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Friday, June 16th, 2006 at 04:00 PM

Entry By: Tahiti Crew

June 3-10, 2006 A beautiful Saturday to start our guests' week was to be the sign of things to come. We had sunny, hot weather, calm seas and good visibility. Our guests proved to be a lot of fun and good sports and were even cheeky enough to give the instructors a bit of a ribbing. Barry and Irv, lifelong friends, gave us a fair few laughs with their dry humor and constant bantering. Teresa was a delight with her multi-colored skins although very tactful when describing something "Ugly" she would say it was "fun". Bob just said "ugly"!!



Day 1 & 2 – Sunday & Monday

Bora Bora – Sunny, hot and 84f. Water Temperature 83f.

Once again we started our divers off in the old Aggressor tradition of the Aquarium checkout dive. This week visibility was good especially for a dive site inside the lagoon. We can now safely say that this is a dive that we can expect to see Spotted Eagle rays on. I don't know how he does it but Marek was adamant yet again that he saw a squadron of 20 Eagle rays. Next week we are going to take the video with us!

We named one of the Lemon Sharks at Tapu, Captain Hook as he had obviously eaten a fish hook and had it hanging from one of his gills. We felt really sorry for him but surprisingly enough no-one volunteered to go remove it for him. We were treated to Black Triggerfish, Unicornfish, Giant Morays, Lionfish, Trumpetfish as well our Lemon and Black Tip Sharks. Some of the guests just stayed shallow and hung out with the Black Tips. Some of the Remoras took a distinct liking to our guests and stuck like leeches until they excited the water. It provided some great video footage!! Once again we have to mention the Butterflyfish who this week seemed ravenous, so much so that a few of them decided to take a chunk out of Dan.

Tapu was the second night dive site and apparently the Lionfish were out in force as well as banded Boxer Shrimp and swimming Morays. Steve and Stan managed a picture of a Scorpionfish with its wings outspread which was pretty amazing. Unusual for Tapu, we had a cute little sleeping Turtle holed up under and overhang – don't worry we didn't wake him!

FAB, FAB, FAB is how Muri Muri was described this week and we have to say we agreed with everyone. We had super visibility and the reef sharks swam around the mooring line giving us terrific opportunities for photos and video. We saw Black Tips, White Tips and Grey Reef Sharks not to mention Turtles, Morays, Trevally Jacks, Barracudas and the very cute Sweet lips. The Valley Blanche was set off really well by the sunshine and clearer water. We can't get enough of the hard corals which are beautiful especially with swarms of Purple Anthias and other colorful reef fish sweeping over the tops

Day 3 – Tuesday

Raiatea– Warm, Sunny and a light breeze 83f. Water temperature 83f.

Miri Miri and the Roses, once again stayed on our top dive site list for Raiatea. Our divers stayed around the Anemones for quite a while to video the 3-spot Dascyllus and the Nemo fish. They did manage to spot the Roses but they're a little deep at 40m to get a really good look.

Teavapiti Pass was excellent and conditions were just right for us to actually do it as a pass dive. No wonder the guys were happy. Maybe that was something to do with the fact that they saw 2 Mantas that checked out the divers and not the other way around for a change. Or maybe it was the 5 sleeping White Tip Sharks or maybe the Turtle, the Nudibranchs and the bicolor dart fish?? Who knows with such a lot of great marine life going on. Of course with a dive like that you just have to try again. Despite the fact that the current wasn't right for a pass dive, we guided people along the wall and the corner. Twice lucky in one day, they saw Spotted Eagle rays; White Anemones and juvenile Anemones. Marek, the Ray spotter, reckons he saw 3 mantas feeding while he was on the skiff!!

The Nordby is becoming a regular day and night time fixture as we are almost guaranteed a veritable plethora of Lionfish, Nudibranchs as well as Morays swimming around. We can usually find the odd hiding Octopus and different types of crabs.

Day 4 – Wednesday

Huahine – Hot, with a light breeze 83f. Water temperature 83f. Fa'a Miti is one of our dives of choice. We get to see great pinnacles of

coral with a few White Tips hanging around and it's a relaxing dive as we get a little bit of a drift to spur us along.

We also get pinnacles of coral at Avamorú which was very active this week. We managed to spot a few Nudibranchs, swarms of Bi-color Damselfishes, a nonchalant Turtle and a couple of Black Tips. All in all a lovely dive mostly around 70-90ft.

For me this week Horseshoe was the best dive on Huahine. It was stunning. We hit the dive site at the right time of day with the sunshine hitting the sand bouncing back the light. There was one of the most massive Green Morays next to one of the prettiest spotted eels I have seen. We spent a good 5 minutes watching 2 gobies dancing with each other which was delightful. This is not forgetting to mention the 3 Turtles, and all the colorful reef fish. We could have stayed there much much longer.

Day 5 – Thursday

Tahaa– Sunny, breezy and 84f. Water temperature 84f.

The Pearl Farm was our first dive of the day and we caught the early morning activity on the reef. As it was only the second time we had been diving on this site we decided to be adventurous and explore a bit more of the wall. We were so glad we did. Up over the coral heads the other side of the wall dropped down to about 80ft and like Aquarium the topography was photo worthy. Coming back into the coral bombs as they were nicknamed, we came across about 200 Sergeant majors protecting their egg harvest. Vast patches of purple eggs adorned the coral and the males became a little aggressive as we had a good look. The funny moment of the dive was watching Warren holding out a whole Banana that he had peeled and seeing the Butterflyfish actually eating it. Warren will forever be known as the "Banana Man".

For the afternoon dives we returned to Miri Miri as we wanted to get some final pictures of the Anemones. We did that on the 3rd dive but then opted for a complete change and go for an exploratory dive further up the reef. Our guests really enjoyed Marnie's Mystery Tour and were rewarded with Black Tip sharks, Turtles and some columns of hard coral that hid many a variety of reef fish.

Despite Marnie's long held belief that diving is not an aerobic exercise, Barry thought otherwise and practically did a 100 yard dash towards what he thought was the group in front of him.....we were behind him and had the whole reef to ourselves.....Barry!??

Day 6 – Friday

Bora Bora – Overcast and windy 82f. Water temperature 83f. The wind and swells were just not in our favor this week to do the 2 southern dives sites on Bora Bora as there was a weather front rolling in. However, every cloud has a silver lining as they say so we gave our divers the opportunity to do an extended dive – air and NDL permitting – on the great site of Tapu. It is being commonly known as the Lemon Shark dive for those in the know! Despite the weather the visibility was good and it was a real treat to be able to spend longer down there and get more of a chance to be with the Black Tips in the shallows.

So we have had a great week with all our guests, Bob, Teresa, Irv, Barry, Warren, Rich, Lynn, Amy, Johnston, Stan, Steve, Rod, Kike, Alicia and Folker. We hope you all have a safe trip home and that we see you again soon. Thank you for a very sunny week!

Capt. James Cooke

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