



November 2024
Volume 35, Issue 11

DIVER DOWN NEWS

President's Note – November 2024



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The 2024 dive season is completed for the club. The Beach, Wreck and Oak Beach leaderboards are finalized and included in this newsletter. Congratulations to the winners!

Plans will be made for the 2025 diving season starting in early spring. The club will need volunteers to run the Beach, Wreck, and Oak Beach committees to begin the planning. We need club members involved to help the elected leadership make the 2025 dive season even better than past years. We need to keep up our traditions like camping weekends, Death-By-Diving and the annual Pumpkin Diving Dive. There is also room to add new ideas, so please share any ideas you have.

The Pumpkin Carving Dive was a great success with 17 divers in the water at Cedar Beach. See the article for details and photos.

Our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 14th at Gus' house. Watch your email for details and to sign up to bring your best dish to share.

If anyone is traveling to dive, we would like to have you present your adventure at a club meeting.

Nominations are open for the elected positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary. This is the last month for nominations. Any current member is eligible to run. Elections will be held at the December meeting. If the positions are unopposed then the one nominee for each position will be installed for the 2025 year.

If anyone wants to practice their diving during the cold winter months, there is a large, indoor pool available to any certified diver on Monday evenings. The pool is located in Farmingdale, NY. Reservations can be made thru Tiedemann's Diving Center.

Sincerely,

Mary Davis

President of The Dive Club





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THE MONTHLY MEETING

The Dive Club currently holds monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at the Tap Room in Bay Shore.

EST ★ 2011

TAP ROOM

44 E Main St. #46
Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 665-2000

Support our hosting establishment and wait staff. Please note that our hosts add an "Event Gratuity" to each bill.

And don't forget cash for our 50/50 raffle!

Arrive for dinner as early as 6:30pm. Meetings commence at 8pm.

November 5, 2024

The Dive Club Presents

Meet Captain Stephen Bielenda

Captain Stephen Bielenda, often referred to as the "King of the Deep" by Time Magazine, is a world-renowned underwater explorer, captain, and owner of the famous "Research Vessel Wahoo." With over 55 years of experience, he has led some of the most iconic underwater expeditions, including multiple dives to the Andrea Doria, the Monitor, and the USS San Diego.

Captain Bielenda is highly regarded for his vast knowledge of shipwreck



diving, oceanography, marine science, and diving medicine, having trained many of the top technical divers in the U.S. His dynamic personality and expertise have inspired both divers and scientists worldwide. He used to lead weekly trips to some of America's most famous deep-water shipwrecks, with his adventures and discoveries documented in books and seminars over the years.



2025 CLUB MEMBERSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

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Fill out the application, which is available for download on the The Dive Club's webpage. It is preferred that you fill out the application on your computer, print to sign, and then scan and email to Bill at the below address. Read on for detailed instructions.

Please note that ALL PREVIOUS Forms are obsolete. The Form for 2025 MUST say 2025 at the top. And, again, **New Applicants** should download the form from thediveclub.com.

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 **BOTH 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 two pages and save as a *.pdf, using your Last Name for the File Name.

Ex: Cadden.pdf .

E-Mail it back to this E-Mail Address (Membership.Thediveclub@GMail.com)

Pay your Dues

You can do this by one of 3 easy and convenient ways:

1. Pay Cash at the meeting or if you run into an Officer (Pres, Vice-Pres, Treasurer, Corresponding Sec).
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.
 - * 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.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

- If you have not renewed your membership, please do so asap including filling out the updated club waiver. Form/waiver available here: thediveclub.com/membership.
- Individual memberships for 2024 are \$25. Family memberships are \$35.
- T-shirts are available for purchase for a charge of \$10.
- Membership payments should be given to Gus Bricker, who can be reached at info@thediveclub.com.
- Membership applications and renewals should be given to Bill Cadden, our Membership/ Corresponding Secretary (membership.thediveclub@gmail.com).



MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2024

- 🐟 8:03 meeting started
- 🐟 Minutes from last meeting are approved
- 🐟 Early renewals for 2025 are in effect save \$5 by renewing before the new year.
- 🐟 New member Jay introduced
- 🐟 Cedar Beach dive last weekend had 3 people in the water. Rough water and low visibility in the sound.
- 🐟 Ponquogue bridge dive was also blown out and nobody got in the water.
- 🐟 This Saturday will be a bridge dive 10:30 am high tide
- 🐟 October 13 is our pumpkin carving dive at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai meeting at 9 am. Use a dive knife, bring your hollowed out pumpkin and extra weights. We will have the grill for lunch.
- 🐟 Wreck diving schedule is complete. Scuba Network may have spots available on the Halftime.
- 🐟 Oak Beach leaderboard is completed! Congratulations Norma!
- 🐟 The Big Apple Divers are planning a night dive on the Gypsy Blood. Contact Tracy Cloherty or Billy Cadden for more information
- 🐟 Our death by diving dinner is October 8 at Popeis Clam Bar. Contact Mary Davis to RSVP.
- 🐟 Holiday Party December 14 at Gus' house more details to follow
- 🐟 LIDA meeting Wednesday October 9 open to all via Zoom. reminder to support your local dive shops and dive boats to keep them around for us!
- 🐟 Tiedemanns going to Florida Springs in January. See Ed for information
- 🐟 Elaine Turley running a trip to Bonaire. Contact Mary or Courtney for her information
- 🐟 Nominations: Mary is stepping down from the president position. Courtney Lyons has been nominated for President and Norma Leon for Recording Secretary. The other positions will be staying the same: John Berntsen for Vice President, Gus Bricker for Secretary, and Bill Cadden for Membership Secretary. Nominations will be open through November if anybody else would like to run. If so, voting will take place at the December meeting.
- 🐟 Mary presenting on Diving Truk lagoon: 8:31 pm.
- 🐟 Meeting adjourned



UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING 2024 (RECAP)

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On October 13th The Dive Club met at Cedar Beach for the Underwater Pumpkin Carving Dive. The day was warm and sunny but an East wind kicked up the sound. There were 2ft breaking waves making the entrance challenging, especially while holding a weighted pumpkin. 17 brave divers entered the water and 12 carved pumpkins emerged after an hour.

The water temperature was a comfortable 63 degrees and the visibility was 8 feet. The surge made the carving harder than usual. I travelled out to 13 feet and couldn't escape the surge.

Even with the rough conditions,

there were some fine carvings done. Some nice embellishments were used to make the pumpkins interesting.

Once the voting was done, the winners were presented with their certificates.

The results are:

1st Place - Pat Fontana

2nd Place - John Paul Pfisterer

3rd Place - Mary Davis

Our club photographers took some fine photos to share. We had a nice feast with bagels and donuts to add to the fun.

A great time was had by all! 🎃



UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING 2024 (RECAP)

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SEASMART BONAIRE 2025

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Registration for SeaSmart's July 2025 ocean conservation, marine science and SCUBA middle/high school students' and adult women's programs in Bonaire has opened to the public. SeaSmart limits the week to 12 participants due to the custom nature of our activities.

The program will include an introduction to 60 species of fish over a three-day workshop, designed to build foundational knowledge in marine biodiversity and species identification. Through a combination of interactive lectures, field practice, and guided underwater surveys, participants will learn to recognize and differentiate key fish species and behaviors common to the region. By the end of the workshop, participants will be ready to take part in the widely recognized REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) citizen science program. As certified surveyors, participants will play a crucial role in gathering data that supports marine conservation efforts worldwide long after their SeaSmart week.

Bonaire's most important turtle nesting site is Klein Bonaire. Every season, approximately 50-70 sea turtle nests are laid in this area alone. SeaSmart program participants will be trained to patrol the beach of Klein Bonaire for hatched nests, and possibly to excavate the nest to collect data on species and hatching success. Our workshop will address why protection of the many small nesting colonies is critical for the

maintenance of hatchling production and genetic diversity.

During the program, participants will learn about the importance of active marine protection, Bonaire's Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA Bonaire, organized by Bonaire's government in 1962), a non-governmental, nonprofit foundation dedicated to managing, protecting, restoring, promoting and educating about the resources, biodiversity and values of Bonaire's nature and what it is accomplishing. Along with Manta conservation, we will also learn about the rich history of the island and tour some important sites.



JOIN US IF YOU ARE A SCUBA DIVER OR WANT TO LEARN

Sea SMART
A 501C3 NONPROFIT

2025 MARINE BIOLOGY, OCEAN CONSERVATION, AND SCUBA ADVENTURE

STUDENTS: JULY 12-JULY 19 ADULT WOMEN: JULY 19-26

BONAIRE, DUTCH CARIBBEAN

FIND NEW BUDDIES * BEGINNERS * EXPERIENCED * LEARN TO DIVE

Summer 2025: We will venture to Bonaire, known for largely untouched waters and beaches - experiencing crystal clear diving and beautiful reefs. Along with Scientists & Conservationists, 12 fortunate participants will explore: **SCUBA** (Learn during the week if you are not already certified)

Fish Studies & Surveys - Learn to recognize and differentiate key fish species and behaviors over a three-day workshop, designed to build foundational knowledge in marine biodiversity and perform population studies

Sea Turtles - Participate in important protection activities, getting trained to patrol the beach of Klein Bonaire for hatched nests, perform possible excavation and collect data on species and hatching success

Manta Conservation - Review work being done to understand the biology and ecology of mobulid species across the 700 islands that make up the Caribbean

LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

More info at: seasmartocean.org/upcoming-programs

You can get additional details on our website: www.seasmartocean.org/upcoming-programs where you can also see examples of past programs and hear students share their experiences.



WRECK DIVING

Wreck diving season is over.



STAY TUNED FOR 2025 DATES!

FINAL LEADERBOARD (as of September 8)

Mary Davis 7

Ryan Christie 6

Jim Vafeas 5

Danny Rivera 4

John Hochenberger ... 4

Sal Candela 4

Andrew Solomon 2

Ryan Smith..... 2

Alex Bases..... 2

Barry Lipski 2

Jim Lisle..... 2

Andre Krasnov..... 2

Phil O'Sullivan 2

Alexey Stenger 2

John Chiappardi 1

Bobby Reith..... 1

The Dive Club Wreck Diving Disclaimer:

The following equipment is **required** for all wreck dives with The Dive Club:



Secondary Air Source:
~ doubles or pony bottle



Wreck reel



Lift bag OR Surface Marker Buoy



Cutting tool



Whistle or other sound device



Strobe

Divers should be comfortable with the use of this gear.

To book a spot on the Sidekick Dive Boat, each diver must have certification for the planned depth of the wreck. **Deep Diving certification is required for wrecks over 100ft.** To book a spot on the Sea Hawk or Sea Turtle, AOW certification is required.



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BEACH DIVING LEADERBOARDS

BEACH DIVING (FINAL THRU 10/27)

Mary Davis 18

Alyssa Armour 8
Alex Einbinder 8
Nick Lappano 7
Norma Leon 7
Dan Corcoran 7
Tim McMahon 6
Glen Whelpley 6
Kayla Arbuckle 6
Rick Baresich 5
Kris Kulikauskas 4
Jack Frost 4
Ozon Ersoz 4
Kevin Ryan 4
Chelsea Miller 4
Ken Murphy 4
Jenny Ross 4
Vadim Paley 4
Jim Lisle 4
Linda Gotti 3

Nick Sinnott 3
Barry Lipsky 3
Tom Reidman 3
Mike Feldbaum 3
John Pfisterer 3
Kathryn Brusewitz .. 3
Andre Krasnov 2
Harris Moore 1
Alex Bases 1
Leslie Von Pless 1
William Iaconnetti... 2
Jim Vafeas 1
Kim Valenti 1
Chris Weaver 1
Joe Lemaire 1
Danna Prather Davis 2
Martin Ryder 2
Steven Davis 2
Rob Vasiluth 1
Daniel Fleischman... 1
Priscilla Seigh 2

Danny Rivera 1
Ron Prybella 2
Joey Feldbaum 2
Louis Buda 1
Ryan Smith 1
Eric Cregeen 1
Bob Auteri 1
Will 1
Travis Brady 1
Dawn Dawson 1
Linda Brown 1
Grace Mattel 1
Denis Mellett 1
Gregg Sorgen 1
Bob Stamm 1
Andrew Solomon 1
Jay Kogan 1
John P Pfisterer 1
Zane Davis 1
Pat Fontana 1
Ryan Christie 1

OAK BEACH WEDNESDAYS (FINAL THRU 9/18)

Norma Leon 14

Eric Cregreen 12
Nick Lappano 9
Kevin Ryan 6
Vadim Paley 7
Michael Feldbaum ... 7
Kris Kulikauskas 5
Chelsea Miller 5
Joe Feldbaum 6
Joe Lemaire 4
Tim McMahon 4
Alyssa Armour 3
Megan Barrow 3
Alex Einbinder 4

Ron Prybella 4
Louis Buda 2
Dan Corcoran 2
Ronald Broom 2
Jimm Gary 2
Chuck Ertle 2
Babs Ertle 2
Courtney Lyons 1
John Berntsen 1
Rick Baresich 1
Jeannine Jennette .. 1
William Iaconetti 1

Andrey Krasnov 1
Harris Moore 1
Daniel Duran 1
Marc Broom 1
Jen Lander 1
James Campbell 1
Jim Campbell 1
Jack Frost 2
Peter Wicik 1
Barry Lipsky 1
Kayla Areukle 1
John Hochenberger 1
Randi Hochenberger 1



Cozy fleece headbands and hats featuring SEA CREATURES!

Contact Linda Brown if
interested.

Hats: \$35
Headbands: 25

BE A GUEST SPEAKER AT MEETINGS!

Each month we welcome a guest speaker at our meetings to share their experiences on topics related to scuba diving, maritime history, travel, oceanic sciences, and more.

If you or someone you know might like to present at one of our upcoming meetings, fill out the [Google Form](#) by scanning the QR code!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Mary Artale
Christopher Brady
Frank Cara
Brian Chebuske
John Cholewa
John Cholewa
Tracy Cloherty
John Frost Jr.
Jerry Kinkade

Julia Mathieson
Lisa Mellett
Shannon Mellett
Christopher Newins
Jeric Sabino
Emily Solomon
Robert Stamm
Thomas Weismantel
Helen Wissing



TDC LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President:
Mary Davis



Vice President:
John Berntsen



Treasurer:
Gus Bricker



Recording Secretary:
Courtney Lyons



Corresponding Secretary:
Bill Cadden

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Wreck Diving:
Mary Davis &
Savi Presperia



Beach Diving:
[Vacant]



Oak Beach:
Tim McMahon



Camping Trips:
Bruce Russo



T-Shirts & Swag:
Courtney Lyons



Website:
Jim Vafeas



Social Media:
Jerry Kinkade



Newsletter:
Randi
Hochenberger