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## Only YOUR Computer Counts & Camping at Sea

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*The Independent, Nonprofit Guide for Serious Divers Since  
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August 18, 2021

*Our apologies for leaving out the pictures from the previous email.*

#### **Freediving and Scuba May Enhance the Side Effects of the Vaccine.** Diver Alert

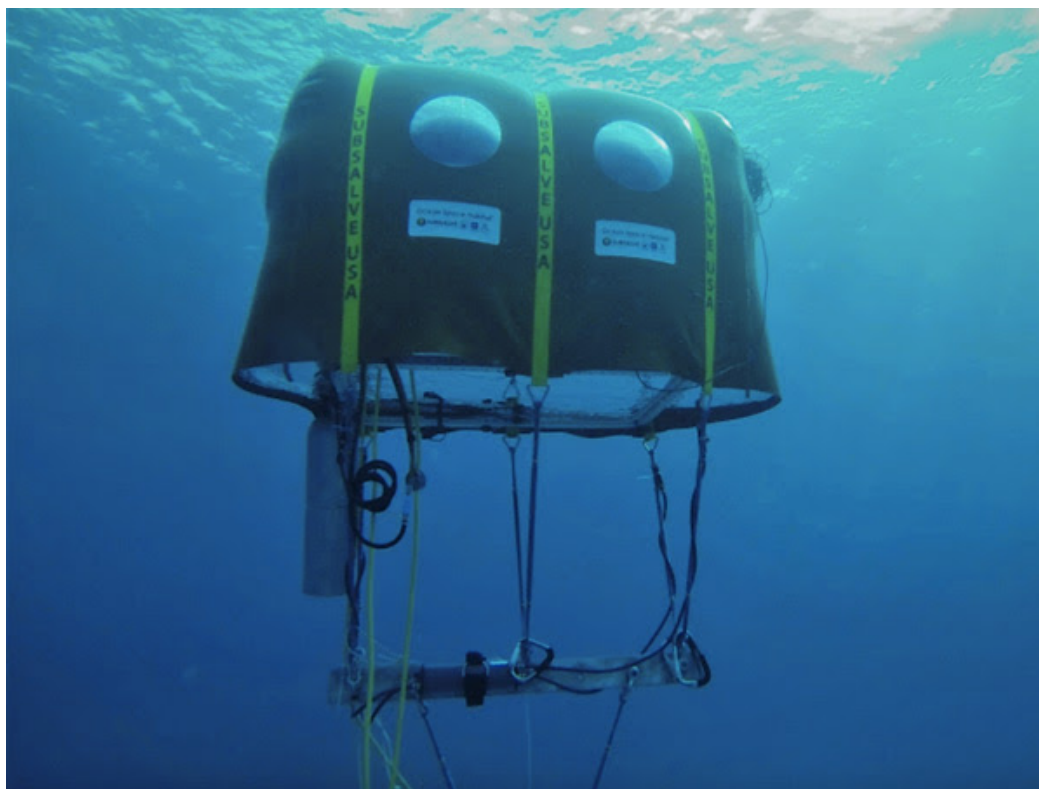
Network (DAN) reminds us that divers should keep out of the water about seven days after receiving the COVID vaccination and keep that in mind when it's time for your booster. Mild side effects are common in the first three days, and these can include a sore arm, red at the injection site, fever/chills, headache, fatigue, muscle aches, or nausea, which may be enhanced by increased ambient pressure. As for the side effects, not to worry; they simply indicate your body is building an immune response (called 'reactogenicity').



**Only Your Computer Counts:** Recently, we've received too many reports of divers depending on a guide's computer to finish their dive. It doesn't work that way. Your computer keeps YOU safe from the bends by monitoring YOUR time and YOUR depth to compute, through its algorithm, YOUR safe ascent time. You need to be fully versed in what the data on the screen tells you. Different computers use different algorithms and give different results, some more liberal than others. The only computer that is accurate for your dive is the one YOU carry. No other diver has the same dive profile you had (or, most likely, the same algorithm). If you wish to carry a backup computer, make it identical to your primary computer.

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**Camping at Sea.** The press calls it an inflatable tent, but it is an inverted tent that holds air underwater so that divers can effectively use it for camping out. It was invented by Winslow Burleson, a professor at the University of Arizona College, and professional diver Michael Lombardi. The tent provides a relatively dry and protected space underwater for divers to enter, remove their equipment, and carry out tasks before returning to the surface. The high-tech habitat provides a place for divers to decompress after deep scientific dives and even an underwater facility to treat decompression sickness in remote locations. It also provides shelter for long-term observations of wildlife behavior. The highly portable system can provide adequate life support to two occupants through an overnight stay.

**Carbon Monoxide Poisoning at a Scuba School.** The director of U.K. company Aqua Logistics, Geoffrey Shearn, narrowly avoided a jail term this month after the tanks his company filled from a 'modified compressor' for a 2017 Manchester, England, school scuba class were found to be contaminated with carbon monoxide, poisoning eight children and putting two in a hospital, one who had to be put in an induced coma. The company was fined the equivalent of \$13,000 with more than \$15,000 in Court fees. *Daily Mail*



**Who Knew?** Most movies portray sharks in a negative light, hurting conservation efforts. It all appears to have started with *JAWS*, and the Daily Mail reports that 96 percent of shark movies since then portray interactions between humans and sharks as overtly threatening. Around two percent of 548 known shark species have been involved in shark attacks, and the chance of being killed by a shark in U.S. waters is around 3.7 million to one, but don't let the truth get in the way of a good story.

**Using the Wrong Sunscreen Can Cost.** Thailand has just banned the use of sunscreens that damage coral, joining Palau and Hawaii. You may think that's a drop in the ocean regarding the ecological damage we're doing to the planet, but you may be more concerned with the damage to your bank balance if you are caught flouting the rule: Fines in Thailand approach \$3000. The banned lotions are those containing oxybenzone, octinoxate, 4-methylbenzylidene camphor or butylparaben. *BBC*

*Stay Safe  
Wear a Mask, Get Vaccinated  
Don't Share Your Air*

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**Undercurrent July 2021 Issue**

- [Undercurrent](#) subscribers are starting to travel again and it's not all good
- A trip to Cozumel is our first travel story since the COVID hiatus
- Saving the lives of countless Ridley turtles in Bali
- Selling your redundant dive gear? There's a risk to you, the seller
- We report of the tragic and unnecessary death of an

AOW trainee

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