



LONG ISLAND NETWORK DIVERS
SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 3. August 22, 2006 Edition 16

SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE

Club Officers

PresidentBruce Fink
Vice-President John Christy
Treasurer Jim Steers
Secretary Nicole Simmons
Newsletter Editor Paul Mila
Event Coordinator ...Jeff Kozak
CommunicationsDebbie Fusco

I. Club News

The summer newsletter covers the July and August Meetings

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5TH, 2006

Presentations:

The July meeting featured speaker, and club member, **Paul Mila**, who gave us a great presentation of his encounter and snorkeling trip with humpback whales. The video and still pictures were fantastic, and his presentation about this amazing trip had us all very impressed and ready to fly to Dominican Republic to observe these wonderful creatures. These encounters provided the inspiration for writing his new novel *Whales' Angels*. Paul also signed his book for those who purchased a copy. The book is great, very well written and is an easy beach-read. As with his first book, *Dangerous Waters*, he left us with wanting more of his books to read.

The humpback whales of the Silver Bank are amazing creatures, and we all hope to have encounters like this at least once in our lifetime.

We also enjoyed the opportunity to hear **Steven, from the " Sea Hawk"**, our favorite boat in Long Island. Steven explained the new ideas from our Captain Frank and John, to introduce more divers into New York waters. They are presenting us with a wonderful opportunity to dive on their boat, even if we are recently certified, and see the wonders of our wrecks. The dives will be organized, supervised and in not too deep waters. **SIGN QUICKLY; THEY SELL OUT FAST.**

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 2ND, 2006

Martha led the August meeting, which was spent coming up with ideas for events for the remainder of the year.

Here are the events that are suggested:

Aug. 27 – Club Boat Dive

Sep. 1 – Trip to Dutch Springs

Sep. 19 – Eisenhower Park Pool session for Dive Club members; dinner afterwards.

A winter trip to behind the scenes at the Coney Island Aquarium

Visit the Recompression chamber

Do Brunch and dive in Bayville.... maybe Sep. 10 or 17 - We can decide next meeting

An expert presentation to explain digital photography.

Other Club Business:

New **Royal Blue** polo shirts and "T"-shirts are in. Polo shirts help raise money for the club, so be sure to buy one to change off from always wearing your current black shirt.

WEB SITE Update: From now on, we will post the **Newsletters** on our WEB site. Some people said that they couldn't read it as a "Word" document. In the web site anyone can read it. We will post the last newsletters there if you couldn't read them.

We will e-mail you when we post new editions.

Our WEBSITE is: WWW.SCUBALONGISLAND.COM

Thanks to club member **Lee Solt** for putting the website together.

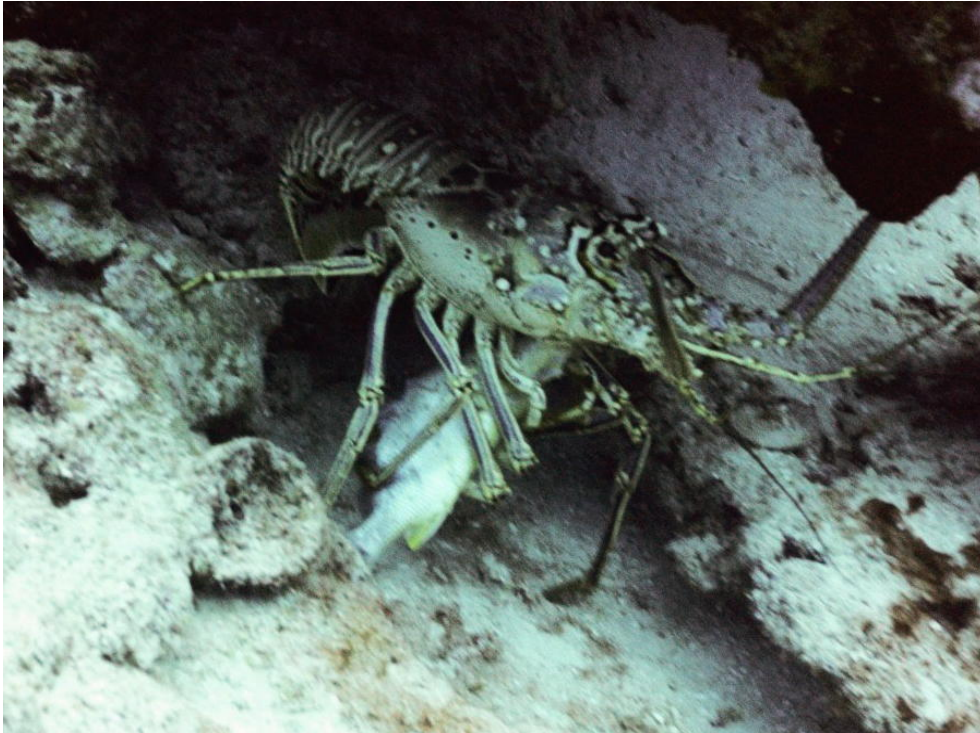
Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, Wednesday September 6th.

II. The Story Behind The Photo

Club member Paul Mila took this unusual photo,

A Lobster Dinner, in Cozumel Mexico.

Here is Paul's story behind the photo.



We were on our second dive of a two-tank dive in Cozumel, at about 60 feet, when I noticed two antennae sticking up behind a rock. I finned over to investigate, expecting to see just a typical Caribbean Spiny Lobster. I was quite surprised to see that I was attending a lobster dinner, but from the lobster's viewpoint. He, or she, had grabbed a small snapper and was preparing to chow-down when I interrupted dinner. Unfortunately, I forgot to turn on the flash so the colors are muted. Before I could take a second shot the lobster retreated with dinner into a small cave, most likely to eat in peace.

III. Special Feature: An Undersea Mythological Adventure, by club member Lee Solt

Amphitrite

As any hunter will tell you, “You must know your prey.” That is also true if your prey happens to be underwater. In this case my prey was Amphitrite. Who was Amphitrite you ask?

Amphitrite was one of the sea-nymphs called the Nereids. One day the sea god Poseidon saw her dancing and fell desperately in love with her. He promptly asked her to marry him but unfortunately she refused.

Not discouraged by Amphitrite's refusal, Poseidon (Neptune) sent one of his servants, a dolphin to convince her. The dolphin pleaded Neptune's cause so well that she changed her mind. Neptune and Amphitrite married and as a reward for his help, Neptune placed the image of the dolphin among the stars as the constellation Dolphinus, the Dolphin.

This is where the story really begins:

Having heard rumor that Amphitrite was now living off the coast of Grand Cayman, I was bound and determined to track her down.

Flying into Grand Cayman we were experiencing the typical pre-dive fascination with the island, the culture and beauty of the azure green ocean. Excited to finally be getting wet, we eagerly met at the dive shop and began unpacking the tons of dive gear that is required of this ridiculous sport. The anticipation was palpable as we were briefed on the dive experiences awaiting us. When we asked about the Mermaid Amphitrite, we were told with sly grins that; “She is living in Neptune’s ocean,” and that we would have to prove our merit by finding her on our own.

The first couple of days we spent plundering the depths off the coast. We were getting a general feel for Neptune’s watery world by diving from the shore at the Sunset House. While there we were treated to such excitement as 20-foot cavernous swim-through. Shafts of sapphire blue bands of sunlight illuminated the otherwise dark caves. The light provided a beacon from which we were able to explore the darkness. Huge schools of tarpon lazily swam in the crystal clear waters, only to gently give way to us as we continued our search for Amphitrite.

Much like the dolphin that won Neptune’s admiration, we continued undeterred. After the second day of beautiful diving, but still no sign of our 10-foot mermaid, we began to truly appreciate the immense size of the ocean. All the locals would say is that she is over in that area, pointing an ever so elusively towards the water.

On the third day we got our first real clue. It was mentioned that Amphitrite’s pad was around 50 feet. Having spent the first two days poking around the reefs and getting used to the general structure it suddenly became very evident how we were going to meet her. The bottom was generally shallow out to the wall. It stayed between 20 and 30 feet until you actually hit the reef wall. Then at the wall it was your typical plunge down to Neptune’s watery grave. All we would have to do is swim out to the wall, find the 40-

foot mark and dive along the narrow corridor marking the depth. She still proved to be a recluse in our search. Visibility was great, at times between 80 and 100 feet. So it should not be hard to find our prey... Correct?

As was mentioned earlier, the ocean is a big area, and after 30 minutes of diving I was beginning to think, “*yet another dive without meeting the love of Neptune.*” (Well, as it turns out Neptune ended up having many lovers... He was not too picking in that area. Amphitrite found out about one lover and turned her into an ugly sea monster. But that is a different story...) Back to our search. Out of the distance I see a graceful ark against the otherwise jagged reef.

Had we found her?!? Was that her or just another interesting piece of wreckage on the reef?



There she was in all her glory, a 10-foot tribute to the grandeur of the sea! Perfectly proportional, I felt dwarfed by the span of her finger as I put a hand against hers. She was more beautiful than we had imagined as the blue shafts of sunlight reflected off her lifelike face. The bouncing of the light rays off of her face seemed to bring her to life. Matter of fact, several times I glanced at my depth gauge to make sure I was not being narc'ed. This is how I imagined “Rapture of the Sea” should look like. Above is a photo I took during our underwater interview with Neptune’s bride, Amphitrite.

For more photos go to www.LeeSolt.com and click on the [Grand Cayman](#) link.

IV. GETAWAYS

Scuba Network Adventures

Next trips:

CAYMAN BRAC

NOV.04 TO NOV. 11, 2006 \$1,299 PER PERSON

7 NIGHTS 8 DAYS.

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY,

ALL MEALS, BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER

TANKS AND WEIGHTS

DAILY 2 TANKS BOAT DIVING

UNLIMITED SHORE DIVING.

HOTEL TRANSFERS, TAXES.

INSTRUCTOR ESCORT

SPECIALTY COURSE

**COMPLETE ALL YOUR CERTIFICATION DIVES, BEGINNER,
ADVANCED, MASTER, ETC.**

HAWAII - END OF FEBRUARY, 2007- DETAILS TO FOLLOW

FT. LAUDERDALE

OCT. 6-9, 2006 \$ 579. PER PERSON

4 DAYS 3 NIGHTS

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

3 DAYS BOAT DIVING TANKS AND WEIGHTS

TAXES ROOM AND RESORT

INTRODUCTION TO WRECK DIVING

INSTRUCTOR ESCORT

Contact Scuba Network for specific details about each trip.

Call 516-997-4864 or email scubaclass@aol.com

V. Scuba Network Training: Good Divers Keep Learning!

SPECIAL PRICE FOR MEMBERS

Certification Courses:

Express Friday/Sat/Sun. \$189

Sep 15-16-27

Oct. 27-28-29

Weeknight classes \$169 6PM TO 10PM.

Tuesday, Friday, Tuesday

Sep. 12-15-19

Oct. 10-13-17

Advanced course: Sep. 13 or Oct. 18 AT 7:30 PM.

Price \$29.50 plus books.

Master diver course: Oct. 25 AT 7:30PM

Price \$99 plus books, includes 6 lectures and 1 pool session.

Nitrox Course: Oct. 29 at 9:30 am, Space is very limited \$150.00.

Includes Books. Sign up as soon as possible or give this as a gift to a friend.

CPR course: Oct. 28 at 9:30 am - CPR includes: CPR, Defibrillator, First Aid certification and Marine injuries all for \$120 including books. Space limited.

Scuba Network Continuing Education

Call (516) 997-4864 to register for classes

* * * * *

***This Month's Scuba Network Featured Specials
For Dive Club Members***

Regulator: complete Sherwood Set-up

Dive Computers:

Air and Nitrox computer console - Sherwood

Atmos AI,(AIR INTEGRATED)

Wrist computers Atmos Elite, (air integrated)

Atmos Wrist computer SUPER SPECIAL

Dacor Back-up Mask: Have an extra mask in your gear bag.

WETSUITS (STOCK ITEMS)

ONE PIECE 7MM –40% OFF

3mm --10% OFF

2 PIECE WETSUIT 7 MM - 20% OFF - GREAT FOR DIVING IN NEW YORK

B/C'S 10% OFF.

* * * * *

***Don't forget:** Club members receive special discounts on selected items, trips, etc. Check with Martha for details on special discounts.*

***Reminder:** You must use your club membership card to receive your discount.*

VI. Classifieds:

Vacation Rentals: *Beachfront Condo in Cozumel.*

For details click on www.cozumelisparadise.com or www.vrbo.com/54454 or email to: pjmila@hotmail.com

General Business: *Technology questions, issues or concerns?*

Call in the experts: **Advanced Vision Technology Group** will help unravel all your technology issues. Call Lee at 646-228-2006. AdvancedVisionTech.com

**See you at the next club meeting:
Wednesday, September 6th, 7:30pm.**

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS
TO: pjmila@hotmail.com**