



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Tritons

Well, the diving season is in full swing and I hope you have had the opportunities to get in the diving you wanted this year. We still have some great dive events on the calendar so there is still time to get in those last few dives. We are also starting to put together our events calendar for next year so bring your ideas to the next business meeting and share them with Jon and the Events Committee.

I have just returned from an Alaskan cruise and tour and I have to say the scenery was breathtaking. And, I even got in some snorkeling time in Ketchikan. It was like diving in Lake Michigan as far as water temperature but we did get to see many, many 5 arm starfish and a few Sunshine starfish as well as 3 types of sea urchins, crabs, some fish and giant kelp. I was amazed that this type of sealife existed that far north. So, maybe next time I go I will try the diving. The tour operator said it is very good and very interesting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President – Randy Skiba
- Vice-President – Mike Leibovtiz
- Secretary – Pam Romund
- Treasurer – Ed Littel
- First Director – Dave O'Malley
- Second Director – Tricia Shields

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Audit – Appointed in Fall
- By Laws & Rules – Gary Duszak
- Entertainment – Dave Vemmer
- Equipment & Safety – S. Leibovitz
- Events – Jon Kitts
- Membership – Adolph Habich
- Merchandise – Pam Romund
- Nominating – Appointed in Fall
- Publicity/Web Site –Mike Leibovitz
- Director of Training – Rich Schak
- Editor of the Trib – Pam Romund
- Illinois Council Delegates – Chuck & Margo Miller

DAN SPONSOR #29362

So, get out there while you still can and do some of the great dives we have here in Chicago and I hope to see all of you at our next meeting.

Good diving to all
Randy

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

August, 2011

Joe Leibovitz was voted in at the July meeting. Welcome aboard Joe!

Our current membership is:

72 full members 1 associate member
TOTAL 73 members

Adolph Habich - Membership Committee

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ENTERTAINMENT AUGUST MEETING

The entertainment this month will be pot luck - the editor forgot to ask so I will be surprised as will you. Sorry going on my vacation instead of putting the Trib together threw me off my timing a bit.

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UPDATED YOUR E-MAIL??

Have you recently updated your e-mail? Please be sure to send any changes to the editor so that you can continue to receive all the action-packed informative issues of the Triton Trib.

TRITON 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

August, 2011		
Saturday, 8/20	Howard/Etherton Day Pearl Lake	This event has been postponed – more to come at the business meeting. Board of Education
Tuesday, 8/23	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 8/27	Dive the Northerner	Jim Hynan 847-967-1738 jhynan74@gmail.com
September, 2011		
F, S&S 9/2-9/5	Dive Mermet Springs Labor Day Road Trip	Lea Hotton: 630 - 917-3165; lhotton@comcast.net Brian Clarke: 847-561-5699; brian@darkknightauto.com Joe Leibovitz: 847-401-6650; joeleibovitz@gmail.com
Tuesday, 9/13	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Sunday, 9/18	Miniature Golf Outing	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Tuesday, 9/20	Uncorked Aboretum	Canceled by Aboretum (going out of business)
Tuesday, 9/27	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
October, 2011		
Saturday, 10/1	Long Grove Apple Days	Needs TIC
Sunday, 10/2	Underwater Pumpkin Carving – Haigh Quarry	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com Tritons hosting event for Illinois Council
*Saturday, 10/8	Lake Geneva Dive	Jim Hynan (jhynan74@gmail.com)
Tuesday, 10/11	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Tuesday, 10/25	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 10/29	Haunted House & Costume Party	Jon Kitts (jon13@voyager.net)
November, 2011		
Saturday, 11/5	Dinner with the Dead Museum Visit & Dinner	Rosana Vemmer (rvmexicana@hotmail.com) 847.698.1727
Tuesday, 11/8	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Saturday, 11/19	Food Depository	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 11/22	Business Meeting -Triton Photo & Video Presentation	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
December, 2011		
Saturday, 12/3	Holiday Party	Triton Board of Directors
Tuesday, 12/13	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com

***Note Date Change**

If you are interested in running an event, contact Jon Kitts [jon13@voyager.net].

The Events Committee is currently working on the planning for the 2012 Events calendar.

Do you have an idea for a new event or perhaps like to repeat one we have done in the past? Always wanted to try something but don't want to do it all by yourself – here is your chance. Contact Jon Kitts and give him all the particulars – if there is enough interest we will add to the upcoming calendar.

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LABOR DAY ROAD TRIP!

Sept. 3-5

It's perfect - a trip that gets you away from home but doesn't break the bank!! Mermet Springs is located in warm, friendly, Southern Illinois and is host to a really neat dive facility. In this 8.5 acre spring-fed quarry, you'll find, among other things, a school bus, boats, a petting zoo (hmmmm...) and the Boeing 727 that was used in the movie U.S. Marshals with Tommy Lee Jones!! It is also home to the strange spoonbill fish. Visibility ranges from 15 to 60 feet and temps are presently 85° at the surface, dropping into the low 50's as you pass through the thermocline at around 55 feet. And if you really want to go deep, they have depth – up to 150 feet! Night diving is allowed on the weekends, as well.



You can camp on site – primitive, or with access to electricity if you have your own camper. But if you're not the camper type, there are plenty of hotels within a few miles in nearby Metropolis, or Paducah, Ky., many with diver rates. If you haven't done so already, pick up a DVD from Lea Hotton, Joe Leibovitz or Brian Clarke, or log onto Mermet's website at <http://www.mermetsprings.com/> and check it out. Like Pearl, it will cost \$20 per day to dive, \$5 for non-divers. They are a fully equipped site and can provide whatever equipment you don't feel like lugging down, air fills, etc.

"With crystal-clear water, 100-foot deep underwater cliffs, sunken wrecks and schools of colored, pre-historic looking fish, Mermet Springs is not just another lake in Southern Illinois...it is a 'First-Class Diving' site."



Let's get a group together and celebrate Labor Day in Southern Illinois this year, enjoying a fun weekend of diving, visiting, and of course – eating!! See or contact Lea, Joe or Brian if you're interested and we'll work out all the details.

TICs:

Lea Hotton: 630 - 917-3165; lhotton@comcast.net Brian Clarke: 847-561-5699;
brian@darkknightauto.com Joe Leibovitz: 847-401-6650; joeleibovitz@gmail.com

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ENTERTAINMENT AT SEPTEMBER MEETING



We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Lavan will present his experiences on Diving the Sea of Cortez while on board the *Rocio del Mar*.

Jonathan Lavan, a citizen scientist, a professional actor and public speaker has been SCUBA Diving for over twenty-five years and taking photographs "underpressure" for about five.

As a SCUBA Diver and owner of Underpressure Diving & Photography he has been a teacher, photographer and research associate for many different organizations. He is currently a volunteer diver & interpreter at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago where he enjoys having underwater question & answer sessions with school children . He is also an Advanced Assessment Team

Member for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (reef.org) and works with Discover The Depths (www.discoverthedepts.com) a local environmental organization that turns school kids on to the ocean.

He formally worked at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, in California teaching kids surface SCUBA diving while wearing drysuits in the tidepool on the back deck of the aquarium. Jonathan is committed to making a difference on this planet through his images and his message of goodwill to all creatures. His photos can be seen at websites for National Geographic, Encyclopedia of Life, Florida Museum of Natural History, REEF, Fishwise and Fishbase. His two a main blogs are: www.underpressure.blogspot.com & www.spurdogsotothercreatures.blogspot.com.

WARM WATER TRIP SEPTEMBER 15-22, 2012 SEA OF CORTEZ

Our spring warm water trip will not be a spring trip as usual but it will be an unusual trip. I have booked all 20 spots on the Rocio Del Mar, a liveaboard, departing from Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Here is the information regarding the costs for this trip.



- Dates:** September 15-22, 2012
- Dive Vessel:** Rocio Del Mar (a liveaboard with 4 dives/day, 2 night dives during the week, and meals)
- Port of Departure:** Puerto, Peñasco, MX
- Cost:** \$2295.00/diver
- Marine Park Fee:** \$25.00/diver
- Shuttle Cost from Phoenix:** \$100.00/person roundtrip
- Optional Nitrox Fee:** \$100.00 for the week
- Not Included:** Transportation to Phoenix and gratuities for the crew.
- Water Temps in September: 80-85°!!!**

The first deposit of \$575.00 is due

when you sign up. The second deposit of \$575.00 will be due March 1, 2012 and the final payment will be due June 1, 2012. If you are interested, please contact me to make payment arrangements. You can pay either by check, credit card or even PayPal. I also have a limited number of brochures from the dive operator if you would like to see more plus there is a web site for the operator.

Space is limited so please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us.

Randy Skiba
Global Access, Inc.
(847) 312-9208 my cellphone if you would like to discuss this trip
r_skiba@comast.net for email questions

The value of any freebies generated by the group will be shared on a proportional basis by all participants after the completion of the trip in the form of a rebate. This event is being run by Global Access, Inc., a profit based travel agency, Randy Skiba, Owner.



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LAKE GENEVA DIVE SATURDAY OCTOBER 8th \$35.00

Put it in your calendars for now. Cost is a whopping \$35 for members and \$45 for guests. This also covers dinner at the house after.

Very easy charter dive (2 tank dive with a 10 AM start), shallow and fun. Ideal for your first charter dive, if you are a newer diver. Lots to eat after, back at the house. Eat, drink, watch college football, and walk to the lake after. A real stressful afternoon.

There is room for 10 divers, so sign up at the August meeting

Jim Hynan 847-967-1738 jhynan74@gmail.com

PLANNING AHEAD

Our club is going to celebrate our **55th Anniversary in 2012**, what a milestone! So what could make the occasion extra special? How about a way to share and remember all the pleasant moments, fun times and great people? If every member shares one story / pictures, with the rest of the group we can make a nice CD or DVD. Don't keep all these experiences just in your memory, share with your fellow Tritons. Send your input to: LAlonso@stepan.com Deadline February 15, 2012.

Thank you, Lourdes Alanso

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DIVE THE NORTHERNER SATURDAY PM AUGUST 27TH - \$80.00

Let's get a fun charter on the calendar. Jerry Guyer's *Len Der* charter will be in Port Washington the last weekend in August (the same one we have used for Milwaukee Area dives). His club will dive in the AM, and we have it reserved for the PM on Saturday the 27th. Arrive by 1:30 for a 2 PM departure. The *Northerner* is a fairly intact wreck that is a lot of fun to dive. It is a bit deeper than the

Prins Willem, so it would be good to have experienced wreck divers on board to show the ropes to our newer wreck divers. This should probably not be one's first wreck dive.

The dive is half booked, we have 4 divers reserved and there is room for 4 more, first paid first served. Price is \$80 for club members and \$90 for guests. More details and directions to come later. In the meantime, learn a little about the wreck from the website below:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northerner_\(schooner\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northerner_(schooner)) The *Northerner* is an 81 foot long, two masted schooner. It shipwrecked on November 29, 1868 five miles southeast of Port Washington, Wisconsin. The bottom of the ship currently lies under 130/135 feet of water. Lots more to read on the website.

Call me or sign up at the August meeting. Jim Hynan 847-967-1738 jhynan74@gmail.com

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MID-WEEK MENTAL HEALTH DIVE WEDNESDAY, JULY 20TH - PEARL LAKE

It was one of the hottest days of the year – almost 100 degrees. The mere thought of climbing into a hot rubber suit made you sweat but Mother Nature surprised us all! There was a steady 10 to 15 mile per hour wind at Pearl Lake that made it delightful. We had to anchor things down or they blew away but it was well worth the inconvenience.

Nine Tritons gathered mid morning at Pearl for a day of diving and fun in the sun. There were a few more folks that one would expect on a Wednesday – Loves Park was there doing some training as well as a search and rescue team but the lake offered plenty of room for us all. Water temps varied from 80 to a low of 69 at depth. We even registered over 85 on the sand bar, the white sand absorbing the heat from the sun, it was like climbing into a hot tub as you came up the slope.

We dined on burgers and chicken breast – veggies and fresh fruit for those wanting to eat healthier and cookies to satisfy the sweet tooth. Many thought we would head out about three to beat the traffic but we checked the watch to find it was 4:30 so we all hung around until six or so, we weren't very eager to get back to scorching hot Chicago.

This is always a fun event – no one rushing to do anything - some dove once, some not at all and some three times!! It was a day to kick back and recharge the batteries. Many thanks to Ron Levin for bringing his guitar and entertaining us all for a bit. All in all a great day - I hope we can do again next year.

TIC: Pam Romund

HUMAN FECES BACTERIA JUMPED TO CORAL, CAUSED DIE-OFF

AS SEAS BECOME WARMER AND MORE POLLUTED, OUR BACTERIA MAY MOVE IN.

A mysterious disease that ravaged coral populations in the Caribbean and Florida Keys for more than a decade came from microbes living in human feces, a new study finds. The discovery spotlights at least one disadvantage of making the seas more like our stomachs—warm and nutrient rich—experts say.

Parts of an elkhorn coral's skeleton are exposed where the white pox infection has killed outer tissues.
Photograph courtesy James W. Porter, University of Georgia



Elkhorn coral was once the most common in the Caribbean, but its populations have been reduced by nearly 90 percent over the past 15 years, and it now faces "extremely high risk of extinction in the wild," according to the [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).

One of the major factors in the elkhorn coral die-off was white pox, an infection that kills the thin layer of living cells on the coral surface to reveal the skeleton beneath.

A 2002 study found that white pox was caused by *Serratia marcescens*, a bacterium that is common in humans and that occasionally causes septicemia, an infection that results from bacteria in the blood.

But because *Serratia* is found also in deer, seagulls, and other species, scientists could only guess that human waste was to blame.

Bacteria's Unusual Evolution

For the new study, researchers exposed elkhorn coral to different strains of the bacteria. Some were gathered from animals—seagulls, deer, and cats—and one came from human waste material at a sewage-treatment facility in Key West.

The experiments proved that "it's only the strain from humans that kills coral," said study co-author James Porter, an ecologist at the University of Georgia.

The elkhorn disaster is the first known case of a human disease killing off a marine invertebrate species, according to the study, published online Wednesday in the journal [PLoS One](#).

"Usually we're getting diseases from wildlife," Porter said. "But in this case we're giving our diseases to them."

The white pox case is also unusual, Porter said, because it represents a "triple jump" for the bacteria: Not only did it successfully leap from a vertebrate to an invertebrate species but also from a land to a marine environment and from the oxygen-free, or anaerobic, conditions in our intestines to the well-oxygenated waters of a coral reef.

The bacteria's interspecies jumping ability is perhaps not that surprising, given *Serratia*'s history, Porter said.

"It was the first human disease to become resistant to penicillin in the 1960s," he said. "The microbe has a very flexible genetic structure, and that may have helped it make this triple jump."

Stomach-Like Seas

In part because of the team's discovery, the city of Key West upgraded its sewage plants about three years ago.

"Before they upgraded, the effluent was loaded with [*Serratia*] bacteria. Afterwards, it was undetectable," he said. "We're not saying that not a single bacteria is getting through, but it is undetectable in the samples now."

The team still worries that *Serratia* or other human bacteria could cause similar diseases in other coral species in additional reefs around the world.

"*Serratia* prefers to live in the human stomach, which is warm and nutrient rich," Porter said. "We're worried that tropical oceans, under global warming and [sewage] runoff scenarios, are becoming warmer and more nutrient rich."

Fortunately, the new study suggests that a straightforward solution can stem future outbreaks.

"I think the conservation message from our finding is clear and really unequivocal," Porter said. "Coastal zone communities that want to protect their environment have to treat their human waste exceptionally carefully."

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MINIATURE GOLF OUTING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011 – 3:30 PM
DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
MOUNTAIN VIEW ADVENTURE CENTER
510 E. ALGONQUIN ROAD, DES PLAINES, IL 60016
847-391-5733

It has been a few years since we have done this one – a fun time for all. You don't need to be an excellent golfer to participate. For you BEAR fans, the game will be in New Orleans and is scheduled for a 12 Noon Kick-Off so you can watch the game at home or your favorite watering hole and come on out and play.

We will be playing one 18 hole round – if there is a tie we will play a three hole play-off (the three holes will be the TICs choice). If you haven't been to this facility there are plenty of water hazards to shoot over and around.

Come on out and enjoy a beautiful fall day chasing the little white ball around. For those interested we will retire for refreshments following the game.

At this writing final costs haven't been determined but it will be well under \$10.00 per person. Should have the pricing firmed up by the August business meeting.



TIC: Pam Romund promund@kraftfoods.com or Cell: 847-414-4347

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Many thanks to Judi Stephens for sending these on – information found on Snapple Caps/

FUN FACTS

“Real Fact #694”

Spiny lobsters migrate in groups of 50 or more, forming a conga line on the ocean floor.

“Real Fact #873”

The average sea turtle can't reproduce until it is 25 years old!!

CELEBRATED MANATEE DIES STILL IN CAPTIVITY



HOMOSASSA SPRINGS — Amanda, the manatee that sparked a statewide debate in 2009 about releasing long-captive animals into the wild, has died at the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

Amanda was taken out of the water Tuesday morning so that the park staff could perform a biopsy of an enlarged mammary gland. The procedure, which was considered routine, was completed but Amanda never woke up from sedation, said park manager Art Yerian.

"She's been here for 25 years," he said. "It was a sad day."

In late 2009, Amanda and another manatee, Electra, were pulled from the

spring run at the state park in Citrus County and put into a separate holding area to be prepared for release into the wild. The park is a part of the federal rehabilitation and release program and had been cleared to release captives back into the wild.

But the public was worried because Amanda had spent 36 years in captivity and never developed the skills needed to survive in the wild. The outcry prompted the Citrus County Commission to adopt a resolution opposing the idea. State Sen. Mike Fasano visited the park and spoke against the release.

Hearing the strong public sentiment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Environmental Protection agreed to call off the release and revisit it later. Yerian said decisions on possible releases of the six remaining park manatees have not yet been made.

Amanda was one of the manatees that was part of the Save the Manatee Adopt a Manatee program. The club's executive director, Pat Rose, said that letters would soon be sent to those who had adopted Amanda.

Rescued Christmas Day 1973 after suffering a severe boat propeller injury, Amanda spent her early years in captivity at the Miami Seaquarium. She was moved to Homosassa Springs in 1986.

The manatee was taken to St. Petersburg for a necropsy. Yerian expects results next month.

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CONDOLENCES

We are saddened to report the passing of long time Triton, Bill Martin. Bill and his wife, Vicky, relocated to sunny Arizona many years ago.

Vicky asked that in lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org) in Bill's name. Anyone wishing to send a card can send it to the address listed below.

Vicky Martin
1601 W Carla Vista Dr
Chandler, AZ 85224-4271
480-540-5397

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A big *Triton* THANK YOU!

The following businesses support our organization and we thank them for the generosity. The next time you stop in mention you are a Triton & personally thank them for their support.

BELOW H20

2950 Ogden Avenue
Aurora IL 60504
630-820-2531

CHICAGOLAND SCUBA

732 S. Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-540-7211

DJ'S SCUBA LOCKER

7840 W. Ogden, Suite #9
Lyons, IL 60534
708-442-4388

HAIGH QUARRY

2738 E 2000 North Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
815-939-7797

PIRATE'S COVE DIVING

1103 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-482-1430

SCUBA SYSTEMS

3919 Oakton
Skokie, IL 60076
847-674-0222

TOUCAN DIVE CENTER

756 Frontage Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-356-7826

BERRY DIVE CENTER

3042 N. Milwaukee
Northbrook, IL
847-358-3848

DD DIVE SHOP

1039 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-657-3483

ENTERPRISE MARINE

420 Michael Court
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-640-8113

PEARL LAKE RESORT

Highway 251
South Beloit, IL 61080
815-389-1479

SCUBA EMPORIUM

16336 S. 104th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1614

SEA LION DIVE CENTER

1158 Lake Street
Hanover Park, IL 60107
630-289-1680

UNDERSEAS SCUBA CENTER

611 N. Addison Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181
630-833-8383

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SKIN DIVING IN ALASKA

Three hearty Tritons went Skin Diving on their recent trek to Alaska – Lea Hotton, Randy and Diana Skiba. The water wasn't that cold, approximately 58 degrees F, but they were dressed in 7mm wet suits provided by the tour operator so it was quite manageable. They reported a bit more sea life than in Lake Michigan but the sea bottom did appear to be quite similar to that of the lake.

There were sea cucumbers, sea stars and sunshine starfish (several more legs than the normal sea stars) and in a couple of different colors. There were also stalk anemones, 3 different kinds of sea urchins, a small crab and lots of small fish - they weren't sure of their identity. Giant kelp was also an attraction, fun trying to find fish and marine animals hiding in the plants. All agreed it was a fun excursion; try it if you ever get up there.



The Tritons

FOUNDED IN 1957

P. O. Box 1025
Des Plaines, IL 60017-1025

August, 2011

Triton DIVE LINE: 847-394-0975

www.TheTritons.com

DAN Sponsor -# 29362

The Tritons

**Next Business Meeting - See you August 23, 2011 at
*Giuseppe's***

**1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL
(847) 824-4230**

The restaurant is situated on Lee Street, north of Algonquin and south of Northwest Highway