

# HULLO

HULL BRANCH No 14  
BRITISH SUB-AQUA CLUB  
NEWS LETTER No 170  
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Read all about it in Chris Storey's tale, inside

Don't forget the Barbecue at  
The Ship - Dunswell

At 7.30pm

Saturday 19 July

Tickets £6.00

# “DIVING” TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD

by

Chris Storey

There are a few films that most keen divers have in their DVD collection. Titles such as *The Deep*, *The Abyss* and *Titanic*, as well as James Bond films, *For your Eyes Only* and *Never say Never* again all have one thing in common. Underwater film maker, Al Giddings. I was recently lucky enough to receive an invite to a premiere of his latest documentary.

*Under the Sea*, with Al Giddings, documents some of the remarkable work in which he has been involved. As well as Hollywood Blockbusters, Al Giddings has worked on numerous natural history documentaries, including *Life on Earth* and many Discovery Channel productions.

I arrived at the Academy Film Archive, the educational arm of Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (most famous for awarding Oscars), in Hollywood, not entirely sure what to expect. After a security check, we entered a rather exclusive looking theatre. This was an old TV studio where many of the USA's favourite shows were recorded during the

50's & 60's. It now houses the Academy's archive of film from award ceremonies, as well as numerous documentaries and films. The walls in the entrance have huge posters advertising some classic films, dating back to the dawn of Hollywood Films. We were ushered into a plush Cinema, possibly with the most comfortable seats I have sat in. The premiere was being hosted by a TV station in New York, and the Chief Executive of the station gave a brief introduction, before the main feature.

The documentary is a retrospective of Al's career, his involvement in some major feature films, his favourite natural history moments, such as being the first person to film Humpback whales singing, and his other interest, restoring old cars. Following a very entertaining 50 minutes, Al himself took to the lectern. After thanking the great and good assembled (various heads of corporations, studios and TV companies, along with colleagues from various film projects) he related some amusing stories. My favourite was from his first major

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Please send your contributions to the Editor - Don Wilson - don@poorlyleg.karoo.co.uk  
Visit the club's web site at [www.bsac14.org.uk](http://www.bsac14.org.uk)

film, The Deep, with Nick Nolte and Jacqueline Bisset. After teaching the lead characters to dive, there is a very memorable scene where Jacqueline is filmed getting back on the boat, after a dive wearing a white t-shirt. Apparently Al, got the shot on the first attempt, but made her do 5 more takes “just to be sure”, until she finally twigged what was going on.....(see photo)



After the presentation, was the obligatory cocktail party. I met a number of people whose names escape me, with the notable exception of Mike deGruy, and his lovely wife Mimi. Mike has been on the BBC many times, both as presenter and film maker, most recently with Kate Humble on the Abyss series of programmes. He was exactly the same as he appears on TV and was a very enter-

taining and genuine person. We had an amusing conversation around Kate Humbles career, and why Mike couldn't understand why she works with “that t\*t Bill Oddie”!!

A great time was had by all, including receiving free souvenir glasses, and an insight into the life of a real diving legend.

**Chris**

# A NEAR CALAMITY OF LONG AGO

By Don

Playboy had a 40 HP Mercury engine and it would not start!

We tried everything.

Eventually we deduced that no petrol was coming from the tank.

We unscrewed the four screws that held the bit where we plugged in the flexible hose and lifted it up. It came up easily with no pipe that should have been screwed in there and should have reached the bottom of the tank with a filter on the bottom end!

Rolling about in the bottom of the tank was the aluminium pipe.

The pipe had broken at the end of the thread and the threaded bit was still stuck in the top unit that we had removed first.

The filter was broken!

All this found down on the beach at Gorran Haven where we were ready to launch.

I fetched my toolbox from my car.

I managed to jam various tools into the aluminium screwed bit

that was still in the top unit and eventually unscrewed it - whoopee.

Now, how to fix the (shorter) pipe back in.

In my toolbox I had a “three square file”. This is a triangular sectioned file for sharpening saws, and so each edge is 60 degrees, roughly the angle of the thread required. So, purely by eye, I filed about five new threads into the end of the tube and screwed it back into the top unit.

What about the filter?

My wife supplied a nylon stocking and a piece of this was fitted over the remains of the old filter with nylon fishing line.

All things were now put back together and the engine started.

Whoopee again!

One of my friends said -

“You know Wilson, one day you’re going to make a good engineer”