



# Sea Braggin'

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2008

## Two Motley Crews Go South Easter 2008 by Ray Moulang

As part of our yearly dive planning we had on our schedule an Easter away trip to Jervis Bay. Those present were Andrew M, Mike S, Jon E, Dave C, Dave B, Clint E, Peter T, John B and Ray M.

Nine diving members of our club travelled down over the Thursday and Friday to the house on the water at Sanctuary Point. We had a mishap with the boat trailer breaking on the road just before Nowra, not to be deterred and very lucky we called in an after hours welder and were on our way after a couple of hours.

Finding the house was easy and thanks to Jon for collecting the keys etc. and we settled in and were looking forward to some great diving. We contacted John regarding the diving and agreed to call again in the morning.



### Clint and Peter – by Ray Moulang

Well it was looking good but... Friday was blown out and we went up to the old Lighthouse for a look at how bad it really was. On the way back to the house we stopped at Hyams Beach as Peter T was desperate for a dive. Andrew

decided to go with him and in and out of the rain showers they geared up went into the flat waters.

Peter had booked a boat dive with the locals for that afternoon so the dive was limited to about an hour. They did report some fish and rays on there dive and it seemed it was worthwhile.

## Photo Competition!

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at Bare Island

See Page 5 for details

Saturday we got up early and went down to Murrays beach ramp to see a southerly wind with a north-easter swell coming up. We went out just past Point Perp. But then turned and decided on Middle Ground.

When there we anchored up and had an enjoyable but murky sort of dive. The water was around 19 degrees. There were lots of yellowtail around and some kingies did fly through. Plenty of anchors about and I think only one good one was recovered. Lots of Leatherjackets also and a big black ray.

Tonight was the designated night for our club sponsored bar b q so Dave C and I went shopping back to Nowra and returned with all kinds of goodies including steak and nibbles. Dave C and Andrew then cooked the meal to the perfection we expect as the norm once more. Sunday dawned with higher expectations with even a bit of blue sky showing.

We all met at Murrays again and loaded up the swells had abated and off up the coast we went hoping for a dive at the Cathedral Cave. When there it was just out and we went further up to the Drum and Drum stick and found spearoos all over the joint and clear Blue warm water.

We anchored just off the wreck of the “Wandra” on the reef. Vis was probably 15 to 20 metres with it deteriorating down to about 10 metres towards the end of our dive.



**SeaJohn at the Drum & Drumsticks – by Ray Moulang**

This wreck we have visited over a couple of years now and it mostly stays the same depending on how much sand moves to cover up bits. This time we actually found some wood planking or decking just exposed which was still in good order. The boiler is decaying but still impressive in size.

Some of us also made our way over towards the shallows of the Drum to find nice clean gutters and lots of fish. We had our cup of tea here and our surface interval was very pleasant. We shifted just to the outer corner of the Drum for our second dive to find the viz going down. Jon, Clint and I decided to go into the overhang cave on the outer ocean side of the drum on our way to going all the way round it. This was great in that we had calm water then turbulent water as we headed up into the shallows between the Drum and the remaining Drum Stick.

The fish schools here were impressive with bream, mados and sweep making up the most of them. We made our way back out to where the boats where we did a bit of a deco stop and climbed back on board for the trip back to the ramp.

That night we had a good Thai banquet meal at the club. Monday dawned to bad weather again and it was decided that all would pack up and try to miss the traffic chaos that can happen on the return trip back to Sydney. Thanks to the club for the away subsidy and for all mentioned above for coming along and thanks for your friendship over the weekend.

**SCAN Weekend - Ulladulla  
15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
By Ron Walsh**

The annual weekend away for the SCAN clubs was held on 15 & 16 March at Ulladulla. Fourteen St George members made the trek south for a great weekend of diving and socialising. Diving was from two members boats, LeScat (skipped by Michael) and SCRAM (skipped by Ray), with four spaces also being made available on the RUC boat.



**Relaxing with a few beers – by Ron Walsh**

SCAN clubs that attended included St George, Ryde Underwater, Underwater Research Group, South Pacific Divers, Pt Hacking Divers, and the University Clubs (UOW, UNSW, ANU, and DOUTS) - think I got them right.



**Ray, John Prior, Peter Flockart and Carol – by Ron Walsh**

Saturday morning dawned clear and sunny, with nice flat seas. The first dive site was Lighthouse Wall located about 5 mins outside the harbour. Visibility was 10m & the water was a brisk 16C.

Sighted on this dive were eastern blue devilfish, one spot pullers, various nudibranchs, and nice

sponge life. After a spot of morning tea back at the harbour divers on LeScat and SRAM dived Lighthouse Bommie for the second dive and those on RUC dived Northeast Wall.



### LeScat moored - by Ray Moulang

Dinner that night was a BBQ sausage sizzle supplied by SCAN, with our very own president playing the role of master chef. In all there was in excess of 60 SCAN members for the night. Numerous ales and fine wines were drunk, and many stories told.



### Nudibranch – By Michael McFadyen

Sunday the first dive was at Burrill Wall, about 20 mins boat ride south. An excellent dive site, with large caves and underhangs and large wobbies. The visibility on the surface was poor but at depth was much better, probably due to the water temp on the surface being 19C and at depth around 14C. The second dive was out to North Bommie (I think) and once again a good dive but cold water!

Many thanks to Eddie Ivers for organising the weekend, not just for St George but for SCAN in general.

### Night Dive – Bare Island

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008

by Michael McFadyen

Tonight it was blowing very strongly from the south-west and the seas were up a bit but we still had an excellent roll up of 13 divers at Bare Island. Attending were Jon Evans, Michael Wright, Ron Walsh, Mike Scotland, Eddie Ivers, Ian Gowan, Gary Perkins, Robbie Mapstone, John Prior, myself and three others who are going on the May Undersea Explorer trip.

Most of use headed over to the island and went out through the pool. Our plan was to dive the Isolated Reefs. It was a bit dirty as we entered the water but it got a bit clearer as we got deeper. We split up into a number of groups. Nearly everyone went out to the Isolated Reefs. Jon, Ian and Dave, one of the Undersea Explorer people, went right out to IR2. We found two big bellied sea horses at the start of this reef, one of them was a sea horse I first saw back in January. We saw a lot of sea dragons on the main reef and the two Isolated Reefs.

We went right around and back to the main reef where we ran into some of the other divers. Further along we saw Robbie and two of the Undersea Explorer people. Finally, back near the spot where we have been seeing pygmy pipehorses since November, we came across Mike Scotland. He picked up a bit of kelp and was poking it around in a hole. None of us could figure out what he was doing. I went onto PPH Rock as my torch was running out and getting very dim, but apparently he had seen a tiny blue-ringed octopus there and it came back out. I know that John Prior got some photos.

After a vain search for the PPHs, the first time since November I have not been able to find one, we made a dash for the exit. We lost Jon along the way and when we got out, the wind on our wet bodies was freezing. We watched Jon go around in circles for a while till he worked out he had overshot the exit and finally made it back. Some of the others were still way out so we went up to the cars. Finally, everyone turned up, some spending almost 80 minutes in the water. Other things seen were squid, cuttlefish, many nudibranchs and more.

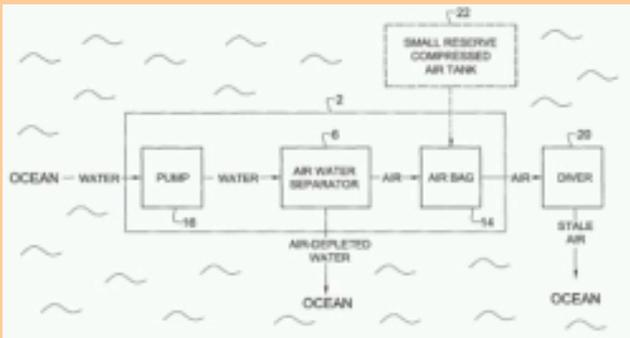
Afterwards, nearly everyone went to Matraville for a pizza where we were met by Dave Casburn. Another great night dive.

# Gadget Corner

Israeli Alan Bodner has invented a scuba system whereby air is extract from water meaning you can stay down as long as you like!

Constant bouyancy and no more fills are just two of the additional benefits.

Its based on the principle of Henry’s Law which is the explanation for the bubbles escaping when open a can of fizzy. Illustrated here for those who actually know what it means:



Check it out for yourself at their website:

<http://www.likeafish.biz/>

## Bare Island Shore Dive 13<sup>th</sup> April 2008 by Brian Byrnes

Fin, fin, fin. It's like crossing a desert towards an oasis. Fin, fin, fin, across that never-ending sand.

We only had about 4 metres viz, and so everyone else was in danger of disappearing in to the murk. Fin, fin, fin, and then at last we were there, at the very Isolated Reef by Bare Island.

Having arrived, we had a chance to slow down and to take in the nearby scenery, including the always colourful life on the reef itself. But then we were off again on a new compass bearing.

This time the goal was to see the latest Bare Island Wreck, and again the navigation was spot on. The wreck - a fibre-glass hull - hasn't been there long, but already things are starting to grow all over it. It's starting to blend with the reef.



© Ron Walsh

## The eye of an octopus – by Ron Walsh

After checking out the wreck we back-tracked, made our way around the Isolated Reef, and then struck out for shore. Seven divers had turned up on this Sunday morning to hunt for parking spots among the crowds of learner divers - Ron and Donna, Michael, Ian, Gary, Heinz and Brian. And even though, after the dive, an impressive thunderstorm came through, the weather for the dive itself was fine.



© Ron Walsh

## Nudibranch – by Ron Walsh

The viz started off poor, but improved as it became deeper. After the dive, while sitting on the grass watching the dragon boats churn by, and as we ate the cake generously provided by Heinz, the bidding for the best viz reached as high as 10 metres.

Not the best all possible viz. But on the plus side, there was no current, and there was lot to see, with the reef serving up a rich smorgasbord of fish and nudibranchs to check out, as well as a big Giant Cuttlefish within touching distance - and Ron and Donna also found Seahorse.

All in all, a great way to start the day.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Monthly Meetings

The next meeting of the St George Scuba Club will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008 at the St. George Rowing Club, 1 Levey Street Wooli Creek at 8.00 pm. Come along about 7 pm and enjoy a meal at the bistro.

### Thursday Night Dives

If you do not currently get the email each week advising the location of the dive, please email michael@michaelmcfadyenscuba.info and advise that you would like to be added to the list.

Please make sure that you let Michael McFadyen know if you are coming in case the weather means we need to move or cancel the dive.

### Other Dives

Many other dives are advised in the news section of the Club's web site.

If you are interested in a dive, have a look at the news section a few days before a weekend and you may find others already planning a dive.

You can also place your own news item there (but remember it may take time to appear as it needs to be authorised by a web site administrator).

## UP AND COMING EVENTS

### 2nd Annual St George Photo Competition

The 2nd annual St George photo competition has been rescheduled and will now be held at Bare Island on 3 May 2008. Low tide is at 12:12pm.

The plan for the day is as follows:

- Meet at Bare Island at 8:30am (to ensure reasonable parking)
- Dive to get that best shot(s)
- Morning tea break – not provided so bring something tasty!
- A second dive (so bring a second tank) to try and better the shots from the first dive....
- A BBQ lunch, details to be determined.

Those without cameras are more than welcome to come and play underwater model (or just have a dive) – you never know you might end up on the front cover of Dive Log or even more prestigiously the "Sea Braggin"

There will be three categories;- macro (less than 300mm distance), wide angle (greater than 300mm distance), and diver (photos with a diver in them). Additionally there will be a special encouragement award selected by members of the committee.

Photographers will be able to submit up to 3 photos in each category. Manipulation of photos will be limited to cropping, despotting and colour balancing. Photos are not to be watermarked to identify the photographer.

Photos are to be submitted by Wednesday 14 May, 2008. The competition will be judged at the May Club meeting on 21 May 2008. Each category will be shown as a slideshow, with members then filling in a voting slip to select their choice. The photo with the most votes in each category will be the winner.

The club has kindly donated a prize for the winner in each category.

Can you please let me know via email (rondwalsh@gmail.com) or phone (0409 225 683) if you plan on being there

### Boat Dive – Long Reef 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Dave Casburn Ph. 0405 186184

### Shore Dive – Shark Point 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008

If you are interested in coming, please contact Ron Walsh Ph. 0409 225 683

### Undersea Explorer Away Trip

Robbie Mapstone is organising another trip to the Great Barrier Reef and Osprey Reef on the liveaboard *Undersea Explorer*. There is an article on this web site and are lots of photos from previous trips in the Photo Gallery if you would like to see what the diving is like.

The dive trip starts on Saturday 10 May 2008 at Port Douglas and goes for 6 days, coming back to Port Douglas on Thursday 16 May. You will

get the chance to do about 22 dives. You will need to stay in Port Douglas till at least the Friday afternoon before flying home.

The cost will about \$1728 (depends on numbers and discount) plus some costs on board (fuel levy, marine parks fee and any drinks you buy). This includes all food and dives.

You will need to organise your own flights to and from Cairns (there are Qantas and Virgin Blue flights about 10:30 am from Sydney) and should be able to get for about \$160 each way.

Six people are already confirmed for the trip. If you are interested, contact Robbie Mapstone now by phoning him.

If you want to see more about the diving and previous trips, go to [Michael McFadyen's Scuba Diving Web Site](#) and look up the Queensland section of the Australian pages.

### **Boat Dive – The Hilda 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

If you are interested in coming, please contact Sheila Baldock Ph. 95250746.

### **Boat Dive – Marley Point 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

If you are interested in coming, please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403.

### **Social Dinner**

I have booked the Vabys Grill at Beverly Hills for a dinner on the 31st May. 6pm

A set menu cost being \$32 per head. Drinks you can buy at the bar

Menu

Entree	Nachos Grande
Mains	Rump Steak Chicken Parmagiana
Desserts	Go Nuts Sticky date pudding

What they do for the main and dessert is to serve the two dishes alternately, so if you want to switch with the person next to you, you can.

I have to confirm numbers the 26th May

Regards Sheila Ph. 9525 0746.

### **Terrigal Deep Diving Weekend - 20 to 22 June**

This is a weekend trip to Terrigal to dive the deep wrecks SS Galava and SS Kiama. As these are both over 40 metres, the trip is only for suitably qualified, experienced and equipped divers.

We will be travelling up after work on Friday 20 June and staying Friday and Saturday Night at Avoca in apartments. Cost will be about \$80 for accommodation and \$80 for diving.

Contact Michael McFadyen Ph. 6545 5596 for more information and to discuss your suitability if you are not one of the Club's regular deep divers. A deposit of \$50 paid to the Treasurer secures your spot.

### **Morton Bay Trip on Big Cat Reality**

Unfortunately, Big Cat Reality is booked out for the week-end that we had planned (18-21 July). However, they have spots available on the week-end of 8th – 10th August.

The cost is \$600 which includes:

- 8 Dives
- Tanks and weights
- Accommodation and all meals aboard Big Cat Reality, Fri (night), Sat, Sun + breakfast Mon
- Transport to and from Brisbane Airport
- Dive Master Services (required in QLD)
- Fuel levy

More info about the boat and diving can be found at <http://www.bigcatreality.com/>

Flights to/from Brisbane to be booked individually in addition to the above cost.

Please contact Kelly if you are interested in this trip.

### **Xmas in July**

Will be held again this yr on the 26th July at – The Heathcote Citizens & Services Club. Everyone who attended last year thoroughly enjoyed themselves so come along & make a great night of it. Prices to be announced shortly. Please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265 if you are interested.

### Port Stephens Away Trip

Superb shore dives. Great boat dives. Warmer water. Yes, it has it all.

The trip is for the weekend of August 2nd & 3rd. The plan is an excellent shore dive each morning on the high tide, followed by a stunning boat dive with ProDive the afternoon.

The accommodation and boat dives will cost about \$220 each (depending on numbers).

To secure a spot contact Brian Byrnes (brian.byrnes@pobox.com, 41982 2243), and pay a \$50 deposit to Mark.

### FOSTER WEEKEND AWAY - SEPTEMBER - 19TH to 21ST - 2008

Divers,

I have a booking for 8 Divers for this weekend, diving with Ron Hunter out of Fisherman's Wharf.

Its really great diving up there, I will arrange the Sitara wreck dive, usually on the Saturday if there are enough divers to go out.

Other spectacular dives include

THE PINNACLES

EDITH REEFS

SEAL ROCKS SHARKS

Please contact Dave Burns Ph. 9531 4403 if you are interested.

### Palau Trip – Oct / Nov 2008

Dave Castle is organizing this trip. Please contact him for details Ph. 045 186 184.

**FULL**

### OTHER NEWS

#### Gear for Sale

Dacor Outback BC – Size XL set up for deep dives: single bladder / weight integrated & comes with bands suitable for tanks between 65 & -100cuft.

Asking price \$400 please contact Peter Flockart Ph. 9371 0265.

### THAILAND MARCH 2009

Feeling adventurous - the following is some prices for a trip to the Simian Islands leaving Phuket for 4 days (5 Nights) on a liveaboard. Total of 4 days diving = 16 dives. the average cost per dive after discount assuming 28 baht :\$Aud is about \$56.00.

I have dived with these guys before and now they have a new boat which looks great.

Obviously it would be great to stitch this excursion with an extended holiday. There are deals to be done or alternatively those that wish to stitch their own deal due to frequent flyers and timeshares can do so.

Indicative cost assuming Aud:28Baht and after 20% discount is detailed below.

The boat with all in cost is \$900 - \$1000 for the 16 dives.

Deals regularly offered is stay 8 nights, including airfares and transfers for about \$1300 - \$1400. Add some spending money (Guys add \$1.50, girls \$1500.00) and that would be about right. I guess a budget of \$3000 will see you sloshed, well feed and some tailor made gear to bring home.

Check out the website [www.diveasia.com](http://www.diveasia.com) the new boat comes on line in November 2008.

Thinking about the tripSM 28 - 14th - 18th March 09.

What I have done in the past is to arrive in Phuket in the AM of departure of the dive boat - check what I gear I don't want with the hotel I am booked to stay with when I get off the boat. Spend that day at the hotel (pool etc) and then get picked up and delivered back to the hotel - works well

For those that are serious a deposit will be required say 25% of the Dive boat cost (\$say \$250.00) to secure your spot. Let me know whether you want a Travel Deal or whether you want to do your own thing.

Will be confirming in about 60 days time with Dive Asia - so check out your holidays and \$\$\$cash availability.

Please contact Mark Ridsdale if you are interested Ph. 0419 243717

## Sydney Tides May 2008

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High
<b>THU 1</b>	4:07 AM EST / 1.44 m	10:42 AM EST / 0.37 m	4:58 PM EST / 1.36 m	10:54 PM EST / 0.51 m	
<b>Fri 2</b>	5:02 AM EST / 1.47 m	11:25 AM EST / 0.32 m	5:43 PM EST / 1.51 m	11:51 PM EST / 0.41 m	
<b>Sat 3</b>	5:55 AM EST / 1.49 m	12:08 PM EST / 0.29 m	6:28 PM EST / 1.65 m		
<b>Sun 4</b>		12:47 AM EST / 0.30 m	6:49 AM EST / 1.49 m	12:51 PM EST / 0.27 m	7:14 PM EST / 1.78 m
<b>Mon 5</b>		1:41 AM EST / 0.20 m	7:42 AM EST / 1.46 m	1:35 PM EST / 0.28 m	8:00 PM EST / 1.86 m
<b>Tue 6</b>		2:35 AM EST / 0.14 m	8:36 AM EST / 1.41 m	2:20 PM EST / 0.30 m	8:48 PM EST / 1.90 m
<b>Wed 7</b>		3:31 AM EST / 0.11 m	9:32 AM EST / 1.34 m	3:08 PM EST / 0.35 m	9:39 PM EST / 1.89 m
<b>Thu 8</b>		4:29 AM EST / 0.12 m	10:31 AM EST / 1.26 m	4:00 PM EST / 0.41 m	10:33 PM EST / 1.84 m
<b>Fri 9</b>		5:31 AM EST / 0.16 m	11:32 AM EST / 1.20 m	4:58 PM EST / 0.48 m	11:32 PM EST / 1.75 m
<b>Sat 10</b>		6:33 AM EST / 0.22 m	12:37 PM EST / 1.16 m	6:03 PM EST / 0.54 m	
<b>Sun 11</b>	12:33 AM EST / 1.65 m	7:35 AM EST / 0.28 m	1:44 PM EST / 1.16 m	7:13 PM EST / 0.59 m	
<b>Mon 12</b>	1:38 AM EST / 1.55 m	8:37 AM EST / 0.33 m	2:51 PM EST / 1.19 m	8:28 PM EST / 0.61 m	
<b>Tue 13</b>	2:44 AM EST / 1.47 m	9:33 AM EST / 0.38 m	3:52 PM EST / 1.27 m	9:41 PM EST / 0.60 m	
<b>Wed 14</b>	3:47 AM EST / 1.40 m	10:20 AM EST / 0.41 m	4:42 PM EST / 1.36 m	10:44 PM EST / 0.58 m	
<b>Thu 15</b>	4:41 AM EST / 1.35 m	10:59 AM EST / 0.43 m	5:25 PM EST / 1.46 m	11:38 PM EST / 0.54 m	
<b>Fri 16</b>	5:28 AM EST / 1.31 m	11:34 AM EST / 0.44 m	6:03 PM EST / 1.54 m		
<b>Sat 17</b>		12:26 AM EST / 0.50 m	6:11 AM EST / 1.29 m	12:07 PM EST / 0.45 m	6:39 PM EST / 1.62 m
<b>Sun 18</b>		1:08 AM EST / 0.46 m	6:53 AM EST / 1.27 m	12:40 PM EST / 0.45 m	7:14 PM EST / 1.67 m
<b>Mon 19</b>		1:48 AM EST / 0.42 m	7:33 AM EST / 1.25 m	1:14 PM EST / 0.46 m	7:48 PM EST / 1.70 m
<b>Tue 20</b>		2:26 AM EST / 0.38 m	8:14 AM EST / 1.24 m	1:49 PM EST / 0.47 m	8:23 PM EST / 1.70 m
<b>Wed 21</b>		3:04 AM EST / 0.36 m	8:55 AM EST / 1.22 m	2:25 PM EST / 0.49 m	8:59 PM EST / 1.68 m
<b>Thu 22</b>		3:44 AM EST / 0.35 m	9:37 AM EST / 1.20 m	3:02 PM EST / 0.52 m	9:37 PM EST / 1.65 m
<b>Fri 23</b>		4:26 AM EST / 0.36 m	10:21 AM EST / 1.17 m	3:41 PM EST / 0.55 m	10:16 PM EST / 1.60 m
<b>Sat 24</b>		5:10 AM EST / 0.37 m	11:06 AM EST / 1.14 m	4:22 PM EST / 0.59 m	10:57 PM EST / 1.56 m
<b>Sun 25</b>		5:54 AM EST / 0.39 m	11:53 AM EST / 1.13 m	5:08 PM EST / 0.62 m	11:40 PM EST / 1.52 m
<b>Mon 26</b>		6:39 AM EST / 0.41 m	12:42 PM EST / 1.13 m	5:59 PM EST / 0.65 m	
<b>Tue 27</b>	12:26 AM EST / 1.49 m	7:25 AM EST / 0.42 m	1:35 PM EST / 1.16 m	6:58 PM EST / 0.67 m	
<b>Wed 28</b>	1:18 AM EST / 1.45 m	8:13 AM EST / 0.42 m	2:31 PM EST / 1.23 m	8:06 PM EST / 0.66 m	
<b>Thu 29</b>	2:17 AM EST / 1.42 m	9:02 AM EST / 0.40 m	3:27 PM EST / 1.34 m	9:20 PM EST / 0.62 m	
<b>Fri 30</b>	3:22 AM EST / 1.40 m	9:51 AM EST / 0.38 m	4:19 PM EST / 1.47 m	10:29 PM EST / 0.53 m	
<b>Sat 31</b>	4:26 AM EST / 1.38 m	10:39 AM EST / 0.36 m	5:09 PM EST / 1.61 m	11:33 PM EST / 0.41 m	

### The Committee for 2007 – 2008 is:

<b>PRESIDENT:</b>	Kelly McFadyen	6545 5596	<a href="mailto:President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au">President@stgeorgescubaclub.org.au</a>
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**Please send items for the Newsletter to me by the 28th of the month**