



SeaDevil Divers™

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March 1998

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SeaDevils!

Spring is almost here...another 30 days and we'll begin to get rid of these gray and rainy days. I think many of you have already turned your thoughts to diving...at least that what it appeared at the last DEW Scuba. It was SRO! Over forty people showed up! What a great time!

It was good to see **Betsy Cassady** again, thanks to **Sue Smith** and designated driver and diver candidate, **Chris**. We had many regulars and a healthy contingent of new people from both sides of the mountain. **Ed Clark** and **John Reeves** made the trek over the mountain. Ed had some great pictures of Pacific and Caribbean diving. He volunteered to share some of his experiences at one of our summer meetings, and I'm particularly interested in his tales of diving **Alaska!**

David & Jackie Holladay led a contingent for the Gordonsville and Orange area...**Laurie & Jim Holladay** and **Dick & Melba Atkinson**. David is a long-term PADI Instructor who's favorite Caribbean dive site is Roatan. David promises to organize a trip later this year for us.

The Belize trip was the focal point of the semi-organized discussion. The reef was very healthy with lots of fish life, soft corals, and anemones. We saw lots of critters too! Lobsters, crabs, urchins...and my first sighting of a Red Heart Urchin complete with little crabs using the urchin for protection. And believe me, they were well down into the urchins spines so nothing was going to get at them. Blue Marlin Lodge was great—a very intimate and rustic place. Exceptionally clean, great food, and a

Hey

Editorial Comments

wonderfully friendly and helpful staff. Besides the diving it's a great deep sea and bone fishing resort. The bone fish even came right up to the dock in the afternoons. We will have some slides to show at the DEW Scuba on March 9th, and check out the web page for an above-water gallery courtesy of **Bob Green's** new *digital* camera. Thanks a bunch, Bob.

Joe Elder brought us some information on what is fast becoming his passion: wreck diving (see page 5). Joe has arranged for Joe Darling of the Dive Quarters in Virginia Beach to come visit us at the March 9th meetng. Come see some artifacts, slides, etc. and learn a little about wrecks and wreck diving off our historic coast of Virginia.

Personally, I'm really looking forward to the spring and to being able to do some teaching and local open water dives. I will start an Open Water Course on April 7 and Open Water Dives will be done the second weekend in May or on the Freeport Trip April 23rd. If you haven't completed your certification dives, come with us to Freeport whether you've done your initial training with us or not! We will have a pool session in preparation for the trip and we can do the certification dives in nice warm, clear water!

Congratulations are in order for **Bob** and **Stacey Crowell** who missed the DEW Scuba in order to recruit a new little diver, Samuel, weighing 6-13oz. Baby, Mom and Dad doing well....

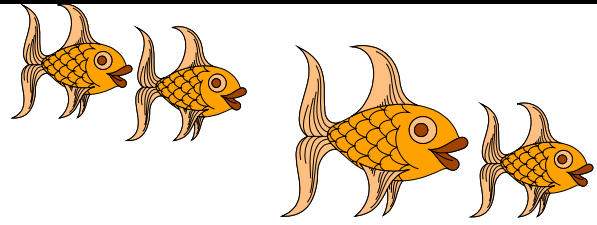
Well that's all for now. Please don't forget ... DEW Scuba... See you at Awful's.. --Chip

CHECK IT OUT!

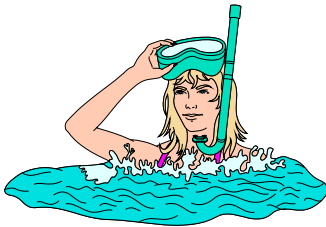
- Class Information & Schedule
- Dive Trips
- Recent Happenings
- DEW Scuba
- Special Features
- Dive Tips
- Web Site

Dive Trips

“We Schedule, We Go!”



April 23-27, '98 Freeport, Grand Bahama. PADI Cavern Certification Available!! (only 2 spots) Join the **Freeport Gang** for 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 \$807. Call Chip 984-4489. E-mail chip@SeaDevilDivers.com



June 24- July 1, '98 - Bonaire, NA. Take a trip with Tony Feldmesser to scuba diving's "Garden of the Caribbean". Accommodations at the Sand Dollar, six days of two tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving. \$660 plus airfare of \$585 (may vary). Booked through

Charlottesville Scuba Center.
Contact Tony 295-6227. E-mail amf@cstone.net

June or July '98 (formative) Providenciales, Turks & Caicos
More next month!

August 27-31, '98. Freeport, Grand Bahama. Cap off your summer 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.

October '98 (formative) Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras

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.

Wanted! Trip Leaders & Organizers

As I'm sure you all can imagine, there are more opportunities to travel and dive than 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 this summer, 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



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>

Planning a trip to Florida? Dive Disney?

I was talking with **Ken Carter** last week and he was planning to take his family to Orlando this spring. He asked about the Living Seas exhibit and I thought this review might be helpful to him and to anyone else thinking of visiting Epcot.

By Carolyn Sorensen(dc-scuba) Under the Divequest program, Epcot takes groups of up to 10 certified divers into the Living Seas exhibit twice a day. Reservations are required, the cost is \$140 (or \$110 if you use Amex). Disney keeps only the program costs and donates the rest for marine life conservation. We got a brief tour "backstage" and they showed us the huge sea water filtration plant that can recycle the whole 6 million-or-so gallon tank in 2.5 hours. The tank itself is 30' deep with 3' of gravel, all held back by 60 6-8" panels of plexiglas. Then we went into the Living Seas exhibit area through a back door and up to a classroom. They presented an orientation videotape (no touching the living creatures but you can touch the fake coral) and a VERY comprehensive waiver.

First impression: excellent! The sea life is very accustomed to divers and either ignored us or came by to check us out. Lots of fish: small to medium spotted and unspotted rays; brown sharks; a 500 lb. jewfish who stayed up at the top in a corner, watching; and 2 sea turtles.

We went past the tunnel where the people movers go past the tank and then past the restaurant, with an excellent view of the diners! Everyone was very friendly on the other side of the glass. They had us each maneuver through a coral tunnel, again for the videotape, and finally took us over to the area where the divers' family members were waiting. This was a highlight of the dive, especially for the divers who had spouses and children watching. They were able to interact with their hands on the glass, play games, and get videotaped with their families on the other side of the glass. Really cool.

The guide suggested this: put your hands on the glass and get a child to do the same. Move your hands around and they will move theirs to follow. Then flip upside down and see how they try to follow! The rest of the dive was a free swim with a buddy and just enjoying cruising around with the turtles. The dive lasted 40 minutes.

I would definitely recommend it, something to do once and just excellent if you are taking your kids to Orlando.



Flawed Iron Rivets Emerge as Clues to the Titanic Disaster

(William J. Boyd-New York Times) Ever since the Titanic was discovered in the depths of the North Atlantic a dozen years ago, her steel plates melting into rivers of rust, expeditions have repeatedly probed the hulk. And investigators armed with a growing body of evidence have been working to solve riddles posed by the opulent liner's sinking.

Now, after years of analysis and any number of false leads, experts say they have preliminary evidence suggesting that the Titanic, the biggest ship of her day, may have been done in by structural weaknesses in some of her smallest and least glamorous parts: the rivets. Two wrought-iron rivets from the Titanic's hull were recently hauled up from the depths for scientific analysis and were found to be riddled with unusually high concentrations of slag, making them brittle and prone to fracture.

The rivet analysis, which experts said must be considered tentative because of the small number sampled, sheds light on findings made public last year. Experts, diving down nearly two and a half miles to peer through thick mud with sound waves, discovered that the Titanic's bow had been pierced by six thin wounds, the damage apparently done as hull seams were forced open. The finding laid to rest the myth that the iceberg had sliced open a 300-foot gash in the ship's side and strengthened interest in the possibility of rivet failure.

Addressing a more recent issue, experts say the rivet finding has no link to "Titanic," the \$200 million epic now playing in movie theaters. But both the finding and the movie demonstrate independently how advanced technology is opening up the sea's depths.

Check out CNN Interactive at
<http://cnn.com>



INTERESTED IN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY?

Check out <http://www.cathychurch.com>
for some of the world's best U/W photos.

Class Info & Schedule

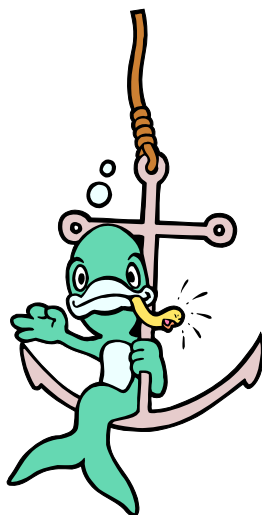


To register for any class or to inquire about any facet of the training, please contact Chip at 296-0455 or Email: chip@SeaDevilDivers.com

PADI Open Water Scuba Diver	April 7, '98
PADI Advanced Open Water	June TBA
Freeport, Grand Bahama	April 23-27
PADI Medic First Aid	April TBA
PADI Rescue Diver	April TBA
PADI Divemaster	May TBA
PADI Master Diver & Specialties	

PADI Open Water: This entry level program is designed to develop a competent recreational diver. The program consists of 5 classroom modules and 5 confined water (pool) modules after which certification is awarded upon completing 4 Open Water training dives. These dives are usually done on the weekend at one of the local quarries although they can also be accomplished on one of our local or Caribbean dive trips. It is also possible to arrange a referral to another PADI instructor at a dive destination of the student's choice. The program costs \$300 and includes all course materials, confined water dives, equipment rental and certification fees. The cost of the Open Water dives depends, of course, on where they are done. Students need to provide mask, fins, and snorkel.

PADI Advanced Open Water: This class provides a sampler of five specialty areas of diving. The core dives include navigation, night and deep diving. Two other dives are selected from among numerous specialties including multilevel, computer, naturalist, peak buoyancy, search & recovery, photography, boat, etc.



We Promise...You'll Get Hooked

The course fee which includes the book, C-card and instruction, is \$150 locally or \$100 if done as part of one of our Caribbean trips. The cost of equipment and the cost of the dives are not included.

Advanced class trip is planned for:
Freeport, Grand Bahama April 23-27

PADI Medic First Aid: This is a very good all around first aid course including CPR with particular emphasis on diving related injuries. The course takes one full day (8 hours) and is usually held on the weekend. The cost is \$95 including all course materials and certification card.

PADI Rescue Diver: This course instructs the student on how to handle and assist in handling dive emergency situations. It sets the stage for PADI leadership training by incrementally encouraging the diver to take

responsibility for others in the group and for the diving environment. The course includes academic modules and open water skills development followed by scenario enactment by the candidates to simulate real rescue situations. PADI Medic First Aid is suggested and a current CPR certification is required for certification as a Rescue Diver. The cost including the textbook, C-card and instruction is \$200.

PADI Divemaster: Full professional qualification with the world's largest certification agency. Class forming for spring. Please call for more information. Begin the self-study portion today!

Private & semi-private lessons with flexible schedules are available for most courses.

Please contact Chip.

Need to get Open Water certified before spring?

The University Dive Center

NAUI & PADI

Two Weekend Format
March 26th - April 5th

West End Shops

296-6306

Dive Training Begins With Physical Fitness!



Call Eric Steed: 978-3800

The Wreck of the “John Morgan”

By JOE ELDER

At Sloan’s one evening not long ago, a group of us were swapping dive stories and I recalled my first experience of diving in the Atlantic off the coast of Virginia Beach. It is an experience that has drawn me even more into diving and continues to encourage me to seek out new adventures and to share them with others.

I left Charlottesville one Friday evening heading to the beach for the weekend. I had met with the staff of the **Dive Quarters** earlier in the summer and received a copy of the boat schedule for the “Pelican,” a 50 foot Neville dive boat. The schedule included a wide variety of dive locations, primarily wrecks with the exception of the towers and a man made reef for student divers and occasionally a night dive location.

The plan was to dive the “John Morgan”, a Liberty Ship resting in 110 feet of water. I arrived Saturday morning for a departure at 7am. The Morgan lies approximately 30 miles off the coast and takes about an hour and a half to reach. The dive staff, all very experienced in deep and wreck diving, double checked everyone’s equipment and were delighted to answer any questions concerning wreck diving and the selected dive site.

The Pelican has an enclosed cabin under the wheelhouse with tables and benches for divers to relax and eat meals below and open stern with benches along the port and starboard side. The Pelican has a 17 foot beam and is plenty wide to move around and with a capacity of 20 divers plus crew. The boat is comfortable and roomy and it rides smoothly through the surf, cruising at 20+ knots.

The travel time on board creates an opportunity to meet fellow divers (and new dive buddies). Divers of all abilities and levels of training are onboard but you need to have your advance training for the deep dives.

The seas were calm that Saturday in August and the temperature climbed to the upper 90’s by midday. Sun block was essential to keep from getting sunburn. Upon arrival at the dive site, we pulled on our wetsuits (I was wearing a 5 1/2 mm. full length).

The water temperature on surface was a warm 74 degrees. My dive buddy and I entered the water and after a big O.K. sign, we propelled ourselves toward the anchor line. We followed the line down and at reaching a depth of approximately 60 feet, we crossed the thermocline where the water temperature dropped into the low 60’s. Visibility was around 50 feet.

I spotted large schools of Atlantic spadefish and amberjacks as we continue to descend closer to the wreck. The Morgan can now be viewed from a distance. It is an eerie sight to see. The enormous size of this wreck (423’ in length) is visually overwhelming at first glance. As we approach the wreck, various shapes and forms of rusted wreckage slip into view. Cargo lay strewn about. Recognizable military equipment, shell casings of assorted sizes, truck parts, airplane propellers, rubber tires, motorcycles and tanks, some flipped onto their sides with treadless wheels, others upright, and with turrets intact and their single guns pointing toward the surface as if to engage in war with the descending divers.

Among the wreckage we spotted tautog’s and blackfish (sea bass) darting in and out of cargo hatches and rusted holes. Coral and soft, flowering anemones are seen along the deteriorating deck. Maine lobster can also be found and caught year round upon these Atlantic wrecks.

Part of what makes wreck diving so interesting for me is the sense of history. Knowing what happened to the individual wreck, what was happening at the time and getting the feeling that I am know a witness to what happened years ago. The “John Morgan” was on her maiden voyage the night of June 1, 1943. Shipping traffic was heavy with convoys of ships carrying cargo to Europe

created easy targets for enemy U-boats and many had been sunk. Ships running without navigation, sneaked through the water like ghosts in the night. Many ending in disaster. So it was with the Morgan, when she struck the port bow of the “Montana”, in a nearly head on collision.

My trip to the Morgan will remain in my memories always. Diving with the Dive Quarters that day and on other subsequent trips has been terrific. I am really looking forward to returning to the Morgan this summer and diving the many other wrecks in the Virginia Beach area.

Virginia Shipwrecks

Vessel	Depth	Hull Type	Size	Skill Level
1800 Line	75	Freighter?	300’x’x’?	Novice
Benson	90-105	Tanker	465x60x33	Intermediate
Brass Spike	85	Transport?	?	Intermediate
Cuyahoga	90-100	Cutter	124x24x8	Intermediate
Chenango	125-135	Freighter	2 Sections	Advanced
Edgar Clark	100	Liberty	?	Intermediate
Equipoise	100-140	Freighter	Large	Intermediate
Eureka	115	Freighter	351x42x32	Intermediate
Francis Powell	90	Tanker	431x59x33	Intermediate
Gulf Hustler	75	Trawler	80’	Novice Ocean
Hanks	70	Clammer	Small	Novice Ocean
James Havilan	100	Liberty	?	Intermediate
John Morgan	110	Liberty	423x57x34	Intermediate
Kingston Ceylonite	60	Trawler	160x26x14	Novice Ocean
Kurn	90	Tugboat	90’	Novice Ocean
Lillian Luckenbach	100	Freighter	448x60x28	Intermediate
Ocean Venture	130-160	Freighter	425x57x34	Advanced
Ricks	80	Trawler	Small	Novice Ocean
Santore	60	Cargo	449x57x34	Novice Ocean
Tiger	60	Tanker	410x56x29	Novice Ocean
Tower Reef	50-80	Various	Various	Novice Ocean
Webster	100	Liberty	?	Intermediate

Underwater Archeology Training Program: April 25

April is Maryland Archeology Month and everyone interested in underwater archeology is invited to join the Maryland Historical Trust in their unique Wreck-a-wreck program. Scheduled for April 25 at Guppy Gulch in Delta, PA. This one day seminar will introduce you to the techniques and theories of underwater archeology. Join this fun, educational experience! Call Jody Hopkins of Aquatic Connections at (410) 319-9190 for further information. Pre-registration is required so sign up now! Visit their website at www.aquatic-connection.com.

Don't Just Do it...



DEW IT!

AT



Monday, March 9th - 7 PM

Guest Speaker: **Joe Darling** of the **Dive Quarters** in Virginia Beach will be here to discuss wreck diving opportunities. Joe said he would bring up some artifacts and other material to share with us.

Come have dinner and share good times with old friends and new.

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

“We DEW Scuba”



SeaDevil Divers

*300 Preston Avenue, Suite 410
Charlottesville, VA 22902*



DEW Scuba

Monday, March 9th

Monday, April 13th

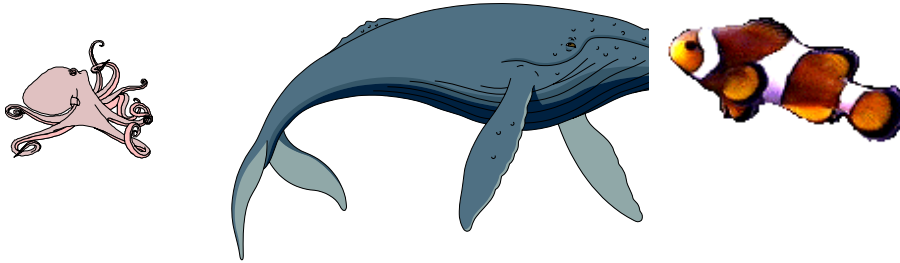
Monday, May 11th

7 PM



Address Correction Requested

Virginia offer some of the best wreck diving anywhere



Virginia Shipwrecks

Vessel	Depth	Hull Type	Size	Look for	Skill Level
1800 Line	75	Freighter?	300?x?x?	Game, Artifacts	Novice
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Brass Spike	85	Transport?	?	Game, Artifacts	Intermediate
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Chenango	125-135	Freighter	2 Sections	Game, Artifacts	Advanced
Edgar Clark	100	Liberty	?	Game	Intermediate
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