

# AQUANEWS

www.rocklandaquanauts.org

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## “Chuck meet’s his Maker”!

*A buddy goes home.*

**Jerry Gherardi**

Last evening RAO held it’s first meeting of the New Year at the West Nyack Free Library. The evening’s presentation was eddy current testing of aluminum cylinders. Paul Galeazzi Jr. was Presenter Du Jour, graciously giving his time and demonstrating his brand new testing equipment. Stated earlier in the pre-meeting publicity teaser “its not a pretty topic, and it has to be done annually, and it’s going to cost you additional dollars”. Truer words have never been written!

The shop that paired me up with my Alu bottles in the fall of 1989 was located here in Bayonne, NJ and like many shops of that era was operated part time. “Have I got a deal for you” he bellowed as I moved past the array of miscellaneous junk that littered the floor of the place. Cautious now as Joey never ever gave “deals” the hair on the back of my neck stood up. Joey proceeded to extol the virtues of the newest Alu high pressure, slightly larger capacity tanks, new to him at least that he was hawking. “This guy owns his company and always develops new merchandise”. Sensing that I wasn’t impressed he then uttered the words I needed to hear to close the deal, “Lifetime Warranty”! SOLD, I snarled back. I bought a pony and a pair of nineties sight unseen.

At the time I had maybe ten dives post training consisting for the most part of salt water inlet and a few ocean boat dives. A combination of rough ocean swells and no regular partner made for some very short dive adventures. So I welcomed the extra capacity. As time went bye I ventured out of this area and dove the warm blue tropical waters of the Caribbean. All the time taking along the pony. “You’re from New Jersey

right?” I took the good natured barbs and just smiled. On one fateful day the dive master innocently asked, “Whose your Buddy”? I had none, so I shot back “Chuck”. It worked. From that time on, my pony had a first name, and I had forevermore a “Buddy”.

Over the years Chuck and I blazed a path throughout the Caribbean and Central America. Time and dollars flew bye and by now dives were logged by the dozen. Chuck traveled nestled in the Samsonite, or crushed between two pillows in the duffel. X-rayed, man handled, fondled, and yes, even molested by boat crews. Even when the trips went from days to weeks, to a month’s duration, Chuck came along. A better buddy there never was! Time took a toll on both of us and sometimes it’s hard telling whose the worse for wear?

Fast forward to the present. Paul needed a lightweight volunteer for the evening’s presentation. I immediately volunteered Chuck. Although scratched and gouged on the outside, Chuck always passed all the necessary internal tests. Until last night?

“Ya betta take a look at this” remarked Paul. There I am watching my newer sometimes dive buddy passing judgment on my old faithful dive buddy, and it’s not good news. I managed a smile, re-valved him, and headed out the door that night in search of a second opinion. Chuck’s my buddy! That’s when I remembered Joey’s comment? Lifetime warranty or something like that? It is now fifteen years and five hundred dives later.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## AQUANEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF THE ROCKLAND  
AQUANAUTS. WRITTEN  
CONTRIBUTIONS &  
PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ALWAYS  
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**PAUL A. GALEAZZI**

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

### Next Meeting: Tuesday March 9, 2004

7:00-9:00 pm at the West Nyack Free Library  
65 Strawtown Road  
West Nyack, NY 10994  
Phone: 845-358-6081; [www.westnyacklib.org](http://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.

### March Meeting

#### 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!

Don't forget

It is that time a year again

**Beneath the Sea's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Adventure Dive & Travel Show  
March 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

[www.BeneathTheSea.org](http://www.BeneathTheSea.org)

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.**

***“Chuck meet’s his Maker”!***

*A buddy goes home.*

*(Continued from page1)*

We all know the stories all too well of mergers and acquisitions, of bankruptcies and unfulfilled scuba industry warranty promises. “That was then” or “That’s not who we are now” or “What do you want from us” are commonly heard, if not expected to be heard? Progress as the industry contracts and brands merged and melded together. In my case “our original owner” went bankrupt, sold the company, or lost the company, depending what version of the story you hear? Scuba stories are like that. Never told twice the same way? So I didn’t expect much when I made the call to the East Coast Distribution Office. I had no idea that the original company was sold, then sold again, and now the corporate property of a third entity. I asked for someone who could explain this company’s policy towards eddy current standards. Each manufacturer sets their own company standards of what is acceptable.

My sole interest is determining whether Chuck takes the next dive trip or makes the final ride. I explain my story, and listen to theirs. I’m thinking this isn’t looking very good. This company tells me to call the West Coast Corporate Home Office and speak to Mr. Quality Control. Before I dial I’m thinking if Chuck’s a goner, what about his two larger siblings? Could be a very expensive dive year?

The result? A miracle of sorts. Perhaps it was my story born out of loyalty? Perhaps it was just good corporate business sense? See My Chuck was so old (?) to them anyway, and made so long ago, two prior mergers, that the current free replacement policy does not cover his design. So I had to pay about one third of the 1989 era price for a brand new 2004 UPS delivered directly to my home, tank and valve complete. It was a good deal.

And Chuck? Well someday in the near future, yet another diver looking to plunge the depths may well make that dive with the spirit, if not the metal itself, of my buddy named Chuck. In the truest spirit of the ultimate recycle, Chuck will go back to his maker, be reprocessed or reborn as it were, to dive another day! I guess I’ll get to name my new dive buddy? And oh yeah, I won’t ever leave home without him!

The old Chuck is dead, long live the new Chuck!

Jerryg.

**Upcoming Meeting Highlights:****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!

**Members of the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.**

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

Contact our webmaster

[webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.org](mailto:webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.org)

## BCDs Recalled

If you purchased a Sherwood or Genesis BCD after July 1, you might have a defective inflator valve that could continuously inflate, a serious problem.

The affected models have a black or gray inflator button and are on Sherwood Silhouette, Magnum, Avid Luna, and Freedom models, with serial numbers 90010001 to 90350167, and the Genesis Cayman, Cobra, Athena, and Phantom (same serial numbers).

To find the serial number, check the "Important Notice" label, which may be inside or behind the BCD pocket. A spokesman said they discovered the defect during quality control checks at a Thailand manufacturing facility.

About 90 percent of the affected units were still in warehouses, and so they were upgraded with a blue colored button before being shipped.

If you believe you have a defective BCD, return it to your dealer or call 800-815-9740, ext. 233.

### The Boston Sea Rovers Announce The 50th Annual Underwater Clinic and Film Festival

Website: [www.bostonsearovers.com](http://www.bostonsearovers.com)

Annual event promises to offer new opportunities as the organizers celebrate the Show's 50th Anniversary.

(BOSTON, MA) The Boston Sea Rovers, one of this country's oldest and most prestigious dive clubs, have announced they will be sponsoring their historic 50th Annual Underwater Clinic on March 6th & 7th, 2004 at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, St. James Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

This year's Golden Anniversary event is sure to uphold their time-honored tradition to "Raise the Level of Knowledge of the Underwater World". Features of the Clinic include forty daytime seminars covering every aspect and, with over sixty booths, the largest display of dive equipment and services in New England for the year.

Tickets for the evening show are \$20 per person, as are tickets for the Clinic Saturday that includes exhibit displays and the diverse programs offered. On Sunday, admission is \$15, children under 12 are free, and admission for students with valid ID and Senior Citizens is only \$10. Daytime events run from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturday, March 6, and 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM on Sunday, March 7th.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or obtaining further information should call (617) 424-9899,

write to the Boston Sea Rovers, P.O. Box 935, Bedford, MA 01730-0935,

or visit their website at <http://www.bostonsearovers.com>



Electric Eel

## Is an Electric Eel really electric?

Here's the real eel deal...the electric eel—found in rivers in South America—can emit an electrical charge which it uses to stun prey, discourage enemies, and signal other eels. Electric eels have been known to produce up to 650 volts of electricity which is enough to stun a person—or kill a small fish!

One of our readers told us an interesting aside about electric eels. At Christmas time, the Vancouver Aquarium has a special electric eel exhibit. When the eel is generating electricity, the current triggers a switch which, in turn, activates Christmas lights!

<http://www.yesmag.bc.ca/Questions/Eel.html>

## **YOU'RE TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION DOCUMENTS ARE IN THE MAIL**

All paid Members for 2003, should have received a tax deductible donation of \$25.00 of the \$42.00 that they paid to The Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc. If you didn't receive them, 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!**

### **March Factoid of the month!**

**An electric eel can release a charge  
powerful enough to start 50 cars**

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

### **North-East Scuba Flea Market and Equipment Manufacturers Demo. May 23**

From 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club in Garfield, N.J. Will include scuba gear to buy and sell, manufacturers' demonstrations, dive clubs with information on how to join, exhibits and raffles to benefit DAN. For more information, call +1-201-440-4450, email [info@1877scubausa.com](mailto:info@1877scubausa.com) or visit <http://www.1877scubausa.com/fleamarket>.

### **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

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.

This year's Flea Market is being held at 150 Intermediate Way W., Toms River.

Directions: Garden State Parkway South. Take the route 70 exit towards Brick Twp/Lakehurst?Lakewood (exit #88). Go 0.3 miles. Continue towards Lakehurst/Lakewood/Manchester go 0.1 mile and bear onto Route 70. go 1.4 miles and make a (hand?) loop on to New Hampshire Ave. Go 2.9 miles and bear onto Old Freehold Road. Go 1.6 miles and turn onto Intermediate Way W. Go 0.2 miles and arrive at 150 Intermediate Way W. Toms River.



Rockland Aquanauts  
Post Office Box 387  
New City, NY  
10956

March 2004

Beneath the Sea Boston Sea Rovers Chuck meet's his Maker BCD Recall

**\*\*Next Meeting March 9th 2004\*\***

**7:00 pm at**

**West Nyack Free Library**

**65 Strawtown Road**

**West Nyack, NY 10994**

**(845) 358-6081**

**Directions inside**

**\*Special Speaker\***

**Capt. Noel Voroba of Orbit Marine**