

AQUANEWS

www.rocklandaquanauts.org

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SECRETARY

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PAUL GALEAZZI JR.

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MARSHA FREEDMAN

PAUL GALEAZZI JR.

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On The Road with Max “My 3 Days with Some Techies or I Finally get to Dive with Vinny” Max Estroff

Knowing that Sea Dwellers of New Jersey was running a dive trip in early December 2003 out of Pompano Beach Florida, I planned a working trip to coincide with their dates.

Of the 10 divers, I knew 3, Vinny Galle, a fellow Rockland Aquanaut, being one of them. All of them with the exception of myself were diving doubles with multiple stage bottles using different Helium and Nitrox mixes. I used a single 120 with a 30 cubic foot Pony Bottle.

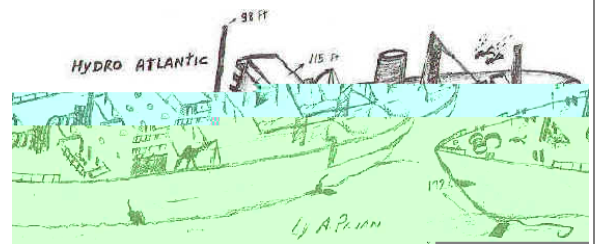
We dove 7 wrecks in 3 days. Some of the dives were as deep as 260 feet. The wrecks “they” dove were the Lorance and the R.V. Johnson. I got to dive the Hydro-Atlantic twice. The first dive was to 140 feet and the other to 144 feet. Both dives were about 17 minutes long on this twisted up metal wreck, with a total dive time of about 34 minutes. This wreck rests in 180 – 190 feet of water. There were not too many fish at this depth. Ambient light was good and the water temperature was about 80 degrees. This was one of the two dives Vinny and I did together. We were like two peas in a pod. This in itself was an event. Vinny and I have been on the same boat, same day, same ocean cycle where we have jumped in together, did our separate dives and came up the line together, but not this trip.

It is a long way down the line to 140 feet, where this wreck starts. Then we did a little exploration, all the while checking my gauges and watching my air computer go into Deco. Watching your time and managing your air is what all the training is about. We did multiple stops for two minutes on our ascent, switched bottles and waited

for my computer to clear before being able to break the surface.

With these guys that I dove with it is all about preparation and training. As a team, 6 divers jumped into the ocean with a current running doing a free descent onto the RV Johnson. We knew they hit the wreck when their big orange ball they carried stopped moving. This wreck starts at 200ft and the bottom is at 260ft.

A little more than an hour later they surfaced, Planning and Preparation. Vinny and I stayed at the Sands Hotel and Marina in Pompano Beach, 10 min. from the dive boat. Restaurants in the area made it very easy. The days were long due to the deco time that these guys needed and the surface time requirements. We ate and watched TV and slept and OH YEAH, WE DOVE!



AQUANEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE ROCKLAND
AQUANAUTS. WRITTEN
CONTRIBUTIONS &
PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ALWAYS
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SUBMIT MATERIALS FOR
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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

PETER BEIN

ALLAN BLOCK

MELISSA BOGEN

MAX ESTROFF

PAUL GALEAZZI JR.

JERRY GHERARDI

CAPT. DAVE SWOPE

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

PAUL A. GALEAZZI

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday 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**

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

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.

Aquanauts Annual Dinner Nor sleet or rain nor gloom of day!

For the fourth time in as many years the Aquanauts braved bitter cold, snow and sleet to keep to their appointed late afternoon Annual Dinner. The past two years now this event has been held at **Arthur's Steak House**, located in the sleepy town of Emerson, New Jersey.

A small but hearty group of nearly two dozen munched on finger food, chatted about the weather, and traded stories of diving last year as well as coming plans for this year. As is the norm of late, the day's festivities went off without complaint, with the exception of the now familiar bad weather.

Among the highlights of the afternoon was a presentation made by Past President, Allan Block of a plaque of Aquanaut appreciation given to Paulie Galeazzi. Paulie has been an unrelenting source of technological assistance to RAO for the past five years now.

His past accomplishments have included but are not limited to the electronic disbursement of the Aquanews, postings of all kinds on the website, and generally helping to maintain the bureaucracy of the monthly running of the organization paper mill.

So for those of you who could not attend this years function please feel free to make suggestions about next years event. A tip of the hat to all those who made the evening go flawlessly! A special note of "thanks" to Aquanaut Ben Parker for the gracious "donation" of the favors. 2005's event will be here before you know it, make every possible attempt to join us!

Upcoming Meeting Highlights:

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!

Robert Cowin from Conserve Our Ocean Legacy

Will be giving a PowerPoint Slide Presentation about Marine Conservation and the destruction of our marine environment at our April 13th General Meeting at 7:00pm at the
West Nyack Free Library

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!



University of Southern California
Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
Rapid Neurological Exam for the Average Diver

Check this out at: <http://wrigley.usc.edu/hyperbaric/neuro/neuro.htm>

Sharks in Long Island Sound

By Dave Sigworth

Yes, swimmers, there are sharks in Long Island Sound.

Growing to lengths of up to 10 feet, sand tiger sharks are among the largest and most common species of sharks found in Long Island Sound. They occur in the western Atlantic from Maine to Brazil, and also are common off South Africa and Australia, where they are called gray nurse sharks.

According to the International Shark Attack Files based at the University of Florida, sand tiger sharks (*Odontaspis taurus*) rank No. 4 on the list of unprovoked attacks worldwide over the last 420 years. However, the most recent authenticated sand tiger attack in Long Island Sound occurred 40 years ago, in 1961. (And, if it's any reassurance, that one was a non-fatal incident). "Talk to any Sound fisherman, and he'll tell you that more people are bitten by bluefish than by tiger sharks," said Jack Schneider, animal curator and director of education at The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk. Shark attacks should be kept in perspective. Most people have a slim chance of even encountering a shark, much less being bitten.

How do you identify a sand tiger shark? First, look at the dorsal fins on the shark's back. The two dorsal fins on a sand tiger are close in size, while on most sharks, the foremost dorsal fin, near the head is larger. Also, the narrow teeth of a sand tiger shark are visible all of the time, not just when it bites. In many other species, such as reef and blue sharks, the teeth are somewhat out of view until the shark extends its jaws to bite.

Because of their imposing teeth-barred appearance, and because they survive well in captivity, sand tiger sharks are often displayed in aquarium's 110,000-gallon Open Ocean tank.

Sand tiger sharks are born as live pups, only one or two to a litter. During their year of incubation, the mother continues to produce eggs, which the unborn pups eat!



At birth, the pups' measure about 30 inches long. Juvenile Sand tiger sharks have spots that eventually fade as they mature. Frequently described as sluggish, sand tigers feed on many species of smaller fish, as well as crabs and squid.

Other common species of sharks in Long Island Sound include the smooth dogfish (up to 5 feet long) and spiny dogfish (up to 4 feet long). Brown, blue, mako, thresher, and even hammerheads are occasional visitors, especially near the Race, the narrow entry channel at the Sound's eastern end.

By Dave Sigworth

Projects Editor for The Maritime Aquarium, Norwalk CT.



Members of the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

Have something to **sell** or **trade**?

Contact our webmaster

webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.org

YOU'RE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION DOCUMENTS ARE IN THE MAIL

All paid Members for 2003, will be receiving a tax deductible donation of \$25.00 of the \$42.00 that they paid to The Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc. If you don't receive them by mid February, please contact:

Rockland Aquanauts
c/o: Paul Galeazzi Jr., Treasurer
PO Box 387
New City New York 10956

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. at

**RAO Clubwear
Clearance Sale
CONTACT Les Parker
— T-Shirts (Medium) \$8 —
When they're gone, the sales over!**



February Factoid of the month!

**The starfish is the only animal that
can turn its stomach inside out.**

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

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.



Rockland Aquanauts
Post Office Box 387
New City, NY
10956

Tax Deductions Sharks in the Sound Upcoming Meetings On The Road With

****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

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