

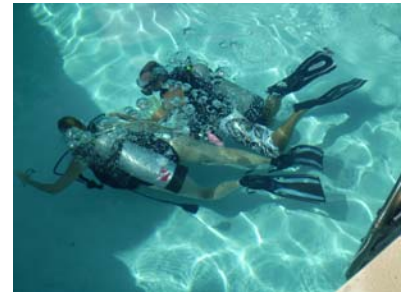
ASHEVILLE SKI CLUB DISCOVERS WATER OF THE UNFROZEN KIND!

Five members of the Asheville Ski and Outing Club took on the undersea world of the Florida Keys. Experienced divers Margaret Crum and Paul Dobson took never before divers Pam Bustin, Michelle Shuford and Ron Shulby on a tour of a lifetime.



<We started out by learning some skills in the pool. This allowed us to become comfortable with the equipment and trust that we could actually breathe underwater.

Here Ron takes a spin around the pool...underwater!>



On our first open water dive, our Master Dive Instructor taught us that you do not take underwater pictures, pose for pictures, or hold hands on your first dive. Michelle was amazed to find out that someone could yell underwater!

<Boy was he mad at the Griswald's...I mean the Asheville Ski Club group.

But in the end...the three newbies passed!>



We were so close to the fish that one disgruntled Yellow Tail Snapper swam into Paul's mask several times to get him to stop peeping into his rock home. Paul led the group with his amazing underwater navigational skills. When we looked to him to get us back to the boat, he rose to the surface, looked around, came back down, and pointed the way home. When we returned to the boat, Margaret was shocked to find that Paul our leader did not own a compass. Paul stated he didn't need a compass as he always knew right where he was...underwater in the Atlantic Ocean!

Margaret was the sweeper, keeping her sheep from going astray. Paul and Ron came across a Black Tip shark right in our path. We stopped and turned to tell the girls of the shark only to find a rather large nurse shark swimming next to Margaret and Pam. You could tell it was a nurse shark 'cause it had a white hat with a red cross on it! Pam had requested a no shark dive but someone forgot to tell the sharks. We all did well and enjoyed the excitement; Margaret who has been on shark dives took it all in stride.



On our last dive, as we were going out to Molasses Reef, the dolphins followed us out and surfed our wake! Unfortunately the pictures didn't turn out well! The Captain of the boat said we were having so much fun he was going to dive with us. We learned later that he rarely dives and it had been quite some time. While on Molasses Reef he found a 500 pound Goliath Grouper. The grouper was flushed out of his hole in the rocks and Michelle followed him off into the distance.



Just like the Griswald's, we made a few side trips:

<We saw the world's largest lobster... now how could we resist that... and the seven mile bridge.

We ate the finest fresh-caught shrimp, lobster and fish every evening and enjoyed stories of diving to the depths of the ocean and skiing from the peaks of the Matterhorn. We are truly a four-season club and look forward to our next dive trip and hope many of you will join us.

