

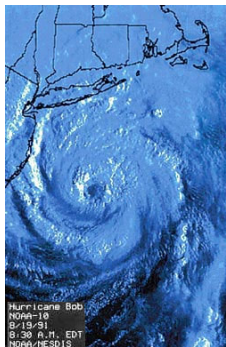
Sea Swells LOG



The monthly
newsletter of
The Scuba
Sports Club

November 2004

the anchor line



President Bob Bak

[Editor's note: the following was written for the October issue that I never got around to putting together. So maybe the water's not at its warmest any more, but you can still get underwater, as you're invited to on page 4. And there's always the Caribbean. — AVJJ]

Get Out There and Dive—Still

The summer has come to a close only to open the doors to some great fall diving. Many people do not think of diving the Northeast at this time of year because it is just too darn cold. On the contrary! Most of the water in New England is now the warmest it will be all year. It has taken all summer to warm up. The hurricanes are pushing the waters from the gulf up this way. And the water seems to be clearer in the fall. Prices of lodging are dropping and the shore is less crowded. Sure the air is a little cooler, but we are divers. Who cares about the air—just get us underwater. This year has been an exciting year for divers with more sightings of sharks, whales and other large creatures than usual, and a good number of tropicals have been seen along the coastline.

If salt water is not your thing, then head up to upstate New York or Canada. There the water can be a balmy 70 degrees this time of year with great bargains on accommodations.

If the Northeast is not your thing, look at all the great deals on airfares to the Caribbean and Florida! Book now and don't get shut out. Too many of us can find an excuse not to go. But how many of us need an excuse to go. Let the leaves fall and blow around your neighbor's yard. Go diving.

**Dive safe, dive often
Bob Bak**



TSSC members too numerous to name have their gear loaded on the boat and are ready to explore the wrecks of the Saint Lawrence Seaway on TSSC's dive trip in July.

See page 3 to learn more about their trip.

Photo by Anne Judge

inside

- ◆ **Club Business** 2
Get your Diver of the Year nominations in!
- ◆ **Recent Club Activities** 3
Gregg Macaulay tells us what a great time everyone had on TSSC's Saint Lawrence dive trip.
- ◆ **Coming Events** 4
- ◆ **Club Directors Ballot** insert
Choose who will lead the club next year!

calendar highlights

- ◆ **TSSC November Meeting** Nov 10
Nic de Gersigny of SEAL (Sea-Air-Land) Expeditions will present Diving South Africa
- ◆ **Turkey Dive** Nov 20
Brave the fall chill and enjoy deep-fried turkey! See page 4 for more details.
- ◆ **TSSC December Meeting** Dec 8
Yes, we'll be having a general meeting this December! We'll enjoy a buffet dinner and social hour with club members' photos, videos, and stories. See page 5.
- ◆ **TSSC Holiday Party** Jan 8
We're avoiding the rush by holding this at the end of the holiday season! But it's not the end when you add Chinese New Year to the mix—so come celebrate with a Chinese theme. We plan to repeat last year's success, so it will again be potluck at the Turners' condo complex clubhouse. Come and enjoy a great time! See page 5, and more details in next month's newsletter.



THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

P.O. Box 644
Rye, NY 10580

<http://TheScubaSportsClub.org>

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
Social	Pat Forgacs
Director at Large	Don Reynolds

LEGAL ADVISOR Robert Schrager

WRECK DIVING ADVISOR Jeff Pagano

FOUNDER Armand Zigahn

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.

Noel Lopez Volunteers for Membership Director

After the nomination deadline had passed, club member **Noel Lopez** volunteered for the position of membership director. So write his name in on the ballot enclosed with this newsletter or received by email!

The Thankless Job

On September 3rd in the Town of Southeast two young men, age sixteen years, went for a swim in the local reservoir to celebrate the end of summer and the start of a new school year. What was to be a lazy summer day turned out to be one of grief and despair for the parents and friends of one of these two boys. You see, as they swam out to an island only about 150 feet away, one of the two boys sank into cold waters of Bog Brook Reservoir.

State police, the sheriff's department, and local fire departments rushed to the site. There was nothing they could do. Scuba teams from Mahopac Falls and Somers responded. A team of divers from Mahopac Falls recovered the youth's body from the waters. They could not revive him, but by bringing him home I am sure they helped that family find closure.

The people who responded knew there was little hope. But they did their job, a job with little reward. To those members of the Mahopac Falls Volunteer Fire Department Scuba Team and the Somers Dive Rescue team I would like to say thank you for doing a job only a few have the the courage to do. Yours is a thankless job that is of great value to our communities.

**Thank You,
Bob Bak
President, TSSC**

Nominate Your Favorite Diver of the Year

Every year at this time we reflect upon those who have distinguished themselves within the Scuba Sports Club and the diving community through their outstanding efforts on behalf of these communities. And each year we honor one of these people with an award: **TSSC's Diver of the Year.**

TSSC's diver of the year will be honored at our holiday party and at the awards ceremony during the Beneath the Sea show in March. An award will be presented and the person will be written up in Beneath the Sea's program book.

So once again, we ask our members to select nominees for this prestigious award. The criteria for nomination are that the diver must

- support safe diving with the club,
- provide service to the club, and
- provide some form of service to the community.

Both the nominee and the member making the nomination must be members in good standing. Nominations must be made in writing and provide examples of how the diver meets each of the above criteria.

Each TSSC officer and director and every former TSSC diver of the year who is still a club member will receive a copy of the written nominations. The selection will be made by those present at the December directors' meeting. Voting will be by sealed ballot, and decisions will be based upon the letters of nomination and the voters' own personal knowledge.

All written nominations must be received no later than November 30, 2004. Please mail nominations to soliman_s@msn.com or

Soliman Shenouda
416 Benedict Avenue 2F
Tarrytown NY 10591

You can read about TSSC's divers of the year since 1981 at TheScubaSportsClub.org/diverofYear.html.

Saint Lawrence

Rockport, Ontario • July 9–11, 2004

This year a group of hardy adventurers from TSSC made another successful, fun trek to the Great White North (so what if it's south of much of New England—it's Canada!) to dive the Saint Lawrence Seaway, this time in July. Twelve divers plus friends and family met on Friday, July 9, at Caiger's Country Resort near Rockport, Ontario. The rooms were clean and the staff was friendly and accommodating.

This year we dove with Thousand Island Pleasure Diving, which keeps its boats at Caiger's docks. After breakfasting together, we had a very short walk to our dive boat. Gear carts made it even easier to transport all our gear from the parking lot down to the docks.

Our captain arrived at 8 AM and after completing the usual paperwork we headed for US customs, a required stop before we could go to our first dive site. Many of the dive sites are on the US side of the river, but we stayed on the Canadian side as the hotel and dive boat

prices are more reasonable..

On our first day we dove on the *Keystorm* and the *America*. The water was in the high 60s with just a mild current that made both dives memorable. We did have a big boat go over nearby, and even at 90 feet it made you want to hug the bottom and look up to see if you could catch a glimpse of the huge hull passing.

That evening we had dinner in downtown Brockville. The dinner was good and we sampled a few local brews. Some of us sampled more than a few but still managed to make it back early! We had all our tanks filled at a great dive shop we discovered in nearby Mallorytown—Dive Tech. They are equipped to fill any mix you are looking for and carry a huge equipment selection. I think everyone ended up finding something they just had to have and the prices were very reasonable. I ended up with a 7-LED light I had been looking for and saved around \$10 off the price I

had seen in the states.

On Sunday morning we again breakfasted together, then headed out to dive the *Kingshorn* before clearing customs to dive *Vickery* in US waters. Again the weather, water and current all contributed to great dives. We also enjoyed some great sightseeing of the scenic Thousand Islands as we cruised downriver a ways to reach the *Vickery*.

Most of us headed home upon reaching the docks but a few planned on extending their stay to check out other areas in Canada.

I have arranged with the dive operation for our 2005 trip. We will again be diving with Thousand Island Pleasure Diving, this time the weekend after Labor Day—September 10–11, 2005. I look forward to seeing you on the trip next year!

See you underwater,
Gregg

Wrecks of the Saint Lawrence

Dived by the Scuba Sports Club, July 2004

America

The *America* rests upside down at a depth of 75 feet, across the shipping channel from Jordstat Castle and Dark Island, east of Mallorytown Landing. On June 20, 1932, this steel drill barge sank due to an explosion. The shoal side gives evidence of the explosion with blasted rock rubble alongside. A guide line is normally buoyed immediately east of Black Buoy #167 on the downstream side of the shipping lane.

Keystorm

Built in 1908 in Wellsend, England, this 2300-ton, 256-foot-long steamer was carrying a cargo of 2230 tons of bituminous coal from Genesee Dock at Charlotte, NY, under the command of Captain L. Daigault. 45 minutes past Alexandria Bay in dense fog on Oct. 12, 1912, she crossed over Outer Scow Island Shoal and within minutes sank

without a fatality. One of Ontario's premier wrecks and favorite of many divers, this steel freighter lies south of the shipping channel off Mallorytown Landing west of Brockville. The *Keystorm* sits in deeper water away from the shoal she hit.

Kinghorn

Built by the J.B. Auger & Co. from parts made in Scotland and launched in 1871 at Montreal, the *Kinghorn* was named after the manager of the Montreal Transportation Company, located in Kingston, Ontario, since it was built from his design. This barge had an iron frame and wooden planking, the first of its type on the river. It had a capacity of about 20,000 bushels of grain.

On April 27, 1897, the tug *Hiram A Walker* under Captain Boyd had seven barges under tow in the American channel near Thousand Island Park. She was caught in a storm, los-

ing a barge on the south shore and two barges at Johnston's light opposite the park. With four barges left, the *Walker* headed for Grenadier Island where the captain of the *Kinghorn* reported his craft leaking badly. The *Walker* headed for Rockport with the injured barge, but lost her one-third mile from Rockport in 90 feet of water, where she was discovered in 1996 by Ronald MacDonald.

This wreck has sometimes been confused with the fishing tug *Edith Sewell* and the "Rockport wreck." Located directly in front of the customs office at Rockport, this vessel sits in 90 feet of water in the middle of the small boat shipping channel. This wreck presents an excellent technical dive training opportunity in everything from current to finding bottles. Starting one's dive from the shore, it takes about 12 minutes to reach the wreck, and you still get approximately 20

Continued on next page

Turkey Dive

Shore Dive Followed by Deep-Fried Turkey

Noon–Whenever, November 20, 2004

If you haven't already put away your dive gear for the season, you're in luck! Come join a group of other brave divers as they search for lost Pilgrims in the Brookfield, Connecticut, quarry. One lucky diver will go home with a turkey and everyone else will get a chance to sample my famous **deep-fried turkey**.

This may also be the last chance we will have to dive this site as the state will soon start the Route 7 extension that will go over a portion of the quarry. The quarry is currently privately owned and The Dive Shop in Brookfield has exclusive use of this site. We held an underwater pumpkin carving there recently and the conditions were not bad; water temperature was in the low 60s and the visibility had improved to 10 to 15 feet. Ok, maybe a *little* less, but the idea is to have fun and go on a short dive with friends. Then we'll all take a ride back to The Dive Shop to warm up and have

a bite to eat while you lie about how you could have won the turkey but wanted to let someone else have it as you had already bought your bird.

If this still didn't convince you to break out your gear again, then how about just coming to take pictures of the other divers? The turkey will be cooking on the shore as the divers search the depths. All are invited back to the shop for the tasting.

We will meet at The Dive Shop by noon and head to the quarry 10 minutes away. For more information email GMacula@juno.com. For directions you can pull up The Dive Shop on Mapquest at 265 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT, or call (203) 740-9166.

Hope to see you there and keep on diving!

Gregg Macaulay

Saint Lawrence Wrecks

continued from previous page

minutes to play before reaching no-decompression limits. If you take the full 20 minutes and swim right back to dock, decompression drills can be performed at 20-foot and 15-foot stops.

This is a local favorite dive.

A.E. Vickery

This 136-foot-long wooden three-masted schooner was built in 1861 and launched in July at Three Mile Bay, NY, as *J.B. Penfield*. She was renamed *A.E. Vickery* on February 25, 1884, and sank August 17, 1889, when she struck a shoal while entering the "American Narrows" with a cargo of 21,000 bushels of corn destined for Wisers Distillery at Prescott, Ontario.

The *Vickery* is located alongside Rock Island Reef Light, where divers can follow a buoy line into a very quick surface current to the shoal head in 25 to 30 feet of water. The bow of the *Vickery* lies about 15 feet off the shoal at a depth of 65 feet. Her stern, with its wooden rudder intact, hangs out over a ledge which drops to 110 feet. Her broken masts can be followed out into the channel to a depth of 180 feet. This site has a strong surface current, with a mild current on the wreck itself.

Area Dive Shops

This list is provided as a convenience. TSSC does not endorse any dive shop.

Aqua Visions Scuba Ltd.

126 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck NY
(914) 381-1884
AquaVisions.biz
info@aquavisions.biz

Captain Mike's Dive Center

530 City Island Ave, Bronx NY
(718) 885-1588
CaptainMikesDiving.com

Captain Saam's Scuba School

863 East Main Street, Stamford, CT
(203) 327-2822
capt-saam.com
captsaam@optonline.net

The Dive Shop

265 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT
(203) 740-9166
TheDiveShopOnline.com
Sherri@TheDiveShopOnline.com

Cougar Sports

917 Saw Mill River Rd, Ardsley NY
(914) 693-8877

Marsh Scuba Supply

91 Lauer Rd, Poughkeepsie NY
(845) 452-8994
MarshScuba.com
Marsh_Scuba@worldnet.att.net

Orbit Marine Sports Center

3273 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport CT
(800) 395-3483
OrbitMarine.com
OrbitDive@aol.com

Pan Aqua Diving

460 West 43rd St, New York NY
(800) 434-0884
PanAqua.com
NYstore@PanAqua.com

Pan Aqua Diving

461 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT
(888) 388-3483
PanAqua.com
CTstore@PanAqua.com

Rex Dive Center

144 Water St, Norwalk CT
(888) 260-DIVE (3483)
RexDiveCenter.com
DiveShop@RexDiveCenter.com

Scuba New York

2037 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY
(914) 779-2966
ScubaNewYork.com
Info@ScubaNewYork.com

Westchester Dive Center

500 North Main St, Portchester NY
(914) 937-2685
WestchesterDiveCenter.com

December Meeting

Buffet Dinner & Social with Member Photos

6 – 10 pm, Wed, December 8
Port Chester Coach Diner

317 Boston Post Road, Port Chester NY

Since our holiday party will be held in January this season, TSSC will be holding a general meeting in December. It will be on the usual day (the second Wednesday) but a different place—the Port Chester Coach Diner, on Route 1 between Wendy's and McDonald's (and in front of the Kohl's Shopping Center; marked by a star on the map at right).

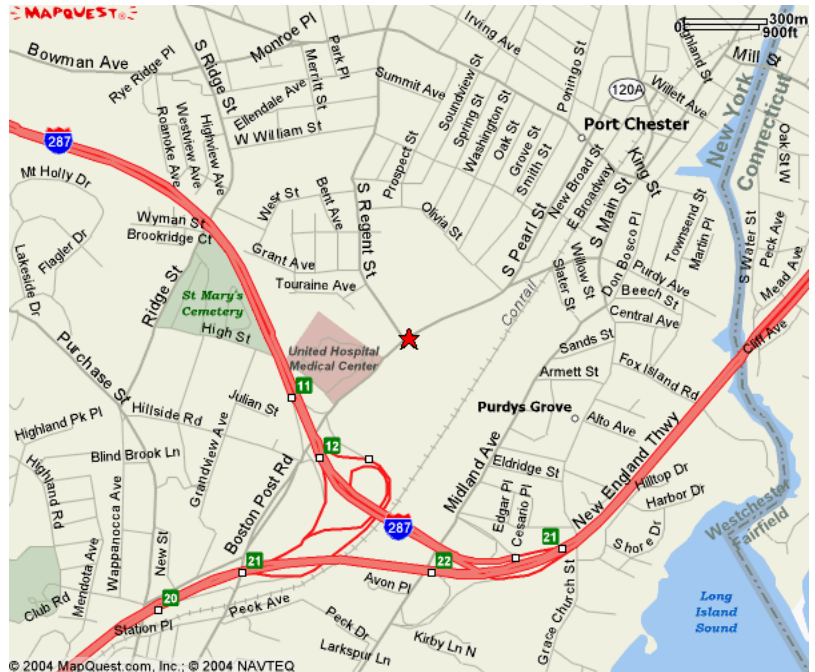
Please join us for a buffet dinner! The appetizer buffet will be by prepaid reservation only. Soda, coffee and tea are included. There will be a cash bar. Mail your payment of \$20 before December 1 to Pat Forgacs, 9 Fairway Drive, Danbury, CT 06811. Reservations after December 1 will be \$23.

The evening's program, following dinner, will be a club social featuring members' photos and videos. So please bring your photos, DVDs, and videos to share! Members are welcome to join us for the social only, without dinner. However, there will be a \$5 charge to cover the cost of beverages that will be provided.

There will also be a toy collection for the Children's Hospital Holiday Party (see article, below right). Please sign up to bring an unwrapped gift for a child who must stay in the Children's Hospital during the holidays.

There will also be prizes at the meeting!

More details will be available as menus are finalized. Make this last chance of the year a special night for the club. Let's eat, drink, and share our best memories of the year on this night!



Toy Collection for the Maria Ferrara Children's Hospital

When you come to the Port Chester Coach Diner for the December meeting, bring a toy for a child who will be in the Children's Hospital over the Christmas holiday. Beneath the Sea will be hosting a party for the children there on Friday, December 10th. We need to have a gift for each of the children in attendance. There will be about 85–100 children. Won't you help?

Pick up a card at the November meeting, or call Lucille Smith at (718) 479-9441. You can ask for a child in a particular age group (infant–4, 5–8, 9–12, 13–15, or 16–18), or a boy or girl. Or just bring an *unwrapped* gift to the social. Everyone's contributions will be greatly appreciated!

Bring joy to a sick child's day.

Children, the energy, the hope, the future!



January Holiday Party

6:30–11:30 pm, Saturday, January 8th, 2005
in the Clubhouse at 200 High Point Drive, Hartsdale NY

Think the holidays are over? We're celebrating Chinese New Year!

Join TSSC for our holiday party, to be held in January this season.

The party will have a theme of Chinese New Year. Wear festive clothing and a hat of your choosing, and make it fun! Bring your cameras—you never know what will happen! Noise makers and prizes will be given away, and our annual awards will be presented. Don't miss this!

Bring a dish that you can share—appetizers, salads, main dishes and desserts

are all welcome. Sorry, no food that needs to be reheated. There's not enough oven space.

BYOB (or enough to share). We may have some cherries there also.

\$10 will be collected at the door.

Let me know that you are attending, and what you are bringing. We don't want to have 15 different pasta salads!

Pat Forgacs
(203) 743-2282
greenmermaid@snet.net



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

December Meeting

8:00 pm, Wed, December 8

Buffet Dinner

and

Social Evening with Photos

at the

Port Chester Coach Diner

317 Boston Post Road
Port Chester, NY

See page 5 for more details.