

The FACEPLATE

The voice of
The Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.



OCSSDI Officers for 2002

3 YEAR TRUSTEES

Scott Pansing
Columbus Sea Nags
238 Fairway Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 369-8299
OCSSDI_sp@yahoo.com

Annette Soule
Lake Erie Wreck Divers
1417 W. 37th St.
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 989-1086
diverdown@centurytel.net

Donald Hudson
*Cincinnati Underwater
Explorers*
PO Box 062
Cincinnati, OH 45224
(513) 681-7802
dhudson513@aol.com

SECRETARY

Joyce Hayward
Bay Area Divers
1791 CR 296
Bellevue, OH 44811
(419) 483-3074
joycehayward@cros.net

TREASURER

Joe Higginbotham
Newark Poseidons
690 Tall Oaks Drive
Newark, Ohio 43055
(740) 344-4242
higginbotham@alink.com

COMMITTEES:

- Legislative Action: **Joyce Hayward**
- Archeology: **Linda Pansing**
- Speakers Bureau: **Marty Bailey, Annette Soule**
- Dive Ohio Video: **Roger Roth**
- Membership: **Rich Lauer**
- Publicity: **Dave Soule**

1 YEAR TRUSTEE

Marty Bailey
Columbus Sea Nags
646 Noe Bixby Rd
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 866-9943
bailey.11@osu.edu

Dick Colwell
Southern Ohio Scuba
5791 Dublin Rd.
Dublin, OH 43017
(614) 766-8120
dcolwell@ohiohealth.com

Mary Anne Higginbotham
Newark Poseidons
690 Tall Oaks Drive
Newark, Ohio 43055
(740) 344-4242
higginbotham@alink.com

Roger Roth
10632 Cinderella
Cincinnati, OH 45242
(513) 793-9896
rroth2@cinci.rr.com

WEBSITE DIRECTOR

Mark Beatty
Gavia Scuba Club
321 S. Waynesville Rd
Oregonia, OH 45054
513-932-5983
mbeatty@diveflag.com

FACEPLATE

Rich Lauer
rlauer@subaquatics.com

Summer, 2002

It's summer -- hot, hazy, humid. It's Ohio.

We've had a full summer so far, full of good news and bad news. You are probably aware of three scuba fatalities this year; a heart attack at Portage Quarry, an embolism at Gilboa Quarry, and a drowning in a backyard pond. It's hard for us, who get so much pleasure out of this sport, to acknowledge the sadness that an accident can bring.

We can take some solace in the knowledge of Scuba's excellent safety record, so much better than other aquatic sports. But for now all we can do is offer our prayers and condolences to the families and friends of those involved.

Dive Season 2002 is in full swing now, and people are diving! That's why, if you look at the schedule of upcoming events, it's the thinnest list we'll have all year. Of course, I could just go down, list weekend after weekend, and write *going diving, going diving, going diving....* You get the idea.

Coming up quickly is the Barbecue for DAN, at Portage Quarry, and the OCSSDI summer meeting, July 28. There is more information inside.

A quick news brief -- **Eagle Lake is now closed to scuba diving.** If you want to go onto their website, www.eaglelakecampingresort.com, they list the scuba quarries in the area, and welcome people to camp there, but the diving is no more.

It's summer -- hot, hazy, humid. But remember, *the weather's fine at the thermocline.* Dive often, and dive safe.

Starting in 2002, about half of you are receiving the Faceplate via e-mail, the rest by postal service. You may do either one you choose. If you're getting this by regular mail, you should know the the others got their copy almost a week ago.

If you'd like to receive the Faceplate via e-mail, you may do so by sending your address to rlauer@subaquatics.com. Oh, yeah, best have your 2002 dues paid up, too.

Members of the Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Diving

Aqua Amigos Scuba Club
Cleveland, Ohio
PO Box 32004
Cleveland, OH 44132
www.aquaamigos.com

Aqua Mariners, Inc.
Canton, Ohio
Jean Griffin
PO Box 8064
Canton, OH 44711-8064
(330) 452-5582
beejay@cannet.com

Aqua Masters, Inc.
Lakewood, Ohio
Ted Green
6001 Flowerdale
Cleveland, OH 44144
divrdown42@aol.com

Ashland Scuba Club
Dublin, Ohio
Gary Tolhurst
Ashland Specialty Chemical Co.
5200 Blaze Parkway DA3
Dublin, OH 43017
(614)799-3443
gtolhurst@ashland.com

Bay Area Divers
Sandusky, Ohio
Joyce Hayward
1791 CR 296
Bellevue, OH 44811
(419) 483-3074
joycehayward@cros.net

Buckeye Divers
Columbus, Ohio
2603 Youngs Grove Road
Columbus, OH 43231
DennisLaRue@columbus.rr.com

Central Ohio Divers
Columbus, Ohio
Ken Karst
2501 James Road
Granville, Ohio 43023
(740) 522-1667
kkxray@alink.com

Cincinnati Underwater Explorers
Cincinnati, Ohio
Ernest McAdams Jr.
PO Box 0062
Cincinnati, OH 45224
therock633@aol.com

Columbus Sea Nags
Columbus, Ohio
Andrew Dennis
4455 Jenny Dawn Place
Hilliard, OH 43026
(614) 777-0882
andrew@dennis.org

Gavia Scuba Club
Cincinnati, Ohio
Bill Libecap
4349 Clifford Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45236
(513) 793-7589
Mr_Bill@mailcity.com

Kittyhawk Scuba Club
Dayton, Ohio
Barb Fissell
1554 Mapledale Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45432
(937) 252-9041
fizz30@msn.com

Lake Erie Wreck Divers
Lorain, Ohio
Dave Soule
1417 W. 37th St
Lorain, Oh. 44053
(440) 989-1086
diverdown@centurytel.net

Lima Scubanauts
Lima, Ohio
P. J. Schaub
12692 Wapak/Buckland Rd
Wapakoneta. OH 45895
(419) 657-2076
oak_thorn2@yahoo.com

Newark Poseidons
Newark, Ohio
Dave Rauch
362 Coffman Blvd
Heath, OH 43056
(740) 522-4710
rauchhouse@alink.com

North Coast Aquatic Scuba Explorers
Cleveland, Ohio
Yvonne Ladd
16201 Sunny Glenn Road
Cleveland, OH 44128
(216) 662-4613
scooterladd@aol.com

Quarry Commandos
St. Marys, OH
Luann Lee
401 N. Main Street
St. Marys, Ohio 45885
(419) 394-2703
star@quarrycommando.com

Southern Ohio Scuba Club
Portsmouth, Ohio
David Vetter
P.O. Box 1582
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
(740) 353-7811
dvetter@zoomnet.net

Springfield Scuba Society
Springfield, Ohio
Jody Lewis
1238 Shrine Road
Springfield, Ohio 45504
(937) 323-2545
wtjalscubaharley@aol.com

T. A. Dive Club
Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Linda White
1082 Richland Road
Marion, OH 43302
(740) 389-4485
divellw@gte.net

Toledo Submariners
Toledo, Ohio
2041 McIntosh Dr
Holland, OH 43528
419-865-4184
ttloar@cs.com

check us out on the web
www.ocssdi.org

Summer of the Shark Just Media Hype. Surprised?

Despite Time magazine labeling it the “Summer of the Shark” and the prevailing perception that 2001 was a banner year for shark attacks, actual numbers were slightly down, a new University of Florida study shows.

The annual total of 76 unprovoked attacks worldwide was less than the 85 recorded in 2000, and fatalities declined from 12 to five in the same period, said George Burgess, director of the International Shark Attack File, which is housed at the University of Florida. The file is a record of all known shark attacks. Burgess, a

biological scientist and operations coordinator at the Florida Museum of Natural History, reports the numbers annually and has just finished compiling them.

“Last year was anything but an average year, but that’s because it was more like the summer of the media feeding frenzy,” he said.

The number of attacks remained nearly identical in both the United States (55 in 2001 compared with 54 the previous year) and Florida, the nation’s leader, where they decreased from 38 to 37, Burgess said.

But a few high-profile cases turned an otherwise slow news summer on its head. It began with the dramatic rescue of 8-year-old Jessie Arbogast, whose arm was severed by a bull shark in the waters off Pensacola, Fla., on the weekend after the Fourth of July, he said.

Burgess, who normally handles about 300 inquiries a year from newspapers and radio and television stations on sharks, did more than 900 interviews during July, August and September.

“I had more calls in those three months than I had in the previous three years combined,” he said. “Some of them were from radio shows in places like Montana, North Dakota and Idaho, where there hasn’t been a shark since the Miocene.”

International press coverage also was heavy because Florida is a popular destination for tourists from Western Europe and Japan.

After saving his nephew in the July 6 attack, Arbogast’s uncle pulled the shark to shore, emergency medical personnel retrieved the arm out of the shark’s throat. Surgeons later reattached the limb.

“It was a made-for-TV movie kind of incident — one that clearly captured the imagination of the American public — and certainly was worth every line and TV spot that it got,” he said.

But with reporters stationed in Pensacola covering Arbogast’s recovery, every shark bite, no matter how small, became news over the next few weeks, including a July 15 incident in which a shark nipped a surfer’s foot near where Arbogast was attacked, Burgess said.

On top of that, Mother Nature cooperated kind of nicely with the press, with a series of incidents that occurred about every two weeks,” he said.

As in recent years, the bulk of the attacks (82 percent) were in North American waters, including 55 from the United States, four in the Bahamas, two from Mexico and one in Cuba. Outside of Florida, U.S. attacks were recorded in South Carolina (6), Hawaii (4), California (2), North Carolina (2), Texas (2), Alabama (1) and Virginia (1). Surfers were the most frequent victims (35 incidents) followed by swimmers and waders (21), divers and snorkelers (11) and kayakers (4).

The suggestion made by some special interest groups last year that attacks have increased because 1993 U.S. fishery regulations have resulted in more sharks is groundless, Burgess said. Sharks are slow-growing animals and most of those born eight years ago haven’t reached sexual maturity yet, he said.

In reality, there has been a gradual upswing in attacks over the past century as humans have spent more time in the water and shark attack reporting techniques improved, he said.

In another high-profile attack last year, Krishna Thompson, 36, of New York, lost a leg in the Bahamas on Aug. 4. Then on Labor Day weekend two fatalities occurred in North Carolina and Virginia, where shark attack deaths are relatively rare. Ten-year-old David Peltier was killed off Virginia Beach on Sept. 2. Sergei Zaloukaev, 26, died in an attack off Cape Hatteras, N.C., the next day, and his girlfriend, Natalia Slobodskaya, 23, lost a leg.

OCSSDI PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

- **Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center**
Vermilion, OH
(440) 967-3467
- **Aquatic Realm Scuba Center**, Centerville, OH
(937) 428-9836
- **ASK Scuba & Snorkeling Center**
Dublin, OH
(614) 889-2822
- **Blue Water Consulting**, Baltimore, OH
(740) 862-8992
- **Buckeye Diving School**, Bedford, Ohio
(440) 439-3677
- **Diver’s Paradise**, Toledo, Ohio
(419) 535-6828
- **Huntington Sport & Commercial Diving**,
Huntington, West Virginia
(304) 528-6622
- **JRS School of Scuba**, Rootstown, Ohio
(330) 325-2233
- **Lakeview Park**, Lancaster, OH
(740) 653-4519
- **Long Lake Scuba**, Lima, OH
(419) 331-3483
- **New Wave Complete Diving Store**,
Port Clinton, OH
(419) 734-2240
- **Portage Quarry Recreation Club**,
Bowling Green, OH
(419) 352-8488
- **Quarry Divers**, Gibsonburg, OH
(419) 637-7911
- **Scuba Recovery Dive Charters**, Findlay, OH
(419) 422-3215
- **Sub-Aquatics, Inc.**, Reynoldsburg, OH
(614) 864-1235
- **Todd’s Scuba Sales**
Circleville Twin Quarries
(740) 474-9530

Club News from across the state

It's summertime, and people are diving! Here's an idea of where you're going to see divers from Ohio, over the next several months.

There are now 20 member clubs in the OCSSDI. How do I get the information for this page? First I got what I could from the newsletters I get in the mail, and from the newsletters I get on line. For those who don't publish a newsletter, or choose to not send it to me, I e-mailed the OCSSDI rep and asked for your story.

If there is a particular thing you want listed in our club news, or a flier you want published for a special event, drop a line, or e-mail, early in September, December, March, or June.

Cincinnati Underwater Explorers

CUE went to the Caymans in May. Now we commence with our Total Emerson Summer Dive Tour -- each month we dive an Ohio quarry (complete with lunch). The philosophy is that it's a "dive club" not a "meeting" club -- we will dive!

Lake Erie Wreck Divers

We're heading east twice in the next few months. We dive with Osprey Charters July 21 and August 17. It's north to Tobermorey in September, and then to the Marine Heritage Festival in Goderich, Ontario.

Southern Ohio Scuba

June found us at Gilboa Quarry. We did it all, fun dives, certifications, and a hog roast. We'll see all of you at the Barbecue for DAN in July.

Aqua Amigos

New York loves us! We head out with Osprey Charters July 8, August 19, and September 9. Food is good, too -- we're looking ahead to our Clam Bake October.

Toledo Submariners

We started the month with a night dive at Portage. In August it's the annual canoe trip & party, as we look forward to the Kingston dive trip in September. Get your knife ready for pumpkin carving in October!

Columbus Sea Nags

Over the past couple months, we've hit the local dive sites every weekend, plus sent a few to Florida. Come join us! We continue our monthly training seminars, with Buoyancy in July and Night Diving in August.

Aqua Masters

We're on the Lake, so we dive the Lake, July 20 and August 18. Then we're heading over to the Thousand Island region over Labor Day.

Lima Scubanauts

June saw us in Cozumel, Mexico, for a week at Plaza Las Glorias. Our July meeting is a dive and pot luck feast, at Long Lake.

Buckeye Divers

We're back from our July 4th dives in North Carolina -- again, the drive was as exciting as the diving. Some of our group are way out



east, diving the WWII wrecks of Brittany and Normandy, off of France.

Ashland Scuba Club

We're in the middle of summer, but several of our members are heading south to salt water. We have a group traveling to Aruba and Bonaire; and come fall, we head off to Bonaire, September 3-10, staying at Buddy Dive.

T.A. Club

Final preparations being made for the Barbecue for DAN -- see you there? August 25th we're inviting divers certified Rescue and above, to Lakeview Park, for a rescue seminar and practice. Meanwhile, we head to Sanilac Shores and Panama City Beach.

Springfield Scuba Society

We're staying active, diving the quarries -- Gilboa and Portage in June, White Star in July. We also have a weekend scheduled for Salinac in August.

Bay Area Divers

Our summer picnic and swim party is July 24. We'll attend the barbeque for DAN, then we're off to Peelee Island the 2nd weekend of August. In



"Hey, I got news for you, sweetheart! ...
I am the lowest form of life on earth!"

September it's Tobermorey, then ending the month in Ohio with a night dive at Whitestar Quarry.

Newark Poseidons

Our big dive for July will be with you guys -- we head for Portage Quarry and the Barbecue for DAN. Then we have a special August meeting at the Burger-Rector.

North Coast Aquatic Scuba Explorers

It's summer, and we're diving. Next month we return to nearby New York for a Niagra River drift dive. Then, in September, we dive closer to home, visiting the wrecks in Lake Erie.

Quarry Commandos

You'll find us diving once a month, year round; mostly at Gilboa. In July, we're diving Puget Sound, and in October it's Panama City Beach. We are currently working on a project to benefit teens and high schools who want to be involved with the underwater world.

Aqua Mariners

Early August we're off to Kelly's Island for a weekend of great diving. Meanwhile, see us at the DAN Barbecue in July.

Kittyhawks

Our July meeting is at Discover Cove at Sea World. In August we head north to Port Huron and the St. Clair River, then in September it's the Cay Sal Banks with the Nekton Pilot.

Gavia Scuba Club

Next month we head north, diving Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. Then in September, we go the opposite direction, to West Virginia, where we raft the whitewaters of the Gauley River.

Central Ohio Divers

A couple members are just back from Blackbeards Cruises, joining some of the guys from the Sea Nags. As you read this, nine of us are in Cozumel - - sorry about your luck. Then in August, it's off to Sarnia, for drift and wreck diving in the St. Clair.

On the Medical Front Future DCS Treatment

Several new developments in the detection and treatment of Decompression Sickness are worth mentioning, and watching...

This first story was gleaned from *Rodale's Scuba Diving*:

A medical breakthrough by Dr. Michael Bennett from the University of New South Wales may allow doctors to cheaply, easily and accurately diagnose whether a diver has decompression illness. According to Dr. Bennett, from UNSW's Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine at Prince of Wales Hospital, "When people who dive in remote places become ill there is currently no simple test to see if they have decompression illness (the bends). Unable to take the risk of leaving the bends untreated, they are flown to a specialist hospital at great expense. Our research may result in a test for the bends that can be done by any doctor, anywhere."

The research has found that when a person has been scuba diving they have between 1 and 3 tiny air bubbles in the fluid that lubricates the eyeball, where the ocular tear film gathers in the lower eyelid. If a diver has the bends they often have between 20 and 30 bubbles in the fluid.

Dr. Bennett's study measures the number of bubbles in their eye, then uses other methods to diagnose the patient and correlate the information. So far the study has suggested that those who have the bends definitely have more bubbles than those who have been safely diving or who have not been diving at all.

"We hope that a remote doctor, suspicious that a patient may have the bends, will be able to do a simple, inexpensive examination of the patient's tear film. Based on the number of air bubbles they will then be able to make a decision on whether the patient needs to be flown out for further treatment," Dr. Bennett said.

Suck That Nitrogen Out!

This second story was found, and extrapolated, from the July 2002 issue of *Discover Magazine*. In the article *Let it Bleed*, the magazine explains how increasing problems with blood transfusions have quickened the research into a synthetic blood. One of these that shows promise is Oxygent, a solution that has an immense capacity to soak up gases. It grabs oxygen in the lungs, then lets it diffuse into oxygen-poor tissues as it circulates.

In fact, remember that scene in *The Abyss*, where a mouse breathed oxygen-rich liquid and lived? They can do that today with Oxygent.

As an aside in the article, *Discover* mentions experiments that suggest that an injection of Oxygent given to a bends victim could absorb that gas and end the problem. It didn't go into detail to say whether this would be a syringe full or a pint or two.

The article also said that the individual cells of oxygent, much smaller than red blood cells, have been found to slip past clots from stroke and sickle-cell jam-up, to oxygenate tissue downstream. Imagine how that would work with an embolism.

Remember you read it first here. years ago, we began taking oxygen to the dive site for emergencies. Now, who would have guessed that today DAN would be training us on Automated Defibrillators for heart attacks. Wait and see — in the future you'll see dive instructors carting emergency IV bags at the dive site, perhaps making DCS a thing of the past.

Ohio Diving Features

We have good news to report. Check out the Summer issue of *Immersed* magazine, for the excellent article on diving the wrecks of Lake Huron. This one is written by Joyce Hayward, OCSSDI secretary and, well, you know all the rest.

There are more than a dozen pictures, taken by Joyce, along with sketches of the popular wrecks (by Robert McGreevy). Giving the dive season, and the best areas to visit, it's an excellent primer on Lake Huron, that I would recommend keeping even if it were written by a stranger.

Also, if you get the chance, there's *Country Living*, a magazine published by a conglomerate of electric utility companies in Ohio. The July issue features a fine article about one of our own -- underwater videographer and OCSSDI member Mark Thomas.

Although the article mentions many of the video and still pictures done by Mark, it focuses on his work in Ohio. It's written by Nikki Heath, and brags about the many good places to dive in the Buckeye State, listing Circleville, Gilboa, Long Lake, Portage, and Whitestar. Again, some great photos by Mark, including the freshwater jellyfish and nesting Bluegill.

I should mention that Joyce is a long-time member of Bay Area Divers, and Mark a veteran member of the Sea Nags.

Schedule of Events

until September 2...Titanic, the Exhibition

Great Lakes Science Center, Cleveland

www.clevelandtitanic.com, or call (216) 694-2000

July 19-21: **Water Rescue Seminar**, Circleville Twin Quarries
for law-enforcement only. Contact (740) 474-7105

July 27-28: **Barbecue for DAN**, Portage Quarry
TA Dive Club

July 29: **OCSSDI meeting**, Portage Quarry

July 31: **deadline, Project Aware Photo Contest**
www.projectaware.org

September 21: **International Cleanup Day**, Project Aware
Any local activities this year? Contact webmaster@ocssdi.org

September 28: **deadline, Los Angeles U/W Photo Competition**
40th annual. www.laups.org or, info@LAUPS.oeg

November 2: **Shipwrecks Remembered**, Pt. Huron, Mich.
(810)-359-8660, www.greatlakes.net

November 16: **Shipwrecks and Scuba**, Sandusky
Bay Area Divers

November 17: **OCSSDI meeting**, Sandusky

Keynote Presentation Announced for ScubaFest 2003

One Woman -- Three Decades of Diving will be the keynote presentation at the ScubaFest 2003, it was announced today. Shirley Brown, author, photographer, explorer, and model, will give the keynote presentation at the Saturday evening Banquet Ball. She will also give several other presentations throughout the weekend.

ScubaFest 2003 will be the 44th annual Ohio scuba convention. Since 1959, it has moved from city to city throughout the state, and is the biggest scuba-related event in Ohio. It will be held in Columbus February 28-March 2.

Shirley learned to dive 21 years ago while her husband was stationed in Izmir, Turkey with NATO. During the last twelve years, Shirley and her husband have worked as the managerial team aboard various live-aboard dive boats in the Bahamas, Belize, and the Caribbean. During this time she had the opportunity to model for many well know underwater photographers. This inspired her to get on the other side of the camera.

Her work has appeared in such magazines as, Skin Diver, Scuba Times, Underwater USA, Southern Boating, Sea Frontiers, and many local publications. She works today with the youth programs for the Aggressor Fleet. She resides in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Two other presentations she will be giving over the weekend are "Giggles in Paradise", covering travel with kids aboard live a boards, and "Creatures that have bit me", humorous stories of critters and how to photograph them.

Ticket prices and hotel details will be listed in the September Faceplate, as well as a list of other speakers.



Upcoming Photo Contests

Here's a story for all you underwater photographers. There are two contests coming up, with some good prizes, that might interest you.

Coming up soon is the 4th Annual Project Aware photo contest, sponsored by the Project Aware division of PADI. Besides the prizes you could win, you might also find your photo featured on one of the Project Aware certification cards.

There are four categories: underwater animal, scuba divers underwater, a macro photo underwater, and pictures taken on the surface. Deadline for entry is July 31!

You can enter slides (preferred) or prints. Don't send negatives; don't send originals – they won't be returned.

You can enter one photo (\$15), or up to 5 photos (\$50). You can get detailed rules, and entry forms, at www.projectaware.org

LAUPS

The 40th Annual International Underwater Photographic Competition, sponsored by the Los Angeles Underwater Photographic Society, is underway. Entries are being accepted in 10 print, slide and video categories. The deadline for entry is September 28, 2002.

One of the oldest and largest contests of its kind, last year's competition received entries from contestants representing 15 countries and 25 states. Best of show and first place awards have included liveaboard and land-based vacations from sponsors such as Milne Bay Charters, Aquasports, Nai'a Cruises Fiji, Big Blue Explorer, Bilikiki Cruises Ltd., Fantasea Divers, Mike Ball Diving, Undersea Hunter, Exotic Caye Beach Resort, Clavella Adventures, Optiquatics, Ed Robinson's Diving Adventures and Nautilus Explorer.

Additional prizes are awarded to 4th place in each category and have included a valuable array of SCUBA and photo equipment donated from key sponsors including Sea&Sea, TMO, Pelican Products, American Diving, Dacor, Dive 'N Surf, Darkroom, SubAquatic Camera Repair, Submersible Systems, Ultralight, Pelican, Zeagle Ikelite, Diving Unlimited Int., Backscatter, Ocean.com, Ron T. Karlsson, Discovery Video, Pauls Photo, Stan Waterman, Peace Dive Boat, Spectre Dive Boat and Visiting Catalina.com.

Entry forms, rules, information and a sponsor list are available from the Web site at <http://www.laups.org> or from the booth at the Los Angeles SCUBA Show 2002. Additional information can be obtained by e-mail to info@LAUPS.org or by writing to LAUPS, P.O. Box 2401, Culver City, CA 90231.

PT109 FOUND NORTH OF THE SOLOMONS

A World War Two patrol boat captained by U.S. President John F. Kennedy which was sunk by a Japanese destroyer has been found off the Solomon Islands by the man who tracked down the Titanic, local radio said on Wednesday, May 29.

The remains of wooden boat PT-109 was found on the seabed of the Blanket Strait off Gizo Island, about 380 km (236 miles) northwest of the Solomons capital Honiara, by an international team led by U.S. oceanographer Robert Ballard.

Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation (SIBC) radio said Ballard had told the corporation he had found the wreckage of Kennedy's boat last week after about a week of searching.

SIBC said Ballard's team would not release any of the details of their find because of contractual obligations over film, magazine and book rights to their search. A National Geographic documentary is to be released in November, it said.

Kennedy was a lieutenant in the U.S. navy serving in the Pacific when his PT-109 was sliced in two by a Japanese destroyer in August 1943.

Kennedy and the survivors from his crew spent several hours in the water and the man who went on to become U.S. president helped dragged one man to safety on a nearby island.

Kennedy reportedly carved a message on a coconut and sent it through a local coast watcher to his superiors, who organized his crew's rescue despite the presence of Japanese troops and boats.

Ballard had previously mapped wrecks of other boats sunk during the battle for Guadalcanal in the Solomons, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific theatre.

Ballard found the wreckage of the Titanic in 1985. The luxury liner hit an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage from Britain to the United States in 1912 with the loss of 1,522 lives.

Are Those Spines I'm Seeing Down There? It's True -- Lionfish Are Living In The US!

The predatory lionfish, a flashy, spiny and venomous resident of the Indian and southwestern Pacific oceans, has taken up residence in U.S. waters from as far south as Florida to possibly as far north as New York.

Although no one knows for certain how the spectacular fish made it so far from their home waters, photos, videos and four captured specimens have convinced the National Marine Fisheries Service that the lionfish apparently like their new reef digs.

It's something that we became aware of this last summer," said Jon Hare, a fisheries biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Beaufort, N.C.

Although lionfish long been popular among salt-water aquarium enthusiasts, they never attracted much scientific scrutiny in the past, said Hare. The immigrant lionfish have changed all that, he said.

Rumors of the misplaced fish began in August 2000 when recreational divers Darryl and Trish Boyer spotted a lionfish near the wreck of the Naeco, off the coast of North Carolina.

"They came up and said they'd seen a lionfish and we all almost laughed at them," said Renate Eichinger of Atlantis Charters, a diving and fishing guide service in Atlantic Beach, N.C.

The next day Eichinger dove with the couple on another wreck and all three spotted another lionfish. Pictures of the fish were verified a few days later by Bob Jones of the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, said Eichinger.

Since then more and more sightings, photos and even video has been shot of the foreign fish, said Hare.

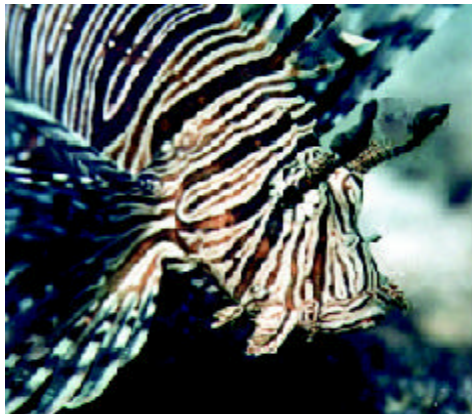
The lionfish is just the latest and farthest flung invader to inhabit reefs off the southeast U.S., said Hare. A trend toward warmer waters during winters has been gradually allowing more and more tropical sea life to get established, making reefs more tropical, he said.

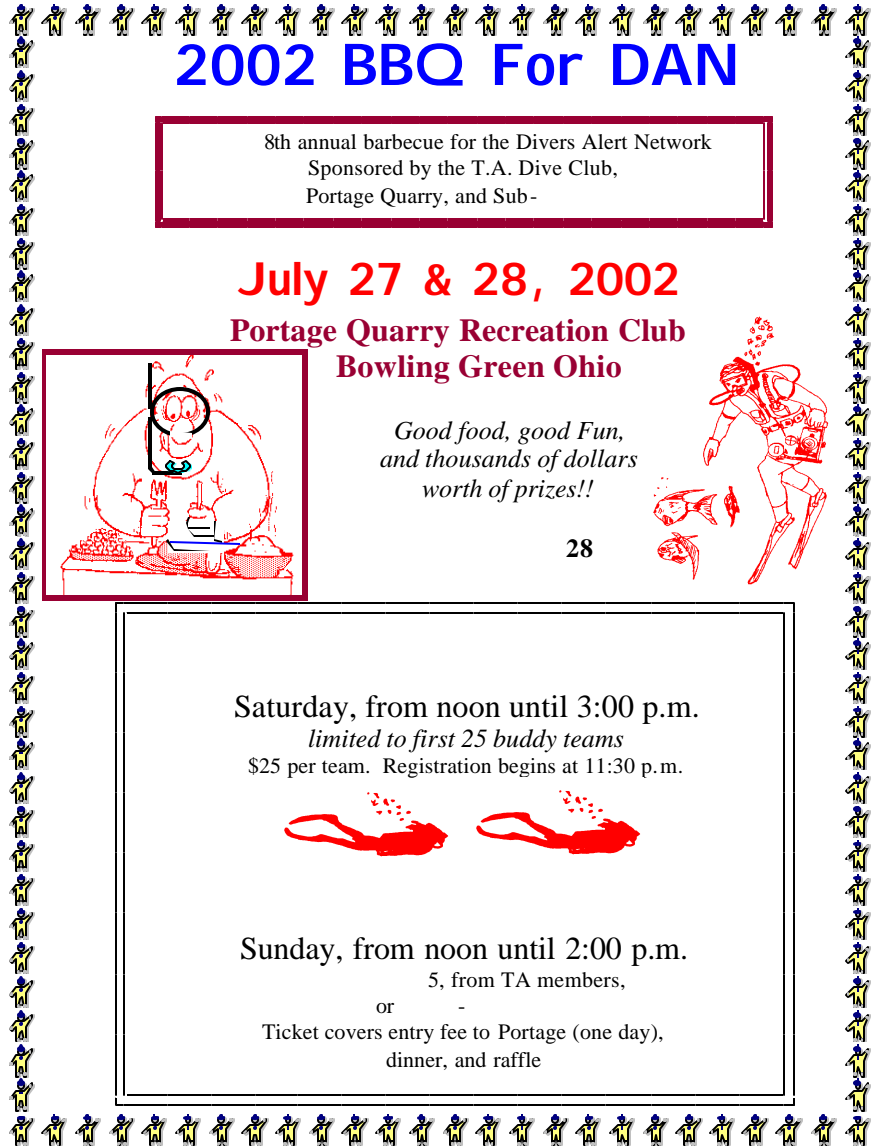
But unlike other eco-invaders, such as the notorious zebra mussel, the effects of the misplaced lionfish on reef ecology is not yet known.

Just how the lionfish made it to U.S. waters may never be known, said Hare, but there are two distinct possibilities. One is that small lionfish larvae survived in the ballast water of a ship that came from the Indian or South Pacific oceans, and that water was pumped out somewhere along the US Atlantic coast.

The other possibility is that the fish are escapees from aquariums, Hare said. It's known that an aquarium on the edge of Biscayne Bay lost six lionfish during Hurricane Andrew. Private aquarium keepers could have deliberately released others when the fish grew too big, he said.

Although quite painful, the venom of the lionfish is not known to be deadly to humans. In most cases submerging the wound in hot water controls the pain.






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Sunday, from noon until 2:00 p.m.
5, from TA members,
or -
Ticket covers entry fee to Portage (one day),
dinner, and raffle