PSDiver Monthly

Volume 8 * Issue 106

November 2013

Slaying Your Demons
Master the Basics
by Mark Phillips

Lightning and the Diver

MISSION REPORT

EVENTS

FOUND ON THE WEB

Continuing Education
SLAYING YOUR DEMONS
Master the Basics

Mark Phillips

You are 55 feet below the surface in a slow moving river searching for a revolver used in a homicide. It is black as night dark and the water is not quite cold but not terribly comfortable either. The oozy mud bottom is littered with trash discarded from the weekend crowds who gather in the park to drink and play in and around the river.

There is no such thing as visibility and the murk layer is the consistency of Jello that has not quite set. Your arm brushes against something that offers a strange feeling of resistance. Not a counter force or fixed impact, the feeling is dramatic and though unusual, begins to feels familiar as pain begins to transmit through the small punctures in your flesh.

There was no warning, no hint that this could be here. You force yourself to stop all movement but it is too late. You head first into a nest of old, discarded barbed wire.

Your upper body is trapped as well as your tethered arm. You call up to topside on your comm system and let the team know your problem. You are a good diver and you have trained pretty regularly and feel confident in the water. This is not that big of a problem for you. You tell them to give you a few minutes to try to get yourself free.

You already know it and it is flashing in your brain like a forgotten turn blinker; they remind you anyway. You had been granted a time extension and your air supply is going to be running low very soon.

Deep breath, use the training. Think before reacting. Using your free hand, you slowly feel around to gauge just how bad it is. It’s even worse than you think and you decide to give it one try before calling for help. As you try to maneuver your free hand to reach the barbed wire that is cutting into your arm your anxiety is going up. You are working harder than you thought and your normal air consumption is a fantasy number as you feel greater resistance when you draw in a breath of air through your full face mask.

But your pony is full and your alternate regulator is on a necklace below your chin. You are a little more worried than you thought you would be as it occurs to you that you have never run out of air before or been forced to actually use the pony system. As you finish the thought, you exhale and try to breathe in. All you feel is resistance.

Not only are you out of air, you are out of air after exhaling. Worse yet, you had been breathing fast and now you suddenly feel an urgent need to breathe.

Your main cylinder is empty. Only the imagined taste of aluminum is coming when you try to inhale. You are out of air. But you trained for this type of scenario and you are equipped with another air source.

You do not have enough air to speak. Your tethered hand is the one caught and you do not have the ability to pull your line to signal your emergency.

As the seconds fly by, the air you are becoming desperate for is in the pony cylinder. It is turned on and pressurized.
You checked that before you started the dive. Your team was smart and added a regulator necklace to your standard equipment and the second stage regulator you now desperately need is just below your chin.

You pull your full facemask up and off your head with your free hand but in doing so catch the sleeve of your suit in the barbed wire. You yank your arm back and imagine you hear the tearing of the fabric as a barb punctures through and digs deep into your forearm - fixing your arm in place.

Unable to move, you can no longer reach the regulator under your chin. You know it is there, teasing you. In your mind’s eye, you can see it. It is right there – all but touching your bottom lip! Your lungs are screaming for AIR!!!

You know from a previous training day that if you take your time you may be able to get your teeth on the edge of the regulator and maneuver it to your mouth. You never tried it when you had the opportunity in training. The couple of guys who did got laughed at and it was more fun to go along with the majority than to risk them laughing at you. Now, no one is laughing and you are working hard to keep panic at bay. You saw them do it, it is possible. If you can do it, you get to breathe.

You live.

If you can’t, you do not.

You can hear your own heart beating now; that steady thud getting louder and faster. You can feel a pulse through the pain of one of the wounds on your arm. Lungs aching to breathe, desperate for air with panic overwhelming you, you make a last ditch frantic effort and ..... ?

How does your story end?

What Are YOUR Demons?
Those things that prevent you from moving outside your comfort zone to learn something new, that keep you from trying something unusual or intimidating; the things that you sometimes work to avoid doing or refuse to do because you convince yourself that you don’t need to – those are your demons.

The voices in the back of your head that come from the dark recesses of your mind and convince you that you are the best diver in the world and you do not need to do basic training – the same voice that whispers for you to make an excuse and maneuver around in a class so you do not have to do something that may be basic but challenges you personally.

A good friend of mine will continually encourage his advanced skills students to quit listening to that “that little man in your head”. The little man whispers to you and wants you to give up. The little man in your head tries to convince you that you cannot do what must be an impossible skill set.

The little man in your head wants you to quit now before someone laughs at you or you embarrass yourself by showing weakness. You know your skills are lacking or at best rusty but your Type A personality will not allow you to show weakness. You convince yourself that you can do it... but never try. THOSE ARE YOUR DEMONS TOO.

Basic Scuba Skills Can Save Your Life!
Are your basic skills, your comfort in the water and your past experiences enough to give you the ability to keep back the panic when you know you are out of options? Will you be able to think through and solve a life or death problem when your lungs are screaming for air? Are you sure? Are you willing to bet your life on it? Are your teammates willing to bet their lives on it?
Have you ever participated in an air deprivation exercise? Back in the 70’s we trained recreational divers much differently than we do today. The final pool night was reserved for “Hell Night” and was one of the class days we had the most fun with - and I mean students, assistants and instructors. Some called it “Sharks and Minnows” and while that is still a training evolution sometimes taught in advanced classes, it is very different from what we did way back when.

Students were told to expect anything and were forewarned that every skill learned in class would be employed. The assistants were encouraged to be as ruthless as possible without actually hurting anyone. Masks were suddenly ripped off faces, regulators torn from mouths, air turned off and tanks unbanded from harnesses. Weight belts were removed and weights stripped off the webbing and left on the pool bottom. Divers were stripped of gear and then left to figure out how to get it back together and then back in place. Their only rule was that they were not allowed to surface.

The extent of harassment was sometimes harsh, perhaps even bordering on cruel. But those students were taught how to deal with problems. They were taught airway management. They experienced air deprivation and learned how to think and solve a problem when all they wanted to really do was bolt to the surface for a breath of air.

When our students left us, brother – they knew how to dive and how to problem solve under stressful conditions.

For a very long time now, I have shared my opinion that most of the PSD fatalities we have experienced in our ranks can be traced back to poor basic scuba skills. I have talked about this on the forums and written about it as well. I do not expect everyone to agree with me but so far, no one has argued a counter point.

As Public Safety Divers we consider ourselves different from recreational divers. As Public Safety Divers we should, at the very least, consider ourselves professional divers. Why would we settle for anything less than professional quality basic scuba skills? We are professional divers, right?

Ok – you dive with dry suits and full face masks all the time. You rarely, if ever, dive outside the department and all of your time in water is diving either on a mission or with the team during training. I hear that a lot. Is it an explanation or an excuse? Is it justification for being unable to clear a fully flooded mask more than once on a single breath or breathe on a regulator without a mask in place?

What we tend to forget and want to skip over is the fundamentals that basic scuba skills represent. Can you achieve neutral buoyancy? Can you remove and replace your weight belt or BCD? Can you remove and replace either while maintaining neutral buoyancy? Why not?

Can you clear a fully flooded full face mask with one breath? Can you do it more than once? Have you ever considered a scenario that might require you to buddy breath using a full face mask. Do you know how you might accomplish that task?

Would you be embarrassed if you had to show your personal dive log as a means to validate your skills experience?

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PSDiver Monthly Issue 106
Can you clear a standard scuba regulator three different ways? I bet you were only taught two and never gave it another thought.

Do you know at least one condition that can exist that will cause your regulator to purge itself and deplete your air supply in minutes? Could that knowledge save your life?

Open Water students should be taught how to snorkel before they get to scuba. By mastering the fundamentals of snorkeling, they learn how to equalize their ears. They learn how to clear a fully flooded mask. They learn how to clear a snorkel at least two different ways. They are introduced to environmental protection, learn about weighing, how to properly use their fins, air management and more. Are these important skills for a Public Safety Diver? Can you clear a fully flooded scuba mask four or more times and then clear your snorkel without having to lift your head out of the water? These are entry level scuba skills. New open water divers should be required to achieve this before they earn the right to move to scuba training.

But to do it, they have to overcome some phobias and slay some demons. They learn how to push through a need to breathe when they still have a final task to perform. They start a lifetime learning process of panic control.

Theyre is the easy process. They are new and know nothing and have no prior experiences to call upon. Experienced divers will find some of these skills more difficult because of their past experiences and their, sometimes decades old, demons.

You Are a Professional Diver
You are a professional diver, a Public Safety Diver. At one point or another in your diving education, you were required to execute basic scuba skills as part of your certification process. Are you as good now as you were then? These skills represent the foundation your diving career is built on. Now that you are a professional diver, a Public Safety Diver, you have gained more skills – each based on the foundation you originally built. Just how strong is it?

Can you recover a lost regulator while maintaining neutral buoyancy? Can you do it more than one way? Can you do it without a mask on? When was the last time you actually tried it? Can you do it with your off hand while maintaining neutral buoyancy?

Can you breathe just on a regulator without a mask on or holding your nose? It may seem silly at first but when was the last time you did it? 60 seconds while sitting on the bottom of a 10 foot pool should not be your test....

Most of these skills represent an understanding of buoyancy control, airway management skills with a little dexterity and muscle memory from repetition thrown in. More importantly, they represent the ability to cope with stress, manage panic and build personal comfort in the water. That comfort is derived from knowing not only how to do a variety of skills but also knowing you have the ability to do them successfully.

Can you tie a bowline knot in your search line? Can you do it underwater? Can you do it with cold water gloves on? Can you do it with cold water gloves on and wearing a blacked out mask? Can...
you do it with a light line like typically found on a marker buoy? Are you sure? When was the last time you actually tried it?

Public Safety Divers can be faced with life or death situations at any time. Their ability to work out a solution to a problem will be dependent on their personal skills and comfort in the water.

Comfort is only going to accrue through education, practice, experience and by realistically challenging your skills. To do that you have to accept responsibility for yourself and do what is necessary to discover or admit your weaknesses and then work to improve. You have to face your demons.

**Strengthen Your Foundation**
Once you master and maintain a professional level quality of basic scuba skills, the foundation you lay will be strong and dependable. If you disregard the “easy stuff” as being too simple or beneath your training level, you may be making a fatal mistake.

**For example:** Do you have the simple ability to tread water for thirty minutes or more? Basic open water students can do it for ten minutes....

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**INSTRUCTORS and DIVEMASTERS**

Be honest! We, and I include myself, tend to teach the “remove and hold ... but don’t drop technique” more so than we teach the actual drop. In a large class, we have to spend a lot of time retrieving the belts and having the students put them back on or back in place. The time requirement for something so simple is a bit much. When we get to open water, we teach “remove and hold ... but don’t drop technique” because we worry that we may not be able to find all the weight packs or belts and we still have the retrieval issue.

When was the last time you actually dropped a weight belt or integrated weights in training? I teach an annual class in Austin each year and it includes some basic water skills. With a very few exceptions, when we do a basic snorkeling drill and I have participants drop their weight belt, it is the first time in either

"I teach the weight belt release and drop in the snorkeling portion of my classes. When we get to scuba students doff and don without dropping. But I teach from the very beginning that the weight belt should be held away from the body; arm extended and held until the body tilts at a 45 degree angle. Then they let go.

At that point and FOREVER MORE they are to remove their weight belt the same way –release and extend arm. What they do with it after is determined by need.”

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In a worst case flood / hurricane scenario, if you fell into the water and were carried out of sight by a swift current, we may have to finish an initial rescue before we can get a boat and find you downstream. Will we find you alive on the surface or will we find your body when the water recedes?

How long can you tread water?” If you can do ten minutes, is that enough? Can you manage thirty minutes, forty five minutes or an hour? Maybe that is a skill challenge your team should attempt.

How long would it take to get a boat on your scene and launched if it was not part of the original response?

**Face Your Demons**
No one doubts your courage or dedication to your job. You will run into a burning building or fight your way through a gun battle to help a stranger. You willingly put yourself at risk in order to protect others.

When we are working at our career job, we have to react instantly and rely on training and instinct. When we move from our career job to the diving specialty within, something changes. The task

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When Noah balked at building the ark
God simply asked”

“Noah, how long can you tread water?”
becomes much more personal and the risk awareness much more heightened. When diving our divers often do not have enough training to be able to react instantly to threats or the sensory ability to observe and recognize potential threats. It is the current nature of the genre of diving. But that does not mean we cannot improve or facilitate change!

Take a personal stand and have the courage to do the same thing for yourself that you are willing to do for strangers. Learn how to improve your odds of survival in a worst case scenario.

Go back to the basics and develop

To do that you must first identify your personal demons and start slaying them! How many have you learned to overcome in your diving career? What is left remaining? What steps have you taken to learn to control your own panic and increase your own survival skills? Where do you start?

a VERY long time that they have performed the actual skill or in some cases the FIRST time they ever actually dropped a weight belt! We have done nothing wrong, but shouldn’t WE be better? Should not our skills be honed, practiced and capable of being performed with ease?

As Instructors our skills are supposed to be demonstrable quality. Ditto if we use Dive Masters. These classifications represent the first levels of a professional diver in the recreational world. The example we show and convey to students is the mark students will set for themselves to achieve. If we use acceptable skills examples, they will become just acceptable divers. Demonstrable quality is the goal we have as instructors so that our students see and know exactly what is expected of them.

If you are unsure of the quality of your skills, get in a pool and practice. Prove to yourself you can do them and your students will see and feel your confidence when you demonstrate skills for them.

As Public Safety Divers we consider ourselves different from recreational divers. As Public Safety Divers we should, at the very least, consider ourselves professional divers. Why would we settle for anything less than professional quality basic scuba skills?

We are professional divers, right?

demonstrable and PROFESSIONAL quality basic scuba skills.

Make the ordinary, extraordinary.

Once demonstrable level skills are mastered, you will find that the repetition of basics can become boring. When that happens, it will be one indicator that you have indeed improved your skills. When you and your team reach that point, then advance those same skills and make them more challenging.

Strengthen or rebuild your foundation and make it strong!

As a team, there are numerous ways to safely challenge your basic scuba skills using both basic and advanced scuba equipment. If you have older divers on your team or know divers who certified in the 70’s or early 80’s it is likely they will remember some of the challenge programs they were required to do. Never be afraid to ask for help or suggestions for training.

If you have training outlines or suggestions that you would like to share, send them to PSDiverMonthly@aol.com and we will include then in a future article.

Are you one who manages to avoid a certain drill because you are afraid you may not look as good as the rest of the team? Do you hide behind excuses or contrive ways to avoid particular training evolutions?

If you would like to discuss this topic or any other, join our discussion group: CLICK HERE TO JOIN

PSDiver Monthly Issue 106
MISSION REPORT

Dickson County TN. Mission Report 11/2013

On 11/11/13, A Clarksville resident went fishing on Johnson’s Creek. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) advised they suspect the man fell out of the boat after they found his boat after it floated ashore at the Mouth of Johnson’s Creek boat ramp. TWRA and Cheatham county authorities believed the incident originated in the Cheatham County area but further investigation placed the incident in Dickson County and the incident was turned over to Dickson County Authorities.

According to the TWRA, the fuel line had been disconnected and it appeared the man was doing a repair or maintenance and possibly fell overboard. After an interview with family, searchers were told that the missing man loved fishing; especially the area in where the boat was found. TWRA advised they had located his boat near the mouth of Johnson’s Creek. They suggested it was likely the best area to start searching.

On 11/15/2013, the Dickson county Underwater Search and Recovery Unit conducted an Interview with the brother of the missing fisherman. According to the brother the missing man was last known to have been wearing light weight boots, blue jeans, a thin camouflage jacket, a button up long sleeve flannel shirt, and a “Florida Gators” hat on at the time of his disappearance. The brother also advised that the victim had 2 heart stints placed about 2 ½ years ago, had been diagnosed with hypertension, and may have bipolar issues.

DAY 1: 11/11/13 (Monday)
At 22:28 the Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit was requested by Dickson County Rescue Squad, Dickson County Sheriff’s Office, and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, to respond to the “Mouth of Johnson’s Creek” boat ramp to search for a missing boater.

Upon arrival at the scene, The Dickson County Rescue Squad briefed the team on the missing boater incident. A representative of the Dickson County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) was requested to respond to scene for logistic support and lights. Ashland City Fire Department already had search dogs on scene from Stewart County, Tennessee, however no points of interest were found. The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery team linked up with their rescue squad boat to begin sonar operations along with Ashland City Fire Department. Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit requested Bloodhound Search and Rescue They were able to provide both sonar assistance as well as a K9 unit.

Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery, Ashland City Fire Department, Blood hound Search and
Rescue, Dickson County Rescue Squad, and Montgomery County Rescue Squads begin combing the area in and around the mouth of Johnsons Creek around 23:30.

While teams searched using sonar, a helicopter from the Tennessee Highway Patrol flew the area searching the shoreline. The missing man’s boat was towed by Ashland City Fire Department to the Cheatham County Boat ramp for further inspection by Law Enforcement officials. The Bloodhound Search and Rescue team did not use their search dog support due to the weather conditions.

Around 4:30 the weather conditions cause the search to be suspended. Search teams were to return at 8:00 and if possible resume the search.

**DAY 2: 11/12/13 (Tuesday)**
The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery unit arrived on scene around 9:45 and began to formulate their action plan based on the weather condition and available resources. After notifying Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and Dickson County Sheriffs Department of their action plan, the Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery unit begin to prepare for the search. The Dickson County EMA was notified and were requested to provide logistical support. A search of the shoreline was conducted by the Ashland City Fire Department and the Army Corps of Engineers. They were to search for evidence on land that could indicate the missing man had been able to swim to shore and were to search the surface of the water in the event the man’s body was to surface. No evidence was discovered.

The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit, Army Corps of Engineer, and Ashland City Fire Department resumed their sonar search and were able to find some points of interest. After further review, the sonar images were determined to be viable areas to drag for the victim.

The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery unit released Dickson County Rescue Squad and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to begin dragging operations while the Army Corps of Engineer and Ashland City Fire Department continued with their sonar search. After a lengthy period the drag operation recovered nothing pertaining to the case. The Dickson County EMA representative arranged for the the local American Red Cross to provide meal support for the search crews. The Tennessee Highway Patrol continued to provide helicopter air search support but was unsuccessful as well.

At 17:00 the search operation was called off and was set to resume the next morning.

**DAY 3: 11/13/13 (Wednesday)**
On 11/13/13, The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery unit was unable to return to the scene because of prior engagements. They were informed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency that there was no floatation of the victim overnight and that Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency was bringing to the scene a Remote Operated Vehicle and a Boating Reconstructionist to search areas of interest pinpointed by the Sonar Units.

Search operations ceased at 17:00. The areas pinpointed by sonar had been cleared and no additional information or evidence was discovered.

Due to the length of the search operation and with no leads on the missing victim, the TWRA advised that the search operation was going to slow down and some
activities would be postponed until more evidence shows up.

**DAY 4: 11/14/13 (Thursday)**
The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery unit followed up with Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and was advised that Ashland City Fire Department and the Army Corps of Engineers were searching the area in the event that the body had floated. Nothing was located and further operations are still on hold.

**DAY 5: 11/15/13 (Friday)**
The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit contacted TWRA and advised they would have a 2 person boat/sonar team respond to the area to perform both surface and sonar search of the area. The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit arrived out on the scene at 10:34a.m and begin their search.

Weather conditions interfered with their efforts throughout the day but the team was able to perform a sonar scan from the “Mouth of Johnson’s Creek” Boat ramp to Johnson’s Creek Recreational Boat ramp. This was an area approximately a half mile long and the team made multiple passes through the river channels including coves, slough, and back water areas. No additional points of interest were found.

With the weather predicted to continue to worsen The Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit decided to continue to search throughout the night and into Saturday afternoon on 11/16/13.

Around 15:00, the winds calmed and the Bloodhound Search and Rescue was requested to respond with their K9 unit to help with investigation. They arrived around 23:00. After a quick briefing the two agencies began searching.

**DAY 6: 11/16/13 (Saturday)**
Both the Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit and Bloodhound Search and Rescue Unit were on scene searching the water using Sonar Imaging. At 00:34am, Bloodhound Search and Rescue Unit located an object that appeared to be in the shape of a person. They requested the other sonar unit to scan the area to validate their finding. The K9 alerted in the area as well.

![Sonar Image](image_url)

After verification by the second sonar team, both teams agreed that the object was a body. The water depth was between 6 and 8 feet but the location was near a working dam and the immediate area and potential hazardous conditions were unknown to the teams on site. Knowing that the weather was going to worsen and considering the extended length of time it would take to recall a dive
team to the location, a decision to attempt to capture the body with a dragging device was made.

The drag bar was a 4 hook set drag. The drag boat traversed the same area and each time the second boat followed and verified the location of the body. The body was moved during the attempts but was never lost due to the team efforts of both boats. The hooks used were later determined to be too small. The team does not normally employ dragging operations and used what they happened to have on hand.

On the sixteenth attempt a hook snagged the flannel shirt worn by the missing fisherman and the team was able to pull him to the surface. The body was secured for transport and marker buoys placed to mark the location of the find and recovery. The crews then returned to the boat ramp and notified the agencies involved in the investigation.

Approximately 06:30 the law enforcement officials responsible for the investigation arrived on site and took possession of the body and began their search of the victim for personnel effects etc. A positive ID was made using the ID found in the victim’s wallet.

Around 08:15 members of the teams involved in the discovery of the victim as well as a representative of the TWRA returned to the discovery / recovery location to record azimuth, triangulation, and GPS coordinates. The body was released to the Medical Examiner’s Office of Davison County who sent a transport van to the scene to pick up the victim.

Around 09:00 the Dickson County Underwater Search and Recovery Unit and Bloodhound Search and Rescue Unit returned to service.
NEWS

Did Google Maps capture a grisly murder
http://www.dailydot.com/crime/google-maps-view-murder/
April 16, 2013By Aja Romano

A pixelated image in Google Maps appears at first glance to show a man in the act of dragging a bloodied corpse down a pier and over the edge, leaving a telltale stain of red behind him.

While the coordinates of the map—posted in a Reddit thread by a dumbfounded resident of the affected Netherlands area—is only a few days old, the image seems to be dated from 2009. That wouldn't stop Dutch cops from prosecuting. (There's no statute of limitations for murder.) Photo via Google Maps

Three Arrested, One Shot In Reported Rogers County Sasquatch Hunt
Nov 03, 2013 Dee Duren, Tony Russell, NewsOn6.com

ROGERS COUNTY, Oklahoma - Rogers County Sheriff's Department arrested three people in what appears to be an accidental shooting. One of the men told deputies he’d shot his friend while the two were on a Sasquatch hunting expedition.

"If [they] had just been factual, upfront and truthful with us and explained that this was truly an accident, as strange as it might sound, we would have went ahead and investigated and probably nobody would have [gone] to jail," Rogers County Sheriff Scott Walton said.

The two men were hunting - apparently for Bigfoot - around 177th East Avenue and Tiger Switch Road Saturday night.
Omar Pineda reportedly heard a "barking noise," jerked and shot his friend in the back, authorities say.

"When you start off with an explanation like that, do you believe anything after that?" Walton said Sunday morning.

The men met emergency responders at a QuikTrip near Interstate 44 and 161st Street. The wounded man is expected to survive.

Pineda, 21, was arrested for reckless conduct with a firearm and obstruction.

Deputies also arrested Perry Don James, Pineda's father-in-law. James threw his son-in-law's gun in a pond on the property because he is a convicted felon and was afraid to have the gun on his property, Walton said.

James, 53, was booked on complaints of felon in possession of a firearm and destruction of evidence. The shooting victim was also carrying a gun, though he dropped it when he got shot, according to a news release. Dive teams spent much of the day looking for a gun tossed in the pond.

"The aggravating part of this whole deal is that their dishonesty wasted several man hours of not only the Rogers County Sheriff's Office, but our partners at the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office," Walton said.

Deputies arrested 22-year-old Lacey Jane Pineda, Omar's wife, for obstruction because she told police at one point that someone else had shot at her husband and his friend, according to RCSO.

"To our knowledge, no Bigfoot sightings in Rogers County," Walton said. "I think our focus is career criminals and thugs, and we're going to stay focused on that and let somebody else go after Bigfoot."

Divers search river for homicide evidence


14 Nov 2013

Police divers are searching a King Country river seeking evidence relating to the death of a man found in a shallow grave on Wednesday.

A 57-year-old Taumarunui man has since been charged with the murder after the body of a man thought to be in his late 50s was found in Ongarue, about 20km north of Taumarunui.

He is due in Taumarunui District Court on Thursday but Detective Senior Sergeant Dave Kirby says police inquiries have a long way to go.
"There are four scene examinations under way: two at residential properties, and one at the grave site and a vehicle of interest. The examinations are expected to continue over the next 48 hours," he said.

The police dive squad is also present and is being tasked with searching the Ongarue River for evidence.

A post-mortem examination is due to take place on Thursday afternoon.

About 30 police staff are investigating.

Det Sen Sgt Kirby says police are interviewing witnesses and want to hear from anyone who saw suspicious behaviour in the Ongarue area between last Friday and Wednesday.

Body in well mystery: Police divers remove corpse as seven men arrested on suspicion of murder

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/warlingham-body-well-police-divers-2798029
16 Nov 2013 By Anthony Bond

A body found in a well by gardeners has been removed by specialist police divers today.

The grim discovery was made by workmen at a large house in an affluent suburb yesterday afternoon.

Specialist police officers began the process to retrieve the body today.

The operation was made difficult because of the size of the well, which was seven feet deep to the water line with the water approximately four feet deep.

But speaking this afternoon, a Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Specialist officers, including Metropolitan Police divers, attended the scene and the process of recovering the body from the well has been completed."
Two men found the body as they were doing clearing work in the front garden of the large property in Audley Drive, Warlingham, Surrey.

Seven men have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

A post-mortem examination will take place on the body at East Surrey Hospital mortuary tomorrow afternoon.

Detective Chief Inspector Cliff Lyons said earlier: "It is a murder investigation.

"As far as I am concerned, when a body is found in a well it either fell in there or was placed in there, and the evidence is apparent that the body was placed in there."

He said it was not possible to be sure of the body's gender, but, judging by the size, it was most likely to be an adult, not a child. The person was white.

He told reporters at the scene: "It’s not been there for an extended period of time; it will be a matter of weeks at the most."

He was not prepared to discuss who lived in the house, or a suggestion that the body was wrapped in carpet. He could not confirm or deny whether the body was intact.

Asked about claims by local residents that there had been quite a bit of trouble in the past couple of years with the people who lived in the house, and that police had been called many times, he said: "The residents have expressed concern, there is intelligence to support that notion, yes."

He appealed for anyone who had concerns about a person who has gone missing, especially if they had connections to that area, to come forward.

Those arrested were held last night, and are aged between 21 and 27.

Man drowns trying to retrieve ball
Nov. 30, 2013 By LEN ASHWORTH
POLICE divers have retrieved the body of a 63-year-old Lithgow man who went missing in Lake Wallace at Wallerawang on Thursday.

The grim recovery was completed just after 2pm, almost 24 hours after Neville Piggott got into trouble in the lake while retrieving a ball he had been throwing for his dogs.

Mr Piggott and his wife Francie had taken their two dogs to the lake mid-afternoon Thursday for a swim and a game.

They went in their ute to a popular little beach at the northern end of the lake near the sailing club.

Around 4.30pm Mr Piggott waded into the lake to retrieve a ball and is believed to have slipped unexpectedly into deeper water.

He immediately got into difficulties.

Sofala man Norm Forbes had just loaded his sailing boat onto its trailer to leave and was about 50 metres away when Mrs Piggott called for help.

Although himself not a strong swimmer Mr Forbes went to the stricken man’s assistance.

He said Mr Piggott appeared to have already gone under the water twice by the time he reached him about 10 metres from shore.

Mr Forbes was able to get his arm around Mr Piggott but was unable to make progress to safety.

He said there were currents and a lot of underwater weed.

Despite Mr Forbes’ desperate attempts Mr Piggott slipped from his grasp, disappeared beneath the water and this time did not resurface.
Police officers and VRA members who were quickly at the scene entered the water with other members of the public in a futile bid to find the man.

Two helicopters from the ambulance and police air wings made repeated low-level sweeps of the lake before police divers also joined the search.

Family members, including Mr Piggott’s wife, watched the search effort, realising as time went by that all hope was lost.

The search continued until dark without success and resumed early yesterday involving Lithgow VRA and SES members and Bathurst Police Rescue.

Also looking on was Mr Piggott’s best mate, his cross kelpie Scotty. Scotty gazed continuously towards the water, his tail between his legs, whimpering the whole time for his missing master.

Mr Piggott was a retired railwayman who resided in Bayonet Street, Littleton. He was believed to be a non-swimmer.

As for Mr Forbes who did all he could to rescue him, it was his first visit to the lake with his trailer sailer. It is a visit he will remember for all the wrong reasons.

**Murder inquiry launched after body found in well**

A murder inquiry is underway after a body was found dumped at the bottom of a garden well in Warlingham, near Croydon.

[Video](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10454448/Murder-inquiry-launched-after-body-found-in-well.html) 16 Nov 2013  By Patrick Sawyer

Police are investigating a murder after a body was found dumped at the bottom of a garden well.

Two gardeners made the grisly discovery while working in the grounds of a house in Warlingham, near Croydon, on Friday.

Seven men have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

The body was recovered with the help of police divers after a protracted operation.
It has been removed from the scene and a post mortem is to be held on Sunday at East Surrey Hospital.

Scotland Yard said the two workmen found the body as they were clearing the front garden of the large property in Audley Drive, which stands in an acre of grounds in the commuter town.

Detective Chief Inspector Cliff Lyons said: "It is a murder investigation. As far as I am concerned, when a body is found in a well it either fell in there or was placed in there, and the evidence is apparent that the body was placed in there."

He said it was not possible to be sure of the body's gender, but, judging by the size, it was most likely to be an adult, not a child. The person was white.

He added: "It's not been there for an extended period of time; it will be a matter of weeks at the most."

Police were not prepared to discuss who lived in the house, or a suggestion that the body was wrapped in a carpet.

Asked about claims by local residents that there had been trouble at the house in the past couple of years, and that police had been called on numerous occasions, DCI Lyons said: "The residents have expressed concern, there is intelligence to support that notion, yes."

Neighbours said the house where the body was found is owned by a Greek Cypriot family who run a garage nearby and use it to house casual workers from Eastern Europe.
Jean Summers, 81, said: "There are always different people coming and going from there. They work in a garage round the corner. But it sounds like some of them fell out and there's been some sort of trouble."

One retired policeman, who lives on the street, said the area was relatively crime free and the discovery of the body had come as a shock to residents.

He said: "It's a very quiet area, but I'm afraid the transient workers who live in that house have caused a few problems, throwing empty drink bottles in the street, arguing loudly, that sort of thing."

Those arrested were held on Saturday night, and are aged between 21 and 27.

Police have appealed for anyone who had concerns about a person who has gone missing, especially if they had connections to that area, to come forward.

Anyone with information is urged to call police on 020 8721 4961 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Divers search river after £60,000 (about $100,000) found in water

Police divers have been searching a river near Spalding after sixty thousand pounds in cash was found floating in the water.

Detectives say they have no idea where the money came from but suspect it could be linked to the proceeds of crime.

They think more bank notes might still be in the water and have been searching downstream from where the cash was discovered.
Cape Town - Police divers pulled the bodies of two kidnap victims from murky waters, where they had remained unseen for a month.

The decomposing bodies are believed to be those of missing men Thembani Mnyamane, 27, and Sisa Walaza.

The duo were among five men who were caught and beaten by a mob who accused them of breaking into Samora Machel homes.

On Wednesday, a month of searching for the men, who were thought to be in prison, came to an end - and it was all sparked by the discovery and identification of another corpse.

Last Friday, the body of an unknown male found on the banks of a swamp on October 10 was finally identified by relatives as that of Mcebisi Bobozayo, 20. Mcebisi was the cousin of Thembani.

Mcebisi’s corpse had been found about 100 metres away from where Thembani and Sisa were found on Wednesday in a swamp in Driftsand, near Mfuleni.

Mcebisi’s brother Mbongeni Bobozayo, 33, says he did not even know his boet was missing until last week Monday.

"From what I hear, he went to his cousin’s house that night and found a group of men there beating him (Thembani) up,” he says.

"Mcebisi was grabbed and also accused of being a part of this group that breaks into houses.

"He was thrown into a van that belonged to one of the men who claimed to have been robbed.

"By then the police were there and they were taken away.

"That was the last time anyone ever saw him.

"I started searching frantically for him (last Monday), in hospitals and I finally found him at Tygerberg Mortuary.”

Police spokesperson Captain FC van Wyk says the first corpse was found by a man who was cutting wood in the area.

"The deceased was taken to the mortuary but he has been identified by his family as one of the victims,” he says.

"And on
Wednesday, bodies (skeletons) of two men were found dumped and covered with branches of trees in a swamp.

“Nyanga detectives managed to locate the bodies through the use of technology.”

Thembani’s family tells the Daily Voice although they are relieved his body has been found, it could still be a long time before their attackers are brought to justice. His brother Anele Mqoboli, 26, says: “A day after he disappeared, his landlord came to me and told me one of her other tenants witnessed Thembani’s kidnapping.

“I went to this man and he told me Thembani was woken up by a group of men who told him he had been fingered as a suspect in the housebreakings.”

The witness claims by the time Thembani was picked up by the mob, there were already two badly beaten men sitting in the back of the van with tyres around their necks.

“He said that the van and another car were escorted by police out of the area and he assumed they were being taken to the police station.

“I did not go to the police station because I told myself Thembani was older than me, he knew what he was doing and prison was nothing new for him,” he adds.

“He would call me from Pollsmoor if he got bail, but I never got the call.”

However, Anele says a few days later there was talk in the township that a group was bragging about killing three men and disposing of their bodies.

“I did not take it seriously until I heard it myself. Then on October 30, I went to the police station to report it,” adds Anele.

“There they told me they would open a kidnapping case until the bodies were found.”

Anele then carried out his own investigation and tracked down a man who was part of the mob that attacked his brother.

“I then managed to get hold of one of the guys who were present at the beating and begged him to come and tell our family where my brother was,” Anele explains.

“I told him that all I wanted was my brother’s body. People get beaten to death all the time here, but their
bodies are left behind so that the family can bury their dead - but they were denying us that. “They were arrested and I was shocked when I heard they had been released after just two weeks in prison.”

Captain van Wyk adds: “One suspect, a 36-year-old man, appeared in Athlone Magistrates’ Court and remains in custody until December 2, where he will re-appear for bail application.

“The arrest of two more suspects is imminent. The two men were arrested after the incident was reported in October. They appeared in court but the case was withdrawn due to the lack of evidence.

“Some of the charges the suspects will face are of kidnapping and murder.

**Divers Recover Recorders from Laos ATR Wreckage**


December 1, 2013  JENNIFER MESZAROS AVIATION INTERNATIONAL NEWS

After an exhaustive two-week search, local salvage divers recovered the flight-data and cockpit voice recorders from the Lao Airlines ATR 72-600 that crashed into the Mekong River in Laos on October 16. Divers initially lost the signal of the recorders on October 27 after the sonar and acoustical locating equipment provided by France’s Bureau d’Enquêtes et d’Analyses (BEA) ceased working due to excess usage in the turbid waters of the Mekong.

Two members from the Air Accident Investigation Bureau of Singapore (AAIB) replaced the equipment the following day.

On October 29 divers salvaged a fractured section of the starboard wing. The following day they located the empennage, despite concerns that the tail section and the recorders were becoming increasingly buried in the Mekong River bed. The 30-foot section broke apart from the aircraft and had become weighed down by rocks and sand.

Crews made several attempts to raise the empennage over the course of two days. However, the tail section
repeatedly slipped from its tether. After BEA officials showed divers how to locate the position of the flight-data recorder, they managed to retrieve the device by hand on October 31.

A day later the divers and salvage crew raised the empennage and extracted the cockpit voice recorder from the wreckage. They also recovered the airplane’s horizontal stabilizer. Government officials took possession of the recorders and planned to send them to one of four countries for analysis. As of November 10 divers continued to salvage other parts of the aircraft from the Mekong.

The regional turboprop, en route from the Laotian capital Vientiane to the southern city of Pakse, crashed in rainy weather while on approach to Pakse International Airport, killing all 44 passengers and five crewmembers. Lao Airlines manager of flight standards and safety Phanesuth Thammachalurne and Laotian director of civil aviation Yakua Lopangkoa confirmed that air traffic controllers were monitoring the ATR’s approach when they observed that the aircraft’s altitude had dropped too low as it approached the airport. The crew also failed to activate the pilot-controlled airport lighting to high intensity. Reports indicated broken clouds prevailed at 1,000 feet agl. ATC instructed the pilot to perform a go-around. Seconds later, controllers lost communications with the aircraft.

The turboprop crashed less than 2,000 feet from the riverbank of the island Don Phaling. Several government officials suggested that the aircraft’s landing gear touched down on the edge of Don Phaling before it crashed into the Mekong. Investigators found three shallow indentations in a naturally cleared area on the bank, some 25 feet above the river. Debris from the aircraft, including small pieces of the airframe, was scattered throughout the area.

The pilot, a 58-year-old Cambodian national with 30 years of flight experience, had flown for the carrier for four years.

The October 16 crash marked the third fatal accident for Lao Airlines since it started operations in 1976 under the name Lao Aviation. In 1993, all 18 occupants died when a Harbin Yunshuji Y-12-11 struck trees in heavy fog, crashed and immediately caught fire. In 2000 a second Harbin Yunshuji Y-12-11 crashed in the mountains while on approach, killing eight passengers.
Among five other reported incidents, a Cessna Grand Caravan made a successful emergency landing in a rice field following engine failure in 2009, said Lopangkoa. He also reported that in April of this year a de Havilland Canada Twin Otter 300 took off with a known landing-gear problem and crashed 650 feet from the end of the runway.

Lao Airlines has operated a fleet of ATR 72s for the last 10 years. The carrier also operates Airbus A320s and Chinese-made MA-60s for regularly scheduled short-haul domestic flights and routes to China, Thailand, Cambodia, Korea and Vietnam.

Oops - divers recover ute that got away at Jerseyville
Dec. 6, 2013

A COMMERCIAL dive crew and an industrial-sized crane were needed to recover a car that got away from its driver on the boat ramp at Jerseyville Bridge last Sunday night.

The Nissan Navarra dual cab ute rolled down the boat ramp into the Macleay River sometime between 8.30pm and midnight.

Commercial Dive Solutions from Coffs Harbour was called to look for the car and - after an hour of searching - found it about 20m from the base of the boat ramp. The strong currents and the unusually high tide reduced visibility to zero and the divers had to locate the car by feel.

They attached a sling to the car which was then gently hoisted onto dry land.

High, not dry: commercial divers had trouble locating this Nissan Navarro ute, with limited visibility due to high tides and a strong current
Deer Dies After Firefighters Pull Buck From Icy River
12/09/13 Terry Keshner

WILLOW SPRINGS, Ill. (CBS) – Despite the brave efforts of two fire department divers, a deer died Monday morning after it was pulled out of the icy Des Plaines River in southwest suburban Willow Springs.

Tri-State Fire Protection District Chief Jack Mancione said the 8-point buck was spotted in the river near Columbia Woods around 8:45 a.m. Emergency crews rushed to the scene, and two divers in thermal suits jumped in the water to try and free the deer from the ice.

“They made an attempt at approaching the deer. The deer turned, and swam deeper – broke through the ice, and swam deeper into the river,” he said.

Eventually, the divers got a rope around the deer and crews on shore were able to pull it out of the water.

“The problem was, we didn’t want to get too close because we were afraid of getting gored or kicked,” said one of the divers, Tri-State Firefighter Steve Vogel.

“His head was going under water, and I thought it was going to be the last time.

“So I jumped in the water. We put a rope around his horns, and I tried to keep his head up as we guided him.”

Emergency workers wrapped the deer in a blanket and placed it in a van which took the animal to the Animal Welfare League’s shelter in Chicago Ridge.

While en route to the shelter, the deer still had a pulse, but shortly after they arrived at the shelter, the buck’s heart stopped beating.

“They raced him into surgery, worked on the deer for about 30 minutes, and could not bring the heart back,” said Animal Welfare League executive director Linda Estrada. “The hypothermia just was too much for him.”

Estrada applauded firefighters for putting their own safety at risk to save a deer.

“They did above and beyond. I mean, they risked their lives to try getting the deer; going in that
FAST FACT:
It is estimated that nearly 8,000 people die each year from drowning after falling through ice.

It is estimated that nearly 8,000 people die each year from drowning after falling through ice.

water,” she said. “I’ve never seen anybody go that length, and I commend them, and I hope ... I’d love to shake their hands and give them a big bear hug.”

Mancione said it was a shame the deer didn’t make it. It was unclear how long the buck had been in the frigid water before it was spotted and divers arrived to help.

“From a human perspective, we probably did everything possible for that deer that could have been done for it,” Mancione said.

Estrada said the incident serves as a reminder about the dangers of such frosty weather.

“This is something to show that - with children, with adults, with all the winter activities that go on - how deadly ice is,” she said.

INGERSOLL TOWNSHIP, MI — A Midland County man showed that he and his dog are best friends during an emergency Thanksgiving Day water rescue that gave them both something to be thankful for.

Early in the morning Thursday, Nov. 26, Gary Bellaver walked outside and saw one of his two black Labs, 10-year-old Dakota, falling through the ice of a partly frozen lake.
lake in his backyard. The lake included ice and open water.

"Do the dogs know it's dangerous?" asked Bellaver, 50. "No, they can't."

Bellaver knew it was dangerous as soon as he saw Dakota falling in, and he didn't hesitate, pushing a paddle boat onto the ice and jumping in the boat to try to break a path in the ice.

"My plan was to get to the dog," he said, noting about 200 feet of ice separated him and Dakota.

Bellaver’s wife and daughter watched from inside after calling 911.

As Bellaver became exhausted from trying to break through the ice, Midland County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Tom Anderson, a member of the county dive team, arrived and put on a dry suit that he keeps in his car.

Anderson rolled onto the ice and delivered a rope and a flotation device to Bellaver.

Other emergency responders arrived and used the rope to pull Bellaver's boat across the ice to safety. They asked him to go inside to warm up while Anderson got in the water and swam to the dog, pushing the whimpering pet out of the water.

"He busted all the way out to the dog and got the dog on the island," Bellaver said. "Then one of those inflatable boats busted through the remaining ice in the channel we had made."

Anderson and Dakota made it out of the water and went inside the house, where the dog and its owner reunited.

"I've had these dogs since they were puppies," Bellaver said.

Dakota is a great hunting dog and has grown up with the Midland family, Bellaver said. The dogs are no longer allowed outside without supervision until the ice is safe.

"He's a part of this family for sure," Bellaver said.

Bellaver said he is thankful for the members of the dive team and other emergency services who came to his aide.
"Let me put it this way: I totally respect the millages I pay," he said. "Every available service was here, and I'm thankful these resources are available.

"This is where taking a little of your paycheck for taxes and helping support the local systems in the local communities … it totally paid off is what I realized."

**Mission boy in hospital after falling into frozen pond**


Dec 09, 2013  CBC News

**Safety on Thin Ice 5:41**

**Boy, 3, was underwater for five minutes before his mother managed to pull him out**

A three-year-old boy from Mission, B.C., is being treated in hospital after falling into a frozen pond Monday morning.

Mission RCMP say the boy was playing outside around 11 a.m. PT, when he followed the family dog onto a pond in the backyard.

Both the boy and his dog fell through the ice, plunging into the freezing water.

Mission Fire and Rescue Chief Larry Watkinson says the boy had been underwater for five minutes before his mother managed to pull him out, get him inside and start CPR. By the time emergency crews arrived, the boy was unresponsive.

"They were treating him for hypothermia — he was in and out of consciousness, obviously, with the circumstances he's been through," says Watkinson. "But paramedics did an incredible job and really did bring him back from a bad situation."

The chief says the boy had strong vitals before he was airlifted to B.C. Children’s Hospital, where he remains.

A hospital spokesperson said the parents had not given them consent to discuss the boy's condition with the media, but that the situation remained "fluid."

The family dog did not survive the incident.

**Jenks Firefighters Train For Rescues On Thin Ice**


Dec 10, 2013  Tess Maune, News On 6 -
JENKS, Oklahoma - Six-year-old Jorge Luna, who died last weekend after he fell through the ice on Tulsa's Joe Creek, is one of 11 people statewide who have died due to the recent winter storm. And the body of 15-year-old Claremore boy, Keith Chambers was found in an icy pond Tuesday.

Frozen ponds and creeks are a very real danger during the winter months. That's why Jenks firefighters are out training right now on the best way to pull someone out of the frigid waters.

"It's a more realistic scenario," said Captain Paul Jenkins. "The guys can feel how difficult it is to get up across the ice."

Pushing their way through an ice-covered pond, Jenks firefighters got about as close to a real-life winter water rescue as possible. "The ice is going to break up underneath them. They have to maneuver their way through it, so it's better than any classroom experience," Jenkins said.

12/20/2013 Related Story: Body Of Missing Claremore Teen Recovered From Pond

Jenkins said the training exercise has been on the books for some time now. The frigid temperatures, just happened to fall at the right time.

"Oh, it was freezing," said firefighter Paul Linam.

The team was dressed in air-tight dry suits.

"It covers your whole body. It doesn't allow water to get in," Linam said.

One firefighter played the victim far out in the water while two others broke through ice and paddled out to make the save.

One firefighter played the victim far out in the water while two others broke through ice and paddled out to make the save.
"[It was] a little difficult. We had to break up the ice before we got out there. Very tedious-- we'll put it like that," Linam said.

But it wasn't exhausting enough to keep Linam from wanting to try again. He made a special request to run the rescue mission a second time.

12/10/2013 Related Story: Police Release Name Of Tulsa 6 Year Old Who Died After Falling Through Ice

"The more experience, especially with the child that fell in, in Tulsa, it opens up your eyes that things can happen around here," Linam said.

The ice on the pond is about two inches thick--not enough to walk on. Firefighters say the closer you are to shore, the thinner the ice, and it doesn't take much to fall through.

"[It's] not good to walk on, no. It's too dangerous to be out there, so we need to keep the kids off the ice," Jenkins said.

If a child or adult does end up in icy water and you're on the shoreline, Jenkins said you should call 911 first. Then you can try to throw something to them, to help pull them back to land, but never go in after that person.

POSSIBLE HUMAN BONES FOUND IN LAKE SONOMA
http://celebrityexaminer.com/2013/12/10/possible-human-bones-found-lake-sonoma/
December 10, 2013 | By Randy Miramontez

SONOMA COUNTY, CA – A recreational diver has reported seeing human bones in Lake Sonoma and dive teams are currently on scene searching the area. According to the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department, a recreational diver located the human bones on December 6 and called the Sheriff’s Office to report what he had found. He was diving in the area of the Lake Sonoma Bridge when he found the possible remains at a depth of approximately 95 feet.

Today at around 8 a.m. the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Department along with a dive team from the Marin County Sheriff’s Department started their search. They were being assisted by the Oakland Police Department who brought in an underwater robot in hopes of finding the remains.

FAST FACT:
At birth, humans are born with 350 bones. Fully developed adult humans have only 206 bones.

CHALLENGE – Research and learn when fusing starts and finally ends. If you were recovering bones of a 4 year old, how many bones would you expect to find?
FROM YOUR SPONSORS

DOG TRICKS – IT’S ALL IN THE TUCK OR DON’T GET CAUGHT HANGING OUT
Written by Kathy Long, Diver & DUI Web Systems Manager

November 2013
Ever been caught just hanging out? It happens quite a bit. In fact we see this particular fashion statement at DEMOTOURs quite often. Nothing is really wrong with the look. When it comes to warmth though tucked is better.

To tuck or not? For warmth, tucking in your drysuit hood ‘skirt’ will be your warmest option
We’re talking of course about the warm neck collar on your DUI drysuit and the skirt on your DUI self-venting drysuit hood. It’s easy to keep the collar tucked in place during your dive. You just need to don your hood in the proper order.

First put on your drysuit. Next put on your hood. Now ‘tuck’ in the skirt under the warm neck collar. It’s important to don your hood BEFORE you put on your DUI Weight & Trim System and BCD/tank. Putting your hood on first helps keep the skirt tucked into the warm neck collar. Tucking in the skirt will give you extra insulation between the latex/silicone neck seal and your skin. This is the warmest option.

EXTRA TRICK: Make your drysuit hood last longer AND take the stress off your neck by taking off your hood the easy way. First pull the chin piece up slightly. Take both hands and grab the hood at the top on each side. Give it a pull and it’s off. This saves wear and tear on both the hood and your neck. We have a super quick video showing just how to do this - DOGTV QUICK TIP – HOW TO MAKE YOUR DRY SUIT HOOD LAST LONGER.

L-3 Klein Appoints Frank Cobis as Vice President and General Manager
SALEM, N.H., November 21, 2013 – L-3 Klein Associates, Inc. announced today the promotion of Frank Cobis to vice president and general manager. Mr. Cobis replaces John Cotumaccio, who has retired from L-3 Klein after seven years of service.

“Frank has a strong background in program execution, engineering and operational management, along with outstanding customer focus and comprehensive knowledge of the marine technology marketplace,” said John Fox, president of L-3 Ocean Systems. “With more than 30 years of experience in the marine electronics industry, he is well-positioned to lead L-3 Klein’s continued business growth into the future.”

Mr. Cobis most recently served as the vice president of programs for L-3 Klein, managing numerous navigation, maritime security and sonar projects for both domestic and international customers.
Before joining L-3 Klein in 2004, he was the general manager of L-3 SeaBeam Instruments, a leading provider of ocean mapping sonar systems used in government, commercial and research applications.

Mr. Cobis received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Eastern Nazarene College.

L-3 Klein, a division of L-3 Marine & Power Systems, is located in Salem, N.H., and is a leading sensor technology provider that designs and manufactures high-resolution sonar systems and radar-based security and surveillance systems. With more than 45 years of experience, L-3 Klein’s customers include commercial, government and military organizations; shipping and offshore oil companies and related support contractors; maritime facilities; academic institutions; and underwater vehicle manufacturers. To learn more, please visit the company’s website at www.L-3com.com/Klein.

Comprising more than 25 operating companies, L-3 Marine & Power Systems (L-3 M&PS) is a worldwide leader in maritime automation and control, navigation, communications, dynamic positioning, and power distribution and conditioning for the U.S. Navy, allied foreign navies and commercial customers worldwide. With over 80 locations in 20 countries, L-3 M&PS is a cohesive, global partner with extensive capabilities and a proven track record in delivering the highest level of technology, service and integration. To learn more about L-3 Marine & Power Systems, please visit its website at www.L-3com.com/MPS.

Headquartered in New York City, L-3 employs approximately 51,000 people worldwide and is a prime contractor in C3ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) systems, platform and logistics solutions, and national security solutions. L-3 is also a leading provider of a broad range of electronic systems used on military and commercial platforms. The company reported 2012 sales of $13.1 billion. To learn more about L-3, please visit the company’s website at www.L-3com.com.

Safe Harbor Statement Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995
Except for historical information contained herein, the matters set forth in this news release are forward-looking statements. Statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to events or conditions or that include words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “estimates,” “will,” “could” and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements set forth above involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from any such statement, including the risks and uncertainties discussed in the company’s Safe Harbor Compliance Statement for Forward-Looking Statements included in the company’s recent filings, including Forms 10-K and 10-Q, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made, and the company undertakes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements.
Letters to the Editor

Over the last couple of months I have been almost overwhelmed by the volume of email I have received from subscribers. Over the years I have tried my best to keep the magazine from being overrun by any particular corporate mantra and make an effort to keep my own editorials agency generic. I have never been afraid of sharing my opinions either. My goal is and always has been to build our genre of diving and enhance our safety and education.

Recently I stirred up a lot of people with my blunt comments on basic skills within the PSD ranks (and probably will again with this issue). What is remarkable about it though is NO ONE said I was wrong, if fact EVERYONE agreed with my commentary. Apparently the statements hit too close to home for some and they took it as a personal insult instead of rising to the challenge. I have never included the full scope of email I receive. This issue, I wanted you to see how much support there is for advancing our genre of diving. What follows is only some of the email I have received since the last issue.

I am humbled, once again, and very thankful for the continued support of our PSD community. ~ Mark

Mark-
While some misfortune may have been stated in a wrong copy the issue at hand still is “PSD divers by far and large don't know what they are doing”.

I see too many teams out here that function on best guess and self-importance. We lack standards and an umbrella. The current PSD agencies training are not at all knowledgeable in the needs of PSD - only the income from a class. Sorry you were attacked with some of the offended but if the shoe fits on them then they must wear it.

There are very few teams around here that have my respect. They want to do nothing and are only recreational trained. Most have no clue what PSD diving is. I liked your article.

Mark, I understand your position regarding the recent issue of PSDiver. When I read it, I actually agreed with you. I thought the article had good points. I guess I can understand about taking it personal. The question I have, is there any way to get a copy of the original article to pass around with to our instructors with-in the department? If not, I understand.

Mark,
While your editorial may have offended some, the point was timely and well taken – ours is not a world of “thin skin.” I feel strongly about mastery of “basic skills,” and immediately forwarded your editorial to the team.
Thanks for all your hard work to make the PSD community safer and more professional. We still speak fondly of our training week with you in Texas.

Not a problem with this diver! I thought it was a great challenge for PSD. Thanks for publishing PSDiver!! You might have saved some lives!!

Mark---
I started and built a Water Rescue/Dive Team as part of a Volunteer Fire/Rescue organization....and after 25 years and at age 60 decided to step away and let the young
guys have their chance. I was a PSD Instructor with several agencies and a Chief.

I made every mistake in the book...I searched for the best practices and often it took several tries to get it right. In the end--it was right--no critical injuries or deaths...and everyone came home from every call. We were complemented by some of the best trainers in the industry...but it wasn’t because we were perfect, it was because we worked through our problems.

No matter how much praise we received, we were always humbled by how much we had to learn.

In both my profession of publishing and my volunteer love of PSD, I have learned---**The only way to avoid making a mistake is to do nothing!** You can sit on your backside and do nothing...or you can do your best and know that mistakes will happen. You didn’t kill anyone...and you actually got people thinking and communicating.

Good Job My Friend....Thanks for what you do!

Mark,
I re-read the editorial. I could see how someone may take it personally but it is not a personal attack, it is an opinion. I have seen the same things in classes I have been involved in and one wonders whether it is the fact that the leaders were never adequately taught or challenged in the first place or because they do not routinely practice some of the skills and their rust is showing.

That is the reason I like teaching open water diving and rescue diving (among others) because I get to practice my skills and challenge myself in front of students. I may be wrong but, in my opinion, there is no excuse for an instructor or Divemaster that cannot properly demonstrate a basic open water skill.

I never let a leadership person slide by without critique if they have not performed up to my expectations. The ones that make excuses when critiqued are the ones that maybe should not have been passed through a leadership course. The ones that take the critique, learn from it and rededicate themselves to improving are the real leaders.

You are maybe being too hard on yourself, your service to the PSD community is important and valuable and even though my world is mostly a different genre of diving I am a big fan of what you do and how you do it.

Sometimes things need to be said and though they could always be said differently the reality is that diving in any form is an activity that can seriously injure or kill the diver. For that reason alone training needs to be realistic, relevant, and serious and the leaders do need to be held to high standards. Thank you
Mark - Some people can't handle the truth! Have a great day! Look forward to your next publication!!

Unless your article was updated before I downloaded it today I see no problems at all and thank you for it. It is sad when these days cannot say things that are important without taking flak because you did not say it "nice enough".

I am on an all-volunteer dive team in a depressed rural area. The team split from a "dive club" that also did "team" style work to a Sheriff's dive team and a Dive club. We have been pushing actual training vs "chatting" sessions at meetings. We have been trying to get standards up which is hard because the "old" group that are still around have been diving in their poor ways and don't see a reason to change. Many of these divers only have a few dives a year.

Even now we struggle. This summer we had to do a "water test" which is very similar to what you do at part of Rescue Diver. The original plan for year 1 is to see where everyone was and next year it would be a pass/fail. So we do the test and most of the divers pass. 2 that did not were one of our team Captains and one of his friends. Now this "test" has become "tool to determine what each person will be allowed to do on a call out".

Folks with a mindset like this need to see the big picture. I am a fairly new diver but I also strive to be the best diver for many reasons. The most important being my life. Thank You

Mark,
Well said. It speaks volumes for your character. I too have been a Public Safety Diver before most of the diving communities recognized what those words meant or the commitment attached to the title. I have been teaching PSD for 10 years and think your concept was spot on. I could see there was some frustration in your observations. We are a volunteer team that trains twice a month regardless of weather. We spend a good deal of time in contingency training. What if......

Although I can't quote the source, I have heard of studies showing that more incidents in PSD are caused by lack of practicing basic skills than by heart attacks. I teach rote learning and practice basic skills myself on a regular basis lest I be guilty of eroding skills. My team sees the value in basic skills practice. We are 10 divers strong and ALL of us read your magazine and discuss lessons learned. Thanks for your efforts.

I don't know the criticism you faced but way to "man up" and apologize. Your stock went up in the PSD community.

Be well, my brother.

Mark –
First Excuse my writing. I tend to not edit, and write as I speak. First most supervisors and officers will not like what I say. So be it. I am 52 years old, and have earned the right.

Many should not be so thin skinned. Your intentions are good and many should be happy with that. Opinions always differ. And it was an unedited copy. Mistakes
happen. Wish I could remember a tenth of mine. if I could I could write a helluva book.

A friend of mine and I were having a discussion the other day. He didn't like my answer. We were discussing the waterman test. I disagree with it being included in NFPA compliance and he likes it. I explained to him I agree with it as an entrance into PSD. And believe we should all do it yearly. I don't like requirements based on others failures to train. But many use it as a chest beating hour and a half, out of one year to show who they are. I prefer my divers to spend one day a month improving their swimming abilities by regularly swimming 100 to 200 yards after training once a month. No chest beating, just become better.

With many of us in the public safety field of Police, Fire and Emt / Paramedic our training times are limited and just attempting 2 dive training days a month are necessary and time consuming. This isn't a problem to those who only dive. But to the rest of us with other duties as police and fire in active operation positions it is difficult. I can’t even let the waterman test lapse by one day and make it convenient for our training schedule, out of fear of an injured diver, and a lawsuit with the qual being a day late, since it was placed as a requirement, by a well-intentioned.... I won’t say. Some things are better left to the imagination. This is the real world we work in.

So the issue becomes and old one. We create chest beating exercises to cover training. We are all guilty of it.

It is better to beat your chest to get on the team, have hell week, keep those who stay, and train. But alas, We still have those who wish they had become a navy seal but didn't. And then we have those that don't really like to dive, they just like the shirt. Seems like Officers fail to do what they are hired for, and instead make requirements for our shortcomings and guts. And use the excuse... it is to improve us all. Just like power points have eliminated good instructors. So instead of us all sending the ones we need to home, risk making them mad, we try to make rules to get rid of them without us doing our jobs. And rules with good intentions bite us all in the ass.

Hell, NFPA has lots of good intentioned rules, many departments cant and don't have the funds for. These rules will end good officers careers if something happens. And some will go to jail for negligence just trying to serve the public with what they are given. And we do not hold the purse strings. And NFPA and all the well intentioned big boys do not take in the needs of small full time departments.

So what I am saying is ...... you pissed a few off. So what! If they are that thinned skinned, they are in the wrong line of work!

Just remember to be realistic and consider us all when you speak. We all do matter. We don't need too many rules. SOGs work better than SOPs any day. I was once told about a Marine who was teaching an NCO class. He said while holding up a small book. “If your rulebook is bigger than this....YOU HAVE LOST CONTROL“..... And I do enjoy your mag.
Mark,
I am not sure how to start this as I am not a writer and I do not have an expressive talent with words, and until now have never responded to anything like this.

I have finished reading PSDivers Monthly 105 and had to go back and re-read your “Greetings” after getting your follow-up to 105, (I save them all as soon as I get them to refer back to for training reasons).

As a Dive Team Leader for some 20 – 25 divers, and Instructor for the ******************* I believe that you are right on the money.

I can tell by the way your article was written that you did not intend to offend anyone, but you put it out there to make us think about the things we take for granted, the basics.

Those that were offended should take stock in the fact that someone has taken the time to remind them of the basics, and has challenged them to do and be better. We as instructors and divers should always be looking for way to make our skills better and more efficient, from the basic to our advanced skills, but always remembering that the basics are our foundation.

I wish we had training in our area that is as challenging as yours sounds.

Keep up the good work, and don’t let them get you down.

Thank you for making me think.

Mark,

Well said, and extremely professional on your part. I wish more in the industry were as forthcoming, honest and accepting of responsibility as you. It would be a much better industry for it.

While I was not a student of yours, nor offended, kudos. And thank you. Keep up the great work.

* Hey, show me a week when I don't make a mistake and I would assume I was in a coma.

*Kudos to you Mark, integrity is intact

*I have always said; Women have value for what they are, Men have value for what they do. Since I am now retired and do nothing, I may have spoken hastily.

Mark,

Those folks need to take a deep breath, and get a life. The community should remember you have worked your weight belt off publishing this magazine for their benefit. Your self-proclaimed "mistake" was nothing egregious, and they should have trusted that it was published in error - and did not represent a final document.

Too often, we are all spring-loaded to shoot at anybody in the public eye if it makes us feel justified in something. You’ve done an outstanding job with this Monthly (and your career), and it is deeply appreciated by all of us. You’ve made amends; move on, and tell everyone else to go jump in a lake.
Mark,
You don't know me, but I met you many years ago at a DEMA show.

I read your apology e-mail before reading the latest copy of PSDiver magazine, so I was focused on what you might have said that would piss people off. Personally I did not see anything that should be offending to even professionals in the training/rescue industry.

I think you hit the nail on the head when saying people no matter what level of certification or skills they have do not, in most cases, practice the basics enough - if ever.

Not sure if it's my imagination or not, but as the years go by people seem to be getting more "thin-skinned."

I think you do a great job in a tough business.

All I can say is if anybody thinks they can do it better or put in as much time and effort as you have over the years tell them to step up to the plate.

On a different subject:

Dear Mark Phillips,

My name is Ralf Kiefner. I am a professional wildlife and underwater photographer and filmmaker.

We (my wife Andrea and me) have created a new professional and high quality Whaleguide App (for iPad or iPhone) with features that have never been used for guides about whales and dolphins before.

Scientists and whale experts that contributed photos and knowledge are enthusiastic about the App. One said: "... this App will start a new era for future wildlife guides." A Dutch magazine published the headline: "Extra dimension". The German TV (WDR) just made a report with the title: “Whales to go”.

We want to express our fascination about these magnificent creatures and transmit it to the users, so they will get involved. We also want to make their approach to whales and dolphins easier and help in conservation of this fascinating species.

If you think that the Whaleguide App could be interesting for your readers, I would kindly ask you to write a review about Whaleguide App or publish some information about it.

If you are interested in taking a quick look at the short tutorial video (showing a few features), here is the link to the tutorial video on our website (in English and German): ocean-pix.de/whaleguide ...

on Youtube:

in Englisch: http://youtu.be/8DFYysv5JFo

in German: http://youtu.be/SNNYBDbypwg

Of course you may download the video and use it on your website.

If you need more photos (or in high res.) or more information, please feel free to contact me anytime.

--
Ralf Kiefner & Andrea Ramalho - www.ocean-pix.de
Lightning and the Diver

Oceans Rarely Hit By Lightning
NASA has shown with satellite imaging that the oceans rarely get hit with lightning. Apparently the surface water does not heat up enough to cause the positive charge needed for lightning to occur. Potentially, lightning is the biggest weather danger for divers. Every year, lightning kills more people in the US than tornadoes or hurricanes.

Only floods are more deadly. During the last three decades, floods killed an average of 139 people a year, lightning 87, tornadoes 82 and hurricanes 27 in the US, according to national Weather Service figures.

The question should be "what cautionaries should the scuba diver take?" Should he get out of the water? Is he safer in the water than in the boat? If shore diving - stay in the water or go ashore?

Over the years around ten percent of the lightning deaths in the US have been in or near the water- the statistics don't show how many victims were diving or swimming, how many were on boats and how many were on beaches. Lightning is likely to strike the highest thing around, which is why we're told not to take shelter under trees during thunderstorms. If you're in a boat during a thunderstorm, the boat and everyone in it are the highest things around; they're prime targets for lightning bolts.

While people on land can take shelter in buildings or vehicles, those aboard a dive boat that's caught by a thunderstorm far from shore have no place to take shelter. Diving underwater may not be an option. Lightning that hits the water could be deadly because its electricity flows through water.

Scientists know little about what happens when lightning hits water. The electrical current probably spreads in all directions, weakening as it spreads out. Since large numbers of dead fish aren't found after thunderstorms move across bodies of water, the current probably weakens in short distances.

Still, a diver who happens to be underwater when a lightning bolt hits nearby could become part of an unintended scientific experiment on just how quickly the current weakens.

I can find nothing about a possible standoff distance, probably since a prediction cannot be made regarding the location of the strike. Assume that it will hit the highest point, however, and the
Ron Holle, research meteorologist, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, Norman, Okla. has this to say about lightning and water:

"Large numbers of lightning flashes strike oceans, lakes, rivers, and ponds. If there is nothing protruding higher than a body of water or flat ground, then a flat surface is hit.

The area of a swimming pool is small, so it's not usually directly hit. However, the area affecting a pool is quite large. This area includes the surrounding power and telephone lines, and the plumbing around the pool and inside the bathhouse and other structures. These are usually unsafe places during a thunderstorm because the current from a lightning strike will travel easily through the standing water, showers and other plumbing. Since the pump, lights and other facilities have power lines linked to the plumbing, a hit to any part of a pool complex can affect all of it.

Water does not "attract" lightning. It does, however, conduct current very well. It's not clear how far lightning travels through water. People have been killed or injured by direct or indirect strikes while in or on the water, boats, docks, piers, surf, surfboards, canoes, while fishing, and so on. In most cases, it appears that the strike was within a few tens of yards of the person. But the current can extend farther through plumbing or wiring so the distance of influence can be greater.

In general, there is less lightning per area over water than over land. This is due to the fact that water bodies are usually cooler than land during summer. For this reason thunderstorms are less likely to build or continue to develop over water than over heated land.

The current in a lightning bolt is as high as 30,000 amperes --- about 150 times more than ordinary house current of 200 amps. It's easy to see how this much electricity is deadly. Fortunately, many lightning victims aren't hit directly, if all the charge doesn't go through them. This is why about six out of every seven persons hit by lightning survive, although sometimes with serious injuries and lasting ill effects.

Lightning will often hit something, such as a tree, a wire fence or a boat mast. Most of the electricity flows through the object that it hits, but some jumps to hit a person or people. This is called a 'side flash'. Such side flashes have killed people talking on the telephone or taking a shower inside otherwise safe buildings, following through phone lines or water pipes after hitting the ground. People are also sometimes injured when lightning hits the ground and follows it to where they are standing.

Lightning can affect all parts of the body, but the usual cause of deaths is heart stoppage. The electrical charge disrupts the heart's rhythm, stopping it. Usually, however, the heart will quickly resume beating. The electricity is more likely to paralyze the brain's respiratory center. The victim will die from lack of oxygen unless someone nearby can quickly perform artificial respiration to get the victim's breathing going again. This may have to continue for hours before the victim begins to breath normally.
A Lightning Safety Group, which met at the 1998 American Meteorological Society convention to update safety recommendations, noted in its report: "Generally speaking, if an individual can see lightning and/or hear thunder, he or she is already at risk. Louder or more frequent thunder indicates that lightning activity is approaching, increasing the risk for lightning injury or death."

The report also notes that "many lightning casualties occur in the beginning, as the storm approaches --- Also, many lightning casualties occur after the perceived threat has passed." In fact, the danger can persist as long as thirty minutes after the storm has passed and the last thunder is heard.

Lightning always comes from a thunderstorm cloud, but has been known to hit as far as 20 miles from the nearest cloud, far from the storm's rain. This is why the group says seeing just one lightning bolt or hearing one clap of thunder should be a warning to get into a safe place. If you're caught in a boat, about all you can do is crouch down in the boat's center and stay as far away from any metal surfaces, and radios or other electrical gear that might be attached to an antenna.

If you see lightning, knowing which way the wind is pushing the clouds will make a big difference. If the wind is pushing the clouds your way, it's time to head for shore. If you see lightning, the flash to bang method can also help determine whether lightning is moving closer (Sound travels about one mile every five seconds).

FAST FACT:
Lightning can heat the air it passes through to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That is 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun!

If caught at sea in a thunderstorm:
- Stay in the center of the cabin
- Keep arms and legs in the boat - do not dangle in the water.
- Discontinue all water activities
- Disconnect and do not touch any electronic equipment.
- Lower, remove or tie down the radio antenna and other protruding devices if not part of the lightning protection system
- Avoid making contact with any part of the boat connected to the lightning protection system. Avoid touching two components that are connected to the system at the same time, such as the gear lever and spotlight handle.
- NOAA has this to say about lightning and water:
  - Get out of the water; it's a great conductor of electricity.
  - Stay off the beach and out of small boats or canoes.
  - If caught in a boat, crouch down in the center away from metal hardware.
  - Swimming, wading, snorkeling and scuba diving are NOT safe.
  - Lightning can strike the water and travel some distance beneath and away from its point of contact.
  - Don't stand in puddles of water.

The US Navy Manual does not address the problem, that I can find.
So-- what to do? If I were diving in a thunderstorm, I'd get out of the water. Before diving? I'd not dive during and for thirty minutes after the storm.

However, we might want to alter our recommendations considering this answer to a question to Science Update posed about lightning and fish kills.

This was sent to us by Jeff Wiberg.

"Does lightning fry fish?
I'm Bob Hirshon and this is Science Update.

Today's question comes from Matthew Dabney of Longmont, Colorado.

Matt:
"Why is it that we're directed to get out of water during a lightning storm to avoid electrocution? Do fish get electrocuted when the lightning strikes a lake?"

We asked Don MacGorman, a physicist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Oklahoma. He says that as long as the fish are underwater, they're probably okay.

Don:
"Basically lightning stays more on the surface of the water rather than penetrating it. That's because water is a reasonably good conductor, and a good conductor keeps most of the current on the surface."

Of course, if the fish happen to be surfacing, they're at risk just like you are. And Dr. MacGorman adds that some electricity does penetrate the water, right at the strike point.

Don:
"So fish under a lightning strike can be killed, if it's close enough to the surface. But it has to be much closer than you do on the surface of the water."

Considering this answer - and if you have diving gear and adequate air - the best place for you to be would be underwater (not on the surface swimming).

SIDE NOTE:
Old data said successive flashes were on the order of 3-4 km apart. New data shows half the flashes are about 9 km apart. The National Severe Storms Laboratory report concludes: "It appears the safety rules need to be modified to increase the distance from a previous flash which can be considered to be relatively safe, to at least 10 to 13 km (6 to 8 miles). In the past, 3 to 5 km (2-3 miles) was as used in lightning safety education."
If you have an event to share for 2014, email the information to PSDiverMonthly@aol.com Subject Line – EVENTS

2014 International Ice Rescue Train-the-Trainer Academy

The annual International Ice Rescue Train-the-Trainer Academy will be conducted February 20 - 23, 2014 in Portland, Maine. This course provides the opportunity for Fire, Rescue, EMS, and Law Enforcement agencies to have one, or several, of their personnel trained as Lifesaving Resources' Ice Rescue Instructors. Upon successful completion of this intensive 3.5-day training program, graduates are authorized to conduct Ice Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician level courses on behalf of their own departments, and to certify participants. These courses meet and/or exceed NFPA 1670 Standard for Technical Rescue. The Academy includes over 30 contact hours of instruction consisting of 15-hours classroom and 15-hours on and through the ice practical training. For more information, access the Lifesaving Resources at International Ice Rescue Train-the-Trainer Academy. To register, please access: Ice Rescue Train-the-Trainer Academy Registration.

Ice Rescue Awareness
January 11, 2014, 08:00 - 11:30 hrs.
Kennebunkport, Maine
Ice Rescue Awareness Registration

Ice Rescue Technician
January 25, 2014, 08:00 - 18:00 hrs.
Standish, Maine
January 25 Ice Rescue Technician Registration

Ice Rescue Technician
February 08, 2014, 08:00 - 18:00 hrs.
Standish, Maine
February 8 Ice Rescue Technician Registration

Ice Rescue Technician
March 08, 2014, 08:00 - 18:00 hrs.
Standish, Maine
March 8 Ice Rescue Technician Registration

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<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>California Wreck Divers Annual Banquet, El Segundo, CA</td>
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<td>Mar 9 thru Mar 10</td>
<td>The Boston Sea Rovers Clinic, Boston, MA, USA</td>
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<td>Mar 15 thru Mar 16</td>
<td>Ghost Ships Festival 2013, The Wyndham Milwaukee Airport and Convention Center, WI, USA</td>
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<td>Mar 22 thru Mar 24</td>
<td>Beneath the Sea, Secaucus, NJ, USA</td>
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<td>Mar 14 thru Mar 16</td>
<td>ScubaFest, Columbus, OH, USA</td>
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<td>Apr 5 thru Apr 6</td>
<td>Scuba &amp; H2O Adventure Show, Seattle, WA, USA</td>
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<td>May 26 thru May 31</td>
<td>Dive BVI 5th Annual Wreck Week 2013, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands, British Virgin Is.</td>
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<td>May 3 thru May 4</td>
<td>Scuba &amp; H2O Adventure Show, Santa Clara, CA, USA</td>
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<td>May 3 thru May 4</td>
<td>The 4rd Annual Northern California Informational Dive Conference, Suisun City, CA, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 7 thru Jun 8</td>
<td>Long Beach Scuba Show, Long Beach, CA, USA</td>
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**Continuing Education**

**PSDM-CE-106**

Our CE offering this month is a little different. Let us know what you think.

Our lead news piece was *Did Google Maps capture a grisly murder? Do you believe it to be true and if so, why?*

Part of our mission is to help change or modify our mindsets to be more detailed and less trusting of information we receive. As PSDivers, we do not process evidence, we locate, document, collect and hand it off. So our investigation usually starts and stops at the edge of the water we are working in. That does not prevent us from learning and getting involved where and when we can.

On those occasions where you can form an opinion, it should be well thought out and substantiated before we offer it – *IF* we offer it at all. However – we sometimes need a reminder that we should not exceed our training....

*The information and photos were very compelling and the story matched the photos pretty well. The story seems to fit the photo and the photos fit the story.*

*So the question now is this:*
Did you take the story at face value and use the photos to substantiate the story? There may be a surprise waiting for you if you did.

This is the REST if the story …

Google Earth Murder Mystery Debunked
http://www.technobuffalo.com/2013/04/18/google-earth-murder-mystery-debunked/
APRIL 18, 2013 BY ADRIANA LEE

A week ago, Redditor “ncav” posted a Google Earth photo that took the Web by storm. The image (above), posted on April 12, depicts what looks like a couple of people dragging a body along a blood-soaked pier. The caption read, “A murder near my house on Google Maps, link in comments.” The link referred to placed the image in Almere, Netherlands, and ncav said he had notified the police.

It all makes for an interesting story. Who doesn’t love mystery and intrigue, particularly if the criminal act went awry, thanks to technology?

Certainly Gizmodo did when it picked up the item. Well, sorry to burst that bubble, but this one has thoroughly been debunked by none other than the site that spurred it on to begin with: Reddit.

The community went through great pains to zoom in on all manner of details. One Redditor, xythrowawayy, even managed to get in closer than anyone else using a secret Google Earth technique, which he chronicles thusly:

**Start by going to somewhere on Google Maps, say, http://goo.gl/maps/t4sph**

**Zoom in as far as it will let you by clicking on the “+” sign at the top of the magnification slider at the top left of the map.**

When you’re in as far as you can go (heh/sorry) but not all the way to street view (if the location you’re looking at even has street view), look over at the white space just to the top left of the map…. where the little printer and chain link buttons are. Click on the chain “link” button. That will show you a box with a long URL to the map you are looking at and another box with some HTML code to embed. Ignore the HTML code.
Copy the long URL and paste it into your browser’s address bar, but don’t hit enter to go to that URL yet. Instead, click to edit it and scroll all the way to the right. It should end with something like “&z=22″. Change the 22 to 23 (“&z=23″) and hit enter. If Google Maps has imagery at that higher zoom level, it will show it to you.

Fascinating tip, so we gave it a shot and — Bazinga! — it works. Interesting stuff.

After intense scrutiny, the community determined that this wasn’t a crime scene at all, but a perfectly innocent outing. What looked like a body and a bloody trail is actually just a wet pooch that streaked some water behind him. To help explain what’s going on, the community offers a couple of diagrams that map out the action:

Then there’s this to further cement things: There are other people merrily walking by or bicycling, which is evident if you zoom out of the shot. If a murder had been taking place, they would’ve been key witnesses, no? And so, it seems, the case of the Netherlands dock murder has been solved. Or, rather, disproved.

And now the Reddit community is taking on a whole other level of crime-busting.

On a more serious note, Redditors and members of 4Chan have been training their eagle eyes and amateur forensics chops on the Boston Marathon bombing investigation. Click here for a more detailed look at some of what the Reddit and 4Chan communities have been focusing on in this investigation.
Team Discussion / Training

In the opening article of this issue if PSDiver Monthly, a situation was described that caused the diver to become entrapped in a nest of old barbed wire.

Given the circumstances there should be no fault found with the tender or diver for the initial entrapment.

1. Public Safety Diver teams are the only teams who train in the same environment they work.

   **PSDs die in training.**

   The scenario offered places the diver in a zero visibility environment and runs him into a nest of old barbed wire.

   **As a team,** discuss what the diver could have done differently once he was aware of the barbed wire entrapment.

2. Consider the tools and cutting devices your team carries. If it had been a member of your team, would your diver have a useable cutting tool?

   **As a team,** obtain a variety of wire and prove it! **Validate** each type of cutting tool your team employs, how they are secured to the diver(s), how many should be carried as a standard team practice and IF what you have and carry will be enough.

3. Consider the diver in general. This diver is experienced and confident and had been allowed an extension of his bottom time in order to gain more ground on the search pattern.

   **As a team,** discuss the suitability of your acceptable dive profiles and allowable bottom time. Do you have a set time limit? Do you allow an extension of that limit? If so, under what circumstances? Is it written in your SOGs?

4. If he was doing his job, the dive tender knew the diver was stuck. He also knew about how much air the primary diver had left in his main cylinder and how much redundant air the diver carried.

   **As a team,** discuss the functions and responsibilities of the dive tender. Relate your conclusions to the dive scene described and discuss what could have been an alternate course or courses of action for the tender to take.

5. When the diver ran out of air, it is obvious that full blown panic was few seconds away. Knowing that additional air was just below his chin was a comfort. However, when the diver pulled his full face mask off, his hand and arm were exposed to the barbed wire and his sleeve was caught. Consider this: the diver is out of air, becoming oxygen starved and at the edge of uncontrollable panic. He has also exposed his face to the water. Even if he is able to get his pony regulator to his mouth, with both hands caught, how will he clear it? Can he clear it?

   **As a team,** evaluate this scenario and develop a standard practice for using a redundant air regulator that would lessen the possibility of the second arm
entrapment described. Learn the **third method** of regulator clearing.

6. IF the diver had been able to get and use his redundant air, what might have been the next move by the diver? The Dive Tender? The Backup Diver? The rest of the team?

As a **team**, act this scenerio out on dry land or in a classroom large enough to realistically position the team members. Use a stop watch and make the actions realistic. When, not if, you discover flaws in your system that can be strengthened, identify how to add elements of both equipment and training that will improve your system.

**LIVE WET TRAINING**

If you have access to a training pool, recreate the dive scenerio described and validate that your team and individual divers have the skills and proper equipment to bring the primary diver to the surface – alive and well.

This training evolution will require a review of basic skills. It should challenge the diver’s comfort in the water. It should create a controlled air deprivation challenge for the primary diver. It should test your system for rescuing one of your own. The training should show the strengths and weaknesses in your dive operations and diver emergency procedures.

If your training does not do at least these things, you are **NOT** practicing or preparing properly!

> “Under Srtress, You WILL Perform As You Trained”

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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

Chemical spill information can be obtained by calling 1-800-424-9300.

DAN Medical Information Line at 1-919-684-2948
DAN operates a 24-hour emergency hotline (1-919-684-9111) to help divers in need of medical emergency assistance for diving or non-diving incidents

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA 30333, USA
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
[cdcinfo@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcinfo@cdc.gov)

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Lifeguard Systems – TEAM LGS

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ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Fifty-one years ago today, Herman James, a North Carolina mountain man, was drafted by the Army. On his first day in basic training, the Army issued him a comb. That afternoon the Army barber sheared off all his hair. On his second day, the Army issued Herman a toothbrush. That afternoon the Army dentist yanked seven of his teeth. On the third day, the Army issued him a jock strap.

The Army has been looking for Herman for 51 years.