



# Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club

GRAND CENTRAL STATION, P.O. BOX 42, NY, NY 10163

## Looking Ahead -

### A message from our President

As you will see from reading this edition of our newsletter, AVSC has accomplished many significant things during the past year. This is directly due to the involvement and commitment of the many dedicated members that make up our Club and the larger NABS family. The Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club is back and active as a dive club in the Greater New York Area.

For the year coming we plan to get involved in many more worthwhile endeavors such as

- Continue to function as a strong and participative dive club within the New York area
- Continuing our youth training initiative
- Establishing strong community ties that represent the ideas and values of NABS
- Serve as a conduit for new members who want to enjoy the sport of scuba diving and give something back to the community at the same time

One of the biggest challenges that we will face this year is to become stronger financially. Our plan on doing that will be accomplished in two major ways: Increasing our membership and establishing revenue-generating sources of

income. While our primary focus is to always remain a dive club what we do costs money. The truth is that our membership dues do not begin to cover the expenses that are part of running an active dive club. While it may not seem like much, club apparel, trip down payments, the costs of hosting an annual awards dinner all cost money. Consequently we will be looking for creative ideas and suggestions to help make this happen. Stay tuned! In a very short period of time we will be soliciting the help of all of our membership to help raise the funds that we need to keep our club moving in the right direction.

Within the next week we will go to Virginia Beach to partake in the activities of the Northeast Annual Mini Summit in Virginia Beach. This is an event that we all look forward to as it gives us the chance to connect with our brothers and sisters from other NABS clubs.

Our dive season will continue to be active with many local dives planned. Check the website and your email for details.

It is our wish that we keep this sport and our participation in AVSC fun, engaging and supportive of our stated goals.

We look forward to seeing everyone this year for what promises to be a great dive season. From what we have done this past year you will see that we have been busy.

Sujon Low/AVSC President

## Ready-Set-Get Wet!

### Dive IN!

#### July/August Club Schedule

**July 7th - Night Dive at Shinnecock Inlet. Meet at 7:30 p.m. Dive time 9:15 p.m. coordinator: Norm Berhannan**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> - Club meeting in Valley Stream, NY. 7 pm - 9 pm. For directions contact Annette Meyers at ameyers@afd-inc.com**

**July 12-15 - Northeast Mini-Summit, Virginia Beach, VA.**

**July 21<sup>st</sup> - Beach 9<sup>th</sup> Street Club Dive. Meet at 8:00 am. Dive time 9:01 am. Club meeting at 11:30 am at Almost Paradise Coordinator: Norm Berhannan**

**August 4th - Atlantic Rangers and AVSC Club Dive and Family Day at, Dutch Springs, Bethlehem, PA**

**August 11th or August 18th - San Diego wreck, dive boat "Wahoo" Coordinator: Norm Berhannan**

**August 26th - Three club wreck dive, Point Pleasant NJ only 5 members from each club**

**For more information about upcoming dives, contact Norman Berhannan at (631) 632-7193 (w), (631) 924-1953 (h), normashley@aol.com (email)**

**For the complete club schedule, the club calendar is posted on AVSC's website: [www.avscdivers.org](http://www.avscdivers.org)**

## AVSC's Youth Program

This spring, AVSC achieved one of our major goals: establishing a youth program to expose youth to SCUBA through education and training. The youth program is part of a national initiative promoted by the National Association of Black Scuba Divers to reach out to youth through the sport of scuba diving.

AVSC's Youth Program is co-sponsored by the St. Alban's Congregational Church, UCC.

Through the efforts of Reverend Wayne L. Wilson, we received a grant from the City of New York Department of Youth and Community Development to help defray the cost of scuba equipment and PADI instructional materials and insurance. As a result of this grant and the generous sponsorship of AVSC member Stan Peters, nine young people were able to participate in a six week PADI scuba course. Instructors Sujon Low, Karen Robillard and Gary Sullivan and Dive Master Jimmy Moyon provided invaluable



leadership, training and conducting pool sessions at the Roy Wilkins Recreational Center in St. Albans, Queens.

The program was truly a collaborative effort between the church, community and AVSC, and would not have been possible without the involvement of the parents and sponsorship from Stingray Divers in Brooklyn. Special thanks to John Hickey for coordinating logistics and to Mr. Leroy Temple, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, who coordinated use of the pool facilities.

As part of the youth program, the youths attended the Beneath the Sea conference at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in March. They were able to benefit from the wide range of exhibits and workshops about scuba diving and our underwater environment. The culmination of the 2001 Youth Program was the participation of two of our youth, Trisina Purcell and Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, Jr. at the NABS Youth Summit in Pompano Beach, Florida, June 20-23.

## In Appreciation...

AVSC would like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing 1999-2001 executive board members for their time, energy and dedication. Special thanks from all of us to:

Gary Sullivan	President
Sujon Low	Vice President
Darnella Cooper	Treasurer
Lea Williams	Secretary
Kevin Romero	Board Member-At-Large & Dive Coordinator
Jimmy Moyon	Board Member-At-Large
John Hickey	Board Member-At-Large

We thank you for your commitment and look forward to your continued support as fellow members and divers.

Introducing our new executive board members for 2001-2003:

Sujon Low	President	sujonlow@aol.com
John Hickey	Vice President	jhickey218@aol.com
Gary Sullivan	Treasurer	gsully718@aol.com
Annette Meyers	Secretary	ameyers@afd-inc.com
Norman Berhannan	Board Member-At-Large & Dive Coordinator	normashley@aol.com
Steve Miller	Board Member-At-Large	samsrun@msn.com
Ike Johnson	Board Member-At-Large	Ike_pj@msn.com

Visit our website at [www.avscdivers.org](http://www.avscdivers.org)

*Dive Master Jimmy Moye and Mrs. Scott-McLaughlin accompanied them to the summit. Congratulations to Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, Jr. upon receiving his scuba diving certification. He and Dive Master Jimmy Moye are also members of NABS' Youth Summit Committee. "The Youth Summit was a complete success, it was educational and exciting. I look forward to participating in future youth summits," says Jimmy Moye.*

*AVSC will continue to develop and expand our youth initiative in 2002, with the goal of sponsoring several youths to participate in the NABS Youth Summit in June 2002. We need your help to continue this important initiative! If you would like to volunteer to work with the youth program or provide other types of assistance, please contact AVSC at our website [www.avscdivers.org](http://www.avscdivers.org)*

## **Beneath The Sea 2001 - Another First For AVSC**

*AVSC was honored to participate as an exhibitor at Beneath the Sea's 25th Annual Exposition in March. Beneath the Sea is the largest consumer scuba and dive travel and trade show in the United States, featuring over 65 seminars and workshops,*

*an underwater film festival, exhibits and demonstrations by hundreds of manufacturers, dive shops and dive clubs, and representatives of dive travel and tourism worldwide.*

*Through the efforts and leadership of AVSC members John Hickey, Annette Meyers, Lea Williams and Corey Joyner, AVSC was highly visible throughout the three-day event.*

*We were proudly represented at a booth shared with our sister club, the Atlantic Rangers, and used the opportunity to reach out to new members and educate the broader public about the fellowship, training and education offered through our organizations and other NABS clubs. AVSC members actively participated in many other facets of the event, serving as volunteers at registration, coordinating door prize drawings and assisting with the OCEAN PALS program for children. Kudos to John Hickey, who served as Beneath the Sea's director of volunteers! AVSC was a presence at Beneath the Sea, bringing home the message that there is indeed diversity in scuba diving.*

*Thanks to all who participated and hope to see you in 2002.*



## **2000 -- Year in Review**

*Last year was a busy and productive one for AVSC. Our club dove in local waters, starting the season with the annual "IRS Dive" in April at Beach 9th Street in Far Rockaway, and "Gary's March" in Coney Island. We refreshed our skills and spirits at a checkout dive/camp-out in Dutch Springs, PA early in the season with our comrades from the Atlantic Rangers. More adventure followed in June, with a club dive and spearfishing tune-up at Shinnecock Inlet and a club trip to beautiful Key Largo, FL.*

### **Communication!**

**Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club (AVSC)**  
**Grand Central Station**  
**P.O. Box 42**  
**New York, NY 10163**  
**[www.avscdivers.org](http://www.avscdivers.org)**

**National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS)**  
**Department 588**  
**P.O. Box 17553**  
**Baltimore, MD 21203-7553**  
**[www.nabsdivers.org](http://www.nabsdivers.org)**

*We had our first club picnic and family day at Valley Stream State Park, sharing a beautiful day and great food with family and friends. And of course, we made the annual pilgrimage to Virginia Beach, VA for the Atlantic Rangers Spearfishing Tournament in July. AVSC brought home the bacon, taking first place in the group competition and second place in the individual competition. AVSC joined other dive clubs and conservation groups in observing International Coastal Clean-up Day. We*

*wrapped-up the dive season with two boat dives, the Turner and the Masedonia off the shores of Brooklyn, and more diving at favorite local spots, Beach 9th and Shinnecock Inlet.*

*AVSC was "in the house" with 14 members participating in the NABS SUMMIT in November in beautiful Puerto Rico. Club officers Gary Sullivan, Sujon Low, and member Karen Robillard were recognized at the summit for their service as members of the AQUACORPS. The year*



*2000 ended on a high note with the annual Scuba Night and Awards Dinner in December. Mr. Bill Murrain, president of NABS was our keynote speaker. We were also honored to have Dr. Jose Jones, founder of NABS celebrate the evening with us.*

## Excerpts from AVSC Dive Log 2001

Club Dive #1 (2001) - Reported by Norm Berhannan 5/22/01

Dive Experience Rating: \* - \*\* Novice to Intermediate

This past weekend (5/19/01) we had our first club dive and checkout for the season at Dutch Springs in Bethlehem, Pa. Although there were a lot of divers, visibility was excellent, probably as a result of the lack of rain and run off these past few weeks. Dutch Springs is a diver's resort/campground located just on the New Jersey/Pennsylvania border. It's very clean and well maintained-- they run a tight ship. Considering the number of divers, it makes sense. It is an excellent training facility with raised platforms for checkouts and instruction, and a variety of well marked stuff to see. In addition to the helicopter I was able to dive on 2 sunken wrecks (boats), a school bus, and an airplane (didn't make it to the trolley). A thoroughly enjoyable tour of these sites was led by Bob Williams, President of the Atlantic Rangers. Thanks to Kevin Romero, dive master, for the checkouts. Great buoyancy control, Kevin! Water temperature was in the 50's. I wore a one-piece 7mm wet suit and a chicken vest. I didn't get cold, but hats off to Vivian; you're a trooper girl! She wore a wet suit and made two dives one right after the other. Saturday and Sunday were DUI Days. What a ball! All you had to do was leave your drivers license and fill out some waiver form and they gave you your choice of dry suit for the day. I ended up staying the entire weekend diving everyday in their suit. It was wonderful, after a dive, I just switched tanks and went back in again, didn't feel cold the entire weekend. Ocean Reef was also there demo-ing their full-face mask and underwater communication systems. I got together with several friends, and after a brief instruction, we cruised the walls and drop offs of the quarry talking to each other, discussing the bass and trout we observed and advising one another of our remaining air. What an experience, now if I could only afford one! DUI provided free lunch and a pig roast for participants. There were also seminars on the development of dry suits. It was great to see Bob, Toni, Dean and the other Rangers there. Thanks to my wife Judy for letting me stay the whole weekend...I owe you, Baby...and Bob Williams, without the loan of his air mattress and blankets this would not have been possible. Next year don't miss this one AVSC, it was well worth it. See you at Shinnecock next Saturday.

