



Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club

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

Looking Ahead – A message from our President

Here we are, at the beginning of a new dive season. I'm sure everyone, like myself, is excited about getting wet and participating in the future club activities.

AVSC has a full 2005 calendar that includes not only diverse dive locations, but also, club meetings with guest speakers, pool sessions at York College, a family day outing, youth program and much, much more.

One of the goals this year is to participate in the NABS' Youth Summit in June, The committee led by Elizabeth Adams and Jimmy Moyon has planned a fun and educational agenda for our youth. Adults interested in participating are encouraged to do so.

On the home front, AVSC has already begun working on our part to bring SCUBA DIVING to our community. We will be working again with EXPLORE! Last year's two-week program that brought scuba diving to teenagers, as well as their parents, was such a great success, everyone wanted more.

A first for our club, "Dive 'Til You Drop" will test the endurance of our divers in

and out of the water. Look for more details about this monster dive weekend on our website.

We hope to see our members, supporters and friends throughout the year.

Annette Meyers
AVSC President
Always Ahead of the Tide

Beneath The Sea – 2005

AVSC is once again looking forward to participating in the 29th annual Beneath the Sea (BTS) scuba and dive travel show, at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in NJ, March 18 – 20. BTS is the largest consumer dive travel and trade show in the United States, featuring over 60 seminars and workshops, an underwater film festival, exhibits and demonstrations by hundreds of manufacturers, dive shops and clubs, and representatives of dive travel and tourism worldwide.

This year we will continue to use our booth to reach out to new members and educate the broader public about the fellowship, training and education offered through AVSC and other National Association of Black Scuba Divers (NABS) clubs. We will also kick off our raffle for the AVSC Youth Initiative, offering as first prize, a digital underwater camera.



Ready-Set-Get Wet!! Dive In!

March 18–20 – Beneath The Sea Expo at the Meadowlands Exposition Center, Secaucus, NJ

April 16 – Club Meeting with Guest Speaker @ York College, 1pm

April 30 – Club Dive: Gary's March @ Coney Island, NY. Prep Time: 12pm, High Tide: 1pm

May 21 – Club Meeting, Youth Initiative Raffle Drawing @ York College, 1pm

May 21, 22 – DUI Weekend @ Dutch Springs, PA

May 14 – Club Dive: Ponquogue Bridge, LI. Prep Time: 1pm, High Tide: 1:50pm

June 18 – Club meeting @ York College 1pm

June 22 – 26 – NABS Youth Summit, Florida City, FL.

June 25 – Club Dive @ Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn. Prep Time: 10am, High Tide: 11:20pm

July 8, 9, 10 – Dive 'Til You Drop

- Friday, 8th – [Night Dive] Ponquogue Bridge
Prep Time: 9:30pm, High Tide: 10:30pm
- Saturday, 9th – Shinnecock Inlet
Prep Time: 9am, High Tide: 10am
Horton Point
Prep Time: High Tide: 1:30pm
- Sunday, 10th – Ponquogue Bridge
Prep Time: 11am, High Tide: 12pm

July 16 – Club meeting @ York College 1pm

August 20 – Club meeting @ York College 1pm

August 28 – Club [Night] Dive @ Bayville Barge, LI. Prep Time: 6:50pm, High Tide: 7:50pm

For more information about upcoming dives, contact: President@AVSCdivers.org

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

So, you wanna dive off a livaboard? – Corey Joyner

At a recent dive club meeting, some of my dive buddies got into a debate about the pros and cons of diving off of a livaboard. I'd like to take a moment to share some of those thoughts with you.

A livaboard is a specially crafted dive boat on which divers have the opportunity to live and dive, dive, dive off of a boat for a predetermined amount of days. Some livaboards offer trips starting from as few as 3 or 4 days, but often offer trips of 7 or 8 days. These boats offer divers the delight of rolling out of their bunks, gearing up on the dive platform of the boat, and diving 3 to as many as 5 times per day. Divers are fed 3 squares a day, often are served snacks in between dives and are catered to by the dive crew. Once on the boat and settled, divers rarely have to touch their gear other than to inflate or deflate their BCD's while in the water, or take off their fins when boarding the vessel after completion of a dive. Many livaboards have ladders designed so that you don't even have to take off your fins to get back on the boat. Not having to get up early to catch a bus or van, not having to worry about preparing a meal or a snack, many divers consider this pure divers heaven.

Livaboards come in many sizes and styles. There are sailboats, catamarans, and fuel powered cruisers from 30 feet to 150 feet and beyond. The

accommodations can fit all budgets, destinations and comfort levels. They often have several levels of instructors as part of the crew, so a diver may upgrade their education and certification level while on a trip.

Not only does the diver get to dive until his heart is content, but he or she gets to dive on some of the most pristine and unspoiled dive sites, since these vessels will go where a boat making a day trip cannot go and make it back to port in a reasonable time.

The down sides...while many vessels may come equipped with a television for watching DVD's or videotapes, they rarely if ever come equipped with a satellite dish, so you will have a go a few days without catching your favorite basketball team in action, or getting the latest update on CNN. Nor will you be able to surf the web for a while unless you have the latest super secret spy technology, and the cost to do so (using the boats hardware, if so equipped) would be highly probative. And while you're at it, forget calling the office on your cell phone since it is unlikely that you would be able to pick up a signal while out at sea. But then again, isn't that what a vacation is all about? Many may considers these downsides to be vacation paradise. But, in the case of an emergency back home don't fret, all operators have ship to shore radios, and you can be reached via the ship's radio from the operator's home base.

If you are considering going on a livaboard, a few things you may want to consider:

- Where does the boat leave from? How difficult will it be to get to the departing port?
- How long does the trip last? If it is your first livaboard trip, you may want to go on a shorter trip to see if it is to your liking.
- What are the accommodations like? Consider that you will spend little time in your bunk other than to sleep. You might want to check out how many heads are available and the ratio of complete bathing facilities is to divers.
- How big is the boat? Will there be room to stretch out and relax while you are not diving?
- What is the proposed cruising itinerary? What dive sites will you hit while out to sea? You might want to research the dive sites and type

of diving on the web and from other divers before seriously considering the trip.

- Find out what amenities are offered by the vessel, i.e. rental equipment, non-diving activities, specialty courses, photo-video availability, special diets, etc. The amount of amenities will be in direct correlation to the size of the vessel and the length of the trip. Some operators will offer transport from the airport.

The types of dives available while on a livaboard will be diverse; drift dives, deep dives, wall dives, reef dives, wreck dives, and night dives. A diver could come back with a wealth of new diving experiences from one trip on a livaboard. Might be worth your while. Why don't you give it a try?

AVSC and NABS Reach Out to Youth- Judy Berhannan

As a charter club of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers, an important part of AVSC's mission is to develop and provide educational experiences, which promote an awareness and appreciation of diving and the aquatic environment. AVSC has been active in providing avenues for youth to explore and develop new skills through scuba.

During the summer of 2004, AVSC partnered with EXPLORE!, a science enrichment program sponsored by the Queens Bridge to Medicine/Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at York College, to offer a two week summer program. As part of the curriculum developed by the EXPLORE! SUMMER 2004 co-directors and faculty, twenty students participated in a one-day "Discover Scuba" class at York College, instructed by Sujon Low. Interested parents were also able to experience scuba during a special "parents only" session prior to the start of the program.

This June, NABS will host a Youth Summit in Florida City, Fla., bringing young people across the country together for a weekend of educational seminars, dive training, and fellowship. AVSC's Jimmy Moyon and Elizabeth Adams of the Atlantic Rangers are the co-chairs of the NABS Youth Summit Committee. The theme for this year's Youth Summit will be "Making a

Communication!!

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

Now you can reach us via email:
President@avscdivers.org
Secretary@avscdivers.org
Treasurer@avscdivers.org
Webmaster@avscdivers.org
ecommerce@avscdivers.org

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

AVSC and NABS Reach Out to Youth- *continued*

Difference in Our Marine Environment and in Our Community.” The committee is also working with the mayor of Florida City to offer a “Discover Scuba” program to the local community during the summit.

Moyen was one of the guiding lights behind AVSC’s youth initiative, helping to establish our first youth programs in 2001 and 2002 with the St. Alban’s Congregational Church and the Roy Wilkins Recreational Center in Jamaica, Queens. These outreach efforts in the southeast Queens community helped lead to the partnership with EXPLORE! “These programs are so important because they expose young people to new areas and skills”, says Moyen. “A program like Discover Scuba opens doors. Once they’ve experienced it, they realize that they can accomplish anything!”



Diving Belize with AVSC... Another Great Adventure! - *Judy Berhannan*

An intrepid band of Aquatic Voyagers traveled to Belize September 18th -25th to experience one of the world’s premier diving locations. The contingent included Steve Miller and Tina Low, Fumbeya Marengo, Ike Johnson, Monica Davis, Ty Forte, Mel and Zelda Betty, Keith and Cookie Hoskins, and of course the “Travel –Masters” Traci Lennon and Reggie Callender. The eventful trip began with a travel delay in North Carolina and a detour and for Keith and Cookie (who ended up having a romantic get-away in St. Maarten thanks to Traci!) While waiting for the next flight out in N.C., the traveling Voyagers had a chance to catch up with member Gary Sullivan, now living and working in that state.

Once they arrived in Belize, the group stayed at the Costa Maya Reef Resort in Ambergris Caye, and dove with the resort operator, Belize Academy of Diving and with Amigo del Mar. High points of the trip included diving the Blue Hole full of sharks and other creatures, and swimming with a school of dolphins. Memorable dive sites included Boca del Rio, Mata Canyon, West Point Wall and Eagle Ray Wall.

Other special moments were meeting Danny Glover during Belize’s Independence Celebration, and enjoying a fish fry/barbeque on the pier of the resort, courtesy of club fishermen Fumbeya, Steve, Traci and Mel. Last but not least, meeting new friends (now new AVSC members) William and Deborah Landers, who immediately became part of the gang.

A travel tip from “Travel-Master” Reggie, “I would recommend diving with Amigo del Mar if you travel to Belize. They’re great in all areas...diving, presenting the area’s history, safety and fun. A trip to Ambergris Caye would not be complete if you don’t make it the Blue Hole with Amigo del Mar as your dive operator.”

AVSC’s 2005 - 2006 Executive Board

The new year welcomed the new AVSC Executive Board

<i>President</i>	<i>Annette Meyers</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>John Hickey</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Corey Joyner</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Gary Sullivan</i>
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Steven Miller</i>
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>LeRoy Haynes</i>
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Ivan Donovan</i>

Annual Awards Dinner was held on Saturday, January 22, 2005 at Alhambra Ballroom in Harlem.

2004 Awards

<i>Judy Berhannan</i>	Diver of the Year Award
<i>Reggie Callender</i>	President/Leadership Award
<i>Monica Davis</i>	Most Improved Diver
<i>Zelda Betty</i>	Advocate Award
<i>Mel Betty</i>	Special Award
<i>Traci Lennon</i>	Special Award

Board Member Service Awards

<i>Judy Berhannan</i>	<i>Ivan Donovan</i>
<i>Norman Berhannan</i>	<i>Traci Lennon</i>
<i>Zelda Betty</i>	<i>Annette Meyers</i>
<i>Reggie Callender</i>	

2004 Achievement Awards

<i>Norman Berhannan</i>	PADI Divemaster and TDI Nitrox Certification
<i>Reggie Callender</i>	Adv. Nitrox & Decompression Diving Cert. & DAN Oxygen Provider
<i>Terry Klug</i>	Discover Scuba
<i>Fumbeya Marungo</i>	PADI Rescue Diver and Wreck Diving Specialty
<i>Frank Solis</i>	NAUI Master Diver

2004 Service Awards

<i>Judy Berhannan</i>	•	<i>Norman Berhannan</i>	•	<i>Zelda Betty</i>	•	<i>Reggie Callender</i>	•
<i>Ivan Donovan</i>	•	<i>Ty Forte</i>	•	<i>LeRoy Haynes</i>	•	<i>John Hickey</i>	•
<i>Traci Lennon</i>	•	<i>Sujon Low</i>	•	<i>Margret Low</i>	•	<i>Jimmy Moyon</i>	•
						<i>Corey Joyner</i>	•
						<i>Bob Williams</i>	•

**AQUATIC VOYAGERS SCUBA CLUB (AVSC)
OF NEW YORK, INC. -NABS Affiliate Club
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
YEAR 2005**



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 #: _____

2005 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:

*Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club
c/o Treasurer
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 42
New York, 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).