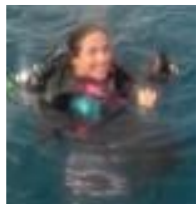




Sea Swells



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



Fall Equinox 2023 President's Anchor Line

While looking back on all we've done as a club this summer, all I can think about is what a great summer we've had! As the weather is starting to get colder, let us not forget the water is still warm and there are some pretty amazing things to see in our local waters!

As fall approaches, I think back to all the amazing things we've done these last few months! First and foremost, I want to thank Liza and Kevin for all their hard work putting together the annual summer BBQ, and as always a special thank you to Dennis for lending us his beach to host it! We had a great turnout and a ton of fun!

Since our last issue of Seaswells so much has happened in our club! We've had great monthly speakers present to us (such as Charlie Adams and Corey Joyner sharing photos and memories from their recent trips, Cheryl McCarron from Shark Angels sharing a little about what her organization does for the protection of sharks and a little crazy info about shark mating!) He had some great trips and get togethers such as our "back to diving locally" adventure to Lake George (Where members enjoyed their time with each other whether they were diving or hanging out by the camp site), an amazing trip to Iceland, and more!

We have upcoming trips to Bonaire and Grand Bahama Island this Fall. Be sure to keep your eyes and ears open for info on more upcoming trips we hope you can join us on! Let's not forget the non-diving get togethers Liza plans (that we call "deco stops") for more opportunities to get to know each other! She has a wonderful bike trail event planned as well as a trip to the great Jack-O- Lantern Blaze in the Hudson Valley! I know I can't wait to check that out myself!

As a reminder, elections and appointments for new board members are upon us. If you are interested in a board position or want to nominate someone you think would be good addition to the board please let me know by October 15th! Any questions about what the positions entail please ask any one of us or check out the by-laws on the members only section of the website. It's always great to have new people on the board that bring with them new ideas!

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



Sea Swells



Autumnal Equinox Research



Autumnal Equinox—Sat, Sep 23, 2023 2:49 AM

For ancient societies, the autumnal equinox marked the end of summer, which helped people track time-sensitive activity, such as when to harvest crops. The term *equinox* comes from the Latin words *aequus*, meaning equal and *nox*, meaning night. This has led to the common misconception that everybody on Earth experiences equal day and night—12 hours of day and 12 hours of night—on the day of the September equinox. In reality, most places on Earth enjoy more than 12 hours of daylight on this day. This has two reasons: the way sunrise and sunset are defined and the atmospheric refraction of sunlight.

Locations that are not on the equator do get to experience equal day and night twice a year, usually a few days before or after the equinoxes. The dates for this event, which is also known as equilux depend on a location's latitude—those south of the equator celebrate it a few days before the equinox, people in the Northern Hemisphere reach the equilux a few days after the equinox.

Equinoxes are not day-long events, even though many choose to celebrate all day. Instead, they occur at the moment the Sun crosses the celestial equator—the imaginary line in the sky above Earth's equator. At this instant, Earth's rotational axis is neither tilted away from nor toward the Sun. In 2023, the Sun crosses the celestial equator from north to south on September 23, at around 06:50 UTC.

The full Moon closest to the September equinox, the Harvest Moon, is astronomically special. This is because the time from one moonrise to the next becomes shorter around this period. On average, the moon rises about 50 minutes later every day in a lunar month—the time period between two Full Moons or two New Moons. Around the Harvest Moon, the time difference between two successive moonrises decreases to less than 50 minutes for a few days. The reverse effect occurs in the Southern Hemisphere, where the Moon rises more than 50 minutes later than on the previous day.

Known as the Harvest Moon Effect, this phenomenon occurs due to the low angle the Moon's orbit around Earth makes with the horizon during this time of year. In more manual agrarian civilizations, the early moonrise for a few days around the equinox in the Northern Hemisphere meant that farmers could work and harvest their crops for a longer time in the evenings.

The staircases at the main Maya pyramid, El Castillo, at Chichen Itza, Mexico, are built at a carefully calculated angle which makes it look like a snake of sunlight slithering down the stairs at the moment the equinox occurs.

Many cultures around the world hold feasts and celebrate many festivals and cultural events to mark the September equinox.



Great White Sharks begin their annual migration south along America's East Coast, with the equinox and the shifting seasons triggering the change. As the weather turns cold, the sharks are drawn away from their northern feeding grounds, in places like Cape Cod and Nova Scotia, towards warmer water in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. OCEARCH, a marine conservation group, has



been tracking the movements and migrations of these sharks in the North Atlantic for over a decade. The team has found that these shark populations perform annual north-south migrations within their range, which extends from Newfoundland to the eastern Gulf of Mexico. "Sharks move with water temperature," Stephan Kajiura, a professor who studies shark migration at Florida Atlantic University, told *Newsweek*. "In warm years they stay north longer, and in cold years they come down here sooner."



Sea Swells

Officers' and Directors' Ordered MugShots



Melissa L*

♦ **President**

Gene M*

♦ **Vice President**

Liza H*

♦ **Social Director**

Michelle M*

♦ **Secretary**



Amanda S*

♦ **Membership Director**

Gary L *

♦ **Newsletter Publisher**

Jack R *

♦ **Dive Planning**

Sheri B*

♦ **Treasurer**



Helen C *

♦ **Program Director**

Judy D *

♦ **Environment & Legislative**

Joe R*

♦ **Safety & Education**



Kevin C*

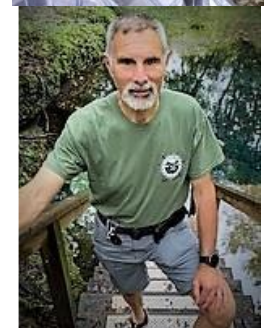
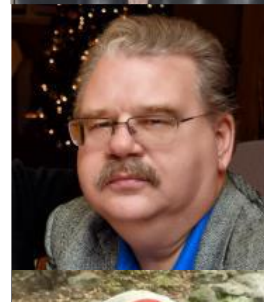
♦ **Director at Large**

Kenny S*

♦ **Executive Director**

Ken A*

♦ **Newsletter Editor**



We encourage Club members to join the Leadership Team



Sea Swells



Have you met these TSSC members?









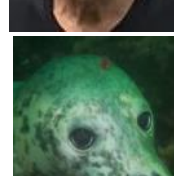










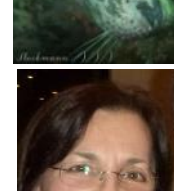




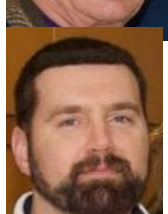




































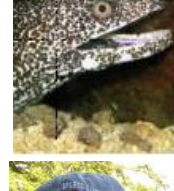






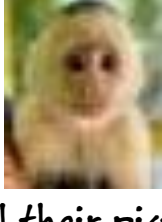
















Have the member initial their picture, after you introduce yourself



Sea Swells



TSSC makes a trip to Lake George

On the weekend of July 14-16 nearly two dozen members of TSSC visited Lake George, NY. The “Drive & Dive” event was set up by TSSC Vice President Gene Miceli & veteran TSSC member Nick Lappano. Hearthstone Park, just outside of Lake George Village shore diving, and members chose to TSSC members opt- local hotels in the



was the location of the where many of the TSSC stay. However, several ed to stay at one of the area.

As with any diving a concern. However, despite significant rain just before and after the trip, those TSSC members who attended were treated to some great weather with warm sunny days and mildly cool nights.

Thanks to the efforts of Gene & Nick, TSSC members had the option of shore diving from Hearthstone Park, Boat diving with the Water Horse dive charter or both.

For those who took part in the shore diving, just off the Hearthstone Park beach is a section of the park that has access to the water. In addition, there are several underwater items for divers to see including PVC diamonds to work on your buoyancy, Rope trails to follow and a small sunken plane to explore.

For those divers who opted to use the dive charter boat, the Water Horse dive charter had guided dives to a couple of the lake “reefs”. While the charter boat was a bit of a tight fit for six divers, the crew was very experienced and were extremely helpful getting the divers into and out of their scuba gear. The Water Horse dive shop in nearby Glens Falls, NY also provided great air and nitrox fills at reasonable prices.



Submitted by Joe Rinaldi



Sea Swells



For the shore diving the water temperatures were around 71 degrees at the surface and around 60 degrees on the bottom. As the boat dives were in deeper water, the bottom temperature reached 50 degrees, with the surface temperature around 71 degrees. The viz was around 20' at shallower depths, and it improved to about 70' feet when you went into deeper, and colder water.



While not every TSSC member who attended the Lake George trip chose to participate in the diving, several TSSC members who were not diving showed their camaraderie by helping those who were diving get into and out of their scuba gear. One intrepid group even made a night dive, and they too were helped into and out of the water by other TSSC club members.

For most of those attending the trip, the highlight was a cookout diner on Saturday night organized by TSSC Social Director Liza Handziak & TSSC Director-at-large Kevin Cushing. There was plenty of food, great conversations and thanks to the excellent planning from Liza & Kevin, the cookout even turned a profit for the club!

Given the success of the July trip, many of the TSSC members attending were already asking that plans be made to return to Lake George next year. I also want



Submitted by Joe Rinaldi



Sea Swells



to give my personal thanks to Gene, Nick, Liza & Kevin for all the hard work and planning they put into the trip. I have dived at Lake George a couple of times before this trip and, thanks to their efforts, this was the most enjoyable experience I have ever had diving at Lake George!



Submitted by Joe Rinaldi



Sea Swells



TSSC Annual Barbecue at 7 Hills Lake

Thank you all for attending our annual TSSC BBQ, and thanks again Dennis for being such a great host!Melissa Lonquich, TSSC President.



The Annual TSSC Barbecue was again held at Seven Hills Lake in Putnam County on Saturday, August 6th. This has become an annual fete thanks to Dennis Orlowski, our host. And the perennial Deco stop efforts of Liza and Kevin.



©Kenneth Salstrom

Grillers extraordinaire manning the pit were Club president, Melissa and her petit ami, Alex. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed their efforts cuisine, lively conversations and the perfect August weather. Cornhole was available for those interested in competitive sports.

If you weren't there,
you were missed.

Perhaps next year.



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Sea Swells

Glimpses of Iceland



Stay tuned for an Iceland Article from Amanda in the Winter Solstice Sea Swells Edition



Sea Swells



Your TSSC Social and Dive Calendar

(:Post on your Refrigerator:)

- ♦ Oct11, Nov 8 General Membership Meetings
 - ♦ Sep 30 - Oct 07 Bonaire
 - ♦ Oct 07-14 Grand Bahamas
 - ♦ Oct 19 Deco Stop Great Jack Lantern Blaze on Thursday, 7:00pm
 - ♦ Oct / TBD Boston Sea Rovers Expo
 - ♦ Nov / TBD Explorers Club Sea Stories
 - ♦ Dec 09 TSSC Holiday Party at Traveler's Rest, Millwood
 - ♦ (no December meeting)
 - ♦ 2024 Jan 11-15 Cozumel
 - ♦ 2024 March 30—April 06, Maldives
 - ♦ *** 2025 ??? —TSSC 50th Anniversary Dive Trip
- *** (Talk to Jack if you have a Great Idea/Location for the 50th Anniversary Trip)





Sea Swells



Let's go Diving... In Guam ! by Gary Lehman

Your Scuba Sports Club newsletter staff was in Guam on assignment for FEMA in the aftermath of a serious typhoon striking Guam (A US territory in the northern Mariana islands) and caught up with Lee Webber, President of MDA – Micronesian Diver Association, and files the following report!



Hafa Adai is the traditional greeting in Guam and in the Chamorro native language. The origins are not fully known but it might be derivative from the Spanish 'hasta aqui? (have you come from far away?)'; Guam was ruled by Spain for three hundred years starting from the mid 1600's, so Spanish is still an active language here (as well as English of course,) and the native Chamorro language. Another interpretation of Hafa Adai is in keeping with the seafaring tradition of the Micronesian peoples; a welcoming phrase to the traveler who is coming into port. And the Chamorro salutation of *Si Yu'us Ma'åse'*, which is a heartfelt form of 'Thank You'.

These sentiments certainly fit right in with the mission of **Micronesian Divers Association** on the island of Guam! MDA is the coordination focal point for diving on the Island, and also one of several dive operators on the island. MDA welcomes and serves divers and snorkelers at all levels of proficiency, providing all levels of training for divers, expert servicing of gear, and offering in-depth experience and knowledge of all the dive sites in Guam. MDA was founded in March 1982 and is the most-established dive shop/services provider on the island; the staff is ready to serve all diving needs at every level. They are the most experienced team on the island. As a PADI Five-Star Training Facility, available training includes nearly all types of recreational and technical training, and they have trained nearly 100,000 divers across the dive training spectrum. MDA invites you to visit their website at WWW.MDAGUAM.com



Marine environmental awareness is a big focus for the MDA team and all dive operators who are committed to preserving the beautiful, pristine, deep blue waters of Guam for future generations. MDA has the Island presence and influence to work with local Island stakeholders and



Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman



Regional government to carry that mission forward. The group does outreach to local schools to inspire a love of the marine heritage of the island with the next generation. MDA is the only PADI AWARE member facility in Micronesia. This is the best way to foster a mindset of marine environmental awareness and to protect the brilliantly clear ocean waters around Guam!

Why dive Guam? The first answer is simply that the waters are teeming with life and healthy coral. That is what we all love to see underwater! But there is a lot more than just that. Guam is a somewhat unrecognized world-class dive destination. Part of the reason is the geographic remoteness – which in fact has served to help preserve the pristine marine environment. Divers who seek history under the water have long recognized the historic significance and wreck diving in Chuuk Lagoon, about 650 miles southeast of Guam. And divers frequently visit Palau (about 800 miles southwest of Guam) -- and to less-traveled but pristine Yap (around 500 miles southeast of Guam) for prodigious sea life.



Guam rivals Yap and Palau for sea life and is less crowded than Palau. An ideal two-week dive vacation would include both Guam and either Yap or Palau or Chuuk!

A major differentiation is that Guam has an extensive tourist infrastructure in place, in part resulting from



the military buildup during and after WWII, the Cold War, Vietnam and the current challenges in the Indo-Pacific region with China. Guam features a wide range of hotels, restaurants, car rentals, onshore activities galore, regular United Airlines services linked worldwide, and all the resorts and amenities at whatever budget and level you are seeking.

There are so many great dive sites in Guam! You



Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

See photos of these sites festooned on the walls of ALL the dive shops on Guam. Nearly all of the sites are on the leeward side of the island and thus protected from the wind and excessive waves to a large extent. Still, some areas have **In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman**

significant currents; MDA and other operators can provide guidance and help plan dives in accordance with individual interests and skill levels.

Diving offshore you can expect plenty of BIG fish, reef sharks, turtles, rays, wrasses, jacks, barracuda, and even tuna. At some dive sites you will see literally thousands of fish. There is deep drift diving featuring

those big pelagic fish. There is a ton of coral. (You see the reef and waves breaking over it; much of the island is protected by the barrier reef, providing perfect dive sites for both new divers and deep water tech/wreck divers.)

The temperature is a constant 82-86F, so a 1mm wetsuit or even just a dive skin should suffice for most divers for most dive sites. (For deeper diving, consult with your operator who will offer recommendations.)



Visibility is 40-70+ feet. Being near the equator, *every time of year is a great time of year to dive*. There is excellent shore diving too, notably at Gab Gab Beach (which is on Guam's US Navy base). Navy personnel are often there, especially on the weekends – having cookouts, a local brew, AND SHORE DIVING! MDA conducts a whole lot of training at all levels right there at Gab Gab beach (and at the more local Fish Eye, right across from the MDA dive shop); kind of like a tropical Dutch Springs - with year-round 70-foot viz! (However, access to the US Navy base and Gab Gab beach might be a question to investigate; I had my FEMA PIV badge with immediate access, so I did not have any issues...MDA can





Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

help with that no doubt!).

Another big draw of Guam for those with an interest in history is the underwater legacy of WWII here in Guam.

Guam is the only location in the world in which you can make on dive and touch both the *Tokai Maru* (WWII) and the *Cormoran* (WWI) on a single dive at about 90 feet of water.



Chuuk has wrecks of course, and so does Guam (In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

different types of wrecks and different circumstances). Fierce fighting in July 1944 WWII wrested Guam back from the Japanese, liberating the native Chamorro people from the slave labor, sexual exploitation and atrocities inflicted on Guam's Chamorros during the Japanese occupation which started shortly after Pearl Harbor.



The Northern Mariana Islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota were critical for the US to capture in order to conduct air strikes by B29 long-range bombers against the home islands of Japan during WWII. The objective of the aerial bombardment campaign against Japan was to reduce and eliminate Japan's ability to continue the war – and to hopefully avoid

the anticipated horrendous casualty rate (estimated at nearly 1 million casualties) for US forces which would result from an invasion of the Japanese home islands. Many remnants of the bitter fighting in June/ July 1944 remain all over the islands of Saipan, Guam, Tinian and Rota - and the National Park Service's War In The Pacific Museum and Historical Park has documented and are preserving these sites. Japanese bunkers, trenches, gun pits, command posts, coastal artillery, and tunnels, tunnels, and more tunnels exist all over the island. For information on these sites, visit [National Park Service -- Guam - War In The Pacific](#).

However, development has overtaken some of these historic topside sites on land. BUT NOT SO





Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

UNDERWATER! Your wreck diving adventure could start with SMS *Cormoran*/Tokai Maru. Japanese *Tokai Maru* was sunk by U.S. submarine *USS Snapper* in 1943 right in Guam's Apra Harbor. Did you know that the first shots fired by the USA in WWI were NOT in Europe? The first shots (and first German POW's and first German deaths were right there in Apra Harbor, Guam. A German surface raider called the SMS *Cormoran* was trapped in Apra by US naval units, and rather than surrender to the Americans, the *Cormoran's* Captain scuttled her (with



some loss of life of German sailors) in 1917 (following the declaration of war between the USA and Germany). Both the *Tokai Maru* and SMS *Cormoran* rest together for eternity in Apra Harbor at recreational dive depths. You can visit them both on one dive. Talk about a double-header!



The US Marine Corps and Army stormed the Guam beaches at Asan and Agat in July 1944 to liberate Guam from the Japanese who grabbed it days after striking Pearl Harbor. The US landings were heavily contested. That resulted in untold thousands of unexploded shells buried in or lying on the sand under the water. And a number of sunken Navy landing craft (Amtracs) - and even a Japanese Zero fighter plane as well (the Zero was roughed up by a typhoon in 1997 but remnants still exist).

Post war, there was not much environmental awareness, so the ocean around Guam was a dumping ground. Fortunately, there has not been excessive environmental damage reported from these destroyed US landing crafts, unexploded ordnance, and the military hardware dumped into the ocean.

One of those dumping grounds is a fascinating place to dive now, called SeaBee Point. The problem after WWII ended was WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE AIRFIELD/CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT





Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

WHICH WAS NO LONGER NEEDED? The Cold War was only starting to percolate and the Korean War was not yet anticipated. The USA was in a mindset to FORGET ABOUT WAR and MAKE BABIES. The US military leadership on Guam considered packing the construction equipment onto aircraft carriers and freighters, but this would excessively time consuming. And there were no takers at the other end, with no place to put it once the carrier or freighter puts into San Francisco. So what was easiest? JUST DUMP IT. Seabee Point was the disposal area after WWII for all that construction equipment used to build and maintain the airfields on Guam. Trucks, jeeps, bulldozers, excavators, forklifts... fuel transportation systems/piping -- it is all there. Fortunately, it did not destroy the marine environment!



The MDA team offers wreck tours of some of these. A major cautionary note however is that large amounts of unexploded ordnance is still out there; MDA is keenly aware of the risks and carefully steers divers well away from potential danger spots. There are mortars (Japanese and US), rockets, artillery shells, bullets, full M1 Garand rifle clips, errant US 5" Navy shells (which fell short during the extensive days-long pre-invasion shore bombardment), and even 500lb aerial bombs which landed short and did not detonate. MDA knows that the LAST thing you want to do is to move, scavenge, retrieve, fold, spindle or mutilate these devices. The results can be devastating for you and your friends!



Another great dive site I heard people talking about was in the same vicinity as Seabee point; this is called Crevice Drift dive. The boat drops you off and you drift dive. There are pelagics there. A huge drop off into eternity. Big fish. Stay with your divemaster. Make sure you have a surface marker buoy. The visibility is off the Richter Scale at 90-100ft reportedly! It is at the base of a huge cliff. Huge chunks of limestone over time have fallen off the cliff into the water, creating habitats and condominiums for all manner of creeping and crawling marine life. And reef fish and big morays.

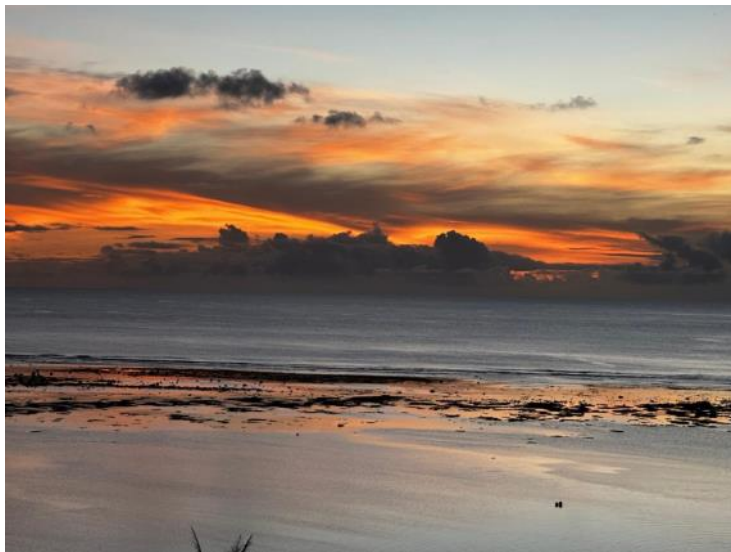


Sea Swells



In Guam ! (cont) by Gary Lehman

Taking a step back, another point to consider about Guam is that it is the safest place in Micronesia/Central Pacific to dive. Since Guam is both a major US Navy and Air Force location, Guam has both Navy and civilian recompression chambers in the event of a diving incident. (Actually, there are several on the island, so less chance of delays in received recompression treatment...) Department of Homeland Security is on Guam as well, both with FEMA currently assisting with post-typhoon recovery (Typhoon Mawar ravaged Guam in late



May 2023 which is why the author was there...) and features the permanent presence of the US Coast Guard, a DHS agency. The big advantage of having the Coast Guard right there on Guam a US Territory is that the strictest standards of safety are continually enforced for all scuba diving operators by the US Coast Guard.

(While on that subject MDA operates two 42' Newton dive vessels from three different safe harbors on the island. So there is always great dive alternatives and resources available!).

Another question surfaced during our time with MDA - what impact did SuperTyphoon Mawar have on the diving for the dive operators? This was a bad storm and many businesses were having a lot of trouble recovering; staffs were also impacted... First COVID, then BLAM, SuperTyphoon Mawar.. (This storm was termed a 'Super Typhoon' because it was very slow-moving, dumping huge amounts of rainfall all over (in particular, the northern half of the island); the winds subjected the residences there to a prolonged slow march of destruction. Fortunately, the impact was starting to resolve with FEMA's assistance within 3-4 weeks. There was silting and elevated bacteria counts from runoff resulting from torrential and sustained rain, along with some vegetation in the water from the high winds. However, under the water things settled back close to normal after a week or two. (Not so topside, where destroyed roofing and appliances pile high in collection sites for future safe disposal. (From a safety point of view, it is important to remember that in the event of imminent foul weather, common sense must prevail -- do NOT go in the waters! Two people swimming/snorkeling who entered the waters just before Mawar were lost. Always, stop, think and act!

On a final note, thank you Lee Webber from MDA and his team, and the divers I met with discussing their adventures diving Guam ; thanks Carter for your insights as well ! MDA and all the diver operators on the Island wish us *Si Yu'us Ma'åse'* --- "thanks for dropping in, and can't wait to giant stride with you into the beautiful Chamorro waters here in Guam!"



Sea Swells



Featured Creature -- PUFFINS by Gary Lehman

Our Away-Team for The Scuba Sports Club has been to ICELAND! One of the creatures which makes its happy home in the waters and headlands of Iceland is.... The PUFFIN ! So it is totally appropriate for this issue's Feature Creature to be the comical, adorable PUFFIN!

Puffins might seem externally similar to penguins; they are sometimes confused; both are aquatic birds which eat fish – but they do NOT share the same habitats. Penguins range throughout the southern hemisphere, whereas puffins live in the northern hemisphere. However, they eat the same kinds of fish. Penguins cannot fly per se, although when you watch them underwater, they most very definitely DO fly underwater! Puffins also 'fly' underwater. But also fly through the air as well (and quite graceful at that). That is how they bring home all the little fish they catch! They also eat crabs, jellyfish, shrimp, and molluscs.



The photos in this article were taken by the author on Machias Island, Canada (accessible by boat from Cutler Harbor, Maine). The island is geographically in Maine waters, but the island itself is claimed by Canada. Rather than go to war over this little island, Canada and the USA just kind of cut each other some slack and agree to disagree over which country 'owns' Machias Island. It is definitely worth a trip to see the puffins there. And, while in the area you can also see Campobello, where Franklin Delano Roosevelt spent his childhood and learned his love of the oceans!



So, back to our Puffins! They are cute and adorable; they are probably THE most recognizable bird in the whole world of bird species; they are excellent swimmers; and graceful in flight. Their antics and interactions with each other are also adorable, and also comical. You will be able to observe this very clearly from the observation huts (blinds) on Machias Island. (...If you want more information on getting to Machias Island, contact me and we can take that offline.)

So, where do puffins live? Most of the time, out on the open ocean – swimming around catching fish. In the summer, they like to come ashore and live in craggy cliffs to raise their single chick. Yes, they sleep out at sea floating around. They live in the northeast coasts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine; and on Greenland, Iceland, off Western Europe -- and even out to Russia in the East. In Iceland, puffin is on the menu. Served uncooked. (No thank you, I'm good....).

They are monogamous, and Mom and Dad stay together their whole lives which is about 15 years give or take. They co-parent, like penguins -- sharing incubating, feeding, and brooding.

Are these birds endangered? In some countries, yes. Not officially (yet) in the USA, but because of global warming, overfishing, plastics and habitat degradation, there is increasing pressure on puffins as a species. There are fewer numbers of birds in the puffin rookeries because of declining food sources. They survive a lot better in the more remote northern areas of their habitat range. Puffins don't really have a lot of natural predators – mostly skuas and fish eagles which might steal puffin chicks. The biggest predatory threat are humans, who have been harvesting puffins for millennia.

That about does it for our puffin friends. I do hope that you have a chance to sojourn up to northern Maine and make the trip out to marvel at these amazing little birds -- and if interested in details please contact me!





Sea Swells



Diving The Wrecks of the St. Lawrence By Nick Lappano



A few Club members have been venturing up to Alexandria Bay, NY for quite a few years to dive in the 1,000 Island area of the St. Lawrence Seaway. We usually make this trip in mid to late summer when the water is warm and the surface conditions are nice. Minimum bottom temp this time was 67 degrees, but average was about 71 degrees. This year Club members making the trip were Joe Rinaldi, Greg Dietz, Pat Considine, Gene Miceli and myself. A few of us got up there on Thursday July 27 and the remainder were on site by Friday July 28. Gene and myself opted for the outdoor experience by camping at Dewolf State Park Campground. Joe, Pat, Greg and Greg's wife Karen opted for more civilized conditions by using one of the local hotels. We started diving on Friday by making a few shore dives on the Islander, a sidewheel steamship which lies at a depth of 45 to 60 feet. This is an easy dive

with a nice metal ramp leading from the shore into the water. Continue straight out about 90 feet and you are on the

wreck. Good viz enables you to find it with minimal navigation. There are several lines running along the area which you can follow to facilitate navigation. On Saturday and Sunday morning we joined up with Captain Ken on his six pack dive boat "2 Dive 4" which operates under the business name of Thousand Island Dive Excursions (T.I.D.E.).

Ken runs a nice boat and is very knowledgeable regarding the area's wrecks and dive sites. In addition to providing us with a layout of the site

and how to dive it, Ken provides an entertaining and short history of the wreck(s). On Saturday morning Ken picked us up at a dock in Alexandria Bay. Although a little chilly and overcast it was definitely acceptable diving conditions. The first dive we made was on the Keystorm, a cargo freighter which is 285 feet long which sank in 1912 after striking a shoal. It rests listing toward its port side. The bow is at a depth of 35' and if you swim down to the stern and propeller you will be at about 110'. Although the orientation of the ship can make it a little confusing, once you figure it out it is simple to navigate. This is a nice wreck with plenty to see with viz in the 15 to 20 foot range.



After that we motored over to the America. This is a steel drill barge which rests upside down at a depth of 75' which sank in 1932 due to an explosion. The orientation of the wreck and looking for evidence of the explosion which makes this an interesting dive. You can also swim under the wreck since it rests on the drill supports. Just avoid touching the oil which still lies on the bottom in a few spots. Viz on this wreck when we were there was about 20 to 30 feet. On Sunday we drove down to Clayton to Ken's house where he keeps "2 Dive 4" docked. The topside conditions were much better as it was sunny and nice.

We motored out to the site of the Vickery, a wooden three masted schooner which sank in 1889 on a shoal in the



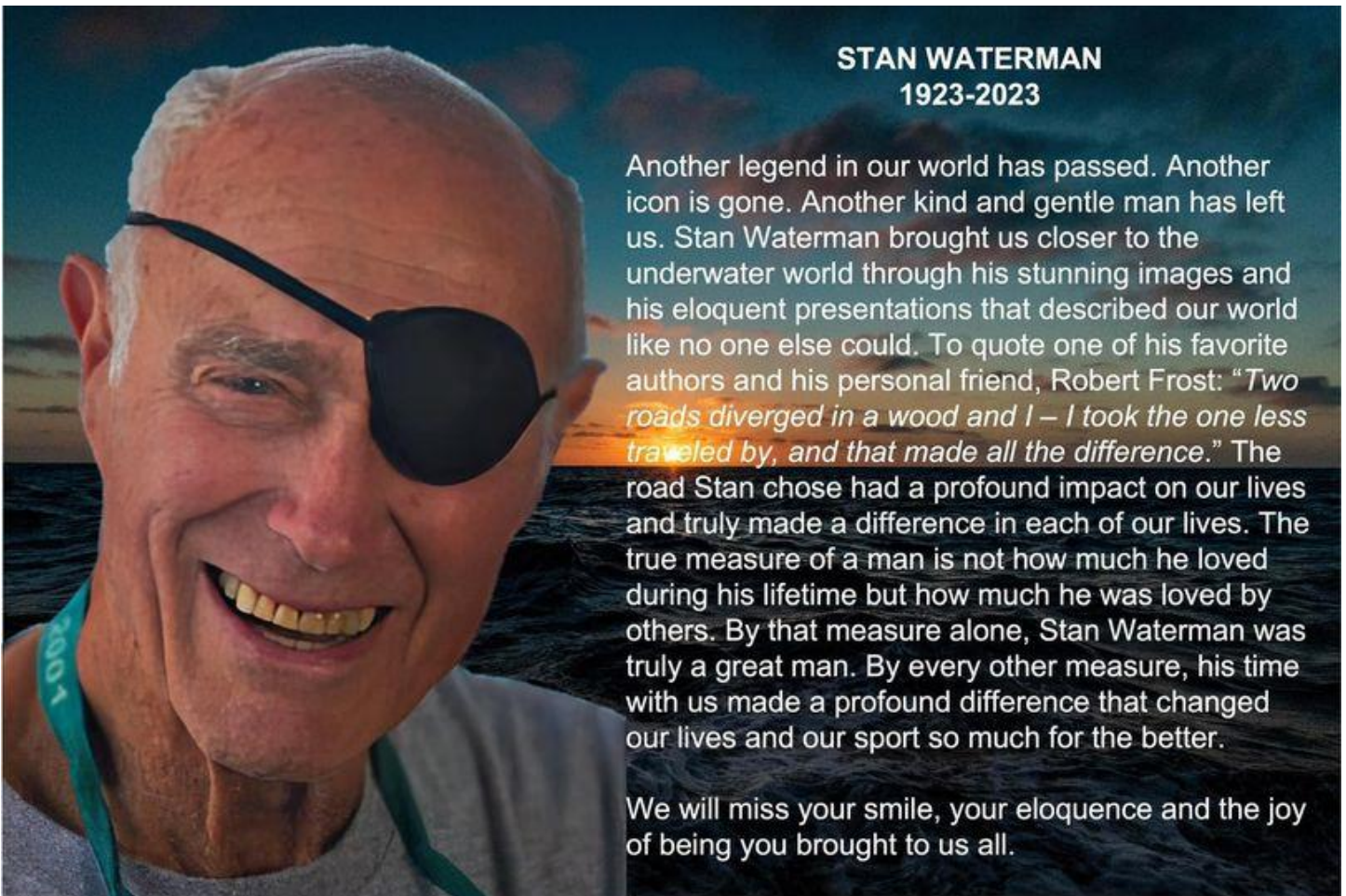
Sea Swells



St :Lawrence (cont) by Nick Lappano

"American Narrows". We made two dives on this wreck as it is one of our favorites. This site usually has a pretty strong current and when diving it a diver must securely hold on to the line leading down to the bow at 65'. Once you go over the railing and reach the deck the current subsides considerably and when you drop into the exposed holds it disappears completely. After transversing the 137' length of the wreck you drop over the stern to marvel at the image of the huge

wooden rudder at 115'. This is truly an awesome sight. After checking out the stern some of the more technically savvy divers may follow out the masts to the crows nest which lies at a depth of over 150', however that part of the dive is reserved for certified technical divers as it is beyond the 130' limit for recreational divers. None of us did that part of the wreck although Joe, Pat and Greg are all qualified to do so. On these dives the viz was again in the 20 to 30 foot range, maybe better. After these final dives we rode back to Ken's house, loaded our gear into our vehicles and headed back home, another awesome weekend of diving completed.



STAN WATERMAN
1923-2023

Another legend in our world has passed. Another icon is gone. Another kind and gentle man has left us. Stan Waterman brought us closer to the underwater world through his stunning images and his eloquent presentations that described our world like no one else could. To quote one of his favorite authors and his personal friend, Robert Frost: *"Two roads diverged in a wood and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that made all the difference."* The road Stan chose had a profound impact on our lives and truly made a difference in each of our lives. The true measure of a man is not how much he loved during his lifetime but how much he was loved by others. By that measure alone, Stan Waterman was truly a great man. By every other measure, his time with us made a profound difference that changed our lives and our sport so much for the better.

We will miss your smile, your eloquence and the joy of being you brought to us all.



Sea Swells



Are Hoys Disappearing From Our Waters?

By Capt. Lada Simek

I shall get back to that question later.

This article is not about Hoys but about communication. Much of it is about maritime communication. Our English language is changing all the time, for better or for worse. "Email" is a word that did not exist not too long ago. Some usage disappears. If you walk into a dockside bar and announce: "Avast there mateys, rum for my friends!" you would probably get asked to leave. Our language is absurd. It has been called a collection of 10,000 idioms and whimsical grammar rules. In what other language can you drive on parkways and park on driveways. Why call it an eggplant if it does not contain any eggs? What kind of foolishness is to call something a pineapple if it contains no pine or apples?

The sailor of the 1800's was proud of his knowledge of maritime terms and he seldom missed an opportunity to show it off. He had to know the names and functions of dozens of sails and lines, while his landlubber friends did not know a buntline from a ratline. Tradition was the rule in the British admiralty, a collection of stodgy conservative old coots that tended to oppose any innovation that conflicted with tradition. One novel idea was the Jarvis winch. Using it, two men could control all the sails on a mast and if employed, might have extended the age of sail by fifty years. Only the Germans were interested in the device.

Some terms were so dumb that they were changed with the blessing of the admiralty. At one time ships had two sides, starboard and larboard. You can imagine the confusion on a windy, noisy day. This was changed to starboard and port and is still accepted today. But what exactly is wrong with calling the sides of a boat left and right? I realize facing backwards the sides are reversed, but who in the world steers a boat facing backwards? If I referred to the ship's left and right sides, is there any question what I meant? About fifteen years ago there was a major advertising campaign for Colombian coffee. A dozen magazines carried this full page picture on the back cover of a cruise ship listing about twenty degrees, with the printed message "Colombian coffee is now being served in the starboard lounge. WELL, THE COFFEE MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY BAD BECAUSE THE SHIP WAS LISTING TO PORT. I bet that 75% of the public does not know which is which, but they all know left and right. The essence of language is communication.

Once on my boat I made a reference to my anchor line. A high brow weekend warrior/sailor looked at me disdainfully and said "It is called a rode". I did not say anything but with fifty years boating and a master's license, I know bloody well what it is called. I CHOOSE not to call it the past tense of the verb "to ride." That is what most etymological dictionaries call it. I have tried unsuccessfully

to find the derivation of the term but I was only able to find a reference to it dated 1762. Maybe it has something to do with a ship "riding at anchor". But that is dumb also. A ship at anchor stays put- it does not ride anywhere. Consider having a nonboater aboard and you tell him: "Go forward and slack the rode!" His reaction will be- "Huh?" But if you say go let out some anchor line- no problem.

Not only is the main purpose of language communication but it has to be efficient and clear. Consider to following hypothetical case where an 1800's sailor is transported to the crew of an air force bomber in WWII:
Crewmember: "Captain, enemy fighters!"
Captain: "Where?"
Crewmember: "Two points abaft of the starboard beam, sixty degrees above the horizon!"

Would it not be simpler to say five o'clock high?

English is not the only crazy language. They all have their dumb eccentricities. What if your language does not have all the letters of our alphabet? The Hawaiian language has only five vowels and seven consonants. (It does not have the letters s,t,r,c,d,f,g,j,x,z). Try writing a letter without using them. To communicate you have to create extra syllables. Honolulu is understood. Honolu might have a different meaning altogether. That is why the name of the State fish of Hawaii is



Sea Swells



Disappearing A hoys (cont) by ada

Humuhumunukunukuapua'a
(It means fish with a nose like a pig.)

I was born in Europe and have a familiarity with five languages. They all have their laughable moments from our point of view. The Germans like to string words together. For example, drucken means to press, buchen means books and kunst is an art. So logically the big word buchendrukkerkunst is the art of pressing books- printing!

When I was a boy living in Holland I learned the following:

Hottentots were a people in Africa. Tenten means tents and tentoonstelling means an exhibit. So, an exhibit of Hottentot tents would be called Hottentotentententententoonstelling.

I was born in the Czech Republic. That language likes consonants almost as much as the Polish does. There is an old joke about a Czech going to the optometrist. When

asked "Can you read the third line?" his answer was "Sure. That's my best friend".

Most languages soften some consonants to create new sounds. "S" as in "sip" can be softened to "Sh" as in "Ship". But how would you soften a trilled "r"? I could not do it as a child. My parents sent me to a clinic where someone held a ball charged with electricity under my chin and made my mouth vibrate with the right frequency. I still have trouble making that sound.

Czech is probably the only language where you can make a four word, completely correct sentence without using a single vowel. Consider this:

"Strc" means stick (there should be a little hook over the c, softening it to ch)

"prst" means finger

"zkrz" means through

"krk" means throat

So, "strc prst zkrz krk" means stick your finger down your throat. How do you pronounce it? Never mind. Words in the English language

come and go. I used an old term in this article, the word "avast" as a nautical term. The only time you hear it is with reference to pirates. There is an excellent chance you do not even know what it means. It is simply out of use. Well, there is another word that is completely out of use, the word "gruntled". This means satisfied, happy, the opposite of disgruntled which we use all the time. Well, I say let's bring it back! When I wish someone well, I always sign the card "Hope you stay well gruntled!" Oh well, at least it makes them think

What about those Hoys? I don't know exactly what they are. They might be creatures or plants. They usually made their appearance at sea when two ships encountered each other. Almost always a sailor on one of the ships would spot one and shout: "A Hoy! AHOY there!" Sadly, I have never seen one.

Club Director/ Board Member Positions

Nominations

are due by 15 October.

Nominate yourself or a committable friend

Send to Melissa ASAP