



Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club

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

Looking Ahead – A message from our President

Greetings to our members, supporters and friends. According to the calendar, a short period of time has passed since we last published our newsletter. In truth, a world of difference has occurred. Living here in NYC we are still recovering from the horror of September 11th and doing our best to make adjustments to a very different world. We continue to offer our prayers and sympathy to all who have been so tragically affected by these events. Still, with the resiliency that has become part of our credo, we are committed to living life to the fullest.

As many have noticed and remarked, the World Trade Center was and is a central part of our logo featuring the NY skyline. Our club has voiced the opinion to keep it as part of saying who we are. It now serves as a constant reminder of what has happened.

For the present we are getting ready for that important part of the year-- the beginning of the dive season. It always seems like we are trying to fit more into less, especially when it comes to wet suits and the like.

Here is a brief run down on what to expect from the Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club this year:

- Securing the size of our membership by promoting club activities through email, our website and what always seems to work word of mouth.
- Continue to sponsor events that will allow us to fund our initiatives.
- Lend the efforts of our club support to the Beneath the Sea Exposition that will be held in the Meadowlands at the end of March. Our VP, John Hickey, has worked tirelessly to provide a venue for Dr. José Jones, NABS co-founder, to share his vast experience and knowledge with the diving public.
- Continue to train our members so they become more proficient and comfortable divers. This year's crop of divers will have many going for professional level certifications as Dive Masters and Instructors. One of the great benefits of having such experienced divers in our ranks is that they can provide coaching and training to any member or interested person, on what needs to be done to learn and advance with their skills. I will always admit to the biased belief that we have some of the best divers in the country right here. What I see them do in the water every time we go diving convinces me of that.
- We always look forward to participating in the North East Spear Fishing Championship hosted by the Atlantic Rangers in the summer. This year, like last,

Ready-Set-Get Wet!! Dive IN!

March 22nd-24th – Beneath The Sea Expo at the Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, NJ

April 20th – Club Meeting at York College at 12 noon

April 13th – IRS Dive at Mount Sinai Harbor, Prep Time: 11:00am, High Tide: 12:30pm

May 11th – Gary's March at Coney Island, Brooklyn, Prep Time: 7:00am, High Tide: 8:02 am.

May 18th-19th – DUI; AVSC campout, dive checkout and club meeting at Dutch Springs, PA

June 19th-23rd - NABS Youth Summit in Key Largo/Tavernier

June 15th – Club Dive at Beach 6th Street, Prep Time: 11:00am, High Tide: 12:10pm and Club Meeting at 1:30pm at Almost Paradise

June 23rd/24th – Wreck Dive TBD

July 28th – Club Dive at Shinnecock Bridge, Prep Time: 11:00am, High Tide: 12:00pm

August 3rd – Wreck Dive TBD

August 17th-18th – Club Dive Trip and Camp Out, Time and Location: TBD

August 31st – Club Dive and Club Meeting @ Shinnecock, LI Prep Time: 12:30pm, High Tide: 2:14pm

For more information about upcoming dives, contact Norman Berhannan at normashley@aol.com

For the complete club schedule and directions, the club calendar is posted on AVSC's website: www.avscdivers.org

we are defending a title, as Kevin Romero is the current North East Champion. AVSC divers placed in two of the three places with individual honors. References to our club have changed from "AVSC Who?" To "Look out, they're back!"

■ Participating in the important annual summit in November. We hear that it is Cozumel this year. We're ready! It's the most favorite dive destination for many members, myself included.

■ Probably the most significant is the continuance of AVSC's Youth Program. From the start this has been a collaborative effort between our club and St. Alban's Congregational Church. Rev. Wayne Wilson has displayed extraordinary leadership and vision in helping to make this a reality. Club members Jimmy Moyon, Gary Sullivan and many others have stepped up to the plate to make the NABS goals of educating our youth a reality. I am very proud of all that our club and the community have been able to do in making this a sport that develops our young people in so many ways. Check out our website at www.avscdivers.org and look at the pictures via the Youth Program link. Coming from young people in today's world their opinion carries a lot of weight. They think, "it's cool". Our reward comes in many forms. We are able to share our joy and foster a sense of accomplishment. We see it in their smiles and feel it in their attitudes of being able to accomplish something noteworthy. If I had to sum up what our mission and goals are for this coming year I can only think of a

few simple words. "Let's keep making a difference".

Best regards,
Sujon Low
President, AVSC

AVSC Travel Log

One of the wonderful things about our sport is the opportunity to experience the beauty of the underwater environment all over the world. AVSC members have been busy doing just that!

Bobby Allen, Stan Peters, Rudy Taylor, John Hickey and Jimmy Moyon recently returned from a diving adventure in the Dominican Republic. This was a repeat trip to Dominican Republic for most of the gang.

Reggie Callendar and fellow diving fans Ike Johnson and Traci Lennon spent some bottom-time in one of the world's premier diving destinations, Cayman Islands, in February. Traci has also experienced reef and shore diving in beautiful Bonaire with dive buddy, Corey Joyner.

Zsa Renee Ho-Sang, Tracie Jones and her brother, Ian, utilized their trip to Florida to enhance their diving skills, completing the advance certification course with the Nubian Divers, another NABS affiliate. Ian also ventured to the gulf coast of Texas for a Nitrox training course. Tracie and Ian Jones probably logged the most miles, last year, in their quest for blue water, completing a two-week sailing and diving adventure



around the islands of Fiji. Vivian Roston traveled to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia for a wonderful dive vacation.

Considering Cozumel??... Talk with Sujon Low and his wife, Margaret, who count the island as a "home-away-from-home". 13 trips and counting.

Thinking about a destination off the beaten tracks... just ask Rudy and Cynthia Taylor about their peaceful sojourn in the Turks and Caicos.

So the next time you're planning a get-away, don't forget the AVSC Network for valuable tips about diving destinations.

Communication!!

Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club (AVSC)
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 42
New York, NY 10163
www.avscdivers.org

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

AVSC's Youth Program

The PADI Seal program is the new initiative that we are bringing to the youth program and the response from the kids so far as been "Where do I sign up!" and "How can I get involved?" The PADI Seal Program is held every 2nd and 4th Saturday through the end of April at the Roy Wilkins Pool and Recreation Center in St. Albans, Queens. AVSC gratefully acknowledges the continued sponsorship of the St. Albans Congregational Church, UCC in bringing this program to the community.

The Seal program is new for PADI also; it gives youth as young as 8 years of age an opportunity to get exposure to the sport of scuba diving. There are 5 Aqua Missions that the kids must complete before becoming a PADI Seal. The program is about having fun. Each mission does have skill objectives but there is no pressure for the child to complete it in one pool session, he/she progresses at his/her own rate. Adding a mixture of fun things with the overall objective of getting the



child comfortable in the water, we have a winning combination.

Additionally, we are using the Seal program to help us identify youth that we feel would be successful in the PADI Open Water Diver program. Taking a lesson from last year we realized that the youth although motivated to complete the program had a great demand put upon their time resources. So we found ourselves competing against so many other activities that many did not complete the program. The Open Water Diver program requires a commitment from both AVSC and from the

youth. This year it is our intention to address some of those short falls that we found last year and begin a new program in the April-May time frame. We want to feed the Open Water Program with those successful PADI Seals and continue working with those that are not ready yet to make the transition.

To have both programs running presents an opportunity for all of AVSC to get involved. The young people in the Seal program need tight control and very often some one-on-one help. That extra set of eyes can sometime make a big difference. It is our hope that AVSC members will demonstrate what our people have known for ages, that it takes a village to raise a child. Club members can help in several ways:

- Provide assistance (another pair of eyes and ears) to the instructors at the pool
- Donate exotic coins and other items for a pool treasure hunt
- Provide transportation for gear and participants
- Donate gear or money to the program to support our equipment needs



AVSC Club Meetings

General membership meetings are scheduled on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 12 noon (unless a dive is scheduled before the club meeting). Our new meeting location is:

York College CUNY
94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd
Jamaica, NY 11451

See you at our next meeting on:

Saturday, April 20th @12 noon

In an attempt to make club meetings more informative and enjoyable, we are inviting members and guest speakers to address topics of interest at our meetings. If you have a topic



you would like to have presented at a meeting, or have a speaker interested in addressing the club, please contact Annette Meyers at ameyers@afd-inc.com.

AVSC's Third Annual Awards Dinner

We joined together for our Third Annual Awards Dinner on December 8th at the Vulcan Hall in Brooklyn, not only in appreciation of the achievements of our individual members, but in gratitude for the fellowship and blessings we share as a club. Our keynote speaker, Toni McNeal, NABS treasurer and a leader of NABS Youth Initiative urged us all to seek ways to inspire young people to explore their talents and grow, as we celebrated the achievement of Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, Jr., the first youth to be certified through our own youth initiative.

The awards ceremony also recognized AVSC members who have developed their talents and skills in the field of diving, and those who have contributed their leadership, organizational skills and support to club activities throughout the year.

2001 Achievement Awards

- Ian Jones Advanced Open Water and Nitrox Diver
- Tracie Jones Advanced Open Water
- Zsa Renee Ho-Sang Advanced Open Water
- Corey Joyner Master Diver
- Vivian Roston Open Water Diver
- Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, Jr. Junior Open Water Diver
- Gary Sullivan Life Guard and PADI Certification – IDC Staff Instructor

2001 Awards

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| John W. Hickey, III | President/Leadership Award | Zsa Renee Ho-Sang | Most Improved Diver Award |
| Isaiah Johnson | President/Leadership Award | Traci Lennon | Advocate Award |
| Annette Meyers | President/Leadership Award | Jimmy Moyer | Diver of the Year |
| Randolph Scott-McLaughlin, Jr. | AVSC President's Youth Award | | |

2001 Service Awards

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Judy Berhannan | Norman Berhannan | Chuck Brooks | Dean Carroll | Donna Faison | John W. Hickey |
| Isaiah Johnson | Corey Joyner | Traci Lennon | Margaret Low | Toni McNeal | Annette Meyers |
| Steven Miller | Jimmy Moyer | Stan Peters | Ken Robertson | Karen Robillard | Kevin Romero |
| Gary Sullivan | Bob Williams | Lea Williams | Rev. Wayne Wilson | | |

**AQUATIC VOYAGERS SCUBA CLUB (AVSC)
OF NEW YORK, INC. -NABS Affiliate Club
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
YEAR 2002**



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ARE YOU CURRENTLY CERTIFIED? YES ___ NO ___

SCUBA CERTIFICATION LEVEL: _____

CERTIFICATION AGENCY: _____

NUMBER AND TYPE OF DIVES LOGGED: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PROFESSION: _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF NABS? YES ___ NO ___ **NABS MEMBERSHIP #: _____

2002 DUES	
___ \$40 New Individual Membership	___ \$60 New Family Membership
___ \$30 Renew Individual Membership	___ \$50 Renew Family Membership
	___ \$30 Student Membership

*Please note that AVSC has created a 3 level membership status. Full Membership=a certified diver who has paid AVSC and NABS dues. Voting privileges are granted at the full membership level. Associate Membership=a non-certified diver who has paid AVSC and NABS dues. Voting privileges are not granted at this level. Supporter=a person who contributes \$40 or more to AVSC. This person may be a diver or non-diver.

Payment enclosed (check, money order made to cash), canceled check or money order receipt is proof of payment. For more information and where to send application, contact:

*A.V.S.C.
c/o Gary Sullivan, Treasurer
Grand Central Station
Box 42
NY, NY 10163*

**Final approval of AVSC application is contingent upon NABS membership application and dues submitted to NABS headquarters.

I _____, will support and promote The Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club (AVSC) an affiliate of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS).