

# AQUANEWS

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## Diving the Blue Water of the Outer Banks, North Carolina

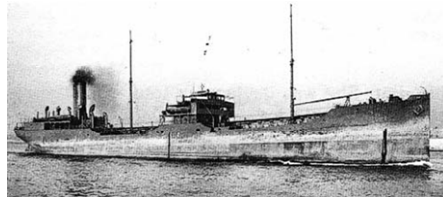
Melissa L. Bogen

Blue water and tropical fish are only a drive away at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Les Parker and I joined Paulie Galeazzi, Max Estroff, and Joe Radomski for several days of diving the last week of June. The 12-hour drive to Atlantic Beach was well worth it.

This kind of diving is not for the weak stomached, because of the 2-hour boat rides to the dive sites. Almost everyone hung over the side of the boat at some point on the days we had rough seas, but Triptone helped to quell our "mal de mer." Olympic Divers' boat was spacious and we had plenty of places to sleep during our surface interval and the rides out & back.

But enough of that. Here are the wrecks we dove. We'll be back next year.

### *Papoose*



*History:* The *Papoose* was a tanker originally called the *Silvanus*, which was built in 1921. In 1926 it rammed a tanker on the Mississippi River and was declared a total loss. The hull was auctioned off and towed to Beaumont, TX to be rebuilt.

On March 31, 1927, it was relaunched as the *Papoose* and for the next 15 years carried petroleum products from Texas to the east coast. The *Papoose* was 412 long by 53 ft wide and weighed nearly 6,000 tons. Propelled by a single-screw reciprocating steam engine, its maximum speed was 10 knots.

On the night of March 18, 1942, the *Papoose* was traveling in black-out conditions from Providence, RI to Port Arthur, TX to pick up a load of fuel oil. It was torpedoed twice by the German U-124 and sunk the next day.

### *Diving Notes:*

Diving Depths: 90-122 ft

Visibility: 50 ft when we were there,

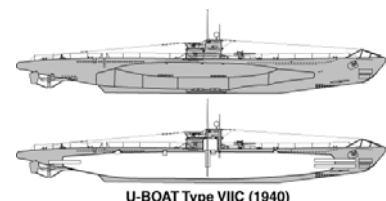
but often as much as 100+ ft

Bottom Temperature: 75°-79°

Fish/Animal Life: Notable for large schools of 5- to 6-foot sandtiger sharks congregating at the bow of the wreck, along with big barracudas and baby tropicals.

*The Wreck:* Sits upside down on the bottom, with the superstructure crushed under the weight of the hull. It can be penetrated at several points, but the most fun we had was hunting for shark teeth. You either fan in the sand on the port side or get lucky like we did and find teeth stuck amidst the flora growing on the wreck. Apparently the sharks gnash their jaws around this wreck so much they often leave teeth behind. Everyone came up with teeth, making this dive a favorite.

### *U-352*



U-BOAT Type VIIC (1940)

*History:* This German U-boat was 218 ft long by 20 ft wide by 15 ft deep, with a maximum surface speed of about 17 knots and a maximum submerged speed of 7.6 knots. The boat was designed to carry 60 men and 14 torpedoes.

The *U-352* was sunk on May 9, 1942, by the US Coast Guard Cutter *Icarus*. The *Icarus* fired 5 depth charges, severely damaging the U-boat internally, wrecking the conning tower, and blowing off its deckgun. Two more depth charge attacks forced the *U-352* to the surface, where the U-boat commander ordered the scuttling and abandonment of his ship. In the end, 17 crew members were killed and the rest were taken to Charleston, SC as prisoners of war.

### *Diving Notes:*

Diving Depths: 100-115 ft

(Continued on page 2)

## AQUANEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
OF THE ROCKLAND  
AQUANAUTS ORGANIZATION.  
WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS &  
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## Diving the Blue Water of the Outer Banks, North Carolina

Melissa L. Bogen

(Continued from page 1)

Visibility: 50-70 ft while were there, but often as much as 100+ ft

Bottom Temperature: 75°

Fish/Animal Life: Grouper, golden spotted morays, soapfish, big barracuda

The Wreck: Is small and mostly intact. It is sitting on its keel, leaning to the starboard side. You can peer into this wreck, but don't plan on any penetration. Staring in disbelief at the small body of the sub, I imagined 60 men trying to work inside without becoming claustrophobic. I kept thinking how the stench of all those men would have been enough to drive me insane, let alone the close quarters.

### Schurz



History: This gunboat was sunk June 21, 1918, when it collided with the *SS Florida* in a thick fog. Originally commissioned as the *SMS Geier* in 1894 in Germany, it was confiscated by the US Navy in Honolulu at the entry of the US into WWI in April 1914, refitted, and sent to the Atlantic in 1917. The *Schurz* was 255 ft long by 32 ft wide by 14 ft deep and weighed 1,603 tons.

### Diving Notes:

Diving Depths: 95-110 ft

Visibility: 70 ft, but known to dwindle to 10 ft due to zillions of baitfish

Bottom Temperature: 75°

Fish/Animal Life: Filefish, Atlantic spadefish, arrow crabs, blue angel, small sting ray on a grassy plain of the wreck, large sting ray in sand nearby

The Wreck: is beautiful, with 4 boilers, engine, port anchor, rudder/steering quadrant, bow and stern deck guns, and various sizes of ammunition & bullets to find!

I found a clip of 30-06 bullets after Paulie finished fanning for his ammo under a ledge of the wreck. Many more bullets to be found.

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.**

*Schurz*



<http://www.nc-wreckdiving.com/WRECKS/SCHURZ/SCHURZ.HTML>

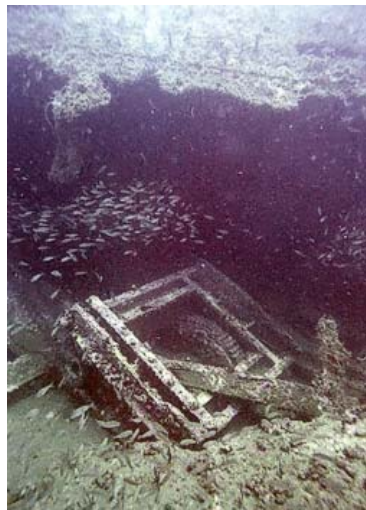
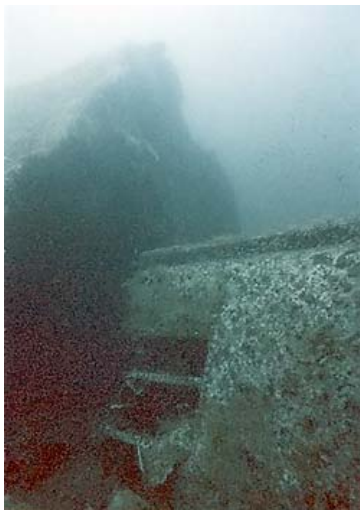
U-352

<http://www.nc-wreckdiving.com/WRECKS/U352/U352.HTML>



# Papoose

<http://www.nc-wreckdiving.com/WRECKS/PAPOOSE/PAPOOSE.HTML>



**Big grouper grabs diver on Keys reef**  
**June 26, 2005 Bill Sargent**  
**<http://www.floridatoday.com>**

ISLAMORADA - No doubt, sharks are the most notorious for latching onto underwater divers. On occasions, barracudas have been known to do the same.

But this fish-bites-man story centers around one of the more docile creatures of the deep -- the slow-moving and inquisitive Goliath grouper, for years known as the jewfish or giant grouper.

Bob Charles, a Florida Keys diver from Cudjoe Key, claims to have the bruises and four stitches in a lip following an "attack" by an estimated 100-pound Goliath grouper.

"It was just so fast," Charles told the Keynoter, a Florida Keys newspaper. "I didn't realize my head was in his mouth until I was on the way to the hospital, and I saw the blood on the top of my head."

Charles said he was diving with a friend and they were spear fishing for snapper in about 30 feet of water. The grouper continued to follow him, sometimes only a few feet away. "He was making this thudding noise they do, and then all of a sudden he turned and hit me," Charles was quoted as saying.

The force ripped away some of Charles' dive gear, but he managed to surface and swim to his boat.

Many of the popular Florida Keys dive sites, where divers use legal means for spearing snapper, grouper, hogfish and other species, are home to at least one resident Goliath grouper. Some of the big grouper relate the divers to potential handouts, and on more than one occasion a grouper has tried to grab a speared fish from the grasp of a diver. If an injured fish manages to get away, it often becomes easy pickings for the resident grouper.

Goliath grouper grow to 400 and 500 pounds. Because of their enormous strength and size, they have been known to pose a threat to divers. There's no question that since the species was placed on the protected list in 1990, its numbers have grown rapidly. Most sizable reefs and almost all wrecks have grouper as regular residents.

Charles admitted he was lucky because his encounter was with a relatively small grouper. He said the grouper might have killed him if it was larger.

Charles' story has been the talk around dive and tackle shops in the Keys.

Bob Berger, owner of Bonefish Bob's tackle shop in Islamorada, said the report reminded him of a true story 35 years ago, in the waters offshore Maine, when a monkfish killed a diver.

"My son-in-law was giving diving lessons to four or five guys near the Nubble Light House offshore York," said Berger, a native of Maine. "They were in only 20 feet of water." All of a sudden a monkfish came out of nowhere and grabbed one of the divers by the throat and there was nothing the others could do. The fish killed the guy," Berger said. "The monkfish has a large gaping mouth, similar to a grouper, and large teeth."

"Some people call it the wolf fish for obvious reasons," Berger said.

## The Cayman Islands: Home to the Caribbean's Newest and Finest Biological Field Station

The Central Caribbean Marine Institute's (CCMI) vision, to build a facility that will enhance the regional standing in support of conservation and education is a reality.

The Cayman Islands is now home to the Caribbean's newest and finest biological field station offering both tropical science education programs and facilities for research or meetings with an educational focus. "What makes us unique from similar institutions is that Little Cayman has world renown coral reefs with well-established marine protected zones juxtaposed to the deepest open ocean waters in the region providing excellent clean water and a variety of ecosystems for research and education. This setting provides an excellent and much needed reference site or control site for tropical biological and oceanographic research and education. Dr. Carrie Manfrino, President. The organization envisions the Little Cayman Research Centre becoming a premiere education and scientific research centre by providing exemplary tropical biology programs and conducting excellent research aimed at solving global issues facing coral reefs.

The Little Cayman Research Centre is a project of the Grand Cayman based, Central Caribbean Marine Institute, an international non-profit organization (with US, UK and Cayman Islands charity status). The facility consists of meeting rooms, classrooms, laboratories, a library, and dormitories (for up to 28) all located on 1400 ft of beachfront adjacent to the Bloody Bay Marine Park. The facility includes the only 'off-the-grid' sustainable design in the Cayman Islands that incorporates solar power, composting toilets, gravity controlled water flow and a grey water garden that provide a model for sustainable living for everyday life.

The Little Cayman Research Centre is the only facility of its kind in the Cayman Islands, offering college credit for programs for students of all ages through several major U.S. universities. The centre runs a summer abroad research internship for college students and the Caribbean Sea Camp, an academic program for international and local high school students. For the general public and professionals, they offer a unique "Dive with a Researcher" program so that anyone can become directly involved in marine conservation by assisting in our coral reef research. Special interest groups, teachers, and researchers are welcome to book their own conference, workshop or course. (contact the organization directly by email: [manager@reefresearch.org](mailto:manager@reefresearch.org) or phone: 345-926-2789.)

"We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Cayman Community and to the supporters of our Campaign to raise the funds to complete the new facility. It has been a five year journey that has required an enormous amount of generosity from our community. This generosity has seen us progress from meager beginnings where our students and scientists were hosted by local resorts and where we borrowed everything from water and air (for our tanks) to dock space for our boats and experiments. We now plan for the community to directly benefit from this new institution by enhancing our regional standing in the support of conservation and education and by conducting excellent scientific research."

For more details, visit the website at [www.reefresearch.org](http://www.reefresearch.org)



## Spiegel Grove Wreck Now Upright after Hurricane Dennis Passes by Keys Last Week

After Three Years, Spiegel Grove is Finally Upright, Courtesy of Hurricane Dennis

KEY LARGO, Florida Keys -- What man could not achieve, nature apparently has for the largest intentionally sunk ship in the world.

The Spiegel Grove is now in an upright position, apparently courtesy of Hurricane Dennis, whose core stayed at least 100 miles west of the Keys island chain.

It's a position project organizers have dreamed of since the retired 510-foot Navy Landing Ship Dock prematurely sunk and rolled over May 17, 2002, leaving the ship's upside-down bow protruding above the water.

Three weeks later, a salvage team managed to fully sink the vessel on its starboard side.

For more than three years, the Spiegel Grove has been the most popular artificial wreck in the Florida Keys and home to more than 160 different species, according to Lad Akins, executive director of the Reef Environmental Education Foundation.

"I'm flabbergasted," said Rob Bleser, the volunteer project director, Monday afternoon after he surfaced following a dive on the newly oriented Spiegel Grove. "Nature took its course and put it where it belongs."

Bleser said the ship is still facing in an easterly direction and has not changed location.

"This will mean a whole new dive for those that have dove it before," Bleser said. "It's orientation is now less confusing for new divers and it's a big deeper dive now."

According to Matt Strahan, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service Office in Key West, the waves above the Spiegel Grove wrecksite could have been as high as 20 feet Friday afternoon.

"While we don't have the equipment in the Keys to accurately measure wave height, when Dennis was southeast of Cuba it would have produced very high waves that computer models project could have reached Key Largo," said Strahan. "Waves that high in close proximity to the reef can produce unusually strong currents with tremendous force."

The Spiegel Grove is positioned in 130 feet of water, about six miles off Key Largo. The ship, designed to carry cargo and craft for amphibious landings, was retired by the Navy in 1989.

Bleser says there have been about 75,000 sport dives on the wreck since it opened to divers.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary officials say they will temporarily close the wrecksite to divers to analyze stability and replace lost mooring buoys.



## Scheduled Dive Dates

Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM Hessian Lake  
**Annual Picnic**

Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Hessian Lake

Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Lake TBA

Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM Hessian Lake  
NYSDA Dive

Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM Lake Welch

Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Hessian lake  
Oktoberfest

## **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.



**Rockland Aquanauts  
Post Office Box 387  
New City, NY  
10956**

**August 2005**

North Carolina Wrecks, Big grouper grabs diver on Keys reef, Spiegel Grove Wreck Now Upright

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**\*\*Don't forget that August 21<sup>st</sup> is the next scheduled dive at Hessian Lake. This is also the dive that NYSDA has been invited to attend.\*\***

**There shall be no August meeting this month. The next meeting shall be in September and will be announced as soon as the Library confirms.**

**I hope everyone is having a nice summer and be safe.**

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