsibilities for EDA.

- To Legislate and regulate all diving activities in the UAE.
- Ensure environmentally respectful diving practices in all EDA members.
- Promote and support the diving industry within the UAE by coordinating the efforts of the diving community.
- Promote diving safety in the commercial and recreational diving fields through standardization of practices.
- Promote and preserve historical aspects of diving within the gulf region and enhance environmental education to diving and non diving communities through EDA activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

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