



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the guests attending our annual Open House. We hope you like what you see. The Tritons are the largest dive club in the Chicago area. We offer a varied calendar offering both diving and non-diving activities year round. Please feel free to ask anyone a question, if they don't know they will direct you to a person who can help.

Hard to believe it is June already, summer is here. There are a bunch of activities on the calendar (a couple looking for TICs) and I am happy to report several of this year's dive events have sold out! Don't wait, if you are interested in an event, sign up, otherwise you might miss the opportunity.

While we are on the subject of Events, David and his committee will soon begin planning for 2009. They welcome any input into providing activities on the calendar for you, the membership. Looking to repeat an event from year's past? Perhaps you attended an outing with another group, you think it might be a good fit - pass it on

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Steve Leibovitz
Vice-President - Randy Skiba
Secretary - Pam Romund
Treasurer - David Gross
First Director - Dave O'Malley
Second Director - Marnie Adamski

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit - Appointed in Fall
By Laws & Rules - Gary Duszak
Entertainment - Dave Vemmer
Equipment & Safety - Board of Ed
Events - Dave Vemmer
Membership - Marnie Adamski
Merchandise - Pam Romund
Nominating - Appointed in Fall
Publicity/Web Site - Mike Leibovitz
Director of Training - Rich Schak
Editor of the Trib - Pam Romund
Illinois Council Delegates - Chuck & Margo Miller

DAN SPONSOR #29362

The budget committee will also be meeting shortly. What should we budget for? We have had a couple of excellent suggestions to date. Let your voice be heard.

Steve 847-253-5933

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

May, 2008

A correction to Angi's email (editor error)
Angi McKeon Email: ammckeon@sbcglobal.net

Membership: 90 full members
7 associate members
TOTAL 97 members

Marnie Adamski - Membership Committee

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UPDATE YOUR ROSTERS

New Email Address: PeterKloga@yahoo.com

Note: Both the previous business and personal email are obsolete.

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ENTERTAINMENT AT THE JUNE MEETING

The June meeting is our annual Open House. Invite your diving friends or those interested in diving to the June 24th meeting. There will be pizza and beer and we will be viewing the program put together for our 50th Anniversary. We will be debuting our new Triton wear, don't miss it!

TRITON 2008 EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 2008		
S & S, 6/21 & 22	Training Weekend	Board of Education – Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL
Tuesday, 6/24	Business Meeting – OPEN HOUSE	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230 INVITE GUESTS divers & those interested in diving
JULY 2008		
Tuesday, 7/8	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
*Wednesday, 7/9	Mental Health Day Dive & Picnic – Pearl Lake	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
*Sunday, 7/20	Jim Haigh Memorial Dive Haigh Quarry, Kankakee	Needs TIC /Join with your fellow divers for a fun day of diving,
Tuesday, 7/22	Business Meeting	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230
Saturday, 7/26*	All Day Dive Charter	Marnie Adamski, rmvb4flt@aol.com – Sold Out!!
AUGUST 2008		
Saturday, 8/2	Howard/Etherton Family Day – Pearl Lake	Board of Education, Contact Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Tuesday, 8/12	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Sunday, 8/17	Willie Dive & Plaque Rededication	Steve Leibovitz and Jim Hynan Only 6 spots remain!
Tuesday, 8/26	Business Meeting	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230
S,S, M- 8/30-9/1	Munising Wreck Diving Weekend	Contact Ralph Ripple at Divers Delight Charters for reservations – diversdelightcharter.com
SEPTEMBER 2008		
Tuesday, 9/9	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Sunday, 9/14	Chicago Chocolate Tour	Needs TIC
Saturday, 9/20	Waukegan Area Dive Charter – Enterprise	Needs TIC – We have 6 spots to fill
Tuesday, 9/23	Business Meeting	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230
Saturday, 9/27	Winery Tour & Tasting	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
OCTOBER 2008		
Saturday, 10/4	Lake Geneva Dive	Jim Hynan, Jim.Hynan@occ.treas.gov
Tuesday, 10/14	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Saturday, 10/18	Corn Maze or Oktoberfest	Needs TIC (You can decide which event you want to run)
Tuesday, 10/28	Business Meeting	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230
NOVEMBER 2008		
Saturday, 11/1	Theater Outing	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Tuesday, 11/11	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Tuesday, 11/25	Business Meeting	Guiseppes 1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL 847-824-4230
Saturday, 11/29	Train/Light Festival	Needs TIC Chicago Botanic Gardens
DECEMBER 2008		
Saturday, 12/6	Holiday Party	Board of Directors
Tuesday, 12/11	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Saturday, 12/13	Food Depository	Jim Hynan, Jim.Hynan@occ.treas.gov

* Date and/or venue change

We have immediate openings for a few TICs. Please contact Dave Vemmer if you are interested in running an event. We need to get TICs for all the events on the calendar. Thanks!

DIVING & PICNICKING - SCENIC PEARL LAKE

Three very hearty Tritons made it to Pearl on Sunday, June 8. We weathered the torrential downpours and high winds first taking cover in the resort building and then standing under a very small shelter changing sides as the winds kept shifting. However it turned out to be a fantastic day. The temperature was in the high 70's, with enough of a breeze to make it great weather no matter if you were donning a wet suit or dry suit.

The water temp was a balmy 63 degrees and visibility ranged from 20 to 25 feet (no activity to mess it up). There was a thermocline at about 25/27 feet and the water dropped to 54, but manageable since we were dressed for it. We took advantage of the platforms near the picnic area to place our gear – no sand or gravel to worry about. And we were right next to a new changing room that really came in handy.

We met four divers from the Bartlett area who were set up in the same area so we asked them to join us for lunch. Just simple fare – sandwiches, potato salad and assorted munchies – but we were all hungry after our morning's adventure. As divers do we traded stories about various places we have been – both good and bad. All in all a fun day, good diving and nice people to share it with – can't ask for more.

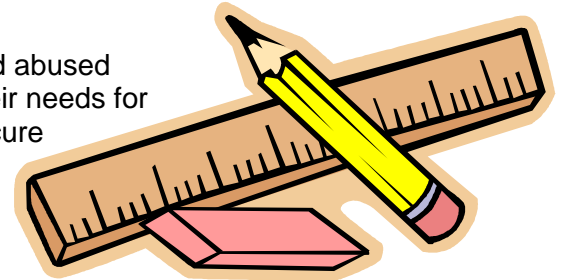
TIC: Pam Romund

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

As part of the ongoing community service efforts the club has been asked to assist with the WINGS program in providing school supplies for the new school season. We realize that school just got out but as you are out and about this summer and see things on sale why not pick up an extra one to donate to the program. The usual supplies- crayons, spiral notebooks, #2 pencils, paper, etc. - all will be needed and welcomed. Bring your donations to the monthly meeting, you may hand them off to either Chris Demski or Pam Romund.

WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) helps homeless and abused women and children by offering integrated services that meet their needs for shelter, education, guidance and support. They provide safe, secure living environments, through transitional housing and emergency shelter, in residential neighborhoods that allow women to go to school, work, and care for themselves and their children.



As always thank you for your participation and generosity in providing for those in need.

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MENTAL HEALTH DAY WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

No, this isn't a misprint - this dive will be on Wednesday, a great day to leave those office worries behind. Take a look in the mirror, you are looking way too stressed out. Time to take a break. Why not come on out to Pearl and enjoy the peace and tranquility of a weekday get-away?

Mid week diving is very nice – the lake has had a chance to settle down from all the weekend activity, 20 to 30 feet of viz and the water has had a chance to warm up, I would anticipate the temperature should be in the 70's. We will gather about 10:00 so you don't have to get up at the crack of dawn either. Another plus for divers is the ease of entry. Unlike most quarries with limited and difficult access, Pearl offers over a dozen entry areas. Additionally, interesting sites are located just a short swim offshore. Most are located in 20' -25' depths (I will have maps of the lake bottom also). See up close and personal, the *Yellow Submarine*, the step van, school bus, many powerboats, the *Thora Ann* fishing tug and many more. Pearl Lake's 30 acres of clear water awaits. Entry to Pearl is the only fee (\$20).

Please contact Pam Romund to make your reservation, 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com. Food and beverage will be provided but you need to make a reservation.

ANNOUNCING TRITON DIVE TRIP TO BONAIRE

MARCH 6, 2009 TO MARCH 14, 2009

If you have never been diving in Bonaire or even if you have, you will want to take a look at what we have to offer for next winter. You may remember winter. It's that nasty, cold, snowy, icy time of year that we put up with each December to April. Well, here's your chance to get away from it for a week and do something you can't do here in Chicago – namely dive in warm water.

If this sounds good to you, here are the details of the trip.

Where: Bonaire, NA

Resort: Plaza Resort/Toucan Diving

When: March 6 to March 14, 2009

Cost per diver: \$1239.00 based on double occupancy

Cost per non diver: \$932.00 based on double occupancy

What is included: Seven nights, standard suite room with either a lagoon or garden view. Full breakfast daily. 5 days of 2 tank boat diving and a 1 tank boat dive on the last day due to our next day flights. Unlimited shore diving. Airport transfers and taxes.

In addition, I am holding group space on Continental Airlines from Chicago to Bonaire through Houston. If you want to do your own air using points etc, just let me know. If you would like to be part of the group air package, the price is \$685.00/person. This price is subject to change if there are any changes in the taxes.



Diving near Klein Bonaire © Photographer: Wade Eakle. Lonely Planet Images.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call or email me. Space will fill up fast (15 spots gone to date) so please let me know as soon as possible so that I can put your name on the group list. I hope you will be able to join us next year.

Randy Skiba

Global Access, Inc.

309 E. Rand Road, #138

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

(224) 392-2131 (local number) or globacc@quixnet.net

The value of any freebies generated by the group will be shared on a proportional basis by all participants after the completion of the trip in the form of a rebate. This event is being run by Global Access, Inc., a profit based travel agency, Randy Skiba, Owner.

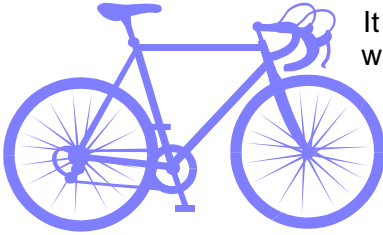
We will also be arranging rental trucks to use for the myriad of shore diving locations. I will have details available for those who might be interested.

If you are interested in joining us, here is what you need to do. For the resort and diving I will need a deposit of \$100.00/person payable by check to Global Access, Inc. If you are going to be part of the air group, I will need an additional deposit of \$100.00/person payable by check to Global Access, Inc. If you are doing both, you can send in one check for \$200.00/person. Final payments will be due in December 2008 and I will send out an invoice to each participant with the final amount due around the first of December. Final payments will need to be paid by check.

MEMORIAL DAY BIKE RIDE

Monday, May 27, 2008

On Memorial Day, 2008, 29 Tritons and friends dove into a huge selection of wonderful food, contributed by all the attendees. For twelve of us, this occurred after a 22-mile bike ride along the Des Plaines River Trail, from the Old School Forest Preserve in Libertyville, through the Independence Grove Forest Preserve, to Gowe Park in Gurnee and back to Old School. For another eight Tritons, it was after working up appetites walking a few loops around the Independence Grove trails.



It had rained much of the night before, and the forecast had threatened rain for the whole day, but, in fact, the rain moved off and the overcast skies made for really pleasant weather for the bike ride and hike, and by lunchtime the sun appeared for an absolutely beautiful afternoon. The bike trails had a few spots with an inch or so of standing water, but nothing of significance. A number of us came off the ride sporting “rat tails” from the mud line splashed up the back of our shirts from our bike wheels.

Thanks to Adolph, we didn't know if we were coming or going. As usual, Adolph was coming back from Gowe Park while the rest of us were still going to Gowe Park. He makes the rest of us look like wimps! Pete Kennedy was given the handicap of pulling Trish, his 3-year old daughter, in a cart behind his bike, but none-the-less, he was still faster than most of us... at least until Independence Grove, where some sixth sense in Trish detected the proximity of a playground. That's the last we saw of the Kennedys until well into lunchtime.

Milt figures he worked off two pounds on the ride, and then put four pounds back on with all the good food consumed later in the day.

Milt & Margy Levenberg

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BACK AGAIN THE TRITON TRIB CAPTION CONTEST

Back by popular demand (can two people be a demand?).

Take a look at the photo on the left, can you think of a clever title/caption for it? If so send it in to the editor – promund@kraft.com. Prizes will be awarded

Deadline for entries is the July business meeting – Tuesday, July 22. The winning entries will be published in the August newsletter. Only those entries rated G/PG are allowed. We have to be able to publish your entry.

Put those thinking caps on – perhaps have a beer or glass of wine, may get your creative juices flowing a bit quicker.

To make your dive planning easier we have condensed all the Triton dive events on this one page.

TRITON DIVES - SUMMER OF 2008

7/9 Wednesday – Mental Health Day! Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL

No, this isn't a misprint - this dive will be on Wednesday, a great day to leave those office worries behind. Take a look in the mirror, you are looking way too stressed out. Time to take a break. Why not come on out to Pearl and enjoy the peace and tranquility of a weekday get-away? If you are interested please contact Pam Romund at 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com for more information and to make your reservations.

7/20, Sunday - Jim Haigh Memorial Dive – Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, IL

This the annual Jim Haigh Dive and Divers Appreciation Day at Haigh Quarry. **The entrance fee is \$15 per person (airfills are half price!, Note: updated information).** More details can be found at: www.haighquarry.com, looking for a TIC for this event.

7/26, Sunday - All Day 4 Tank Dive – Enterprise Marine, Waukegan, IL

What a day – diving our way along the wrecks in Lake Michigan. Captain Dale will be setting out to take the divers to the *Straits/Wells Burt/Lady Elgin* (this is subject to change, dependent upon the weather). This event has sold out, however we can add you to the stand-by list in case someone can't make it. For more details contact Marnie Adamski at 847-530-4422 (mobile phone) or e-mail her at rmvb4flt@aol.com

8/2, Saturday - Marsh Howard/Jim Etherton Dive – Pearl Lake, S. Beloit, IL

We will gather at Pearl Lake for the annual Marsh Howard/Jim Etherton Family Dive Day on Saturday, August 2. Everyone come on out, games to play, diving fun and, of course, plenty of good eats! Entrance to Pearl is \$20.00. The event is run by the Board of Education; if you are interested please contact Pam Romund at 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com for more information.

8/17, Sunday - Willie Dive and Plaque Rededication - Jerry's Dock, Milwaukee, WI

We will be diving on the *Willie* to replace the plaque honoring Jim Etherton. It was washed off the wreck during a winter storm but recovered by Captain Jerry Guyer. It won't be all work, we will have plenty of opportunity to explore one of the most popular wrecks in Lake Michigan. TICs for this event are Steve Leibovitz (847-253-5933 or kb9caw@yahoo.com) and Jim Hynan (847-967-1738 or jim.hynan@occ.treas.gov). Contact them for more information and to make your reservations.

8/30 to 9/1, Labor Day Weekend – Munising Wreck Diving, Munising, MI

Excellent Lake Superior wreck diving – *Smithmore, Selvick Bermuda* and more. Contact Ralph Ripple at Divers Delight Charters for reservations - diversdelightcharter.com

9/20, Sunday – Waukegan Area Dive – Enterprise Marine, Waukegan, IL

The wrecks haven't been decided upon as yet and we need someone to TIC the dive. If this date fits your schedule contact Dave Vemmer for all the details. There are 6 spots available on the dive. More to come.

10/4, Saturday - Lake Geneva Dive – Williams Bay, WI

Time for our annual trek up to beautiful Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. We will gather at the Public Boat Launch in Williams Bay. This is a great dive for novice or advanced, just a fun time diving and enjoying the fall foliage around the lake. We also compete to see who has brought up the most interesting find (usually at least one anchor). More information as we get closer to the event. Your TIC is Jim Hynan Jim.Hynan@occ.treas.gov.

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

If any member would like a copy of the business meeting minutes to review please email Pam Romund (promund@kraft.com) and she will email them to you before the meeting. Thanks!

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Many thanks to Pete Kloga for sending this one on, article by Richard Black Environment correspondent, BBC News website reprinted from: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7413948.stm>,

SHARKS SWIM CLOSER TO EXTINCTION

More than half of the world's ocean-going sharks are at risk of extinction, a new analysis concludes.

Specialists with IUCN (formerly the World Conservation Union) found that 11 species are on the high-risk list, with five more showing signs of decline. Sharks are particularly affected by over-fishing as they reproduce slowly.



Swimming into trouble

The scientists are calling for global catch limits, an end to the practice of removing fins, and measures to minimize incidental catches (bycatch). "There's this idea that because these are widely ranging species, they're more resilient to fishing pressure," said Sonja Fordham, deputy chair of the IUCN Shark Specialist Group (SSG) and policy director for the Shark Alliance conservation group.

"In fact they're becoming species of serious concern because there are no international catch limits for sharks. There are intense fisheries on the oceans, and they remain pretty much unprotected."

New threats

The SSG assessed data on the 21 species of sharks and their close cousins, the rays, that swim in upper portions of the open ocean where they are exposed to fishing fleets. Of the 21, one - the giant devil ray - is assessed as Endangered, and 10 are Vulnerable. A further five are listed as Near Threatened, which means the signs of decline are not serious enough yet to merit a full listing.

The classifications are based on a range of criteria that look at past or forecast declines in population size. For example, a population shrinking by 50% in 10 years would usually qualify as Endangered. Some of these species have been assessed before; but for others, including the three species of thresher sharks with their spectacularly long tails, the danger listing is new.

Fin cuts

The main threat to sharks is fishing, both accidental & targeted. "They used to be taken as bycatch by boats targeting tuna and swordfish," said Ms Fordham. "But now as those species are declining we're seeing more fishermen targeting sharks. "Porbeagle and shortfin mako are targeted for fins and meat; species like blue shark are likely to be finned, but particularly in Europe we're seeing more blue shark being landed."

Several of the bodies that regulate fisheries in international waters - the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) - have set up measures to curb shark finning, but there are different standards in place, a situation that enables fishermen to work around the regulations.



The three thresher species are newly judged as Vulnerable to extinction

As East Asian economies boom, conservation groups say the market for fins is increasing. "Fishery managers and regional, national and international officials have a real obligation to improve this situation," commented Nicholas Dulvy from Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, the report's lead author. "But it doesn't have to be like this. With sufficient public support and resulting political will, we can turn the tide."

The report was released at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meeting in Bonn, and will be published in the journal *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*. The new risk assessments will be included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species published later this year.

Many thanks to Pete Kloga for sending this one on. Just when you think you are safe, another test to face.
By ALI KOTARUMALOS, Associated Press Writer Sun Jun 8 Copyright © 2008 The Associated Press.

STRANDED DIVERS CHASE OFF KOMODO DRAGON ON ISLAND

Scuba divers swept away in strong currents survived 12 hours in shark-infested waters before scrambling onto a remote Indonesian island where they faced yet another threat: a Komodo dragon.

The divers — three from Britain and one each from France and Sweden — came face-to-face with the giant, carnivorous lizard on Rinca's palm-fringed beach, and fought it off by pelting it with rocks and pieces of wood, Pariman, a port official said Sunday.

"Luckily, they were able to chase it away," said Pariman, who, like many Indonesians, goes by only one name.

The beasts have sharp, serrated teeth and often come out when they smell something new, including humans — whom they've been known to kill, Pariman said.

The divers encountered treacherous currents after plunging from their wooden boat off Tatawa Island on Thursday afternoon. They drifted 20 miles from their dive site before swimming to Rinca, their last chance to avoid being swept into the open ocean.

"We struggled against the current for several hours, but eventually stopped," Laurent Pinel, 31, of France, told The Sunday Times of London. The group tied their diving vests together to preserve energy, he said. Once on the island, they scraped mussels from the rocks for food, he said.

The divers ran into the Komodo dragon on Friday afternoon. The next day, rescuers aboard one of 30 boats searching the waters spotted them waving frantically on the shore and took them to Flores island for medical treatment.

The area where the diving trip took place is famous for its rich marine diversity, including sharks, manta rays and sea turtles. But it is also known for its treacherous and unpredictable seas.

Recommended only for experienced divers, it is in a place where the Indian and Pacific Oceans meet, creating currents that converge and separate. Whirlpools and eddies can pull divers downwards.

"We're safe, but absolutely exhausted and dehydrated," Charlotte Allin, a 25-year-old British diver, was quoted by The Sunday Times of London as telling her parents from the hospital where the group was taken.

Komodo dragons, which can grow up to 10 feet long and weigh as much as 365 pounds, are only found in the wild on Rinca and Komodo island. There are believed to be 4,000 left in the world.

Thousands of tourists visit the area in eastern Indonesia each year to see the lizards in their natural habitat. They are normally shown around the arid and rocky island by guides who carry large, forked sticks to ward off the animals.

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Reprinted from <http://www.divernet.com/cgi-bin/articles.pl?id=7173&sc=1080&ac=d>

REBREATHERS RECORD CLAIM

An international diving team claims to have set a new world depth record for diving on rebreathers. The divers descended to the wreck of the Milano at a depth of 236m (241m if compensating for altitude) in Italy's Lake Maggiore. The bottom divers - Alessandro Scuotto (Italy), Mario Marconi (Italy) and Pim van der Horst (Netherlands) - used Delta P Ouroboros closed-circuit rebreathers.

Some 60 people contributed to the team effort, including support divers using Inspiration and Megalodon rebreathers. For the bottom divers, total dive time was about 8 hours, with 4.5 hours in a bell that marked the final decompression element from a depth of 21m upward - all for about four minutes on the wreck. They were tracked by an ROV, which filmed both them and the wreck.

Many thanks to Nancy Boucha and Steve Leibovitz for sending this one on. Originally published at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080614/ap_on_sc/shipwreck_found. Copyright by Associated Press. By WILLIAM KATES, Associated Press Writer, go to <http://www.shipwreckworld.com> for more info & pictures

EXPLORERS FIND 1780 BRITISH WARSHIP IN LAKE ONTARIO

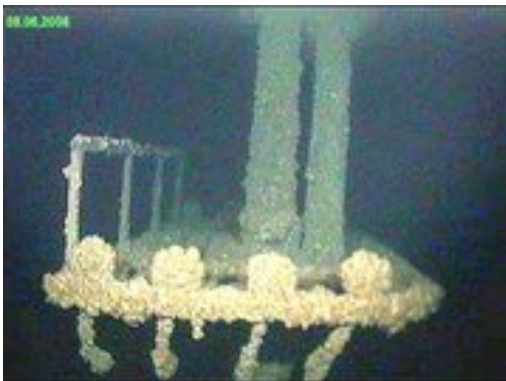
A 22-gun British warship that sank during the American Revolution and has long been regarded as one of the "Holy Grail" shipwrecks in the Great Lakes has been discovered at the bottom of Lake Ontario, astonishingly well-preserved in the cold, deep water, explorers announced Friday.

Shipwreck enthusiasts Jim Kennard and Dan Scoville used side-scanning sonar and an unmanned submersible to locate the *HMS Ontario*, which was lost with barely a trace and as many as 130 people aboard during a gale in 1780.

The 80-foot sloop of war is the oldest shipwreck and the only fully intact British warship ever found in the Great Lakes, Scoville and Kennard said. "To have a Revolutionary War vessel that's practically intact is unbelievable. It's an archaeological miracle," said Canadian author Arthur Britton Smith, who chronicled the history of the *HMS Ontario* in a 1997 book, "The Legend of the Lake."

The finders of the wreck said they regard it as a war grave and have no plans to raise it or remove any of its artifacts. They said the ship is still considered the property of the British Admiralty. Although the vessel sits in an area where the water is up to 500 feet deep and cannot be reached by anyone but the most experienced divers, Kennard and Scoville declined to give its exact location, saying only that it was found off the southern shore. The sloop was discovered resting partially on its side, with two masts extending more than 70 feet above the lake bottom.

"Usually when ships go down in big storms, they get beat up quite a bit. They don't sink nice and square. This went down in a huge storm, and it still managed to stay intact," Scoville said. "There are even two



windows that aren't broken. Just going down, the pressure difference, can break the windows. It's a beautiful ship." Smith, who was shown underwater video of the find, said: "If it wasn't for the zebra mussels, she looks like she only sunk last week." The dark, cold freshwater acts as a perfect preservative, Smith said. At that depth, there is no light and no oxygen to hasten decomposition, and little marine life to feed on the wood.

The *Ontario* went down on Oct. 31, 1780, with a garrison of 60 British soldiers, a crew of about 40, mostly Canadians, and possibly about 30 American war prisoners. The warship had been launched only five months earlier and was used to ferry troops and supplies along upstate New York's frontier. Although it

was the biggest British ship on the Great Lakes at the time, it never saw battle, Smith said.

After the ship disappeared, the British conducted a sweeping search but tried to keep the sinking secret from Gen. George Washington's troops because of the blow to the British defenses.

Hatchway gratings, the binnacle, compasses and several hats and blankets drifted ashore the next day. A few days later the ship's sails were found adrift in the lake. In 1781, six bodies from the *Ontario* were found near Wilson, N.Y. For the next two centuries, there were no other traces of the ship.

Explorers have been searching for the *Ontario* for decades, and there have been numerous false finds over the years, said Eric Bloomquist, interpretative programs manager at Old Fort Niagara.

Kennard, an electrical engineer who has been diving for nearly 40 years and has found more than 200 wrecks in the Great Lakes, Lake Champlain, the Finger Lakes and in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, began searching for the *Ontario* 35 years ago but quit after several frustrating and fruitless years.

Six years ago, he teamed up with Scoville, a diver who developed the remote-controlled submersible with students from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Since then, the pair have found seven ships in the lake.

Over the years, Kennard obtained documents from British and Canadian archives on the *Ontario*, including the ship's design plans. Even then, it took the pair three years of searching more than 200 square miles before they found the vessel earlier this month.

After locating the wreck with the sonar, the explorers used the submersible to confirm their find, documenting their discovery with more than 80 minutes of underwater video. "Certainly it is one of the earliest discovered shipwrecks, if not the earliest," said Carrie Sowden, archaeological director of the Peachman Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center of the Great Lakes Historical Society in Vermillion, Ohio. "And if it's in the condition they say, it's quite significant."

A rare feature that helped identify the ship: the two crow's nests on each mast. Another was the decoratively carved scroll bow stem. The explorers also found two cannons, two anchors and the ship's bell.

The clincher was the quarter galleries on either side of the stern — a kind of balcony with windows typically placed on the sides of the stern-castle, a high, tower-like structure at the back of a ship that housed the officers' quarters.

Kennard said he and his partner have gathered enough video that it will not be necessary to return to the site. He added that they hope to make a documentary about the discovery. There are an estimated 4,700 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, including about 500 on Lake Ontario

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Many thanks to Nancy Boucha for sending this to our attention, a very rare occurrence in the aquarium community. Reprinted from http://news.aol.com/story/_a/rare-sea-dragon-is-pregnant/20080612194109990001, Copyright AP

RARE SEA DRAGON IS PREGNANT

ATLANTA (June 12) - A weedy sea dragon at the Georgia Aquarium has something to celebrate this Father's Day. One of the rare creatures is pregnant for only the third time ever at a U.S. aquarium, aquarium officials said. But don't look for the expectant mom -- dads carry the eggs in this family.

The aquarium's sea dragon has about 70 fertilized eggs -- which look like small red grapes -- attached to his tail. He is expected to give birth in early to mid-July, said Kerry Gladish, a biologist at the aquarium.



This pregnant papa is expected to give birth in July at the Georgia Aquarium. Sea dragons are one of three species where the male, not the female, carries the eggs.

John Bazemore, AP

Sea dragons, sea horses and pipe fish are the only species where the male carries the eggs, Gladish said. Sea dragon pregnancies are rare because researchers don't know what gets them in the mood to mate. "We know there's something biologically or environmentally that triggers them to want to reproduce, but in the aquarium world, we're not sure what that is," Gladish said.

The aquarium recently changed the lighting and thinned out the plants in the sea dragons' tank to give them room to court each other.

The aquarium has seven of the 18-inch sea dragons, which resemble Dr. Seuss characters with long aardvark-like snouts, colorful sea horse bodies and multiple paddle-like fins.

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