

**The Scuba Sports Club
Meeting Recap March 8, 2023**

Club Officers & Directors Updates/ Reminders

President: Melissa Lonquich

- Welcome new members/ guests to their first meeting
- Travel Updates
- BTS Award dinner: Judy will be re-presented her 2021 TSSC DOY award
- Please sign up for our BTS TSSC booth
- Nick Lappano presented info on our summer 2023 local dives... Save the Date July 14-16 Lake George dives... possible seal dive, FT. Wetherill dives, etc more info to come!
- Please contact Jack if you'd like to be part of the October 2023 trip to the Bahamas.
- Congratulations Kevin Cushing as this month's 50/50 winner... again:)

Director at Large: Kevin Cushing

- Info on Ossining Earth Day. Please see Kevin to sign up for spots at our Earth Day Booth

Social Director: Liza Handziak

- Please email Liza if you'd like to be part of the TSSC hibachi dinner after BTS Saturday, 3/25/23

Membership Director: Amanda Slattery

- Please see Amanda for membership payment and waivers for 2023.

Newsletter Director: Ken Andreu

- New members please see Ken for new member bios
- Any ideas for new articles in Seaswells please see Ken

Joe Rinaldi, Safety Director

Presentation Recap Below:

Causes of SCUBA Diving Accidents

I Ways to Improve SCUBA safety through analysis of serious SCUBA accidents

- A SCUBA diving is statistically a very safe activity with approximately one fatality per every 200,000 dives
- B Information based on DAN safety study in 2020 on diving incidents, injuries and fatalities
- C 100 reported deaths due to SCUBA diving, 55 from USA & Canada 45 from every other reporting country

II Most diving incidents which lead to a fatality had several factors which when combined resulted in a fatality. However, the study found three major "triggers" to SCUBA accidents leading to a fatality

- A Insufficient breathing gas 41%
- B Entrapment 20%

C Equipment problems 15%

III Most mishaps occur as a direct result from one of three factors

- A Lack of concentration
- B Overconfidence
- C Sheer negligence

IV SCUBA fatality incidents broken down

- A Attempting a rescue 1%
- B Cave diving 5%
- C Diving after advised that they were medically unfit to dive 10%
- D Not trained in the type of dive that they were making 10%
- E Got into trouble while on the surface 25%
- F Failed to inflate their BC 50%
- G Diving alone when incident occurred (includes solo diving and when separated from their dive buddy) 86%
- H Died with their weight belt or weight pocket still on 90%

V Steps you can take to increase your diving safety

- A Stay focused during your dive in particular on your dive gas remaining and the location of your dive buddy
- B Don't dive in an overhead environment without proper training
- C Get a annual physical and follow your doctor's advice on diving
- D Have your SCUBA gear checked annually at your local dive center and inspect your SCUBA kit before every dive
- E If your buoyance is compromised, don't hesitate to inflate your BC or ditch some of your weight

VI *"Carefulness costs you nothing. Carelessness may cost you your life."* - Author unknown

Helen Carapella: Program Director

- Introduce this month's speaker and Q & A

Paul & Chrisna Avenant from Utopia Village: Utila

Paul & Chrisna Avenant were born in South Africa and moved to the United States in 1998. In 2014, they were both 49 year old, senior executives with successful careers at software companies. Neither of them were divers or had ever worked in the dive or hospitality industry. They had never even heard of Utila before! But despite that, they decided to buy a run-down dive resort on the remote south shore of the smallest of the Bay islands, in the western Caribbean. It was a decision that would change their lives in ways they never anticipated.

Paul will talk about what made them do such a crazy thing and their journey with Utopia Village and its surrounding community. He will discuss the impact Covid has had on the island and the dive business, as well as provide and update on what they are doing now.

Thank you all for attending, save the date for our next meeting April 12th, 2023 at San Martino Restaurant in Yonkers, NY.

As always, thank you all for being the best part of TSSC, without each and every one of you we would not be the great club we are today!

Very Truly Yours,
Melissa Lonquich
President, TSSC