

BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

NEWSLETTER

New Training Offerings <i>Time to dust off your Save a Dive skills</i> Click here	Pool Play <i>Been dry and out of the water too long?</i> Click here	News from Tug <i>Checkout the stories and tales from our very own "Unknown Diver"</i> Click here	Calendar <i>Don't miss all the happening at Blue Ocean Divers</i> Click here
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Welcome to March

Boy did March 1st sneak up on me! I can't believe that February is already behind us. I know most of you are thankful to know the days are getting longer, the nights shorter and spring will be here before we know it. Have you started looking for your first robin yet?

Our trip to Bonaire is finalized. But if you find a REALLY great deal on airfare and decide at the last minute to come let us know and I think we can add you to the list of 15.

Keep thinking warm thoughts and the dive season will be here before you know it!

Mach10 Mike

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News from the Dive Center

February Certifications

We continue to have folks expand their knowledge and grow their diving skills. The following folks have earned certifications.

DAN DEMP

Sue F., Terry S., Mike N., Brent M., Louise M., Steve C., Tim F., Tom R., Derek P. & Mike R.

PADI EFR/AED

Tom R., Tim F., Suzanne B.

Congratulations to one and all.

Pool Play Day

Are you already missing the sound of your breath underwater? When was the last time you practiced an air share skill? Plan now to come to Blue Ocean Divers Pool play day March 9th. Ten dollars will get you a tank and weights and an hour in the pool to blow all the bubbles you can.

Need more than just tanks and weights? You can rent a BCD and regulator for an additional \$10. We will have toys in the pool for your enjoyment along with staff to answer any dive related question on your mind. Please sign up in advance to ensure we have all the equipment needed at the pool.

The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

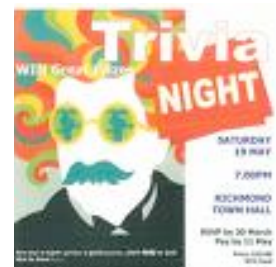
Due to a list of honey do's that include a kitchen remodeling we'll have to wait until next month to hear Tug's unique perspective on diving (i.e. Life). We all wish Tug the best as his kitchen is "overhauled". As he always reminds us...

Never Dive Over Your Head.
"The Unknown Diver"

Trivia Contest

With the new website it's much easier to update the questions. But you still have to get the answers right to get your name put in the old dive hood. The names are in and the name that popped out is Hannah Pooley. So Hannah, stop on down to Blue Ocean Divers and pick up your bottle of mask defog.

How's your supply of mask defog? Go to our website and answer the 2 Trivia questions. Upon submittal you will be told if you found the correct answers to the questions. Your chances in the drawing will be based on the number of questions you answered correctly. If you answer both questions correctly you will have 2 chances in the drawing. If you answer only one correctly you will get one chance in the drawing. Good luck to one and all.



Educational Opportunities

We have many opportunities for you to get a new buddy and advance your diving skills and knowledge.

DAN Oxygen Provider course March 13th at 10 a.m.

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Our next PADI Open Water course starts April 11th at 9 a.m.

Not sure if diving is for you? Join us for a Discover Scuba March 28th.

PADI Rescue Diver course is scheduled to start April 25th.

Want to be able to help a distressed diver? Enroll in DAN Oxygen provider class. Been there done that? How about DAN's Advanced Oxygen Provider class? Or how about Emergency First Responder (EFR) and AED training?

Check it all out on our [website](#).

DAN Oxygen Provider



As a recreational diver, you can receive training to provide vital first aid that can make a difference to a scuba diver with decompression illness. The DAN Oxygen Provider Course provides entry-level training in the recognition and management of possible diving-related injuries using emergency oxygen first aid.

PADI Discover Scuba

Do you have a friend who likes to hear all about your adventures under the sea? Are they a little hesitant to take the plunge? Enroll them now in our Discover Scuba experience on March 28th. All they need is a swimsuit and a towel. Blue Ocean Divers will provide everything else. Please stop by the dive center and enroll to make sure we have sufficient gear and staff there for everyone.

PADI Open Water Course

Do you have a friend that you would like to see as your new dive buddy? Are they getting cabin fever already? Are they looking for something that will get them thinking warm sunny thoughts? Enroll them now in our next PADI Open Water Diver course starting April 11th. This will be our last weekend class. After this class finishes we will hold our PADI Open Water class on Tuesday evenings.

Travel

Bonaire at Easter

We have closed this trip. So you are not one of the folks joining us then you will be missing out on the warm sunny days of Bonaire and remanded to endure the cold & snow of upstate New York in April. 😊

Planning for a Summer of Local Diving

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The wreck of the *Lillie Parsons* on the St. Lawrence River

The *Lillie Parsons* is a favorite wreck in the Morristown, NY area. Downstream from Alexandria Bay and just west of Brockville, Ontario, lying on the North side of Sparrow Island in Canadian waters. She lies in 60 to 80 feet of water with a moderate current of 2-3 knots. The current can vary widely, depending on the amount of water going through the Hydroelectric dam at Massena. Boat traffic must be a consideration as she lies in the channel. It's unlikely that a freighter will pass directly overhead, but small boat traffic can be frequent and unpredictable.



The *Lillie Parsons* was a fore and aft cabin, two masted centerboard schooner, 131 feet long with a 26 foot beam. Launched on September 14, 1868 by Parsons and Humboldt of Tonawanda, NY (Buffalo, NY), she was named after Parson's young daughter. She held a number of speed records including the fastest round trip between Oswego and Chicago of 25 days and Milwaukee to Oswego in just 7 days.



She lived a fast, furious and short life of only 9 years, when she found her final resting place during a storm on August 5, 1877. The captain was not intimidated by the brewing storm and subsequent squall as he made his way towards Brockville with his load of coal. A sudden blow put her over on her beam ends, causing her cargo of coal to dangerously shift. She then struck a rock and began to take on water and drifted onto a 18 foot shoal just off the north corner of Sparrow Island. Fortunately there was no loss of life. Salvage was considered, but within a few weeks, she was washed from the shoal and settled upside down on the north side of Sparrow Island. An anchor and chain placed by Save Ontario Shipwrecks (S.O.S.) on Sparrow Island attached to her stern. The bow is pointed downstream.

As with most wrecks there are at least a couple of ways to dive it. One is by land, two is by drift. If you choose to drift dive it, don't dally too long on the wreck itself or you won't have enough air to complete the drift.

Diving a WWII Submarine in New England

U-853 is the last German submarine sunk in World War II, being sunk on May 6, 1945. This wreck is remarkable for several reasons.

All submarines in the Kriegsmarine had been ordered to cease offensive operations and return to their bases the previous day by the German Commander in Chief of Submarines (Befehlshaber der Untersee) Karl Dönitz. It has been subject of debate whether U-853 did not receive these orders, or whether 24 year old Captain Helmut Frömsdorf simply chose to disregard the orders.



Regardless of the reason, U-853 torpedoed the collier SS Black Point off Point Judith, Rhode Island the evening of May 5, 1945. One of the rescuing ships, the SS Kamen sent a report of the torpedoing, which was picked up by several United States Navy and Coast Guard vessels, including USS John D. Ericsson (DD-440), USS Amick (DE-168), USS Atherton (DE-169) and USS Moberly (PF-63).

Shortly after being dispatched, these ships discovered U-853 in 18 fathoms (approximately 140 feet) of water, and began a relentless assault on the U-boat, dropping more than 100 depth charges and several hedgehog spreads throughout the night. The assault continued through the morning of May 6, 1945, reinforced by two Naval blimps from Lakehurst, New Jersey, K-16 and K-58, the former adding rocket bombs to the usual antisubmarine arsenal of depth charges and hedgehogs.

U-853 was deemed sunk when various debris, including planking, life rafts, clothing, an officer's cap, and a large amount of oil floated to the surface. All 55 men aboard were killed in the sinking.

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The Coast Guard and the Navy did a thorough job of destroying U-853. Enough damage was done to sink the sub several times over, with two blast holes in the pressure hull that are the width of the ship. The first hole is immediately forward of the conning tower; the second is near the stern. Both blast holes are large enough for a diver to drop down into and have a look around, but further penetration into the ship is dangerous and requires special training in wreck penetration techniques.

The sub lies largely intact and upright on the bottom, in 130 feet of water. The sixty plus years U-853 has spent on the bottom are beginning to take their toll; part of the bow of the sub collapsed over the winter of 2003-2004, and the majority of the pressure hull has eroded, leaving the ribs of the ship visible.



This is a fairly large wreck, being 251 feet long by 23 feet wide. It takes several dives to familiarize yourself fully with this wreck. Aside from the blast holes previously mentioned, some of the highlights of the wreck include the aft torpedo loading tube, the largely intact rudder all the way to the stern, and dropping down in front of the bow to appreciate the size of the wreck.

Because of the depth of this dive, it is recommended that all divers carry a redundant air supply when diving U-853.

BE AWARE that this site is a war grave, and is recognized as such by the governments of both The United States and Germany. There are still human remains on board the ship, and they should be treated with respect. Removal or disturbance of any human remains from the ship is a felony.

Calendar

Date	Activity
March 13	DAN Oxygen Provider
March 14	Don't forget to set your clock ahead 1 hour
March 17	Remember your Green today - St. Patrick's Day
March 20 & 27	PADI Rescue Diver academics for Bonaire divers
March 27 & 28	Beneath The Sea - Meadowlands, Secaucus, NJ
March 29 - April 2	BU Spring Break
April 3 - 10	Buddy Dive Resort, Bonaire
April 28	Next PADI Open Water Class
May 22 - 23	Dutch Springs Training Weekend
June 26 - 27	Dutch Springs Training Weekend

Store Hours

Monday – Friday Noon until 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed