



DIVER DOWN NEWS

May 2022
Volume 33, Issue 5

Message from the President—May 2022

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The 2022 diving season is off to a chilly start. despite the cold water and wind, we have had a nice turnout for our April dives. The water temperature is in the mid forties but that hasn’t kept away our dry suit divers and several wet suit divers. Check the Leaderboard to see who has been braving the cold.

It has to get warmer in May so I hope to see lots more Club members at our dives. We have added a dive to the Beach Schedule for May 7th at Cedar Beach, Mt Sinai at 10AM. Check the current Beach Schedule for our dives planned thru July. Start planning for our Death By Diving weekend that is the last weekend in July. Camping at Indian Island Camp Ground is reserved thanks to Bruce so the weekend doesn’t have to be a driving event instead of a diving event.

The Wreck Diving Schedule is in the newsletter. Claim your spot soon, they are filling up. The Dive Club gives you a chance to go on the boat with other people you know who can guide those new to North East Wreck diving. Give it a try, you might get hooked.

I will see you at the beach and on the boat and hopefully underwater too.

Mary Davis
President



Special Points of Interest

- Bridge Parking 4
- D-by-D Schedule 5





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THE MONTHLY MEETING



The Dive Club currently holds monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at Lule's Lobster Inne (formerly the Jon Thomas Inne).

91 Howells Road
Brightwaters, N.Y 11718
(631) 647-3991

Support our hosting establishment and wait staff. Arrive for dinner as early as 6pm. Meetings commence at 8pm.

The Presenter for May 2022 is

Randi Hochenberger:

“Adventures in Cozumel, Mexico
and Nassau, Bahamas”



MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

- If you have not renewed your membership, please do so asap including filling out the updated club waiver.
- Individual memberships for 2022 are \$25.
- Family membership for 2022 be \$35.
- T-shirts are available for purchase for a charge of \$10.
- Membership payments should be given to Gus Bricker, who can be reached at treasurer@thediveclub.com.
- Membership applications and renewals should be given to Kyle Patac (correspondingsecretary@thediveclub.com). Applications available at end of this newsletter.






















MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2022

Recorded by Jennifer Grosso

May 2022

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-  Dive Meeting Start Time: 20:04
-  Minutes approved from March
-  Welcome new members: Vicky, Bob and Mia, Jim
-  Beach committee Ken and Tim: beach dive schedule is in the newsletter
-  April 10 kickoff dive coming up at Cedar Beach- meet at 9 am, we will be barbecuing after.
 -  New barbecue!
-  John and Nicky planning Lake Minnewaska and Rhode Island.
-  Upcoming dives will be posted on Facebook before they occur.
-  Change to the beach schedule - May 22 Woodhull Landing dive is being switched to the Orchard Beach clean up in City Island.
-  Camping weekends planned for Memorial Day and Death by Diving. 6 dives can be counted towards the leaderboard that must originate from the campsite (2 per day).
-  Bruce talking about camping: Memorial Day Weekend at Cedar Point in East Hampton. Check in is at 2 pm.
-  Rick, our winner of the beach diving and OBI leaderboards, got his \$100 tonight. Congratulations!
-  Danny Rivera planning wreck dives, contact him to book. Schedule is listed in the newsletter. Divers must be certified up to the max depth of the wreck.
-  Jim Vafaes and Martin nominated for vice president of LIDA. If you are a LIDA member please vote in the upcoming election.
-  Joe planning camping trip for Jamestown, Rhode Island. Camping at Fort Getty is \$35. June 18-19. Rain date August 27-28. Joe's number for more info: 631-219-5468.
-  North Carolina: Bob and Larry booked a trip with Olympus week of June 27. See Mary if interested in going.
-  Speakers from June on are not planned yet. Any suggestions for speakers or topic ideas let us know.
-  9:00 Sally introduced for presentation
-  9:45 ended presentation and meeting



2022 LEADERBOARDS

BEACH DIVING:

Mary Davis 4	Tim McMahon 2	Denis Mellett 1
Roy Bacchi 3	Jenny Ross 2	Chelsea Miller 1
Rick Baresich 3	Chuck Ertle 1	Danny Rivera 1
John Berntsen 3	Matt Gruber 1	Kevin Ryan 1
Mike Feldbaum 3	Jeremy Gruber 1	Ryan Smith 1
Joe Feldbaum 2	Victoria Ingoglia 1	Thomas Spier 1
Courtney Lyons 2	Doug King 1	



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In order to support ongoing water infrastructure capital improvements by the Hampton Bays Water District and the Town of Southampton, the Old Ponquogue Bridge Marine Park shall be closed to vehicle traffic from May 9th to June 11th.

Fishing pier access will be available each night to foot traffic only. Permit holders can park in the Ponquogue Beach parking lot and walk to the fishing pier. Thank you for your patience and understanding while undergoing this important project.



BEACH DIVING

MAY-JULY SCHEDULE

(All dives are subject to change due to weather)

- ✦ Saturday, May 7th at Cedar Beach, Mt Sinai at 10:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, May 14: Fort Pond Bay, Montauk Meeting 10:00AM
- ✦ Sunday, May 22: Woodhull Landing, Miller Pl. Meeting 11:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, May 28—Monday May 30 (can arrive/depart 5/27-31):
Memorial Day Camping Weekend
Cedar Point Camp Ground, Site B, East Hampton*
*You can travel to dive sites as long as you originate from the camp ground.
 2 dives per day will count towards the Leaderboard for a total of 6 dives.*
- ✦ Saturday, June 4: Shoreham Meeting at 11:00AM (Long walk to water)
- ✦ Saturday, June 11: Secret Beach Meeting at 10:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, June 18: Cedar Beach Meeting at 9:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, June 25: Round Valley Day Trip Meeting there at 8:00AM
- ✦ Sunday, July 3: Secret Beach Meeting at 9:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, July 9: Lake Minnewaska Day Trip Meeting there at 9:00AM
- ✦ Saturday, July 16: Old Ponquogue Bridge Meeting at 9:30AM, HT at 11:14AM
- ✦ Saturday, July 23: Noyack Bay Meeting at 10:00AM

DEATH BY DIVING WEEKEND—JULY 29-31, 2022:

- ✦ Camping at Indian Island Site 4*
- ✦ July 29: Meet at camp ground to sign in and set up camp. Opens at 3PM
- ✦ July 29: Old Ponquogue Bridge Meeting at 8:30PM, HT 9:42PM
- ✦ July 30: Old Ponquogue Bridge Meeting at 8:30AM, HT 10:15AM
- ✦ July 30: Noyack Bay Meeting at 1:00PM
- ✦ July 30: Fort Pond Bay Meeting at 4:00PM
- ✦ July 30: Old Ponquogue Bridge Meeting at 8:30PM, HT 10:18PM
- ✦ July 31: USS Ohio, Greenport, NY Meeting at 9:00AM
- ✦ July 31: Secret Beach Meeting at 11:00AM — 2 DIVES and BBQ







*Bring your scuba gear - some of the dives will be counted to the leader board but must generate from the campsite. Please sign up early to reserve your spot.



WRECK DIVING INFORMATION

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The following equipment is **required** for all wreck dives with The Dive Club:

-  Secondary Air Source: doubles or pony bottle
-  Wreck reel
-  Lift bag OR Surface Marker Buoy
-  Cutting tool
-  Whistle or other sound device
-  Strobe

Divers should be comfortable with the use of this gear.

To book a spot on the Sidekick Dive Boat, each diver must have certification for the planned depth of the wreck. **Deep Diving certification is required for wrecks over 100ft.**

To book a spot on the Sea Hawk, Halftime or Sea Turtle, AOW certification is required.



Wreck dives can be booked by contacting Danny Rivera at sidekickdiveboat@gmail.com.

SCHEDULE




MAY:

-  May 21st - Sidekick Dive boat - Inshore reef
-  May 28th - Seahawk - Site TBA, preferably offshore


JUNE:

-  June 5th - Halftime - Offshore \$170 per diver
-  June 18th - Sidekick - Offshore

JULY:

-  July 2nd - Sidekick - Offshore
-  July 9-10 - Sea Turtle overnight trip
-  July 16th - Seahawk - Site TBA, preferably offshore

AUGUST:

-  Aug 7th - Halftime - Offshore

More charters TBA. Check with Wreck Chair for Available Spots.

12th ANNUAL

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Orchard Beach Clean-up & Clambake

May 22, 2022
9:00 am
at the boardwalk
near section 1

For more information, call
718-885-1588 or email
mike@captainmikesdiving.com

Join us or donate
to help restore
oyster reefs around
City Island!



Divers are invited to help us clean up Long Island Sound and assist with an underwater survey for the City Island Oyster Reef (CIOR). Bring proof of certification. We need beachcombers too, so bring the whole family! All participants are invited to a clambake immediately afterward, and prizes will be awarded for most trash collected. All donations benefit City Island Oyster Reef, a 501(c)(3) organization. Learn more about CIOR at cioysterreef.org or email cityislandoysterreef@gmail.com.



Thanks to Aquatic Voyagers, Beneath The Sea, Captain Mike's Diving Services, Divers Alert Network, Gotham Divers, Island Diving, LIDA, Northeast Dive News, Oceanblue Divers, Pristine Azul, Scuba Network L.I., Scuba New York, Sea Gypsies, Ski & Scuba Connection, The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester County, and many other fine organizations for your support!



WARMER OCEANS THREATEN ANOTHER CALIFORNIA FOREST, THIS ONE UNDERWATER

May 2022
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BY DAVID HELVARG AS AN OP-ED FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES—APRIL 30, 2022

RICHMOND, Calif. — The bull kelp forests off Northern California are sometimes spoken of as the redwoods of the sea. And like the redwoods, these forests are in danger. In less than a decade, these otherworldly undersea landscapes, lush with life, have all but disappeared along 200 miles of coast north of San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge.

The warming climate has set in motion this disaster and it is unclear whether it can be reversed as greenhouse gas emissions continue to flood the atmosphere. Energy-related carbon dioxide emissions rose by 6 percent globally in 2021, the biggest increase ever, as the world began bouncing back from pandemic. These kelp forests are yet another ocean casualty of fossil-fueled climate disruption, along with habitats ruined by coral bleaching, rising sea levels, warming ocean waters and the pronounced loss of Arctic sea ice.

I have often visited the kelp forests as a recreational diver. Translucent green-brown stalks rise from the ocean floor to the surface, their fronds swaying in the current. Beams of sunlight shoot through the kelp canopy, turning it into cathedral windows illuminating strawberry anemones, abalone, wolf eels and rockfish. Harbor seals swim close for a look before twisting away into the forest. An indifferent leopard shark may glide by. You might become suddenly distracted as a cormorant dives down from the sky in search of a meal.

From its floating canopies to its “holdfast” roots, kelp supports coastal biodiversity and sequesters more carbon than redwood groves, while also protecting the coastline from the full force of storms. California’s thousands of acres of giant and bull kelp forest shelter fin fish, shellfish, seals and sharks, more than 1,000 animal and plant species in all, making it one of the most productive ecosystems on earth.

But their future does not look good. Using satellite imagery, scientists estimate that 95 percent of these bull kelp forests have vanished in less than a decade. The collapse

of these kelp forests — despite a few local rebounds in 2020 and 2021 — has hurt the small coastal communities that rely on fishing and tourism dollars and Indigenous traditions of kelp and seaweed harvesting.



Bull kelp off Mendocino Headlands State Park in California. Brent Durand/Moment, via Getty Images

In 2014, an ocean heat wave that scientists called “the blob” caused water temperatures to spike along the West Coast, weakening and killing the kelp, which thrives in cold, nutrient-rich currents. Then a disease supercharged by the warmer waters, according to a study published in 2019, devastated sea stars and allowed their prey, purple urchins, to proliferate. These voracious eaters took out almost all the surviving kelp.



The disease, known as sea star wasting syndrome, melts the bodies of what we used to call starfish, including the many-armed sunflower sea star. This sea star had become the principal urchin predator, replacing sea otters, whose numbers plummeted over the last two centuries, victims of the fur trade and the depletion of their habitat. Unfortunately, today's other top urchin predator, commercial fishermen, target only larger, meatier species of urchin.

Since 2013 the small purple urchins have run amok, replacing the complex near-shore kelp forest habitat with "urchin barrens" – a seabed carpeted with pastel-colored pincushion-like urchins.

To combat the devastation, divers – initially volunteers and now some paid by the state of California – have used suction tubes or hammers to destroy the urchins by the tens of thousands and have also begun planting new kelp. Newer strategies include collecting and fattening up urchins in tanks for the restaurant and sushi market.

But there's no indication any of this is seriously helping. Hungry urchins – which can survive for decades in a "zombie" state of near starvation – can revive enough to take out the restored kelp.


Still, collaborative efforts continue among fishermen, scientists, academics and conservationists with help from California's Department of Fish and Wildlife and other state agencies. At the federal level, Jared Huffman, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, is deeply concerned about the loss of the kelp in his district, which includes five Northern California coastal counties.

"We have to regard this as a wake-up call that conditions like this can hit us suddenly and take away entire ecosystems," he said. Last year, he introduced the Keeping Ecosystems Living and Productive Act to provide federal research and recovery grants through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In February, the Natural Resources Committee voted to pass the bill on to the full House for a final vote.

All of these efforts are heartening. The bottom line, however, may be more of a downward spiral. Brian Tissot, the recently retired longtime director of Humboldt State Polytechnic University's marine lab in far Northern California, has warned that nothing may change until the ocean returns to a cooler, nutrient-rich condition, which still periodically occurs. In the long term, though, ocean heat waves will become more frequent as the planet continues to warm. At the same time the kelp has been disappearing, Humboldt County, normally a temperate rainforest, has been experiencing its own devastating wildfires.

"All these things are related to climate change," Dr. Tissot told me, "and they're coming together in ways we never thought about, making it very difficult to know what to do other than address climate change."

Bull kelp is among the fastest-growing plants in the world, expanding up to 10 inches a day and stretching 100 feet and more from the ocean bottom to the surface of the sea. But even it can't outpace our failure to slow the warming of our planet.

David Helvarg is the executive director of Blue Frontier, an ocean conservation group and the co-host of "Rising Tide: the Ocean Podcast." 

MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES



Richard Baresich
Mary Davis
Ryan Gallagher
Joseph Lemaire
Janine Schwedes
Michael Toomey
Steve Trapp

Emilly Waters
Daniel Zummo
Jeffrey Cardillo
Doreen Doherty
Aaron Laskowski
Michael Mooney

Sandra Sarro
Anthony Spinelli
Joseph Spinelli
John Stolz
Steve Trapp
Dawn Valenti
Alexander Valdes



DIVER PROFILE

MARY DAVIS



Nickname: Gizmo, given to me by my daughter because of all my accessories.

Years of Diving: 36 years. I was certified in 1986 but had a 20-year break from 1990 to 2010.

Certification Level: Advanced Open Water Instructor

Additional Skills and Certifications: I have taken most of the advanced courses. The most useful have been dry suit and solo diver.

Number of dives: 841

What is your favorite type of diving? My favorite type of diving is wreck diving. There is something about seeing man-made objects underwater that interests me. I love to find artifacts. In my eyes, anything that is brought to the surface magically transforms from garbage to an artifact.

Have you traveled to far-off destinations? I have travelled to the Caribbean several times, but that is the furthest I have gone. My trip to Truk Lagoon has been postponed 4 times since the Pandemic began, but I will get there one day.

What is your favorite dive destination? My favorite place to dive is Cozumel, Mexico. I have stayed at the Scuba Club which I enjoyed. There is every type of sea life you can imagine. The diving is 24 hours a day. Of course, the buddies I traveled with made the trips great.

What is your best dive experience? My best dive experience was not my best dive but it is one I treasure. It was at Oak Beach on Mother's Day 2011. My son asked what I wanted as a present and I asked for a dive. The 2 of us went to Oak Beach and dove for the first time without others there to help. It wasn't the best dive but it is a gift I will always remember.

What was your worst dive experience? My worst experience was a lost buddy at Dutch Springs. My buddy started following another diver thinking it was me and didn't realize they were lost. I surfaced and alerted the staff. There was a rescue class nearby that came to help. I thought my buddy was dead for 20 minutes until they surfaced calling my name.

What was your scariest dive experience? My scariest experience was feeling trapped between the rocks inside Devil's Den. I tried to fit thru an opening that was too small. Just for a second, I felt stuck and my thought was so this is how a diver about to panic feels. I followed the rule of STOP, BREATH, THINK, ACT and I was able to back out. I ended my dive vowing to be more cautious.

Have you had any funny experiences while diving? My funny experience takes place at Dutch Springs again where it began raining divers. I was swimming with a group past the student platforms when I saw a diver descending on their back and I knew things were going to get interesting. We hovered nearby and watched as it started raining divers with arms and legs flailing. They were all falling tank first and landed hard on the platform. There were 5 or 6 divers and they laid there until the instructor came over to turn them over. We had to move on and couldn't watch the rest of the show.

Have you had any close encounters with aquatic life while diving? My close encounter was in North Carolina while wreck diving. A sand tiger shark started swimming straight at me. I had my camera up and was filming a video. It kept coming closer and I was thinking, which one of us is going to move away first. I was thinking that I can stuff my camera in the shark's mouth if it gets any closer but then it veered off at the last minute. It made a great video.

What (besides your love of diving) can you share with the divers that will be reading your profile? The best non-diving advice I can share is to floss your teeth every night. You will live longer and save yourself a lot of dental visits. My best diving advice is to learn something from every dive, even if it is something not to do again.



DIVER PROFILES

Be featured in a future newsletter and help our dive community to become more familiar. Send the following information about yourself to editor@thediveclub.com

Name:

The nickname divers know you by:

Years diving:

Certification level:

Additional skills and certifications you have earned along the way:

How many dives do you have under your belt?

What is your favorite type of diving?

Have you traveled to far-off destinations?

Where was your favorite dive destination?

What was your best dive experience?

What was your worst dive experience?

What was your scariest dive experience?

Have you had any funny experiences while diving?

Have you had any close encounters with aquatic life while diving?

What (besides your love of diving) can you share with the divers that will be reading your profile?



GOT NEWS OR STORIES?

Just because it is the height of winter, doesn't mean our diving is dormant. This is an excellent time to brush up on skills, service equipment, take classes, and make diving plans.

To keep the momentum going, let's share highlights of our adventures in diving. Consider writing an article for the newsletter (pictures also welcome!). If not a personal story or experience, diver-related news or educational articles are also welcome. All submissions are appreciated and will be credited accordingly. Send to editor@thediveclub.com.



May 2022

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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May 2022

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Website Management:
Jim Vafeas

webmaster@thediveclub.com



Social Media Chairperson:
Jerry Kinkade

1 (516) 238-7910

razor558@gmail.com

APPLICATION

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone (home/cell): _____
 Email: _____

Level of Certification: _____ Certifying Agency: _____ Date of Certification: _____
 Student Yes/No Years Diving: _____ Approx. Number of Dives made: _____ Deepest Dive to date: _____
 Have you ever made a decompression dive Yes/No

What are your diving interests? (Circle all that apply):
 Wreck Diving Beach Diving U/W Photography Deep Diving Spear Fishing Night Diving
 Artifact Collecting Environmental Issues

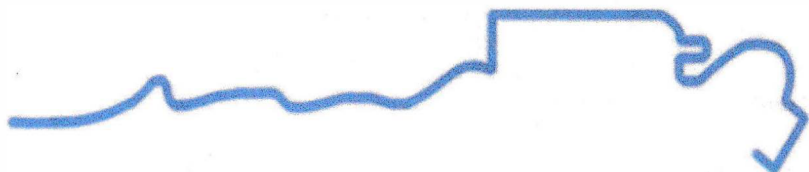
Are you First Aid/CPR certified? Yes/No
 Are you interested in furthering your present level of certification? Yes/No
 What are you looking for in a dive club? _____
 Would you be interested in participating in club committees? Yes/No
 When are you available for club dives/activities? (days, nights, weekends) _____
 Are you a member of Divers Alert Network (D.A.N.)? Yes/No
 Are you a member of any other dive clubs? Yes/No If so, which ones?

Membership Level: New/Renewal, please circle
 Single Membership: \$25.00. Full club membership
 Family Membership: \$35.00. Full Club membership for the person signing up, plus spouse and all children under the age of 15 years old.

Disclaimer:

I understand that if accepted for membership in The Dive Club, I will be bound by the by-laws of The Dive Club and will be required to sign a waiver of liability and pay the applicable admission fee.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____
 Signature of Club officer: _____ Date: _____
 Title: _____



LIABILITY RELEASE AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK

THIS IS A RELEASE OF YOUR RIGHTS TO SUE

This release may be used against you in a court of law if you sue any released person or party.

Please read carefully, fill in all blanks and initial each paragraph before signing. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

I, _____, hereby affirm that I have been advised and thoroughly informed through my open water training of the inherent risks of skin and scuba diving.

- Further, I understand that diving with compressed air involves certain inherent risks; decompression sickness, embolism, or other hyperbaric injuries can occur that require treatment in a recompression chamber. I further understand that any trips of any kind (diving or non-diving), whether sponsored or not, by The Dive Club may be conducted at a site that is remote, either by time or distance or both, from such a recompression chamber. I still choose to proceed with such diving activities in spite of the absence of a recompression chamber in proximity to the dive site(s).
 - I understand and agree that neither The Dive Club or any of their respective board members, officers, agents or assigns (hereinafter referred to as "Released Parties"), may be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death, or other damages to me or my family, heirs, or assigns that may occur as a result of my participation in any Dive Club activity, or as a result of negligence of any party, including the Released Parties, whether passive or active.
 - In Consideration of being allowed to become a member of The Dive Club I hereby personally assume all risks in connection with diving or non-diving activity from any harm, injury or damage that may befall on me, including all risks connected therewith, whether foreseen or unforeseen.
 - I further save and hold harmless said Dive Club and Released Parties from any claim or lawsuit by me, my family, estate, heirs, or assigns, arising out of my enrollment and participation in Club events including both claims arising during said event or after said event.
 - I Further understand that skin diving and scuba diving are physically strenuous activities and that I will be exerting myself during any diving activity, and that if I am injured as a result of a heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, etc., that I expressly assume the risk of said injuries and that I will not hold the above listed individuals or companies responsible for the same.
 - I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release, or that I have acquired the written consent of my parent or guardian.
 - I understand that the terms herein are contractual and are not a mere recital, and that I have signed this document of my own free act.
- ___ I acknowledge scuba diving is an activity that is done with a buddy. I will not make a solo dive during a Dive Club event unless I am certified to do so by an accredited training agency and I am equipped to make this dive safely.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF _____ BY THIS INSTRUMENT TO EXEMPT AND RELEASE THE DIVE CLUB, AND ALL RELATED ENTITIES AS DEFINED ABOVE, FROM ALL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH HOWEVER CAUSED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY HEIRS.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

