

# AQUANEWS

30th Anniversary of the AquaNews

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February 2006



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## On The Road With Max– Northwest Ohio Quarry Diving

*Max Estroff*

A couple of years ago, on a dive boat off of North Carolina, Paul and I met these women divers from Detroit. They talked about their local diving. Through New Years cards I kept in touch. I went to school in Toledo, Ohio and the quarries we swam in during the summer were not exactly open to the public, just open, abandoned and neglected quarries, that the locals new about. That was over 30 years ago. My work still takes me out to Ohio, where, when I can, I stay at my friend's home in Maumee, Ohio, just outside of Toledo. These road trips have been going on twice a year for years. I just never inquired about local diving.

This past August, I went out on one of my road trips to the Midwest. This time I called Maxine, one of the women divers from Detroit. "When are you coming? Our club has people diving every weekend in the Toledo area. You can meet and dive with them. Do you need directions?"

I got directions for two different quarries, both within 45 minutes of my friend's house in Maumee.

So on Sunday, August 21st I went to "White Star Park" in Gibsonburg, Ohio. East on Route 20 about 30 minutes, South on Route 300 about 5 minutes, takes you to a very nice county park. Swimming, boating and picnicking on one side of the lake, diving on the other side. Warnings everywhere to keep on your side and a special one for the divers. "Don't dive in the tunnel" (no other explanation). Ample parking with tables for divers to set up, relax and BBQ under the shade of the trees. Ohio uses the honor system for collecting the \$10.00 fee for diving and parking. You fill out this 2 page envelope with license plate # and divers name. This gets dropped into a lock box by

the parking lot. The second part goes on the dash of the car. There is a large fine, if when they come to collect; cars don't match what's in the box. The dive area has a fill station and if you call ahead (I did), they will rent AL80's.

The first dive: there is a walk in area where the training platforms and dives take place. This is where I entered.

I followed the rock wall downward. This area had a sandy bottom, but soon became just rock. I passed the training platforms and just continued along the wall. I came across 2 small motor boats during my explorations. It was the crawfish darting in and around the rocks and playing hide and seek in the grass fields that held my attention. As I came close they would stand up on their back feet and defiantly rear up with claws ready to defend themselves and then in a flash, swim a few yards away. These grass fields were in between rock piles. I got back to the wall and started back. As I came across the diving platforms I went around them looking for some equipment but there wasn't any. The sandy area is where I saw my first fish, a group of sunfish and a lone catfish. This dive was 44 minutes; maximum depth 46th, Vis was about 20 feet.

1/2 hours later, I did it again, this time off of the deep side ledge. This dive was with 2 locals who happened to be ready to drop 3 feet off of the ledge into the water at the same time I was. The bottom was 40 feet of shear rock face. I followed them, they had done this many times, to the pump house, went inside where the Vis was worse then outside. I had my UK1200 with me and it "seemed" like just a square room with

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 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

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TO CHANGE MAILING  
ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER  
OR E-MAIL, PLEASE NOTIFY:  
INFO@ROCKLAQUANAUTS.ORG

## March 2006 Meeting To Be Announced

### Members, We Need To Update Our Roster

Along with this newsletter is a form that we would like you to complete. We would like to make sure we have the most up to date information about our members. This form will be a separate insert for those of you that receive the newsletter by mail. For those of you who download the newsletter electronically it will have a file in PDF format that you can print and mail into us. If by some chance you have a problem downloading this file or you did not receive it in the mail, please notify us at [info@rocklandaquanauts.org](mailto:info@rocklandaquanauts.org)

### Members of the Rockland Aquanauts Organization Inc.

We need articles for our newsletter! Any help is appreciated.  
Contact our webmaster [webmaster@rocklandaquanauts.org](mailto: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.**

## On The Road With Max

*(continued from page 1)*

a door and a window, that's it. Then we went over to the grinding pit block house. Two 10 feet wide circular pits in a square block house structure. Down into these I went and explored around the bottom of these tubes, maximum depth 70 feet. Both tubes "seemed" round to me. I came out of these and followed these guys around some rock piles and then back to the wall where I explored a little bit around the bottom and then finished the dive. This dive was 30 minutes, average depth of 45 feet, with 20 feet Vis.

On August 27th at the Portage Quarry, Portage, Ohio, just south of Bowling Green on 25 South, I met up with Maxine and a few of her friends. They supplied everything from food, drinks, snacks and even gave me 2 full tanks of air. We spent a very nice afternoon talking & BBQing and even went to a Pizza Hut for dinner when we left the quarry at dusk. Portage Quarry is privately owned. You pay an admission fee and can get air fills. They also have snacks and soda. There is a RV parking area, camping areas, swimming only areas and diving wherever you want, wherever you can park.

The first dive: walk onto a ledge that has a foot of water on it and fall in. We are off to the right. The owners of this quarry have dumped quite a few things into it. I came across cars, small motor boats, a snow mobile and a small plane. As the back tail of this plane came into view and as I was moving up the fuselage I was thinking how realistic it would be if there was a pilot inside, and sure enough as I came up around the nose there was a mannequin trying to get out of the window. It was great. Lots of rock, few fish and then follow the rock wall back. This dive was 46 minutes, maximum depth 51 feet with 30 foot Vis.

The second dive: It's over the ledge and to the left, following the rock wall; we pass a bus, some more motor boats, finally reaching the silo, directly across the lake from our starting point. A big round domed structure, with a group of fish hanging around the top. We went inside and explored around. Nothing. The return trip was the same, lots of rocks, and few fish. The dive was 47 minutes, maximum depth 50 feet and 30 feet Vis. The next few days I continued with my road trip, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St.Paul. On Thursday after my last appointment, I drove back to Chicago so that on Friday, September 2nd I could get back to Maumee. The plan of course was to get back to White Star Park Friday afternoon.

I got to the park about 3 pm picked up my waiting tank and parked about 30 feet from the "Deep Side Ledge". Maybe there were 3 cars scattered around the training area, but I was the only one at this area. As soon as I dropped down over the ledge I could see the outline of the block house. I settled down at 40 feet next to the rock wall and started my exploration. With no divers for a week, visibility was about 40 feet. A lot of rocks. I got to the block house and went inside, turning on my UK1200. At one end was a 45 degree shaft going downward. At the other end of this shaft I could see lighter colored water. There was a catfish in this shaft that looked and moved just like a shark. As I moved through this shaft, which was big enough to drive an ATV through it I came out into the bottom of the Grinding Pit house at 71 feet. I explored that again, went up into these tubular pits, back to the bottom and back up thru "the tunnel" to the block house. The return trip through "the tunnel" had only about 1 foot vis. Just one diver turned it to 0 from 40 feet. Remembering that I had not even been aware of its existence on my previous visit. From here I went around the block house and saw off into the distance the shadow of the grinding pit house. I moved over to and went around that, explored some nearby rock piles looking for crawfish. I then retraced my way back, first to the grinding pit, then to the block house and then to rock wall. Easy, once you have done it with great visibility and know where everything is. The dive was 50 minutes.

I spent almost the next 2 hours drying out my gear and having a snack, enjoying this lake and park setting all to myself when 2 local divers showed up, having just come from work. My cell phone rang; it was my friend asking me about what we wanted to do about dinner. My answer was I would be there in less than an hour.

I was away 3 weeks and in that time I did 5 dives, made some new dive buddies and found 2 very nice places to go diving when I work out that way.

*Lets start thinking about the club trip to North Carolina, late June-early July before Hurricane Season. If you're thinking of going, I need to know dates of when you can or when you can't go.*

The Rockland Aquanauts Organization  
Presents

“THE SUPER FLEA MARKET”

We will be selling some of the Equipment Donated to our Organization  
ON

Sunday, February 19, 2006 from 9:00 Till 2:00 at the  
Toms River Intermediate School North (Formerly West)  
150 Intermediate North Way, Toms River, NJ

**YOU ASKED FOR BIGGER AND BETTER AND YOU GOT IT!!**  
**JOIN US AT THE BIGGEST AND THE BEST SCUBA FLEA MARKET IN NEW**  
**JERSEY!**

**DIVE-RELATED ITEMS!!!**

Food, Raffles and Door Prizes Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

Children under 12 yrs old Free 'with a Paid Adult!

For more information, see their website at; <http://www.oceanwreckdivers.com>.  
And then click on the Frequently Asked Questions link.

Directions:

From the North: Take Garden State Parkway to Exit.88 (Rt. 70). Take the ramp, toward Lakewood/Manchester/Lakehurst. Merge onto Rte. 70 West. Follow Route 70 to New Hampshire Ave. Take the jug handle to New Hampshire Ave. South. Cross over Rt. 70. Follow New Hampshire Ave. (which becomes Old Freehold Rd.) about 4.3 miles. Turn right onto Intermediate North Way.

From the South: Take Garden State Parkway to Exit 83 (Rte 9 N), toward Pleasant Plains/Lakewood. Merge onto Rte 9/Lakewood Rd. Turn right onto CR-571/Indian Head Rd (which becomes Bay Lea Ave/Bay Ave). After about 1/2 mile, turn left onto Intermediate North Way.

If you need to see a map of the area, go to their website  
<http://www.oceanwreckdivers.com>.

Storm blows up over shipwreck's £279m gold treasure hoard  
From Graham Keeley in Barcelona  
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,13509-2011798,00.html>

A SIMMERING row over an expedition to recover treasure worth millions of pounds from the wreck of a 17th-century British galleon erupted into a full-scale diplomatic confrontation yesterday.

HMS Sussex sank in a storm in 1694 off Gibraltar, carrying ten tons of gold and a hundred silver ingots, valued today at up to £279 million.

But the Spanish Government yesterday demanded that an American company trying to recover the bullion must halt operations immediately.

The 80-gun Sussex, which led a fleet of 12 ships, was carrying the treasure to persuade the Duke of Savoy to side with England, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Holy Roman Empire against the French in what was known as the War of the League of Augsburg.

It was a day out of Gibraltar when it foundered. Only two of the 500 crew survived and the body of its commander, Admiral Francis Wheeler, still in his nightshirt, was washed ashore several days later.

Under international law, the remains of sunken ships belong to the nation under which they sailed. But after off-shore surveys, Odyssey Marine Explorations, based in Florida, claimed to have identified the wreck in 1998. In 2002, the British Government gave it permission to search for the treasure for its "archaeological value".

The regional government of Andalusia has also staked its claim to part of the treasure, arguing that the remains include archaeological riches belonging to the region. It set strict conditions for the search.

In a letter to Eduardo Aguirre, the US Ambassador in Madrid, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said that the company had breached those conditions.

If Odyssey finds the missing gold and silver, it would mean a huge payout for the company and Britain. Some archaeologists say it could be the greatest underwater fortune found.

Odyssey would get half of anything it found between £25million and £279 million, less if the value was greater. Ecologists In Action, a Spanish group, called Odyssey "treasure hunters" with no interest in archaeological artefacts.

Odyssey says that it respects international law and that the project is based on communications between the relevant governments and transmitted to the company. The US Embassy declined to comment. The Ministry of Defence in London said the matter was "between the United States and Spain".

### **Annual Dinner 2006**

**The Rockland Aquanauts are going to have their Annual Dinner on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. The Dinner will be held at Arthur's Tavern, 214 Kinderkamack Road, Emerson, New Jersey, 07630. Their phone number is 1-201-265-5180.**

**Appetizers will be served from 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm and dinner will be served from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. There will be door prizes and awards presented.**

**Don't forget to get your log books reviewed by Allan Block for bottom time awards. They must be sent to Allan before the first week in March. Contact Allan for more details at [allanblock@yahoo.com](mailto:allanblock@yahoo.com)**

**More details on the dinner coming soon, as the event is finalized.**

Researchers Say Discovery Shows Titanic Sank Faster  
By JAY LINDSAY, AP

FALMOUTH, Mass. (Dec. 6) - The discovery of two large pieces of the Titanic's hull on the ocean floor indicates that the fabled luxury liner sank faster than previously thought, researchers said Monday. The hull pieces were a crucial part of the ship's structure and make up a bottom section of the vessel that was missing when the wreck was first located in 1985, the researchers said.

After the bottom section of the hull broke free, the bow and stern split, said Roger Long, a naval architect who analyzed the find. The stern, which was still buoyant and filled with survivors, likely plunged toward the ocean floor about five minutes later.

"It would have been immediately terrifying," he said. Previous researchers believed the ship broke in just two major pieces, the bow and stern, which was how the sinking was depicted in the 1997 film version of the catastrophe. David Brown, a Titanic historian, estimated before the latest find that the stern took 20 minutes to slide into the water.

"It turns out the Titanic was more merciful. It was over more quickly," Brown said.

The newly found hull sections, located about a third of a mile from the stern of the wreck, were examined during an expedition in August sponsored by The History Channel. On Monday, Titanic experts met at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to discuss their analysis of the find for a documentary to be aired on the cable channel on Feb. 26.

The sections, both about 40 feet by 90 feet, were once a single section and were found in good condition, with red bottom paint still visible. The missing sections had been believed to have fragmented into hundreds of small pieces.

"The breakup and sinking of the Titanic has never been accurately depicted," said Parks Stephenson, a Titanic historian who took part in Monday's conference. The 46,000-ton ocean liner was billed as "practically unsinkable" by the publicity magazines of the period. But it struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage just before midnight on April 14, 1912, and sank the following day. About 1,500 people died.

Explorer Robert Ballard found the bulk of the wreck in 1985, at a depth of 13,000 feet and about 380 miles southeast of Newfoundland. Ballard was not impressed with the expedition's find.

"They found a fragment, big deal," he said. "Am I surprised? No. When you go down there, there's stuff all over the place. It hit an iceberg and it sank. Get over it."

# Stingray Divers

**Dive** on the best-rated live-aboard, Odyssey Adventures to see the “ghost fleet” of Truk Lagoon, unquestionably the world's best shipwreck diving destination. The number, variety, and size of the wrecks and the spectacular marine life that grows on them are unequalled. In February of 1944, the US Task Force 58 attacked Japan's fortress of Truk Lagoon. More than 400 Japanese planes were wiped out and some 50-60 ships were believed sunk in this Micronesian lagoon (one hour flight from Guam).

## Boat departs

9/10/06

To

9/17/06



**Cost** Odyssey. Boat fee PACKAGE PRICE \$ 2495.00 plus air fare  
Air fare \$1530.00

**Airfare available thru (Continental Airline), fees, port  
And transfers, included, plus one night in Blue Lagoon Hotel,  
(Double occupancy).**

**Includes** Odyssey Adventures (7 NIGHTS-double occupancy)  
5 1/2 days diving (up to 5 dives per day)  
**All meals (except final night), beer and wine include  
30% Nitrox fills for certified (no charge)  
Double tanks, dual isolation, DIN, 0/2 available  
\*Nitrox and Trimix courses available for additional fee\***

## Separate island airfare

**Excursion, available to Palau, Yap, Hawaii, Guam  
For just \$250 more) many other locations available**

**Deposit: \$500 (\$250 non-refundable)**

**Contact:** [www.stingraydivers.com](http://www.stingraydivers.com)  
Email: [info@stingraydivers.com](mailto:info@stingraydivers.com)  
762 Grand Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11211

**Phone** 718-384-1280  
**Fax** 718-302-0465

This is a **“Proposed”** Dive schedule  
For  
Hessian Lake, Lake Sebago, Lake Welch

**Hessian Lake**

Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 at 9:00 AM  
Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 9:00 AM  
Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 9:00 AM  
Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 10:00 AM  
Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM  
Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

**Lake Sebago**

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM  
Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM  
Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM

**Lake Welch**

Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

As soon as the schedule is approved by the Park Commission an official list shall be posted

## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE**

### **Rockland Aquanauts Organization 2006 Dues**

I guess it is that time of the year again, Membership Dues are due.  
Last year all our members received much more than they gave out to the  
Organization.

As usual you will be receiving a tax donation for the first \$25.00. All members  
who attended the Annual Dinner not only received money off their own dinner  
but they also received money off theirs guests dinner. Everyone whom  
attended also received prizes, some worth many times the cost of their Dues.  
Don't forget the Annual Picnic as well as all the BBQ lunch's after the Lake  
Dives.

So please send in your \$42 dues early to;

Rockland Aquanauts Organization  
c/o  
Paul Galeazzi Jr.  
4 Greensward Drive.  
Valley Cottage New York  
10989



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

**February 2006**

**On The Road With Max, Super Flea Market, "Proposed" Dive Schedule, 2006 Dues, Annual Dinner**

**\*\*There Will Be No February Meeting\*\***

**March Meeting TBA**