

Caithness Diving Club



Updated 18th September 2018

Welcome to Caithness Diving Club (CDC). CDC was formerly Thurso Sub Aqua Club and has been around since the 1960's and has always been an active club.

Club Membership

You could go diving without affiliating yourself with any club but there are quite a few benefits to joining a club.

Training : CDC tends to run classroom and pool training through the winter for initial training while doing the open water training throughout the year as and when people are available.

Social : You'll meet lots of interesting people in the majority of clubs and they'll all share an interest in floundering around in the sea.

CDC usually has a couple of general outings (expeditions) each year, regular post-dive outings and every trip away from Caithness has a major social element to it.

Sharing experience, interests and ideas : Probably one of the best aspects of club diving is that you can meet divers with a wide range of interests, different experience levels and slightly different ways of doing things. You can always ask for advice, maybe try out something new or simply get ideas on how to rig up your kit.

In CDC we have wreck divers, photographers, cave divers, folk who just like a nice bit of scenery and others who are just after something for the pot. Experience-wise, we've got everyone from people who only started their training last year through to old hands who have been diving for decades.

Equipment : The club has equipment that members can use. There is a stock of kit available for trainees and members who are still getting their own kit collected.

CDC has :-

- Multi-function clubhouse in Thurso, built in 2010.
- A 6.5m RIB with 90HP outboard
- 1 static air compressor
- Gas mixing facilities to allow mixing of high oxygen diving gas
- 2 portable compressors
- 2 oxygen sets
- First Aid Kits
- Several sets of cylinders, jackets and regs (SCUBA sets).

CDC Events

Monthly meetings : are currently held on the 2nd Monday evening of every month at 8PM. The meetings are generally held at the Nethercliffe Hotel, Wick.

Ad hoc diving : runs all through the year with people organising outings when it best suits them. Generally these dives are advertised on the CDC Facebook pages or there will be a phone-around.

Diving trips : outside Caithness tend to be organised weeks or months in advance. These are advertised on the CDC Facebook pages and brought up at the monthly meetings.

Try Dive : usually held once per year to allow people to come along and have a go in a swimming pool to find out if they would like to join the club and learn to dive.

Training : is typically run throughout the year with lectures and pool training taking place in winter months with open water training generally taking place through the spring and summer. All courses will be advertised well in advance and will be run according to demand.

Annual General Meeting : usually held on second Monday evening in March of each year.

Costs

Members pay an annual club membership fee. This is the main source of funding for the club and covers boat insurance, major repairs and maintenance for the club kit, the purchase of new equipment and the upkeep of the clubhouse.

As a club member, you have access to the club compressors for your air and Nitrox fills. Currently each air fill is charged at £3.00. Members buy 'prepay' airfill vouchers from committee members and use these as each fill is made.

Boat dives have a fixed cost of £10 per journey/dive to cover fuel and wear and tear on the boat. Sometimes you may be asked to contribute to towing costs if someone has had to tow the boat a considerable distance.

The costs for trips outside Caithness are usually a share of the boat costs, accommodation and then your own costs for meals, drinks, extras.

Communications

Information on most of the club activities plus the general banter appears on our Facebook pages. You should contact the Membership Secretary to have your Facebook 'name' linked to the Diving Club pages.

The club website is at : www.caithnessdivingclub.co.uk or www.caithnessdiving.co.uk. The website carries a significant amount of up-to-date information about dive sites, costs and contact names.

General Points About Diving with CDC

The Diving Officer is responsible for overseeing safety in any branch so if you have any safety issues, please speak to them even if you're only looking for a bit of advice.

If you have an accident or a problem you should contact the Diving Officer as soon as it is practical to do so afterwards and let them know what has happened. They should be able to provide help if required and if there are lessons to be learnt, circulate the information in an appropriate manner.