

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



**Lake Winnepesaukee
New Hampshire**

25th Annual Ice Dive

cover photos:

topside - digital video clip by Bob Gamache
u/w - by Gary Thuillier



The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

New location for 'deco'

At the last meeting we decided to give the new "Margarita's Restaurant" a try for our after meeting *decompression*. It's located right across Elm St. from the YMCA within easy walking distance. To me, the menu seemed a little better than our usual "Chili's" and the pricing was comparable. We were put in the upper lounge area where there is ample room for our group. At first the music was rather loud but the manager seemed very eager to gain our business and soon got it lowered to a reasonable level. I believe we'll be giving this place a go for a while.



The boat is full and we're going to Saba!!!

We've finally filled the manifest and are looking forward to the first UDNH liveboard trip. 14 of our members along with a couple of friends will be taking over the M/V Caribbean Explorer in July for a week of tropical diving around the islands of Saba, Statia and St. Kitts. Sounds pretty inviting right now. Let's start thinking about where we want to go next year.



New England Dive-knits

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SUSAN THUILLIER (603) 487-3001

e-mail diveknits@aol.com or visit my website for more info

<http://members.aol.com/diveknits>

Editor: Gary Thuillier

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to Diveknits@aol.com

Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

Gary Thuillier

PO Box 372

New Boston, NH 03070-0372

Please include a brief byline and author contact information with your submission. Submission shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original and is in no way an infringement on the rights of others. While no compensation is paid for published submissions, a byline indicating the source of an article will always be provided. Authors grant *Dive Log* and United Divers of New Hampshire first print rights to the submission. *Dive Log* and its editors reserve the right to edit all materials as needed. The opinions stated in the articles in *Dive Log* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United Divers of New Hampshire or the editors of the *Dive Log*. For further information, please contact Gary Thuillier @ (603)487-3001

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to *Dive Log* are included in the UDNH membership fees. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for \$15/year. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to Gary Thuillier as well.

Advertising

Rates for a full year placement (6 bimonthly issues) range from \$75 to \$360, depending on placement size and location. For detailed information on advertising in *Dive Log*, contact Don Eva at (603) 672-5608 or dpeva@aol.com

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Website:

Newsletters and other current info are available at our website: <http://www.udnh.org>, graciously hosted by Jake & Linda Richter.

On The Cover

by Gary /Thuillier

2001 marked the 25th consecutive year of ice diving on the well known "Lady of the Lake" submerged in Lake Winnepesaukee. For those who are unfamiliar with the wreck, it is a 125 foot paddle steamer which had the run of the lake in the 1800's until the Mt. Washington, a much faster and larger vessel, took over. It was then retired and used to house stone masons who had been hired to build the nearby Kimball Castle (not to be confused with the "Castle in the Clouds"). After outliving it's usefulness as quarters, the boat was towed out of Glendale harbor with the intention of scuttling it in the broads. Something unknown to us went wrong and she went down 100 yards from shore. Lucky for us, since the broads (the open water area of Winnepesaukee) are around 170-180 feet deep. That was in 1895, one hundred and six years later our dive club made it's 25th annual trek out on the ice to see what condition the wreck is in. It is basically just a hull with about 75% of the deck intact. Each year, it seem that the deck boards are lifting off one by one but the hull itself is surprisingly solid and still wearing its coat of white paint as evident in the photo below.



photo by Gary Thuillier

If you look closely at the photo you can see the name *SCOTT* carved into the wood over yet another persons handiwork, this wreck has had enough names cut into it since the advent of scuba diving, to fill a New York City directory. I'm hoping that none of them belong to our club members.

The boat sits upright in 30 ffw with the deck at around 10-15 feet off the bottom. The massive wooden hull is penetrable through the large opening in the center of the deck but it is not necessary to enter for a good look and also not a very good idea for other reasons. Much of the pinning holding the timbers together are rusted to tack sharp points and will easily destroy a drysuit or worse give you a nasty wound. Also when ice diving this wreck

(continued on next page)

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you are dealing with ropes which can easily get snagged and tangled on debris. Safety aside, I also believe that bubbles are partly responsible for lifting the deck boards (that's just my opinion and I'm not going to get into an argument with anyone over it) so I try to avoid any overhead areas.



I snapped the above photo of Ken Anderson looking down from an opening toward the stern. There are a number of holes like this which make for interesting photo opportunities without compromising safety.

This was a quiet day out on the ice, quite unlike other years when up to three holes were going at the same time. 9AM, I was the first on the site and immediately began cutting our triangular opening through the frozen lake surface. Someone had been there the previous weekend judging by the thickness of the icecover, around 6 inches, which made the chore much easier than expected. Different training agencies have their own methods for dealing with the opening. Whoever cut the hole prior to us diced it into blocks and pulled them out of the water. We cut a single peice and slide it under the ice. Arguable, I'm sure, but we find it much easier this way and have never had any problem with ropes getting caught on it. The course I was certified in cited this as a possible hazard. After the day's diving is over we slide the peice back into the hole

and let it freeze into place. Since it usually takes three or more people to push the block down in the first place there's little chance anyone will come by and fall into the hole in the interim. Once we have a way into the water it's time to lay out our safety ropes and set up a tent for shelter from the wind. One of the things about ice diving is there's so much preparation, making it an ideal social event for any club. With 9 divers actually going in that day there were probably 15 or more who showed up just to help out.



photo by Bob Gamache

Although it started out sunny, we were having trouble with the wind which managed to tear the bottom out of my tent. As the day went on the Sun disappeared and the snow squalls picked up making it much more pleasant to be in the water rather than on top of the ice. Temps below were just above freezing while on the surface it went from the low 30's to the low 20's with a wind chill somewhere in the minus numbers. Perhaps this is why our club was the only one out on the ice that day.

Of course a day like that is going to cause problems other than just destroying our shelter. Right off, the first pair of divers in the hole experienced a regulator freezeup. This was to be a very common problem with almost half of us needing to come back up during our dive. I've been using a full face mask lately but had a feeling about it on this dive so I decided to go with my regular mask instead. Wise choice, no sooner had I stuck my head beneath the surface my second stage was going on it's own.

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proving that even environmentally protected regulators will freeze under the right conditions. Halfway through the dive it started again but this time a forceful blow was enough to clear it. Club members Bob and Rose Gamache did their first ice dive after nearly 400 open water dives (of course we just had to go to the coast the next day to make that 400th log entry). When asked, both agreed it was an experience well worth the effort involved. At this writing they are both somewhere off the coast of Belize (probably trying to thaw out).

On the last team in was Wayne Russel, the oldest member of UDNH. Sorry Wayne, maybe I should rephrase that, Mr. Russel has been with the club since its beginning 26 years ago and not necessarily the *oldest* person. He has made every one of these events making this the 25th anniversary of UDNH ice diving. Special thanks to Don Eva for bringing his 4 wheeler and trailer to haul our stuff off the ice. It's funny how quickly we want to get out of there once we've gotten everyone in and out of the water. As I mentioned, it's a great idea for a social gathering and what better way to finish up than with a nice hot meal at a nearby restaurant. Until next year, we bid farewell to the Lady of the Lake.

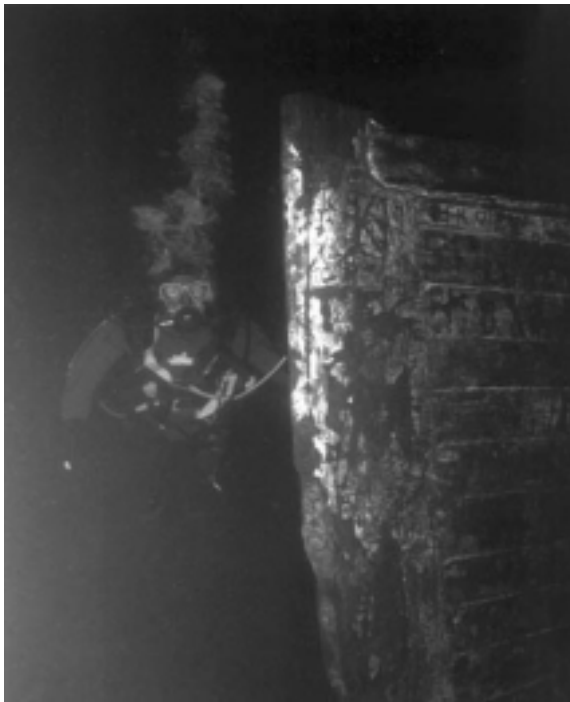
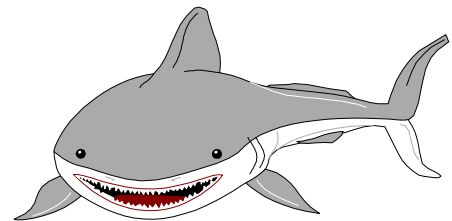


photo from file by Richard Sperry

Boston Scuba Show

by Linda Hurd

Feb 17-01 (same day as the club ice dive) Kerry & I saw Cathy Church give a 6 hour course on photography. This was put on by PDIC as Boston Scuba Diving Seminars in Marlboro MA. Fred Calhoun also gave a talk prior to Cathy's (more on that later). Cathy started her talk and quickly realized the room had all levels of photographers, so her talk touched on a very wide range of topics. She covered how she determines what kind of camera system to rent or sell to people based on the long term goal. She said it is best to look ahead and get the best camera you can afford at that time that way you don't have many cameras sitting at home that you have outgrown. She is a very animated speaker and fun to listen to. And if you are going to listen to someone for 6 hours that makes the day go by all too quickly. By the way the slides weren't bad either. She talked about cameras, strobes, arms, lighting angles and so much more. One thing to remember about going to this seminar is that there isn't a break for lunch. For the more technical side of this talk, I think as Vice President I'll make Kerry write an article for next newsletter.



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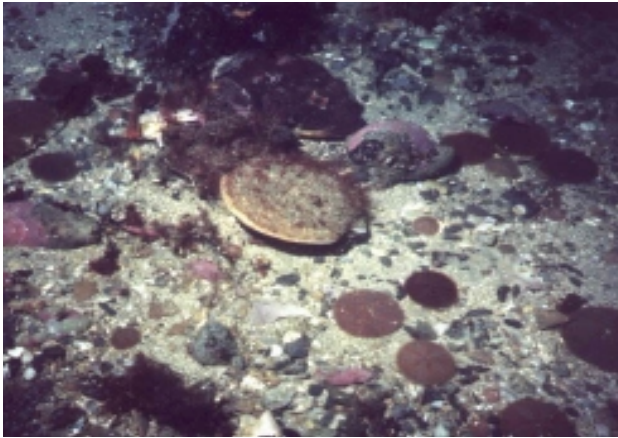
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Making Most of Winter

Gary Thuillier

We've been keeping up the diving through the Winter months by visiting places such as Nubble Light in Maine and scallop diving at the Isles of Shoals. In the past 10 years that I have been



involved in the sport I managed to get in the water at least once or twice a month after November and not really getting gung-ho again until Spring. This year hardly a weekend goes by that I don't find my way to the coast with friends. Weather conditions permitting we've taken a couple trips out with Capt. John Borden of Buchaneer Charters. This is a lobstering boat with a large heated cabin and an open deck area big enough to park my minivan.

In late November, just before the Maine harvest season opened he took us out to the New Hampshire side of the Shoals for some scalloping. Old friends Jim and Barbara Wenzel came up from Florida for that occasion and again in February for some shore diving at Nubble Light. Imagine coming all this way from warm water to dive in the Gulf of Maine. We did another scallop trip in Feb. but most of us opted to sit out the second dive due to rough seas. Heated cabin or not, that one did a number on me so I think I'll forget about boat diving until at least April. Anyway there is always York, Maine, and with the Fox Restaurant webcam set up facing the lighthouse we can check the wind direction by looking at the flag before heading all the way up there.

continued on next page...



Does this look like an inviting boat dive or what?

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I can't imagine there's anyone who has not been to Nubble, but this time of year brings much better visibility than the Summer months (weather permitting, of course). Looking at Kerry Hurd in the photo below you can see the clarity of the water. He got some good video of nudibranchs on that day. Considering that anything worth taking a photo of this time of year is usually smaller than a thumbnail you must be wondering what I'm doing without macro. I'm trying to figure that one myself.



Another club member, Mike Small, recently made a trip with Cape Ann Divers out to the Chester Poling off Gloucester, Mass. I haven't done that one in a while, probably be a better place for a 28 mm lens.

The United Divers of New Hampshire have certainly been making the most of the Winter this year and with Spring just around the corner there's some good diving weather coming.

If you're not already a member, now's the time to consider joining us. Like the "Enerzizer Bunny" we just Keep on going.



Raffle item for drawing at Boston Sea Rovers



At the last meeting the club decided it would be good to get a raffle item that any diver would like to have (with the exception of those that already have a fully housed SLR system) a Sea&Sea MX 10 with YS40a strobe. To this end I went and asked Fred Dion (a former UDNH president) if the club could borrow a display model to use for our raffle. Fred was very receptive of the idea and gave us a camera (so people could look, touch feel etc)to show. Once we have sold our 100 tickets at \$10.00 each or 3 @ \$25.00, we will draw the winning number. The winner will get a certificate from UDNH to take to Underwater Photo-Tech in Derry to pick up the brand new in the box camera and get instructions on how it works and how to keep the O-rings in good shape (we wouldn't want that new camera to flood).

Thank you Fred and the staff at Underwater Photo-tech!!



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Club Meetings

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, January through November. We encourage potential members to attend a meeting or two to experience our club before joining. The meetings are held at the YMCA on 30 Mechanic St. (off of Elm Street) in Manchester. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. Each meeting consists of a short business portion followed by a variety of presentations and discussions. Immediately following the club has an hour of pool time for swimming, trying out gear, and the occasional game of pool volleyball or underwater hockey. Members and guests often meet afterwards at a local restaurant for food and drink.

Extreme Weather

Meetings will be held if the YMCA is open. You can call them at 603-623-3558. Check close to the meeting time as the front desk often has no advance warning of early closures.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 2000 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$30/individual or \$45/family. Dues are not prorated for members who join later in the year. To join, please contact Don Eva at 603-672-5608

Get in the Swim

After every meeting, the YMCA pool is open to our dive club for an hour of fun and fitness.

Don't wait for the ice to thaw before trying out that new equipment, the pool is the perfect place. Check out the club calendar for special presentations in the pool like dive knife use or trying out a dry suit. So bring a suit and a towel to every meeting and get into the swim.

United Divers of New Hampshire Contact Information - 2000

President	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459
Vice President	Linda Hurd	603-672-8325
Treasurer	Jim Mayo	603-895-4090
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Bob Gamache	

Meeting schedule: (winter hours)7:00-8:45pm - meeting & presentation , 8:45-9:30- pool time, 9:30-9:45- Hot Tub!

Meetings and Events

March 3 & 4, 2001 Boston Sea Rovers We will have a booth as in the past. Look for us upstairs in the balcony.

March 5, 2001 Meeting

March 19, 2001 Meeting

April 2, 2001 Meeting

April 16, 2001 Meeting

Equipment Mart

Members looking to buy, sell, or trade equipment may advertise here for free. Send submissions to:
Gary Thuillier, PO Box 372, New Boston, NH
03070 e-mail: diveknits@aol.com

Camera equipment:

Nikonos V Camera with 35 mm lens \$600
Nikor 15 mm Lens with view Finders for Nikonos V \$1285
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TIME TO GET YOUR DUES IN



WEEKEND TIDES

The following abbreviated tide tables are for High Tides only, based on Portsmouth Harbor. This guide is a quick reference only and should not be used for dives requiring exact times for slack tide. More detailed information is available at maineharbors.com.

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
March			
3	5:20 PM	4	6:28 PM
10	11:45 AM	11	12:13 AM
17	6:11 PM	18	6:25 AM
24	11:10 AM	25	11:44 AM
31	4:10 PM		
April			
		1	6:05 PM
7	11:40 AM	8	12:05 PM
14	5:31 PM	15	6:30 PM
21	10:59 AM	22	11:38 AM
28	3:53 PM	29	4:52 PM

Weather

Current marine weather for New England can be accessed on the world wide web at NWS.FSU.EDU/BUOY/

DIVE LOG

United Divers of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4176
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Forward and Address Correction Requested

DIVE LOG

Dive Log is the bi-monthly newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire, an organization dedicated to educating divers and expanding the knowledge of diving in the State of New Hampshire and New England



IN THIS ISSUE:

Lady of the Lake Ice Dive
Camera Raffle