



The Official Newsletter of
THE SCUBA SPORTS CLUB

September 2006

ANCHOR LINE

Summer is rapidly coming to a close and I hope many of you have had the opportunity either to get in the water locally, vacation to that diving destination you've been dreaming about or ideally both. It seems like you wait for an eternity for summer to arrive and then within a few short weeks it's gone.

Sunday August 20 we had TSSC – BTS Day at Dutch Springs. We set up our posters and table under the pavilion towards the left side of the quarry and then learned we were supposed to be set up at a different pavilion over on the hill where the aqua park is located. No, we didn't move! We had a great breeze where we were set up and as the temperature peaked around 90 degrees I was real happy that we remained in that location.

We didn't get the play we had hoped for from children but made some great contacts with adults that were interested in what we were doing and weren't aware of Beneath The Sea. One woman with whom Lucille spent a lot of time is involved with the Boy Scouts and their Venture Program on Long Island. Their program is similar to the program currently established with the Boy

Scouts at the Durland Scout Center in Rye.

While Lucille and I were minding the store everyone else was getting wet diving at Dutch. We had some Old Timers, i.e., experienced divers, as well as newly certified Durland graduates and a "non-club" member that had never been in cold water. Guess who was surprised that they had to carry triple the amount of lead?

Following the dive, the grill was fired up and hot dogs & burgers were ready for the starving divers as they returned to the pavilion. As always, no one leaves one of our events hungry!

Now that we have a better feel for the location we can look forward to next year to improve our visibility or presence on the property.

September 23 will be the annual fall club outing at Fort Wetherill. Rick D'Amico has advised me that this event will be his final recreational dive and the time has come for him to hang up his regulator & fins. Rick has been with the club for a zillion years and has probably held every club office available in addition to his involvement with BTS and the program

at Durland. Hopefully, many of the club members that have been in the water

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ANCHOR LINE, CONTINUED

with Rick over the years will attend and dive with him for the last time.

I hope Rick will stay involved with the club but more importantly continue to provide those simply delicious ribs he prepares.

Don Reynolds
President

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday September 13, 2006

Edward P. Hayes III
Global Underwater Explorers (GUE)

Ed Hayes started diving very young with his father, who instructed the local fire department team, although he didn't become certified then. His first certification was in 1997. Since then he's logged over 1,500 dives in all waters, from the deep cold and dark of the Northeast USA, to the clear blue of the islands across the world, to the fresh water caves of FL. Whether it is to teach divers, take pictures, shoot video or tool around on his Gavin, the passion is simply to dive. When asked what is my favorite place to dive he'll reply, "a place that I have never been."

Working to redefine the ties binding the average underwater enthusiast to underwater explorers, conservationists and scientific researchers GUE is

committed to the overall goal of promoting the interests of the underwater world and of those who seek to engage it.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

September – Ft. Wetherill 9/23. White Water Rafting. (Dates to be announced)

October – Pasta Night before the meeting 10/11. Bike trip Saturday 10/7

November – Harvest Brunch, Pete's Saloon Sunday 11/5.

December – Wine Tour 12/15 -> 12/17 Dec Social/Holiday Party Saturday 12/9.

UPCOMING DIVE

Ft. Wetherill
Saturday, 23 September

For those of you who missed the May Ft. Wetherill dive (which in this case, is all of you) here's your chance to take in some of the finest northeastern shore diving to be experienced.

Part of the Rhode Island Park System, the dive sites consist of two rocky coves separated by a peninsula and a small rocky island. The cove to the east of the peninsula is West Cove and the cove to the west of the peninsula is Sandy Beach Cove. Usually the coves provide protection from the rougher water in Narragansett Bay. Sandy Beach Cove has a

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**FT. WETHERILL,
CONTINUED**

boat launch ramp. The shore area is lined with boulders and the basins generally consist of relatively coarse sand. Eel-grass beds may be seen in the headwaters of the coves. During the late summer and fall it is not unusual to see young-of-the-year tropical fish. Typical dive depths normally range from 20 to 40 feet, although it is possible to exceed 75 feet on the eastern slope of the island.

As always, we'll have a picnic/barbecue following the first dive. Hope to see you there!

Rick D'Amico
Trip Coordinator

**The Official Dive
Club of
BENEATH THE
SEA**

DIVE AT BROWNSTONE QUARRY

22 JULY

[Editor's Note: This was not an official TSSC dive, but this report was submitted to us by TSSC member and Dive Shop Dive Club President Charlie Nichols.]

DATELINE: July 22. Brownstone Quarry, Portland, CT
On a morning when the weather forecasters were predicting a day of lots and lots of rain, four of us finally showed up at THE DIVE SHOP to load up and car pool over to Portland, CT. We arrived at the Quarry around 10:30, turned in our liability releases, \$10, and received a briefing of what was where in the Quarry and where we could set up.

After unloading and parking the vehicles we scrambled into our wet suits (I was threatened with mysterious unknown punctures if I used my dry suit) and proceeded to go find the line to the car on the edge of the quarry shelf on the opposite side of the quarry.

Ted and I got separated from the other 3 looking for the line (the water near the entrance point was stirred up by several classes and ourselves), but soon I saw several divers going the opposite direction above me when lo and behold they were following a line. We stayed around 20 feet since the first thermocline was at 15 feet (80 degrees at the surface, low 60's where we were, 50's just below us), and swam until we reached the other side of the quarry, where we found a shelf with some mining equipment on it.

Reaching our turn around time, we took a compass heading that should lead us home. Eventually, we reached a sloping bank and followed that west, looking down at various abandoned wrecks (junk) until we found the Nissan pickup truck that had been described to us as being in the cove just south of the entrance area. Then we turned around and found our way back to the entry area where we met up with Gerry, Kevin, and Bob.

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BROWNSTONE QUARRY, CONT.

We all took a break for a surface interval to change tanks, hydrate, enjoy the sun (yes the sun even came out), and discuss who saw what where, since we apparently took different routes. After a suitable rest period, with the skies now threatening, all of us geared up then swam out to the platform east of the entry point with intentions of diving along the wall that is just north of the navigation area. We had heard that there were some exceptionally large catfish to look at along the way.

At the platform we found a line leading east and started to follow it. It was apparently not one of the lines that went across the quarry at 20 feet. It was descending into the cold dark deep. All of a sudden I could see the 50 to 60 foot platform below me. It was somewhat dark but I could see the whole platform clearly. I looked at my tem-

perature gauge without turning on my dive light and I believe I saw 41 cool degrees.

My ascent, even though within diving safety guidelines was not delayed. We surfaced for a moment, checked our air, then went down and around the entry pier to the cove with the Nissan pickup truck. There was a lot to look at there including bass and bluegills and tree branches to swim around and through.

When we got out, the storm had passed and the rain had stopped, so we de-geared packed up and headed home, happy that we had ignored the weather forecasts, happy that we had had two interesting dives, and vowed to come back sometime to see more of the underwater area and learn our way around the quarry better. Another fine day of diving.