



Surface Interval

the Explorers Dive Club of NJ

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	2
Algol (continued)	2
Dues Notice	2
Indonesia Trip	2
Club Calendar	3
Boat Dive Schedule	3
Socorro Trip	4
Protect Ocean Recreation Workshop in Belmar	5
Sea Shepherd Hunts Illegal Fishing Vessel	5
August's Presentation	6

Admittedly, I wasn't historically a big fan of the Algol. The Algol had a long career that spanned World War II all the way through its sinking as part of the artificial reef program in 1991. She sits upright and is largely intact, with the superstructure starting at about 70ft, the main deck at about 110ft, about 140 feet to the sand. It's a great dive for new divers, as there is something for just about everyone. And, it's one of the largest ships sunk as part of an artificial reef, so it's pretty impressive to see. Of course, the flip side of an intact, intentionally sunk ship is that there are fewer nooks and crannies for sea life to hide. Which brings me back to why it hasn't been a favorite of mine - I love interacting with the sea life.

I hadn't been on the Algol in many, many years, until last year when I took a few new divers down. We didn't get to stay long on that trip, but it was enough to intrigue me. So, when I saw the dive club had a trip to the Algol, I jumped on. For that reason, and the fact that this trip was my first local dive of the season (my first dive of the season on August 1st - a sacrilege!) I was really looking forward to this trip.

We met early at the Gypsy Blood in Point Pleasant for the 55 minute ride out to the wreck. The seas were at 3 - 5 feet, in big swells. Some peo-

ple were a bit sick, but somehow I felt fine (thank you, Scopolamine patch). We were tied in, and eventually we made our way into the water. The captain warned us that the top layer was milky, but the visibility would clear up after that. He wasn't joking. The top layer was tough. I couldn't see my dive buddies at all, and trying to read my gauge was like trying to read through



(c) Herb Segars

pea soup. Fortunately, the captain let us know what to expect, or I might have turned around right there. But he was right. At about 35 feet, the visibility just cleared up, and



(c) Herb Segars

you could look down and see a good outline of the top decks of the ship. I'd estimate the visibility to have been 30 feet at a minimum and crystal clear. It was dark, as I believe the sun couldn't penetrate the

top layer of muck, but clear. The temperature was comfortable. The fact that I didn't check my temperature gauge once on the dive is a good sign.

I tied in a reel, and the three of us set off. We spent most of our time at the deck at 110. The ship was covered in mussels, and seemed to have a lot more life than I remembered. The bergolls were aggressive, and in your face, literally. It's a weird sensation to have little fish bumping into your facemask. They also hang around wreck reels, waiting for the line to pull up tasty morsels from the ship. I enjoy interacting with the fish, so the bergolls were entertaining.

Probably not so entertaining to the diver who got bit on the lip. He explained that sensation as two little razor blades tearing into his skin. There were also quite a few docile flounder lying on

the deck. I was actually able to touch one without it scrambling away. Interesting. There were also some nice sized black fish, and a few little crabs hidden a holes. We made it most of the way around the deck before running up against our no-deco limit and the run time given to the crew. So, we headed back up the line.

After a nice surface interval, we hit the water again. Dive two was much the same

-Continued on page 2

President's Corner:

Thanks to Dr. Judith Weis for July's presentation on her latest book "Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs To Know." We learned a lot about different types of marine pollution, especially excess nutrients, marine debris and invasive species.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the August meeting and pre-meeting dinner.

Karen Taylor
explorersdiveclub@gmail.com

Indonesia 2017

Interested in diving Indonesia? We're looking at Raja Ampat and Lembeh Strait which are reportedly the best dive locations in Indonesia. Raja Ampat (liveboard diving) is located on the western part of Papua Island. Lembeh 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.

Algol Dive *continued from front page*

as dive one, except we switched out one dive partner for another! This time, we went into one of the windows. Before the Algol



was sunk, it was carefully cleaned and opened up, making penetration easy. It was dark inside, but beautiful where the light came through various openings. I'm usually not one to go into wrecks, but the openings were wide and plentiful enough to make me feel safe and comfortable. After another nice tour around the top decks and superstructure, Melissa stopped to pick up some mussels for dinner, and we headed back up. The ride back was not without drama. The captain got a call that we might need to rescue some people from the water. The crew got into lifesaving mode, but by the

time we reached the scene, everyone one had been picked up. From what I could tell, the boat they were one was hitting up against the jetty and the passengers needed to get in the water to get out. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

It was so nice getting back out diving with such a good group of people. Thanks to Keith and Melissa for putting the dive together, and for bringing cut fruit which is always so refreshing on a dive trip, and delivering the dry suit bag I left at the dock. I'm very much looking forward to the club's trip later in the month to the Gulf Trade.

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

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

August 11, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
August 15 Rafting Trip - 9am Indian Canoes Matamoras PA
August 15 Apres Rafting Cookout –
@The Montrone Lakehouse, Dingman's Ferry PA
September 8, 2015- Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
October 13, 2015 - Meeting 7:30 pm @ The Spain Inn
December 5, 2015– Holiday Dinner @The Spain Inn



973.949.4599

Gypsyblood Dive

A "Full-Service" Dive Charter Operation



2015 BOAT DIVE SCHEDULE

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

Sea Shepherd

Hunts Notorious Poachers and Brings Them To Justice!

Summarized New York Times Article

“A Renegade Trawler, Hunted for 10,00 Miles By Vigilantes”

By Ian Urbina July 28, 2015

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/28/world/a-renegade-trawler-hunted-for-10000-miles-by-vigilantes.html?_r=1

At our May meeting we were privileged to have as our guest speaker, Andrew Lynch from Sea Shepherd's New York chapter. He discussed the efforts this international environmental group does to protect the oceans and the marine life in it.

Just a few weeks ago, the New York Times posted an in depth article about Sea Shepherd's efforts to track and stop one of the most notorious fishing boats for illegal poaching. The link to the article is above and I would encourage all to read it and the accompanying videos, which read a little like a maritime James Bond movie or a Clive Cussler book.

Sea Shepherd's boat, the *Bob Barker*, was patrolling the Antarctic Sea looking for illegal fishing vessels. Since the open seas are outside the area of any one country's jurisdiction, fishing poachers operate without fear of any authorities. Since December 2013, an all points bulletin was issued by Interpol for a boat called *Thunder* and put on the Purple Notice list (most wanted.) Over the past decade *Thunder* has collected more than \$76 million in illegal catch, mainly toothfish, more commonly known as Chilean Sea Bass. On December 17, 2014, the *Bob Barker* spotted the *Thunder* and began following it. They notified both Interpol and the Australian gov-



ernment. When the contacted the crew of the *Thunder* and informed them the called the authorities and to stop, the *Thunder* was defiant. They cut their nets, doubled their speed and the chase was on.

The *Bob Barker* has notified it's sister ship, the *Sam Simon* to assist in the pursuit. The first duty of the *Sam Simon* was to pull up the gill-nets left behind by the *Thunder*. This would be important evidence. For every four fish caught in these large walls of nets, only one is a toothfish. The other three were by-catch that just perished in the lines. After securing the nets as evidence, the *Sam Simon* joined in the pursuit.

The chase went on for over 100 days and

more than 100,000 nautical miles over different oceans and seas.

The pursuit ended in April. The *Thunder* was running high in the water, an indication that it was running short on fuel. One morning a May Day call came from the *Thunder* that indicated that it had been hit and was sinking. This was a shock, since there were no other vessels in the area. The *Bob Barker* and *Sam Simon* crew assisted the crew from the *Thunder* and then quickly boarded the *Thunder* to retrieve any logs, charts and other evidence they could find of the illegal activities. They were able to get video evidence of the fish packed in holds. The left the *Thunder* before it sank to the bottom of the Indian Ocean. The senior crew of the *Thunder* were arrested. Prosecution will still be difficult, since the most damning evidence was sunk. Sea Shepherd will continue to patrol the seas as maritime bounty hunters.



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, August 11, 2015

August's Presentation

