

DA ANCHORLINE

NEWSLETTER December 18, 2005, Issue 50

Members are encouraged to submit articles, dive plans and dive reports.

Visit club web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/divers/>

Photographs can be viewed at the above noted website.

Editor: Tom Gormley

Contents

Next Meeting Notice

Holiday Party Report

Energy Comments

Artifact and picture contest review

Peggy's News

DAN News

DA Dive Log

DA Dive Plan

Gear for sale

Otter story

DA Calendar

Next Meeting Notice

Next club meeting is Monday, January 30, 2006.

We will have our regular business meeting at 730PM

Meeting Program:

Interesting Speaker Planning in Progress

2006 DA Holiday Party

The 2006 Divers Anonymous Holiday Party will be held at the Branchbrook Manor on Saturday, January 14, 2006 in Belleville, N. J from 7PM to 11PM. We plan to have lots of food, drink, festivities, and friends so make plans on your calendar to attend this event. Active members and their guests are invited, and we will accept reservations on a first come basis. Seating will be somewhat limited. There are a few tickets still available so contact Tom or Al (nesterok@optonline.net) for them. Cost will be \$10 for each member and \$30 for each guest.

Energy Comments

These comments were returned after circulating an email from Peggy about offshore NJ oil drilling. They are diver's thoughts on the matter. Here are those responses:

From Scott,

I am strongly opposed to OFF Shore oil drilling. We should stop the use of oil as an energy source. It supports terrorism in the middle east. Windmill Power is a good alternative fuel, but the windmills should be placed in desolate areas such as Alaska not in over-populated New Jersey. Hydrogen Power is a superior fuel source of energy. The oil companies and US Government should invest into alternative fuels. I've included some information on a company investing in hydrogen power. Thank You, Scott

http://www.hydro.com/en/our_business/oil_energy/sales_distribution/electrolysers/filling_stations_en.html

From Al N,

My early memories of tar balls on the beach are similar to yours. But, my later years taught me that these were not from drilling off the eastern coast. Rather they were from tankers cleaning their tanks at sea in a process called going gas free. Many of these tankers were foreign flag ships. If you and I go way back, some of it could be from WWII oil still seeping from sunken ships.

Oil drilling technology has changed for the better. Concern for the environment has also changed the culture of the drillers and production well owners.

If the rigs are not visible from shore, my take is that we would never even know that they were there. Also, drilling and production are private ventures not likely to suffer from lack of funds, bankruptcy, and government bailout.

Windmill towers and islands would need to be high security areas to protect them from vandalism, terrorism, and sabotage. They may not produce enough revenue for their own maintenance let alone round-the-clock security. Hence, the government bail out.

No manipulation in my view, just good old pork barrel politics. You kill the drilling in my back yard and I'll vote for something you want.

I still contend that land based windmills are a better alternative.

Regards,
Al

From Peggy,

Tom,

I am with you on your comments.

More of a threat is the continued building of bigger houses with no solar. No solar on any new gov buildings. Solar won't hold up in a storm (so far) but it looks like roofs didn't either. Some houses that had intact solar wouldn't be totally without electric in a storm so that would be better for storm response.

Would like to see more wind turbines on land - private land - before I see them plunked in the ocean. And I would bet, no matter what they say, there will be no access due to security in the ocean. Peg

From Don W

Oil on the Jersey beaches...being an "old guy" I remember WW II when I was a kid in Newark. While my dad was away in the war, he was an officer in the Marine Corps, my mom, sister and my cousins went one summer to Atlantic City (by train). I remember when "tar balls" floated in onto the beaches. These were a few inches in diameter as I recall. The sources were American oil tankers carrying raw petroleum to England.

The transport of petroleum and military materiel across the Atlantic was extremely dangerous because of the German u-boats, their "wolf pack" fleet that harassed the merchant ships. For more than a year, tar would wash up on Jersey's beaches.

I also remember when some German saboteurs were captured in south Jersey, having infiltrated from an off-shore u-boat.

Don

From Tom G

What I see is a knee jerk reaction of many people to try to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. I group oil drilling and windmill production in the same category. This is a commendable effort and if successful would go a long way to solving some serious current problems, however, there are drawbacks. The problem with windmills in my opinion is that they will be a boondoggle for the public. The windmills will not so much be an eyesore, but their technology and efficiency has not been established. They will likely wind up costing more than they are worth, cause a sacrifice to those who would use the same ocean space and ultimately cost all taxpayers. I am against ocean windmills, but for land windmills on land owned by private companies.

As far as offshore drilling for oil is concerned, this NY NJ ocean bite is much too close to the densest and most used area of our country. It doesn't fit.

Tom

Divers Anonymous Annual Artifact and Picture Contest – 2005

The results of our annual contest were that lots of interesting artifacts, stories, and photos were displayed and presented to our members during the November meeting. Artifacts were presented by: Mike Granado, Gary Prystauk, Rich Mullen, and Gary Mullen while photos were presented by Ian Fryer and Tom Gormley. Some people won prizes for their displays and stories, but all present were winners to be able to hear and see the results of a year long effort by our dedicated DA divers.

Set your sights on lots of diving, artifact hunting, and photography for the coming year, which starts as soon as the current contest ends, now.

Good luck for next year!

Peggy's News

(Thanks to Peggy for keeping us informed. I am requesting comments about the MPA's for our next DA newsletter. Please send them to me after looking at this NOAA newsletter. This is a long letter, but important to our future.

Thanks,
Tom, DA gormleydmd@aol.com)

MPA CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the National Marine Protected Areas Center

November / December 2005

The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas. MPA Connections was launched to meet continuing calls by agency and external stakeholders for information about MPA Center activities and to feature other actions that address Executive Order 13158 goals.

-Table of Contents-

Message from Joseph Uravitch, National Marine Protected Areas Center Director

MPA Center Creates Education Screen Saver Based on Jim Toomey Cartoons

Latest News on U.S. Efforts to Develop the National System of MPAs

Profile: Lelei Peau, MPA Federal Advisory Committee

Updates to Our Website; U.S. Website on MPAs to be Evaluated-- You Can Contribute Ideas and Comments

Recent Additions to the MPA Library

Events and Conferences

Message from Joseph Uravitch, National Marine Protected Areas Center Director

Looking back on 2005, I'm happy to report that the National Marine Protected Areas Center has accomplished our main objective for the year.

We engaged in dialogue with the public, organizations, associations, and government agencies around the nation to help us develop a draft framework for planning a national system of marine protected areas (MPAs). We also began work on the key supporting science and analysis that will help us understand how to design an effective national system.

You can read more about the MPA Center's work to develop the national system in this issue.

I'm also proud of our progress on fundamental aspects of our program. We increased public access to information about federal and state MPA processes through our web-based MPA Regional Information Centers, made improvements to the MPA.gov website-- which now receives more than 400,000 hits per month, and released an educational screen saver based on cartoons created by Sherman's Lagoon artist Jim Toomey. Our ongoing partnership with NOAA Fisheries allowed us to engage the scientific community and the public, bring recreational fishermen and scientists together in our recent workshop on benthic-pelagic linkages, and continue the dialogue between fisheries scientists and ecologists.

Finally, we are nearly finished with the inventory of marine managed areas, with final federal information posted on our website and state and territorial sites scheduled to be posted in January 2006. To date, we estimate that there are nearly 2,000 marine managed area sites around the nation.

We recognize that 2006 will be a challenging one, and we plan on using our available resources to focus on developing the national system of MPAs. We intend to publish the draft framework for developing the national system in April 2006. We expect that we'll be ready to publish the final national system framework in 2007, and soon thereafter establish the national system of MPAs based on the nation's existing sites.

Throughout this process, we are committed to engaging the public and agencies around the nation, although at a reduced level from 2005. While the scope of our work on these projects is resource dependent, we will continue building the foundation for the national system, which includes science-based characterizations and assessments of natural and cultural resources, the study of human uses and impacts on resources, and the analysis of the adequacy of the existing collection of MPAs to meet regional and national conservation goals.

In order to more accurately understand the needs of a national MPA system, the MPA Center will test the process on the west coast, namely in California, Oregon, and Washington. You will read more about that project in our next issue of MPA Connections.

Throughout 2006, we will be actively seeking your thoughts on the draft national system framework. We hope you'll continue to share your ideas and comments with us.

MPA Center Creates Education Screen Saver Based on Jim Toomey Cartoons

Thanks to the generosity of artist Jim Toomey, creator of Sherman's Lagoon, the National Marine Protected Areas Center has produced an educational screen saver using cartoons that Toomey designed for an MPA Center poster in 2001. The poster illustrates examples of the many types and purposes of marine protected areas in the United States.

This special screen saver depicts Sherman and his friends humorously interacting in various marine locations. Each colorful screen includes a brief description of the site. The sites represent examples of research reserves, sanctuaries, critical habitats, wildlife refuges, national seashores, fishery management zones, and ecological reserves.

The free screen saver is available for download on www.MPA.gov <<http://www.mpa.gov/>>. It is also available by request on a CD-ROM that features a demonstration of the MPA Center's web-based Regional Information Centers and fact sheets on MPAs.

If you would like the CD, please send an email to mpainfo@noaa.gov.

Latest News on U.S. Efforts to Develop the National System of MPAs

In January 2005, the National Marine Protected Areas Center began an intensive public process to develop the framework for the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs), as directed by Executive Order 13158. The formal engagement process kicked off with a federal inter-agency workshop in Washington, D.C. (attended by 70 headquarters and site staff representing national parks, refuges, reserves, and sanctuaries). In partnership with the Coastal States Organization, the MPA Center organized and facilitated state-territory workshops for agency representatives in three regions—west coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes/northeast. Finally, the MPA Center continued its outreach progress by meeting with non-governmental organizations, industry groups, coastal communities, and other members of the public in regions around the country, including New England, the Gulf of Mexico, and the mid Atlantic, to engage as many stakeholders as possible. The MPA Center is wrapping up its public sessions with two meetings for the west coast, scheduled for December 12 and 13 in San Francisco and Seattle, respectively.

In addition, the MPA Federal Advisory Committee met in various regions around the nation over a two-year period, where they heard from a diverse range of panelists and members of the public about MPA-related issues. The committee delivered their national system recommendations to the Departments of Commerce and the Interior in June 2005.

These workshops and sessions have resulted in an array of feedback on the uses and values of MPAs, both regionally and nationally. The MPA Center has also received written comments about developing the national system through the system email address (mpa.comments@noaa.gov). Feedback and recommendations are being incorporated into a framework that will define how to develop and implement the national system.

In April 2006, the MPA Center will publish a draft version of the national system framework, allowing for public comment over an extended period. Some of the key components that will be covered in the draft framework include:

- * vision, guiding principles, goals and objectives, and comprehensive themes;
- * the definition of “marine protected area” and associated key terms;
- * criteria for being included in the national system;
- * the process for identifying, nominating, and formally including established MPAs into the national system;
- * a process to coordinate national system planning and management; and
- * guidance for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of national system MPAs.

A complete list of national system workshops, participants, and responses is available on www.MPA.gov/national_system. To submit written comments regarding the development of the national system of MPAs, write to mpa.comments@noaa.gov.

Profile: Lelei Peau, Former Subcommittee Chair, MPA Federal Advisory Committee

Even if we do not consciously realize it, taboos guide us through our daily lives. In fact, taboos guide social interactions around the world, although accepted boundaries vary from one country to another. For those that coined the term, however, taboos extend beyond simple social custom and into accepted law.

Translated from the Tongan word ‘tabu,’ taboos have been used as a formal system of regulating and enforcing behavior within Polynesian cultures for centuries. It was British explorer Captain James Cook who introduced the workings of this tenure system to the English-speaking world over 200 years ago. By imposing bans on common activities, chieftains regulated community activity to protect threatened resources (both on land and under the sea) as needed. For the marine environment specifically, taboos acted like one type of today’s marine protected areas, with a chief setting aside temporary closures and designating fishing restrictions.

Over time, national governments replaced a chief’s authority and the system of tabu. But many people, like Lelei Peau of American Samoa, believe that embracing traditional means of authority can better serve environmental conservation, economic development, and cultural preservation.

“Samoans protected resources through marine protected areas centuries ago,” Lelei says. “With the evolution of the cash economy intensifying fishing efforts, modern management must recognize traditional knowledge and methods to better balance environmental management with economic development. The mixture of the two systems will also enhance our ability to practice traditional customs.”

As the deputy director for American Samoa’s Department of Commerce, Lelei has spent his career trying to mesh the seemingly disparate elements of traditional management and modern authority, as well as environmental conservation and economic development. But it was the force of the latter two elements that directed him on to his career path.

Growing up on an island, Lelei saw how quickly the health of the surrounding seas declined with the steady clearing of land intended for urban development. While he saw how the island benefited from this development, he also understood how the long-term impacts on the environment would eventually hinder further growth of the economy.

“You can’t compromise on either economic development or environmental health,” he says. “On an island, one cannot survive without the other. We must carefully address the needs of both.”

In order to find the balance between economic development and environmental health, Lelei has worked with a number of agencies and advisory groups to achieve shared goals, articulate the needs of the islands, and promote tools to assist the needs of decision-makers. These efforts led to Lelei’s nomination to the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Federal Advisory Committee, where he was subsequently elected as the chair for the MPA stewardship and effectiveness subcommittee (the subcommittee completed its tasks earlier this year).

When originally joining the Committee, Lelei hoped to clarify the jurisdiction and authority between state and federal governments, find ways to improve MPA management, and foster a cooperative spirit to enhance regional work through shared knowledge and resources. During his first term, which ended in June 2005, Lelei discussed his objectives in specific reference to the development of a national system of MPAs. Now, having delivered the Federal Advisory Committee’s recommendations for establishing a national system of MPAs, Lelei believes that the Committee has produced an effective model that recognizes existing sites and regional authority.

Ultimately, Lelei hopes that the Committee’s recommendations will encourage greater support for developing the national system of MPAs and promote efforts by federal partners to assist stakeholders throughout the process. Lelei will continue to serve on the Federal Advisory Committee and would like to see the Committee’s next term emphasize strategic ways to bring together partners that support MPA management.

In October, Lelei was re-appointed to another two-year term on the MPA Federal Advisory Committee. The committee will meet in April 2006 in Corpus Christi, Texas. To learn more about the MPA Federal Advisory Committee or to read the Committee’s first set of recommendations, go to www.MPA.gov.

To nominate a candidate to profile in this newsletter, send an email to Daphne.Pee@noaa.gov <mailto:Daphne.Pee@noaa.gov>.

Updates to the U.S. Website on MPAs

Since September, several updates have been made to the www.MPA.gov website. We hope you’ll visit these and other pages.

--Improved the marine managed areas inventory status page so that users can find what they’re looking for faster. The content is presented in an easy to follow table, with links to program information, maps, the latest news on the inventory, and a list of sites by agency and program.

Go to <http://www3.mpa.gov/exploreinv/status.html>.

--Added more than 80 records to the MPA Center’s virtual library. Some of those items are listed below, in the article, “Recent Additions to the MPA Library.” You can explore the library at http://www3.mpa.gov/mpa_lib/virtual_library.aspx.

--Updated the national system pages to include workshop reports from all federal, state, and public meetings held to date. Go to http://mpa.gov/national_system/#workshop.

Other Website News: www.MPA.gov to be Evaluated; You Can Contribute Ideas and Comments

The U.S. website on marine protected areas, www.MPA.gov, will undergo a facelift, content update, and restructuring in 2006. During this period, the MPA Center plans to improve access to science and analysis efforts, provide the latest information on developing the national system of MPAs, enhance the organization of existing sections, and offer a newspaper-style layout to the home page.

If you would like to participate in a focus group to assist the MPA Center in evaluating priority sections and topics for the website, please send an email to mpainfo@noaa.gov <<mailto:mpainfo@noaa.gov>>.

Recent Additions to the MPA Library

The MPA virtual library, a clearinghouse for pertinent information on MPAs, includes more than 1,500 items. A sampling of some of the most recently added materials follows.

A series of fisheries educational workshops held by Sea Grant Fisheries Extension programs in Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maine in 2003 focused on the use of MPAs for fishery management in New England waters. The workshops included assessments of theoretical impacts to fisheries, an examination of results of the closed areas on the Scotian shelf in Canada, participant questions and comments, and a summary of a facilitated group discussion held at the Maine Fishermen's Forum. "Proceedings of the New England Workshops on Marine Protected Areas" is available at: http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/u/reg_fish/edworkshops (scroll to "Marine Protected Areas Workshops").

A paper by researchers from the University of New Hampshire's Department of Resource Economics and Development, which was presented at a Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, describes research into marine recreational fishers' support for various types of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Northwest Atlantic. About half of the anglers surveyed supported MPAs, but support varied depending on MPA objectives, restrictions, and location. "New England Recreational Fishers' Attitudes toward Marine Protected Areas: A Preliminary Investigation" is available at: http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/newtown_square/publications/technical_reports/pdfs/2004/317papers/robertson317.pdf.

A new IUCN report provides a synthesis of current scientific knowledge on coral reef resilience and resistance to bleaching, and describes resilience and resistance factors and some knowledge gaps. The report discusses tools and strategies to enhance resilience, including the use of well-designed networks of marine protected areas and integrated coastal management. "Coral Reef Resilience and Resistance to Bleaching" is available at: http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/coral_reef_resilience_gg-rs.pdf.

A special issue of the National Marine Educators Association journal, "Current," features articles by scholars on deep-sea coral discoveries, research, and conservation efforts in the U.S. and Europe. It discusses various types of proposed or implemented marine protected areas, as well as deep-sea corals' importance as Hawaiian monk seal habitat; as indicators of past ocean environment; and as aquatic pharmaceuticals. "Deep-Sea Corals" (Current, Vol. 21, No. 4, 2005) is available at: http://www.mcabi.org/Current_Magazine/Current_Magazine.htm.

A report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development on the Ocean Policy Summit held in Lisbon, Portugal, in October 2005 includes a brief history of integrated oceans management, and a summary of a special session on achieving networks of marine protected areas within ocean and coastal governance. The Summit's theme was "Integrated Ocean Policy: National and Regional Experiences, Prospects and Emerging

Practices". The meeting was organized by the International Ocean Governance Network (supported by Nippon Foundation, Japan), the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, the Portuguese Intersectoral Ocean Commission, Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Port Authority of Lisbon, the International Coastal and Ocean Organization, the Gerald J. Mangone Center for Marine Policy at the University of Delaware, and the Marine and Environmental Law Institute at Dalhousie University. "The Ocean Policy Summit 2005 Bulletin" is available at:

<http://www.iisd.ca/sd/tops2005/ymbvol117num1e.html>.

A special theme section in a recent issue of "Marine Ecology Progress Series" focuses on the politics and socioeconomics of ecosystem-based management of fisheries and other marine resources. Perspective papers by marine resources experts and managers describe the administrative, socioeconomic and scientific complexities involved with the implementation of a holistic ecosystem approach to management. A paper by Tundi Agardy on global marine conservation policy versus site-level implementation includes extensive discussion of the need for properly sized and strategically networked MPAs for effective broad-scale conservation. "Politics and Socio-Economics of Ecosystem-based

Management of Marine Resources" (in Marine Ecology Progress Series v. 300, 2005) is available at:

http://www.int-res.com/articles/meps_oa/m300p241.pdf.

The first biennial progress report to Congress on the National Coral Reef Action Strategy summarizes U.S. Coral Reef Task Force members' activities under the 13 goals of the strategy and highlights their accomplishments. The report includes a chapter on improving management of coral reef resources through an expanded network of coral reef marine

protected areas. "Implementation of the National Coral Reef Action Strategy: Report to Congress: Report on U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Agency Activities from 2002 to 2003" is available at:

<http://www.coris.noaa.gov/activities/reportcongress2005/reportcongress2005.html>.

Note: the MPA Center does not necessarily endorse the views expressed in the articles listed above.

Events and Conferences

December 2005

12: MPA Center's Regional Public Dialogue on Developing the National System of MPAs, San Francisco;

http://www.mpa.gov/national_system.

13: MPA Center's Regional Public Dialogue on Developing the National System of MPAs, Seattle,

Washington; http://www.mpa.gov/national_system.

January 2006

23-28: Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands; UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France;

<http://www.globaloceans.org/paris3/index.html>.

February 2006

16 – 20: AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri,

http://www.aaas.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/.

March 2006

6-10: World Maritime Technology Conference, London, England;

<http://www.wmtc2006.com/>.

7-9: Annual Ocean and Coastal Managers' Meeting, Washington, D.C.;

The highlights for me were the huge numbers of hammer heads, silkys, white tips and black tip sharks....Coco Island is truly the shark capital of the world.....the currents are also big out there.....wish I had more weight lifting before the trip...holding cameras, line and masks on you face was daily multitasking efforts...Every form of sea life was there....TMTC *To Many To Count" schools of yellow fin tuna, damsals, etc, etc, etc.....when you go you will see the best and the last of the undersea life as it probably existed off our coasts. When you get 10 miles off shore, there are fleets of long liners and net carriers surrounding Coco.....better book this trip soon my friends, for it is about to fade from out life time.....

The 36 hr trip out and back was not too rough....only four divers of 20 who did not fall ill from the mal de mar.....the Aggressor is a real pig in open water Pacific rollers.

Well, staying in Tranquilo Backpackers in San Jose, Costa Rica for \$4.50 per night and then off to Panama in another 5 days.....come on down Costa Rica, no problems, no work, no bad weather and the Ticos are great!

Pierre

PS Got some great video stuff for the DA Club meeting in the future.....

Back to the local stuff:

11-6-05 Tom, Gary, Rich M, and Norva went to the Shrewsbury River for some local diving on Sunday, November 6, 05. The water temp was still in the 56-57 range and even at low tide, the vis was 6 feet. I went looking for the Congo Rock, but couldn't find it. Gary had spotted it last weekend and was chipping away at it, and Mike was drooling at the thought of it. We hadn't seen it for 2 years, as it was covered by shifting sands last year and the beginning of this year. Gary and Rich each collected some vintage beer bottles and I ran into 2 problems. First, my wrist seal sprung a leak, and second, my camera froze in long view so I couldn't take close ups. After getting pretty wet, I called it quits. We found a puncture in the wrist seal about 1/8 inch long. It's amazing how much water comes in with a cut that small. "Lots!" Afterwards we went to the Yellow Rose for some lunch. We hope the weather should stay this way (70's) for the rest of the year.

11-20-05 Divers

Mike G, Rich M, Tom G, Tom M, and Gary P went to Sandy Hook for a Sunday late morning dive. The weather was terrific for November with the air around 55, the water around 48, and the vis around 6 feet. Norva, Luke, and Gary M provided shore support.

At the Ranger Station we met several of the Metuchen Urban Divers who were also at Sandy Hook for a dive. We have not seen this many divers there in quite awhile, but the more the merrier as it goes.

The DA group decided to go to the bridge area for some digging and photography. Tom brought his camera while everyone else dug. Mike G took the prize for the best bottle though newcomer Tom M had a nice one as well. We all had a good time and stayed in the water for 40 to 60 minutes each. Rich and Gary had wetsuits and everyone else dove dry. Tom G was especially happy with his newly applied wrist seal which did its job.

Gary P found an oyster cracker in an old bottle and we returned him to the river. He was one of the few fish we saw. Mostly small crabs and shrimp are the marine life of this time of year. The shrimp must realize that the fish are gone, since they are much more out in the open now.

We will likely give Sandy Hook a try next Sunday, so if you want to join us, give me an email.

Tom, DA

Tuesday, December 6, 2005: Edith Farmer and Tom Gormley went to Crystal River Florida to dive with the manatees. Crystal River is a warm spring fed river that attracts migrating manatees during the colder winter months. The two DA divers spent about 2 hours snorkeling and playing with the manatees, who are very large and friendly marine mammals. They are used to human interaction and seem to love getting their skin scratched. All in all it is an enjoyable experience and worth while if you are on a Florida trip during the months of October through March when the most manatees are in the river.

December 15 through 19, 2005: Ben and Mike L are spending a few days in St Thomas looking for the lost booty. I am sure that by now their fingers are sore and tired of digging. Let's hear what they have to say when they return.

November 2005: Sarah, Matt, Sharon, and Paul went to Bonaire for a week of diving in perhaps the best Caribbean dive destination. Sarah's report indicated that the group had lots of fun diving the many shore spots around the island including the famed Hilma Hooker shipwreck, and beautiful named reefs. We hope to see some interesting photos brought back by the photographers in the group. They stayed in Buddy Dive and did the usual dive and drive package. This is a great destination. New member Hannah intends to go there soon for a dive trip.

Way to go DA divers!

DA Dive Plan

Shore Dives: Ongoing. If you wish to dive on any Sunday or Thursday, please contact Tom, Ben, or Rich about joining them. Winter diving depends on the weather and conditions. As the season warms, there are more opportunities even when ocean conditions are poor.

Boat Dives: Tom, Rich, and Ian plan to personally charter the Spring Tide and the Sea Lion out of Brielle for dives in 2006. Please let each of them know of your interest for next year's boat diving to help them make arrangements.

Ian has already arranged charter dates for August and September on the Sea Lion, and Tom may have some for July and August.

Other club members have indicated that they will be arranging charters. As dates are set, they will be added to the calendar.

Boat Diving Requirements

Everyone please be advised that the following are required to dive on any of the charters:

- 1) Logbook indicating northeast boat diving experience or arrangements to do a guided dive.
 - 2) Pony bottle and regulator with pressure gauge or other suitable redundant gear.
 - 3) Compass, wreck reel, safety sausage, safety whistle and power surface audible signaling device, cutting device as well as other mandatory scuba gear.
 - 4) [NAUI](#) Waiver and Release signed before boarding naming Tom Gormley, Ian Fryer, Rich Mullen, Janna Fabris, Mark Russomanno, Charles Soulas, Pierre Guibor, Mike Granado, Sarah Kalicin, and Ben Gualano as Instructors and Divemasters.
 - 5) [NAUI](#) medical form
 - 6) [DAN](#) or equivalent insurance
-

Story:

Otters Refuse to Respect Man's Boundaries

By TIM MOLLOY
.c The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) - Greg Sanders once stalked his chief nemesis - an otter nicknamed Phoky - for 24 days.

When Sanders, a biologist, finally captured the critter at Southern California's Anacapa Island, he shipped Phoky north to Monterey under an ambitious federal program to preserve otters while protecting shellfish divers from natural competition.

But within six months, Phoky was back in forbidden waters. He was one of dozens of otters that surprised government biologists at almost every turn. Now, it seems, officials are throwing in the towel.

In an admission that the slick-furred creatures refuse to respect boundaries imposed by man, authorities want to officially abandon their otter-relocation policy.

If the government's battle of wits is at an end, the otters have won.

“This concept of taking animals and putting them in one place and expecting them to stay where we want them ... wasn't really working,” said Sanders, 44, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

The agency is taking public comment through January in hopes of scuttling the program, which cost several million dollars before it tailed off in 1993. Fishermen want the existing policy enforced.

Environmentalists praise the idea of letting otters go where they want, saying it will aid the recovery of a species hunted almost to extinction.

By the end of the 19th century, an otter population of 16,000 that had stretched from Mexico to Oregon had dwindled to 50 otters in a secluded cove off Big Sur. Today there are about 2,700 southern otters off California's coast, according to estimates.

To appease fishermen, Fish and Wildlife banned otters in 1987 from California waters south of Point Conception near Santa Barbara - with one exception.

Fearful that an oil spill could wipe out otters elsewhere, the agency tried to create a reserve for 150 otters on San Nicholas Island, about 80 miles south of Santa Barbara.

Biologists had thought the otters would stay near San Nicholas, which has plenty of food and is surrounded by deep water that is hard to swim across. Even if the otters wanted to leave, it seemed improbable that they had the navigation skills to do it - especially since they were taken to the island by plane.

“We flew 'em out there,” Sanders said, “although we didn't blindfold them.”

The otters didn't play along. Some swam up to 200 miles to return to native habitat along the Central Coast.

Fishermen and seafood processors say federal officials never did enough - and complain that lobster and urchin fishing could be devastated if otters continue roaming Southern California waters.

“It comes down to a philosophy of, what do you believe in? Do you believe in animals or do you believe in human beings?” said Robert S. Juntz Jr., president of the Sea Urchin Processors Association and owner of a processing plant in Mendocino County that employs about 45 people.

Otters are good at getting their prey - but getting otters was never so easy.

After waiting for an otter to fall asleep, wildlife crews would sneak up beneath it with a propeller-powered craft manned by a diver and snare it in a net. The otter then would be flown in a chartered plane or driven hundreds of miles to a Northern California beach for re-release. Some died from the stress.

Total cost: \$6,000 to \$12,000 per otter.

But before officials can catch an otter, they have to spot it. One recent day, as part of the agency's fall otter survey, Sanders spent two hours near the University of California at Santa Barbara, peering through a telescope at a kelp bed where something resembling an otter had been seen the day before.

Sanders perked up when a potential otter bobbed near the surface, but it turned out to be a harbor seal. Or a log. Lots of things look like otters.

“You get these harbor seals that fake you out,” Sanders said.

Sometimes, though, Sanders catches a break - as in the incident he refers to as “the drive-by sighting.”

Years ago, Sanders got a call from a lifeguard who had been cruising along coastal Highway 101 near Ventura when he spotted what he thought was an otter. Sanders was incredulous, but decided to follow up.

It turned out to be Phoky.

A few weeks ago, Sanders and other wildlife officials marked the 15th anniversary of Phoky's first capture near Anacapa. Phoky, though, didn't make it to the celebration. He had better places to be.

Last Sanders heard, the otter was rumored to be in Mexico.

On the Net:

More on otters: <http://www.otternet.com>

11/16/05 03:40 EST

Members wishing to sell gear can post it here! (Send listing to Tom)

30 cuft pony O2 clean and filled with a 50% mix. Needs hydro. Best reasonable offer.
 Tom gormleydmd@aol.com

Meeting Minutes - Unknown

2005-6

Divers Anonymous Calendar

Updated 12-18-05
 (future, past)

<u>Jan 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2006</u>	<u>Mar 2006</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01/14: DA Holiday Party 700 p.m. Branchbrook Manor, Washington Ave, Belleville • 01/30: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m, Speaker TBA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/05: Bottle Show, South River • Sunday, February 19, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM/: Toms River Flea Market • 02/27: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. Boat Charters, Payment and Sign-Up, and Dan Lieb NJHDA update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03/12: South Jersey Shore Dive (?) • 03/24~26: Beneath-The-Sea • 03/28: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. Gary Gentile
<u>Apr 2005</u>	<u>May 2005</u>	<u>June 2005</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 04/03: Manasquan RR Bridge Dive, 8AM • 04/06: Pool Dive for gear check and warm-up 9:15 p.m. Clifton YMYWHA • 04/17 Sunday shore dive in Belmar SRI • 04/26: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. Annual Dues and Officer Elections, Gary Gentile presents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday shore dives • 05/15: Pre-Memorial Day Picnic • 05/23: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06/12 Boat dive, Spring Tide 06/27 • DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. – Uplines and lift bags by Paul Duffy

<u>"U-boats of eastern US"</u>		
<u>Jul 2005</u>	<u>Aug 2005</u>	<u>Sep 2005</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Shore Dives TBA • 7/16 & 17 DA Weekend at Dutch Springs • 07/25: DA Club Meeting • 07/31 Sea Lion boat dive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 08/21: Tom – Spring Tide Boat Dive • 08/28 Sea Lion boat dive • 08/29: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09/04: Labor Day Delaware Picnic • 09/26: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m
<u>Oct 2005</u>	<u>Nov 2005</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/31 Local Shore Dive Location TBA • 10/23 Halloween dive at Sandy Hook • : DA Club 10/24/7:30 p.m. Mark Russomanno on new DEMA equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Shore Dives Back Bay Nov 6, 10 AM • 11/28: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. 2005 Artifact & Picture - Story Contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/12: DA Club Meeting 7:30 p.m. • 12/18: Lizzie H Brayton 101 year anniversary dive, 2PM • "Happy Holidays" • Saturday, 12/31: Last Dive of Year 730AM- Shark River Inlet

Pink highlighted events are subsidized by DA dues