



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Tritons,

I will begin this month saying farewell to Marnie Adamski, she is moving to Boca Raton, FL.. Marnie has been an enthusiastic Triton, running events and serving on the board as director for the last two years. We thank her for her service to the club and wish her continued success with her new job and new home.

As you peruse the TRIB you will see that elections are next month (March) and the list of candidates is listed. Thanks to Margy and her committee encouraging members to run for office. 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

February, 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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## ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FEBRUARY BUSINESS MEETING IMAGES OF SULAWESI

Join us for a presentation of the beautiful, wondrous underwater world of Indonesia, in particular, Sulawesi/Wakatobi presented by our very own Dan Balsam and Al Krenz. Dan and Al made the very long trek out to Indonesia, they have some fantastic photos of the beautiful underwater scenery they discovered and some great anecdotes of their travels. Besides Sulawesi and Wakatobi they also stopped off in Bali for a couple of days. Don't miss this one!

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## HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE?

Dives that is. . .how many do you have? A few of us were talking after the business meeting (all right there was some libation involved) and 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

February, 2009		
Fri-Sun 2/20-22	Our World Underwater Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL	Midwest's Largest Dive Show and Educational Seminars For more details and tickets visit: <a href="http://www.ourworldunderwater.com">www.ourworldunderwater.com</a>
Saturday, 2/21	Our World Underwater Dinner	Chuck and Margo Miller (Buzz_inc@sprynet.com or MargoMMiller@sprynet.com)
Tuesday, 2/24	Business Meeting – <i>Images of Sulawesi</i>	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
Saturday, 2/28	Chicago Maritime Festival	Chicago History Museum – For tickets and more information: <a href="http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org/">http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org/</a>
March, 2009		
Fri-Sat 3/6-14	Warm Water Trip – Bonaire	Randy Skiba (224) 392-2131 (local number) or globacc@quixnet.net
Tuesday, 3/10	Triton Trib Deadline	Pam Romund 847-698-5490 or <a href="mailto:promund@kraft.com">promund@kraft.com</a>
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	<b>Needs TIC</b>
April, 2009		
Saturday, 4/4	Anniversary Party	<b>Needs TIC</b>
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 - Andersonville	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
May, 2009		
<b>*Saturday, 5/3</b>	Comedy Club Nite	Renee Tobias - cansculpt@ameritech.net
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 (milspec@comcast.net)
Tuesday, 5/26	Business Meeting – Video Presentation	Giuseppe's Restaurant - 8:00 PM 1062 Lee St, Des Plaines, Illinois, 60016
June, 2009		
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 (rvmexicana@hotmail.com), Lourdes Alonso ( <a href="mailto:lalonso@stepan.com">lalonso@stepan.com</a> )

**\*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!

# WINE TASTING

Photo courtesy of Scott Reimer



Fourteen Tritons (double the number we had at the last tasting) gathered at the Cooper's Hawk Winery in South Barrington to sample some wine and more! We tasted 8 different wines, enjoyed some chocolates and ended up having dinner at the restaurant.

Cooper's Hawk has the distinction of being the only Illinois winery selected to be part of the recent Presidential Inauguration. We began with a sparkling wine, Blanc de Blanc (Michele Obama picked this to be used for the Presidential toast). We all thought this one

very good. This was followed by additional whites: Pinot Gris (dry), Viognier (fruity), and Riesling (surprise, not very sweet). We then went to the reds: Pinto Noir, Cabernet Tannat (both served at the inauguration), followed by a Shiraz and a dessert peach fruit wine.

The winery set us up with our own bar staffed by Maria, she answered our questions and shared her knowledge of wines, chocolate and even diving! We then retired to the restaurant to enjoy dinner and a bit more wine. This was an excellent way to spend a Sunday - enjoy some great wine and very good food. This has proved to be a popular event and we will do it again.

TIC: Pam Romund

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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

# 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=SZtBI8Pga9I&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N7FpwigNCo&feature=related>

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Excerpted from Undercurrent On-Line, February 11, 2009 - [www.undercurrent.org](http://www.undercurrent.org)

## DIVE NEWS

**Watch "Treasure Quest" on Discovery Channel:** You may have missed the first three episodes of this 11-part series about deep ocean shipwreck exploration, but you can catch it every Thursday night at 9 p.m. (CST) until March 26. The reality-show stars are a team from the Florida-based company Odyssey Marine Exploration (it just announced it found the wreck of the *HMS Victory*, a major player in British naval history). They explore various shipwrecks worldwide, such as the 17th century *Merchant Royal* in the English Channel with a cargo worth hundreds of millions, to solve their mysteries. Think *Cold Case* set under the sea. Get the show's background here:

<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/treasure-quest/treasure-quest.html>

**Apply For "The Best Job in the World":** Out of a job? Apply for this one offered by the tourism department in Queensland, Australia: a \$100,000 contract to relax on Hamilton Island in the Great Barrier Reef for six months while writing a blog with videos and photos to promote the island. Besides the salary, free airfare and an oceanfront villa, you will be required to perform such arduous tasks as strolling the beaches, snorkeling its waters, and exploring other islands along the reef. As of mid-January, 2,200 people have sent in video resumes, and a million people have logged on to the website. You've got until February 22 to apply at <http://www.islandreefjob.com>



# **TRITON DIVE TRIP TO BONAIRE**

## **MARCH 6, 2009 TO MARCH 14, 2009**

We have 18 firm reservations and I have released the group air and the extra rooms but if you act quickly I may still be able to add you on to the resort piece. 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.

We will also be arranging rental trucks to use for the myriad of shore diving locations. I will have details available for those 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. Final payments will need to be paid by check.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call or email me quickly. I hope you will be able to join us in Bonaire.

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.

Want a sneak peek? Go to: <http://www.bonairewebcams.com/TheWorks.php> There are several webcams located on the island including one mounted under the pier. It updates every 4 minutes so you can see first hand what is happening. It also does have north and south beach views, beach bar, yellow submarine as well as a donkey cam view. . you can tour the island from in front of your computer.

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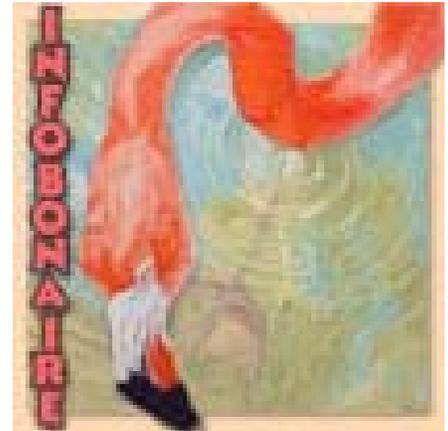
Editor's Note: This is not an endorsement of this item but passing the information on – a very clever idea. Many thanks to Renee Tobias for passing this along.

## **MEDICAL INFO BRACELET**

The **MY-MED™** band is a comfortable, silicone, USB, Medical wristband. This water resistant wrist band, contains a USB flash mass storage device, loaded with a Universal file that can be read by both PC's and MAC' and does not require any additional software. Each band comes with instructions for loading your personal medical information onto the USB device, affording medical or emergency personnel easy access to critical information. Keeping a list of all medications on your MY-MED band will help emergency and medical personnel avoid harmful and fatal drug interactions and misinformation of current conditions and treatments. MY-BANDS are very easy to use, no computer skills necessary and simple step by step instructions provided with every band. MY-BANDS are water resistant (note not waterproof). *U.S. Patent*



No. D583,815 S. For more information go to: <http://www.my-bandsonline.com/MY-MED/index.htm>



Thanks to Al Krenz and Dave Vemmer for sending this to our attention, the article below is reprinted from [www.computerworld.com](http://www.computerworld.com). You need to have the latest version of Google Earth (5.0) downloaded to your computer; then click on "oceans." There's a number of sub-menus under "oceans" that will take you where ever you want to go (or see) in the ocean.

## ***GOOGLE EARTH LETS USERS DIVE IN TO EXPLORE OCEAN DEPTHS***

Latest version of Google Earth also offers 3-D maps of Mars and historical images

**By Sharon Gaudin**

February 2, 2009 (Computerworld) Dory and Marlin would likely have had an easier time finding Nemo if the new version of Google Earth was around at the time.

Google Inc. today launched the latest version of Google Earth, which promises to provide users with a much closer look at the Earth's oceans. The new version includes a detailed map of the ocean floor, Google noted.

John Hanke, director of Google Earth and Maps, wrote in a blog post today that the popular Google Earth has long showed users the ocean -- but mostly just as a big blue area with some basic shading to show depth. "But starting today we have a much more detailed bathymetric map (the ocean floor), so you can actually drop below the surface and explore the nooks and crannies of the seafloor in 3D," wrote Hanke. "While you're there, you can explore thousands of data points, including videos and images of ocean life, details on the best surf spots, logs of real ocean expeditions, and much more."

In a separate statement, Hanke added, "What this project helped me begin to understand is the role the ocean plays in global climate change and the impact that humans are having on the oceans and the creatures that live in it. It was a serious omission on our part not to include a better treatment of the oceans when we launched Google Earth, and I'm very happy that we've been able to address that. We now have a good substrate for publishing and exploring data about the 'other' two-thirds of the planet."

Caroline Dangson, an analyst at IDC, said the addition of ocean views in the new version of Google Earth is significant for users.

"Google is a market leader because it does not see limits to what its services can do," she said. "Oceans add much more content to Google Earth for consumers to explore. Ocean in Google Earth is sticky and will keep consumers on the service longer, exploring places only a few scientists have been."

The new version also includes several other updates, according to Google.

For example, the application now has historical imagery, showing users images of a place years or even decades in the past. It's designed so that when someone uses the new time slider -- by clicking on the clock icon in the toolbar -- they can see how an area has changed over time.

Google also collaborated with NASA to add a 3-D map of Mars. The map includes the latest high-resolution imagery from the space agency and is accessed via a new Mars icon on the Google Earth toolbar.

But analysts said the ocean view is creating the most buzz among users.

"This is a good evolutionary move for Google," said Dan Olds, principal analyst at Gabriel Consulting Group Inc. "Google Earth is becoming a key tool for a lot of users and a component in a lot of businesses operations -- everything from using it to show consumers their store locations to using it to route shipments. So why not add the rest of the Earth to it?"

Olds noted that he was impressed with how Google expanded its data storage capabilities to take on all the extra information, since about two-thirds of the planet is made up of water. "This is going to be great for companies that want to see where their container load of shoes is at a particular moment," added Olds. "Take Nike, for example. Sure, they can get GPS coordinates from the shipper, but Google Earth will let them see where their shipment is visually. It's not a complete revolution, but an interesting revolution."

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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](mailto:promund@kraft.com)) and she will email them to you before the meeting. Thanks!

## **WRECK OF WARSHIP IS FOUND**

By [WILLIAM J. BROAD](#)

Published: February 2, 2009



Sea explorers probing the depths of the English Channel have discovered what they say is a legendary British warship that sank in a fierce storm in 1744 with the loss of more than 900 men and possibly four tons of gold coins valued at \$1 billion.

The team found the wreckage of the HMS Victory last year and confirmed its identity through a close examination of 41 bronze cannons visible on the sandy ocean bottom, Greg Stemm, head of the discovery team, said at a news conference Monday in London.

Odyssey Marine Exploration, Inc/Associated Press

An underwater photo of a bronze cannon on the shipwreck, which bears the royal crest of King George I.

The team lifted two of the cannons and gave them to the British Ministry of Defense, he said, and is now negotiating with British authorities on the disposition of the artifacts and treasure before it attempts further recoveries.

"I'm surprised we've been able to keep it under wraps for nine months," Mr. Stemm said at the news conference, calling the find "a momentous discovery." He is the head of Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc. of Tampa, Fla., a company that specializes in deep sea exploration and recovery.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Stemm called the find "hard to beat" in terms of raw history, lost treasure and solved mysteries. The team found the wreck far from its reported resting place, and said the discovery had cleared the name of its commander, Admiral Sir John Balchin, whose navigation had been impugned after the catastrophic loss.

The press conference was held by the Discovery Channel, which plans to broadcast a segment Thursday about the ship on its weekly "Treasure Quest" program, which debuted last month.

The Victory was armed with up to 110 bronze cannons, making it one of the deadliest vessels of the age. The biggest cannon weighed four tons and could fire cannonballs weighing 42 pounds — the largest and most powerful guns then used in naval warfare.

In July 1744, the flagship and its fleet of warships were sent to rescue a Mediterranean convoy blockaded by a French fleet at Lisbon. After chasing the French away, the Victory escorted the convoy as far as Gibraltar and headed home.

A hard gale scattered the British fleet shortly after it entered the English Channel, and on Oct. 5, 1744, somewhere off the Channel Islands, Victory went down with all hands. The flagship was the only member of the British fleet lost at sea.

The belief spread that ship had grounded on the Casquets, a group of rocky islets west of Alderney that protrude a few dozen feet above the water line. The rocks are called the "graveyard of the English Channel." The lighthouse keeper of Alderney was court-martialed for failing to keep the lights on at the time of the ship's disappearance.

That November, a Dutch newspaper reported that Victory had been carrying 400,000 pounds sterling from Lisbon that was destined for Dutch merchants. At the news conference, the ship's finders said that would amount to about four tons of gold coins.

Continued Next Page

Historically, Victory was the last Royal Navy warship to be lost with a complete set of bronze cannons.

For decades, Mr. Stemm and his colleagues worked on the cutting edge of deep sea exploration, using sonars and robots to discover scores of interesting wrecks and thousands of artifacts. They have found treasures valued at hundreds of millions of dollars.

Last April, the Odyssey team was exploring the English Channel when a sonar registered an intriguing blip. Investigations with a tethered robot showed the seabed covered with a copper cooking kettle, hull remains, rectangular iron ballast, two anchors, rigging, two probable gunner's wheels and 41 bronze cannons, including eight large guns that could fire 42-pound cannonballs.

"These were the biggest cannon in the age of sail," Mr. Stemm told the news conference. "These things are huge, simply amazing."

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to learn more about this wreck and others in the coming weeks tune into the Discovery Channel and the show Treasure Quest broadcast on Thursdays at 9:00 PM (CST). The show runs through March 26.

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## **NEW FILMS OPEN FEBRUARY 13 AT THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY**



**Mysteries of the Great Lakes** explores the beauty of North America's inland seas. Did you know that it takes a drop of water nearly 400 years to travel from the headwaters of Lake Superior to the edge of Lake Ontario? Along the way, the water passes by towering cliffs dotted with early Native American pictographs, caribou and moose grazing on the shores, over giant prehistoric sturgeon lurking among thousands of

shipwrecks and past nearly 40 million people who live along the more than 10,000 miles of coastline. You won't want to miss this film, which offers a dramatic journey through some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.

Also continuing until May 24 is the **Wild Ocean**. Filmed in South Africa, where each year a massive feeding frenzy takes place as billions of fish migrate up the KwaZulu-Natal Wild Coast. Breaching whales, frenzied sharks, herding dolphins, and diving gannets all compete in an underwater struggle for survival.

**Wild Ocean** is a documentary that will take you into the ocean depths to examine the effects of global warming and overfishing on the great migration and effort to protect this valuable resource.

To purchase tickets go to: <http://www.msichicago.org/whats-here/omnimax-3d-theater/>

### **OPENING AT NAVY PIER**

Not to be outdone the IMAX theater at Navy Pier also has opening on February 13, **Under the Sea 3D**.

**Under the Sea 3D** will transport moviegoers to some of the most exotic and isolated undersea locations on Earth, including Southern Australia, New Guinea and others in the Indo-Pacific region, allowing them to experience face-to-face encounters with some of the most mysterious and stunning creatures of the sea. It will offer a uniquely inspirational and entertaining way to explore the impact that global climate change has had on ocean wilderness.

Continuing at the Navy Pier facility is **Dolphins and Whales 3D**. Dive into a new immersive and highly emotional adventure with **Dolphins and Whales 3D**. This awe-inspiring documentary film presented by Jean-Michel Cousteau will take you from the dazzling coral reefs of the Bahamas to the warm depths of the waters of the exotic Kingdom of Tonga for a close encounter with the surviving tribes of the ocean.

To purchase tickets for these films go to: <http://www.imax.com/chicago/>

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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 at the business meeting or mail to the address listed on the ballot. THANKS!

# ***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 will appear in the January, February and March Tribes. 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.

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## ***OUR WORLD UNDERWATER***

**February 20 – 22, 2009**

**Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL**

Our World-Underwater Consumer Dive & Travel Show is in its' 39<sup>th</sup> Year! It is the longest running show in North America and the largest in the Midwest. Some of the things you can see at OWU:

- Manufacturers, Distributors & Retailers of Diving Equipment
- Dive Centers
- Dive Training Agencies
- Underwater Photography Companies
- Dive Wear Companies
- Tourist Boards, Dive Travel Agents, Liveaboards & Dive Resorts
- Publishers
- Great Lakes Charter Boat Operators
- Book signings
- Film Festivals and Seminars

To purchase tickets and for much more detailed information on presenters, exhibitors, seminars, films and more visit: <http://www.ourworldunderwater.com/>.

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## ***CHINESE NEW YEAR!***

***Sunday, January 25***

We came, we saw, we ate! Seven very hungry Tritons gathered at Chang Jiang Buffet in Des Plaines to celebrate Chinese New Year. The restaurant was packed, standing room only – thankfully I had made reservations and we only had a short wait before we were shown to our table. Our waiter greeted us with a few jokes and put all of us in a party mood. We then hit the buffet, actually four long buffet tables with all sorts of Asian and some American cuisine. We made several trips back to the buffet for crab rangoon, pot stickers, soups, salads, sweet and sour chicken, Mongolian beef, crab legs – you name it they had it. We all agreed we ate way too much but we had a great time. It was a wonderful way to spend a bitterly cold January day, with good food and great friends. Thanks to all for coming on out and adding to the fun!

TIC: Pam Romund



Capt. Quen Cultra, Leo Sherman, Dr. Joe Strykowski, (L to R)

## ***SEARCH FOR MISSING SAILORS CALLED OFF***

Quen Cultra, of Onarga, Ill., and Joe Strykowski, who was born and raised in Chicago, were last seen by their shipmate who was rescued by the French Navy on Wednesday morning, said U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Second Class James Harless. Leo Sherman, of Gilman, Ill., was found clinging to the overturned vessel, a 43-foot catamaran named Queequeg II.

The crew had been nearing the end of a two-year, around-the-world sailing voyage when the capsule encountered bad weather in the Indian Ocean, Harless said. On Monday, someone activated the vessel's electronic positioning radio beacon, which sent out a satellite signal of distress to the U.S. Coast Guard's 7th District in Miami, where the device was registered.

The Coast Guard notified the France Missions Control Center and sent out an alert to merchant marine ships. A freight vessel was the first to arrive Tuesday, but the crewmen did not find any survivors. The French Navy arrived Wednesday morning and a second sweep found Sherman hanging onto the upside down capsule.

Divers searched for the two missing men Friday, said Strykowski's daughter, Nicole, of Oregon state, but their efforts turned up nothing. She said her family is completely distraught over the decision to call off the search. They hold firm to the belief that her father could be alive.

"This is not your average man lost at sea. This is someone with a really good shot of surviving," she said, adding that her father always stressed safety first and was an expert on marine life.

Strykowski, who lives in Florida, is the author of a number of books on diving and the environment (including Diving for Fun). He holds a doctorate in environmental studies and is the founder of The Star Thrower Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the preservation and protection of ocean wildlife. His daughters said he grew up in Portage Park and has always considered Chicago his home base despite his extensive travels.

Cultra was also strongly drawn to the open sea. In 2003, the Tribune wrote about him and his adventure sailing around Cape Horn off the coast of South America. In the 1960s, he built his own boat in the barnyard of his family farm and sailed around the world. He wrote about his journey in a book "Queequeg's Odyssey--A High Seas Adventure."

Nicole Strykowski said her father and Cultra began their latest adventure in September 2007 and had tentatively planned to return to the United States sometime this summer. A number of "crew members" joined them on different legs throughout the journey, according to their Web site, [www.queequegtwo.com](http://www.queequegtwo.com), which chronicled the trip.

Nicole Strykowski said the family had thought about organizing a welcome home party for the men in Florida. "I wish we were still doing that," she said. Now, the family is trying to figure out its next steps. No bodies have been recovered.

"If anyone could make it out of this situation, these men could," she said. "We love him very much and we believe that he's still out there and we'd like the search to continue."

A big *Triton* THANK YOU!

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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!



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