

2009 Dates for your diary

diving dates, costs and booking procedures



Happy New Year everybody,

2008 was a record year for Seasearch North Wales, and we're working towards another one this year. We have managed to secure more subsidies for this year's Seasearch diving (care of Countryside Council for Wales and The Shark Trust) and we have a couple of exciting courses to get everyone in to the Seasearch mood. We are not sure of the exact subsidies, but we have the dates and the costs for diving will follow soon:

Sat April 4th, day. **Seasearch Observer Course, Bangor.**

Sat and Sun, April 4th & 5th. **Seasearch Refresher Dives.** Shore diving for trainee Observers, Surveyors or for anyone wanting to refresh their Seasearch skills in the new year. We hope to organise one shore dive in the Menai Strait on Saturday, and further dives somewhere on Anglesey on Sunday. **Free.**

Sat April 4th, evening. **The start-up social.** After Saturday's dives there will be a social event and chance to exchange stories of last years dives, and the coming years plans. Let me know if you can make it, so I can arrange a suitable venue.

Sat and Sun, April 25th & 26th. **Welsh Fish ID Course, Anglesey Sea Zoo.** No diving. This promises to be a great a 1.5 day course, taught by author of British Fishes Book, Frances Dipper, and underwater photographer, Paul Kay, who together are releasing a new identification guide for **Welsh Fish** species in April / May this year. Due to limited numbers, priority places will go to existing Seasearchers. **£80 / person**

Sat and Sun, April 25th & 26th. **Seasearch Surveyor Course, Mathry, North Pembrokeshire.** Rib diving. Contact Kate Lock (rumbalock@tiscali.co.uk) for details.

4pm Friday – Sun afternoon, May 15th -17th. **Intermediate Marine ID Course, Trearddur Bay.** Rib diving. This is a fantastic opportunity to further your identification skills on all the major groups. The course will be split between two tutors, Dr Rohan Holt (marine biologist, subtidal marine monitoring officer and CCW and Seasearch tutor) and Dr. Joanna Porter (bryozoan taxonomist and lecturer at Aberystwyth University), who will enlighten us as to some of both the common and rarer marine life we can expect to see in North Wales. This is a residential course and fantastic value for money. We will be based at Anglesey Outdoors on Porth Dafarch Road, Holyhead, and we will be doing one dive per day with Aubrey Diggle out of Trearddur Bay. The costs are as follows

- **Seasearchers with accommodation = £190**, which includes lectures on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 2 rib dives and two nights B&B, food on Friday night, and lunch on both days.
- **Seasearchers without accommodation = £150**
- **Non-Seasearchers with accommodation = £215**

If you are willing to bring a club boat, we can also reduce costs to £140 (including accommodation). Due to limited numbers, priority places will go to existing Seasearchers. For

Sat & Sun, June 13th & 14th. **Skates and Rays Eggcase hunt, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.** Rib diving.

Sat & Sun, June 27th & 28th. **Seasearch and Skates & Rays Eggcase hunt, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.** Rib diving.

Sat & Sun, July 18th & 19th. **Seasearch Weekend Diving, Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC.** Rib diving.

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For further information contact:
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Sat & Sun, August 8th & 9th. **Seasearch Weekend Diving, Tremadog Bay and South Llŷn, Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.** Rib diving. Boat to be confirmed.

Sat & Sun, August 15th & 16th. **Seasearch and Skates & Rays Eggcase hunt, Conwy Bay around the Ormes.** Rib diving.

Sat & Sun, 12th & 13th September. **The BIG Seasearch Weekend** Diving, North Llŷn:

Rib diving.

Seasearch Observer Course, Porth Ysgadon. To be confirmed depending on interest!

Shore diving... FREE!

Saturday Night BBQ & Camping (weather dependant!) – **Free for all!**

You will also notice that a lot of the diving is going to be based around the North Llŷn, where we will be taking part in some exciting projects searching for Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan species and skate and ray eggcases. We will also be looking for skate and ray eggcases and new records of horse mussel beds around the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay Special Area of Conservation.

Don't forget, if your club divers would like to bring their own boat along on a Seasearch weekend then just let us know you're coming and it would be great to see you. Alternatively, if you would like us to send a Seasearch tutor along to one of your club dives then do let us know and we'll try to send someone along to sign off any qualification dives.

To book onto one or more of the organised dives or courses then please send in a digital copy of your booking form (attached) to reserve your place, and I'll let you know the costs as soon as I have them so you can send a cheque to confirm your place.

So, fingers crossed that the weather in 2009 is better than last year!

Happy dive planning and we look forward to seeing you all soon,

The Seasearch North Wales team