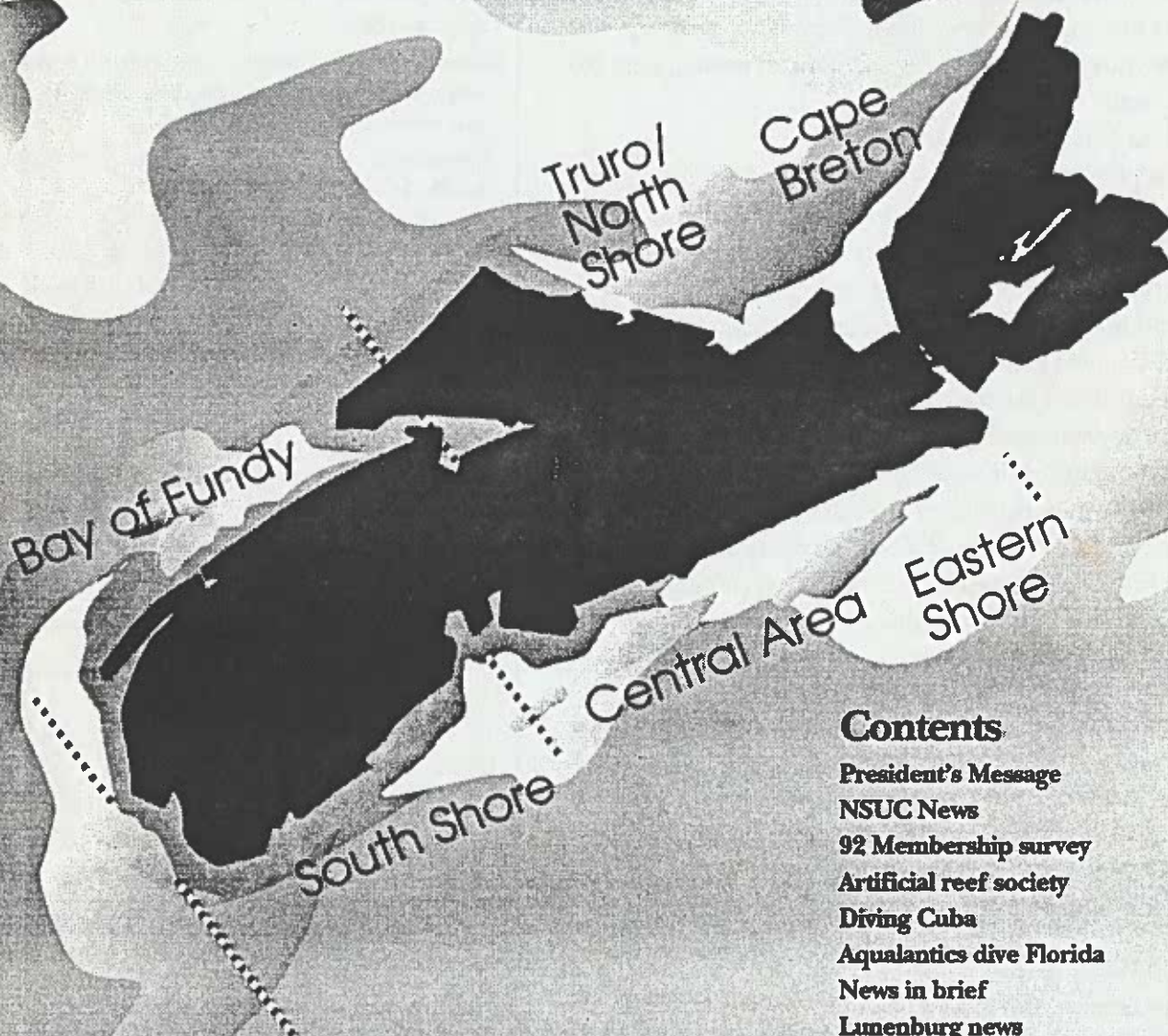


BOTTOMtime

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council • April, 1993



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Editorial Notes

FEEDBACK

In these editorial notes, I shall answer some queries that have been passed along to me from the President and Vice President.

1. *The receipt of the Divers Free Press paid for by the NSUC.*

Our bulk membership to Divers Free Press comes due in August of every year. Thus, if you joined after the membership list was sent to them at the end of July, you will not receive a copy until you join the next year. In subsequent discussions it was agreed to send a membership list in every six months, starting next year in hope to rectify this problem.

2. *The mail out from Sears Travel.*

The original plan was to insert as a flier in the *Bottomtime*, but the schedule for this trip did not allow this. Consequently it was mailed to the membership. The labels were printed by myself and all envelopes and materials used were paid for by Sears Travel. At no time was our mail list released to Sears, and part of the condition was the labels were not copied. You, the member, received this as a service and it also made a little money for the NSUC. The manager of Sears Travel is a member of the NSUC and thought that it would obviously not only be a benefit to her but to the members alike. She was seeking to provide — as an experiment — a service for the Nova Scotian Diver that is not specialized in locally. There may be more trips coming, so it is to the NSUC's benefit that we run this sort of venture; more to the point, is that it is providing a service to the diving community, which is one of our mandates ... to promote diving.

By the time this reaches you, the diving season will be approaching for most of us, except for the hardy few that dive all year around. Nevertheless, it will be time to blow the resident spiders out of the regulators and get your diving gear checked at your local dive shop.

Colin V. Frazee-Whitelock

THIS EDITION

As you have noticed, this edition is not in our regular up market format. This is due to severe budget constraints. However, a great deal is owed to New Media Services and Tony Seed for providing layout and design services for most of this edition free of charge, in order to try to maintain the high standard achieved over the past three years with our publication.

BOTTOMTIME

Bottomtime is published six times annually by the Nova Scotia Underwater Council. It is distributed free of charge to members. Non-members may purchase an annual subscription for \$22.00. Whenever possible, subscriptions will commence with the current issue.

Bottomtime is published as a forum with the aim to generate opinions, communication with and feedback from our members. Submissions to *Bottomtime* are published at the discretion of the editor. Articles are the opinion of the contributory authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the NSUC. Articles may be reproduced with the written permission of the NSUC. We encourage response to any of the articles.

Advertising rates are available upon request. If advertisers require design services to prepare camera-ready copy, this must be arranged prior to the deadline.

The next edition will be published on June 15, 1993 with the deadline for submissions to the editor being June 1.

Send all submissions to:

The Editor, Nova Scotia Underwater Council,
26 Sapphire Crescent, Lower Sackville, N.S. B4C 2T9

Bottomtime

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The Nova Scotia Underwater Council

President	Roland G. Lewis
ISSN 1188-2050	

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New Hyperbaric Card and NSUC Membership Card now available

Free for members • Additional card for
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The Aqualantics Dive Florida

In late September ten members of the Aqualantics Dive Club spent a week diving the Florida Keys in the John Pennkamp Coral Reef State Park and the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary.

For most people on the trip it was the first experience diving on coral reefs and in the warm water and I would think it would be fair to say that everyone had a wonderful time!

Hurricane Andrew nearly squashed our plans in early September. The Keys had no power for several days but the reef except for a little bit on the northern section, was not damaged. According to the dive charter operators, the major damage caused by the hurricane was the lack of visitors. People were incorrectly assuming that there was no diving in the Keys.

We flew to Miami via Toronto and rented two vans in Miami. Key Largo is fifty miles south of Miami. We travelled through the area devastated by the hurricane. Our original reservations in Key Largo were lost prior to the holiday, but we were able to secure accommodation in a little motel called Neptune's Hideaway. Despite the name it wasn't a bad place. It had a little beach, some boats, a dock and a chicki hut where many post dive debriefs and late night confused conversations were held. Key Largo was packed with refugees from the hurricane and contractors working on the hurricane relief effort.

All diving in the Keys is done by boat. The reefs range from three to six miles of shore and so two tank charters are normal. Diving is very organized and professional. We dove Key Largo with Captain Slate's Atlantis Dive Center which is also an animal sanctuary, looking after 35 homeless cats. The cats combined with Radar, the doberman guard dog, and two birds, make for quite a menagerie. They are a pretty good outfit and by the end of the week pretty much left us to do our own thing. Diving is a huge industry in the Keys with one dive shop every mile on average. They get a lot of novice divers, so most operators run more structured diving than we are used to. The water was consistently 84 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees C) at all depths. You do not get the incredible visibility of some of the Caribbean island in the Keys but the marine life is not more tame or more

plentiful anywhere. The visibility was much the same as that around the Halifax area, from 35-85'. Unlike Halifax, the first thing we saw after jumping in the water for the first dive was a reef shark.

The diving is spectacular in Key Largo with a fascinating variety of colorful marine life and, by all appearances to us, the reefs were healthy. The warm water and hot air temperatures made for seemingly effortless diving. The air temperature was above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). We were disappointed not to dive the wreck of the Duane, an artificial reef. The day we attempted it the currents were astonishingly strong and an alternate site was chosen. As the Gulf Stream moves closer to shore, the currents become fierce so much so as to suck the 45 gallon drum we were moored to under the water.

In Key Largo most of the diving is very shallow, some 10-30'. If you are inclined to equalization problems like myself, after a week the sinuses can be pretty stressed out. We would have liked to have dived some deeper sites for more variety, but did not make it. We made one unusual dive, however, which was on a reef where the statue, Christ of the Abyss, is located. Underwater weddings occasionally take place at this site.

Most of us spent a day in Key West, with four of the group diving there. It takes the best part of two hours to drive the length of the Keys. In Key West, we dove with an excellent outfit called Viewfinders Dive Center. Their boat had radios, depth sounder, Loran C and GPS of all things. We dove on two wrecks off Key West. On the first site we met two very friendly green moray eels, Jabba, who, like Bert and Ernie, was used to being fed by divers. However he had been recently hooked by a fisherman. He escaped, but the dive guides advised caution in approaching him. They were concerned that he may have acquired a bad attitude after his injury. On the second dive wreck we encountered a very interesting array of fish including a little filefish, who insisted on trying to swim up Nicks shorts!

On our last day diving, we went on two fish feeding dives. One of the dive guides hand fed several barracuda and green moray eels as well as a cluster of other fish that were hanging around. They were specially trained professional fish. We got to pet the morays although Stewart wasn't content to wait until an eel was brought to him. He insisted on finding his own to molest! These dives were videoed by a guide.

continues on page 5



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NSUC MEMBER CLUBS

Aquatic Scuba Club
Box 2944, Dartmouth E.
NS B2W 4Y2 • Tel.: 434.2768

CFB Cornwallis Scuba Club
Box 295, CFB Cornwallis, NS B0S 1H0

Membership is open to individuals, families, clubs or commercial enterprises. Dues are set annually — usually at the AGM. Members' fees for 1992-93 are \$22 for individuals, \$30 for families, \$11.00 for students/newly certified divers) and \$50.00 for commercial enterprises. Membership is also open to clubs at \$25. Individuals may join by sending an application or letter with the fee to the Membership Secretary.

NOVA SCOTIA
UNDERWATER COUNCIL

PO Box 3010 South, Halifax, NS B3J 3G6



News in Brief & Comment

The unnecessary slaughter of sharks

Pacific squid fleets caught 2.25 million sharks in 1998.

Sport fisherman in 1970 caught 1.75 million.

It is estimated that for every human death caused by sharks, 4 million sharks die.

Elephants kill 250 people per year. Sharks kill 25 people per year.

Waste in the North Atlantic: 80% of sharks caught are caught accidentally and discarded back into the sea as rubbish.

So you think the NSUC is expensive to run?

The British Sub Aqua Club spent \$44,000 on their AGM last year and NEVER GOT A QUORUM, so our problems are not uncommon. Their membership is 46,052: I can never see the NSUC reaching these dizzy heights, but there is no reason why it should not reach over 1,000 — we are 30% of the way there now.

Deep Sea Resources

Terry Dwyer, well known in the retail sport diving industry, has started a new enterprise, Deep Star Resources, specializing in providing logistical support and services, including rentals, U/W video, camera and lighting equipment anywhere in Atlantic Canada. Along with acting as diving consultants, the firm also represents Watervisions and Canadian Commercial Diving Supply, both of Vancouver. For information, tel.: 902.457.7451.

New Media Services

Which has a long-standing relationship with the NSUC and is a commercial member, has taken a step forward and opened a new studio at the junction of North and Windsor in Halifax. We wish Tony Seed well in his new medium.

Puzzler

1. Do you know at what depth air reaches the same density as water?
2. How much weights does your tank lose on a dive? (Answers on page 5)

Two cod talking to each other

"I've often marvelled at the harmonies of the sea". "How do you Mean?" "Well, clown fish go with anemones, pilot fish go with sharks but what do us cod go with?" "FRIES!"

NSUC MEMBER INSTRUCTORS

David Allen	434-4091	Austin Baird	492-2653
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Ches Chaulk	765-8527	Shelleggh Condy	423-5783
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Dr Roland Lewis	562-2457	Dwayne McLaughlin	
Lorne Piercey	865-7680	Don Rogerson	835-8933
James Semple	443-1150	Joanne Shadbolt	634-9190
Bob Smith	462-0738	Dale K. Smith	275-4471
John R. Taylor	429-6752	Rob Snelling	

Wall diving on Cuba's South Coast

The Hotel Ancon is located approximately 1.5 hours drive from the airport. This inexpensive resort sits alone on a beautiful beach and is fifteen minutes by boat to numerous dive sites. We anchored in sixty feet of water on top of the wall; marine life was abundant, assorted parrot fish, barracuda, French and queen angel fish, spotted morays and coral galore. There were crevasses through the top of the wall that we could navigate and come out on the other side at around ninety feet. Black coral could be seen at the one-hundred foot mark.

I spent two weeks diving different spots along the wall and never got bored. The dive boat left the wharf in front

of the hotel at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. every day; this allowed for a lot of flexibility and other activities should wish. The accommodation package included hotel free horse riding, wind surfing and tennis. This particular hotel offered through Canadian Holidays; the package included air fare, accommodation and meals for about \$1,100 in the off season (November). The first three dive package was \$70 U.S., second \$60 and the third \$50.

The spot is definitely worth a second look. I intend to make another trek to this enchanting underwater treasure.
Dale Smith

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council

Annual General Meeting

to be held in Sydney
May 15 ♦ 1993

accomodation available

© The President,
Roland Lewis on 562.2457

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Scuba Club in the Maritimes,
"The Nervous Wrecks"*

AGGETT AWARD

Nominations for the Roger Aggett Award are now open.

Criteria

"An active volunteer council member who has made a significant contribution to safety, enjoyment, image or growth to sport diving in Nova Scotia".

Election

To be elected by mail ballot by the board of directors. Ballots to be returned no later than 14 days prior to the AGM

Nominations can be made by members of the NSUC. Nominations to be submitted to the President 45 days before the AGM.

Aqualantics continues from page three

We also did a night dive that evening where we saw turtles, squid, barracuda and some other fish that were sleeping. I would recommend the Florida Keys for a dive holiday destination. There's a good reason why. The islands you can drive to are the most popular destination in the world. They are very accessible from Miami, they are cheaper than the Caribbean islands to get to, accommodation and living costs are less. The vacationers were Therese & Stephen Peuramaki (on honeymoon), Bob Doiron, John Hagell, Nick Van-Stight and Pat Bryan (also on honeymoon) Stewart Robinson, Blain Checkly, Bruce Goddard and the author, Grant MacLeod.

Answers to questions on page 4

1. 2640 feet 2. 7 pounds

Diabetes — Part II

A diagnosis of diabetes mellitus can be made according to the guidelines of several criteria.

The decisions on whether or not sport diving can be recommended range between two obvious situations — from the absolutely disqualifying evidence of end organ disease, ketoacidosis, or frequent symptoms of hyperglycemia/hyperglycemia — to those with mild abnormalities of glucose metabolism, fully controlled by weight loss and dietary control, who can be cleared for diving.

Between those two extremes there is a large percentage with great variation in adequacy of control of their diabetes. It is this variation that produces controversy and difference of opinion about whether or not people with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) can or cannot dive. Those who favor clearing those who are well controlled point out there are world class athletes who have diabetes. Those conservative diving medicine physicians who adhere to the widely accepted rule that IDDM is disqualifying for scuba diving, do so with the admonition that an insulin reaction underwater could very well result in drowning and cause serious risk for buddy divers in rescue attempts.

The currently widespread recommendation of diving medicine physicians is to disqualify those with IDDM for diving of any type.

It is known that some IDDM patients do dive successfully. On the other hand, anyone who has been present

during insulin reactions can attest to the rapid onset and impairment of judgement, and can be imagined how very dangerous such a reaction underwater would be.

The concern of diving medicine physicians is that the if doors were opened — that if we said, IDDM patients may dive at will, hypoglycemic accidents and drowning underwater would occur with regularity.

For now we say no diving for those with insulin dependent diabetes-mellitus or with non-insulin dependent diabetes-mellitus if there is a history of hypoglycemic episodes. For the future, we believe endocrinologists specializing in diabetes-mellitus will be able to identify for us a set of selection criteria to allow well controlled diabetics to dive.

Reprinted courtesy of Medical Examination of Sport Scuba Divers, edited by Jefferson C Davis M.D. Second edition 1986, Medical seminars Inc., San Antonio Texas.

PRESS RELEASE

Now women can also show how proud they are to be members of the great fraternity of SCUBA divers.

As a companion piece to the popular Men's STERLING SILVER DIVER'S RING, introduced earlier this year Dive Visions Canada has now available, a women's model. Both pieces are finely crafted of solid sterling silver bold, clean lines that look terrific at the beach or in the board room and are both made with a wide, heavy shank to withstand the rigors of diving for years.

For more information about these beautiful rings for SCUBA divers, contact: Dive Visions Canada, 10 Dogwood Place, Cambridge, Ontario. N3C-2Z4

THE NSUC LENDING LIBRARY

1991 Sport Diver Open Water Vol. 1, Pts. 1 & 2	(video)
Contains Using Skin Diving Equipment	(video)
Using Scuba Diving Equipment	(video)
Sports Diver Open Water Vol. 2, Pts. 1 & 2	(video)
Bouyancy/Out Of Air Pt. 1	(slides)
Rescue/Accident Management Pt. 1	(slides)
Rescue/Accident Management Pt. 2	(slides)
Dive Promotional Programme	(slides)
Tapes for the above.	
Underwater Louisburg	(video)
Underwater Hockey	(video)
Hyperbaric Video	(video)
Hyperbaric Video (beta)	(video)

Drysuit Instruction	(video)
Drysuit Instruction	(slides)
Sport Diver Advanced Vol. 1, Pts. 1-3.	(video)
Contains: Diving Equipment • Boat Diving	
Underwater Navigation	
Sport Diving Advanced Vol. 2, Pts. 1-3	(video)
Contains:	
Limited Visibility Diving • Diver Stress & Rescue	
Deep Diving	
Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures	(video)
Louisburg Marine Heritage Pts. 1 & 2	(video)
Contains: Part 1 in English • Part 2 in French	
Australia Discover It	(video)
Dive Nova Scotia Pts. 1-3	(video)
Contains:	
Part 1 Dive Nova Scotia • Part 2 Dive Nova Scotia	
Part 3 Wreck Diving	

All videos are VHS unless otherwise stated
Library Lending Policy

There is a 10.00 deposit for each item borrowed from the library. The deposit will be forfeited if the item borrowed is not returned within 21 days from the date of posting to the borrower. All costs incurred in shipping payable by the borrower.

Contact Russell Warren, Cape Breton, at 467-2055

1992 End of Year Membership Survey

	MEMBERSHIP	YEAR	NO.	% GAIN	% of TOTAL
		88\89	185		
		89\90	213	+15.14	
		90\91	265	+24.41	
		91\92	292	+10.19	
		92\93	326	+11.64	
BY AREA	CAPE BRETON	91\92	13	04.45	
		92\93	41	+215.39	12.58
	CENTRAL	91\92	180		61.64
		92\93	218	+ 21.11	66.87
	FUNDY	91\92	3		01.02
		92\93	13	+433.33	03.43
	OUT OF PROV	91\92	10		03.42
		92\93	9	- 10.00	02.76
	SOUTH SHORE	91\92	36		12.33
		92\93	31	- 13.88	09.51
	VALLEY	91\92	50		17.12
		92\93	14	- 72.00	04.29
COMMERCIAL MEMBERS		90\91	13		
		91\92	19	+ 46.15	
		92\93	13	- 31.58	
BY COUNTY	ANNAPOLIS	91\92	37		12.67
		92\93	0	- 100.00	
	ANTIGONISH	91\92	1		00.34
		92\93	2	+ 100.00	00.61
	CAPE BRETON	91\92	13		04.45
		92\93	37	+ 184.00	12.58
	COLCHESTER	91\92	3		01.03
		92\93	5	+ 66.00	01.53
	CUMBERLAND	91\92	0		
		92\93	1	+ 100.00	00.31
	DIGBY	91\92	3		01.03
		92\93	3	no change	00.92
	HANTS	91\92	5		01.71
		92\93	7	+ 40.00	02.15
	HALIFAX	91\92	178		60.96
		92\93	217	+ 22.00	66.56
	KINGS	91\92	5		01.71
		92\93	6	+ 20.00	01.84
	LUNENBURG	91\92	3		00.97
		92\93	5	+ 67.00	01.53
	PICTOU	91\92	0		
		92\93	3	+ 300.00	
	QUEENS	91\92	1		00.92
		92\93	1	no change	00.34
	SHELBURNE	91\92	3		00.31
		92\93	3	no change	01.03
	VICTORIA	91\92	2		00.99
		92\93	2	no change	00.61
	YARMOUTH	91\92	28		09.59
		92\93	21	- 25.00	06.44
BY GENDER	MALE	91\92	233		79.79
		92\93	253	+ 9	77.61
	FEMALE	91\92	59		20.21
		92\93	73	+ 22	22.32
OTHER	FAMILIES	91\92	15		
		92\93	9	- 40	
	RENEWALS	91\92	96		32.88
		92\93	97	+ 1	30.12
	STUDENT MEM	92\93	208		63.80
	NEW MEMBERS	92\93	19		05.66
	FREE	92\93	21		06.44

Cape Breton Area Report

Lately, there have been a lot of nervous divers sighted on the shores of Cape Breton Island: the cause is still under investigation, but it may have something to do with the new diving club on the island. "THE CAPE BRETON NERVOUS WRECKS" has been busy recruiting new members since its formation in April of 1992.

It has been a long time since Cape Breton has had its own club and it could not have come at a better time. With the opening of a full time dive shop, the Nervous Wrecks are never at a loss for being able to rent gear, get air fills, or get repairs done. Cape Breton boasts some of the most spectacular diving east of the Rockies, and the Cape Breton Nervous Wrecks want everyone to know it!

The club has been busy since its formation in April, running over 30 dives and charters. To give you an idea of what type of diving the club did over the past year, here are a few samples; a Sydney Harbour Clean up (YUCK!) on Canada day, Gooseberry Cove clean up, a clean up of the 18 century wreck the Celebre in Louisbourg Harbour, under water pumpkin carving contest, underwater Christmas tree decorating contest, New Years day dip\diver, trips to the Arrow, Scatarie Island, the Chemeau, an ice diving course, a trip to the Sea Hunt and a Dive Safety seminar. Perhaps the high light of the year, some Nervous Wreck members helped save a stranded whale in Sydney Harbour.

So all in all it has been a very busy and successful first year for the Cape Breton Club. Just a reminder to all those divers that will be heading to Cape Breton this Summer, the Nervous wrecks have a standing invitation to all divers from everywhere, to come and join them for some exciting underwater adventures.

Russel Warren

Scuba, 1943 -1993

The intrepid divers of Jo's Dive shop have been diving all winter—for two weeks in the Caribbean and recently in Florida after DEMA (Diving Equipment Manufacturers Association) trade show. They say it was hard work ?? But some one had to do it.

A lot of time was spent talking about equipment both new and existing also to tour operators. Consequently there will be some new items in the shop to add to the existing lines.

DEMA was celebrating 50 years of SCUBA at the show. It was fascinating to compare the primitive equipment of the 50's and 60's with today's array of equipment

1993 promises to be an exiting year for us:

Hopefully we will soon receive permission to sink our first shipwreck and establish our dive park.

We are now in the process of establishing a full repair facility, complete with personnel training, in our shop in Lunenburg

We have just purchased a water scooter to speed our process of finding and chartering more exciting dive sites for you to explore.

We will establish a series of weekend or mid-week shore dives, led by a Divemaster, at little or no charge.

We will be expanding our charter boat service to include mid-week dives.

We are holding a Diving Clinic towards the end of May to get everyone off to a great year diving. This will be an opportunity to dive with Instructors and Divemasters all weekend, build your confidence and hone your skills at the same time you may wish to reserve the May 29\30 weekend on your calendar. More details will be available or at a later date or call Jo for information.

We are planning a GET WET WEEKEND held in the Ovens Park in August, a major event with some GREAT PRIZES up for grabs.(Edited from Jo's Dive Shop News Letter)



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COMMERCIAL DIVING

Diving courses in Nova Scotia

March

24,25	Open Water PADI	Jo's Dive Shop	634-3443
31,1 Apr	Open Water PADI	Jo's Dive Shop	634-3443

April

1	Dive Master PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
5,6,7	Coaching Course	Loc(Bloomfield)	425-5450*
5	Open Water PADI	Scuba Tech	562-6061
6	Open Water ACUC	Divers World	876-0555
9	Advanced PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
11	Open Water SSI	Nautilus	454-4296
13,14,20,21	Coaching Course	Loc(St. Pats)	425-5450*
17	Dive Masters PADI	Scuba Tech	562-6061
19,20,21	Coaching Course	Loc(Bloomfield)	425-5450 *
22	Open Water	Northern Shore	429-TANK
	Open Water PADI	Aqua Dive(call)	469-6948

May

3,5,10,12	Coaching Course	Loc (Dartmouth)	425-5450*
3	Open Water PADI	Scuba Tech	562-6061**
4	Open Water NAUI	Divers World	876-0555
10	Open Water ACUC	Divers World	876-0555
17	Open Water PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
21	Advanced PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
23	Open Water SSI	Nautilus	454-4296
May	Open Water PADI	Aqua Dive	469-6948

June

1	Open Water NAUI	Divers World	876-0555
1	Rescue Diver PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
1	Open Water PADI	Northern Shore	429 TANK
4,5,6	Coaching Course	Loc (Bloomfield)	425-05450*
4	Advanced PADI	Scuba Tech	562-6061
7	Open Water ACUC	Divers World	876-0555
7,8,9	Coaching Course	Loc (Bloomfield)	425-5450*
7	Open Water	Scuba Tech	562-6061
8	Instructor PADI	Dive Masters	465-2526
14,15,16	Coaching Course	Loc (Bloomfield)	425-5450*
14	Open Water PADI	Northern Shore	429-TANK
29	Open Water NAUI	Divers World	876-0555
June	Open Water	Aqua Dive	469-6948

* The coaching courses are a national certification programme for coaching in general for all sports. This is run by the Sports and Recreation Commission and costs \$15; for more information call Sport Nova Scotia at 425-5450.

** This is a first in Atlantic Canada as far as I know; a Basic Open Water Course for Ladies.

Dive Courses and Events is a regular listing organized and provided by the staff of Bottomtime. Please contact the Editor.

Cressi-sub



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AQUALANTIC UPDATE

Several major changes have recently been implemented in the Aqualantic Dive Club. These include a new fee structure and the election of new officers.

Club membership previously cost \$70 and included club membership in the NSUC and two free air fills per week. In the interest of attracting new members, we have set our new club membership fee at \$20 per year. Air privileges are now optional and will cost \$60 per year: members will be entitled to two free air fills per week. People buying air privileges after September 1st will pay half price. Membership in Nova Scotia's most active dive club is more attractive and less expensive than ever before!

The normal two-year term for club president and treasurer was completed this year. John Hagell was persuaded to serve again for two more years. Grant MacLeod completed his term as treasurer: Pat Bryan has taken this position. Jane Biggs continues as vice-president, Bruce Goddard as secretary and Thierry Papion as dive officer — each for one more year.

Club diving is greatly reduced because of terrible weather. Even so, we managed shore dives on five of the seven weekends so far this year.



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SONG — WRECK OF THE STEAMER 'HUMBOLDT'

A noble steamship from Southampton came,
With costly freight the HUMBOLDT was her name,
She braved the ocean wave and boisterous gales,
Dash'd through her onwards course towards Columbus Vales.

But never reached the port she stove to enter,
for storms and fuel failing did prevent her;
And when deprived of means of her speed to force,
For Halifax she had to change course.

So as she near'd the wish'd-for port to coal,
This splendid steamer struck upon a shoal-
Which pierce'd her through and in the waves did pour,
Till it was found most safe to drive on shore.

Sad disappointment to anxious hope,
Of those on board! who looked for wider scope,
By promenading through each city street,
Till coal shipped, her voyage to complete;

And then the gallant ship-like lion refresh'd,
By hunger, thirst, fatigue no more oppressed-
Would raise her steam-again her course to pursue,
Each land mark pass'd would increas'd hope renew.

Alas! they little thought how dread a change,
Would blast their prospects and their plans derange:
A base intruder, in a pilots name,
Lurd by Pilot's fee and deaf of shame-

Did ou the Captain's confidence impose,
And by unskillful management expose,
The lives and freight and all that were on board,
And wreck'd the ship when all thought was secur'd.

A scene so desolate has scarce been known,
For many years, so near a favour'd town;
And yet-tis a disgraceful to tell-
Attempts to plunder were found to quell.

But though to steal some prowl'd about the wreck,
Yet there were friends who fain such deeds would check;
Men of true hearts and willing hands to serve,
The cargo strove, with ardor, to preserve.

Beside the gallant crew and Captain breave,
Who work'd right valiantly the goods to save-
Craft of all rig and kind-plied up and down,
To bring the merchandise to town.

To aid the busy throng of those at work,
The steamer Marion, despatch'd from New York-
Arriv'd with pumps and means of great pow'r
To wrest what no hand-labour could secure.

The ship now stranded near the Sisters Rocks
Is breaking up by elementary shocks.
Much goods are damag'd, many more lost-
To rescue which no toil was spr'd, nor cost.

Let generous hearts the Humboldt's fate regret,
For any sympathies sincere true friends beget;
And while the pilferer's acts they do disdain,
Remember honesty's the noblest gain.

And let the skippers of our ships take heed,
(Whenever they a skillful Pilot need,)
That none shall steal their craft unless assur'd
They're Pilots true, soon as the ship they board.
anon.

NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

P.O. Box 3010 South, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 3G6

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ Postal Code _____

Student Member _____ Renewal _____ Number years diving _____

Certification (Agency(s) & Certification No.) _____

Membership Class: ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Commercial

Club Affiliation _____ If non-club member, do you wish to join a club? ☐

Are you interested in serving on a Council position or committee? ☐ If yes, please specify _____

Fees enclosed: ☐ Individual ☐ Family ☐ Commercial ☐ Newly certified diver

Please return completed form along with appropriate fees (Cheque or money order) to the above address). If ordering **Passport to Diving**, please add \$2.00 to cover shipping and handling (see page 9).

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Artificial reef society formed

The Cape Breton Artificial Reef Society (CBARS) held its inaugural meeting on December 16, 1992 in Sydney. The 10 persons present were all members of the Nervous Wrecks Diving Club, itself formed only within the last year. The purpose of the Society is quite simple: to artificially produce an underwater environment which will attract both scuba divers and marine life. This would be accomplished by the sinking of a vessel, aircraft, or other man made object which would form a growth place or haven for everything from various seaweeds to fish of all native species — and thus be an economic asset to the region.

This idea is not new to the rest of the world or even to Canada. Divers in British Columbia have been particularly successful with the sinking of several large vessels. In Ontario at Kingston, the Wolfe Islander, (a ferry I have been on many times) was purposely sunk as a dive attraction. New Brunswick also has an artificial reef. However, here in Nova Scotia, officials have been slow to respond to what many view as a winning situation for all concerned.

A valiant effort is being made by the South Shore Marine Park Society. Although at this writing they have not been successful, their pioneering efforts have not been without accomplishment.

The group is responsible for a document "Guidelines for Developing Artificial Reefs and Dive Parks on the Scotian Shelf and in the Bay of Fundy" (October 9, 1992). This was submitted to the Canada - Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Sustainable Economic Development as a research project. The study makes 13 recommendations.

When the CBARS in January, 1993 made an inquiry to Environment Canada they were provided with a draft copy of "Interim Guidelines for the Disposal of Vessels on the Scotian Shelf and in the Bay of Fundy for Recreational Diving Purposes", which closely follows the recommendations in the Marine Park Society study. It appears as if something might be happening.

There are, however, many interest groups which must be convinced of the positive aspects of such a proposal. Since the first meeting of the CBARS, several others have been held; the membership has grown; and a number of sub committees have been set up: Public Relations, Site Selection; Government Relations. It is realized that to accomplish this goal a great deal of work and the cooperation of numerous groups will be required. With luck, common sense, and a forward view it is expected

that the CBARS will soon feel confident in applying for an Artificial Reef Permit and be able to step in line with our buddies on the west coast and Lake Ontario in improving the local marine life and the sport of scuba diving.

R.G. Lewis

The NSUC is supportive of any effort which will enhance the sport of scuba diving in Nova Scotia and, or be of benefit to the marine life surrounding our coast line. All are encouraged to get involved with these projects.

DIVERS BOUTIQUE

NSUC Clothing

White golf shirt medium	
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Gold lettering	\$15.00
NSUC tacky t-shirts	
(Various colours)	\$5.00
NSUC decals	.75
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Editor's notes

In our News in Brief column, p. 4, Deep Star Resources is incorrectly referred to as Deep Sea Resources. Our apologies.

Discover Diving

Is the name of Metro Halifax's latest dive shop, located on the Bedford Hwy., Bedford. The manager is Tim Gay, formerly with Northern Shore Diving Centre.

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President's message: R. G. Lewis

If it seems a long time since the last *BOTTOMTIME*, you are right. Many people have been asking if we were still in business. The saying goes that good things come to those who wait: hopefully this issue of *BOTTOMTIME* will prove this statement true.

One thing you have undoubtedly noticed is we are using a different format. This seems to be a two-year cycle as any who still have the March 1991 edition can readily verify. Why you might ask? The answer is quite simple — the professional New Media Services look is relatively expensive, and the budgeted funds have simply run out. We could have elected to incur debit, but in the interests of your pocketbooks have decided on the more economical approach — using the photocopier at Sport Nova Scotia. The objective is to get the news, views, and notices out to the membership and to divers in general. To this end, in addition to the membership mailout, extra copies of the *BOTTOMTIME* will be available at various outlets around the province. The intention is to attract new members and also advertising. If you have any comments on this format — or any other issue concerning the *BOTTOMTIME*, please contact myself or the editor.

The end of the NSUC fiscal year is fast approaching and with it plans for the AGM. The turnout for this meeting has never been overwhelming (a common trait in most volunteer groups) but, dear divers, the Council DOES need your participation. As happens each year there are some Board positions which are being vacated. This year the need for volunteers is most acute. Get involved — take up the challenge. If nothing else come out to the AGM and complain so that we know you are alive. The date, place, and time are listed elsewhere — plan to be there and bring a buddy.

The end of the business year is also the beginning of the dive season. If you have not already done so, remember to get a visual done on your scuba tank, and a hydro if necessary. It is also a good idea to have all the other gear inspected at the same time. While the equipment may be good shape — what about those bodies that have been relaxing all winter. Now is the time to get dive fit — not the day before your first dive. Get your local instructor or dive shop to put on a scuba review or tune up for you and your friends.

One last thought — remember when you are at the dive site that other people will use the area as well. Keep it tidy: leave it even better than you found it if possible. Keep the image of divers a good one so that we can all continue to enjoy the sport. Keep it safe down there....

The Nova Scotia Underwater Council Association of Divers - our objectives

- 1) To be a representative body for the scuba diving community so as to preserve, support, and promote diving and diversafety in the provinces;
- 2) To ensure that training programs are given to a recognized level of quality, to foster and encourage the safe handling and usage of all approved types of equipment used in the sport of scuba diving;
- 3) To make available to all members information concerning safety, medical, technical and research data concerning the sport of scuba diving; and
- 4) To cooperate and participate with the provincial government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreational activity.

To join, contact the NSUC today!

Signs of spring ... in Cape Breton

A "Scuba Tune-Up" for certified divers was recently held in North Sydney.

Organized by NSUC Cape Breton Area Director Russell Warren, and sponsored by Scuba Tech and the Nervous Wrecks, the event attracted 18 enthusiasts who paid up to \$15.00 (NSUC members — \$10.00) to hear instructors Roland Lewis (PADI) and Ken Jardine (NAUI) review such topics as Dive Planning, Dive Tables, First Aid and Self Rescue.

Russell Warren gave a talk on getting equipment ready for the new season. Refreshments were provided by Tim Hortons.

After the two-hour academic presentations, the divers entered the Northside Community pool to practice their basic skills.

A good time was had by all — and over \$100.00 raised for the Council.

Roland G. Lewis



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