

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	4 th - 5 th February 2012	Springs <input type="checkbox"/> Neaps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Venue	Portland	
Marshal	Jeremy Davey	
Overseer		
Number of People	10	
List of attendees with Diver Grade in brackets (e.g SD, DL etc)	Vanessa Woolhead (DL)	Mark Bell (AD)
	Ross McLeod (DL)	Ivan Djordjevic (DL)
	Mike Shepherd (DL)	Melody Szabo (Rescue)
	Liam McArde (SD)	Jeremy Davey (AD)
	Michelle Kim (AD)	
	Ali Gaudion (DL)	
Accommodation	The Bunker	
Address	http://www.skindeepbandb.co.uk/bunker.htm Victoria Square, Portland ~ on the roundabout at the end of the breakwater The Bunker was built in 1878 as a Masonic Lodge and after the new lodge was built opposite was used for various activities. Margaret and her late husband Andy converted the building into a hostel for people involved in activity sports who wanted somewhere clean , comfortable and reasonably priced. There are seven small bedrooms ,four with two sets of double bunks and three with one set of double bunks .Each room has its own shower and sink. Altogether there are twenty two beds. There is a large well equipped kitchen where breakfasts, packed lunches and three course evening meals with wine can be provided. Alternatively you can arrange to self cater The lounge/dining room has plenty of seating and has a TV, video and music centre for general relaxation	
Telephone No.	Margaret Smith on +44 (0) 1305 782556	
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	Included in diving deal.	
Notes	This was a Winter Warmer deal where you could get 4 local dives , bed and breakfast and a packed lunch on the boat. When we took up this package it was £90 per head. A real bargain. It means no hassle with cleaning the boats (which gives flexibility in case you are blown out) and also meant you are back from diving, showered and ready for supper by 5pm at latest!	
Launch Site (inc. cost)	On-board Skin Deeper. Skin Deep is moored by the Sailors return Public House. When you reach the roundabout with the fire station directly opposite go left along the water front with the water and boats on your left you will see the boat the other side of the river this side of the bridge. When you reach the bridge go left over the bridge and carry straight on and make the first turn on your left which will lead you to where we are moored. Don't leave you car hanging around too long as this is a no parking zone by you should have time to load your stuff onto the boat.	
Coastguard	Portland Coastguard. 01305 760439	
Nearest chamber	Poole Hyperbaric Centre, 7 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 2NN 01202 678278 (phone) Director: Dr D McCann Multiplace: Yes	

Air Shop	Skin Deeper has a compressor onboard.
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Dives

Dive 1	
Site:	James Fennel wreck
Max depth:	16m
GPS Marks:	See other reports – on the west coast of Portland bill
Brief description:	Big bits of broken wreckage. Lots of places to look around into but not a huge amount of life.

Dive 2	
Site:	Drfit around Portland bill
Max depth:	15m
GPS Marks:	NA
Brief description:	Not much to see.

Dive 3	
Site:	Bow of the Black Hawk
Max depth:	16m
GPS Marks:	See other reports
Brief description:	

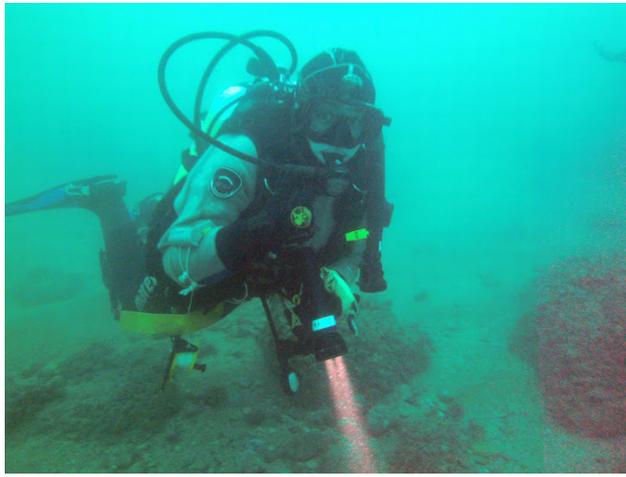
General Details

The screenshot shows a BBC News Dorset article titled "Sea near Sandbanks freezes over in Dorset cold snap" dated 4 February 2012. The article includes a photograph of a beach with ice and a boat. The sidebar features "Top Stories" such as "Deadly Pakistan air crash probed" and "Osborne wants charity money talks", and "Features & Analysis" including "Joan revisited" and "They tortured me".

Whilst the sea was freezing over down the coast in Sandbanks, ten intrepid ULSAC divers headed to Dorset for some winter diving around Portland in early February.

A brisk morning greeted us on the Saturday; thermometers distinctly displaying sub-zero temperatures. Luckily the water was a lot warmer than anyone anticipated so it was actually rather pleasant plunging into the 8 degrees that would normally appear cold!

We were diving from the charter boat Skin Deeper, as part of the bargainous Winter Warmer deal that they run. This made life a bit easier than the usual camping trips that ULSAC run and the hearty cooked breakfast set us up for the day.



Nessa braving the cold

On the Saturday morning we motored around to Chesil cove to dive the wreck of the James Fennel. This is a nice little wreck which still has a large intact boiler, exposed propeller shaft and various other parts scattered around. In actuality there are four different wrecks within a short space along the coast and several divers definitely spotted another large boiler and anchors whilst underwater.

A thermos of warm soup and some tasty packed lunches awaited us on the boat, which prepared us nicely for a short drift around Portland Bill. Not a huge amount to see on this dive but it was useful to blow away the cobwebs and practice some photography skills.

Back on shore early enough for a shower, watching a 6 Nations rugby match and a nice pub dinner.

Sunday morning proved a lot warmer outdoors and with glorious clear skies it felt like a summer's day.... apart from the fact that the sea was flat calm (luck that we are rarely permitted during the warmer months of the dive season).



Tropical Dorset in February

A single dive on the bow of the Black Hawk was enjoyed by all. This wreck has quite an interesting story of its recovery and the stern section, which sank some 15 nautical miles from the bow, is certainly on the to-do list of many divers who have visited the forward section. Being a Liberty ship, like the James Eagan Lane, she played an important part in the Second World War.

During the whole weekend there was a surprising lack of sea life around but I guessed that all the fish must be visiting cousins in warmer climates. However there was still plenty of wreckage to see through the slightly murky waters to keep us all entertained.

Getting back in to port around lunchtime meant everyone could set off and face the transport nightmare that snow and ice had left the country in (turned out not to be too much!). Despite a fairly shallow set of dives being conducted over the weekend it certainly provided a great opportunity to banish the frustrations of prolonged pool training and gave us all a good story about

how we went diving in Dorset whilst the sea froze over and the rest of the country ground to a halt!