PSDiver Monthly 97
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Underwater Lifting

FOUND ON THE WEB
NEWS & EVENTS
The PSDiner
CONTINUING ED.

What Happened to the WRTC??
Greetings

DEMA is coming up in November. For a year we have left it alone but DEMA will be the 1 year anniversary of the WRTC. I know, I had to go look up the initials too. To remind you, (PSDiver Monthly Issue 89)

4 November 2011 Press Release:

Seven US-based public safety diving training agencies came together in an unprecedented round-table meeting at the DEMA Show venue in Orlando, Florida, to form the Water Response Training Council. This new council’s charter is to improve the safety of public safety divers and consumers through development of minimum training standards. The following agencies: Dive Rescue International, (DRI) Emergency Response Diving International (ERDI), International Association of NITrox and Technical Divers (IANTD), Life Guard Systems (LGS), Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Public Safety Diving Association (PSDA), and US Water Rescue are founding members of the new council.

The new council will be working on the By-Laws, and then the standards. This will take some time as we are limited to where and when we can all get together. Good things take time.

The next meeting of the Water Response Training Council will take place early next year.

I have not pushed or tried to pry information from anyone but so far, I believe they had one more meeting that did not accomplish much more than agreeing on some bylaws. One of the original named members was given notice by email that they had been kicked out...

So here we are, a year later. NIMS Resource Typing for dive teams is being revamped, we are still growing in numbers as the need for our services is being recognized and we even hear more positive news from teams on funding.

As far as I know we are the only ones who know what the WRTC is....

Now, it is possible I am completely wrong - unlikely, but possible. If I am, someone will corner me at DEMA and explain it to me.

This is what I suspect – They finally saw a bigger picture last year at DEMA and got a little excited about the prospects that the WRTC could provide. But time, distance and the lack of anyone on the board having any true passion for the project has kept them from progressing.

Right now, this is the outcome we originally predicted. While it is difficult, even unfair to lay blame on any one agency or group, it is disheartening to know that there is so much potential being wasted. We mostly see one side of the issues and expect the agencies to see our side and make things work. We do not address the funding, resources or time it takes to develop and maintain something like the Water Response Training Council.

But we do see a need for standardization of PSD training, terminology etc. We do see a need for some over site in our discipline of diving.
Not too long ago I was interviewed and asked my opinion concerning the cause of PSD fatalities and injuries. The author of the article did not quite agree with me and I do not know if I did not explain my position well enough or was just too broad in my explanation. Unless or until we kill or hurt more of us, we really do not have a problem. We pretty much do what we do and follow the guidelines for diving the way we were trained. We may not do anything different or bother to learn anything new. Why fix what is not broken? Right? (That was sarcasm).

I have spoken about a need for standards for years. It is a familiar topic to those of you who have known me for a while. We have seen some efforts – real, honest efforts to work on the development of PSD standards. The most recent was last year’s creation of the WRTC. It was our hope that the agencies would finally work together and begin a real effort of development. We felt like our voices had finally been heard. Not much has happened since then.

I think part of the problem is the agencies themselves. There is always going to be a certain amount of distrust and brand protection between them. That, I think, is understandable. But at some point, they have to put the PSDs first and decide what it is they, as a council, can do to help us, to support and protect us. It has been a year and no word from them. No one I know of has been approached for comment, opinion or information. I suspect they are still working on just talking to each other.

While that is happening, we are still growing our PSD community. We are starting to draw attention from our communities and administrations. In short, we are becoming recognized as Public Safety Divers. That should mean something. It does to us. Do we have a voice or are we just thousands of voices that make an indistinguishable noise?

Realistically the WRTC has the opportunity to become our voice. But the biggest challenge the members of that council will face will be gaining the trust of the PSD community if they let this venture falter or fail. The PSD community is grumbling about “for profit” companies being involved as it is. Failing at this now should not be an option. I do not want to make any more predictions. I want to them set and publish some reasonable goals that we can track – not to keep tabs on them, but to know there is action behind the promises.

It is my hope that some of the promises made last year will come to pass in November. We will see. Until then, we should very much bring the council and the individual member agencies back into our radar.

They publically took responsibility to start a process of developing training standards – now it is time for us to see some results.

This month we have a final name for the new Foodie column. Of the many suggestions our subscribers sent in, we decided to name the new column The PSDiner.

So far I have tried all of the recipes that we have received and the next few issues will contain some of my favorites. Keep sending them in!

Dive Safe!
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher

If you would like to submit an article, mission report, recipe or comment, email to: LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Train before you attempt buoyed lifts underwater!

We have learned much about the concepts over the years. Before you attempt underwater vehicle extrication, take time to learn the techniques and prepare yourself and your team. Part of that education is training the mind’s eye how to do attach lift bags safely. Before you attempt to attach lifting bags for a buoyed lift you should create and conduct a few training sessions. It is no different than learning how to use a pneumatic tool and dissecting your first vehicle.

This article does NOT substitute for hands-on training with a certified, insured instructor. The following will provide you with some examples of the skills and knowledge you should learn in a lifting certification course.

Since passenger vehicles are the most common vehicles the public safety water response dive team needs to be familiar with, they are the best place to begin. You do not necessarily need an old vehicle to begin with, any car or small truck will do. Get yourself a few soft straps or heavy towing ropes, a dark colored head band, and dive or work gloves. Place the vehicle in an open area where no one will run over you or your tenders.

Put on the gloves, and simply look under the vehicle
- What does it look like under there?
- What is and what is not strong enough to secure to as lifting points?
- Which of those possible lifting points are common to most vehicles?
- Which of those points if any will be reachable if the vehicle is buried in the mud?
- What are your second choices?
- Are the lifting points equally set for distributing and displacing weight?
- Will your hands move freely in this possibly restricted space with dive / work gloves on?
- Your Instructor will teach you how to move around and over the vehicle without going under it, which could result in entrapment.

Close your eyes and picture everything with your mind’s eye. Once you can do that and are convinced you know what it looks like under there it’s time to move on.

Let’s work on tying knots with gloves on. Whatever type of knot or attachment technique your instructor taught you should be well rehearsed while you can still see and then when you can’t.

Since you probably cannot be trusted to keep your eyes closed, don a head band as a blindfold. Wet it first since that will really help with the dust and crud from under the vehicle, it will also help keep you a little cooler. Feel your way around the vehicle. Feel what it is like under there when you cannot see. Move around the vehicle slowly, as
you might if you were rigging it for a buoyed lift. Do not move your head quickly to prevent banging your head.

Put on your BCD without a cylinder and have your tender attach your tether line and try it again. Keep in mind you must continuously vision your tether line in your mind’s eye. It must always move freely with you, over or around the vehicle. You must always move with your tether line, keeping it free from the vehicle or extruding parts and sharp edges. All tether lines must be free of entanglement prior to beginning any lift procedures.

You may be wondering why this is a tethered dive if the line can get in the way. The tether line increases safety and actually aids the job, and with practice and the right skills it rarely presents any problems.

Now take an old vehicle, remove the tires and rims, and place it on soft ground. Wet the ground under and around it to create realistic muck and mud. If you feel a little uncomfortable about the soft ground, brace or secure the vehicle.

This time attach the lift bags you are going to use. You may not be real happy when you discover that lift bags basically have no buoyancy of their own and will fall or lay right on top of you if you do not plan for this problem. This is the time to work on how you are going to maneuver the bags, your body, and your tether line and keep yourself free of all entanglements.

We are strong advocates of using underwater communication systems for all public safety diving, especially when vehicles and the chance of entrapment exist. Once you have practiced successfully on land using tether line pull communication signals, re-do the drill using communication systems. The next step is to add a back-up diver who helps the primary diver guide lines and sometimes sets additional attachments. Communication between these two blacked-out divers should be practiced with and without communication systems.

Hopefully you are beginning to realize the complexity of lifting operations. Lifting submerged vehicles requires training and special equipment. Remember if a vehicle is in the water it becomes a hazmat operation.

- Full face masks with secondary air source capability that does not require removal of the mask, and that can be passed off to an entrapped diver.
- Drysuits are recommended - avoid neoprene suits that may be damaged by petroleum products.
- Decon station set up
- Communication systems
- Procedures to protect yourself from any object containing air that will shoot to the surface when dislodged (e.g. spare tire, Windex bottle...)
- It may be necessary to air or water jet a passage under the vehicle in order to pass lifting straps to attach lift bags.
- Never use your personnel air supply to fill lift bags - a fill bottle set-up is needed.
• Chains or cables are often used when working with tow trucks or snatch winches, which require dry land practice to use safely and effectively.

And much more

You should perform these land drills with the lift bags and air sources you are going to use in open water. We recommend the Subsalve VRS-2000 vehicle lift system.

It is designed to do the job of lifting vehicles and allows for surface or subsurface filling.

At the very least, pillow lift bags will be necessary. Other lift bags can dump their air upon reaching the surface, which can cause a serious safety hazard.

Training and the right equipment is imperative, just as it is for any other type of rescue operation.

Never shortcut, do it right the first time.

Walt “Butch” Hendrick is the President & Founder of Lifeguard Systems

NEWS

Four little friends drown
http://www.thenewage.co.za/60248-1009-53-Four_little_friends_drown
Aug 27 2012

South Africa - Families of four Mamelodi children who were found floating in a sewage dam yesterday morning are, as well as grieving, filled with anger and blame.

Shaun Nesane, 10, Nkosinathi Masilela, nine, Mpho Mamusolo, nine, and Nthabelng Laka, 11, were the best of friends who shared a hobby of hunting for rabbits and other small animals on a nearby farm outside the Phase 5 informal settlement.

On Saturday night, the four boys did not come home.

"My son left home at 7am with his friends, that's what they do on weekends, they go to the nearby fields to hunt and explore nature,” said Nesane’s father Shaun.

When the boys did not return at sunset, the parents began worrying and a search was started.
“We were up the whole night looking for them until, early in the morning, a man told us that he had walked past the dam in the afternoon and saw a pile of clothes next to it. We went there and my boy’s trousers and red T-shirt were among the clothes. When police divers arrived and pulled their bodies out of the dam, it was a scene I will never forget,” said the distraught father.

The angry family insisted though, that the death of their eldest son could have been avoided had the dam been fenced off.

“That area is owned by a white man, he has not fenced off the place and he dumps things there, attracting the children,” said a ward committee member who had Maggie Hlongwane who had gone to the family to pay her respects with other members.

Another parent who lost her child, Sylvia Masilela, 33, said she was awoken by neighbours in the middle of the night to tell her of the tragedy involving her son. She said: “I was shocked to hear my son had passed away. I was shocked to hear the news, I didn’t know what to say or do.”

Masilela’s son Nkosinathi was nine years old and in grade 3. Masilela’s grandmother Grace, 50, said: “There needs to be a fence built around the dam and the place needs to
be renovated. There could be worse situations than this one.”

Police spokesperson Portia Maleka said: “An inquest has been opened.”

Spring Day is less than a week away and the city of Tshwane said it was “sadly, starting to issuing warnings to water lovers following the drowning of four boys on a farm north-east of the city at the weekend”.

The city’s strategic executive director: communication, marketing and events, Nomasonto Ndlovu, said: “The city of Tshwane would like to express its heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased”.

**Four boys drown in irrigation dam**


August 27 2012 By Karabo Ngoepe

The family of four young boys from Mamelodi are grieving after their children drowned while swimming in a man-made irrigation dam on a privately owned farm near the Baviaanspoort Correctional Facility.

The bodies of the four boys - Remember Mosoma, 12, Nthapeleng Laka, 11, and Mpho Mamabolo and Nkosinathi Masilela, both nine - were recovered by a team of eight police divers who searched the filthy sewage water on Sunday.

They found the bodies of the four drowned boys within 30 minutes - and within a 2m radius of each other.

The Pretoria News learnt that a fifth child who had been with the boys had run home when the others got into the water.

The boys are said to have left their homes in Mamelodi on Saturday morning to hunt for rabbits, and their parents got worried when the children did not return home in the evening.
Shawn Nesane, the father of Remember, said the boy had told him he was going hunting with his friends and their dogs.

Nesane allowed Remember to go, and he was surprised when the boy did not come home at the usual time.

“He usually comes home before his mother, but on that day he did not. We started panicking when it got late. We went to all his friends’ homes to check if he was there. But we were told that the boys were last seen walking to the place where they normally hunt,” said Nesane.

The family stopped their search in the evening and decided to continue the next day, but the morning brought with it the dreaded news.

The family heard that their third-born’s body had been found at the Baviaanspoort Waste Water Treatment Works in the Kameeldrift area.

Nesane said he did not understand why the boys decided to swim in the water as he knows his son could not swim. He believes that the float that was in the water might have enticed them to jump on top of it.

“Why did they decide to get into the water, because they normally walk around in the bushes with their dogs?” the grief-stricken father asked.

Jackson Mamabolo said his son Nthapeleng left in the morning as though he was going to play with his cousin Mpho. Throughout the day the family thought the boys were playing somewhere.

“We thought he was at my sister’s house. We called in the evening to check where he was and she said they were not there. We asked other children from nearby and they said they had last seen them going to play,” he said.

As night fell, the frantic parents went to the Cullinan and Mamelodi police stations to report the matter.

With police assisting in the search, the family heard from a man who herds livestock that he saw clothes next to a dam in Kameeldrift with two dogs sitting next to them, barking.
One of the dogs that belonged to the boys barked continuously as the bodies were taken out of the water and put inside body bags. The dogs are said to have slept at the side of the dam next to the boys’ clothes.

“After hearing about the clothes, we went there. We recognized the ones Nthapeleng was wearing and it slowly became clear that the boys were in the water,” said Mamabolo.

He said the family had high expectations for their child, who was a bright pupil who also loved going to church.

“Even though we lost them, we are just glad that we were able to recover their bodies. It is God’s will and we accept it,” said Mamabolo.

With many people wondering how the children got to the dam, Mossie Mostert, the manager of the plant where the dam is, said they frequently found people in the prohibited area as the fences have been stolen. “This is a prohibited area. People are not allowed to be here. The place was well fenced but people constantly steal the fencing.”

Police spokeswoman Sergeant Portia Maleka urged parents to take extra care of their children to ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again. Maleka said an inquest docket had been opened.

Following the news of the drownings, the City of Tshwane warned water lovers to be extra careful as spring approaches.

Ward councillor Absalom Boroto said it was their duty to assist the families.

“This is a disaster. We will be sitting down with the families to see how we can assist,” he said.

**Police nab ex-boyfriend in Canadian body parts case**

August 28, 2012

THE estranged boyfriend of a Chinese-Canadian woman whose body parts were discovered
Chun Qi Jiang, 40, a construction worker who moved to Canada in 2002, was arrested in Toronto on Sunday and charged with murder.

Peel regional police Inspector George Koekkoek told a press conference the victim, Guang Hua Liu, 41, had been dating Mr Jiang.

"They were boyfriend and girlfriend," Insp Koekkoek said, describing the killing as a "domestic homicide". It was not clear when the couple broke up.

Mid-month police recovered an arm, thigh and two calves from a creek in an eastside suburb of Toronto, as well as a foot, two hands and a head belonging to the victim from a park west of the city.

Hikers had stumbled upon a foot floating in the Credit River, triggering a massive search by police divers and sniffer dogs. A passerby, meanwhile, alerted police when he spotted an arm and leg in a creek on the east side of Canada's largest city.

Locating Ms Liu's remaining body parts is part of the ongoing investigation, said Insp Koekkoek. A forensic examination has also not yet determined the cause of death.

The dismemberment case is the third involving Chinese immigrants or visitors to Canada in recent years.

Chinese immigrant Vince Weiguang was committed to a mental hospital after beheading and cannibalising a Canadian bus passenger in front of horrified travelers four years ago.

"Canadian Psycho" Luka Rocco Magnotta, a male ex-porn actor, meanwhile faces charges of killing a Chinese student with an ice pick in Montreal in May.
He is accused of carving up the victim’s body, sexually abusing the corpse and filming the act, before posting a video of the killing online.

Men lauded for quick action after taxi lands in lake
August 31, 2012 - 11:25

Two men recommended for reward after helping four people out of sunken taxi.

Police in Copenhagen are hailing the efforts of two Copenhagen men for saving the lives of four people after a taxi wound up in one of Copenhagen’s Lakes early Friday morning.

The taxi came to rest in two metres of water when, according to police reports, two men jumped into the water to rescue the taxi’s three passengers and its driver.

The accident occurred when the taxi swerved to avoid a bicyclist crossing against a red light at the junction of Østersøgade and Webersgade roads, near the Fredensbro bridge.

After careening through a utility meter on the shoulder of the road, the taxi continued over the edge of the lake before coming to rest 10 metres out into the water.

The taxi was completely immersed, according to police, and the passengers would have drowned had they not been able to get out of the vehicle.

“The two [men] jumped into action, hopped into the water and pulled everyone out,” Kim Nicholsen, of the Copenhagen Police, told the media.

Officers on the scene said the two men should be recommended for a reward for their actions.

“What they did was commendable,” Nicholsen said.

No-one was injured in the accident, and police divers have examined the area around the car to ensure that no
pedestrians were hit in the collision and trapped under the vehicle.

Police said initial reports indicated that the driver of the taxi was sober and that he was not speeding at the time of the accident.

Norfolk Broads tragedy: 13-year-old girl was unaware mother and her boyfriend were dead
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/9520459/Norfolk-Broads-tragedy-13-year-old-girl-was-unaware-mother-and-her-boyfriend-were-dead.html
04 Sep 2012 By Richard Alleyne

The girl of 13 found alone aboard a holiday cruiser on the Norfolk Broads may have been unaware that her mother was dead and her murderer had drowned himself, as the couple were today identified.

The girl’s mother, named by police as Annette Creegan, 49, from Mitcham, Surrey, is believed to have been strangled by her boyfriend before being thrown in the water, possibly while her daughter was asleep during a Norfolk Broads break.

Local rumours suggest that the man later told the girl that her mother had left the 38ft boat, possibly because it had broken down and she had gone to get help.

The man, named locally as John Didier, who is believed to have foreign origins is thought to have later drowned himself by jumping in the water - possibly when the girl was asleep at night – so she did not see what he was doing.

Local sources suggest he left a note, saying he had gone to look for her mother and instructing her to stay on the boat which had been moored to a tree on the River Bure near Wroxham.

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- Norfolk Broads death: Police to formally identify man
Norfolk Broads deaths: man murdered girlfriend before committing suicide, police believe

The girl was found alone on the cruiser by police on Saturday evening after the Le Boat holiday company reported that it had not been returned to them after the family’s week-long holiday.

18th century Regency guest house in Neatishead, Norfolk, confirmed that officers had called her at 9pm on Saturday to ask if she had seen "a couple'.

She said: "They just said they had a lost child and they were looking for the parents who they thought might have checked into a local B and B."

Police immediately launched a hunt for the couple, telephoning local guest houses and hotels to check if they had booked in as the girl apparently did not know what had happened.

Jacqueline Brown, an employee at the Police concerns for the couple grew when they failed to locate them and a mile long section of the River Bure was closed from the early hours of Sunday while police divers conducted a search.

The bodies of the couple who are aged in their 40s and from Surrey were found in the water on Sunday.

Post mortems confirmed that the man had drowned and the woman had probably been strangled and had died before she had gone in the water.

Norfolk Police confirmed that the death of the woman was being treated as suspicious while the death of the man was not suspicious indicating that nobody else was involved in his death.

Det Supt Jes Fry of the Norfolk and Suffolk Major Investigation Team refused to say what the girl had told officers about what happened on the boat.
He described it as a "domestic incident" and the girl was "traumatised".

He said yesterday: "We believe the deaths were a result of a domestic incident and we are not looking for anyone else.
"Our top priority is concern for the child and her family. It is a tragic set of circumstances.

"We are gathering intelligence and evidence on behalf of the coroner to try and gather a picture of what happened. We are putting together a timeline to try and establish what happened and the sequence of events.

"I don’t want to comment on any speculation about what might have happened or how long the boat was at the spot where it was found."

Mr Fry also refused to disclose how long the girl had been alone on the boat, but said: “I know she was not there on her own all week.”

He declined to comment on reports that a blood stained sheet, lengths of cable and cable ties, a sex toy, a laptop and two hard drives had been recovered from the boat.

Mr Fry said the girl was due to leave Norfolk yesterday in the care of her family after being interviewed by specially trained officers.

He added: “It has been an absolutely traumatic experience for her. Our concern for her welfare has been paramount from the outset. She continues to have support from us.”

It is believed that police are struggling to formally identify the man as he comes from overseas and has no criminal record so his fingerprints or DNA are not on record.

Witnesses said the Admiral-class cruiser had been left with its curtains closed and tied to a tree on an inaccessibly bank of the River Bure for up to a week.

One man who works on the Broads went to investigate the boat on Tuesday last week and was told to go away by a man on the boat.

The alarm was raised at just after 5pm last Saturday after staff at Le Boat became concerned that the cruiser had not been returned to their yard in Horning by 10am as arranged.

Police at the scene on a stretch of the River Bure between Wroxham Broad and Salhouse Broad, Norfolk (PA)
Dive equipment failure corrected
07 Sep 2012, Melanie Woodrow

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (WAVY) - 10 Is On Your Side is digging for answers after the Chesapeake Police Department's dive equipment failed for the second time in 9 months.

Thursday, WAVY.com reported divers responded to a drowning Labor Day without dive gear because it was being tested following an equipment failure. The next day, the Chesapeake Police Department responded to 10 On Your Side's questions.

According to documents, divers discovered problems with two pieces of equipment Aug. 29. The following day, the department sent out 36 pieces of equipment for testing.

In February 10 On Your Side got a closer look at what a buoyancy compensator and regulator looked like after the police department's own officer Timothy Schock died during dive training in January. Schock's buoyancy compensator and weight belt experienced problems.

After Schock's death, the department purchased new equipment which experienced problems of its own. According to Chesapeake police one of the regulators made an unfamiliar sound toward the end of August during testing. Additionally, a cable came out of a buoyancy compensator when it should not have.

The equipment failures prompted the police department to send all of their equipment for testing the next day. However, four days after the equipment was sent away, a man drowned off Shell Road. Officers that responded to the scene did not have diving equipment with them. In a statement to 10 On Your Side, a police spokesperson said a reasonable and prudent plan was executed which involved a surface swim and search for the victim.

"The Underwater Search and Recovery Team does not serve a life guard function... while every effort is taken to respond to emergencies the basic function... is search and recovery," Public Information Officer for the Chesapeake Police Department Kelly O'Sullivan said.

Chesapeake Police divers did ultimately recover the victim's body. According to police, technicians determined the regulator was working correctly and the problem with the buoyancy compensator was corrected.

All of the equipment was back in service Sept. 6.

RELATED NEWS:
- Police diving equipment fails again
- Dive Co.: Equipment issues impossible
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Police search Mordialloc Creek for murdered Camberwell man


11 SEP 12 @ 09:39AM BY JESSE WRAY-MCCANN

POLICE divers are scouring Mordialloc Creek in search of a wheelie bin containing the body of a murdered Camberwell man. The body of 30-year-old Adam Troy Williams is believed to have been in the bin among bushes on the creek’s southern bank for more than four months before disappearing in April.

Homicide squad detective Sen-Sgt Ron Iddles said police had charged two men with murder and two men with being accessories to murder, but the search for the bin and Mr Williams' body continued.

Sen-Sgt Iddles said Mr Williams was allegedly killed in a serious assault in on or about December 30 last year and his body dumped at the creek near Attenborough Park about January 2.

One of the accused men accompanied police to Mordialloc Creek and told officers they had allegedly tried to dump the bin in the creek underneath the railway bridge.

When the bin did not sink the men allegedly dragged it on to the bank and partially hid it in bushes, where it was last seen by contractors in mid-April.

Sen-Sgt Iddles said the bin, which was screwed shut, may have ended up back in the creek or someone may have taken it.

"We're asking anyone who may have taken it to contact police," Sen-Sgt Iddles said.

"You're not in trouble. We need to give Adam's family some closure. We don't want Adam to be left in a wheelie bin."

Police have asked Kingston Council contractors dredging Mordialloc Creek to contact them if any wheelie bins have been dug up.
At least one bin was dug up on August 20, but it was empty.

A 42-year-old man who was extradited from Hervey Bay in Queensland and a 29-year-old Echuca man have been charged with murder.

A 44-year-old Oakleigh man and a 45-year-old Bentleigh man have been charged with being accessories to murder.

Sen-Sgt Iddles said the men were all known to Mr Williams.

Three of the men will appear before Melbourne Magistrates' Court on December 20. Anyone with information is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Lorain police search for murder weapon
September 15, 2012 By KELLY PETRYSZYN

LORAIN – The Lorain Police Underwater Recovery Team went diving in the Black River to look for a gun they believed was used in the murder of brothers Dale Linder Jr. and Justin Linder in July.

Police divers conducted two separate dives on July 10 and were unable to find the gun, according to a recently released police report.

The report states that police received vague information that the gun was dumped in the river by the Black River Landing. “We dove in the general area and did not recover anything,” Sgt. Chris Pittak said. Murder suspect Donna Brown, 24, of Lorain, revealed during an interview that the gun was in the river.

Pittak said the dive team normally has a good recovery rate, but struggled to find the gun because they did not have an exact location of where it was dumped. Since it is dark in the Black River, which reaches 30 feet deep, police had to feel for objects at the bottom. The team, which is made up of four Lorain police sergeants, has recovered bodies and evidence such as cars before.

Pittak said there was a lag in releasing this information because officers were on vacation and the report did not get typed for some time. Lt. Mark Carpentiere said police are still looking for the gun.
“The weapon still has not been recovered as of now,” Carpentiere said.

Brown is accused of shooting her cousins, Dale Linder Jr., 22, and Justin Linder, 20, each in the chest about 6 a.m. on July 5 at a house that belonged to the brothers’ father, Dale Linder Sr., on West 23rd Street. Brown was arrested later that day.

At a preliminary hearing this summer, Brown’s attorney Michael Duff probed Linder Sr. and detective Steve Curry with questions about whether the brothers beat Brown and her girlfriend, Jacquita Gholson, because they are lesbians. He asked questions about whether Justin Linder pistol-whipped Brown earlier that night. Duff has said her motive is self defense. She had been traumatized by the brothers for her sexual orientation and confronted them about it. He said Brown drew a gun to protect herself. Linder Sr. said that his sons accepted her being a lesbian.

Brown was indicted in August on four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of murder, two counts of felonious assault, two counts of aggravated burglary and one count of tampering with evidence. Carpentiere said the tampering with evidence charge stems from Brown allegedly dumping the gun.

Brown has pleaded innocent to the charges and has a pretrial Oct. 24 in Lorain County Common Pleas Court.

Mystery Sydney leg bone to be tested
September 21, 2012 BY:RASHIDA YOSUFZAI

HUMAN leg bone discovered in Sydney Harbour is being carbon tested to determine its age and whether it could be from a nineteenth century shipwreck.

The leg bone was discovered by scuba diver John Swift at Middle Head in May 2011. Testing conducted in September that year found the femur belonged to a caucasian male aged around 18 but it is still unclear how old the bone is.

It was found less than 30m from the site of the Edward Lombe shipwreck in which 12 men perished in 1834.

Tests are now being conducted to determine whether the bone is older than 100 years, after an inquiry into it at Glebe Coroners Court was adjourned on Friday.

Counsel assisting the coroner Deb Williamson told AAP the bone would undergo a test known as bomb pulse
dating, which determines whether the bone post-dates the episode of nuclear weapons testing after World War II.

But she said there's no possibility the bone belonged to one of the Edward Lombe crewmen, because bodies were recovered at the time.

"The heritage office is of the view that there's no way the bone could have been as a result of the loss of the vessel in 1834," she said.

Following the carbon testing, which will take at least three months, the bone will also be tested against the DNA of family members who have reported missing persons. An inquest into the bone will resume for mention on January 11.

Blow-Up Sex Doll 'Rescued' By Turkish Divers In Black Sea
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/23/sex-doll-rescued_n_1907554.html?ncid=maingrid7%7Cmain5%7Csec3_lnk1%26pLid%3D209864
Sept 23, 2012 (Reuters)

ISTANBUL - Turkish rescue workers retrieved an inflatable sex doll from the Black Sea after police were notified by panicked residents who mistook it for a woman's body floating offshore, Milliyet newspaper reported on Sunday.

Police cordoned off a wide stretch of beach in northern Samsun province and sent a team of divers into the water to rescue what appeared to be a drowning woman, it said.

The team quickly discovered it was in fact a blow-up doll, which they deflated before throwing in the garbage, the daily said.

It was not clear where the blow-up doll had come from. The Black Sea is a key tourism destination for Turks and also sees busy international maritime shipping traffic. (Reporting By Ayla Jean Yackley; Editing by Sophie Hares)

Would-be thief finds body in car trunk
By Dale Lezon September 24, 2012

A passerby who told investigators he wanted to take something from an idling car he spotted in a ditch instead found the body of a man in the trunk in east Houston early Monday morning.

The body was discovered about 4 a.m. at 12800 Nimitz near Normandy in an abandoned car, said Jack Harvey, a homicide investigator with the Houston Police Department.
Harvey said the victim, who was not yet been identified, had been shot at least once in the chest and his face was swollen and cut as if he had been beaten. A bag of pills was found stuffed inside his pants.

Harvey said the passerby was driving on the road with his wife and their 4-month child when he spotted a gold, four-door car nose down in the ditch. The car was running and the windshield wipers were on. No one was inside it. Harvey said the passerby told investigators he looked through the car for something he could take. Then he grabbed the keys from the ignition to look for stereo speakers in the trunk he could remove. Instead, when he opened the trunk he found the body. The victim was lying face down and was fully clothed. He appeared to be white and in his 20s.

The passerby drove to a nearby gas station and called 911.

Harvey said the passerby and his wife are not a suspects in the killing. They were very cooperative.

Harvey said investigators have few leads so far in the shooting. However, he added, it appeared the victim had been shot elsewhere, placed in the trunk, driven to the area and left where he was found. The car has not been reported stolen.

Investigators have no suspects or motive in the shooting.

New York Firefighter Loses Leg to Flesh-Eating Bacteria


October 1, 2012 William Murphy  Newsday

Ralph Lettieri, who was released from the hospital, says he's ready to get on with life

Sept. 29--A young East Patchogue firefighter went home from a hospital Friday after losing his left leg -- but not his life -- to a flesh-eating bacteria.

This car with a dead man in the trunk was discovered Monday morning in Houston. (Dale Lezon / Houston Chronicle)
"He was one of the most ill patients I ever took care of. He was as close to death as a human being could be," Dr. Louis Riina said as Ralph Lettieri Jr. sat in a wheelchair next to him at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow.

Moments earlier, relatives and members of the Hagerman Fire Department -- lining a sixth-floor corridor -- applauded as Lettieri emerged from the burn unit, using a walker.

"I just want to get back to the life I had before," Lettieri, 26, who works for his father's construction company, said at a news conference with his doctors and family.

He said he was exposed to poison ivy and developed an infection in late July after scuba diving in a freshwater quarry.

"I'm assuming somehow the bacteria must have been in there and it just got into the open sore and went from there," he said.

The infection was caused by necrotizing fasciitis, a rare flesh-eating bacteria that can be fatal, doctors said. To stop its spread, they had to amputate his left leg above the knee on Aug. 11, after consulting with his family.

"I told them, 'You can have the leg, but you have to save his life,' " his father, Ralph Lettieri Sr., said, his voice choked with emotion. The father draped one arm over Riina and the other over Dr. Paul Scott, the surgeon.

Father and son thanked the doctors, nurses and physical therapists, the firefighters who raised money for Ralph Lettieri Jr.'s treatment and the others who cooked and cleaned.

"The down moment would be when I finally woke up and realized that my leg was missing," Ralph Lettieri Jr. said. "That was a bit of a shock, obviously. After a couple of days, I just began to accept it. This is the life that I'm going to live."

He has an appointment Tuesday to begin the process of getting a prosthetic leg.

A Coffee Mug for Public Safety Divers

You did not know you needed one of these did you? Just imagine how cool you will look in the morning drinking your coffee from this awesome mug. Hard to contain your excitement isn't it? Limited supply – Don't wait until they are gone and live with regret for the rest of your life! ....Order Yours Here!

The long-awaited text from Mark Atherton.

Echoes and Images, The Encyclopedia of Side-Scan and Scanning Sonar Operations is the how-to guide for side-scan and scanning sonar operations.

For more information or to purchase your own copy, go to http://echoesandimages.com/
At home, he's joined by his 3-year-old son, Jordan, and fiancée, Victoria Vazquez.

The future is less certain. He intends to do "whatever the leg lets me do -- work, the firehouse, everything I did before. Just living life to the fullest. It's a new lease on life.

"God wants me here. He wants me to keep going and never give up."

An Up Close Look At NYPD’s Anti-Terror Dive Team

NEW YORK (CBS 2) — There is a large part of the war on terror that is being fought in the city every day, but many New Yorkers do not see it.

The battle is waged under water by a special NYPD SCUBA team that is specially trained to protect bridges and landmarks. Members of the elite team go beneath the city's dark waters, day and night, to keep New Yorkers safe from attacks by terrorists.

"There are very sensitive locations around the city that I am not at liberty to talk about, but we dive religiously," Det. Frank Pellegrino told CBS 2’s Chris Wragge.

The dives are physically grueling and divers are required to wear 90 pounds of equipment, and sea conditions are frequently rough.

"It’s mostly one foot to zero visibility. You’re dealing with the currents. You’re dealing with the weather, the swells, the waves, the wakes from other ferries," Sgt. Terry Sullivan said.

CBS 2 joined the team for a dive at the Wall Street Heliport in the East River. The dive team approached its target in a small boat known as a "Zodiac."
During the painstaking search the team inspects every inch of the heliport’s structure below the surface of the water, looking for evidence of explosives or any other type of tampering.

“We’re gonna be searching for anything out of the ordinary. Any protrusions off the sea wall or off the barge at the heliport and we’re looking for explosive devices or anything that clearly doesn’t belong there,” Sgt. Sullivan explained. The divers use cutting edge technology to find their way in the dark water. The team is led by a diver with a sonar device which transmits images through a view find attached to his mask.

Detective Pellegrino has dived at the heliport a number of times.

“I dove it well over 100 times. I’m very intimate with that dive site. I know what it looks like almost with my eyes closed, so if there’s something I haven’t seen before we are going to investigate,” he said.

Police divers forcibly rescue scared women
http://www.witness.co.za/index.php?showcontent&global%5B_id%5D=89370
15 Oct 2012 Sapa

The divers told CBS 2 that they are proud to be a part of the fight against terror and understand the high stakes involved with their job. The team was recently on high alert during the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly and during President Barack Obama’s visit to the city.
the hull, they had been floating for a long time in water that was a shivery 8°C.

They pumped air into the hull from their bottles, but then had to fetch full bottles of air from the surface. Before they could leave, they had to convince the panicked women they would return to save them from the dark hull.

When they did return one of the women refused to take off her life jacket. “She was difficult and fought against the divers.”

One diver then shoved his mouthpiece into a woman’s mouth and then dove with her underneath the hull. The diver with the difficult woman followed his example and dove with her — still wearing her life jacket — to safety. The last diver managed to calm the third woman and gave her a crash course in how to breath through the mouthpiece, before they dove out of the hull, the police diver said. Two of the women are believed to be from the United Kingdom.

The National Sea Rescue Institute yesterday named the British tourist who drowned during the capsizing as Peter Phillip Hyett (64). His wife, Suzanne Linda Hyett (49) and his daughter Helen Hyett (37), were injured and taken to hospital. The Hyetts were due to depart from SA after the whale watching excursion.

Divers of the SA Navy yesterday found the body of crewman John Roberts 21 metres below the surface at 11 am.

About 34 people were rescued and taken to the Hout Bay NSRI sea rescue station, with 24 people hospitalised and 12 treated for hypothermia before they were released. The authorities have deployed a tug boat to recover the charter boat. — Media24-Sapa.

Search continues for driver of submerged truck
October 15, 2012 By Sarah Moore
Updated 10:43 a.m., Monday,

Beaumont police are still searching for a Warren man who went missing after his truck plunged into the LNVA canal where Eastex Freeway crosses it.
Sonar was being used Monday morning to scan the bottom of the canal, and firefighters were in discussion with officials from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to use a helicopter for additional searching, said Capt. Brad Pennison with Beaumont Fire and Rescue.

The man, 27-year-old Stephen Dvorman, was alive after his pickup went off the northbound Eastex Freeway service road just before midnight Friday, according to witnesses who spoke with him from the bridge, said Officer Doug Kibodeaux of the Beaumont Police Department.

However, by the time officers made it to the water's edge, the vehicle had gone under and Dvorman was nowhere to be seen.

"When they pulled the truck up yesterday, he wasn't in it," Kibodeaux said.

Divers searched for hours on Saturday, and police and canine officers continued the search Sunday.

His family hasn't yet heard from him, making it appear less likely that he simply left the scene of his own accord.

Dvorman was enrolled in the Lamar Institute of Technology fire academy, Kibodeaux said.

"His mother is at the scene – she is real distraught," he added.

Tammy Dvorman, Stephen's mother, says she has remained at the scene since she first received notice Friday night - leaving only briefly at the insistence of friends. She is joined by several friends of her's and Stephen's, as firefighters continue to search for the missing man.

Are road barriers enough to protect drivers from LNVA canal?


October 16, 2012 By Heather Nolan and Ioanna Makris
A Warren man drove his pickup truck into the LNVA canal over the weekend, despite barriers along the waterway that the state says should be sufficient to prevent such accidents.

Divers found a man’s body Monday in the canal near Major Drive, but authorities did not say Monday whether it was 27-year-old Stephen Dvorman.

Texas Department of Transportation spokesman Marc Shepherd said concrete barriers along the side of U.S. 69 that run over the canal are intended to protect drivers from going in the water. The embankment along Eastex Freeway is supposed to serve the same purpose, he added.

Just before midnight Friday, Dvorman drove his white Ford F-150 up an embankment on northbound Eastex Freeway and into the nearly 12-foot deep water, Beaumont police said.

Strong currents caused by the 10 to 12 million gallons of water that are pumped into the canal each hour pushed the body to the 4500 block of Major Drive, Beaumont Police Officer Doug Kibodeaux said.

Kibodeaux said that a barricade - either metal, wire or concrete - along the embankment likely would not prevent deadly accidents. The impact of a car hitting a barricade and landing in the water could injure a driver, he said, and that could decrease the chance of the driver swimming out of the car.

Recall

Recall Notice
SureLock™II Weight Pocket Handles

Aqua Lung is conducting a voluntary recall of SureLock II weight pocket handles.

SureLock II is the mechanical weight release system found on most Aqua Lung buoyancy compensators (BCs) beginning in 2009. Aqua Lung is concerned about
the rubber handle pulling off of the plastic SureLock II weight pocket assembly. If this were to occur during a dive, the weight pocket would be left engaged inside the BC. There are no known occurrences of this happening underwater, and there have not been any reported injuries, but Aqua Lung believes that a recall is the safe and prudent thing to do. Aqua Lung has made a revision to the handle assembly that strengthens it. A revised handle is easily recognized by a thickened band of rubber at the base of the handle.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using their BCs with Sure Lock II weight pockets. Bring the pockets to your nearest authorized Aqua Lung Dive Retailer or Dive Center. They will be able to replace your handles for you while you wait, as changing handles is a quick process. The replacement is made under warranty and you will not incur any charges.

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Please note that handles will be in short supply for the first three weeks. This recall is being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission U.S. (except Hawaii) and Caribbean Dealers - for additional assistance please call us at 888-818-3483 or 760-597-5000 or email us at support@aqualung.com.

Hawaii and Micronesia Dealers - for additional information, please call us at 808-485-0100 or email us at pacsupport@aqualung.com.

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**IMPORTANT! FOUND ON THE WEB**

The University of Maryland Scientific Diving Program has updated their medical forms. These are or should be the same or similar to what your team uses.

To download the file, go to: [http://www.des.umd.edu/risk_comm/diving/forms/medical.pdf](http://www.des.umd.edu/risk_comm/diving/forms/medical.pdf)

**FOUND ON THE WEB**

**NY Firm Inks Second Deal After Year-long Drought**


August 14, 2012

It’s shaping up to be a busy summer for Lincolnshire Management.

A week after announcing its first acquisition in a year, the New York firm is announcing another deal. **Lincolnshire has bought PADI Worldwide Corp.**, a Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.-scuba training company, from Seidler Equity Partners, managing director Kate Lehman told *Buyouts*. The firm is expected to announce the deal, which closed on Aug. 9, shortly.

Lehman and her colleagues liked the company because of its global presence and because of Lincolnshire’s
experience with membership-supported organizations that provide training in the sports-and-recreation sector. The firm’s portfolio also includes aviation-training company Aerosim and The Alaska Club, a chain of fitness clubs in Alaska.

PADI Worldwide is the world’s largest trainer for scuba divers, Lehman said. The company has offices in the U.S. as well as Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Japan, Brazil and Russia, according to its Web site. The Lincolnshire team is hoping to help the company expand into Asia, Lehman said.

Lehman said the company’s performance remained strong in recent years despite the Great Recession, though she declined to discuss details of its financials. “Scuba is a steady business, and we see growth coming out of Asia as well as with Generation Y” consumers, or those generally in their 20s and 30s, Lehman said. Lincolnshire will also help build out the company’s social media platform, she added.

Credit Suisse, which represented the sellers, brought the deal to Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire is not releasing terms of the deal, though it typically backs companies with revenues of around $50 million to $500 million and operating cash flow of $5 million to $50 million. Ares Capital Corp., a business development company, is providing financing.

The announcement comes barely a week after the firm announced its acquisition of True Temper Sports Inc., a designer and manufacturer of golf club shafts and other sports equipment, which was Lincolnshire’s first acquisition since August 2011. As with that deal, Lincolnshire invested in PADI Worldwide via its fourth fund, which closed in late 2008 at $835 million. As of March 31, only 22 percent of that fund had been drawn down, according to data provider Preqin. Executives at Seidler Equity were not immediately available to comment.

FOUND ON THE WEB

Sound Tragedy: Four Lives Saved and the Loss of a Brother
July 24, 2012 By DJ McAneny

As emergency dive crews searched for survivors of a wreck where a boat overturned on the Long Island Sound, some needed a little convincing to be saved.

Even when life is at its worst—when everything comes literally crashing down—some people seem to keep their heads about them.

"The guy, he just told the divers if they didn't get him out of there alive, his mother was going to kill them," Stamford Fire Department Deputy Chief Trevor Roach said Monday night. "It was tongue-in-cheek, you know. He reminded them of his mother once he was out and then thanked them. He took five, ten minutes to get out. The girl was a different story. She took a bit longer."
Roach was talking about a pair of boaters trapped in an air-pocket of an overturned vessel in the Long Island Sound near the Stamford Lighthouse to which Stamford Fire Department dive teams responded to late Sunday night. He said, as the first team on the scene, they had to deal with something they’d never really had to face before—a victim who didn’t want saving.

"There were a lot of debris, things hanging off the boat. She just did not want to leave the safety of that air bubble," Roach said. "She didn't want to go swimming into that black hole. The boat was upside-down right on the surface, but it was maybe a 20-foot swim through debris and everything else to the surface, to safety. It wasn't a straight shot."

Roach said the conversations between the victims and the rescuers were strange and, psychologically, something for which they can never really practice. Each and every person handles stress and trauma in a different way.

"We've never had to deal with this particular circumstance previously," he said. "We've talked about it before, that it could happen. We've never experienced it."

The pair were just two of the four people initially rescued Sunday night from the waters of Long Island Sound. The other two had been clinging to the bottom of the boat, which was then sticking out of the water, and pulled out by arriving crews.

Tragically, a fifth member with the group, New Rochelle Firefighter Keith Morris, 31, was lost in the wreck after he was thrown from the vessel. His body would be recovered 13 hours later from roughly 16 feet of water Monday at low tide, meaning he was buried at high tide beneath 25 feet of pitch black water and wreckage Sunday night that impeded rescue efforts.

His body was discovered with assistance from side-scan sonar, authorities said Monday during a press conference.

"The wreckage made entry onto the scene extremely difficult," Roach said. "When we found out we were searching for a firefighter, it pulled at all our heart strings."

The group, all New Rochelle residents, had been at the Stamford waterfront establishment the Crab Shell prior to the accident, and were heading home sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. when the crash occurred.

Authorities said the boat struck a breakwall and flipped. Images of the ship being transported after it was pulled from the water showed some pretty severe damage to the front end.
Captain Raul Camejo, of the Connecticut DEEP’s division of state environmental conservation police, confirmed Morris’ body was with the Medical Examiner Monday afternoon. Camejo could not confirm Monday whether alcohol was a suspected factor in the crash. An accident reconstruction team was working on putting together everything else.

The firefighter community in New Rochelle turned out in strong numbers Monday to support each other and the Morris family, who were sheltered from the media at a makeshift command post off Harbor Drive, from which authorities had been launching watercraft.

"Keith was an excellent firefighter who lived life to its fullest. He’s going to be sorely missed," said New Rochelle Deputy Chief Robert Benz, who trained Morris as a firefighter. "He was known throughout the department. It’s just a shame."

He said it was never something they were prepared to handle because it’s never something you expect to happen here, it always happens somewhere else.

"You read about this all the time and it happens in other places and now something has happened here," he said. "It’s a different world all of sudden. It’s a different feeling we’re not used to."

The New Rochelle Uniformed Fire Fighters Association also responded to the loss of Morris:

The executive board and members of the New Rochelle Uniformed Fire Fighters Association wish to extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Fire Fighter Keith Morris and the members of Ladder 12 on their loss. Keith was a dedicated and well respected fire fighter who bravely served the people of New Rochelle for nearly eight years. Keith will be sorely missed by all of his colleagues.

The United States Coast Guard, Connecticut State Police, Greenwich, Darien and Noroton emergency crews all responded last night to assist Stamford at the scene. Central, Woodside and Shippan emergency response crews also had representatives on scene.

--- New Rochelle Patch Reporter Michael Woyton contributed to this report.
City of New Rochelle Honors Stamford Firefighting Heroes

http://www.newrochelletalk.com/content/city-new-rochelle-honors-stamford-firefighting-heroes
10/16/2012 By UFFALocal273

On Tuesday, October 16, at 7 pm in New Rochelle, members of the Stamford, Connecticut Fire & Rescue Department will be honored by the Council of the City of New Rochelle for their outstanding feats of courage and heroism during the rescue of four New Rochelle residents. The presentation will take place in the Council Chambers, City Hall, at 515 North Avenue in New Rochelle.

In the late evening hours of July 22, 2012, Stamford Fire & Rescue responded to an overturned boat in Stamford Harbor, with two passengers clinging to the hull of the boat and two others trapped underwater in the boat’s cabin. Divers had to make their way through debris and an 18-inch-wide entrance to the cabin to reach them.

New Rochelle Fire Fighter Keith Morris died in the accident.

The resolution states, “This City Council extends its deepest gratitude and honor to all the participants in the in the heroic rescue."

Among those being honored are the crew of Rescue 1 – FF. Donald E. Mitchell, FF. Joseph Maida, FF. John R. Lockwood and FF. Michael A. Allegrini – and the crew of Engine 5 – FF. Jaime R. DeFelice, FF. Thomas Gibbons, FF. William J. O’Connell and FF. Daniel Hickman with special thanks to Firefighters Maida and O’Connell, the divers of the rescue.

Also being honored are the Stamford Police, Oyster Bay Police, Greenwich Police, Greenwich Dive team, SoundBeach Dive team, a Darien boat and diver, and the U.S. Coast Guard for their assistance on the scene.

“We are grateful to the Stamford Fire & Rescue Department for their rapid response and bravery during this difficult rescue,” said Byron Gray, president of the New Rochelle Uniformed Fire Fighters Association. “It is because of their courage that four members of our community are alive and safe.”

SPONSOR NEWS

USIA and NanoSonic Integrate Pioneering Technology into Diving Products

Two companies on opposite sides of the United States have teamed up to provide a paradigm breaking 21st century technology for the diving industry. Oregon-based USIA (Under Sea Industrial Apparel) and Virginia-based NanoSonic, Inc. have combined their manufacturing and technical expertise to transition NanoSonic’s pioneering...
HybridSil® technology to dry and wet suit ensembles. The diver armor equipped dry and wet suits will be initially available for the military and public safety sectors, and as many next-generation defense technologies have in the past, may transition to the commercial and recreational diving communities.

Leveraging NanoSonic’s R&D 100 award winning HybridSil core technology, virtually any fabric may be infused with a molecularly engineered ceramic nanocomposite for drastic gains in environmental durability and chemical resistance with negligible influence on drape and weight. The primary focus for the first generation of dry and wet suit materials has been enhanced laceration, abrasion and puncture protection over current state-of-the-art materials. These fabrics are 15 times stronger than steel and 40% stronger than aramid fibers such as Kevlar and Nomex.

USIA was chosen by Nanosonic as its exclusive Phase III transition partner due to its extensive experience within the military and recreational diving business and immediate synergy with NanoSonic’s HybridSil technical team. USIA is led by its founder Kim Johns, who has more than 28 years of experience in the military and public diving industries. “The bottom line benefit is a novel material that creates real dive armor,” said Johns. “For over 30 years we have all been making drysuits and wetsuits from the same types of materials – usually laminated materials (tri-lams and bi-lams), which can delaminate and separate under stress.” This technology infuses a coating on the material that changes the chemical composition and creates a innovative composite material – in this case, drysuit exposure protection. These new nanocomposite materials are fantastic. They are highly flexible and lightweight, yet extremely durable, tough and chemically resistant.

“In the short term, this new material will replace overlays for high wear areas in drysuits and wetsuits,” Johns stated. “High-use places like knees, elbows and shoulders will get an overlay that will add an extremely lightweight, pliable, yet tough layer to protect the diver. In the long term, we will be making entire suits out of these materials.”

According to Vince Baranauskas, PhD, Vice President of Polymer Science and Engineering at NanoSonic, HybridSil Dive Armor crosslinks molecules across the matrix, fiber and host ceramic particle interfaces to create an innovative product that merges the best qualities of any fabric with otherwise unobtainable performance enhancements. Imagine a light fabric that feels like paper but is 10 times stronger than any other product available. Vince Baranauskas received his Ph.D. in Macromolecular Science and Engineering at Virginia Tech, with a focus on the synthesis and characterization of siloxane functional block, random, and graft copolymers for use as durable oxidative barriers for metallic nanoparticles. Baranauskas co-invented the core technology, HybridSil, an advanced copolymer nanocomposite technology that is currently under evaluation on multiple military and commercial platforms.
SPONSOR NEWS

SOS Hyperlite Saves the Life of a Diver in Les Escoumins, Canada

A Scuba diver who suffered decompression sickness after a rapid ascent received urgent, local treatment in a SOS Hyperlite Hyperbaric Stretcher, making a full recovery. The Hyperlite, which is stationed at the Health Centre of the Haute-Côte-Nord, Québec Province, was purchased for the rapid response to diving accidents and incidences of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. The diver benefitted from having local treatment with the minimum of delay.

In a brief interview with the Journal de Québec, Dr Guillaume Lord, the local hyperbaric physician made the following comments:

“Sunday was the first time in Canada that we have used a portable hyperbaric chamber in a hospital. The incident followed an uncontrolled ascent from the deep. The Diver received exactly the same treatment as he would have received at the Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis Hospital in Quebec (the nearest alternative hyperbaric facility some 300km away). The portable chamber saves us time, whilst also averting the need to take the patient over high ground, which would aggravate the decompression problem further.”

The Hyperlite at Les Escoumins was purchased in 2008 through fund raising activities primarily for the benefit of the diving community.

Mr. Jocelyn Boisvert, ex-Canadian Navy clearance Diver and Co-ordinator of Centre de Médecine de Plongée du Québec gave the following statement: -

“We treated a diver this weekend in the Hyperlite (TT6) for 5 hours and everything went as per the planned protocol. The diver was released without any residual symptoms. The quick response to treat the diver was a key factor in the result. Our Doctor was on the phone with the technician and was able to coordinate the treatment from his office here in Lévis Québec.

Used primarily for the treatment of pressure related injuries for military, commercial and sports diving accidents, as well as in battlefield medicine and aeromedical evacuation. the SOS Hyperlite’s unique portable design makes it ideal for quick deployment and as first response medical aid.

For further information about Hyperlite Hyperbaric Stretchers, please contact Paul Selby on +44 (0) 845 263 8155 or alternatively email paul@hyperlite.co.uk.
SPONSOR NEWS

EdgeTech to Provide Multiple Side Scan Sonar Systems to Chicago Police Department Marine Unit

October 15, 2012 - EdgeTech, a leader in high resolution sonar imaging systems, was recently awarded a contract from the Chicago Police Department Marine Unit for three 4125 Side Scan Sonar Systems. The systems will be used by the Chicago Police Department for various critical search and recovery operations ranging from relocation of sunken boats, cars and aircraft to underwater surveys related to homeland security during waterfront festivals, VIP visits and Navy pier operations.

In addition to the wide area high resolution underwater search capabilities of the 4125 Systems, all units provided to the Chicago Police Department will have the unique ability to perform ship hull inspections. Additionally, the systems can be outfitted with depressor wings for deep water operations or pole mounted on a vessel for easy shallow water port and river work.

Two of the rugged, portable and easy-to-use 4125 Side Scan Sonar Systems are configured with EdgeTech’s ultra-high resolution frequency pair 600/1600 kHz, ideal for the many rivers, channels and harbors in the Police Department’s domain. The third unit is configured with dual simultaneous 400/900 kHz frequencies, ideal for wide area searches in and around Lake Michigan.

Commenting on the sale, RJ Jablonski of EdgeTech noted “the 4125 Side Scan Sonar is a great tool for groups like the Chicago Police Department Marine Unit. The system is very versatile and has been proven many times over; finding submerged cars, boats and other objects of interest. The wide swath coverage combined with the high resolution images produced by the units is unmatched and truly helps search and recovery teams do their jobs quickly and confidently.”

Working with Karl Luttrell of Science Diving & Environmental Co., EdgeTech was able to secure the bid for multiple systems by outlining the superior characteristics and versatility of the system.

For more information on the 4125 Side Scan Sonar System go to: http://www.youtube.com/user/EdgeTechMarine .

For more information on other EdgeTech products visit www.edgetech.com or email info@edgetech.com

ODD NEWS....

Report: Ukraine Trains Dolphins With Friggin’ Pistols on Their Heads
October 12, 2012 By Robert Beckhusen Email Author
Killer dolphins with knives and pistols attached to their heads. It might sound crazy, but that’s reportedly one element of the Ukrainian navy’s restarted marine mammal program.

The program reportedly includes training dolphins to search for mines and marking them with buoys. But Ukraine also plans to train the dolphins “to attack enemy combat swimmers using special knives or pistols fixed to their heads,” according to RIA Novosti. A source inside the Ukrainian navy told the agency that the exercises, which are being conducted at the state oceanarium in Sevastopol, are “counter-combat swimmer tasks in order to defend ships in port and on raids.”

Largely, using dolphins for military purposes is no secret. The U.S. Navy trains dolphins to hunt mines, and tests several dolphin-based systems designed to stop enemy divers from infiltrating harbors. The Soviet Union had a dolphin program of its own based at the Black Sea port of Sevastopol until the USSR cracked apart. The Soviet dolphin unit stayed in Sevastopol, but ownership was transferred to Ukraine, where it was kept afloat by switching to civilian tasks like working with disabled children, according to the agency.

Now they’ll be trained to kill, allegedly. If so, it won’t necessarily be the first time. Russian commandos trained to fight dolphins in case the animals were ever used against them. The Soviet navy once employed dolphins armed with hypodermic syringes loaded with carbon dioxide, according to one dolphin expert who advised the Sevastopol base on caring for the animals after the program first ended. Soviet dolphins were also purportedly trained to attach mines to ships, and were attached with parachutes before being thrown from helicopters.

Rumors about killer dolphins have also been directed at the U.S. Navy. One former Navy dolphin trainer said the Navy experimented with arming dolphins with syringes. In June, blogger and former Navy SEAL Brandon Webb posted an anonymous message from a person claiming to be an ex-SEAL, who wrote: “The dolphins would have their simulated CO₂ system attached to their nose, they would then ram us in the chest cavity to simulate the injection. The dolphins could kill just with this force alone (we had to dive with special padding) but the idea was to recover the bodies and any intelligence.”
But whether the Ukrainians are attaching pistols to the dolphins’ heads — that’s a little iffy. The program “sounds directionally on point,” e-mailed Webb, whose unit practiced diving with U.S. Navy dolphins. But “attached firearms to their heads seems far fetched.” For one, dolphins can be lethal without a weapon attached to their heads or snouts. Ukraine will also have to devise a contraption to set off a blast. But a triggered-on-contact “bang stick” — which are used to scare off sharks — risks inadvertently killing or grievously injuring any dolphin armed with one.

Other non-lethal aspects of the program sound similar to the mainstream U.S. Marine Mammal Program. Officially, that program doesn’t train dolphins to kill and never has. “The Navy does not now train, nor has it ever trained, its marine mammals to harm or injure humans in any fashion or to carry weapons to destroy ships,” the Navy states. Instead, the Navy has tested a device called the Mark 6 Marine Mammal System: a buoy attached to a dolphin’s snout. Once detecting an enemy diver, the dolphin plants the buoy nearby and returns to its handler. The buoy then floats to the surface and emits a strobe light to mark the location for human guards. The Ukraine program appears to be largely similar. In a recent Ukrainian exercise, dolphins searched for items “and attached devices to them which were fixed on their heads, after which a buoy on it was sent to the surface to mark it.”

The U.S. also has the Shallow Water Intruder Detection System, which uses a sea lion equipped with a spring-loaded clamp that can be attached to a diver’s legs. The sea lion then swims back to its handlers, who can reel the enemy diver in like a snagged fish. The Navy has also deployed dolphins to the Persian Gulf to help detect and clear underwater mines. Animal rights groups, though, haven’t been happy about it. No word if Ukraine is trying something similar.

Finally, there’s a big risk in arming dolphins, as they could easily become a danger to your own side. “Since dolphins cannot discern the difference between enemy and friendly vessels, or enemy and friendly divers and swimmers, it would not be wise to give that kind of decision authority to an animal,” the U.S. Navy states in its FAQ about the mammal program. If the Ukrainian navy is in fact arming its dolphins, Kiev’s admirals might want to take note of that.
Pneumothorax

[Spontaneous, traumatic, iatrogenic, post-surgical]
Compiled by Ernest S Campbell, MD erncampbell@gmail.com

There are three obvious reasons for not diving:
- Disorders that may lead to altered consciousness
- Disorders that inhibit the "natural evolution of Boyle’s Law”.
- Disorders that may lead to erratic and irresponsible behavior.

Pneumothorax

Any lung disease, procedure, or event that can result in air trapping is thought to be a contraindication to diving. That having been said, most diving medical people would say that spontaneous, traumatic and post-surgical pneumothoraces are felt to be disqualifying, due to the almost certain presence of 'air trapping', either from the underlying disease process or the surgical procedure. Once a person has a spontaneous pneumothorax, recurrences are likely.

Traumatic and iatrogenic pneumothoraces vary in degree, those due to blunt or penetrating trauma usually leave lacerations of the lung surface, often with significant radiographic changes that indicate scarring and air trapping. Such individuals should not be allowed to dive. In the event of isolated injury without significant scarring or air trapping, such as is seen with ice pick trauma, clean knife penetration, subclavian line placement, thoracentesis needle injury and some mediastinal surgery, diving should be permitted, pending proper radiological evaluation to rule out air trapping.

There are really two dangers involved - arterial gas embolism, with the possibility of immediate death due to coronary or vertebrobasilar embolism, and tension pneumothorax--which severely complicates recompression treatment of AGE [arterial gas embolism]. A large pneumothorax requires the insertion of a needle for relief and a tube management if treated in the chamber.

There appears to be little evidence that the dangers of spontaneous pneumothorax present a threat over a lifetime; there have not been any fatalities reported attributed to an AGE due to a previous spontaneous pneumothorax or previous thoracic surgery [NOAA Statistics, 1972-1982].
**Spontaneous Pneumothorax** is an inherited disease which leaves some people with weakened areas of the pleural lining of the lung, called blebs or blisters. These can occasionally burst and cause air to leak from the lung to the chest cavity, resulting in a pneumothorax (‘air in the chest’). It is ‘spontaneous’ in the sense that there was no trauma or surgical cause of the ruptured bleb. It can occur when the individual is exercising, straining, or performing some other physical task, but most of the time it just happens. If one spontaneous pneumothorax has occurred, there is a 33% chance that another will occur within 2-3 years 30% will have a recurrence after 3 years, and there is a 60% long term risk for another pneumothorax.

When a lung collapses while diving, the air in the chest cavity is at the ambient pressure of the dive depth. Upon ascending, the air in the chest cavity expands, and further compresses the lung (tension pneumothorax). This is a life-threatening situation and is one of the main reasons that a history of spontaneous pneumothorax is an absolute contra-indication to diving since most divers and dive boats are not prepared to provide first aid to a diver with pneumothorax. One of the symptoms of a small pneumothorax is a voice change after a dive. This would raise a warning flag about further diving as there might be a small pneumothorax which in itself is not harmful, but which will cause a serious problem if the diver does another dive.

Gas embolism, with air getting into the arterial circulation, is another thing that can happen, often with brain and cardiac symptoms. Surgical procedures called pleurodesis (scarring the lung surface) and pleurectomy (excision of the pleura, a thin covering of the lungs) are commonly performed for recurrent collapsed lungs. There is a recurrence rate of 8 percent following pleurodesis. Recurrence is rare following pleurectomy. Even if recurrence of collapsed lung does not occur, the underlying cystic lung disease of the other lung remains, with the inherent danger now being pulmonary barotrauma with air embolism. The following are absolute contraindications to diving:

- Diving within three months after any type of collapsed lung.
- Spontaneous collapsed lung in beginners.
• Expert divers with recurrent collapsed lung after pleurectomy.

If you feel that you will continue to dive regardless of the risk, Spiral CT scans of your lungs should be performed so as to detail the degree of risk involved. Best advice here would be not to dive until you have been cleared by your chest specialist.

(Developed from material provided by Maurizio Schiavon, MD, Consultant to Diving Medicine Online)

More at:
1. Reducing the Risk of Pulmonary Barotrauma
   Lists diseases that cause spontaneous pneumothorax, ways to avoid barotrauma to the lungs and lists some references and abstracts about spiral CT scans.
   URL: http://scuba-doc.com/ageprbs.html#Reducing4
2. Pulmonary Problems, Marfan's and Scuba Diving
   describes the problems that would face a diver with Marfan’s Syndrome
   URL: http://www.scuba-doc.com/mrfnsynd.html
3. Web Links to Pulmonary barotrauma
   Extensive list of links to pulmonary barotrauma

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FREE TO DOWNLOAD

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WEENIE GUMBO

2 pkgs frozen okra or fresh okra
1 onion, chopped
¼ cup celery, chopped (optional)
1 clove garlic. Chopped fine
3 cans tomato sauce
3 cans water
2 pkgs frankfurters, sliced bite size

Lightly brown okra, onion, celery in soup pot sprayed with olive oil. Add water, tomato sauce, frankfurters, garlic. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until frankfurters are cooked and okra is tender. Season to taste. Serve over rice. Serves 6 to 8

Better if made the day before eating and reheated.

You HAVE to try this! Comfort food at its best!
~ Mark

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EVENTS*

DUI Offers Special Training Workshop for Public Safety Dive Teams
Diving in CONTAMINATED WATER is a vast and complex topic. DUI’s program is based on our 49 years of industry experience keeping divers protected in some of the world’s harshest environments.

DUI’s Dive Ops program is conducted as part of the annual DUI Drysuit Demo Tour. The workshop gives Dive Teams access to equipment and training to keep them safer, tips on grant writing, the ability to network with other teams, as well as the opportunity to TEST DIVE the equipment.

Oct 19 Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings
Nov 2 Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
Nov 9 Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

Oceans 2012 MTS/IEEE Hampton Roads*
October 14-19 Virginia Beach, VA, USA

October 21, 2012 - October 25, 2012
FD IAI Annual Forensic Training Conference
The Florida Division of the International Association for Identification is a non-profit professional association for forensic scientists, crime scene technicians, evidence technicians, latent print examiners, and all other law enforcement employees who are interested in the scientific investigation of crime.
St Petersburg, FL www.fdiai.org

Ocean Innovation 2012
October 21 - 24
St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador, Canada

VIPS is the industry-leading MicroROV conference, hands down. No other venue gives you such a focused combination of presentations from industry experts, hands-on training, technology insights and camaraderie with underwater robotics professionals.

This year will mark the 11th VIPS event and it will be held at the Key Largo Bay Marriott Beach Resort October 22-24, 2012 in Key Largo, Florida, USA. Registration and pricing information is now available so be sure to register early to take advantage of discount pricing. If you have any questions about VIPS, please contact us at vips@videoray.com or +1 610 458 3000 for further information.

October 22, 2012 - October 26, 2012
SWAFS 2012 Conference
The Southwestern Association of Forensic Scientists (SWAFS) is a not for profit association of persons actively engaged in the profession of scientific examination of physical evidence in an organized body so that the profession in all of its disciplines may be effectively and scientifically practiced. **Scottsdale, AZ  www.swafs.us**

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4th Annual Marine Renewable Energy Technical Conference
October 30-31, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island
[http://www.mrec.umassd.edu/event/](http://www.mrec.umassd.edu/event/)

October 31-November 2, 2012
**Enforcement Expo**
New Orleans, LA
Contact: Bob Luikens
[www.enforcementexpo.com](http://www.enforcementexpo.com)

November 5, 2012 - November 9, 2012
**California Association of Criminalists Fall Seminar**
The California Association of Criminalists works to foster an exchange of ideas and information within the field of criminalistics and promote wide recognition of the practice of criminalistics as an important phase of jurisprudence. **San Jose, CA  www.cacnews.org**

**4th Annual Marine Renewable Energy Technical Conference**

**Oil Comm (Offshore Communications)**
November 6 – 8
Houston, TX
[www.oilcomm.com/](http://www.oilcomm.com/)

November 12, 2012 - November 17, 2012
**NEAFS Annual Meeting**
The Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists, Inc. (NEAFS) is a professional organization for people employed within the forensic sciences. Our goals are to exchange ideas and information within the field of forensic science and to foster friendship and cooperation among the various laboratory personnel. We also aim to stimulate increased implementation of existing techniques, along with research and development of new techniques within the field, and to encourage financial support for these efforts. **Saratoga Springs, NY  www.neafs.org**
1) The use of lifting devices should be practiced on dry land prior to entering the water. Items to consider are _______.
   a. Knot tying
   b. Use of attachment tools
   c. Developing a mind’s eye view of the process
   d. Device inflation.
   e. All of the above

2) Lifting an object in excess of 100 pounds should be considered above recreational training.
   a. True
   b. False

3) Filling a lifting device should be done using ________.
   a. Your tank as it has enough air for 2000 pound devices or less.
   c. Your buddy’s tank as he/she can surface when the air runs low while you continue working.
   d. Surface supplied line and compressor
   e. All of the above
4) Using 55 gallon drums is preferred over a flexible lift device.
   a. True
   b. False

5) Most lifting devices will contain a valve for filling and a ________.
   a. Triple sewed seam
   b. Multiple connection rings
   c. Several filling ports
   d. Over pressure valve

6) Divers may consider using __________ lift for items in water deeper than the objects length.
   a. 55 gallon drums
   b. Double the lift weight needed
   c. Stage
   d. Lift device and a tow truck
   e. Any of the above.

7) Equipment used for lifting should include __________.
   a. FFM
   b. Voice Communications
   c. Dry Suit
   d. Gloves
   e. All of the above

8) Recovery of boats, vehicles, etc; should be considered hazmat operations.
   a. True
   b. False

9) Recovered objects should be considered as __________ until an investigation is done.
   a. Owners property
   b. Towing company property
   c. Crime scene evidence
   d. Le’ property

10) A vehicle upside down should be brought to the surface and then righted.
    a. True
    b. False

11) Lift devices should be filled from a valve at the surface.
    a. True
    b. False

12) When lifting a vehicle from the bottom use the gross weight instead of figuring its displacement.
    a. True
    b. False

TEAM DISCUSSION

1. Discuss with your team the types of lifting devices you have and determine what they are safe to lift.

2. Consider conducting a training session and practice using your lift devices.

3. If your team does not have a surface compressor
for lift device fills consider a mutual aid group that has one.

4. Discuss the maintenance and post dive lift bag usage.

5. Reidentify lift devices in pounds of lift instead of Cubic Feet.

6. Discuss your operation for lift with local towing companies and how you will work together.

If you would like to be part of our Continuing Education Team and help us with this section, contact Mark at PSDiverMonthly@aol.com – Subject Line: Continuing Ed.

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

PSDiver Monthly Issue 97

These training agencies have recognized PSDiver Monthly as a valued addition to their programs and Continuing Education requirements.

Public Safety Diving Association (PSDA) recognizes and approves the PSDiver CE program. Each month’s Q&A program credits 1 CEU for renewal up to a maximum of 3 CEUs from this source for each year’s renewal.

ERDI Recognizes and supports the PSDiver Monthly CE Program. Contact your ERDI Instructor for details.

Lifesaving Resources
Lifesaving Resources advocates the need for Public Safety and Rescue personnel to be trained in Water and Ice Rescue and recognizes the PSDiver Monthly CE Program for continuing education training and credits.

Lifeguard Systems – TEAM LGS

We welcome all training agencies and organizations to participate. For details, email mailto:PSDiverMonthly@aol.com
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PSDM 97 CE Answers

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