



# Aquatic Voyagers Scuba Club

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

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

### A message from our President

It's been a busy year for AVSC and the fun isn't over. New diver or old salt, this year's dive season provided experiences to remember. The wrecks of the Florida Keys were spectacular; we were awed by the size and magnificence of the Spiegel Grove. The Eagle is a thing of beauty words can't describe it. What was that dish at the Fish House? Key West sunsets, love it! For some AVSC members it was their first trip to the Florida Keys, but I can tell by the grins, it won't be their last.

The Aquarius, the National Undersea Research Centers (NURC) underwater habitat was a new one for me. Imagine a docked space station on a pristine alien planet filled with scientist and surrounded by life and you'll get some idea of what it was like to dive the Aquarius. The Aquarius is not open to the public and required special permission, much thanks to Charlie Lumpkin for making the arrangements and for the tour of the NURC headquarters afterward. Very impressive!

Our top guns Kevin Romero and Sujon Low represented AVSC in the East Coast Mini-summit and Spearfishing tournament hosted by the Atlantic Rangers in North Carolina. As expected our boys raised the mark with Kevin taking top honors with a 44-pound Amberjack and Sujon placing 3rd with a 24 pounder. Sujon and Kevin have been pulling big strippers out of Shinnecock Inlet all summer long on dive trips to Hampton Bays. Hey guys, leave some for the locals!

Several AVSC members told me they don't dive cold water, well Cape Ann changed that... the picnics, the dinner, the camaraderie. This was our second year diving Gloucester and Rockport, the Northeast Mini-summit will become an annual event and it will only get better.

There's still more diving as we gear up for the pre-summit and summit in Bonaire. Go to our website, check out our schedule and join us.

Do you have what it takes to challenge our hot shots at the Rodeo Shootout on October 5th in Point Pleasant, New Jersey? If you think so sign on, there are still a few spots left, but they're going fast.

Don't forget our Annual AVSC Awards Dinner on December 13th. As always it will be a first class event, good food, good company and we're going to Party!

A successful dive club is about active people coming together and sharing good times. The key word is active, it's not enough to pay dues or occasionally go to a meeting. When we share experiences it makes it better for all of us. We're a team, a winning team and it takes dedicated members to keep the ball rolling.

Stay Wet!  
Norman Berhannan  
President

## PROJECT OCEANOLOGY August 15-17, 2003

Over 20 children and adults, consisting of members of AVSC and Atlantic Rangers, participated in a weekend program at the National Undersea Research Center (NURC) and Project Oceanography, .

AVSC sponsored two youth for the weekend, Jalayr Miller, 11 and Halimah Muhammad, 13. Activities included operating a remote sub-mersible vehicle, conducting various experiments on the Environ Lab vessel, a visit to the Nautilus Museum and an outing to Ocean Beach.

This educational yet fun weekend afforded the participants to analyze the ocean water, inspect various ocean animals, operate a \$10,000 remote submersible vehicle and attend presentations from Dr. Ivar Babb and Craig Bussel of NURC on the opportunities in the field of oceanography.

Thanks goes to NABS for their sponsorship, all the chaperones and Elizabeth Adams for coordinating the event, Charlie Lumpkin for his vision for our youth and organizing the fun filled weekend.

## Ready-Set-Get Wet!!

**September 20** – Club Meeting  
Guest Speaker – Kevin Romero  
Topic: Spearfishing and Safety, 1pm @ York College

**October 5** – Spearfishing Rodeo Shoot Out in Pt. Pleasant, NJ

**October 12** – Club Dive – Eastern Long Island

**October 18** – Club Meeting, 1pm @ York College

**November 1** – Ninth Annual Pumpkin Head Dive @ Beach 6<sup>th</sup> Street Prep  
Time 12:29pm High Tide: 1:29pm

**November 1 - 5** – AVSC Pre-Summit - Bonaire

**November 5 - 9** – NABS Summit - Bonaire

**November 15** – Club Meeting, 1pm @ York College

**December 13**—AVSC Awards Dinner, 7pm @ The Proper Café

**December 20** – Club Meeting, 1pm @ York College

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



*CLUB TRIP – Florida Keys  
May 22–26, 2003*

The summer dive season was kicked off by a truly spectacular trip to the Florida Keys, coordinated by AVSC’s very own master travelers, Reggie Callender and Traci Lennon. Nineteen AVSC members and friends were joined in Key Largo by NABS President Bill Murrain and his son Shakir, and Atlantic Ranger Charlie Lumpkin for three action packed days of diving with Key Largo Divers. The trip offered a variety of dive experiences, from the bountiful coral reefs of Pennekamp State Park and Marine Sanctuary to the wrecks of the Eagle and the mammoth Spiegel Grove.

AVSC was especially fortunate to have the opportunity to dive the Aquarius, an underwater research center with limited access to recreational divers. Our thanks to Charlie Lumpkin, who has established a relationship with the National Underwater Research Center and developed an avenue for NABS groups to experience this fascinating site. New AVSC diver Monica Davis got to experience the Aquarius as one of her first open water dives with instructor Corey Joyner.

We soaked up every bit of the Key Largo experience, from our barbeque in Pennekamp Park; afternoon and evening expeditions to Key West and a sunset casino cruise. AVSC divers were treated to key lime pie after our last dive by the owner and operator of Key Largo Divers, who looks forward to seeing us all down in the Keys soon.

*NORTHEAST MINI-SUMMIT  
Cape Ann, Massachusetts  
August 8–10, 2003*

AVSC hosted our first Northeast Mini-Summit in Cape Ann, Massachusetts, returning to the site of our successful club trip last year. The Mini-Summit was an opportunity to experience a variety of cold-water dives in one of the most well known dive areas in New England and to network with other clubs in the Northeast. AVSC was joined by Paul Washington and Francine Worthington, representing the New England Cold Water Divers, and Tanya Lewis, NABS member and diver-in-training. Zelda and Melvin Betty were accompanied by their nephew Errol Jones and wife Lillith from Great Britain, who enjoyed some of the topside attractions of this historic seaside area.

Cape Ann offers over twenty well-marked dive sites accessible to divers from the shore as well as offshore dives, and is a very popular area for divers in the region. During our two-day stay, we dove Foley Cove, Back Beach, and Old Garden Beach. The fishing port city of Gloucester, (home of “The Perfect Storm”) and artists’ colony of Rockport bring many visitors to the Cape Ann area.

Atlantic Range Charlie Lumpkin, a true friend of AVSC, assisted throughout the weekend, coordinating transportation to dive sites, and providing much needed shore support for the rocky entries and exits. Tina Lowe took shore support to a new level, staking our parking spots in the hot noonday sun, and hauling gear (and divers) down to the beach.

The weekend ended with an impromptu crabfest in the courtyard of the Sea Lion Inn, with crabs caught by Traci and Reggie at Foley Cove, and a lobster nabbed at Old Garden Beach (thanks to Paul Washington’s local lobster permit). We’re already planning a crab and lobster hunt as part of next year’s Mini-Summit with the New England Cold Water Divers!

*RODEO SHOOT OUT  
October 5, 2003*

AVSC is inviting all spear fishermen and women to participate in its first Spear Fishing Rodeo Shoot Out. The event will be taking place on the charter dive boat the Diversion II out of Pt. Pleasant NJ.

This will be a two-tank dive off of the New Jersey Coast that is well known for having a variety and abundance of edible game fish. Only legal size and limit, edible game fish will be allowed in this tournament. If you don’t intend to eat we don’t want you shooting it. Tournament winner and those who place will receive a prize and awards. This tournament is designed to give those who like to spear fish a chance to prove your mettle. Forget the old saying, “Where’s the BEEF”? Just ask, “Where’s the FISH?”

Registration will be on a first-come-first-serve basis. The boat will leave the dock at 6:30 AM on October 5, 2003.

*PRE-SUMMIT IN BONAIRE -  
MISS THE BOAT!!!!!!  
November 1–5, 2003*

Those arriving in Bonaire a few days before the NABS summit are invited to join AVSC for some great shore diving. AVSC has arranged 2-day and 3-day dive packages with Wannadive Bonaire. We plan on missing the boat! Also planned -- Sunday evening out with local entertainment and more... For further information and to purchase your dive package, visit [www.avscdivers.org](http://www.avscdivers.org).

*SAVE THE DATE  
AVSC Annual Awards Dinner  
December 13, 2003*

AVSC’s Annual Awards Dinner will be held at The Proper Café, in Queens. A great night is planned with something for everyone... and dancing until dawn. We hope to celebrate another successful and safe dive season with all our members and friends.

**Communication!!**

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