

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

Apr 2016

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General Meeting Minutes

Present: Adam Biehl, Mike Kitchen (Welcome back Mike!), John Guegold, Mike Rohde, Laurel Sheppard, Andrea Caito, Debi Wamsley, Tom Zelanin, Dave Foley, Marty Bailey, Steve Locsey, Glenn Mitchell & Gerry Kubatska

Treasurer's Report

\$ 6,512.66

50/50

Gerry Kubatska won the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings back.

Member Raffle

Mike Kitchen won the member raffle which was a book on sharks donated by club member **Laurel Sheppard**.

Announcements

1. NMGL/MAST Nautical Archaeology Training Workshop is April 9 to 10 at the National Museum of the Great Lakes ([1701 Front Street, Toledo, OH](http://www.nmgl.org)) and will be followed up by in-water training on May 21 or 22 at White Star Quarry ([901 S. Main Street, Gibsonburg, OH](http://www.whitestarquarry.com)). More information can be found on the MAST web site at: <http://www.ohiomast.org/workshops/>

3. Want to go to Bonaire? Go with a group from the Sea Nags! Members will be in Bonaire for a total of two weeks. The first week is scheduled for Buddy Dive Resort Sept. 24 thru Oct 1, 2016 and the second week will be Oct 1 thru Oct 8, 2016. Some more information can be found in the attached pdfs (divi_poster.pdf

and buddy_poster.pdf). To book contact Cheryl Patterson at Deep Blue Adventures Ph 1-888-266-2209 ext 101 or Email Cheryl@deepblueadventures.com. If wishing to use airline miles, you will need to book your own flight. Fly United to New Jersey and then Bonaire. Flights appear to be around \$665 to \$842 on Expedia & United web sites depending on dates selected.

4. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

5. Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof--and extra patches for \$2.00 each while they last.

Dues can be mailed to:

Glenn Mitchell
120 N. Warren Ave.
Columbus, OH 43204

6. Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook page by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy Dennis.

7. Twitter page!! Thanks to **Josh Carney**, the club now has a **Twitter page**: <@CbusSeaNags>. Check it out today!



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

2016

Apr

7 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Fish Egg Collection Program at Columbus Zoo's Discovery Reef, Ramon Villaverde

21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

May

5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Ryan Jones' Cozumel Trip

19 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

21 Club Dive @ Lakeview RV Park Lancaster, 9:00 AM

June

2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Marty Bailey Germany Trip

11 Twilight Dive at Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM

16 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

July

7 Social @ Planks, 7:00 PM No Program!

8 – 10 2nd Annual Whitestar Dive and Camping Trip with Twilight Dive More details to appear in June Newsletter

21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Aug

4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

6 Corn Roast @ Circleville Dive Center

18 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

TBD – Corn Roast, Swap Meet and Twilight Dive

Sept

1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

17 Twilight Dive @ Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM

15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

24 – 25 Dive Trip to Pennyroyal Quarry, Pennyroyal Quarry Hopkinsville, KY www.pennyroyalscuba.com

Oct

6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Nov

3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Dec

1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Monthly meeting programs subject to change without notice.

Executive Meeting Highlights

Jan 21 @ Planks, 7:00 PM **Present:** Dave Foley, Glenn Mitchell, Gerry Kubatska, Mag Ranft and Steve Ranft

All members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings

We discussed embroidering items with the club logo. Details to come at the next meeting. Also discussed a possible trip to Our World

Underwater next year (Feb. 24 – 26, 2017) in Rosemont, IL. Could include this trip with going back to Cozumel. So some members might fly into Chicago for a night lay over to attend the conference while others drive up to meet up. First club dive of the year will be May 21st at Lancaster RV Park.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

<ColumbusSeaNagsNewsletter@gmail.com>

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Spasms

None reported

Oral Reports

None reported

Written Reports

None reported

Environmental News

New Shark Subspecies Discovered in Galapagos

By Thomas Gronfeldt, ScubaDiverLife.com, Mar. 2, 2016



Image from California Academy of Sciences

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Although it's been more than 150 years since Charles Darwin made the Galapagos Islands famous for its many indigenous species, these remarkable islands are not yet done surprising us.

A recent expedition by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution set out to study the seamounts, essentially underwater mountains, that surround the islands. These seamounts, more than 70 in total, make up more than 95 percent of the islands, and yet are almost completely unexplored. In the process of seamount exploration, the researcher happened to come across an as-yet unknown subspecies of catshark.

Catsharks are a prolific family of sharks, counting more than 150 subspecies. They are distinguished by their elongated, cat-like eyes, from which they derive their name. They often feature a spotted pattern and two small dorsal fins. While catsharks can vary greatly in size, up to about 5 feet, the new shark subspecies is among the smaller members of the family, only about 1.3 feet in length, or about the same size as a standard house cat. And this is not the first time that the Galapagos archipelago has seen the discovery of new species; in 2012, another species of catshark was found in much the same area.

The catshark discovery highlights the importance of seamounts as habitats for marine life, and the need to further explore these underwater mountains, both around the Galapagos Islands and elsewhere in the world. The researchers hope that their findings will help drive legislation to extend the protected status of the Galapagos to include the underwater landscape as well as the terrestrial one.

"Seamounts are biodiversity hotspots and essential stepping stones for migratory species, including many threatened shark, turtle and cetacean species," says Pelayo Salinas de León, senior marine ecologist at the Charles Darwin Foundation. "We still have many months of samples and data analysis ahead of us, but this expedition highlights the need to include some of these seamounts as protected areas."

The Galapagos, a group of 13 islands in all, is known for its natural beauty and importance as a habitat for animals above and below the surface. The islands and parts of the underwater landscape that surrounds them are part of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, or GMR, and it is this marine reserve that the researchers now hope can be extended to include the seamounts.

The 3-week WHOI expedition was run from the *Alucia*, a research and exploration vessel that features two submarines. The expedition explored the seamounts not only via these subs, but also with various side-scan sonar and hull-based imaging hardware. The data that was gathered formed the basis for planning dives, wherein research divers would collect, among other things, geological samples.

"We've just begun to scratch the surface as far as characterizing this environment," said Dan Fornari, a marine geologist at WHOI and co-principal investigator. "We've mapped only about 10 percent of the platform, and already we see tremendous value in how these types of studies can inform our understanding of the Galapagos archipelago."

Source:

<http://scubadiverlife.com/2016/03/02/new-shark-subspecies-discovered-galapagos/>

Mother and Calf of Elusive Whale Species Frolic In New Video

By Hilary Hanson, March 5, 2016



An Omura's whale mother and calf in a photo from the New England Aquarium.

The whales were only identified as a distinct species in 2003.

Elusive whales living near Madagascar swim to and fro in beautiful footage newly released by a biologist with the New England Aquarium.

Dr. Salvatore Cerchio, who specializes in marine mammals, traveled to Madagascar more than 10 years ago to study dolphins, according to Fox News. But in 2013, Cerchio and his team discovered a group of Omura's whales, a species that was previously known only to live in the Indian Ocean near Australia and the western Pacific.

"Once we realized they were Omura's whales, it was mind-boggling because, first of all, no one had studied these animals," he told Fox. "No had seen them or documented them in the wild and they were not supposed to be in Madagascar."

Last year, the biologist released what the New England Aquarium said was the first video of the rare species ever taken in the wild. This week, Cerchio and his team released a new video showing a mother with her calf.

Source:

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/omuras->

[whale-mother-calf-video_us_56db055ae4b0ffe6f8e99f67](#)

Log Book

Russian scuba divers set deepest under-ice dive record

By Brooks Hays, March 6, 2016



A team of dive researchers wait at the top of the ice hole to receive the divers after their record-setting descent. Photo by Russia Today/YouTube/screenshot

KAZAN, Russia, March 6 (UPI) -- Two Russian divers say they've set yet another record, this time for deepest dive under ice.

The scuba divers recently emerged through a hole in the icy surface of the White Sea, having descended nearly 338 feet, or 102 meters -- a record for deepest dive under ice. Deeper Antarctic dives have been recorded, but never through a hole in the ice.

The White Sea is a large inlet of the Barents Sea off the northwest coast of Russia.

Maksim Astakhov and Aleksandr Gubin are an adventurous pair of professional scuba divers with a handful of diving records to their names. In 2014, the pair dived to the bottom of 318-foot volcanic lake in Antarctica.

Their latest dive again subjected the two divers

to extreme conditions -- subzero temperatures and intense water pressure.

"At a depth of 100 meters my gloves tightened so much it felt like I was going to see my nails. My hands felt terribly cold," Gubin told *Russia Today*.

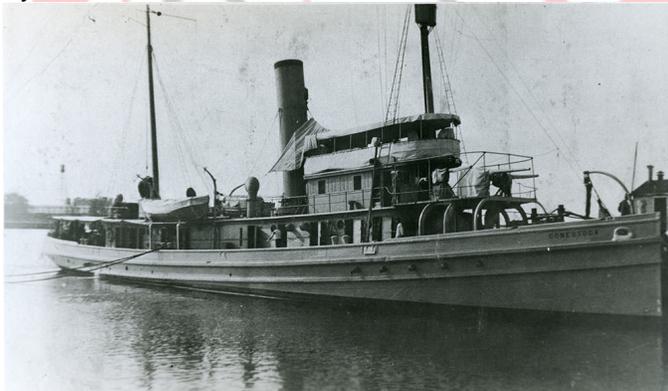
The divers spent a few minutes upon the floor of the White Sea testing their equipment and collecting soil samples. The dive lasted 80 minutes.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2016/03/06/Russian-scuba-divers-set-deepest-under-ice-dive-record/2741457280931/

USS Conestoga wreckage discovered 95 years after sinking

By Janet Weinstein, ABC News, KVUE, March 23, 2016



USS Conestoga at San Diego, California, January 1921
(Photo: Naval Historical Center Photograph NH71299)

WASHINGTON - Ninety-five years after the USS Conestoga disappeared on the way to Pearl Harbor, the boat's wreckage has been found off the coast of California.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S Navy confirmed the find at a commemoration event in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday.

"Conestoga's disappearance is no longer a

mystery," the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation at NOAA, Manson Brown, announced. "We hope and pray this discovery brings the beloved families of Conestoga's lost officers and crew some measure of closure."

Fifty-six men died on-board the Navy tugboat, then part of the seagoing fleet. The ship was lost when it was on the way to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in the spring of 1921. The exact cause of the wreck is still unknown.

Violet Plummer, a great niece of a commanding officer on board, told ABC News that the announcement fills a hole in a family narrative she'd been hearing her whole life.

"[Officer Harvey Reinbold's] name was brought up many times in my childhood," Plummer said. "He was never forgotten, but they never had the answer of where he actually was or what happened. I was always told he was about to retire and this would have been his last [deployment]. And, unfortunately, it was."

Researchers credit a NOAA survey for initially spotting the shipwreck site in 2009. After years of investigation using technology like underwater autonomous underwater vehicles, researchers were able to link the USS Conestoga to the remains.

Some key clues included the matching of the ship's remaining structure with initial blueprints, an uncovered steam engine, and a gun discovered among the wreckage - exactly like one photographed during the tugboat's missions.

"This is a big discovery," Matt Brookhart, an acting director at NOAA, told ABC News. "It's been a very long process; almost a decade in the making. It takes a lot to make sure."

The ship will remain in its current resting spot at the bottom of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary outside San Francisco's Golden Gate.

Source:

<http://www.kvue.com/news/national/uss-conestoga-wreckage-discovered-95-years-after-sinking/98696638>

Project Ariadna Will Offer GPS for Divers

Trevor Sanford, ScubaDiverLife.com, March 5, 2016



Project Ariadna unveils the first-ever independent GPS-based underwater navigation technology for divers.

Although we've all grown accustomed to the (usually) accurate directions provided by our GPS-based smartphones, underwater, we must rely on compass navigation. The researchers behind Project Ariadna have spent more than six years trying to change that, creating the first personal, underwater, GPS-based navigation technology. The last remaining milestone: Miniaturizing it into a wrist-worn device.

Divers cannot use terrestrial GPS satellite technology, as the high-frequency signal can only penetrate approximately 2 millimeters into the water. Over the years, there have been a number of attempts based on ultrasonic signals, but limitations caused by signal reflections and many other environmental

drawbacks have made these products impractical.

The idea behind Project Ariadna is to use an inertial navigation data fusion principle to calculate a diver's position when submerged. At the surface, the GPS signal is used as a point of reference. Immediately upon submerging, Ariadna switches to its inertial data fusion technology. Using 11 independent sensors and an extremely sophisticated algorithm, it processes data in real time and calculates the movement vectors.

As a result, a diver can monitor graphically, in real time, his exact position and executed route on the map. Ariadna technology provides a diver with precise, turn-by-turn navigation along the planned route. After diving, the resulting 3D-dive log can be reviewed with such tools as Google Earth for post-dive analysis and sharing with other divers.

Underwater "Google Maps"

Project Ariadna gives divers access to all the familiar features of common GPS navigation systems, such as Points of Interest (POI). The list of POIs in Ariadna's system enables divers to plan intriguing routes, even in new dive sites. It also possible to add a new POI during a dive to mark new discoveries, as well as to attach them later on underwater photos and videos.

It's possible to review and accurately allocate pictures taken along a dive route by using Google Earth software features during post-dive analysis. One of Project Ariadna's big goals is to eventually create an underwater map of the world with underwater POIs already marked and ready for easy route planning.

With its ability to record, save and share routes

with precise POI markings, it's hoped that Ariadna will be a useful tool for scientists, underwater biologists and explorers. The precise-position information provided by Ariadna as GPS coordinates will make all location-data related tasks, such as cave surveying and mapping of underwater archaeological sites, more effective and straightforward. Data collected with Ariadna can also be exported to external software for further processing.

Improving Diver Safety

Losing your way in bad visibility can increase stress levels and lead to panic. Anxiety can also result in increased gas consumption and an urge to ascend too quickly, or to surface in a dangerous spot. Using Project Ariadna may help divers reduce stress by providing constantly updated location awareness, as well as other safety-related features, such as Remaining Bottom Time and Distance (RBTD), an extension of the currently used RBT technology. To further improve dive safety, Ariadna offers the "Navigate Home" function, which graphically indicates the shortest route to the dive entry point, and is activated with a single press of a button. Although the technology is already operational, the commercial launch of Project Ariadna is expected in 2017.

Source:

<http://scubadiverlife.com/2016/03/05/project-ariadna-will-offer-gps-for-divers/>

Diver Has Visited The Same Friendly Fish For 25 Years

By Stephen Messenger, thedodo.com, March 29, 2016



Beneath the surface of Japan's Tateyama Bay stands a shrine called a torii, sacred to the Shinto religion. But more than being a place of spiritual importance, the underwater site is host to something else that's remarkable — a unique friendship between a man and a fish.

For more than two decades, a local diver named Hiroyuki Arakawa has been entrusted with overseeing the shrine and being a guide to others who wish to visit it. In that time, he's become well-acquainted with the local marine animals who live in the area — including one friendly Asian sheepshead wrasse named Yoriko.

Over the course of 25 years, the pair have forged an incredible bond based on trust and respect.

Perhaps the sweetest testament to their friendship can be seen in Arakawa's custom of greeting Yoriko with a kiss.

Although fish may not be commonly considered particularly feeling sorts of creatures, that's a notion based more on misconception than reality. In fact, a recent study found that fish are smarter and more social than previously thought — and one only need look at Arakawa and Yoriko's quarter-century-long relationship for proof.

Source:

<https://www.thedodo.com/diver-visits-fish-25-years-video-1695525718.html>

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NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Apr 7, 2016. Program: Fish Egg Collection Program at Columbus Zoo's Discovery Reef, Ramon Villaverde

The Columbus Sea Nags

