

DIVER DOWN NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DIVE CLUB

President's Letter — November 2025

Hello all and happy November!

As we hang up our wetsuits from another fantastic diving season, it's a great time to look back on the adventures we've had this summer. Whether you were exploring local wrecks, joining our beach dives, or simply swapping stories at the meetings.

Congratulations to everyone who made it onto this year's leaderboard- your dedication and dive counts were impressive! A big round of applause to our top finishers for another great season of friendly competition.

Our recent Death by Diving dinner was a wonderful evening. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate. It's always great to share good food and laughs.

Looking ahead, our Holiday Party is right around the corner! Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 6, at Gus' house. This is always one of our most fun and festive gatherings of the year, so don't miss it. Keep an eye out for more details soon.

At our November 4 meeting, we're excited to welcome this month's speaker, Bill Bleyer. Bill is a local historian and author who will be sharing fascinating stories from Long Island's maritime past. You won't want to miss it!

As always, thank you all for being such an enthusiastic and supportive dive community. Even as the temperatures drop, the spirit of adventure never fades. See you soon and safe diving,

~Courtney Lyons, President



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MONTHLY MEETING

The Dive Club holds monthly meetings monthly on the first Tuesdays.
Location: The Tap Room in Bayshore

EST ★ 2011

TAP ROOM

44 E Main St. #46
Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 665-2000

Support our host and wait staff. Additional "Event Gratuity" on each bill.

And don't forget cash for our 50/50 raffle!

Arrive for dinner as early as 6:30pm. Meetings commence at 8pm.



November 4, 2025

The Dive Club presents

Bill Bleyer

"Famous Long Island Shipwrecks"

Join us at our upcoming meeting in welcoming Bill Bleyer. Bill Bleyer was a prizewinning staff writer for Newsday for 33 years specializing in history and maritime issues before retiring in 2014 to write books and freelance for the newspaper and magazines.



He has written six books published by the History Press: Sagamore Hill: Theodore Roosevelt's Summer White House (2016); Fire Island Lighthouse: Long Island's Welcoming Beacon (2017), Long Island and the Sea: A Maritime History, (2019); George Washington's Long Island Spy Ring: A History and Tour Guide (2021), The Sinking of the Steamboat Lexington on Long Island Sound (2023); and, with co-author Harrison Hunt, Long Island and the Civil War (2015). Forthcoming in the summer of 2025 is "The Roosevelts in New York City."

The Hofstra University graduate has taught economics and journalism there and history at Webb Institute, the naval architecture college in Glen Cove.

At Bill's upcoming presentation, learn about prominent Long Island shipwrecks. The PowerPoint lecture will include maritime disasters from the Prins Maurits carrying colonists to what would become Delaware, HMS Culloden wrecked at Montauk during the American Revolution, the Mexico and Bristol carrying immigrants during the early 1800s, the fire that destroyed the steamship Lexington in 1840 - Long Island Sound's worst calamity - to the sinking of the USS San Diego in World War I and the loss of the tugboat Gwendoline Steers in a 1962 winter storm.





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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Club Membership year is January 1 to December 31, and each year club members must fill out an application form and waiver specific to that year along with submitting annual dues. Forms must be filled out and submitted for your safety as well as the Dive Club's and are necessary to participate in our club dives and activities. These forms and timely payment of your dues keep you in good and active standing with the club.

2026 Applications are in!
2025 is obsolete!

Enjoy a \$5 discount on dues for forms submitted with payment by or before January 6, 2026.

TDC APPLICATION INFO & INSTRUCTIONS

Fill out the application, which is available for download on the The Dive Club's webpage (thediveclub.com/membership). Please fill out the application on your computer, print to sign, and then scan and email to Bill Cadden (below).

ALL SIGNATURES MUST BE HAND SIGNED, NO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ACCEPTED.

The application consists of the Data Sheet, Wavier, and Membership Directory (4 pages total)

The Data Sheet keeps your information current and updated, including emergency contacts (who should be someone other than your typical dive buddy). The waivers is needed for safety and protection year over year. Finally, the Directory sheet is to add you to our membership directory and keep that fresh as well.

For Family Memberships, EACH PERSON IN THE FAMILY UNIT needs to fill out a Form and Sign it. Print out the form so you can sign **ALL Pages**, and **Initial the Waiver** where indicated. **PARENTS**, you must sign the Waiver for your Children under the age of 18. **No Digital Signatures please.**

When you sign the Waiver, PLEASE DATE IT January 1 of the waiver year.

Scan the pages and save as a *.pdf, using your Last Name for the File Name (ex: Cadden.pdf), and email it to Corresponding Secretary, Bill Cadden at Membership.TheDiveclub@GMail.com

Individual memberships for 2026 are \$25. Family memberships are \$35.

You can **Pay your Dues** by one of 3 ways:

1. Pay Cash at the meeting or if you run into an Officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Corresponding Secretary).
2. Pay by Check, either at a Meeting, to an Officer, or via mail to the P.O. Box.
 - * If you use a Business Check, make sure you include a note telling us who it is for.
 - * If your Family Unit has multiple Last Names, please let us know who is included.
3. Venmo to the Treasurer, Gus Bricker.
 - * If you need Venmo directions, please contact the Treasurer at info@thediveclub.com.
 - * If your Family Unit has multiple Last Names, please let us know who is included.





MEMBERSHIP

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING?

What is Membership? What does it mean to be a Member?

Two very interesting questions, with similar, and yet different answers.

Membership is a term that refers to two things. The first is that Membership refers to the collective group of people that belong to an organization. Take for instance, The Dive Club. The Membership of The Dive Club is made up of all of the individuals that have joined the club, and comply with the rules and obligations of the organization. More on this in a little bit. Membership also refers to what is bestowed upon an individual when they join an organization and comply with all of the rules of the organization at the time of their joining.

Member is a term that refers to the individual person in an organization, such as The Dive Club. Each individual Member makes up the Membership. And as such, each Member is responsible for complying with the rule and obligations of the organization.

Now, for the Dive Club, the rules and Obligations are spelled out in the By-

Laws. However, to simplify, they are;

1. Pay your dues, when they are due.
2. Maintain a current, properly executed Waiver on file.
3. Maintain your Personal and Emergency Contact information up to date.
4. Participate in the Meetings of the Club.
5. Support and participate in the activities of the Club.

The Dive Club is on a yearly Dues Calendar, with the Dues being due on January 1st of each year. We even offer a discount for those who pay before the Due date, as well as honoring a 30 day Grace period after the due date. Being as the Membership of the Club is comprised of responsible Adults, and we all have other similar obligations, be they yearly or several times over the course of the year. To be asked for, or asking if they are due, in April, June, July is being irresponsible, as well as not fulfilling your obligation under the Rules.





MEMBERSHIP (CON'T)

The same holds true for your Data Sheet. This information needs to be confirmed, or at least updated, on a yearly basis. This is done in conjunction with filing a properly executed Waiver. Again, for me to be hounding and Badgering our Members to submit these documents in June, August and even as late as October is a poor reflection on the Member. Especially when these same Members are participating in Club Activities, Trips and, Events and their Waivers not being on file, to the detriment of the Club and all of the other Members who have submitted them in a timely fashion.

One aspect of being in a Social Club of people who have like passions, hobbies is that there are usually Meetings and Activities. These take time and effort to plan and execute. Being it arranging for the Entertainment at regular meetings or organizing an event. An obligation of belonging to such a group is to be involved, either in planning, execution or as little as participating. As for participating in the Clubs Meetings and Activities and supporting the Club, this, along with having your Dues and Waivers

in on time is all part of being a Member in Good Standing. We belong to The Club through our shared interest in Scuba Diving. This is the one thing that binds us all together. By coming to the Meetings, you not only learn what is happening with the Clubs business, but you have a chance to interact with other of like mind and, get exposed to ideas and discussions that others bring to the Meeting. If only the same 12 or 15 Members are showing up for the Meetings, the rest of the Membership is doing a disservice not only to themselves, but the Club collective. The more people that come to the Meetings, the more ideas, experiences and, information that can be shared.

There are reasons that we hold the Meetings on the First Tuesday of the Month. First, it is easy to remember when the meeting is. Yes, sometimes it sneaks up on us if the first Tuesday is the 1st or 2nd. Second, it makes it easy for you to schedule it, you don't have to wait for an announcement to know when it is. This also allows you to schedule other things around it. The same goes for the Weekly Dive at Oak

→



MEMBERSHIP (CON'T)

Beach. It is always on Wednesday, for the simple reason that it also serves as a Mid-Week break to help you get to the weekend during the Spring, Summer and Fall. Yes, all three seasons. We start in the Spring the week before Memorial Day and go into the Fall until we run out of Daylight, usually the end of Sept, first week in Oct. This also serves as an informal weekly meeting, as it is not just Diving, but Socializing as well.

The Club is only as effective and vibrant as the Members make it. Everyone should want to be involved to some degree. To lend their expertise, their passion to the Meetings or Activities. It can be as simple as hosting an Activity. Get involved. The more hands, the easier and more productive we are as a whole, and the more Rewarding the experience of being a Member is.

An example of getting involved would be to volunteer to be the Chair for Shore Diving, or Wreck Diving. That does not mean that you should be doing all the work, and going on all the Dives. Your strength may be in the organizing and overseeing it. You put a Committee together to assist. The entire Committee gets together to plan the

Shore Dives and the Wreck Dives. Sure, they take suggestions or input from the rest of the Membership, but they sit down and lay it out. Get a couple of people who have a deeper interest than most to either be the Sponsor for a Wreck Dive, or be the Person in charge, representing the Club on a Beach Dive. These are the people who see to the details of the Dive. An example would be if there is someone, or a couple of people who have a favorite spot for a Shore Dive, or a favorite Wreck. They Dive it regularly and know most of the tricks, the ins and outs of the spot. These are the ones you want to involve in Sponsoring a Club Dive there. They can give the briefing as they know the spot, and can keep an eye on things as they know where the problems are likely to be, since they have likely already experienced them.

In closing, be a Member, get involved, contribute to the success and vibrancy of the Club. But, most of all, be a Member in Good Standing by not only contributing to the Club as a Member, but by fulfilling your Obligations to the Club in a timely fashion. 🐟



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MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2025

RECORDED BY NORMA LEON

- September minutes approved
- Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest, last weekend at Cedar beach! Lots of fun creations came out, Certificates for the three winners, none are present. 1st place: Mary Davis, 2nd place: Dan Fleischman, 3rd Place: Pat Fontana. Congratulations to them.
- Death by Diving Dinner on Wednesday, October 22nd @ 6:30 PM at Sake Asian in West Babylon. Even if you did not come to Death by Diving or didn't win, please come join us! This year is sushi vs lobster from previous years. Let Courtney know if you're coming.
- Leaderboards will be finalized next month and prizes will be given at the next meeting. Leaderboards come out in the next newsletter as there still might be some changes made.
- No more dives planned as of right now, but since the weather has been so nice, thinking about adding another weekend or two. If anyone has any ideas as to any dives they would like to add, we can think of this coming weekend or the next, let Courtney know. She will probably just throw them out there, or she will email and put them on Facebook for all see.
- Nominations for all board positions for 2026, the vote will be at the December meeting if anyone is running opposed. So let Courtney know if interested in nominating anyone or you can email that to info@TheDiveClub, if you would like to keep it secret.
- Jack Frost is continuing his Rescue Dive Grant Will his glass creations. The Grant has a couple of changes: PADI now has an e course for the Rescue Diver course and some other changes so the grant will now be increased from \$300 to \$400. The creations will be back in November.
- Membership renewals are active and up for 2026. The form is up and ready to go. Bill anything you'd like to add to that? Accepting dues tonight. Please don't wait until the end of the year to get the waivers in. Some have yet to give him the 2025 waivers in, that is doing a disservice to the club. \$5 discount if you get your renewal in early. Please get them in early. Application in your email.
- LIDA Film Festival, honoring Janice Raber who has been in the dive community for over 30 years, attributed to opening numerous sites for diving on Long Island. writing articles about diving in Boating World monthly, Janet opened up all the Suffolk County Parks to diving. Also she did the exploratory





MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2025

RECORDED BY NORMA LEON

diving to get the park permits. She chaired a yearly beach clean up at Secret Beach. Was heavily involved in the Historical Diving Society. Previously a diving instructor. She has currently stopped diving due to some health restrictions at 82. Will be honored with a nice award at Hofstra at the Film Fest. The sales for the film fest are down a lot. Pass it along, Saturday, October 25th.

- Carlos Taveras, new LIDA Tresurer. \$ for Janice contributed tickets. Would like to grow the sport by inviting people to The Dive Club meetings, get together, dives, etc.
- Trip to Bonaire given by Linda Gotti: 14 participants May 2nd to May 9th, 2026. Rates are between \$1500 & \$1800. 9 boat dives, unlimited shore dives, each condo.
- comes with a car, breakfast is included with that as well as unlimited Nitrox. Anybody wants information on that, see Linda Gotti.
- Becca Boring speaker for tonight.

HOLIDAY PARTY ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual Dive Club Christmas party is coming! Join us on December 6 at Gus's house, located at 51 Maple Ave, Bay Shore, NY starting at 6 pm.

We will have dinner and soda but feel free to bring an appetizer, dessert, or drink of your choice.

Families are welcome! ... bonus points if you wear an ugly sweater!!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Mary Artale
Christopher Brady
Frank Cara
Brian Chebuske
John Cholewa
John Cholewa
Tracy Cloherty
John Frost Jr.
Jerry Kinkade

Julia Mathieson
Lisa Mellett
Shannon Mellett
Christopher Newins
Jeric Sabino
Emily Solomon
Robert Stamm
Thomas Weismantel
Helen Wissing



FINAL LEADERBOARDS

BEACH

Mary Davis	10
Dan Corcoran.....	9
Christopher Antonison.....	8
Alex Einbinder	5
Nick Lappano.....	5
Nick Sinnott	5
Ron Prybella.....	5
Rick Baresich.....	5
Jack Griffin	4
Michael Feldbaum	3
Jack Frost.....	3
Linda Gotti.....	2
Henry Serra.....	2
Tim McMahon.....	2
Tom Riedman.....	2
Ken Murphy.....	2
Norma Leon	2
Eric Cregeen.....	1
Will Iaconetti	1
Louis Buda	1
Travis Brady	1
Courtney Lyons	1
Vadim Paley.....	1
Ozan Ersoz.....	1
Jeff Cardillo	1
Barry Lipsky	1
Kevin Ryan.....	1
Chelsea Miller	1
Bob Stamm.....	1
Alyssa Armour	1
Danna Davis	1

Steve Davis	1
Zane Davis	1
Dan Fleischman.....	1
Pat Fontana.....	1
Gavin Fontana.....	1
John Pfisterer.....	1
Andrew Solomon.....	1

OBI

Norma Leon	9
Eric Cregeen	8
Nick Lappano.....	8
Kevin Ryan.....	7
Chelsea Ryan	7
Vadim Paley	4
Linda Gotti.....	3
William Iaconetti	2
Mary Davis	2
Rick Baresich.....	2
Jack Frost.....	2
Ron Prybella.....	2
Bob Stamm.....	1
Henry Serra.....	1
Dan Corcoran.....	1
Kayla Arbuckle	1
Marco Drazic	1
Rayhan Mohammed	1
Jugaad Nagi.....	1
Megan Barrow.....	1
Tim McMahon.....	1
Travis Brady	1
Jake Griffin.....	1

WRECK DIVING FINAL LEADERBOARD

Kris Kulikauskas	4
Bill Cadden	3
Andrey Krasnov.....	2
Alex Stengey	2
Jim Vafaes	2
Mary Davis.....	2
Ryan Christie.....	2

Jen Gineau	2
Bill Strauss	2
Jim Lisle	1
Bobby Reith	1
Nick Sinnott	1
Tracy Cloherty	1
Andrew Solomon	1



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TDC LEADERSHIP



President:
Courtney Lyons



Vice President:
John Berntsen



Treasurer:
Gus Bricker



Recording Secretary:
Norma Leon



Corresponding Secretary:
Bill Cadden



Wreck Diving:
[Vacant]



Beach Diving:
Courtney Lyons &
Martin



Oak Beach:
John Bernsten &
Eric Cregren



Camping Trips:
Bruce Russo



T-Shirts & Swag:
[Vacant]



Website:
Jim Vafeas



Social Media:
Jerry Kinkade



Newsletter:
Randi
Hochenberger

