



“Dive Log”

The monthly newsletter of the United Divers
of Central Massachusetts

October 2009

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Wreck Diving in Lake Ontario Kingston, Ontario August 2009

By Bob Abraham

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Courtesy of some thoughtful planning by Rick Boucher six UDC members, Rick, Jan & Bob Abraham, Jose Bloise, Ken Mostello and Mike Michaelson traveled to Kingston Ontario for another shot at diving historic wooden wrecks, this time out in Lake Ontario proper. We left Massachusetts Thursday morning August 20th through unsettled weather for the 400 mile drive through upstate New York.



Friday morning we traveled to the marina and met our Charter Boat Captain Pat NNNNN of Pat's Charters for our first venture out onto Lake Ontario. The wind had been running steadily out of the southwest for several days with large waves piling up all the way from Buffalo so traveling out in the lake for our first set of dives was out of the question. We loaded our gear on the boat and dressed up in our suits on the dock to minimize the time we spent on the surface just in case it was rough – wonderful (not). After a brief orientation we were off for a thirty minute ride up to a sheltered spot behind Wolf Island to dive the dredge the Munson. After a short briefing we dropped into the water on what was to be our deepest dive to 108'. Dropping down the mooring line was a cinch. No current like the dives in the river last year. The visibility gradually improved from about 10' at the surface to about forty feet below the last thermo cline with the water temp dropping to a toasty 55, much nicer than we expected. This was a big wooden wreck which, like all we would dive on this trip, sat upright on the lake bed. Three large pilings that once anchored the boat while it worked towered above the deck. There was a lot to take in with bench with tools collected by divers, lots of pipes, gears, winches and a boiler out on the deck. A large dredge bucket and gantry were located at the stern. One turn around the ship was about all we had time for.



Next up was the Wolf Islander a car ferry that was deliberately sunk at the end of its service life. This was a fun wreck, all steel with a broad flat car deck and a wheelhouse prepared for penetration with large holes cut down through the decks. A max depth of 80 ft gave us a lot more time to explore the various decks and glide into the different cabins. The superstructure extended up three stories and sheltered many small fish and a few large Sheepshead Drums that hovered just overhead waiting for us to vacate their home. A motorcycle was welded to the rear deck for a great photo op but my camera was back upstairs on this dive. Back to the dock and off to the fill station for more Nitrox, some food, and rest.

The next day dawned with a significant drop in the wind and concerns about Hurricane Bill which was working its way up the East Coast. When we met Pat at the marina we got good news. The lake had calmed down so we could venture out into the lake. We decided try to dive two wrecks east of Wolfe island the George B Davis and the Glendora. When we got out into Lake Ontario proper it became a clear why we stayed behind the island the day before. Although the wind had died down there was still a good chop on the surface with two to three foot waves. Swimming in the waves reminded me of Gloucester but once underwater all that disappeared and we enjoyed two good dives on interesting wrecks.

Back to the dock for more Nitrox, food and rest.

We split up for dinner. Janet and I spent some time in downtown Kingstown walking the shoreline park and had a nice dinner at a sidewalk café. The evening held the promise of a drop in the winds and a major change in the weather. Maybe we'd get a chance at some of the primo wrecks way out in the lake!

Dawn was charged with excitement. The flags outside the hotel drooped in the still air and the skies were clear. Off to see Pat for our last ride! Good news, the lake surface had calmed significantly allowing us to dive wrecks that were farther from shore. Our first choice was the City of Sheboygan which was only accessible during the best weather. After a roughly forty minute run at thirty knots on a flat calm lake we arrived near our quarry. Speed rules! We had our pick of the sites. Everyone geared up and jumped in the water. Descending to 100' revealed a truly awesome wooden wreck in great condition. By now everyone had settled into a routine and we spent every last minute we could exploring the wreck. Sturdily built this ship had what appeared to be a triple hull in the bow with three layers of plank and two sets of timbers. A steam boiler had been set awkwardly on the fore deck probably to power the winches for the anchors. At the back we were treated to a ships wheel and a view of a spectacularly graceful stern. This large boat looked like it had just been lowered to the bottom with the top deck sitting about twenty feet above the lake bed. After a turn around the ship we reluctantly headed for the surface as we neared deco limits.

Our second target was the Comet a big side-wheeler famous for its thirty foot high paddlewheels. But when we arrived at the GPS numbers no mooring ball was in sight. We then headed for the Marsh another intact schooner wreck in 80' of water. But when we arrived there was another dive boat tied to the mooring. The Captain, resplendent in a set of white Dr Dentons, appeared on deck to greet us. After an exchange of jibes and pleasantries we tied off to the back of his boat. They were tech divers about to start a training dive so we were able to share the wreck.

Diving the Marsh turned out to be a great choice. Descending the mooring line revealed a wooden boat in great condition. We assembled at the intact bowsprit at 80' for a group picture while two technical divers with their multiple gas bottles circled nearby. We then set off to explore the rest of the wreck. A two masted schooner, its masts and booms, having been dynamited as navigation hazards, littered the deck and the lake bed around the vessel. The main deck was in great shape. Deadeye's lined the rails. There was a rather complex winch structure on the mid deck which on close inspection revealed it was constructed almost entirely of wood. The Captains quarters had been knocked off the boat but the deck at the very back of the boat was intact with one remaining quartz skylight embedded in the deck. The bow provided a nice place to explore while burning off the last few minutes of bottom time. Rising up the mooring line we had a nice view of the vessel until it faded into the plankton haze.

Another great trip to Canada was over. It was time to dry the gear, pack up and head for home. If you don't mind the drive and are comfortable with the depth this is a unique opportunity to see historic wooden wrecks in great condition.



Message from the President

Hello everyone, With the season winding down now is the time to take advantage of the few nice weekends that we have left. The tropical fish should be hanging around in southern Rhode Island for a few more weeks. You can usually find them hanging out in the warm, shallow waters of Fort Wetherill, Kings beach, and Lands End. The diving around here has been pretty good to with the water temps holding around 60 degrees and the visibility averaging 20'. The lobsters should be around in force for another month or so and then their numbers will start to dwindle as the water cools and they migrate out to deeper waters. For our cold water divers I will be running some crock pot dives with Cape Ann divers to the Pug and Poling through out the winter so if you have a drysuit and an advanced ticket the winter will offer plenty of great diving for you. As far as upcoming events go member Rich Atkins wanted to host an impromptu club cook-out for everyone. The party will be at his house in Groton from 1-5 on Saturday Oct 17. Rich will have stuff for the grill and we are asking people to bring a side or desert with them to make life a little easier for Rich. There will be Horse shoes, Volley Ball, Badminton, and the end of season Horse Balls Championship. Rich will have soda and water and it is BYOB. The rain date will be on Sunday the 18'th and we may get a shore dive going before the party if the ocean is cooperating. Please RSVP to me (MOD410@aol.com) in a timely manner so that we can get an idea of the amount of food needed. The metro west Wrecks show is happening on the 24 of October at Keffier tech in Framingham please see there website for more info and tickets. We do not have a guest speaker for this month we thought it would be nice to have a social meeting and give everyone a chance to catch up. We have the elections this month but with no contested positions we shouldn't have to deal with the time and expense of ballots a simple show of hands should suffice. Janet Abraham has been working very hard on a Scuba Bingo game for this month. I would like to thank Janet very much for doing this as her " Know Your Supreme High Commander" game last month was a ton of fun and really spiced up the meeting. I would also like to take a minute and thank the election committee Janet Abraham, Pete Conlon and Rick Boucher for all there work calling everyone in the club looking for nominations. It is a thankless job and you did it well Thank You. I hope to see all of you at the meeting this month attendance was unprecedented at the last meeting and I hope we have as big a turnout at this months meeting.

Dive Safe, The SHC

Upcoming Events

October/November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 MWD Wrecks Show.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5 BOD Meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 General Meeting	20	21

October 24- Metro West Dive clubs Wrecks show. It will be held at Keefe Tech School, 750 Winter Street Framingham, MA. Tickets are available online at www.mwdc.org/wrecks or at the door.

November 5- Board of Directors meeting. Slattery's at 6:30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

November 19- The final General meeting of the year. It will be held at Slattery's in Fitchburg. It will start at 7pm.

For any and all Calender updates please check out the club website www.uniteddivers.org

Birthdays!

October 22 - Mark Sheehan
October 23 - Scott Ellis
October 24 - Melanie Smith
October 31 - Bob Leger
November 4 - Janet Abraham
November 9 - Derrick Smith
November 13 - Catherine Kadaras
November 14 - Rick Smith
November 24 - Doreen Sheehan
November 25 - Sarah Bratko
November 1 - Gary Parenteau

Oct/Nov Tide Chart

ROCKPORT



Rockport 42°40'N 070°37'W

DAY	DATE	HIGH				LOW				☀️		🌙
		AM	hgt	PM	hgt	AM	hgt	PM	hgt	rise	set	moon
Sunday	18	11:41	10.33			5:27	-0.30	5:59	-0.97	6:59	5:55	🌑
Monday	19	12:13	9.56	12:24	10.28	6:11	-0.09	6:45	-0.87	7:00	5:53	
Tuesday	20	12:59	9.27	1:06	10.05	6:55	0.24	7:30	-0.59	7:01	5:51	
Wednesday	21	1:44	8.90	1:49	9.70	7:38	0.64	8:16	-0.19	7:03	5:50	
Thursday	22	2:30	8.49	2:34	9.29	8:23	1.07	9:02	0.27	7:04	5:48	
Friday	23	3:18	8.09	3:21	8.87	9:09	1.47	9:51	0.72	7:05	5:47	
Saturday	24	4:08	7.76	4:12	8.49	9:59	1.81	10:43	1.09	7:06	5:45	
Sunday	25	5:01	7.53	5:07	8.20	10:54	2.04	11:38	1.35	7:07	5:44	
Monday	26	5:56	7.44	6:05	8.03	11:52	2.12			7:09	5:43	
Tuesday	27	6:51	7.52	7:03	7.98	12:33	1.47	12:51	2.03	7:10	5:41	
Wednesday	28	7:43	7.75	7:58	8.05	1:26	1.45	1:47	1.78	7:11	5:40	
Thursday	29	8:30	8.09	8:48	8.19	2:14	1.34	2:38	1.41	7:12	5:38	
Friday	30	9:12	8.49	9:35	8.37	2:58	1.16	3:24	0.97	7:14	5:37	
Saturday	31	9:52	8.92	10:18	8.56	3:38	0.96	4:07	0.51	7:15	5:36	
Sunday	01	9:30	9.34	10:00	8.73	3:17	0.75	3:48	0.07	6:16	4:34	
Monday	02	10:08	9.72	10:41	8.84	3:55	0.57	4:29	-0.32	6:17	4:33	🌑
Tuesday	03	10:47	10.01	11:24	8.89	4:35	0.44	5:11	-0.59	6:19	4:32	
Wednesday	04	11:29	10.20			5:17	0.38	5:56	-0.74	6:20	4:31	
Thursday	05	12:09	8.86	12:15	10.24	6:02	0.39	6:43	-0.73	6:21	4:29	
Friday	06	12:58	8.77	1:05	10.15	6:51	0.49	7:34	-0.60	6:22	4:28	
Saturday	07	1:51	8.64	1:59	9.93	7:45	0.64	8:30	-0.38	6:24	4:27	
Sunday	08	2:49	8.53	3:00	9.64	8:44	0.80	9:30	-0.14	6:25	4:26	
Monday	09	3:51	8.51	4:05	9.35	9:49	0.90	10:33	0.05	6:26	4:25	
Tuesday	10	4:55	8.62	5:14	9.13	10:58	0.85	11:37	0.17	6:28	4:24	
Wednesday	11	6:00	8.87	6:23	9.02	-	--	12:08	--	6:29	4:23	
Thursday	12	7:00	9.22	7:28	9.01	12:39	0.20	1:14	0.28	6:30	4:22	
Friday	13	7:56	9.58	8:28	9.04	1:37	0.18	2:14	-0.12	6:31	4:21	
Saturday	14	8:48	9.88	9:22	9.06	2:31	0.18	3:08	-0.46	6:33	4:20	
Sunday	15	9:36	10.05	10:12	9.02	3:20	0.21	3:58	-0.66	6:34	4:19	
Monday	16	10:20	10.08	10:58	8.90	4:06	0.32	4:44	-0.70	6:35	4:18	🌑
Tuesday	17	11:02	9.98	11:42	8.72	4:50	0.49	5:28	-0.59	6:36	4:17	
Wednesday	18	11:43	9.77			5:32	0.71	6:10	-0.36	6:37	4:17	
Thursday	19	12:24	8.48	12:24	9.50	6:13	0.97	6:52	-0.05	6:39	4:16	
Friday	20	1:06	8.23	1:05	9.18	6:55	1.23	7:34	0.29	6:40	4:15	
Saturday	21	1:49	7.99	1:49	8.86	7:38	1.48	8:17	0.62	6:41	4:14	

Meeting Time and Location

The United Divers meet once a month on the third Thursday of the month at Slattery's located at 106 Lunenburg Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420. There is ample parking provided in the rear of the building. The meeting will be taking place in the event room near the back right of the restaurant. The meeting will begin at 7pm with a social hour beginning at 6:30pm. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors.



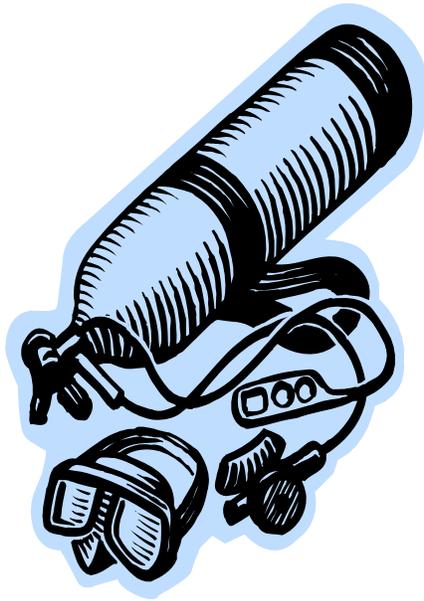
**216 Daniels St,
Fitchburg, MA 01420-4042
978-343-6330**

United Divers of Central Mass

Dive Log

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Email; For newsletter correspondence please contact Kris at 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.



United Divers of Central Massachusetts
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