



The Sea Breeze

THE JOURNAL OF THE NEW YORK CITY SEA GYPSIES, INC.

AUGUST 2008

SEA GYPSIES Next Meeting

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13th, 2008

7:00 PM

AT

CLANCY'S

JOIN US FOR THE MEETING IN THE BACK ROOM

978 Second Avenue Between 51/52 Streets

Phone: 212.755.8383

Doors open as usual around 6:30 PM

Eat & Greet,

Our Speaker will be

~ Alan Winick ~

Explorer

"My Yellow Submarine, From Dream to Reality: A Love Story in Depth"

The drive to propel ourselves into hostile environments seems to be programmed into our genes. Motivated by practical need, curiosity, or just as often by the sheer exhilaration of the challenge, we have colored our history with countless missions to bring the human presence to places humans are not naturally equipped to live.

The undersea world is one of those hostile environments, not due to sharks, blue-ringed octopi, or the kraken, but to the simple fact that we cannot breathe underwater. Throughout recorded history we have invented methods, some successful, many wildly impractical, to venture beneath the surface. In 1968, steeped in the exploration buzz of "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau" and the Apollo Space Program, a 12-year-old boy living in a small apartment in Brooklyn, NY became obsessed with the dream of building his own submarine.

Alan Winick tells the story of that boyhood dream come true.

GEEKS

Hudson Beach Café.

Wednesday, August 27 at 7PM

It's a beautiful setting and we'll have a spectacular view of the sun setting over the Hudson River.

The restaurant is in Riverside Park at 105th Street. The nearest entrance is at 103rd.

Please RSVP to GEEKS@seagypsies.org
See you there!



Conger eel aboard the Black Warrior~
Local wreck dive

The Safety Stop

This Happened to Me

Dan Kelly

Cape Ann is one of the richest places in the Northeast to dive in terms of sea life. Lobsters abound, schools of striped bass can be found and scallops are a favorite target of divers. Scallop hunting is a regular part of diving Cape Ann. Basic dive plan is you go down, grab a bagful of scallops, bring them up and have a fresh scallop lunch right out of the sea.

Just as an aside, scallops are really funky looking little things. They have something like fifty or sixty eyes that encircle their shell with the part we're used to seeing in the markets seeming to be a large muscle right in the middle of the shell. Sweet, tasty and fresh - they're a terrific lunch on a dive boat. Too bad a cold beer has to wait until after the dive when back at the dock.

Anyway back to Cape Ann - my most unusual find at Cape Ann was a sunfish - this fellow (or as my Dad might say "gal" - he's a lovable old sexist) was a ten footer that was basking in the sun on our way to the dive site - possibly a once in a lifetime sighting.

That day our dive was a scallop dive. Plan was simple - splash, head to bottom, start looking for scallops. Depth was minimal - 50/60fsw. Dive was a drift dive. Flags required. Boat would drop its hook so everyone could go down the line and get organized on the bottom. Ample time was left to reach the bottom and coordinate gear. Hook would be raised and drift would begin.

Current was light. I was diving solo - total count of divers going in including me - eight - six divers that were paired up, me and a crew member who would go up with the hook when everyone was ready to begin the drift. I'd been on the boat several times before so there was no issue diving solo.

Seas were calm and there was little risk of getting lost. Worst thing that could happen is you'd have to wait a bit for the boat to come pick you up if other divers were up ahead of you.

Or so I thought.

On the way down the anchor line several sand sharks circled us. Really cool. When reaching the bottom the sharks followed and they slowly finned their way around in circles several feet above the sand. I envied their grace and style. Perfect buoyancy - an ability to go from slowly fining to top speed in an instant. And I'm not overlooking their ability to catch lunch with their toothy mouths.

After hitting the sand and organizing my flag reel and lift bag (I had forgotten a goody bag and used my lift bag as a substitute) I

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This Happened to Me, continues on page 3

The New York City Sea Gypsies, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation Since 1971

MEETINGS

When: Second Wednesday of every month except December

Where: ~CLANCY'S~
Back Room

978 Second Avenue
Between 51/52 Streets

Phone: 212.755.8383

Time: 7:00 PM meeting begins
Arrive early to get a seat, order dinner and a drink

Why: We're talkin' divin'!

OFFICERS~2008

President	Jeanne Chin
Vice President	Polina Reznikov
Treasurer	John Matuszewski
Membership Director	Ging Medina
Recording Secretary	Eva Haas
Dive Chair	David Tilzer
Sea Breeze Editor	Stephen Edelstein
Webmaster	Susan Jones
Safety Chair	Dan Kelly
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Legal Counsel	Gary Nester
LIDA Representative	Steven Eisen
NYSDA Representative	
NJCDC Representative	Bob Sterner
Historical Advisor	Dr. John Loret
Medical Advisor	Howard Sander

The New York City Sea Gypsies, Inc. is a member of the Long Island Divers Association (LIDA), the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs (NJCDC), and the New York State Divers Association (NYSDA).

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Visit the Sea Gypsies web site at:
<http://www.seagypsies.org>

NYC Sea Gypsies
Meeting Summary
Wednesday 9th July, 2008
As Recorded by Curtis Smith

On July 9, 2008 The Sea Gypsies descended upon Clancy's back room to hold their monthly meeting. The featured speaker was Mike Brygider, who joined us to give a talk and slide show presentation entitled Papua New Guinea: Wrecks, Marine & Wildlife, and Wild People. As usual, people began arriving as early as 6:00 p.m., ordering dinner and socializing before the 7:00 p.m. start of the general meeting.

Club President *Jeanne Chin* began the general announcements and conducted regular club business for the audience of 35 divers. Divers announced and offered up spots on upcoming trips dating as far ahead as 2010. The general portion of the meeting is a good place to find a nice dive vacation, club trip, or attempt to solicit interest for your own trip. Safety Chair Dan Kelly dedicated a fair amount of time to discuss safety issues, including an analysis of a couple of dive accidents. Dan also stressed and gave examples about knowing when to call a dive, and other divers related to the embarrassment of having to "sit one out". For this meeting, we were honored by the return of heavily seasoned world travelers and divers, *Bill Jakob* and *Roberta Finke*. Bill reiterated the cave diver's creed: Anyone can call any dive at any time for any reason. Finally, we heard many thrilling dive reports from our very active colleagues, many

of which will be summarized in *The Breeze**.

After the break, *Mike Brygider* began his presentation. Starting off his slide show with photos from his launch in Australia, Mike began showing his superior researching and photography skills right off the bat. Mike told stories to back up his photographs such as tales of the fang blennies, faking the cleaning of other fish only to rip a piece of flesh away from them and take off at high speeds. His photographs of nudibranchs, pipe fish, and giant clams, whose color comes from the bacteria infecting the clam, amazed one and all. Daredevil stunts were performed such as diving down to 160 feet in high currents to bring us the night's entertainment. Night dives prove even more dangerous as crocodiles, highly toxic cone snails(?), and other poisonous creatures abound.

Mike's talk did not just stop at the shore line; he enlightened us on his studies of the linguistics and cultural aspects of an isolated people who were known to engage in cannibalistic practices as late as 1986. He emphasized existing practices such as a clarification and a new meaning of the concept of "payback." The tribes can extract vengeance from a family member, neighbor, or a member of a general profession; not specifically on the perpetrator of the perceived injustice. Afterwards, Mike entertained a magnitude of questions from the group.

LIDA

Underwater Photo and Video Contest

The Long Island Divers Association is proud to present the 2008 Amateur Underwater Photo and Video Contest. Submit your best Northeast underwater photos and videos for a chance to win one of several prizes.

- All photos and videos must be taken in the Northeast (north of Virginia).
- The contest is open to amateur photographers and/or videographers only.
- Up to 10 photos may be submitted. Up to 2 videos may be submitted.
- Photos to be judged in three categories:
 - A. General (all non-macro)
 - B. Macro/Close-up
 - C. Fresh water.
- There are no categories for video.
- Any images which have won or placed in any photographic competition are ineligible.
- Judging to be performed by a panel of professional photographers and other underwater professionals chosen by LIDA. Decisions of the judges will be final, and will be based on composition, technique, exposure, and general interest.

Detailed Contest Rules and Application available online at www.lidaonline.com.
Entry Deadline is October 13. Winners to be announced at the 2008 LIDA Film Festival, Friday, December 5, 2008.

Do You Believe in Zombies?

By Lada Simek

It is 1980. Clairvius Narcissus was found shuffling himself slowly on a road in Jamaica. He had no idea where he was and where he had been. Eighteen years ago he had been declared LEGALLY DEAD by TWO physicians and buried. He bore the scar on his head from one of the coffin nails. Does this sound impossible?

The man was punished for a family transgression by a bokor, the Voodoo witch doctor. One investigator established a relationship with such a man and was shown the secret of zombie powder. The bokor collected a number of plants, even a charcoaled piece of freshly obtained baby's skull, all of which had no importance, but when an ingredient turned out to be the liver of a puffer fish, the secret was revealed. The powder so

prepared is so toxic that very little needs to be sprinkled in front of a doorway and enough is absorbed through the skin of the bare foot. The manufacturer wears a suit covering every inch of his body. It is made of burlap and a puff of wind on the powder could be lethal. The drug is tetrodotoxin, 10,000 times more toxic than cyanide. It suppresses heartbeat and life's function without killing, if the right dose is administered. After burial, Narcissus was dug up and fed a daily dose of "zombie cucumber" which kept him in a trance for 18 years, while he worked on a farm as a slave. When the owner of the farm died, Narcissus stopped getting his cucumber and regained his senses, but not his memory.

It should be common knowledge that "fugu" is meat from the puffer fish skillfully presented by licensed chefs in Japan. The slightest error in the preparation of the fish can be lethal and dozens of Japanese die each year. The liver can be eaten straight, but must be kept for three years to lose enough toxicity.

Sock it to Me

Protect your SLR camera from housing leaks: Since most housings suspend the camera in the middle of the space on a plat-

form mount, any absorbent material in the housing bottom will capture the water before it reaches the camera. While you can stuff an old sock in your housing, a feminine hygiene pad is more compact and far more absorbent.

from Undercurrent

This Happened to Me, continues from page 1

slowly drifted along the bottom picking up mostly empty scallop shells. Bit by bit lunch was getting dropped into my lift bag.

Suddenly and without any warning I was grabbed from behind by another diver. This guy was crawling all over me. I thought he was going to make a grab for my air and there was no way in heck I was giving that up.

I had no idea what was going on other than I hadn't panicked and needed to get this guy off my back.

While diving with Jackie we have a spoken rule that says if one of us needs air, it's okay to just rip the regulator out of the other person's mouth.

Why is this okay?

Because we have enough experience with each other to know that the regulator is going to come back. That's a big consideration. I had no idea if this guy would give my regulator back and he wasn't getting mine until I was sure it would be coming back

Have Jackie and I ever been in that situation? No, but if it ever happens she can grab my air anytime. I trust my life with her underwater and she trusts her life with me. That's what a great dive partner is.

I finally manage to wrestle this underwater hulk off my back and pin him to the sand. By now my lift bag and reel are gone. There is silt everywhere.

I can see the look of panic on this guy's face and take my hand and show him my index finger. I want him to wait one minute. He sees it and calms down. I realize now that he must have lost some weight and cannot control his buoyancy.

Where is his partner? Like the song - "Nowhere Man." I half tug this guy to where I can see the line leading to my reel and flag. He now realizes he has a way to the surface that will give him a controlled ascent. He nods in understanding and grabs the flag line. I hold the reel to serve as an anchor. But instead of floating up and using the line to control his ascent he starts pulling on the line. It's clear he is simply dragging the flag underwater and he is ascending much quicker than if he simply held onto the line and worked his way up.

Eventually he makes what could politely be called an uncontrolled ascent to the surface. The lack of serious depth, plus the limited amount of bottom time, likely precluded a worse problem.

How quickly can things change? One minute I'm having a nice easy dive and the next minute everything is haywire. So what actually happened?

The fellow reported to me that the weight pocket of his BCD had fallen out and he couldn't control his depth. His BCD held the pocket in with Velcro. It wasn't attached properly and fell out.

If this happened at the end of a long deep dive this story could have had a different ending. How did it end? He was fine, offered to pay for my lift bag and at the end of the day he stiffed me.

Several points:

He should have checked his gear more carefully.

Divers panic.

A simple dive can become a life threatening situation in an instant.

Lesson learned - Prior preparation prevents poor performance. Let's be careful down there.

Mr Body Glove Dives at 80!

July 31st, 2008 marked the 80th birthday for Body Glove founder Bob Meistrell. And to celebrate his birthday all he wanted to do was SCUBA dive a wreck off the California coast. Fitting for the watersports legend who, with the help of his twin brother Bill, created the first practical wetsuit and whose Los Angeles County Underwater Dive License is 0001...

Bob and many of his friends and family, dove the U.S.S. Palawan wreck. Which lies 117 feet below the ocean and about 2 miles off the coast of Redondo Beach. Being Bob Meistrell he could have gone down in the latest and greatest wetsuit and dive equipment available, but leave it to one of the pioneers of

diving to want to do a retro style dive with gear that dated back to the 1950's. Bob explored the bottom of the ocean with dual tanks, a double-hose regulator, no BCD and a pair of force fins.

"It was a great birthday," said Bob. "I am just so proud to have 3 generations of Meistrell's out here diving with me." He and his twin brother Bill Meistrell founded Body Glove in 1953. Bill passed away in 2006 just days before the brothers 78th birthday. Bill and Bob are a part of a very prestigious group of watermen to be inducted into both the Surfing and Diving Halls of Fame.

For photos and videos of the event, check out:
<http://bodyglove.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/bodyglove53>

Aussie Wrecks Being Plundered

Heritage listed wrecks are being plundered in Darwin Harbour by rogue divers, local divers reported that artifacts have been taken from the RAAF C-47 plane wreck in Fannie Bay...

Peter Darlington, a regular diver to the wreck, reported that items including a radio, flight gauges and a fire extinguisher had been taken from the wreck and an engine and propeller had been dislodged. "Many of the artifacts have been removed

and there are signs of extensive damage to the airframe itself," he said.

An NT government monitoring dive revealed more than 10 artifacts had been stolen and the plane's tail penetrated. It is understood heritage officers are hunting for the offenders. Divers who damage heritage sites can expect hefty fines of up to \$10,000 or 12 months in jail -- plus forfeiting the boat or vehicle used to get there.

Source: NT news

Delta Air Announces Non-Stop Service From New York to Bonaire

With a special introductory rate of \$239 each way, (based on a round-trip purchase) for purchase by August 6, 2008 for travel between January 10 and April 4, 2009, Bonaire has announced a new air service to their "very special island." Naturally, additional taxes/fees/restrictions apply and that fare is only available for purchase on delta.com or from a travel professional.

The service, beginning December 20, 2008, Delta #553 will depart JFK International Airport on Saturdays at 10:35 a.m. and arrive at Bonaire's Flamingo International Airport at 4:25.

The return flight #554 will depart Bonaire Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. arriving into JFK at 9:05 p.m. Delta will use a 154 seat, 737-800 Boeing aircraft which will accommodate 138 economy and 16 first class passengers.

Located eighty-six miles east of Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean island offers myriad eco-adventure activities. and has the enviable reputation of being one of the top diving destinations in the Atlantic/Caribbean.

For more information on Bonaire contact the Tourism Corporation Bonaire in the U.S. at 1-800-BONAIRE or visit Bonaire's official website at www.tourismbonaire.com.

This info obtained from DiveNewsWire Networks LLC and other reliable sources

2500 Year Old Greek Ship Raised off Sicily

According to archaeologists, the Greek ship at a length of nearly 70 feet and a width of 21 feet, is the biggest and best preserved vessel of its kind ever found.

It is the largest recovered ship built in a manner first depicted in Homer's Iliad, which is believed to date back several centuries earlier. The ship's outer shell was built first, the inner framework added later. The wooden planks of the hull were sewn together with ropes. Pitch and resin were used as sealant.

Greek sewn boats have been found in Italy, France, Spain, and Turkey. Gela's wreck is the most recent and the best preserved and is among the most important finds in the Mediterranean Sea.

Archaeologists were assisted by the Italian Coast Guard to pull the wreck to the surface by a floating crane that lifted the main segment, a 36-foot chunk, and dragged it to land. The remains were then plunged into a tank of fresh water to remove the salt from the wood.

The vessel was a mercantile sailer, probably used to sail short stretches along the coast, docking frequently to load and unload. Artifacts recovered from the ship included cups, amphoras, oil lamps, pottery, and fragments of straw baskets which reveal details of the ship's journey before it sank. The vessel made stops in Athens, then in the Peloponnese. The ship was probably caught in a storm offshore, the ballast shifted, broke through the hull, and went down, where it lay on the muddy seabed for 25 centuries.

In 1988 two scuba divers discovered the remains and informed the Sicilian Cultural Heritage Department.

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Greek Ship, continues on page 5

Club Dive to the Turner

The Club has reserved some spots on the Jeanne II out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, for the August 24th Leisure Sunday dive trip.

This is a two tank dive and we are scheduled to dive the wreck of the Turner, a Bristol class destroyer which sank in 1944 while at anchor. She was 350 feet by 36 feet. The official cause of sinking was listed as "Due to defective ammunition," but it is believed she was most likely torpedoed by a German submarine. (*Not the story I heard-ed.*)

She rests in 50 to 58 feet of water about 5 miles off Debs Inlet and proves to be a good in-shore wreck for diving. Some old blob top bottles that were too old to be from the Turner have been recovered from the sand on the western edge of the wreckage. Lobsters can also be found around the wreck.

The Jeanne II leaves at 10:00 AM sharp. You must be on board at least 30 minutes before departure, if not more.

The cost is \$100 for the day. Book and pay for your dive directly with Capt Bill Reddan, 718.332.9574. He accepts most major credit cards. Be sure to tell him you are a Sea Gypsy.

As this is a Sea Gypsy dive, the Club will take care of the tips for the crew for all current SG members.

After booking, email me (Jeanne Chin-jyc666@hotmail.com) so I know who and how many have signed up. If you haven't paid your dues, you need to do so prior to the dive.

Tanks can be rented from Captain Bill for \$15 each for an aluminum 80. Air only. Weights can also be rented. Remember, this is a two tank dive. Please reserve tanks when you reserve your spot.

As August is a 'hot' month for diving, spots fill up quickly, so call now.

Please note: As with all local dive boats, the dive site can always change at the last minute due to weather conditions, visibility, or availability.

For Jeanne II directions, information, policies, etc:
<http://www.jeanne-ii.com/>

For more about the Turner:
<http://www.aquaexplorers.com/Turner.htm>

See you there!



Ponquogue Bridge Marine Biology Dive

Hi Folks!

As you are hopefully aware, the Long Island Divers Association has been very busy promoting local diving this season. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are proud to present Marine Biologists Marianne McNamara and Tara Duffy, and "the Fish Guys" Steve Abrams and Bill Chamberlain. If you have been diving with these folks before or seen their presentation at our local Marine Critter Seminar at NUMC then you know that this is an event not to be missed!

This event will be held on Friday evening, August 15th, at the Marine Park at the Ponquogue Bridge. We will start with a LIDA sponsored BBQ at 6pm sharp, followed by a briefing on local marine species and collection techniques. We will enter the water at 8pm for an 8:18 high tide. Following the dive, the biologists will examine the specimens for us and we will return them unharmed to the bay. Well, maybe not the lobsters!

Marianne suggests that you bring a couple of medium to large aquarium nets to assist in your collection efforts, along with zip-lock type bags to bring your specimens ashore. And butter for the lobsters.....

LIDA will provide Marine Park temporary parking permits for those that do not already have a season permit, courtesy of Freddie Hughes and the Town of Southampton. For more information on the Marine Park at the Ponquogue Bridge you can go to

<http://www.town.southampton.ny.us/listing.ihtml?cat=Parks%20and%20Recreation&id=151>

For a Google map to the Ponquogue Bridge you can go to <http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=ponquogue+bridge&ll=40.839398,-72.485218&sspn=0.06,0.105743&ie=UTF8&ll=40.847807,-72.498651&spn=0.014998,0.026436&z=15>

Go over the bridge and go left at the bottom and then make a quick left into the Marine Park.

If you have any questions - call or email. Hope to see you there!

Bill Pfeiffer, President
Long Island Divers Association
ph 631.265.2547
cell 516.458.8088
email-bill@island-diving.us



Mommy, Why Do Fish Smell?

Why do food fish sometimes have a strong odor?

For most species, truly fresh fish is almost odorless. Fish

begin to smell "fishy" when deterioration sets in, often caused by incorrect storage practices that bring about the release of oxidized fats and acids through bacterial and enzymatic action.

from <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0854907.html>

Greek Ship, continues from page 4

It took 20 years to recover the whole vessel, which will now be sent to Portsmouth, U.K., to be restored before it returns to

Gela. Officials hope to display the restored ship in a planned new sea museum.

National Geographic News

Happy August Birthday Wishes to:

Edith Hoffman 02
Stephen Edelstein 09
Glen Whelpley 13

Roberta Finke 14
Don Stevens 14
Patricia (PJ) Jordan 21

Erin Boyajian 3

Don't see your birthday listed?
Let us know when it is.



New Members

A hearty welcome to
James McAuliffe
and
Erin Boyajian

Two Fins Up!



Have you seen Larry Cohen's Newfoundland article?

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/find/newsLetter/Newfoundland.jsp>

Saving a Shark. Check this out:

<http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup?cl=8877466>

Did You Know?

The most primitive fish-like animals are those with sucking mouths, such as lampreys and hagfishes, whose evolution stopped short of the development of biting jaws. Mainly bottom-dwellers, these animals are of great interest to zoologists,

for many parts of their bodies show forms and functions that help to explain some of the evolutionary steps leading from low to advanced life forms.

from <http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0854907.html>

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Village Divers
125 East 4th St, NY 10003
212.780.0879

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