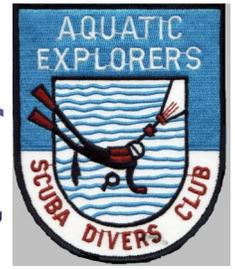


# North Current



Monthly Newsletter of the Aquatic Explorers Scuba Club Inc.  
P.O. Box 180, Connelly, NY 12417

March 2013

[www.aquaticexplorers.org](http://www.aquaticexplorers.org)

## Next Meeting

### *Club Meeting*

April 1st @ 7:30

Club Meetings are held at the American Legion Post on Overlook Rd.

### *Board Meeting*

March 25th @ 7:30 PM

Board Meetings are held at the American Legion Post on Overlook Rd.



## Canoe Race Volunteers

**It's that time of the year again, and we need people to volunteer for the annual canoe race. We'll need volunteers for all positions, as well as the cleanup before the race goes off.**

**Please contact Mike Rodriques with times and positions that you are available to work. Volunteer lists must be in place no later that Feb 28th 2013. Volunteers will not be accepted after that date.**

## New Members

We had a huge turnout of new members this month. This further points to the great progress that we've been making as a club. Lets keep the momentum going and continue to bring great new people into the club. You should all take a moment to welcome the new members in at the next meeting.

## Upcoming Events

April 1st

Full Club Meeting

March 25th

Board Meeting

For updates and the full club event calendar visit the club web site at <http://www.aquaticexplorers.org/calendar.htm>

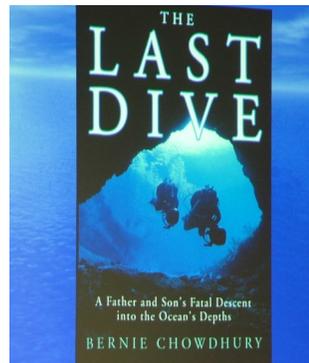
## March Meeting Guest Speaker

We had the privilege of having a great guest speaker at our last meeting. For those of you who missed, I will try to sum it up for you.

Bernie Chowdhury is a very well known diver. He's dove on



such wrecks as the Andrea Doria (including organizing and leading the first sport-diving mixed-gas expedition to the wreck in 1991); the HMS Pheasant (with the British Army; we searched for, found and dived the



(continued on page 4)

## *Diving without a knife? Think again!*

A few weeks ago, I encountered something new to me underwater. It's a fishing line that apparently has gained some popularity among offshore fishermen. Made by Shimano, it is called PowerPro. Available in just the right color brown to make it nearly invisible in the water against the bottom or a shipwreck, this line is available in strengths up to 300# test. The stronger lines are, for all practical purposes, unbreakable, at least for any diver with a surname other than "Schwarzenegger."

This braided synthetic fiber line is much more flexible and clingy than the more familiar monofilament. If entangled in monofilament I have always been able to reverse course to disentangle myself. Not with this stuff. Much as a dress shirt will slide by things that snag a sweater, you can slide by monofilament but get entangled in this line very easily. Once caught, everything I did just added more points of entanglement.

On this particular dive I happened to have four cutting devices with me instead of my usual three. Never have I been so glad that I had at least one! This line cut easily with a knife or line cutter, and surgical shears (which might be needed for steel leader) aren't needed. This was not a close call, merely an inconvenience. But without something to cut that line with, escape would not have been assured.

Remember that a line a fisherman finds caught underwater will be cut at the surface, and usually at an angle. The cut line will waft down and drape itself across whatever is on the bottom at the pleasure of whatever current there is that day. Beware of swimming between things in an area where line can be draped, and know that there can easily be over 150' of line or more draped about for each fishing line that has been cut at the surface if you are 100' deep.

This particular kind of line is truly dangerous for a diver, and could be found anywhere fishermen fish. That includes most of the interesting things off the East coast, including things like shipwrecks, jetties, and rock formations.

If you dive without a knife, I urge you to get one. And not only to get one, but to wear it on every dive, and to practice--under water--getting it out and then back into its sheath often enough that it's automatic.

## *Your ideas are welcome!*

If you have any ideas for dives, or activities that you'd like to see the club pursue, please contact any board member to discuss them. We are always looking for ways to present more activities or group dives for the club membership to enjoy. If you'd like to submit ideas for activities, you can do so via email to [activities@aquaticexplorers.org](mailto:activities@aquaticexplorers.org).

## *Club Hours*

We are also looking for people to send dive journals for trips taken for the web site. Dive journals help members learn about new dive locations and provide insights about where to stay, eat and dive. You can earn time toward your work hours for each dive journal you submit. Send your dive journals to Mike Rodriques at [mrodriques@gmail.com](mailto:mrodriques@gmail.com).

## *Local Dive Site Information*

As most of you know, I have been trying to find local dive sites that we can go to. My definition of a local site is one within two hours drive of the air shed that we can dive in a day without an overnight stay. I will also try to schedule some overnight destinations in the future but now I am focusing on day trips. I'm hoping that by the March meeting I will be able to give you a tentative schedule. Since I've been a member of the club, there has never been any regular trips so I am trying to set this up with no precedence. Please bear with me as this is all new and I'm sure there is a learning curve.

This month I have been looking for freshwater sites. Next month I will be looking for saltwater dives. I really appreciate all the ideas and help that I have received so far. If you have a good place that we can dive, let me know.

I would like to say a special thank you to Laurie at Action Sports & Travel. I reached out to them because they were the closest dive shop to Greenwater pond. Laurie has provided me with valuable information about Greenwater Pond as well as some other local dive sites. Please take time to visit their website or stop in at their dive shop. They are a full service scuba center with air fills, equipment sales, rentals, and training.

Action Sports & Travel  
369 North St.  
Pittsfields, MA 01201  
413-499-7205  
[get2diving.com](http://get2diving.com)  
[learn2diveeast@yahoo.com](mailto:learn2diveeast@yahoo.com)

## *Canoe Race Sponsors*

**Just a reminder to all of the members. We're looking to get everyone to bring in at least one sponsor this year. There will be several benefits to sponsorship for local businesses. Just some of them are;**

- **Placement as a sponsor on our website**
- **Opportunity to present themselves to the racers at the beginning and/or end of the race**
- **Mention and any print and voice media that promotes the race**
- **Placement of T-Shirt and other print media**
- **Letter of thanks from Race Committee for business placement**
- **and much more...**

**If you have any questions on pricing for sponsorship, or need help with the process, please contact anyone on the board for more information.**

## *March Meeting Guest Speaker (from page 1)*

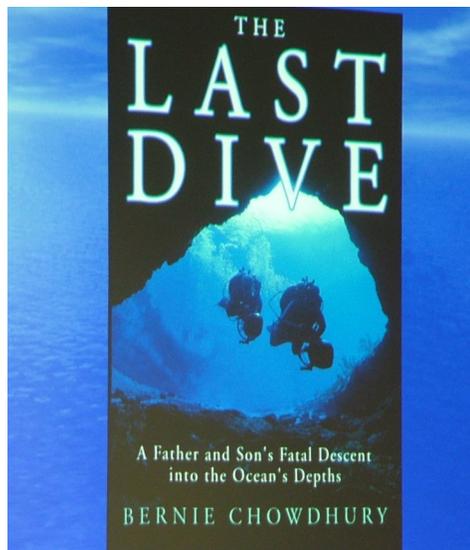
wreck in 280 feet/80+ meters); the Blucher (the one in Oslofjord, Norway; 307 feet/91 meters);

the Silfur Hellir cave, Iceland (tectonic plate dive; 197 feet/60 meters); the Kerauga cave, Iceland (extended known length of cave by making it beyond three rooms with breakdown) . He has also explored caves and abandoned mines in NY and PA and laid line in those.

Bernie spent some time with us at our last club meeting discussing diving safety and practical dive safety practices for both new and seasoned divers.

I think we all enjoyed the talk and took something away from it that we can put into practice at our next dive.

I can tell you that as a new diver, I was very impressed with some of the common sense ideas and practices



that Bernie suggested, and I know that I will be putting them into practice the next time I get in the water.