

# AQUANEWS

www.rocklandaquanauts.org

Volume 28, No. 1

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## Diving The Adolphus Busch, Sr. Peter Bein

On Saturday, December fifth, I awoke to warm sun and no wind for the first time since Thanksgiving. The weather here recently has been frigid and gusty.

On Saturdays The Looe Key Dive Resort runs a three tank leaving at 10:00 AM and returning at 3:00 PM. Perfect timing for a late rising, easily chilled older diver such as myself.

My dive gear is always packed and ready to go. A forty minute run down to Ramrod Key left me a half of an hour to sign-in and board the Kokomo Kat, a huge pontoon boat, for a trip out to the Adolphus Busch, Sr.

The Busch was scuttled on December 5, 1998, and sunk perfectly upright and intact seven miles southwest of Big Pine Key.

She lies in 110 feet to the sand. The mast is but fifty feet below the waves. The main deck is encountered at eighty feet. Her cargo hold is actually at 112 feet which is below the sand.

It is an excellent site to use your nitrox because of the relatively shallow depths for a typical wreck dive.

Built in Scotland in 1951, the Busch was originally named London and like so many other tramp steamers renamed as she was transferred to various owners. Dubbed Topsail Star, Windsor Trader and then Ocean Alley until her final voyage to the depths as the Adolphus Busch, Sr. She was renamed after the beer magnate who helped fund the artificial reef project.

Suprisingly the Busch appeared in the 1957 film, Fire Down Below, which starred Jack Lemon, Robert Mitchum and Rita Hayworth.

In the few years that she has been on the barren bottom she has been transformed from the derelict freighter to a virtual fish

magnet with massive schools of tomate grunts, horse-eye jacks and barracuda. The premier stars of this underwater menagerie are the three resident jewfish which are readily sited.

We left the dock of Looe Key Reef Resort Center located at mile marker 27.5 on time. The trip out to the first dive site took forty-five minutes.

The viz was forty to fifty feet. With water temperatures at seventy-seven degrees it was not too chilly for me in my three mil suit.

I was the first into the water and down and inside thus afforded the best visibility and a complete view of the hold.

I caught sight of two of the jewfish within the hold weighing in at 400 pounds and 250 pounds respectively.

I spent some time in the wheelhouse and then outside along the main deck gunnel. Just over the edge, hovering less than a foot from the sunken hulk was the largest Jewfish that I have ever encountered. It must have weighed 800 pounds. I first thought that it was part of the wreckage. Maybe a torpedo attached to the side of the hull. I scuttled up to within two feet of the behemoth who was just slightly wobbling from side to side. I would have touched it but I didn't want to spook it and cause it to run away.

By now my gas was running low so I headed back to the Kokomo Kat.

All of the divers had something especially good to shout about over the roar of the engines as we headed over to our next dive site.

We did two shallow reef dives, at two different sites inside the Looe Key Marine Sanctuary.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## AQUANEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF THE ROCKLAND  
AQUANAUTS. WRITTEN  
CONTRIBUTIONS &  
PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOMED & ENCOURAGED.  
SUBMIT MATERIALS FOR  
PUBLICATION BY THE 19TH  
OF THE MONTH.

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

TO CHANGE MAILING  
ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER  
OR E-MAIL, PLEASE NOTIFY:  
JERRY GHERARDI

### Next Meeting: Thursday February 10, 2004

6:30-9:00 pm at the West Nyack Free Library

65 Strawtown Road

West Nyack, NY 10994

Phone: 845-358-6081; www.westnyacklib.org

### Directions:

#### Thruway from Tappan Zee Bridge

Get off at West Nyack Route 303 (Exit 12). Make a left hand turn; get into the far right land and turn onto Snake Hill Road. Follow Snake Hill Road until you come to the reservoir at the end of the road. Make a left hand turn onto Old Mill Road and follow it until you come to a 4- corner stop sign intersection. Make a left hand turn onto Strawtown Road. The library is located 3/10s of a mile on the right at the intersection of Strawtown and Demarest Avenue.

#### Thruway from Harriman

From the New York State Thruway, take Exit 13S (Palisades Parkway South) to Exit 8W (Rte 59W). Take Rte 59W to Rte 304N. Take 304N to West Nyack Road which is the first light. Make a right onto West Nyack Road. Proceed to the fork and bear left onto Demarest Avenue. the library is located at the intersection of Strawtown Road and Demarest Avenue. The entrance to the parking lot is on Demarest Avenue.

### February Meeting

#### EDDY CURRENT NIGHT

Bring Your EMPTY Aluminum Tanks for

FREE

EDDY CURRENT TESTING by CUTTING EDGE SCUBA

### Capt. Noel Voroba of Orbit Marine

Will be speaking at our March 9th General Meeting at 7:00p.m.  
at the West Nyack Free Library about Bikini Atoll!

### Gary Gentile

Has agreed to speak at our May 11th 2004 General Meeting at 7:00p.m.  
in the Besso Room at the Palisades Mall!

Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

Mission Statement:

To provide, promote, and advance environmental protection, care, and voluntary clean-up of waterways by any and all lawful means; to promote the importance and care in every manner possible by environmental awareness and otherwise; to purchase, print, publish, and circulate literature to promote the importance and care of the waterways and the work of the Corporation. To perform all acts the Corporation may deem appropriate or advisable in such operation; to establish, provide, and voluntary clean-up waterways, to encourage, support and subsidize the cleaning and protection from pollution.

## Construction Investigations

**R**iverkeeper took advantage of the heavy rains in spring and early summer to conduct inspections at more than 30 construction sites in the New York City watershed in Northern Westchester and Putnam counties.

“Many people don’t realize the devastating impact construction projects can have on water quality,” said Leila Goldmark, Watershed Attorney. “Studies indicate that one acre of disturbed construction site can discharge more than 100 tons of sediment into a

water body in a year. Sediment chokes our streams and carries poisonous pollutants with it that threaten human health and biodiversity.”

Builders are required to use barriers and other methods to prevent sediment from fouling streams during construction. As a result of Riverkeeper’s inspections, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has initiated enforcement action against a number of builders who failed to comply with the protection measures.



WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS ON WELFARE ROAD IN SOUTHEAST

© BRIAN ABERGENT

## Ready to Volunteer

Becoming a volunteer survey diver for Reef is quite simple. Whenever you make a dive just take along an underwater survey slate and record every fish species you can positively identify. If you don't know a species just jot down any markings and look at a fish ID book when you get to the surface. Then you fill out a form provided by Reef and send it to Reef headquarters. In the future you will be able to record these online. Membership is free and you can access the database, including your personal fishsighting history, by going to [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org)

**The Riverkeeper is now offering a monthly electronic newsletter!**

Visit their website at, [www.riverkeeper.org](http://www.riverkeeper.org)

**Would you believe seeing 367 Whale Sharks in one day!  
Check it out here**

[www.sportdiver.com/whaleofatale](http://www.sportdiver.com/whaleofatale)

## Wreck-Oh-Rama 2004

Diving: St. Lawrence/Lake Ontario  
July 23rd thru 29th, 2004

Deposits (\$75.00) cheerfully accepted through  
February 15th, 2004

Send deposits to: Jerry Gherardi



## Fish Tales

Reprinted from the Riverkeeper

New Yorkers may be aware of the massive toll power plants enact on the Hudson River fishery, but similar damage is done to water-ways and fisheries across the nation.

Here are some examples:

- More than 1,300 endangered sea turtles entered the cooling Water intake canals of a power plant in St. Lucie, Florida, Over a nine-year period, killing many.
- Mount Hope Bay, a federally designated essential fish habitat Had a long history as a productive fishing ground for flounder, Lobster and shellfish. But the Bay's legendary productivity Crashed in the mid-1980's, after the nearby Brayton Point Power Station increased its cooling water withdrawals by 45 percent.
- A study commissioned by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection estimated that the Salem Nuclear Generating Station cooling water intake annually kills 375,000 White perch, 281,746 herring, 305,000 spot, 61,100 Atlantic Croaker, 3,239 striped bass, 842,000,000 bay anchovy and Weakfish each year than are commercially caught in the Delaware Estuary.
- On Lake Michigan, D.C. Cook nuclear power plant killed One million fish during a three-week study period

## January Factoid of the month!

**A jellyfish is 95% water!**

© 2003 Snapple Beverage Corporation. Made from the Best Stuff on Earth!

## RAO Clubwear Clearance Sale CONTACT Les Parker

— T-Shirts (Medium) \$8 —  
When they're gone  
the sales over!

## Scuba Flea Market February 29, 2004

The Ocean Wreck Divers 17th Annual Scuba Flea Market will be held on Sunday February 29th 2004, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Toms River High School East Gymnasium.

Food! Raffles!!! Door Prizes!!! All proceeds go to DAN, Clean Ocean Action, Artificial Reef Program, American Littoral Society, Dover Township Search and Rescue, Marine Mammal Stranding Center and Many More!

There is a Donation at the door. Children under 12 FREE with a paid adult.

Directions: Toms River High School East is on Raider Way Road, Toms River, New Jersey. Take the Garden State Parkway to exit 82. Go east 5.3 miles on route 37 to the seventh traffic light. Take the jug-handle to get onto Coolidge Ave. going north and go 1.1 miles. Raider's Way will be on your left. Travel 400 yards down Raider Way and the High School will be on your left.

## Commemorative Crossings from New York and Southampton

On 4/16/04, *QM2* will set sail from Southampton, on her inaugural westbound transatlantic crossings to New York. Then, on Sunday, 4/25, Cunard Line will celebrate a historic day when it marks the inaugural eastbound transatlantic crossing for her sister ship, *Queen Elizabeth 2*. The famous *QE2*- in transatlantic service since 1969 will continue to operate her annual World Cruise and will offer a full line-up of exciting cruises from Southampton.

To celebrate this milestone, the *Queens* will sail transatlantic on the tandem with *QM2* leading the way for her younger sibling. The last two Cunard Line Queens to be the part of New York together were their legendary namesakes, *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, in the 1940's.

## Diving The Adolphus Busch, Sr.

*(Continued from page 1)*

There were massive Elkhorn coral formations as well as Staghorn corals. Many flowering and star corals dotted both of the reef dive sites. The coral within the sanctuary are in great condition because no anchors are allowed. Mooring balls are placed at all of the best areas.

In the protection of the sanctuary the coral reef fish are prolific, too many to mention. The small ones do not turn me on.

Over all, considering the spontaneity of the adventure, I could not have asked for a better day on the water in the Keys.

Anybody interested in diving the Adolphus Busch Sr., and be my buddy?

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

How good are you about achieving your goals? Are you ready for a new set for New Year's resolutions, because you abandoned the old ones? Did you lose those last five pounds in time for the holidays the way you planned? Have you kept up with your fitness regime? Have you paid your Rockland Aquanaut Annual Membership fees?

Collecting fees is one of the unpleasant necessities of organizational life. Until we find a rich member to support the Aquanauts exclusively, we depend on your annual fees to keep the organization going. A full year will only run you \$42.

Kindly remit your check to Paul Galeazzi Jr.

### AQUANAUTS ANNUAL DINNER

There's always room in your schedule for good food, fun and lots of laughs, so make time for the Rockland Aquanauts Annual Award and Dinner Party! Plan to mingle and talk with your fellow dive buddies on Sunday, January 18, 2004 before we give out awards for this year's dive achievements. Help make the awards more meaningful by sharing all the memorable and amusing experiences you've had diving with fellow Aquanauts. We know you've got stories galore! Get suggestions from any of the past years' recipients on how you can best display your achievements; they would be delighted to help you make the most of the awards experience.

### V.I.P and Hydro Testing Of Scuba Cylinders Paul Galeazzi Jr.

The D.O.T inspectors are enforcing a regulation that has been enforce for years but not followed. A V.I.P. inspection not only consists of examining the condition of the inside of the cylinder but also the outside. Many of us have numerous stickers placed on the outside of our tanks. Also the manufacturers have there logo stickers on the outside. Well all stickers must be removed at the time of inspection as well as when they need to have their Hydro's renewed. This also includes the previous V.I.P. stickers from the previous year. Save yourself possible additional charges and be sure you have all these stickers removed before bringing your tanks in for service. Also remember never use excessive heat in removing stickers as well as harsh chemicals. A plastic ice scraper can do wonders with a little elbow grease.



Rockland Aquanauts  
Post Office Box 387  
New City, NY  
10956

The Adolphus Busch, Sr. Construction Investigations VIP Testing Scuba Flea Market

**\*\*Next Meeting February 10th 2004\*\***

**6:30 pm at**

**West Nyack Free Library**

**65 Strawtown Road**

**West Nyack, NY 10994**

**(845) 358-6081**

**Directions inside**

**\*Special Night\***

**Bring Your EMPTY Aluminum Tanks for**

**FREE**

**EDDY CURRENT TESTING**