

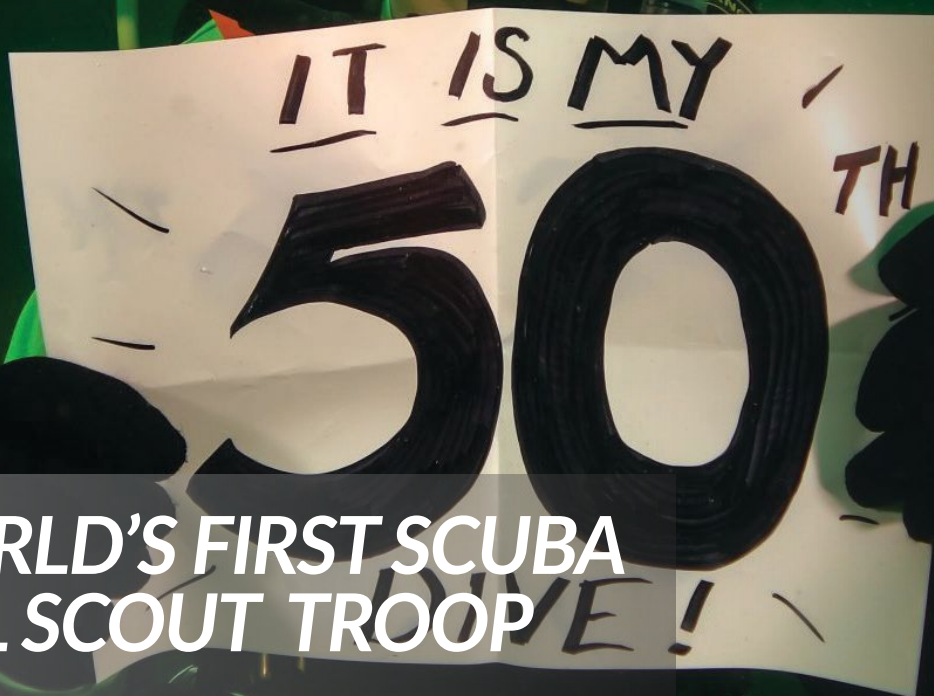
Scuba & H2O

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ADVENTURES MAGAZINE

08 SCUBA FOR LIFE

DIVE HOPE RETURNS FOR 11TH YEAR



20 WORLD'S FIRST SCUBA GIRL SCOUT TROOP

WHISTLING DEATH

DIVING A SUNKEN CORSAIR FIGHTER PLANE

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WHISTLING DEATH 32

From the Publisher

The Promise to Protect Earth

This beautiful living planet is our home; a habitat for more than seven billion humans and billions of a diversity of species from microscopic to immense. This planet provides us food, shelter, and the life we so desperately attempt to preserve. She provides us these free services and yet in return for the favor of life we have become cruel and selfish. Despite our will for survival we have destroyed the very soil we profess to value, we rape her resources, pillage her oceans, and leave a trail of destruction and decay.

Each and every day the human species continues its descent into a dark abyss; yet, there are those warriors who have fled from the draw of corruption and want. These warriors push ahead; they promise to protect the earth and those species who call it home. They call out to others, their voices often drowned by the cacophony of guttural sounds beckoning them into the abyss. The warriors are relentless, each step they take is challenged, often they ache for the raw wounds inflicted upon the soil, yet they persist.

We can all become warriors. We have the responsibility to our planet earth. Our first role is to reduce our own carbon footprint. Then, raise awareness, encourage others, and replace waste and disposable items with long term solutions and eco-friendly choices. Speak loudly and be brave – even in the face of a nation willing to die for their ignorance and desire to be right (even if right means the destruction of this planet). We only have her – we will either survive or simply become a part of the annals of history told by future visitors of this planet. Let's promise to protect this earth.

Selene Muldowney
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About the Cover:

Girl Scout Ella S. Is the first scout to complete 50 dives in Scuba Troop 40348. She celebrated by cleaning up trash from the bottom of Lake Travis with her fellow troop members.

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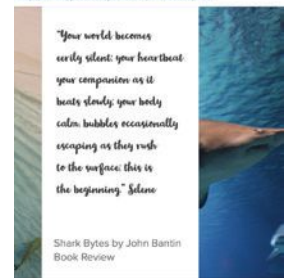


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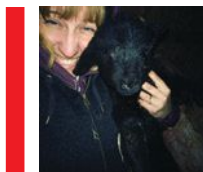
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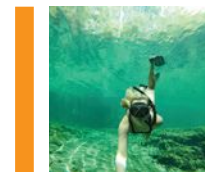
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Caitlyn is Content Writer and Editor for Divers Alert Network in Durham, NC. She is an active PADI and NAUI Instructor, RAID Rebreather Instructor and graduate of the University of Georgia.



A BEACH IS NOT ONLY A SWEEP OF SAND, BUT SHELLS OF SEA CREATURES, THE SEA GLASS, THE SEAWEED, THE INCONGRUOUS OBJECTS WASHED UP BY THE OCEAN. **HENRY GRUNWALD**



GARY LEHMAN

Gary came to diving later than most, and loves to get away when he can – which is not enough! Some of the most memorable experiences ever for Gary have been underwater with his club buddies, turtles and sharks! When not diving or thinking about it, he writes about it!



ALEC PEIRCE

Alec Peirce is recognized as one of the finest scuba diving presenters of his generation. He holds instructor certifications with seven different scuba training agencies plus many honorary awards from the scuba industry including the prestigious "Platinum Pro 5000 Diver".



ELIZABETH BABCOCK

Elizabeth Babcock, LCSW has been a certified diver since 2000. She is a psychotherapist and community educator who has written extensively on topics of interest to anyone seeking to maximize their health and overall enjoyment of life, though her primary specialty is the treatment of overeating. She recently published "[Why We Overeat and How to Stop.](#)" (available at Amazon.com).



JAMES LAPENTA

I am a recreational and technical SCUBA Instructor whose primary goal is to create divers that are safe, skilled, and competent. I'd rather lose business than certify an unqualified diver. It is my moral and ethical duty to call out unsafe practices, standards, and those who defend or use them.



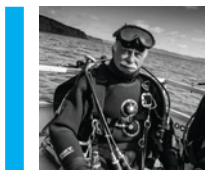
BONNIE MCKENNA

Destined to a life with adventure, Bonnie McKenna took her open water dive in 1955 with no wetsuit or BCD, a J-valve tank, double hose regulator, and fins that weighed a ton. She explored the world, with camera in hand, as an international flight attendant. Now retired, she spends her time working as a photojournalist and conservationist.



JOHN C FINE

The author Dr. John Christopher Fine is a marine biologist, Master Scuba Instructor and Instructor Trainer. He is an expert in maritime affairs and has authored 26 published books. His large format coffee table book: TREASURES OF THE SPANISH MAIN contains information and photographs of Spanish colonial shipwrecks.



GENE PETERSON

An accomplished wreck explorer, historian, speaker, instructor, and business owner, Gene is a man who wears many hats, and who has made significant strides in surfacing the deep history of New Jersey shipwrecks. Gene has over 40 years of experience in these fields, and we look forward to sharing his stories and expertise in future editions.



MICHAEL SALVAREZZA

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters of the world since 1978. In that time, they have spent thousands of hours underwater and have accumulated a large and varied library of photographic images. They have presented their work in many multi-media slide presentations, and have appeared previously at Beneath the Sea, the Boston Sea Rovers Underwater Clinic, Ohio ScubaFest and Our World Underwater.

Eco-Photo Explorers (EPE) is a New York based organization and was formed in 1994 to help promote interest in protecting the environment through knowledge and awareness through the use of underwater photography.



CHRISTOPHER WEAVER



JEFFREY GALLANT

Jeffrey Gallant is the Editor of the Diving Almanac and a shark researcher. He started diving at age 14 in 1982 and has since led scientific and training expeditions around the world. Among other accomplishments, Gallant was trained as an aquanaut in Romania in 1995 and he dove with Equipe Cousteau in 1999.

It took only ten minutes to cover the 3-mile distance from the Hawaii Kai marina on Oahu's south-east side to the dive site and now a little over 110 feet of sea water separated us from history. We quickly geared up in the warm Hawaiian sunshine and within minutes we were giant-striding off the stern of the dive vessel and beginning our descent in clear, blue water to the white sandy bottom. The conditions were nearly perfect: almost 100-foot visibility, 80-degree water temperatures, only a mild current and virtually no surface swell.

And there, lying low to the sand, was the object of our quest: the decaying hulk of a sunken Corsair fighter plane. As we approached the wreck, a flood of thoughts washed over our brains. We reflected on the history of this class of military aircraft, we imagined the final moments of this Corsair's final mission, and we contemplated the stark contrast between the ferocity of war and the serenity of this plane's final resting place...

The Corsair was the first fighter plane built with Pratt & Whitney's R-2800 Double Wasp engine, an engine with a double bank of 9 cylinders designed to increase the power of the company's already famous Wasp engine. The Vought division of United Aircraft submitted the original design in 1938.

An especially large propeller was included in the plans in an effort to make the most efficient use of the powerful engine, necessitating the extension of the fuselage by several feet and also leading to the development of the unique bent-wing structure. Only the Stuka dive bomber used by Germany's Luftwaffe had a similarly shaped bent wing.



WHISTLING DEATH:

MICHAEL SALVAREZZA & CHRISTOPHER P. WEAVER

The sunken Corsair has found peace at the bottom of the Pacific

DIVING A SUNKEN CORSAIR

The first test flights of the Vought 4FU Corsair took place in mid-1940 and the first combat missions were in 1942 in Guadalcanal. It was February 14 and eight American fighters, two bombers and two Corsairs were lost in the battle. It was not a good start for the Corsair aircraft!

Throughout the rest of the World War II, Corsairs saw action in various parts of the Pacific Theater. The exploits of one particular squadron, VMF-124, known as the Swashbucklers, became famous as its ace pilot, Al Jensen, was awarded the Navy Cross after he successfully attacked a Japanese airfield at Kahili. In later years, the actions of this squadron were memorialized in the now famous TV program Black Sheep Squadron. Other famous pilots included Charles Lindberg, who fought combat missions with Corsairs over Wotje Atoll.

Corsairs played integral parts in the battles at Tarawa, Rabul, the Philippines and Okinawa, where they were

The propeller is now home to corals and other marine growth



R FIGHTER PLANE





The sunken aircraft is home to a collection of reef fish



A diver films the wreck

used as a successful defense against Kamikaze pilots.

Once the conflict ended, the Corsair was the only World War II operational fighter that continued in production after the war ended and well into the 1950s. The United States retired the plane after the Korean War, but several other countries continued their use with the final combat uses of Corsairs taking place in 1969 during a conflict between El Salvador and Honduras.

... We swam slowly towards the skeletal remains of the sunken Corsair and immediately were struck at the small size of the plane. We had somehow imagined it to be bigger but here, in front of us, was a fuselage the size of a small bus with a broken off wing to the side. Although a small site, the remains of the plane were teeming with life. This was literally an oasis of life in a featureless sandy bottom about 110 feet below the surface. Schools of snapper, grunts and soldierfish have taken up residence here and in the distance a colony of Garden eels, poking their heads out from the sand, seem to be keeping watch.

As we swam towards the front of the plane, we came across the broken blade of the large propeller and, with the metal skin eroded, the engine itself is visible. Hard corals are growing on various sections of the wreck. The plane is now a fully intact marine ecosystem.

Swimming over the wreck towards the tail end, we came across a large orange colored Frogfish, who seems to have taken a liking to the sunken plane and made it a home!

No diver can resist the temptation to sit inside the cockpit of a sunken airplane and as we carefully settled in, our thoughts turned to the plane's final moments...

Although the Corsair aircraft were often involved in some very dangerous combat situations, this particular one did not meet with a dramatic end. It was on a routine mission in 1948 over the waters of Hawaii when the engine began to sputter and fail. The experienced pilot knew he would not make it back to base, so he performed a perfect water landing, with the wheels up, flaps slightly extended and

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speed reduced. The plane was not damaged in the landing but it was also not designed to float. As the pilot floated on the surface in his lifejacket awaiting rescue, the plane sank to its current location.

...We concluded our dive on the sunken World War II Corsair by swimming off into the sand to gaze upon the corpse of the plane from a distance. There, bathed in the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean and illuminated by the distant rays of the sun, the plane sits, a remnant from a time of turmoil and conflict. The sunken Corsair, a device of war designed for conflict, is now enveloped by quiet serenity and is home to a plethora of marine life. Peace has come to the Corsair and, as we begin our ascent, we wish her well.

