



LONG ISLAND NETWORK DIVERS
SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, October 2007, Edition 23

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I. Club News

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 3RD, 2007

Martha Katz opened the meeting by announcing that at the November 14th meeting club member **Paul Mila** will be giving a talk on his recent experiences diving in Tonga with Humpback whales.

Martha also mentioned that we need to consider where the club will celebrate the year's Christmas/Holiday Party. A tentative date of **Wednesday, December 5** was agreed upon. **Jane Morris** recommended **Cozy-Mel's Mexican Restaurant** as a possible venue for holding the party. She mentioned that the club can be provided with a private party room from 6PM to 10PM for a fee of \$20 per person. Cozy-Mel's can also provide soda for \$2.50 (re-fills included) as well as a cash bar. Jane will obtain more details and provide the members with these details in either a future e-mail or during our next club meeting.

Our guest speaker for the night was Dave Hartman, Adventure Specialist, of Learning Through Travel, Inc. (website: www.LEARNINGTHROUGHTRAVEL.com) .

Mr. Hartman provided the club members with an amazing PowerPoint presentation illustrating both the land and diving sites available to those interested in experiencing Egypt and the Red Sea. Amongst attractions available to travelers on land are sites such as the Sphinx, the Pyramids, and the 5,000-year-old Sacara Complex located in Memphis. The Colossus and Memnon are other sites of interest particularly as they are regarded as the gateway to the famous Valley of the King where the tomb of King Tutankhamen was discovered. Luxor and Karnak as well as the Cairo Museum are additional points of interest for travelers to Egypt. Guides (most of who are certified Egyptologists) are available to aid travelers in experiencing the richness of the country and to provide information in gaining further knowledge of the sites and Egyptian culture.

Mr. Hartman continued his presentation by explaining the exciting diving sites that Egypt has to offer, particularly within the Red Sea. Diving conditions consist primarily of calm currents and visibility of approximately 100 feet, sometimes more! The fauna and flora of the Red Sea is fairly similar to that of the Indo-Pacific, however, there do exist organisms that are endemic solely to the Red Sea. Examples of fishes that can frequently be encountered in the Red Sea are damselfish (including clownfish), angelfish, blue-spotted stingrays, sharks, pufferfish and lionfish. Numerous types of hard and soft corals exist and reef-forming corals can create walls ranging in height of 100 feet or more! The Red Sea contains many shipwrecks and submerged items that are of interest to divers especially because they house a plethora of invertebrates. Mr. Hartman added that he has encountered hammerhead sharks and whale sharks (which are uncommon in the Red Sea) in addition to dolphins, a treat for most divers!

Mr. Hartman concluded his talk by explaining the options that travelers have available to them in visiting Egypt and in diving the Red Sea. Travelers can visit the Sinai peninsula, Alexandria and Abu Simbel. From New York's J.F.K. Airport, the flight to Egypt is

approximately 10 hours. Emperor Divers is a large professional dive operation that can accommodate those seeking to dive the Red Sea. He further emphasized that, contrary to popular beliefs, Egypt is a safe travel destination, the Egyptian people are friendly toward Americans, the climate is not excessively hot, the cost of a trip to Egypt is relatively inexpensive and is not as crowded as some popular dive locations located elsewhere in the world.

Martha concluded the meeting by adding that she has had positive experience in diving the Red Sea. Lastly she announced to the club members that we can organize a **canoe trip scheduled for October 28th, and that the price per person is \$45.**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER MEETING

Martha introduced the night's presenter, Greg Pensol, Jr.

Greg's presentation addressed commercial diving and aspects involved with training for this type of diving as well as the day-to-day experiences that commercial divers encounter. Greg graduated from the New Jersey Dive Academy and described his training for becoming a commercial diver. He provided a video produced by the California College of Oceaneering, which detailed several aspects that potential students can expect upon attending the school. For instance, the video explained types of commercial diving for which one can become trained. These types include training for medical technology diving, inspection technology for diving and welding technology for diving. The video further described what students can expect in their training for a desired course of study, the credentials of the faculty and opportunities for employment upon graduation. The video concluded with information on facilities available for students at the school and how to prepare and fund a program in which an individual seeking training in this field could be successful.

After presenting the video, Greg described some differences that distinguished commercial diving from recreational diving. For example, Greg addressed that scuba equipment is not used but rather that air is supplied from the surface. For safety, divers are attached to an umbilical line that can be used to help manipulate a diver, communicate with a submerged diver and locate a diver in need of support. Large helmets equipped with valves, regulators and communication devices are utilized in the field. Greg demonstrated the Super-Lite 27 Helmet to convey his points. Pressure can be equalized for divers via hoses and valves at varying depth. However, upon surfacing, a diver must be immediately brought to a portable double-lock hypobaric chamber to prevent decompression sickness. Finally, Greg informed us that a commercial diver must be in good physical shape, have a flexible schedule and have availability to travel.

Martha concluded the meeting by adding some points regarding recreational diving and the skills that one must attain in order to be successful. Martha urged the members to consider the picnic mentioned in the introductory portion of the meeting and reiterated the topic to be presented at the next meeting.

For any errors or comments with regard to the information contained in this summary, please contact Demetrius "Dimi" Lutz at paleolutz@worldnet.att.net or at (917) 392-8333.

II. The Story Behind The Photo

Paul Mila contributed this month's photo, titled *Flyover!* Paul was diving with Humpbacks in the Tonga Islands, South-east of Fiji.



Here is Paul's *Story Behind The Photo*:

Our group of 16 was free diving (scuba is not allowed in the whale sanctuary) with a pod of Humpback Whales. I took a breath and dove to get a shot of a whale hanging out watching us from the deep. Ascending, I looked up and saw this big boy (gal?), 45 feet long and about 40 tons, gliding over me. Using my new SeaLife DC600 camera with wide-angle lens (purchased at Scuba Network), I quickly snapped a couple of photos and got a lucky shot. Notice the barnacle patch under the chin, ventral grooves, and his eye looking down at me. *What a thrill!*

III. SPECIAL FEATURE:

No submission this month. Club members: We're always looking for you to contribute interesting stories or featured articles.

IV. GETAWAYS

Scuba Network Adventures

Next trips: 2007- 2008

COZUMEL – DEC.02-07,2007 \$649.00

BONAIRE - APR. 5-12, 2008 \$1,249.00

HAWAII - APR. 5-12, 2008 \$2,450.00 (LIVEBOARD)

EGYPT AND THE RED SEA OCT. 29 – NOV.14, 2008 (APPROX.\$4500
ALL INCLUSIVE)

MALDIVES – MAR. 22-29, 2009 \$2,650 (LIVEBOARD)

Prices subject to change at time of booking.

All packages except Palau do not include airfare.

Contact Scuba Network for specific details about each trip.

Check our web site WWW.SCUBALONGISLAND.COM

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

V. Scuba Network Training: Good Divers Keep Learning!

SPECIAL PRICE FOR MEMBERS

SIGN FOR ANY BEGINNER OPEN-WATER COURSE IN MAY AND GET 15% OFF FOR DIVE MEMBERS OR IF THE MEMBER IS PURCHASING THE CLASSES.

Certification Courses:

Express Friday/Sat/Sun. \$189

NOV. 09-10-11

Weeknight classes: \$169 6PM TO 10PM.

Nov. 13,14,19, 20

Nitrox Course: NOV. 04 9 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 NOV. 03 9 AM CPR includes: CPR, Defibrillator, First Aid certification and Marine injuries all for \$120 including books. Space limited.

DEMP TBA , This course includes Oxygen Provider, Oxygen Advanced, Neurological evaluations \$160.

Advanced course: NOV. 21 AT 7:30 PM

Price \$29.50 plus books.

MASTER DIVER COURSE: TBA

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

First class will determine schedule for other classes as per students request.

DRY SUIT COURSE : TBA \$149.00

Two classes, one pool session. Pool for Dry suit Jul 26-Thursday.

Scuba Network Continuing Education

Call (516) 997-4864 to register for classes

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SPECIAL EVENTS

OCT. 28- BOAT DIVE FROM THE JEANNE II – 6AM

**DUTCH SPRINGS CERTIFICATION DIVES
OPEN WATER – ADVANCED – MASTER DIVES
NOV. 03 & 04 at 8:30 AM**

BEACH CERTIFICATION DIVES: OCT. 27 at 7:30AM

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

Regulator: Complete set-up, starting at \$450.00, with computer \$600

Dive Computers: BIG SALE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Dacor Back-up Mask: Have an extra mask in your gear bag, only \$9.95.

WETSUITS (STOCK ITEMS)

ONE PIECE PARWAY 7 MM SUITS –50% OFF

7MM NEOPRENE TWO PIECE --20% OFF *OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER*

B/C'S 10% OFF – BUY IT WITH A REGULATOR PACKAGE GET 15%.

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*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 blue club membership card to receive your club member 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 problems? Call in the experts: **Dark Arts Consulting will help unravel all your technology issues. Call Lee at **646-228-2006.****

See you at the next club meeting: Wednesday, November 14th 7:30pm.

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