



GOING NORTH - DIVING IN THE ARCTIC JUNE 2010

By Joerg Borchert

A year after visiting Antarctica, the opposite side of the planet was calling. The planning basically started after my return from Antarctica in March 2009. As everybody is hitting remote places, the logistics and related with it, the costs are becoming a major factor. As with the famous arctic explorers like Amundsen, Nansen,

Nobile, the easiest way to get far up north to 78°N is to go to Spitsbergen or correctly the Svalbard archipelago, as Spitsbergen is just one island among many, which taken together are the size of West Virginia. It is the northernmost part of Norway. The islands themselves have an interesting territorial status but more about that later.

The first people to have seen the islands were probably the Vikings. The old stories describe a land in the north as Svalbard – literally “cold shores” but nothing is certain as the island of Jan Mayen and eastern Greenland is not far. The Dutchman Willem Barents made the first documented discovery of the islands in 1596 in an attempt to find the North East passage. His description of whales hanging out at the surface started a race between the two major sea powers of the time, the Brits and the Dutch. Nature lost, as the whales were almost driven to extinction within 200 years. The whaling and walrus hunting stopped, and the Russian hunters left in the 1820s, as the hunting for polar bears and foxes was no longer a profitable business. By the end of the 19th century the islands saw the first Arctic tourism and were used as a jumping off point in the race for the North Pole.

Another discovery brought the British, Norwegians and the Americans to the Islands. Coal was found and John Munroe Longyear from Michigan and his venture, the Arctic Coal Company developed the first major settlement

Longyear City, nowadays Longyearbyen. This settlement remains to this day with all their equipment, its shafts and the one running mine of the 7 at the time of the first discovery of coal, the time when Amundsen and Nobile stopped by with their airships on the way to the North Pole. Today,

you can book an airline ticket from San Francisco via Munich to Oslo and beyond with a stop in Tromso to Longyearbyen.



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DUES ARE DUE!!!

**MAKE SURE YOU STICK WITH AT LEAST ONE
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:**

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MOVABLE FEAST

JANUARY 19TH, 2011

Stay Tuned and

Check SFRD Yahoo Group site for location

**MEET at 7:00p.m. for socializing, DRINKS & FOOD
and CLUB BUSINESS**

Reefer's Rap 2011

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>08 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 14 - Paris International Dive Show - salondelaplongee.com 19 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 22 - Boot Show - Dusseldorf - boot.de 28 - Baltimore Washington Dive Show - divechronicles.com</p>	<p>16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 18 - Our World Underwater 41 - ourworldunderwater.com 18 - Golden Dolphin - Moscow - 25 - Texas Dive Show - divechronicles.com/texas</p>	<p>05 - Great Lake Shipwreck Festival - Ann Harbor 09 - SF Ocean Film Festival - oceanfilmfest.org 16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 18 - Ohio Scuba Fest - scubafest.org 19 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 25 - Beneath the Sea - New Jersey beneaththesea.org 26 - London International Dive Show</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>01 - Abalone Opener - Fort Ross - CenCal 08 - Dive & Travel - Tacoma - diveandtravelexpo.com 08 - Bay Area Dive Show - San Jose - www.divechronicles.com 16 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 20 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 16-18 - Ocean Fest - Fort Lauderdale www.oceanfest.com</p>	<p>14 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 18 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 21-23 - Dive & Travel Expo - Tacoma - www.diveandtravelexpo.com</p>	<p>04 - Scuba Show - Long Beach - scubashow.com 11 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 15 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location TBD - Abalone Closer</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p>01 - Malaysia International Dive Expo 16 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 20 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</p>	<p>TBD - Abalone Opener 14-16 - Channel Islands - Jim Vallario - 415.566.0784 17 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</p>	<p>24 - Colorado Dive Show – Denver - divechronicles.com 17 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 21 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>15 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 19 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location 22 - UK Dive Show - Birmingham - diveshows.uk.com</p>	<p>02 - The DEMA Show - Orlando - www.demashow.com 12 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 16 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location TBD - Abalone Closer</p>	<p>10 - Sanctuary Dive Boat - K Dock - 07:30 21 - Movable Feast - Check our Yahoo Site for Location</p>

Stammtisch

By Pierre Hurter



I was reading the story of the retired Navy doctor who sold his Rolex on eBay (see Spindrift) and thinking about Kwajalein. It's a tiny atoll in the western Pacific Ocean, about 2,100 miles southwest of Hawaii and 1,400 miles east of Guam. Today the island is home to USAKA (United States Army Kwajalein Atoll), the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site, and about 2,000 support personnel and family members on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur islands.

Beginning on January 31, 1944 and lasting until February 3, 1944, the 111th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division spearheaded an amphibious assault on Kwajalein and Roi Namur. On February 1, 1944, Kwajalein was the target of the most concentrated bombardment of the war in the Pacific. Thirty-six thousand shells from naval ships and ground artillery on a nearby islet rained onto the atoll. American B-24 Liberator bombers added to the destruction.

The casualty figures are, like so many things in history in some dispute. There were some 8,782 Japanese deployed on the atoll. These included Korean laborers that were not there by choice. When the smoke cleared, 373 Americans had fallen in battle, along with 7,387 Japanese with some 174 being taken alive.

For the American war effort, the battle represented the next step in its island-hopping campaign on Japan as well as a significant moral

booster because it was the first time the United States had penetrated the "outer ring" of the Japanese Pacific sphere. For the Japanese, the battle represented the failure of the beach-line defense. Japanese defenses after Kwajalein were prepared in depth, and the battles of Peleliu, Guam, and the Marianas proved far more costly to the United States.

On February 6, 1944, Kwajalein was claimed by the United States and was taken, with the rest of the Marshall Islands, eventually as a Trust Territory of the United States. Today, Kwajalein is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and has been independent since 1986 under a compact of Free Association with the United States.

For those of you who use GPS, Kwajalein hosts one of five ground stations (the others are at Diego Garcia, Ascension Island, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Hawaii) that provide the ground control segment of the Global Positioning System (GPS) navigational system.



December ended in a lot of rain that seems to have been the defining weather pattern for most of the month. We did manage to squeeze in one last dive trip for the year. We filled the *Beach Hopper II*, even with a few Reef divers having to drop out at the last minute. Onboard we had Joerg, Dawn, Jim, Norm, Bhushan, Royston, Werner as well as

Gerda and I.

We seemed to have timed the trip perfectly; we boarded the *Beach Hopper II* at 08:30, along with a fresh baked batch of MaryJo's cookies, muffins and assorted goodies to tied us over on our three hour tour.

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WHO IS THIS MASKED MAN?

Who is this person diving with a single tank?

You may not recognize this local diver as one of our own, but this photo found in the archives (does last summer count as 'archives?') proves that Royston, our faithful doubles diver was actually spotted diving a single tank.

This photo is irrefutable proof.

Cozumel Dive Trip in February



For those of you who have a hankering to do some warm water diving, here's your chance.

From 2/16 to 2/21 with four days of diving, 2/17 thru 2/20 with Aldora Divers ...
www.aldora.com/contact.htm ... famous for their 120 cubic foot steel tanks for those of you who like to stay awhile or find yourself consumption challenged.

We'll be staying at the Vista Del Mar ... www.hotelvistadelmar.com ... surrounded by unique shopping, a wide variety of dining and entertainment options located on the main boulevard on the waterfront overlooking the Bay of San Miguel in the heart of Cozumel.

Costs: budget around \$500 for airfare, \$100 per two tank dives (plus tips), \$40 per person for double occupancy for hotel, with meals and drinks left to your discretion.

So far, Jim, Norm, Tim and myself are confirmed and going. The more club members who go, the merrier ... cheers Bhushan

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2011 Channel Islands Dive Trip
Sunday, Monday and Tuesday
August 14 - 15 - 16



The tradition continues, we have 14 spots (half of the Peace) for 2011

We do this every year and as always we'll (conditions permitting) go to the southern Channel Islands. Half the boat equates to fourteen spots. The price per spot is \$400. This gets you a single bunk (if you are on your own), or one half of a double bunk (if you have your significant other with you). The bunks are spartan, but we're not there for the accommodations. We are there for the incredible diving, the great food and the even greater times topside. The key to any live-aboard charter is the attitude of the crew and skipper/owner. Eric Bowman and his crew are the best! They always try to put us on the best spots and always try to fulfill our requests.

- **Cost per spot is still \$400** - For those of you who don't get out much that is a bargain.
- **To secure your spot**, send a \$100 deposit (per spot) to our treasurer - Pierre Hurter, 515 Diamond Street, SF, CA 94114. First come, first served, check in hand, secures your spot.
- **The Peace leaves the dock at 10PM on Saturday, August 13th** - First dive is Sunday morning.
- Bring all of your dive gear, including one full tank. They can refill tanks with air or 32% Nitrox. Alternatively, you can rent your tank and have it delivered to the boat.
- **Unlimited Nitrox fills cost \$75**. If you want Nitrox, bring your Nitrox Certification card and a separate check for \$75.
- Wine, beer, etc. may be brought onboard, but remember your 1st drink marks your last dive of the day.
- For additional information, directions to the boat, or to rent gear, etc. check out the Peace website ... www.peaceboat.com.

For any other questions, contact Jim Vallario at 415-566-0784 or 415-819-1159 (cell).

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Dive gear, cameras and warm clothes, in total 76kg (168lbs) , made it up to 78°N, without any rough seas. You sip your coffee, look out of the plane's windows and see the glaciers shimmering white in the sun, the blue fjords and the black rocky summits of the highest peaks, blown free by the westerly winds. In comparison, we needed three days with a ship crossing the Drake passage in the roaring 40's

and furious 50's just to make it barley south of the polar circle at 66°S to get to the other end of the world, Antarctica. Logistics for the Arctic are easy thanks to Scandinavian Airlines.

Arriving by plane is surreal as you just left Oslo in midsummer with balmy temperatures of 75F and suddenly you need your fleece and mountain jacket when you disembark at Longyearbyen as the temperature has dropped to 30F. Across the fjord ice and snow covers the land. The trip by

bus from the airport to the town starts with a street sign that shows a polar bear. They are dangerous and as soon as you leave the little town of 2000 inhabitants you have to carry a gun, which you can rent at local wilderness shops. The story is that a lot of celebrities visited this place for the opening of the seed vault on February 2008 in the middle of nowhere. It is built into the permafrost to store all the world seeds to survive

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doomsday. The visitors have included Jerry Yang, Angelina Jolie and President Jimmy Carter among others. Jimmy and his Secret Service had coffee at the one and only coffee shop in town. The polar research station is across the street and students leave in the morning for fieldwork. Visiting the shop myself, I can imagine the nervousness of the Secret Service when you see students walking in with serious firearms dangling over their shoulders or hanging on their belts passing by the former President of the United States.

The town shows its mining heritage, wooden houses, sometimes shacks and open dog kennels for the Huskies and Greenlanders. The Norwegian husets ('houses' in Swedish, Danish & Norwegian,) are former mining houses. Now hostels, they are clean, simple and offer a typical Norwegian breakfast. Trond has been my host for a week prior going on the ship to go diving.

The islands always have been of strategic value as they have open water on the west side year around. In the Second World War Nazi Germany occupied the islands and established weather stations. The last weather station "Haudegen" (warhorse) was so remote that the station personnel had to hold out until September 1945 before a ship was able to get through the ice. The Scientists had already surrendered on May 8th over the short wave radio to the Norwegians. The Norwegians and the British asked them to continue with the daily weather reports from Nordostland, an island east of Spitsbergen. The cold war started another chapter: the Russians used the

Spitsbergen treaty from the 1920s to establish significant coal mining activities in Barentsberg and Pyramiden. The last settlement was a city in the arctic to show Russian superiority. The Soviet Union had a legal presence in a NATO country and could use the mining to hide intelligence related activities. The city of Pyramiden had all the amenities you can imagine: swimming pool, large library, gymnasium, you name it. 1,000 inhabitants abandoned the site on the 10th of January 1998 by order of the state-owned Russian company Arctikugol Trust Pyramiden and it is now a ghost town. Within the buildings things remain exactly as they were left, abandoned in a hurry.

The week on land was exciting with exploration of the island by bicycle, by foot and mountaineering and visiting the polar museum as well as the airship museum.

But I was here for scuba diving in the Arctic.

The diving in this cold water requires up to three layers underneath the dry suit. You use a Y-valve to connect two independent first stages to a single tank in case of a freeze up in the first or second stage. It is also not a good idea to test the function of the regulators on the surface, as they tend to free flow due to the cold surface conditions and the Venturi effect. Good lamps are always advisable in the polar region as the visibility is limited. Zodiacs are the platform of choice; they allow easy entry and exit from the water and fast maneuverability in floating ice.

The dive protocol was to keep to a maximum depth of 60 feet that allows dive times up to 40 minutes, limited more by

hypothermia than by air supply. The locker room on our tender was very luxurious as it was heated and allowed things to dry fast.

The first dive was a check out dive at a Peirsonhamna Bay near Ny Ålesund, a research station located at 78° 57.6' N, 012° 2.9' E. The water was cold, 35F at the surface and dropping with depth. The visibility was limited, but got better the deeper you went. Old saying from Captain Phil Sammet of Monterey, California: The deeper the better. Brown algae (alaria esculenta) was abundant, which shows that the light conditions are sufficient to allow for photosynthesis during summer to let the plants survive in the long polar winter.

The second dive of this trip was just stunning as we went further North reaching 79° 34.4' N 018° 34.8' E to a site which is called the Bird Cliffs at Alkefjellet. Imagine towering black cliffs and hundreds of thousands of seabirds breeding in these cliffs. Brash ice floated on the surface and you needed to look out to get in and out of the water in time. The steep cliff extended well below the water surface with shelves at 15, 27 and 55 feet, going down to more than 100ft. The dive protocol did not allow us more than 60ft – unfortunately. The kelp provided shelter for sea urchins, sea stars, and skeleton shrimp. The urchins scavenged the remains of Guillemot eggs scattered across the seabed. An exciting dive! Dive time of 40 minutes at 0°C/32F. My hands got so cold that the help from the zodiac crew was well received to get me out of the water – not the most beautiful and elegant move.

As you have sun for 24 hours,

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you can do dive operations around the clock. We started at 5:40pm and got out at 6:20 pm for the next one after the ship had to go further west as the ice moved very fast south. The dive at Sorgfjorden or the “fjord of sorrow” was again exploratory. We discovered some rocky parts of the bay on land, used a portable depth sounder and got in. We ended up at a sandy bottom with some sea stars (*Urasterias linckii*) and polyachtes. The most noteworthy sighting was the millions of shrimp in the water column. In the distance we heard whales singing which is one of the most beautiful sounds of life. The surface crew saw belugas swimming by. We saw them later in the very far distance....

The day ended with a cold zodiac ride to the other side of the bay called Heclahamna. The weather worsened and the sea got choppier by the hour. A group of forty-strong male walrus made the trip worthwhile. The grunting, the snorting and the show of male dominance threatening with the tusks is an unforgettable experience. The walrus belongs, like the elephant seals, California and stellar sea lions to the family of pinnipeds, which means they can walk on their “flippers” and they are faster than you think. During the ride back our zodiac got hammered by waves, the spray was all over us, the water temperature near freezing and wind in the magnitude of 5 on the Beaufort scale did not make this a pleasant ride and I was happy to be in a dry suit. The hot shower afterwards was the best ever.

The next day, June 18th was another dive day, but the stunning moments occurred

when we approached Sallyhamna Bay with solid ice. Polar bears were on the ice, a total of 8, feeding on a whale carcass. The king of the Arctic was patrolling the ice and we got numb fingers after two hours of filling up the flash cards of our cameras.

A wonderful scene occurred when a newborn jumped on the back of the mom and got carried away by this massive bear. They give birth in a den in the middle of the Polar night and the mother is feeding them with very rich milk. She loses a lot of weight and needs to have a good hunting season to continue with the feeding and for her own survival. You do not want to cross paths with these large bears.



We sat for over two hours watching the polar bears in the zodiac, almost motionless to get good photo shoots. I was intrinsically cold to the bone when we entered the water. The second dive site at the little island of Klovingen was nice and reminded me with its kelp of Monterey. Water temperature was at 33F. The tide comes in from the Arctic Ocean and carries nutrients with the water. The barnacles were large, up to 2.5 cm. The same effect can be observed in the cold waters of

Alaska in the Inside Passage. The dive time was limited as we needed slack conditions and I was cold despite of all the layers of fleece and dry gloves. The ride back was even colder and the warm shower was an absolute necessity. The weather changed to the better in the evening, blue skies and a glaring mid night sun put things in a warmer perspective.

We made the turn back south and our navigation followed the coastline of Spitsbergen to the port side of the MS Plancius. We got another 3 dives in with great photo opportunities on drifting ice floes that moved with the tide. The last dive gave us fantastic weather conditions with clear blue skies at a steep shoreline. The seabed was mainly a field of sea anemones.

Diving in Spitsbergen – it is easier than in Antarctica. You miss the tough, sometimes very rough voyage through the Southern Ocean. The logistics are of similar challenges. There is no dive shop in Svalbard. The equipment has to be well serviced before you leave and it is advisable to have some spare parts handy e.g. seals for a dry suit. Otherwise the expedition stops with a missing 50 cent part because you tore apart the arm or neck seal of your dry suit. Training and experience in cold water diving is essential for the fun and the safe exploration in this more extreme environment. Last but not least you need a good ship and experienced zodiac crew. Floating ice and changing currents can be treacherous. I like to thank Kelvin Murray from Scotland and Henrik Enckell from Sweden. Both have been fundamental for the good dive operation and success. Henrik

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has already been with me in Antarctica, his Northern humor complements well with the Scottish. A travel to these parts of the world is still exploratory. The dive sites are often not known. Therefore, your expectations should be set accordingly; there can be wonderful kelp forests, steep walls or boring mudflats. It is not like going to Hawaii where you have certainty about what you see and what to expect. In these areas you need to trust your instincts, look at the formations above the water, the depth finder and the navigational maps. Nevertheless, every dive is an adventure therefore be curious and open your eyes.

A wonderful 2011, safe journeys and
Never stop exploring
Joerg Borchert

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust



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For our first dive we dropped onto Mike's Maze. The anchor was at 60 feet with a wall and a series of boulder dropping down to the 90 foot range. There were lots of crevices to explore; the visibility was in the 10 to 20 foot range. We tied off a reel and set off to explore the wall. Lot's of decorator crabs, some nudibranchs, snoozing rockfish

of all stripes and one very curious or maybe just dimwitted lingcod - would not have needed a spear gun for this boy. Gerda petted him while he swam along, acting more like a puppy than a fish. Gerda also spotted a good sized Mola Mola, one I never managed to see, I kept looking in the direction that Gerda was pointing, but all I saw was a giant starfish.

Our second dive was at spot named Two Humps. This triggered an intense and generally not particularly intellectual discussion on naming conventions. As Gerda mentioned, this site is somewhere between Dolly Parton and Twiggy, it all depends on which part you are diving. The visibility here took a turn for the worse and a stiff current started up, but the site itself was beautiful, walls covered in metridium and strawberry anemones, *Corynactis californica* with decorator crabs scurrying about everywhere.

The other feature of both these dives where the jellyfish, lots of them, a virtual bloom of Sea Nettles or *Chrysaora fuscescens* made it seem we were swimming in soup. They are fascinating to watch while you are hanging out to do your safety stop, until one brushes past your lip, then it stops being quite so interesting, Gerda had a welt which lasted for a couple of days. Sort of like a budget Botox treatment.

We had a great time, unlike most dives were we head down on Friday in the afternoon and drive back after diving, we decided to stay over to Sunday. Friday night we headed to the

Sea Harvest, a fish market with a few seats tacked on, great rock cod sandwich along with fries and a beer. The next day after diving we had lunch at the Sand Bar & Grill on the Municipal Wharf, Dungeness crab is in season and I had one of the better crab salads of my life. Later in the evening we all met at Passion Fish, one of my favorite restaurants in the Pacific Grove - Monterey area.

The New Year always seems to be a time when people like to look over their shoulders and see what's been left behind. There were a few events in 2010 worth noting, not all of them earthshaking. Pontiac, Mercury and Hummer all ceased to exist as brands in the automotive world. I won't shed a tear for Hummer, but Pontiac goes back to 1926 with General Motors and 1906 as an independent company. What would Ronnie and the Daytonas have done without *Three deuces* and a four-



speed and a 389...
*Wa-Wa Yeah Yeah, little G.T.O
Wa, Wa, Wa, Wa, Wa, Wa, Yeah Yeah Little G.T.O!*

Fred Morrison, the Inventor of the Frisbee, passed away earlier in the year. Honestly, is there anyone out there who has never given a quick flick of the wrist and sent one of these flying discs heading on its way? It all started in 1938 when Walter Fredrick Morrison and his wife were tossing a pie pan back and forth on a beach in Santa Monica. Various named the Whirloway and the Pluto Platter, it was christened the Frisbee when the idea was sold to Wham-O.

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The Sony Walkman is to be no more.

With all of the digital music players we have today, MP3, iPods, smart phones; it's easy to forget what a great idea this was when it first hit the market in the late 70's. Here at last was an easy way to listen to what you wanted to, anytime and anywhere.

The only thing you can count on over time is change. We all know it's true, but sometimes it's hard to come to grips with. I'm not a Luddite, well maybe on a conditional basis, but I generally try to steer clear of being an early adopter. Someone has to do it, but they're the ones who paid ten grand for a flat screen that you get for free when you open a checking account. Not that anyone writes checks, I suspect half of the people I work with have never actually written a check and may not be sure what one or it is.

Probably my favorite invention is the ATM machine. A truly great idea, it's almost shocking when you end up somewhere that still runs on cash. Like many modern inventions, there are several people who seem to have come upon the same ideas at about the same time.

An experimental Bankograph machine, designed by Luther George Simijian, was installed in New York City in 1961 by the City Bank of New York, but removed after 6 months due to the lack of customer acceptance. The Bankograph was an automated envelope deposit machine, it accepted, coins, cash and checks, but did not dispense cash



The first cash dispensing machine was put into use by Barclays Bank in Enfield Town in North London, on 27 June 1967.

The rest as they say, is history, on September 2, 1969, Chemical Bank installed the first ATM in the U.S. at its branch in Rockville Centre, New York. A Chemical Bank advertisement boasted "On Sept. 2 our bank will open at 9:00 and never close again.

Just finished reading *The Terrible Hours* by Peter Mass; it's the story of the sinking and rescue of the survivors aboard the submarine *U.S.S. Squalus* in May of 1939. It's a hair raising account of how the submarine went down in 243 feet of water off the Isles of Shoals near Portsmouth, New Hampshire during its sea trials. Much of the book is about the efforts of Lieutenant Commander Charles "Swede" Momsen an early proponent of submarine rescue and inventor of the "Momsen Lung".

The initial rescue effort was handled by divers using air; with the subsequent salvage operation saw the first use of heliox and its associated diving schedules by

navy divers. Four enlisted divers, Chief Machinist's Mate William Badders, Chief Boatswain's Mate Orson Crandall, Chief Metalsmith James McDonald and Chief Torpedoman John Mihalowski, earned the Medal of Honor for their work during the rescue and subsequent salvage operation.

Although 26 of the crew lost their lives in the initial flooding, the use of the McCann submarine rescue chamber brought the surviving 33 crewman to the surface in the first successful deep submarine rescue effort. In the ensuing months the *U.S.S. Squalus* was salvaged and although a definitive cause of the accident was never fully determined, she was refurbished and recommissioned as the *U.S.S. Sailfish*.

Photo # 16-N-42209 USS Sailfish (SS-192) off the Mare Island Navy Yard, 13 April 1943



In a curious twist of fate, the *U.S.S. Sailfish* would become the first American submarine to sink a Japanese carrier, the *Chuyo*. The *Chuyo* was carrying 21 American prisoners of war from the *U.S.S. Sculpin*, the sister ship of the *U.S.S. Squalus* and the ship that had found her after she sank. Twenty of the 21 US crew members were killed. None had been on the original crew.



There are plenty of interesting tangents from this story. One of the officers aboard the *U.S.S. Sculpin*, Captain John Philip

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Cromwell, had knowledge of both the impending invasion of Tarawa, operation Galvanic as well as ULTRA, the intercept and decoding of Japanese secret cables. Rather than risk capture, he refused to leave the stricken submarine and went down with the ship, his secrets safe forever.

For his sacrifice he posthumously received the Medal of Honor for actions "above and beyond the call of duty" during World War II. His citation reads in part;

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty ... Captain Cromwell, alone of the entire Task Group, possessed secret intelligence information of our submarine strategy and tactics, scheduled Fleet movements and specific attack plans ... Cool and undaunted as the submarine, rocked and battered by Japanese depth-charges, sustained terrific battle damage ... he authorized the *U.S.S. Sculpin* to surface and engage the enemy in a gun-fight, thereby providing an opportunity for the crew to abandon ship ... Determined to sacrifice himself rather than risk capture and subsequent danger of revealing plans under Japanese torture or use of drugs, he stoically remained aboard the mortally wounded vessel as she plunged to her death."

On that note, it's on to the New Year. Not too many resolutions, but looking forward to some diving, meeting new people and maybe a little travel on the side. Getting ready for the event we discovered that Trader Joes no longer carries herring, pickled or in sour cream. What's that all about and this from an operation privately owned by a German

family trust. They carry a build it yourself *Lebkuchen Haus* for crying out loud, but no herring? Fortunately this is San Francisco and we have resources, more specifically the BI-RITE Market on 18th street. They not only have pickled herring, but better yet, they make it fresh, "house made" as they say. So here's the recipe, pickled herring, a can of cannellini beans, stir it up and you're off. Another secret family recipe, Hangover Helper, bites the dust.

So here we are already staring the eleventh year of the 21st Century. Whatever happened to the 20th Century? It seems like only yesterday I was listening to my Walkman, watching my rear projection TV and dreaming of the day when I would upgrade my car stereo from an 8-track to cassette deck. I have the sneaky feeling that a few Reefers probably remember the RCA Automatic 45 RPM Record player for the car.

One thing I will miss is Kodachrome film. After a 75 year run the last roll was processed at Dwayne's Photo in Parsons, Kansas. At the peak there were 25 labs worldwide that processed Kodachrome film, one by one they closed until only Dwayne's Photo remained. When Kodak announced it would no longer produce the chemicals needed to develop the film, the end was near. Despite Paul Simon's plea "Mama don't take my Kodachrome away", another era has ended

As Mark Twain once observed, New Year's is an institution "of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks, and friendly calls and humbug resolutions." On that note, it's time to start crossing off some of my already broken

resolutions and get on with the business of the New Year.

Spindrift

Still have that old watch banging around?



What do you get when you have a retired US Navy doctor, a vintage Rolex Submariner Ref 5510, the kind that Sean Connery wore in *Dr. No*, *From Russia With Love*, *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball* and some time to kill on eBay?

A little background, 52 years ago, at a Navy Exchange on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, there was a young aviation medical student. Bob liked to dive and was looking for a watch and there it was for the then princely sum of \$70.

For the next 35 years that's exactly what he used that watch for, diving. Bob dove both while in the Navy at the Marshall Islands as well as in the Bahamas, where he lived in the 80's. The Rolex served its purpose faithfully for over half a century. For the last decade the watch has spent its time tucked inside a dresser drawer.

Deciding to sell the old watch, Bob posted on eBay with a starting price of \$9.95. By the time the bidding ended the watch sold for \$66,100.

It turns out that the Rolex Submariner 5510 is one of the rarer Submariner models. The Submariner went into production in 1953 and was showcased at the Basel Fair a year later. So take a look at the bottom of your dresser, you never know what you might find.



We encourage you to also support the other organizations listed below when you pay your annual dues. (Please indicate your membership options with the checkboxes below.)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco Reef Divers (SFRD) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central California Council of Diving Clubs (CenCal) | 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sonoma County Abalone Network (SCAN) | <u>10</u> |
| <i>Show your support for all three!</i> | \$50 |

Name: _____
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How would you like your newsletter delivered? (Choose one):
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Please make checks payable to “**San Francisco Reef Divers**” and mail to: Pierre Hurter, SFRD Treasurer, 515 Diamond Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



SINCE JANUARY 1ST 1973

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS (SFRD):

The *Reef Diver Times* is the official newsletter of the San Francisco Reef Divers, a not for profit community organization dedicated to safe sport diving and the preservation of our ocean resources. Membership is \$25 annually, dues payable to "SFRD". The General Meeting is held the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Location is announced one week prior to the meeting. Please check our yahoo site for details <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sfreefdivers/> We meet at 7:00pm for socializing, drinks, food and club business. For more information, visit <http://www.sfreefdivers.org/>.

SAN FRANCISCO REEF DIVERS
Reef Diver Times
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