



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Tritons

It's getting to be time to "Spring" into a new dive season. I hope you're all looking forward to doing both new and familiar dive sites this year. As you should already be aware, our Board of Directors elections will be held at the next business meeting. We are still looking for a few more candidates to round out our slate. If you haven't been on the board before or have not done so for a while, I would ask you to please consider running for one of the available positions. The Board's meetings are now done mostly by conference calls and we are looking for members who can share some new ideas on how to make your club experience better. Our current list of candidates and available positions are listed on Page 4. If you will be unable to attend the business meeting, I ask that you give your proxy vote to another member to insure that your voice is heard.

The Anniversary Party is coming in April and we finally have all the details locked in. We will be at a location we haven't used before so please be sure to mark your calendar for April 16th and join us for a great evening of food, drink and fellowship with Tritons old and new. The details are published in this issue. Also, be sure to check out our calendar of events for March and April and see what fun and interesting events are planned for you.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd. Good diving to all.

Randy

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

March, 2011

We welcome a new member this month, although he is no stranger to most Tritons, having been around the group since he was 4 or so.

Joe Leibovitz

1 Renaissance Place #512

Palatine IL 60067

Cell Phone 847-701-5706

E-Mail joeleibovitz@gmail.com

Our current membership is:

71 full members 2 associate members

TOTAL 73 members

Adolph Habich - Membership Committee

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UPDATE YOUR ROSTERS

Jackie Heirbaut

16 Pheasant Trail,

Lake in the Hills, IL 60156

No Land Line – Cell: 773-704-3382

Work 312-256-8323

e-mail: jfheirbaut@hotmail.com or jackie.heirbaut@firstchicago.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Randy Skiba

Vice-President – Mike Leibovitz

Secretary – Pam Romund

Treasurer – David Gross

First Director – Dave O'Malley

Second Director – Jackie Heirbaut

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit – Dianna Skiba

By Laws & Rules – Gary Duszak

Entertainment – Dave Vemmer

Equipment & Safety – S. Leibovitz

Events – Dave Vemmer

Membership – Adolph Habich

Merchandise – Pam Romund

Nominating – Margy Levnberg

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

TRITON 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

March, 2011		
Saturday, 3/19 – Saturday 3/26	Warm Water Dive Trip St. Eustatius	Randy Skiba (847) 312-9208 cell phone (224) 392-2131 office or r_skiba@comcast.net
Tuesday, 3/22	Business Meeting General Elections	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
April, 2011		
Saturday, 4/9	Chamber Dive/LGH	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Tuesday, 4/12	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Saturday, 4/16	Anniversary Party – Birch River Grill	Randy Skiba (847) 312-9208 cell phone (224) 392-2131 office or r_skiba@comcast.net
*Saturday, 4/23	Dinner and a Show	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Tuesday, 4/26	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 4/30	Pizza Tour & Tasting	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
May, 2011		
Tuesday, 5/10	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Sunday, 5/15	Road Rally	Jon Kitts (jon13@voyager.net)
Tuesday, 5/24	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 5/28	Quarry Dive & Picnic	Needs TIC
Monday, 5/30	Memorial Day Bike Ride, Walk and Eat	Margy & Milt Levenberg margyspec@comcast.net or milspec@comcast.net
June, 2011		
Saturday, 6/4	Port Washington Pirate Fest	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 6/7	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Saturday, 6/12	Frontera Farmers Market & Tasting	Rosana Vemmer (rvmexicana@hotmail.com) 847.698.1727
Tuesday, 6/21	Business Meeting OPEN HOUSE	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Sat & Sun 6/25- 26	Training Weekend Pearl Lk, South Beloit, IL	Board of Education
Saturday 6/25	Quarry Dive & Picnic	Needs TIC Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL
July, 2011		
F, S & S 7/1-4	Florida Wreck/Reef Trip	Steve Leibovitz 847-833-5379 or kb9caw@yahoo.com
Friday, 7/8	Concert in the Park	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 7/12	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Saturday, 7/16	Renaissance Faire	Needs TIC
Wednesday, 7/20	Mid Week Mental Health Dive – Pearl Lake	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Tuesday, 7/26	Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Sunday, 7/31	Jim Haigh Memorial Dive Haigh Quarry	Needs TIC

*** Note Date Change** Sign up now for the event of your choice, contact Dave at DCVemmer@comcast.net!

1st Place – Steve Leibovitz – Boat Bow



2nd Place – John Guennewig – Spotted Eagle Ray



3rd Place – Milt Levenberg – Spotted Eel



PHOTO SHOW WINNERS

To all who participated by submitting their photos and videos and to those who took the time to vote for their favorites, many thanks! The winners were announced at the February business meeting and are posted here for your amazement and amusement. It never ceases to amaze me how very talented (or lucky, I am still not sure which) we all are!

Keep those photos and videos coming, we will be doing this again later this year. Send them along to Dave Vemmer to make sure he gets them into this year's show.

Many, many thanks to Ron Levin for donating the prizes for the contest – if you are in the area please stop in and tell him thanks!

The UPS Store
309 East Rand Road
Arlington Heights 60004
(847) 259-6700
<http://www.theupsstorelocal.com/4073/>

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CALLING ALL DIVERS

Bob Foster from the Chicago Park District has requested help from the Illinois Council. He would like us to work together in gathering information about the waters surrounding Northerly Island. He has volunteered to help us and include the resources from the park district, both their boats and divers. The Park District would like video taken of the west and south walls and some still shots of the area around the walls. All divers that are interested in assisting with this project please email me your name and phone number. The project would take place sometime in June with a meeting before hand.

Thank You!!! Margo Miller, President, Illinois Council margomiller@sprynet.com

DINNER AND A SHOW!!!

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

April 23, 8:00 PM

Something a bit different this time, we will be going to the theater and seeing a play.



The Drowsy Chaperone, a “musical within a comedy,” debuted on Broadway in 2006 and was an instant hit, winning seven Drama Desk Awards and five Tony Awards. To chase his blues away, a modern day musical theater addict known simply as 'Man in Chair,' drops the needle on his favorite LP, the 1928 musical comedy The Drowsy Chaperone. When the record begins to play, the musical magically bursts to life on stage, telling the tale of a pampered Broadway starlet who wants to give up show business to get married, her producer who sets out to sabotage the wedding, her chaperone, the debonair groom, her Latin lover and a pair of bumbling gangsters.

Details are as follows:

- When:** Saturday, April 23 (Note date change)
- Where:** Prairie Lakes Theater, Des Plaines Park District
515 East Thacker, Des Plaines (just west of Wolf Road)
- Cost:** \$23.00 per person (if we get more than 15, we can get a group rate)
- Time:** 8:00 PM
- TIC:** Pam Romund Hm 847-698-5490 Cell 847-414-4347 or promund@kraftfoods.com

We will then head for some refreshments after the show, this is an additional cost, place TBD

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ELECTIONS

It is that time of year again, elections for the Board of Directors will be held at the March Business meeting. The slate is as follows:

- Vice President: Mike Leibovitz
- Treasurer: Jan O'Malley
- Director: Brian Clarke, Scott Reimer, Tricia Shields (Vote for One)

If you would be interested in running for an office or would like more information on what is involved please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, we can still add your name to the ballot.

If you will be bringing a proxy to the meeting to vote from someone else, remember there is a limit of three (3) proxies per member. And anyone nominated from the floor must be present to accept the nomination or have previously given their permission in writing. Thanks!

Margy Levenberg, Dave Vemmer, Renee Tobias
Nominating Committee

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PEARL LAKE RESORT OPENS APRIL 22

Pearl Lake will open for the season beginning Friday, April 22, 2011. Seasonal Hours, Late April thru mid October: 7 days per week (8am till dusk). Night Diving is only available on Friday and Saturday. The beach area will be open for business until May 27. If you need more info go to: <http://www.pearllake.com/> or (815) 389-1479

HAIGH QUARRY TO OPEN APRIL 2

The quarry will be open beginning April 2 for the weekends at first. **NOTE:** This year the quarry will be closed July 4 and 5. The Jim Haigh Memorial Dive is scheduled for July 31. Make your plans accordingly. Always a good idea to call ahead: 815-939-7797 Quarry Hours - Mon: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Tues: Closed Wed: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Thur: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Fri: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM Sat: 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Sun: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM

54TH ANNUAL TRITON ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Come one, come all to the 54th Annual Anniversary event for the Triton Scuba Club. This year we will be at a new location so be among the first club members to experience this new venue. Now, without further ado, here is what you will want to know.

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2011

Time: 6 PM to 10 PM (Cocktails from 6-7 PM Dinner at 7 PM)

Location: Birch River Grill
75 West Algonquin Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Cost: \$32.00 per person

Includes: Soup, house salad, entrée (1 of 3 choices), dessert, coffee or tea, tax and gratuity

Not Included: Drinks (There will be a cash bar)

You will have a choice of one of three entrée items:

- Yankee Pot Roast,
- Pan Roasted Chicken Breast
- Mushroom Ravioli.
- Dessert will be a choice of ice cream or cheese cake with or without strawberry sauce.

So make your plans known now to any member of the Board of Directors. A sign-up sheet will be available at the March meeting. We will need your payment no later than Friday April 8, 2011. Since we will be giving the count of attendees to the restaurant on Monday 4/11/2011, we may not be able to accommodate anyone after the 11th. So, don't be left out. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Your Board of Directors

Randy, Mike, Pam, David, Dave and Jackie

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GHOST SHIPS FESTIVAL 2011 MARCH 25 & 26, 2011 MILWAUKEE, WI

The Ghost Ships Festival is Wisconsin's largest trade show devoted to Great Lakes Scuba Diving and Maritime History. Exhibits, workshops, and presentations cover just about every aspect of maritime history and Great Lakes scuba diving. The Ghost Ships Festival will be returning to the Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center in Milwaukee directly across from the airport **March 25th & 26th, 2011.**



Event to Feature Discovery of the L.R. Doty

Capt. Jitka Hanakova, The Leader of the team that discovered the L.R. Doty, one of the largest wooden steamers that vanished in Lake Michigan more than 100 years ago, will be the keynote speaker at the Ghost Ships Festival on Friday, March 25. Hanakova is an experienced technical diver and boat captain who has located and/or documented a number of significant Lake Michigan shipwrecks, including:

- *M.H. Stuart* - The venerable steamer lay undiscovered until Hanakova conducted a search and located it eight miles east of Milwaukee. In 2009, Hanakova and a team of divers secured extensive high-definition footage of the wreck.
- *Tennie and Laura* - At 325 feet, it is one of Wisconsin's deepest and least visited shipwrecks. In the summer of 2009, Hanakova, along with other technical divers, filmed this deep wreck for the first time.
- *Robert C. Pringle* - The intact wreck of the steamer was located in May 2008 in 300 ft. of Lake Michigan water and later documented by a team that included Hanakova.

For more information and tickets visit their website: www.ghost-ships.org

**CHAMBER DIVE
SATURDAY APRIL 9
LUTHERAN GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Are you suffering from pressure withdrawal? Is your body rebelling at just being at sea level? Why not join with your fellow club members and go for a "dive" in the hyperbaric chamber at Lutheran General Hospital? We will meet in the hospital for a brief lecture on the history of hyperbaric medicine, where we stand today and some of the common treatments the chamber is used for – it isn't just the bends any more. After the lecture we will dive in the chamber under the watchful eye of Dan Mazzolini. Dan has led our adventures before – he has seen us do the hokey pokey, blow up balloons and won't be surprised at any of our antics, he keeps a careful eye on us as we descend and come back to the surface. If you have a dive computer bring it along but be sure to have a container to place it in – it must be submerged in water or it will break guaranteed!!

After the dive we will head out for some sustenance, pizza, burgers, whatever the group decides. Space is limited for the chamber.

Contact: Pam Romund, 847-698-5490, 874-414-4347 or promund@kraftfoods.com.

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**WRECK TREK TO THE FLORIDA KEYS
JULY 1 TO JULY 9**

BRING YOUR \$100.00 DEPOSIT TO THE MARCH MEETING!

We are returning to the Keys!!! We will be diving with the Florida Keys Dive Center located in Tavernier, and staying in condos at Ocean Pointe Suites in Key Largo.



The first 3 days we will dive the Spiegel Grove, Duane, Eagle, and Benwood (both day and night), as well as some shallow reefs

- Florida Keys Dive Center has a program that if we/they, can fill the boat (12 divers) we will travel by boat to Key West, and overnight at the historic LaConcha hotel. We will be diving the Eagle, Thunderbolt, Vandenberg, Cayman Salvager, and the Adolphus Busch on the way down or back.

(If you can not be with us all week, this can be set up as a separate trip)

Then we have 2 more days to dive the Spiegel Grove and the Bibb, and some more reefs.

The approximate price for trip is \$1,500.00 for diving and housing based on 4 people sharing a 2 bedroom condo with a queen bed in the 1st bedroom, 2 twin beds in a 2nd bedroom, and a sleeper sofa in the living room. Airfare and auto rental is the responsibility of the participants.

Any discounts or subsidies that we receive will be shared on a proportional basis by all participants after the completion of the trip, in the form of a rebate.

Steve Leibovitz
847-833-5379

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VOTE FOR TRITON AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR

Enclosed with this month's newsletter are the ballots for Triton of the Year and Events of the Year. These must be returned no later than the Tuesday March 22 business meeting so the ballots can be tallied and the awards prepared for presentation at the Anniversary Party. Thanks!!

Many thanks to Dave Vemmer for sending this to our attention. Dr. Lambertsen was an American environmental medicine and diving medicine specialist who was principally responsible for developing the U.S. Navy frogmen's rebreathers in the early 1940s for underwater warfare. It was the first device to be called SCUBA. The US Navy considers him to be "the father of the Frogmen". He also worked with NASA, the Underseas Medical Society and other well known organizations to further the science of hyperbaric medicine, diving procedures and equipment.

Article by Sally A. Downey, Philadelphia Inquirer. Reprinted from:

www.chicagotribune.com/news/obituaries/la-me-christian-lambertsen-20110307.0.5351115.story

DR. CHRISTIAN J. LAMBERTSEN DIES AT 93; INVENTOR OF SCUBA GEAR*

As a University of Pennsylvania medical student, Lambertsen used anesthesia machine parts to develop an underwater breathing system

Dr. Christian J. Lambertsen, who developed the first self-contained underwater breathing apparatus — scuba gear — while studying medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in the 1930s and '40s, died Feb. 11 at a retirement home in Newtown, Pa. He was 93.

Lambertsen began experimenting with homemade diving equipment as a youth, when he became an expert swimmer while working at resorts along New Jersey's Barnegat Bay. At the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, beginning in 1939, he worked on his diving apparatus by using parts from anesthesia machines.



Dr. Lambertsen, U.S. Army in 1942

In 1941, with war imminent, he contacted the military about his apparatus and began working with the Army's Office of Strategic Services. After graduating first in his class from medical school and completing an internship at the university, Lambertsen received a commission in the Army and trained OSS units to use his scuba gear.

Some OSS members assisted the British in underwater reconnaissance along the coast of Burma during World War II. Others carried out reconnaissance of Japan. Divers wore camouflage wetsuits and flippers, and were equipped with a mask, breathing tubes, a canister for absorption of exhaled carbon dioxide, a breathing bag and controllable oxygen supply, all mounted on a canvas vest.

After the war, scuba gear was declassified and made available to the public. It was used by police and fire department rescue squads, in mine rescue work and in salvage operations. Eventually, scuba diving came to be used for recreation and sport.

After his military discharge, Lambertsen returned to the University of Pennsylvania as a pharmacology instructor. When the university was about to scrap an altitude chamber it had set up during the war, he salvaged it and in 1948 set up a primitive environmental research chamber in conjunction with the Office of Naval Research. He conducted a variety of research activities for the Navy and the U.S. space program during the 1950s and '60s.

In 1968, he founded the university's Institute for Environmental Medicine. Lambertsen retired as director of the institute in 1987 but continued his research as a professor emeritus. His studies were focused on how a medical treatment known as hyperbaric, or high-pressure, oxygen therapy could help people suffering from many diseases. He continued to invent and conduct research until he was 90.

In 1992, he patented Inergen, an environmentally friendly fire-suppression product now used in commercial buildings. He developed it initially to extinguish fires in submarines and spacecraft.

Lambertsen was born May 15, 1917, in Westfield, N.J., and received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. He is survived by four sons and six grandchildren.

* Editors Note: I believe the Trib's headline should have read Rebreather not SCUBA however it was the first piece of underwater equipment to be called SCUBA.



SLICE OF CHICAGO PIZZA TOUR AND TASTING SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH 2:30 PM 29 E. OHIO AT PIZZERIA UNO

We have done beer, wine, chocolate and now PIZZA! The roving foodies in the club are off again on another adventure! We will sample three of the best Chicago style deep-dish pizzas, without long lines or waiting times, the pizza will be hot and ready. You will learn all about Chicago Pizza history and its legendary creators. Enjoy the sights and sounds of downtown Chicago while burning off the calories that you consume!!

You will be able to compare several different Chicago style deep-dish pizzas: the crusts, cheese and sauce, all while learning the history of the restaurants, their owners and the pizza ingredient suppliers. We will visit three of the best; among the pizzerias we may visit are Pizzeria Uno, Giordanos, Pizano's and Pizzeria Ora.

We will be sampling cheese pizza, however if you have a particular favorite topping on your pizza let the TIC know. Depending on the size of the group we might be able to accommodate some other toppings. I recommend you wear comfortable shoes, temperature appropriate clothing, bring bottle of water and a healthy appetite. You will be able to purchase beverages at each restaurant but bring some water with you, you can work up a thirst. We will be covering approximately 1.2 miles on our walk around the city.

TIC: Pam Romund Hm 847-698-5490, Cell 847-414-4347 or promund@krafffoods.com

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SAVE THE DATE
SPLASH INTO SUMMER
FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011
12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM
BALLYDOYLE PUB & RESTAURANT
5157 MAIN STREET
DOWNERS GROVE, IL 60515



This event will be held at the Ballydoyle Pub and Restaurant and is not to be missed. There will be entertainment: live music, raffle, silent auction, children's activities, clown and face painting, and so much more. The Grand Prize being a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card! Or you could win one of the six other prizes - additional Visa gift cards. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00, great deal! For more information or to purchase your raffle tickets contact Janice.s@diveheart.org or 630-964-1983.

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DIVEHEART RAFFLE

I will be selling raffle tickets at the March and April meetings for Diveheart's big spring fund-raiser. It is at Ballydoyle Pub and Restaurant in Downers Grove on May 1st (see ad above). You DON'T have to be present to win. But I do need your particulars on the raffle ticket stubs. Tickets are \$5 each and 5 for \$20. Prizes are VISA Gift cards ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.

See me at the meetings. Or you can send me funds and I will fill in your stubs and send you the tickets. Sure helps a great (and tax-deductible) cause in the dive industry. Jim Elliott sends his thanks.

Jim Hynan 8100 Foster Ln # 310 Niles IL 60714-1159 847-967-1738
Jhynan74@gmail.com

DIVERS: WRECK OF PERRY'S SHIP DISCOVERED OFF RHODE ISLAND

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — A team of divers say they have discovered the remains of the *USS Revenge*, a ship commanded by U.S. Navy hero Oliver Hazard Perry, wrecked off Rhode Island in 1811. Perry is known for defeating the British in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie off the shores of Ohio, Michigan and Ontario in the War of 1812 and for the line "I have met the enemy and they are ours." His battle flag bore the phrase "Don't give up the ship," and to this day is a symbol of the Navy.

The divers: Charles Buffum, a brewery owner from Stonington, Connecticut, and Craig Harger, a carbon-dioxide salesman from Colchester, Connecticut, say the wreck changed the course of history because Perry likely would not have been sent to Lake Erie otherwise. Sunday (1/9/11) is the 200th anniversary of the wreck. Buffum said he's been interested in finding the remains of the *Revenge* ever since his mother several years ago gave him the book *Shipwrecks on the Shores of Westerly*. The book includes Perry's account of the wreck, which happened when it hit a reef in a storm in heavy fog off Watch Hill in Westerly, Rhode Island, as Perry was bringing the ship from Newport to New London, Ct.

"I always thought to myself we ought to go out and have a look and just see if there's anything left," Buffum said. The two, along with a third man, Mike Fournier, set out to find it with the aid of a metal detector. After several dives, they came across a cannon, then another. "It was just thrilling," Harger said.

They made their first discovery in August 2005, and kept it secret as they continued to explore the area and make additional finds. Since then, they have found four more 42-inch-long cannons, an anchor, canister shot, and other metal objects that they say they are 99% sure were from the *Revenge*.

Buffum and Harger say the items fit into the time period that the *Revenge* sank, the anchor appears to be the main one that is known to have been cut loose from the ship, and that no other military ships area. They have not discovered a ship's bell or anything else that identifies it as the *Revenge*, and all the wood has disappeared, which is not unusual for a wreck that old, they said.

The Navy has a right to salvage its shipwrecks, and the two say they've contacted the Naval History & Heritage Command, which oversees such operations, in hopes the Navy will salvage the remains. A spokesman for the command did not immediately return messages seeking comment. If the Navy does not, they said they hope to raise the money for a salvage operation so the artifacts can be displayed at a historical society.

They say they are concerned now that they are going public that other divers might try to remove objects from the site, which is a violation of the law. Many of the objects they found are in only 15 feet of water, although the area is difficult to dive because of currents, they said.

As for whether the wreck of the *Revenge* changed the course of history, David Skaggs a professor emeritus of history at Bowling Green State University, said Perry might not put it that way. Skaggs has written two books on Perry, *A Signal Victory*, about the Lake Erie campaign, which he co-authored, and a biography, *Oliver Hazard Perry: Honor, Courage, and Patriotism in the Early U.S Navy*. While Harger and Buffum say Perry was effectively demoted by being sent to the Great Lakes rather than getting another high-seas command, Skaggs said the Great Lakes commission still gave Perry great prestige. Perry, a Rhode Island native, became known as the "Hero of Lake Erie" after he defeated a British squadron, becoming the first U.S. commander to do so.

"Whether or not there is another officer that could have done as well as Perry did is one of those 'might-have-beens' that historians are not prone to ask," Skaggs said. Still, Skaggs said he was intrigued by the discovery. "It is certainly an interesting new find on the eve of the bicentennial of the War of 1812," he said.

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

If any member would like a copy of the business meeting minutes send a note to Pam Romund (promund@krafffoods.com) and she will email them to you before the meeting. Thanks



New Northerly Island Park plan promises an oasis of ecology--and Daley's last hurrah

Mayor Richard Daley’s infamous “midnight raid” on Meigs Field, when city backhoes carved giant X’s into the runway of the tiny lakefront airport, was one of his defining acts. Now, as Daley prepares to exit the political stage, the former airstrip could become one of his defining legacies -- a people-friendly showcase of 21st Century ecology.

When the Chicago Park District on Thursday unveils a bold, long-range plan for the former airport on Northerly Island, the green-tinted ideas will include a new concert pavilion that resembles a giant land mound (above), serene wetlands for migrating birds and bird-watchers, and a picturesque chain of reefs that would protect a deep-water lagoon where people could swim, canoe and kayak. At the lagoon’s bottom would be a sunken ship, imported to the site, that divers could explore.

The compelling concept is to compress a broad range of natural habitats on Northerly Island and to transform them into magnets that lure human visitors and wildlife year-round. With stargazing and fish spawning grounds on the agenda, the plan smartly ties into the natural sciences focus of the adjoining Adler Planetarium, Shedd Aquarium and Field Museum.

“It’s almost like a Millennium Park of nature,” said one of the plan’s designers, Chicago architect Jeanne Gang, whose credits include the acclaimed Aqua tower.

Some nature lovers may be troubled by her comparison to the crowded, raucous park, but the plan strikes a persuasive balance between active and passive outdoor space, shifting priorities from technology to nature, planes to people. In doing so, it affirms the ends, though not the means, of Daley’s airport shutdown — a dictatorial move that had a democratic outcome, banishing private and commercial planes from precious lakefront land and restoring it to public use.

Principally drafted by the Chicago office of JJR, a landscape architecture firm, and Studio Gang Architects, the proposal for Northerly Island Park is a so-called framework plan, which means it is not a hard-and-fast blueprint but a flexible road map for development as funds become available over the next 20 to 25 years. Thus, the plan, carries no price tag and will surely be labeled “pie in the sky.”

But the Park District has already used such framework plans to upgrade Lincoln and Burnham parks. This drama is playing out on one of the most contentious spots on Chicago’s lakefront — not in reality an island but a 91-acre peninsula connected by land bridge to the mainland. In 2003, as the Iraq war began, Daley bulldozed the airport on the flimsy pretext that terrorists might crash small planes into downtown skyscrapers.

Since then, grass and trails have appeared on Northerly Island, but much of it remains pancake-flat and featureless, as one might expect from a former landing strip.

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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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AQUARIUM REOPENS AT MALL OF AMERICA

Underwater Adventures, the aquarium anchoring the east side of the Mall of America, is getting yet another new name and another new face-lift. Sea Life Minnesota will open March 11 after more than two years of work and \$5 million in renovations.

It is the latest incarnation for the aquarium that opened in the mall in 1996 and filed for bankruptcy a few years later. Among the latest renovations is the state's only Giant Pacific octopus, a stingray tank and an Atlantis theme. It is already popular Shark Cove glass tunnel has been rechristened as the ocean temple of Poseidon, and includes a half-ton statue of the Greek god of the sea.

New owner Merlin Entertainments Group bought the 1.2 million-gallon aquarium in December 2008 for an undisclosed sum, and it has been renovating ever since. Two years ago it added a \$250,000 sea horse tank, and a \$1.5 million jellyfish exhibit the next year. These two exhibits marked the first major additions to the aquarium since 2000. There also will be a heavy focus on conservation at the aquarium.



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**ENTERTAINMENT: None This Month
GENERAL ELECTIONS Will Be Held**

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