



SEASL E-NEWZ

Saltwater Enthusiasts Association of St. Louis

JAN ~ FEB ~ MAR

2011

MEET THE SEASL OFFICERS

"The best part of this hobby is meeting with other hobbyists and sharing information. My advice for success is to come to the SEASL meetings to share and gather information because good information is priceless. Then be patient with your tanks and stick to your maintenance schedule."

Jim Craig

Nicholas Jansen

Executive Committee

Nick has been a member of the SEASL Club for a little more than 4 years and a part of the saltwater world for 10 years.

His aquarium is a monstrous 450 gallon "L-shaped" tank with a 600 gallon total system volume. The lighting and filtration systems consist of five 250watt metal halides, new Super Reef XP8000 Internal skimmer (on the way) and he has plans for trying out solid carbon dosing. Nick's



Picture is of a Six Line Wrasse

tank contains: 2-pair of Ocellaris, a six line Wrasse, a green Coris Wrasse, (5) Orbicularis Cardinalfish, a Flame Hawk, (2) female Bellus Angels, a Convict Tang, a Sailfin Tang, a Purple Tang, a Blue Hippo Tang, a Yalmingi Tang, a Blueface Angel, and a 4-Spot Gill Cardinalfish.

Bradley Murphy

Executive Committee

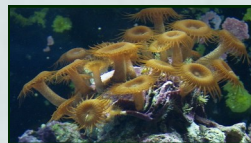
Bradley has been a member of SEASL for about 2 years and in the hobby for about the same.

He has 3 tanks: 75 gallon "zero edge" tank that is light brightly by (3) 150watt 14K MH and (2) 110watt VHO Actinic. It has a basic sump with a refugium, protein skimmer and a phosphate reactor; a 29 gallon tank running (6) 24watt T5 10k with a basic sump, refugium and protein skimmer and a 12 gallon Nano Cube.



Picture is of a Six Line Wrasse

He is proud of his livestock that include a Mandarin Goby, a Percula Clownfish, a Yellowtail Damsel, a Domino Damsel, and an Engineer Goby. He also has a large coral collection.



Jim Privitor

Executive Committee

"When I was a kid growing up, my father had two 20gal freshwater aquariums and he raised Guppies, Swordtails and Mollies. He would then trade/sell the babies back to the LFS."

"I got my first pair of freshwater aquariums (2x29gallon) in 1986. I raised African Cichlids, Oscars and various other popular fish but shut them down in late 2002."

"It wasn't until Oct 2008 when we bought our new house that I started with marine aquatics. I received my first saltwater tank as our house-warming present from my friend Michael who runs the Aqua World Store on Manchester."

"I became a member of SEASL in January of 2010 and what I enjoy the most is fellowship and being able to exchange ideas with the veteran aquarists. I hold high respect to those who are willing to share their experiences and help by answering questions."

"Currently I have three freshwater tanks that include: (2) 29 gal with 3 large (4") Cichlids and a Veiled Catfish; and a small 10 gal tank with Guppies and a few smaller catfish."

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MEET THE SEASL OFFICERS (CONTINUED)

“Now that I have been in the hobby for almost two and a half years I prefer the saltwater over the freshwater.”



“I currently have 4 saltwater tanks which include a 10gal Eclipse with a few small corals, and a Clownfish housed with a Bubble-tip Anemone.”



“My 24gal Nano is stocked with a bubble-tip Anemone that also houses a clownfish and 8-10 corals; My 46gal Bowfront (my main display tank), with 2 black juvenile



Clownfish, Cleaner Wrasse, Spotted Mandarin, a Brittle Star and a green Sea Serpent. I have about 20 various corals in here too. It has a 20 gal sump/refugium; and finally, a 15 gal coral frag, with a 10 gal sump and houses about 25 frags.”



Greg Frimel

Treasurer

Greg is one of the “pioneers” of the SEASL Club from the very beginning.

He got his start in the hobby as a youngster with freshwater tanks and has been in saltwater for about 15 years now.

Greg’s has several tanks that include: a 75gal with a 100gal sump and a 15gal refugium with an algae scrubber; a 30gal with a 20 gal sump. Both aquariums have deep sand beds and have been running for over 10 years.

His tanks have both a variety of soft and hard corals and inhabits a pair of black Clownfish, a pair of Engineer Gobies, a Yellow Tang, and a 6-line Wrasse.

He uses (2) 40w actinic florescent on the 75 gal and (2) 175w MH and on the 30 gal a florescent actinic and a 2450 MH.



Jim Craig

Membership Chairman

“I started with fresh water when I was in grade school. I moved through the stages of breeding live bearers, Anabantids, then Cichlids including Angels and Discus. I started to get a little bored with the hobby when in 1995 my wife and I took a trip to Hawaii. After a day of snorkeling, my wife asked me why I didn’t keep a saltwater aquarium. The answer was easy; all the saltwater tanks I had seen in LFSs in those days were pretty ugly—nothing but dead coral skeletons, Cyano, and sick looking Clownfish. But, I did a little research on the hobby by picking up a few books and reading some of the early salt-

water fish and coral websites that began to pop up—back in the day.”

“Then, I began to find some LFSs that had really figured out how to do this hobby successfully—there weren’t many. After all the research, I started my first marine tank, 110 gal with Damsels, in November 1995 and I converted my last freshwater tank, a 75 gal, to my first propagation tank in May 1998.”

“I have been a member of SEASL since about 1998. What I like the most about SEASL Club is the great people that are attracted to this hobby and the fantastic amount of quality of information we share face-to-face. This hobby cuts across all economic, age, and ethnicity lines that tend to separate us in other areas of our society.”

“I have a 110 gal display tank. The lighting consists of (2) 175w MH with (2) 110w actinic lights. The filtration consists of a skimmer, pre-filters in the overflow and filter pads in the sump for mechanical filtration, GFO and carbon in separate phosban reactors, live rock and 1.5” of aragonite gravel for biological filtration.”

“My oldest fish is a Clarkii Clown and a long tentacle Anemone that I bought in Dec 1995. Now the tank consists of a Yellow Tang (for my wife), a Radiant Wrasse, a Leopard Wrasse, a Red Scooter Blenny, and a bi-color Hogfish. Corals in this tank are mostly a variety of LPS, a few select leathers, and a variety of mushrooms and rics.”

“I have several frag tanks that have similar filtration to the 110gal display tank. The primary difference is that I use VHO lighting on 80% of my frag tanks. These tanks consist of about 75% SPS, 20% leathers, and 5% zoanthids.”

“I really don’t have a favorite fish or coral. I like any fish that doesn’t eat corals and provides some utility value to the corals. Along those lines, I really like the Desjardin Sailfin Tang and the Vlamingi Tang. But, then again how can you not love the colors of the Leopard Wrasse. And when it comes to corals, well I haven’t seen one yet that I didn’t like.”

THINKING OUTSIDE THE

BY NICHOLAS JANSEN



This quarterly edition of "Thinking Outside the LFS " features a cleaning product that will blow your mind. This product is the Scotch Brite Dobie cleaning pad by 3M. Scotch-Brite™ Dobie® All Purpose Cleaning Pad is non-scratch and can tackle crusted-on stains like

gum, wax and even stubborn mildew stains. This product is most commonly available at your local grocery store or super center.

The Dobie pad has a special scrubbing mesh that surrounds a normal cleaning sponge. This special mesh is what makes the Dobie pad worth writing about. If you rub a finger over the surface of the pad in one direction (top to bottom) you will notice it has a rough almost jagged plastic mesh surface. Then rub your finger in the other direction (left to right) and you will notice that the pad is soft and smooth. Kind of like sharks skin.

At first I was thinking what's the big deal with this cleaning pad until I tried it out on my acrylic tank. The Dobie cleaning pad is now my go to algae scrubber. Not only does it make quick work of green algae but it works through coralline algae like a champ. Up until I found the Dobie pad I used a hard plastic scrapper and an aquarium scrub pad to clean my tank. The plastic scrapper would get chipped up over time from the rough coralline algae and the aquarium scrub pad would get coralline algae and sand embedded in it, resulting in scratches and damage to the look of the tank. Due to the mesh covering of the Dobie pad coralline algae scrapings and sand more often than not will just fall through the pad unlike the other cleaning options. So next time you are getting milk and bread stop by the cleaning aisle and pick up the Dobie cleaning pad.

As a final note, with any new cleaning product try it out first in an inconspicuous spot first. Then watch that coralline algae tremble in fear as it is irradiated from view. To further discuss the Dobie pad please visit the SEASL.org forum.

Hanna Phosphate Pocket Photometer

This article was originally published in forum thread: Hanna Phosphate Pocket Photometer. ~ review by Mr.Firemouth.

I recently purchased the new Hanna Phosphate Pocket Photometer from www.premiumaquatics.com Here I will list my experience and what I liked and disliked.

First off, testing for PO4 with dry tests like Seachem or Aquarium Pharmaceuticals renders a mixed bag of results. From test to test you get quite a different reading and many readings on low nutrient systems say zero, yet there is evidence that PO4 exists and is elevated within the tank. To get around the problem of hobby test kits not giving an actual reading I decided to try a much more accurate photometer.

I ordered the photometer, and it was shipped the next day.

It came with a battery, the photometer, and 2 glass vials with caps. It also came with chemical reagents and instructions all concealed in a nice, small case.

The photometer is incredibly easy to use, but care must be taken to get an accurate reading.

The first step is to get a water sample from the tank. Just fill a vial to the appropriate line and cap. Make sure that there is NO water on the outside of the glass vial and that it is lint free and dry.

Then press the black button on the photometer and add

the vial when it asks for "C1" sample. The photometer screen will flash 3 black lines as it reads the sample, and then it will prompt you for sample "C2".

At this point remove the vial and add one packet of the chemical reagent. I found this to be the only cumbersome part of using this photometer. The packets are paper/foil envelopes with a fine powder inside. The easiest way to do this is to rip the top of the packet off, then bend one edge over so that the envelope crimping (the seam where together on the side of the packet) does not interfere with dumping the chemical into the vial.

Once you have dumped the

chemical into the vial, cap it and slowly agitate it in a circular fashion for 2 minutes to dissolve the chemical powder in the vial. Be sure NOT to vigorously shake the vial as this will add small micro bubbles to the sample and affect your reading. Once the powder is dissolved, add the vial to the photometer and press the black button.

The 3 black lines will flash again while the sample is being read, 3 minutes later the readout will display the PO4 reading in ppm. It is highly recommended that the vial be rinsed and dried immediately after the test to prevent any staining of the glass vial for future tests.

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(continued)..... If you cannot complete the test under 3 minutes then be advised that you should keep 1 vial with the water sample without any chemical in it, and fill a second vial (provided) with an additional water sample and chemical. This is because the photometer has an energy saver that automatically turns off the unit if it is not being used. So if you are a bit slower than 3 minutes, just use the 2 vials and then once the chemical is dissolved in the second vial you can begin the test as indicated above.

I found this unit to be accurate and my first reading was 0.06ppm. Kind of high, so I changed out my Warner Marine High Capacity GFO phoSar HC which I also buy from Premium Aquatics.

After 24 hours I tested the tank again and the PO4 was down to 0.02ppm. I added some Cheato to the fuge and increased the light to the Cheato and after a week the reading is now 0.00ppm and nuisance algae is dying back.

I also tested my make up water and my ro/di water. They were also at 0.00ppm. I did a cross comparison against a Seachem test kit, an Aquarium Pharm test kit, and a Red Rea test kit that all read 0ppm when I tested initially with the photometer and had a level of 0.06ppm. I also retested the first sample to see if I would

get different readings from the same samples. My second test was also 0.06 ppm, no variance in readings when I redid the test completely.

I am very satisfied with the performance and costs of this unit. I have recommended it to my club and several people will be placing orders with Premium Aquatics for their own Photometers.

I recommend that if you purchase this unit that you also purchase an additional refill of chemical as the unit only comes with about 6 tests.

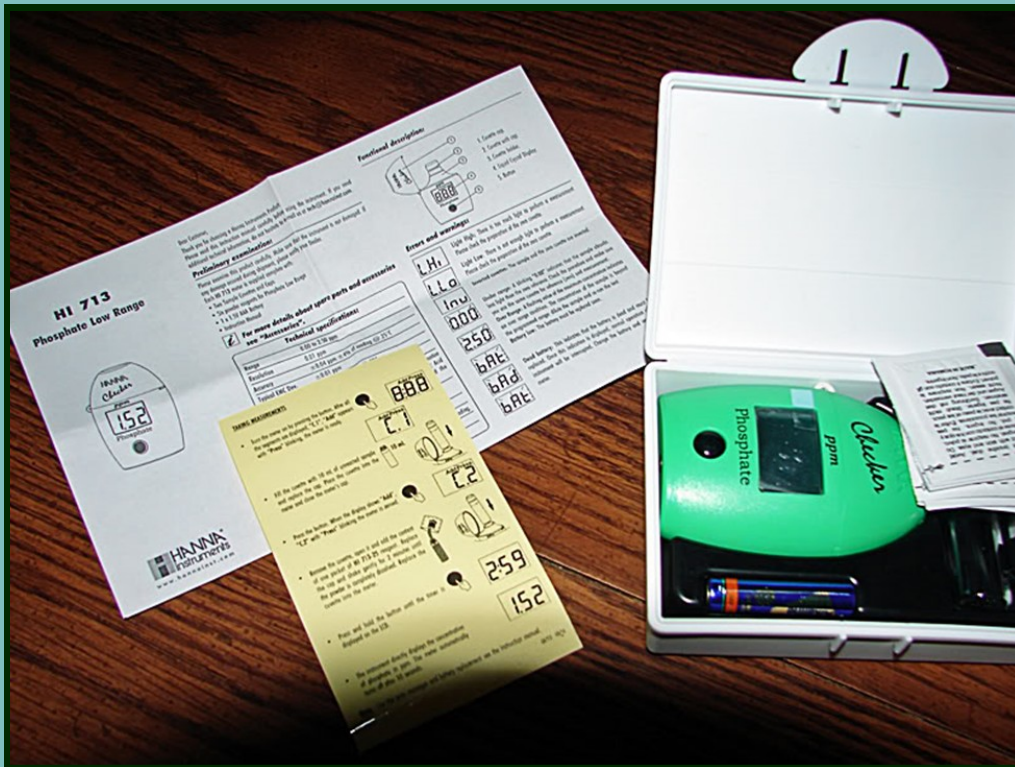
Pros:

Price: under \$50; ease of use: 4 out 5 star rating; ability to understand and use product efficiently.

Cons:

Unit turns off in 3 minutes, so you have to work quickly; chemical packets are cumbersome to use.

Overall I would recommend this product from Premium Aquatics to anyone who maintains phosphates in their aquarium. It has been one of the easiest and most accurate test units I have used.



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2010 SEPTEMBER MEETING MINI-FRAG SWAP



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2010 STORE VISITS



SEPTEMBER



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2010 STORE VISITS

DECEMBER FRAG SEMINAR



Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

MARK TWAIN



Please send any pictures you may have of our SEASL Club Activities to: seasclubenewz@gmail.com