



A Word From The President

Happy New Year!

Hello fellow divers. I hope everyone has had a safe holiday and I wish for good health for everyone during these trying times. While this is traditionally a slow time for diving, it's an excellent opportunity to visit your local shops to have your gear serviced or replaced. Shopping locally helps to keep our local dive shops open.

2020 was very trying at times but we seemed to make the most of it. We had plenty of divers show up on a regular basis and there were many new faces too. This month, we have the LIDA Film Festival through "Zoom". Let's have a good showing from our club members in support of LIDA as they do quite a bit for the Long Island diving community and we need to support them.

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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December, 2020

As recorded by Jennifer Grosso, Recording Secretary.

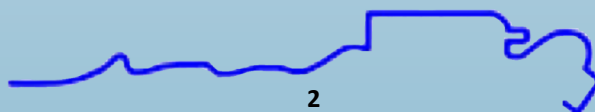


Meeting started at 7:55pm

- Beach dives took place. Ken & Roy dove “Beach 8th St”.
- Bottle dive took place this past weekend. Mary, Jen and Tracy went. Jen won best bottle.
- March 12th—14th is “Beneath The Sea” in NJ.
- January 30th is the LIDA Film Festival. Tickets are for sale online for \$10.
- Leilani spoke at 8:07pm technical difficulties. She spoke about visiting Raja Ampat, Indonesia, Bali- Thousands of Islands hundreds of fish species, Aggressor Live a Board 5-star resort stay.
- January 7th will be the next meeting
- 50/50- Ken won 50/50 money again Jen won Manta stuffed animal gave to Leilani
- Rail Carts were dumped over a 12 mile radius off the sound.

End Time: 9:10pm

Total Time: 1:05 minutes





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 **JANUARY** and **FEBRUARY** meetings will take place via **ZOOM**. We will keep you posted with regards to any changes made to our meeting schedule.



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

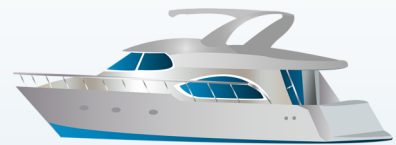
Boat & Wreck Diving

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



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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

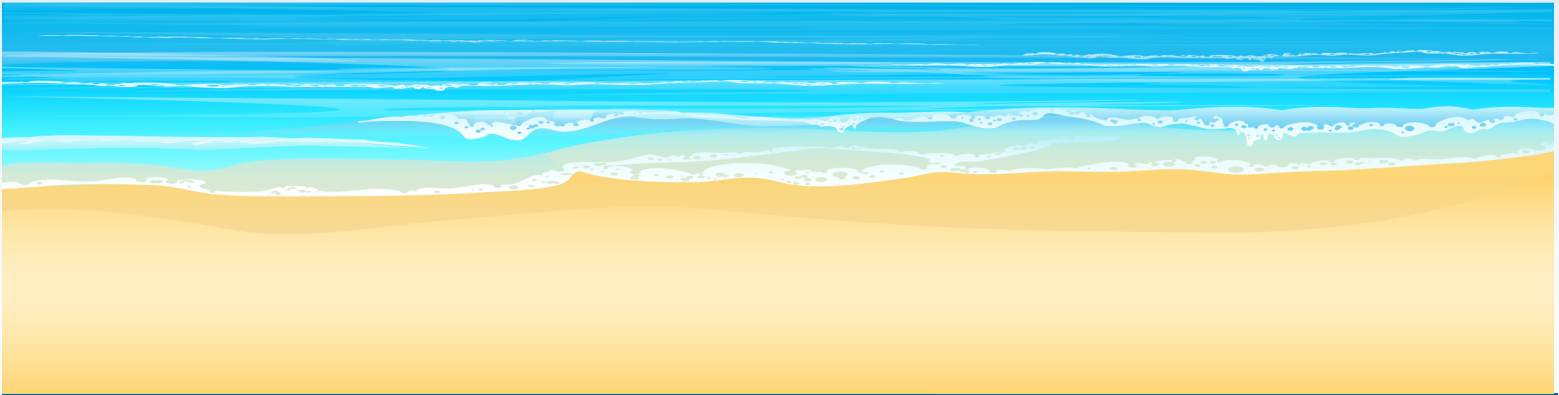
Diver's Leaderboard

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2021

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

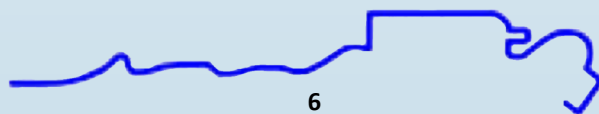
Beach Dives



Wreck Dives



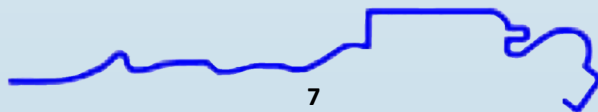
Wednesday Night OBI Dives



Upcoming Events and Speakers

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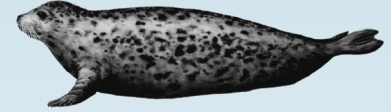
- **January 7th, 2021:** Grace Patella will be at the monthly meeting and she will have a presentation on her Caribbean trip complete with photographs.
- **January 30th, 2021:** LIDA will host it's "Annual Film" Festival virtual event. You may purchase your tickets at lidaonline.com. Tickets are \$10.
- **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 will be held at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, NJ. More information will be shared as the event draws near.
- **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.



A Dive To Remember

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By Ray Perez



(edited from an earlier account)

It's October 24th, 2020. My wife Anita and I decided to end our 2020 dive season at Fort Pond Bay in Montauk, NY. We packed everything up and hit the road by about 11 am and had a very leisurely drive. We listened to our 80s on 8 channel on Sirius/XM and had a load of fun singing along with the tunes we grew up with. We arrived at Fort Pond Bay at around 2 pm and unloaded our gear by the picnic tables. I then drove the vehicle to the parking lot. I walk back to the tables and there is a constable kicking out a kayaker who drove to the picnic tables to load his Kayak. I speak briefly to the officer (who is a diver himself) and he says that the picnic area is considered a handicap area and there is a \$250 fine for parking there. He was really nice about it and he wished us a great dive and was on his way.

Anita and I set up our gear calmly and walked to the end of the ramp, ready to go in. We could see that the **VIS** (diver's lingo for visibility) was going to be great. When we walked down the ramp and stepped in, the water was cool but still warm enough for a comfortable dive. We submerge and go on our way heading North. We get out around 100 yards from shore and run into a gorgeous Striped Burrfish (a member of the puffer family). I hadn't seen this color on a local puffer before and it was pretty big (I kept my thumb in the included photo for scale). We continue on our course and after about 25 minutes, a strong tidal surge kicked in and stirred things up a bit. We had great **VIS** on the bottom but shallower in the water column, we could see that the **VIS** was rapidly declining. We move along and I turn around for what must have been three seconds and Anita is gone! Unbeknownst to me, she hit a snag with her buoyancy and rose above my site line.

I look around for about a minute and surface at the same time as she is submerging. It was like playing "phone tag" underwater. Finally, I stay up top with the flag and wait and wait and wait for what seemed like an eternity. Then it hits, leg cramps on both calf muscles. I couldn't submerge and I could barely swim. I had to wait for her to come up again.

Therein lies the problem.....

Because of the diminished visibility, Anita sees a shape in the water and gets angry because she thinks I'm swimming too fast and like an "idiot". So she decides to call upon her inner "Dory" and "just keep swimming, just keep swimming" while filming with her "Diveroid" housing

Meanwhile, I'm up top pulling my fins to relieve my cramps and I see a large "hump" rise in the water. "YES!" I scream. Then my "YES" suddenly turns into a "What the @##\$!!!!". It wasn't Anita at all but the massive head of a bull harbor seal. This animal was tremendous! I realized that Anita is still down there and if I try and go look for her, he'll get curious and follow me down and possibly terrify her. I decided to stay up top and stare him down. His nostrils were massive as he snorted!! Yes, he was that close. I start getting nervous as Anita is still down there being "Dory".

I wait, and wait. I hear a noise to my left and it's Anita who navigated underwater to our entry point and is now swimming towards me. So is the beast! (the bull seal, not Anita). She comes up and I ask, "where were you?" She says, "I just saw you". I say, "no you didn't". I say, "Turn around". She does.

All of a sudden she screams, "what the #\$\$%!!!". The beast is now about 15 yards from us and closing in. Then a second head pops up! There were two harbor seals in the water near us (possibly more).

As it turns out, during our spot of poor **VIS**, Anita saw the shape swimming erratically and wasn't concerned because she thought it was me being foolish. She kept filming thinking I was near her so she wasn't the least bit concerned. It was the smaller female she had seen.

A Dive To Remember

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While I was up top staring down the bull, she was being entertained by her new friend "Sally". Anita finally comes by me, and we see the bull is getting closer and closer and Anita lets out a "How Cute!!! I say, "time to get out of the water honey". Again, she goes, "how cute!". I say, "honey, let's go!" At this point, the bull is following us to shore and getting closer and closer. It was like watching "Abbott and Costello", us trying to get out of the water in a spot where there was no easy exit. All the while, Anita is "snorting" because she can't stop laughing.

We finally get out and look at each other and walked the entire way back to the parking lot, fatigue be damned! We were so pumped with adrenaline we would have ran back to the truck. We get to the truck and pack everything up and leave. Then, to top things off, we're driving home and "Bambi" decides to jump out in front of the truck. No, we didn't hit it but it was too close for comfort. Below are two shots from our dive. The irony is, Anita didn't even know she got the seal on film. She thought it was me!



Photograph taken by Anita Eve Perez

Striped Burrfish (*Chilomycterus schoepfi*)

A Dive To Remember

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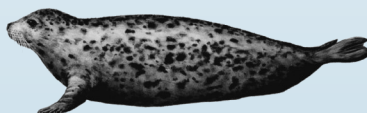
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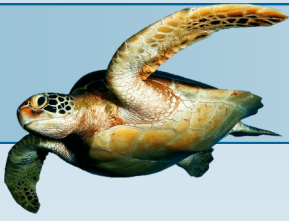
Anita's new friend "Sally" looking back at her!



Photograph taken by Anita Eve Perez

Atlantic Harbor Seal (*Phoca vitulina*)





Marine Life Factoid

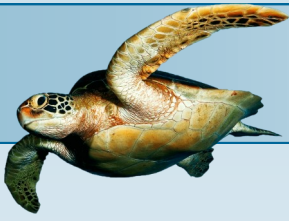
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By Anita Eve Perez



The Smoothtooth Blacktip Shark

The Smoothtooth Blacktip Shark sounds pretty easily identifiable with its smooth teeth and black tipped fins. The first specimen was discovered in Yemen back in 1902 but it wasn't examined and declared a new species until 1985. Oddly enough, no other specimens were found again until 2008. Since then, they have been found multiple times, although they remain a rare sight and are classified as an endangered species. (They closely resemble their relative – the blacktip shark). Being caught as 'bycatch' threatens this recently rediscovered species. Between longlining, gill nets, trawling, and habitat destruction, this shark could easily be gone again soon.



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The Neptune's Cup Sponge

The Neptune's Cup looks like a plant however it's really an animal. They don't have limbs, circulatory systems or brains. They come from the Sponge phylum. The Neptune's Sponge looks like a giant wine glass, about 3 ½ feet wide and 3 feet tall with a giant stem. It's one of the largest of the sponges. They can reach as large as 16 ½ feet. The species was aggressively harvested and used for all sorts of purposes, including infants' bathtubs! By the early 1900s, the entire species seemed to have gone extinct as a result of overharvesting. However, in 2011 a few specimens were found in Singapore and Thailand. Today, conservationists are undergoing efforts to get them to reproduce and help them return from the brink of extinction.

Question:

SCUBA divers are at risk to a number of pressure related hazards. There is one collective term used to describe all these maladies. What is that term?



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



A Profile In Diving

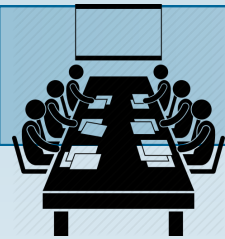
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Diving is an amazing, challenging and very fun sport. It's even more fun when you know the divers you are in the water with. The local dive community becomes tighter knit when we share our experiences and absorb knowledge from experienced divers.

Each month, we will feature the profile of a member of The Dive Club. If there is an Instructor, Divemaster (Dive Guide for SSI), Master Diver or a "seasoned" diver you have seen on a dive and wish to know more about, send us their name and we will reach out to them for a bio. We'll do our best to have them featured in the newsletter.

If you are an Instructor, Divemaster (Dive Guide for SSI), Master Diver or "seasoned" diver and wish to share your experience, please send your bio to the newsletter editor. Any information shared with your fellow diver is completely voluntary and will help the newer diver familiarize themselves with divers who may have great knowledge to share. The Dive Club does not have any affiliation with any dive shops or local business so any mention of a dive operation must first be approved by the board of directors.





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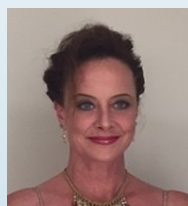


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Editor's Notes

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Hello Fellow Dive Club Members!

Happy New Year!

Some of you may have met me already, but for those of you who haven't – Hello!

My name is Anita-Eve and this past **CRAZY** year was my first year as a diver as well as a Dive Club member. Let me just say that everyone I've met thus far is absolutely awesome and I'm addicted to diving now.

I've always had a love for water (as well as all animals). Swimming, boats, regattas, jet skis, the beach – anything that could get me in or close to the water – "I'M IN!"

Last year, I became a certified diver – something I had never even thought about pursuing until my husband Ray – a Master Diver with many decades under his belt – asked me if I'd like to give it a go. He shoved a regulator mouthpiece in my mouth and told me to try breathing without using my nose. Perplexed, I did as he asked and replied 'Yeah.

What's the big deal?' and that's how my scuba diving journey began.

From there it was a whirlwind of visiting dive shops across LI, watching YouTube videos of divers from all across the globe and thinking to myself 'YES! This is something I HAVE to do!'

This club is a **fantastic** way to meet new people who share our love for diving and I wanted to 'give back' in some way – so here goes nothing .

If we haven't met already please feel free to just walk up and introduce yourself. I'm **SUPER** approachable – kinda' goofy at times, and would love to hear your stories.

Many of you are seasoned divers and may not think that your experiences are noteworthy or 'dated' but they can teach us all a thing or two or just give us a good chuckle. I'd love to hear about your adventures, travels, what prompted you to become a diver, mishaps etc. It will add so very much to the newsletter – let us all get to know each and every one of you a bit better as well as make for some deep belly laughs. (I already have a few 'doozies' myself – lol).

Looking forward to getting to know all of you in the future!

Best wishes to you all,

Anita-Eve

Happy Diving!





Editor's Notes

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..... continued

We want you so 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**

