

# Seahunt a success!



We had great weather for the Seahunt this year and over 160 divers showed up to participate in the chance to win valuable prizes. The winner of the grand prize - a complete scuba dry system donated by the Northern Shore Diving Centre - was Barry Smith of Dartmouth. We would like to gratefully express our appreciation to all the volunteers who contributed their time and to all the suppliers who contributed prizes - without either of them the Seahunt could not have taken place. We are sorry that we cannot list all the volunteers with the prize contributors, but you know who you are, and we do not forget you.

## Diving Nova Scotia

I had the pleasure of diving on one of our coastline's common sights last month and was really surprised at how much I enjoyed the experience.

A friend of mine had been telling me about how he had done some diving on wharves when he was in B.C., and how interesting it had been. I had never considered diving on a wharf before. First of all, they were shallow and what can you really see in 10 to 15 feet. Secondly, my experience as a kid around wharves was that they were full of creosote (I got more than one scolding for getting it on my clothes!) and it seemed everybody tossed their garbage around them.

However, his description of the experience was intriguing. I also remember a museum display of wharves underwater and wanted to try it at least once.

I arranged for a buddy and we went to Beaver Harbour where I was familiar with the local Government wharf. (The one with the creosote). I was really impressed with the dive! At the foot, we found crabs and lobsters hiding in the crevices and fill. Ascending a few feet brought us to anemones, sea urchins and starfish, a

few more feet brought us to periwinkles, more starfish, not to mention the mussels. Even the fish seemed to be different with larger sizes toward the bottom and smaller sizes as we ascended.

The lighting effect from the sun shining through the wooden deck added an element of mystique.

Even the garbage proved fascinating. We found an old soda bottle that might have been tossed off the wharf by some kid 30 years ago when he had quenched his thirst. (Could it have been me?) Old filleting knives with nothing left except rusty memories.

Wharf diving is a very unique experience and one which I will be having again. I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone. However, if you do decide you would like to dive on a wharf, pick one in good repair, make sure of the boat traffic using it and let people know you are there. I didn't do a penetration this time, but if you do decide to go under the wharf, make sure you have your knife and be very careful of monofilament fishing line. I can remember catching mackerel from "my" wharf and how they swam underneath and broke my line!

*Blair Mercer*

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## A Reader's Letter; An Editor's Comment

Dear Editor;

I noticed on the back of your September edition that the second objective of the NSUC is to "ensure that training programs are given to a recognized level of quality", among other things.

Could you please tell me:

a.) What NSUC officer or committee administers this objective?;

b.) What qualifications does this officer or committee have to determine that a training program does not meet recognized standards?; and

c.) What happens when the officer or committee makes such a determination?

Yours truly  
"Someone who's had  
two unsatisfactory  
courses"

Dear "Someone";

You are not alone in noticing our objectives!

Ensuring training programs are given to a recognized level of quality is not just a concern of the NSUC, it is a concern of all divers and potential divers alike.

We have been fortu-

nate in that there has not been an overabundance of complaints and those that have risen, have been handled at the originating level to some satisfaction. However, as with any industry, when expansion comes, it can result in a relaxing of the standards set by the various Certification Agencies as the industry faces increased competition. Please note that I said can result - this does not necessarily mean there will be a drop in standards.

To ensure training programs are maintained to their recognized level of quality, it is imperative that all sections of the diving industry work together. The NSUC cannot just sit down and say that "these are the standards" and leave it at that, nor should they be expected to do it alone.

It requires everyone to have fair input, from the Council, Certifying Agencies and Instructors, diving businesses right down to the individual diver. If we all want to promote our industry in good faith, then we all should accept the responsibility of acting collectively in good faith.

Bottomtime is published eight times annually by the Nova Scotia Underwater Council. It is distributed free of charge to members. Members' fees for 1990 are \$14 annually for individuals. Membership is also open to clubs and commercial enterprises. Non-members may purchase a subscription for \$12.50. Whenever possible, subscriptions will commence with the current issue.

Bottomtime is published as a forum with the aim to generate opinions, communication with and feedback from our members. Submissions to Bottomtime are published at the discretion of the editor. Articles are the opinions of the contributory authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the NSUC. Articles may be reproduced with the written permission of the NSUC. We encourage response to any of the articles.

Advertising rates are available on request. If advertisers require design services to prepare camera-ready copy, this must be pre-arranged prior to the deadline. Due to editorial changes and technical problems this issue has been unavoidably delayed. Our apologies to our readers. Our publishing schedule is:

|          | Deadline | Published |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| November | 15       | 30        |
| January  | 1        | 15        |
| February | 15       | 28        |
| April    | 1        | 13        |
| May      | 15       | 30        |
| July     | 1        | 13        |
| August   | 15       | 30        |
| October  | 1        | 15        |

Send all submissions to:

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Nova Scotia Underwater Council

P.O. Box 34, Armdale, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4J7

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### The Nova Scotia Underwater Council

President

Lynn Gallant

## News in Brief & Comment



### Underwater Lumberjacks!

With the global concern surrounding the reduction of Tropical Rain Forests, one man has found a way to salvage acres of forest which had been lost to progress.

Juarez Christiano Gomes in Brazil invented the Underwater Power Saw to help harvest over 5,000 square kilometres of flooded Amazon forest.

The underwater lumberjacks work at up to depths of 150 ft. using an air hose to the surface. The danger lies not in dodging falling trees, but in working for prolonged periods at these depths, trees shooting to the surface and piranhas. The underwater lumberjacks dress entirely in black - that way it is harder for the fish to see them.

### Ocean Alternatives

A Maritime company is turning what would have been waste by-product of fishing industries into a business venture.

Maritime Leather Canada Ltd., of the South Shore, manufactures sea hides

from the skins of cod, wolf fish, shark and other fish species.

The technology was initially developed in Australia and imported to Nova Scotia.

The majority of finished products are exported to the USA and Europe and used in the manufacture of belts, shoes, handbags and other items.

### Naval Divers Receive Awards

The Shearwater Airshow is now over for another year and this year's show - as always - was a success.

The main attraction were, of course, the Snowbirds in their Tudor Jets who put on their thrilling precision performance.

Last year, we can recall the tragedy when two Snowbirds crashed in Lake Ontario.

Leading Seaman Mike James, a Clearance Diving Technician at Fleet Diving Unit (Atlantic) and Petty Officer Jules Veraeghe, a Senior Clearance Diving Technician at DCIEM received Maritime Commanders Certificates of Achievement for the out-

standing work during recovery of the two crashed Snowbirds.

LS James was the pilot of the DART (Deep Access Reconnaissance Television) and initially worked around the clock to repair transit damage. This was followed by a fortnight of intensive operations to recover every control and flight surface required for investigation into the accident.

PO1 Verhaeghe demonstrated outstanding leadership and technical ingenuity during the salvage operation. He was temporarily attached to the salvage team from the beginning because of his special skills and was in charge of most of the actual rigging and lifting of the wreckage.

(source: Trident newspaper, Maritime Command)

### Subsea Horizons Update

The organizing Committee is meeting once a month to discuss arrangements. The date is set for May 4, 1991 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex and there promises to be twice as many exhibits as last year. One of the new

features for next year will be a day care centre for those diving parents who wish to come to the show. A modest fee may be charged for this service. The Committee is also excited about the Fashion Show featuring swim-wear by BRIO as well as the latest in dive gear.

For further information, you may write to Subsea Horizons, P.O. Box 33048 Quinpool, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4T6

### Product Recall

For owners of SBC's from U.S. Divers purchased in 1990. In January, U.S. Divers introduced a new power inflator assembly called the Micro Power Inflator (MPI).

The MPI's have quick dump valves that may not reseal immediately after release. This will be evidenced by a slow leak after dumping air. U.S. Divers has made a design change which eliminates this condition. The company is offering a free upgrade to the redesigned MPI. If you have an SBC equipped with an MPI, take it to your nearest authorized Aqua Lung Proline dealer for the free upgrade, or call U.S. Divers (1-800-667-5449).

## Highlights of the Board of Directors Meeting, September 8, 1990

- The Annual General Meeting Minutes were reviewed and an error was noted for correction next year. Item 24 was incorrectly identified as "carried" when it should have read "defeated".
- Blair Mercer was appointed Vice President.
- Pam Geddes' resignation as Editor of *Bottomtime* was regretfully accepted and Pam was thanked for three years of dedicated service.
- A new insurance policy was reviewed and accepted. The coverage was broadened for the same price as last year.
- Subsea Horizons has been booked at the Dartmouth Sportsplex for May 3-4, 1991. The show is going to be exciting and larger than last year.
- The future of *Bottomtime* was discussed. After much heated discussion, it was decided that one more issue would be printed with New Media Services. The future of the newsletter would be decided at an upcoming meeting. An Editorial Board has been set up to review material before it goes to print.
- The Constitution, with changes, should be available very soon.
- We have entered into an agreement with Canadian Airlines which offers them free advertisement in exchange for a rebate on all travel with their airline over 50% of our travel budget. If any of you are travelling Canadian Air, please send us your old ticket Subs/Boarding Passes so that we can boost our fund-raising.
- The next meeting will be held on February 9, 1991 with its main purpose being to set the budget for the 1991-92 fiscal year. Input from our members will be greatly appreciated.

## President's Report

Another Seahunt is just a memory now, hopefully a pleasant memory for most. The weather was beautiful and for the most part the day went without hitches. One problem that came up resulted in all participants receiving tickets whether they found a token or not. We will try to solve this problem next year.

At the Board meeting on September 8 we appointed a new Vice-President. Welcome to Blair Mercer: I hope you enjoy the work. His first duty will be to put out this newsletter, as Pam Geddes has resigned for personal reasons.

We had appointed an acting editor but, due to work commitments, he has also had to resign.

Any one with talents in newspaper production please offer your services. We would like to strive to keep *Bottomtime* as attractive and informative as possible.

A big thanks to Pam who worked diligently for three long years. Good luck in your future endeavours.

The next Board meeting will be held in early February. At this meeting, we will be setting the budget for the 1991-92 fiscal year. If you have any suggestions please let us know as soon as possible.

Cape Breton is still without representation on the Board. Is there anyone out there?

A lot of you will be packing your gear away for another year. Remember to stay in shape for the next year.

To those brave souls who dive year-round - *dive safely*.

Lynn Gallant

## Vice-President's Report

When I was first asked if I would put my name forward for vice-president, my initial reaction was to say no, let somebody else do it. However, I decided to think it over and obviously, I did let my name stand.

There were many good reasons for which I felt I shouldn't get involved and only one reason for which I felt I should. But that reason far outweighed the others - **I love diving.**

I have only been certified for less than two years but, in that time, I have met many new people, many new friends, and had many great experiences (and a few not so great!).

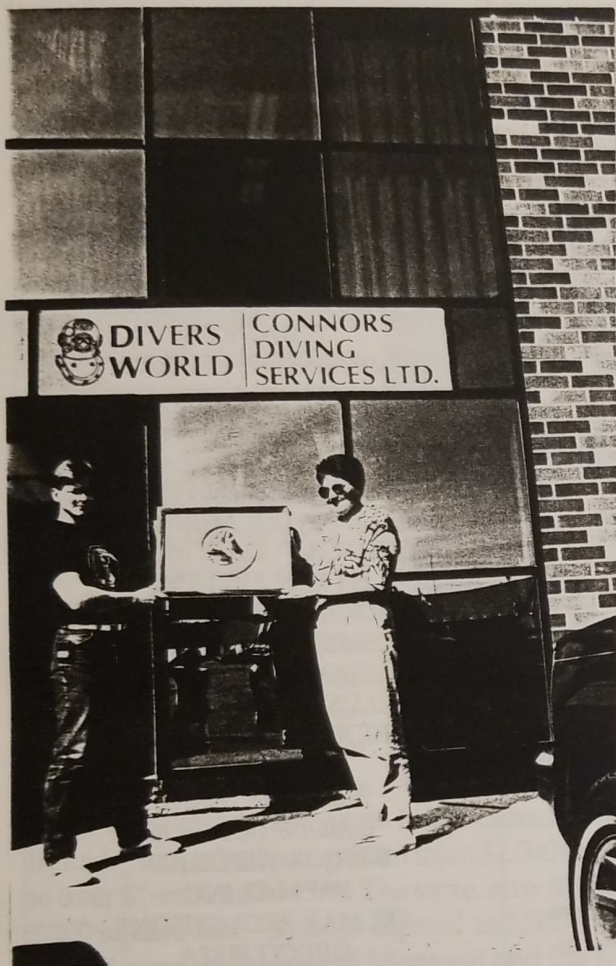
For all the reasons I could think not to get involved, that love of diving seemed to stand out. I also felt I was ready to give back some of the things I had received.

Since joining the Board just a few short weeks ago, one of my first duties became to put out this newsletter. It has been frustrating as I learn and exciting as I watch it all come together. We have one of the finest amateur sports publications and we are working to keep it that way. I am proud to be a part of *Bottomtime*.

I guess those of you who know me are aware that I have never been one to sit around and wait and see.

And, for those of you who don't know me, I will make sure I am available to talk about any ideas or concerns you have.

Blair Mercer



## Secretary's Report

The Roger Aggett Award is coming up to its fourth winner and has never had a place to be displayed except at AGMs and Sub Sea Horizons. Sport Nova Scotia was approached to show the award but could not owing to a lack of room.

This year, I had an idea to approach the dive shops in the province to display the trophy in a shop to be nominated by the winner. Being an old hand at getting reasons out of people, I put a deadline on the reply. Guess what! A pregnant silence.

This was prior to Divers

World opening, so they were not included in the mail out.

Around mid-August, I approached Divers World. We are now proud to announce that on September 12, the President and I took a trip to Divers World and, together with Terry Dwyer, Manager, hung the award on display, where it should have been a long time ago.

At the present moment, the trophy sports the name of Gordon Murray, John Pothier and Bob Semple. These are people who have served the Council without any thought of gain and have given up hours of time for the members' benefit.

If you are willing to give up your time, our elections are approaching. The positions of President, Secretary and at least one Area Director will be vacant, plus the Cape Breton area which has

been vacant since the last AGM.

*Colin Frazee-Whitelock*

## THE NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

### Area Directors

|                |          |             |
|----------------|----------|-------------|
| Vacant         |          | Cape Breton |
| Danielle Gough | 864-3046 | Central     |
| Gary Mattinson | 895-3909 | Fundy-      |
|                |          | Highlands   |
| John Pothier   | 762-2241 | South Shore |
| Sylvain Roy    | 765-3786 | Valley      |
| Joe Christie   | 875-3732 | Commercial  |

### Executive

|                        |          |                |
|------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Lynn Gallant           | 434-3675 | President      |
| Blair Mercer           | 463-7365 | Vice President |
| Dave Rodwell           | 765-6771 | Treasurer      |
| Colin Frazee-Whitelock |          | 864-1157       |
|                        |          | Secretary      |
| John Webber            | 477-2662 | Past President |

### Committees

|                 |          |                                 |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Blair Mercer    | 463-7365 | Bottomtime                      |
| Bob Trider      | 469-6440 | U/W Hockey                      |
| Roland Morrison | 463-3796 | Constitution/<br>Ethics; SubSea |
|                 |          | Horizons                        |
| Barbara Turney  | 464-9276 | Membership                      |
|                 |          | Registrar                       |
| Danielle Gough  | 864-3046 | Marketing                       |
| John Webber     | 477-2662 | P. R.                           |
| Lynn Gallant    | 434-3675 | Awards                          |
| Vacant          |          | AGM                             |

### NSUC Member Clubs Aqualantic Scuba Club

P.O. Box 2944, Dartmouth E.,  
Dartmouth, N.S.  
B2W 4Y2 Tel: 434-2768

### CFB Cornwallis Scuba Club

P.O. Box 295,  
CFB Cornwallis, N.S.  
BOS 1HO

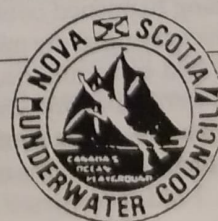
### West Pubnico Dive Shop

West Pubnico, Yarmouth County  
N.S. BOW 3SO Tel: 762-2241

Membership is open to individuals, clubs, or commercial diving enterprises. Dues are set annually - usually at the Annual General Meeting. Individuals may join by sending an application or letter with the \$14 fee to the Treasurer.

## NOVA SCOTIA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

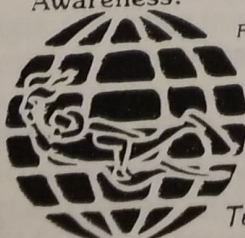
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## NSUC REPORTS

### Commercial Report

It's nearly the end of another season and things have been busy all around. Thanks to volunteers and a lot of very generous prizes, the Seahunt was another grand success.

All commercial members are making my job as director very easy by giving little or input with regards to new products, services or events of interest to the diver. Why not put me to work?

Now available from Viking dealers is a new manual by Steve Barsky entitled High Risk Diving. This manual is of special interest to the commercial diver and covers contaminated water, surface supply and many other topics. This will be a good reference with the commercial legislation soon to be a reality.

That's it for now. *Dive safely!*

Joe Christie

### Central Area Report

I have not been diving as much as I would have liked this year, due to a new job which requires weekend shifts. But I have managed a few club dives, and noticed the harbour was full of charter boats and lots of divers.

I am very concerned about this, as on two occasions I have been in situations where all safety measures and concern were left on the wharf.

I used to feel that accidents only happened to other divers and especially not in Nova Scotia. **Wrong! Wrong!** I used to think I was very careful. **Hogwash!** I would dive with the first person to ask me. Anywhere. Anytime.

Something happened over the summer which changed my mind. I had a really bad scare, and I have never been so terrified in my whole life. It was ignorance and lack of common sense. I have no excuses except stupidity. I did it to myself. No-one

threw me over the side of the boat. I knew it was rough and dangerous, but I ignored all the obvious signs. Afterwards, I asked many divers with years of experience: they would not have even thought of doing this dive. But, instead of listening to everyone, I did it twice. Twice, I put myself in danger and scared myself silly. If that isn't stupid, I don't know what is. However, you have to have a scare like that sometimes to knock some sense into you. I will never have the same attitude towards diving as I have had in the past.

Years from now, I will be one of those experienced divers and - having learned the hard way, instead of listening to people who are more knowledgeable - I will be alive and kicking. From now on, I will do the safe dives when conditions are not right for others. I will listen to my experienced buddies. I will no longer look up to people just because they are "instructors": some of the leaders in this "style" of diving are new instructors with **no** experience. Well, that's fine, but I doubt if I will be diving with them for awhile.

We forget some things we are taught in scuba class and, sometimes, it takes a scare to make us remember:

1. Don't dive if the conditions aren't right. *Make the right call.*
2. Dive only with a buddy you can trust. *Experienced and responsible.*
3. Don't be afraid to not go diving, even if people make fun of you. *Don't give in to peer pressure.*
4. Listen to experienced people who know what they're talking about. *Learn the easy way.*
5. Don't exceed your limits and experience. *Dive safely.*

Danielle Gough.

*Editor's comment: Danielle, thank you for reminding us, we all tend to forget from time to time. Diving is a safe sport, but only if we learn and remember to dive safely.*

## Prize Contributors 1990 Mares Canada Sea Hunt

CANADIAN TIRE - BEDFORD  
SWISS CHALET - HALIFAX  
M.M.O.S. MARINE SUPPLY  
TAN GRAM SURFACES  
HALIFAX CITADELS  
A PAIR OF TRINDLES  
MIC MAC CYCLE  
HALIFAX TOWN CRIER  
CHRIS BROTHERS MEATS  
HALIFAX WATER TOURS  
CRESCENT JEWELLERS  
PHINNEY'S  
IMP MARINE DIVISION  
MIC MAC FIRE & SAFETY  
TIM HORTON'S - DARTMOUTH  
NESTLE'S  
W.A. MOIR LTD.  
BLUEWATER AGENCIES  
PETRO-CAN - DARTMOUTH  
LITTON SYSTEMS  
FOULIS GROUP LTD.  
IKELITE U/W SYSTEMS  
PELICAN PRODUCTS INC.  
NAUTILUS SCHOOL OF DIVING  
BRIDPORT BROWNELL  
LEON'S  
FARMERS DIARY  
DAIGLE LUMBER  
BONICA PRECISION  
PALMAR INC.  
TRI MAR PROMOTIONS  
GRECO PIZZA  
DAIRY QUEEN - DARTMOUTH  
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
PIZZA HUT - HALIFAX  
HARBOUR QUEEN III  
A & W  
MCDONALDS  
UNDERWATER USA  
DIVER MAGAZINE  
RIVER OAKS GOLF COURSE  
MARITIME TIRE  
ISLAND BEACH CO.  
DOMINION DIVING  
P.A.D.I. CANADA • N.A.U.I.  
PETRO-CAN - DARTMOUTH  
HUMPTY DUMPTY  
ACADIA BATTERY  
CARSAND MOSHER  
DAILY NEWS  
DIVERS WORLD  
CHRISTIE'S DIVING SERVICE  
DIVE MASTERS  
MILK NOVA SCOTIA  
AQUA DIVE SCUBA SHOP  
NORTHERN SHORE DIVING CENTRE

## Northern Shore Diving Centre

"Atlantic Canada's Scuba Choice" is how staff at the Northern Shore Diving Centre proudly speak of an enterprise which takes its name from the northern shore of Nova Scotia, having first opened its doors in New Glasgow in 1977.

In 1985, founder Paul Budreski - Chipper as he is known to some - moved his shop to Halifax. Now, 13 years and three locations later, the NSDC - sited on prime harbour front foot-age on Lower Water Street - has grown to become one of the most respected names in the Canadian retail diving industry. Its sales have grown from \$2,300 in that first year to over \$1-million in 1989. The store, now occupying some 3,200 square feet - soon to expand to 3,500 - is the largest retail diving outlet east of Montreal and the sole P.A.D.I. 5 Star training facility in Atlantic Canada.

The NSDC provides sales and service for most makes of diving equipment. They back it up with Atlantic Canada's largest inventory and up-to-date repair facility. They complete most repairs in one to two days. They also service what they sell and can do most warranty work in the store, Sherwood, Viking, FitzWright, Brooks Wetsuits, Poseidon, U.S. Divers, Mares, Pelican and Seaquest are just some of the lines that the NSDC carries.

Paul Budreski says the secret to success is no secret at all: "If we get a good buy from one of our suppliers, we simply pass it along to the customer through our low pricing policy."

Lorne Piercey, general manager, who came from Corner Brook, Newfoundland, three years ago to work as head instructor with the NSDC, elaborates their principle further. "Our policy is one of customer first," he says. "You have to treat the customer with courtesy and respect and you have to back up the product and the sale 110%."

In fact, the biggest complaint Mr. Piercey has with the retail diving market is precisely what he calls a narrow-



minded approach that some operators have.

"Too many customers are treated as a one-time sale. It is necessary to treat everyone as a repeat customer from the first time they come into the store and back it up with excellent service."

The NSDC is now training some 200-250 students a year in open water courses - offering free demo dives in the Halifax metro area - and is geared to set up and teach diving scuba courses anywhere in Atlantic Canada. It does about 10 a year outside Halifax.

Mr. Piercey makes three points about training:

1. Teach courses from the approach of safety first, fun second: try and foster a very positive, learning- and fun-filled atmosphere;
2. Keep the student-instructor ratio low enough to give individual training - don't cut corners; and
3. Don't burden the instructional staff with the task of selling; have enough confidence in people that if they are taught properly, they will then patronize your shop. Keep the instructional and retail sales aspects separate as much as possible.

Mr. Budreski took his first dive some 20 years ago. "Even as a kid, I always wanted to scuba dive. In the late '60's, there was the Jacques Cousteau special's on t.v. which turned everyone on and, before that, as a kid I watched Seahunt with Lloyd Bridges".

An accountant/business professor by profession, and an all-round athlete who still plays in the Nova Scotia's premier basketball league, he was a nominee for the 1990 Aggett Award for his contributions to the diving community.

With programs such as "free air fill days", reduced rentals for newly-certified students, and a newly-mapped out aggressive and professional marketing strategy, it is this innovative spirit which makes Northern Shore the success it is today.

# Underwater photographic technique A time to reflect

Part Three of a series by Bob Semple

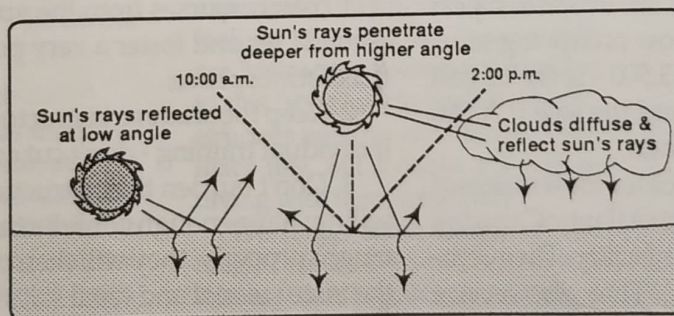
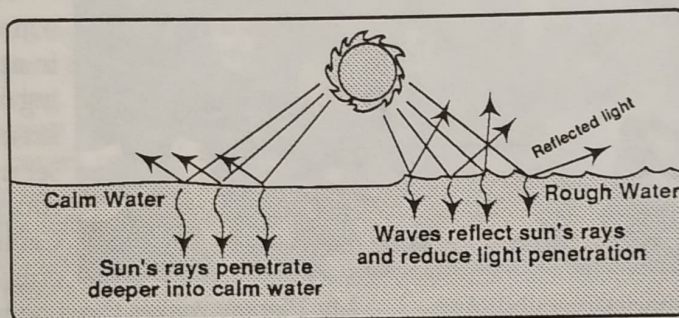
We have been looking at how light is affected as it enters the water medium. We have seen the influence of absorption and refraction on underwater photography, and now we will consider the factor of reflection.

Although some underwater photography is done without natural sunlight (i.e. close-up, night, cave, etc.), the most common and pleasing type of photography is wide-angle scenics using the ambient light and perhaps strobe fill for added colour. This means that the photographer must try to dive when conditions allow for maximum sunlight. This is where the factor of reflection comes into operation.

Light from the sun will reflect off smooth surfaces (especially mirrors) and back into the air. Water is no exception and, while sunlight penetrates the surface, some will still be reflected. The amount reflected will also depend on the condition of the ocean. A rough ocean will reflect more light than a calm one, as the waves provide a greater surface area for the sunlight to bounce off. They can reflect as much as half the amount of light, significantly reducing the quantity of light penetrating the water. The diver should, if possible, choose a calm day to

take natural light photos.

Another important element to consider in reflection is the angle of the sun. The greatest amount of sunlight will penetrate the water when the sun is perpen-

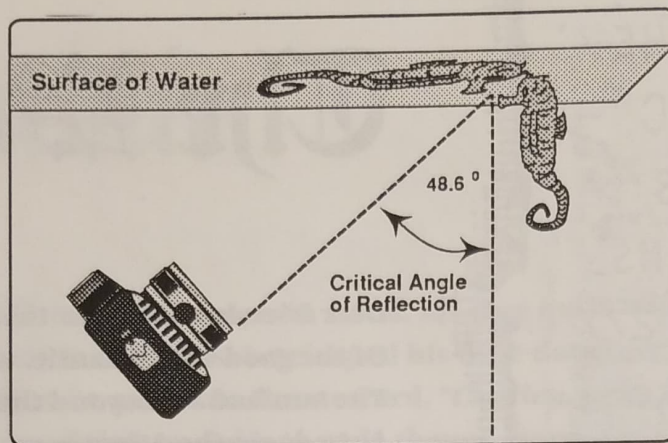


## "Yes, Virginia, There is Winter Diving!"

- submissions • articles • anecdotes • frigid tales • photos
- water colours • cartoons • exhortations • extortions

on this theme. be objective or biased, slanted or normal, are nevertheless welcome for our next issue(s) and should be addressed to:

Editor, Bottomtime, P.O. Box 34, Armdale, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4J7



exposure a couple of f-stops. It would be better to wait a few moments until the sun appears again.

Land photographers like to use extreme lighting conditions to create mood for their photos. Underwater, such extremes usually result in poor photos. But don't let that stop your creativity. National Geographic photographer David Doubilet took a fantastic natural light photo of stingrays on sand

showing the brooding storm clouds above the surface.

### Critical Angle

An interesting side effect to reflection occurs underwater. When the angle of light is less than  $48.6^\circ$  (from the vertical), the light will be reflected back. This is known as **the critical angle**. A photographer can use this effect to get very interesting results. If the photographer remains perfectly still, not allowing the exhaust bubbles to disturb the surface, a perfect reflection of a subject close to the surface can be captured. This could also work with a pool of bubbles captured on the ceiling of the wreck.

Use reflection to your advantage. Be creative. And may **most** of your diving be on flat, calm, sunny, cloudless days. *Reflect on that!*

pendicular to the surface, or at "high noon". Even under the best conditions, only a small percentage of sunlight will be reflected. This would suggest that **the best time to use natural light** for photography is between 10 am and 2 pm. The sun is high in the sky and will penetrate the water to a greater depth. In the early morning and late afternoon, with the sun being closer to the horizon, more sunlight is reflected off the surface limiting the available light in which to take photographs.

**Cloud cover** also affects the amount of available sunlight. A completely overcast day would cut out much direct sunlight and diffuse the sun's rays (about 90 %). This type of light creates a lower intensity, but a softer light in which to take pictures. Photos would tend to lack contrast and colour. On a day of scattered clouds, a cloud drifting across the sun can reduce

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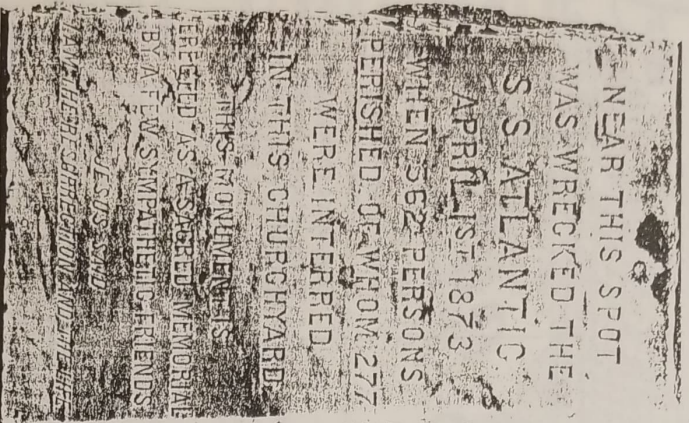
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# The Wreck of the Atlantic

Dear friends, come hear this mournful tale, the loss which I deplore,  
Of the good ship Atlantic, wrecked on Nova Scotia's shore.  
The sun had set beyond the hills, night spread its wings around,  
As to doom the Atlantic sped without one warning sound.

With near a thousands souls on board, the captain had no fear,  
We heeded not the rocky coast that we were drawing near  
Until at last it was too late, the final shock was given,  
Our noble ship had struck a rock and midships she was riven.

Oh, gallant ship that proudly sailed an hour before the shock:  
Why did you not keep far away and shun that sunken rock?  
Young Mr. Braye, an officer, swam over to the shore  
With a stout rope around him to help the others o'er.

Three vain trips were made the shipwrecked crew to save,  
But human strength could not avail, he found a watery grave.  
"A mother with a babe in arms had reached the deck," 't was told,  
"With nothing but her nightdress on to shield her from the cold."

To save her life her tender form was fastened to a mast  
And for four hours she there remained before she breathed her last,  
But ere she died her little babe was swept into the sea,  
What suffering was that mother's in those hours of agony.

Upon the bridge the captain stood, his eyes quite wide with fear,  
As closely to his breast he clasped his little daughter dear.  
And when he said unto the steward, "Charles, pray take my child  
While I go below my wife to seek, though storms be raging wild."

As Charles gazed upon the child and saw its face so fair,  
His thoughts flew quickly to his home and his own child sleeping there.  
She called unto her papa, but papa could not hear,  
Its soul to heaven flew and found its papa there.

The father did the mother seek, but none of them came back.  
An angry wave had swept them both from off the sinking wreck.  
Two women lay upon the deck: it was a piteous sight,  
With each a babe clasped to her breast that scarce had seen the light.

Among the men from Prospect Shore who risked a watery grave  
And spurred the ones around them the shipwrecked crew to save,  
Was their kind and loving clergyman, Mr. Ancient was his name,  
Whose deeds deserve to be enrolled upon the page of fame.

He said: "My friends, come take the boats and try whom we can save",  
Then boldly took the foremast oar, the bravest of the brave.  
Next morning as the sun did rise, the angry billows fell:  
The people of the Prospect Shore an awful sight beheld.

The rocks around were strewn with dead, their clothes and flesh all torn  
Upon those sharp and jagged rocks where angry waves had thrown.  
Oh, angry sea give up thy dead! Oh, rocky reefs sink low!  
How could you part so many friends, how could you cause such woe?

Most people have heard of the S.S. Atlantic and know how she came to rest off Terrance Bay on April 1, 1873.

Over the years there have been several books and articles written about the wreck and folklore surrounding it.

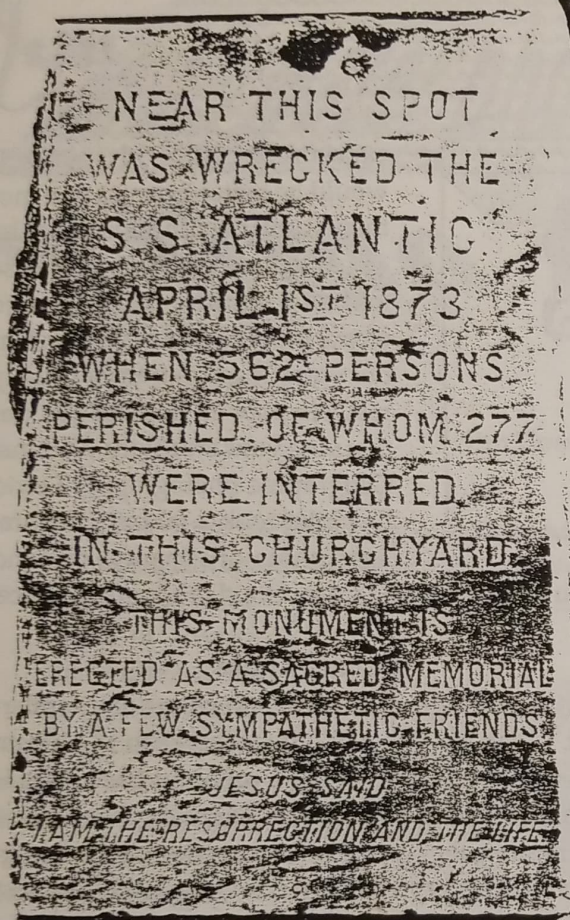
This was, according to Passport to Diving, the largest marine disaster, with the loss of 562 people out of 1,000 in board, until the wreck of the Titanic.

On a recent trip to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, this poem was found in the library, neatly tucked away with old photographs of the S.S. Atlantic.

The date and author are unknown, as it was only unearthed in April, 1948 by Mr. Peter Kendrick.

It is printed here in its entirety with the kind permission of the Maritime Museum.

**Directions** Ask local dive shops for charters. Little of the wreck remains intact except for the boilers, but the odd artifact can be found if you look carefully. The depth ranges from 30 to 80 feet.



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# Atlantic

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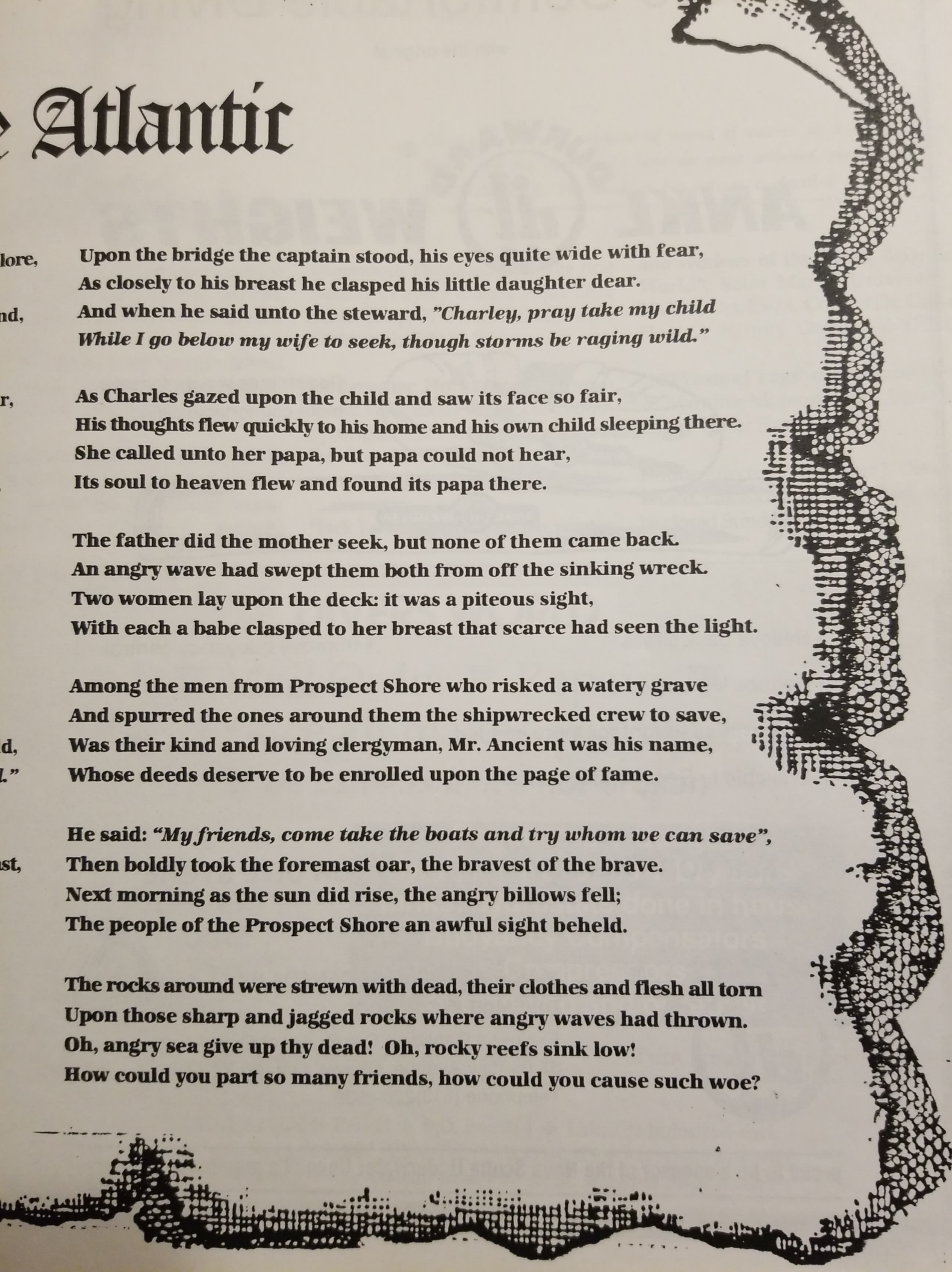
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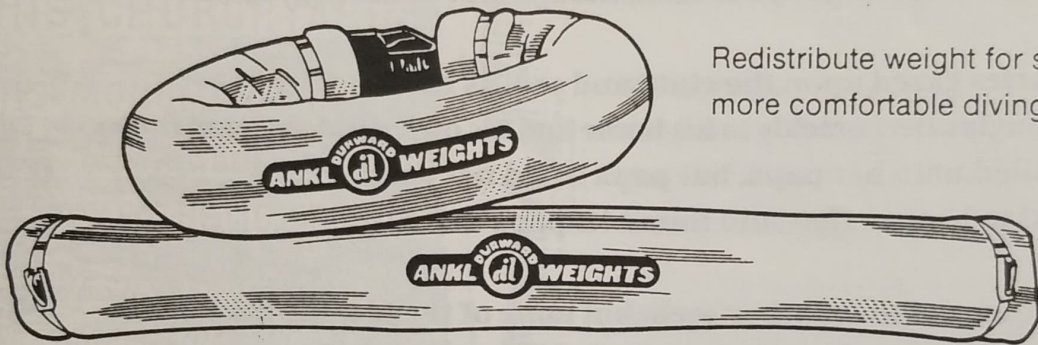
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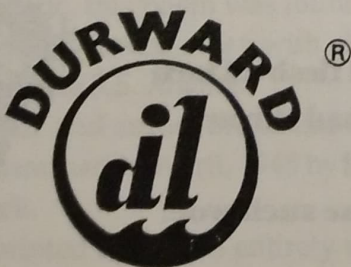
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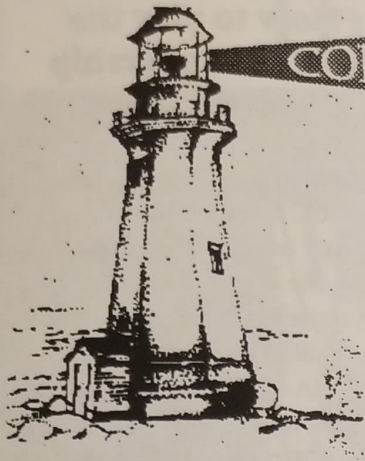
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## COMING EVENTS

Coming events is a calendar of events of interest to divers in Nova Scotia and the region. To have an event included, please write to **BOTTOMTIME**. The deadline for listings is detailed on page two.

**CFB Greenwood Club Meeting** at the Base Recreational Center at 7:00 PM, usually the first Sunday of each month.

**C.P.R. Course** at the Nautilus School of Diving, Quinpool Road, Halifax. Check with Mike for times.

**Aqualantic Dive Club Meeting** at the MicMac Boat Club in Dartmouth, 7:30 PM, usually the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

**Dartmouth Dolphins** meet the first Sunday of every month, Aqua Dive Scuba Shop, 77 Prince Albert Road, Dartmouth, 7:30 PM.

**Underwater Hockey** regular team meets Wednesday at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, 8:30 PM. New people meet Sundays, 9:00 PM. For more information, call Bob Trider (469-6440).

**"Jack Tar in History: Seamen, pirates**

**and workers of the North Atlantic World"**, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Oct. 25-28. Contact Dr. Colin Howell, History Dept. (420-5756).

**"100 Years of Tugs"** exhibit until Oct. 28, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water Street, Halifax.

**Notice:** Effective November 1, **Divers World**, Lakeside Industrial Park, will be closed Sundays until May.

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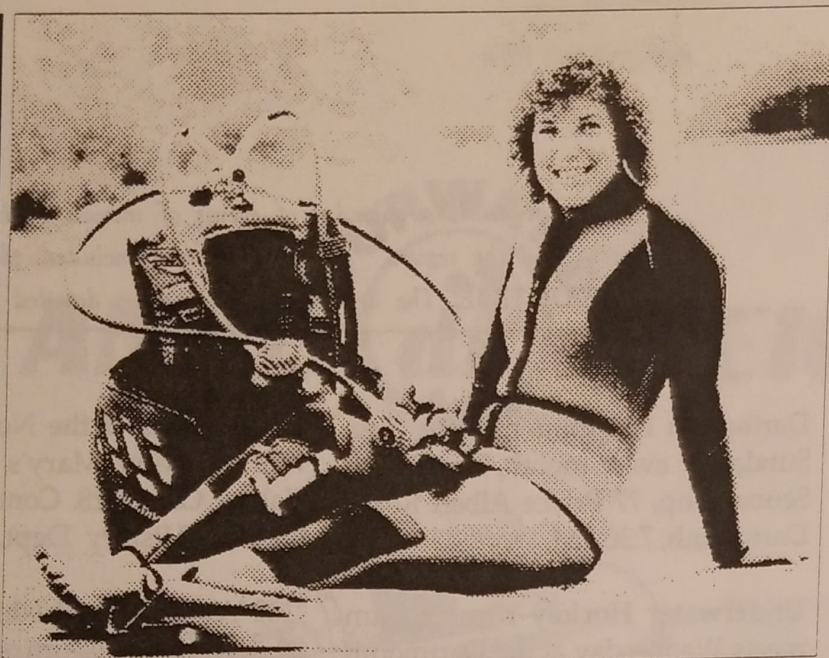
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I had the opportunity this summer to try out some of the gear that Divers World are using in their rental department. All I had to do was provide my mask, snorkel, fins, hood, boots and mitts.

I was provided with a U.S. Diver's Cousteau Select B.C., U.S. Diver's Conshelf 21 Supreme regulator, Oceaner Dolphin suit and two single 67 aluminium tanks.

I set off with two buddies for a boat dive. I generally don't dive wet if I am doing two dives, but I wanted to see if this wet suit would keep me warm through both dives. "Gearing up" took a little longer than expected as I familiarized myself with the gear and added four pounds to my weight belt, as the B.C. had more buoyancy than my own.

The suit was extremely warm and comfortable. The seals around the wrist and ankles were very snug and water circulation was very minimal. About the only problem I could find with the suit was that it didn't come in my colour - pink! (Oh, did I struggle over this small dilemma).

We were diving in the stern section of the *Letitia* and I found the Conshelf 21 regulator to be very easy breathing. I noticed a strange noise as we got deeper, but this is probably just a minor adjustment.

The dive was great, even though we could only go to 110 feet as one of my ears started to give a little discomfort.

We didn't do the second dive as it was starting to get a little stormy, but I am sure that I would have been warm and comfortable in the Oceaner Dolphin suit and I liked the free and easy breathing the U.S. Divers Conshelf 21 Supreme regulator.

Danielle Gough

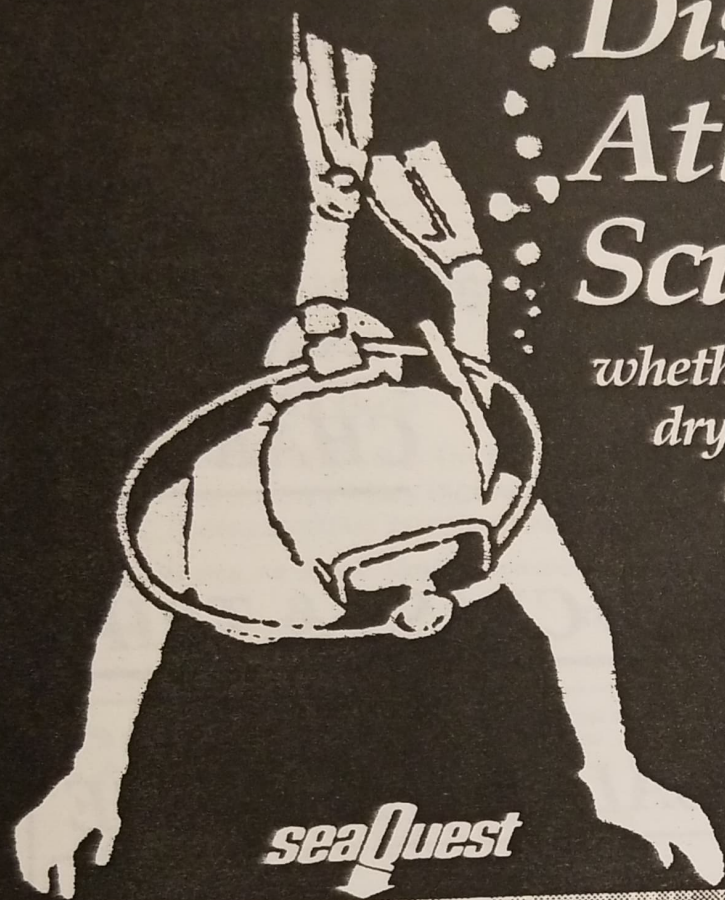
## How to play the great membership drive lottery

**1. How to play** Simply register with the NSUC as an Individual, Family, or Associate member and automatically receive one entry in the contest. One entry is awarded for each person named in a Family Membership application. Receive an additional entry for renewing entry in 1991 prior to April 30, 1991. Also receive one entry for every 5 members recruited in the above categories. Recruited members must be new members or those who haven't been members since prior to the 1989-90 membership year. Mark the recruited member's application form conspicuously with "Referred by \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)."

**2. Contest deadline** All membership forms must be received with applicable membership fees by April 30, 1991. The Draw will take place at Subsea Horizons, May 4, 1991. The address for submission of forms and fees is: Membership contest, N.S. Underwater Council, P.O. Box 34, Armdale, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4J7.

**3. Eligible Contestants** The contest is open to all members and non-members except NSUC Board of Directors, club membership registrars/secretaries and employees of donors. Dive shop employees and instructors are eligible, but may not win prizes donated by suppliers with whom their shop has an exclusive contract. Substitute prizes will be awarded instead.

**4. Prizes** They must be accepted as awarded - no exchanges and no cash equivalent. The prizes include Cressi-Sub regulator, Fitzwright/Sea Quest B.C. and air source, Suunto triple console, Sherwood Blizzard regulator and Spirit B.C., a Brooks custom wet suit with all options, and an Oceaner Sub-Arctic wet suit.



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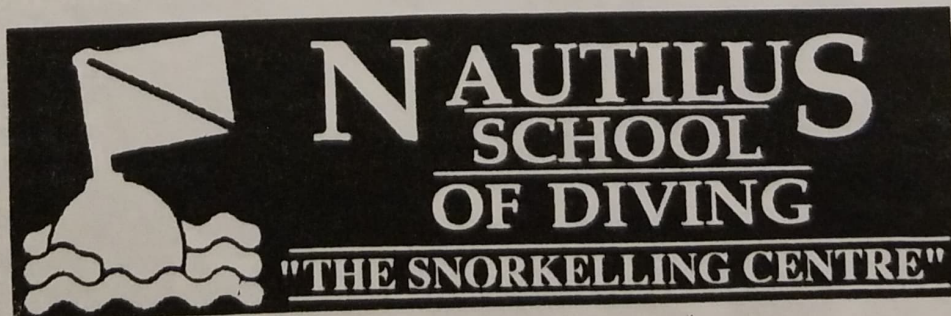
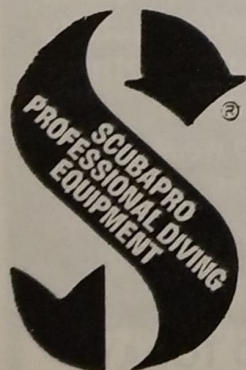
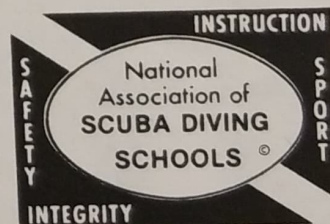


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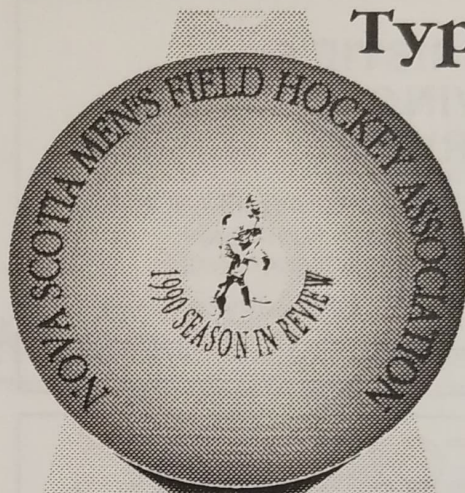
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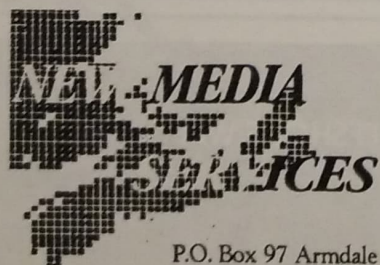
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| 3: Deep Diving                    |        |     |
| Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures | VIDEO  | 1   |
| Underwater Louisbourg Heritage    |        |     |
| English and French                | VIDEO  | 1   |
| AUSTRALIA - DISCOVER IT           | VIDEO  | 1   |

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Contact Colin Frazee-Whitelock Tel: 864-1157

# The Nova Scotia Underwater Council Association of Divers - our objectives

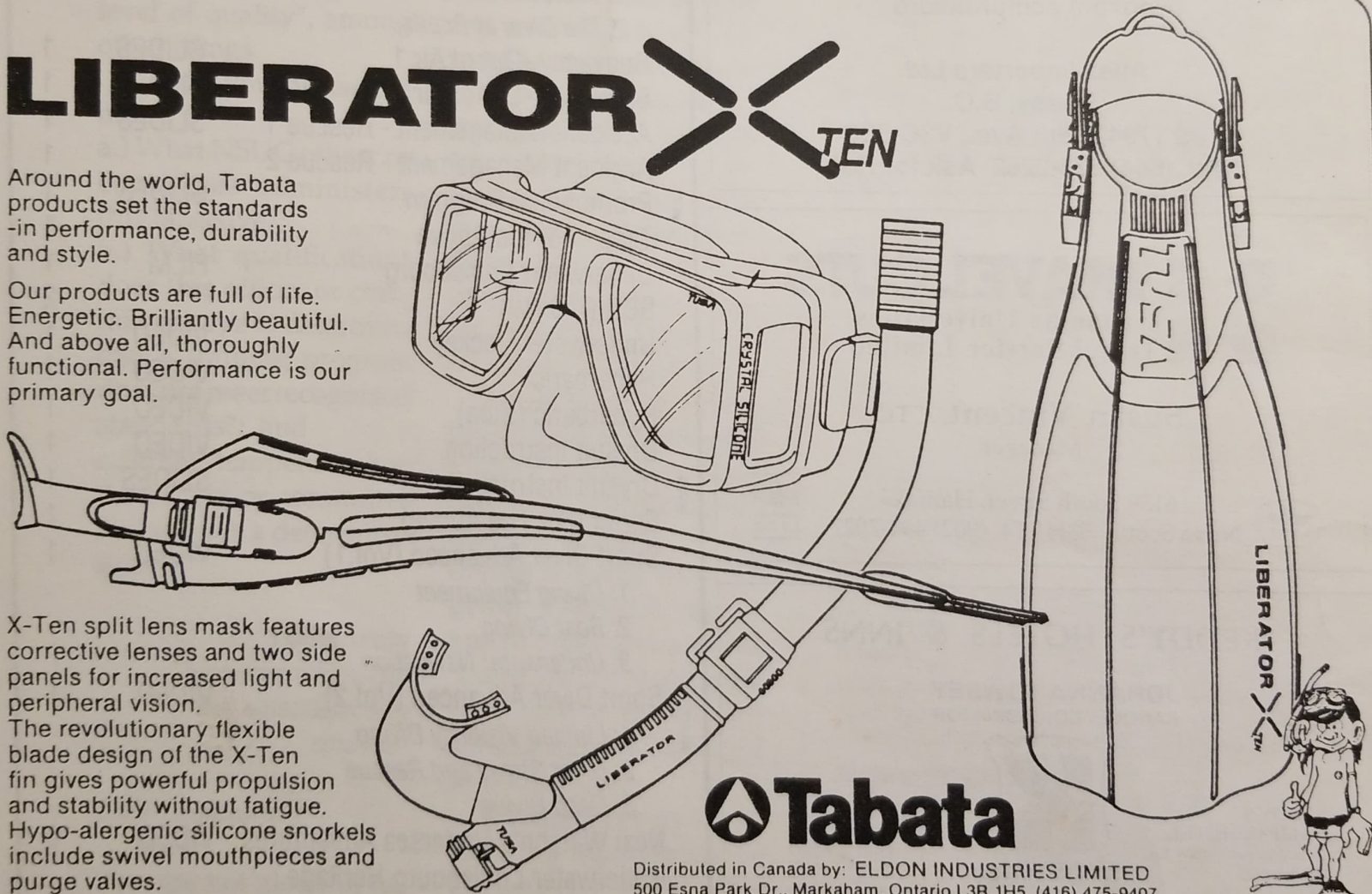
- 1) To be a representative body for the scuba diving community so as to preserve, support, and promote diving and diver safety in the provinces;
- 2) To ensure that training programs are given to a recognized level of quality, to foster and encourage the safe handling and usage of all approved types of equipment used in the sport of scuba diving;
- 3) To make available to all members information concerning safety, medical, technical, and research data concerning the sport of scuba diving; and
- 4) To cooperate and participate with the provincial government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreational activity.

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*In our next issue*

**"Yes, Virginia, There Is Winter Diving!"**

◆ "Blame it on the rain": U/W photographic techniques, by Bob Semple ◆ Travel: "Diving Australia's Yongala" ◆ Diving & Nutrition ◆ Nova Scotia Shipwrecks ◆ Product Info News ◆ News in Brief & Comment ◆ Coming Events