



Surface Interval

the Explorers Dive Club of NJ

Beluga Whales Spotted in the Navesink

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**Time to
Get that
Gear
Serviced**

Maybe they're hunting for food. Maybe they're on a summer road trip.

But for some reason, three juvenile beluga whales paid a rare visit to the Jersey Shore, spending at least a half an hour splashing in the Shrewsbury and Navesink rivers. The marine mammals, which are typically found in Arctic waters, are believed to be the same trio that wildlife experts have been monitoring since they first appeared off Rhode Island around Mother's Day, then in Long Island waters ahead of Memorial Day week-

end. We kept saying, "Wouldn't it be amazing if they came here," said Joan Bruno, a Highlands photographer of conversations she had with her neighbors about the whales before they arrived here. "When (her neighbors) saw the white, they knew it wasn't just a large dolphin."

The neighbors called Bruno, who ran out to her condominium's dock to snap photos of the three

whales. She watched them for about a half an hour before they disappeared. She's been watching but hasn't seen them since.

Biologists from organizations across three states — the Marine Mammal Stranding Cen-



Highlands photographer Joan Bruno captured this image Sunday of one of the three beluga whales swimming in the Navesink River. (Photo: Courtesy of Joan Bruno)

ter in Brigantine, the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research in New York and Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut — have been tracking the creatures.

But Bob Schoelkopf, founding director of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, is watching more out of concern than glee of seeing the whales here. He's watched more times than he's cared to as dolphins have entered the

Navesink River and not come out. "The water's they have gone up are more or less death traps for the animals that have gone up there in the past," he said. The trouble is that the headwaters of the river go south and eventually become un-navigable for whales and dolphins, he said.

But the decision to rescue the creatures rests with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service. For now, there are no plans to intervene, according to a statement from the federal agency. Rising water temperatures that come with summer could cause problems for the whale, Schoelkopf said. He hopes the rain forecast drops the salinity in the river to a point that they decide on their own to head home. Until then, boaters are asked to observe the whales from at least 150 feet away and resist the urge to interact with them.

Report any sightings to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center at 609-266-0538 or mmsc@verizon.net.

President's Corner:

I'd like to thank Andrew Lynch for his presentation on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Established in 1977, Sea Shepherd is an international non-profit, marine wildlife conservation organization. Their mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species. Andrew is a key member of the Sea Shepherd's New York Chapter, which hosts documentary screenings, tables at events such as festivals and rock concerts, and organizes beach clean-ups, bake sales, and major fundraisers. To find out what you can do to support the effort, visit www.seashepherd.org/chapters/new-york-city-10.html

If you have ideas for dive trips or club activities, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Karen Taylor
explorersdiveclub@gmail.com



Dues are Donations . . .

As a nonprofit group we rely completely on donations in the form of dues to cover our operating expenses.

The Explorers Dive Club would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your donations over the years. Regardless of whether or not you are able to give financially at this time, we welcome you to join us for dinner, attend a meeting or an event any time you are available.

Dues are \$25 for individual and \$30 per family per year (July – June). Please see Lisa Vesuvio at a meeting or mail your check payable to “Explorers Dive Club” to:

Explorers Dive Club
c/o Lisa Vesuvio
477 Vicki Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Indonesia 2017

Interested in diving Indonesia? We're looking at Raja Ampat and Lembah Strait which are reportedly the best dive locations in Indonesia. Raja Ampat (liveboard diving) is located on the western part of Papua Island. Lembah Strait (land-based muck diving) lies near Manado, Sulawesi. The date for this trip is not set yet, but best time to dive Indonesia is said to be May – September. No obligation at this time. This is just to see if there is any interest. Please contact Karen at explorersdiveclub@gmail.com.

**Get out your 2015 calendars,
date books, smart phones,
underwater slates etc.,**

June 9, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
June 20, 2015—20th Anniversary Beach Picnic
Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Long Branch NJ
July 14, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
August 11, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
September 8, 2015- Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
October 13, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn



973.949.4599

Gypsyblood Dive

A "Full-Service" Dive Charter Operation



2015 BOAT DIVE SCHEDULE
Saturday, July 11, 2015 - Stolt
Saturday, August 1, 2015 - Algol
Saturday, August 29, 2015 - Gulf Trade
Saturday, September 26, 2015 - Maurice Tracey

Destinations Subject to Change Due To Conditions!
All are aboard the Gypsy Blood, now docked at Southside Marina,
311 Channel Drive, Point Pleasant, NJ
Board and loaded by 6:30AM for 7AM departure.
To reserve a spot, contact Keith Bellamy at
keithbellami@optonline.net



Socorro Trip

We're headed to Socorro January 15 - 23, 2016, the beginning of humpback whale season, on a 9-day Solmar V live aboard departing from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Socorro is the largest of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, the Revillagigedo Archipelago. Its abundant marine life attracts sharks and other pelagics. While Socorro is known for Giant Pacific mantas, we will be on the lookout for humpback whales, dolphins, whale sharks, Galapagos sharks, silky sharks, silvertips, and scalloped hammerhead sharks.

Live aboard cost with taxes: \$4059 per person for Standard cabin and \$4175 per person for Superior cabin. For 6 or more divers, the 10% group discount pricing would be: \$3653 per person for Standard cabin and \$3758 per person for Superior cabin. For 11 or more divers, there is a free spot discount that we will share.

Price includes double occupancy accommodations on live aboard, meals, snacks, beverages including soft drinks, beer and wine with dinner. Not Included: Airfare, airport transfers, hotel, gratuities, \$15 chamber fee, Nitrox.

Contact Karen Taylor at: explorersdiveclub@gmail.com for further information or visit – www.SolmarV.com

Beach Clean Up at Coney Island

Join Sea Shepherd Conservation Society NYC volunteers for a beach clean up at Coney Island. We'll meet on the boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue, just across from the D/F/N/Q Stillwell Avenue station. Millions of pounds of garbage are dumped into the oceans every year, threatening marine wildlife that may mistake it for food and starve to death.

This is your chance to help save lives.

If you cannot locate us, please call [516.939.8029](tel:516.939.8029).

We will clean the beach from 2 PM to 4:30 PM, then sort the trash on the boardwalk to show people what we found and separate out the recyclable materials. Don't forget water and sunscreen. We will provide bags and work gloves. Please wear a Sea Shepherd shirt if you have one. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information, please email nyc@seashepherd.org.

DATE: June 7, 2015

TIME: 2:00pm - 5:30pm

WHERE: Coney Island Boardwalk

Sea Shepherd NYC | nyc@seashepherd.org | [facebook.com/seashepherdnyc](https://www.facebook.com/seashepherdnyc)
twitter.com/seashepherdnyc

Explorers Dive Club 20th Anniversary Beach Party and BBQ

Join us for our annual summer picnic as the club celebrates it's 20th season of diving together. The party and BBQ will be held in the North Picnic Tent at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in Long Branch, NJ on June 20th, 2015. Friends and family members are welcome to attend.



Visit us on the Web!
www.explorersdiveclub.org



Like us on Facebook!
Explorers Dive Club NJ



Meet us on Meetup
www.meetup.com/ExplorersDiveClub

Next Club Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2015

June's Presentation

Larry Cohen & Olga Torrey, Liquid Images



Cold-Water Wonderland:

When most people go diving they head to warm blue-water. But cold-water dive destinations and our own backyard have a great deal to offer. Larry and Olga will show images of the best cold-water environments. They will start on the shipwrecks of NJ and NY focusing on history and the marine life that call them home. Dutch Springs, some people love it, others hate it, but it is possible to create interesting underwater images in this quarry. Larry and Olga will cover other close-by locations including Cape Anne, Block Island, The 1000 Islands and Lake Ontario. They will then show travel images from Newfoundland, Spain, Croatia, California Channel Islands, British Columbia and Alaska.

