

DIVER DOWN NEWS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE DIVE CLUB

President's Note — January 2025

Dear Fellow Divers,

I am beyond excited to begin this new chapter as your President for the upcoming year! I want to start by thanking our retiring president, Mary, for a wonderful 3 seasons leading the club. I am also thankful to each of you for the encouragement and trust you've placed in me, and I promise to give my all to help make this dive season one of our best yet!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Courtney Lyons. I am an accountant and a professor by trade, but my passion for scuba diving started when I was 18. I have been diving with the club for about 5 years now, which has really allowed me to grow as a diver and meet so many amazing people who have taught me so much in this time. Some of my favorite local dive sites include the old OBI, the Shinnecock east jetty, and the wreck of the Oregon!

We have so many exciting things planned, and I can't wait to dive into them together! From wreck dives to beach dives, we have a great mix of fun days lined up. Our Oak Beach Wednesday night dives are always a fan favorite, and I look forward to seeing everyone out there as the days get warmer. We'll also be hosting some fantastic barbecues and new events throughout the season, with plenty of opportunities for everyone to connect, share stories, and make new memories. Plus, we're working on some amazing trips that I know you're going to love!

This year, we're aiming to foster an even stronger sense of community within the club. Whether you're a seasoned diver or new to the sport, we want you to feel welcomed, inspired, and excited to dive with us. I would love to see some new faces this year and I encourage every existing diver to share your love for diving with the younger generation to keep the sport alive. We've got a lot of great adventures ahead, and I hope you're ready to dive in fins first!

Thank you for being part of our club, and I look forward to sharing an unforgettable season with all of you!

*Best regards,
Courtney Lyons*



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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.



January 7, 2025
The Dive Club Presents
John Bricker

Presentation
"TBD"

*Be on the lookout
for an official
TDC Google Group
email in the next
few days*





MEMBERSHIP

Fill out the application, which is available for download on the The Dive Club's webpage and at the end of this newsletter. 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 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).





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MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2024

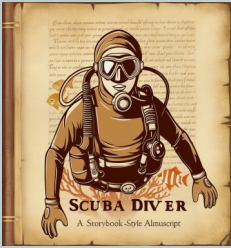
- 🐟 Meeting started 8:02 pm
- 🐟 January 1: dues go up to \$25, pay early and save \$5
- 🐟 State park scuba permits went on sale for next year. We are still looking for a committee to get together and work on getting divers allowed on the permit for 4x4 beach access. This needs to be a group effort. Let Bill Cadden know if you're interesting in helping out
- 🐟 The Port Diver Christmas party is this Saturday 12/7. All are welcome
- 🐟 Bruce shared a charter granted to the Dive Club by the Boy Scouts for 25 years of service that the club
- 🐟 December 14 is The Dive Club Christmas Party at Gus' house at 51 Maple Ave. 6 pm start
- 🐟 Leaderboard result: Norma completed the most Oak Beach Dives this year, Mary completed the most beach and wreck dives! Congratulations!
- 🐟 New elected board for 2025: Courtney for President, John for Vice President, Gus for treasurer, Bill for corresponding secretary, and Norma for recording secretary!
- 🐟 Wreck dive planned on the Gypsy Blood July 19 to the Stolt. Contact Courtney to sign up
- 🐟 LIDA is presenting at Beneath the Sea in March
- 🐟 New Year's eve Dive is planned for 10:00 am Stehli Beach
- 🐟 Moving on to our speaker for tonight- Michael Zambardino presenting on Micro-Fishing on Long Island!

Dive Leaderboards were finalized and published in the
[November 2024 Newsletter](#)



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





DIVER TALES

"ANOTHER LOOK BACK"

STORY 17 BY JACK FROST AND STEVEN BORGESS

Reading older diving publications you are bound to run across an occasional piece of information that makes the whole reading worthwhile. This is what I expected with "Shallow Water Diving and Spearfishing" written in 1954 by Hilbert Schenck, Jr. and Henry Kindall. What I found was a complete treatise on the state of diving as of that year, including the three types of diving gear being used and hints on the psyche of divers of that era. The authors wrote with the expertise of engineers but that may well have been typical of early divers in that they made their gear and intimately knew the needs, use, and limitations. In this book, they presented a clear picture of the diving experience for at least the previous three decades leading up to 1954.

Put down your single hose regs, C-cards, BC's, DAN Emergency #, and dive computers. Let's go back to 1954. Forget the dive industry. None of this exists yet and you're not going to need any of it. Every dive is going to be an exciting adventure of prowess and risk.

The three types of gear for "Shallow Water Diving" (as opposed to "deep water hard hat diving") in order of appearance on the sport diving scene were, 1. surface supplied masks and open bottomed helmets, 2. rebreathers, and 3. the just developed demand regs that are the predecessors of our gear.

Surface Supplied Masks and Open Bottomed Helmets

These were ideal for shallow water diving as a compressor or a tender hand pumping air could provide long bottom times. These divers walked on the bottom. Drawbacks were towing a hose around and the limitations of a tenders ability to hand pump air to depth. The goal in helmet diving was to keep the water level below the diver's chin. The authors provide diagrams for construction and the needed practical information for use. U/W lighting could be had by using a sealed truck headlight with a power line to a battery on the surface. They provided the address of a single company that had started making an U/W diving light.

Rebreathers

Three designs to build your own and the pluses and minuses of each are discussed. One big plus was that a bottle of O2 could provide 28 times the bottom time compared to a bottle of air. The authors warn that rebreathers (which they made and routinely used) were not "safe" (in 1954), particularly regarding O2 and CO2 hits. Without sensors or pressure gauges for their homemade rebreathers, the practice of divers was to determine the safety of their gas mix by how they "felt". If the diver felt "odd", then he should increase the flow of O2 into his



mixing / breathing bag. On the other hand, if he felt a CO2 hit coming on, he'd be wise to surface. If you empty the O2 bottle - "you should have enough breathable gas in the mixing bag to make it to the surface." Undoubtedly, divers of this era paid close attention to their gear and how they felt during each dive.

Self Contained Throw Away Diving Gear

This is what the new double hose gear was called. Self Contained - as you carried your air source. Throw away - because you expelled (threw away) the gas into the water rather than recirculating and rebreathing it. The acronym S.C.U.B.A. had not been coined by 1954 and the authors referred to this gear throughout the book as "Throw Away Gear". Demand regs had been around for at least 80 years prior to 1954 being used for other purposes, with several manufacturers in the 1800's making devices to assist firemen and miners. These devices were universally called "Lungs". When Cousteau's U.S. Divers company brought his reg onto the market, the name "Aqualung" was chosen to indicate it was a breathing device (lung) specifically made to be used underwater (aqua). The authors applauded the safety benefits and utility of this new gear. The time around 1954 seemed to be a turning point.

Interestingly, cylinders, usually WWII surplus, were referred to as "Lung Tanks". In the U.S., steel tanks were charged to 2,350 psi. At this time in Europe demand regs were called "Open Circuit" and duralumin tanks charged to 3,000 psi were

available. These tanks were not allowed in the U.S. I don't recall seeing aluminum tanks in the U.S. until around 1973.

Regarding the psyche of 1954 divers - it had to be a very tight and exciting community. Wet suits were initially frowned upon as "Not manly". The authors complained about some California divers feeling like they could break laws because "they were heroes doing a dangerous sport". In the early 1960's L.A. County considered banning diving from County beaches. This probably because of the fatality rate. The authors discuss spearfishing in the second half of the book and recommend bringing an iron bar on dives to break up coral to attract fish.

One piece of information presented in this book was that the 1 1/2 inch long eustachian tube (which has a round opening into the middle ear to drain infected material) is shaped flat where it enters the nasal - sinus cavity. This to prevent infected material from traveling up into the middle ear. They point out the futility of trying to force equalization as you will just squeeze the flat nasal - sinus end tighter. Ascend then equalize. The "flat" info was news to me.

There you have it. Diving in 1954.

P.S. If you've seen me on a beach dive you may have noticed my rubber inner tube dive flag setup. This is not "Hillbilly". It's a 1950's California skin divers rig. That is my original dive flag from 1971. I'm on my second rubber inner tube. 🐼



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!

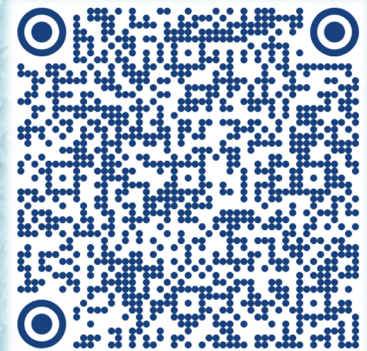
In addition to staying connected to The Dive Club and members at meetings, via the Google group, or over social media, now is a good time to head to your local dive shop for assistance in those areas or ideas on how to keep make the most of being a Long Island diver in the winter.

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!



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Bob Auteri
Dennis Boucher
Stephen Burton
Julie Terri Cohen
Michael Feldbaum
Sam Feldbaum
Gavin Fontana
Carl Brett Friedman
George Garfagona
Jeannine Jennette
Brian Lemke

Norma Leon
Courtney Lyons
Matt Marschhauser
Denis Mellett
Stephanie A Miller
Philip O'Sullivan
Ron Prybella
Kristen Lee Ruggiero
John Schwedes
Katy Schwedes
Alicia Sirois
Ryan Smith



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TDC LEADERSHIP



President:
Courtney Lyons



Vice President:
John Berntsen



Treasurer:
Gus Bricker



Recording Secretary:
Norma Leon



Corresponding Secretary:
Bill Cadden



Wreck Diving:
[Vacant]



Beach Diving:
[Vacant]



Oak Beach:
[Vacant]



Camping Trips:
Bruce Russo



T-Shirts & Swag:
[Vacant]



Website:
Jim Vafeas



Social Media:
Jerry Kinkade



Newsletter:
Randi
Hochenberger



APPLICATION DATA SHEET

Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Relationship: _____

Level of Certification: Certifying Agency: Date of Certification: Student ☐ Yes ☐ No Years Diving: Approx. Number of Dives made: Deepest Dive to date: Have you ever made a planned decompression dive? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What are your diving interests? ☐ Wreck Diving ☐ Shore Diving ☐ U/W Photography ☐ Deep Diving
 (Check all that apply) ☐ Spear Fishing ☐ Night Diving ☐ Artifact Collecting ☐ Travel/Vacation
☐ Environmental Issues

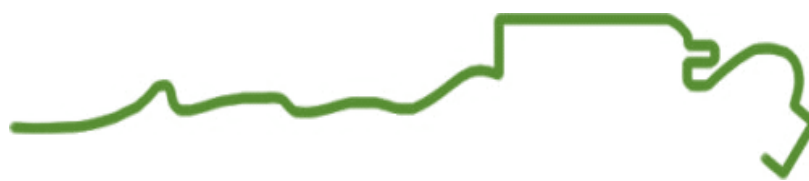
Are you First Aid/CPR certified? ☐ Yes ☐ NoAre you interested in furthering your present level of certification? ☐ Yes ☐ NoWhat are you looking for in a dive club? Would you be interested in participating in club committees? ☐ Yes ☐ NoWhen are you available for club dives/activities? (Check all that apply): ☐ days ☐ nights ☐ weekendsDo you have Dive Accident Insurance (DAN or other)? ☐ Yes ☐ NoAre you a member of any other dive clubs? ☐ Yes ☐ No If so, which ones? **Membership Type:** Please check ☐ New ☐ Renewal☐ Single Membership: \$25.00. Full club membership☐ Family Membership: \$35.00. Full Club membership for the person signing up, plus Partner and all children 26 years old and under.**Disclaimer:**

I understand that if accepted for membership in The Dive Club, I will be bound by the by-laws of The Dive Club and will be required to sign a waiver of liability and pay the applicable admission fee.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Approved by:

Signature/Title of Club officer: _____ Date: _____



LIABILITY RELEASE AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK

This is an important legal document. You may wish to consult an attorney prior to signing it.

This release may be used against you in a court of law if you sue any released person or party.

Please read carefully, **fill in all blanks and initial each paragraph before signing**. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

I, _____, hereby affirm that I have been advised and thoroughly informed through my open water training of the inherent risks of skin and scuba diving.

- Further, I understand that diving with compressed air involves certain inherent risks; decompression sickness, embolism, or other hyperbaric injuries can occur that require treatment in a recompression chamber. I further understand that any trips of any kind (diving or non-diving), whether sponsored or not, by The Dive Club may be conducted at a site that is remote, either by time or distance or both, from such a recompression chamber. I still choose to proceed with such diving activities in spite of the absence of a recompression chamber in proximity to the dive site(s).
- I understand and agree that neither The Dive Club or any of their respective board members, officers, agents or assigns (hereinafter referred to as “Released Parties”), may be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death, or other damages to me or my family, heirs, or assigns that may occur as a result of my participation in any Dive Club activity, or as a result of negligence of any party, including the Released Parties, whether passive or active.
- In Consideration of being allowed to become a member of The Dive Club I hereby personally assume all risks in connection with diving or non-diving activity from any harm, injury or damage that may befall on me, including all risks connected therewith, whether foreseen or unforeseen.
- I further save and hold harmless said Dive Club and Released Parties from any claim or lawsuit by me, my family, estate, heirs, or assigns, arising out of my enrollment and participation in Club events including both claims arising during said event or after said event.
- I Further understand that skin diving and scuba diving are physically strenuous activities and that I will be exerting myself during any diving activity, and that if I am injured as a result of a heart attack, panic, hyperventilation, etc., that I expressly assume the risk of said injuries and that I will not hold the above listed individuals or companies responsible for the same.
- I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this liability release, or that I have acquired the written consent of my parent or guardian.
- I acknowledge scuba diving is an activity that is done with a buddy. I will not make a solo dive during a Dive Club event unless I am certified to do so by an accredited training agency and I am equipped to make this dive safely.
- I understand that the terms herein are contractual and are not a mere recital, and that I have signed this document of my own free act.
- I acknowledge that The Dive Club does not provide buddies, gear, transportation, training, or professional advice pertaining to the sport of scuba diving. However, the dive sponsors will do their best to help club members find what they need for a dive by setting up email groups to allow individual club members to coordinate rides, buddies, and rental gear, if necessary.
- The Dive Club does not vet divers or make any determination about whether any diver is qualified to do any given dive. This decision is entirely up to the individual diver, as well as any external dive operator, such as a dive boat captain or resort operator. It is important to evaluate your current experience when making the decision to dive. If you only have experience diving in warm waters with optimal visibility, you should consider the additional challenges associated with northeast diving before making your decision. I expressly assume the risk of any injury or illness for **each and every** dive that I determine to make and hold harmless for the same the above listed companies and individuals.



- I acknowledge that for planned boat charters, the minimum certification and equipment requirements listed in our newsletter are the requirements of the boat captains. Please contact them directly if you have any questions about the suitability of a dive for you.
- I understand that DAN (Divers Alert Network) Insurance or other similar diving accident insurance policies are available to me if I choose to acquire this. I acknowledge that it is my own responsibility to educate myself on the available policies and choose the one, if any, that is appropriate for me. I understand that without this, I will be responsible for any medical bills or damages to my equipment that I incur.
- I recognize that I may receive false or misleading information from one or more club members or non-members pertaining to the relative difficulty of a dive or my ability to safely participate in or perform a dive. Additionally, I acknowledge that one or more club members or non-members may negligently approve of my dive plan, including preparation or intended dive plan, the condition of my equipment, my ability to use my equipment, or proper use of equipment. I understand and agree that **I am responsible for determining whether I am capable of executing** a dive safely, whether I have sufficient information regarding my own physical abilities and the intended dive to base this decision, as well as whether my equipment is in proper working condition and is sufficient for the intended dive. I release The Dive Club and all co-signers who by signing this waiver similarly release me from negligent acts or omissions of this nature.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF _____ BY THIS INSTRUMENT TO EXEMPT AND RELEASE THE DIVE CLUB, AND ALL RELATED ENTITIES AS DEFINED ABOVE, FROM ALL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH HOWEVER CAUSED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK BY READING IT BEFORE I SIGNED IT ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY HEIRS.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Reviewed by Club Officer

Date



Membership Directory Data Sheet

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

I wish to have the above information published in the 2025 Membership Directory to be distributed to the Membership.

Signature of Member _____

Date _____

