

Wednesday, July 25. 2012

Home alone

Big news on Gudrun V: Liz moved to Auckland last week Sunday. She had stayed on board a lot longer than originally planned (18 months vs 6 months), and together we crossed the Pacific from the Galapagos to the Marquesas. A journey of 23 days without sight of land - not bad for a big-city girl that doesn't like the sea. Thanks for hanging on tough girl!

But now that we are in Polynesia we have a little conflict of interest. Liz wants to get to New Zealand as quickly as possible. Her family and preparations for our new life (and the wedding) are waiting. I am also very much looking forward to stepping back on land. But I don't want to pass these unique islands without getting to know some people or without exploring their underwater world. While for me this is the chance of a lifetime, all that diving is a little repetitive for her. I guess you have to be a little crazy about diving and photography to want to do it day after day. So we decided that while I'm spending time with the fishes, she'll spent some time with her family. With the option to come back on the boat and sail between the islands.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 14:44

Sunday, July 22. 2012

Rebreather

Two days ago Rafael (dive-limit.com) took me on an introduction dive with his Megalodon Rebreather. The first 40min under water were really weird - buoyancy works completely different then with open circuit. But then I got used to it and really liked it. No bubbles, no noise - amazing.

So next week I'm getting trained and certified for using the rebreather on my own. The advantage of a rebreather (official: CCR - Closed Circuit Rebreather) over normal open circuit breathing devices is that the exhaled air is not vented into the water, but scrubbed of CO₂, enriched with O₂, and then reused. Therefor no bubbles, no noise, and much longer dive time - many hours.

The disadvantage is that the system is quite complex, so I'm looking at five days of learning and training. Good, keeps the grey matter in my head busy.

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 09:33

Fakarava

So, I have this new underwater camera gear. Of course I want to take some good photos with it, and the best place here to do this around here is in Fakarava. So we went back to Fakarava for a few days. Only this time we took the plane. Liz called it our pre-honeymoon.

Bungalows at Tetamanu Village, Fakarava

Tetamanu village and reef

Underneath the bungalow

For two days we were the only guests, which gave the staff a chance to dive with us. Here's the video, the chubby guy's the cook (and a good one!), the other the skipper of the dive boat:

Liz spent most of her time writing, but she also came along for two dives

Liz in the current of the pass

Just outside the pass Ken and Joni were at anchor with their boat "Dancing Walrus", and we dived together and had dinner on two evenings. Then they left for Rangiroa through the pass, and I was lucky to catch them and a little shark:

S/V Dancing Walrus going through the south pass at Fakarava

The most prominent feature under water were of course the sharks. Hundreds of them, lining up in the pass, nose in the current. But they were very shy and kept their distance.

Sharks

The reef was full of little fish, like this surgeon fish:

Surgeon fish

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 09:22

Wednesday, July 11. 2012

Papeete and Auckland

The last few weeks have been very busy, no time to update the blog really. Saturday morning we moved from the anchorage to the quay at Papeete city, and 2 1/2 weeks later we're still here.

Welcome to Papeete

Because our beds were wet we moved into the hotel across the street for three days. So nice to have a big, dry bed, and a warm shower! Also nice to have internet, although I had to move into the hallway, and do everything at night because during the day the net's too busy.

Internet access Tahiti style

Then we learned that Liz Grandma Edith passed away, and we flew to New Zealand for a week to attend the funeral and look after Granddad. And to visit Audrey and her new baby, born just the day before.

"One in, one out" says Granddad

Granddad and Olivia playing "Fruit Ninja"

Now we're back in Tahiti. I'm reluctant to leave because the diving is so fantastic here, and on the weekend we will fly back to Fakarava for a few days, where it's especially awesome. In the meantime I'm taking technical diving classes (NX100, Decompression), and underwater photos.

My best shark photo yet

Bob and Sue

Posted by Axel Busch in Gudrun V at 23:39