
Random Scatterings

News on line and in letters

Attention Little Cayman Beach

Resort: One of our readers who had top-notch experience with you in April wants us to send you this caution: "Your divemasters should be more vocal and forceful about protecting the reefs. It was not uncommon to see divers kicking, grabbing, and sitting on the corals." Your business depends on pristine reefs. Protect 'em, pals. . . . What's this about running out of items at breakfast and small portions at dinner on a February trip on the *Galapagos Aggressor*? While our New York reader had an otherwise fine time, if there is anything that will annoy a hungry diver, it's a dwindling food supply. The Aggressor fleet is a class operation, and the Galapagos trip is pricey indeed, so we trust this was only an oversight — right, Wayne?

One of our readers was on the *M/V Chertan* in Papua New Guinea last fall and two of the divers aboard were women, ages 65 and 72. He writes that they were "poor divers and restricted our overall dive plan. People like them should be barred from live-aboards." I suspect they weren't pleased either. Did they know in advance about the vigorous diving? Or did someone just want to sell them a spot on a high-dollar trip?

Is this an awareness problem? During last month's Asian Dive Show (Asia's equivalent to DEMA) in Singapore, the **Pacific Asia Travel Association** hosted a Dive Travel Conference luncheon for some of the speakers, including Jean-Michel Cousteau. And the first course? Yes, it was shark-fin soup. Jean-Michel Cousteau noticed that it was on the menu and declined to eat it. Word spread around the room, and it ended

up that no one consumed the soup. . . . According to the *Sea Shepherd Log*, another ocean commodity is facing pressure from the Asian aphrodisiac trade: the seahorse. A **leafy seadragon** from Australia recently sold for a reported AU\$13,000. . . . The same dealers who are exporting seal penises are also working the Galapagos for seahorses and pipefish.

Subscriber Ronnie Briery of Norton, Kansas, purchased a **video housing** three years ago from Leisure Components Inc. (Nauti-View). The company has since gone out of business. Now Ron needs some parts for his housing, model UV10003.X (for Sony TR-81). If anyone can help, let me know.

What's up, Peter? **Peter Hughes Diving** is on a boat binge. The all-new *Moon Dancer* is headed for the Red Sea (I hope someone can manage the quagmire of Middle Eastern politics). And Peter is now also part owner of the *FeBrina* in Papua New Guinea. The *Sun Dancer* is being replaced with a new boat in Palau. Where is the old *Sun Dancer* going? Peter's not talking yet, but I have a suspicion he's headed for the Solomons, or maybe it will become another PNG boat.

Don't buy ocean front. The sea level will rise by almost 20 inches in the next 100 years, the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** said in May. Many small Pacific islands, several of the Maldiv Islands (some populated), and hundreds of thousands of miles of shoreline throughout the world will be covered by seawater.

Poor visibility on a night dive? Fill a zip-lock bag with clear water and throw in a glow stick. Hold the bag between you and what you want to see. Even small objects show up clearly.

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