

# The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester, New York

*Our 48th year serving the local and northeast dive community !*

## The Scuba Sport Club's Spring 2023 BTS EDITION



### The Anchor Line

Melissa Lonquich



#### A SPECIAL WELCOME FROM MELISSA FOR BTS ATTENDEES

“Spring has sprung”, finally! Bye, bye Winter; I’m not sad to see you go! What a wonderful time of the year it is... the weather is starting to warm up, the sun is out longer, and more and more outdoor activities are starting to appear again, including diving! WOOHOO!!

Since our last issue of Seaswells so much has happened in our club! We’ve had great monthly speakers present to us (such as Dr. Larry Wood presenting on the hawksbill turtles of Florida, Victor Vescovo presenting on deep diving trenches and submersibles & Paul Avenant from Utopia Village in Utila). I can’t wait to hear what our new program director has in store for us next! We have some amazing dive trips coming up, such as, the sold-out trips to St. Croix, and Iceland, the Florida Keys Wreck Trek, a Bahamas All-Inclusive, and many local dives!

Perhaps one of the most exciting things going on right now in the North East dive community is the return of Beneath the Sea for 2023! It’s back, baby!! It’s been a long time coming since Covid-19 ruined our yearly tradition but it’s finally here again! This event not only showcases new places to dive, new gear, new technology, great educational seminars, etc. but maybe most importantly, the chance to meet (or meet again) fellow divers, and bond over similar interests! It’s truly a great place to see and be seen!

It’s been a long-standing part of TSSC’s tradition to showcase our diver of the year at the BTS dinner. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 this hasn’t been possible the last 3 years. So, I’d like to shout out our past winners that were not able to be part of this tradition the last 3 years. Congratulations again to Gene Miceli, DOY 2021, Judy Dronzek, DOY 2022, and Joe Rinaldi, DOY 2023. Luckily, it’s back and we will be celebrating our 2021 diver of the year, Judy Dronzek, in style at this year’s BTS dinner. Judy, your years of volunteerism, activism, and contributions to the club have not gone unnoticed!

Cheers to a great Spring and Summer of diving to come!

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



## **Amanda Slattery TSSC Membership Director**



*JOIN THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB IN  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY !*



TSSC—Our 48TH Year Serving The Westchester, NY, Dive Community

Active Travel Program Bringing You The Best Exciting Local and International Dive Destinations

Monthly In-Person Meetings With Fun, Exciting, Inspiring and Informational Presentations

Friendly, Welcoming Group Of Like-Minded Divers

Dive And Learn With Some Of The Top Divers In The Northeast

Introduce Your Kids To Diving? WOW -You Came To The Right Place!

Local Dive Community Education, Workshops And Safety Practices

Environmental Activism And Marine Environment Stewardship

Beach And Riverside Clean-Ups and Collaboration With Other Area Clubs

Our World-Famous DECO-Stop Get-Togethers

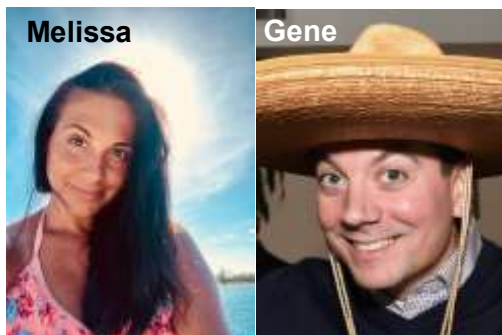
Remote Members Welcome

And...Our Quarterly Newsletter—What's Happening, Who is Diving, Where And How Was It ?



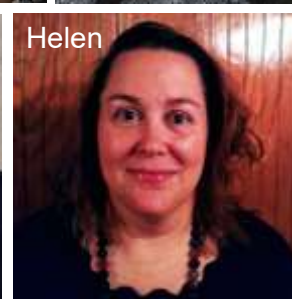
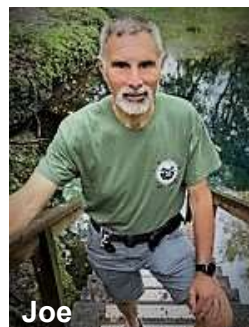
## TSSC CLUB OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2023

( ...We always welcome our Club membership  
to join the leadership team !!! )



President	Melissa Lonquich
Vice President	Gene Miceli
Secretary	Michelle Memoli
Membership	Amanda Slattery
Dive Planning	Jack Ricotta
Treasurer	Sheri Buchman
Program Director	Helen C
Director at Large	Kevin Cushing
Executive Director	Kenneth Salstrom
Newsletter Editor	Ken Andreu
Newsletter Publisher	Gary Lehman
Environment and Legislative	Mark Reisman
Safety and Education	Joe Rinaldi
Social Director	Liza Handziak
Webmaster	Gene Miceli
Founder	Zig Zigahn (Ad Astra)
Co-Founder	Soliman Shenouda

Kevin





**Club Dive Trips / Social Events  
Dive Planning Calendar for 2023  
What's on the RADAR !??**



**Jack Ricotta, Dive Planner  
Kevin Cushing, Director-at-Large  
Liza Handziak, Social Director**

**TRIPPIN' WITH JACK & TSSC**

*If you have ideas for upcoming trips, please let Jack know !!*

**ICELAND—LAND OF FIRE & ICE—SEPT 2023, SOLD OUT**

We are excited to announce a TSSC trip to ICELAND in 2023. This is primarily a land trip, but there is an opportunity to cross a big-time bucket list dive off your list!

**SOLD OUT!**



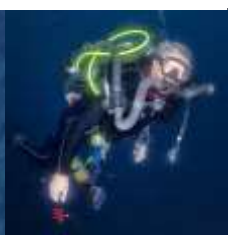
**SOLD OUT!**

Kevin Cushing can be reached at [kxman88@gmail.com](mailto:kxman88@gmail.com)

**St Croix and Bahamas !!!! FOR DETAILS SEE NEXT PAGE !!!**

**Social Calendar and Meeting Schedule**

- 3/25-26 Beneath The Sea
- 4/12 TSSC General Meeting
- 4/12-16 St. Croix Diving — **SOLD OUT SOLD OUT**
- 4/22 TSSC @ Earth Day
- 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 9/13, 10/11, 11/8 TSSC General Meetings
- 
- 7/14-7/16 Lake George Weekend camping/shore/boat
- 8 / TBD TSSC BBQ
- 8/7 Fort Wetherill, RI (Shore diving) Day Trip
- 8 or 9/TBD Seal Diving Salvages Mass or Isles of Shoals NH
- 10/7-14 AaaaYYyyy Bahama, Obeah Man is coming for you !
- 10 / TBD Boston Sea Rovers Expo
- 11 / TBD Explorers Club Sea Stories
- 12 / TBD TSSC Holiday Party (no December meeting)





## Club Dive Trips — Dive Planning Calendar for 2023 What's on the RADAR !!??



Jack Ricotta, Dive Planner  
Kevin Cushing, Director-at-Large

### ***DIVE RIPPIN' WITH JACK & TSSC , continued !***



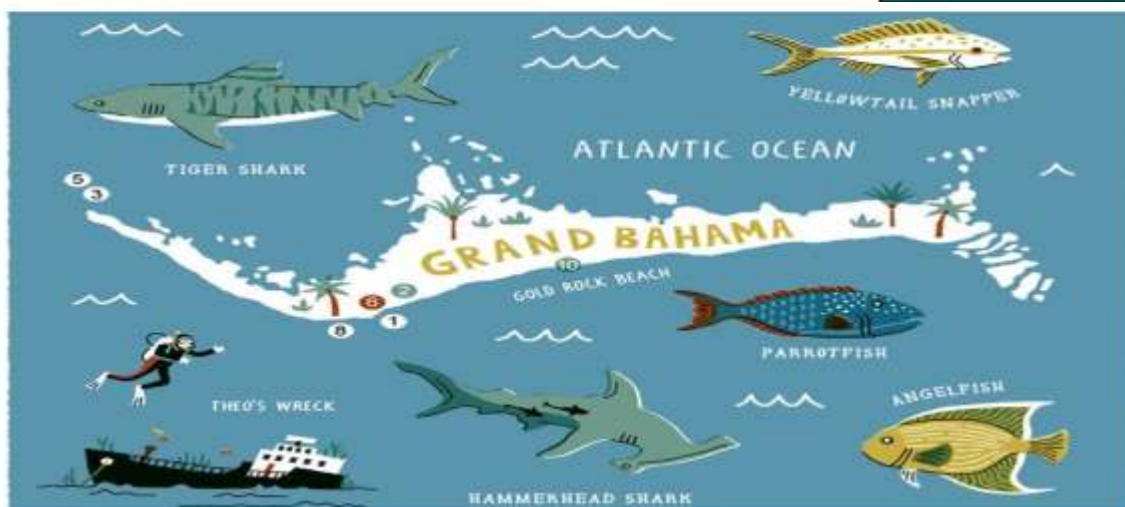
***In 2023, the fun continues !!!***

**ST CROIX Dive Trip.... SOLD OUT**

PLEASE EMAIL JACK WITH  
QUESTIONS

[jjarchitect1@gmail.com](mailto:jjarchitect1@gmail.com)

TSSC BAHAMAS DIVE TRIP  
October 7-14, 2023  
LIMITED TO 16



#### **STAY AT**

Viva Wyndham Fortuna | (all inclusive in superior room)  
package in a superior room with all meals and drinks, airport-hotel transfer

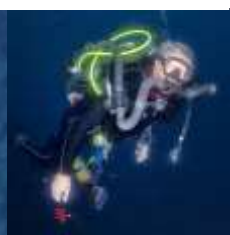
7 night

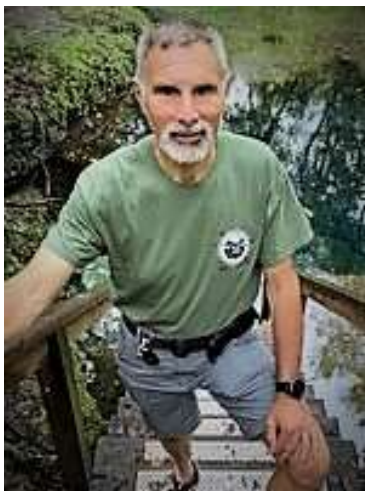
#### **DIVE**

with:  
Viva Bahamas (on site) 5- 2 tank boat  
dives

Reef Oasis

<https://www.reefoasisdiveclub.com/diving-bahamas>





***HATS OFF TO OUR OWN...***

***JOE RINALDI !!!***



***On January 26, 2023 Joe received the National Speleological Society Cave Diving Section “Abe Davis Award” for having completed his 100th safe dive since earning his cave diving certification!***

The award is named after Abe Davis, a freed slave who used to “fre dive” into the cave at what is now Little River Springs Park. Little River Springs is one of Joe’s favorite cave diving sites. Joe advises that he cannot imagine entering that cave without any scuba gear, and can only marvel at the swimming skills that Abe Davis possessed !

TSSC tips our dive masks to Joe for this outstanding award, and for his continual service to our Club, helping to keep us all safe and sound while exploring our marine environments !





## LIDA Film Festival 2023

**Liza Handziak, Social Director**

The 35th edition of the Long Island Divers Association (LIDA) Film Festival was held on the campus of Hofstra University on Jan 28th. After being a virtual event for the past two years, this year's festival was a return to "normal" and the estimated 300 attendees seemed to be excited to be back.

Our evening began with a happy hour at the Garden Social, a local bar/restaurant in Garden City, NY. We had 12 members meet before the show for drinks and food. Despite issues with the checks and service being quite slow, the food was good and the company even better.

After happy hour, we made the quick ride over to Hofstra and found our way into the Student Center Theatre. The lineup for presenters covered a wide swath of interests. Peter Venoutsos presented about diving with blue sharks off the coast of Montauk, NY. These fascinating and beautiful animals are right off our shores. Maybe a TSSC local day trip is in our future?

Jennifer Idol is the first woman to dive all 50 states. She focused this presentation on her experiences diving in Yellowstone National Park and particularly Yellowstone Lake.

Next up was Andrew Martinez. He's a northeast diver and specializes the waters off the coast of Massachusetts and Canada. The colorful creatures found in these cold waters never cease to amaze.

When you see Danny Rivera on the docket, be sure to get a seat. His smart, witty, and sometimes obscure humor entertains and educates at the same time. This night was no exception. In the vein of a Christopher Guest mockumentary, Danny presented THE SUBAQUEOUS MILIEU - "Le mystérieux sous-marin du village de la baie." This is the story of the search for a long lost local submarine.

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver are no strangers to Long Island diving, but this presentation took us to the west coast and California's Channel Islands. This sounds like a great adventure, and one that you can do without leaving the country.

The final presenter for the night was Renata Rojas. Another local diver with a dream of seeing the Titanic. Her story is an inspiring one of determination, disappointment, perseverance, and triumph. Seeing her journey in her own words was a great lesson in the human spirit.



## LIDA Film Festival 2023

**Liza Handziak, Social Director**

For a more complete biography of the night's presenters, please go to: <https://www.lidaonline.com/2023-ff-presenter-bios>

After the film festival conclusion, we make our way commons area for snacks, soft drinks, and door prizes. The Long Island Divers Association has no shortage of sponsors and their generosity is a big reason for the long-running success of this event. For a list of sponsors, please go to: <https://www.lidaonline.com/2023-film-festival-sponsors#sponsors> Helping these companies helps our industry and in turn helps all of us in our love of diving.

The prize giveaway was next. The smaller prizes were called by ticket number and winners brought up to receive their prizes. Then a 50/50 was drawn and that winner was called up. From there, it took another 45 minutes to an hour to announce the Grand Prize. Then there was another long wait to announce the raffle prize winning numbers which were simply posted on the screen and the event was over. For those who had a long drive home, it was a late night. Despite not winning any big prizes, The Scuba Sports Club made a good showing. We had at least 13 members present.

The 2024 dates are still to be announced. Please go to: <https://www.lidaonline.com/> for updates.





Beneath the Sea is building a new website

[www.Beneaththesea.us](http://www.Beneaththesea.us)

Why? Our old website was hijacked and we can't get it back — yet.

- Beneath the Sea's next show is March 25 & 26 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey
- Exhibit at this Beneath the Sea, we have a contract for you ([Click here](#))
- Always proud of our Scholarships, Beneath the Sea has opened a revitalized set of Scholarships ([Click here](#))
- Look around, notice what is missing, and check to see what's to come

Save the Date

... for the all new

## 2023 Beneath the Sea

Dive, Travel and Oceans Exposition

March 25 - 26, 2023

at the

**Meadowlands Exposition Center**  
Secaucus, New Jersey

Exhibitors contact Maria Hults at:  
[info@BeneaththeSea.us](mailto:info@BeneaththeSea.us) or 914.664.4310



## LIZA AND KEVIN BRING US... Green Ossining's Earth Day Festival !!

For the second consecutive year, **The Scuba Sports Club** will have a tent at **Green Ossining's Earth Day Festival** to promote our club, meet new members, and reinforce our commitment to our planet's well-being!

WHO: The Scuba Sports Club  
What: Green Ossining's Earth Day Festival  
When: Saturday APRIL 22nd 10:00am – 5:00pm  
Where: Louis Engel Park (Ossining Riverfront)  
Eats: Food Trucks and Drinks available

Admission is free!

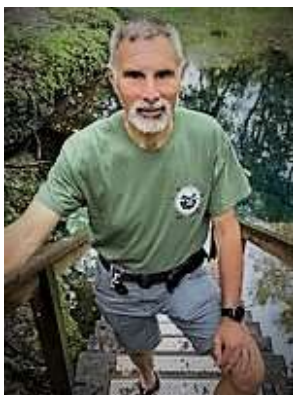
There are events and seminars all day for all ages. Live music throughout the day.

Liza and Kevin will handle all of registration and preparations. We do need members to help run the tent for the day. Last year we had a great turnout, and it was one of the best days of the year.

So please sign up and volunteer a couple hours of your day to help promote our club.

***Here's to another great Earth Day in 2023. Hope to see you there.***





## **Are you ready for the 2023 SCUBA diving season?**

**Joe Rinaldi  
Safety and Education Director**

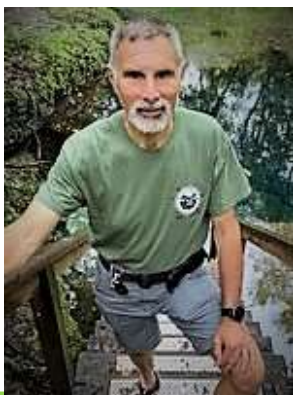


Spring begins this year on March 20th, and for scuba divers that means that the local diving season is just around the corner. If you want to make the most of the 2023 scuba diving season, I advocate taking several steps right now.

First and foremost is to make sure that you are healthy enough to scuba dive! If you have not seen your doctor in over a year, or if you have experienced a change in your health since your last visit to your doctor, I strongly recommend consulting with your physician before you make any scuba dives.

Scuba diving is a gear intensive activity, so it makes sense to make sure that your dive gear, like your health are in good condition to dive. If your gear has been sitting quietly in storage over the winter, it is a wise precaution to inspect your scuba kit before you leave for your next scuba dive/trip.

Many people believe that a buoyancy control device (BCD) is the heart of your scuba kit, so it makes sense to begin with your BCD. I recommend that you check to see that your BCD will hold air (or whatever breathing gas you plan to use). Start by inspect the BCDs inflators (both the oral and the low-pressure inflator) to ensure that it your BCD inflators are not sticking or leaking. In addition, I would check your BCD dump valves to make sure that the BCD can dump whatever breathing gas you plan on inflating it with.



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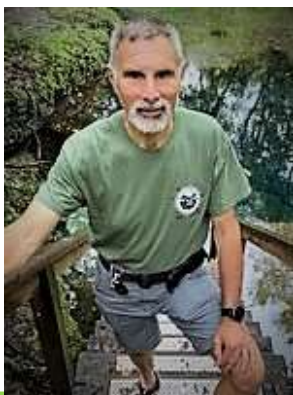


If your BCD valves or dumps are sticking, it may be possible to correct the problem by flushing the valve or dump with copious amounts of fresh water. If that does not work, bring your BCD to your local dive center to have them fix or replace the valve or dump on your BCD. As your BCD is essential to maintaining your position in the water column, a leaking or sticking valve or dump could pose serious problems that are easily fixed prior to your dive.

I would also take the time to check the bands or straps securing your scuba cylinder to your BCD, as well as the releases that secure the BCD to your body while you are diving. If your BCD is equipped with a weight pocket system, I also recommend inspecting the weight pocket release mechanism to ensure that it is functioning properly. I would finish by inflating your BCD and letting it sit inflated for at least a couple of hours to ensure that your BCD does not leak. If your BCD cannot hold air for a few hours, it most likely will not be capable of holding air for the length of your dive.

Another important piece of dive gear that you should inspect before you go diving is your dive computer. Today's scuba computers are modern marvels that do an excellent job of measuring important information relevant to your dive. However, every scuba computer relies on battery power to function. While there are a few dive computers that use solar power, even solar powered computers have batteries, and those batteries should be checked before you leave for your dive. Some dive computers have user replaceable batteries, other dive computers require that the computer be returned to the manufacturer for the battery to be replaced. If you are not sure how to check or replace the batteries on your dive computer, I recommend checking with the experts at your local dive center.

When it comes to your scuba regulator, I believe that it is best to have it inspected annually by a qualified regulator service technician. There



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Safety and Education Director

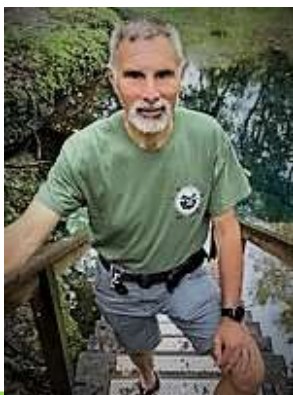


are multiple parts in your scuba regulator(s), and a number of those parts need to be replaced at regular intervals. Depending on the make and model of your regulator, it may require a servicing every year or every other year. While a regulator service or inspection does not take very long for a skilled technician, I recommend bringing your regulator in for service early, lest you wait till the last minute and the service technician at your local dive center has several regulators to inspect/service before he/she can take care of yours.

When it comes to your scuba fins, it is always a good idea to inspect the straps or springs securing the fin to your feet as well as the foot pocket of the fin to make sure that there are no tears or breaks in the material. You do not want to be in the middle of a dive and lose your ability to propel yourself!

Your scuba masks are another item that does not require much time but is still important to check. Look to make sure that the mask strap is not beginning to tear or rip and that the mask glass has no cracks or leaks. I recommend filling your mask with fresh water then placing a denture cleaning agent (like Polident tablets) in the mask and letting the mixture sit overnight. This will clean your mask and, provided the solution remains in the mask at the level you left it the night before, ensures that your mask does not leak.

When it comes to your exposure protection, your inspection will vary significantly if you use a wetsuit or a dry suit. If you only use a wetsuit, you just need to check to make sure the zipper(s) will open and close and ensure that your wetsuit still fits (some wetsuit materials will shrink over time). If you use a dry suit, in addition to checking to see if the zipper still opens and closes freely, you should inspect the wrist and neck seals to make sure that there are no tears or signs of excessive wear. In addition, you need to check the inflation and dump valve as



## **Are you ready for the 2023 SCUBA diving season?**

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Safety and Education Director**



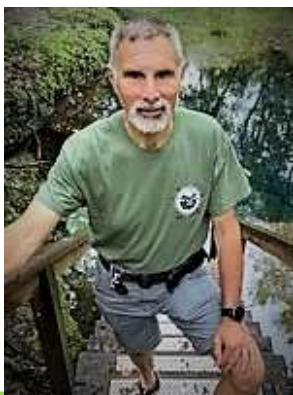
well as preform a pressure test of your entire suit to ensure that your dry suit is airtight.

A pressure test involves closing the dry suit zipper as well as securing the wrist and neck seals, then filling the dry suit up with air. If your dry suit fails to hold the air you filled it with, you check to see how the air is escaping from your dry suit (usually by spraying a solution of soapy water on the exterior of the suit to see where bubbles form). If this process sounds too complex for you, or if you do not possess the means to properly secure your dry suit seals, you can always bring your dry suit to your local dive center and ask them to pressure test it for you.

If your dry suit does have a minor leak, it may be possible for you to seal it with products that are readily available at your local dive center. However, if your dry suit zipper is leaking, or if the leak is significant, you have a more serious repair that needs to be addressed by a skilled technician or by returning your dry suit to the dry suit manufacturer.

Another item of your scuba kit that you should inspect before you start diving is your surface marker buoy (SMB). This is accomplished by inflating your SMB to see that the inflator and dump valve are operating normally. Like your BCD, you should inflate your SMB and let it remain inflated for at least a few hours to ensure that there are no leaks.

If you own your own scuba cylinder(s), they need to be visually inspected by a qualified visual inspection technician every year and hydrostatically tested every five years. Your cylinders last visual inspection date will be listed on a sticker affixed to the side of the cylinder. The cylinders last hydrostatic test date will be stamped into the material at the top of the cylinder.



## Are you ready for the 2023 SCUBA diving season?

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Safety and Education Director

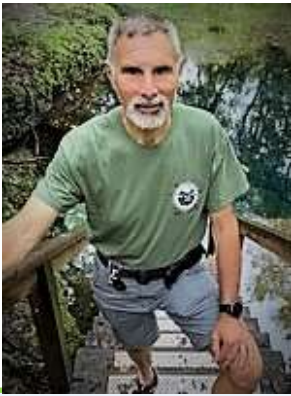


If there is still an adequate amount of breathing gas within your cylinder, you may use that breathing gas for a dive. However, dive centers will routinely refuse to fill any cylinder that is beyond its visual inspection or hydrostatic test date. A visual inspection usually does not take very long (assuming that your cylinder is in good condition). However, a hydrostatic test may take a couple of weeks to complete as most dive centers send cylinders out for that service. In addition, if you use enriched air nitrox in your cylinder(s) the cylinder(s) will need to be oxygen cleaned after the hydrostatic test before you can use the cylinder(s) with enriched air nitrox again.

If you regularly use a dive light/strobe light (and I sincerely hope that you do), you should check your dive light/strobe batteries prior to your dive. If your dive light/strobe has user replicable batteries, you should consider exchanging the old batteries for new batteries before you start to dive. If your dive light/strobe uses rechargeable batteries, it is prudent to fully charge those batteries before your first dive. I would also recommend testing your dive light/strobe by turning it on under water to ensure that your dive light/strobe is still watertight.

Aside from checking all the above scuba equipment, I would also recommend making an honest assessment of your current scuba diving skills. Most major scuba training agencies recommend that you take a refresher course if you have not been diving in over six months. Your local dive center or scuba instructor can provide an update that covers knowledge and essential scuba skills in a safe confined water setting, and it only takes a few hours! You might also consider improving upon your scuba skills by taking a class in an advanced scuba course or by taking one of the specialty courses that your local dive center or instructor offers.

Please remember that while scuba diving has an excellent safety record, you are still entering into an environment where people need



# Are you ready for the 2023 SCUBA diving season?

Joe Rinaldi  
Safety and Education Director



specialized equipment and training. Therefore, it is prudent to ensure that your health, equipment and skills are ready. Please be safe and I hope that you have a great dive season!

Joe Rinaldi

## Pot Pourri of Pictures — Why We Love Diving !!



## And Around The Dive Shop.....

*Check out your Club logo merchandise, how cool are these accessories !!!!!*

<https://the-scuba-sports-club.creator-spring.com/>

### LOCAL DIVE SHOPS.....AT YOUR SERVICE !

*Looking for dive-related gifts? Need to upgrade your gear?*

*Here is a list of shops that may just have the right one for your best dive buddy or for yourself!*

 <b>Ski and Scuba Connection</b> 26 Saint Roch Ave Greenwich, CT 06830 Tel. 203-629-4766 <a href="http://www.skiandscubaconnection.com">www.skiandscubaconnection.com</a>	 <b>SCUBA NEW YORK</b> 2037 Central Park Ave Yonkers, NY 10710 Tel. 914-779-2966 and 2672 Gerritsen Ave Brooklyn, NY 11229 Tel. 718-769-0099 <a href="http://www.scubany.com">www.scubany.com</a>
 <b>Abyss Scuba</b> <i>Where the fun begins!</i> <a href="http://www.abyss-scuba.net">www.abyss-scuba.net</a> (914) 244-3483 29 Marble Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570	 <b>Captain Mike's Diving School</b> 530 City Island Ave City Island, NY 10464 Tel. 718-885-1588 <a href="http://www.captainmikesdiving.com">www.captainmikesdiving.com</a>
 <b>Oceanblue Dive</b> 108 Bedford Street Stamford, CT, 06901 <a href="http://www.oceanbluedive.com">www.oceanbluedive.com</a>	


[www.scubah2omag.com](http://www.scubah2omag.com)