

The Owlmaniac

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE WET OWLS, THE DIVING CLUB OF BURTON'S DIVE SERVICE

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SHOP TALK

As we move into June, we are seeing a steady flow of new students coming into our courses. Hopefully they will enjoy our local diving enough that they will become regulars on our organized dives. Time will tell but it looks promising so far as a couple divers from May's checkout dives will be joining us for more diving with the June checkout group.

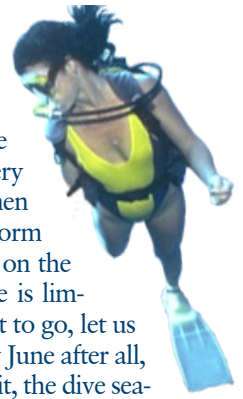
Just so you all know, the St. Lawrence River is a balmy 54 degrees Fahrenheit. Oh come on now, that's not really so bad is it? Even Bart did two dives in a wet suit when the water was

only 50 degrees so how bad can it be?

Another thing you may notice around the shop is that we are resuming our cleanup of the outside of the store. The front face has been painted as well as the window frames (we will get to the second floor soon; any volunteers?) and we have new flowers planted in the garden boxes. Later this spring, we will finish painting the other sides of the building so we will finally have just one colour on them. Won't that be nice?

Another upgrade to the shop is the recent addition of a digital pressure gauge for our nitrox station. It looks as

get back into the St. Lawrence River and prepare for upcoming boat dives. Our next boat dives are June 13 on the Vickery and Kingshorn and then June 19 on the Keystorm followed by June 20 on the Wolfe Islander. Space is limited so if you do want to go, let us know ASAP. It is now June after all, and before we know it, the dive season will be half over. The time to get in the water is now. See you at the bottom!



Bill McLean

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Happy Daddies' Day!

though nitrox is growing again in popularity and now we can be more efficient in our filling to better serve all of you. For those who are not nitrox certified but have been thinking about it, call up the store to arrange for a NAUI Nitrox Diver course on custom scheduling. We will run the course with as few as 2 students.

Lastly of course, we will be continuing to have monthly sales specials with June being Dive Computer/Gauges month.

Bill McLean



A Word From the Editor

I'm sure you must be enjoying the series of articles Tom is offering us. Photography is indeed one of the ways of accentuating our pleasure with diving. It also contributes to hone our skills as divers and provides us with the means to looking at our underwater environment more acutely.

Of course, I'm biased, since I did quite a lot of U/W photography as well as U/W film. However, when many non divers see your films or photos and comment favourably on the subjects or the overall quality of the results, you're encouraged to forge ahead.

Diving may get monotonous if it's a repeat of the same dive on the same site. However, if you shoot pictures or film, you can also extend your activities into photo and film editing. In this area, there is no end to gadgetry and toys, not to mention that you may be on your merry way to becoming an artist.

On another note, May 29 marked a sombre anniversary in the maritime history of Canada. The Empress of Ireland sank in the St. Lawrence in the middle of the night, taking 1012 passengers in her grave with her.

Although, this ship was only 2/3 of the size of the Titanic it was nevertheless one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th Century. The irony was that after learning from the Titanic tragedy, the Empress had enough boats to accommodate everyone with even some left over.

The difference between the two disasters might have to do with the stories and films produced since then, making the Titanic some sort of an icon to the general public.

More information on this and other tragedies: <http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/>

BONAIRE'S 20TH BASH

October 30TH to November 13TH 2004

Can you believe it? Our 20th trip to Bonaire. I'm sure we all have special memories that we treasure about our trips, whether it was the first time, and that you couldn't believe Bonaire could be this great, or your 4th and you couldn't believe how obsessed you have become about never missing the BASH!

Sam and I are inviting you all to share in our
BIGGEST CELEBRATION ever.
We held the 2003 prices!

This will be a Tax Deductible
MARINE IDENTIFICATION COURSE

It will include:

- Flight from Ottawa and Return.
- Accomodation at Lions Dive hotel (double occupancy).
- Unlimited Shore diving (6 days).
- Shared vehicle rental (based on 4 persons per vehicle).
- An Amazing T shirt.
- A special Anniversary Party.
- Transportation to and from the hotel.
- And, of course,

Sam's Super Spaghetti Dinner

ALL FOR ONLY \$2480.00 CDN, ONE WEEK!
\$3620.00 CDN TWO WEEKS

Two in a Royal unit, add \$100.00 each per week

Note Please contact Burton's Dive Service for booking details at (613) 745-6444.

YOU WILL NEED A VALID PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL

Prices are based on 3 per unit in a Royal Suite (the guy on the couch saves \$30.00) and are subject to change.

We will do our best to accommodate single bookings but there may be a single supplement charge.

In his series of articles, Tom explains the approach to underwater photography: choice of hardware, skills a diver should develop, techniques, etc.. As I was reading his latest article on page 5, I suddenly realised I knew a person who had travelled that road and who has taken literally thousands of photos, many of which are on Internet for everyone to see. This is the story.

It was the end of April 1995. Céline and I had decided on Santa Lucia, Cuba for our 2 weeks spring vacation. Upon our arrival, I took a bee line to the diving centre to make arrangements. I had with me my Nikonos V and strobe and I was bent on taking many great photos, especially of Bull sharks when I learned it was possible to dive with them.

The next day, I joined a group to go diving, clicking away at everything in sight so to speak. After a few days, I started diving with another Master diver on a new boat. This is when I met a bunch of crazy Czechs who loved their diving as much as their beer and whom I fell in love with.

What was uncanny about the group is the fact that all were beginners, yet they dove as if their cousins were dolphins. Sometimes, I could see Nina and husband Milo (2nd and 3rd from the left in the photo), hovering over the reef, looking but never touching. Their control was stupendous and the ease with which they moved was astounding.

We all got together, drinking beer and talking about... what else? Diving, of course. Too soon, we parted and our good times became souvenirs.



Incarnation of an Under Water Photographer: Nina

One day, out of a clear blue sky, we met again, quite by chance in Cuba. I was filming this time, but Nina was sporting photographic equipment: a Minolta Maxum 7000, with a 24-80 lens, an Ikelite housing and an Ikelite 100 substrobe. It seems she had always been a shutterbug and loved photography. What then was more natural than taking her camera along under? It was quite a sight: Milo seeking good photo occasions and Nina hovering about, snapping away.

Milo put together a web site to sell an underwater signalling gadget he was making: Scubabell. He also decided to include places they had been to, complete with a short evaluation and of course, photos, both on land and underwater.

Soon, he had covered no less than 12 destinations and illustrated these with hundreds of photos. Some of those destinations such as Cuba had different hotels and places. When people ask me to point out places to go diving, I always refer them to Milo's web site.

These two friends of mine, quite addicted to diving are still at it. They go south many times a year and take back home many souvenirs and pictures. Nina wouldn't think ever to go diving without her camera. The only time she did I guess, was when it flooded or was broken and she had to do without it for the rest of the trip.

Nina has changed her toy recently. She now owns a Nikon F 80, an 18-35 lens, an Ikelite 400 housing and an Ikelite 100 twin strobes.

Nina and Milo are very good examples of how diving can grow into something else. For Nina, it was photography. For Milo, he became a web master, and of course has become a great photographic buddy.

Those who are interested in seeing Nina's underwater photography and have access to Internet, go to: <http://scubabell.com/> and take a look at "Destinations" and "Galleries"

When I think back to 1995, Nina had just received her C-card. She's now logged some 600 dives in the south, most of them, with camera in hand.

Marcel

So You Think You Know Everyting?

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

The winter of 1932 was so cold that Niagara Falls froze completely solid.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people in the world.

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

There's no Betty Rubble in the Flintstones Chewables Vitamins.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Women blink nearly twice as much as men.

Sent in by Bill Barnard

Do You Have Headaches After Diving?

Many times, divers come back from dives with a headache. It can be due to a variety of causes.

Migraine headaches. Those who suffer from migraine headaches usually take medication which can promote DCS. Divers who suffer from such headaches should consult a physician before diving.

Sinus headaches. They can be caused by a sinus squeeze during ascent or descent (failure to equalise properly). The symptoms are pain in the forehead or the face. They can also be caused while diving with a cold or sinus infection. The best cure is not to dive at all. How-

ever, sometimes a decongestant can do the trick.

Face mask too tight. The mask should be well placed over the eyes and nose, not too tight. It's the water pressure which ensures a good fit, not pulling on the straps with all your might. Good equalization also ensures that the mask stays comfortably on your face.

Fatigue or tension. One should dive only when conditions are not extreme for one's experience and condition. Rest, avoidance of caffeine and nicotine are part of the solution.

Carbon Dioxide toxicity. It consists of a throbbing pain after diving and

might start on your way up. It's caused by a buildup of carbon dioxide in the body.

Underwater photographers, beware! If you stop breathing in order to better control your trim or not to spook your subjects. Not breathing normally will cause the buildup of carbon dioxide and bring about the headache.

It's better to treat headaches after diving with prudence. They can be accompanied by other signs of DCS such as joint pain, itching, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, ringing in the ears.

Marcel

News in Brief...

A teacher has been arrested at Dulles International Airport in possession of slide rules, protractors, and calculators. It is claimed he is a member of the Al Gebra network. He was charged with carrying weapons of math instruction.

Arnold Schwarzenegger was once signed to play for a major league baseball team, and often speaks at high school and college sports banquets. He is frequently introduced as an athletic supporter.

Martha Stewart just can't seem to stay out of trouble. Federal investigators looking through her kitchen came across an entire storeroom full of MacIntosh Apples. When questioned about this cache she'd stashed, she was hard pressed to give a logical answer. Now she's being charged with "In-cider" trading.

In Davis, CA, a man who used to perform autopsies has been arrested for taking home 157 pounds of human body parts. Do you know what his bail cost him? An arm and a leg.

The CA voters decided to "recall" the governor. This is ironic, because if you had asked people on the streets of California to name the governor, most of them would have said: "I don't recall."

A report says high school students aren't very good with American History. It's pretty shameful. On a recent test, a majority of seniors thought Lincoln's Gettysburg address ended with "@yahoo.com".

Courtesy of Bill Barnard (wherever he finds these...)

Diver Saved by Boyscout!

A 45-year-old diver spent five hours adrift at sea close to the port of Los Angeles, USA, after becoming separated from his dive boat. He was rescued after a boy scout spotted him from an excursion vessel.

Dan Carlock was diving offshore from a boat with Ocean Adventures Dive Company, but became separated from his fellow divers after ear-clearing problems on descent.

He surfaced alone, blew his whistle in an attempt to attract attention, and waited to be picked up by the dive boat, which was secured to a nearby oil platform. When the rest of the dive group surfaced, they left without him and travelled to their next dive site, some six miles away.

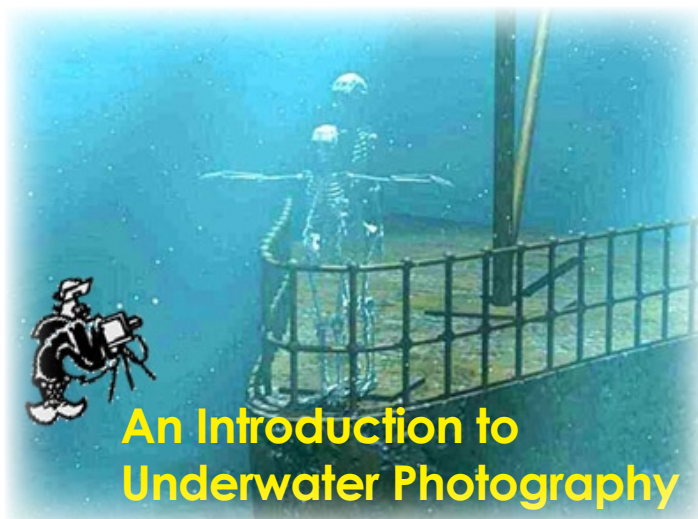
The coastguard received a report from the dive group that Carlock was missing, but the report was made from the second dive site. Rescuers, including lifeguards and personnel from the Los Angeles City Fire Dept, were searching in entirely the wrong place.

Fortunately for Carlock, an eagle-eyed, 15-year-old boy scout, Zack Mayberry, was undergoing nautical training on the Argus - a tall ship designed for excursions - and had been put on stern watch. He spotted the lone diver 150m away, through a pair of binoculars and raised the alarm.

Carlock was picked up in the early afternoon, having entered the water at 8:45am. Coast guard are investigating how the mix-up occurred.

Lost divers/separation from dive boats is one of the most common diving incidents in the UK, and a major cause of call-outs for the RNLI. UK divers are advised by the Coastguard to carry surface visibility aids such as flags and Surface Marker Buoys.

Note: I have no trace as to whom I owe this piece. Since it was of interest, I chose to publish it along with my apologies to the transmitter. Marcel.



An Introduction to Underwater Photography

Diving With a Still Camera

by Thomas Falardeau

NOW THAT YOU HAVE YOUR UNDERWATER CAMERA (DIGITAL OR FILM, HOUSED OR DEDICATED) YOU ARE QUIVERING WITH ANXIETY TO TRY IT OUT. NEW TOYS ARE FUN! OF COURSE, YOU'VE GONE OVER THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAMERA AND HOUSING SEVERAL TIMES TO MEMORIZE ITS FUNCTIONS, CARE AND FEEDING. TIME TO GET WET. WELL, NOT QUITE IN THE WAY YOU MAY BE THINKING.

Remember that in my first article in this series I discussed the added complexity diving with a camera generates. Task loading is a real issue and simply jumping overboard on a dive at the Lillie Parsons with your new camera is going to make things somewhat interesting for you. I recommend that you take your camera for a pool dive or two before hitting the open water. Why a pool dive? First of all, it allows you to experience the added task loading in a controlled environment: no current, no boats, shallow bottom, etc. Secondly, it allows you to determine what changes diving with a camera brings in an environment with little external distractions, such as changes in buoyancy, gear configuration, etc. Thirdly, it allows you to practice some fundamentals such as hovering near your target (some pool toys on the bottom make excellent practice targets, as do old band-aids and other assorted pool residue) while getting a feel for your camera's quirks and oddities – with digital cameras, you can get instant feedback and start honing technique right away. The store has regular pool sessions during the dive season – just inquire when and where and you can even take pictures of an open water class doing their pool exercises!

You still need to finalize a few things before taking that camera into the open water however. A lanyard to tie the camera to your wrist while it is in use is vital. If ever you

have to let go of the camera for some reason or other, you will not lose it. I also highly recommend that you have a snap bolt on that lanyard so you can clip the camera off to a d-ring on your harness or BCD when it is not in use. This frees your hands for other tasks, such as shooting a lift bag, helping out a fellow diver or dealing with an emergency. You need to decide when and where to get the camera/housing ready for action: at home before leaving or on arrival at the site. If you can, prepare it at home where there are no additional distractions (such as time pressure) and less contaminants. I previously discussed the vital importance of ensuring the o-rings are one hundred percent clean and free of lint, hairs, grit, etc, are lightly greased and the mating surfaces on the camera and housing are equally sterile. Also, and this may seem obvious but people do forget, make sure you have a fresh load of batteries in your camera and strobe and fresh film, if you're not using a digital camera. The last thing you want to do is have to crack the camera or housing open at the dive site or on the boat – that is the easy way to get a leak or a full-fledged flood.

If you have external strobes, you need to adjust their angles with respect to the camera so that they cover the area in front of the camera in which you are most likely to find your subjects. For instance, if you are planning on doing macro shots, you will want your strobes to illuminate as close as possible to the lens – and you will want to dial down the intensity of the flash on those strobes which allow you to make changes, or narrow the aperture setting on your camera if you cannot adjust the strobe. Conversely, if you are planning on doing wide angle shots, you will want to aim the strobes further out and increase intensity or open the aperture. Attaching a small flashlight to the strobe and aligning its beam to the axis of the strobe will allow you to see where it is aiming. If you think you are going to change strobe alignment

under water, that little flashlight will prove invaluable at helping you get it right, especially at night. A couple of elastic bands is usually enough to secure a mini light to a strobe head.

The next decision you have to make is how to transport your camera. It needs to be kept safe from accidents, especially if you're diving from a boat where space is restricted and heavy objects abound. You can ask the operator if he/she



has a camera bin on the boat or bring your own, such as a cooler. Make sure you stow your camera out of the way and let the boat captain know. Most dive boats at Caribbean destinations will have a freshwater rinse/storage tank on board. Not so the dive boats up here since underwater photography is much less wide-spread. Strobes on long arms frequently present a bit of a challenge since you do not want to fold those arms or have them jarred out of alignment after having set up the camera-strobe angles to their optimum relationship



before boarding the boat.

So now you're on the boat or at the dive site and ready to get into the water. Do you do a giant stride entry with the camera in your hand? It all depends. If you have external strobes, I would not recommend it. The impact of the water will jar the arms out of alignment (ask me how I know!). If you don't have external strobes, then yes, a giant stride entry can be done with the camera in your hand. Just make sure it is clipped off on a d-ring somewhere – and hold on tight. However, the usual way to get a camera into the water where you have to jump in (as opposed to wade in from a shore entry) is to have someone on board or on shore hand you the camera after you enter the water. Dive operators are quite used to this. Just make sure you ask before going into the water so they know what to expect. As soon as you are handed the camera, clip it off on a d-ring or put the lanyard around your wrist. That camera should always be attached to your body while you're in the water – you never know what is going to happen to make you let go of it. The last thing you want is to see it sink all by its lonesome.

You're in the water and have your camera. The next thing you want to do is do a leak test just under the surface. Check for small bubbles coming from buttons, o-rings, etc. Don't mistake them for bubbles attached to the outside during initial submergence or from air trapped in external nooks and crannies. If you have a clear housing, check for apparent water infiltration. If anything seems suspect, get that camera out of the water and back on board/shore – you don't have to scrub the dive, but for the sake of the camera, it's best to scrub its dive. Once the bubble check is done, you can start diving. During the course of the dive, check the camera/housing every so often to make sure the increasing water pressure isn't doing strange things to it. If you have a housing, you may feel it creak as its sections are forced closer together. Provided you remain within its rated depth, those creaks are not an issue. I have had a housing start to experience seepage almost 15 minutes into a shallow dive. Good thing I always keep an eye open for such events – I simply aborted the dive and surfaced safely. The camera suffered no damage. As usual, the



problem was operator error.

As you dive, keep an eye open for interesting subjects. It doesn't always have to be a fish or a piece of coral. Wrecks have interesting features that deserve a close-up treatment, such as an eye-bolt, porthole or other. Take the time to imagine how the subject would look. It's easy to take boring pictures (and many photographers do so with wild abandon) but so much more satisfying to get an original angle or look to a familiar subject. The only way to get a feel for it is to take pictures.

We've all seen divers who flit about at high speed, as if getting there and back was the object of the dive. Those divers see very little of the interesting stuff (and use more air). I have witnessed a high-speed diver with a very expensive photo rig swim right over a nook in the reef housing a large and very photogenic lobster – guess who got a really nice picture of said lobster with his less expensive photo rig. Often the difference isn't



in quality of gear, but in the quality of the photographer. Divers aspiring to take good pictures need to be slow and observant. Spend time looking at small sections of the reef or dive site, hover and relax. You'll be amazed

by the photogenic stuff you begin to discover. Start off by aiming at sessile (i.e. non-moving) subjects to practice hovering, framing and shooting without touching the reef/wreck. Try different angles or exposures, try different distances, get a *feel* for the camera. The biggest mistake new photographers make is trying to get a picture of that shy grouper who insists on swimming away the moment you start framing your shot. Trying for the harder subjects straight off is a sure recipe for frustration. You have to work your way up to fish. Start with sponges, tube worms, small crabs and shrimp, distinctive coral and the like. It will help you learn what depth of field you can count on with the lighting you have – that way later on you won't waste shots on fish far enough away that your strobe cannot paint them effectively. All the while you will learn to become quieter, move slowly and move only when necessary, and that is the key to good fish pictures: not spooking them off. To repeat, it takes time to become an effective under water photographer. There are no short cuts.

You need to develop your sense of observation, you need to develop your feel for the shot (lighting, framing, distance, etc) and you need to develop your stillness.

It took me many dives to graduate from photographing common and not very shy arrow crabs to getting good shots



DIVING, CONT'D ON PAGE 8

“When I retire, I will grow beautiful flowers”. Thus speak many. Yet, when retirement comes, no flowers are to be seen, and often, the only ones that grow are on their tombstones, placed there by a loved one.

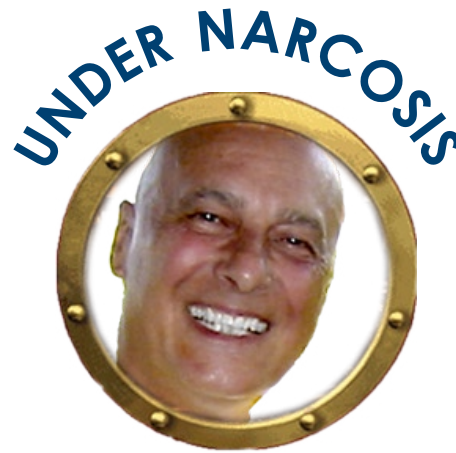
Life is short. Waiting too long may make our dreams quite *passé*, so much so that they may have been just that: Dreams. I look around me and see so many who wait to buy an article, to take a particular trip, to make a decision.

The excuses are many. “In six months, the computer I saw in the store will be cheaper or perhaps will be faster”. OR “When the kids are grown up, we’ll take that vacation to Greece as a second honeymoon”. OR “I’m waiting for the price of that camera to come down a few hundred dollars before I purchase it...” Of course, by the time the price comes down, the new cameras are better and still expensive. As for Greece, it will have to wait, because Junior is going to be a daddy and “they will need us” to help out. And so goes life, hurtling forward, without respite, leaving all our dreams behind. Time is seldom favourable to us. There are many in their urns or caskets who never got to do the things they wanted. There comes a time when “later” is no more.

Of course, one shouldn’t fall into the “Now at any price” category. This group is making the day for such non benevolent companies as Master Card, VISA or American Express. Soon, the

question becomes: “Is it better declaring bankruptcy, having done the things we wanted or having a great financial record and pass all dreams by? I’m not sure I can or want to address this issue.

However, I can recall how I got into diving. My wife Céline came back from work one day in 1983, telling me she had met someone at a meeting who was



The “Later” Syndrome

telling people around him that he had his C-card and was now a diver.

I told my wife I knew a lot about diving because I had wanted to be diver for a long time. I had even bought a colour TV in order to watch the Cousteau’s specials. Céline asked: “Why

didn’t you take a course”? “Because the equipment is very expensive”, I answered without hesitation. She then mused: “Do you think you’ll take your money with you”?

To make a long story short, a few weeks after this, I was taking a course and even paying for my son’s. I found the money for both of us, course and equipment. In 1984, we were diving!

All along, I had bought houses, cars, suits and what not, and yet, I couldn’t afford to pay for satisfying a dream that was so very dear to me? I didn’t declare bankruptcy. No one had to go in rags to work, but soon, I discovered many more passions and found ways to satisfying them. It’s all a question of dosage or priority I guess. If you know me, I’m not a dresser. I’d rather spend my money on my toys.

I must admit that it’s not as simple as that. To start of with, I had a wife who understood what a passion means and the necessity to satisfy it if it’s worthwhile. Painters, musicians, poets, writers have all made the necessary sacrifices to make their passion a reality. We all have reasons to thank them for not waiting “later”.

I waited a long time to think this way and I must admit I still have, albeit, not too often, a tendency to “think about it” a bit too long. I’m not quite cured yet, but I have a feeling that “later”, I’ll be completely cured.

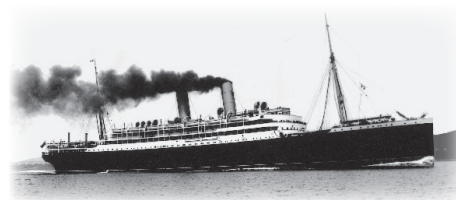
Marcel

Empress Of Ireland 90 years Ago

The Canadian Pacific Liner, the Empress of Ireland, left Quebec harbour with 1477 persons on board, bound for Liverpool on May 28, 1914.

While proceeding on the St. Lawrence, near Rimouski, she encountered dense fog after an approaching ship was sighted and was rammed by the same ship, a Norwegian collier, the Storstad at around 1:45 AM on May 29.

The damage broadside between her funnels was so great that her watertight doors could not be closed. In addition, she had no power, so she could not be beached and only four lifeboats could be gotten away. She sank in fourteen



shocking and horrifying minutes, taking to her grave with her 1,012 lives. Most passengers never had time to get to the bridge, let alone out of their cabins. Many of those who were able to jump overboard, perished in the freezing cold water. This sinking still stands as the worst maritime disaster in Canadian history.

Built in 1906, The Empress was 172 m long by 20 m wide and displaced around 14 000 tons. She had 7 levels, the highest of which stood 14 m above sea level.

She was driven by two huge bronze screws weighing 25 tons and two motors which gave her a cruise speed of 20 knots or about 37 km per hour.

The wreck lies in 45 m off St. Luce and was visited since 1964 by hundreds of divers who brought back “souvenirs” either for profit or for museums. Many died in doing so because of the poor dive conditions on this wreck: Dark cold waters and sometimes, intense currents.

Marcel

DIVING, CONT'D FROM PAGE 6

of the tiny, elusive and shy cherub fish. By the time I managed to get good shots of it, I knew instinctively how far my strobe would light, what kind of resolution I would get at the given zoom setting and how long it would take my camera to fire (remember shutter lag from a previous article). At that point, I had become adept at firing from the hip at targets of opportunity, but it took me literally hundreds of pictures of slow or immobile subjects to absorb the lessons about setting up a shot. And where I have the time to set it up, I still take that time. No point in shooting from the hip at a lobster or other slow moving critter. It won't go very far while you take the time to frame it, get your depth of field adjusted and take the shot.

I guess one element can sum up a lot of the technique issues: patience. Impatient photographers will not be successful. Patient photographers will take the time to hone skills on less demanding subjects, will wait for the right shot to come by and not try to force it and will learn to let the fish come to them for a picture – not chase after the fish. Remember it swims faster than you.

One point I would like to make and hope you will remember at all times. Never, at any time, should you touch the marine life or coral to get a shot. Do not pick that small arrow crab from its perch to get a better picture. Do not harass the frogfish so that it changes position just for you. Do not hang on to that outcrop of star coral to stabilize yourself for a shot. I have seen this done and have nothing but contempt for those who do it. A good underwater photographer respects the environment and works within it. He or she does not attempt to force the environment to work with him or her. If you can't get the shot, then so be it. There will be other opportunities on other dives or other dive trips.

A note on buddies. As I have mentioned before, a photographer will be focusing on the pictures and will be a less than perfect buddy. It is up to his or her non-photographer buddy to take responsibility for leading the team. But that does not mean the buddy becomes a baby-sitter. A good buddy is also

an excellent spotter, finding that next good shot and marking it for the photographer. A buddy also makes a good underwater model, especially in warmer climes. Yes, other divers make good photography subjects too, and if you give your friends copies of the photo albums you make of a joint dive trip, they will enjoy seeing themselves in their diver disguises.

At the end of the dive, hand your camera back up to the boat operator or a buddy on shore. Don't try to climb rickety ladders carrying your rig. As soon as you can, rinse the outside off with fresh water, working all the buttons to ensure you get the salt crystals and grit out of them. At the end of the dive day, once you are back in a clean environment, open the housing, remove the camera and let both of them dry inside and outside. Remove o-rings and service them in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, storing them in air-tight plastic bags. One final tip: on the trip or between dives, keep the camera/housing out of direct sunlight – it will make the shock of going from the warm air into the colder water less stressful on the plastic and metal. If there is no camera tank, a towel will do.

A note on housings in a tropical climate. Dive destinations in the south are high-humidity, warm areas – with air temperatures exceeding water temperatures. This creates a particular problem for housings. Readyng the camera and housing will inevitably trap moisture inside housing. If this moisture is captured at ambient air temperature, it will hold more moisture than air whose temperature is equivalent to the cooler water temperature. The excess moisture will condensate on the inside of the housing once it is in the cooler water, potentially fogging the lens and port. The trick to avoid this is to ready the camera in an air-conditioned room, where the ambient temperature is lower than the water temperature, and thus holds less moisture.

Hopefully the above will get you started. Next month's final article on still cameras will focus on night photography and post-dive editing. After that, I will start to discuss my experiences with the underwater video camera.

Maritime Tragedies Comparison Chart

	Lusitania	Titanic	Empress	Britannic	Andrea Doria
Service Career	07-09-07 15-05-07	12-04-10 12-04-15	08-06-29 14-05-29	15-12-23 16-11-21	53-06-14 56-07-26
Length (feet)	780	882.75	648.9	903	697
Breadth (feet)	87.8	92	65	94	90
Displacement (gross tons)	30,396	48,239	14,191	48,158	29,100
Speed (knots)	25	21	20	21	23
Max. capacity Passengers/crew	2,198	3,547	1,860	3,525	1,730
Passengers/crew Final voyage	1,959	2,228	1,492	1,056	1,706
Lives lost	1,198	1,523	1,014	30	46

Chart taken from: <http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/chart.html>

June is Computer/Gauge Month

**All dive computers
PC interfaces
analog or digital gauges
and compasses are on sale**

Dive Rite, Scubapro, Uwatec, OMS, TUSA, Genesis, Mares, Oceanic and Suunto