

The Sea Breeze

New York, N.Y. October/November 1975 The New York City Sea Gypsies, Inc. Anne Iscoe, Editor

NEXT MEETING

Date: 5 November 1975

Place: OLIVER'S, East 57th St.
(at Lexington Ave., N.Y.C.)

Time: 7:15 pm SHARP!

This meeting will begin early because Morris Coutts, travelling from New Jersey, will present an Atlantic Diving film, of interest to all members, and finalize details of the trip to Bonaire. ALL MEMBERS GOING TO BONAIRE ARE URGED TO ATTEND. This will be the last meeting before the trip.

Business meeting will start promptly at 8:00 pm.

NOVEMBER DIVES

Saturday 1 November 1975

from George Hoffman's "SEA LION"
Diving on the "ARUNDO" 85' - 135'.
Exceptional wreck for this area.
8 spaces at \$17 per person
Shared charter with Princeton Aqua Sports

Sunday 30 November 1975

from George Hoffman's "SEA LION"
Available for those interested -
no particular dive arranged so far.

For either dive contact:

ROBERTO VARGA home phone 271-0129

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November lobster dive from the "NORTH STAR"
Burse is trying to arrange a lobster dive for us - remember, the North Star has heated cabins! Details available at the November meeting or contact:

BRUCE DEARBORN home phone 278-2047

CLUB NOTES...

Eric Cropper is recovering nicely from a motor-cycle accident. How many signatures on your casts, Eric?

Maria Salma recently spent several weeks in Spanish Wells, Bahamas. Maria warmly recommends it for a Club dive week.

cont. next column...

Although the October 18 night dive was cancelled due to stormy wather, thanks go to Elliot Potter for excellent arrangements and also, special appreciation to Elliot's father, Mr. John Potter, for his initiative and promptness in informing all those concerned of the cancellation in Elliot's absense.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO CAN...
FROM THOSE OF US WHO CAN'T...

Best wishes for great weather, water and wine to make a terrific week of diving for you in Bonaire!

ELECTIONS 1976

In order to vote at the November meeting for our 1976 officers, you must be a member in good standing. If in doubt, check your dues situation with Neal Klemens, Treasurer, home phone 734-7229, before the meeting.

Be sure to bring your copy of the list of nominees, page 3 of this issue of the SEA BREEZE.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Los Angeles Scuba Ordinance was repealed on 10 September 1975. Parts of the Ordinance still in effect are those concerning Scuba Charter Boats, instructor certification and new diver training and certification.

Read the Editorial in "SKIN DIVER" magazine, November 1975 issue, for more details.

OCTOBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. Dive on the 'Oregon' a great success. Decompression dive.
2. Dive on the 'Stalt'. Bends accident. Thorough discussion and description of procedure followed after accident.
3. Motion made and carried that VP at Large position be changed to Safety Committee Chairman. Pam Peper was unanimously voted in by the present S.C. committee for 1976.
4. Charles Fedor resigned as Editor of the Sea Breeze. The Secretary was asked to take charge until a new Editor is appointed.
5. Oct. dives - Picnic, (see following report) and Night Dive - (see Club Notes, this page)

SHINNECOCK INLET SEPTEMBER '75

"Meet at Shinnecock Inlet at 8am" and for once the Sea Gypsies were on time. It is prohibited to dive from the Hampton Bays side of the Inlet but on the Southampton side they do not appear to enforce the rules. Possibly because they feel anyone crazy enough to carry equipment across 1/4 mile of sand-dunes deserves to be left alone. We were saved this chore by Vinnie's four-wheel drive vehicle - Thank-you, Vinnie!

As we got to the Inlet there were some horrified faces when they saw the speed of the current. The Inlet is a narrow channel that extends from the ocean to the Peconic Bay and from there, there are locks into Long Island Sound. Even with tide tables it is very difficult to judge exactly when the tide is slack. To dive in the Inlet care must be taken to judge slack tide accurately then there is about 1 hour when the tide slowly turns and then rapidly, a current is built up again. A further note of caution - divers must keep to the rocks and not venture out into the channel because of the heavy boat traffic.

We managed to hit the tide just right and found 10 foot visibility. Fish were abundant including several small tropical fish. These drift up in the Gulf Stream and as winter approaches, die off, but are present every year. Several lobsters were caught as well as an eel. For the rod and reel type fisherman there was a rich haul of lead weights and spinnakers.

Shinnecock Inlet is always a very interesting place to dive but a place that must be treated with respect. The tides can be vicious and the boat traffic heavy. It is also a long walk across the sand if no ride is available.

Susan D. Benjamin

Watch for Roberto Varga's glowing report on the "Oregon" dive in the next issue.

Ed.

RHODE ISLAND PICNIC 1975

The "rain date" for the big fall picnic dive turned out to be fabulous! About 25 Sea Gypsies were treated to a sunny, fall week-end in Jamestown, autumn foliage and all. The first group arrived at Fort Getty with sweaters, jackets, and warm sleeping bags but within minutes had stripped down to T-shirts....it was HOT!

And for the real treat---Mike Meieruth outdid himself with the food. He produced an abundance of goodies including, among other things, barbecued chicken with his own sauce, corn on the cob, a delicious potato-macarroni salad, and cucumber-onion-sourcream salad. With two campfires, entertainment provided by Pete McDowell and Bill Barton on their guitars, and plenty of wine, everybody sang, laughed, danced, caroused, got a back rub and had a ball!

Although Saturday's diving at Fort Wetherill was mediocre - lousy visibility again, Beavertail offered some good diving at the "caves" on Sunday. The diving did yield some booty. Elliot Potter found a piece of a lobster trap and a nice piece of driftwood at Wetherill. John Dowdell found an anchor, with no boat attached to it, which he proudly dragged back to shore.

While some at Beavertail dove, the rest proceeded to cook up the food left from the picnic, for an afternoon feast for all.

And with that, some of the Sea Gypsies finish New England diving for 1975. After this weekend, we can only look forward to some more road-tripping, picnics, and beautiful dives up there next year.

Zoi Apponte

MAKING WAVES

The following space is made available to the club members to air personal opinion that they feel should be stated and read by all members. Kindly submit any contributions in writing and signed. Ed.

Most of us by now know that club member Roger Feuss has suffered a case of decompression sickness; a classic shoulder bend. It is not the purpose of this article to go into the details of the dive, or the actions and reactions after the dive. Roger is apparently all right after a stay of four and then of thirty-nine hours in a recompression chamber.

When all the questions are asked, we are left with only one of lasting significance: What can be done to prevent occurrences like this? In Roger's case as in so many others, there was no one big thing that we can point to and say this was the mistake. The complication of little things plus the type of dive made the occurrence almost inevitable. The truth is that Roger is just a statistic in the yearly total of bends occurrence, and as long as divers take "risks" we can expect these things to happen.

The club will take itself to task and look for ways to sharpen up its handling of dives. Everyone will feel that they have learned a little more to help protect themselves from getting hit. But then, in time, we will hear of it happening again.

What is the key to these occurrences that keep our friends at St. Barnabas busy on weekends? Decompression dives, and worse -- double decompression dives. The "little" things such as conditioning, diet, enough sleep, proper calculations, alert dive-masters, etc., are the determining factors that individualize hits when the diver begins to play with the tables. I will not attempt to lecture on the bends or diver responsibilities or dive master procedures except to say that as sport divers, which includes all members of the Sea Gypsies and the writer, we have no business making decompression dives; and especially under the club name. To do so only invites trouble.

Alan D. Iscoe

NOMINEES 1976

President

Peter McDowell
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Secretary

Sue Benjamin
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Treasurer

Zoi Aponte
Elaine Smay
Neal Klemens

PROXY VOTES

If you are a member in good standing and are not able to attend the November meeting, you may vote by proxy. Mail your vote to either John Dowdell or Anne Iscoe. These two officers are not running for 1976. Mark the envelope "VOTE", so that it will remain sealed until the actual votes are counted at the meeting..