

ULSAC Trip Report Form

Please include on this form any details you think will help organise another trip to this area. Please include details of any problems encountered, or any particularly good things/places in the area, such as good or awful restaurants and pubs.

Logistics

Date	14 th – 17 th May 2009	Springs o Neaps o
Venue	Dive Fest, Pentewan, Nr St Austell	
Marshal	Helen Cripps and Hannah Morgan	
Overseer	Nathan Long	
Number of People	19 (but not everyone was there all the time)	
List of attendees with Diver Grade in brackets (e.g. SD, DL etc)	Nathan Long (AD)	Martin Greaves (AD)
	Anthony Chaddock (DL)	Kat Sizer (DL)
	Craig Combe (DL)	Jer Davey (DL)
	Tom L – W (DL)	Hannah Morgan (SD)
	Vanessa Woolhead (SD)	Siobhan Cox (SD)
	Clare Davies (SD)	Becky Snarey (SD)
	Melanie Hezzell (SD)	Eric Lucas (SD)
	Anouk Gourvas (SD)	Helen Cripps (SD)
	Kaisa Pippary (OD)	Tomoko Ishibashi (OD)
	Sani Delgiorgi (PADI AOW)	
Accommodation	Pentewan Sands Holiday Park	
Address	Pentewan Sands Holiday	
Telephone No.	01726 843485	
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	Pitch with 2 adults and 1 tent = £14.75 per night	

Notes Good shower and toilet facilities.

There was a takeaway offering chips, burgers, curry, ice cream etc which was ok but pricey.

There was also a bar that offered good food and on Sunday a roast for £8 which was generous, they let you load your plate up (so two can share if you clever).

There was also a good sized shop if you needed anything, although you could drive into town to a supermarket or for McDonalds/Pizza hut which were 5min drive away.

There is also a petrol station about 1min drive from the campsite exit.

The whole campsite is spread along a beach and is very pretty; there is also a swimming pool (which was used for try dives that weekend).

Dive Fest itself set up marquees, so good to check their website for more details of what will be on offer. ([HYPERLINK "http://www.divefest.co.uk/"](http://www.divefest.co.uk/) <http://www.divefest.co.uk/>)

Launch Site (inc. cost) We used hardboats and ribs which were being coordinated by SAL diving as we wanted to interact with all the other clubs as much as possible and there were not enough towers.

The chartered hardboats and ribs left from Mevagissey Harbour, a short drive from the campsite. ([HYPERLINK "http://www.mevagisseyharbour.co.uk/"](http://www.mevagisseyharbour.co.uk/))

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There were Dive Fest signs on the road leading you to the harbour, but if they are absent you can follow local signs, be careful not to drive past a tight dog leg turn to the left which leads you into the harbour front itself ([HYPERLINK "http://www.multimap.com/maps/?zoom=16&countryCode=GB&q=PL266QU"](http://www.multimap.com/maps/?zoom=16&countryCode=GB&q=PL266QU) \ | "map=50.27019,-

4.78691%7C20%7C32%26bd%3Duseful_information%26loc%3DGB:50.27032:-

4.78723:20%7CPL266QU%7C" \t "_blank" [Middle Warf Road, turn point marked with red](#)

[circle](#)) basically you should see a Pirate Shop/Museum go towards that.

Then once facing the water, go to the right to the very end of the [HYPERLINK "http://www.multimap.com/maps/?zoom=16&countryCode=GB&q=PL266QU"](http://www.multimap.com/maps/?zoom=16&countryCode=GB&q=PL266QU) \ |

"map=50.26989,-4.78734%7C17%7C32%26bd%3Duseful_information%26loc%3DGB:50.26903:-4.78229:17%7CPL266QU%7C" \t "_blank" [harbour wall](#), which you can park along if you get there early enough (pay and display) so you are closer to the charter boats.

Please be careful driving along here, it can be quite tight, we took the MPV and the Vans down there so it is possible, but take care.

One thing to note, despite what the road signs say when you are leaving the harbour: DO NOT take any large vehicle up Jetty Street, the road is narrow and makes turning very difficult. Just go back out of Middle Wharf Road, the MPV followed a local out, where as the van had problems exiting via Jetty Street which formed a bit of a temporary road block!

Coastguard	Falmouth
Nearest chamber	DDRC Plymouth, Devon, Tel: 01752 209999
Air Shop	Sal Diving Beach Hut (on the beach at the campsite)
Van Hire (inc. notes, did you breakdown, AA cover, tow bar etc.)	H and H, no probs reported.

Dives

Dive 1	
Site:	SS Hera
Max depth:	19m
GPS Marks:	-
Brief description:	Lovely little wreck, lots and lots of starfish, crabs and fish all over her. Is flattish in places but in others stands quite proud. Good little dive.
Dive 2	

Site:	Ardingorm
Max depth:	15m
GPS Marks:	-
Brief description:	<p>Eric's comment: "does it have to be positive? If not, here it is:</p> <p>One thing worse than diving a load of kelp: diving a "wreck" that is buried under a load of kelp."</p> <p>But Jer did find a winner's medal under there..which could have meant he won a Dive Computer in the underwater treasure hunt. But he didn't.</p>

General Details

Camping and tickets were both easy to get hold of, while diving did fill up quite fast but, SAL were good about calling to confirm bookings when necessary and replied to e-mails swiftly.

Tamsin looked after all the coordinating for boat charters. SAL diving is hers and her husband (Sals) company.

We also opted to dive on the Friday even though the event didn't start until that evening, so that the dive sites would be quieter and to give us more time at Dive Fest itself, so we could involve ourselves more in all the other activities laid on by the organizers.

We hired a hardboat (12 divers max) and spaces on a large rib.

The hardboat stayed out for the whole day, while the rib came back between dives. So on the hard boat you need to take enough tanks for two dives each and lunch for every body. Hot drinks though are normally offered by the skippers.

We had a good boat, and Steve our skipper allows people to be wet throughout the boat, so you can stay warm inside even if you are in a wetsuit.

The boat has an area to sleep, a toilet and a lift so you don't have to climb on. Steve was a good skipper with a great attitude who everyone seemed to like. (See his hardboat here: [HYPERLINK "http://www.wrightys-charters.co.uk/"](http://www.wrightys-charters.co.uk/) \t "_blank" [Seeker](#))

When we came back into harbour, Tamsin was there with some people ready to take our tanks from us and the load them up into their Land Rover so they could be filled, which was great.

And despite the number of tanks we used by 9pm that night they were ready for collection at their hut on our campsite's beach.

I found Tamsin to be very helpful and helped us sort out B&B accommodation at the last minute when we needed it and alternative options to diving too when we got blown out on Saturday.

Treasure hunt wise...on the dives themselves..Jer came up trumps when diving with Clare, and found one of the medals, which he promptly wore for the rest of the weekend.

In Jer's case the medal was far better than the prize but it could easily have been worth a dive computer or something, so look out for them next year!

Friday night we all dressed up as Pirates (a bright idea from Jer, which went down a storm with all, so much so BSAC are now thinking about having a fancy dress theme to next years event!) and joined all the divers in the big marquee.

But the organizers seemed not to lay on enough entertainment that night, so a few of our members made their own...and took to the stage singing, encouraging other clubs to join

them.

On Saturday sadly the weather was really bad, there was not much laid on be Dive Fest incase of bad weather so we had to fin our own stuff to do.

Half of the people went to the Eden Project which is only a short dive away, and is well signed from a short distance from the campsite. (for more go to: [HYPERLINK "http://www.edenproject.com/"](http://www.edenproject.com/) <http://www.edenproject.com/>) Its £15 for a student but the ticket lasts a year for if you're in the area again.

Everyone else went surfing which went down a storm, and only £5 to hire a board. It was amazing and everyone loved it. We went to Newquay, looked for a surf school place and walked in. And as we had wetsuits all we needed was the board. And a quick lesson from Vanessa. Each and everyone of us wants to do it again. It is highly highly recommended and crazy tiring. I mean we did it when the weather kept changing from super windy with hale and sleet to super windy with sun. We really needed those chips by the sea afterwards!

We were also thinking about the lost gardens of Heligan, but they're all outside, but here's a link any way: [HYPERLINK "http://www.heligan.com/flash_intro.html"](http://www.heligan.com/flash_intro.html)
http://www.heligan.com/flash_intro.html

Late campsite departure was standard for the weekend despite what was written on the booking conformations I think you had to have the tent down by Noon. But we left the campsite much later on Sunday afternoon after cheering Martin's photo top award at the [BUIF](#)

Dive Manager's / Overseers Note:

This weekend was not easy to organise, but Helen with the help of Hannah put on an amazing trip packed with fun, despite every bit of weather you wouldn't want (especially when trying to dive and camp) doing its very best to make the land as wet as the sea! Dive Fest will only improve and they have asked ULSAC to help them do that, as the marketing woman at BSAC told me "we were the one club that really made an impression". I think we should just take that as a compliment and leave it there. I mean next year they are thinking of having a fancy dress competition....now where did they get that idea!?! Well done girls, and well done for everyone who came. You all made it a fantastic weekend.

Please return completed forms to the Diving Officer asap. Thanks!

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