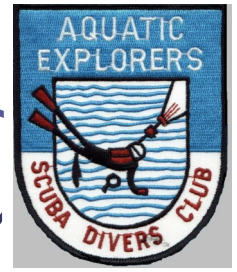




North Current



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

October 2012 www.aquaticexplorers.org

Next Meeting

Club Meeting

October 1st 2012 @ 7:30 PM

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

Board Meeting

October 29th 2012 @ 7:30 PM

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



Website Suggestions

We'd like to expand the services available to members on our website. If you have any suggestions regarding what you'd like to see on the website please forward them to suggestions@aquaticexplorers.org, with a subject line of 'website suggestions'. Some of the things under consideration are; dive blog, dive buddy search, activity forums, etc.

Club Dives

We'd like to encourage more club based dives. The more things we do as a club, the better we will be as a club. Please keep checking in here and on the website in the future to see what dives we've scheduled as a group. If you have any suggestions for club dives, please send an email to suggestions@aquaticexplorers.org. Be sure to include the words 'club dive suggestions' in the subject line.

Upcoming Events

September 29th Club Clam Bake—Sylvan Lake Campgrounds

October 5-7 NYSDA End it all Weekend—St Lawrence River, Clayton NY

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

Clam Bake

Join us for the Club Clam Bake at Long Pond in Mahopac, NY. Lots of Food, Drink and diving to be had. Call or Email Mike Rodriques for directions.

How to Avoid Shark Attacks:

- Never Leave Utah
- Roll in manure before diving. Sharks hate anything breaded
- Always dive with a buddy. On sharks approach, point to buddy
- Dive with a briefcase. Shark may mistake you for an attorney and leave you alone out of professional courtesy.

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.

2012 Club Officers

President	Joe Rinaldi	(845) 677-6683	ishoa1@gmail.com
Vice President	Carlos Caunedo Jr.	(917) 658-7098	cc.harley@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Bak	(845) 721-2605	rbakdive@aol.com
Secretary	Rich Huff	(914) 261-2363	rich547@optonline.net
Member at Large	Rich Tambini	(845) 454-0210	rtambini@earthlink.net
Member at Large	Marshall Breite	(914) 475-1054	marshvet@aol.com
Newsletter	Mike Rodriques	(914) 548-5646	mrodriques@gmail.com
Air Shed	Mark Habinowski	(845) 391-7700	macheezmo37@aim.com
Entertainment	TBD	TBD	TBD
Activities	Davis Weiss	(914) 475-6741	dave@TLCDeck.com
Membership	Mike Waters	(845) 224-6832	mwaters@jimwaters.com

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.

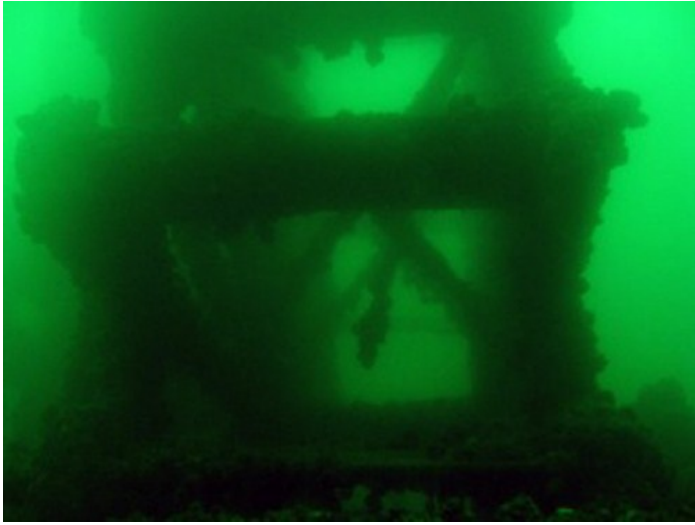
Dive Report—Kingston, Canada 2012

All good trips begin with a plan. “Plan the dive and dive the plan” and that’s what we did. Our plan was to dive on wrecks in the “Graveyard” from Kingston Canada. We wanted to hit eight different wrecks in three days.

First we had to find a charter boat. We found Pat, owner of Pat’s Dive Charters. When I first spoke with him I could tell he was the man for the job. What I didn’t know was how he could exceed my expectations. Every day Pat went out of his way to give us a diving experience we won’t soon forget. Pat would score 9’s and 10’s in every category from professionalism,



personality, boat captain, dive briefings, attention to detail and personal touch. Pat’s wife even came to the marina to pick up ten tanks for us and drive them to Explorer Diving to have them filled while we were out doing our third dive on Friday.



The second thing we needed was a place to stay. Pat had recommended we stay at The First Canadian Inn. They offered us Pat's 15% discount off rack rate. It wasn't the "Hilton" but the accommodations were nice. The hotel had a small pool and hot tub which came in handy on more than one occasion. They served us breakfast every day and had a lounge area that included a bar with a pool table. We could walk to a few restaurants and the drive to the marina was about ten minutes.



The only thing left to do was get a group of divers together, pack our gear and go to Canada. I almost forgot the weather. Good weather makes all trips more enjoyable. Bad weather played a huge role in the history of the "Graveyard". May the soles lost to the lake rest in peace.

Day 1 weather was good in the am but the lake was starting to change in the afternoon. When we finished our third dive we did have to race a lake storm back to the marina. It was raining for the last five minutes of the boat ride and hailing by the time we hit the dock. Yes even the dry suit divers got a little wet Friday afternoon.

Day 2 weather was a little overcast with some sun mixing in. The lake had calm down so getting ready for the diving was much easier.

Day 3 weather was a "10" it doesn't get any better. The sun was out and the "Graveyard" was dead calm.

Dive #1 One dive equals 2 wrecks. The Aloha and the Effie Mae sit in 55ft of water. The Aloha was two masted Schooner built in 1888 and sunk in 1917. She is 173ft long and has a 32ft beam. Sorry to say the Captain went down with his ship. The Effie Mae a former dive charter boat that was donated by Ted Walker to Kingston's POW Preserve Our Wrecks and



intentionally sunk. The water was green and the visibility was poor on your way down to the wreck. When you get to the wrecks the visibility is good. The deeper you go the better the visibility gets because the water temperature drops and the algae begins to die. This was the case on all the wrecks. Dive lights are great for looking into holes and under overhangs or just putting your attention on some of the details on the wrecks. Water temps ranged from 71 on the surface to 51 below 100 FT.

Dive #2 KPH also called the Waterlily lies off Kingston Canada opposite the Kingston Psychiatric Hospital. Little is known about her. She is 135ft long and rests in 65ft of water. Mark and I started this dive as volunteers. We had to follow a drop line to the wreck and find the mooring line which had been cut loose by a boaters prop. We shot the line to the surface with a lift bag that Pat provided. Mission accomplished.

Dive #3 Wolfe Islander was built in 1947 and scuttled in 1985. She was a ferry boat for many years. Wolfe Island shelters this site from the wind waves on the lake. This site is a good site to save if the weather isn't cooperating. She is 80ft down and she is big at 200ft long with many levels and rooms to explore. This site can't be fully explored on just one dive.

WARNING Do not attempt to enter her without the proper training.

Dive #4 The Cornwall was built in 1854 and scuttled in 1931. The wreck is 70ft deep and 176ft long. This was one of the finest Side wheel steamboats of her day. The Prince of Wales toured Canada on her in 1860. Rediscovered in 1989 there is much to see. Her paddle wheels still standing, steam pipes, boilers and even the windlass is still attached to her bow. When we got on this wreck Charlie's right shoulder dump valve was stuck open and leaking air. Thanks to Rich Tambini for saving the day and Charlie's dive.

Dive #5 George A. Marsh was a three masted schooner built in 1882. She set sail from Oswego NY loaded with 450 tons of coal for Kingston. She went down with 12 people aboard. 135ft long in 80ft of water with the bow spirit, ropes and anchor chains still attached she is an excellent dive. The rigging dead eyes are a must see feature along her massive rails.

Dive #6 The Comet was a big 174ft long twin paddle wheel that was built in 1848. The lake

took her in the spring of 1861 after a collision with a schooner. Two crewmen were lost trying to bail out one of her large yawls. She rests in 90ft of water with her large wheels still vertical. Her twin boilers are still visible under her deck.

Dive #7 Dredge Munson sits vertical in 110ft of water. Her steam shovel crane sits supported by the bucket. Count the bucket teeth to confirm your brain is still working and the nitrogen narcosis isn't playing tricks on you. If you can count the teeth move across the upper deck and drop down to her lower deck. Check out the tool bench as you move inside for a closer look. Bring your dive light with you on this wreck. Watch your air and work your way back to the line with plenty of air for your ascent.

Dive #8 George T. Davie "Dive Me" is the saying when you see her. She is big enough to dive her at 100ft or stay up at 75ft. She was a 177ft composite barge that was built in 1898 and sunk in 1945 while in tow from Oswego to Kingston. Her crane and top half of the wheel house are off to the side. Her holds are wide open and worth exploring.

What else can I tell you about wreck diving in Kingston Canada? My answer will always be the same! I'm positive Mark Habinowski, Rich Tambini, Mark Defalco and Charlie Betelotti would agree with me. **GO DIVE THE "GRAVEYARD"**

Associated Dive Opportunities

As you may know, we have some members who are affiliated with multiple clubs. Whenever possible, we like to inform our members of activities that are being sponsored by another club, and with the approval of the other group or club, encourage our members to participate.

To that end, Bob Bak has extended an invitation to go on a couple of late year dives that are being sponsored by The Scuba Sports Club of Westchester. They are a couple of really exciting looking dive trips detailed below.

A Cozumel trip that will take place from October 6th to the 13th. We will be staying at Scuba Club Cozumel, an all-inclusive resort that caters to scuba divers. Five days of two-tank boat dives, and unlimited shore diving is included in the package. ([more info](#))

A Roatan trip going to Fantasy Island Dive Resort from November 10th to 17th. This is another all-inclusive dive resort with six days of three-tank boat dives, and unlimited shore diving. ([more info](#))

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.