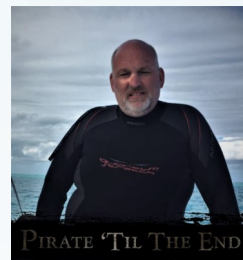




A Word From The President

Hello fellow divers and welcome to March. Pretty soon and before we know it, our diving season will be here. This month's dive club meeting as well as next month's will continue with the Zoom platform due to the current pandemic restrictions. Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and healthy. The club has secured the Indian Island Campground for our "Death By Diving" event in July so lets start planning for another great dive event. While we are waiting for the weather to warm up for diving, this would be a good time to shake off the dust on your dive gear and get it serviced and ready to dive. Don't forget to check your tanks too they are often overlooked. If anyone has any articles or points of interest they would like published in the newsletter, please submit them to the editor@thediveclub.com.



Thank you and be well,
Jerry Kinkade
President

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An Important Update To Membership Fees

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been limitations on the 2020 dive season. The Dive Club will honor those fees paid during the 2020 season and apply them towards the upcoming 2021 season.
- Going forward, an individual membership will be \$25.
- A family membership will be \$35.
- Early renewal will be offered every November and December for active club members. A \$5 discount will be applied for the upcoming season so that the fee will be \$20 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family membership.
- January of a new year will revert to full membership fees.
- T-shirts will no longer be supplied as part of a paid membership. They will, however, be available for purchase for a charge of \$10.
- **Membership renewal payments should be sent to Gus Bricker at : treasurer@thediveclub.com**



Minutes Of The Meeting

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February 4th, 2021

As recorded by Jennifer Grosso, Recording Secretary.



8:05 Meeting Commenced

8:06: Barry spoke about Beneatha the Sea Cancelled no reschedule yet
DEC has gone forward with giving us approval and permits for artificial reefs

-Talks of getting OBI back

-8:13pm guest speaker Cindy Garb from NC Instigators

-NC Diving- Megalodon diving out of Swansboro

Spotasharkusa.com spot sharks they have receivers

Does fishing charters, free diving, spear fishing.

2 Tank In-Shore \$110 nitrox \$130 same as night dive

2 Tank offshore \$150

3 Tank offshore \$170

Extended is \$180? Or \$175

5 Dive overnight trip 3 1 day 2 the next day \$500 per person

End Meeting:9:46pm





The Monthly Meeting

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The Dive Club holds it's monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month or until further notice. The meetings are normally held at "The Black Forest Brew Haus" however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic our **MARCH** meeting will take place via **ZOOM**. We will keep you posted with regards to any changes made to our meeting schedule and location.



For directions, click on the Hyperlink below:

<https://goo.gl/maps/Ct9Vdkju52exdaQw8>



Dive Schedules

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All diving excursions are contingent upon conditions prior to or at the time of the proposed dive and may be altered or cancelled accordingly. For last minute updates, contact the appropriate member for further information.

Beach Diving

Death By Diving (with a focus on the Ponquogue Bridge) - July 9th, 10th and 11th, 2021

Every Wednesday evening will have a shore dive at the OBI. The meetup time is usually 5pm and we will advise if there is a change. Please monitor The Dive Club's Facebook page for up-to-the-minute information.



For further information, you may contact Ken Murphy at the following:
1 (516) 521-1115
or beachdiving@thediveclub.com

Boat & Wreck Diving

May 30th, 2021
Shinnecock Reef - Tentative

August 15th, 2021
Offshore - The U.S.S. San Diego or the Oregon - Tentative

September 12th, 2021
Offshore - The U.S.S. San Diego or the Oregon - Tentative

Please reserve/pay in advance as the "Half-Time" is a "six-pack" and has limited space. Two other vessels we may be using will be the "Sea Turtle" and the "Sea Hawk" depending on the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



For further information, you may contact Gus Bricker at the following:
1 (631) 387-3855
or wreckdiving@thediveclub.com



Dive Schedules

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Camping Trips



This schedule will be updated as the season progresses. All camping trips will be organized by Bruce Russo unless otherwise stated.

**For further information, you may contact Bruce Russo at the following:
1 (516) 459-2986
or camping@thediveclub.com**

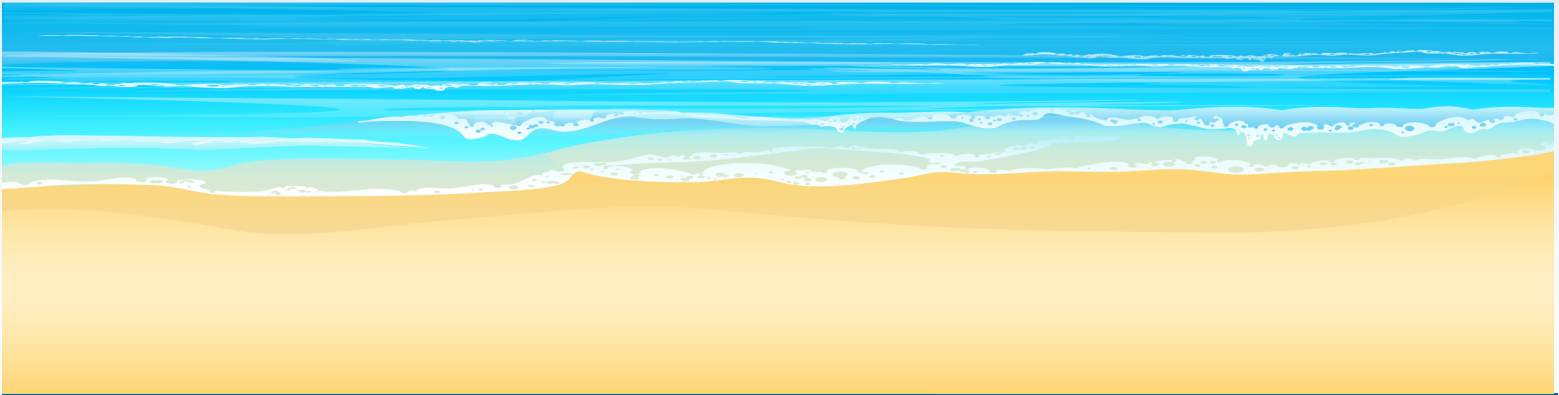
Diver's Leaderboard

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2021

Each category will be populated and updated as the 2021 dive season progresses.

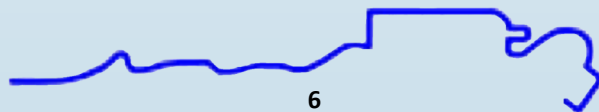
Beach Dives



Wreck Dives



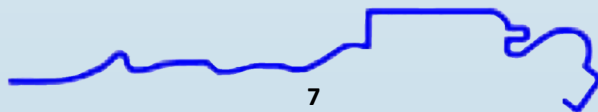
Wednesday Night OBI Dives



Upcoming Events and Speakers

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- **March 4th, 2021: App developer Peter Tsakonas will join us at our dive meeting to introduce us to a new phone app geared towards diver networking.**
- **March 12th-14th, 2021: The “Beneath The Sea” convention at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, NJ. Has been cancelled. No further information has been given. We will keep you posted with any new developments.**
- **The Dive Club is sponsoring “The Venturers”, a not-for-profit group of boy and girls similar to a scouting organization in their endeavor to discover SCUBA diving.**



The Dive Club "Southern Connection"

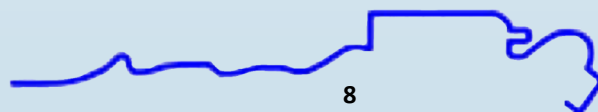
Florida Springs Trip

by Steve Burton

While talking casually with President Jerry Kinkade, we somehow got on the subject of diving Ginnie Springs in Florida. Since neither one of us had ever been there, we scheduled a trip to High Springs, Florida for the week of Feb, 15th. Jerry, with his motor home and Corrine and I, with our travel trailer met up at a campsite in High Springs on Monday the 15th. I also mentioned this trip to Dive Club alumni, Mike and Jaime Frost who now live in Georgia, which is only about 5hrs away from the springs. Mike and Jaime could not make it down during the week but drove down Saturday morning and stayed thru Sunday. The only problem with this schedule was that they missed seeing Jerry as he had to leave that Saturday morning.

We arrived at the High Springs Campground on Monday. Set up camp and headed out to Ginnie Springs Tuesday morning. After checking in, we headed down to the springs. The first thing I noticed was with the crystal clear water, it had a mirror type effect and you could not see down beneath the surface until you actually got under. Jerry and I scouted the two dive sites, then decided to dive the "Devil's Eye" pool first. The Devil's Eye site consists of three cavern openings which leads to the open caves. No lights were allowed here unless you were a Certified Cave Diver. We did our first dive here then headed over to the main attraction which is another pool called, "The Main Ballroom". Here you enter the water and immediately see the entrance to the cavern that you could not see from the surface. Lights are permitted here as the only entrances to the caves are blocked off.

The next day, Wednesday, we traveled to "The Devils Den" cave site. This site was quite unique as it had a cave dome above water where you had to walk down two sets of stairs to get to the dive platform. Once on the platform you could enter the water in a large pool, then enter the caverns on the perimeter which circled the area. There were many openings to the cave system but all were blocked off and had caution signs "Do Not Enter".

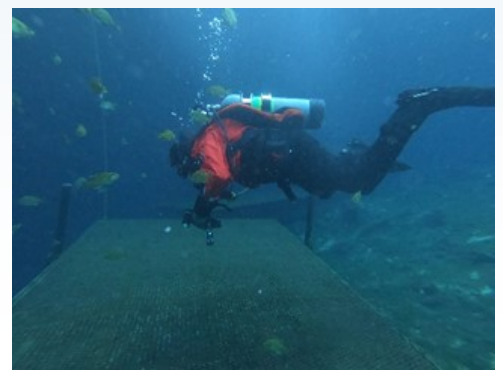


"Southern Connection"

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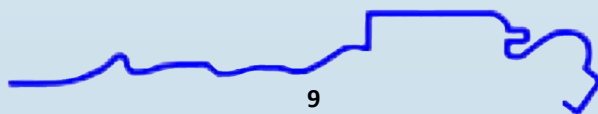
We arrived back at the campsite early afternoon and, with Corrine now joining us we took a ride to the Gilchrist Blue Springs State Park. Here they had their own spring pool with only swimming and snorkeling allowed. While speaking with the ranger, he informed us that there had been some Manatee sightings due to the highwater level this past week and that they haven't had a Manatee in this area for over three years. Hoping to get my first sighting of a manatee I went in with my snorkel but was not lucky enough to see the Manatee that was spotted only 15 minutes earlier.

Thursday we were off to The Blue Grotto Springs. This is another great facility with quite a large cavern going down to 50', then the cavern narrows and extends down to 100'. Seems their main attraction is their mascot, a turtle, not sure what type, but when he spots you he comes up to say hello.



No diving Friday as Corrine and I took a 2hr trip south to visit my brother.

Saturday Jerry was packing to head home while Corrine and I got ready to head back to Ginnie Springs where we were meeting up with Mike and Jaime Frost. While signing in, there was chatter about some Manatee sightings recently. Jaime and I were going to dive while Mike and Corrine would be bubble watchers. We did the Ginnie Springs Ball Room first. A great dive but Jaime was having some buoyancy problems as her BCD kept filling with air. Once out of the cavern we took a couple of minutes to make some adjustments. We re-entered the Spring fed pool to check her equipment. As we were swimming in only about 6' of water, we saw a large image coming out of the river. A large Manatee entered the pool exploring everything, including us. He swam to within a foot of our faces. I guess he was wondering if we were family. Corrine and Mike, who were following our bubbles never saw him. Again, the water from the surface is mirror like. For our next dive we went over to the Devils Eye Pool. Here we explored the two caverns, but decided not to go into the river for the third cave entrance. Being Saturday, the park was full of many cave divers. We could see many lines tied off heading down into the caves. As we were about to head back and exit, the Manatee again showed up. This time he seemed more playful than curious as he was turning on his back as if to get his belly scratched. No, we did not touch him although he seemed as if did want the interaction.



"Southern Connection"

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Sunday we went to Devils Den to finish our week of diving. Being the weekend, it was very crowded as well, a big difference from being there mid week. All in all, still a good dive.



Story 13

Text and photos (Nikonos II) by Jack Frost

In this case, the "Bloom" isn't a wreck, it's a biological event. In particular, a massive increase in Zebra mussels in the St. Lawrence Seaway.

I had heard about the great diving in the St. Lawrence Seaway, with intact 140 year old wooden wrecks protected by icy winter water, no marine borers, and no thermoclines as the seaway takes the top water off Lake Ontario. The word in 2000 was that the visibility had recently skyrocketed due to Zebra mussels. They had been introduced from ocean tankers discharging Baltic seawater. Fish won't eat these 3/4 inch long striped mussels because they are razor sharp. Their population had "bloomed" and now they covered everything. The benefit is that the usual 15 foot vis had increased greatly due to their filtering! Our northern cousins were calling the Seaway "The Canadian Caribbean". I booked a trip that year with Moe Hunt who ran a dive shop out of Clayton, N.Y. and a commercial diving operation with his son. He was familiar with L.I. diving and had been on my first "dive boat" in the 70's, the R.V. Black Coral (a fishing trawler complete with outriggers).

I did two more trips in the next 15 years to the Seaway including a trip for five friends where I booked with Moe and we dove five wrecks on the American and Canadian sides. Moe was the genuine deal, in his 70's at that time and diving since 1953. He had fascinating stories including about the early years when he dove with a regulator he made from a surplus WWII airplane oxygen mask. He made the diaphragm out of canvas to which he applied a sticky substance to make it waterproof. He had to disassemble the reg after every dive to "powder" the diaphragm or it would stick to the lever and stop working. Cold water diving was done wearing multiple layers of street clothes. No neoprene back then. He had lots of stories including how he had taught the oceanographer who discovered the Confederate sub "Hunley" how to dive and some that were truly hair raising of his commercial diving. One was how he didn't get a particular job to inspect a dam tunnel because he lacked formal diving training. The diver who did get that job was killed when someone at the dam neglected to turn off the timer on the tunnels turbine. Coming up from one of our dives, there was Moe, freediving under his boat checking out the prop. His meals on the boat were Army MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat, add water to a packet and they heat up) which he said he bought at garage sales near Fort Drum for a quarter a piece. He seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of stories and offered that his approach to diving was "Keep it simple".



Diving The "Bloom"

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Moe Hunt's 1955 dive boat



Moe Hunt's 1955 dive boat

Diving The "Bloom"

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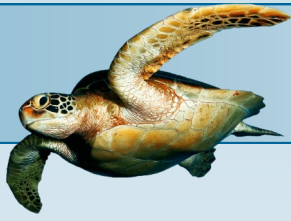


As for the diving, the wrecks were fantastic (worth checking out on Youtube). I just referenced my logbook and found we had visibilities ranging from 25 to 60 feet with an average of 43 feet. And this was during the usual worst vis time of year (summer). Water temperature was a consistent 73 degrees top to bottom. Fifteen years later on my third trip (in the same month of Aug.), the vis had declined to an average of 25 feet. The talk was that the vis declined due to a reduction in the Zebra mussel population.

We dove the "Keystorm", a popular 256 foot long wreck that sank in 1912 after hitting a rock ledge, now with its bow on the ledge at 20 feet and the prop at 120. The story is that it was being guided through a treacherous passage by a pilot that had been brought onboard. When the ship was sinking, the Captain's son intervened when the Captain went to get his gun to shoot the pilot.

We started our dive at the bow, swimming down to midship where we admired the vis looking 60 feet fore and 60 feet aft, then under the wreck through a rock crevasse which allowed us to come up on the reverse side of the hull, down the keel to the prop, back up to see the living quarters close to the stern, then to the bow. Just a super dive! Moe claimed he was one of the first on this wreck and "being young and stupid" (his words) he swam along the line of portholes smashing them with a hammer just for fun. You could see he still regreted this.

It seems like the Zebra mussel bloom continues to be declined as they have reduced their food source. So we were at the right place, at the right time, regarding vis and meeting diving pioneer Moe Hunt.



Marine Life Factoids

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By Anita Eve Perez

1. The oceans provide 99% of the living space on the planet containing 50-80% of all life.
2. Many fish are sequential hermaphrodites which are born as females and become male later on. (Clownfish are all male except the largest one which becomes a female)
3. A group of dolphins is called a pod, eel or oysters a bed, fish a school or shoal, jellyfish a fluther or smack, salmon a bind, draught or run, sea urchins a herd, trout a hover and turtles a bale, dole or nest.
4. Parrot fish produce 85% of the sand that builds up reef islands like in the Maledives.
5. Moray eels are not aggressive when they open and close their mouth, they are actually just breathing.
6. Mimic octopus can imitated flounder, jelly fish, sting ray, sea snake, lionfish or just a rock/coral.
7. Whales make the loudest sounds underwater with 188 dBs, the whistle can travel up to 500 miles.
8. Boxer crabs carry two anemones around looking like pom poms.
9. Seahorses are the only animal where the male gives birth.
10. Sponges are older than dinosaurs.
11. Ribbon eels start their life as male black eels, change to male blue when adult and at a last stage they become yellow females.
12. Some types of nudibranch are solar-powered and use sunlight to produce energy.
13. Octopodes have 3 hearts.
14. Frogfish do not have teeth and therefore have to swallow their prey whole.
15. The thresher shark uses its scythe-like tail to hunt by slap small fish like sardines stunning them.
16. The peacock mantis shrimp can vaporize water.
17. Pygmy seahorses stay on the same sea fan their whole life and might only move around in a plate sizes area.
18. Parrotfish produce their own sleeping bag made out of mucus at night to be safe from predators.
19. Boxfish are made out of bone box with holes only for eyes mouth and fins.
20. Some types of parasitic isopods can enter fish through the gills and attach themselves to the tongue. The parasite causes the tongue of the fish to fall off and then serves as tongue-replacement.

Answer To Last Month's Question:

Never, ever, ever hold your breath!

According to diver training organizations, a diver should never hold his/her breath underwater because if he/she ascends (even a few feet) to an area of lesser water pressure, the air trapped in the lungs will expand according to a constant of physics.

New Question:

What is the "constant of physics" referred to in the answer above?

No Cheating!!!! Let's see if you remember this from your training. Write down your answer and put it aside. The answer will be revealed in next month's newsletter. Good Luck!

Know Your Fellow Diver

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As members are added and information is gathered, it will be shared in these segments.

New Members



Birthday Wishes **March**



Megan Barrow
Linda Brown
Sarah Farhat
Nick Sinnott
Randy Weidner
Matthew Cady
Leilani Elias
Kenneth Kegney
Dan Lane
Danielle Porqueddu
Maureen Porqueddu
Anna Stassinari
Bennett Stolz



A Profile In Diving

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This month, our featured diver is:

Name: **Jason Portnoy**

The nickname divers know you by: **Jason**

Years diving: **3**

Certification level: **Open Water Diver**

Additional skills and certifications you have earned along the way: **Nitrox and Underwater Photography**

How many dives do you have under your belt? **"40"**

What is your favorite type of diving? **"Drift Diving in Florida"**.

Have you traveled to far-off destinations? **"Hawaii, Florida and the Bahamas"**.

Where was your favorite dive destination? **"Blue Heron Bridge, West Palm Beach, FL"**.

What was your best dive experience? **"An Oahu dive to 110ft on a WWII plane crash"**.

What was your worst dive experience? **"The 1st official dive after certification"**.

What was your scariest dive experience? **"None yet"**.

Have you had any funny experiences while diving? **"No"**.

Have you had any close encounters with aquatic life while diving? **"Yes, a 10ft Bull Shark at 86ft in West Palm Beach"**.

What (besides your love of diving) can you share with the divers that will be reading your Profile? **"I started diving due to PTSD from when I was overseas. I dive and do underwater photography to escape"**.

I love hearing about other's experiences as well as learning about new dive sites – the best as well as the 'not so hot' spots. As you might have heard, I've had some 'doozies' myself which still make me chuckle to date. I'm counting on each and every one of you to please take a few minutes of your time and reminisce. Sit back and doodle some information about yourself. It can be simply the facts. It would be so greatly appreciated not only by myself but by many fellow members I'm sure!

Anita-Eve





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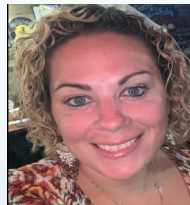
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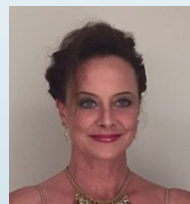


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Editor's Notes

Winter 2021
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We want you to share your story! Tell us about your best dives to date or about a great diving story by writing an article for the newsletter and sharing it with your fellow divers! Whatever excites you about diving, spend a little time during these winter months writing an article for Diver Down News! A paragraph or an essay, it doesn't matter. Have an incredible photo you took on a dive trip or locally, share it with everyone. All submissions are welcome, appreciated and will be credited accordingly.

Editor At Large,

Anita Eve Perez

