



DIVER DOWN NEWS

December 2024
Volume 35, Issue 12

President's Note – December 2024

This is my last note as President of The Dive Club. I am stepping down at the end of this year. It has been my pleasure to hold this office for the past 3 years and as vice president for the 4 years prior. I have seen the club grow in membership and become more active each year. I am looking forward to seeing the club continue to grow with the new leadership.

I want to thank all the club members who helped make the events so much fun. I have had the privilege to dive with so many new dive buddies. I still plan to dive with the club as often as I can and will always be available as a dive buddy.

I was fortunate to have an amazing year of diving with trips to Florida, Bermuda, Truk Lagoon, Canada and the Bahamas all in one year. This was in addition to many Long Island wreck and beach dives. It will be hard to top 2024 but I will do my best to try.

I am looking forward to our December meeting on 12/2 and the club Holiday party on 12/14. Dive planning for 2025 will begin early in the year and all members are encouraged to get involved. The more members working together, the better the club will be.

Here is looking forward to an exciting 2025 dive season!

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!

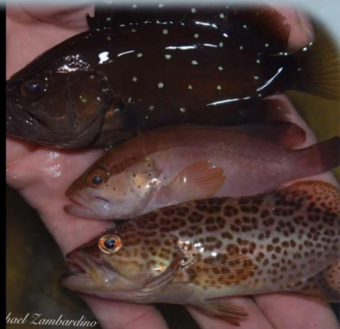
Arrive for dinner as early as 6:30pm. Meetings commence at 8pm.

December 3, 2024

The Dive Club Presents

Michael Zambardino

Wildlife Photographer 📷 Hobby Fisherman 🎣 Long Island Native



Michael has documented his local microfishing journey through incredible photos of species some of us divers may never have even seen or heard of!

Michael will be displaying an assortment of the nearly 150 species he has caught on our island, all with hook and line.

His focus has been on microfishing and tropical strays, many of which we are beginning to see later and later into the fall & winter season as warm water temperatures remain.

© Michael Zambardino





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

November 5, 2024

- 🐟 Meeting started 8:00
- 🐟 Bill will send out a renewal form for 2025 soon it is almost complete.
- 🐟 This is a reminder that the Google Groups club email chain is for club business please do not hit reply all for personal matters.
- 🐟 Leaderboards are finalized for the year. congratulations to all who participated and especially those who placed at the tops.
- 🐟 We had a nice pumpkin dive and everyone was very creative. Great job artists!
- 🐟 Chairpeople needed for committees: beach diving, wreck diving, oak beach
- 🐟 This is the last month to nominate for elected board positions. As of now, nobody is running opposed and they will be appointed to their new positions in December.
- 🐟 Holiday party will be at Gus' house December 14
- 🐟 We are always looking for speakers for future meetings. Let us know if you have a talk you would like to speak about or someone you would like to nominate to speak!
- 🐟 Tonight we have a very exciting guest speaker, Captain Stephen Bielenda

Dive Leaderboards were finalized and published in last month's newsletter.



See the [November 2024 Newsletter](#) for Leaderboard information.

Previous newsletters can always be accessed at thediveclub.com/newsletters

Newsletter Correction: in the November 2024 newsletter, the date of the meeting on the minutes page was not updated from October's newsletter. The Date read "September 10, 2024" but it should have read "October 1, 2024."

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 501(C)3 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.



While the local dive season may have come to an official end, winter is a good time to take a class, get your gear serviced, rent pool time to work on skills, or plan that travel dive adventure!

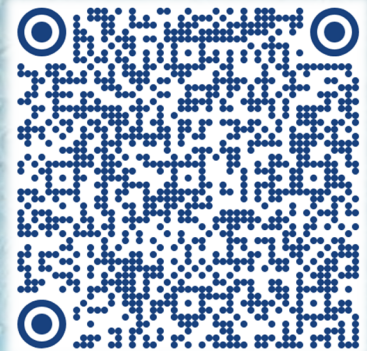
In addition to staying connected to The Dive Club and members at meetings, via the Google group, or over social media, now is a good time to head to your local dive shop for assistance in those areas or ideas on how to keep make the most of being a Long Island diver in the winter.

ALSO, DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR DIVE CLUB MEMBERSHIP!!

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!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



John Barrett

Allison Boucher

Louis J. Buda IV

Corrine Burton

James Cumilang

Douglas DeMatteo

Randi Hochenberger

Jennifer Lander

Christopher Mitchell

Kyle Patac

Bruce Russo

Franzelyn Russo

Randi Schenfeld

Daniel Schwedes

Marie Sirois

Mason 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