



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Tritons,

Just returned from the Club's trip to Bonaire – wonderful time was had by all – excellent resort, perfect weather and fantastic diving. But I will leave all the fun stuff to Randy to detail. This is just one of the benefits of being a member, the ability to travel with a group of friends and at an attractive rate too!

The club will be holding our elections at the meeting this month. In addition to the general elections there is also a By-laws change that will be up for vote. Please familiarize yourself with its particulars. It is important that you be an informed voter.

The dive season will be starting soon. As always "A Few Good TRITONS" are needed to TIC the upcoming events. PLEASE Volunteer.

Safe diving, Steve

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

March, 2009

No new members to report this month.

Membership: 86 full members

9 associate members

TOTAL 95 members

Adolph Habich- Membership Committee

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## MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

The March Business meeting is our General Elections, we won't have any entertainment. The slate of candidates is posted on page 3 of the Newsletter. We will also be voting on updating the By-Laws to change the way the quorum is tallied for business meetings. Often we don't have enough members attending to conduct official business so this should speed things along. We will have door prizes, a raffle and merchandise to purchase. Come on out!

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## HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE?

Dives that is. . .how many do you have? Still waiting to hear from some of you. – this will be a contest at the Anniversary Party. We need your input. We were just wondering how many dives the club members would have if we added them all up. So we are conducting a brief, unscientific poll. Send your total count to the editor of the Trib ([promund@kraft.com](mailto:promund@kraft.com)) or to the PO Box. Many thanks!

### 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 – Jim Hynan

By Laws & Rules - Gary Duszak

Entertainment – Dave Vemmer

Equipment & Safety – Board of Ed

Events – Dave Vemmer

Membership – Adolph Habich

Merchandise – Pam Romund

Nominating –Margy Levenberg

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**

## **TRITON 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>March, 2009</b>		
Fri-Sat 3/20-21	Ghost Ships Festival, Milwaukee, WI	For tickets and show information go to: <a href="http://www.ghost-ships.org/">http://www.ghost-ships.org/</a>
Tuesday, 3/24	Business Meeting –No Presentation/Elections	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 3/28	Chicago Indoor Racing	Lourdes Alanso ( <a href="mailto:lalonso@stepan.com">lalonso@stepan.com</a> )
<b>April, 2009</b>		
Saturday, 4/4	Anniversary Party	Randy and Dianna Skiba 847-312- 9208 or <a href="mailto:r_skiba@comcast.net">r_skiba@comcast.net</a>
Tuesday, 4/14	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
<b>*Saturday, 4/18</b>	Chocolate Tour of Wicker Park	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
Tuesday, 4/28	Business Meeting –Live Presentation	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
<b>May, 2009</b>		
<b>*Saturday, 5/3</b>	Comedy Club Nite	Renee Tobias - <a href="mailto:cansculpt@ameritech.net">cansculpt@ameritech.net</a>
Tuesday, 5/12	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
Sunday, 5/17	Season Opener – Haigh Quarry Dive/Picnic	<b>Needs TIC</b>
Monday, 5/25	Memorial Day Bike, Walk and Eat	Milt & Margy Levenberg ( <a href="mailto:milspec@comcast.net">milspec@comcast.net</a> )
Tuesday, 5/26	Business Meeting – Video Presentation	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
<b>June, 2009</b>		
Tuesday, 6/9	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
Sat/Sun 6/13-14	Training Weeked, Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL	Pearl Lake – Board of Education
Saturday 6/13	Quarry Dive and Picnic Pearl Lake	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
<b>*Sunday, 6/14</b>	Frontera Farmers Market & Tasting	Rosana Vemmer ( <a href="mailto:rvmexicana@hotmail.com">rvmexicana@hotmail.com</a> ), Lourdes Alonso ( <a href="mailto:lalonso@stepan.com">lalonso@stepan.com</a> )
Tuesday, 6/23	OPEN HOUSE – Business Meeting	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Sunday, 6/28	Dive Charter - Chicago	<b>Needs TIC</b>
<b>July, 2009</b>		
Friday, 7/3 to Monday, 7/6	Florida Dive Trip	<a href="mailto:Jim.hynan@occ.treas.gov">Jim.hynan@occ.treas.gov</a>
Tuesday, 7/14	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
Saturday, 7/18	Milwaukee Area Dive	<b>Needs TIC</b>
<b>*Sunday, 7/26</b>	Jim Haigh Memorial Dive – Haigh Quarry	<b>Needs TIC</b>
Tuesday, 7/28	Business Meeting – Video Presentation Mountain in the Sea (Cocos Island)	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016

**\*Denotes Date Change**

We have immediate openings for a few TICs, no experience necessary. 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!

**ENJOY A NIGHT AT THE IMPROV  
IN SCHAUMBURG WITH MITCH FATEL  
SATURDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
DINNER AT 5:30, SHOW STARTS @7:00 PM  
847-240-2001**

Once again we will be meeting at the Improv in Schaumburg for dinner and a comedy show:

For \$35.60 a person you will get:

- Your choice of cheeseburger, chicken sandwich, or chicken tenders. All come with a tossed salad and dressing and fries. The price includes tax and gratuity.
- The show featuring Mitch Fatel\*\*.
- Pre-reserved, preferred seating with no wait in line.

What is not included:

- Your beverages. All beverages are additional.
- The normal \$2.50 service charge per ticket is waived.
- A 2 drink minimum per order is also waived.

I will need payment by the March meeting if at all possible, the April meeting at the very latest. We must submit our final count no later than a week before the event. We are trying to get a minimum of 16 people.

**The Improv is located inside Woodfield Mall in the upper level parking lot between Sears and Lord & Taylor, right next to the Texas De Brazil Steak House. Valet parking is available to the east of the Improv Entrance. Last year finding a parking place took some time. Please allow a little extra time.**

**\*\*There may be some R-Rated material in this show.**

If you are not familiar with Mitch Fatel's work go to either of these for a sneak peek

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZtBI8Pga9l&feature=related>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N7FpwiqNCo&feature=related>

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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

General elections will be held at the March Business Meeting. We have established a slate of candidates for positions that will be open this year. The current slate is

**Vice President** - Randy Skiba

**Treasurer** – David Gross

**Director** (Marnie Adamski's Position)

Al Krenz

Renee Tobias

Anyone wishing to run for any of the above offices should contact a member of the committee to get your name added to the slate. We will be accepting nominations from the floor on the night of the elections provided the nominee is present and accepts or, if not present, has give their written permission prior to the meeting.

Also remember if you will be casting a ballot for another member unable to make the meeting you are limited to a maximum of three (3) proxy votes per active Triton member.

We thank everyone for their cooperation and willingness to serve on the board.

### **Nominating Committee Members**

Margy Levenberg, Dave Vemmer and Lourdes Alonso



# CHICAGO INDOOR RACING

Saturday March 28, 2009.



# ZOOM...

# ZOOM



We will go again in high speed!!!. Just join the group and dress like a Formula One driver having fun at Chicago Indoor Racing. If you are afraid, drive at your own speed, but don't miss the experience. It depends on the attendance the number of groups we will have.

We will try to race at 6:00 PM. After the races we will go to celebrate the winners at **George's Whats Cooking?** a family style restaurant in Deerfield.

**TIC:** Lourdes Alonso phone : 847-5012262 cellular : 480-6881804 [LAlonso@stepan.com](mailto:LAlonso@stepan.com)

## Chicago Indoor Racing

301 Hastings Drive  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089  
phone: (847) 9419400  
<http://www.chicagoindoorracing.com/directions.asp>

## George's What's Cooking?

350 South Waukegan  
Deerfield, IL 60015 (between Dundee and Lake Cook)  
phone: (847) 4129360

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# BALLOTS

The Triton of the Year and Events Ballots are included with this month's issue of the Trib. Please fill them out and return them no later than the March business meeting or mail to the address listed on the ballot. THANKS!



Reprint from National Geographic News, February 25, 2009. For more photos & video of the discovery go to:  
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/02/photogalleries/fish-transparent-head-barreleye-picture/index.html>

## WEIRD FISH WITH TRANSPARENT HEAD

**February 23, 2009**--With a head like a fighter-plane cockpit, a Pacific barreleye fish shows off its highly sensitive, barrel-like eyes--topped by green, orblike lenses--in a picture released today but taken in 2004. The fish, discovered alive in the deep water off California's central coast by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), is the first specimen of its kind to be found with its soft transparent dome intact. The 6-inch (15-centimeter) barreleye (*Macropinna microstoma*) had been known since 1939--but only from mangled specimens dragged to the surface by nets.

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Reprinted from DiverNet Magazine: <http://www.divernet.com/cgi-bin/articles.pl?id=8123&sc=1080&ac=d>

## SEA LIONS LINED UP FOR DUTY

**The US Navy is reported to be planning to use sea-lions as underwater guards for a major base.**

According to US press reports, the Navy plans to use California sea-lions along with Atlantic bottlenose dolphins to patrol for potential terrorist attacks at its large submarine base at Bangor in the Hood Canal, off Puget Sound in Washington state.

The training of dolphins for military duties is well known. Highly intelligent and capable of complex tasks, they have been used to locate mines and lost objects, and guard ships and harbours from attack. Their use stretches back at least to the 1970s and the Vietnam War.

The use of sea-lions, however, may come as news to many. They may not be quite as bright as dolphins but, with intelligence akin to a dog, they can be trained in some useful tasks. At Bangor, both the sea-lions and dolphins would probably be used in conjunction with handlers aboard small craft, patrolling within the base's perimeter.

It is reported that sea-lions could, for instance, be trained to carry in their mouths a limb cuff with long cord attached. They would fit the cuff over the ankle of a suspect diver or swimmer so that the suspect could be hauled aboard the covering vessel.

The dolphins, meanwhile, could be used at night for their sonar skills in locating suspect people or objects in the dark. They could be trained to carry a strobe light on their nose and bump into the suspect item, so that the light dislodges and floats to the surface to guide surface crew to the spot.

The project attracts mixed views. One marine mammal vet is reported to have said: "These animals are going to be well cared for, they are going to be safe and, in my judgment, they'll probably be happy." Meanwhile animal welfare campaigners, including a marine biologist who has made comparative studies of wild and captive marine mammals, are reported to have said that the training would involve, fundamentally, enslavement and, unavoidably, some degree of stress.

Other options for the Navy are the use of human divers and ROVs capable of detecting suspect objects, human or otherwise.

# **LET'S DIVE FLORIDA !!**

## **FORT LAUDERDALE, OVER JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

I just became TIC this month (a few days before this writing), so excuse the lack of details for now. The Events Committee has scheduled a Florida trip over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and this should be as much fun as the last 2 trips to the Keys. There are wrecks and reefs to visit in the area, so let's go warm water diving. And let's celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> on the ocean.

The general time table is to arrive Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>, then dive 4 days Tuesday through Friday. On Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> we can dive again, or let the equipment dry and just go have some fun. Return home Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup>. This is flexible at this point.

I will be looking into hotel and dive charter, Steve L and Dave V have used a charter in the south part of Ft. Lauderdale that they enjoyed (on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave Causeway at Pier 66). Hotels space should not book up too fast, since there are no snowbirds in the summer. My original internet search showed airfares starting at \$350 for American Airlines (7 AM departure on 6/29) and around \$300 on Spirit Airlines if you can manage a 6 AM red-eye on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Put it in your calendar and let's go diving in some warm stuff. A check for \$50 payable to The Tritons will hold your spot. I will not be at the March meeting, let Dave V know if you are interested.

Jim Hynan 8100 Foster Lane # 310 Niles IL 60714 -1159  
Jim.hynan@occ.treas.gov

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## **TRITON ANNIVERSARY PARTY**

### **Saturday, April 4**

We will have our annual Anniversary Party but a bit more low key - without the gigantic raffle and dancing. We will present our annual awards – the Triton of the Year winner as well as Social and Dive Events of the Year. It is always a fun time – there will be a door prize or two – and a few other surprises. We will be at a new venue, more details to follow but here are some of the details:



Cost: \$18.00 per person  
Includes Soft Drinks and Copious Amounts of Food  
BYOB – we will have mixers available

TIC: Randy and Diana Skiba  
847-312- 9208 or r\_skiba@comcast.net

The event will be held at Renee Tobias' condominium complex, located on Wolf Road just north of Hintz in Wheeling.

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## **SAD NEWS**

I am saddened to report the passing of Jackie Heirbaut's Dad, Norbert.

As many of you know he has been in ill health for some time and Jackie has been devoting most of her time and energies taking care of him. If you would care to send a note to Jackie and her family:

Jackie Heirbaut  
5881 N. Central Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60646

## ***PINK DOLPHIN DISCOVERED IN LOUISIANA LAKE***

LAKE CALCASIEU, Louisiana (12 Mar 2009) — The world's only pink Bottlenose dolphin which was discovered in an inland lake in Louisiana, USA, has become such an attraction that conservationists have warned tourists to leave it alone.

Charter boat captain Erik Rue, 42, photographed the animal, which is actually an albino, when he began studying it after the mammal first surfaced in Lake Calcasieu, an inland saltwater estuary, north of the Gulf of Mexico in southwestern USA.

Capt Rue originally saw the dolphin, which also has reddish eyes, swimming with a pod of four other dolphins, with one appearing to be its mother which never left its side. He said: "I just happened to see a little pod of dolphins, and I noticed one that was a little lighter. It was absolutely stunningly pink."



Pink dolphin: Conservationists are warning people to leave uniquely colored animal alone.

"I had never seen anything like it. It's the same color throughout the whole body and it looks like it just came out of a paint booth. The dolphin appears to be healthy and normal other than its coloration, which is quite beautiful and stunningly pink. The mammal is entirely pink from tip to tail and has reddish eyes indicating its albinism. The skin appears smooth, glossy pink and without flaws."

"I have personally spotted the pink dolphin 40 to 50 times in the time since the original sighting as it has apparently taken up residence with its family in the Calcasieu ship channel. As time has passed the young mammal has grown and sometimes ventures away from its mother to feed and play but always remains in the vicinity of the pod."

"Surprisingly, it does not appear to be drastically affected by the environment or sunlight as might be expected considering its condition, although it tends to remain below the surface a little more than the others in the pod."

Regina Asmutis-Silvia, senior biologist with the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, said: "I have never seen a dolphin coloured in this way in all my career. It is a truly beautiful dolphin but people should be careful, as with any dolphins, to respect it - observe from a distance, limit their time watching, don't chase or harass it. While this animal looks pink, it is an albino which you can notice in the pink eyes. Albinism is a genetic trait and it unclear as to the type of albinism this animal inherited."

A close relation of dolphins, the Amazon River Botos, called pink dolphins, live in South America in the Amazon

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### ***PROPOSED CHANGE TO BY LAWS***

Note from Gary Duszak, Chair of the By-Laws Committee: The change is just to Article V, Section 4. I have included Section 5. because it defines the term ***Previous Notice***\*. The proposed changes have appeared in the January, February and March Tribs. Note that the amendment will come up for a vote at the Annual Meeting in March. We need to make sure that we have a quorum for the March meeting. Proxies can only be used in voting for officers.

#### **Proposed amendment to the Bylaws**

**Red/Italics = Add**

#### **ARTICLE V**

**Section 4.** Twenty-five percent (25%) of the full active members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting *except that where **Previous Notice**\* is given a quorum shall consist of the membership attending the meeting.*

**Section 5.** **Previous Notice**\* shall be written notification, stating precisely the motion and the time and location of the meeting at which it is to be considered, distributed or postmarked to all full active members at least seven (7) days before the meeting.

# **GHOST SHIPS FESTIVAL**

**March 20-21, 2009**

**Wyndham Milwaukee Airport and Convention Center  
Just across from the General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee**

Ghost Ships Festival is a conference devoted to Great Lakes **Scuba Diving** and **Maritime History**. Exhibits, workshops, and presentations cover just about every aspect of maritime history and Great Lakes scuba diving. You can listen to and interact with leading dive industry professionals, extreme explorers, maritime historians, and Great Lakes authors!

**The exhibit hall is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

This is an excellent opportunity for Scouting Groups, Science classes or anyone wishing to discover the underwater world! See the latest in scuba diving technology, learn about Great Lakes maritime history, and meet the pioneers and cutting edge explorers that have made the sport what it is today.

**10th Anniversary Cover Contest** - This years featured photographer is renowned Great Lakes author and photographer Cris Kohl. Help us choose one of Cris' outstanding photographs for our 10th anniversary cover for the festival program. See the website for all 10 choices, then email us your number choice at [info@ghost-ships.org](mailto:info@ghost-ships.org).



On March 1st 2009, we will select one entry at random from all entries received. That person will receive a "Platinum Package" upgrade to their ticket purchase (includes a full-color spiral bound program, 10 raffle tickets, t-shirt, and 10th anniversary collectors glass).

Join us in celebrating the 10th annual Ghost Ships Festival **March 20-21, 2009** at The Wyndham Milwaukee Airport and Convention Center just across from the General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee. The show is put on by the Great Lakes Shipwreck Research Foundation, Inc.

**Hours:** March 20 - Friday 3:00PM-7:00PM - Exhibit Hall Open - **FREE** to the Public  
March 20 - Friday 7:30PM-9:00PM - Special Presentation  
March 21 - Saturday 8:00AM-7:00PM - Exhibit Hall Open & Presentations

## **FRIDAY EVENING PRESENTATION**

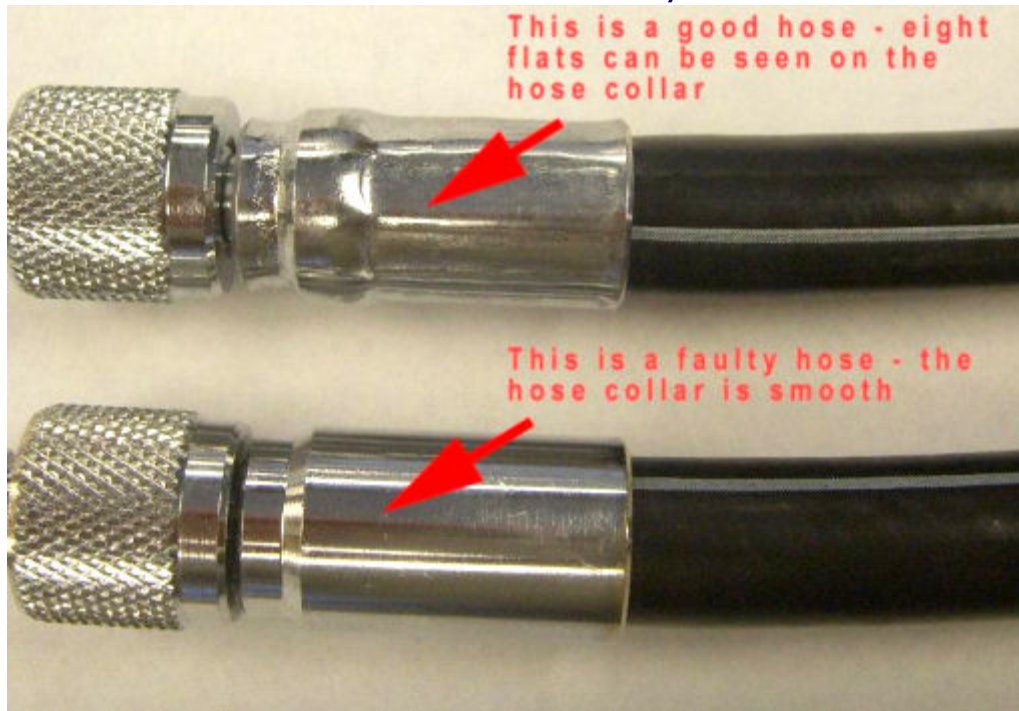
### **Deep/Quest Expeditions & The Marysburgh Vortex**

Join us for Friday evening's special presentation by Dr. Kenn Feigelman, member of the prestigious Explorers' Club in New York and director of operations for Deep/Quest 2 Expeditions. Kenn is actively involved in exploring and documenting the water planet. Kenn will share with us some of his teams discoveries, including the rediscovery of four War of 1812 Warships in Lake Ontario, historical artifacts beneath cold, dark Lake Champlain from both the American Revolution and the War of 1812, and the mysterious "Marysburgh Vortex", that area of eastern Lake Ontario referred to as the "Great Lakes' Bermuda Triangle, where strange phenomena exist and more than "450" shipwrecks are believed to slumber.

Ticket price for all presentations - \$20.00 (now through March 19th, 2009) and \$25.00 (at the door). Go to: <http://www.ghost-ships.org>

# **URGENT RECALL: AMBIENT PRESSURE DIVING LTD REBREATHER HOSES**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2009**



**Ambient Pressure Diving Ltd. rebreather hoses crimped (above) and uncrimped (below)**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Crimped Low Pressure Diving Hoses

**Units:** About 820

**Importer:** Silent Diving Systems LLC, of Center Conway, N.H.

**Manufacturer:** Ambient Pressure Diving Ltd., of Helston, Cornwall, United Kingdom

**Hazard:** Diving hoses may have been made without crimps, which can allow gas to leak or water to enter into the re-breather unit of the scuba diving equipment, posing a drowning hazard to the user.

**Incidents/Injuries:** None reported

**Description:** The crimped hoses are used to carry the air supply in the re-breathing diving system. The hoses were sold on three re-breathing models: Inspiration, Evolution and Evolution Plus. Hoses with a smooth (uncrimped) collar and with the model numbers listed below are included in the recall:

AP300/15 ADV Supply Hose

RB20/03 Oxygen Injection Hose

EV20/03 Oxygen Injection Hose

RB20/10 Buzzer Hose

EV11A/1 Vision Handset Hose

RB11A/1 Classic Handset Hose

RB11/B Handset Hose

AP300/10 ADV Hose

AP300/38 ADV Hose

Hoses with eight flats on the hose collar have been crimped and are not included in the recall.

Sold by: Silent Diving Systems nationwide from January 2007 through August 2008 for about \$60. Re-breathers were sold for about \$10,000.

**Manufactured in:** England

**Remedy:** Consumers with the recalled hoses should immediately stop using the hoses and contact Silent Diving Systems to receive a replacement hose. All known purchasers have been contacted directly by Silent Diving Systems regarding the recall.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Silent Diving Systems toll-free at (877) 336-4077 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.silentdiving.com](http://www.silentdiving.com)

Many thanks to Bob Gadbois for sending this one on. Reprinted from Yahoo News, [http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20090224/sc\\_livescience/oddlifefoundinggreatlakes](http://news.yahoo.com/s/livescience/20090224/sc_livescience/oddlifefoundinggreatlakes)

## **ODD LIFE FOUND IN GREAT LAKES**

Scientists have found some odd life forms in Lake Huron.

Peculiar geological formations are supporting floating plumes and purple mats of microbes dwelling in enclaves of the Great Lake, researchers report. The odd biology is more akin to what is found in some of Earth's most extreme environments.

The mats are located about 66 feet (20 meters) below the surface of Lake Huron - the third largest of North America's Great Lakes - where researchers have found sinkholes made by water dissolving parts of an ancient underlying seabed.

Around these sinkholes are brilliant purple mats of cyanobacteria - cousins of microbes found at the bottoms of permanently ice-covered lakes in Antarctica - and pallid, floating ponytails of other microbial life. The water there is dense, oxygen-free and salty, and therefore hostile to most familiar, larger forms of life in the lakes.

The scientists report that some deep sinkholes act as catch basins for dead and decaying plant and animal matter and collect a soft black sludge of sediment topped by a bacterial film.

These environments are also similar to those around deep-sea hydrothermal vents and cold seeps, where many odd forms of life have also been found.

In the oxygen-depleted water, cyanobacteria carry out photosynthesis using sulfur compounds rather than water and give off hydrogen sulfide, the smelly rotten-egg gas. Where the sinkholes are deeper still and light fails, microorganisms use chemical means rather than photosynthesis to metabolize the sulfurous nutrients.

Groundwater beneath Lake Huron is dissolving minerals from the defunct seabed and carrying them into the lake to form these exotic, extreme environments, said Bopaiah A. Biddanda of Grand Valley State University, in Muskegon, Mich. Biddanda is one of the leaders of the study of these odd environments.

"You have this pristine fresh water lake that has what amounts to materials from 400 million years ago ... being pushed out into the lake," said team co-leader Steven A. Ruberg of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Biddanda, Ruberg and their colleagues are trying to understand how long ago the minerals were deposited that are now entering the lake and how fast the salty brew containing them is arriving.

The work, described in Eos, a weekly newsletter put out by the American Geophysical Union, "might also lead to the discovery of novel organisms and previously unknown biochemical processes, furthering our exploration of life on Earth," Biddanda said.

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## **AQUARIUM BLAMES FLOODING ON CURIOUS OCTOPUS**



SANTA MONICA, Calif. – Staff at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium in California say the trickster who flooded their offices with sea water was armed. Eight-armed, to be exact.

They blame the soaking they discovered Tuesday morning on the aquarium's resident two-spotted octopus, a tiny female known for being curious and gregarious with visitors. The octopus apparently tugged on a valve and that allowed hundreds of gallons of water to overflow its tank. Aquarium spokeswoman Randi Parent says no sea life was harmed by the flood, but the brand new, ecologically designed floors might be damaged by the water.

This image shows a two-spotted octopus, a tiny female known for being curious ...

Reprinted form Yahoo News, February 26, ,2009, article by Robin McDowell, Associated Press.  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090226/ap\\_on\\_sc/as\\_indonesia\\_funky\\_fish](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090226/ap_on_sc/as_indonesia_funky_fish)

## ***INDONESIA'S PSYCHEDELIC FISH NAMED A NEW SPECIES***

Jakarta, Indonesia - A funky, psychedelic fish that bounces on the ocean floor like a rubber ball has been classified as a new species, a scientific journal reported.

The frogfish — which has a swirl of tan and peach zebra stripes that extend from its aqua eyes to its tail — was initially discovered by scuba diving instructors working for a tour operator a year ago in shallow waters off Ambon island in eastern Indonesia.

The operator contacted Ted Pietsch, lead author of a paper published in this month's edition of Copeia, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, who submitted DNA work identifying it as a new species.

The fish — which the University of Washington professor has named "psychedelica" — is a member of the antennariid genus, Histiophryne, and like other frogfish, has fins on both sides of its body that have evolved to be leg-like.

But it has several behavioral traits not previously known to the others, Pietsch wrote.

Each time the fish strike the seabed, for instance, they push off with their fins and expel water from tiny gill openings to jet themselves forward. That, and an off-centered tail, causes them to bounce around in a bizarre, chaotic manner.

Mark Erdman, a senior adviser to the Conservation International's marine program, said Thursday it was an exciting discovery.

"I think people thought frogfishes were relatively well known and to get a new one like this is really quiet spectacular. ... It's a stunning animal," he said, adding that the fish's stripes were probably intended to mimic coral.

"It also speaks to the tremendous diversity in this region and to fact that there are still a lot of unknowns here — in Indonesia and in the Coral Triangle in general."

The fish, which has a gelatinous fist-sized body covered with thick folds of skin that protect it from sharp-edged corals, also has a flat face with eyes directed forward, like humans, and a huge, yawning mouth.



In this undated photo by David Hall of seaphotos.com, a recently discovered fish named 'psychedelica' is shown in the waters off Ambon island, Indonesia. The frog-like fish — which has a swirl of tan and peach zebra stripes that extend from its aqua eyes to its tail — was initially discovered by scuba divers working as guides for a tour operator a year ago in shallow waters off Ambon island in eastern Indonesia. The operator contacted Ted Pietsch, lead author of a paper published in this February's edition of Copeia, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, which identified it as a new species.

(AP Photo/seaphotos.com, David Hall, HO)

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## ***BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES***

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

# A big *Triton* THANK YOU!

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## **TRIVIA**

Do you amaze and amuse your friends with seemingly useless knowledge & fun facts you can pull out of the recesses of your gray matter? If so pass it on! We are looking for all sorts of marine trivia: items relating to marine life, oceanography, seaports, currents, pirates, the Great Lakes, you name it, if it is at all related to water send it on. Our hope is to gather enough information to put a small contest together. So as you read dive magazines, peruse various dive sites or otherwise pass the time remember to send in your fun facts. All submissions can be sent to the editor, [promund@kraft.com](mailto:promund@kraft.com) or to the PO Box. Thanks!



## *The Tritons*

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