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The Flipper

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Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

January 2008

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President's Corner

Notes from Tim:

1) Bob Evans Is fine, Rachel is finer, he didn't let me talk to her. OF COURSE

2) Meeting. Jan 16 will feature Janna Smith, see Flipper

3) Bring your ideas for dive sights. We have all dived them all, but we have to get a schedule. in place for summer.

4) David A. is doing fine. By the way, I have his check. for dues in hand.

Just a subtle reminder. Maybe you be #2.

5) We'll meet at the Farm. Hills Lib. Jan. Feb, Mar. & Apr. Summer schedule. will be determined.

6) Lets have fun this summer.

Tim

THANK YOU!!

Robert McGreevy for your donation of prints for our annual banquet. You are always very generous to our club.

Programs

2008 Meeting Schedule

January meeting: Farmington Community Library. 7:00 pm January 16th. NOTE: PROGRAM CHANGE...Janna Smith will be doing a presentation on police rescue. Looks to be an exciting and informative talk. Please plan on being there.

Meeting treats : Linda Walton

.February Meeting: Farmington Community Library. 7:00 pm. February 20th. Program to be announced. Meeting treats: Bunny Kunder

FOR SALE

Call, or email Steve Kunder to place your ad.

O'neil Drysuit, size XXL with weights. \$250.00 Gary Morgan

DIVE RELATED INFO

The Ford Seahorses are putting on their Shipwreck Festival on April 19, 2008. This will be held at Schoolcraft College on Haggerty Rd in Livonia. There will be more info to come. Thanks. Iva Moore-Hay



..Kidd's Ship Found Off Dominican Island

By DAVID McFADDEN, AP

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico —

A U.S. underwater archaeology team announced Thursday it has likely discovered the shattered remnants of a ship once captained by the notorious buccaneer William Kidd off a tiny Dominican Republic island.

The barnacled cannons and anchors found stacked beneath just 10 feet of crystalline coastal waters off Catalina Island are believed to be the wreckage of the Quedah Merchant, a ship abandoned by the Scottish privateer in 1699, Indiana University researchers say.

"When I first looked down and saw it, I couldn't believe everybody missed it for 300 years," said Charles Beeker, a scuba-diving archaeologist who teaches at Indiana University. "I've been on thousands of wrecks and this is one of the first where it's been untouched by looters."

Beeker said the wreckage has been aggressively sought by treasure hunters, including a group with a permit from the Dominican government to scour Catalina for remnants of the ship, which historians believe was scavenged of treasure and burned shortly after Kidd abandoned it.

The Dominican government has licensed the U.S. university to study the wreckage and convert the sea floor where the cannons and anchors are marooned into an underwater preserve, where it will be accessible to divers and snorkelers.

"We believe this is a living museum," said Beeker, who has previously helped the Dominican government open underwater parks that feature cannons, jar fragments and other items recovered from early 18th-century shipwrecks. "The treasure in this case is the wreck itself."

The scattered cannons and anchors, partially hidden by swirling sand, were first spotted by a local man who reported his discovery to the Dominican government, according to Francis Soto, director of the National Office of Subaquatic Heritage and Culture.

The Indiana University team then examined the wreck at the request of the Caribbean country's government.

The find will likely reveal key information about piracy in the Caribbean and about the elusive Captain Kidd, according to John Foster, California's state underwater archaeologist, who will participate in the research.

"I look forward to a meticulous study of the ship, its age, its armament, its construction," Foster said. "Because there is extensive written documentation, this is an opportunity we rarely have to test historic information against the archaeological record."

Historian Richard Zacks, who wrote a book about the seafaring privateer called "The Pirate Hunter: The True Story of Captain Kidd," said the Scotsman had captured the 500-ton Moorish ship in the Indian Ocean but left it in the Caribbean in 1699 as he traveled to New York to try and clear his name of criminal charges. Kidd failed to convince authorities of his innocence and was hanged in 1701 in London, Zacks said. His body was suspended in a gibbet, a kind of cage, on the Thames River as a warning to other privateers

.Congratulations 2007 diver of the Year John Westman



EDITORS NOTES

Its time to start our 2008 dive /social activities. Our first meeting is approaching We have a new presenter to start off our year, Please be there to show your support for the programs. Do not forget to get your 2008 club dues in.. Also congratulations to Hugh Walton on winning the Bob McGreevy print for his photo entry. Also to John Cioma for winning the second Bob McGreevy Print. Also as seen in this months Flipper, Congrats to John Westman for 2007 diver of the year. I also would like to thank Tim Ouellette for the Presidents award. It is truly an honor and the award is going to find a prominent place in our home for 2008. Also as you can see I am getting lots of Flipper food from members for this publication keep it up.
Steve



Letter received from Jan Oullette

Hi Dan and Leanne,

Florida has gotten us spoiled by it's clear waters and the many reefs that I have dove on. From Shark Canyon to Breaker's Point (those are in Palm Beach) and all the way down to the Keys, the first year I took off and dove every Sat. and Sunday, sometimes 6 dives per day and then 1 or 2 night dives after that.

12 years ago I became a Master Diver and then when on to become a Divemaster. The role of a Divemaster

is to bring and lead up to 24 certified divers along the reefs or ship-wrecks and point out all the marine life that they might be missing, the eels or fish or even that shark that they just swam over... Have you ever tried to save 3 divers at the same time from their stupid mistakes??? Out of air at 50 ft. below the surface, I am now up to 38 lives saved....anyhow,,,,, life in Florida...

Or the time I showed 7 (did I say 7) divers, 1 lobster that was hidden under a coral reef.... they did so much damage to the reef (and the lobster got away) that every time I saw another lobster during that dive, I pointed over in another direction...

And the best part, they paid for the dive \$60.00 each, then bought at least 200.00 in lobster catching gear, then the 30 to 40 dollar license fee (that is all per diver)... Did they even get one lobster you ask.... Nope , but they had fun...



OUTGOING BOARD 2007



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Annual GLA Dues

Payable now thru January 31, 2008.

\$30 per year per individual or per family member at the same address.*

Name(s) _____
Address _____
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Your email address (if you have one) is important to notify you of last minute club information such as scheduled dive changes and meetings. Also, we need it if you wish to receive the Flipper via email.

Mail your dues payable to GLA to:
Linda Walton, 38483 Lancaster, Livonia, MI 48154.

*Each family member must have a membership app on file.

REMEMBER WHEN This picture supplied by Frank Troxell. If you have items from the clubs past you would like to see in the Flipper Please get them to me.

