

DIVER DOWN NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DIVE CLUB

President's Letter — December 2025

Hello all, and happy holiday season!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As we head into December and wrap up another memorable year of diving, it's always nice to look back on the great experiences we've shared above and below the surface.

We have a packed and exciting month ahead! First, mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Party, which will be Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 PM at the Bricker House, 51 Maple Avenue in Bay Shore. All are welcome, and it's always a fun night to get together, share food, and celebrate another fantastic year of diving.

Our next club meeting is Tuesday, December 2, and we are thrilled to welcome Dr. Stephen Tettlebach, shellfish ecologist with the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County. He'll be joining us to share insights into his marine research regarding the shellfish population around Long Island.

A quick reminder: nominations for our elected board positions are due by December 2, prior to the meeting. If you'd like to nominate yourself or another member, please email submissions to info@thediveclub.com.

Also, we will be having our annual New Year's Day dive on Thursday, January 1 at Stehli Beach in Bayville at 11:00 am to ring in the new year and get a first dive under our belts for the 2026 season.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the meeting and celebrating together at the holiday party.

~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.

December 2, 2025

The Dive Club presents

Stephen Tettlebach "New York Bay Scallops in Dire Straits"

Join us at our upcoming meeting in welcoming Dr. Stephen Tettlebach, shellfish ecologist from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County.

Steve will be giving an overview of bay scallop biology and the history of the LI fishery, detailing the collapse of bay scallop populations in the mid-1980s, the successful restoration efforts that led to a resurgence of the fishery, and yet another collapse of scallop populations that began in 2019.

Additionally, don't forget to bring your LIDA Dive Book Challenge from this past summer that Barry provided to club members for a chance to win a prize for the most local dive sites visited.

Also, Linda Brown is collecting winter clothes and jackets for her annual drive to donate to the people of Ukraine. Any donations can be brought to the upcoming meeting and given to Linda.





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.





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MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

RECORDED BY NORMA LEON

- 🐟 October minutes approved
- 🐟 Mary Davis chatted about the conditions on the Bottle dive: “Visibility was very good until you started stirring it up, once that started stirred it up, couldn’t see anything. 7 divers went in: a couple of people from the Dive Club and a bunch of Sea Gypsies. It was done in Five Islands Park in New Rochelle. very accessible although a bit of a walk from the parking to the water you need a cart, same spot where the Sea Hawk is. Jar from 1906, bottles from the early 1800s to today. milk bottles, etc. It’s a treasure hunt. Bottle dives are still going, if the weather holds, if anyone is interested contact her. Calm water conditions because of the cold. You need a flag due to boat traffic.
- 🐟 Death by Dinner a few weeks ago @ an all you can eat Sushi place across the street. 20 members attended including our 7 winners. Ate and drank, good times were had.
- 🐟 The leaderboards are now finalized, the Old Ponquogue Bridge a few weeks ago was our final counted dive of the year. I would like to congratulate our winners of each category and I have your cash prizes here. For our Beach Dives: Mary Davis. For OBI: Norma Leon, For Boat Dives: and Kris Kulakakis was the Wreck Diving Leader, unfortunately not present , but will congratulate him later.
- 🐟 Our Holiday Party is planned for Saturday, December 6th, at Gus’s house, right down the road in Bay Shore. More details in a separate email down the road. Dinner and BYOB. If anyone would like to bring anything appetizer or desert. Feel free to wear an ugly sweater, participation in that is encouraged.
- 🐟 Bill Caden with membership renewals: Renewals opened up October 1st. Been accepting dues. Dues are due by January 6th as a calendar year. Bill pleads that people pay their dues on time, not like this year. Paperwork also due including the current waiver and contact sheet. Want to make sure we have the most accurate information for your emergency information. Weather you have dive insurance or not, in case of a trip. A lot of people don’t have dive insurance, why not, he doesn’t know. A lot of them are newer divers. It’s the least expensive thing that’s going to save you a fortune. You can pay your dues tonight, by cash, check or Venmo Gus. The renewal forms were sent out October 1st, if you don’t have them for whatever reason, please see Bill Caden and he will resend you



MINUTES (CONT'D)

the forms. Like what was said in the article in the newsletter, let's be responsible members in good standing, get our dues in and our paperwork in to be active members of the club

- 🐟 Back to Mary Davis regarding some upcoming dive travel: sponsored by Tiedman's dive shop, look on their website.: Florida trip, January 8-11th: Ginny Springs, Devils Den and Blue Grotto to snorkel with the Manatees; Bonaire: July 18th-25th, 2026, a divers paradise. A great place to go diving.
- 🐟 Then Jim is running the Canada Trip again August 7th-10th, 2026 to dive the Wrecks in St Lawrence from the Canada side. Speak with Jim regarding that trip.
- 🐟 Start a challenge for 2026: Starting in January we are going to see who can travel the Farthest with their Dive Club swag. So take your T-shirt or sweat shirt any where in the world that you are going on a dive trip, take a pic/selfie and send it to us and we will put it in the newsletter and we will see how many miles away the Dive Club reaches! New T shirts come out next month.
- 🐟 Linda Gotti has 14 people going to Bonaire May 2nd-May 9th staying at Buddy Dive Resort. Roughly about \$1600, not including airfare. They got there flights direct out of Newark: \$400 round trip via United. Each room comes with a car, breakfast and unlimited Nitrox. Closing it out, unless we can get rooms after by end of December as mostly all paid out and block reserved. Want to know more, contact Linda.
- 🐟 Barry had a few things to say about LIDA: remember the dive site log books? So LIDA has a brand new set of diving fins, so when you hand them in on this date next month with at least 4 sites signed off, the one with the most sing-offs will be selected and win the fins.
- 🐟 Martin wants all to know that the Knights of Columbus Christmas Party will be 7p-11p on December the 20th. \$35 for food and booze. 96 Second Avenue in Brentwood, just off of Brentwood Rd.
- 🐟 Port Diver will be having their Christmas Party at the Shop, December 13th.
- 🐟 Four new members welcomed to the Club: one of Mary's students who is looking for job opportunities in Diving, loves the water, helping the needy and the Oceans; Eric from Kings Park who has been diving since the 1990s and has been diving all over the place; and a new father and son duo who weren't present at the time.

🐟 Speaker Bill Blier





MEMBER STORY

"THANK YOU, FRANK"

STORY 19 BY JACK FROST

Captain Frank Persico left us this year. He was a true man of the sea and an excellent captain. He and John Lackameyer captained the "Sea Hawk" dive boat out of Freeport. As Frank walked through the boat you could tell he was using all of his senses to assess everything, boat issues, diver issues, the ocean.

The pictures remind me of one aspect the captains encountered - the eclectic and diverse cast of characters on any outing.

On this trip, we had been attempting to dive the Stolt. A 27 mile sail. The conditions offshore were too rough for diving, so we turned back to calm waters on the "Mohawk".



Like sailors throughout millennia, he felt it when things were right. A momentary pause to check clouds on the horizon or a line bent on a cleat. He had a relaxed manner and was easy to talk to.

I do have a front view picture of Frank which eludes me at the moment. Of the three pictures attached (from the 90's), Frank is in the grey tee shirt (sorry Frank) and in the other, Capt. John is shirtless with his back to the camera also (sorry John).

Gathered around my gearbox as a lunch table (which I still use) are Becky, an oceanographer from England, to her right is Mikail, a Russian scientist whose gig was to do research on computers and lasers at Stonybrook U. for 10 months, then return to Russia for 2 months. Repeating this schedule year after year. Seated to the right wearing a black hat is Victor, one of my best buddies in the 80's and

90's.

Victor was always the last to return from a dive. I recall a dive on the Rum Runner "Lizzy D" when Capt. Frank came to the back of the boat, ready to release the grapple. Everyone else was onboard, gear packed. Frank looked around and bellowed "WHERE'S VICTOR?" Sometime later Victor climbed the ladder spitting out his reg and laughing as he got a scolding for again holding up the boat. He explained he had gotten stuck between



ascend together. 90 feet below and several minutes before we entered required deco, I signaled to him it was time to go up. He indicated he wanted to stay down two more minutes. Now at a 10 foot safety stop in crystal clear water, I could see him swimming around the wreck.

the "Lizzy's" engine and inside hull while digging for bottles and that it took a while to unwedge himself. You could always tell who dove inside the wrecks as they were covered with rust.

Mikhail's diving was fearless and unrestrained. He had already caused me, and others concern on several occasions. Now I was picking him up at his off-campus rental house for a trip I organized to North Carolina. As he loaded his gear into my trunk, he noticed my pony bottle and asked what it was for. I explained and he responded with a scoff "I do not need this." OK.

On the drive down he related that in Russia, there are no dive stores or sport dive training. And that the government provides you gear and a compressor with the understanding if they need you to dive - you dive. You learn from friends. He had gotten a C card in America. The next day, gearing up, I see he has no gauges! Just an SPG. He explains that in Russia you use "2/3 tank for dive, 1/3 tank to decompress".

Apparently, this works. I told him we would stick close and

This was before computers for me, but I tracked his time as he went into deco obligation. When he joined me, he showed his tank was almost empty. I had him use my pony. Back on the boat, I was pissed. He apologized saying "I messed up". I told him since his first dive was deco, he could not do the second dive. He didn't.



So, thank you Frank! You ran a good boat! You were always there for us. 🐟



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIVE CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY

at Gus' house
51 Maple Avenue, Bay Shore

Saturday, December 6
at 6:30 PM

It's that time of year again! All are invited to our annual Dive Club Holiday Party at Gus's—
51 Maple Avenue, Bay Shore.

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 welcome!

And, of course, *don't forget to wear your ugliest holiday sweater!*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

John Barrett
Allison Boucher
Louis J. Buda IV
Corrine Burton
James Cumilang
Douglas DeMatteo
Randi
Hochenberger

Jennifer Lander
Christopher Mitchell
Kyle Patac
Bruce Russo
Franzelyn Russo
Randi Schenfeld
Daniel Schwedes
Marie Sirois
Mason 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

