

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

**Club Officers & Directors Updates/ Reminders**

**President: Melissa Lonquich**

- Welcome new members/ guests to their first meeting
- Travel Update
- Congratulations Kevin Cushing as this month's 50/50 winner

**Vice President : Gene Miceli**

- BTS sign up please contact Gene
- More info on local diving for the year
- **Director at Large: Kevin Cushing**
- Info on Ossining Earth Day to come

**Dive Planner: Jack Ricotta**

- Update on ST. Croix Trip
- Upcoming possible San Salvador trip

**Membership Director: Amanda Slattery**

- Please have your dues and waivers up to date

**Newsletter Director: Ken Andreu**

- New members please see Ken for new member bios
- New trips please see Ken

**Joe Rinaldi, Safety Director**

**Presentation Recap Below:**

**Exposure Protection**

**I With the proper exposure protection it is possible to safely scuba dive year-round.** While most divers are aware of the main choices in scuba diving exposure protection, there are some details that are not commonly known.

**II Wetsuits**

- A. The most used exposure protection for recreational scuba divers
- B. Usually less expensive than other forms of exposure protection
- C. Require very little maintenance
- D. Compress with depth and subsequently lose some of their heating capabilities
- E. Over time and repeated use, open cell neoprene will shrink and become less flexible

**III Semi Dry suits**

- A. Usually cost more
- B. Provide greater thermal protection by limiting the amount of water that gets close to a diver's skin during a dive

**IV Drysuits**

- A. Most expensive form of exposure protection

- B. Create a watertight seal around the neck and wrists of the diver
- C. Drysuits provide warmth through air trapped in undergarments
- D. Drysuits require more maintenance than wetsuit or semi dry wetsuits
  - 1. Seals need to be replaced on a regular basis
  - 2. Valves need to be inspected and cleaned regularly
  - 3. Drysuit zippers can also wear out, and they are usually expensive to replace
  - 4. **Drysuits require special training from a qualified Drysuit instructor before they can be safely used**

## **V Heated undergarments**

- A. Vest (and sometimes gloves)
- B. Provide heat through a battery & electrical wire embedded in the material
- C. Initially heated undergarments were only used with Drysuits, new models claim to work even with wetsuits
- D. Heated undergarments are expensive
- E. **If not used properly can increase the chances of a diver suffering from DCS**

## **VI After dive garments**

- A. Often overlooked by divers
- B. In warm weather, long sleeve shirts & hats to prevent sunburn
- C. In more tempered conditions garments that protect divers from the wind and moisture can prevent chills or hypothermia

**VIII Visit your local dive center** for additional information about what exposure protection is available for you or for training on how to use a Drysuit

*“Nothing burns like the cold”*- George RR Martin

## **Helen Carapella: Program Director**

- Introduce this month’s speaker and Q & A

### **Mr. Victor Vescovo**

**The topic/focus:** Diving deep ocean trenches and the technical details of the submersible that can repeatedly go to the bottom of the ocean (i.e. what happens during a sub dive).

### **Bio:**

Victor is a 20-year veteran private equity and venture capital investor with particular expertise in the aerospace and defense industries. He is a Chairman, or Board Member, of companies with over \$2 billion in total revenue. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School, a Master’s Degree from MIT and earned his undergraduate degree from Stanford University. He also served 20 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve as an intelligence officer, retiring as a Commander. as heavily involved in two extended military campaigns, the Kosovo conflict and the Global War on Terror.

Victor was the 12th American to complete the “Explorer’s Grand Slam” which requires climbing the highest peak on all seven of the world’s continents including Mt. Everest and skiing 100 kilometers to the North and South Poles. In 2020, he piloted the first repeated dives to Challenger Deep -- now fifteen times, and in August 2019 became the first person to visit “The Five Deeps,” the deepest point in each of the world’s oceans. He has personally been to the bottom of seventeen deep ocean trenches, while no other person has ever been to the bottom of more than two.

Victor has made three dives to the *Titanic* including the only solo dive ever made there. In the last two years, he located and dove on the deepest, and second-deepest, wrecks in history at the sites of the USS *Johnston* and USS *Samuel B. Roberts*. He is also a commercially rated multi-engine jet and helicopter pilot, a certified submersible test pilot, a Master Scuba Diver, and recently flew into space on Blue Origin’s New Shephard-21 mission, thus becoming the first person in history to climb Mount Everest, explore the very bottom of the ocean, and visit space!



Thank you all for attending, save the date for our next meeting March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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