



**Volume 48 Number 9**

**September 2025**

## **President's Message**

**Chris Dorris**

Hello fellow Barracudas!

Scuba Diving Safety - If you dive safely, you can enjoy the dive more and live to dive another day.

Dive Planning and Communication - Both of these are key to scuba diving safety and can be the difference between a fun, safe dive and an unpleasant experience, if not worse!

Dive Planning - The old saying in diving is Plan your Dive, Dive your Plan. It is very good advice

Review your Hand Signals - Remember to always go over the basic hand signals with your buddy. This is doubly true if you are diving with a new buddy.

Check Your Gear Before Diving - Okay, the truth is that pre-dive safety checks seem boring and unimportant and just get in the way of getting on with the dive. But do it anyway!

Service your gear - Divers often overlook getting their gear serviced regularly. Having a problem underwater because your gear failed is an entirely avoidable situation. Therefore, to improve your scuba diving safety, get your gear serviced regularly.

Know Your Limits - Knowing your limits will have the single biggest impact on your scuba diving safety record. Limits are like anything else in life; with time, patience, and training, you can

push your limits safely and do the dives you want!

Depth - By far, the biggest culprit when it comes to diving fatalities is depth. The numbers don't lie, and diving too deep leads to enormous problems, from running out of air to rapid ascents, oxygen toxicity, narcosis, and more.

Physical Limits - Learn your physical limits and what you can physically cope with. This applies to underwater and getting in and out of the water.

Training Limits - Always stick within your training limits; They are there for a reason and are a key component of scuba diving safety protocols.

Master Buoyancy Control - Scuba diving safety and buoyancy control go hand in hand. The more you perfect your buoyancy, the safer diver you will be. Not only will you protect the environment with your skills, but you will also end up protecting yourself.

Dive with a Buddy - Solo diving is attractive and has been gaining popularity in recent years. However, it does carry a slightly bigger risk than diving with a buddy and involves more equipment and planning.

Sincerely,  
Chris Dorris

## **Programs and Publicity**

**Carol Auer**

The Brevard County Sheriff's Dive Team will speak at the Merritt Island Library on Thursday, September 18, at the September general meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:15 PM,

With 75 miles of oceanfront, bordered by the St.

John's River, and encompassing the Indian River Lagoon, the Banana River Lagoon, and Mosquito Lagoon, there is bound to be plenty of work in our county for the Sheriff's Dive Team.

Come to the meeting. All are welcome!

## Indonesia 2025 Trip Report

To: Jan Stogner  
President, Caribbean & Pacific Dive  
Vacations

From: William Little  
Data Services Coordinator, KSC Barracudas

Dear Jan:

To say you have outdone yourself would be to make an understatement of epic proportions.

Our Indonesia 2025 trip was, without a doubt, an experience that none of us will soon forget! From the moment the seven of us (myself, Terry Keeney, Chuck Brown, Robby and Pam Klein, Joan Stuart, and Darien Lawrence) arrived at the Murex Manado Resort in North Sulawesi, we were treated like royalty. The staff at all three resorts were friendly, courteous, and bent over backwards to make our stay a good one. The accommodations were first rate and the food was excellent.

Granted, the Murex Bangka rooms were a bit rustic, but that was part of their charm, I thought.



*The beach at Murex Bangka Resort*

And the diving...? Let me put it this way: Pick up a Paul Humann reef creature identification book for Indonesia and open it to any page. Your first impression will be "That can't be real. It has to be photoshopped. Nothing in the ocean looks like that." Then you jump in, and there, on the reef, is that impossible creature! Truly amazing. Green sea turtles by the hundreds! And



cuttlefish! If I had my life to live over again, I would go into marine biology and specialize in cuttlefish studies just to figure out what it is they're trying to tell us! Even the muck diving (a misnomer, in my opinion) yielded unexpected wonders – blue-ringed octopus, nudibranchs glowing in neon colors, species after species after species of anemonefish.

In the end, I think I can speak for everyone that this trip was an unqualified success. (Okay, there was the one incident with what we believe was the flu, but it came and went, and not too much diving was missed... we blame it on the German group at Bangka.) I don't know of any of us who wouldn't go back in a heartbeat. As to your "Where to next?" tag line, we're already talking about it.... Despite all the headaches, heartaches, and butt aches that were part of putting this trip together, it was all worth the effort! Thank you for doing a superlative job! We'll be in touch soon!

*Pam Klein  
Robby Klein  
Chuck Brown  
Joan Terry Keeney  
Darien Lawrence  
William Little*



*The group with our dive guides extraordinaire Doni and Laurens*

## Photography

The club Photo/Video contest is rapidly approaching. Contest entries are due by Nov. 1.

The contest runs for photos and video clips taken between Oct. 18, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2025.

Four entries can be submitted in each of the following categories:

1. Above Water Image
2. Underwater Wide-angle or Normal Perspective Image
3. Underwater Close-up or Macro Perspective Image
4. Underwater Diver Portrait Image

## Terry Keeney

5. Most Unique Image

6. Underwater Video Clip

An entry form(s) must accompany your entries.

See the contest rules on the club website for all the details.

I will bring my laptop to the September and October general meeting so you can bring your entries on usb flash drive and I will download them.

Looking forward to seeing all the fantastic entries!