

Sea Swells LOG



The monthly
newsletter of
The Scuba
Sports Club

February 2004

the anchor line



President Bob Bak

A New Year of Diving

Well, can it get any colder than this past month? I was thinking about all of you while sipping my margarita out by the pool in 74-degree sunshine while I was down in Florida on vacation. I flew back on Martin Luther King Day, having missed a large chunk of the cold weather, when it suddenly hit me: *I forgot to send my drysuit and regulator out to be serviced!* How could I have forgotten? A free-flowing regula-

tor or torn neck seal could wreck my whole upcoming winter and spring diving. So this past weekend I broke out the DUI cardboard box and with reverence packed away my most precious possession (no, not my kids) into the box and sent it back for new seals and testing. Though not ripped, they were five years old. I was diving on borrowed time.

This is the time of year when you should send your regulators, BCDs, and dry suits out to be tuned up, repaired and serviced. The holiday rush at your favorite dive shop is over, and the heavy spring season has not yet begun. At this time of year dive shop owners need that extra income; it's usually their slowest time. Like everything else in life, you can expect a better job if that service person is not under pressure to get your regulator out the same day it was brought in, because you are leaving for—let's say—a month-long liveaboard vacation in Tahiti. You do not have your boiler serviced in -10° weather or the AC unit serviced in the heat of August. Those are the months to enjoy the comfort those units provide. Do yourself a *big* favor: service your equipment now.

This cold weather is also a good time to take that class to fine-tune your skills or expand your knowledge of diving. All dive shops offer classes. Get together with a few friends who share the same interest and take a course. If the course you want is not being offered now, ask the owner to schedule one. Most owners will work with you. I firmly believe that continuing your education in diving will make you a better diver and a person who dives more often.

Some will ask where is the best or cheapest place to get your equipment serviced or take a class. The best place is not mail order but a shop where you feel comfortable with the people servicing your life support equipment and find they treat you like family. You have to like and respect the people teaching you. Everyone is different, so visit a few dive shops in the area if you are not comfortable with your present shop. Take some time and talk with the staff. It's a nice indoor, *warm* way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Remember, our dive season runs from January 1st through December 31st. The first month of the season has already come to an end. Have you been diving yet?

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- ▶ TSSC February Meeting Jan 14
Lewis Kohl speaks on marine envenomations, illustrating his talk with his own slides. See page 4.
- ▶ Scrapbooking Party Feb 28
Turn photos into a page of memories you'll want to look at again and again! Page 3.
- ▶ Boston Sea Rovers Mar 6-7
Join your club friends in Boston at this annual dive extravaganza. See page 2.
- ▶ Beneath The Sea Mar 26-28
It's not too early to be planning for this largest of dive shows. Volunteer to work—for the club or for the show!

Did You Know?

Did you know that your opinion means a lot to the directors of TSSC? The board would like you to know that we want this club to be the best dive club in the world. How can we do this? By listening to our members. Finding out what all our members want.

Get involved in your club. Attend meetings, dives, and socials. Help out with the club booth at BTS or help out at BTS. Run an event or plan a dive. If only a few people attend and have a good time then it was successful. Get to know your fellow divers. Find out who they really are. Don't be anonymous. Let's have a great year of diving! — **Bob Bak**



THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

P.O. Box 644
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<http://BeneathTheSea.org/TSSC/>
TSSC@BeneathTheSea.org

OFFICERS

President	Bob Bak
Vice President	Gregg Macaulay
Treasurer	Paul Dengler
Secretary	Gwyn Grant
Past President	Soliman Shenouda

DIRECTORS

Executive	Vreni Roduner
Dive Planning	Chris Sundahl
Education/Safety	Rick D'Amico
Enviro/Legislative	Rick D'Amico
Membership	Anne Judge
Newsletter	Anne Judge
Program	Michael Prange
Director at Large	Don Reynolds

LEGAL ADVISOR Robert Schragger

WRECK DIVING ADVISOR Jeff Pagano

FOUNDER Armand Zigah

CO-FOUNDER Soliman Shenouda

Submissions to Sea Swells Log may be made in electronic or paper form by the 20th of the month. Electronic submissions (email) are preferred and should be sent to

SeaSwells@BeneathTheSea.org

Submission of paper copy should be sent to

Anne Judge
2 Pine Mountain Road
Danbury, CT 06810

Fax (208) 485-4641

Please call or email to confirm fax receipt. For information send email to SeaSwells@BeneathTheSea.org or call Anne at (203) 778-3584.

TSSC Directors' Meeting Highlights

January 7, 2004

General meetings: The possibility of starting meetings at 7:30 instead of 8:00 was discussed, but it was decided that that may be too early to allow members to finish work and enjoy dinner before the meeting. Club news will be moved to the end of the meetings so the presentation will begin soon after 8. Club directors will search for a reasonably-priced or donated PC projector for meeting presentations.

Directorships: The following were approved to fill appointed directorships: Paul Dengler as treasurer; Anne Judge as newsletter director; Rick D'Amico as environmental/legislative and education/safety director. Jeff Pagano was approved as wreck diving advisor.

Diving: It was proposed that more dives be scheduled than in past sum-

mers, but that those dives not booked by June 1 be canceled. More advertising will be done to induce members to sign up for booked dives. Requiring sign-ups well in advance will allow alternatives to be planned for dives that do not prove popular.

Social Schedule: The year's goal will be to increase attendance, and to get people together to have fun. Planned or possible activities include a Christmas party, a canoe trip, whitewater rafting, barbecues (possibly in lieu of a general meeting, before a general meeting, or as a weekend activity), hikes, Friday night dinners, a swap meet, and road trips to Long Island Divers Association events or Boston Sea Rovers. Gwyn Grant is arranging for a barbecue on July 17 at Todd's Point in Greenwich.

Join Your Friends at Boston Sea Rovers

Are you going to the Boston Sea Rovers show on March 5, 6, and 7, 2004? If you are, and would like to get together for dinner Saturday night, please let me know before Wednesday, March 3. Also let me know how to get in touch with you in Boston. I can be reached at (203)

743-2282 or greenmermaid@snet.net or pat_forgacs@abicon.com.

Join us in Boston *and* for dinner! Don't forget to get tickets for the Film Festival on Saturday night—it's always a good show!

Pat Forgacs

Looking for a Way to Dive in the Winter? How About Ice Diving!

This idea obviously does not appeal to everyone but if you are adventurous and are looking to extend your dive season, here's the answer. Many local dive shops offer courses that teach you about gear use in cold environments, line signals, keeping warm (drysuits), and how to approach this sport safely.

Looking up at the surface on a sunny day with rays coming through the ice and your bubbles making designs as they spread out is a unique experience. Try ice skiing on your fins as you are pulled back to the entry hole. Or just enjoy the dive that most divers have never tried.

If this sounds like something you would like to try, I know of two shops that are planning classes now. Captain Mike's Dive Center (718-885-1588) in City

Island goes up to Lake George every year and The Dive Shop (203-740-9166) in Brookfield, Connecticut, is planning a class and dives in Vermont in February. Contact these facilities for their schedules, or call your local shop to see if they have a class planned. I have participated in programs run by the dive shops above and they are always fun. The social activities on an ice dive weekend are as much fun as the dives themselves. If you are not interested in the dives, you can just go for the fun of watching friends try something new.

And be sure to bring a camera and take lots of pictures. All your non-diving friends won't believe you did this!

Keep warm and keep diving!
Gregg Macaulay

Heirloom Photos

It's cold outside. I mean really *cold!* What can you do besides get on the computer or watch TV? How about

clean out the photo box! Make an heirloom out of those memories.

That was then: January 24, 2004

Nine brave people took up that challenge on Saturday, January 24, by attending a scrapbook workshop with Creative Memories representative Pamela Blecker: Camille, Stephanie, Vreni, Judy, I, and Hope, Christy, Lissa, and yes, Bob Bak. Bob was just going to sit in the next room and drink a few beers, but when he saw that this was not just any photo album, he got to work with us building a photo page with a collage of many sights from a particularly good dive vacation.

When our group got there, each armed with a half-dozen photos, we were unprepared for the story we were about to build. The whole process was painless after the first cut of the first photo. Pamela showed us that by trimming a photo, we could bring out the best of each photo, and get rid of distracting background features.

Stephanie put together on one page five or six dive vacation photos that told a story; they became more than just pictures. Camille put together a page of special memories from her children's young years. Hope Bak created a page memorializing a special trip to Disney with her daughters; it was more than just a commercial for Disney! Lissa used about ten heavily-cropped photos to show a whole safari on one page. Each photo was a part of the memory of one great day. Bob created a page with photos of many sharks and memorable moments from a dive trip. Judy used photos from several different events that she and Lada shared, including a wedding photo. Christy Bak showcased another set of memories from Disney. Vreni's page featured many exciting moments from her recent vacation swinging from the tree tops. I put together a page for some friends who had shared some of their photos of a recent vacation we had enjoyed together.

None of this was what we had expected; it was much, much more.

After the pages were done, it was time to take a picture of our "scrappy friends" and raffle off the prizes and awards that we had accumulated.



This is now: Make Something Special From Your Photos!

1:30 pm, February 28, 2004
Rehab Resources Unlimited, Ossining, NY

Stephanie Millazzo will be holding a Creative Memories Party in her office on February 28th. Stephanie's office offers a large table and plenty of room for lots of scrapbookers! Give her a call to let her know you would like to turn a

box of pictures into a family heirloom—not your momma's photo album!

Please call Stephanie at (914) 769-1830 or email stephmil@bestweb.net to reserve your place.

Rehab Resources Unlimited

400 Executive Blvd., Suite 101
Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 944-2700; fax (914) 944-8170
rehabresourcesunlimit.com

Executive Boulevard, Ossining, is directly off Route 9A just north of its intersection with Route 134, or just south of its intersection with Route 9. Landmarks are the "Offices for Rent" signs and Rehab Resources' blue & white sign. After turning into Stormytown Road/Executive Park, take the first right. Building #400 faces north, with its front at the rear side of the parking lot. We are in Suite 101 on the first floor; our door is to the left of the main lobby doors.

From I-287 Westbound (White Plains): Take 287 west to exit 3, Sprain Parkway North (stay to the left to enter Sprain). Follow directions for Southern Westchester.

From Southern Westchester (1): Take the Sprain Parkway north; it becomes the Taconic Parkway. Take the exit for 9A & 100 North (this exit is the 2nd exit past the Saw Mill Parkway exit; stay to the right once you pass the Saw Mill exit). Stay north on Route 9A as you pass Route 133, pass one set of yellow blinking lights, then pass Route 134. When passing the intersection of Route 134 stay to your left. Take the first exit to your left just before a set of yellow blinking lights (Stormytown Road). This left exit goes directly into Executive Park. Continue as at top.

From Southern Westchester (2): Take the Sprain Parkway north; it becomes the Taconic Parkway. Take the exit for Route 134/Ossining. Turn left at the end of the ramp onto Route 134. Follow 134 for 3 miles to a traffic light; turn right at the light onto 9A north. Immediately get into the left lane. Before the yellow blinking lights, exit to your left (Stormytown Road). Continue as at top.

From Northwestern Westchester/Putnam (1): Take Route 9 south. Route 9 meets Route 9A just south of Croton. You will see signs to Route 9 south/Ossining and Route 9A south/Briarcliff as the road forks. Take the left fork, which is 9A south/Briarcliff. Stay in the right lane. Take the next right, which will take you into Executive Park. (This right will be immediately after the "Offices for Rent" sign mentioned above.) Continue as at top.

From Northwestern Westchester/Putnam (2): Follow the Taconic Parkway south to Route 134. Turn right onto 134. Follow 134 for 3 miles to a traffic light; turn right at the light onto 9A north. Immediately get into the left lane. Before the yellow blinking lights, exit to your left (Stormytown Road). Continue as at top.

From Ossining: Take Route 9 north to Cedar Lane, just past Mavis Tire. Turn right onto Cedar. You will pass Hudson Watch Condominiums, then the road forks. Stay to the right at the stop sign. At the next fork stay to the right again. Before the major intersection with Route 9A, a sign on the left says "Executive Park"; make a left into Executive Park. Building #400 faces north, with its front at the rear side of the parking lot. We are in Suite 101 on the first floor; our door is to the left of the main lobby doors.

From Saw Mill Parkway: If you're traveling northbound, take exit 28 (Bedford Road, Pleasantville); turn left and pass Pace University. **If you're traveling southbound,** take exit 29 (Manville Road, Pleasantville); the exit bears to the right. At the stop sign turn right, going past Pace University.

At the second light past entrance 1 of Pace University, make a right turn onto Route 9A North. Stay on Route 9A, passing Route 133 and Route 134. When passing the intersection of Route 134 stay to your left. Take the first exit to your left just before a set of yellow blinking lights (Stormytown Road). This left exit goes directly into Executive Park. Continue as at top.



Anne Judge, Membership Director
The Scuba Sports Club
2 Pine Mountain Road
DANBURY CT 06810



Pat Forgacs and Judy Klotz-Simek turn their photos into memories to treasure at TSSC's Creative Memories workshop. You can try your hand at this on Feb. 28—see page 3 for details!

February Meeting

8:00 pm, Wed, February 11

Whitby Castle Restaurant
at the Rye Golf Club

Lewis Kohl

speaks on

Marine Envenomations

Lewis Kohl, chairman of emergency medicine at Long Island College Hospital, will help us learn to recognize of venomous marine animals and treat the injuries they cause. The presentation will cover jellyfish, Portugese man-of-war, hydroids, cone shells, sting rays, scorpionfish, lionfish, etc. Lewis brings the presentation to life through his own underwater photographs from around the world.

Fabulous February Dinner Buffet

6:00 pm, Wed, February 11

South Ballroom
Whitby Castle Restaurant
at the Rye Golf Club

Join us in Whitby Castle's South Ballroom before the club meeting for a buffet dinner together.

Just \$25 per person (tax & service included) gets you a great meal, including Caesar salad, tomato and cucumber salad, roast chicken, marinated beef steak with merlot sauce, pasta primavera, assorted desserts, and coffee and tea. There will be a cash bar. Food will be available until 7:30 pm.

Please reserve your spot by Sunday, February 8, by contacting Pat Forgacs at greenmermaid@snet.net or (203) 743-2282.

Directions to Whitby Castle
at the Rye Golf Club
330 Boston Post Road, Rye NY
(914) 777-2053

From I-287: Get off at exit 11. Stay in the right lane and at the end of the ramp turn right onto Route 1 south (Boston Post Road). Stay on Route 1 for approximately 2.7 miles, going through 8 sets of lights. The Rye Golf Club and Whitby Castle are on your left. Turn into the Golf Club driveway and Whitby Castle is straight ahead.

From I-95: Get off at exit 19, Rye/Playland. Immediately take the first exit to the right, signed Rye/Mamaroneck/Harrison. At the first stop sign go left toward Rye/Mamaroneck. At the next stop turn right on North Street, following signs for Mamaroneck and Route 1 south. After .3 mile you will merge onto Route 1. Follow it for .7 mile. Turn left into the entrance of the Rye Golf Club. Whitby Castle is straight ahead.

From the Hutchinson River Parkway: Take exit 23 onto Mamaroneck Avenue in the direction of Mamaroneck. Just after the slow-down lights (approx. 1 mile), go straight onto the on ramp for Route I-95. Stay left for I-95 North. Follow as above.