



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Tritons,

NOTE: The May business meeting will begin earlier – 7:30 PM -

We are trying something NEW!!!

We are moving the meeting time up by ½ hour. Our May meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. Will more of you be able to make it with an earlier starting time? Come and find out.

The survey says...

This is a different topic. Several months ago Sandy proposed the idea that we publish a questionnaire to help determine what we should plan, in the way of events, in the future. The questionnaire is ready. Several members have already taken it. Please join us by clicking the link bellow.

<http://www.thetritons.com/forms/questionnaire09.php>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Steve Leibovitz

Vice-President – Randy Skiba

Secretary – Pam Romund

Treasurer – David Gross

First Director – Dave O'Malley

Second Director – Renee Tobias

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Audit – Appointed in Fall

By Laws & Rules – Gary Duszak

Entertainment – Dave Vemmer

Equipment & Safety – Board of Ed

Events – Dave Vemmer

Membership – Adolph Habich

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 diving season has begun. Please sign up early and often. Remember we are always looking for a few volunteers.

Safe diving, Steve

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

May, 2009

Congratulations to our newest full member, Jan O'Malley, voted in at

No new members to report this month. Our membership is:

73 full members

9 associate members

TOTAL 82 members

Adolph Habich- Membership Committee

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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!

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CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE WE NEED YOUR INPUT

The Board of the Triton Dive Club needs your help. In an effort to plan future events and determine the direction of the club, it is very important that each member of the Tritons respond to this questionnaire. It is not necessary, but would be a help to us if you will provide us with your name and contact information. Simply go to the website – www.thetritons.com. Thanks!

TRITON 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

May, 2009		
Sunday, 5/17	Season Opener – Haigh Quarry Dive/Picnic	Scott Reimer streimer@interaccess.com
Monday, 5/25	Memorial Day Bike, Walk and Eat	Milt & Margy Levenberg (milspec@comcast.net) or 847-680-1223 (Margy home) 847-858-1271 (Milt cell phone)
Tuesday, 5/26	Business Meeting – Video Presentation	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 7:30 PM NOTE TIME CHANGE 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
June, 2009		
Tuesday, 6/9	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
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, South Beloit	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com 10:00 AM
*Sunday, 6/14	Frontera Farmers Market & Tasting, Chicago	Rosana Vemmer (rvmexicana@hotmail.com), Lourdes Alonso (lalonso@stepan.com)
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	Dan Balsam Cell- 312-502-0098 or danielbalsam@yahoo.com
July, 2009		
Friday, 7/3 to Monday, 7/6	Florida Dive Trip	Jim Hynan jim.hynan@occ.treas.gov
Tuesday, 7/14	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Saturday, 7/18	Milwaukee Area Dive	Needs TIC
*Sunday, 7/26	Jim Haigh Memorial Dive – Haigh Quarry	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 7/28	Business Meeting – Presentation Mountain in the Sea (Cocos Island)	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
August, 2009		
Saturday, 8/1-2	Training Weeked, Pearl Lake, South Beloit, IL	Pearl Lake – Board of Education
Sunday, 8/2	Howard/Etherton Day Pearl Lake, South Beloit	Board of Education, Contact Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Tuesday, 8/11	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com
Sunday, 8/16	Waukegan Area Charter	Needs TIC
Tuesday, 8/25	Business Meeting – Live Presentation - TBD	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!

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JUNE MEETING OPEN HOUSE

If you know other divers or those interested in learning to dive bring them along to the June meeting. This is our annual open house. There will be entertainment, prizes and more. Hope to see you all there!



The Frontera Farmers Market Festival

Please join me in heading to the Frontera Farmer Market Foundation' day fundraiser on Sunday, June 14th, 2009. Frontera Grill Restaurant is one of the famous Chef Rick Bayless' operations. The restaurant is hosting their annual Farmer Market Fiesta, where several of the farmers come to offer their produce in an indoor Farmers Market.

Chef Bayless is the founder of the Frontera Farmer Foundation, The Frontera Farmer Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting small, sustainable farms serving the Chicago area by providing them with capital development grants. Small local farms promote biodiversity by planting a wide range of produce, are more likely to operate using organic practices, and add immeasurably to the fabric of their communities. By their artisanal approach to agriculture, these farmers insure the highest quality of food.

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon, shopping, tasting, and drinking Margaritas. The event will be held at:

FRONTERA GRILL
445 North Clark Street,
Chicago, IL 60610

12PM to 3PM - \$40 per person in advance, \$45 at the door

Please send me an email to vmexicana@hotmail.com if you are interested on going so I can purchase the tickets in advance.

TIC: Rosana Vemmer

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Reprinted from National Geographic News, Article by Kate Ravilious

TSUNAMI TO HIT CARIBBEAN WHEN MILLION-TON ROCK FALLS?

With only a few minutes' warning, a ten-foot (three-meter) tsunami will shatter the usual peace of the Caribbean resort islands of Guadeloupe, a new study says. The tsunami is expected to be generated when a major landslide, on the island of Dominica—about 30 miles (50 kilometers away)—plunges up to a million tons of rock into the sea.

"It is not a case of if the landslide and tsunami will happen, but when," said Richard Teeuw, from the University of Portsmouth, U.K., who led the team of geologists that made the discovery. "Most likely it will be triggered by a major earthquake. It could happen in a hundred years, or it could happen next week."

As many as 30,000 people could be at risk, the researchers say. Using satellite images from the Google Earth software, Teeuw and his team surveyed Dominica, gaining a bird's-eye view of rock outcrops normally obscured by vegetation. They noticed that the north coast of the island is unusually straight, indicating active earthquake faults.

Further investigations on the ground revealed large tension cracks along the flank of a volcano, Morne aux Diabes (Devils' Peak)—convincing the team of the landslide threat.

Speaking at a press conference Friday, Dominica's disaster-preparedness minister sought to quell panic over the findings. "There is no scientific indication that such an event is imminent and therefore [sic] we should begin to take measures immediately," Charles Savarin said, according to Dominica New Online.

No matter when the landslide strikes, Guadeloupe, a French territory, would be largely at the mercy of any potential tsunami. Currently there are no tsunami early-warning systems in the Caribbean—and very little to blunt the impact. "Prevention is the most important thing for Guadeloupe," said study co-author Carmen Solana, also from the University of Portsmouth. "Perhaps some artificial reefs, or even a small, half-metre [foot-and-a-half] promenade wall can reduce the energy of the tsunami waves."

MEMORIAL DAY BIKE RIDE ON MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009

MEET AT MILT & MARGY'S HOUSE AT **10 AM FOR DONUTS**

Join the Tritons for a bicycle ride, walk, or just lots of food.

Bring your bicycle or feet, \$5 and a dish to share.

We will take a short drive to access the Des Plaines River Trail,
a great, crushed-gravel bike and hike trail.

Address, phone, & directions for
Milt and Margy Levenberg's house:

31057 Prairie Ridge Road, Libertyville (really it's Green Oaks)
847-680-1223 (Margy at home) 847-858-1271 (Milt on cell phone)

I-294 North to I-94 North to Route 137

(turn left/west on Buckley Road)

to O'Plaine Road (turn right/north) to Guerin Road (turn left/west)
to Prairie Ridge Road (turn right/north). Veer left on the circle
to 31057 on the left. Park only on the left side of the street.

<http://wizardcraft.net/map-to-levenberg.html>

Bring a cell phone or walkie-talkie to communicate on the trail.

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CAPTION CONTEST IS BACK!!



A great way to being the
dive season - by putting
captions under a dive
related photo!

This picture was taken on
the recent trip to Bonaire.
It is a picture of the Prez
at the back of the dive
boat.

Think you have a clever
caption for the picture?
Send it on to the editor:

Pam Romund
promund@kraft.com

or to:
1031 N. Northwest Hwy
Park Ridge, IL 60068

The top three captions (as
determined by the judges)
will win a fantastic prize!

OLDEST SEAHORSES FOUND; HELP SOLVE MYSTERY



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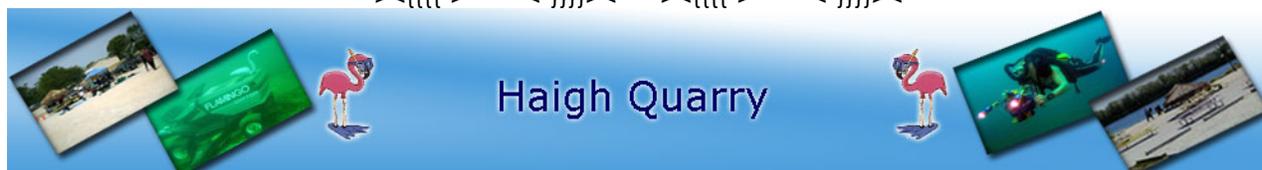
May 4, 2009--The oldest seahorse fossils discovered to date have been uncovered in Slovenia, including this two-inch-long (five-centimeter-long) adult female *Hippocampus sarmaticus* fossil (left, and in an artist's reconstruction, right).

The 13-million-year-old finds, which include the only known extinct seahorse species, are shedding light on how the naturally weak swimmers managed to disperse around the world.

Researcher Jure Žalohar of Slovenia's University of Ljubljana first spotted a fossil in the water as he was washing his hands in a stream after a jog. Žalohar and colleagues were originally investigating fossil insects in this area, so finding the fossil seahorses was "completely unexpected," he said.

The findings appeared online April 17 in the French-language journal *Annales de Paleontologie*.

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JIM HAIGH MEMORIAL/ DIVER APPRECIATION DAY DIVE SUNDAY, JULY 26 HAIGH QUARRY, KANKAKEE, IL

Get together with your fellow divers, enjoy some diving fun for a very good cause. There will be bands, raffles, SCUBA Radio and more! The Illinois Council will be in attendance, come on out and dive, or just hang out and enjoy the topside festivities. You won't be disappointed. Remember no non-divers under the age of 12 and no pets please. More information will be posted here in the here in the coming months, or you can go to: <http://www.haighquarry.com/> for additional details.

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RECALL MARES DRYSUIT HOSES

Recall On Mares Drysuit Hoses: Swedish dive gear maker Si Tech is recalling its' low pressure inflation hoses that are used in Mares drysuits. The plastic flow-restricting insert (colored blue, black or green) in the hose may dislodge from the connection valve, potentially obstructing the air flow. Affected hoses were sold between 2006 and 2009 in 15 types of Mares drysuits, including the Dryfit, Icefit and Polarfit models. Send the recalled inflator hoses back to the dealer you purchased your drysuit from, or to a Mares' service center, so the insert can be removed free of charge. For more information, contact Mares Customer Service at 203-855-0631 or e-mail mares@us.mares.com.

Excerpted from <http://www.keysnet.com/news/story/94697.html>, Article by Sean Kinney

KEY WEST'S SHIP FINALLY COMES IN 'Vandenberg' completes journey from Virginia



It took more than \$8 million and 10 years, but the *Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg* arrived in Key West at 9:20 a.m. Wednesday (4/22), greeted at its temporary dockage, the Truman Waterfront, by a crowd of several hundred people.

Plans are for the 523-foot decommissioned military vessel to be intentionally sunk in late May or early June as an artificial reef six miles south of the city. It's expected to provide a huge boon to the dive and snorkel industry.

"Not only will it be the second largest ship in the world ever intentionally sunk to become an artificial reef, but it is of huge historical significance," Mayor Morgan McPherson says.

The largest ship intentionally scuttled as an artificial reef is the 888-foot *USS Oriskany*, which took the plunge in 2006 off Pensacola.

The 510-foot *Spiegel Grove* was sunk off Key Largo in 2002 at a cost of \$1.4 million.

While the *Vandenberg* has reached its final destination after spending time in the Navy's mothball fleet on the James River and after being cleaned of contaminants at a Norfolk, Va., shipyard, there are still lots of nuts and bolts left in the operation.

Final preparations include cutting 47 holes into the hull, final asbestos inspections, a once-over from federal regulators, and rigging for the explosives that will eventually send her to the bottom.

The ship will not be open to public tours due to safety concerns, but a good view of the *Vandenberg* will be available from the East Quay Wall and from aboard the *Mohawk*.

Plans are for the ship to be on the ocean's bottom by June 1, the start of the six-month hurricane season.

After preparations are complete, the *Vandenberg* will be towed out to the scuttling location and anchored in spot. The Coast Guard, with help from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will set up a perimeter of 500 yards around the ship.

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TRAVELING?

If you are headed to some exotic locale be sure to check out the CDC website (<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>) for the latest information on any travel advisories. CDC Travelers' Health offers information to assist travelers and their health-care providers in deciding the vaccines, medications, and other measures necessary to prevent illness and injury during international travel. You can search by country to determine if there are any potential problems where you are headed. In the last two weeks there have been postings on the swine flu/H1Ni virus, a yellow fever outbreak in Brazil and Pertussis in Australia.

The site also offers information on traveling with small children, pets or those with special needs and tips for students who will be living abroad or anyone planning a cruise. There is a 24 hour telephone service: 800-CDC-INFO or (800-232-4636) TTY: (888) 232-6348 and email at cdcinfo@cdc.gov.

Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the May, 2009 issue of Undercurrent. I thought it was a great idea. Perhaps other charters will adapt the method.

A BETTER WAY TO FIND LOST DIVERS

Mike Ball's invention: Special buoys and "dummy divers"

Like many Great Barrier Reef-based dive operations, Mike Ball Dive Expeditions has not been immune from the past few years' incidents of paying customers getting lost on dives and spending hours at sea before getting rescued. In our March issue, we reported on the two American divers who got separated from Mike Ball's Spoilsport and treaded water for seven hours. To prevent repeats of that incident, Mike Ball Expeditions has been testing a new method for locating missing divers at sea. Trevor Jackson, the Spoilsport captain who led the tests, sent us this report.

Imagine being lost from your dive boat. You can see it in the distance searching, moving from side to side on the horizon. But it's so far away, the effort to get to it is fruitless. Your hopes sink with the sun and pretty soon it's dark. With no chance of being spotted for another 12 hours, your thoughts turn to survival, keeping warm, staying together, and conserving energy. Not a situation anyone would want to find himself in.

Recent infamous events here in Queensland, where two divers spent the night drifting around the Reef in the dark last year [Editors: see our report on that in the July 2008 issue of *Undercurrent*], prompted me to review what we aboard *Spoilsport* would do if we were faced with every dive boat's nightmare - - divers who don't return. So I decided on a practical experiment.

Early one morning, I made a fake human, dressed it in dive gear and threw it in the water before any crew had come on deck. I told the lookout on duty later to ignore the "diver," and to give the crew no assistance later on when we went to find it. I let two and a half hours go by. We completed the early dive, and then I alerted the crew that we had a "lost diver," who was last seen entering the water a few hours ago. An initial concentrated search of the horizon produced nothing. The diver was gone from sight.

We then tied a weight belt to a life jacket and threw it in. There was a fair bit of wind and tide about, so the jacket would give us an indication of where to start looking. Surprisingly, the jacket took off in a direction contrary to where we believed the diver might be. Five minutes later we threw another weighted jacket in, followed by another a bit later. Pretty soon, the three jackets were forming a line leading toward the horizon. I instructed the helmsmen of both our dinghies to drive parallel to that line and head out for about a mile. Our fake diver was found, 27 minutes after the drill started and a mile from the boat; completely invisible to the eye and at 90 degrees to where we had initially expected him to be.



The experiment was both pleasing and sobering. The striking thing was that, despite what the conditions seemed to indicate, the diver wasn't going in the direction we had assumed. We decided to build permanent markers to help locate drifting divers and store them on board *Spoilsport* for such an event. The result was the specially configured floats which you see in the photo on page 12. They include a strobe, built-in radar reflector and a flag, for use both day and night in any conditions.

We ran regular drills with the buoys to see how well and how consistently they worked. The more we practiced, the more convinced we were that the buoys were going to be a real revelation. The buoys were not only giving us direction but the rate of drift as well. If we knew approximately when the divers went missing, we could apply a little rudimentary math and figure out how far out they were also.

After starting a drill one day, I grabbed one of the crew and said 'Come on, let's try something new.' The dummy diver had been lost for an hour, and we had launched the two buoys 10 minutes apart. Because they were drifting now at the same speed as the diver, we could use the gap between them to get a reasonable idea of how far out we would need to go to find our dummy. Lining up the two buoys in the dinghy, we drove at top speed between the two and timed the ride - - it took 40 seconds to meet our diver. Because the buoys drift at the same rate as a diver, it was then simply a matter of dividing the time the divers were lost by the time interval between when the two buoys were launched. In other words, 60

minutes divided by 10 minutes, equaling six. We then multiplied the time it took for us to speed between the buoys, 40 seconds by 6, or 240 seconds. All we had to do then was keep the buoys in line and speed out in the right direction for 240 seconds, and our divers should be there, or at least pretty close by.

Over a year has passed since those drills. In dozens of tests, the buoys have given us the direction and distance of our lost diver dummies with stunning accuracy. There are certain conditions in which the buoys don't work as efficiently but with constant practice and a good measure of common sense, we've trained all our crew to use the buoys to regularly locate dummies missing for up to two hours and at ranges up to three miles.

The safety of our guests and crew is of paramount importance here at Mike Ball, as it is for any professional liveaboard on the water. Based on those dummy trials, I know that in the event of an emergency requiring us to locate a diver missing on the surface, we are now one step ahead of the game.

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PEARL LAKE DIVE AND PICNIC

Saturday, June 13

Come one, come all. Get those winter kinks out and enjoy Pearl Lake. Have that new piece of gear you want to try or maybe an older piece that just was repaired? Come out to the Lake and enjoy the day, lots to eat and drink and friends to say hi!

Time - be there by 10 to dive or 12:30 to eat.

Cost - \$20 entry fee to Pearl.

This will be just a very laid back day, no stress, no worry. The biggest decision will be do we toss the Frisbee around or just sit and relax? I will have directions at the May meeting or go to www.pearllake.com for directions and more information on the lake and the surrounding area. Please do let me know if you will be coming so that I make sure to have adequate food and drink (not too mention cookies!).

TIC: Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or promund@kraft.com

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LET'S DIVE FLORIDA !!

FORT LAUDERDALE, JUNE 29TH TO JULY 4TH

I have done some research on the options for this trip, and we should make our selections soon. Hotels seem to have good availability now. I found about 6 decent options that range from \$90 to \$110 per nite for a double room. Several are right on the ocean. There are options for lesser prices, but I am a bit leary of most of them. Have narrowed it down to 2 dive charters:

- American Dream Dive Charters, south part of Ft Lauderdale (17th Causeway). It is \$75 per 2-tank dive (including 2 tanks) for a group of 6 or more. I assume the price is a bit higher for less than 6. Big boat, certified to take about 30 divers.
- South Florida Dive Headquarters, leaves Pompano Beach (a little north of Ft L). Price is \$66 for a group of 5 or more, \$75 if under 5. They have 3 boats of various sizes, we stand a chance of taking the smallest boat to ourselves if we have a decent number.

Both charters will do one wreck and one reef for a 2-tank dive. Last I checked airfares (not recently), it was \$300 to \$350 round trip to Fort L. Not sure about fares to Miami.

We can dive Tuesday through Friday, or Tuesday through Saturday the 4th. Or stay all month if you like. Let's make some decisions, and then go do us some fun diving in Florida.

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

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A big *Triton* THANK YOU!

The following businesses support our organization and we thank them for the generosity. The next time you stop in mention you are a Triton & personally thank them for their support.

BELOW H20

2950 Ogden Avenue
Aurora IL 60504
630-820-2531

BERRY DIVE CENTER

3042 N. Milwaukee
Northbrook, IL
847-358-3848

DD DIVE SHOP

1039 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-657-3483

ENTERPRISE MARINE

420 Michael Court
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-640-8113

PEARL LAKE RESORT

Highway 251
South Beloit, IL 61080
815-389-1479

SCUBA EMPORIUM

16336 S. 104th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1614

SEA LION DIVE CENTER

1158 Lake Street
Hanover Park, IL 60107
630-289-1680

BERRY AQUA PARADISE

1620 Pebblewood Lane, # 124
Naperville, IL 60563
630-579-1150

CHICAGOLAND SCUBA

732 S. Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-540-7211

DJ'S SCUBA LOCKER

7840 W. Ogden, Suite #9
Lyons, IL 60534
708-442-4388

HAIGH QUARRY

2738 E 2000 North Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
815-939-7797

PIRATE'S COVE DIVING

1103 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-482-1430

SCUBA SYSTEMS

3919 Oakton
Skokie, IL 60076
847-674-0222

TOUCAN DIVE CENTER

756 Frontage Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-356-7826

UNDERSEAS SCUBA CENTER

611 N. Addison Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181
630-833-8383

STILL LOOKING FOR 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 or to the PO Box. Thanks!



The Tritons

FOUNDED IN 1957

P. O. Box 1025
Des Plaines, IL 60017-1025

May, 2009

Triton DIVE LINE: 847-394-0975

www.TheTritons.com

DAN Sponsor -# 29362

2008 Illinois Council Club of the Year

The Tritons

May Meeting will begin at **7:30 PM**

See you May 26, 2009 at

Giuseppe's

1062 Lee St Des Plaines, IL (847) 824-4230

The restaurant is situated on Lee Street, north of Algonquin
and south of Northwest Highway