

Midwest & Northeast Edition



# Midwest Dive News



June 2009

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 Dive News Magazine is committed to promoting the sport of scuba diving in the Northeast and Midwest. We will present a practical, unbiased point of view regarding all aspects of the sport of scuba diving.

The Dive News Magazine believes in honesty and integrity in business and will support all efforts related to this. We encourage readers to participate in determining the content of this publication by giving us their opinions on the types of articles they would like to see. We invite letters to the editor, manuscripts and photographs related to diving or diving-related business. Send us your stories and photos!

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The Dive News Magazine reserves the right to refuse service to anyone it chooses. The contents of Northeast and Midwest Dive News are opinions of individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, editor or any of its staff. The publishers and contributors assume no responsibility for any mishap claimed to be a result of use of this material. Diving is an adventure sport and contains inherent risks. Improper use of diving equipment or improper diving techniques may result in serious injury or death. Readers are advised to use their own best judgment in each individual situation.

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**ABOUT THE COVER**



◀Cover Photo by Warren Lo  
 Toronto, Ontario, boasts tremendous opportunities to explore the rich marine heritage in the Great Lakes. Warren Lo takes the time to explore as many wrecks in his home town of Toronto as possible and is rarely seen on a dive without a camera in hand. His pictures of these amazing shipwrecks have been showcased over the years in various publications, newspaper and television. For information or to see more images Warren has taken, please visit [www.warrenlophotography.com](http://www.warrenlophotography.com).

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*By Bill Pfeiffer*

The bays, inlets, and beaches of the Long Island area are a diver's paradise with depths that are home to some of the more famous shipwrecks on the east coast. These waters which go from cold winter dives to warm summer dives beckon tropical fish to the area provide great locations for beginner and expert divers alike.



**NORTHEAST CANADIAN DIVES**

**14 Georgian Bay - A Wreck Diving Paradise**

*By Alec Pierce*

Heavy maritime traffic has made the bay one of the top freshwater wreck diving site in North America. Crystal clear water and the incredibly intact wrecks draw quite a crowd during summers. Accessible, located an hour and a half from Toronto and just a short six-hour drive from New York, Georgian Bay is a big draw for the divers throughout the region who seek affordable trips.



**MIDWEST DIVES**

**20 International Legends Honored**

*By Jamie Farris*

They are the trail blazers of the world's waterways who explored new frontiers to make the way for generations of scuba divers to come. They are the International Legends of Diving and in April of this year they were honored for the work they have done and the things that they have accomplished.



**TROPICAL DESTINATIONS**

**24 Discovering the Philippines**

*By Denise Mattia*

My expectations were great when I embarked on a 10-day trip to the Philippines, with plans to dive everything from World War II shipwrecks to lush coral reefs off islands that comprise the Philippines archipelago. I chose three of 7,107 islands, some barely break the surface of the water, that divide the South China Sea and the Sulu Sea from the Pacific Ocean. Any qualms about going such a distance disappeared the following morning, when I sank into the waters off Panglao Island.





**Northeast**

**JUNE**

**June 3:** Wednesday Night Dives, 5:30 p.m., Essex, Conn., (860) 767-1960.

**June 3:** Dive Club Meeting, The Hammerheads, 7 p.m., Salty Dog Eats & Drinks, Lynnhaven Dive Center, Virginia Beach, Va. (757) 481-7949.

**June 4:** Coast Guard rescue demo, 5:30 p.m. Whites Beach, Manchester, Mass. [www.northshorefrogmen.com](http://www.northshorefrogmen.com).

**June 4-7:** American Littoral Society's Maine Coast Weekend, Reservations required. [www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org).

**June 5-7:** Drive and Dive, All Day, Everyday, Scuba Shack, Rock Hill, Conn. 860-563-0119.

**June 5-7:** American Littoral Society's Montauk- N.Y., Weekend. Reservations required. [www.littoralsociety.org](http://www.littoralsociety.org).

**June 5-7:** Drive and Dive Days, Dive Dutch Springs, Bethlehem, Pa., ScubaShack, (860) 563-0119.

**June 6:** Drift Dives Dingmans Landing, 8 a.m. Delaware River, Pa, [scubadms.com](http://scubadms.com).

**June 6-7:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Yard Sale, Free food, great deals and prizes, Lehigh Valley Dive, Bethlehem, Pa., (610) 746-4016.

**June 8-10:** Wreck Hunt weekend, Olympus Dive Center, Moorehead City, N.C. [www.olympusdiving.com](http://www.olympusdiving.com).

**June 10:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**June 10:** Photographer Mark Snyder talks on multi-strobe setups, 7 p.m. New York City Sea Gypsies. [www.seagypsies.org](http://www.seagypsies.org).

**June 12-14:** Vintage Dive Rally, All Day, Historical Diving Society and Brownstone Park, Portland, Conn., (866) 860-0208.

**June 15-18:** Spear Fishing dinner diver weekend, Olympus Dive Center, Moorehead City, N.C. [www.olympusdiving.com](http://www.olympusdiving.com).

**June 15-18:** Rebreather Only Charter, Olympus Dive Center, Moorehead City, N.C. [www.olympusdiving.com](http://www.olympusdiving.com).

**June 19-21:** New York State Divers Association Convention, Lake George,

N.Y. Ray Tucker: (315) 337-6938. or [www.scubany.org](http://www.scubany.org).

**June 20:** Night Dives, 4 p.m., Hearthstone Point State Campground, Lake George, N.Y. [scubadms.com](http://scubadms.com).

**June 20:** Summer Solstice Charity Event, Brownstone Park, Portland, Conn. (866) 860-0208.

**June 22-26:** Scuba Rangers, Kids ages 8-12, 8:30 -11a.m. Lynnhaven Dive Center, Virginia Beach, Va., 757-481-7949.

**June 24:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**June 27:** Gala fundraiser raffle for Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vergennes, Vt. [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org).

**June 27:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**JULY**

**July 8:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**July 8:** Northeast Dive News Editor Bob Sterner talks on Diving in Paradise, 7 p.m., New York City Sea Gypsies. [www.seagypsies.org](http://www.seagypsies.org).

**July 11:** Dive Lake Sacandaga, N.Y. New York State Divers Association. [www.scubany.org](http://www.scubany.org).

**July 20-26:** Valcor Island, N.Y., camp and dive outing, New York State Divers Association. [www.scubany.org](http://www.scubany.org).

**July 21:** Eco-Photo Explorers talk on Galapagos, 7-8:30 p.m., Brentwood, N.Y., Public Library. [www.ecophotoexplorers.com](http://www.ecophotoexplorers.com).

**July 22:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**July 24-26:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Lobsterpalooza, New England Aquarium Dive Club, Boston, [www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org)

**July 25:** Great Annual Fish Count, Stage Fort Park, Newport, R.I. [www.neadc.org](http://www.neadc.org).

**July 25:** Princeton Tec Demo Days, all day at Dutch Springs Quarry, Bethlehem, Pa. [www.dutchsprings.com](http://www.dutchsprings.com).

**Midwest**

**JUNE**

**June 5- 6:** Treasure Hunt at Bonne Terre Mine, Bonne Terre, Mo. [www.scubaboard.com](http://www.scubaboard.com)

**June 6-7:** DUI Demo and DOG Days- Scuba Emporium Pearl Lake, South Beloit, Ill., (954) 572-2642

**June 9:** Narked Sharks Club Meeting, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Illinois Institute of Diving, Glen Ellyn, Ill., (630) 469-3483.

**June 11:** Dive Club Meeting The Aquaholics, 7:00, Dive Right In Scuba, Plainfield, Ill., (815) 267-8400.

**June 14:** Annual Dive Club Picnic, 12 p.m. Spring Mill Pond, Aquatic Adventures of Michigan, Brighton, Mich., (810) 225-9868.

**June 24:** Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Helix building, Chicago, [www.uaschicago.org](http://www.uaschicago.org).

**June 15:** Nancy Boucha speaks at Chicago Scuba Meet Up, Chicago [www.meetup.com/chicago-scuba-meetup](http://www.meetup.com/chicago-scuba-meetup)

**June 27:** Aqualung Demo Day. 9 a.m. Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, Ill., (815) 939-7797.

**June 27:** Scuba Camp for Kids 8-12, 11 a.m. Scuba Systems, Skokie, Ill., (847) 674-0222

**June 28:** Dive Equipment Flea Market, Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, Ill., [www.haighquarry.com](http://www.haighquarry.com).

**June 28:** Gorilla Hunt: Support the local dive team, Extreme Sports Scuba, Joplin, Mo., (417) 659-9009.

**JULY**

**July 4-5:** Digital Underwater Photography Contest, White Starr Quarry, Gibsonburg, Ohio, [www.whitestarrquarry.com](http://www.whitestarrquarry.com).

**July 12:** Underwater Treasure Hunt, 2 p.m. Spring Mill Pond, Aquatic Adventures of Michigan, Brighton, Mich., (810) 225-9868.

**July 26:** Jim Haigh Memorial Dive / Diver Appreciation Day, Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, Ill., [www.haighquarry.com](http://www.haighquarry.com).

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# Diving Into Long Island Waters



▲ USS San Diego photographed 28 January 1915, while serving as flagship of the Pacific Fleet. Her name had been changed from *California* on September 1, 1914. Note two-star Rear Admiral's flag flying from her mainmast top. Photo courtesy: Courtesy NJScuba.net

▲ A boardwalk leads to the beach, Fire Island, N.Y.. Photo by: Marie LeTourneau

By Bill Pfeiffer  
Contributing Writer/Dive Instructor

Whether you are a beach diver or a wreck diver there are a lot of scuba diving opportunities available in the waters surrounding Long Island. The bays, inlets, and beaches of Long Island are home to some

of the more famous shipwrecks on the East Coast. Whether cold winter dives or warm summer ones the waters provide great diving for beginners and experts alike.

Divers here tend to fall into one of two groups – beach divers and wreck divers. It sometimes seems that there isn't a lot of

crossover but we take every opportunity to encourage divers to get out and hit the water regardless of their preference. We are constantly trying to get the ones who want to come out and play on the beaches to visit our wrecks and the wreck divers to come play on our beaches.

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▲ Oregon steams under way in a historic photo. Courtesy Eco-Photo Explorers

▲ A shot of the beach on a REALLY windy day, Fire Island, NY. Photo by: Marie LeTourneau

Long Island's shipwreck diving is among the best in the country with treasures still to be found throughout. Some wrecks have been featured on History Channel specials, such as the wreck of the *U.S.S. San Diego*. Our shoreline offers a variety of unique sites sure to satisfy the inquisitive diver. No matter what draws you to the water, Long Island dive sites have the perfect dive for the curious and the adventurous. Dive shops, dive charter boats, and scuba clubs are easy to find throughout Long Island.

There are lots of options to draw wreck divers to the waters located between New Jersey and Block Island. Long Island is a thin island shaped like a fish with the head to the west and the tail fins to east. The area south of **Fire Island**, Long Island's barrier beach, holds literally thousands of wrecks. Boats depart from south shore marinas in Brooklyn, Hempstead, Freeport, Captree, Moriches and Shinnecock. From the eastern end of the island they depart Montauk for Block Island wrecks and the *Andrea Doria*, the Italian

luxury liner that sank following a collision in heavy fog on July 25, 1956 with the Swedish freighter *Stockholm*.

The *San Diego* is Long Island's signature wreck. Mystery remains as to whether it was a mine, torpedo or an accidental explosion that caused the armored cruiser to sink following an explosion on July 19, 1918. It now lies upside down about 14 miles southeast of Fire Island at 110 feet with its keel at 70 feet. Divers can penetrate the vessel, but this is advisable only for advanced divers with specialized wreck diving training. Anemones, blackfish, black sea bass, lobster and crabs swarm about the wreck.

A bit deeper off Fire Island is the wreck of the *Oregon*, a 518-foot long steamship that was sunk following a collision with the three-masted schooner *Charles R. Moss* on March 14, 1886. It now lies at 130 feet and still regularly yields museum quality artifacts to those with the skill and patience to find them, along with trophy-sized lobsters. The ship was carrying new immigrants to the United States and all of their worldly possessions sank with the vessel, but the 845 passengers and crew escaped with their lives. It also carried artifacts for display at the New York Museum of Natural History.

The area's most famous wreck is the *SS Andrea Doria*, considered by many to be the Mount Everest of diving. Of the 1,706

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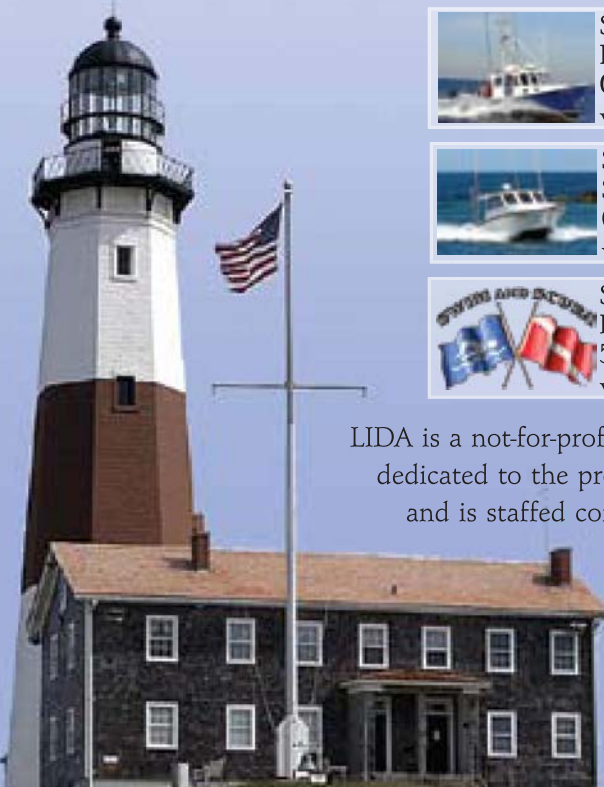


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LIDA is a not-for-profit regional organization dedicated to the promotion of local diving and is staffed completely by volunteers.



[www.lidaonline.com](http://www.lidaonline.com)



▲ The SS Andrea Doria was justifiably considered to be the most beautiful ship of the postwar era. Photo from the Eric Sauder Collection

▲ Great diving along the old Ponquogue Bridge. Photo courtesy of: Long Island Divers Association.

passengers, 46 perished, mostly in the initial collision. Sport diving was in its infancy then and the pioneers of diving honed their skills on the wreck, and later generations recovered exquisite china, silverware and even artworks from a luxury liner that was an art gallery afloat. Those days are mostly gone however, since the wreck has largely collapsed to the 240-foot ocean floor. The depth, cold temperature and stiff currents make this a technical dive requiring special gas mixes and long decompression hangs to dive it safely.

The *Lizzie D*, eight miles southeast of the Atlantic Beach Inlet was hauling a prohibition era cargo of booze when it sank

on Oct. 19, 1922. It sits upright and intact at 80 feet and although she mysteriously burned before she sank, divers still occasionally find full bottles of whiskey. It is a favorite dive site for beginner and intermediate divers as it is extremely easy to navigate around.

Beach diving is a regular pursuit for many local divers. Most popular beach dive sites have easy walk-in access and can be enjoyed by divers of all skill levels. Long Island was created by receding glaciers, so the large boulders that they transported to the region during the last ice age dot the bottom, providing refuge for lobsters and a diverse array of marine life.

The **Ponquogue Bridge**, located in Hampton Bays, is one of Long Island's best, and most accessible beach dives with very good visibility and beautiful marine life. It is especially favored by members of the Long Island Divers Association because LIDA was instrumental in its development and preservation as a dive site. The old draw bridge was being replaced a new elevated bridge and the association urged local authorities to retain the old bridge because divers had been diving it for years. They went one further and put in a marine park with vehicle parking. Strong tidal currents rake through the area, but as peak high tide crests divers can explore the site for up to an hour and a half if they work the current right. The visibility can be exceptional and the site is home to both local and migratory tropical marine life, making the site popular with underwater photographers.

**Clarks Beach**, popularly known as Secret Beach, has long been a favorite local training site, and many students return long after earning their certifications. Flounder rest on its sandy bottom at 15 to 25 feet. A scattering of rocks provide homes for all types of marine life seeking shelter from the mild current. Once slated for development, the property, on Long Island Sound and currently owned by the Town of Greenport, is to be transferred to the County of Suffolk and maintained as parkland. LIDA will be working to assure future access for divers for generations to come.

**Beach 8th Street** is a site that's popular among Long Island and New York City divers alike, since it's located at Far Rockaway,

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▲ Capt. John Gorman and Pat Rooney showing off their loot aboard the Lockness. Photo courtesy of: Long Island Divers Association.

▲ View of the old Ponquogue Bridge. Photo courtesy of: Long Island Divers Association.

Queens, N.Y. Divers can hit the water throughout the year and many instructors use the site for training. Visibility frequently exceeds 30 feet. This is another great Long Island dive site that sees tropical marine life arrive towards the end of the summer.

Tangs, damsels, grouper and seahorses are frequently observed and photographed here. It's a great site to remind divers of the dense marine life in waters in the shadow of one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world.

Water temperatures range from the low 70s F in the summer to 30s F during winter. There is a whole world of life to see at this site where divers will enjoy sand flats, mussel beds, and a rocky reef full of life. ■

*Bill Pfeiffer has been diving since the 1970's and is an independent NAUI instructor. He prefers to dive year-round off Long Island than to travel to tropical resorts. He is the president of Long Island Divers Association. Contact Bill at [bill@island-diving.us](mailto:bill@island-diving.us).*



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