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Wreck Diving Adventures With LIDA

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The first warm rays of the sun begin to streak over the water as a brand new day begins. And while the rest of the world is still fast asleep, at the boatyard there is hushed activity beginning to stir as arriving divers begin to load their gear on the dive boat. Here, the early morning solitude is broken only by the soft

clanking of scuba tanks, the occasional cry of sea birds, the gentle lapping of water against the shore and the lazy groan of ropes straining to keep boats tied to their slips.

With all divers and gear safely onboard, the captain barks out the orders to get under way. Suddenly, the serenity of this early morning scene is shattered as the twin diesel engines of a local dive boat roar to life. The crew scrambles to remove all mooring lines and prepares to shove off. While milling about on the stern, new comers to wreck diving begin to breath a little faster as their excitement level rises. Veteran wreck divers cannot help but start planning their arduous dive profiles, while others fiddle with their gear and prepare for the day of diving.

Today, the boat is headed to the open ocean. With a gentle breeze, a rising sun and a hint of brine in the air, the day looks to be magnificent. For the divers, a wreck diving adventure awaits. Looking

out over the open ocean, the divers wonder: What will this wreck look like? What will the visibility be today? What will I see on the wreck? What marine life will I encounter? What artifacts will I find? The questions are numerous and as individual as the divers themselves.

Divers in the Long Island, New York and New Jersey area are blessed with amazing world-class wreck diving opportunities to complement the shore diving adventures along our beautiful coasts. Each weekend during the season, and often during the week as well, divers can be found exploring the richly historical wrecks that are strewn along the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean and the long Island Sound. And now, diving these wrecks is easier and more affordable than ever before for members of the Long Island Divers Association.



LIDA is a not-for-profit regional organization staffed completely by volunteers and is dedicated to the promotion of local diving, the representation of divers' interests throughout the diving and general community, and the protection of divers' rights through outreach to our local and regional government officials.

This season, the LIDA and the Eastern Dive Boat Association have teamed up to create a unique discount program exclusively for LIDA members. LIDA members will be eligible to receive a 10 percent discount on virtually all charters on participating EDBA member boats for the entire 2009 dive season.



To qualify, simply inform the captain of your LIDA membership when booking your trip, and present your valid LIDA membership card when checking in. In addition, LIDA will be sponsoring dives to selected sites throughout the season as well as providing food and beverages for the surface interval and the ride back to the dock.

Please refer to the LIDA website or subscribe to their mailing list – www.lidaonline.com –for a schedule of sponsored dives. Some restrictions may apply, please talk to the captain of the vessel in question for details.

The waters south of Long Island and east of New Jersey are filled with fascinating shipwrecks. Ships from virtually every era in American history can be found in these waters, many in depths that are easily accessible to divers of all levels of certification. Two of the most popular ones are the USS San Diego, a World War I era armored cruiser that sank about 12 miles south of Fire Island after hitting a floating mine left by a German U-Boat, and the Oregon, a luxury liner that sank in 1886 after colliding with an unidentified vessel in the dark of night. Local dive boats also regularly visit the Lizzie D, a prohibition era Rum Runner, the Iberia, sunk in 1888 and the Stolt D'Agali, a Norwegian steel-hulled tanker that collided with an Israeli luxury liner on Thanksgiving Day in

1964. In addition, many of the charter boats often schedule trips to Moriches Artificial Reef and the Shinnecock Artificial Reef where divers can explore man-made reefs teeming with local marine life.



For those divers who have never explored a local shipwreck, now's your chance to give it a try. These wrecks offer an unequalled glimpse into maritime history and an opportunity for an exciting adventure in your own backyard. For experienced divers, the LIDA/EDBA discount program is a great way to maximize your diving dollars. For everybody, local wreck diving is a great way to explore our world and make new friends in the process. Adventure, excitement and fun are guaranteed for all!

Michael Salvatore and Christopher P. Weaver have documented a world of adventure topside and underwater through their Long Island, N.Y.-based business Eco-Photo Explorers. They are popular lecturers and their work has been published in leading diving and general interest magazines. Learn more at www.ecophotoexplorers.com.

Participating Vessels

Jeanne-II

Capt. Bill Reddon
(718) 332-9574
www.jeanne-ii.com

R/V Garloo

Capt. Hank Garvin
(845) 735-5550
www.garloent.com

Lockness

Capt. John Gorman
(516) 298-2633
www.locknessdiveboat.com

Karen II

Capt. Robert Hayes
(718) 421-5547
www.diveboatkaren.com

Euphoria

Capt. Kevin Osterbery
(631) 878-4179
www.EuphoriaCharters.com

Defiance



Capt. Mike Carew
(718) 885-1588

Sea Turtle
Sidekick

Capt. Chuck Wade
(631) 335-6323 / (631) 725-0565
www.seaturtlecharters.com

Fish On

Capt. Steve Scarfogliero
(631) 676-6713
www.fishonfishing.com

Sea Lion

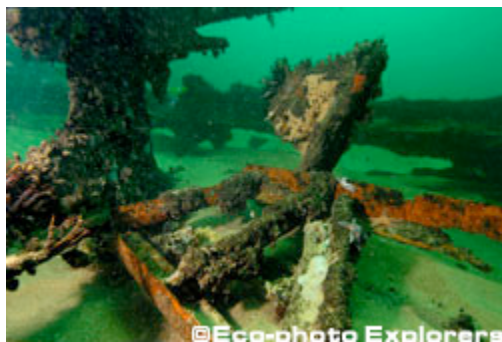
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John Jack

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www.atlantic-wreckdivers.com







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