



“DIVE LOG”

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED DIVERS
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

November 2010

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It's all about the length

By Jeff Goodreau

Good now that I have your attention, be honest when I say the words Technical Diving what do you think of? I am will to bet you immediately think of mixed gas dives to god forsaken depths that no one in their right mind would ever go to, am I right?? Well this may come as a bit of a shocker to you so you had better sit down to read this, but tech diving isn't all about how deep you can go, it's about how *long* you can stay! After all almost anyone can bounce down to 200' and come back unscathed. What separates the men from the boys (so to speak of course) is the ability to drop down to 200', stay there for 30 or 40 minutes and then come back up without dying! That my friend is the Technical diving game we play. The fact of the matter is you don't have to be all that deep to really push the limits way beyond what most diver's even think is possible. I would like to give you an example of this by telling you about a dive I did on the Chester Poling last weekend.

Most of you know the history of the Chester Poling so I will keep it short. For those of us that don't "she" is an oil tanker that sits broke in two just outside Gloucester harbor. The Bow lies in 180' of water and is only dove by a few people. The Stern half however lay's in 95' of water just outside the harbor entrance and is the most dove wreck in New England. In fact most of you with advanced certifications probably got them on the Poling. Me I love diving the Poling! I have hundreds of dives on it and I look at it as home in a way. No mater where I dive, no matter how deep I just went or what virgin wreck we just found, a little part of me always looks forward to a fun dive on the Poling. Over the past few years Al and I have discovered a new hobby, hunting for treasure off the side of the Poling. WOW look at you perk right up! No not treasure in the form of gold bars, but in old bottles, clay smoking pipes, and other trinkets of a time gone by. Keep in mind that the Poling sits just outside one of the oldest sea ports in the country. For 300 years sailors have been throwing things off boats and now they are just waiting to be found. So over the past couple of years AL and I have been doing progressively longer and longer dives to the wreck to find the good stuff. Now as mentioned the stern of the Poling rests in 95' of water. Looking at my trusty NAUI air tables they dictate that an air diver can have a maximum dive time of 22 minutes to the wreck without entering decompression. Nitrox can extend you maximum no stop time to 40 minutes however single tank divers will often find that they don't have enough gas with one tank to stay that long, this is where Technical diving comes in. Like I stated earlier it's all about length not depth. We use double tanks and decompression gasses to do some very long dives, in fact last year we did 80 minutes on the bottom and we planed to do a longer dive but it was blown out. Well last weekend with the summer wearing thin I finally got the chance to do that dive.

Know this spot?



Answer in the next news-
letter!

President's Message

I just want to take a moment to say thank you for allowing me the honor of being your president one more time. To say the least this was a trying year for myself and the board. As trying as it was we pressed on. I personally want to thank each member for your tolerance and patience this year. It may not have always showed but I know I had a great time being on the board this year. I also want to thank Pete, Rick, Kevin and Rich for their work. In addition I want to thank Karen for her work developing and maintaining the website this year.

I know for many you have hung up your fins for the winter. I have been fortunate to watch the waters cool at Nubanusit from a high of 75 degrees this summer to it's present 48 degrees. I plan to be back there next weekend and see how much more it has dropped.

I unfortunately will not be able to attend our final meeting for the year. I am attending the DEMA show next week. The DEMA show is the national dive show where new products are unveiled and travel opportunities will be presented. Kevin Brook is joining me. As I am sure you all know Pete, Rick and Rich will wrap up the year. For me the DEMA show will be mostly work but it will be enjoyable too.

I apologize for not being able to make the last meeting of the year and formally "pass the gavel". This is one of those times that work unfortunately comes first. I hope see many of you over the winter. If not I will catch up with you at the January meeting.

Safe Diving,

Mark

Bonaire 2011

Dates: March 26, 2011 - April 2, 2011

Accommodations: Plaza Resort Bonaire

Dive Operator: Toucan Diving at the Plaza Resort Bonaire

Cost: \$1,675.00

Included: 8 days 7 nights, quad occupancy,
1 double cab pickup truck, 6 days unlimited
shore diving, free nitrox, breakfast daily, airport transfers on Bonaire.

Note: Price does not include departure tax or marine park fee.

Flight Information:

Depart March 26, 2011

Depart Boston, at 6:00a.m.

Arrive Bonaire, at 1:59p.m.

Return April 2, 2011

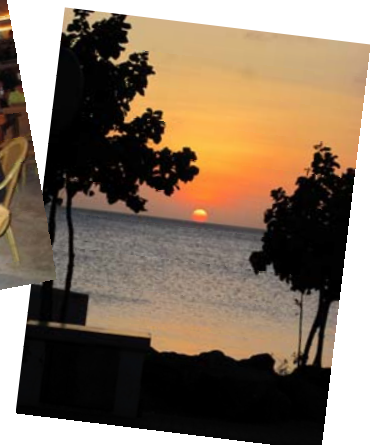
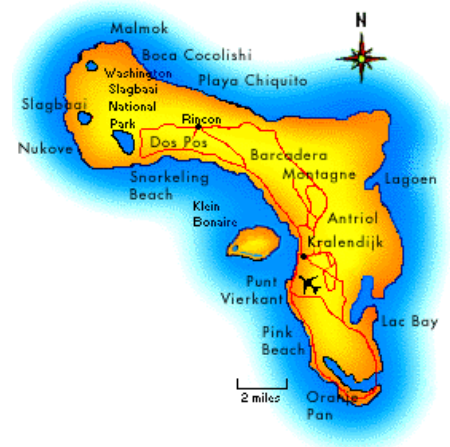
Depart Bonaire, at 2:59p.m.

Arrive Boston, at 11:54p.m.

Payment Schedule:

\$400.00 deposit due upon signup!

A convenient payment plan can be arranged



Deadline is November 18, 2010!!

Contact Roger Lusco:

Phone: 978-343-6330 or **E-mail:** r3lusco@verizon.net

I was planning on doing 2 hours on the bottom looking for artifacts. I knew right off the bat that my doubles alone weren't going to cut it for a dive of this time and depth. I needed 300 cubic feet of nitrox for the bottom phase of the dive alone, but my doubles only hold 260 cubic feet so I add an aluminum 80 to the plan that I would carry under my left arm. This gave me enough gas to do that portion of the dive and still allow me an ever crucial reserve in case of a problem. Under my right arm I carried an additional aluminum 40 that was full of oxygen and would be used for the decompression phase of the dive. That's four tanks, three for the bottom and one for decompression. I chose to use 35% nitrox for the dive because I knew that my "honey hole" is slightly shallower than the wreck itself and it would allow me to maximize my O2 window. I calculated a maximum of 70% CNS for the bottom and 85% for the total dive.

Arriving over the wreck we had perfect conditions, flat seas and temperatures in the low 40's. I splashed first with my buddies Rob and Vince in hot pursuit. Al and his students followed shortly after. On the wreck I was surprised to find at least 40' of visibility. We were on the broken end so Rob and I made a b-line for the stern. (that's all your getting out of me as to where my secret spot is) I tied in my reel and we headed out. The plan was for Rob to hang with me for 45 minutes before he had to head back to the wreck and ascend. The first hour of the dive went very smoothly. Rob turned up his first pipe stem and a cool ornamental glass piece. I found a small china lid with some writing on it. We did however have a rather persistent current blowing which made it somewhat difficult to hover motionless and really scan the bottom. Rob turned back as planned and I decided to take advantage of the great visibility and recon a new area or two for the winter. I packed up my stuff and headed out over the sand at times reaching out over 450' from the wreck, stopping along the way to hunt. At the 90 minute mark I started to work my way back toward the Poling, which was really the only time the current worked to my advantage. I was approaching the wreck at 100 minutes when I was taken aback by the stern coming into view, so clear and peaceful. It was at that time I realized I had two dive boats full of divers above me (already having done one dive and their 1 hour sit time) preparing to splash on their second dive, and that I was all alone on the wreck. I took my time swimming the wreck, just me and the Poling. The fish were everywhere and the anemones were open and full of color. I had gone around the wreck once and arrived back at the break when sure enough I saw the distinct flash of a dive light. I looked up and there was my "little buddy" Al with his "future Techies" in tow. I watched them do a skills drill or two and with the shake of Al's hand I was off to start decompressing. The time was 120 minutes on the dot. I had 25 minutes of deco to do, switching gasses to pure oxygen at 20'. Without the Oxygen I would have had to do another 70 minutes of deco so deco gas is very important. I was getting a little chilly by the end of my deco. The 53 degree water was starting to get to me, but I was still all warm and fuzzy from the high of what I had just done. I surfaced at 145 minutes to the smiles of Vince and Rob and a very relived looking captain. Al and his students surfaced 5 minutes later and we headed in for a much needed bowl of chowder. So there is the story of my 2 1/2 hour dive to the Chester Poling. Remember longer is always better.

Dive Safe,
Jeff Goodreau

"Scuba Bingo is Back"

Janet Abraham has offered to put together one of her "Scuba Bingo" games for the November meeting! Come join the fun!

Don't miss out, come test your wits!

There will be prizes!

Same place: Slattery's Restaurant

Same Time: 6:30PM Social, 7:00PM Meeting

See you there!



November/ December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
14	15	16	17	18 General Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Birthdays!!!



November 2010

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 19		2:49 AM EST	9:04 AM EST	3:24 PM EST	9:37 PM EST		6:38 AM EST	4:16 PM EST
Sat 20		3:26 AM EST	9:41 AM EST	4:02 PM EST	10:16 PM EST		6:40 AM EST	4:15 PM EST
Sun 21		4:03 AM EST	10:18 AM EST	4:40 PM EST	10:54 PM EST	Full Moon	6:41 AM EST	4:14 PM EST
Fri 26	1:49 AM EST	7:41 AM EST	1:56 PM EST	8:21 PM EST			6:47 AM EST	4:11 PM EST
Sat 27	2:42 AM EST	8:37 AM EST	2:52 PM EST	9:16 PM EST			6:48 AM EST	4:11 PM EST
Sun 28	3:39 AM EST	9:39 AM EST	3:54 PM EST	10:14 PM EST		Last Quarter	6:49 AM EST	4:11 PM EST

December 2010

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Moon	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 3		2:12 AM EST	8:33 AM EST	2:57 PM EST	9:13 PM EST		6:54 AM EST	4:09 PM EST
Sat 4		3:05 AM EST	9:25 AM EST	3:50 PM EST	10:06 PM EST		6:55 AM EST	4:09 PM EST
Sun 5		3:56 AM EST	10:14 AM EST	4:39 PM EST	10:56 PM EST	New Moon	6:56 AM EST	4:09 PM EST
Fri 10	2:01 AM EST	7:51 AM EST	2:05 PM EST	8:28 PM EST			7:01 AM EST	4:08 PM EST
Sat 11	2:47 AM EST	8:40 AM EST	2:53 PM EST	9:14 PM EST			7:02 AM EST	4:08 PM EST
Sun 12	3:34 AM EST	9:32 AM EST	3:43 PM EST	10:01 PM EST			7:03 AM EST	4:08 PM EST
Fri 17		1:17 AM EST	7:37 AM EST	2:03 PM EST	8:14 PM EST		7:06 AM EST	4:10 PM EST
Sat 18		2:03 AM EST	8:22 AM EST	2:49 PM EST	9:02 PM EST		7:07 AM EST	4:10 PM EST
Sun 19		2:48 AM EST	9:06 AM EST	3:32 PM EST	9:46 PM EST		7:08 AM EST	4:10 PM EST
Fri 24	12:43 AM EST	6:35 AM EST	12:51 PM EST	7:13 PM EST			7:10 AM EST	4:13 PM EST
Sat 25	1:32 AM EST	7:28 AM EST	1:43 PM EST	8:03 PM EST			7:11 AM EST	4:14 PM EST
Sun 26	2:23 AM EST	8:24 AM EST	2:39 PM EST	8:55 PM EST			7:11 AM EST	4:14 PM EST
Fri 31		12:56 AM EST	7:21 AM EST	1:48 PM EST	8:03 PM EST		7:12 AM EST	4:18 PM EST

“Up-coming Activities”

Have a safe & happy holidays

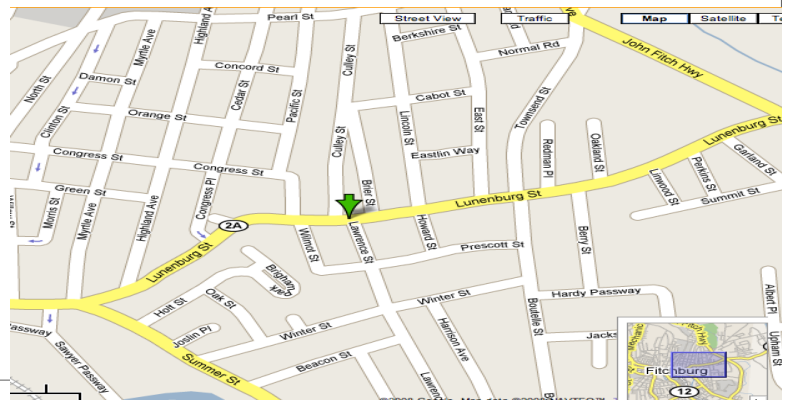
Shore dives, including night dives, to be announced at the next the meeting!

Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery’s located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7:00p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6:30p.m. Please feel free to contact any of the board members.



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Dive Log

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The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in SCUBA diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands-on experience in a variety of areas including: safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystems, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



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