

Dolphin Gazette

"A banner year for dolphin spotting on the Bahama Banks"

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D o l p h i n researcher Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski is spending the next few years working in Japan on a fellowship with J S P S (J a p a n e s e society for the promotion of science) and is being hosted by Dr. Motoi Yoshioka of Mie University. This is her second trip to Mikura Island where she will be researching bottlenose dolphins. She expects to be very busy there, unable to return to the USA for at least 1 1/2 years and she would surely love to hear from all her friends back home. You can
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Dolphins everywhere!



The summer of 1997 was another banner year for dolphin spotting on the Bahama banks.

According to Oceanic Society Expeditions researcher Ashley Ransom, there were a record number of sightings in 1997.

Particularly nice weather may have contributed to the large number of sightings

and encounters.

During one very busy week 158 dolphins were seen in 36 different sightings. Of course the frequency of sightings and number of dolphins varies from week to week according to what the dolphins themselves are up to.

After many years of research we can definitely predict the unpredictability of these wild animals!

Also seen this past summer were many turtles, Barry barracuda (and friends Barbara, Betty, Barney, and Bonnie), terns, frigate birds, and nurse, tiger and bull sharks. Whew!

Next summer plans under way

Plans are already in gear to make the summer of 1998 better than ever. Oceanic Society Expeditions has reserved the weeks from July 11 to August 21 and is working hard to book up their trips (1-800-326-7491). Several of the weeks preceding them are currently reserved and being filled by facilitators. Early summer weeks are still available as are the weeks after August 21. Trips will run from Saturday arrivals to Friday departures as they were this

past summer. The "Hanky Panky" will be undergoing a few improvements around the beginning of the year. New compressors are being installed for the air conditioning units and a larger bimini will be placed on the flybridge to provide more shade for dolphin spotters. We are looking forward to a busy summer in 1998 so contact us early if you would like to host a trip (305-441-0699).

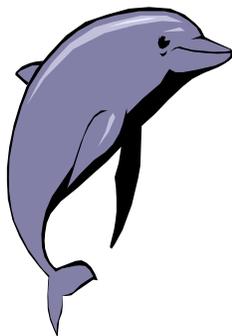
"Hanky Panky" a big hit with passengers

The 68 foot Bertram motor yacht "Hanky Panky" proved to be very popular with passengers this past summer in the Bahamas. Air conditioning was an especially welcome feature at nighttime and with two generators there was plenty of power to run everything on board. A 1000 gallon per day watermaker kept well ahead of the water usage both in the showers and the fresh water rinse in the cockpit. Providing easy access to the water was a dive platform with a ladder. Two icemakers proved adequate for all the cold drinks consumed during the week by thirsty passengers and crew. We managed to dodge almost every rain squall thanks to the 72 mile radar and enjoyed the fast, smooth ride of the twin Detroit diesel 12v871

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contact her via e-mail at "dudzinsk@bio.mie-u.ac.jp". or regular mail at " Kathleen Dudzinski, Miyake-jima Nature Center, 4118 Tsubota, Miyake-mura, Miyake-jima, Tokyo 100-12 Japan. " We wish Kathleen well on her trip and look forward to hearing from her in the spring newsletter.

Can you find your week?

See if you can match the keywords with your week on the "Hanky Panky".

etch-a sketch	sarong night
pickles? yuck!	bull shark
tiger shark (twice!)	haggis
dinghy? what dinghy?	Barry barracuda
my baby the conch shell	thermometer?
bat and grasshopper	just flip it over and pull
frigate bird	twiggy

"Dolphin Spirit" video still available

\$25 NTSC or \$35 PAL postage paid
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(Cont. from front)

engines. **"Hanky Panky"**

Another feature of the Hanky Panky is the flybridge. From there it was very easy to spot dolphins in the distance and it provided a terrific view for miles around. Once in port we were able to watch television and movies from the satellite dish (and keep up on the baseball scores). Perhaps the most welcome sight in the morning was the automatic coffee maker that always managed to wake up before even the earliest riser!

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- ◆ Peppie and Kathleen in the movies...
- ◆ K.D. in Japan...
- ◆ New dinghy...