

AquaMarines

LIGHT ‘EM UP

By

Ray Simon

I think we are aware of the exponential changes in cell phones and computers. It seems that the Droid that I purchased last month will be overcome in no time with something more advanced that I can't live without. I thought I was pretty high speed with 3G only to read that 4G is out. Same with lap tops. Gigs are being trumped by trigs. Enough of my technological expertise. Those that know me also know that I'm luck to spell tecknology correctly.

I am writing this month about a technology that I use and understand more in depth than computers or cell phones. That technology would be dive lights (known in other circles as "torches). The advances in dive lights has been not as exponential as the cell or computer, but it is impressive. I thought I'd spend some time exposing you to lights. Basically there are three types of beam angles: narrow, medium and video. We as everyday divers use the first two. The video is obviously used by videographers! Batteries types are rechargeable or disposable. Rechargeable batteries are more expensive at initial purchase, but overall are not only more convenient to use but become less expensive the longer you own the light. With disposable batteries you are limited to the use of the light if even only one of the batteries is weak. The other advantages are that the rechargeable is obviously renewable (green), they are more compact and lighter when traveling, and you don't have to go out at midnight to find a battery for tomorrow's dive—just plug the recharger in. Brightness varies from high intensity to low intensity. The higher the intensity, especially in our limited viz local diving, the deeper the penetration and color enhancement. Low intensity is found in video light systems. Like the country song says...size matters. At times a diver might be shopping on a budget and purchase a light that is too small for diving purposes in our area. However once in the water the diver discovers that there is very little penetration or illumination. I am not saying that you need the largest and heaviest light on the market, but size does matter. Last to consider is the type of light, or lamp type, you are purchasing. Choices are basically LED, Incandescent, and HID. LED lamp last forever (10,000 hours), Incandescent have a life of 20—50 hours, and HID has a life of 500-1000 hours. The LED will have 40-80 lumens, the Incandescent 5-30 lumens, and the HID 45-70 lumens (all per watt). The LED's are almost indestructible and the HID are somewhat fragile. The incandescent falls in the middle. Cost is also to be considered. The LED is mid-priced, the incandescent low priced, and the HID is the more expensive of the three.

Many times I hear the comment that...I don't need a light, I'm not night diving. Sounds good, but as you remember from Open Water course we lose color beginning at 30 feet. A light brings back the real color of what we are seeing. Use of a light in the daytime also allows us to see into cracks and ledges and aids in low viz diving. If you're interested in learning more about lights, stop in and we'll talk. Safe Diving!

Aquamarines Club Officers

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Have ideas you'd like to share?

Please contact us with any questions, comments, or ideas at

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Or join the discussion at
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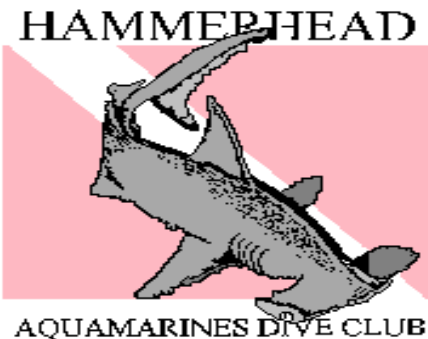
William Loudon
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**Advanced? Nitrox? Wreck?
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Time to get back in the water!

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**Come to the
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Right now we
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January 2010

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31 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM Kelp 2:00 PM					1 CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR Double Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 9:00AM Double Kelp 2:00 PM	2 Advanced Diver Class Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM Yukon/Ruby 1:00PM Double Kelp 2:00PM
3 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM Kelp 2:00 PM	4 Open Water Class	5 Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM	6 Kelp 9:00 AM Kelp 2:00 PM	7	8 Double Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 9:00AM Double Kelp 2:00 PM	9 Enriched Air Class Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM Yukon/Ruby 1:00PM Double Kelp 2:00PM
10 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM Kelp 2:00 PM	11 EFR	12 RESCUE DIVER Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM	13 Kelp 9:00 AM Kelp 2:00 PM	14	15 Double Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 9:00AM Double Kelp 2:00 PM	16 Open Water Class W.E. Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM Yukon/Ruby 1:00PM Double Kelp 2:00PM
17 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM Kelp 2:00 PM	18 Open Water Class	19 Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM	20 CLUB MEETING Kelp 9:00 AM Kelp 2:00 PM	21	22 Double Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 9:00AM Double Kelp 2:00 PM	23 Advanced Diver Class Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM Yukon/Ruby 1:00PM Double Kelp 2:00PM
24 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM Kelp 2:00 PM	25 Open Water Class	26 Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM	27 Kelp 9:00 AM Kelp 2:00 PM	28	29 Double Kelp 9:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 9:00AM Double Kelp 2:00 PM	30 Coronado 7:00 AM Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM Yukon/Ruby 1:00PM Double Kelp 2:00PM

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