

The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester, New York

Our 42nd year serving the local and northeast dive community

The Scuba Sport Club's Fall/Winter 2017 Newsletter



Gary Lehman, Newsletter Editor

The Anchor Line

Denise Blais, President

Welcome to the December 2017 issue of *The Scuba Sports Club Sea Swells*! As always, we invite all members of the diving community to contribute, so please contact Gary at gary.a.lehman@gmail.com with your article! Our Club Newsletter includes features about our Club's diving and social calendar; our diving adventures, social/educational events, equipment and health issue discussions, and profiles on some of the more colorful and intrepid characters in our local diving community (of which there are many!) and other features of interest.



In this exciting issue, we are going seal diving in Gloucester, Massachusetts. We will travel to Cairo, Egypt to see the pyramids and antiquities, and then sojourn to points south into the Red Sea. We are going to swim with white sharks at Guadalupe Island, Mexico. We are going to tag white sharks off Montauk, Long Island NY. We are going to Dutch Springs for the first annual Dive Expo. And back to Key Largo. And then we are going to clean up Kensico Dam, near our Club meeting place. We are also going diving in Fort Wetherill, Rhode Island. We are going to learn about environmental challenges in the Maldives. And we are going to hear about the United Nation's World Ocean Days conclave. Finally, we'll get the low down on The Parking Spot for reduced rate parking for our Club members! We hope you will find these of interest, and welcome your feedback as always. You are invited to browse the Table of Contents on page 2, select which of this Sea Swells issue's articles are of interest, and 'dive in'!

We're already approaching the end of the year! Only a few days left and what a great year it's been! I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome and thank all our new members for joining us this year. We hope to see you get involved at future events and getting to know you all a little better. We went from 45 members to 78 in 9 months! Now that's something to celebrate! To all of our existing members, I want to thank you all as well for continuing to participate in the various events over the years. Your efforts do not go unnoticed! Especially doing such a great job with meeting new people and sharing the excitement of our club and all that we do. It takes a team of people to put together our events and our board has done an outstanding job with putting them all together. We've had some great trips this year that have brought us to some new destinations and back to some of our favorite places. Who knows where we'll go next!!

We have concluded the 2017 northeast dive season, and to all we wish fantastic dive adventures in 2018—and of course always safe diving. Wow —what a line up of great trips already scheduled for 2018! Maldives, Philippines, and even SICILY! And more! Our next issue will be in the spring, relating our winter diving adventures in warmer, blue waters south of here — and tales from the deco stops for which our Club is rightly famous!

I hope you all can make it to our Holiday Party this year! Instead of having a December meeting we end the year with a fun party where we can all get together and enjoy ourselves, reminisce about all the fun times we've had and give out some important and fun awards.

Thank you for a very productive year! As we approach the holiday season I want to wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah/Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Finally, I'd like to thank you all for allowing me to be your President this year! It's been a lot of work but I've learned so much! I'm honored to have worked with the board in making things happen this year and to represent TSSC in general.

Gary
Sea Swells Newsletter Editor

Denise
Scuba Sports Club President

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TSSC CLUB OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2017

(We always welcome our Club membership to join our leadership team !)

President	Denise Blais
Vice President	Al Miller
Secretary	Katelyn Krack
Membership	Nick Lappano
Dive Planning	Jack Ricotta
Treasurer	Regina Butcher
Program Director	Allan Rios
Director at Large	Mike D'Angelo
Executive Director	Kenneth Salstrom
Past President	Tom Butcher
Newsletter	Gary Lehman
Environment and Legislative	Judy Dronzek
Education and Safety	Bob Bak
Social Director	Melissa Lonquich
Webmaster	Katelyn Krack
Legal Advisor	Robert Schragar
Founder	Zig Zigahn
Co-Founder	Soliman Shenouda





Diving, Deco Stops — Event Planning Calendar for 2017



What's on the radar, More to come !!!

(We always love to hear new ideas!)

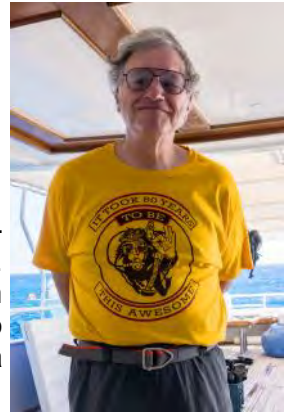
Event	Contact	Date
Key Largo Dive Trip	Jack Ricotta	July 20-24
Whale Watch American Princess	Al Millert	August 12
Seal Dive/Whale Watch, Gloucester	Bob Bak	September 16
Fort Wetherill Rhode Island	Tom	September 30—Oct 1
Red Sea, Egypt	Jack	October 2—Oct 12
Grand Cayman	Jack Ricotta	Oct 28 – Nov 4
Explorers Club Sea Stories	Gary	November 11
National Geographic Ocean Odyssey	Melissa Lonquich	November 18
Holiday Party	Al Miller	December 9
NYC Christmas Tree / Lights / Store Fronts and Dinner !	Denise Blais	December 16



Seal Team TSSC Takes Gloucester and Little Salvages !

Gary Lehman (Photos: Paul S. Bob B. Denise B. Gary L.)

The Scuba Sports Club has an annual September tradition of sojourning to Gloucester, Massachusetts to scuba dive with the seals of Little Salvages and Dry Salvages. These two little islands are approximately 3 miles offshore near the picturesque town of Rockport, MA. Typically, we leave around 8AM with six divers with a plan for two dives at the Salvages; then the dive boat returns to Gloucester's Cape Ann Marina



shortly before lunch time. After a short stop to disembark divers and gear, the intrepid 25' dive boat *Down Under* embarks another six divers, and eases out of Gloucester Harbor back into Stellwagon Bank for a 30-minute cruise to The Salvages for more

seal diving! This year we had the following divers on the morning and afternoon teams, either diving or providing surface support: Michelle M, Denise B, Jack R, Paul S, Ed D, Bob B, Paul S, Katelynn K, Mikhayl M, Sheri B, Romel A, John F and Gary L.



Those of us who have participated in these seal dives in the past are hooked for life, and return whenever we can each year. One of the true joys of the 'occasionally challenging' diving in the northeast is diving with the seals at The Salvages or nearby Isles of Shoals (about twenty miles due north off Portsmouth, New Hampshire in the Gulf of Maine). It is truly a magical experience. We dive with both gray and harbor seals; gray seals are much larger with a long dog-like nose, and harbor seals are smaller and lighter in color with a short stubby nose. (It is interesting to note that the German word for 'seal' is 'seehund' -- which literally translates to sea-dog -- and everyone who plays 'tug of war' with dogs quickly understands the reason for that! Because the seals do exactly the same thing with your fins! And what's more --- the seals even bark!)

And what's more --- the seals even bark!)



Continued...Seal Team TSSC Takes Gloucester and Little Salvages !

Gary Lehman (Photos: Paul S. Bob B. Denise B. Gary L.)

Once you arrive at the dive sites near these little islands, seals pop their heads up above the water on every quarter, with their inquisitive, playful eyes and expressions -- as if to ask "Did you come out to play with us today?" And we did indeed do just that! Northeast diving has its own *Serengeti*, and it is only thirty miles northeast of Boston just slightly offshore. You need to dive with the seals!



Seal diving at Cape Ann calls for a shout out to our legendary friend Captain Fran Linnehan. He has been plying these waters, diving and providing chartering services for 33 years, and we marveled at the precision of his navigation -- getting us unerringly to the dive site despite the shroud of early morning fog. Once at the dive site, Captain Linnehan provides insights into how to have the best seal encounter, and advises his dive clients to

enter the water, follow a compass heading for a short swim, and then to settle in and just wait on the bottom. Captain Fran knows that the seals' natural curiosity and playfulness will impel them to come over to investigate. "Mind you", advises Captain Fran, "don't chase the seals!" If divers chase them, the seals take off - and the divers might see sets of fleeing hind flippers! However (our experience bore this out repeatedly,) stay quiet and hunkered down -- and they will come over to say hello, swimming close, and even mouthing your fins, camera gear, shoulders (and even the back of your head, right Bob?!). Captain Linnehan has extensive knowledge not only of these waters and the resident seals, but he is a PADI and NAUI-certified instructor who has dived the world. Captain carefully and discretely assesses each diver, buddychecking divers' gear before signaling that backward flip off the boat's gunwale. He ensures a positive, personalized dive trip, and takes care of each diver's individual needs. And the trip back to Gloucester is never long enough, brimming with lively, engaging conversations with Captain about near everything!



Continued... Seal Team TSSC Takes Gloucester and Little Salvages !



The dive itself is straightforward – backward roll off the boat, down to the bottom (about 30'), a short swim on the compass heading provided -- and then just wait for the fun to begin! Drysuits are preferred even in mid-September, with temperatures on the bottom around 50-54F. (That said, I had a 5mm wetsuit and hood, and was fine for the first 40-minute dive our team enjoyed. I passed on the second dive because honestly, nothing could have topped that first dive!). With all those seals swarming all around us, playing 'tug of war', nibbling on our fins, playing and hanging out, this was the best dive of my life! Treat yourself to this treasure of northeast diving!

OK, so...let's talk about white sharks. Yes, white sharks will make predations on seals; yes, there are white sharks preying on the burgeoning seal population on Cape Cod (only around fifty miles south-east); OCEARCH is tagging juvenile white sharks off the east end of Long Island; and the seal population at The Salvages has doubled in the past few years. Yes, it is counter-intuitive to scuba dive with white sharks. Yes, a tagged 9' white shark named 'Cisco' was at the exact place we were diving in July. To which we say "Cisco – and all your relatives - live and be well". Because without the white sharks making predations, seals would overconsume the haddock, menhaden, striped bass and other keystone species. So yes, we will continue to dive The Salvages, trusting that our paths don't pass too close to a hungry adult white shark intent on a predation.

Why not make a long weekend of your Gloucester seal dive!?

I drove up Thursday (avoiding Friday traffic), settled in for a hearty New England 'chowdah' and baked haddock, and got a great night's sleep in that crisp, briny air at my comfortable, reasonably priced inn. Camping is available nearby as well. On Friday, I enjoyed a fabulous whale watch with Cape Ann Whale Watch, observing frolicking minkes and humpback mothers with their calves with expert commentary from the naturalist aboard. The menhaden, blues and striped bass were all over-- at times the water roiled with frantic menhaden (also known as moss-bunker) trying to escape the marauding, voracious bluefish.



Continued... Seal Team TSSC Takes Gloucester and Little Salvages !

The town of Gloucester is charming and picturesque, dominated by the Gorton fish factory. The iconic Fisherman's Memorial ('They that go down to the sea in ships' 1623-1923) and accompanying Fishermen's Wives Memorial are beautiful and moving, inscribed with the names of so many who have lost their lives in the inherently dangerous profession of deep sea fishing. The names of the Captain and crew of the swordfishing boat Andrea Gail are there, immortalized in Sebastian Junger's book *The Perfect Storm*. Gloucester's back streets and pier areas also offer up antique and craft shops with maritime themes, the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Museum, the Whale Center of New England, and the Diving Museum.

Hey -- first bowl of 'chowdah' is on me !





Carousing in Cairo, Walking In Memphis, and *Diving the Red Sea!*

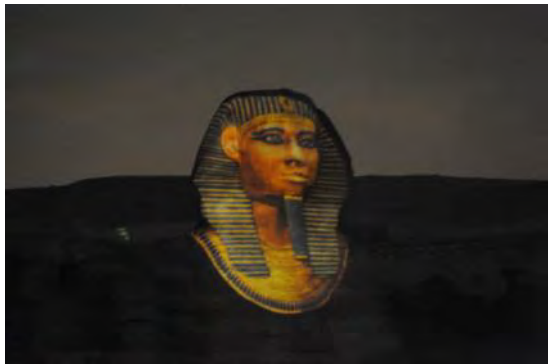
Bob Bak. Photos by Jack Ricotta and Gary Lehman



When I first thought about joining the Club's trip to dive in Egypt's Red Sea, my head was filled with concerns and some fears as to what might lie ahead. Upon the coaxing of friends, and following the decision we made to spend a couple of extra days in Cairo before diving, I came to realize that my concerns were unfounded. What I was to experience is a lovely nation of people concerned for their well-being of the good people who come to visit their country. Egyptians are rightly proud of their country. Upon our arrival at Cairo International Airport we were met by our concierge who expedited our visas and collected our baggage for transport to the hotel. We were whisked away by mini-bus through Cairo, a city of 22 million people. This is substantially more populous than NYC! We were taken to The Meridian Hotel at Giza. This is a beautiful 5-star hotel overlooking the Great Pyramids.



Upon arrival we rested up after the long flight, and then had a quick dinner before heading out for the dramatic Sound and Light show at the Pyramids and Sphinx. The ride over to the show was straight out of an Indiana Jones movie. Weaving in and out of streets lined with cart vendors, zipping by with the mirrors nearly being ripped off on walls, and nearly hitting pedestrians. Upon arrival we sat and were quickly immersed in Egyptian history, a laser and sound show projected up onto the Pyramids and the Sphinx -- we watched the show in sheer awe. I sat there with my jaw dropped, thinking that "I cannot really be here!". The history -- sitting among archeological finds which were 4500 years old! The cradle of humanity. I sat thinking "how could I possibly have concerns about our hosts towards us?". After the seeing the show attended by a couple hundred people, I noticed many empty seats. Prior to the spread of worldwide fear of terrorism, approximately 3,000 people were attending this show every night.





Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...

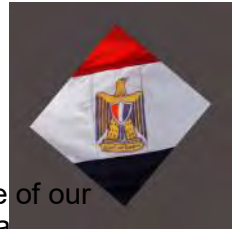


The next day the temperatures were in the high 80s/low 90s – very pleasurable! Our first stop was at the Great Pyramid where some of us ventured up to the Burial Chamber. We found the entrance created by explorers (tomb raiders) and then proceeded through a series of narrow low passages, up steep inclines, and finally into the large barren stone chamber. A room with no view. Unbearable hot, with no ventilation. I thought it may be my last resting place! A nice condo 455' high with the stone over my head weighing in at about 1,000,000 pounds! This place had to have been constructed by aliens! After the Great Pyramid we drove to an overlook, to marvel at the three Giza pyramids together. We then went to see one of the Pharaoh's boats that was encased in a pit carved out of limestone at the foot of the Great Pyramid. The purpose was to provide transportation in the afterlife for Khufu, Pharaoh Cheops. Literally the oldest surviving boat in the world. The cedar planks still looked great even after 2,500 years. This was known as the Solar Barge. It was breathtakingly intact. The reconstruction crew reported that the components were carefully stacked and organized so that the builders in the afterlife would have no problems reconstructing it. The hemp rope was in amazingly good condition, looked new. The reconstruction team felt a true connection across time and space to these ancient craftsmen of antiquity some 2,000-3,000 years ago! Craftsmanship down through the ages!





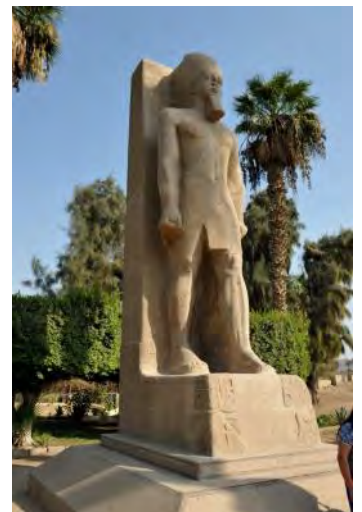
Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



After the Boat Museum we drove over to the Sphinx. At the standard spot, some of our team gave 'virtual kisses' to Sphinx in photos which flashed around the world via Facebook, while 'Doc' our guide told us of the history behind the temple. We were totally immersed in history of the area and the way people viewed working for the Pharaohs and building these great structures. Over 20,000 people labored four months a year for over twenty-eight years to construct the Great Pyramid. After being outside under the sun, the next leg of the trip was to visit one of the few places where official papyrus woven artwork could be viewed and purchased in the art gallery. These were beautiful works of art, crafted on papyrus using a 4,000-year-old formula from these pressed reeds. Some of the scrolls we viewed in museums in the upcoming days on this same papyrus paper have survived thousands of years and are in incredibly good condition, still having vibrant colors and carefully painted details evident.



After this stop we went for lunch, and then off to the ancient city of Memphis. Memphis was founded 5,000 years ago by the first Pharaoh and served as the capital for some 1,000 years before being destroyed in wars. There we saw large statues uncovered at the historic site. One granite statue was more than 4,000 years old and retained astonishing detail. Another carved in limestone was intact on the side which had been buried, but eroded on the side exposed to the elements. This statue of Ramses II had to be close to 40' tall. The details and power of this statue remain astounding.





Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



From Memphis we sojourned south to Sakkara. The pyramids of Sakkara were 1,000 years older than the larger pyramids of Giza (which are more familiar). The pyramids of Sakkara were 'stepped' rather than more visually triangular. This was because the construction techniques were not as advanced 1,000 years earlier. An alternative explanation is that the 'steps' provide a pathway for Pharaoh to ascend to heaven. The other feature of note was that the flood plain of the Nile extends outward from the Nile to the east and to the west, but... when that flood plain stops, inhospitable desert suddenly takes over. There is no gradual transition. It is green, agricultural land and then – suddenly – sand, sand, sand. Sakkara is a necropolis – a city of the dead. The 'Rich and Famous' of the day including of course the Pharaohs of that Old Kingdom, were buried in those pyramids and other lesser structures.

After Sakkara we visited a rug factory where we observed rugs being made in the traditional fashion. The ancient looms – unchanged for thousands of years – are used in the manufacture of these rugs. The sheen and patina of the rugs were alluring! Several of our team purchased rugs at that shop. One of our group ascended up to the roof of the building with a moving view of the Nile River valley and flood plain. Rich agricultural fields extended out for miles and miles. But were cut off by the desert. It was clear how the Nile was the source of life in ancient times and today – in this inhospitable desert region!





Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



A long day came to an end with a meeting of the minds at the local oasis in the hotel lobby bar fueled with nectar from the gods!



The following day was just as packed as our first day. We started the day with a drive thru The City of The Dead to The Citadel of Mohamed Ali, where we saw the fortress surrounding The Great Alabaster Mosque. A beautiful place of worship overlooking Cairo from a hilltop. Our guide Doc was a wealth of information about the history of Egypt which he presented to us passionately with great Egyptian pride. It was interesting hearing about Egyptian history from a Egyptian and not CNN.



We then visited the Antiquities Museum in Cairo, housing thousands of artifacts showing the rich history of Egypt and its people. There we



viewed many stone carvings covering thousands of years. We viewed the collection of gold artifacts from King Tutankhamen including the head piece. What amazed me more than the sheer amount of gold, was that it was protected by only a few small old Yale locks made in Stamford Ct. So much for all those TV crime shows! It was humbling to think that we take pride in our country and our history of 241 plus years; and here I stood surrounded by the history of Egypt 20 times that of ours. I noticed that this museum was not filled with foreigners -- but with Egyptians.





Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...

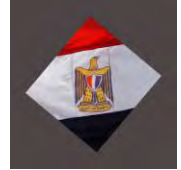


There was one area in the Museum that was a bit unsettling to me. That area was the halls of the mummies. These were the actual remains of the ruling class of Egypt.

Though being totally amazed at seeing the actual remains preserved by mummification I felt that I was being sacrilegious, fearing some ancient curse. So the remedy for this ---go to lunch and then shopping. We dined on a river boat on the Nile River. I realized how good a cold Coke Zero tasted when it washed out the dust.



Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



Then we were off to the bazaar called Khan el-Khalili to shop. Small shops lined crowded streets. Well, not streets -- more like alleys. Everything under the sun could be found.. From leather shops, silver shops, hookah shops, and even shops with an abundance of belly dancing outfits sought out by one of adventurers. He insisted it was for his friend. Humm. Another fellow traveler went in search of dolls. No, not belly dancers but real dolls. I was beginning to wonder about those I was traveling with. In the back alleys we sat in a small coffee shop enjoying some strong Turkish coffee.



Red Bull has nothing on this elixir. We took in the sights and sounds of the market. People ask if you were safe there. I felt totally safe there with our guide. It also helped he had a sub-machine pistol under his jacket. Tools of the trade. After the market we were off

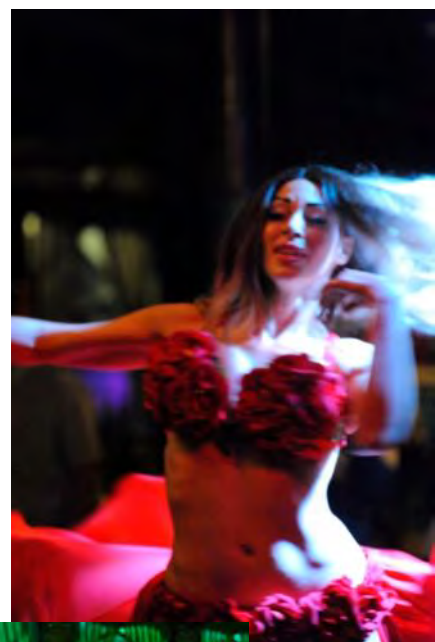


for a dinner cruise on the Nile River. We boarded the paddle wheeler and had a sumptuous dinner followed by entertainment from dancers. That is when my faith in humanity (well more so not worrying about this group of members) when one in the group took charge and showed us young-uns how to party. Travolta had nothing on him. It was a fun-filled night with laughter. For those starting to doze off they were soon wakened by Mr. Toads wild ride back to the Hotel.

Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



Carousing Cairo & Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



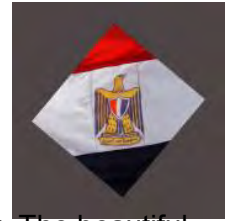
Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



Morning came early with a quick breakfast and off to the airport at sunrise. Thank goodness it was a national holiday. The 1 1/2 hour ride to the airport took 20 minutes. It pays to travel on a holiday. At the airport security was heavy. We passed thru with no problems. We boarded a short flight to Marsa Alam down the coast on the Red Sea. We arrived at this small but nice airport and was greeted by Dmitry, manager of our boat, the Heaven Saphir. It was a short but comfortable ride to the Port of Galeb. This looked like a fairly new area, which is still being developed. Tourism had dropped off since the rise in terrorism. They too have felt its effects. Closed shops and empty condos. We were able to board the Heaven Saphir and dropped our bags. We were early, so we went into the picturesque port town for a drink and shopping for souvenirs. It felt weird. The shops and alleys were empty. Shop owners were enthusiastic and respectful. The afternoon ended by a waterside bar and a few cold beers. We went back to the boat for dinner and met some of the crew. Afterwards we went back to the port where people who had been hiding in the heat of the day flocked out to party at night. The port was packed. We enjoyed the night, and boarded the vessel for some rest. Diving comes early !

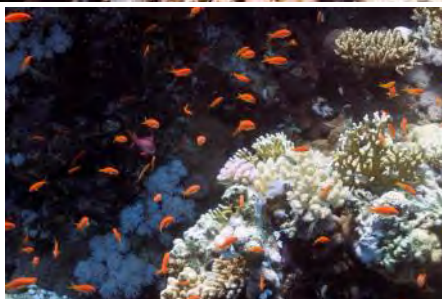
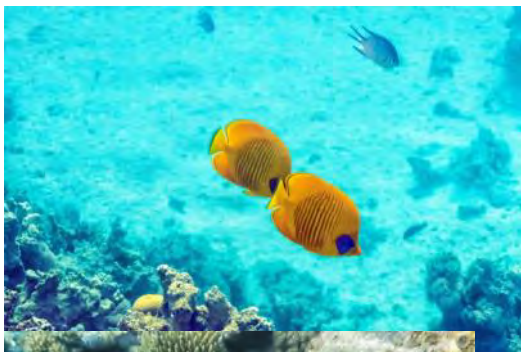


Diving the Red Sea! Continued...

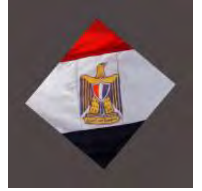


The week was packed with non-stop diving. I do not know why they dubbed it the Red Sea. It should have been called the Golden Sea. Golden soft coral adorned every site we dove at. The beautiful coral glistened in the penetrating sunlight waving back and forth. Sites varied from reef head to island. A few things were consistent: lots of wind, rough seas, many dive boats at one site, a wealth of healthy coral, lots of fish, clear water, and beautiful walls.

For those of you who have not experienced a liveaboard, you are missing some of the best diving there is. You are totally immersed in diving from the time you wake till the time of you disembark. You live and breathe diving. You are either under the water enjoying the sites, or you are sleeping dreaming of the last dive, or you are relaxing, drinking, or eating talking about diving with the other guests. All guests interact even those who have a language barrier. Somehow, we all communicate our love of the ocean. Sometimes, you have famous divers on board like ours. One member was dubbed Jack Black. On a liveaboard you also get to know the crew. They become your extended family. Our dive masters aboard the Heaven Saphir we not only knowledgeable about the dive sites, but were totally aware of all of the divers and their safety. This was one of the few dive crews who actually watched their guests questioning as to air consumption and depth. Their expertise also shined by showing all small creatures hiding everywhere.



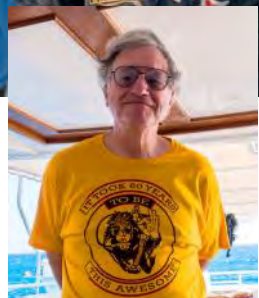
Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



Highlights of the trip included mantas, a thresher shark, and a up close and personal oceanic whitetip shark with its escorting pilotfish. The high light of the trip for me came on a night dive filled with moray eels and small shrimp. We came around a coral head and there it was, the Holy Grail: A Spanish Dancer about 8" long. What a beautiful creature. Its

movements highlighted with its flowing skirt of red and pale frills as it moved over its coral home. The dive lasted over an hour. Much of the time spent watching this beautiful creature. Night dives are special in the Red Sea. Most of the time you could spend under the boat in the light of the vessel just watching those who come by for a free meal.

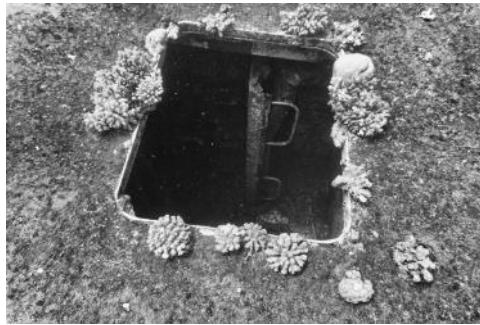
The week was filled with ups and downs. Literally ups and downs from the wind-swept seas. It made interesting sleeping with projectiles in the middle of the night pelting you in your bunk as you held on for dear life. You soon gave up and said to yourself I'll pick it up in the morning. Unfortunately, several fell ill with flu-like symptoms at various times during the trip, but everyone pitched in and took care of one another, including fellow passengers who were not in our immediate group. Diving was mostly from Zodiac inflatable rafts. If you never dived from one, it takes a little getting used too. It is fun to watch each other's "graceful entry" back into the raft. We look like fish flapping around on the deck!



Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



Another highlight was diving the wreck of MV Salem Express near the port of Hurghada. The Egyptian divemasters were ambivalent about diving this site. There are five pillars of Islam: believing in one God, daily prayer, fasting, giving charity, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. On December 17, 1991 *Salem Express* was underway from Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) to Safaga (Egypt) with perhaps as many as 1,000 Muslim pilgrims who had just fulfilled this fifth tenet of Islam – making Hajj in Mecca. The Captain misjudged the course and hit a reef around midnight. There were close to 1,000 victims. Perhaps as many as 500 are still trapped inside the wreck. There are cars jumbled together, luggage, and a significant debris field around the wreck, which itself is covered with coral. Abject, horrible, random, violent overwhelming desolation and destruction. The terrible loss of life explains why the Egyptian divemasters are of mixed mind about diving Salem Express. They would really rather not dive it and commercialize the victims. They do not wish to in any way trivialize the site. Certainly, we were totally respectful of the spirits of the victims who are on Eternal Hajj. Perhaps the staff in future could make an offering, or prayer service, or lay a wreath (or whatever is appropriate in Islamic tradition) to pay respects to those who lost their lives in fulfillment of their religious duties that awful night so long ago... We dive it for some of the same reasons that we visit a cemetery, and or learning, historical discovery, enrichment and out of respect.



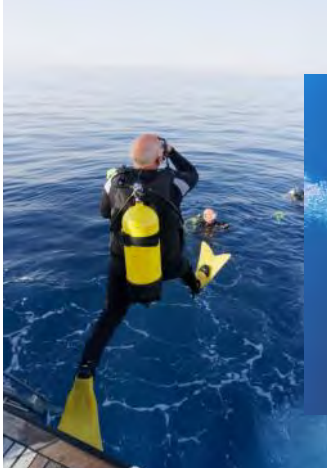
Diving the Red Sea! Continued...



The Heaven Saphir looked to be one of the better vessels at the dive sites. It was comfortable and had large deck areas to spread out on. The food got better every day. With an exception here and there... there was also some chocolate mousse which we lovingly dubbed dog poop. You had to be there, but let it be said that even the cook (when he tasted it) went to the rail, and overboard it went. The faces of people as they tasted it were priceless. The cabins on board were large with full-size bathrooms. There was plenty of room to find private space if you needed it. We docked late afternoon in Hurghada, another beautiful Port area. Some ventured into town for tee shirts, genie lamps, and Cipro. The evening was spend enjoying a full turkey feast in celebration of our host Dmitry's birthday. Some hearty souls ventured into the night partying till it was time to leave.

The morning of our departure came very early, departing the boat in the wee hours of the morning. Last minute packing and trying to keep track of luggage being put in the bus for the trip to the airport in Hurghada. A fifteen-minute ride to the airport and then security line after security line, before our departure for JFK Airport in Queens/Brooklyn (or so we thought). When you get ready for final take off, and you are on the runway and the engines are winding up, and then the Captain comes on to advise that 'we are returning to the gate due to mechanical issues' you sort of lose confidence in your aircraft. Then your one-hour delay becomes a three-hour delay. You taxi to the runway, the engines roaring -- and at that moment you realize you are no longer a passenger, but rather a guinea pig! Your 14-hour flight over the Atlantic just might become the ultimate dive trip. Just saying!

The one thing about this trip that made it was exceptional was being able to share it with friends. When traveling to faraway places, it is nice to know others in your group have your back. You can relax a little more, and you are able to share your experience with friends. If you have a chance, come travel with us. I can assure you that you will be busted on, with some watchful eyes just waiting for you to screw up. After all, we are always on the lookout for the new recipient of the 'Friggin Ziggin' award!



Diving the Red Sea! Continued...

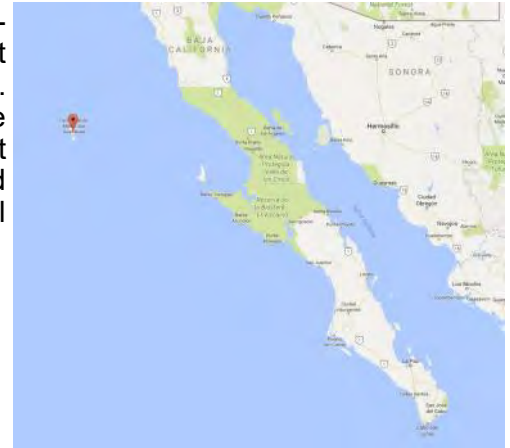


Guadalupe island: the Hotel of the Great White Sharks

Judy



Located in Pacific Ocean approximately 165 miles west of Ensenada (Baja California part of Mexico) lies volcanic Guadalupe Island, best known for the great white sharks which frequent the waters near the island. Getting to this location is a bit tricky. We started out in San Diego California, were driven down the Tijuana Border (crossing the border by foot), and then arriving at the boat dock takes about an hour and a half. Once we boarded and completed safety drills, our intrepid Solmar V diveboat vessel begins the arduous 16 to 18 hour crossing. This is rough sea. Even if you generally do not get sea sick – there is always a first time and ... you just might... without any preventative protection of the patch, Dramamine or some similar medication. Despite the rocking pitching and yawing, the excitement on board builds each pitch and yaw -- because -- we are off to see “Jaws”!



While cruising to the dive site, we met all of the crew, including the captain, engineer, chef, cabin stewards, three dive masters and three Panga boat drivers who double as deckhands. This crew is very unusual as most of them have been on this boat for 10 years or more, so it runs very efficiently. Since I have been on this boat a few times before, I got a big welcomes; as if I've just seen a long lost friend. Even if you haven't been with them before they'll treat you like a family guest and seek to show you a great experience. At this point, I will tell you a few the main reasons this is my favorite boat. Safety, is key and as this Captain knows these waters and touches base to their US offices one or twice a day. Guests are discouraged from

using the expensive satellite phone, as your on vacation, but it's available if you need it. Tony the chef in a small kitchen makes everything fresh not from cans like many other boats. The cabins range in sizes but the mattresses are very comfortable, which is needed considering during the crossing most people try to sleep, or at least hold on to the bed. However, the most important is where this vessel travels and what one can see once in the water.

You'll see the deckhands cutting up fish and chumming the waters; as well as wrangling; basically throwing a biodegradable rope with a fish head to skim along the water to gain the sharks attention. At this point, the sharks are curious and seem to know food comes to them if they come by or wait. However, their main meals are on shore and you can hear them from the boat. Scientists believe that this maybe a mating ground for this species and at different times of the year different genders are together or separated. The noises one hears is seen when taking a panga ride which will take you along the shoreline, so you can observe colonies of Guadalupe fur seals, Californian sea lion and elephant seals, making for another experience of a lifetime. These drivers are amazingly skilled and can get you in an instant or back up to get you that shot of the rare white seal. It was impressive to see the fur seals sun bathing and jumping into and off of the rocks. Meanwhile, it seemed the huge elephant seals were beached on the sand right outside the water line. Once up close I could see why a shark would rather chew on a huge seal as compared to a human which has little to no fat when compared to these blubbering animals. Luckily, we didn't see any live feedings which was wonderful in my mind.

Continued...Guadalupe island: the Hotel of the Great White Sharks

The first climb into the cage is unnerving and exciting, because you are waiting for one of the largest apex predators to show up!

Getting into the cages is quite easy and all the equipment is in good working condition and dive masters are knowledgeable, very friendly, helpful and love to talk about the environment; as well as; the importance of sharks and why they enjoy their job. I've never seen anyone go into the water without being checked over once or twice by the crew members; which gives me that extra piece of mind that I'm not forgetting something essential. Day 2, 3 and 4 are spent cage diving in either of the two cages at the back of the boat on the swim platform which can fit up to four people and the cage is hooked up to the swim platform while you use a hookah for air. The three person submersible cage goes 30 foot down for a different view.

Most of the time is spent just standing while, waiting and looking into the 50-100+ plus foot visibility for the sharks. The first day visibility wasn't very good and it was difficult to see the sharks. The second day visibility changed and more sharks with earlier entrances to the cages at 6:45 AM. All day long it was pretty constant action. A male shark called Cut Caudal showed up sneakily fast and other juveniles in the area had to go due to the display of dominance which started when a male named Crazy Louise showed up. You could almost feel the fear which the juveniles must have felt seeing this massive great white showing he is bigger. Water temperature was about 72° and no wind, which made it calm in the cage.

he first few times the sharks were a little far away, but the closer they came the more I could feel them being curious about us inside the cage. The pure size and shape of these muscular creatures is truly a wonder; which one can only imagine when seeing them up close. Their eyes are not just black, but seemed to have some slight colors that you can see when they're close. Then later a male called Bruce showed up in the area spending most of the time swimming at the surface right by the cages; being a slow swimmer you can see his display of power. We did see three dolphins swim right near the surface cages. as well as two brave turtles. Another male named Garman showed up when crazy Louise was launching his body in a horizontal position to catch the bait.

Notice the bent cage !!!!!!!



Continued...Guadalupe island: the Hotel of the Great White Sharks

Day 4 was a little rough because the wind picked up, so the cages were banging against the boat and against each other making it hard to stand still inside the cage. However I think this was the best day for seeing sharks. By 8 AM we saw three different sharks, then a juvenile showed up which was continuing to chase the bait without taking a break. He even was sticking his full head out of the water open mouth several times in an attempt to get the bait from the wrangler. The submersible cage gave other perspectives to see the sharks naturally swimming peacefully around the cage, and even behind the cages before they launch into an explosive sneaky attack.

However; we did have another opportunity as the Mexican government assigned a conservationist officer on board to study these sharks; he was able to identify the sharks individually, and confirmed their identity each day with the shark ID photo books. He did add a new shark into the book while we were there, and told us that we had seen seven different great whites in three days. He was a little discouraged as this was a lower quantity of sharks than expected, but it is important to track a baseline of shark population and maintain a census on their numbers so that corrective measures can be taken to try to ensure continued ecosystem health.

Sharks aren't so scary when you're behind or in the cage. What's scary to me is the thoughts of a world without them.

(photos by Judy D. and Steve Reichenbach was on on Solmar V with the author on this trip)

OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

Gary Lehman

On August 21 TSSC had the opportunity to go aboard the marine science ship *MV Ocearch*, the floating ocean-saving fortress for the Oearch team. Oearch is led by ocean activist, visionary, filmmaker and outdoor adventurer Chris Fischer. The ship was anchored a few miles offshore the eastern tip of Long Island, NY southwest of Montauk point. The 20-day mission off Montauk was to catch juvenile



white sharks, gather data about them in order to build a data baseline about this species in this ocean region, and

of course release them unharmed. The waters off Long Island show strong and persistent indications that this ocean region is a pupping/nursery area for *carcharodon carcharias*, the white shark.



We have come a long way from 'admiring' or approving of the death of white sharks and other sharks. There remains a daunting challenge ahead though to change public perceptions in Asia regarding 'shark fin soup' for which ten of millions of sharks are harvested in a most brutal fashion, just for the pectoral and dorsal fins. But Dr. Sylvia Earle advises there there is a 'hope spot' - perceptions amongst Chinese youth and young adults are changing, and there is a growing rejection of the annihilation of sharks just to use their fins for soup...

Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

Many questions surface: why care about sharks - and about 'dangerous' white sharks in particular? What is Chris Fischer's mission and mindset? How does OCEARCH fit into the general scheme of marine environment conservation and environmental advocacy? What is the business/funding model here? What and who is benefitting from OCEARCH's work? DNN sat down with Chris for a look backward and forward, and got to the bottom of these questions and more!



A Day In The Life Aboard MV Ocearch

To catch the sharks, fishermen are positioned aboard MV Ocearch and use the back deck as their fishing platform.

Local fishermen also join the fray, trolling the waters around the mothership in smaller sportfisherman-style boats. (Long-time Long Island Eastender and high

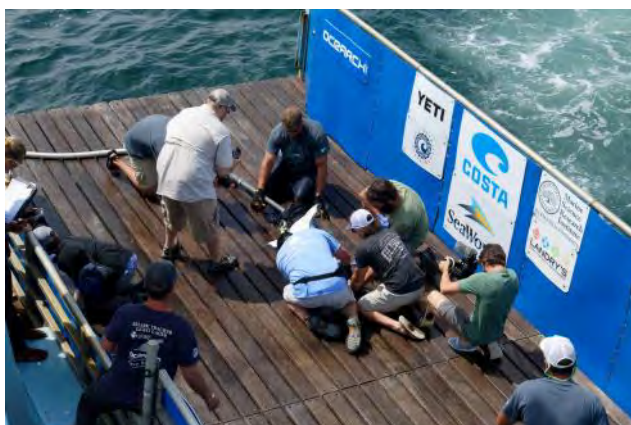
school teacher Greg Metzger was aboard such a fishing boat when he caught the white shark on August 21st ; Greg is a veteran white shark fisherman with many years of collaboration with Ocearch, and a long history of friendship and professional association with other LI Eastenders in the Long Island Shark Collaboration research project). Relatively benign circle hooks (which are easily removed and do not cause any internal injuries to sharks) are used. Once a target species (on this expedition, the white shark) is caught, the shark is maneuvered to the starboard side of Ocearch, and positioned over a custom platform which is pre-lowered into the water. The platform is then raised up out of the water, with the shark accessible and docile on the platform.



Crewmember checking out the solar eclipse !

Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

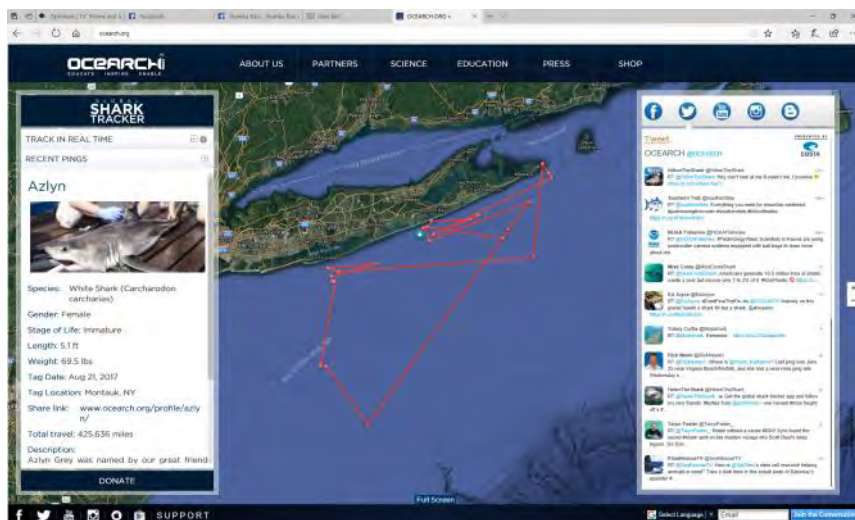
A team of marine biologists and scientists then quickly descend upon the shark, with a maximum of fifteen minutes to take all samples and perform all measurements and tagging. The team keeps water flowing through the shark's gills, and covers its eyes and head with a wet towel to keep it calm and minimally stressed. The exoskeletal skin of the shark is kept wet throughout the procedure. The wellbeing of the shark is paramount; on the day DNN was aboard, the veterinarian team included Alisa Newton (Harley), Head of Aquatic Health at Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium (<http://nyaquarium.com/>) and Dr. Mike Hyatt, lead veterinarian of the Adventure Aquarium in Camden (<http://www.adventureaquarium.com/>). Several other scientists, marine biologists and environmental advocacy leaders participated in this expedition and assisted with many aspects of the care of the shark, including Scott Curatoloa-Wagemann (marine biologist, educator, NOAA consultant and environmental management SME); Gaelin Rosenwaks (marine biologist, Fellow at Explorers Club and Royal Geographic Society, and Coast Guard captain) and Tobey Curtis, Fishery Management Specialist at NOAA -- among others with whom we did not have an opportunity to speak.



The data collected/actions taken on the detained sharks include: size and weight measurements, stress levels monitored, blood samples, health assessment, and the implanting and attachment of various kinds of tags and monitoring devices. Azlyn is believed to be the first juvenile white shark to have an abdominal implant to measure internal temperature. (Implanting a pinging thermometer deep into the shark seems intrusive, and draconian, however the relationship between internal and external temperature is important to understand because apex predators like white sharks must be able to generate an instantaneous burst of speed to catch prey. White sharks and makos have the ability to generate sudden bursts of speed by keeping their body temperature and muscles warmer than the surrounding water if necessary).

internal temperature. (Implanting a pinging thermometer deep into the shark seems intrusive, and draconian, however the relationship between internal and external temperature is important to understand because apex predators like white sharks must be able to generate an instantaneous burst of speed to catch prey. White sharks and makos have the ability to generate sudden bursts of speed by keeping their body temperature and muscles warmer than the surrounding water if necessary).

Azlyn pinged at the surface on December 6th ! Her location was not able to be determined since her dorsal fin was not at the surface long enough to get the GPS coordinate. However, it is great to know that she is doing fine and doing whatever it is that white sharks do... which is what this project is all about !



Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time



The various geographic positioning tags work in different ways due to different technologies. But the goal is to effect non-intrusive attachment of tags which communicate to satellites in order to provide accurate geographic positioning whenever the dorsal fin breaks the surface for sufficient time for the satellite to lock on. These re-peating locational data points shed light over time about sharks' movements, migration, and life and times. The tags work very well... if you want to check out where 16' 3,900lb white shark Mary Lee last pinged in, you can easily do so at the Ocearch website.



Sea water is piped through Azlyn's gills so that she does not suffocate while out of the water. A wet towel is over her head most of the time, and her entire exterior was kept moist with seawater while measurements were being taken.

(Unfortunately, as of November 11th 2017, her last tag read was in June 2017 - so the team is somewhat concerned about her welfare and

speculate that her tag might have simply just worn out, having been placed on her dorsal fin in September, 2012. Tags have improved tremendously since that time, and it is possible that this older, early generation tag is now no longer working as designed. However, for it to have worked so long and so well with such a dramatic and rich history of geographical location pings from Mary Lee is fantastic!) Much crucial species information has been collected from the tag data.



Biologists, scientists and veterinarians can remotely monitor the positions, signals and thermal status of the sharks with sophisticated telemetry



Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

Who Cares, it is just a bunch of sharks!!

What about all this data? Who gets it, and who pays for it, what is the overall idea behind all this data? Why bother? It's just a bunch of sharks - and how about "get even, eat a shark"? Fortunately, even the commercial fisheries industry (initially all for shark destruction) now has emerged (mostly) from these retrograde pronouncements. That said, some local politicians have grandstanded for a 'shark cull' for their presumed supportive constituents near Chatham, Massachusetts (whose maritime visitors include white sharks making occasional predations on the local seals). Hopefully though, enough science, common sense (and ridicule...) has been delivered to those individuals to suppress further nonsense talk about shark culls. In fact, scientist and marine biologist y/ environmental management consultant Scott Curatoloa-Wagemann – himself a shark attack survivor – is part of a leads a group of shark attack victims who travel extensively and vigorously defend and advocate for sharks. He, conducting outreach for kids and groups all across NY the USA.



The facts about sharks - similarly to terrestrial apex predators – wolves and bears and lions and all the rest—is that these species make predations on the sickest, weakest (and unlucky) members of the target prey. The best gene pool survives the predations; the weakest gene pool holders do not. Chris

Fischer gave us a primer on the results of wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone; it is pretty straightforward: Without the wolves the elk population was booming, and they were wiping out the aspen and willow trees. When wolves were reintroduced, that stopped. Balance returned. Desertification of Yellowstone was reversed. OTHER animals returned with renewed/corrected vegetation growth patterns and because the wolves kept the coyote population in check. Very few predations were made on local livestock on a wolf-by-wolf basis, and individual problem wolves were relocated. This was a total win/win for all involved. Chris noted that apex predators not only remove bad gene pool and control the prey population, but also change behavior. Seals off Chatham for example, would happily swim around devouring all the local fish, but they risk the high likelihood of predation by the white sharks in the area if they do that, so ... they don't. They swim out to deep water, grab a snack of fish, and quickly high tail it back to shallow water - where the sharks aren't. Similarly, squid come to the surface at night to feast on cod and pollack fry (babies). (I have seen tens of thousands of squid at the surface at night, illuminated in the lights of the tuna boat I was on. Then, silver flashes – blue sharks gulping down squid. And in so doing, saving untold zillions of cod and pollack babies from the attacking squid.)

So, Chris points out, if you want your kids and grandkids to ever actually eat a fish, save a shark!

Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

Fischer's Transformational Initiative



Fischer's formula is also pretty simple: we are all in this together, on spaceship Earth. The overarching objective is to create an Ocean Community – a basis and central open source for data for worldwide scientific, academic and commercial collaboration/synergy/integration in support of the health of our oceans - without which we perish. Fischer says that he is not a 'shark guy'; he says he is an 'OCEANS guy'. The Ocearch team is in the forefront of collecting baseline data for keystone species like the white shark. Never before in history has this data been collected. Basic life cycle & etiology awareness of the white

shark - and shark disappearances of up to 90% for some species - was a blank page as recently as 2005; Fischer discovered to his stunned amazement while working on a plan to help billfish that scientists and academics were not sharing whatever little data they had on sharks, and limited to no cooperation was offered or even possible. There were islands of substandard information and data – isolated and not connected – and no collaborative efforts among the 'siloes' -- with no opportunity for the integrative, methodical analysis which is necessary to serve as a basis for policy formulation. As go shark populations, so goes the rest of life in the oceans, plain and simple. This explains the surging interest in Ocearch and the data being collected. Ocearch pioneers these data collections methods, and they are not held as proprietary and are freely shared, as is all the data. You just have to go to the Global Shark Tracker and look at it or ask for it. Academic, scientific and commercial organizations are rising to the challenge and supporting Ocearch's operations.

Fischer cites as his greatest victory: the dismantling of cynicism in the academic and scientific community. And yet, challenges for Ocearch remain as a function on human nature; in particular the phenomenon known as the "not invented here" syndrome – some individuals who wish to discredit Fischer and Ocearch's methods, because the pioneering techniques and free-sharing of data take the spotlight away from their own efforts or because they advance polarizing points of view. By counterpoint, Fischer is all about inclusion, not exclusion. Open source data and methodologies, and definitely not proprietary. Fischer is creating a worldwide oceanic analog of the "Marshall Plan", which was put in place for post-war Europe emerging from the ashes of humanity's most devastating war. Fischer is working to create an awareness of 'enlightened and mutual self-interest' – based on the fact that as go our sharks, so goes our oceans, and our own species and life on Earth. Fischer observed that if the oceans are dead, then Millennials (those born in the late 70's through 2000) won't be needing any Costa sunglasses to wear while enjoying the world's oceans! Millennials hear the call to environmental activism and are drawn to companies with a social and environmental activism. (We all experience this; I feel good about buying from companies that support the causes I support). All things considered, advocacy for the Ocearch mission must continue up the hill, constantly taking fire from skeptics, some groups feeling that they are competing with Ocearch for funding. Fischer's initiative = dump the polarizing emotions. These are obstructionist, cause gridlock and must be bulldozed away in favor of investigative marine biology scientific and census data. Don't expect Fischer to back off any challenges from opponents or skeptics!

Continued... OCEARCH – Saving Our Oceans: One White Shark at a Time

Get Even, HUG a Shark

Fischer's model is WORKING. Those of us aboard MV Ocearch that day have become, I dare to venture, emotionally attached to that shark we observed being tagged by the science team. We watched young Azlyn get caught, tagged, probed, assessed, digitized, internalized, externalized, measured and drilled for fifteen minutes. In that brief time, we developed a fondness for her. Imagine that – developing an emotional attachment for a white shark! We were so happy for her when the ramp lowered her back into the water, and she realized she was free... and - with an EXPLOSION of foam and spray - she took off like a bat out of hell, back into her own home.



Seems improbable and yet, when observing Ocearch's Global Shark Tracker display on their website <http://www.ocearch.org/profile/azlyn/> , we feel proud because there she is – pings from young Azlyn have been received just about every day since she was tagged on August 21st. And on August 28 at 10:01AM EDT, her dorsal fin broke the surface off Toms' River, New Jersey! 'Our' baby girl is on the move! She swam all the way from the eastern tip of Long Island, across the New York/New Jersey Bight over the Hudson Canyon and over to the Long Branch/Tom's River NJ vicinity. This validates that Azlyn, and all sharks tagged by Ocean -- is doing fine after her run in with these bad Ocearch hombres – and supports the scientific data that this whole area is a large white shark pupping/nursery area. Very exciting data – and of most amazement is the personalization resulting from observing a shark being tagged and sent off to continue its journey in life. Let's hope that Azlyn will always be well and healthy, grow to adulthood, and have her own pups, and assume her place and role in our marine environment. If the pings stop for whatever reason, we will try to not worry, and just assume that it was an equipment malfunction or that she is just too busy with shark stuff to be lounging around on the surface !

Ocearch's Manta: Educate-Inspire-Enable.

That says it all... The scuba diving community thanks Chris Fischer for his vision and leadership! Thanks also to the crew, scientists and marine biologists aboard *MV Ocearch* -- and to all the companies and organizations which financially support and partner with Ocearch in this important initiative. We'll be watching those pings! Hats off to Ocearch's success in creating and propagating an 'ocean-awareness' / ocean community mindset, yielding cleaner waters here and across the world's oceans, vibrant with life for subsequent generations aboard spaceship Earth.

1st Annual Dutch Springs Scuba Dive Expo

Gary Lehman



On Saturday and Sunday June 3rd and 4th, the first annual Dutch Springs Dive Expo Weekend was held, attracting Northeast scuba gear vendors, divers, presenters, service providers and other scuba diving interested folks. TSSC attended the Expo on Saturday; the Expo was fun, informative, and promoted Northeast scuba diving! Approximately 30 vendors/manufacturers had booths set up, and close to 400 divers attended over the two days. A big part of the Expo was that divers had the opportunity to test out gear and get their questions answered by the experts. The weekend was an auspicious beginning for this initiative, and we are sure to see growing numbers of

attendees and vendors/exhibitors in years to come!

First off, a little narrative about Dutch Springs is in order! Most of us Northeast US divers have experienced diving in this 50-acre spring-fed lake near Reading PA in the Lehigh Valley (about 80 miles west of New York City). Local dive shops and stores, dive instructors and teaching staff at dive shops throughout the NY / NJ/ Connecticut/ Pennsylvania area all take advantage of Dutch Springs for Open Water (and more advanced) certifications and specialization training. Public safety and law enforcement divers, such as Newton Underwater Search and Rescue, Northeast Public Safety Divers, NJ and NY and Pennsylvania State Police and many other teams - all conduct basic and advanced rescue and recovery drills, as well as night navigation exercises to name just a few groups and training. As such, Dutch is a 'happy place' and 'home away from home' for divers during the summer months (and also for hardy souls, for fall/winter/spring diving). Many divers make a weekend of it, and camp out on the grounds Friday and Saturday nights. Dutch is a great, economical and accessible venue (without hopping a plane) to build diving confidence, test out new gear, refresh training, and expand skills in an open water environment.

But there is another more serious side to Dutch which many divers are not as familiar with: the inspiring community service and outreach. Close to our hearts as divers, the Handicapped Scuba Diving Alliance/New Jersey, collaborating with Wounded Warriors, conducts adaptive scuba diving events at Dutch Springs several times each summer. This enables our handicapped neighbors and veterans to experience the weightless freedom (and adventure!) of diving, as well as advance personal boundaries, break through perceived limitations, enable an expanded sense of 'personal best' and self-efficacy in all aspects of their lives – and – have a great day in the water with old and new friends! The management team of Kristen Bartholomew and Andrea Scott engage with the community to host a range of fundraisers at Dutch for many local Lehigh Valley organizations. It is an inspiring list of groups whose efforts are extended and expanded at Dutch Springs. One initiative is the Polar Plunge for Habitat for Humanity, held in April (dry suit time!). This event has taken off like a rocket and has had five annual events with increasing popularity and positive impact throughout the Lehigh Valley. Habitat for Humanity's credo is that everyone deserves a warm, comfortable, dignified place to call home, and they work hard to make that happen. Dutch Springs also hosts "Splash for a Cause" with several initiatives: Dream Come True (a benefit day for seriously, chronically and terminally ill children of the Lehigh Valley); BEST Inc. (helping young adults in need of financial assistance to attend the colleges of their choice); Equi-librium (using physical therapy assisted by horses to help kids with developmental and neurological disabilities);

Continued...1st Annual Dutch Springs Scuba Dive Expo

CureSearch for Children's Cancer (with the mission to end childhood cancer); and support of YWCA of Bethlehem (missioned to fight racism, empowering girls and women, and providing family support services). Future community-based connections will be with Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, other cancer-fighting groups, and local high school, colleges and university aquatics programs. For all that and more, TSSC says 'Dive Hoods Off' to Kristen and Andrea and the rest of the Dutch Springs team for their fin-tastic achievements making Dutch Springs a powerful force for positive social change in the Lehigh Valley. Knowing all the behind-the-scenes work being done here makes our times together as divers at Dutch --- even more fulfilling!

Andrea explained the goal of the Dive Expo: simply – to continue development of the Northeast scuba dive community ecosystem. The scuba dive industry is changing, Andrea explained. Young people coming into the sport have many more choices than was previously the case, and social media's mind set and focus is not currently analogous to the TV documentaries and dramas of such as *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, *Sea Hunt* and even *Flipper*. Experience has demonstrated that when young people get a chance to get underwater, such as at the Florida High Adventure Sea Base of the Boy Scouts – they love it and quickly get the diving bug, too! The benefit of bringing together all the building blocks of our diving community at Dutch each June will be to advance and accelerate from end to end - the sport scuba diving in our area. Offering a venue for getting together and keeping scuba diving on the 'front burner' work towards that objective. And, given the incumbent and leadership role that Dutch already plays in our scuba diving lives, what better venue than Dutch Springs for this!



The scuba diving calendar in the Northeast includes several signal events in the first six months of the year, all of which are mutually supporting and reinforcing. The Long Island Dive Association Film Festival usually kicks off the calendar year for us all, with captivating films by divers who come together from far and wide to showcase their latest adventures, and for us to hear about LIDA's advocacy initiatives underway throughout Long Island to advance the interests of scuba divers; followed by the Boston Sea Rovers Expo which offers both dive education opportunities as well as environmental advocacy booths, combined with vendor and manufacturer exhibits. The Boston Sea Rovers expo is followed by Scuba Outreach Day by Squalus Marine with speakers on local diving on shipwrecks, local U-boats, historical background, and sunken steamships of this, with the most heavily sea-traffic in the world! Up next is the Beneath The Sea Expo in Secaucus NJ, the East Coast's biggest consumer scuba diving expo. Here we find significant dive educational opportunities combined with alluring dive travel exhibitors; local scuba dive clubs and shops and stores; services providers; and enticing gear (after all, we all always need more gear!).



Continued...1st Annual Dutch Springs Scuba Dive Expo

Capping all that – we now have – the Dutch Springs Expo Weekend. Here the neoprene meets the road (or in this case, gets wet) -- and the percolating plans and travel ideas and preparations for the diving season all come together, and launch into action. All the dive gear questions which started forming up at the prior events during the scuba diving calendar all now surface; purchasers are ready to make the plunge, and the vendors are right there at Dutch to answer questions, give demos, and allow divers to get in the water and test out the gear first hand.



One of the exciting things about the Dutch Springs Dive Expo was the chance to hear about and see the impressive new technologies which are starting to become mainstream and start earning their way into our gear inventory. IOT (or 'Internet of Things') is indeed becoming pervasive! The last thing we want to do out on a dive boat is start squinting at a screen, try to keep everything dry, or get hung up on 'internet' stuff-- and yet that fact is that when we get back to terra firma in the afternoon (and after appropriate victuals and refreshments in the evening) many of us "turn on, tune in and connect". Imagine scuba gear with Bluetooth connectivity which can readily geo-locate you, associating your photos in your smartphone with your dive that day, and upload your dive log/profile up into 'the cloud'! This kind of integrative technology is sure to not

only be enticing to younger divers and help them to get the scuba bug, but will also greatly enhance our visual storytelling to the folks back home via our social media connects – and serve as an important repository for our diving skills development. It was also exciting learning about through-water transceivers, in use by technical, military and public safety divers. Hearing about these technologies in the unique Dutch Springs setting helps us to visualize from a personal perspective which of these units will best fit our own styles. So many of our leading scuba gear vendors which we own, know, and love were there... DUI, Mares, Oceanic, Sealife, OMS, Olympus Light and Motion lighting systems, and Hollis to just name a few. And many of us got our first look-see at some vendors such as Shearwater and JJ-CCR. Even though we might not be specifically in the market now for some of these powerhouses, many divers attending the Dutch Springs Dive Expo will be in future, and these first exposures have a tendency to grow on you (so start brown bagging it, save your lunch money and build up that slush fund!).

The Dive Expo is a great place to meet new divers and reacquaint with presenters and friends from prior events. Catching up to Sally W, Faith O, Jack R, Denise B, Michael F, Tom C, Larry C, Olga T, Pat C, Nick L – hey, it's all good. Kind of like Cheers "Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came."



Continued...1st Annual Dutch Springs Scuba Dive Expo

TSSC had the chance to connect with our certifying agencies, in particular NAUI – to learn about their plans, programs, offerings and what is on their radar for our region. We also met the Dive Safety Officers (DSO) for the Adventure Aquarium in Camden New Jersey and the Dive Safety Officer for the Wildlife Conservation Society, which is the parent organization for Brooklyn’s Coney Island Aquarium. These are important institutions in the marine biology space. We learned that in addition to pioneering and supporting research into many marine biology initiatives, these aquariums also serve as training grounds for local universities.



For example, the Adventure Aquarium collaborates with University of Pennsylvania’s marine medicine program, as well as Jacobi Medical Center, Rutgers (New Jersey’s state University) and Cooper University Medical Center; Adventure Aquarium’s DSO Dave DeBoer consults with those teams about the kinds of injuries likely to be encountered in diving accidents in order to better prepare the technicians and medical staffs at those institutions to effect appropriate hyperbaric therapies for afflicted divers, both in this area and wherever the medical is placed in the future. In addition, other medical conditions (and treatments) are considered, such as marine envenomation, hypoxia, barotrauma, oxygen toxicity, and others.

And there was underwater and topside nature photography in exotic and remote locations and under the sea! At the Dutch Springs Expo Faith Ortins presented on “Where in the world your drysuit can take you” and the dynamic duo of Larry Cohen and Olga Torrey presented “Nature Photography Submerged”. In addition, Bob Hahn (Olympus underwater certified photographer) presented on “Underwater Macro Photography” and “Underwater Photography Tips”. (other presentations included Peter Nawrocky who presented “Building Your Own Sidemount Kit” and Richie Kohler on Britannic...). TSSC attended Larry and Olga’s presentation, as well as Faith’s. For those magic presentations, we lived in a world of underwater photography best practices; post-processing tips once back at home; diving techniques with camera gear; using ‘the edge of light’ for superbly, evenly exposed underwater flash photography; electrifying eels, beautiful anemones, 1 foot-long nudibranchs, 20 inch-long Tasmanian dragonfish and underwater landscapes, beautiful submarine compositions; rare and astounding fish from New Zealand to Antarctica to Alaska to Cuba to Indonesia and Azores and Socorro and the North (and South...) Poles and Malaysia; six-foot wide starfish; arresting macro photography; personal eye-to-eye contacts with huge octopuses; the history of drysuits and zippers, construction techniques, seals, materials, user testing and fashions – there is a world to discover under the sea of which 85% is unexplored. And Larry, Olga, Faith, Bob and Richie will take us around and show us; we merely have to open our schedules, hearts and minds to explore with these leg-ends of scuba diving! Thanks to all and to Dutch for providing the opportunity for inspiration!

So all things considered, there are always new adventures to share, new dive experiences and dive sites, new gear to learn about - and a chance to plan future adventures together – and Dutch Springs helps by bring together all of us at the focal point for northeast (and global!) diving. TSSC looks forward to seeing you next summer at Dutch Springs, and in June 2018 for sure at next year’s Dive Expo!



TSSC Returns to Key Largo

Al Miller



Members of The Scuba Sports Club began their Thursday, July 20th Key Largo diving trip with an early arrival at Westchester County airport. Thirteen of our members met up here in preparation for meeting another seven participants at Jimmy Johnson's "Big Chill" in Key Largo.

After our initial welcome drink, we checked into the Holiday Inn. We then proceeded to Captain Slate's Dive Center to take care of the necessary paperwork for our weekend diving. To round out the evening, Jack Ricotta held an orientation dinner at the Pilot House Restaurant where we all became acquainted, learned about what we could expect and what was expected of each of us.

Friday, July 21st

As we arrived at Captain Slate's DC for our morning dives, our captain and part owner of the shop, Captain Sky, introduced her crew of Patrick and Sarah on the vessel "Lost Continent". Our excitement peaked as we were going to attempt our first dive on the sunken vessel, The Duane. After a 45 minute boat ride, we found the current too swift to attempt a dive. The alternate dive site, Conch



Wall, also had a swift current but, as we dropped down the reef wall to 95 ft, conditions improved. A fishing rod and anchor were retrieved from the bottom and were brought back to the surface.

Saturday, July 22nd

Once again, we boarded our vessel and attempted to dive The Duane. Groups of divers were formed but, as the first group entered the water, it was determined that once again, the current was too swift and made diving unsafe. The dive here was aborted. Captain Sky decided to attempt a dive on another vessel, The Eagle but, here again, the fast moving water made it impossible. Our disappoint-

ment was eased somewhat by the next option, a shallow dive on Pleasure Reef. Numerous nurse sharks greeted the divers and seemed to take delight in our presence.

We rounded out our 4 tank dive day with a wonderful meal at Hobo's Restaurant and then hit the sack for a well deserved night of rest.

Sunday, July 23rd

Our hopes were high that on our last day of diving, we might be able to dive The Duane. As the Lost Continent approached the mooring ball, it seemed that the conditions had improved and the call was made to dive. As we descended to 100 ft and below, it was impossible to miss the hundreds of barracuda standing guard over the ship. The visibility was excellent and made it easy to view the well preserved Duane. When the bottom time came to an end, we made our way back to the ascent line and slowly returned to the surface taking heed to perform our safety stops.



Continued...TSSC Returns to Key Largo

The second dive of the day was at “Snapper’s Reef”. It was here that I had the opportunity to see my very first octopus. I can thank Sandra Green our dive buddy/instructor from southern Florida for pointing the octopus out to me and others.

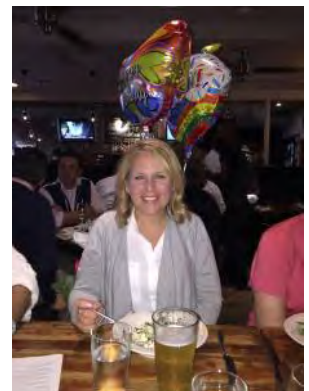
Since each dive had a fairly swift current associated with it, our last dive would be a drift dive with Sandra (aka Casper) leading the group. Many of us were fortunate to see a huge turtle, moray eel and flounder.

On Sunday evening, The Scuba Sports Club was invited by Captain Sky and crew to a BBQ at Captain Slate’s DC. A plaque was made in our honor and photos were taken with our group.

It was also one of the crew’s 21st birthday and Sarah was honored with a chocolate layer cake to the face by fellow crew member, Abigail, on this night.

Monday, July 24th

Prior to our departure for Fort Lauderdale Airport, some of our members visited the Dive Museum while others made their way to the Worldwide Sportsman’s Shop on Islamorada. As we were returning home, I for one reflected on renewing old friendships, making new friends and experiencing new adventures.





TSSC Helps Clean Up The Kensico Reservoir

Al Miller



On October 1, 2017, members of The Scuba Sports Club answered the call of the NYC Dept of Environmental Protection in co-operation with the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation for volunteers to clean-up several locations throughout New York State. The Kensico Reservoir—which spans several communities

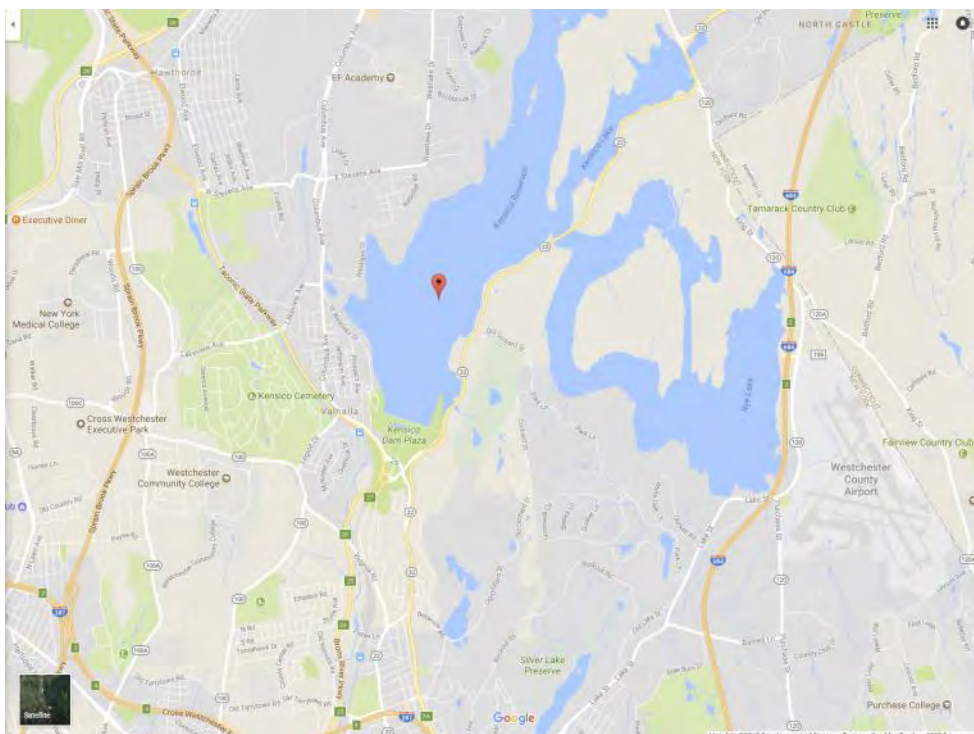
in Westchester County—was one of those sites. Since TSSC is Westchester-based and always willing to assist in environmental issues, it made perfect sense for us to participate.

Denise Blais, Ed Van Dolsen, Gene Miceli, Melissa Miceli, Leah Miceli, CJ Miceli and Al Miller met at the sign in booth at noon. We were given plastic bags, gloves, grippers, a map and sent on our way!

Several reservoir sites were visited by the group and after each location was policed, the full bags were placed at the location cones for pick-up by the DEP the next day. Everything from fishing line, diapers, bottles and other articles were removed.

After all of our bags were filled and deposited, the group returned for more gear only to find that the turnout was greater than expected and all materials had already been dispensed.

The cleanup is a yearly activity and I look forward to TSSC participation next year!





TSSC Dives Fort Wetherill

Nick Lappano

At least once a year some TSSC members try to get up to Fort Wetherill State Park in Jamestown, Rhode Island to dive in the area of the Narragansett Bay.

It is about 160 miles away, and without traffic it is about a three-hour drive.

In past years, it was a weekend affair with some members staying in the area Saturday and Sunday, sometimes diving from a boat, others diving for shore.

This year four of us went up on Sunday September 10th. Paul Stockmann, Katelynn Krack and I met up with Al Miller at his home in Armonk.

Al was kind enough to volunteer to act as driver so we all loaded our gear into his Yukon for the ride up to Rhode Island. It was a tight squeeze but we got all our stuff in and took off at about 7AM. Katelynn rode shotgun and Paul and I were in the backseat. There was little traffic since it was after Labor Day and we got to Fort Wetherill at about 10 AM.

We set up a nice staging area to assemble our gear using a couple of tables and a square work bench. We were able to use a second parking spot since the dive area was not too crowded, and that gave us plenty of room. We leisurely assembled our gear, and we were ready for our first dive in about an hour.

The weather was nice, although for a while there was a little fog which rolled in just as we had arrived. The air temperature was about 70 degrees, and it was partly sunny behind the fog. There wasn't much wind which also helped. (I have been up in Wetherill on days when there is quite a sea breeze, but that was not the case this day.)

We decided to make our dives from the boat ramp on the west side of the parking lot. Although this would make for a shallower and less diverse dive than one from the entrance to the southeast side of the parking area, it did make for an easier entry since the boat ramp was paved and the alternate entry required us to climb down a small hill and enter through a rocky area.

We split up into two buddy teams since the limited water clarity makes a four person team impractical. Al and Katelynn comprised one team, and Paul and I were the other.

Fort Wetherill History

Fort Wetherill is located at a strategic point on the East Coast, and for this reason was fortified by American forces even as early as the Revolutionary War. Heavy artillery located at Fort Wetherill could interdict enemy naval units en route to New York Harbor, Boston or Providence. In addition, enemy land campaigns (i.e. amphibious operations) to attack American territory in the vicinity could be interdicted by these forts with their artillery. The fortifications at Fort Wetherill were upgraded continually until the Second World War, after which advances in military technology and the post-war preeminence of America on the world stage made the fortifications no longer relevant. The bunkers which housed the artillery and the magazine areas where shells and powder were stored are still there, albeit vandalized with graffiti. Sadly, this piece of history is falling into disrepair and is dangerous to visit given the degrading structures and rubble.

Continued...TSSC Dives Fort Wetherill

Since each buddy team needed to have a dive flag/float both AI and I handled one through out the dives. Our first dive lasted 46 minutes, and our maximum depth was 32 feet. The water was a bit colder than we expected. In years past, I have experienced September surface/bottom temperatures of 72/69 degrees, but on this occasion the surface/bottom split was 67/61 degrees. We spoke with some of the local divers who told us that the water had been colder than usual all summer. I guess the Gulf Stream, which brings in the warmer water, hadn't come as close to shore as usual.

We saw the usual assortment of creatures for this site. Blackfish, small bass, flounder, other fish and crabs were quite abundant while sea stars were found on the vertical surfaces. We also spotted one or two skates. Missing from the cast of characters were any tropical fish. Usually in September one will spot some juvenile tropicals. I have seen several small tropical species fish in the past. Perhaps the aforementioned Gulf Stream did not come close enough to shore this year to carry them in. By the way, we could only spot things about a body's length away from us as the viz was about 7 or 8 feet.

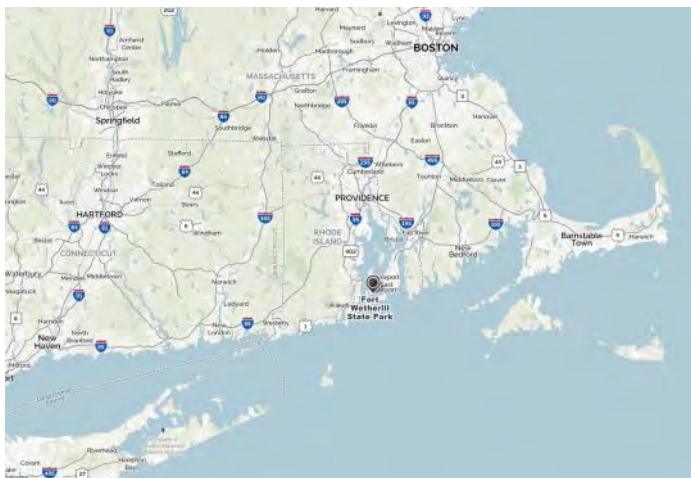
We navigated out to the south wall of the inlet (about 100 yards), then took a reciprocal route back to the boat ramp entry point. We accounted well for the tidal current and surfaced within a few feet of our planned exit point.

After a 90-minute surface interval/snack break, we made our second dive which lasted about the same time; we maxed out at a similar depth. We followed the same approximate route and performed another easy exit. The sea life which we observed was similar to the first dive.

After dive number 2 we aired out our gear, changed into dry clothes, repacked the Yukon and headed back to New York. Before leaving the Jamestown area we grabbed some coffee and donuts at a Local Dunkin Donuts.

The drive home took a little longer, since there was some moderate I-95 traffic as we approached Bridgeport. However, it was minimal compared to the congestion which we would have encountered if we were traveling on or before Labor Day.

It was a nice day of diving and having fun with our Scuba Sports Club friends! Hope to see you with us next year!



Are the Maldives Being Engulfed?

Rick D'Amico



The Maldives (pronounced MAL-deevs) is one of the great destinations for an upcoming TSSC dive trip. Located southwest of Sri Lanka and India, it is in the Arabian Sea, in the Indian Ocean. A long and narrow country, it contains 26 atolls dispersed over approximately 300 square kilometers.

It has an average elevation of approximately 5 feet above sea level, and this presents a problem for this island nation. The area has experienced sea level rise, which has had some negative impacts to the Maldives. Globally, sea level has been rising by 0.07 inch per year since 1950.

Its relatively flat topography makes it vulnerable to flooding difficulties during storm events. The sea level rise has threatened some waterfront resorts, which could have an adverse effect on the nation's economy. Even small increases in sea level can present environmental problems to the island nation. More than 90 of the islands that make up Maldives experience annual flooding.

Tourism is responsible for approximately 28% of Maldives' GDP. It draws over 600,000 tourists annually.

Another problem associated with rising sea level is salt encroachment on the water table. It has reduced the amount of water that is available for residents for drinking, cooking, and agriculture. Its meager potable groundwater supply was dealt a crushing blow from a 2004 tsunami.

Continued sea-level rise could place severe strains on the already stressed Maldives economy. With population growth occurring at an exponential rate, the problems faced by Maldives will probably be worse, particularly when it comes to drinking water and living space. While nothing can be positively predicted, the situ-



ation in Maldives bears watching and preparation.

Report on the United Nations World Ocean Day Convention

Allan Rios



The oceans cover about two-thirds of the surface of the Earth and are the very foundations of life on our planet. They generate most of the oxygen we breathe, absorb a large share of carbon dioxide emissions, provide food and nutrients and regulate climate. As members of a dive club, we travel and cannot help but realize and see how important they are economically for countries that rely on tourism. Unfortunately, human pressures, including overexploitation, illegal and unregulated fishing, destructive fishing, as well as unsustainable aquaculture practices, marine pollution, habitat destruction, alien species, climate change and ocean acidification are taking a significant toll on the world's oceans and seas. Where a generation ago pristine reefs could be found in a flight to Florida, as divers we are now traveling farther and farther to find pristine conditions. Nearly half of the world's population depends directly on the sea for their livelihoods. But human activity has left the oceans suffering. The list seems to go on and on. I have been program director at TSSC for some time now. It seems that anyone who speaks honestly about the underwater world these days can't help but speak about the many threats our oceans are facing. As a diver, it has made me a bit cynical and pessimistic about the future of it all. A general feeling of disquiet; a need 'to see it all' before it is gone. This has directly affected every travel choice I make these days. This past June, the United Nations were the focus of our world's oceans. The theme of the UN Oceans Conference was "Our Oceans, Our Future". A celebration of World Oceans Day was also included. After attending some of the programs I can't say that my pessimism entirely disappeared. I can say though I have a bit more hope for our oceans than I have had recently.

Why do this? Why celebrate World Oceans Day? Why have an oceans conference? To remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life. They are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. To inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean. To develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean. To mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans. They are a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere. To celebrate together the beauty, the wealth and the promise of the ocean. These were hefty goals.

I was able to attend the conference in part this year. There was a lot going on. In addition to the eight plenary meetings and seven partnership dialogues, The Ocean Conference included 150 side events, 41 exhibitions and interviews at a site called the SDG Media Zone (where I was). New York City had events that included a parade of boats in New York harbor; a first-of-its-kind parade of large and small boats on the water as a statement of unity for the ocean. There was an ocean village on Governors Island; a celebration of art, education, innovation, and tools for action in support of the ocean. The event even featured a full marching-band called The Boyz who came all the way from Fiji. Many tents were set up with organizations from all over the globe promoting their causes. The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation came from the Grand Cayman Islands. Also in attendance were the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Wild Over Wildlife members from Florida and Washington D.C., and Bye Bye Plastic Bags all the way from Indonesia, among many others. The day ended with the powerful closing remarks from "Her Deepness", Dr. Sylvia Earle who said, "No kid should be left dry." The Explorers Club also held a World Oceans Week; that brought together experts from multiple disciplines, along with authoritative oceanic institutions to imagine a better future for the oceans and the world that relies on it. The club presented a sprawling week long program that connected poets, scientists, artists, and politicians in an attempt to find new avenues of discourse around increasingly complex and fraught issues related to the seas. Many of the participating embassies had their own ocean related events. At the UN past TSSC presenter Keith Ellenbogen had an exhibit of photographs of the NY Seascape on display. Around New York City, a public art trail of 54 wave sculptures were installed across the City's five boroughs. Each four-foot tall Wave was decorated by a prominent cultural influencer for the preservation of the Ocean. I came across a few of them while walking in NYC this past summer. There were multiple film screenings and various ocean related meet ups across the city. Almost all these events were free for the general public to attend. The biggest problem was having the time and being aware of what was taking place when. For example there was an entire day devoted just only to shark conservation (found out about it too late). I was constantly surprised on 'how big a deal this all was'. Even though I am an avid scuba diver and like to think I keep an avid watch on all ocean conservation issues as part of my hobby; I was constantly surprised by the scope and breath of what I saw

Continued...Report on the United Nations World Ocean Day Conference

during this week.

To go into detail about every event that took place and personality that attended the conference would be impossible (or take up too many pages). The various events brought together Heads of State, high-level dignitaries and actors and personalities from across the world, with the idea to build partnerships and strengthen the commitments needed to conserve and sustainably use an ocean that gives humankind the keys to its survival. Personalities present included Dr. Sylvia Earle, Wyland, Fabien Cousteau, actor Adrian Grenier, Francine Cousteau of the Cousteau Society, Australian singer-songwriter Cody Simpson, as well as Marine biologist Douglas McCauley, Aboriginal artist Sid Bruce Short Joe and Spanish philanthropist Álvaro de Marichalar, for example. The mix of personalities and strong support for action brought “creativity and a sense of unity” to the action for oceans, said conference co-chairwoman, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden Isabelle Lovin. Personally it was a surprise to see so many come so far and speak with a sense of so much urgency regarding the underwater world. Topics that were discussed ranged from plastic pollution (a major topic) in the oceans and seas to ocean acidification and illegal fishing. These topics tied in with the topics of alleviating poverty, ending hunger, promoting health, ensuring access to water and sanitation, etc.

According to a post-meeting summary published, approximately 4,000 delegates attended the conference, including 16 Heads of State or Government, two deputy Prime Ministers, 86 Ministers, 16 Vice Ministers, other government representatives and intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, civil society, academic and research institutions, indigenous peoples, local communities, and members of the private sector. It was reported that no official United States representative was in attendance. As a patriotic American I found this absence deafening and disheartening. Attending the conference even in a small way made me respect the talent, energy, and commitment of the nations, NGOs, philanthropists, and others determined to meet the challenges our oceans face. One must also acknowledge the work being done by so many others—from scientists to economists to business people to a growing community of Citizens of the Ocean—all contributing exponentially to this vast and necessary response. It is awesome, even as it is not enough.

It was while I was sitting in the audience in one of the many talks that I noticed Dr. Sylvia Earle come into the room with some of her entourage; (she was up next to speak). I had met her a few times via my work at Beneath the Sea and re introduced myself. In that warm way she has she grasped my hand and talked about how thankful she was for her relationship with Beneath the Sea and the diving community. She spoke that if the problems our oceans face are to be solved, the diving community will be needed. I told her ‘we are ready’. In that unexpected off the cuff response I came to understand that as divers who care about the ocean, each and every one of us must become an informed agent for change in one aspect of the larger problems our oceans face. Each of us must pick one issue, whether, globally or locally—and engage our many talents and actions toward that one solution. By picking yours you join all the participants of the UN Ocean Conference in, as General Assembly co-president Isabella Lövin of Sweden stated in her closing remarks, “turning the tide,” by marking this the point in history when humanity, you and me, began “righting the wrongs perpetrated on our ocean.” Personally I’m not sure if it will completely help dispel that feeling of disquiet and the need ‘to see it all’ before it is gone I have when I think about the enormity of what our oceans face. But I think it will help.

There is a ton of stuff about the UN Ocean Conference online. Too much to post here to link. Thankfully most of it was videotaped and put online. Your ability to make yourself an informed agent is just a few keystrokes and a Google search away.

As a starting point, we can refer you to the following link:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/oceansday/>



As an added benefit to your membership in The Scuba Sports Club, you are entitled to register for a TSSC corporate card from theParkingSpot. Once registering, you will receive the SpotClub Exec card with the club name and an account number on it.

There is a 15% discount built into this card and may be used at JFK, LaGuardia and Newark airports. As you use the card, you will also accrue points toward free parking.

Lastly, we are asking all members to apply for the card to show support for the club. The increased participation in the program may assist us in securing higher discounts in the future. There is no cost for the card. If you are already a member of the Spot Club, your personal card may be linked to the new corporate card.

Members can order their discounted Spot Club Cards through this link:

<https://theparkingspot.com/promotions/corporatehome.aspx?ccode=ScubaClubWestchester>

Once applied for, cards will arrive within 10 business days.


Al Miller

And Around The Dive Shop....

LOCAL DIVE SHOPS.....AT YOUR SERVICE!

Looking for dive-related gifts? Need to upgrade your gear?

Here is a list of shops that may just have the right one for your best dive buddy or for yourself!




Ski and Scuba Connection
26 Saint Roch Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830
Tel. 203-629-4766
www.skiandscubaconnection.com




SCUBA NEW YORK
2037 Central Park Ave
Yonkers, NY 10710
Tel. 914-779-2966
and
2672 Gerritsen Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11229
Tel. 718-769-0099
www.scubany.com



Abyss Scuba
222 E Main Street
Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
914-244-3483
www.abyss-scuba.net



Captain Mike's Diving School
530 City Island Ave
City Island, NY 10464
Tel. 718-885-1588
www.captainmikesdiving.com



OCEANBLUE DIVE CTR.
144 Water Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
Tel. 203-853-4148
www.oceanbluedive.com



www.divenewsnetwork.com or www.scubah2omag.com