

AQUANEWS

Volume 29, No. 11

November 2005



SECRETARY

MARSHA FREEDMAN

TREASURER

PAUL GALEAZZI JR.

DIRECTORS

MARSHA FREEDMAN

PAUL GALEAZZI JR.

JERRY GHERARDI

STEVE IMPROTE

LES PARKER

DIVE COORDINATOR

MIKE HATALA

PUBLICITY

JEFFREY HOROWITZ

The New Spiegel Grove

By: Peter Bein

On Sunday, August 21, I reaffirmed my acquaintance with the "NEW" upright Spiegel Grove.

My son, Steven, arrived from Colorado yesterday and we linked up with Divers City in Tavernier for a double dive on nature's magical wreck.

The premier dive site in Key Largo, The Spiegel Grove, originally dubbed the ship that refused to sink, finally submerged in June 2002, on her starboard side in 130 FSW. It took a miracle of nature, Hurricane Dennis, to correct what man could not accomplish. She now stands proudly on her keel in the same location.

The mooring balls have been relocated and it seems like a completely new dive site.

One of the obvious differences is the memorial plaque. It was secured to the hull in 55 FSW and visible to all level of sport divers, even novices on check out dives. Now that she stands upright the plaque has descended to 115 FSW.

Many of the penetration areas which were located from 65 to 85 feet are now in 95 to 120 feet. This yields a shorter bottom time for diving the same areas.

We used a 31% nitrox mixture to extend the no decompression time but wound up with a six minute decompression obligation in addition to the three minute safety stop.

Before I continue describing the dives in detail I want to explain why I love Divers City. Captain Bob drops us off the stern of "Diversity" on the up stream ball and we drift dive the wreck with the current and are picked up on the down stream ball.

We were dropped on the rounded part of the wreck, the stern, and picked up on the pointy part, the bow.

We entered through a hatchway in the deck at ninety feet and followed a preset cave line

aft until we encountered a bulkhead. The viz was great when we entered but quickly deteriorated due to loose silt in suspension. Since the wreck moved much of the solidly packed down silt has been dislodged. Fortunately the southern silt settles faster than the northern silt and we were able to keep an eye on each other throughout the dive.

We followed the cave line forward, toward the bow, and exited through a cylindrical exit hatch with a partially opened cover. It was a tight squeeze but we shimmied through. It was quite tight and I emerged covered with wreck slime.

We proceeded toward the bow and reentered the hull to follow the one inch line originally set prior to the scuttling. It brought us into an officers cabin, the captains' conference room, with a desk set into the deck and a private head. Before Dennis this table was affixed to a 'wall.' It gives the dive a completely different perspective at this angle.

We left the interior and were carried by the toward the bow by the current. It was time to ascend and we took a leisurely trip up the line to the surface.

After a surface interval of ninety minutes we did it again. This time we followed the cave line forward past the portal that we used to exit on the first dive and wound up deep within the hull. The presence of many machines and equipment leads me to believe that we entered a machine shop. I spotted a lathe and a bunch of machines that I could not identify. I will try to obtain a blueprint of the ship so that I may give a more educated description of what areas I penetrate.

(Continued on page 2)

AQUANEWS

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

- PETER BEIN
- ALLAN BLOCK
- MELISSA BOGEN
- MAX ESTROFF
- PAUL GALEAZZI, JR
- JERRY GHERARDI
- STEVE IMPROTE
- LES PARKER

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

PAUL A. GALEAZZI

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

The New Spiegel Grove

(continued from page 1)

As I have previously stated I have always loved deep penetrations. We could not find an exit so we retraced our steps back to the original penetration point. We went over the port side to see the memorial plaque and then were swept by the flow of the Gulf Stream along the deck to the up-line on the bow. It was a beautiful dive with outside viz of fifty feet and inside viz as far as our dive light beams would project. Surface water temperature was 89 degrees. Temperature at depth was 82 degrees. Our hang time felt like we were in a hot tub. We surfaced, floated back to "Diversity," and were back at the dock in forty minutes. Steven stated that "This was the best dive trip that I ever made." I thought that it was fantastic too. Normally I would finalize this little ditty at this point but something must follow.....

After Hurricane Katrina passed over the Keys I followed up with another double dive on the Grove. We descended on the stern and were greeted by forty Black Groupers feeding on a bait ball. We watched in fascination as a school of Greater Amberjacks torpedoed its' way through the ball in a feeding frenzy. A 250 pound Jewfish stood by our side watching the performance. We then followed up with more penetrations following a companionway through the superstructure exploring a number of cabins along our path. The viz was over 100 feet and I was able to see the deck as soon as I broke the surface. Katrina caused a temperature drop all the way down to 82 degrees. I was still comfortable at this cooler level. It was a good day and we consumed animal crackers provided by Divers City all the way back to Tavernier. Every diver should experience the magic of the Grove.

Congratulations to Peter Bein for his article in Northeast Dive News. Check it out in the November issue on page 12. His article is on the Spiegel Grove, Hurricane gets it right.

www.nedivenews.com

Members of the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

We need articles for our newsletter! Any help is appreciated. Contact our webmaster webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.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.

150-year-old shipwreck 'rediscovered'

By Eric Litke, Sheboygan Press staff

Posted Aug. 31, 2005

A ship that wrecked on Sheboygan's shores in 1864 had lived quietly, 60 feet beneath the surface of Lake Michigan, for nearly 150 years—until Brad Ingersoll came along. Ingersoll, a Belgium native who has been diving in the Great Lakes for three years, saw several spikes on his fish finder while trolling a month ago in the area he knew the brig Mahoning supposedly sunk, about two miles south of Port Washington.

"I didn't know what it was, I just knew it was an anomaly on the bottom," he said. Lacking the proper equipment, he marked the GPS setting and vowed to return. Saturday, Aug. 27, he was back, this time with a friend and an underwater camera, which they lowered into the water.

"The first thing we see on the bottom is a porthole and railing coming out of the darkness," Ingersoll said. "We just about passed out."

Shortly after, he confirmed that it was the Mahoning.

Ingersoll, and members of his dive club who had been exploring a nearby wreck, dove the 60 feet to the wreck and discovered the anchor, rudder and a pump that had been used on the boat. "Normally, any wrecks I've dove in the Great Lakes, the anchors, the rudders are stripped off of them," Ingersoll said. This meant divers had not already raided the site.

When he returned with a tape measure and found the brig was 119 feet, as the Mahoning had been, Ingersoll said "that was the nail in the coffin."

Ingersoll had learned the approximate location of the wreck after reading research done by Brendon Baillod, a Great Lakes marine historian who wrote a paper on the Mahoning for *Inland Seas*, the journal of the Great Lakes Historical Society.

The Mahoning had collapsed over the years, and now rises just three feet off the lake bottom, he said, which made it difficult to locate.

Baillod said the deck had collapsed, but main features of the bow and stern were still visible, as was the turn of the bilge—the sloped sides of the ship.

"Brad has really done a service, in a sense, to the diving community because it gives us a new wreck and will allow this wreck to be documented and surveyed properly, but it's a double-edge sword," Baillod said.

Double-edged because Ingersoll's publicizing of the find opens it up to underwater looters, who Baillod said would waste no time.

"Anything that was on the wreck last week won't be there in two weeks," he said. While stealing from shipwrecks is illegal in Wisconsin, Baillod said no one has ever gone to jail for it in the state's history.

When Ingersoll contacted Baillod to inform him of the discovery, Baillod had a surprise for him: it wasn't a new discovery.

Baillod said another diver, Paul Ehorn, had found the wreck in the summer of 1999, but kept the find secret.

When Ingersoll published his photos online, announcing his discovery, Ehorn responded by posting his own claim to first discovery, backing it up by publishing the coordinates of the wreck. Baillod said that was unfortunate.

"Right there he ensured it was going to be looted," he said.

Ingersoll said he believes Ehorn's claim, but still takes pride in his role as the "rediscoverer."

"My find was a rediscovery and making the wreck public and getting the state involved so that they

(Continued on page 4)

150-year-old shipwreck 'rediscovered'

(continued from page 3)

could document and make it a viable dive site," Ingersoll said.

Local divers are looking forward to exploring Ingersoll's—and Ehorn's—find. Kathy Meyer, manager of Silent World Divecenter in Sheboygan, said she would "definitely" be out to dive on the wreck.

"I think it's pretty cool," she said. "I always found it fascinating to go into the archives and look into the history of a wreck and then dive on it."

Baillo said at least 20 people, himself included, had looked for the wreck at some point in time, but all had been hampered by mud ridges and rocks on the bottom, which gave false readings on devices such as fish finders.

Two died when the Mahoning ran ashore off Sheboygan on Nov. 4, 1864. The Mahoning was a 119-foot, two-masted brig that was launched into Ohio's Black River in April 1847. The ship was named for eastern Ohio's Mahoning River Valley. On Nov. 4, 1864, the Mahoning was on its way from Chicago to Green Bay to pick up a load of lumber when it ran into bad weather.

Realizing he could not make it all the way to Green Bay, the ship's captain attempted to make it into the Sheboygan harbor. But the crosswind blew the ship south. The brig eventually ran ashore four miles south of Sheboygan near the mouth of the Black River.

The weakened ship was declared a total loss, and several weeks later a salvage crew came from Chicago to retrieve it. The crew spent two weeks patching and re-launching the Mahoning. On Dec. 1, the ship was being towed back to Chicago by the salvage tug, the W.K. Muir, when another storm kicked up. The two steam pumps the salvors had put on the Mahoning to keep the leaky ship afloat soon were soon overmatched.

The stormy seas threw the pumps overboard and immediately after the Mahoning capsized. The captain and mate of the tug, who were below the Mahoning's deck, were trapped when the ship plummeted to the bottom of the lake.

Source: Brendon Baillo

Underwater photos of the wreck can be seen at:

<http://www.scubaboard.com/gallery/showgallery.php?cat=500&ppuser=24066>

FROM THE DESK

OF

SID LIEBL

(IF HE HAD ONE)

Cremation Plus

Eternal Reefs Inc., from Dacatur, Ga., mixes cremated remains with concrete and lowers them into the ocean in "Reef Balls" to rebuild damaged coral reefs. The reef balls include a small plaque and cost \$995.00 to \$4,995.00, depending on the size. The company hosts memorial services on a boat, and provides guests with geographic and global positioning coordinated to show where a reef ball is placed.

<http://www.eternalreefs.com>

B25 recovery in South Carolina

On April 4th, 1943 a B25 "Mitchell" bomber experienced an engine failure during a practice bombing session and ditched in Lake Murray near Columbia, SC. On September 10th, nine divers from the Woodville Karst Plain Project (WKPP) and the Association of Underwater Explorers (AUE) started the daunting task of recovering the historical aircraft from its' resting place 150' below the surface. Conditions were challenging with visibility ranging from about 12"-18" before disturbing anything to effectively nothing once work started. The temperature was better than expected at 60F on the bottom and around 80F at the surface. The divers recruited for the dives all had extensive experience with the Doing It Right (DIR) style of diving, utilized an 18/35 gas mix with standard cave diving equipment.

Most of the first day was spent marking the aircraft and supporting the barge positioning. Marker buoys were later attached to the cockpit and tail with downlines going to the left and right engines. After several attempts, lines were secured under the wings and through the gap where the flap was extended. This line was used to pull an 8' wide strap, rated at 41,000 lbs, under the wing. Two 400 lb spreader bars were then lowered to the worksite for attachment to the lift strap. This operation was not as straightforward as planned. One spreader bar penetrated the forward cockpit then lodged in the engine cowling as it was removed. After three dives the spreader bar was freed and positioned above the straps. Two 55gal steel drums were attached to the right engine mount (the engine came off during the ditching) and partially filled with sand to counter-balance the left engine.

When it was discovered that part of the left wing was missing the barrels were removed. By the last dive on Thursday, both spreader bars had been shackled to the lift straps and attached to the lifting hooks. During the lift on Friday morning a problem was discovered with one of the shackles and the aircraft was lowered to the bottom while the problem was fixed. The aircraft was lifted to the surface then slowly transported 2 miles to the end of the dam where it would be lifted to shore. During the transport the nose of the aircraft from the cockpit forward started to crack and come apart. An interim strap was used to stabilize the nose for the remainder of the trip to shore. This turned into a 36 hour work day for some so Saturday was an off day while rigging to stabilize the aircraft was acquired. On Sunday the housekeeping activities of de-silting and dredging the compartments reached full speed and were quickly accomplished. An additional bar to support the cockpit was fabricated and installed on Monday which cleared the way for the final lift to shore.

The dive portion of this project spanned 10 days of missed food, sleep deprivation, and delays, yet everyone remained in good spirits and did whatever was asked of them. I am extremely proud of the volunteers who helped make this historical recovery possible.

The Dive team was:

Brian Armstrong (WKPP)*

Chris Elmore (WKPP)

Mike Barnette (AUE)

Gene Hobbs (WKPP)*

Billy Baxter (WKPP)*

Glen Hunt (WKPP)*

Heather Choat (WKPP/AUE)*

Rob Maiker (WKPP)*

Joe Citelli (AUE)

* These divers were with the project from start to finish.

Scientists Photograph Giant Squid in Wild
September 27, 2005 10:21 PM EDT

TOKYO - The giant squid can be found in books and in myths, but for the first time, a team of Japanese scientists has captured on film one of the most mysterious creatures of the deep-sea in its natural habitat.

The team led by Tsunemi Kubodera, from the National Science Museum in Tokyo, tracked the 26-foot long Architeuthis as it attacked prey nearly 3,000 feet deep off the coast of Japan's Bonin islands.

"We believe this is the first time a grown giant squid has been captured on camera in its natural habitat," said Kyoichi Mori, a marine researcher who co-authored a piece in Wednesday's issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

The camera was operated by remote control during research at the end of October 2004, Mori told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Mori said the giant squid, purplish red like its smaller brethren, attacked its quarry aggressively, calling into question the image of the animal as lethargic and slow moving.

"Contrary to belief that the giant squid is relatively inactive, the squid we captured on film actively used its enormous tentacles to go after prey," Mori said. "It went after some bait that we had on the end of the camera and became stuck, and left behind a tentacle" about six yards long, Mori said.

Kubodera, also reached by the AP, said researchers ran DNA tests on the tentacle and found it matched those of other giant squids found around Japan. "But other sightings were of smaller, or very injured squids washed toward the shore - or of parts of a giant squid," Kubodera said. "This is the first time a full-grown, healthy squid has been sighted in its natural environment in deep water."

Kubodera said the giant squid's tentacle would not grow back, but the squid's life was not in danger.

Jim Barry, a marine biologist at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in California, has searched for giant squid on his own expeditions without luck. "It's the holy grail of deep sea animals," he said. "It's one that we have never seen alive, and now someone has video of one."

New Zealand's leading authority on the giant squid, marine biologist Steve O'Shea, praised the Japanese team's feat. "Through sheer ... determination the guy has gone on and done it," said O'Shea, chief marine scientist at the Auckland University of Technology, who is not linked to the Japanese research.

O'Shea said he hopes to capture juvenile giant squid and grow them in captivity. He captured 17 of them five years ago but they died in captivity. "Our reaction is one of tremendous relief that the so-called ... race (to film the giant squid) is over ... because the animal has consumed the last eight or nine years of my life," O'Shea said of the film.

Giant squid have long attracted human fascination, appearing in myths of the ancient Greeks, as well as Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." Scientific interest in the animals has surged in recent years as more specimens have been caught in commercial fishing nets or found washed up on shores.

Kubodera would make no claims about the scientific significance of his team's work. "As for the impact our discovery will have on marine research, I'll leave to other researchers to decide," he said.

Other biologists said they expected the video would provide insight on the animal's behavior underwater. "Nobody has been able to observe a large giant squid where it lives," said Randy Kochevar, a deep sea biologist also with the Monterey aquarium. "There are people who said it would never be done."

Associated Press reporters Ray Lilley in Wellington, New Zealand, and Terence Chea in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Copyright 2005 Associated Press.

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**

November 2005

New Speigel Grove, B25 Recovery, Scientists Photo Giant Squid, 150yr old Ship Wreck

Happy Thanksgiving to all and Happy Holidays!

There will be no November Meeting