

The Sea Breeze

The New York City Sea Gypsies, Inc. New York September 1976 Anne Iscoe, Editor

Contributions, inquiries to be addressed to the Editor at 138-10 Franklin Ave., Flushing, N.Y. 11355

NEW MEETING PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING!

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 1976--WEDNESDAY

The September meeting of the New York City Sea Gypsies will be held at:

FLEET STREET On Third Avenue between 45th and 46th Streets

7:30 pm Dining from 6:30 on.

'Fleet Street' has a nice pub atmosphere with good food and decor. The whole of the upstairs dining room will be available to us.

Membership Message

Hello, all Sea Gypsies (and future members, too):

I am the new "Membership Coordinator." My responsibilities will include being the contact for all people interested in joining the Club, supplying probationary members with information regarding check-out dives, and various record keeping fun and games.

If you have any friends who are prospective new members or if you yourself have any questions, I can be reached at 212-679-7377 (home) or 212-751-3500 (office).

Sue Darlington

GRAND CAYMAN

The Grand Cayman trip has been re-scheduled for November 19th to November 29th - 10 days - two full weekends, (which means a small increase in price). I have limited spots for the trip, so, send me your \$45 deposit soon or you might not find space available. Make your check payable to the N.Y.C. Sea Gypsies and send to:

Peter McDowell
22 West 85th Street (A)
New York, New York 10024

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Although the dive season is in its zenith, we have just finished compiling the list of Safety Committee members. Although there has been talk of relieving the Safety Committee of some of the former requirements and responsibilities, the following people have put themselves through two written exams and a gruelling pool test: Peter McDowell, Robert Pierce, Ken Gilmore, Elaine Smay, Tom McGinnis, Anne Iscoe, Sue Benjamin, John Dowdell, Fred Kaplan, Micheal Meirruth, Alan Iscoe, Ron Drumheller, Pam Peper, Roberto Varga, Peter Van Nuys and Neal Klemens.

Alan Iscoe

ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP! NOMINATE, BE NOMINATED, CAMPAIGN! Details at the Sept. meeting

GO WEST YOUNG DIVER, or, AN EASTERNERS FIRST ENCOUNTER

WITH THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING ABALONE -

When the sport of skindiving first hit our shores over 20 years ago, California led the way in diver involvement through organization, competition, teaching and equipment. It was the far-away mecca of all the good of diving. Perfect natural surroundings plus excellent weather and a large sports oriented population have kept this tradition. But it has taken 20 years for this diver to succumb to the words of Mr. Horace Greely.

Magic names. Malibu, Catalina, Sunset Beach, Oxnard... OXNARD? Forty miles north of Los Angeles lies the agricultural town of Oxnard, expanding seaward with new marinas, water-front homes and an active dive shop with charter boat facilities all within easy reach of the islands of the Santa Barbara Channel. Exciting? You bet! Not yet as extensively dove as Catalina Island and still abundant with game, the Channel Islands offer California diving at its best. Anacapa, a small uninhabited island was our dive sight. Captain Ken Jacobson of the "Islander" is a picture book idea of an old salt running an older steel clad but fast boat. Calm, comic and capable best fits him and there was nothing that he wouldn't do to ensure the divers a good day of diving. His mates were the same. Tom, who is a professional captain in his own right, took me under his wing and described the diving, lent me an 'ab iron' and saw to it that I had a good time. Staff from the "Seafarer" dive shop ran the dive. All California divers must be certified, and, after checking cards, describing expected on-board courtesy, telling us the depth, listing buddies on a chart, warning us of the kelp and noting the time of entry, we were on our own - perfect! A set of dive tables were attached to the chart and a time record for all to see was kept of the divers. Their plan of one deep dive to 75' and then moving in to a maximum of 40' gave me four dives for the day and salt in my blood for 3 more. There were 3 people from the dive shop 'in charge' who kept track of the list. Anne, after her dive, took over the list for a while as well as checking out the divers as they entered the water while the instructors engaged in a frisbee contest. But then the current picked up, they immediately aborted the diving, pulled anchor and found a better spot. They were all alert, capable people and a pleasure to see working so efficiently together.

A compressor on board required bringing only one tank along. One fill was \$1.50 but for \$2.50, fills were unlimited. Bringing food on board is discouraged as most California dive boats have hot galleys and a hot cheese burger, followed by freshly cooked corn on the cob, after a dive is quite a pick-up.

The water temperature was 65° at the surface (58° at 70'), visibility over 40' and abundant marine life. We were visited by seals who were quite interested in us. The giant kelp was spectacular. One-hundred foot strands formed patterns and forests on the bottom, and swimming in and out of the growth was exciting. The abalone were plentiful but their legal minimum sizes for taking are strictly regulated. The delicious 'red' had to be at least 7" long, and incredibly, the abs that I gauged to be of size and then worked free proved to shrink to 6-7/8" when in hand and measured accurately. It is illegal to bring an undersized abalone to the surface, never mind on to the boat, so every one carried a measuring device in his goody bag. Perseverance paid off, and that evening, after cleaning, cutting and pounding, we feasted on fresh, crisply-fried abalone; truly, one of the gourmet treats of the sea.

Alan D. Iscoe

Ocean Pollution - Comment by Helena N. Varga

Much has been said about pollution in our ocean, while very little has been done. Those of you who have recently dived off our coastal waters, especially the New Jersey coast, have witnessed the devastating sight of death to marine life. Scientists explain this phenomenon in terms of eutrophication - an excess of algae growth due to excesses of nitrates and phosphates in the water on which algae feeds and grows. The algae boom depletes the water of oxygen due to its respiration, and the lack of oxygen causes fish kills and algae decay. Bacterial decomposition causes further oxygen depletion and further fish kills.

Sludge dumped in the ocean is a source of the algae nutrients. On 1 August 1976 Congressman Lester Wolf on a radio report to the people, pointed to the lack of action on the part of the Environmental Protection Agency to research and implement other ways of waste disposal, such as a recycling process in which waste is converted to land fertilizer, fuel, or other useful by products. Congressman Wolf also emphasized the possibility of a serious health hazard being created by an organism found in sludge, closely resembling a DNA molecule, which investigators have found to be immune to the antibodies defense system. Could this be related to the increased number of virulent diseases in recent years? Congressman Wolf reported that EPA started to fund research in this field, but soon desisted. When Mr. Wolf called back asking for a progress report, EPA officials did not have an answer.

It is this lack of scientific responsibility that is causing the destruction of our ocean, while creating a health hazard to our population. I advise you to keep up to date in your vaccinations against known water born diseases (polio, diphtheria, cholera, smallpox, tetanus), and I also urge you to become involved. Use your influence. Write to the Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., and/or to your congressman and express your opinion.

Editor's note - As with all comment/opinion type articles published in the Sea Breeze, your comments, support or criticism, are welcome.

WRECK DIVE FOR EVERYONE!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO MAKE A WRECK DIVE THIS YEAR! THE NEW DATE IS OCTOBER 2. LET ME REMIND YOU THAT THE WATER IS LOVELY AND WARM AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, AND THE AIR TEMPERATURE MAKES SUITING UP A PLEASANT TASK. WE WILL BE DOING TWO OR THREE INSHORE WRECKS, TO A DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET.

PRICE: \$17.00 per person (chance of rebate depending on turn-out)
DEPARTURE: Brielle, New Jersey
TIME: 8:00 am PROMPT!

CONTACT ROBERTO VARGA AT 212-271-0129 - HURRY! SPACE IS GOING FAST!

Dear Sea Gypsy,
 Here is the fall dive schedule. If you have any suggestions for this season or next season, please call us! Save this schedule for reference.

Happy and safe diving!

Dave Gould--699-8214

Adrienne Kmiecik--725-5626

MONTH	DATE	SATURDAY	DATE	SUNDAY
Sept.	(3)4	(5)6 New Hampshire Weekend-- Sea Gypsies Club Picnic!**		
	11	Lake Minnewaska- good check-out. Picnicking, camping possible. Coordinator: Adrienne Kmiecik	12	*Wreck dive- Joann Manasquan, N.J.
	18	19 Conn. Weekend- includes Ocean Beach which has a great park and beach; chance of lobsters. Also, Bluff Point-beautiful beach, deserted shore point, shallow diving, lobsters. Coordinator= Paul Beck- UN1-9556		
	25		26	*Wreck dive-Sea Hunter-L.I. 12-14 divers
Oct.	2	*Wreck dive- Sea Lion, Brielle, 13 divers	3	Sylvan Lake Quarry- check-out
	9	Conn. Weekend Pine Island- offshore shallow diving, spear-fishing, lobsters.	10	Conn. Eastern Point Beach- shallow diving, varied bottom.
	16	*Wreck dive- Sea Hunter L.I., 12-14 divers.	17	
	23	24 Rhode Island Weekend- includes Jamestown Island		
	30	*Wreck dive- Sea Lion, Brielle, 7 divers	31	
Nov.	6	*Wreck dive- Sea Lion, Brielle, 7 divers	7	

*Contact Roberto Varga about wreck dives-- 271-0129

**Contact Mike Meieruth about Labor Day Weekend in New Hampshire. 278-4068 (home) 360-2771 (bus.)