

# The Villages Scuba Club



## Boat Diving

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# Boat Diving

- **Advantages of boat diving**
  - Easy access to great dives sites off-shore
  - No walking around with dive kit on your back
  - No wading through surf
- **Types of Diving Boats**
  - Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB)
  - Day Boats or Hard Boats
  - Live-Aboards
- **Types of Diving off Boats**
  - Moored
  - Drift Diving



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# Preparation

- **Get your gear ready**

- Have you tested your new gear in a benign dive environment?
- Use your checklist to ensure all your gear is packed.
- Is your gear marked?
- **Don't forget:**
  - Cert card and Nitrox card, if renting tanks
  - Cash for tips - \$10 per dive suggested
  - Sunglasses, hat, reef-safe sunscreen
  - Jacket for boat for the ride out and back
  - Batteries charged and installed?
  - Save-a-dive kit for your specific gear.
  - A DSMB should be carried by all divers in open water.
- Pack your dive gear in a **COLLAPSIBLE** boat bag!!! Roll-boards and hard cases take up lots of room.
- A small dry bag is great for keeping your non-waterproof valuables safe while diving.

- **Get yourself ready**

- Hydrate - limit your alcohol
- Good night's sleep
- Seasickness medication?



**Don't be that diver!**



# Boarding and Pre-Dive

- **Many crews are very particular about boat boarding.** It is best to get permission prior to boarding. Also, some boats may require you to remove shoes or flip-flops.
  - Once on-board, locate your assigned position and set up your gear.
  - Once gear is set up, verify operation of regulators and inflate BCD. **Do this before** the boat is ready to leave the dock!
  - Request weights from deck hands.
  - Stow your loose gear (fins, mask, snorkel, etc) out of the way of traffic.
- **Pay attention to briefings**
  - **Boat familiarization and safety** briefing typically by captain before leaving the dock.
    - Amenities (Head, Water, Snacks)
    - Location of safety gear
    - Water entry procedures
    - Emergency recall procedures
    - Water exit procedures
  - **Dive site briefing** by the Dive Master
    - Bottom depth(s) and type, current, expected visibility
    - Maximum bottom time, safety stop requirements
    - Potential sightings
    - Potential hazards.



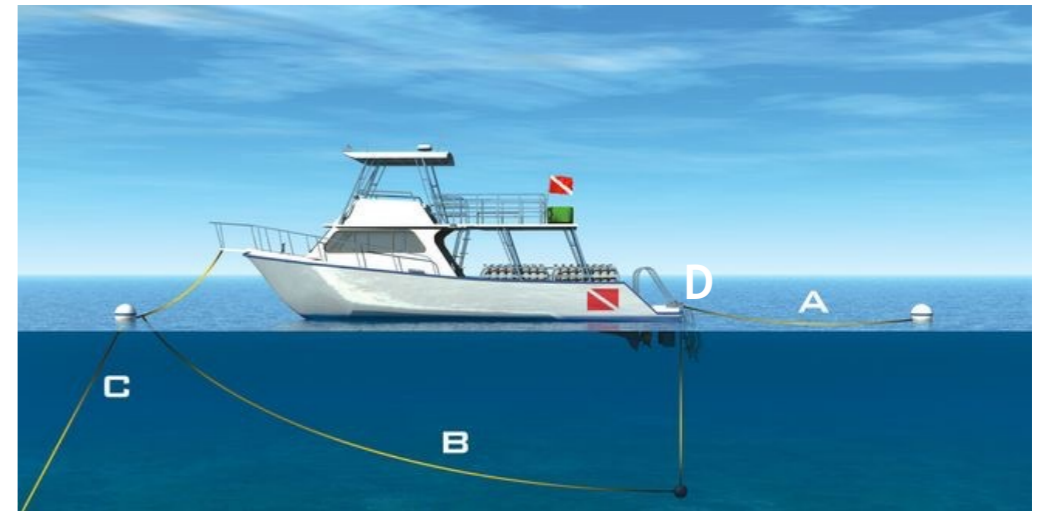
# Water Entry/Exit - Moored

- **Water Entry**

- Usually via giant stride.
- Depending on boat and dive site, this can be stern, side or bow entry.
- Follow trail/swim lines to mooring Line and descend.
- Careful!
  - A diver can easily dislodge the anchor line of a small boat
  - Watch for hooks and shells on mooring line. Gloves are a good idea.

- **Water Exit - typically via ladders**

- Ascend mooring line to safety stop.
- Follow trail/swim lines to ladder.
- Keep regulator and mask on until at top of ladder.
- Keep fins on until you have a hold of the boat.
- Stay clear of ladder when another diver is on ladder.
- Many ladders float and tend to push diver around. Step onto ladder and empty your BCD.
  - Christmas tree ladder - keep fins on with gear on or off.
  - Standard ladder - remove fins before climbing ladder.



A - Trail or Current Line  
B - Tagline, Swim or Granny Line  
C - Mooring Line  
D - Descent Line

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# Water Entry/Exit - Drift Dive

- **Water Entry**

- Work way to entry point, holding onto boat with at least one hand. Don't hold onto tanks.
- Usually via giant stride.
  - For most dives, put air in BCD before entering
  - Upon entry flash OK sign and find your buddy.
  - Descend with dive group, when everyone is ready.

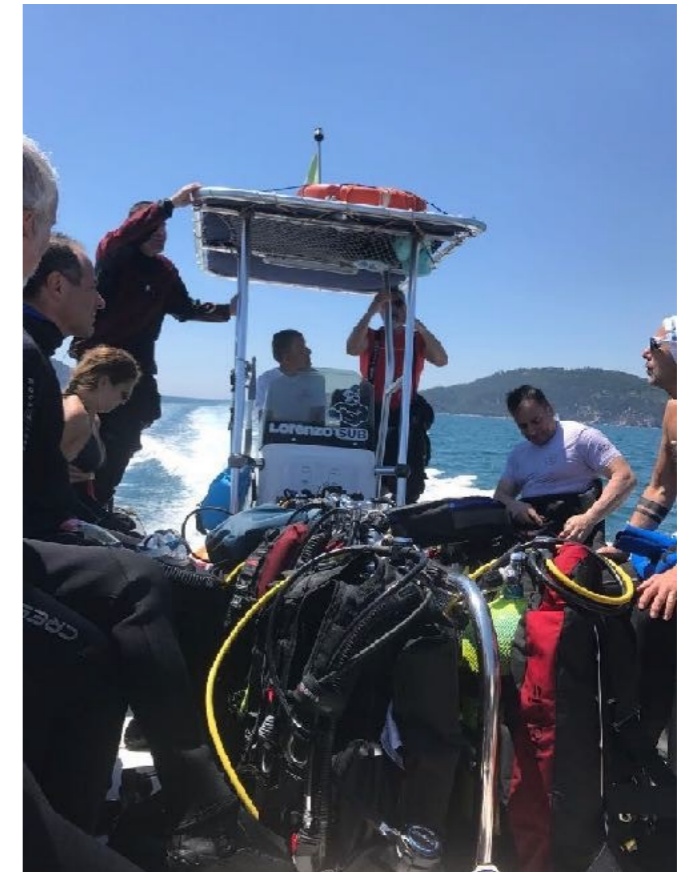
- **Water Exit via ladders**

- Ensure surface marker (DMSB, Float Flag) is deployed at Safety Stop (or earlier) if you have a reel.
- After Safety Stop, ascend and bunch up. When all are on surface, give boat OK to approach.
- Wait for deck hand to wave in divers.
- Keep regulator and mask on until at top of ladder.
- Stay clear of ladder when another diver is on ladder.
- Many ladders float and tend to push diver around. Step onto ladder and empty your BCD.
  - Christmas tree ladder - keep fins on with gear on or off.
  - Standard ladder - remove fins before climbing ladder.



# Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB)

- Very common in Europe, Asia, and some live-aboard use as a tender.
- Provides access to sites that may be difficult to reach via hard boat or shore diving.
- Limited range, limited stowage, limited amenities.
  - Typically dive kit is pre-set up before loading on RHIB - one dive per trip.
  - Stow mask (in case), fins, and gloves in small mesh bag.
  - Stow hat, sunglasses in mesh bag when in water.
- **Water Entry**- Typically via Back Roll. Alternatively, drop in water and don gear.
- **Water Exit**
  - Ladder equipped - remove weights, fins and hand up to deck hand before climbing ladder.
  - Tube flop - remove weights and hand up to deck hand. Remove BCD/tank and secure to gear line. Grab hold of safety rope, extend arms and kick hard and pull up. **You will be judged on your style and grace.**



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# Post Dive Procedures

- **Take care of your gear right away**
  - Secure tank so it won't fly around
  - Find fins and DSMB
  - Return weights
  - Break down kit
  - Pack up and stow bag
- **Hydrate**





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# Tips for a good day on the boat - for you, other divers, and the crew

- Arrive on Time
  - Assemble and check your gear before leaving the dock.
  - **Be neat from the beginning of the trip to the end. Stow your gear. Watch out for other diver's gear.**
  - Don't interfere with the crew.
  - Pay attention to briefings.
  - **Don't use camera tank for mask rinsing.**
  - **Familiarize yourself with your computer before diving. RTFM.**
  - Don't be a tank blaster.
  - If feeling seasick - move out to fresh air, out of exhaust and watch the horizon. There is ocean everywhere, no need to spew into boat - do it downwind.
  - Do your business before boarding the boat. The holding tanks are typically vented aft of boat. No one wants to smell your business.
  - Hydrate!
  - **Don't forget to tip the crew!**
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# Key Factors

- **Preparation.**
- **Organization on Board!!**

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# Questions / Discussion

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