



# DIVER DOWN NEWS

## Message from the President—February 2022

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It is cold and snowy outside so local diving is quiet right now. January 2022 has been especially difficult for our local diving community with the passing of several Long Island diving instructors. One, Di Dieter was very close to our club members, having trained many of them thru Long Island Scuba. No one could forget their certification dives at Beach 8th Street where Di was an icon. He saved my dive there once by lending me his fins when I forgot my own. He said he didn’t really want to go in, but I’m not sure that was totally true. He will be greatly missed by all of us that knew him.

Some have been lucky enough to travel to warmer places. Thirty people from Tiedemann’s Diving Center were able to make it past the I-95 closure to dive the springs of Northern Florida the first week of January 2022. The weather and the diving were great.

Even though there is no actual local diving right now, we are always talking about diving. This Saturday is the LIDA Film Festival presented via Zoom. This means everyone can attend from where ever they are. Tickets are available on the [LIDA website](#). Once you purchase your ticket, you will be able to get a reduced rate on your annual LIDA membership. Help support this diving resource that has given us the Old Ponquogue Bridge, Secret Beach, and Culloden Point back.

If anyone has a diving related topic or knows of someone who would like to present to our club, contact our VP, John Berntsen, to reserve a month. All levels of diving are welcome to present. We can learn from every diver.

Let’s hope for an early Spring and a quick return to diving. Check your gear now to be ready for our kick off dives beginning in early April.

*Mary Davis  
President*





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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 February 2022 is  
Mary Davis

“Diving the [Round Valley Reservoir](#)”  
(Lebanon, NJ)

*plus*

*a slideshow of 2021 presentations during dinner*



## 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 will no longer be supplied as part of a paid membership. They will, however, be available for purchase for a charge of \$10.
- Membership payments should be given to Gus Bricker, who can be reached at [treasurer@thediveclub.com](mailto:treasurer@thediveclub.com).
- Membership applications and renewals should be given to Kyle Patac ([correspondingsecretary@thediveclub.com](mailto:correspondingsecretary@thediveclub.com)).





# MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2022

*Recorded by Courtney Lyons*

- 🐟 8:00—Meeting called to order minutes approved from last meeting.
  - 🐟 CPR class on February 8th. Talk to Barry or contact Mary to sign up. It's \$60 per person.
- 🐟 8:12—Barry spoke further about the CPR class
- 🐟 8:15—John, Rick, and Sal are planning the North Carolina trip
  - 🐟 Bruce still waiting on dates for 2022 camping
- 🐟 8:18—New member, Andrew, introduced
- 🐟 8:20—Dutch Springs potentially staying open for divers.
- 🐟 8:23—Danny's presentation begins
- 🐟 9:10—Presentation ends
  - 🐟 T-Shirt order going in—give requests and sizes to Courtney
- 🐟 9:15—Barry discusses LIDA Film Festival—Saturday February 5 over Zoom.
  - 🐟 Saturday. February 5 from 7pm-9pm over Zoom
  - 🐟 Tickets are \$15 per, get them [HERE](#)
- 🐟 9:17—meeting adjourned

## UPCOMING: CPR / AED TRAINING CLASS



The Dive Club is holding a CPR/AED training evening on February 8, 2022 at Lulu's Lobster House.

The course will run from 6-10PM.

Plan to arrive at 5:30PM for dinner before.

The cost for the course is \$60 and will include the training material needed to complete the course.

Money will be collected at the January 4th meeting by Barry Lipsky.

**THERE ARE ONLY 2 SPOTS LEFT!!!**

If you would like to attend this training, contact Mary Davis at (516)987-8308 to reserve a spot.

If there are more than 12 people that are interested, we will arrange a second date for the course.



# IN MEMORIAM

## DI DIETER



I'm honored to be given the opportunity to not only share stories about Di's life but to also share about the impact he made on the lives of so many.

Di received his YMCA diver certification from Capt. Steve Bielenda in 1965. He then became a certified instructor in 1968 and later became a PADI instructor in 1974. From the late 60's to early 70's he mated for the legendary Captain George Hoffman, skipper of the Sea Lion. During this period he gained much experience diving wrecks that made up part of Wreck Valley off the shores of Long Island. In 2015, he was honored with the very prestigious Northeast Diving Pioneer award at Beneath the Sea.

As a dive instructor, Di touched the lives of thousands of people over his 50+ years of diving. He was a famed stickler about diving safety and notoriously proud of his prickly demeanor. His students would describe him as tough, demanding and funny, while setting the bar for excellence.





They maintain a sincere sense of honor to have been certified by the best. While instructing for Long Island SCUBA, Di was known to train upwards of 100 students each year. Carl Salonen recalls "(Di) was a teacher, a mentor, a father figure and a role model, as well as being a friend for the past twenty years. If I could have picked my dad before I was born, I would have picked Di."

Di also became an ambassador for the Tourism Corporation Bonaire. He was very successful at planning and safely executing annual Bonaire dive trips with 30-40 divers both young and old, and with certified divers at many levels. In 2019, the Bonaire tourism board held another ceremony at Don's Habitat to present Di with a special designation for his 30 years of work in coordinating these Caribbean excursions.

Di's vast diving experience also helped him to become a senior member of a five-person dive team for "The Underwater Classroom," founded by Eastern Dive Boat Association (EDBA) president and long-term friend, Kirby Kurkomelis. Together he worked on several technical marine archeology projects including the Bayville Sub, and the 347 project.

Di's passion and unwavering dedication to the dive industry helped him to become a diving pioneer, ambassador and icon. We are forever grateful for his leadership and friendship that he has given to so many of us over the years. Please join us on Saturday, 02/05/22 at 12 noon (weather permitting) for a memorial gathering to celebrate the life of our friend and Beach 8th Street legend, Di Dieter.

*Christopher Mazz*  
*Long Island Divers Association*



Jen Grosso and Carl Salonen are coordinating the memorial for Di Dieter. It is scheduled for 2/5/22 at 12pm at Beach 8th Street (weather permitting). Jen will keep everyone updated if there are any changes.





# DIVING TALES

## THE DAY THE RIVER CHANGED DIRECTION

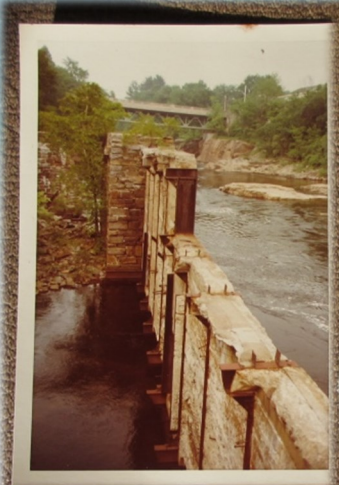
STORY 14 BY JACK FROST

I had dived this site for artifacts many times, a place where a hotel from the 1860's dumped their garbage off a small bridge. Sometimes diving with friends, this time alone. The gentle river current was always helpful in moving the cloud of digging silt downstream and orienting you. Easier than looking at a compass and somehow comforting. This day, I noticed that my cloud was getting bigger and then that it was not moving away. A few minutes later it was moving upstream! The river had changed direction and was going uphill! I kept digging but was a little spooked. I read to find artifact sites. But while it would be decades before I chanced upon information that explained what had happened, you need only to read for a few minutes.



Author in 1973 with hand made beer bottles from 1860's to 1880's.

As background, I had been introduced to this site in the early 70's after noticing a dive flag at another upstate campsite. The divers were from Vermont and over that weekend they took us to their favorite N.Y. dive sites. Also included that weekend was a sunken three span bridge in the Great Sacandaga Reservoir. There are no shoreside indications of where the bridge is located. You find the bridge by using an "intentional error entry". Entering east of where you think the bridge is, swim down to the original riverbank, then swim west until you find the bridge. On days when the bridge was quickly found, we would swim through all three spans and back (as of 10 years ago, The Adirondack Museum on Blue Mountain Lake displayed a picture of the bridge before the river was flooded). (con't)



Dive site of the PRINTING MILL on the Hudson River. The mill used the river to power the presses. The mill burned and fell into the river. Artifacts found are printing plates, brass pins embedded in tar. Depth 30 feet. Water dark. Needed to tie into the bottom due to current.



Three span bridge under 50 feet of water just west of the Conklingville Dam. The dam was built as a work project during the 1930's. This site is west of Albany.





They also took us to a canyon on the Hudson River where, in the early 1900's, a water powered printing factory had burned and fallen into the river. The current at this latter site was so strong we tied ourselves onto sunken tree trunks on the bottom to be able to dig. Here we would find metal block letters and the brass pins used to hold the letters on the press. Also, hand engraved copper plates with the images carved in reverse to make the pictures for the newspapers.

I became good friends with one of these divers, attending his wedding in a small Vermont church and experiencing the joy of his newborn son. I hosted him on L.I. to sample some of our sites including a night dive at the Shoreham Jetty where he experienced zip vis due to the wind. The kind of dive where you hold your SPG and your light up to your mask and still can't read it. Before the nuclear power plant, this long jetty, with 24 hour free access, was one of the better L.I. dives.

Diving was different in the early 70's. I remember while suiting up at Beach 8th Street, a boy yelling back to his mom, "Look Mom, Frogmen". No aluminum tanks, SPG's or inflators for my first three years, timing your tank with a watch, J valves, two buddies using airplane life vests as BC's. One oddity was that I could usually guess my tank pressure to within 100 lbs. during dives and before checking it when

back at the car. You just sensed it based on time, depth, and exertion.

Also, even in 1971, we had the added excitement of feeling that we were involved in a new sport and that much of the U/W terrain we were covering had never been seen. It was a time when you could discover new sites. In some winters I would drive around L.I. with a Hagstrom map checking out potential new sites for the spring. On the initial solo dive at one such L.I. site, I was "first on" finding three clay pipes and several bottles form the 1800's resting on the bottom. That site produced 11 pipes for me including one that I dated to the 1700's. Exciting as the British had camped on that shore.



OK, the river changing direction. Turns out there is a dam downstream that occasionally releases water. When the floodgates are closed, the water backs up! 🐟





# SINKING 1,000 NYC SUBWAY CARS IN THE ATLANTIC TO CREATE A REEF DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED

BY ELISSAVETA M. BRANDON

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(full article at <https://www.fastcompany.com/90716245/sinking-1000-nyc-subway-cars-in-the-atlantic-to-create-a-reef-didnt-go-as-planned>, written and accessed on January 27, 2022)

After 58 years of service, the Metropolitan Transit Authority has now retired every single one of its remaining “Brightliners” (R-32 subway cars)...Most of the cars were retired more than 10 years ago, when more than 1,000 of them were shipped to coastal areas in Delaware, New Jersey, and Georgia and dropped on the ocean floor as part of an artificial reef program. Back then, artificial reefs were designed to boost recreational fishing, which in 2011 generated a whopping \$15 billion in state and federal taxes. So the program made sense: The subway cars were welcomed by the fishing and scuba diving industries. Plus, the MTA saved millions of dollars it would have spent to scrap the trains.

The Brightliners were predicted to last underwater for more than 25 years, but they started to disintegrate only months after they were dropped... Brightliners were made of stainless steel. When the subway cars debuted in 1964, they were a mechanical and aesthetic innovation. The stainless steel made the train cars lighter on the tracks, but this worked against them underwater.

Daniel Sheehy, an environmental consultant who’s been studying artificial reefs for more than 50 years, says the project failed for two reasons: first, because the trains’ envelopes were spot-welded, which formed a thin layer between the two metals that led to corrosion. Second, because the corrugated pattern made it easier for undercurrent waves to “grab on to” and further pull the stainless skin apart...

Artificial reefs date back to 17th-century Japan, where rubble and rocks were used to grow kelp and increase commercial fishing stock. In the U.S., where such underwater projects are mostly built for recreational fishing, the earliest recorded artificial reef dates to the 1830s in South Carolina.


In recent history, submerged shipwrecks like the famous SS Antilla in the Caribbean are the most common forms of artificial reef.

But myriad other reefs have been made from oil rigs, streetcars, military tanks, and even underwater sculpture parks like the Reef Line in Miami, slated to open this summer. (The world’s largest artificial reef is made of 3D-printed ceramic and rests in the Maldives.)

Sheehy explains that a few things are necessary for an artificial reef to be successful. Surface area is key because it provides more room for encrusted corals and sponges, which in turn form habitats for various marine species. Weight matters, too—the heavier something is, the less likely it is to be turned over by undercurrent waves and hurricanes...

As for materials, anything from concrete rubble to reclaimed culverts to damaged telephone poles can do the trick, as long as tires aren’t involved. In the 1970s, for example, more than 2 million passenger tires were bundled together with steel clips and dropped off the coast of Florida to expand the now infamous Osborne Reef. Except the steel rusted away and let millions of tires loose into the ocean. “They’re still picking up tires in Malaysia,” Sheehy says.

Even the best materials can be used in the wrong location. When a series of tanks were deployed off the coast of Maryland, they sank right through the soft sediment. By comparison, World War II tanks at the bottom of the English Channel, where the ocean floor is harder, haven’t budged.

In the end, it all comes down to the purpose behind the artificial reef. When natural reefs are damaged, artificial reefs can help restore lost habitat. But man-made reefs can be used for conservation, too. “If you put [artificial] reefs in an area and declare it a marine protected zone, you’re creating additional habitat,” Sheehy explains, noting, “A lot more thought needs to be going into what we’re doing in the ocean, and constructed reefs are part of it.” 





# DIVING EVENTS

## UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS



### LIDA FILM FESTIVAL 2022

Saturday, February 5 at 7 p.m.

Tickets now on Sale at [lidaonline.com](http://lidaonline.com)!

The Long Island Diver's Association (LIDA) is please to announce the presentation lineup for the upcoming LIDA Film Festival that will be held virtually via ZOOM on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 7 p.m.!

With single admission tickets priced at \$15 and with 2 hours of presentations from some of the best underwater photographers and film makers in the world, the LIDA Film Festival is a tremendous value for the diving community.

In addition, when you purchase a ticket to the Film Festival, you will also receive access to special pricing for your annual LIDA Membership. *There will be no better time to renew your LIDA membership or become a new member of LIDA than now!*



### OCEAN WRECK DIVERS FLEA MARKET

MARCH 6, 2022 ~ 9:00AM-1:00PM

Toms River Intermediate School South  
1675 Pinewald Road, Beachwood, NJ 08722

*\*school rules mandate wearing face masks\**

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More information at

<https://www.oceanwreckdivers.com/fleamarket.html>

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<https://www.oceanwreckdivers.com/fleamarketFAQ.html>







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# DIVING EVENTS

## UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS



[NJHDA](#) presents the New Jersey Shipwreck Colloquium

## LUSITANIA'S LEGACY

A Special Presentation by  
Joe Mazraani & Jennifer Sellitti

Saturday, February 26, 2022

7:30PM to 9:30PM

at the Taylor Pavilion

500 Ocean Ave, Belmar, NJ 07719



Admission is \$25 per person (\$20 for NJHDA Members).  
Send checks to: NJHDA, 107 Wilson Road, Neptune, NJ, 07753.  
For reservations, call 732-776-6261 or e-mail [njhda@aol.com](mailto:njhda@aol.com).

Reservations required - seating is limited. (advanced payment guarantees seating).

### Speakers: Joe Mazraani & Jenn Sellitti

In August of 2021, a team comprised of four American and four British divers set out to Ireland to explore and document one of the world's most historically significant shipwrecks, R.M.S. Lusitania. This Cunard liner fell victim to a German torpedo in May of 1915. She sank in approximately 20 minutes. 2,001 died, including 128 Americans. So many men, women and children died the disaster it caused many Americans to pressure the U.S. government to enter WWI.

Diver Joe Mazraani and Surface Support Team Member Jennifer Sellitti will share with the N.J. Historical Diver's Association our team's journey to Lusitania. We will discuss the wreck's history, Lusitania's historical connection Ireland and to the tradition of Irish wreck diving, and current efforts to preserve this iconic vessel's memory for generations to come.



The presentation will include photographs, video, and a photo display by Diver/Photographer Joseph St. Amand. In addition, we will premiere the final cut of Lusitania's Legacy, a film created and produced by expedition Diver Rick Simon and Jennifer Sellitti. The film debuted with live narration at the Boston Sea Rovers Film Festival in October of 2021, but this will be the first time the final cut is shown.

For reservations, call 732-776-6261 or e-mail [njhda@aol.com](mailto:njhda@aol.com).  
Proceeds benefit the New Jersey Shipwreck Museum at InfoAge.

*Alteration or substitution to the schedule may occur without notice. NJHDA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable historical research organization. All donations are tax deductible.*





# 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](mailto: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?

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Richard (Rusty) Lukeman

Anita Perez

Jim Byrne

Erin Jackson

Rutvik Menta

Joseph Muratore



## 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](mailto:editor@thediveclub.com).





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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