

# Sea Swells LOG



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB ♦ JANUARY 2006

## THE ANCHOR LINE

### WELCOME 2006

As we ring in the New Dive Year I'd like to think we can expect reports from our members who will be experiencing fascinating trips this year. Some will opt for warm water climates while others will dive whenever and/or wherever they can. No matter what your preference our sport provides unlimited opportunities for those individuals looking for travel, exploration, research, aquatic conservation, skills development, adventure but most of all fun.

But before the fun a short recap on a couple of events that shook up our recreational activities.

It's been a year since the magnitude 9 earthquake ripped open the ocean floor off Sumatra displacing millions of tons of water as the earth's plates shifted. This movement of the earth's surface sent giant waves crashing into the Indian Ocean devastating coastlines from Malaysia to East Africa. We'll never know the actual loss of life from this disaster but in excess of 216,000 people have been reported dead or missing.

That disaster in the Pacific was just following the destruction created by Hurricane Ivan and the destructive path of a wicked hurricane season in 2004. Not to be outdone we had Hurricane Katrina and her relatives slap us silly in 2005 !

These tragedies have had devastating effects on the inhabitants whether in Southeast Asia, the

Caribbean Islands, or in the United States. Local economies, businesses, homes, schools and hospitals have been destroyed. Millions of people have been left homeless – no shelter, no food, no medical supplies if they were fortunate enough to have survived.

As these areas try to jump start their economies my suggestion is get out there and travel. Recognizing that most of us can't get to Thailand and dive Phuket we can get to some island in the Caribbean or off our southern and gulf coast states and support these areas in their efforts to rebuild. Every tourist dollar we spend helps a staggering economy bounce back. So start diving.

On another note, some of our club members had the pleasurable experience of spending a memorable evening with *Stan Waterman* when he spoke at The Dive Shop Club meeting in November. Stan had some great videos he presented as well as answering our questions concerning his 50+ years as a diver. If you haven't read his book *Sea Salt: Memories and Essays* it should be number one on your list. His accounts of world travels, diving and underwater videography while in its infancy are simply remarkable. He has accomplished more in his 84 years than I could accomplish in two or three lifetimes.

Finally, I want to thank all the club members that attended our Christmas Party at Tino's bringing gifts for the young folks at the **Maria Ferari Children's Hospital**. Once again we were able to bring smiles to a lot of little faces that weren't going to be home for Christmas.

My 2006 wish is: May you all be blessed with good health, prosperity and peace and the incentive to enter a lot of dives in your logbook.

**Don Reynolds**  
**President**

## BENEATH THE SEA

It's that time of year again when the preparations for Beneath The Sea are in full swing. 2006 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the largest consumer dive/travel show held in this country. This show grew out of our club and this Anniversary Edition is proving to be a spectacular event.

If meeting **Hans & Lotte Hass** who are being brought in from Austria, having the opportunity to see artifacts from the *Andrea Doria* (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its sinking), and attending the Awards Banquet being MC'd by the History Channel's Deep Sea Detective hosts **John Chatterton** and **Richie Kohler** doesn't make you want to be a part of this show let me suggest you go see a doctor because something's wrong.

The above listed events are only a tip of the BTS iceberg. There will be approximately 300 exhibitors from all over the world, Friday evening's Fish & Famous (rub shoulders and meet some extraordinary people in the arts, sciences, exploration and film industry), international video & photo awards, seminars, workshops, film festival, auctions, door prizes, parties, Ocean Pals for the kids, the pool is back this year for those that want to "Try Scuba", tech night returns.

When we were at DEMA this past October attending the Academy of Underwater Arts & Sciences Awards Dinner the magnitude and impact of Beneath The Sea really became apparent. Beneath The Sea is looked upon as the premier dive show in the United States. Beneath The Sea sets the standard by which other shows are not only judged but by which vendors, exhibitors and speakers vie for position recognizing we are not a local dive show but international in scope.

As TSSC members, I would hope your enthusiasm for diving would flow over to not

only helping your club's promotion by volunteering some time at the TSSC Booth at the Show but join those of us that support the missions and goals of Beneath The Sea. TSSC members should be the prime movers and supporters of the programs BTS promotes. We shouldn't have to depend or try to recruit volunteers from other dive clubs in the tri-state area or from around the country to make OUR SHOW the best there is.

Beneath The Sea and The Scuba Sports Club need your help as active not passive members if the programs we want to augment or continue are to survive. Dedicate some time the rewards far outweigh your investment.

**Don Reynolds**

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