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# AQUANEWS

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## Cold Water Diving In A Southern Clime

By Peter Bein

It wasn't really that cold, but really cold for me. On January 23, I signed up for an afternoon of diving on the *Spiegel Grove* off Key Largo with Captain Slate's Atlantis Dive Center. Accompanying me was my son Steven and my old dive buddy and fellow Keys resident Ken Lindroth.

Water temperatures hovered in the sixty-nine degree range and air temperatures quite a bit cooler coupled with strong, cold winds. The morning seemed clear and balmy. As the day wore on conditions deteriorated to overcast and gusty. It was called a fresh breeze. To me it felt like a tempest. It wasn't really that cold until I got wet.

I prepared for the dive dressed in my winter three mil wet suit and my newly acquired three over five hooded vest underneath. Thanks to Ben Parker, my buddy sidekick, I learned the added benefit of the 3/5 by borrowing his gear when we were diving in Canada. Entering sixty-nine degree water from fifty-five degree air is not really uncomfortable but it was uncomfortable for me. By the time I hauled myself down to the wreck at seventy feet I had adjusted myself to the temperature.

We invaded the superstructure for a few short penetrations and then found the lines along the companionways and pulled ourselves through toward the bow. The wreck lies on her starboard side. Portals which once served as watertight hatches were made for seamen walking upright. As we pulled ourselves hand over hand, through these now open passages we had to rotate

one half turn and go through on the bias in order to prevent our regulators from striking the side (now the top) of the doorway. It was a curious chorus line of Rockettes wiggling down the runway. If you smash your regulator once you learn to wiggle. The sound feels like an explosion.

Our egress brought us out by the huge windlasses and massive anchor chains whose size amaze me every time I see them. We crossed the overturned bow and started back toward the ascent line making a few more shallow ventures within along the way. We were all experienced divers and had plenty of air left. I spotted a new deep dark hole at this point of which I made a mental note to explore on another day, if only I can remember where.

We ascended for our safety stop for three minutes and boarded the *Lost Continent*. That was when I really learned what cold was. In a wet wetsuit, even with the hood still pulled up, in gale-like winds I began an uncontrolled shiver. Unheated, open Florida dive boats are conducive to hypothermia.

We had a short one-half hour run during our surface interval. When I dropped off the dive platform for our second dive on the North Dry Rocks the water felt like it was boiling hot. It was a fairly descent thirty-five foot deep reef in fabulous condition for a Key Largo reef. Green turtle, southern stingray, nurse shark and green and spotted moray ell dotted the seascape. After thirty-five minutes I started to shake again and we headed back to the barn. *(continued on page 2)*

## AQUANEWS

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JERRY GHERARDI

## Winter Activities for The Land-Locked Diver

By Dave Swope

I read today that some Jersey divers are knockin' em dead on the in-shore wrecks. Lobsters and scallops in abundance. But from my window, I can see ice on Barnegat Bay. I don't need a thermometer to tell what the water temperature is. I'll let the go-rilla divers have my share of fresh winter lobsters. I'm staying on land for another month or two.

But that doesn't mean there are no dive related activities to be had. Quite the contrary, this is dive show season. I've gathered some of the announcements that have been hitting my e-mail lately and pass them on in hopes that you will join me at some of these events.

First comes the 16th annual Divers Flea Market, hosted by the Ocean Wreck Divers Club on Sunday, February 23 at Toms River East High School, Toms River, NJ. This is a fun place to go for a few hours and it is possible to find some good bargains there. All proceeds go to Marine oriented charities. For more information and directions, go to [www.oceanwreckdivers.com](http://www.oceanwreckdivers.com) web site. And if you are also into fishing, they will have a Fishing Flea Market on Sunday, March 16. Same place.

The next event involves having a fun weekend in Boston. The Boston Sea Rovers Club will host their 49th annual clinic at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel on March 8 and 9. This is a fun show with good speakers and a consistently great evening film festival. Check out their web site at [www.searovers.org](http://www.searovers.org)

Then comes the best of all. The 27th annual Beneath the Sea Dive Clinic will be held on March 28, 29 and 30 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in beautiful Secaucus, NJ. BTS has become the biggest consumer dive show in the US and is not to be missed. Over 300 exhibit booths, 57 seminars, 11 in-depth workshops, parties, banquets, dive industry celebrities, film festival, door prizes, silent auctions, award winning underwater photos and videos. This is going to be the best show yet. For all the information, go to [www.beneaththesea.org](http://www.beneaththesea.org) And, if you are interested in one of the in-depth workshops, sign up early.. Many of the workshops sell out well before the show weekend. To find out what's being taught, go to the BTS web site, click on "About BTS", then click on the blue word "Workshops".

And finally, don't miss the NJ Shipwreck Symposium hosted by the NJ Historical Divers Association on Saturday, April 26 at the Fort Hancock Post Theater, Sandy Hook, NJ. Speakers include John Chatterton, Dan Lieb, Donna Blaszcak, Peter Hess and Capt. Dan Crowell. Tickets are \$15 and seating is limited. For information and reservations call or e-mail: 732-776-6261 or [NJHDA@AOL.COM](mailto:NJHDA@AOL.COM)

## Cold Water Diving

(Continued from Page 1)

Once aboard I changed into warm dry clothes and was absolutely comfortable. I have not felt this cold, even diving off the New Jersey coast in February, in water temperatures of forty-one degrees, wearing my dry suit, as I felt this day. I finally found use for my dry suit in Florida. I am so happy that I brought it south with me.

I will be doing two dives on the *Thunderbolt* off Marathon on January 31 and I will be diving dry.

## In Memory of Jim Church

By Stan Waterman

I lit a cigar this morning as I thought about Jim Church and what I would write about him. The cigar is in his honor and evokes a smile as I think about that good man. We both enjoyed a cigar with a quiet talk in the evening on the top decks of the Aggressor live-aboards that we co hosted. Words that shape my memory of Jim are "Gentle....Generous.....Affable.... Teacher"

He was a superb teacher. His seminars were masterpieces of carefully designed, learner-friendly short videos that he produced himself. Guests who had signed up for one or two trips every year continued to attend the seminars they already knew by heart. The essence of an effective teacher is his ability to hold the attention of his students and infuse in them a thorough understanding of the subject. Jim had that ability to the highest degree.

His loyal following was legend. He loved jokes. I can hear his delighted laughter when he invariably recycled a joke with a punch line that we already knew. We delighted in his merriment and laughed with him. His patience with photography novices was monumental. I have watched him quietly start all over again with a guest who couldn't tell the difference between an f-stop and a full back. By giving a full measure of quality instruction, warm companionship and always a measure of laughter to thousands of divers and photographers who's lives he touched, he at the same time graced the Aggressor Fleet and the annual underwater film festivals with their sponsorship of him.

I was honored to know him and call him friend. "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that Nature might stand up and say to all this world, THIS WAS A MAN"  
(Excerpted from the Aggressor Fleet web site. For more information go to [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com) . Thanks to Peggy Howland for sending this in)

## Dues are Due

Collecting dues is one of the unfortunate necessities of club life. Since we don't qualify for a federal grant, we need your dues, which were due January 1. The sooner the better. Only \$42 for a full year of Aquanauting. We are working on this year's dive subsidy program and hope to make it attractive to more than the northern diver. All intended to give you value for your dues.

Please send your dues to Paul Galeazzi at the PO box noted on the cover of this newsletter. Or, better yet, bring a check or cash to the February 13 meeting.

## Jim Church School Of Underwater Photography Dives Cayman

The "hands-on" teaching tradition of Jim Church continues through his close friends, Mike Mesgleski and Mike Haber. Like their mentor, Jim Church, "Mike and Mike" are most excited when their students create a master piece. Their success comes from your success. Mike and Mike rarely take a camera underwater because they are helping students set up shots, check composition and finesse technical details-all underwater! They guarantee that after one week, you will take home some great shots. Their specialty is slide photography with the Nikonos V, however, they are well versed in point and shoot and digital photography.

Join "Mike and Mike" for a week of fun and learning in Cayman April 26-May 3, 2003. The charter with photo course is \$2,345 p.p., dbl. occ.  
(Also contributed by Peggy Howland with her enthusiastic endorsement for anyone wanting to have a great dive trip and become a better underwater photographer at the same time. Thanks, Peggy)

## Sea Camp for Kids

Reprinted from [www.Undercurrent.org](http://www.Undercurrent.org)

If you're looking for a way to get some decent Caribbean diving, while having the kids in good hands for snorkeling, diving, and learning about the sea, consider the Kids Sea Camp in Curacao. It offers kids from ages 4-15 the opportunity to be in Curacao's Sea Aquarium all week, feeding and learning about the marine life. Kids 4 and up learn to snorkel. There's a PADI Seal Team for the kids 8 and up and Jr. Certification for kids 10 and up. It's sponsored by the PADI Diving Society, which contributes prizes. There's a treasure hunt, the kids go to an Ostrich farm, and mom and dad go diving. Accommodations are in one bedroom villas at the new Royal Resort and diving is with Ocean Encounters, which is well regarded by *Undercurrent* readers. Prices start at \$999/person/double occupancy (the first kid is \$425). If you tell them *Undercurrent* sent you look for ten percent off. June 28-July 5 and July 5-July 12. Check it out at [www.kidsseacamp](http://www.kidsseacamp).

