

AQUANEWS

www.rocklandaquanauts.org

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SHORE AQUARIUM TRIES TO RECOVER FROM SHARK DEATHS

The Star- Ledger, Tuesday, May 11, 2004, By. Maryann Spoto and Brian T. Murray,
Star-Ledger Staff

Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach is looking to replace six Atlantic sharks that died last week when a malfunctioning valve resulted in too much oxygen being pumped into their tank.

Director Cindy Claus said she has called six or seven other aquariums in the tri-state area to see whether they can either donate or sell surplus sharks to Jenkinson's. A sign on the door of the pink building on the Point Pleasant Beach boardwalk yesterday notified visitors about the valve malfunction and the shark kill.

"We are very upset right now," Claus said. "It wasn't something we could foresee happening. This is our livelihood. This is what we love to do."

When the Jenkinson's staff arrived for work Friday morning, they found the six Atlantic sharks lying motionless in their 58,000-gallon tank. None of the other fish in the tank were affected.

Claus suspects the tank, which held between 15 and 20 fish including the six sharks, began slowly leaking sometime Thursday night. The leak was so slow that no one noticed.

Once the water level dropped below the surface skimmer - a pump that sucks debris from the top of the water - the pump began taking in air, not water, and returning the air back into the tank. That made the oxygen level too high for the sharks, Claus said.

Employees tried to resuscitate the sharks by "walking" them, a process in which teams of three or four people pull each through the water to simulate swimming. A veterinarian also administered medication intravenously, Claus said.

Despite their efforts over nine hours, the sharks died one by one.

"Teams of staff members worked with them all day, which is why it was so upsetting," Claus said. "As hard as we tried to keep them alive, it didn't work."

Two of the sharks were 8 feet long, one was about 6 feet long and the others were about 4 or 5 feet long.

The deaths left the aquarium, which opened in 1991, without any shark species from the Atlantic Ocean, though there is a collection of Pacific Ocean sharks. The shark exhibit is one of the main attractions at the privately owned facility.

(Continued on page 3)

AQUANEWS

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

JERRY GHERARDI

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 8th, 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.

June Meeting

Les Parker and Melissa Bogen

Has agreed to speak at our June 8th 2004 General Meeting at 6:30p.m. The West Nyack Free Library about their trip to Micronesia!

Don't forget The Rockland Aquanauts Org. Annual Picnic at Hessian Lake is scheduled for June 27, 2004

All Divers Must Meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot of the administration building.

Food shall be served at approx. 1:00 PM

Don't forget to bring your favorite beverages and anything else you would like that is out of the ordinary.

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.

(Continued from page 1)

Claus said the aquarium staff performs preventive maintenance on the tanks, including replacing valves. The valve on the 14-foot-deep tank where the sharks were housed was not old. The valve has since been repaired and the remaining fish, including pompano, drum and permit, were put back in the tank on Saturday, she said.

Fish kills in public aquariums are not uncommon.

Three ailing lemon sharks taken in by the Aquarium of Niagara in New York died last year after a failed rehabilitation effort. The species does not do well in captivity. Water contamination troubles, broken ozone equipment and sharks preying on other sharks all have been blamed for the nine shark deaths and 12 dead stingrays reported at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium since its \$16.8 million fish attraction opened in 2000.

Along the Point Pleasant Beach boardwalk yesterday, some tourists expressed sadness over the shark kill.

"I almost cried," said Barbara Peterson of Long Branch. "I'm sure the people who take care of them were heartbroken because they're like family."

Rich McNabb, his wife, Joanne, and his mother, Valerie, all visiting from England, learned about the shark kill when they toured the aquarium yesterday. All that was left in the tank, they said, was a few little fish.

"It's just very sad," said Valerie McNabb, 61, noting that she hopes the staff will learn from this incident. Her 31-year-old son said the aquarium should now install some type of backup system.

Retyped by Marsha Freedman

Gary Gentile has a New Book! Shipwrecks of Rhode Island and Connecticut

This 6x9 softcover book has 240 pages and covers over 60 of the areas most popular shipwrecks. The text is loaded with historical photographs, information and even has a loran and GPS list of shipwreck locations. Wrecks include the Black Point, L-8, Larchmont, Onondaga, Rhode Island, Bass, Lightburne, U-853, Spikefish, Poling Bros, Annapolis, Heroine and many more.

Shipwrecks of Rhode Island and Connecticut #GRIC Retail \$20.00

Go to <http://www.ggentile.com>

Congratulations John F. Callahan

We all would like to congratulate our very own Rockland Aquanaut, John F. Callahan, for becoming a new Padi diving instructor. He is certified to teach Padi courses from open water to dive master. He is also certified to teach the following specialties, night diving, dry suit, Padi nitrox, and search & recovery.

If anyone needs any of his services, you can e-mail him at Bmbjohn@aol.com

Members of the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

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

Contact our webmaster

webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.org

Thank you Gary Gentile

We would like to thank Gary Gentile for his wonderful presentation on the wreck of The President Coolidge, in Vanuato, which is in the South Pacific. He had a great variety of photos of not only below water but also above. It was a very informative meeting and tough luck for the people that missed it.

The following information is an outline of this magnificent Ocean Liner.

President Coolidge

Built in 1931 by Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Co, Newport News, VA. Operated prior to World War II by American President Lines. Launched 21st February 1931, Trialed and delivered to owners 1st October 1931.

This luxury liner had been in regular commercial trans-pacific services before World War II, being occasionally used by the War Department on a part-voyage basis. Her first voyage for the army began at San Francisco on 15th July 1941 and took her to Honolulu and Manila. After return in late August the ship again left San Francisco, in early September, for Honolulu and Manila. On 1st of November the PRESIDENT COOLIDGE once more sailed from the Golden Gate for the same destinations, and was en route home, midway between Manila and Honolulu, when the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. She reached San Francisco on Christmas Day 1941.

In early 1942 the ship was hastily adapted for carrying large numbers of troops and at once began service to the Southwest Pacific. On 12 January she left for Melbourne and Wellington, returning to San Francisco on 7 March. Next departing on 19 March the vessel again visited Melbourne and Bora Bora. Return to San Francisco was on 8 May and departure on the 26th took her to the Fiji Islands, Auckland and Suva.

The PRESIDENT COOLIDGE returned to San Francisco on 29 August and on 6 October sailed for New Caledonia and Espiritu Santo. On 26 October 1942, she struck an American mine in the east entrance of the Second Channel at Espiritu Santo and sank in 20 fathoms of water. Nearly all of the 5,000 officers and men on board were saved.

The President Coolidge is well known as one of the greatest wreck dives in the world. One of the interesting things that makes the President Coolidge so interesting is the variety of things to see. As a luxury passenger liner it has all the fine furnishings and decor while at the same time having all the military hardware and equipment. As the wreck is so large, many dives are needed to see the wreck in detail.



Michael Cuffer

NOTICE

For all members who have not paid for their 2004 membership, this will be your final newsletter. This means also that you will not be receiving a 2004 tax deductible donation form. If you wish to continue being a member send in \$42.00 immediately, to the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

RAO Clubwear Clearance Sale

CONTACT Les Parker

— T-Shirts (Medium) \$8 —

When they're gone, the sales over!

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

.

June Factoid of the month!

**Galapagos Turtles can take up to
three weeks to digest a meal**

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





Rockland Aquanauts
Post Office Box 387
New City, NY
10956

June 2004

President Coolidge, Shark Deaths, Thank you Gary Gentile, Congrats John

****Next Meeting June 8th 2004****

6:30 pm at

West Nyack Free Library

Directions inside

Special Speakers

Les Parker and Melissa Bogen

about their trip to

Micronesia!