

SeaDevil NEWS

Volume 2 Issue 11

November 1998

Published by **SeaDevil DIVERS**

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Mailed Circulation 478

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Hey SeaDevils!

As I sit and contemplate that the holidays are soon to be upon us and realize that another year is about to come to a close, I can't help but be amazed at how far we have come in the last year and a half. Thanks to all of you, we are enjoying probably the most active time for diving in Central Virginia.

Everyone I talk to is going on trips or planning trips and the enthusiasm for diving is robust wherever I look. This past month we had a great meeting at Awful's. There were a lot of new faces and many stalwarts in attendance. Although we did not have a prepared speaker, some 26 folks shared stories of their adventures and the number of dive trips that the attendees had either been on in the last month or were planning was astounding!

I am excited that so many of you are getting together and finding places to go with a friend or two. **Joe Marcinco** and **Beth Summers** dove in Florida and made a quick trip to Grand Bahama. Joe is now leading a group to Morehead City. **Joe Elder** and **Mike Marks** just returned from Bonaire.

Newly certified **Chuck Dean** took off for Puerto Rico. **John Morgan** booked himself on the Cayman Aggressor where he earned a nitrox certification and a rebreather certification. Congratulations to **Frank Hale** for completing both the Underwater Navigator Specialty and the Nitrox Specialty this past month.

Lots of folks are trying out the Carolina Quarries. **Tony Feldmesser** led a group to Rawlings (not technically NC but close enough) Travelers included the **Mr. Frank "Hooked on Diving" Hale** and **Beth "She's Everywhere" Summers**. **Ho-Bond Wong**, **Susan Martin-Marquez**, and **Lynn O'Loughlin** completed their Open Water certifications and Lynn's husband **Kieran O'Loughlin** went along just for the fun of it. Tony also did

a weekender in Raleigh diving at Blue Stone with **Chris Pettus** and once again **Frank Hale**.

The Lake Monticello crew piled in to the last DEW Scuba. We appreciate their efforts to encourage diving out at the lake. I understand that **Jeff Mikkelsen**, **Larry Turner**, **Ted Payman** invited **Mike Marks** to a little underwater survey around the dam out there.

Rita Krenz and **Tammy Johnson** aced the buddy breathing gear exchange portion of their Divemaster skills demonstration. Yeah! Must be that adventurous SVRS spirit shining through.

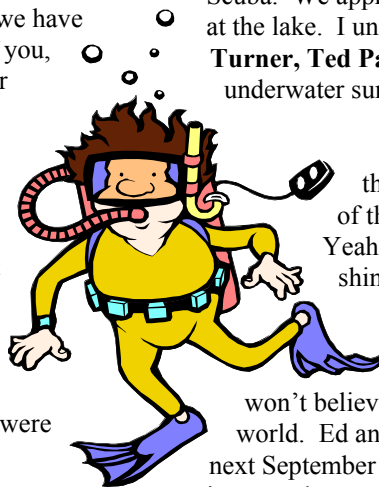
Ed Clark took me on a super adventure to Alaska this past month. You all won't believe the richness of life up in that part of the world. Ed and I have agreed to put together a little trip next September for about six divers. Call me if you're interested. Dry Suits, for sure!

Speaking of trips, we have a full schedule of trips planned for the next several months. There are groups going to Rawlings and Blue Stone on the 14th and 15th of this month. Freeport has a group of 12 going at Thanksgiving (always room for one more). **Tony Fledmesser** has four people right now and is looking for four more to go to Provo, T&C the week of December 10-16. I intend to go with him. I haven't been there in several years and it should be great.

DEW Scuba! This month we have **Steve Barnett** coming up from **Diver's Alert Network** to give us a presentation entitled "So you think you're bent? What now?" It should be very entertaining and we will have some raffle prizes to raise money for DAN. Please come by and bring a friend!

Well that's about it. Look forward to seeing everyone at DEW Scuba ... and keep going diving!

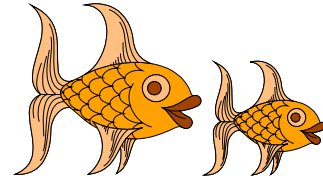
--Chip



CHECK IT OUT!

- Class Information & Schedule
- DEW Scuba
- Dive Trips
- Special Features
- Recent Happenings
- Dive Tips
- Web Site

“We Go Diving!”



November 7-8, '98 Morehead City.

Advanced certification required. We leave Saturday morning at 8:30 am. Two afternoon boat dives and two morning dives on Sunday. Including hotel (Dbl. Occ.), 4 boat dives, tanks, air, and weights as needed. Contact Joe Elder at 975-1542 for dates and pricing.

November 14-15, '98 – Do some quarry diving with Tony and some Nitrox students at **Blue Stone** near Raleigh, NC or go with Mike Marks and his group to **Lake Rawlings, VA.** Give them a call or contact Chris at Dive Connections 964-9200.

November 26-30, '98 *THANKSGIVING!!* - Freeport, Grand Bahama - After that great turkey dinner relax on the flight to Grand Bahama! Inclusive of airfare from Richmond, accommodations and 9 boat dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water Course available. Ben's Cavern trip available for 4 lucky divers. \$737. Air, Transfers, Hotel & 9 dives.

December 10-16, '98: Providenciales, Turks & Caicos - Tony Feldmesser will be running a trip to Provo with it's terrific wall diving. Dive with Art Pickering's Turtle Divers at Turtle Cove and hotel accommodations at the Erebus Inn overlooking the cove. \$1150 including Airfare, Hotel (dbl. occ.) and 5 days of two tank boat dives! Give Tony a call at 975-1959 or use email: Tony@GoingDiving.com

February '99: Little Cayman - Enjoy a full week of diving one of the finest wall and reefs anywhere. Great food and accommodations and Little Cayman Beach Resort, 3 boat dives per day. Pricing being negotiated. Contact Chip Earle for details.

April 22-26, '99: Freeport, Grand Bahama - Shake off the winter blahs with three days of diving and a day of sun on the beach. Airfare from Richmond, Accommodations and 9 Boat Dives! Open Water Certification Dives and Advanced Open Water course available. \$837 Air, Transfers, Hotel & 9 dives.

Wanted! Trip Leaders & Organizers

As I'm sure you all can imagine, there are more opportunities to travel and dive then any one or two people can possibly do. We need help!

If you're interested in putting together a trip whether its to some high profile overseas destination, the eastern seaboard for some fantastic wreck diving, or just to go to one of the really great quarries, please give me a call.

Working together we can have a lot of fun and provide each other with diving opportunities we could not have otherwise.

Chip Earle 804-984-4489
Email: Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com



PEREGRINE TRAVEL

Want help with dive travel?
Keely Vienne, Rescue Diver
296-9000

Looking for more information on our trips? ...

You will find complete trip details and links to the dive operators, hotels, island information and much more when you DIVE INTO THE WEB at

<http://www.SeaDevilDivers.com>

October 1998

Dear Chip, Tony and Mike:

Hi! I was wondering if you had any information on the November 14-15 training dives, or is it too early for you to know what's going on? I want to plan early so I know if I need to make other arrangements or figure out something I can do in the spring.

I also wanted to say that I really enjoyed my lessons. I figured before the lessons began that I would probably be the youngest in the class, and I was nervous about that. But after the first few lessons I no longer worried about it. It was a very good experience for me, and I am sad that they are over.

Bethany Marshall
(Age 14)

Thanks you for your comments Bethany. We're glad you're having a good time. We are all looking forward to the opportunity to go diving with you and hopefully the 14th & 15th will just be the beginning of many more "going diving" days. —Chip

Manatees Get Sanctuary In Florida



Courtesy BioInfo

Manatees have a new sanctuary to resort to when they are feeling harassed by eager tourists at Three Sisters Spring at Kings Bay in Crystal River, Fla., reports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The sanctuary covers less than one-fourth of an acre. It allows manatees to retreat from people during their long winter stay in the area. All waterborne activities are prohibited in the area from Nov. 15 through March 31 of each year.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service believes a sanctuary is the only solution for protecting manatees in Three Sisters Spring given the level of harassment that has been observed and reported here," said the Southeast Regional Director Sam D. Hamilton.

"While we understand the public's enthusiasm for seeing and enjoying these magnificent creatures, continuous human interaction with manatees forces them

to leave warm-water areas and can create serious problems for these animals that cannot tolerate cold water."

More than 250 manatees winter in Kings Bay and there are now six manatee sanctuaries in the Crystal River's headwaters at Kings Bay that protect approximately 39 acres of essential manatee habitat.

Georges Brings Mixed Blessings To Keys Reefs

Hurricane Georges roared through the lower Keys with 100-mph winds in late September. Its long-term impact on an ecosystem already under siege from pollution, boating and fishing is uncertain.

David Holtz, Florida Keys manager for the Center for Marine Conservation, said a team of observers that conducted an initial assessment of Georges' damage at the Western Sambos Ecological Reserve, a 10-square-mile protected area off Key West, found the hurricane had toppled large stands of elkhorn coral.

But the storm also swept the reef clean of algae and sediment that can hinder growth by blocking nourishment and sunlight from reaching the coral. It also appeared to have attracted large groups of tropical fish.

"We had the impression there was a net benefit because the reef looked so clean," he said, but on other reefs, scientists have seen algae overwhelm the coral following the passage of hurricanes.

"What's happened in many areas is that you have a massive colonization of algae take over the reef," Holtz said. "Algae tends to collect and dominate the system and block sunlight to the corals. Then they become diseased and die."

"Within a year we will see if this reef system is so stressed that that movement from a coral reef system to an algae system takes place."

WWII Japanese Submarine Found Near Barbados!

On June 23, 1944, the Japanese submarine, I-52 the Momi, was sunk in the South Atlantic by a torpedo bomber of the Air Composite Squadron 69. Now the pilot who is responsible for sinking her may have a chance to visit the ship some 3.2 miles below the ocean waves.

Researchers from Cape Verde Explorations of Manassas, Va., who found the submarine in 1995 and have salvage rights, plan to visit the wreck in the next few months and claim the emperor's ransom inside -- 4,000 pounds of gold, worth about \$20 million.

The Navy had broken the enemy's code before the Battle of Midway, and knew the sub in the area.

When the squadron's skipper picked up the radar blip of the submarine below, he radioed to the carrier USS

Bogue and told the crew he needed a plane with fresh fuel reserves to do the job.

After dropping a dozen sonobuoys -- which create a sonic perimeter around the target with underwater microphones -- Bill "Flash" Gordon, the pilot, dropped an acoustic torpedo that zeroed in on the doomed submarine's propeller and punched a hole through its stern. The 2,500-ton metal hulk foundered and dove to the crushing depth of 3.2 miles on the ocean floor.

The 357-foot Momi, considered the biggest sub in the world at the time, came to rest somewhere between Cape Verde Islands and Barbados in the South Atlantic.

Now Mr. Gordon plans to join a the salvage company, National Geographic and IMAX film crews.

The crew will be using state-of-the-art technology for the salvage, including the self-propelled submersible featured in the film "Titanic."

The salvagers will be able to keep what they find, and have agreed to return any personal items found to the families of the sub's crew and passengers in Japan.

Mr. Gordon might get to ride in the submersible when it dives, and is anxiously awaiting his chance to actually visit the Momi.

<http://cnn.com>



Shipwreck Of Lost 'Sea People' Found

An ancient shipwreck, believed to be a Phoenician vessel lost about 2,500 years ago, has been discovered nearly 3,000 feet beneath the Mediterranean Sea. The shipwreck has been christened "Melkarth," after the Phoenician god of sailors and is believed to be the oldest ever discovered in deep water.

Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc., a company that specializes in recovering deep-water shipwreck archaeological projects on a worldwide basis, discovered the site. They are hoping to partner with an archaeological team in the recovery of the ship and its contents, and archaeologists are extremely excited about the find.

Videotape taken by the Odyssey team's remotely operated vehicle show many large ceramic jars, called amphora. These jars were used as shipping containers carrying honey, olive oil, wine, fish sauce, dyes (especially purple) and other trade products. The amphorae found at the shipwreck are quite distinctive and appear similar to those of Punic or western Phoenician origin dating to the 5th century BC.

Despite the fact that the Phoenicians absolutely dominated trade during this era and are credited with the invention of glass and the evolution of our modern alphabet, very little is known about their culture.

For one thing, rather than being firmly planted as one nation, the Phoenicians, starting in territory near today's Lebanon, established colonies all along the coast of the Mediterranean. Known as the Sea People, each port city was ruled as an independent entity.

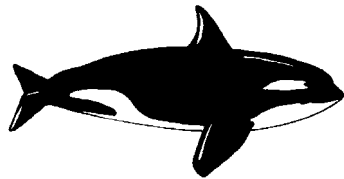
The Sea People were known as intrepid explorers as well as tradesmen. Some historians believe these amazing sailors made the first circumnavigation of Africa around 600 BC, almost 2,000 years before it was repeated by Vasco da Gama. Phoenicians traded as far as present-day England, and some evidence suggests they may have made trips to the Azores and Brazil. Carthage, which was established around 800 BC, was a major Mediterranean port for centuries.

The Odyssey team stumbled on the wreck last month while searching for a British warship that sank in the Mediterranean more than 300 years ago when it was transporting a large cargo of coins.

Odyssey has posted videos and pictures of the wreck site on the World Wide Web. www.shipwreck.net

Whales' New Diet Bad For Alaska Ecosystem?

A change of diet for killer whales in the North Pacific to sea otters from sea lions and seals is threatening a wide range of species in the coastal ecosystem of western Alaska. The researchers said the switch threatened the environment because sea otters control the sea urchin population, which strips kelp forests that many marine species need to survive.



But with the number of sea otters dwindling, sea urchins were flourishing, with kelp forests of the western Alaska coastal ecosystem disappearing quickly, said James Estes, a marine ecologist at the University of California, Santa Cruz, who led a study published in the journal Science.

Sea otters are a keystone species. The well-being of many fish, birds and marine ducks depended on the kelp forests that the sea otters helped maintain, he added.

Before switching to sea otters, killer whales ate sea lions and seals, he said. But with a sharp drop in those two populations, the transient killer whales expanded their diet.

Estes noted that before killer whales started feeding on sea otters, they shared an environment with them and often swam near each other.

<http://enn.com>



New Jersey Acts To Combat Shrinking Shark Population



After the 1975 movie Jaws chased swimmers from the ocean, a coterie of chest-thumping



adventurers went to sea. For more than a decade, shark fishing off New Jersey and other Atlantic Coast states kept charter boats busy and tournaments filled to busting. Not anymore!

Fishermen say capturing the awesome beasts now is like winning the lottery. Shark populations in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, which were estimated to be about 10 million, dipped by 85 percent since the mid-1970s.

To halt the decline, the federal government has put conservation measures in place to prevent overfishing in federal waters. And under pressure from environmentalists, New Jersey is about to follow suit. State waters run three miles from the shoreline, and federal waters extend 200 miles beyond.

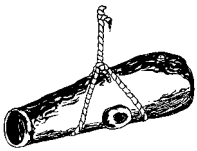
David Arbeitman, a fisherman remembers a 1981 fishing expedition. "The shark picked up the bait," he remembers. "I fought it for an hour and a half in eight-foot-high seas. Finally, I got it. It was 12-foot long. It was a 513-pound dusky. It became the new state record." The shark is like the American buffalo, slipping into lore.

"What's sad is that so many people will never get to experience this great creature," Arbeitman said.

Sharks take several years to reach maturity and do not reproduce until they are a certain size and weight. They also do not have many pups. As a result they cannot easily replenish their number.

David Wilmot, director of the Ocean Wildlife Campaign, says sharks are the top marine predator, and it's important to save them. Loss of a chief predator promotes disease and creates weak links in an ecosystem, he explained.

Divers Find Possible Remains Of 200-Year-Old U.S. Warship



FILEY, England - It sank off the eastern coast of England in 1779, and now a team of British divers believes it has found the wreck of a ship captained by the Scottish-born American naval officer

John Paul Jones.

The whereabouts of the wreck of the Bonhomme Richard, the first flagship of the American navy, has been shrouded in mystery for two centuries.

But now a team of divers from the Yorkshire port of Filey believe they have found it in an area harboring dozens of wrecks, including at least four German U-boats.

"We are convinced it is the Bonhomme Richard," said John Adams, one of the diving team. "We have done a lot of research and pieced together all the evidence, and it all points to this particularly wreck being the Bonhomme Richard."

Captained by Jones, the Bonhomme Richard headed a small French-sponsored squadron that captured a British warship—the Serapis—in a bloody sea battle off Scarborough in 1779. The Bonhomme Richard was badly

holed and sank, but not before Jones managed to board the Serapis, overpower its crew and escape. He died in 1792.

Adams said he first stumbled on the wreck, three miles off the coast near Scarborough, by accident when he dived to untangle some fishing gear. Since then, he and his three sons have made a number of secret night-time dives to the wreck, which they say lies in two pieces with relics, including cannon, strewn around.

Marine archeologist Steve Liscoe of the archaeological diving unit at St Andrews University in Scotland hailed the possible discovery.

"If this is the Bonhomme Richard, it would be a discovery of major international historical importance," he said. "But we ought to reserve judgment until we have all the evidence."

3 High Schoolers Create Ocean Adventure

Three geographically dispersed high schoolers, Jonathan Mann of Longwood, Fla.; Karl Sakas of Springfield, Va. and Kyle Smith, of Wilder, Vt., have created an award-winning web site on hydrothermal vents at the bottom of the ocean.

The three joined the ThinkQuest Website design contest with a web site entry entitled "Ocean ADVENTURE: From Deep Sea to Deep Space". The site takes visitors on a virtual journey to hydrothermal vents at the bottom of the ocean.

ThinkQuest is an international academic competition for students to produce sets of Web pages as teaching and learning tools for use by teachers and students around the world. The team members have never met in person and have created their entry by communicating over the web.

The page has received praise from and been linked to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's WINDandSEA page, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's library page, the University of Washington/Penn State REVEL Project's Gateways page and the North American Benthological Society's web site.

ThinkQuest awards over \$1 million annually in scholarships and cash to the winning teams and their coaches and schools.

Good luck guys.

SeaDevil DIVERS Class Schedule



Dive Community Club Notes



Congratulations to **Chuck Dean, Scott Hurst, Ho-Bond Wong, Lynn O'Loughlin, and Susan Martin-Marques** who completed their open water certification and to **Kim Morgan, Nicole Knight, Kip Germscheid, Monica Addleman, Melinda Bowles and Jim McVay** who completed the pool and academic portion of the class. Good luck and much success in you diving career.

October has been a very busy month, particularly in the aquatic section of the club. Our scuba program continue to expand, our water aerobics, life guard training, swimming classes are all doing well. So stop by and visit. If you are interested learning to dive, increasing your proficiency or going diving with other ACAC divers, please call the ACAC desk at 978-3800 or Chris Pettus – 964-9200



The Boar's Head Sports Club

We are in the midst of a capital improvement program which when completed will see a new expanded pool facility. We are enthusiastic about the results of our scuba program this past summer and look to build with SeaDevil Divers over the winter.

We hope to be able to provide additional scuba related activities for our members and encourage our members to look to SeaDevil for travel and diving opportunities.

Any questions about the scuba program and possible adventures with Boar's Head can be directed to Janet Hope at BHSC- 972-2235.



Farmington Country Club

We have been working all summer on improvements for our members, including new dining facilities, sports club, enhanced tennis facilities and women's locker facilities, to name just a few.

Scuba has been an attractive experience for many of our members this past summer. Congratulation to all those who have participated. In the meantime a number of our members are planning diving trips and adventures this winter. For more information, contact Greg Slavin at FCC: 296-5661



Scottsville Volunteer Rescue Squad

The SVRS Water Rescue Team (WRT) has had an exciting and busy summer! Under the leadership of **Tammy Johnson**, we have had multiple training exercises, put a number of divers through classes and seen a dramatic upgrade in equipment. We continually strive to improve so we can better serve our community. Our coverage area as a water rescue team includes all lakes, ponds, rivers and other bodies of water in

Albemarle and the surrounding counties. Our primary coverage area on the James River is from Gladstone to Breemo Bluff (roughly 40 miles); however, all the Water Rescue Teams in the area (Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue, Lake Monticello Rescue and SVRS) have a mutual response agreement, and we will travel to wherever we might be requested. Most recently, we ran a recovery effort in Esmont with the help of CARS WRT. In this case, a 32-year-old female apparently slipped into a small pond on private property. The patient was reportedly not able to swim. Within minutes of the 911 call a police officer arrived on the scene but she was no longer visible. Dive operations recovered her within the hour but resuscitation was unsuccessful. In spite of the unfortunate outcome, we were pleased with the rapid response of the SVRS and CARS WRT's, the help of Albemarle County Police and Scottsville Fire Department, and the efficient team work at the scene.

<http://www.rlc.net/users/srs7/svrs7.htm>

Lake Monticello Rescue Squad

Lake Monticello Volunteer Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Water Rescue Team, Inc. recently held a Mass Causality Incident Drill on 22 August 1998. The drill involved a boat wreck near the main beach with one boat sinking with two CPR dummies onboard (1 adult, 1 infant). The drowned mannequins were rescued from 20 ft of water within 20 minutes of the call out tone. An additional 23 injured patients were rescued from the water and transported within about 1 hour to the pretend hospital near the front of the Lake Monticello Owners Association Clubhouse.

The Lake Monticello Water Rescue Team (LMWRT) covers Fluvanna County and has mutual response agreements with Scottsville, Charlottesville, and Waynesboro dive or water rescue teams. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 at the Lake Fire and Rescue Building.

If you are interested in joining the team as a diver, support person, boat operator, or instructor, or just to learn more about SAR diving come to the next meeting or contact Larry Turner (H) 589-3518 or (W) 980-7899.



Murray High School

Gary Eisenhuth of Murray High School works with students at the school to introduce them to marine science. Gary is trying to expand the course to other area high schools. The course discusses such topics as geology, invertebrate biology, fish identification and behavior, sea grass, and coral reef ecology and involves a trip to Andros Island in the Bahamas for a little hands on training. We hope to be able to incorporate scuba training as well.

Anyone interested in assisting Gary in this endeavor, either physically or financially, is most welcome. Please give him a call at 540-672-3558.

"Club Notes" is a free service available to all local social and community organizations to announce happenings and activities of interest to the scuba community, to recognize member achievements or otherwise communicate with the diving community. Please email notices, articles, or requests to Chip@SeaDevilDivers.com or mail to:

SeaDevil Divers - 300 Preston Avenue, Suite 410; Charlottesville, VA 22902

Don't Just Do it...



DEW it!

AT



Monday, November 9th - 7 PM

This month **Steve Barnett** from Divers Alert Network pays us a visit. Steve will discuss all aspects of prevention and treatment of DCS and DAN's role in helping the dive community. There will be a raffle for the benefit of DAN featuring among other prizes, a 4 dive package at UNEXSO courtesy of **Jim & Laura Voskovitch**. Please stop by join in the fun

Everyone with an interest is welcome, so please bring a friend. Remember, SeaDevils...

“We DEW Scuba”




SeaDevil DIVERS

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-Service Change Requested-



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