

BOTTOMTIME

The Newsletter of The Nova Scotia Underwater Council

ISBN 1100-2050

August 23, 1995

1995 SEAHUNT

WHEN: Sunday September 10th

WHERE: Crystal Crescent Beach

For more details on the 1995 SEAHUNT see inside

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS TIP # 1:

Get Close To Your Subject!

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Richard Hatcher)

On June 24 1995, the Nova Scotia Underwater Council held it's Annual General Meeting in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia in the boardroom of the Fisheries Museum. This meeting was fairly well attended and as expected there were a few of the past executive that resigned and chose not to offer themselves for re-election.

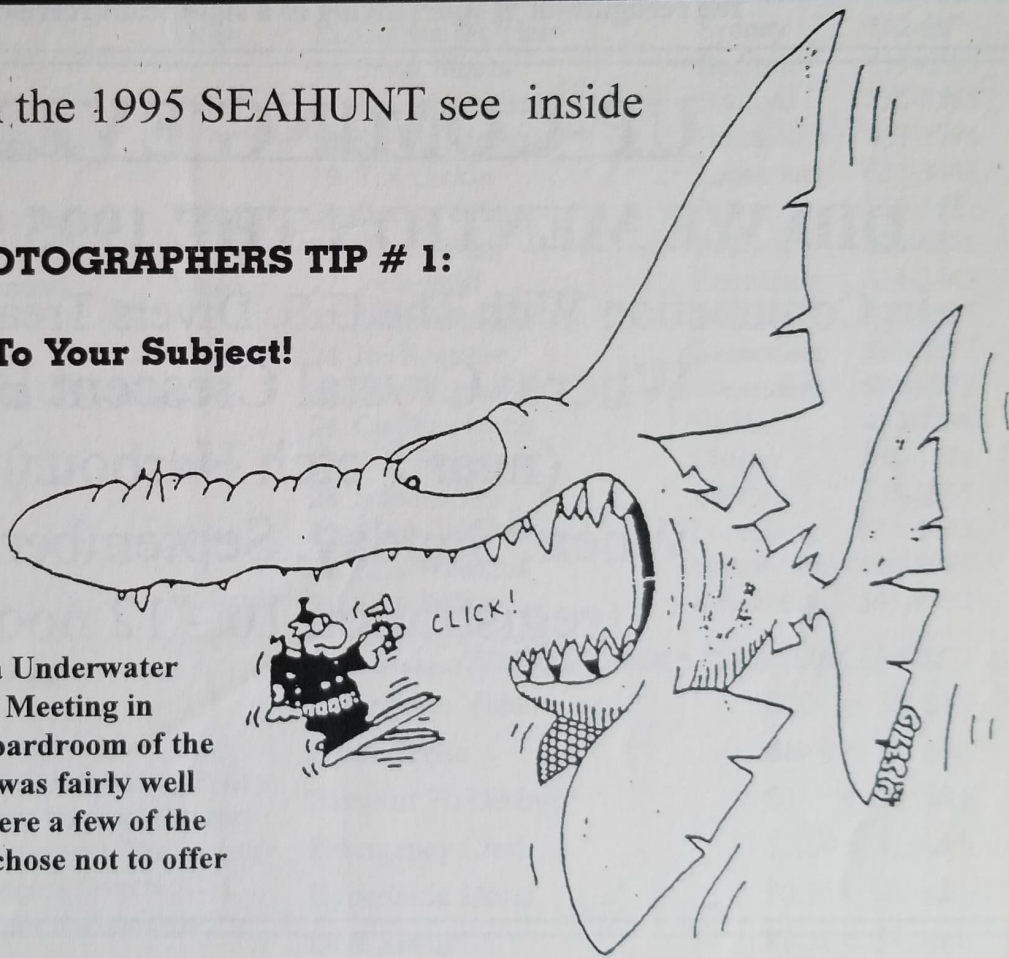
Colin Whitelock resigned as President and has advised he would not be serving as past President in the coming term. This position will remain vacant. We would like to thank Colin for the tremendous amount of time and energy he has spent on various council projects and activities over the past several years.

Lynn Gallant has also expressed that she too is not interested in re-election as treasurer but has agreed to stay on until September 1st to help assist our

new treasurer. She too has put forth a tremendous effort to keep the council alive and well.

Robert Mack advised at the meeting as well that he will not be re-offering to stay on as secretary for the upcoming term choosing to channel his time and efforts on other matters. Once again we express our appreciation on all past accomplishments.

Continued on page 4



The Aims and Objectives of the Nova Scotia Underwater Council

1. To be a representative body for the scuba diving community so as to preserve, support and promote diving and diver safety in the province;
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 scuba diving equipment;
4. To co-operate and participate with the Provincial Government on projects and policies that lead to the recognition of sport diving as a significant recreation activity.

UP-COMING EVENTS

DID WE MENTION THE 1995 SEAHUNT?

In Conjunction With The U.S. Divers Treasure Hunt Series

Where: Crystal Crescent Beach
(near Ketch Harbour)

When: Sunday, September 10th
(registration 10 - 12 noon)

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The N.S.U.C. Lending Library

1991 Sport Diver Open Water Vol. 1, Pts 1 & 2	Video
Contains: Using Skin Diving Equipment Using Scuba Diving Equipment	
Sport Diver Open Water Vol. 1 & 2, Pts 1 & 2	Video
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Rescue / Accident Management, Part 2	Slides
Dive Promotional Programs	Slides
Audio Tapes for Above	
Underwater Louisbourg	Video
Louisbourg's Marine Heritage	Video
Part 1 - English / Part 2 - French	
Underwater Hockey	Video
Hyperbaric Video, (VHS or BETA format)	Video
Sport Diver Advanced Vol. 1, Pts 1 - 3	Video
Contains equipment, boat diving, U/W navigation	
Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures	Video
Australia - Discover It	Video
Dive Nova Scotia Series	Video
Part 1 - Dive Nova Scotia	
Part 2 - Dive Nova Scotia continued	
Part 3 - Wreck Diving	

All videos are VHS unless otherwise stated. Lending Policy
- There is a \$10.00 deposit for each item borrowed (except
audio tapes needed for the slide presentations). The deposit
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Contact: Mike Haynes at Sport Nova Scotia
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Sport and Recreation
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5. Mike Chambers	Halifax	454-4296
6. Darin Connors	Halifax	479-1631
7. Harry Dort	Bedford	835-6565
8. Gary Edwards	Halifax	876-0555
9. Gary Field	Halifax	479-2981
10. Tim Gay	Bedford	835-6565
11. Ken Jardine	Sydney	562-6061
12. Roland Lewis	Sydney	562-2457
13. Robert Mack	Fall River	860-0634
14. Dwayne McLaughlin	Windsor	798-8862
15. Gordan McVicar	Sydney	562-6975
16. Frank Meeks	Bedford	835-6565
17. Blaine Montroy	Bedford	835-6565
18. Roland Morrison	Dartmouth	463-3796
19. Tim Oickle	Lunenburg	634-3443
20. George O'Neil	Sydney	564-5671
21. Dennis Pitts	Bedford	835-6565
22. Jodie Pratt	Lunenburg	634-3443
23. Donnie Rodgeron	Bedford	876-0555
24. Joe Rossitter	Lunenburg	565-3373
25. Joanne Shadbolt	Lunenburg	634-4822
26. Caroline Smith	Halifax	454-4296
27. Dale Smith	Chester	275-4471
28. Stephen Tate	Bedford	835-6565
29. Ralph Tomlinson	Lunenburg	634-3443
30. Rick Welsford	Mahone Bay	624-8051
31. Sean Wilkie	Lunenburg	543-9317

N.S.U.C. Items for sale - Excellent Deals

Hyperbaric Video	\$20 + \$2 s&h
Cloth Crests	\$8 + \$1 s&h
Passport To Diving	\$3 + \$2 s&h
Emergency Card	\$1.50+ \$1 s&h
Hyperbaric Decal	\$0.75+ \$1 s&h
Dive Slate	\$2.50+ \$1 s&h

*Note - The shipping and handling barely covers
the postage*

**The BOTTOMTIME is
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of SPORT NOVA SCOTIA**

Presidents Report Cont:

I don't think this came as a surprise to most as these people have been doing these jobs on a volunteer basis for a long time and have grown tired and lacked the initiative to bring the council any further than they had. They have all devoted a tremendous amount of time over the years to this organization and have done a great job.

They wanted to see some new blood and energy in the executive of the council with fresh ideas and a new direction. That issue became a reality during the election process at the AGM when several new members were elected to the board including myself as President.

I am extremely pleased to advise that other than noted above, all council positions are now filled with the exception of the Cape Breton Area Director. This is a temporary situation as the former Cape Breton Area Director was elected to the position of Secretary and has advised that there should be little difficulty in finding a replacement.

Our first NSUC executive meeting was held on July 29th, in the

board room at Sport Nova Scotia on Spring Garden Road. Many issues were discussed and dealt with including Bottomtime, the 1995 Seahunt, the NSUC Guide to Diving Nova Scotia, which will be the updated version of the current Passport to Diving, plus a general focus regarding improved communications between the underwater council and the Nova Scotia dive community as well as within the council executive itself.

We established committees to handle specific projects, set deadlines and scheduled further meetings. We discussed and resolved issues as to how we should more effectively and efficiently conduct board meetings and agreed to meet again on October 14th / 95 at 9:00 A.M.

If you have any ideas, concerns or viewpoints with regard to any aspect of Sport Diving in Nova Scotia which you would like to express or have acted upon please contact either myself, your area director or any other member of the council for assistance. We want to hear from you. Unless you talk to us we can't help you.

As a final point I would strongly encourage all sport divers to join the Nova Scotia Underwater

Council. If you are a diver who would like to make a difference in sport diving within our province, join the council and become involved. We have a very enthusiastic new Board of Directors with many new thoughts, ideas and projects as to how we can make the NSUC more effective and better represent the diving community. With your support we can make this happen.

Internet Information

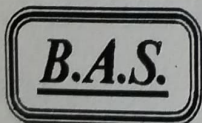
For all those divers that have taken the plunge into the world of the internet, take a moment and check out the WWW site at:

[http://cfn.cs.dal.ca/Recreation/](http://cfn.cs.dal.ca/Recreation/(con't) EastCoastDive/Index.html)
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WHAT THE NSUC DOES FOR YOU

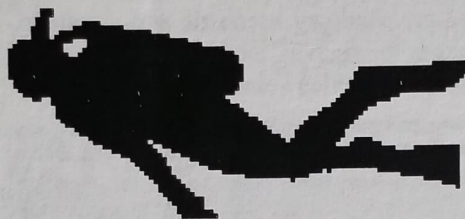
First and foremost, the NSUC is the only agency recognized by the provincial government as representative of divers in the province. One might wonder how the NSUC can represent divers given its membership numbers (average of 300). It should be noted that on a per capita basis we have a higher percentage than does the Ontario Underwater Council. Being the officially recognized body for sport divers in the province brings with it some funding from the provincial government which is available to sponsor various activities.

These funds can be used by the membership to offset costs involved with events such as Member Club sponsored 'spring tune ups', or for safety related courses such as an oxygen administration course. The NSUC can also assist in financing local events such as beach cleanups, navigation contests. Just ask your Local area director - you might be pleasantly surprised. There are five area directors throughout the province who are your representatives to the Board. Member Clubs receive the benefit of their individual members being protected by personal liability insurance against any action arising out of a club sponsored event from a shore dive to a treasure hunt.

There is a lending library of videos and slides - for personal use or perhaps as an event for the club meeting. The various titles can be found in the NSUC publication **BOTTOMTIME**. This is sent to your door six times a year, containing items of interest, upcoming events, dive tales, and reports of NSUC activities. We rely on lots of input from the diving community, and stories and information are always welcome. In addition in the **BOT-**

TOMTIME you will find a list of instructors with their location and phone number, so you can easily determine where and when continuing education courses are being held. Each year the NSUC runs a major event - the **SEAHUNT** - in September (this year Sept 10th).

This dive for prizes results in every diver coming away a winner. Last year over \$10,000 in prizes were given away. On a per diver basis we do better than many other provincial organizations. NSUC members benefit by a reduced registration fee. The NSUC is ready to intercede with landowners to pre-



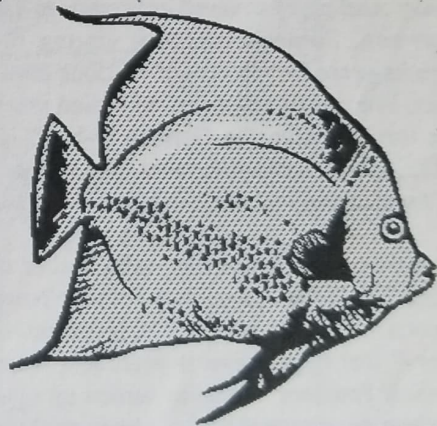
serve access to dive sites jeopardized by the inconsiderate behavior of any diver. This is becoming a more serious problem. Another publication of the NSUC is the **PASSPORT TO DIVING**. The current edition is well out of date and a new and much improved one is currently being worked upon. Submissions about your favourite dive sites are welcomed and will be acknowledged. The NSUC is a volunteer body.

We offer you the opportunity to get involved - to give something back to the diving community that likely trained you and supports

your chosen leisure activity. Join a committee and be somebody. Each year the NSUC presents an award to the member who has done the most for sport diving in Nova Scotia - **The AGGETT AWARD**.

Perhaps next year it could be you. For the past several years the NSUC has been providing the members with a tangible item - something to show for the members money. This year it is a collectable lapel pin. In other years we have provided 'Plan the dive' slates, name tags for gear bags and safety decals. Any N.S instructor is provided free membership - all that is asked is to promote NSUC membership.

What does membership cost? A newly certified diver can receive all the benefits (including all the giveaways - while quantities last) for a paltry \$5.00. The regular membership is currently set at \$22.00. This amount is very easily recouped by attendance at the **SEAHUNT**, and participation in a Club sponsored and NSUC financed safety event. And we have not even mentioned the 'what do I get from the NSUC' yearly freebee. So what is stopping you and your buddies from joining.



DIVERS WORLD

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By STEPHEN THORNE -The Canadian Press Sunday Daily News, June 10

The discovery of what experts believe is the wreck of a Second World War merchant ship is a boon to entrepreneurs hoping to attract divers to the site and dozens of others around Nova Scotia dating from the 16th century. "This is positively eerie," said Petty Officer Henry Wolfe, who piloted the navy submersible Pisces IV across barren seafloor yesterday. The dark mass, half-buried in a trench, rose from the silt before him, its details gradually clearing.

Pristine white dinner plates and twisted steel wreckage litter the debris field surrounding the ship believed to be HMS British Freedom. Sculpture, ocean perch even codfish — swim among wooden deck planking and heavy steel pipes covered in anemones and seaweed. Somewhere, too, among the wreckage are the remains of one lone crewman, Freedom's engineer, who died when the torpedo from the German U-boat, U-1232, struck her engine room. She was one of three convoy vessels sunk that day.

Yesterday's find was the culmination of what Bob Ogilvie, a curator with the Nova Scotia Museum, called a "big detective story" that began several years ago when British Freedom's remains turned up on a federal government survey image near the

approaches to Halifax Harbour.

Scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada and the Canadian Hydrographic Service have found more than a dozen wrecks in and around the city's 250-year-old harbour, from ferry boats to Duc d'Anville's invasion fleet. Piecing together clues from historical accounts, war records, and the shadowy acoustic and magnetic images themselves, experts pinpointed the admiralty service vessel.

Now private enterprise hopes to turn British Freedom and dozens of other wrecks around Nova Scotia into archeological and tourist dive sites.



Dive Travel

(card not available at time of print)

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"Nova Scotia has the highest density of shipwreck sites per linear kilometre of any jurisdiction in the world," said John Davis, director of Eco-Nova Corp., a development company aiming to exploit what he calls an untapped resource. There are 5,000 known wrecks around the province, including 150 in Halifax Harbour and another 26 at Louisbourg. Probably another 5,000 wrecks are unrecorded, said Ogilvie.

Davis's firm has been working to find more and develop new industry in coastal communities hard hit by depleted stocks of cod and other species.

They've got lots of boats and they've got lots of knowledge of the ocean," he said. "Diving is a natural.

"There are literally millions of divers worldwide who are enamoured with wreck diving. We have here substantial numbers of virgin shipwreck sites." Eco-Nova is conducting an international marine archeology workshop at Louisbourg in September, and it is also helping produce an hour-long documentary on Canadian shipwrecks for worldwide distribution.

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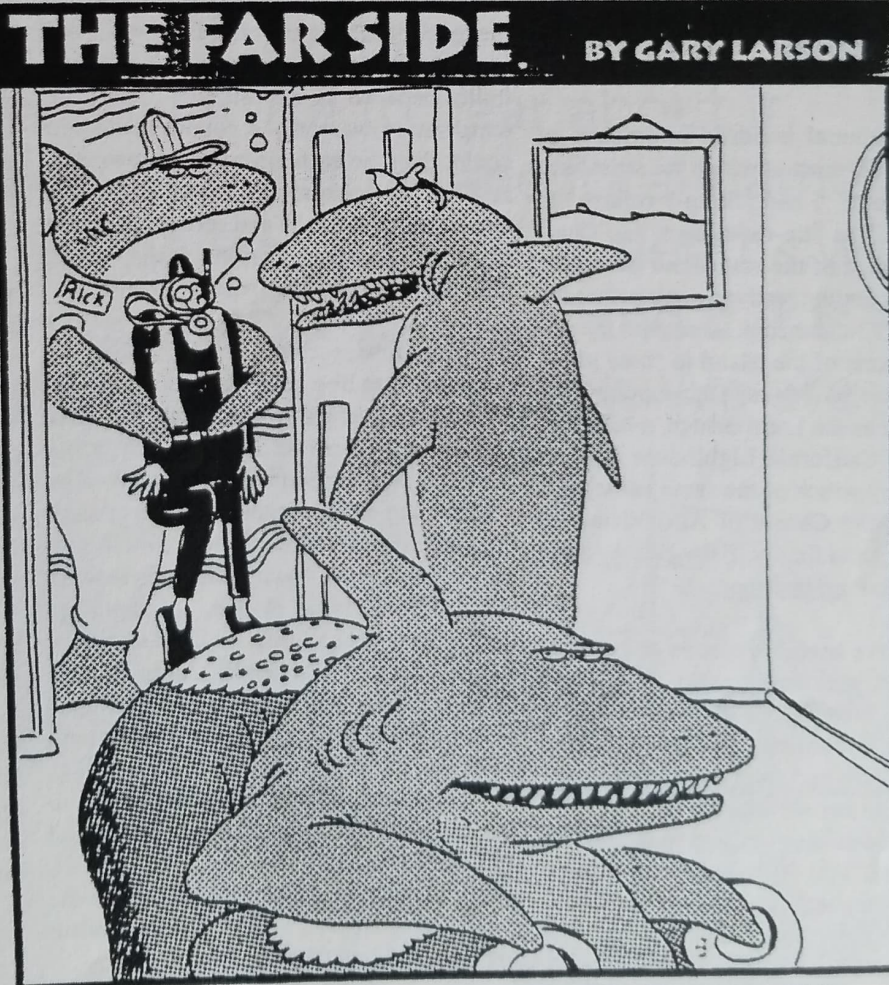
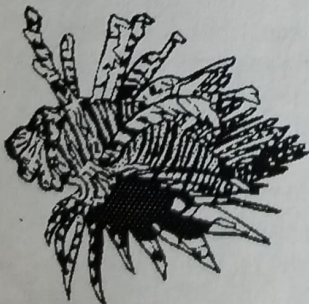
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ARUBA AND BONAIRE (Part 2)

The other side, however, faced a depth of over 100 feet, with little to see. To equalize the views, the sub reversed course to let the others see the wall. At times it seemed we could almost reach out and touch the fish or coral. The dive lasted nearly an hour, reaching a maximum depth of 140 feet. It was interesting to see the changes in colour, fish and coral as the sub went deeper. What a great way to explore the undersea!

We didn't have time to take a sailing cruise, but a Toronto couple we met highly rated the Tranquilo cruise aboard a 43-foot sailing yacht. They found the crew to be off-the-wall, and the snorkelling was great. A word of caution, however — there is little shade on the boat, so passengers must either cover up or take strong sunscreen. We did take the ITAR Jeep Tour. This was a great concept and a terrific adventure. ITAR provides a tour guide and Suzuki Samurai-type jeeps driven by the participants. Scheduled to last six hours, it was more like eight hours before we finished.

Aruba has several hundred kilometres of unpaved roads, most of which we must have hit on this tour! I had jokingly referred to the Samurai's as "tip-over jeeps", so Charlotte spent most of the rest of our bumping, grinding day getting ready to jump before the jeep upset. The tour took us around the undeveloped parts of the island to some great, wild seascapes, as well as to the popular tourist sites such as the Land Bridge, a rock formation, the California Lighthouse (named after a nearby wreck of the same name), the sand dunes, the Chapel of Alto Vista, the Fontein Cave and finally, Baby Beach (great snorkelling but no bathrooms).

We could have been in Arizona or Nevada, with hot sun, pipe organ cactus, rocks and endless grit. Near dusk, we finally returned to our hotel, somewhat shell-shocked from the rough roads, and so grimy that we worried that the dirt would plug the shower drain. Other companies also run jeep tours, but we liked the small size of ours and the personal attention of Stephen, our guide. We encountered the De Palm jeep mob at several sites, swamping parking lots with their 15 or more jeeps. In contrast, we had only twelve participants in four jeeps.

I was worried that I might not get any diving

in, but I did arrange a two-tank dive with S.E.A. Scuba (Southeast Aruba). There are several dive shops in Aruba, but I had read about SEA Scuba in Skin Diver magazine, so I decided to try them. Although the two-tank boat dive was priced at \$70 US without equipment, by using the Aruba Hotline I was able to save \$20.00. SEA Scuba uses a 43-foot cabin cruiser with plenty of shade. The boat could probably handle twenty divers, so with only ten in our group, there was lots of room. We were a mixed group, with a few divers doing their NAUI referrals, some who hadn't dived in several years, and then three or four of us who were experienced.

The boat left Harbortown in Oranjestad around 9:30 AM, heading out past the Sonesta Hotel island (the hotel does not have a beach so it uses the island as a beach club). Our first dive site was called Fantasea. The boat crew made things very easy, setting up the tanks and passing them to the divers at the rear of the boat just prior to entry. Maximum depth at this site was 60 feet, with visibility between 60 and 80 feet. The water temperature was only a couple of degrees cooler than the air temperature, showing up at 77 on my gauge. As expected, I found lots of colourful coral and sponges, morays, parrot fish, snappers, grunts, jacks, soldier fish, trumpet fish, and sergeant majors.

Because Aruba receives a constant tradewind, there seems to be a constant swell. I experienced a few twinges of seasickness, but three of the women were worse off. Anyway, our next dive was the Sonesta Airplane Wrecks, a DC-3, and a twin-engined Cessna or similar plane. Besides the aircraft, which presented good photo opportunities, there was a wall which started at 30 feet. I was pleased to be able to get pictures of a spotted moray, a Queen Angelfish, a smooth trunkfish and a black grouper. I also got a couple of good shots of purple stovepipe sponges (they don't swim away from the camera!). Returning to the shop after the dive I bought the prerequisite souvenir T-shirt, as well as a waterproof key & money case (very handy for divers). Later I was compared prices amongst the various dive shops, and SEA Scuba came out the best, so I lucked in again.

Our last night in Aruba, Charlotte and I decided to take in the show at the La Cabana

Casino. Titled the "Jewel Box Revue", and costing \$US30 each (with two drinks each included), the show featured female impersonators with rather risqué humour. We were treated to Carol Channing, Tina Turner, Dionne Warwick, Diana Ross, Patsy Kline and others. It was a great evening of entertainment. On the way out, we looked over the gambling machines and tables, but we both hate to lose money (although we were spending it freely), so we didn't put our luck to the test.

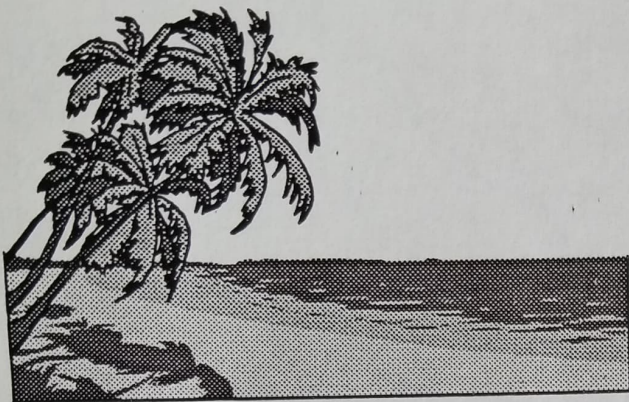
Saturday morning, we packed early, made a couple of last-minute souvenir purchases, and then departed for the airport to arrive well before flight time. It was a good thing we were early because I had forgotten one case at La Cabana and had to go back for it. Inge, our Air Canada rep, helped smooth things out for the late-arriving bag. We were scheduled to fly to Bonaire, via Curacao on ALM, the Netherlands Antilles air carrier. They assigned us seats four rows apart, even though we were travelling together, but this didn't seem to matter as many passengers sat where they wanted in spite of the prearranged seating. The flight departed about an hour late, and landed about ten minutes later in Curacao. We were supposed to have a short stop of only twenty minutes or so, but this turned into another hour. Not having had breakfast, we did enjoy a couple of tasty snacks from the takeout. Prearranged seating was in effect on this second flight, and we sat in our numbered seats, Charlotte immediately behind me.

Our first impression of Bonaire was increased humidity. However, this probably was only relative, since we had just come from Aruba. We also noticed that the airport was smaller and that the capital city, Kralendijk, was much smaller than Oranjestad. Our Air Canada Rep, Anne, briefed us that Bonaire was smaller (11,000 population), much more laid-back than Aruba, with little shopping but great diving and snorkelling. She was right on all counts — we were even pleased with the amount of shopping that did exist.

**Look for part 3 (the final part)
in the next issue of the
BOTTOM TIME**

WANTED!

DIVE SITES



The NSUC is now in the process of producing its latest guide to diving in Nova Scotia, and we would like your help. If you have a favorite spot to go diving, we would like to hear about it.

Please remember to include the local name of the site, directions how to get there, depths, what there is to see, any safety concerns, and if it is a wreck, a couple lines about its history. We are also looking for good photographs of dive sites, land or underwater. For more information or to write an article, write to:

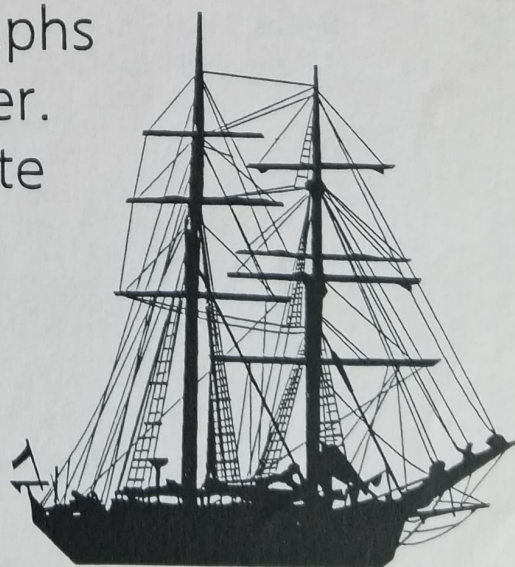
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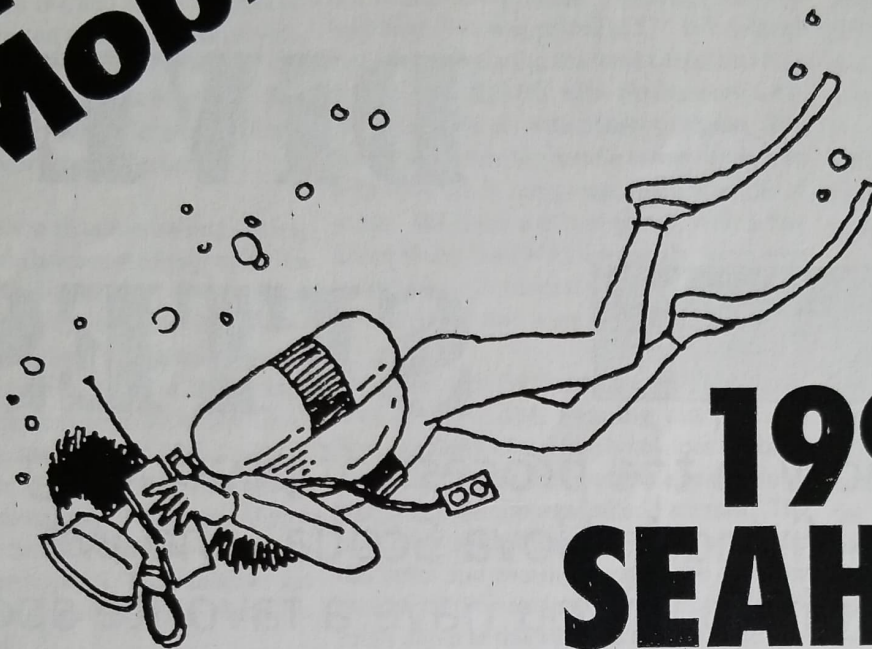
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MT & Mobility



1995 SEAHUNT

WHEN: Sunday, September 10th
Registration 10 - 12 noon

WHERE: Crystal Crescent Beach
(near Ketch Harbour)

In Conjunction With U.S. Divers Series

FEES: NSUC member \$15- Non member \$25-
"Special offer, membership plus entry \$30-"

CERTIFICATION CARD A MUST!

- Souvenir T-Shirt for 1st 175 entrants
- Free BBQ (sponsored by Divers World, Lakeside)
- Free Entry into Sand Sculpture Contest
(sponsored by Maritime Makos of Discover Diving)
- Proceeds of U.S. Divers Series Treasure Hunt
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