

Newsletter July 2007



## GUIDING

### UNDERWATER MARINE AND SHARK DIVING

In March 2007, I trained and assessed Rolf Collins of Aikane Ocean Marine & Shark Diving Tours and will be complying with the SA Tourism Amendment Act. All had a three day course before the assessment

## **Guides**

### **Underwater Marine & Shark Diving**

(Comply with the 2nd Tourism Amendment act)

**Train and be assessed**

- Unit standards: TG01 #8531, TG02 #8532, TG03 #8533 Tourist Guide
- Unit standards: TG38 #12126 the Generics of an Underwater Marine & Shark Diving Guide

**Andrew C. R. Cobb**

**THETA accredited trainer and Assessor**

**Assessor #613/A/00352/2005**

**My PROVIDER: Adventure Qualifications Network. [www.aqn.za.org](http://www.aqn.za.org)**



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### Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guides 16/07 to 22/07/2007

**July the 16<sup>th</sup> Monday 2007**, for three days is an underwater marine and shark diving course and the next three days to being assessed as an underwater marine and shark diving, finishing on **Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007**. The whole week is long hours a very intensive. The statutory level one site guide at level one has by SAQA been raised to level 4.

**The whole process starts with registering with my Provider R400.**

The registration form can be sent digitally. Once registered and I have your student number, I will send via Email, the student work book and assignment. The assignment is a major project and needs time to research and complete. For underwater Marine and shark diving guides the statutory level one site guide has been pushed up to level four by SAQA. Time is also needed to collect all your Records of Prior learning and submit certified copies, together with:

- ❑ Certified copy of your I/D or legitimacy of being in SA.
- ❑ If you want a language option to your guide recognition, a verified copy of a letter endorsing compliance from the appropriate Embassy.
- ❑ Maybe you are already a level one site guide still requires the assignment to be completed and you will be assessed at level four.
- ❑ The course and assessment is an intensive week with long hours. To have done your assignment, in which logbook are you daily diary entry of events and changes before hand? Further include an accident (imaginary) in your assignment, do your diary entry and write the accident report. It saves time which you do not have in the week. Completing your assignment will be a distinct advantage to complete your assessment
- ❑ Four passport size photos.
- ❑ Certified copy of your education levels.
- ❑ Certified copy of your in date Dive Master or Instructor status.
- ❑ Certified copy of your PDP if you are a driver guide.
- ❑ Certified copy of your Public indemnity insurance.
- ❑ Certified copy of your in date 1<sup>st</sup> aid and CPR.

I am not marketing the fact that I am a Trainer and Assessor for Underwater Marine and or Shark Diving Guides but by reading this and complying with SA law will save you a R10000 fine if you operate a dive resort or dive charter boat business in SA. My Provider is AQN see [www.aqn.co.za](http://www.aqn.co.za) for details and verification.

## **May Away**

In May Jane and I were away for over a month. Initially to England for my nephew's wedding and it was a great family gathering. My sister who passed away in 1986 would have been very proud of my nephew.

We then went to Vancouver Island all found where I gave a talk on sharks to a very large North American and Canadian Men's Association, called GYRO. Our Hostess Laurie Pederson met us at the Ferry terminal with the South African flag flying and our feet did not touch deck as we were shown the whole of British Columbia.

I had a fascinating time with our First Nation guide of the Tla-o-qui-aht tribe, known as Peter Robinson. Peter was very eloquent and willing shared First Nation culture with me. Vancouver Island is beautiful and is made of many islands with countless fjords and creeks. We went black bear spotting from a specially designed boat.



**Tallest Totem Pole**



**Memorial**



**Looking for Bears**



**Massive logging Operations**

We saw from the boat four black bears, spotted seal which features in the First Nation Totem poles, porpoise many Bald Eagles. What was sad is all the Canadian waters are out fished and Peter knew each of his bears but had never seen a wolf.

We also went bear spotting from a small single engine seaplane and spotted elephant seals (weighing 500-kilos), humpback whales and black bears, plus a crashed Second World War crashed seaplane.

From Laurie's house with the South African flag flying we saw orcas and otters.

We were taken to meet a famous Canadian sculptor and artist. He uses two mediums for his sculptures, wood and marble and through his art attract to people to the plight of the whales and nature.

On our second visit I was presented with the "Tale of the Sea" by Maarten Schaddelee with his lovely wife Nadina. (The original sculpture in Victoria BC)



This beautiful Sea Tale created its own story when Andy and Jane were connected by Laurie to Maarten and Nadina. Two men who have stories to share and speak on behalf of Sharks and whales, together with three women, who also support respect the environment and to our co-existence with nature.

Maarten's inspiration for the sculpture is from a whale presenting itself above the water like wings and then disappearing to the depths. Maarten believes if we can share the beauty of Whales in art form perhaps people will become interested in the story of these magnificent creatures. This has proved true in his seventeen years of sculpting.

"We believe in Andy sharing his passion for the sharks will also help change people's perceptions and make a difference. ***"One person holding the possibility of change can create change"***. You speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

We returned to England to see Jane's side of the family and then off to Bahrain for a week with my eldest Daughter Vanessa and her fiancé' Barend. They get married on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October here in SA.

Once again we were feted and shown Bahrain. A lot of eating out but everywhere was air-conditioned. With the temperatures at 40 to 45 degrees C if out of the sun, I did not even sweat or have a wet shirt once as it was a dry heat!

The only tourist feature of Bahrain is the 'Tree of Life'.



**Tree of Life**

The **Tree of Life** ([Arabic](#): [شجرة الحياة](#); [transliterated](#): Shajarat al-Hayah) is a 400-year old [mesquite](#) tree in [Bahrain](#) which is considered a natural wonder. This unique tree stands alone in the desert about 1.2 miles (two kilometers) from the Jebel Dukhan. The source of water for this tree still remains a mystery, because it stands in a place completely free of water whatsoever.

We were taken one night to celebrate Jane's birthday to an upmarket Lebanese restaurant at the Intercontinental Hotel. We were picked up by a red limousine and were entertained by a lovely exotic dancer



Back to the grindstone and over a month of mail and business to sort out!

# **Shark, Diving and Wildlife Safaris**

**Introduction to Zulu Culture**

**The original South African fully guided, with fully accredited guide, for the Shark experience through Shark College and dive with sharks. To have a safe, informed interactive, sustainable experience with Sharks, African wildlife and the marine flora and fauna.**

**Tailor made TOURS**

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**SHARK College**

**Shark College**



I have combined my Advanced Shark Course, Shark Diving Guide knowledge to run as Shark College Courses

The presentation is using Power Point and inclusive of video clips on behaviour.

## **OTHER COURSES – NAUI & SSI.**

I also run **Wreck Diving Courses** with a section on marine archaeology as I worked four seasons on excavating a Portuguese War ship that sunk in the 1600's off Mombasa Island.

### ***Marine Environmental courses:***

As a marine diving guide you will be assessed on your generic knowledge of the marine habitat and its flag ship species and for those intending to a Marine Diving Guide for safe, sustainable and informative interactions with marine flora and fauna this course will be a core factor.



I still do a **Shark Diving Course** as before on Aliwal Shoal during the Raggy season. We do require a minimum of 4 persons to run these courses.

***Andrew and Jane Cobb.***

July 2007