



# “Dive Log”

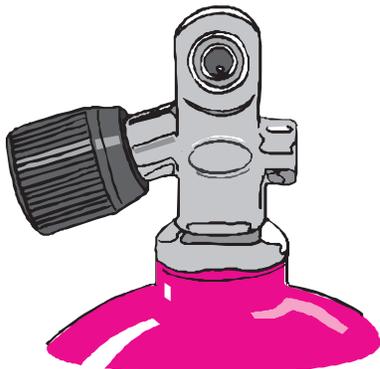
The monthly newsletter of the United Divers  
of Central Massachusetts

May 2009

Vol VIII Issue V

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## Regulator Info

How much did you pay for your regulator, gauge or computer, and your octo? Did you know that these are the primary components of your life support system for scuba diving? Why would you jeopardize your day of diving by allowing water to enter your life support system where it does not belong? We would like to share some observations we have recently made and present a few tips for equipment maintenance in order to help you stay safe and get the most of your dive season.



We have performed annual regulator service on numerous regulators this year and there appears to be one recurring issue: water within the first stages, and hoses of many regulators. Not every regulator is coming in for service with evidence of water in it; however, we have encountered enough to bring this to all of your attention. Some have had merely evidence of water, others we have actually had to pour the water out of the first stage and all of the hoses. This article is in no way intended to embarrass or ridicule anyone, but illustrate the importance of proper regulator maintenance.

Regulator maintenance can be divided into 2 distinct areas of responsibility. The first is that of the user or you, the diver. The second area of responsibility is that of the dive shop. These 2 areas of responsibility will be further broken down as we examine each one.

This has proven to be a lengthy subject so I will divide the subject of regulator maintenance into 2 installments. The first installment presented this month will focus on the “pre-dive check” or inspection. Next month’s installment will address post dive maintenance and the role of the dive shop.

The “pre-dive check” or inspection should primarily consist of 2 separate inspections by the diver. For the sake of argument it is actually three. The first pre-dive check is one that is conducted at some point days prior to the dive. The second is performed at the time of gear assembly just prior to the dive. These 2 pre-dive checks are very much the same.

The only real difference is that the pre-dive check conducted days prior to the dive allows the diver time for adjustment, repair or replacement of worn or damaged equipment. The third pre-dive check is actually performed in the water just prior to beginning the dive. Yes, it is performed in the water but with emphasis on “prior” to beginning the dive. So yes, there are actually 3 pre-dive checks.

What is part of your pre-dive regulator check? If you're the type that needs a check list I guess we can divide the first 2 pre-dive checks into 3 parts; the first stage, the hoses and the items at the other ends of the hoses. One of the first things is to perform a visual inspection of your regulator. Begin by looking at the first stage, insure that the hoses are tight, plugs are not missing, O-rings have not extruded. Second, examine the hoses; look for cracks, cuts or kinks. Are there any signs of bubbles? This is a sure sign of leaks. If there are hose protectors be sure they are in the proper positions and not hiding any problems? Check the mouth piece to insure there are no tears. Are the gauges functioning? Any bubbles in the compass? What is the condition of the display shield guards? Do the BC and/or drysuit hose release collars work properly? Do a check on what is unique to your regulator that is not included here? This concludes the visual inspection of the regulator. Next connect the regulator to a tank. Turn the air on. Look, listen and feel for any leaks. A leak may or may not be obvious out of the water. Insure the gauge reads properly. If you have a dive computer or digital gauge at this point determine adequate battery life. Depress the purge button on your second stages. Place the regulator in your mouth and exhale then inhale. Although not fool proof this is a good indicator if the regulator is working. The only true way to tell if the second stage is free from leaks is to breath from it in the water. In the water you will be able to tell if there is a leak in one of the diaphragms or the mouth piece. How? If you get a spray of water when you inhale you likely have a tear in one. This concludes the first of your pre-dive checks.

The “gear assembly check” although identical to the “pre-dive check” is likely not as thorough as the pre-dive check performed before the dive. As previously stated the pre-dive check permits you time to get something adjusted or repaired if need be. The “gear assembly check” is at the dive site and prior to dressing to enter the water. Thus, there is great likelihood of missing the dive at this point due to missing something or not conducting a pre-dive check days before the planned dive.

The third and final pre-dive check, I emphasize “pre-dive” because the dive has technically not started is called the “bubble check”. Yes, this is conducted in the water but is performed before beginning the dive, hence “pre-dive check”. This can and should be performed prior to all dives whether from boat or shore. Prior to submerging it should be understood by the buddy team that a bubble check will be conducted. Once underwater look at your buddy's regulator, look at your buddy from the front. Motion to your buddy to turn around and look at the regulator from the back. This is the best way to insure there are no leaks that went unnoticed.

This concludes the pre-dive check. Your pre-dive check may not be as I have described however we all perform some form of pre-dive inspection of our equipment. Do you do something different? Care to share what your pre-dive inspection includes? Next month I will present part 2 which will include post dive maintenance and the role of the dive shop. I will likely present 2 more articles on equipment maintenance after this is done. The future articles will address tank and tank valve maintenance and BC and wet suit maintenance.

Safe diving,

Mark Bowers



## Message From Our President

Hello all, I cant believe it but it is May already. I hope all of have gotten out and gotten in your first dives of the season. The shallow water has been really nice with visibilities pushing forty feet, and the temps are creeping up about a degree a week with 45 being the general conscious in the north shore area and low 50's in Rhode Island . Now is the time to start booking your local boat trips and to help you with that we are having Captain Fran Marcoux owner of Cape Ann charters and the charter boat Daybreaker in to speak this month about the popular wrecks and some of our favorite local boat dives. If you are new to the sport this will be a great opportunity to make your bones with a local boat and a great opportunity for everyone to hop on charters. I will have a couple of club charters to some of our local wrecks available to everyone at the meeting this month. As always it is first to pay, first to play so bring your check books as these will fill fast. It would be great if we could get some of our general membership to set up dives this year, if you are interested in running a dive please contact me and I will be happy to help you. We will be diving with the kids from Dive Kulture on Sunday June, 7 and there is a sign up sheet available at the meeting or you can contact me. The kids are really pumped to go diving and I think it will be a memorable day for all. I will keep it short this month and save my stories for dive talk. I hope to see all of you at the meeting this month,  
 Jeff Goodreau

## FYI

### Aqualung Programs

Gear Up & Go Purchase a qualifying Seaquest BC, Aqualung/Apeks regulator and Suunto computer and get a voucher for: \$850.00 for the Baham, \$980.00 for Grand Cayman, \$1,200.00 for Palau, \$1,550.00 for Wakatobi

### Regulator Rebate

Qualifying Aqualung/Apeks regulators \$500.00 and higher \$100.00 instant rebate

Qualifying Aqualung/Apeks regulators less than \$500.00 receive \$50.00 instant rebate

## Andy's Sport Shop Scuba Training

### Scuba Classes

#### NAUI - Scuba Diver Course

Begins June 2, 5:45 pm at Fitchburg YMCA

#### NAUI - Advanced Diver Courses

Course #1 Begins June 16, 6:00 pm at Andy's Sport Shop

Course # 2 Begins July 14, 6:00 pm at Andy's Sport Shop

#### NAUI - Rescue Diver Course

Begins June 10, 6:00 pm at Andy's Sport Shop

#### TDI - Intro to Tech Diving

Begins June 11, 6:00 pm at Andy's Sport Shop

### Discover Scuba Program

"Discover Scuba at Orchard Hills Athletic Club"

May 18 at 6:00 PM Free to OHAC members \$18.00 to nonmembers

If you have questions or want to sign-up please call Andy's Sport Shop at 978-343-6330

# May/June 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <small>BOD Meeting Slatterys @6:30pm</small>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <small>General Club Meeting @7pm</small>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

## Upcoming Events

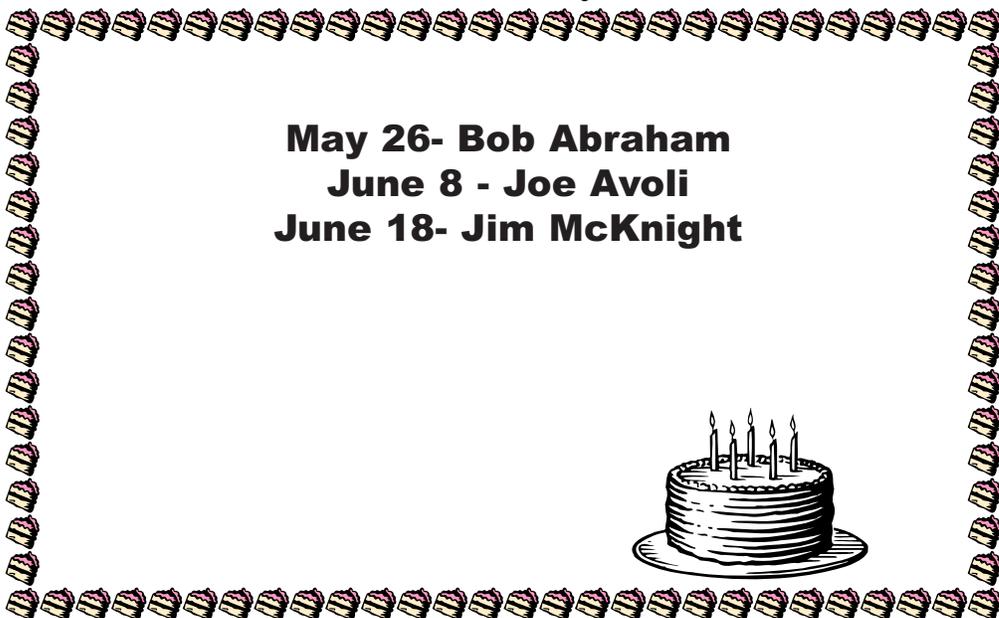
July 4- BOD Meeting Slatterys @ 6:30pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

July 18- BOD Meeting Slatterys @ 6:30pm. All club members are welcome to attend.

For any and all Calender updates please check out the club website [www.uniteddivers.org](http://www.uniteddivers.org)

## Birthdays!

**May 26- Bob Abraham**  
**June 8 - Joe Avoli**  
**June 18- Jim McKnight**



## Canada Trip

Hope this finds you all well. I have finally hammered out the details of what I expect to be a very good trip for those who can make it.

I have been fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of a charter operator in the Kingston, Ontario area. The fellow has been diving the lake and area for better than 25 years, he has worked with and for other charter operators and instructors in that area and decided a few years ago to follow his passion for diving and strike out on his own. His name is Pat Coyne. You can explore his offerings and equipment by Googling: Pats Scuba Charters.

Destination: Kingston, Ontario, Canada Lake Ontario

Dates: Arrive Aug.20/ Dive Aug.21,22,23/Depart Aug.24.

Lodging: First Canada Inns

Dive Charter: Pats Scuba Charters

Gas Fills: 2 days (4 tanks total) Air. EAN @ extra cost.

Availability: 11 divers. Advanced Cert. or equivalent experience recommended

Cost: \$460.00 per person U.S. funds

Deposit: \$100.00 @ time of signing up for trip.

I hope this meets the approval of the board members. What I have done and can cancel if necessary, is booked the hotel and charter in the name of United Divers of Central Mass. and given my name and credit card number as the contact person. This was required to hold the spots for us.

I am hoping for a fairly quick determination from the board so that an article can be in this upcoming newsletter and thus prepare the membership for a sign up sheet at the next club meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Yours in Safe Diving,, Rick Boucher

## Monthly Trivia What Wreck am I ?

It was a foggy June day in 1930 when I was run down by the liner Fairfax off the Massachusetts coast. At just over two hundred feet long I wasn't a huge tanker but I have turned into a huge dive. Many say that I am one of the prettiest wrecks in New England . What Wreck am I?

Hint- You could say I am a hot wreck because I burned for three days after I sank.

### Answer,

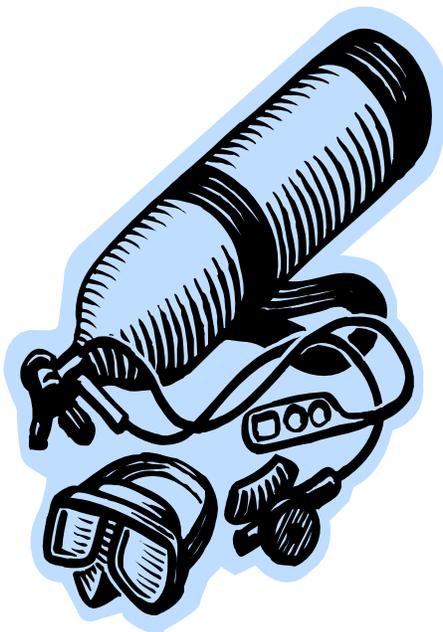
The Tanker Pinthis sank after the SS Fairfax slammed into her bow and sent her to the bottom. Capsizing while she sank the Pinthis slowly leaked her cargo of gasoline which burned for three days after the sinking. Today the Pinthis lies upside down in one hundred feet of water, six miles off the south shore town of Scituate Ma.. The hull is almost completely intact with the exception of the normal decay of saltwater wrecks. Almost looking like a circus tent the hull is carpeted with starfish and anemones making the Pinthis a very pretty wreck. The visibility is almost always great with forty feet or more a common occurrence. The wreck is a large object in an otherwise vast empty white sand dessert making it a fish haven. I have seen huge schools of Cod and Haddock along with Pollack, Cunner and a large Torpedo Ray in the five foot range. For the more experienced and properly trained diver the hull has many openings in it along the seabed making for some great penetration opportunities. The tank bulkheads have long ago collapsed making it possible to enter near the stern and make your way all the way to the bulkhead just shy of the bow. The inside of the hull is cavernous above and is a debris field along the bottom making for lots interesting things to see along the way. The Pinthis is a must dive in Massachusetts and most of the local boats make a point of running to it a couple times a year. If you have your own boat you can launch it right in Scituate harbor or it is about a twenty five mile run from the north shore. You should find her at N 42-09.362 / W 70-33.660 enjoy. Jeff

# United Divers of Central Mass

## Dive Log

United Divers of Central Massachusetts  
P.O. Box 57  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
[www.uniteddivers.org](http://www.uniteddivers.org)

Email; For newsletter correspondence please contact Kris at [secretary@uniteddivers.org](mailto:secretary@uniteddivers.org)



## The Purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts

The purpose of the United Divers of Central Massachusetts is to promote the sportsmanship and sport of SCUBA diving by stimulating our members to achieve the highest standards of safety and proficiency in Scuba diving. To promote friendship and wholesome social activity among its membership. To promote educational programs that will provide fundamental knowledge supported by actual hands on experience in a variety of areas including; safe diving practices, conservation of marine ecosystem, first aid and handling diving related emergencies, to organize group SCUBA diving trips, educational and social events that will allow our membership to accomplish all of the above.



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P.O. Box 57  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

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Answer on page 5

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