

# Sea Swells LOG



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB ♦ AUG 2005

## THE ANCHOR LINE

By Gregg Macaulay

As most of you know, a group of club members including my wife **Karen** & I joined **Don Reynolds** on a trip to Dominica. Our trip down went without a hitch. Flying into Dominica is a great experience. Since the island is made up of seven volcanoes, there are lots of hills and valleys. The approach to the main airport requires that the plane wind through the valleys to approach the field and land towards the sea which made for a lot of great views. Little did we know that this was to cause us some problems later on that week.

After claiming our bags, we met the other group that was sharing Castle Comfort Lodge with us and loaded the vans for our ninety minute trip through the island. The island is very lush due to the amount of rainfall it receives in the interior around the mountains. The main road winds through the mountains and valleys and has many sharp turns. As it is barely wide enough for one car in some places, the drivers honk their horns

as the approach the turn. It was a very beautiful ride but for those that get motion sickness, it is best to make sure and take something prior to leaving the airport.

After checking in and receiving a briefing from Derek, the owner, we relaxed for a few hours prior to a wine tasting cruise on their big catamaran. Most of our group did the cruise and even though the clouds hid the sunset, lots of wine and cheese was enjoyed while meeting locals and other guests staying with us.

The next morning we started our diving. The topography of the island continues underwater with steep walls starting close to the shore. The walls and reefs were very healthy and loaded with native Caribbean fish and creatures. The only thing we noticed throughout the week is the lack of big fish. Fishing is an important part of their culture and they use fish traps, nets, and hook and line. This may account for the lack of big fish.

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## ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED

I was also surprised that I did not see one shark all week. I did see some of the largest arrow crabs I have ever seen along with lots of spotted drums of all sizes.

The dive boats were well set up and even with our whole group of 15 divers allowed plenty of room to move around. There was also a sun deck above for those that wanted to lay out between dives. The divemasters did a great job of leading dives and pointing out things along the way. The walls lent themselves to long multilevel profiles which allowed for 60 minute dives. Most dive sites were within 20 minutes of the lodge which allowed the dive boat to leave a little later and still make it back to the dock by 1 pm for lunch.

This schedule worked well for those that wanted to explore the island. There was also great shore diving right off the docks. A group of us went on one of the dive boats down the island to the last day of the islands festival. There was lots of local beer, food, and music. The locals also had canoe races using traditional boats. Some of our divemasters and Derek competed but did not finish due to a defective oar lock. It was a great way to spend the afternoon.

Every morning we watched for updates on hurricane Emily which originally had been headed our way. Fortunately for us it tracked south and we only got some wind and waves. This did not effect our diving as they found sites out of the wind. On Thursday we explored a few of the many waterfalls on the island. We first went to the Ti Tou Gorge which has

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### ELECTRONIC OR PAPER?

In distributing the newsletter, I couldn't help but notice that a large percentage of members receiving hard copies of the newsletter also have internet access. To these folks, I'd like to suggest requesting the electronic version of the newsletter. There are several advantages in this for both the member and the club:

- The electronic version becomes available sooner than the hard copy does, because it is posted, rather than mailed.
- The electronic version is in color, while the hard copy is a black-and-white photocopy. A laser or bubble-jet printer will provide a better copy.
- By choosing the electronic copy, the member saves the club printing and mailing costs.
- The more copies that need to be mailed the longer it takes to distribute the newsletter. By selecting the electronic version, a member will permit those without internet access to receive their newsletters sooner.

As can be seen from the reasons above, there are a number of good reasons for members who have internet access to select the electronic version of the newsletter. Members who are receiving hard copies of the newsletter and can receive the newsletter electronically are encouraged to contact Noel Lopez and request a change. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

**--Rick**

## ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED

a waterfall found after swimming up the gorge. The water was cool and clear and the current picked up the closer we got to the falls. It made for great pictures and a nice way to cool off. The second site we visited was Trafalgar Falls which is a twin fall. In hiking to the falls, you pass through hot springs first, and then continue to the main falls. The rocks were slippery but well worth the hike to swim in the pool directly below the falls. On the way back we stopped at the hot spring to soak in the pools.

The whole trip was great up to our departure day. We boarded the vans to the airport that morning and again enjoyed the 90 minutes ride back to the airport. After checking in and clearing our luggage through customs, we were hanging out waiting for our flight to be called. About an hour later we started to hear rumors that there was a problem. After a long delay, the airlines announced that both afternoon flights were cancelled. They informed us to come back a 7 AM the next day as they would have two planes come in to fly us back to San Juan. During this time, Karen had been talking with the van drivers outside about a place to stay closer to the airport. Vena's was about 30 minutes away and had great views of the mountains. Even though we were unexpected guests, Dorian our host did a great job of accommodating eight of us. He hooked us up with rooms, drinks and music. He also prepared a delicious dinner of goat for our group and Karen got to try the home made hot sauce which she thought was salad dressing. The look on her face was one we will never forget!

The next morning we headed back to the airport early. The rest of our group had already made the trip from the lodge back to the airport. As we waited in line, we noticed that no one was checking in people. After an hour I got the uneasy feeling that we were not leaving the island again. After waiting another hour the airlines announced again the both flights had been cancelled. The people behind the desk then ran for cover as a riot almost broke out. After many group discussions, we tried the other local airlines to see if we could get to another island and eventually to San Juan but they were sold out. There were only two pay phones and they were not easy to get as everyone was trying to make other arrangements. Some of our group had the forethought to call and make reservations on the regular scheduled afternoon flights the night before. As we had not and could not get any information, we decided to head back to the hotels in Roseau where we could use a phone. Unfortunately, Castle Comfort did not have any rooms as there next weeks group was to arrive on the afternoon flights. We found space at the hotel next door but could not check in until later in the day. I called the local American Airlines number to try and make a reservation for the next day. They explained that all flights were full and that they could not get Karen and me off the island until Wednesday. I handed off the phone to **Mark & Donna Mays** and they were told it would be Thursday before they could leave.

During the time I was on the phone, a few of our group had walked next door to Castle Comfort to say hi to our new friends. They came back saying that we

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**UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

**August** – Canoe trip on the Delaware River, Saturday 8/6. Beach Cleanup w/Wyland (date and location to be announced)

**September** – Regatta/B-B-Q Saturday 9/3. Beach Cleanup 9/24. White Water Rafting. (Dates to be announced)

**October** – Social before the meeting 10/12. Bike trip Saturday 10/8

**November** – Brunch location to be announced Sunday 11/13.

**December** – Wine Tour (dates to be announced). Dec Social/Holiday Party Saturday 12/10

**Area Dive Shops**

*This list is provided as a convenience. TSSC does not endorse any dive shop.*

<p><b>Aqua Visions Scuba Ltd.</b> 126 Mamaroneck Ave, Mamaroneck NY (914) 381-1884 AquaVisions.biz info@aquavisions.biz</p> <p><b>Captain Mike's Dive Center</b> 530 City Island Ave, Bronx NY (718) 885-1588 CaptainMikesDiving.com</p> <p><b>Captain Saam's Scuba School</b> 863 East Main Street, Stamford, CT (203) 327-2822 capt-saam.com captsaam@optonline.net</p> <p><b>The Dive Shop</b> 265 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT (203) 740-9166 TheDiveShopOnline.com Sherri@TheDiveShopOnline.com</p>	<p><b>Cougar Sports</b> 917 Saw Mill River Rd, Ardsley NY (914) 693-8877</p> <p><b>Marsh Scuba Supply</b> 91 Lauer Rd, Poughkeepsie NY (845) 452-8994 MarshScuba.com Marsh_Scuba@worldnet.att.net</p> <p><b>Orbit Marine Sports Center</b> 3273 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport CT (800) 395-3483 OrbitMarine.com OrbitDive@aol.com</p> <p><b>Pan Aqua Diving</b> 460 West 43rd St, New York NY (800) 434-0884 PanAqua.com NYstore@PanAqua.com</p>	<p><b>Pan Aqua Diving</b> 461 Federal Rd, Brookfield CT (888) 388-3483 PanAqua.com CTstore@PanAqua.com</p> <p><b>Rex Dive Center</b> 144 Water St, Norwalk CT (888) 260-DIVE (3483) RexDiveCenter.com DiveShop@RexDiveCenter.com</p> <p><b>Scuba New York</b> 2037 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY (914) 779-2966 ScubaNewYork.com Info@ScubaNewYork.com</p> <p><b>Westchester Dive Center</b> 500 North Main St, Portchester NY (914) 937-2685 WestchesterDiveCenter.com</p>
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**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**August: Matt Sasso**, brings over 20 years of spear fishing experience off Long Island coasts, will present ins and outs of this wonderful sport as well as dispel myths associated with it. Matt is Long Island's leading spearfishing instructor and a founder of spearfishingextreme.com

**September: Glenn Butler and Vreni Roduner**  
Topic: Behind The Numbers: How Decompression Tables Are Developed

Glenn Butler, Director of the NUMC Hyperbaric Chamber Facility will be one of the featured speakers. With the benefit of more than 30 years personal and professional experience in the treatment of Decompression Sickness, no one is more expert or entertaining in educating and informing in the physics and physiology of diving, compressed gas effects and the treatment of pressure related pathology. Those who have seen Glenn at

various seminars, including those offered at Westchester County Medical Center and Beneath The Sea, are familiar with his expertise and the quality of his presentations. Those who have not, are in for a real treat.

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**ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED**

had to head back to the airport Immediately as AA was bringing in additional flights that afternoon to get us off the island. Anna in our group had also called saying the same thing. Needless to say, we quickly located a van, loaded up, and headed back to the airport with the 90 minute ride. By this time I think I could have driven the route in my sleep and I swear people waved to us like locals as we had passed so many times.

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## UPCOMING DIVES

Sat, Sun August 27 & 28--Seal  
Dive Rye, NH

Sat September 3--Dutch Springs,  
PA

Fri-Sun September 9-11--St  
Lawrence, Canada

Sat September 24-Ft.  
Wetherill,RI

Sat,Sun October 15 & 16-Seal Dive  
Rye, NH

Sat,Sun November 5 & 6-Cape  
Anne, MA

## OTHER STUFF

### August 6 Canoe the Delaware River

This is a repeat of the 2003 trip, ten miles from Pond Eddy to Matamoras. This portion of the river is somewhat brisk, the water very clean. Snorkelers will have 10 foot vis and the rapids will be moderately challenging. We plan to leave at 9:30 and should arrive by 4 PM. The last time, 44 of us had a blast and lots of laughs. Cost is about \$33 See: [www.kittatinny.com](http://www.kittatinny.com)

### August 20 Small craft regatta

This is for those who own or can get their hands on a small boat- canoe, kayak, rowboat or inflatable. We will leave the Croton on Hudson RR station parking lot and proceed up the Croton River, about one mile. The scenery is wonderful and we may have a picnic on the beach. You can swim, snorkel or even dive. Due to tide requirements we must leave at 10:30 AM.

## THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

P.O. Box 644  
Rye, NY 10580

<http://TheScubaSportsClub.org>  
[TSSC@TheScubaSportsClub.org](mailto:TSSC@TheScubaSportsClub.org)

### OFFICERS

President	Gregg Macaulay
Vice President	Don Reynolds
Treasurer	Paul Dengler
Secretary	Gwyn Grant
Past President	Bob Bak

### DIRECTORS

Executive	Vreni Roduner
Dive Planning	Bob Bak
Education/Safety	Lada Simek
Enviro/Legislative	Rick D'Amico
Membership	Noel Lopez
Newsletter	Rick D'Amico
Program	Vadim Ternovski
Social	Pat Forgacs
Director at Large	Mark Mays

**LEGAL ADVISOR** Robert Schragger

**WRECK DIVING ADVISOR** Jeff Pagano

**FOUNDER** Armand Zigahn

**CO-FOUNDER** Soliman Shenouda

Submissions to Sea Swells Log may be made in electronic or paper form by the 20th of the month. Electronic submissions (email) are preferred and should be sent to

[SeaSwells@TheScubaSportsClub.org](mailto:SeaSwells@TheScubaSportsClub.org)

Submission of paper copy should be sent to

Rick D'Amico

P.O. Box 401  
East Setauket, NY 11733

## ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED

We waited in line with only hope as no one we spoke to on the phone knew anything about extra flights. Karen spoke with a pilot from the first flight in and he did confirm that there was rumor of an extra flight. After a long time spent in line, we checked in and boarded a flight to San Juan. We hooked up with others of our group that got the earlier flights in to San Juan and all flew back to JFK late Sunday Night. It was great to be back home.

Lessons learned:

1. Don't expect to get to or leave your destination on time. Have a contingency plan in place if you are stuck for days.
2. If the delay is weather related, the airlines do not pay for anything, be prepared to pay.
3. When in doubt, do not leave the airport without getting a confirmation on what is expected to happen from a local perspective. The reservation people outside do not know about special arrangements.

In our case rumors were flying around that the airlines had decided to cancel this route, planes had been diverted to evacuate Jamaica and the Mexico coast due to the hurricane. Get the true story if possible and be flexible.

### FT. WETHERILL TRIP

Saturday, 24 September

For those of you who may have missed it this past May, we're having another Ft. Wetherill dive and picnic. Unlike the May trip, we can expect relatively warm

water—in fact this summer, water temps in the Northeast have been unseasonably warm.

Part of the Rhode Island State Park System, Ft. Wetherill offers some of the finest in northeastern shore diving, with its two rocky coves in the outer portion of Narragansett Bay. Around this time of year, the coves should be teeming with fish and other marine life, including young-of-the-year tropical fish. It's not unusual to see juvenile butterflyfish and damselfish in the shallows, especially around the eelgrass beds of the cove headwaters.

Of course, we couldn't have a Ft. Wetherill trip without a cookout/picnic after the first dive. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite food.

Generally, folks get there around 11 am and begin diving shortly after that. Ft. Wetherill is approximately 3 hours from southern Westchester County.

There are a few ground rules:

- Ft. Wetherill is a dry park—no alcoholic beverages are permitted.
- Ft. Wetherill is a "Pack it in/Pack it out" park, meaning that all guests are expected to leave nothing (like their garbage) in the park. This is done to discourage scavenger animals from ruining the habitat for regular species.
- Dive flags are required.

Questions? Contact Rick D'Amico at (631) 751-4912 or send an e-mail to: [Usamarbiol@aol.com](mailto:Usamarbiol@aol.com). See you there!!!

~Rick

Rick D'Amico, Editor  
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E. Setauket, NY 11733



Our Next Meeting Will be on  
Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at:  
Tino's Italian Steak House  
101 Saw Mill River Rd.  
(Rt 9A)  
Hawthorne, NY