



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Tritons

The really warm, shall I say hot, weather has arrived with a vengeance. I hope you are all staying cool and enjoying the summer. I would like to thank Dave Vemmer for all his past hard work as our Events' Chairperson and to welcome Jon Kitts as our new Events' Chairperson. We have some really great dives on our calendar for July and August and I hope you will be able to take advantage of them. We are still in need of a few good Tritons to be a TIC for events in September and October so if you can, please let Jon Kitts know that you are interested in helping run one of these events.

We are also planning on running some Open Water classes in early August so please talk to your family, friends and acquaintances about learning to dive. We have flyers that can be emailed to you and printed out to give to everyone you know. And, if you are interested in increasing your diving skills, talk to Rich Schak or any Board of Education member to find out about advanced dive training. The more you know the better the diver you will be so be all that you can be.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Randy Skiba
Vice-President – Mike Leibovitz
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

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next business meeting

Good diving to all
Randy

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT July, 2011

Up for vote at the July meeting will be Joe Leibovitz
Dives:

Steve Leibovitz Haigh Quarry 2/28/2011
Brian Clarke Pearl Lake 6/18/2011
Many meetings & social events including 3/22/2011
4/16/2011 4/26/2011 5/24/2011 5/28/2011

Our current membership is:

71 full members 2 associate members
TOTAL 73 members

Adolph Habich - Membership Committee

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ENTERTAINMENT JULY MEETING

This month we will feature information on training. With the summer weather and the training weekends on the calendar, perhaps you might like a refresher about all the different specialties available. A lot of the video appears to be shot at places in the Pacific (Chuk, Palau, Catalina) so it is beautiful to see. Hope to see you at the meeting!

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TRITON 2011 EVENTS CALENDAR

July, 2011		
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	All welcome to Haigh!
August, 2011		
Tuesday, 8/9	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Sat, 8/13	Chicago Buccaneer Dive	Scott Reimer 847-561-2272 streimer1@comcast.net
Saturday, 8/20	Howard/Etherton Day Pearl Lake	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	Lea Hotton
Tuesday, 9/13	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 promund@kraftfoods.com
Sunday, 9/18	Miniature Golf Outing	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 9/20	Uncorked Aboretum	Needs TIC (Must be 21 to Participate)
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 will be working up the 2012 Events calendar, have an idea for a new event, let Jon know that too!

WRECK TREK TO THE FLORIDA KEYS

Four hardy Tritons and one friend braved the wilds of ORD, and the ever changing flight schedules to travel to Miami. The pilot was very accommodating and decided to fly down past Key West and show us the sites, making our trip even longer.

We finally arrived in Miami, rented a Yukon that our gear barely fit in and raced to Key Largo to dive with the Florida Keys Dive Center. I liked their operation and suggest we use them again. The diving on the *Spiegel Grove* was fun for some, but not for others. Waves were 1 – 4 feet, and choppy. Visibility never exceeded 15 feet, if that. The weather pattern continued during our stay. We also dove the *Bibb, Duane* and *Eagle*.

We then made our way to Key West, never looking back. The luggage took up all of the cargo area. I could not see a thing. We dove with Southpoint Divers. They had a wonderful briefing and routine, it reminded me of ours. Air time in and, air out and time out were taken by the captain. We should use them again. The 1st day we dove the *Vandenberg*, and a reef. Our 2nd dive day was blown out, 20+ mph winds out of the South. We amused ourselves going to the Mel Fisher Museum and every store in Key West. The 3rd day we went back to the *Vandenberg*. Visibility had not improved.

We also made sure to visit both Divers Direct shops multiple times.

TIC: Steve Leibovitz



Photo courtesy of Jean Adams.

The happy travelers from left to right: Jean Adams, Steve Leibovitz, Lea Hotten, Brian Clarke and Joe Leibovitz

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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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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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TRITON TRIB MAILING OUT LATE IN AUGUST

Due to the vacation plans of the editor the August edition of the *Triton Trib* will be a couple of days late arriving in your mailbox. Sorry for the inconvenience.

LAKE GENEVA DIVE SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

Put it in your calendars for now. Cost probably about \$40 for members and \$50 for guests. Very easy charter dive (2 tank dive with a 10 AM start), shallow and fun. Lots to eat after, back at the house.

More detail at the July and August meetings

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

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Reprinted from Undercurrent On-Line, Update July 18, 2011

DUI RECALLS WEIGHT SYSTEMS

Diving Unlimited International (DUI) in San Diego is recalling two of its weight systems -- the DUI Weight & Trim System Classic, and the DUI Weight & Trim System II. Manufacturing defects in the lanyard connecting the handle to the pocket, or the cable securing the pocket to the harness, can prevent the weight pockets from easily detaching from the harness and releasing the weights when the handle is pulled, thus posing a drowning hazard (no dive accidents or injuries have been reported). The weight systems, made in China, were sold between July 2010 and April 2011, and DUI wants to recall 1,454 of them in the U.S., and 46 in Canada. If you have either of these weight systems, call DUI at 800-325-8439 Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time, or e-mail CustomerService@DUI-Online.com to receive a free repair of the system.

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DIVE THE BUCCANEER SATURDAY 1:00PM AUGUST 13TH - \$95.00

Come dive the latest dive destination in the Chicagoland area! This craft was once a rum runner for the Coast Guard and served in WW II. Great photo op with parallel wall size mirrors on main deck! 70 feet to the bottom! We are going out with Windy City Diving on the *RV Aquatica*, captained by Gary Gentile. Meet at the East side of Burnham Harbor, just North of the Burnham Yacht Club at 1:00 pm, boat leaves at 1:30 pm. Parking is

available in the Adler Planetarium parking lot, parking it \$16 on non-event days (I am not aware of any events on 8-13 for either Soldier Field or Charter One Pavilion)

\$95 for members, \$105 for non-members, limit of 6 divers

Sign up at July meeting. Scott Reimer 847-561-2272 streimer1@comcast.net

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GET WELL WISHES

The Tritons wish a speedy recovery to Sam Polonetzky. Sam suffered a heart attack last Friday while up in Northern Wisconsin. As of this writing he is in the hospital in Duluth, MN and will be having by-pass surgery today, Tuesday, July 19th. If you would care to send him a card or note I am sure he would appreciate it:

Sam Polonetzky
6649 N. Sacramento Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645-4212

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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.

Sign up at the July meeting. Jim Hynan 847-967-1738 jhynan74@gmail.com

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CONCERT IN THE PARK

Friday, July 8th thirteen Tritons and friends gathered at Hodges Park in Park Ridge for a free concert under the stars. A few arrived early and walked the short block to partake of some of the wonderful food offerings from the Taste of Park Ridge - raves for the Brownie Sundaes, the filet sandwich, cold beer and more.

We then settled in to the feast in front of us – cheese platter, summer sausage, crudites, yummy seasonal fruit, a fantastic goat cheese dip with French bread (thanks Rosanna!), cookies and, of course, wine and more wine. Proseco, Moscato, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Cabernet and more – we did empty quite a few bottles in the three plus hours we were there.

The music for the evening featured sixties classics. And to get us in the mood for the evening the Skiba's friend, John, brought some penny candy – candy buttons and wax bottles! It was a great trip down memory lane for those of us who were around in the sixties and still have enough brain cells to remember.

The evening was perfect, cool but not chilly and no bugs!! This is a fun evening – and with no cost and free parking, we will try and do this one again next year. Perhaps you can join us.

TIC: Pam Romund

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

Time to escape – break away from the day to day stress of work, you really aren't looking all that well. Head on out to Pearl Lake for a relaxing day at the lake. Nothing strenuous, just a laid back day, feel like diving, great! Don't that's okay too! There won't be many folks there so the viz should be great and towards the end of July the water should be warm enough you won't need gloves or a hood (if you stay above 30 feet).

Diving begins at 10:00 and lunch about 12:30/1:00. The menu hasn't been set as yet but there will be plenty of food and drink for all. Please let me know if you will be attending so I can make sure to have an adequate supply of goodies. The only cost for the event is the entrance to Pearl.

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



Haigh Quarry

JIM HAIGH MEMORIAL DIVE

SUNDAY, JULY 31

HAIGH QUARRY, KANKAKEE, IL

Join in for the Jim Haigh Memorial Dive July 31, 2011

Get together with your fellow divers, enjoy some diving fun for a very good cause. There will be bands, raffles, and more! The Illinois Council will be in attendance, come on out and dive, or just hang out and enjoy the topside festivities. You won't be disappointed. Remember no non-divers under the age of 12 and no pets please. More information will be posted here in the coming months, or you can go to: <http://www.haighquarry.com/> for additional details.



2010: \$7,200 was raised for Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba & Diveheart Military Wounded

2011 Contributors: Ikelite, Divers Alert Network, Oceanways, XS Scuba, Sherwood, Scuba Emporium, D & M Mathias, DJ's Scuba Locker, PADI, Haack Scuba

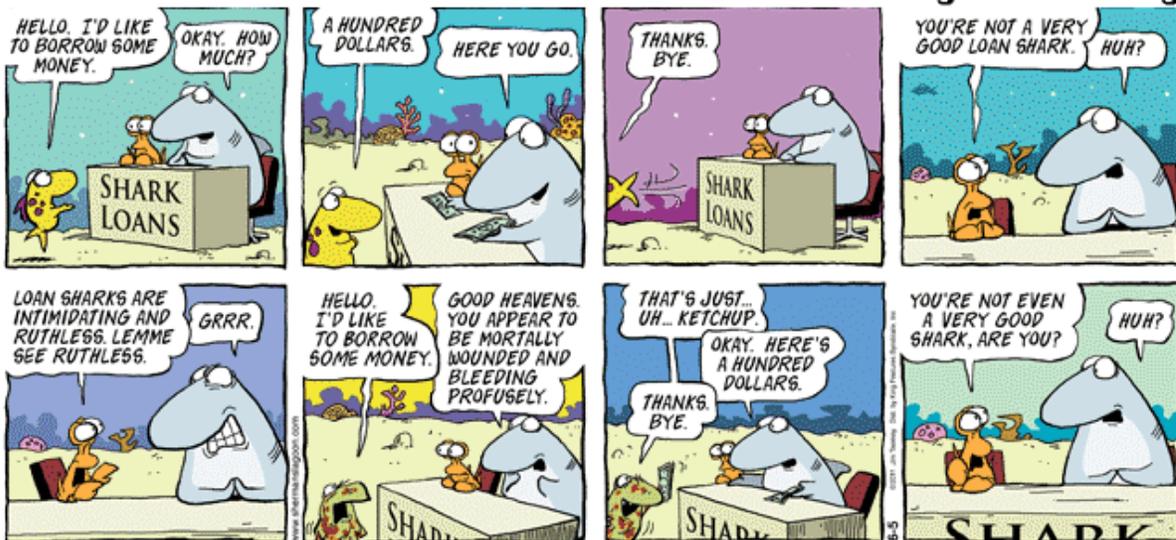
Proceeds will be donated to SUDS (Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba) and the Diveheart Military Wounded program!

Come out and join the FUN!!!

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON

by Jim Toomey



www.shermanslagoon.com

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Many thanks to Bob Gadbois for sending this.

<http://news.yahoo.com/florida-divers-treasure-famed-wreck-151015129.html>

FLORIDA DIVERS FIND NEW TREASURE FROM FAMED WRECK

KEY WEST, Florida (Reuters) - Divers in the Florida Keys have recovered a large emerald ring and two silver spoons believed to come from *Nuestra Senora de Atocha*, a shipwrecked Spanish galleon that has already yielded one of the greatest treasures ever recovered from the sea.

Employees of Mel Fisher's Treasure, the salvage company that has worked the shipwreck site since 1969, believe the latest haul signals they are close to finding the sterncastle, a key missing portion of the ship. "The sterncastle is where the clergy and elite were with their personal items," said Sean Fisher, spokesman for the family business and grandson of its late founder, Mel Fisher.

The *Atocha* was headed back to Spain with a load of gold and silver from the New World when it sank and broke up in a hurricane not far from Key West in September 1622. After a 16-year-search, Mel Fisher and his crew found the "mother lode" of the shipwreck in September 1985. They hauled up more than 40 tons of gold and silver, including more than 100,000 Spanish silver coins known as "Pieces of Eight," along with Colombian emeralds and other artifacts. The company estimated its worth at nearly \$500 million.

Since then, Sean Fisher said the crew has made many other discoveries within a ten-mile (16-km) spread of the original site, and in a straight line. "This tells us we are moving in the right direction," he said. "We have virgin territory around our search area and will be in there next."



After the original wreck, currents and additional hurricanes moved the broken parts around. "It broke in two and then banged around for hundreds of years and that is why what we are finding is scattered," Fisher said. He was on the company's salvage ship *JB Magruder* on June 23 when diver Tim Meade came up with the large square emerald mounted in a gold ring, whose worth the company estimates at \$500,000.

Divers also came up with two silver spoons and other artifacts that will have to be treated at the Fisher labs in Key West before being exposed to fresh air. Unlike the gold ring, the other items are encrusted and a value can't be placed on them at this time.

"I think one item is a hinge and another is a lid, so it's possibly pieces from a jewelry box," Fisher said. He has a copy of the *Atocha*'s manifest and going by it, he expects to find at least 100,000 coins, 400 silver bars and personal jewelry at the sterncastle location.

"We have already found more gold than is on the manifest," he said with a smile. "There was a lot of smuggling so the clergy and nobility wouldn't have to pay the king's tax. We expect there will be many items around the sterncastle that are not on the manifest."

Fisher described the thrill of seeing and touching the treasure, and being the first person to do so in almost 400 years. "I was 15 when I found my first silver," Fisher said. "I was 17 when I first found gold. Silver is great, but gold shines, even after more than 300 years in the water."

The dive for treasure is a group effort, Fisher said. Two divers search the selected area at a time, while other crew members stay on deck. The whole crew participates and when the value of the search is determined, bonuses are given out.

Fisher said 90 percent of treasure hunting involved finding out where the treasure isn't. "Technology has helped us above the water," he said. "Below the water our search hasn't changed much over the years."

The company uses "mailboxes," large round tubes on the stern of the salvage ship that force air below the waterline to blow away the top layer of debris and sand on the bottom.

The *Magruder* pulled into its slip at Safe Harbor Marina, outside Key West, last Thursday after discovering the ring and other artifacts about 35 miles away.

Fisher popped open a champagne bottle to celebrate even as the company's other 100-foot (30-meter) salvage ship, *Dare*, prepared to go out to continue the treasure hunt. Each ship has a crew of six or eight and stays out about 10 days at a time, weather permitting.

Many thanks to Jackie Heirbaut for sending this to our attention. Read more:
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2011471/Pictures-sand-Close-photographs-reveal-incredible-beauty.html#ixzz1RQZ8usQ5>

BEAUTY IN EVERY GRAIN: FOR THE FIRST TIME REMARKABLE PHOTOGRAPHS REVEAL HIDDEN CHARMS OF ORDINARY SAND

Viewed at a magnification of over 250 times real life, tiny grains of sand are shown to be delicate, colourful structures as unique as snowflakes. When seen well beyond the limits of human eyesight, the miniature particles are exposed as fragments of crystals, spiral fragments of shells and crumbs of volcanic rock.

Professor Gary Greenberg who has a PhD in biomedical research from University College London said: 'It is incredible to think when you are walking on the beach you are standing on these tiny treasures.'



Magnified: The grains are shown to be delicate, colourful structures each as unique as a snowflake.

'Every time I look through my microscope I am fascinated by the complexity and individuality created by a combination of nature and the repeated tumbling of the surf on a beach.'

Prof Greenberg, who searches through thousands of tiny rocks with acupuncture needles to find and arrange the most perfect specimens, then uses a painstaking technique to create his images.

He has spent five years searching the globe for remarkable sand grains like these to photograph.

He said: 'Extreme close up photography normally gives a very shallow depth of field so I had to develop a new process to make the pictures that I wanted.'

'I take dozens of pictures at different points of focus then combine them using software to produce my images. 'Although the pictures look simple each grain of sand can take hours to photograph in a way that I

am happy with. 'The beach nearest my lab is Haiku, Hawaii but my pictures show sand from all round the world from Japan to Ireland.'



© Professor Gary Greenberg / SWNS.

Gary's pictures are available from his website sandgrains.com and his book 'a grain of sand' which is available on Amazon.

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HOW SAND IS MADE

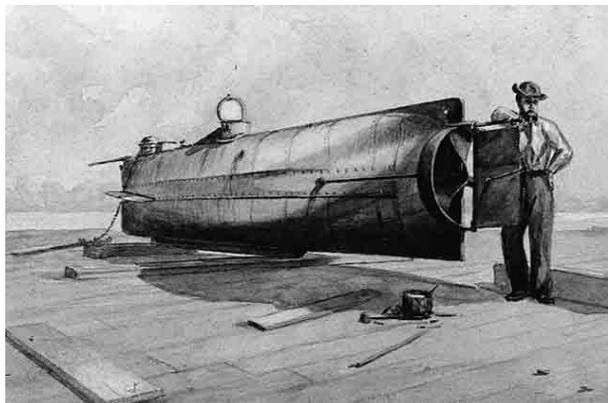
Sand is a naturally occurring material resulting from the physical and chemical breakdown of rocks. Contrary to popular belief, sand is made as rocks crash and break in rivers and streams on their way to the sea, rather than the ebb and flow of the tides. Deposits left by breaking rocks in the sea turns to silt and is much lighter so is dispersed over a much wider area out to sea, rather than on the shore line. Some of the rock is soluble, but other bits remain and as they are slowly rubbed down over time they get smaller and smaller until they become what we know as sand.

Also parrotfish grind up coral rock the fish ingest during feeding. After they digest the rock, they excrete it as sand, helping to create small islands and the sandy beaches of the Caribbean. One parrotfish can produce 90 kg of sand each year.

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Follow the blog on Face Book and LinkedIn at Martha Boltz; my email is MBoltz2846@aol.com Read more of Martha's columns on *The Civil War* at the Communities at the Washington Times. Reprinted from <http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/civil-war/2011/jul/5/hl-hunley-rotated-upright-finally-stealth-craft-no/>

H.L. HUNLEY IS ROTATED UPRIGHT; 'STEALTH-LIKE' CRAFT NOW VISIBLE



VIENNA, Va, June 28, 2011 — Word has been received that at long last, the *H.L. Hunley* has been rotated and put into her original upright position in the climate controlled tank at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston, SC.

The Confederate submersible/submarine was resting on her starboard side at an approximate 45-degree angle when finally raised from the ocean floor in August 2009. Due to the sediment inside which had not been disturbed in over 100 years, and the presence of the remains of the eight men who had sailed her, it was felt that a full examination of the contents should be made before any

attempt was made to right the seven and one-half ton ship, which was 39' long.

It took two days to accomplish the shift in position of the craft, which had been held in place by large slings. Moving in micro steps of two millimeters a day, the repositioning was finally accomplished, providing the scientists and conservators with the first glimpse of that side of the *Hunley's* hull. Apparently no specific damage was evident on the long-hidden side, which means that the scientists will still continue their hunt to ascertain what caused the ship to sink.

Talking with Kellen Correia, Executive Director of the Friends of the *Hunley* organization today, she said that "seeing the *Hunley* right side up has given us a whole new view of it – it looks stealth-like now."

They will soon remove the keel block supports, she said, as well as the slings. "It's hard to realize that over a half million people have come to see the *Hunley* in the last ten years," she related, "and we hope that the new positioning will bring even more to our facility."

Ms. Correia continued that "within the next two to four weeks, the trusses will be completely removed" from the little craft, although what the ultimate preservation process will be is not known at this time.

History records the fatal steps that led up to the ultimate *Hunley's* launching, which made her the first of her kind to sink an enemy ship during warfare. On February 17, 1864, sliding out of Charleston Harbor late at night, she quietly approached the *U.S.S. Housatonic*, a Union blockade ship preventing ships from entering the Harbor, and fired a 135 lb. torpedo attached to a 150' detonation rope into the *Housatonic's* side.

The Union ship sank in less than five minutes. After coming to the surface to flash a signal to the crew waiting on shore, the *Hunley* sank beneath the waves, where she remained for over a century.

Before that final fatal voyage, two previous attempts had been made to pilot the *Hunley* — on August 29, 1863 and on October 15 of the same year. While three men survived the first effort, all eight were killed in the second, including Horace L. Hunley who had first envisioned the concept of the submersible. Despite the loss of so many men in the efforts, it was easy to again enlist a crew for the final run, with Lt. George E. Dixon in the lead.

We visited the *Hunley* several years ago in North Charleston, and it was the highlight of our trips that year. To actually stand on the catwalks surrounding the tank in which the craft hung in a specially prepared water bath, and see the *Hunley* herself, frankly was a thrill that was absolutely fantastic. It was difficult to envision how eight men of normal height and weight could have stayed inside her, manning the crank that ran down the center of the interior, was impressive.



The *H.L. Hunley* - Outside the museum was a full size replica of the 'little fish boat' as it was termed, and visitors were allowed to go inside to get the feel of what it must have been like on that dark, cold night in 1864. Now I'm a little less than five feet in height, and trying to sit at the seats inside and operate a hand-crank was a close fit even for me, giving a greater appreciation of what those men of normal height had to contend with. Entry into the *Hunley* was through two "man holes" with openings roughly 14" x 15," no easy feat.

Forensic examination of Lt. Dixon's remains indicated that he was 5'9" tall, and had sandy brown hair. If I recall correctly, wear on the inside of his lower teeth revealed that he had been a pipe smoker. He obviously came from a well-off family, as he had a fine gold watch, a diamond ring and a diamond pin in his pockets, no doubt presents for the lovely Queenie upon his return. He had lived in Mobile, Alabama early in the War years, active in the community and had joined the local Masonic Lodge.

It was at the Conservation Center that we saw the famous \$20 gold piece carried by Lt. Dixon, the story that resonated with so many people who heard it.

His fiancée, Queenie Bennett, had given him a gold coin engraved with the words "My life Preserver – G.E. D." before the Battle of Shiloh, and when he was struck by Union fire, the shot literally left the gold coin bent, the way it was found deep in the *Hunley*, near his remains. Examination of his remains confirmed that he had previously sustained a gunshot injury shot his upper left thigh, with small lead fragments embedded in the bone!

Ever since the *Hunley* sank, and Clive Cussler with his National Underwater and Marine Agency, a private group funded by the adventure writer and marine archaeologist, stated that he had found where she lay, various efforts began to raise her to the surface and to find out what happened to the crew.

There are several theories as to what happened; one which occurred to me after reading the books on the *Hunley*, that the actual attack on the *Housatonic* and resulting concussive shock felt through the water, rendered the *Hunley* crew unconscious, where they remained as the oxygen was dissipated within the craft by their breathing and the lit candle.

Others think that it could have been damaged by fire from the *Housatonic*, though no fire damage apparently has been noted, or that another Union vessel coming to aid the *Housatonic* may have damaged it. Further examination may tell the final story, though examination of the crew's remains apparently gave no indication.

When entry was made into the boat upon it's raising in 2009, the remains of the eight men were found intact, each at his station, in a seated position, with no indication that they had fought to get out or near the opening, etc. Thus death must have come easily and quietly to those brave early sailors, whose job was to turn the heavy iron cranks which propelled the *Hunley* through the water.

The little submarine may never sail the ocean waters again, but the contribution of her and her intrepid crews will provide scientists and historians with ample food for thought for many years to come.

The Warren Lasch Conservation Center is located at 1250 Supply Street, (old Charleston Navy Base), North Charleston, SC; its number s (843) 743-4865.

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ENTERTAINMENT AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Lavan to present on his experiences on Diving the Sea of Cortez while on board the *Rocio del Mar*. Jonathan Lavan, a citizen scientist, a professional actor and a natural speaker has been SCUBA Diving for over twenty-five years. As a SCUBA Diver he has been a teacher, photographer and research associate for many different organizations.

Jonathan is currently a diver at the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. He previously worked as a Diver and Staff Member at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California . He also frequently works with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation. He is a staunch environmentalist and educator of young people. He is currently in pre-production on a travel show about SCUBA travel in the modern world called "Underpressure".

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For more information, please visit: www.doe.ky/marine/invasive-lionfish-in-cayman



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