



LONG ISLAND NETWORK DIVERS
SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, August 2008, Edition 27

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DOUBLE ISSUE: JULY & AUGUST, 2008

I. Club News

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES

JULY 2, 2008

David Rosenthal of Wharves Diving provided a presentation that focused on northeast diving. He emphasized his efforts to map the wreckage of the *USS San Diego*, which lies at a depth of approximately 110 feet and is located about three to four miles south of Jones Inlet. The dive boat from which he conducts his work is the *Lockness*, which is docked at Freeport, Long Island, New York. David explained that the waters in which northeast divers dive, is home to many wrecks some dating back to the 1700's. He also noted that those who dive in the northeastern United States should take pride in their accomplishments because the water conditions in the northeastern United States make diving fairly difficult.

David encourages divers to set personal challenges for themselves and to develop skills that will enhance their ability to dive while providing enjoyment. One aspect of northeast diving that David emphasized was the sense of adventure that can be gained. Many of the wrecks that lie in the waters in Long Island Sound and the New York Bight belong to a variety of time periods. Further, many of these ships served different purposes such as for military deployment, trading and the transport of immigrants to and from the United States. Such a feeling of adventure is a very positive aspect of northeast diving. He does contend, however, that water conditions do provide negative aspects as well. For instance, tides and currents can make diving difficult, even treacherous not to mention the need for proper gear to combat the characteristic low water temperatures.

Diving in the northeast, for most divers, typical occurs between July and October because water temperatures are most comfortable during this time. Several locations are recommended for recreational divers. For those seeking shore dives, David recommends East Rockaway (Beach 9th Street) and the Ponquogue Bridge. Shore dives must be conducted at high tide, however, to avoid dealing with strong currents that can be cumbersome to most divers. Visibility can vary and is dependent on fetch which is the area over stretches of surface water by which waves are carried by wind currents. Purposes for shore diving vary from the recovery of archaeological treasures from Native American cultures to debris discarded in the waters during recent times. Regardless of the purpose of a dive, whether it be in offshore or near shore locales, David emphasizes that awareness of one's environment, personal dive skills and limitations and recognizing one's personal emotions and reactions to emotions are critical in dive safety: thinking comes first!

David reiterated that setting personal goals enhance one's interest in diving. When subjecting oneself to challenges, self-confidence is improved, as well as increasing one's ability to solve problems and to attain a broader worldview. Recommendations as goals

to achieve that were suggested by David were to become familiar with marine biodiversity, gaining skills in diving in seasons other than summer and developing more technical dive skills.

Those who dive in the northeastern United States most frequently dive wrecks. Many people gain an interest in penetrating wrecks. David cautions that this, however, is a skill that relies on many sub-skills that only experienced divers learn gradually and with practice. A critical skill to successful wreck penetration is the ability to use a wreck reel. David also mentioned that backup reels are needed and one must be skilled in using a primary reel and a secondary reel. David also recommends doing research on wrecks that a diver chooses to dive. Being familiar with the history of a wreck can aid divers on a dive such as determining the location of key landmarks and the position of the wreck, which can aid in orientation.

David suggested several wrecks in the New York area that can provide divers with an enjoyable experience and are readily available to divers. He also noted that artifacts can some times be recovered from these wrecks. The wrecks he listed were the *Asfalto*, a former New York City garbage barge, the *Iberia* which carried dates from the Middle East, the *USS San Diego*, a WWI cruiser and the *USS Pennsylvania* which was instrumental in developing methods in landing and launching aircraft from ships. David's particular interest pertains to the *USS San Diego*. He is currently engaged in a project to map the wreck. This project will help future divers and local authorities understand the importance of the wreck and provide for more meaningful dive experiences.

David concluded his presentation by telling a story in which a diver located a US Marine Corps insignia on the wreckage of the *USS Olympia*. The diver who located this insignia treasured this artifact because he was a former Marine and the insignia had sentimental value to him. David encouraged his audience to keep diving and setting challenges and to gain their own sense of sentiment in being northeast divers.

After a brief question and answer session, the meeting was adjourned.

SCUBA CLUB MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6TH, 2008

Martha Katz began the meeting by formally announcing that the **club's annual BBQ will take place on Sunday, August 17th, 2008 at Dutch Springs**. She has requested that those who wish to attend e-mail her to confirm their attendance at the BBQ. In order to avoid an overabundance of food and drink, attendees are requested to bring whatever they like plus a "little bit" extra. The BBQ will begin at 10AM. The entrance price to Dutch Springs is \$32.

The following trips were announced for the upcoming 2008-2009 year:

October 2008: Bermuda
February 2009: Bonaire
March 2009: The Maldives
April 2009: Cozumel

The following ideas were presented as potential club events and will be follow-up by the following people:

- Friends of the Harbor/Circle Line tour of Manhattan Island describing and displaying the working areas of NY harbor. The tour runs from 6PM to 8PM and costs \$20. **Jim Steers** will follow up with more information.
- Behind-the-scenes to of Atlantis Marineland Aquarium at Riverhead in the morning with afternoon dive (site to be determined.) Will be followed up by **June Dawson**.
- Collecting of fossilized marine life in New Jersey. To be followed up by **Demetrius Lutz**.
- Seal/Whale Watching in November to be followed up by **Lisanne Lange**.

Further ideas for club events that were suggested by Martha Katz:

- Relaxing dives with Jeanne II and Sea Hawk at 10AM
- Local shore dives (dependent on tides)

Martha has announced that due to complaints from last year's Block Island trip, this year's Block Island trip is cancelled.

For local dives on the NORTH shore of Long Island, anywhere is possible EXCEPT Garvey's Point and Bayville due to local laws.

Long Island Diver's Association (LIDA) Events:

- Friday night, August 15th, 2008 at Ponnetquot Bridge. Join State University of New York at Stony Brook biologists in collecting specimens of marine life. **See LIDA website for more details!**
- August 26th Seminar at Nassau Community Medical Center, 8PM: local dive captains will provide presentations of their favorite wrecks. Admission is free for LIDA members and \$5 for non-members.
- Friday, December 5, 2008 at Hofstra University Playhouse, LIDA Film Festival.

Mention of the club's annual **Christmas Party** was also made regarding locations as to where to hold the party. Reservations must be made far in advance at many restaurants. So far, Famous Dave's Ribs was suggested. **Martha Weisberg** will follow up details for arrangements.

Martha Weisberg presented a brief talk of her experiences in diving in North Carolina with her daughter, Laura. Although they experienced difficult diving conditions, she described some of the local marine animals seen on the dive, namely, sand tiger sharks and Volitans lionfish. She also presented teeth from sand tiger sharks found in the sediment. Martha's story is this month's featured article.

For comments or errors regarding these notes, please contact Demetrius "Dimi" Lutz at paleolutz@worldnet.att.net or (917) 392-8333.

CLUB DUES:

Please check with Martha as to whether or not you have paid your 2008 club dues. The fee is \$25 per individual and 35\$ per family.

II. The Story Behind The Photo

Martha Weisberg, recently diving in North Carolina with Sand-Tiger sharks, contributed this month's photo, a Lionfish, taken by her daughter, Laura.



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

Going down the first time was the most nerve wracking. The only other shark encounter I experienced had been orchestrated and controlled in Roatan. This was completely different. My camera case developed a moisture problem on the second day and my camera stopped working. Only got 22 photos, mostly of sharks. Laura's (my daughter) shark photos didn't come out well, but her lionfish photos are fabulous! The lionfish do not belong in these waters, but they appear to be entrenched anyway. They are both beautiful and deadly poisonous!

III. SPECIAL FEATURE:

Deep Water Diving - North Carolina, by Martha Weisberg,

I just returned from a week of diving in North Carolina off of Morehead City. To me, conditions there were similar to what you find on the Atlantic up here. Just different wrecks and different sea life...sharks - sharks - and more sharks!

First day of diving was blown out because of 6 to 8 foot waves. Next day they got better (?)... only 5 to 7 foot waves. We dove. Two hours to the wreck, two hours in between dives and two hours back. The Dramamine only lasted one hour. Someone else had to get all my dive gear ready. I could barely look at it. After the first dive I took Compazene. Took it faithfully for the rest of the week. Something to talk with your doctor about before attempting long dive trips.

Diving the U-352 in N.C. was difficult because of very strong current. Of course that was on the turn around part of the dive. Used up my air very quickly...came up with 305 PSI...not a happy camper!

Oh, did I mention all the sharks? Visibility varied from 3 to 60 feet (think of the sharks swimming next to you). Other dives had little to no current. Laura I had fun searching for shark teeth while the sharks swam around us. Sometimes you couldn't see the sharks for all the smaller fish that surrounded them. We discovered that female sharks seemed to have scars/marks all over their bodies, but not the males. Seems the males like to bite the females to get their attention. Luckily they didn't like female divers!



As usual, I encountered some problems. Getting to think this is normal for me. Three people at various times/days forgot to secure their tanks we discovered, as they crashed to the deck. Putting my regulator back in a bag, I became the fourth. The tank had a soft landing as it attacked my scalp (better than a shark!). Six staples later in my scalp...I dove the next two days. Luckily the sharks didn't sense anything different about me and came no closer than before (which could be as close as 5 feet away). The last day, as I entered the water, all that could be heard and seen was the air escaping from an attachment on my second stage. Two dives now had to be aborted. Oh well, I couldn't say goodbye to the sharks.

Now for more serious things. We dove Nitrox with a 30.1% mixture. This is what all the dive shops in N.C. recommend for the depth. We went anywhere from 90' to 115' deep...Laura went to the max - 120' (Later I told her she was crazy). Depth was the part I really wasn't comfortable with. It also caused our dives to be much shorter than I've experienced in Bonaire. My computer decided to malfunction on the second dive on Thursday. It went into 'Gauge Mode' on the dive. I happen to dive with two computers (the other is for air). Stayed close to my daughter after that incident. Laura & I made sure we used the 'rule of halves' in our accents...Stopping at about 50 ft. and then again around 20 ft. I didn't like staying on the 15 ft. safety line because the waves kept making the line go as high 10 ft. Staying on the anchor line I had better control and varied between 20 and 18 ft.

The trip was worth the experience, but I wouldn't chose to do it again. For the cost, sights, and sea life, I would much rather enjoy the Caribbean and other exotic areas where Compazine isn't necessary and depth of dives & sites can be better controlled by the diver and not the wreck.

Our next trip is to Curacao in September. Anyone want to joint us??????

IV. GETAWAYS

Scuba Network Adventures

Next trips: 2008- 2009

BERMUDA - OCT. 19-24 \$998.00

BONAIRE - FEB.21 -28, 2009 \$1.299.00

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

COZUMEL MEXICO - APR. 25 - MAY 02, 2009 \$TBA

Prices subject to change at time of booking.

Contact Scuba Network for specific details about each trip.

Check our web site WWW.SCUBALONGISLAND.COM

Or WWW.SCUBANETWORK.COM

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

V. Scuba Network Training: Good Divers Keep Learning!

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SEP. 19-20-21

Weeknight classes \$169 6PM TO 10PM.
SEP.08-9-10

Nitrox Course: AUG.30 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 AUG.23- 9AM CPR includes: CPR, Defibrillator, First Aid certification and Marine injuries all for \$120 including books. Space limited.

***Advanced course: AUG.13 AT 7:30 PM
Price \$29.50 plus books.***

RESCUE COURSE AUG.17 AT 9 AM \$149.00.

***MASTER DIVER COURSE: AUG.26 AT 7:30 PM
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: AUG.28 \$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

**NEXT DIVE CLUB MEETING SEP.03
WEDNESDAY 7:30PM**

***Scuba Network Featured Specials
For Dive Club Members***

Regulators –get 10% off (instead of 5%)

B/C's – get 12% off (instead of 5%)

Gauges, computers 14% off (instead of 5%)

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

WHEELED BAGS 20% OFF

WETSUITS (STOCK ITEMS)

7MM NEOPRENE TWO PIECE --20% OFF

A COMPLETE REGULATOR PACKAGE – B/C REG, OCTO, GAUGES, AND
GET A FREE REGULATOR BAG (\$24.50 VALUE)

All accessories at 10% OFF. WHEN YOU BUY PACKAGES

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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 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 Solt at 646-228-2006.

See you at the next club meeting: Wednesday, September 3rd, 7:30pm.

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