



A Word From The President

Hello Fellow Divers!

Welcome to February! Hopefully, everyone is staying safe and healthy. While this is typically a slow time for diving, it's a good time to support our local dive shops and get your gear serviced including any VIP inspections and Hydros on your tanks. On January 30th, LIDA is having their annual film festival through the ZOOM platform. Let's show them we appreciate their hard work within the local dive community by having a huge club turnout. As a reminder, we will be having our February dive club meeting through ZOOM as well, due to the current pandemic restrictions. If anyone has any articles or points of interest they would like published in the newsletter, please submit them to the editor@thediveclub.com.

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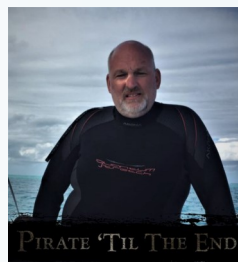
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Thank you and be well,
Jerry Kinkade
President



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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January 7th, 2021

As recorded by Jennifer Grosso, Recording Secretary.

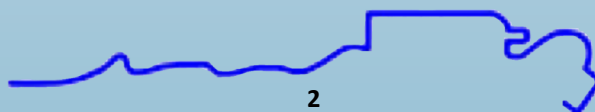
Meeting commenced at 8:03pm



- **Saturday January 30th, LIDA Film Festival at 7pm**
Tickets are \$10. Visit www.lidaonline.com
- **March 12th—14th is “Beneath The Sea” in NJ.**
- **Boat dives May 30th, August 15th, September 12, 2021**
\$125 inshore no more than 90ft 3 miles out.
\$175 offshore 12 miles and 2-3 hours out 110 - 130ft.
- **Message Mary if interested in a shark cage dive, Block Island overnight or the Oregon.**
- **Shout out to Patrick for taking care of the newsletter for the past year.**
- **Death By Diving: 07/09/2021 - 07/11/2021 dive sites pending.**
- **Need state permit to dive Democrat Point. Visit NYS website to get permit. Cost is approximately \$55 for the permit. You can fill out the application online or in person.**
- **Camping is in the air pending COVID restrictions.**
- **8:26pm - 8:44pm Grace Mattel, the guest speaker, spoke about experiences as a new diver.**
- **Mary and Martin Spoke about their iguanas.**

Meeting end time: 8:59pm

Total Time: :56 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

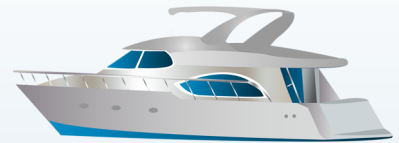
Boat & Wreck Diving

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



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

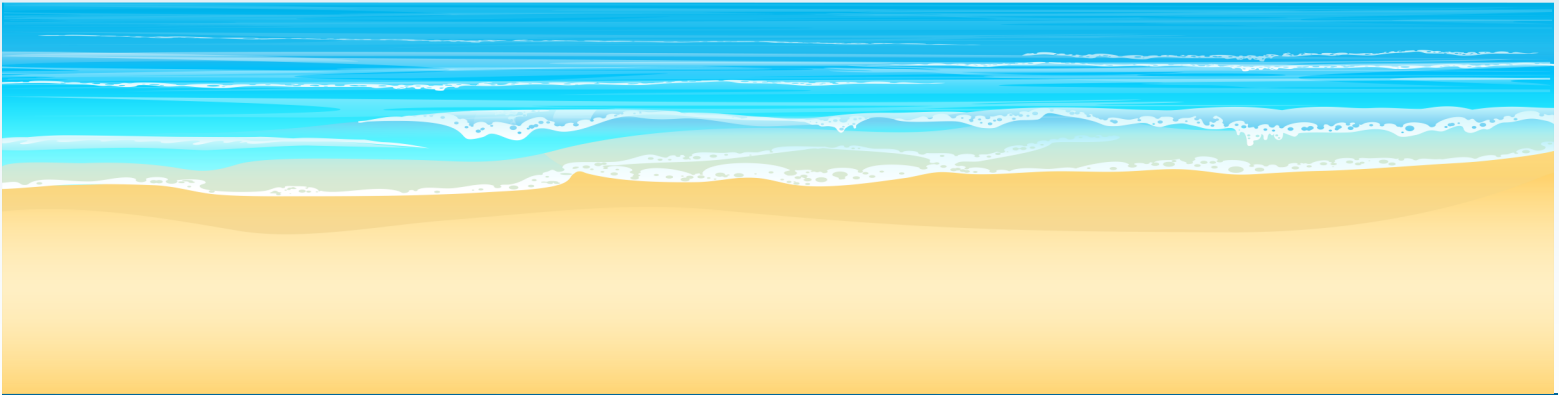
Diver's Leaderboard

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2021

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

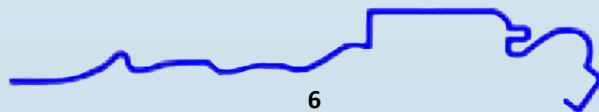
Beach Dives



Wreck Dives



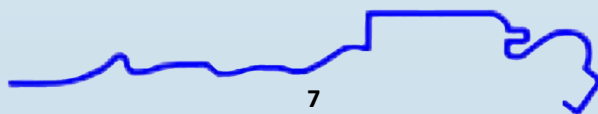
Wednesday Night OBI Dives



Upcoming Events and Speakers

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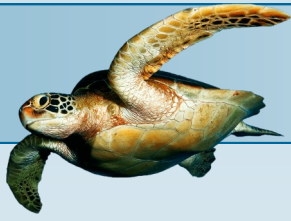
- **February 4th, 2021: Cindy L. Norris (Cindy Norris Garb), an independent PADI Master SCUBA Diver Trainer and will be making a presentation on her dive adventures.**
- **March 4th, 2021: App developer Peter Tsakonas will join us at our dive meeting to introduce us to a new phone app geared towards 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.**



Written by Janice L. Raber

'Twas just weeks after Christmas and all through the snow,
The divers prepare to descend deep below.
“How,” you may ask, “could they be quite so bold?”
Dry suits are worn to protect them from cold,
Icecaps on their heads and weights on their hips,
They have masks on their faces and frost on their lips.
They put quarter-inch gloves on their hands with great care,
In hopes that a lobster is found in its lair.
While others are nestled all snug in their beds,
Visions of artifacts dance in their heads.
They trudge through the snow with their tanks on their backs,
Their lights and their whistles and goodie-bag sacks.
Braving the elements, sinking in sand,
They forge ever forward, dive flag firm in hand.
To depths they submerge, kicking fins to the skies,
Hoping the water stays out of their eyes.
They stay in for as long as they can without care.
One wonders jus what they are doing down there.
What to their fogging-up masks will appear,
As they're checking their gauges and clearing each ear?
If you think they see Santa with sled and reindeer,
You're reading the wrong Christmas story, I fear.
In the realm of King Neptune, despite what they wish,
At this time of year, they won't see many a fish.
Yet they stay in the water till fingers are numb,
And signal to surface with pointed-up thumb.
Out on the surf they create such a clatter.
What is it, what happened, just what is the matter?
Their eyes, how they twinkle, their smiles, how so merry!
Their cheeks are like roses, the red nose a berry.
Regulators clenched in their mouths with their teeth,
While seaweed encircles their heads like a wreath.
A wink of an eye and a big “OKAY” sign,
Means pour the hot coffee and uncork the wine.
They exit the water and take off their gear.
They've had a great time and head straight for the beer.
A diver's most happy when diving it seems.
Notwithstanding the weather, it fulfills their dreams.
You'll hear the exclaim as they drive out of site,
“Did you sea what I saw?” and they'll chatter all night.
Exactly what happened to their sanity, friend?

Read more about Janice in the “Editor's Notes” section



Marine Life Factoid

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By Anita Eve Perez

Why Are Coral Reefs Important?

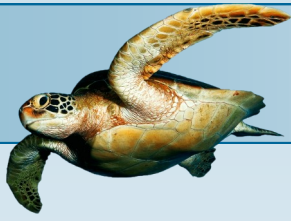
Coral reefs provide an important ecosystem for life underwater. They protect coastal areas by reducing the power of waves hitting the coast, and provide a crucial source of income for millions of people.

They teem with life, color and beauty and they support a quarter of all marine life in the oceans. Thousands of species can be found living on one reef. The Great Barrier Reef, for instance contains over 400 coral species, 1,500 fish species, 4,000 mollusk species and six of the world's seven sea turtle species.



The Coral Triangle - a coral-rich marine region in Southeast Asia that encompasses the waters between Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea - is the most biologically diverse marine ecosystem on Earth.





Marine Life Factoid

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..... Continued

- ➔ **Coral reefs have an estimated global value of \$8.2 trillion each year, due in part to their contribution to fishing and tourism industries and the coastal protection they provide.**
- ➔ **More than 500 million people worldwide depend on reefs for food, jobs and coastal defense.**
- ➔ **The ridges in coral reefs act as barriers and can reduce wave energy by up to 97%, providing crucial protection from threats such as tsunamis.**
- ➔ **They help protect areas such as mangrove forests and seagrass beds that act as nurseries for marine animals, as well as human coastal populations.**
- ➔ **Extracts from animals and plants living on reefs have been used to develop treatments for asthma, arthritis, cancer and heart disease.**

Like any ecosystem, coral reefs can withstand and adapt to certain impacts. But the combination of multiple stresses of global changes in ocean temperature and acidification, with local pressures such as pollution, over-fishing and declining water quality, has led to changes that could become irreversible within the next few decades.



Answer To Last Month's Question:

Barotrauma

Any injury or condition relating to or caused by variations in pressure is known as a barotrauma, from "baro", meaning pressure, and "trauma", meaning injury. The Bends (which is the same as Decompression Sickness) is just one type of barotrauma. Rapture of the Deep, otherwise known as Nitrogen Narcosis, is just one more.

New Question:

What should a diver never ever do while SCUBA diving?

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!

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

New Members



Birthday Wishes February

This month we wish HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! To the following dive club members:

Jim Byrne

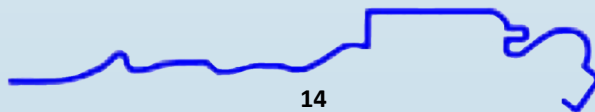
Erin Jackson

Richard (Rusty) Lukeman

Rutvik Menta

Joseph Muratore

Anita Eve Perez



A Profile In Diving

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This month, our first featured diver is:

Name: **Barry Lipsky**

The nickname divers know you by: **President of LIDA**

Years diving: **53**

Certification level: **NAUI Instructor**

Additional skills and certifications you have earned along the way: **Public Safety Diver Instructor**

How many dives do you have under your belt? **“Many”**

What is your favorite type of diving? **Free Diving**

Have you traveled to far-off destinations? **“Yes”**

Where was your favorite dive destination? **“Off Long Island”**

What was your best dive experience? **“Diving with my family”**

What was your worst dive experience? **“When my young son Joel told me he got his first tattoo just before he descended underwater”**

What was your scariest dive experience? **“When I came up from my Oak Beach Inn dive to find police helicopters over me when they found the missing Gilgo Beach girl”**

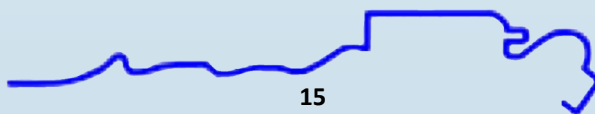
Have you had any funny experiences while diving? **“Taking a guy underwater to propose to his girlfriend with waterproof signage”**

Have you had any close encounters with aquatic life while diving? **“Very Large Snapping Turtles during fire department search dives in black water; alligators in rivers”**

What (besides your love of diving) can you share with the divers that will be reading your Profile? **National Ski Patrol, Ski Instructor, EMT, Firefighter, Runner, College Educational Advisor.**

I love hearing about other’s experiences as well as learning about new dive sites. 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 would be so greatly appreciated not only by myself but by many fellow members I’m sure!

Anita-Eve





Board of Directors

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treasurer@thediveclub.com



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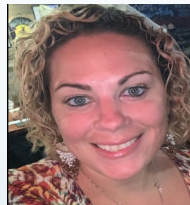
correspondingsec@thediveclub.com

Recording Secretary:

Jennifer Grosso

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j.mgrosso@yahoo.com

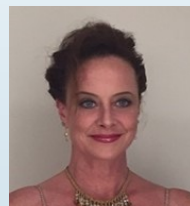


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Website Management

Jim Vafeas

webmaster@thediveclub.com





Editor's Notes

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I would like to take a moment to personally thank Janice for her witty, generous (unsolicited) submission to this month's newsletter. She has written about diving for several magazines in the past. This particular piece was originally written for Long Island Boating World and it also appeared in the Northeast Dive News.

Member Background:

- Jan has been diving since 1986.
- Cert OW Instructor 1995.
- WDHOE since 2001 Newsletter Editor and Trustee Emeritus.
- Director Emeritus Historical Diving Society 8 years.
- LIDA Trustee and former VP, Secretary, Film Fest Producer, event planner (and more) for 25+ years.

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

