

# AQUANEWS

Volume 31, No. 2

February 2007



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## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Plunge

By: Paul Galeazzi Jr

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> 2007

This year's Polar Plunge was greeted with some of the **COLDEST** temperatures of the last 8 years. With the wind it felt like it was in the single digits. Of course for the guy's and gals that went into the water it must have felt like 50 below.

Our fellow Aquanaut, Mike Hatala, braved the elements not only because he is brave but because he may have had a lot of *inspiration*. Of course he needed even more *inspiration* when he got out of the water, as did many others.

Well I guess you must have figured that I was one of the more than one thousand spectators that came to cheer on the 192 people that actually went into the water. Two of the people had to be taken away by ambulance & a few had to be physically carried from the water. The main complaint was the pain of severely frozen feet from not only being in the water but by walking bare footed from the parking area to and from the water.

The Stony Point Seals sponsored the event with donations from many private people as well as companies, including our own.

This year's Plunge child, 2-year-old Olivia Taylor, suffers from Aicardi-Goutieres syndrome, a rare progressive brain disease. Olivia, the daughter of Mike and Kimberly Taylor of West Haverstraw, has little to no motor skills and needs assistance to keep her head up or chew food.

Participants sold raffle tickets, made and solicited donations, sponsored plungers, and sold drinks and food in order to raise money for the Supplemental Needs Trust Fund for Olivia.

Of course you also have to thank the police departments, fire departments, emergency response services and all the volunteers that helped make this event happen.

So even though the elements are very uncomfortable it was all for a great cause and I am sure that everyone will be back next year to help another unfortunate person.

You can still send donations to

[STONYPPOINTSEALS@AOL.COM](mailto:STONYPPOINTSEALS@AOL.COM)



## AQUANEWS

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

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ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER  
OR E-MAIL, PLEASE NOTIFY:  
INFO@ROCKLANDAQUANAUTS.ORG

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Rockland Aquanauts Organization  
2007 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 their 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

## Notice

The Rockland Aquanauts are currently looking for a new meeting place, does anyone have any suggestions?

Email us: [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.**

The Rockland Aquanauts Organization  
Presents

“THE SUPER FLEA MARKET”

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

Sunday, February 18, 2007 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>.



## Delaware tech makes \$700,000 from Atocha coin Auction

By Molly Albertson  
Cape Gazette staff 2/2/07

Delaware Technical and Community College made some serious coin when it auctioned off part of its collection of 17th century Spanish shipwreck finds. Silver and gold coins found at the Nuestra Senora de Atocha ruins, a shipwreck off the coast of Florida, sold in New York City last month were to start the Melvin Joseph-Frank Perdue Memorial Endowment. The \$700,000 fund honors the men who donated the valuable coins to the college more than 20 years ago and the proceeds are expected to be used largely for student services at the Owens Campus in Georgetown.

Many coins and other artifacts from the shipwreck are still on display at the Treasures of the Sea Museum in Georgetown. "Today not only do we have the new endowment, but we also continue to have a world-class museum which educates the public about the Atocha treasure, about Spanish history and exploration in the 17th century, and about the salvage operation that discovered these treasures, which lay on the ocean floor for more than 360 years," said Dr. Ileana Smith, vice president and campus director at a Wednesday, Jan. 31 press conference.

At the conference, Mitzi Perdue, representing the Perdue family and the foundation, said she attended the auction, where bidding for the 2,700 coins was frenzied. All the coins sold, and none were returned to the campus, which surprised DelTech officials.

"We were certainly very pleased," said Bob Hearn, business manager at the Owens Campus. Coin sales made almost \$750,000, and with the auction house, Heritage Auction Galleries, keeping 5 percent of sales, the college profited more than \$700,000. "That is above what we anticipated," Hearn said. Originally, DelTech expected to raise about \$500,000.

The coins, which had been stored for two decades in safe-deposit boxes in a local bank, created the endowment, which the college expects to use for more than 40 years. The proceeds will stay at the Owens Campus in Georgetown.

The endowment should generate about \$35,000 each year to spend at the campus. "We plan to spend about 5 percent of the endowment each year, which is a nice income stream that can benefit the campus," Hearn said.

DelTech is considering many options for spending the money this year and in years to come. "We may try to spread it out to benefit as many people as possible," he said.

Possible expenditures include increasing student services, such as tutoring. "Roughly half of our students are evening students, but our campus is centered around services available during the day," Hearn said. He said the money could help DelTech offer nighttime tutoring for students who also work full-time and cannot study during the day. Other options are offering several scholarships for fees and tuition. But Hearn said one of the fastest growing expenses of going to college is the cost of books, and DelTech might establish scholarships to cover those costs.

Frank Perdue of Salisbury, Md., and Melvin Joseph of Georgetown donated the coins during the 1980s with the intention of supporting the needs of the campus and its students.

Both men were investors in a salvage expedition for the Atocha and its sister ships which held treasure including the coins, jewelry, cannons and gems. The ships sank in 1622 during a hurricane off the coast of Florida.

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## Crustaceans not that gung-ho on artificial habitat

By KELLY SHIERS Staff Reporter

Published: 2007-01-15 The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, Nova Scotia

As lobster condos, these were a flop.

"Never did we have more than five lobsters out there," said Glyn Sharp, a marine biologist trying to lure the lucrative shellfish to take up residence in 20, specially-designed concrete balls in 10-metre waters off McNabs Island.

"If you were renting these things, you wouldn't be making too much money, would you? . . . And it's not that there aren't lobsters around McNabs. There are. There's a lobster fishing industry right here on the doorstep." Led by Mr. Sharp, researchers at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography began looking at ways artificial habitat could be created for lobsters in 2004, prompted by the need to find ways to compensate for activities like infilling, dredging, putting in underwater cables or pipelines, or even wharf construction in coastal waters. Using artificial reefs to enhance fish populations isn't new. The Japanese began doing it in the 1950s. And over the decades, artificial reefs made of everything from concrete and ships to cars and tires have been tried worldwide — with varying degrees of success.

While the 500-kilogram reef balls, with their Swiss cheese-like holes, didn't draw lobsters in Halifax Harbour, the scientists found them no more attractive to tasty crustaceans in the more pristine waters of St. Margarets Bay. Sure, a few of the old guys — hefty two-kilogram bruisers that could fill an oversized dinner plate and the like — settled in comfortably. But the juveniles that researchers really hoped to attract to the reef real estate stayed away, even as other species of underwater life took hold.

It seems nothing suits a crusty critter like a random pile of rocks, as the researchers first noticed inside tanks in their BIO laboratory.

Piles of different sized rocks placed around McNabs Island attracted lobsters within a couple of months — more lobsters than had ever been found in the concrete balls.

Researchers then set their sites on Sambro Harbour to see what would happen if they put similar rock piles in a place young lobsters weren't likely to be found.

"We don't just want to move animals around," he said. "We want to create new production."

Piles of different sized rocks were carefully put in place. Within a month, species such as snails and starfish had moved in, and so had the lobsters.

It's too early to reach conclusions about how well the rock piles will work in the long run, but the research team is hopeful.

"We're hoping eventually these will become normal lobster habitat and eventually fishermen will be able to put their traps where they've never put their traps to catch lobster. They'll see some direct benefit and years of information will come out of the project," Mr. Sharp said.

And although Mr. Sharp says he's convinced concrete balls aren't the way to enhance lobster populations, he's not prepared to write them off completely.

Results so far indicate that the reef balls may be very useful in creating kelp beds and more complex underwater communities since all sorts of other creatures are using them.

In fact, researchers will continue to monitor them regularly — every two months at this time of year, every month beginning in the spring — just as they plan to monitor the rock piles, for at least the next three years.

"Write them off as far as lobster habitat is concerned. I wouldn't put any more out for that purpose," he said, adding the scientists have already advised Department of Fisheries and Oceans officials of their findings.

"But we know they are good for other plants and animals to come on. We get a good diversity and they enhance the productivity of the area. . . . We're learning so much from them that really they're very useful."



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**February 2007**

Polar Plunge, Lobster Condos, Flea Market, Membership Dues, Delaware Tech

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**Happy Valentines Day**

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