

DIVE LOG

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire



Presidents Corner

No excuse

In the previous issue I failed to mention not only the contribution of a drybox which I, myself had won at the banquet, but also the extra work put into arranging this yearly event. To Tom Tremblay, our Dive Coordinator, I offer my sincere apology and thanks for all you have done.

Club Dues

Here it is, the thing no one wants to hear about. Dues! An unpopular but necessary part of any organization. During the past two years as club treasurer, I had opted to leave out the verbal treasury report at each meeting, feeling that the financial status of UDNH is really just the business of its members and if any of them really wanted to know they could simply ask at the end of that meeting thus taking up less of our more valuable POOL TIME. While I still believe it to be the better way I will now leave this up to our new treasurer, Jim Mayo.

At a recent board meeting it was suggested that maybe an explanation of costs could be pointed out in this, our first newsletter of the year. A good suggestion since I believe there are a few who may wonder what they are getting for their money. Presently and over the last 2 years the YMCA has let us rent the room @ \$25.00 per meeting and pool time @ \$55.00 per hour for a total of \$1760.00 per year. This rate will undoubtedly go up in the near future. With our membership hovering somewhere around 40, and dues remaining at \$30 for single and \$45 for family, it doesn't take a mathematician to see that the numbers don't add up. I look forward to that "water volleyball game" or "underwater hockey" and would hate to have to give it up for lack of funding, so let's get those dues paid and while we're at it, let us do our best to promote the United Divers of New Hampshire so we may increase our membership.

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DIVE LOG

The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editors: Gary Thuillier
Don Eva

Submissions

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

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

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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.

Dawn of a New Millennium

by Cindy Conlin

Who: Gary Thuillier, Sue Thuillier, Phil Morrison, Steve Lindblom, Ken Anderson, Cindy Conlin,

Kerry Hurd, Linda Hurd

What: New Year's dive

Where: Where else? The Nubble!

When: January 1, 2000 Noon

Why: The jury is still out on this one!

Speculative answers: Beauty, vis, bragging rights, a free meal

So there you have it, that's the run-down on the club's New Year's dive. Drysuit divers all, some wore standard-issue black, others sported toxic Day-Glo orange. Still others came in drags of flannel, fleece, hats, coats and MOOSE+ Subaru's.

On pre-dive inspection, we were all pleased to hear divers emerging with "60-foot visibility" and "best vis here EVER" reports. Everyone, that is, except Kerry Hurd, who undoubtedly would have been a Water-Baby New Year had he not had the big bad cold that he did. As for me, memories of [ICE] water in my wetsuit at Glen Ellis Falls recollected themselves just fine. I came to make sure everyone who was at Ronnie Mann's house for the New Year's Eve party was in tip-top shape and headache-free. Sue likely wrote it off as a business expense, showing off her beautiful new dive knits; and Linda, a.k.a. always-there-for-you shore support, had to take care of Kerry.

The afternoon started nicely — sunny and cold, beautiful visibility (above sea level) and functioning car heaters. I believe everyone would agree though, that once you opened the door in the Sohier Park lot, the wrath of Cthulhu made its presence known! The wind was strong and Linda, Kerry and I were more than content to help the divers gear up — sooner rather than later — so we could retreat to the car and eat Ho-Ho's. It was, however, worth braving the wind to watch these guys strip down and stand bare-skinned until they found the fronts of their shirts and their respective armholes. Rumor has it they were cold. No one was very cold once Steve got suited up. His orange agent served as a space heater if you stood close enough. Not many park visitors missed Steve, that's for sure! Luckily the seagulls did.



Steve Lindblom ablaze at 30 ft

To get the full effect of his orange suit, see the DiveLog on the internet @www.udnh.org

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INSTRUCTIONS

RENTALS

(continued from previous page)

The visibility jury is IN, and Gary has claimed 50-foot vis, the best yet at Nubble. He took some wonderful photos; I can't wait to see them. He snuck ahead of the others and got an oncoming shot of the sun breaking through the water, bubbles and all. He said he's doing a documentary on tropical millennium dive spoofs.



Ken surfaced with a large specimen for his rock collection: "Can somebody weigh this?"

I guess his weight belt went on a diet and shed a few pounds. Unfortunately, his hands were so cold he couldn't have used them much anyway. Whether he knew it was necessary or not, he neglected to put anytubing in his drygloves to let the warm air in from his suit. He knows better now!

Everyone needs a little shore support. I hereby give due credit to Sue Thuillier, who stood OUTSIDE during the whole dive, talking to other divers from other places. Linda, Kerry and I made ourselves scarce. I ran to the car with my tail between my legs, claiming "Brrrrr" as my defense.

Once we saw a fin surface ... and agreed by the stroke that it was Ken. We knew where Steve was, of course. Any lobsterman checking his traps would have seen him. The same lobsterman would have already started bragging about the biggest submerged cooked lobster ever caught in his trap! In fact, I had my doubts about whether we should really approach him when he surfaced. You can never be too careful!

Above and below the surface, the divers were happy. You know a bad day at the Nubble beats a good day at work! And it wasn't even close to a bad day!

Editor / photographer's note

Everyone asks as soon as you come out of the water "Did you get any good pictures?", and as any photographer knows, only after processing can you give that answer.

Sorry Cindy, I had some potentially great shots but I blew them. They now exist only in my memory.

Gary Thuillier



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Among The Kuna Indians of San Blas Panama

By Willis R. Corson

Have you ever been someplace in the Caribbean and were told you'd get to see some real Carib Indians? But only a rag tag group of black people speaking the remnants of an African language shows up with their drums and noisemakers for a good time.

Some articles I have read say that all of the Carib Indians were wiped out; some say there's a small group left on a Caribbean island some place. I have asked many times were all the Caribbean Indians are and have been told there aren't any. Guess what!? Somebody in the tourism industry who writes the dive magazines hasn't done all of their homework. On the coast of Panama on the Atlantic side is a very remote region called San Blas. The Indians call it Kuna Yala. It is the sovereign territory of the Kuna Indians; there are three different Indian groups in Panama.

San Blas is made up of 365 islands and covers an area of two hundred miles. The waters are shallow and are fished by Indians in dugout canoes using a single line and hook. The backdrop of the mainland with the jungle and the mountains and the steamy clouds look more like Vietnam from the movie *Apocalypse Now*.

The Kunas are a small people reaching no more than five feet tall. They speak the Kuna language and Spanish. They look more like Indonesian tribesmen. And there is no resemblance between them and Native Americans.

The older Kuna who owned the Dolphin Lodge, where we stayed, angrily said in broken English: *Tell American Indians: Go Home! We don't want them here!*

The Kuna are so independent that the Spanish never conquered them. The Kuna simply disappeared into the impenetrable mountain jungles. The Colombians failed to conquer them too. In 1925, the Kuna again won their independence from Panama through revolution. Their flag has a swastika on it, which predates the Nazi Germans.

When you go to an Indian village on one of the myriad of islands, it is like stepping 20 centuries back in time. You see thatched homes, hand-woven cages holding pigs, chickens, and other small animals. You smell the acrid smoke from their hearths. You see bareass children chasing flea-bitten dogs

that don't respond to a whistle sound. You see men in wooden, dugout canoes fishing for their daily food; you see families traversing about in the same style canoes.

Welcome to Kuna Yala! Yes. My wife Keny Judith & I were in that far away, remote, almost forbidden paradise - an ocean playground where dolphins and sea turtles are the pets of Indian children. Coral reefs harbor gin clean water for the home of many Caribbean species of fish, and the sounds of cars, motorcycles, and jets are none existent. Just listen, and you can hear the sea the way it sounded a thousand years ago. We got there by flying from Albrook Airport, the former US Albrook Air Force Base. We left in a 19 passenger Cessna single engine turbo prop and flew for 45-minutes over remote jungle and mountains and swamps until the Atlantic Ocean came into sight. The pilots swung in low over the ocean where a large Indian village on an island came into view, and we flew in for a hard landing on a jungle runway. We stepped out of the Cessna at the ocean's edge. There were Kuna women dressed in their colorful *molos*, a costume dress. I quickly looked for our Indian guide and called out in Spanish for Oroso. He quickly sounded off, and we made fast acquaintances. Oroso grabbed our bags and loaded a 30-foot dug out canoe powered by a small outboard motor. The first words out of my mouth in English, of course, were: *Who raped the rain forest for this large tree!* Soon we were off on the open ocean heading for the island of Achutupo, or Dog Island. The Indians told me that the island got its name because when the first Kuna migrated from the mountains, they found a large dog on the island and therefore gave it the name. When we got to our island, we were met by the resort owner, a five-foot tall older Indian who fancied calling himself Geronimo, a borrowed name that is pronounced */hair-ron-knee-mo/*. I introduced us using my textbook Spanish. He responded in his best broken English. He was glad to see me because not many Americans came

continued ...

US Divers

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to his resort. He mostly received people from Panama's wealthy and power elite. Geronimo told me to tell more Americans to come to his resort. He brought us in and introduced his daughter who would be our hostess and cook. We were given some pineapple juice to drink as well as fresh fruit to eat. Afterwards we were showed to our hut, which was a thatched hut similar to the Indians', only it had beds with nice mattresses, a concrete floor, a table with an oil lamp, a toilet, and a shower. We also had hammocks to lie in, which I loved to use for napping and reading.

Our itinerary for the 4 days of fun and sightseeing was two trips per day by dugout canoe to distant islands and villages and reefs for snorkeling. The Indians strictly forbid any scuba. So any advertisements of scuba diving in San Blas are lies. The Indians are death on it, so to speak. Snorkeling is a big okay, and that's what we did. We snorkeled in super, gin-clear, virgin water 4 to 6 miles off the coast. Mind you, there was no coast guard, no life guard, no doctors, no hospitals, and the barefooted Indian guide didn't know English, first aid, nor life saving, but he did know a few things. He knew how to smile. He knew how to fish for the next meal on his table, and he knew the way back to the village island, which was far astern, and with no compass nor modern navigation. Do you remember all of those swimming and snorkeling skills you forgot way

back when you first got into diving? They were every bit important, especially when you are six miles at sea with 4 to 20-feet of water below you. Because of our safety concerns, we were using old horse collar BC's with CO2 cartridges for back up.

The Indian? What about the Indian guide? Well he was barefoot, wore old shorts that were torn and didn't cover much, and used an old stove-pipe style mask. And his 4 or 5-year-old son was with him wearing a swim suit and an old mask. Can you imagine your baby 6-miles in Open Ocean swimming along like he was playing in a backyard swim tub?

At a larger village, we saw 3 naked kids between the ages of 1 and 2 in a small dugout canoe paddling alone in the open channel between two islands; they had no adult supervision. We just flew past in our 30-foot dugout and waved; they were having fun and waved back.

Did we see real Caribbean Indians? I think Geronimo is proof of that. did we have fun? We sure did, like no fun we've had before. And would we do it again? Yeah baby, it was the trip of a life time! And we not only enjoyed the water world; we saw an ancient culture still existing on primitive ways and the American dollar.

Classes

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February 7 Agenda

At the Jan 3rd meeting a questionnaire was handed out to each of the club members. The answers are to be the subject of our meeting on February 7th with guest speaker, Don Stevens of *Atlantic Aqua Sport*. It was decided that a little time to ponder the questions was necessary so for the benefit of those who didn't make it that night, I've posted them below. Whether you plan to come to the first February meeting or not, it's a good idea to take a look and write down your thoughts. If you are going to attend, please bring in your answers for open discussion.

List the 5 most important academic issues that should be taught during SCUBA training.

List the 5 most important confined water skills (pool) that should be taught during SCUBA training.

List the 5 most important open water skills that should be taught during SCUBA training.

List the 5 most important equipment related issues that should be taught during SCUBA training.

How long have you been diving? Years ____, Months ____, number of dives ____.

What are your current certification levels?

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Ice Diving with UDNH

Each winter the club gets together out on the frozen Lake Winnepesaukee or some other predetermined location for a dive under the ice. Since this is diving in an overhead environment common sense tells you that special training is needed. The requirements are simple in that anyone wishing to take part in the dive need only be an active member of UDNH and attend a seminar which is offered at a Monday night meeting preceeding the planned dive. At this meeting you would need to spend some time in the pool so bring your mask and snorkel. The first planned dive is for February 19, and will be done at the Glen Ellis Falls in Pinkham Notch, NH. This is a waterfall which drops 65 feet to a small pool of crystal clear water below. The depth is only around 15 ft. thus making SCUBA optional(it comes in handy to get behind the frozen wall of ice).The temperature is of course hovering around the freezing point so a drysuit is preferred though not required. IT'S YOUR CALL!!

Anyone wishing to join us in this unusual adventure should attend the seminar to be held on **January 17**. Anyone who has not done an "ice dive" with UDNH in the past must attend if you want to take part. There are no exceptions regardless of prior ice training with other agencies.



Wayne Russell peers out from behind frozen waterfall.
Photo taken by Lea Nichols

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CATCH THE WAVE

4th Annual Catch the Wave Party

A few years ago, members from 9 of the area dive clubs, including UDNH, the New England Aquarium Dive Club, among others, decided to create a loose network to bring together divers from the area. The first Catch the Wave party was a huge success, with over 150 participants swapping dive stories and having a good time. Door prizes, raffles, and silent auctions have rounded out the evenings.

Proceeds from the party have gone to area divers in need, Divers Alert Network, and programs for area youth.

This year's party will be held March 25, 2000 at the Wyndham Hotel, Waltham, MA. Cost is \$25 per person.

For details, contact Don Eva @603-672-5608, or Al Bozza @ 508-384-1377.



Lakes Region Dive Club

Presents

Don Stevens

of

Atlantic Aqua Sport

Come join us for the presentation of
"The Andrea Doria"

**to be held at the Gilford Middle High School on
January 16, 2000 at 1 p.m.
\$3.00 donations are welcomed**

for additional information contact
Mike Souther @ (603) 798-3456
or

Atlantic Aqua Sport @ (603) 436-4443



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 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	Gary Thuillier	603-487-3001
Vice President	Kerry Hurd	603-672-8325
Treasurer	Jim Mayo	603-895-4090
Secretary	Don Eva	603-672-5608
Dive Coordinator	Tom Tremblay	603-625-8459

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

January 16, 2000

Lakes Region Dive Club hosts Don Stevens' presentation on "Andrea Doria" at the Guilford Middle School at 1PM

January 17, 2000 Meeting

'Ice Dive' preparation with Lea Nichols and Wayne Russel. Also Jean Stefanik will touch briefly on her recent Japanese trip

February 7, 2000 Meeting

Speaker Don Stevens (Atlantic AquaSports) group discussion. *Business portion will be abbreviated and promptly at 7PM*

February 12, 2000 Boston Scuba Show.
Marleborough, MA

February 19, 2000
Glen Ellis Falls Ice Dive

February 21, 2000 Meeting

February 26, 2000 Ice Dive

Annual Lady of theLake dive, Lake Winnepesaukee

March 4&5, 2000 Boston Sea Rovers Clinic.

March 6, 2000 Meeting

March 20, 2000

Jean Stefanik's "Crossword Challenge" Study and bring your "Marine Life of the North Atlantic" books (Jean has extras for the evening)

March 25, 2000 4th Annual Catch the Wave multiclub Party. Contact Don Eva @ 603-672-5608 for details.



Internet connection - a new place in the *DiveLog* for businesses with websights.

With the growing trend of web advertising and the fact that this newsletter can be seen online it makes good sense to put your connection here. Call Gary Thuillier for pricing details.

"Oil & Water"- Marine life paintings

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

Equipment Mart

Viking Sport Dry Suit Size 01

Orca Edge dive computer

Suit is little used and in good condition with under garments, \$450. Contact Lea Nichols @ 603 487-2726.

Dive Computer: Orca Marathon- excellent condition w/ new battery. \$100. Contact Mike Griffin @ 603-673-9250.

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	
FEB 5	10:55 AM	FEB 6	11:30 AM
FEB 12	3:55 PM	FEB 13	4:58 PM
FEB 19	10:31 AM	FEB 20	11:22 AM
FEB 26	4:22 PM	FEB 27	5:22 PM
MAR 4	9:50 AM	MAR 5	10:28 AM
MAR 11	2:42 PM	MAR 12	3:40 PM
MAR 18	9:29 AM	MAR 19	10:21 AM
MAR 25	2:51 PM	MAR 26	3:41 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
Manchester, NH 03108-4176

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:

New Years Dive at Nubble Light
Panama's Kuna Indians

