

AQUANEWS

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In Memory of a Great Man
by, Paul Galeazzi Jr.

Many of you know the spinal surgery that I had a several years back. What you don't know is that the first dives that I took after surgery were at the Olympus Dive Center in N.C. I met George many years ago before my accident and dove with him for a few years. I always knew that he was special but not to the extent of which he was.

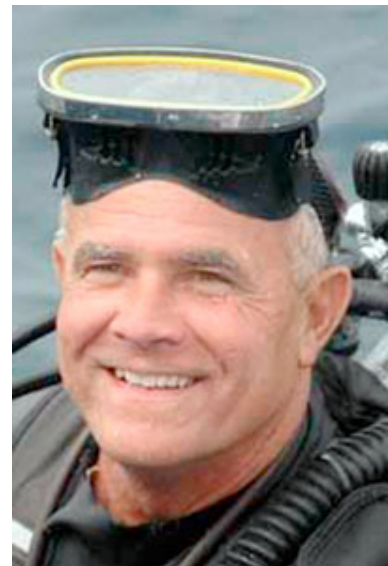
I met him at BTS after a lot of rehabilitation and he said "where have you been". Of course after I finished explaining he told me of some of his surgeries. I told him that I would love to get back in the water but that I was worried about handling my gear. Many say that a diver who can't handle his gear should not be diving. Well not him. He told me to come on down and he would take care of me personally and he would help me anyway he could. Well that is what I did and I must say it was better service than I could have ever expected.

I was helped not only with my gear but I was walked to the platform and helped in and out of the water on every dive. Of course I took off my gear before coming out of the water every time but once. That one time the water was a little rough and he was worried that if I was thrown back in the water I would have a problem. On that dive he actually walked down to the platform and grabbed my tank valve and practically pulled me out of the water. He then walked me back to my seat holding the

weight of my tank and equipment until it could be taken off my back.

I don't know of any Captain that would have done this except for maybe a good friend. I can't say that he thought of me as a good friend but I would have liked to think that he knew that I not only admired him but thought of him as a friend of mine.

Thank you George for helping me do what I love to do and I can only hope that you are still doing what you love to do, you will be missed by many.
Paul Galeazzi Jr.



George Purifoy, Jr., 63, of Morehead City, died Sunday, September 14, 2008. He was born on January 8, 1945 in Morehead City to the late George G. and Minnie Purifoy.

(Continued on page 3)

AQUANEWS

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Bonaire Opts for U.S. Dollar as New Official Currency

As the island moves forward with a new state structure with closer ties to Holland, a new official currency must be chosen that will be used on Bonaire. This is due to the fact that, when the Antilles ceases to exist in its current form, each island will have a different status, and therefore it's logical that the Antillean Florin may not exist in the future.

To achieve optimal participation by the Bonaire community in the process of choosing a new currency, trade unions and interested parties in the community formed a commission to render an opinion on a new currency. Many well respected members of Bonaire's economic community are in this commission--Sherwin Pourier, Evert Piar, Raymundo Saleh, and Rudy Gomez.

This past Tuesday, during a meeting with trade unions and the government, the commission rendered its opinion and analysis on the subject. The commission's decision is that Bonaire's new currency must be the U.S. Dollar. The sister island of Saba, has also chosen the U.S. Dollar for its official currency. The members of the committee also presented their views on how they believe the dollar will have to be introduced. The conversion must be done in stages and there must be an information and awareness campaign, to avoid any confusion. Also, it is thought that the sudden introduction of the dollar, according to the committee, might have undesirable impacts on the economy and the social level of the island.

According to the Bestuurscollege, it is important to respond in a timely manner and to have a clear idea of the impact the use of the dollar will have on the Bonaire economy. Therefore, the Economic Affairs Department (DEZA) will continue the awareness campaign on the use of a new currency. Bonaire commercial entities may be requested to price and display their products in both guilders and dollars in advance of the conversion.

The next step in this process is that the Eilandsraad and Dutch governments must be provided information about this presentation and choice of currency. (*Source: Island Government*)

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.

In Memory of a Great Man

(continued from page 1)

He was the owner of the internationally known Olympus Dive Center in Morehead City. Mr. Purifoy took his first dive in 1961 and had completed over 7,000 dives. He is credited for the discovery and identification of numerous shipwrecks off the coast of the southern Outer Banks, most notably the WWII German Submarine U-352. Before his full time diving career, Mr. Purifoy was a diesel mechanic and owned a repair shop for nearly 25 years. Mr. Purifoy began running a small dive business in 1976. The business expanded in the late 1970s with the purchase of Olympus I, a 57-foot, wooden-hulled head boat and the addition of Olympus Barbell Club, Morehead City's first fitness center. The current dive shop was built in 1982 and the 65' aluminum hulled Olympus used today was purchased in 1986. George's hobby became his full time career and expanded his business with the introduction of a second vessel, the 48' Midnight Express.

Beyond his business accomplishments, he brought international recognition to the area through many media types including The History Channel, Discovery Channel, and Imax Corporation.

Survivors include his companion, Paula Whitfield of Morehead City; daughter, Sandra Purifoy Maschmeyer and husband, Scott, of Steger, IL; son, Robert Purifoy and wife, Tina, of Morehead City; their mother, Lyndia Purifoy of Morehead City; sister, Betty Sue "Sukie" Purifoy of Morehead City; brother, Kenneth Ball and wife, Jeannine, of Morehead City; grandchildren, Cariann Willis, Tanner Willis, Zack Maschmeyer of Steger, IL, and Payton Purifoy of Morehead City. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Divers Alert Network, George Purifoy Memorial Research Fund, 6 West Colony Place, Durham, NC 27705.



Update on the Oriskany Wreck Following Gustav

Some changes have happened to the popular wreck following Hurricane Gustav last week. FIRST-HAND report from the scene....

The following is a first-hand report of a dive on the Oriskany this past weekend. Our correspondent is Captain Dave Mucci of Blue Water Dive Adventures.

I had a charter to the Oriskany on Saturday morning, September the 6th.

When my divemaster jumped in and could not find my primary sub-surface buoy, which was at 30 fsw and clearly visible prior to Gustav, the red flag went up.

I tied into a secondary buoy and set the boat up for dive ops.

My divemaster prepared the clients for their first dive and I jumped in mask, fins and snorkel to search for the "lost" buoy.

Visibility was about 40' on the surface and I found the buoy at around 50 fsw.

After their first dive the DM reported that he thought the ship seemed deeper than he had remembered.

At this point I knew I had to do a survey dive to confirm my suspicions. I did not bring my SCUBA gear, so I set it up for Sunday.

Sunday morning I donned my gear and hit the water, the visibility was maybe 40' on the surface.

I marked my primary sub-surface buoy at 45 fsw, the flags were wrapped around the buoy line and I could not see the wreck, I cleared the flags and headed down.

My first stop was the flight deck amidships, approximately fifty feet inboard of the island, viz was around 20'.

I had dove this spot many times and had marked it at 136 fsw, it now marked at 147 fsw.

I took several marks at various locations to try to get a feel as to whether she had listed or not.

The outboard side (port) sits at 139 fsw and was the shallowest mark I got.

Amidships marks at 147 fsw aft of the island and 150 fsw, 20 feet in front of the island.

I marked the top of structure at 84 fsw with the top pipe at 78 fsw (it was the shallowest point of the wreck at 67 fsw).

The tip of the yardarm (starboard side refueling boom where the flags hang) is at 88 fsw, it was at 75 fsw, which puts the flags at around 95 fsw, they were at 85 fsw and also indicates that she has listed to starboard about five degrees.

She is still an awesome dive and somewhat a "new" dive now, but a little deeper than before.

That's it for now.
Safe diving

Approved Hessian Lake Dives 2008

Sunday Oct. 12th 10:00 am

Saturday Oct. 25th 10:00 am

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Rockland Aquanauts Organization
2008 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

BBQ Help Needed

We have BBQs after every Hessian Lake dive, but next year, we don't want the chef tasks to fall on the same people all the time, so we are asking for your help. If you plan on coming to the Hessian Lake dives, please consider offering to set up, cook, or break down the BBQ gear.

Setting up might mean you set up before diving, get out of the water first, or forego diving that day. **Cooking** means you cook for everyone who shows up, not just yourself & your friends. **Breaking down the BBQ gear** means you stay until everyone has eaten and the grill is cool enough to put into your car to store until the next dive.

You don't have to be a Board Member to help. Everyone can pitch in. Any expenses, like buying food, are reimbursable. So please look at the dive dates and let us know when you can help out.

Thank you

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October 2008

George Purifoy Jr. , Bonaire Currency, Update on Oriskany, Hessian Lake 2008 Schedule, Membership Dues

****There Will be NO October Meeting ****