

# The Surface Times

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## My Chuuk Lagoon Odyssey

By Bill Thoele, Rescue Diver



First let me start with the flights to Chuuk [aka Truk]. There are 2 ways to get there, only via Continental, the easy way through Honolulu, to Guam [CO#1], then to Chuuk. Then, there is the way I was required to go [as I didn't decide to go on the trip until 3 weeks prior to departing], on the 'Island Hopper'[CO #957]. The 'IH' departs Honolulu at 5:30am, arrives Majuro approximately 5 hours later [the next day], with additional stops each with a flying time of approx. 1 hr +/- in Kwajalein, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and finally Chuuk. At each stop the plane is boarded by 'TSA agents', who completely check the aircraft, you are required to remove ALL items carried-on, whether stowed in overhead bins, beneath the seats or in the seat pockets. The captain usually requested one side of the aircraft de-plane the aircraft while the remaining passengers, switch sides of the aircraft, as the inspection is made one side at a time. ALL passengers remain on the plane in Kwajalein, as the island is a restricted U.S. military base [missile tracking station, Star Wars, etc., although none of the ground personnel wore military uniforms], only those with permission may de-plane or



board the aircraft, but the aircraft still must be searched!!! I finally reasoned the search of the aircraft was made due to the lack of electronic screening devices at these island airports [?]. Travel itinerary: depart DFW Thursday, overnite in Honolulu, depart Honolulu Friday, arrive Chuuk Saturday approximately 2pm, overnite Blue Lagoon Dive Resort, board Odyssey 4pm Sunday.

ODYSSEY Liveaboard - April 24, 2011 through May 1, 2011

**(Remember, We B Divin' has one spot left on the November 27-Dec 04 Truk trip. Don't wait, like Bill did, to book. His flight schedule does not sound like it was fun!)**

WRECKS, WRECKS, - DEEP WRECKS – If you would like to do some research prior to your trip, I highly recommend World War II Wrecks of Truk Lagoon, by Dan Bailey. The book includes the history of the islands and Japanese occupation, along with detailed description of each wreck. There are two copies on board you can use, and you can buy an autographed copy.

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## Training Specials

### WBD Season Pass

Take any or all of the 38 PADI/DAN specialties offered at We B Divin' in a 12 month period. Crewpacks not included.

Get your **PADI Master Scuba Diver** and your **DAN Diving Emergency Specialist**.

\$749 — **Unbelievable!**

### Learn to Dive Package

**A whale of a deal, tell your friends.**

Group Class Tuition, Student Materials, Personal Gear (Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Boots, Bag) chosen from a wide variety of options, and a shorty wet suit. Upgrades are available should you desire.

\$725

### eLearning

Don't have time to spend in classroom but want to get certified?

Sign up for on-line learning. Do all of the classroom on your time at your location on your PC.

Then spend 8-12 hours with us in the pool and 4 dives in open water.

Same gear package included. \$660 Plus \$120 eLearning enrollment.

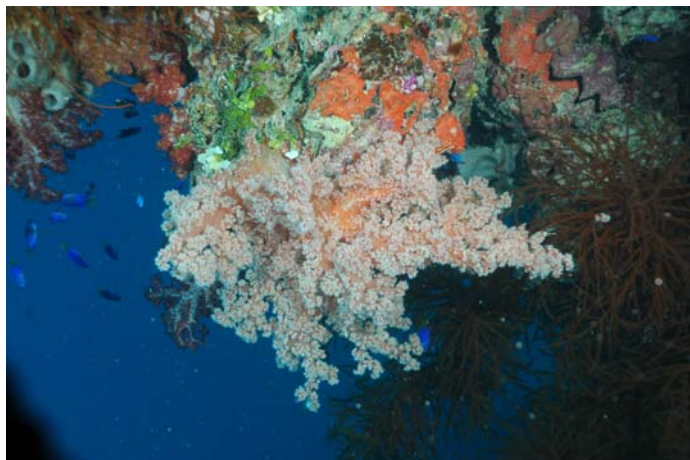
## My Chuuk Lagoon Odyssey

MOST DIVES have the potential to go below 100 fsw, but most of the decks are above 100 fsw. You have the potential of going into 'DECO' on any dive, but it is possible to dive all the dives without exceeding your NDL – watch your computer[s]. The San Francisco Maru scheduled [if requested] for the morning of the last diving day with a potential depth of 185 fsw. If you decide to dive the SF Maru, you will not be allowed to dive the night before, nor a dive after. The captain strongly recommends you go into deco prior to diving the SF Maru, to familiarize yourself with your computer, in order to satisfy its deco requirements. If you elect to forgo the SF Maru, you will be taken to dive the 'Betty' bomber.

EAN 30, in steel 108 cuft are furnished at no extra cost. Doubles [AL 80's], and 30 cuft ponies [with your choice of EAN, the higher the % the more \$\$\$, for deco gas] are available, and should be reserved prior to arrival. For those diving with steel 108's for the first time, they are at least 6 lbs more negative, than an AL 80; I ended up dropping 10 lbs. Only, one person in our group dived with doubles and a pony, and another with a pony. Two or three others opted for AL80's, while the rest used steel 108's.

There is a hang bar at 12-13 ft, from which you can do your safety stop, and enjoy the ride as the boat swings on its mooring. 'Fins on' ladder starts at 8 ft.

Usually, the boat is moored over the bow of the wreck, and a plastic bleach bottle is secured to the wreck, so as the boat swings you will see the bottle approximately 20-40 ft aft and port or starboard. The captain will point out the bottle during every dive briefing. The more you pay attention to the position of the bottle, the less you will be required to swim to/from the wreck – you will become adept at timing your ascents and safety stops with the swing of the boat.



VIZ – 50-65 ft with lots of particulate – very important on the fourth dive of the day, when the sun is low in the sky, at the end of the dive. WATER TEMP – 84 degrees – Our group varied their preference from 'naked' to 5mm.

Dive schedule – There is no set dive schedule, once a briefing is given, the 'pool is open', to do as many dives as you want prior to the boat being repositioned. You are not required to dive with a guide, but the guides will gladly lead you

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## My Chuuk Lagoon Odyssey

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through penetration to any section of the wreck you desire. Solo diving is allowed, without certification.

5:45am: Continental breakfast [early sun rise, starts getting light about 5 am, [Judy get a cabin on the 'port' side as star-board side usually is the east side]

6:30am: Breakfast 'cooked to order' begins announced by asst. cook and boat is repositioned 7:00am: Dive briefing [announced by captain]

7:30am: 'Pool is open' for 1 or 2 dives

mid-morning snack fresh cookies, snack bars, etc [boat can be repositioned]

12:30pm: Lunch, if boat has repositioned after 2 dives, dive briefing is held afterwards

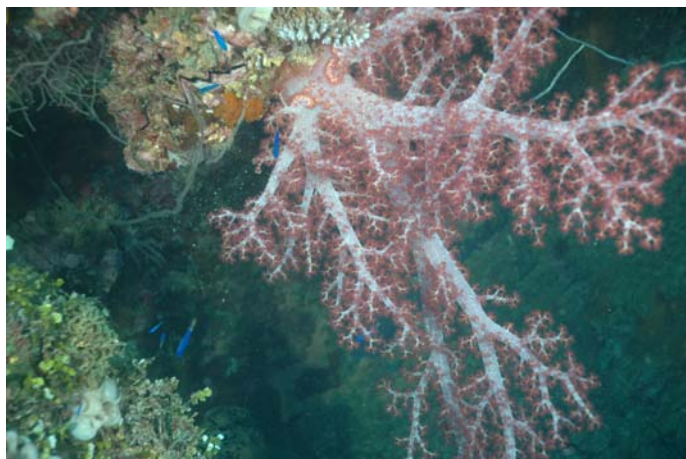
mid-afternoon snack, usually a hors d'oeuvre; sashimi, wings, calamari, etc

6:30pm: Dinner

7:30pm: Night dive

24/7 water, punch, lemonade, soft drinks, peanut M&M's, Oreo, peanut butter cookies, mixed nuts – OPEN BAR, BUT YOUR DIVING IS OVER FOR THE DAY [drinking and narcosis/deco don't mix!!!]

TAKE SPARES!!! – Every member of the group dived with at least 2 computers. On this trip, one person's computer malfunctioned, was not getting a tank pressure reading on the wrist unit, luckily he also had an SPG. I had a hose develop a bubble next to the connection at the first stage, I brought a spare hose with me. The boat doesn't carry any spare parts, but will rent you any needed equipment [Aqualung/Suunto].



Getting home: May 1 – continental breakfast aboard Odyssey, bags packed and outside your cabin at 7:30am. Depart boat approx. 8:00am, spend the day in a 'day room' at Blue Lagoon Dive Resort. MUST leave at 1:00am to go to airport for a 4:25am [May 2] flight [CO#959], 45 minute drive from resort to airport, then all luggage is hand inspected, the old fashion way, prior to the flight arriving. Arrive in Guam [no Island Hopper this time] at 6:00 am, to catch the 6:30am flight [CO#2] to Honolulu. You will go through immigration in Guam. Couldn't get the thru flight [CO#2] to IAH, so had to switch over to a United flight to SFO, then home to DFW, finally arriving at 4:05pm, the same day. If you are on CO #2 from Guam, thru Honolulu, then to Houston, you will have to deplane in Honolulu claim your bags, go thru Customs and reboard at a different gate.



## Travel 2011

### Cozumel

### Truk

**Oct 14-21**

**\$1244<sub>DVR</sub>**

**\$866<sub>NDVR</sub>**

All taxes and fees included, Hotel Cozumel, 5 days of 2 Tank boat dives, round trip transportation to and from airport, round trip airfare

**November 27 — December 04**

\$3280 plus airfare, double occ  
Est airfare DFW to TTK is \$1800

( unless you have miles (-; )

**1 night in a hotel in Chuk, est \$75**

**Oct 28-31**

**\$910<sub>DVR</sub>**

**\$706<sub>NDVR</sub>**

All taxes and fees included, Hotel Cozumel, 3 days of 2 Tank boat dives, round trip transportation to and from airport, round trip airfare

*1 Spot Left*



## Underwater Photography – Fundamental Steps

By Angela Garrett, MSDT

Everyone says that if you take pictures underwater you are eventually going to flood your camera; it is just a matter of time. I had been taking pictures for three years with no incident. I was starting to doubt if this was really true.

However, I was still very careful about the small things. Don't put the camera in the mask rinse bucket, but more importantly don't let others put it in there either. Typically, I test the camera housing either in the sink, bathtub, or other type of rinse bucket before my first dive. Only on rare occasions has that not been possible. In July, 2010 I became a statistic. I did not have the opportunity for a pre-dive dunk test with my camera. I took my giant stride, reached for my camera from the boat crew, then turned the camera lens face down and easily submerged it.

Given that I had not been able to test, I was doing a live salt water test, very easily. A few inches underwater, then a check of the open cavity in front of the lens from below the water, and "oh, no", it had water in it. I immediately raised it out of the water, carefully not tipping or tilting the housing, and handed it to the crew with explicit directions, "don't turn it over, and don't even move." I was quickly out of the water, tank and fins still on. I found fresh water (bottled drinking water), a towel, and the driest spot on the boat. I then carefully opened the housing to discover an o-ring was missing, at least I knew the cause.

I proceeded to disassemble the camera from the housing, ensuring it was dry, then rinsed the housing and got it completely dry as well. After carefully inspecting, adding the o-ring, and reassembling, my camera was ready to get back in the water. I missed that dive, but because of doing the fundamental things, I was back to taking pictures on the very next dive. So when someone advises you to descend with camera lens down and check for leakage, don't take that step lightly, you might just save your camera!





## A Word from Our Sponsors

Are you looking for a cost effective back up for air pressure? Look no more. This small psi gauge with the tiny Miflex hose will snuggle next to your LPI hose. You will never know it is there until you need it. Come in and check it out. We can add it to your setup while we do your annual service!



## 90° DEGREE GAUGE ADAPTER

- Use to mount a Mini Tech Gauge to HP hose
- Right angle (90°) with the HP hose Airspool with Viton o-rings

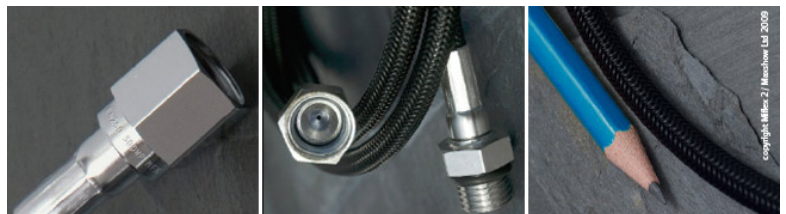
## MINI TECH GAUGE

- Twice as big – a thousand times easier to read
- 1.0" diameter gauge face
- 220° range of needle movement for improved accuracy
- Viton o-rings for oxygen compatibility
- Mount to HP port or HP hose w/ included adapter
- Available in psi or bar
- Air spool included for hose mount
- Over-pressure relief built in for added safety



## High Pressure Miflex Double Braided Hoses

- MIFLEX hoses feature an external nylon safety braiding designed to outperform and outlive traditional rubber hoses
- Polyurethane compound liner
- Polyester inner layer with nylon outer layer braiding
- Fittings and sleeves of UNI EN12164 CW 614N chrome plated brass
- MIFLEX braided hoses are tightly bound and fixed to the hose core by brass sleeves
- Double braiding also resists UV rays out of the water, extending the life span of the hose
- Oxygen cleaned and tested at the factory
- More than 60% lighter in weight when compared to rubber hoses of the same length
- Kink-resistant design
- Tie a MIFLEX hose into a tight knot and the flow of air remains continuous through the hose
- Minimum burst pressure exceeding 29,000 psi, more than twice that of most rubber hoses
- Fittings have 5.2 mm internal bore
- Hose diameter – External 12 mm, Internal 6.5mm
- 6", 24", 30", 32", 36", 40" High Pressure Gauge Hose





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# The Surface Times

We B Divin' is your personal resource for scuba training (PADI), equipment sales, service, and travel.


We pride ourselves on individualized training, especially for people with water related anxieties. Our rental gear includes SeaQuest weight integrated BCD's (women's and men's), computers, and regulators for state of the art training and the ultimate in safety.

Remember, enjoyment and safety are enhanced by comfort and proper fit. We will personally fit you, whether your primary interest is diving or snorkeling.

We offer both group and individual travel opportunities. Both singles and couples are welcome. Singles may ask to room share or can choose the single supplement option. Everyone is welcome - divers, snorkelers, non-divers, shoppers, etc.

**Think Outside the Bowl!**

There is much to learn, many places to go and much to see.



Come learn with us, go places with us and see with us.



## Divers Alert Network

### DAN Travel Insurance

This is Dan's newest product. I am sure that I have not reviewed every Trip Cancellation and Interruption policy available out there on the market, but this one is very competitive in benefits as well as cost. Also, of course, when we use this

product we are supporting DAN which is always a plus.

Travel insurance is good for those who want to plan a trip but have pending concerns like the health of a loved one. It is very valuable when planning a BIG trip like Truk Lagoon. Many times trips like this must be planned far in the future

and we simply cannot know what life will put on our plate in the interim. So this type of insurance protects us from a total loss.

Check the details from our web site by clicking here [DAN Dive Insurance](#)

## Divers Alert Network

### Membership

DAN is the only organization I am aware of that is actively pursuing medical dive research. They provide assistance to all divers (regardless of membership status) through 800 phone numbers and will accept collect calls from anywhere in the world. This alone is

worth our support with membership fees of \$35 per year. The included subscription to Alert Diver is just a bonus.

### Dive Insurance

This is the best option for Medical Dive Accident Coverage that I have reviewed. There are three plans from \$25 to \$70 per year covering not only

medical coverage for a dive accident but extra transportation, extra accommodation, lost diving equipment and much more.

I cannot stress enough how valuable it is to have this coverage. Check the details from our web site by clicking here [DAN Dive Insurance](#)