A Review of the Guardian Full Face Mask
By Chris Gabel

Underwater Photography Light Absorption Basics
By Mark Phillips

NEWS EVENTS
DIVING MEDICINE CONTINUING EDUCATION AND MORE!
Greeting,

Recently we restarted the conversation in our discussion group about national PSD standards. There seems to be a general consensus that we need such a thing and even some of the training agencies have become positively involved in the discussion.

Every time we start talking about PSD standards we have NFPA 1006 and 1670 thrown into the conversation. One problem with NFPA standards is that they are not enforceable. Fire departments typically pick and choose which standards they wish to follow and do not follow NFPA standards 100%. The downside risk to those departments is if a civil suit is filed and it can be proven that the department had an obligation to follow a standard but did not or did not follow the standard they chose 100%.

OSHA offers enforceable standards but in the diving section has a written exemption for dive operations where life or limb can be saved. In the past a lot of those who have argued about standards have fallen back to the OSHA exemption but never actually understood what it was there for or its intent. OSHA has no desire to go after a PSD team and while the threat of enforced standards by OSHA is a viable concern, it will probably never happen.

The training agencies did not form a consensus standard between them so we have no real guideline to follow other than those we adapt into our own SOPs from OSHA, NFPA and other dive teams. These become local standards and to the extent they are used by their respective teams, are enforceable within that group. But a national standard ... not yet.

Recreational agencies have an open door to capture PSD training and take it away from professional training agencies. Sure we say we are not recreational divers but aren’t we really just chest thumping? We argue about them but still seem to think and believe that “someone or some group” is out there looking out for us. The sad fact is there is not. Those who claimed to have been no longer have the credibility to do so and those who have tried to facilitate change have been discouraged at every step.

No, change is not easy but it is coming. Too many people are recognizing our type of diving as being different; as being professional. WE recognize and desire to be recognized as professional divers, not recreational or commercial divers. If we keep thumping our chests and as a group, start demanding the change we desire, we will see change.

Dive Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher
PSDiver Monthly
SPECIAL TO PSDIVER MONTHLY

The Guardian
Chris Gabel

What is more exciting than opening that new piece of equipment for the first time and being the first proverbial kid on your block to have that new widget in your arsenal. Well, this month, I thought that we would take a look at the new mask from Ocean Technology Systems. Ryan Lummus was kind enough to send one over to the shop so that we could evaluate it and go over some of the maintenance aspects of the newest mask on the block.

The mask should look relatively familiar as there are others on the market with a similar look. Take for instance the Interspiro Aga (I know, Interspiro calls it the Divator mask, but old habits die hard) mask and Poseidon’s Atmosphere mask. As a result, the concept of this mask shouldn’t feel, look, or dive foreign. The second stage is right up front and under the faceplate where you would expect it. You’ll notice that the supply line is on the divers right; a deviation from the Aga. The communications port is also located on the diver’s right just aft of the second stage. The one that we were provided with did not have communications installed so I can’t comment too much on the look and feel of the new setup. I would like to eventually evaluate a fully equipped mask and put it through its paces (read – use and abuse and see how it takes it).

One other difference to note is the mounting fitting of the second stage. The regulator gets inserted in to the front of the mask without spinning or tightening up any screws. It clicks into place and is released by depressing the red button located inside the mask and to the divers left. A clever setup for sure. The mask comes equipped with several versions of a nose clearing block to allow for different faces to clear in comfort and not have to adapt the face to the mask. The mask seal is comfortable and is basically a “one size fits all”. I talked with Mike, one of the co-owners of OTS and the lead designer of the Guardian project. He mentioned that they specifically designed the mask skirt so that it would be adaptable to the plethora of facial shapes that are out there in the diving world. A current US Navy Seal is going to have a different facial structure than, say, someone built like John Madden. He also mentioned that a feature he designed into the second stage was a slight positive pressure when the second stage loads. A little air pressure is a good thing. It allows for water to stay out if the seal is only slightly compromised. Another feature to note is that, like some others in this category, this full face mask is self clearing. This

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means no squirting stuff on to the face plate.

One safety note, like other full face masks, one thing to be aware of is if you invert this mask (feet over head) the mask can flood. That's no different than other masks. The air pressure comes from the second stage and (surprise) rises. If you go inverted, the air still rises but instead of ending up around your face, it goes to your chin. Should it flood, de-watering the mask is simple. Just return to the upright position and depress the purge button and all will be well again with the world.

You can get all kinds of colors and customize your mask to your personal taste. I'm not going to go much in to the details of mask fashion. If you would like to see the myriad of colors and choices, you can go to the OTS web site at www.OceanTechnologySystems.com. The subject of color choices and fashion is more in line with a series on Bravo than this article.

So lets get in to the guts of this thing. One of the things that you'll notice is that the Guardian full face mask is equipped with an ambient breathing valve. You can't miss it, it's the big cylindrical looking thing that's attached to the face plate. It's the same kind of valve that you may have seen on the Aga in the past. It's open on the surface to allow air to enter the mask without having to waste your back gas or surface supply air. When you submerge, the surrounding water pressure closes the valve. It's handy, but should not be ignored during periodic servicing. It does contain some soft goods parts and needs to be cleaned regularly with clean fresh water. Make sure that it's free from debris.

The second stage should look and feel relatively familiar. The design is similar enough to the Aga that there shouldn't be anything intimidating about it but different enough to feel the change. If you already took the OTS Technician class with the infamous John Hott, you'll be right at home. Unfortunately, there is no current technical class available on the Guardian. I have been assured that it's in development and should be available in the near future. That said, the second stage is close enough in design that maneuvering around the internal components should feel very familiar. OK, now here is the disclaimer,
only qualified and trained individuals should disassemble, reassemble, and service any life support gear. It's at this point when I started taking it apart. Not in a destructive manner, my curiosity dictated that I must at least look inside the major components.

The exhaust valve, smaller and less intrusive than the Aga, is of similar design therefore giving you the same protection in questionable water as the Aga had in the past. The US Navy has guidelines in their contaminated water diving manual on using full face masks in less than desirable water (when you see hypodermic needles floating by, it's safe to say that it's questionable water that you're diving in). You can check out the US Navy's guide to contaminated water diving at www.supersalv.org/pdf/Contaminated%20Water%20Div%20Man.pdf. As always make sure that you have proper training before entering any contaminated water for your own safety.

OK, that said, let's move on to the other side of the second stage. The supply side has a pretty beefy locking nut that keeps the connection nipple and internal regulator components in place. Again, only a trained professional should take it apart further.

The oral nasal is, well, an oral nasal. It's equipped with a one way valve so that exhaled breathe can only go to the exhaust valve and not back through the mask. That said, air from inside the face plate area can go in to the oral nasal. Now that we've cleared that up please remember to thoroughly clean the oral nasal after each dive or at the very least after each day of diving. Certainly not picking on the Guardian, but I have seen things grow in oral nasal masks that would curl the toes of the most seasoned doctors at the CDC. Make sure that the inside of the channel of the mask gets cleaned and dried fully before stowing. There are several products out there that will do the job. One of my personal favorites is Sanizide. That stuff kills about everything. Make sure that you read the directions fully before use.

As for cleaning the rest of the mask, clean fresh water. You can add a mild (I SAID MILD) detergent. Make sure that you rinse thoroughly. Again, the mask needs to be dry before stowing it in the dive locker.

Servicing should be approached like any other full face mask out on the market today. You should at the very least have it serviced annually. That's at the very least.
The more you dive it, the greater the amount of preventative maintenance you need to have done. I know that I don’t have to remind you that this is life support equipment. If it fails, it’s going to do so at the least convenient moment.

The Guardian has all of the potential of a great mask. But like any other piece of new equipment, only time and abuse will tell. I have high hopes for OTS in its quest to make a better full face mask for the diving industry.

As with any piece of dive gear, thoroughly read the manufactures manual and be properly trained to use the gear you wear. Periodically visit the manufactures web site for any important information that may pertain to your device.

As always, dive safe.

Email your commercial diving equipment maintenance or repair questions to Chris at cgabel@ocean-eye.net.

Underwater Photography
Light Absorption Basics
Mark Phillips

The differences in what we do in an air environment as opposed to what we can do in and under water are sometimes dramatic.

No matter what you believe about human evolution if we indeed have fishlike ancestors who were exposed to some alien radiological experiment, mutated and escaped to dry land we lost the ability to breath in water, see in water or distinguish the direction of sound in water without aids.

The current design of human body implies that it is intended to be best used in an air or air like atmosphere. Since our eyes function so well in air, it is hard to accept that they don’t
work well underwater. But when we wear a mask and add a layer of air between us and the water, we can see just fine.

Water tends to change the way things that belong in air function. Lungs don’t work when filled with water; your sense of smell is almost gone, and everything looks blurry unless you wear a mask. But even when you use aids and dive in clear water, things still are out of whack. Colors that should be vibrant and vivid are washed out or sometimes even missing.

When we are fortunate enough to have water clear enough to allow for underwater photography we find that the same effects we have on our vision occur to photographs. Colors are washed out and sometimes missing. Without an added light source items of interest can become hard to distinguish in the photographs. Even with extra light sources, medium and long range photographs will still have background colors that tend towards greens and blues. These effects occur in fresh or salt water and for the most part have nothing to do with the salinity of the water.

These losses of color occur because water is 800 times denser than air. Our eyes and our photographic equipment “see” in water but are only capable of capturing images using ambient or available light. If we have clear water and take a flashlight with us, we can illuminate objects and see more color. A strobe or added external light sources on a camera will do the same and color will be restored or partially restored to the captured image.

There are a couple of reasons color is lost underwater. The natural light source we have is sunlight. Depending on the climatic conditions of the day, the sun may be partly or totally obscured by clouds. This alone reduces the amount of available light. What is available still has to pass through the surface of the water. Depending on the conditions, the surface of the water reflects back a certain amount of light reducing again the amount of light that penetrates into the water below.
The density of water causes light to be absorbed and the net effect is that the wavelength of colors drops out with the longest wavelengths first. Depending on the clarity of the water, position of the sun and conditions in the water, colors will begin to drop out at around 5 meters, 15 feet.

Color drops out in a particular order relative to depth. The order is the same as the color spectrum of a rainbow with the longest wavelengths dropping out first. The order of color loss is Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet. (Roy G. Biv) This is why underwater photographs from waters within recreational limits usually have a blue or blue greenish tint to them.

As colors drop, the ability to identify objects turns more to contrast than color. Photos taken with only ambient or inadequate light sources can sometimes be converted to black and white to enhance contrast.

When working with evidentiary photos, the original photo should NEVER be altered. When using digital programs to enhance or convert photos, always save the original and use copies when manipulating the photograph. Save the originals to a storage media separate from the one you use to save copies.

The condition of the water itself can reduce the amount of light or diffuse artificial lights. Lights shown directly on an object may create only a bright spot on a photograph. Flash and strobes aimed at an object may cause the photo to white out completely. Light hitting silt, debris or the stuff that makes zero vis water zero vis, tends to bounce back. If the light is emitted straight on, it will bounce back to the source and cause white out on the image. To prevent this, move your light source at an angle to the object. Always take a variety of photos from different angles and with light sources coming from different directions.

Photographic manipulation using technology can improve, mask or alter a photograph as well as correct some color, contrast or light issues. Some of the processes available can highlight, zoom and crop portions of a photograph and will either enhance the subject or alter it completely. When using programs to manipulate a digital image, never use your original and if the image is to be used as evidence, document every step in the alteration process.
When documenting the processes of digital manipulation of an image it is important to remember that someone else may need to validate or verify your findings. They will do that by obtaining a copy of the original and following your documentation in order to duplicate your work.

Nature will wash out colors at depth underwater. Digital manipulation can put them back. Some cameras can “see” images that the human eye cannot and manipulation can help bring out the image. Never delete a photo. Keep even the bad ones. You never know what the camera captured unless or until you run it through a photo editing program.

Pictures of pretty fish, coral reefs and beaches can be “fixed” if necessary. Evidentiary photographs need to be about the evidence.

NEWS

Chief: Firefighters threatened with arrest

http://nwanews.com/bcdr/News/73984/
June 3, 2009By Tracy M. Neal Staff Writer !
tracyn@nwanews.com

BENTONVILLE - Hickory Creek firefighters were threatened with arrest as they tried to find the man who drowned Sunday on Beaver Lake, according to the fire chief.

Hickory Creek Fire Chief Marc Trollinger described anything but a smooth operation between Benton County Sheriff's Office deputies and other emergency responders on Sunday.

Sunday’s events highlight a longstanding situation in drowning incidents between the Sheriff’s Office and other emergency responders, Trollinger said. The issue is that once an hour has passed, the Sheriff’s Office views such incidents as crime scenes that must be investigated.

Modesto Ortega-Palma, 26, from Mexico, drowned approximately 100 feet from shore in the Hickory Creek area of Beaver Lake. Several people tried to help Ortega-Palma when they noticed he was having trouble, but they were unsuccessful. Don Townsend, chief deputy of the
Benton County Sheriff's Office, said the body had been in the water for an hour or more, so it was determined that it was not a rescue operation, but a body recovery.

That determination - a death - made the area a crime scene, Townsend said.
The BCSO has its own dive team that is trained in recovery of possible evidence, Townsend said. Team members are trained to be observant of possible evidence around the body, he said.

Townsend said the situation was a recovery operation because Ortega-Palma had been in the water an hour or more. "We have to approach every death as a crime scene to determine if foul play is involved," Townsend said. "Ask any judge or prosecutor, and they will tell you the same thing."

Townsend said Trollinger had not spoken with him regarding his concerns about the situation. Trollinger said firefighters work well with other law enforcement agencies. The problem only arises with the Sheriff's Office. "Everyone else lets us do our duty and jobs; then they do their investigation," Trollinger said.

According to Trollinger, his department responded at 6:06 p.m. to the Hickory Creek Recreation Area swim area. Trollinger later issued a news release describing the operation.

Hickory Creek units began search-and-rescue operations at 6:24 p.m. Through witness interviews, a last-seen point for Ortega-Palma was located, and the department's rescue boat began trolling at 6:28 p.m. using onboard side sonar equipment, Trollinger said in the news release.

At 6:42 p.m., the sonar equipment indicated a probable location of the missing person. At 6:53 p.m., a rescue diver with the Benton County Water Rescue Team arrived, boarded the rescue boat and began suiting up to dive at the location pinpointed by the sonar, according to the press release.

Four minutes later, at 8:57 p.m., Sheriff's Office deputies declared the area a crime scene because of

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the event being outside the "golden hour." The New Jersey Trauma Center at the University Hospital in Newark defines the term "golden hour" as the time period of one hour in which the lives of a majority of critically injured trauma patients can be saved if definitive surgical intervention is provided.

Trollinger said in the release that at that point, the victim had been missing for 51 minutes; during the next 17 minutes, deputies threatened fire-and-water rescue personnel with possible consequences if they continued to perform their search and did not immediately leave the scene.

During the delay, the Fire Department, water-rescue members and bystanders pleaded with deputies to allow the search to continue, Trollinger said in the release. After failing to gain approval of the Sheriff's Office, Fire Department personnel and water-rescue members decided to continue the search, Trollinger said.

At 7:14 p.m., water-rescue divers entered the water to search the location indicated by sonar, the press release states. After approximately 20 minutes of searching, the drowning victim was located and removed from the water, Trollinger's press release states. "The Fire Department cannot speak as to the condition of the victim or if he at any point may have been a viable patient, as we do not have enough information to form a conclusion," Trollinger said in the release. "We feel it prudent to note in the accounting of events that the situation that developed between law enforcement and fire officials was a hindrance to smooth scene operations and had a negative effect on the operational goal of rescuing a victim. These events delayed the rescue efforts of responders and delayed the victim's recovery by more than 15 minutes."

Trollinger said that had the victim been a viable patient, the delay would have had a detrimental effect on the patient's possibility of survival. Trollinger was not at the scene of Sunday's incident but was told that other emergency responders were threatened with arrest if they did not halt their rescue efforts.
Trollinger said there are documented cases of people recovering after spending an hour or more under water. "We are trying to be a service to the community when we are called for help, and then to be delayed by the Sheriff's Office," Trollinger said. "Let us do our jobs, and don't interfere with our ability to render aid."

**OUR VIEW: Rescue comes first**

http://nwanews.com/bcdr/Editorial/74019
June 4, 2009 Benton County Daily Record

A man drowned in Beaver Lake on Sunday. According to Alan Bland, a park ranger with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 26-year-old Modesto Ortega-Palma was swimming near the end of a bluff when he apparently got tired and sank. People at the park tried to reach him but were unsuccessful.

The incident brought two agencies to the scene - the Hickory Creek Volunteer Fire Department and the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Firefighters did their jobs, interviewing witnesses to ascertain where the victim went under, then using sonar to pinpoint the man's probable location. At 6:53 p.m., according to Hickory Creek Fire Chief Marc Trollinger, a rescue diver from the Benton County Water Rescue Team began suiting up to dive.

Four minutes later, however, the Sheriff's Office decided it was time to call off the rescue operation. It had been approximately an hour since Ortega-Palma went under, so the Sheriff's Office determined that his death - though no death could have been confirmed at that point, given the lack of a body - had to be treated as a crime scene.

According to Trollinger, Sheriff's Office deputies threatened rescue personnel with arrest if they continued to perform their search after the first hour had passed. This went on for 17 minutes, he said, before water-rescue divers finally entered the water. Twenty minutes later, they recovered Ortega-Palma's body.

While acknowledging that there was no way to know whether Ortega-Palma was ever a "viable patient," Trollinger said, "the situation that developed between law enforcement and fire officials was a hindrance to smooth
scene operations and had a negative effect on the operational goal of rescuing a victim."

Any search for a missing person is, of course, a tense situation. It does not need to be aggravated by conflict among emergency responders.

Yes, the Sheriff's Office has a job to do. "We have to approach every death as a crime scene to determine if foul play is involved," said Don Townsend, chief deputy of the Sheriff's Office.

At the same time, doesn't there need to be room for common sense? From witness accounts, it could be reasonably assumed that there was nothing malevolent about Ortega-Palma's disappearance. By all means, conduct an investigation, but let rescue teams do their work if there's any chance that a life can be saved.

As Trollinger pointed out, there are documented cases of people surviving after an hour or more under water, particularly when the water is cold, such as Beaver Lake's water is now. If hypothermia quickly kicks in, what can follow is called the mammalian diving reflex, which allows the human body to adapt to the cold water. When looking for a person in the water, one shouldn't dismiss hope too quickly.

This is not the first time the Sheriff's Office and local emergency responders have butted heads over this kind of incident. They need to get together and agree on a policy that will prevent arguments on the scene of future emergencies.

The policy should emphasize the hope of recovering a life over the possibility of recovering evidence.

Unified Dive Team Incoming
http://nwanews.com/bcdr/News/74268/print
June 10, 2009

BENTONVILLE - Soon, the county's two dive teams will cease to exist. "The sheriff and I met (Monday), and the sheriff inherited a sheriff's dive team. When I came into office, I inherited a judge's dive team, and there have been problems between those two ever since I can remember," Benton County Judge Dave Bisbee said.

The problem of having two dive teams came to light when a man drowned on Beaver Lake on May 31. The Benton County Sheriff's Office dive team was focused on evidence and the investigation of a potential crime scene, while the judge's dive team was focused on saving the man's life. "There were mistakes made (May 31). The
sheriff and I both apologized for it. Neither one of us were responsible for it, but we both admit we are going to get it fixed," Bisbee said.

Fixing the problem of two dive teams, for Bisbee, means dissolving both teams and forming one unified dive team that will service the county, he said, informing the Quorum Court of his desire to form the new dive team through county ordinance so the rules governing the team will be clear. "We are going to do this by ordinance and stop this foolish bickering," Bisbee said.

Remains put to rest almost 100 years after death
http://www.shorehamherald.co.uk/news/Remains-put-to-rest-almost.5331062.jp
04 June 2009

The remains of a man found near Dell Quay are to be laid to rest in a special church service taking place today (Thursday, June 4). The bones, including a skull, were discovered late last November by Allan Blamire, from Fishbourne.

He was out digging in a soft part of the mud at around 3.30pm when he discovered the collection of bones 250 metres south of the Crown and Anchor pub. Initially he thought they were animal bones.

Mr Blamire, who is competitions secretary for the Apuldram Fishing and Boat Club, said it had been quite eerie. "I was digging for bait to fish in a competition at the weekend. It was getting dark and it was very stormy, and raining hard, it was quite unpleasant. "I dug near the edge of the shoreline where no-one else had dug before. As I dug down, only about a fork's depth, it was amazingly shallow, I found this long bone and I thought, this is a bit long to be an animal. "Then up came this thing a bit like a football and it was a skull. I didn't think it was a skull, and turned it round and saw the eyes. I'd been looking at a hole in the back of the head, the man had been shot."

After pulling out around 20 bones, Mr Blamire, took them straight to the police for examination. Police divers were sent to the site and dug up the rest of the skeleton. he bones were found to date
from between 1850 and 1900 and belonged to a man aged between 40 and 50, who had been shot in the skull.

Although there has been much speculation, his identity is not known and the remains will now be laid to rest in the grounds of St Mary’s Church, Apuldram by the priest-in-charge of Apuldram Parish Church, Clive Ashley.

Mr Blamire, who attends Fishbourne Church said: "I think it's great whoever it was should have a resting place and that it’s in a field near a pretty church. Everyone should have a resting place. Since the find, I’ve thought about the past and what it must have been like then, how few houses there would have been and just how deserted it would have been there."

He also urged people not to walk in the spot where he found the bones. "You could get stuck. It's okay if you know the area, but it can be quite dangerous as some of the mud is very soft."

Violent death stuns family of man whose remains were found in Bay
6/04/2009 BY JENNIFER LEOBIVICH
jlebovich@MiamiHerald.com

Omar Laparra often stayed out late dancing on Saturday night, so his brother and friends had no qualms about leaving him at a Little Havana club last week.

When he didn't come home Sunday El Mexicano, his brother, Elvio Laparra, kept calling his cellphone but got no answer. He spent two days checking hospitals for the 21-year-old.

Wednesday, he heard a news story about dismembered remains found in two plastic bags in Biscayne Bay and the description: a white man with black, straight, medium-to-shoulder-length hair.

He called police. "I don't know what happened," Elvio Laparra said Thursday morning, sitting in the apartment he shared with his brother, whom he called Omar, and his sister.

Just before noon Thursday, a pedestrian spotted another body part in the water off Bicentennial Park and called police. Detectives would not say what it was or whether it was in a plastic bag. Investigators are working to determine if the remains belong to Laparra. About 1:30
p.m., police got a second call of possible human remains in the 600 block of Sabal Palm Road. A man said he thought there were remains under his boat dock, which is on Biscayne Bay. Police have not yet confirmed whether the remains are human.

Elvio Laparra said his brother had gotten into a few fights, but that he didn't know of any enemies. "I never should have left him in the club alone," he said. "I just don't understand why someone would kill him like that. He never really had problems with anyone." His only arrest in Miami-Dade was last year for disorderly intoxication. The younger brother came from Guatemala about seven years ago and worked in construction as a laborer. The brothers would send money back home to their family.

He would work every day, and on Saturdays go out dancing at a club on Calle Ocho. He kept a pair of soccer shoes by the door, always ready for a Sunday game at a nearby park. A calendar pinned to the wall in the Little Havana apartment shows Laparra with his team, lying in front. A soccer medal hangs on the wall. "I can't believe it," Elvio said in Spanish, pulling his T-shirt over his face to wipe his red eyes. His sister could be heard sobbing in another room. "My poor brother."

Wednesday Elvio had to break the tragic news to his mother in Guatemala. He plans to send his brother's body back there to be buried.

Law enforcement authorities on Thursday continued their investigation into finding Laparra's killer. On Thursday, a cleaning crew found a bag of bloody clothes along the beach in Pompano Beach. Miami police said the bag was similar to the ones containing the remains and that the bag with clothing inside might be related to the killing.

Early Wednesday, a cyclist spotted a plastic bag floating in the water off Pelican Harbor. Thinking it looked suspicious, the person called police. Cops and police patrols began searching the waters, and about 12:30 p.m. found a second bag with remains inside near 7899 NE Bayshore Ct.

Police would not say what body parts were found, other than to say they were "significant."
Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 305-471-TIPS or Miami homicide at 305-579-6530.

**Human leg found in Nashville river**


June 09, 2009

NASHVILLE, TN (AP) - Police in Nashville are investigating after a human leg was found in the Cumberland River. A fisherman found the leg Monday floating in the river in the western part of Davidson County.

According to WTVF-TV, divers searched the water Tuesday for other body parts.

**Allegan County dive team trains with new side-scan sonar system tool**


June 11, 2009 by Aaron Aupperlee | Kalamazoo Gazette

ALLEGAN -- Two divers had just surfaced, their neoprene-covered heads bobbing in the calm lap of Pike Lake, when an update crackled over Sgt. Todd Wagner's radio. "One body recovered," the radio chattered. On Wednesday, the dive team of the Allegan County Sheriff's Office staged a training dive that, while planned a year ago, eerily echoed the search for the Air France Airbus A330 that disappeared May 31 in the Atlantic Ocean.

The training scenario for the day: A small plane had exploded over Pike Lake. The team had to look for crew members, cargo and wreckage.

Wagner, the commander of the dive team, said he had not made the connection between his team's training and the French and Brazilian recovery teams' work until that morning.

The 12-member Allegan team trained with its relatively new side-scan sonar system. The system, similar to but more detailed and accurate than a fish finder, maps the bottoms of rivers and lakes. It helps divers locate bodies and debris. "Most of the time you can't see your hand in front of your face," said Chad Weemhoff, a volunteer from the South Haven Area Emergency Services Authority who dives with the Allegan team. "When we can actually see, it's a pleasure."
Without the side-scan system, the Allegan team had difficulty finding the body of a man who went missing after he tried to swim across the Kalamazoo River in Saugatuck last year, said Deputy Herb Seyl. Divers from the Michigan State Police used their system to quickly find the body among the stumps and muck of the river. "It's an invaluable dive tool," Seyl said. "We're trying to train with it and get better with it."

**Police drivers recover knife from canal after stabbing**

http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/content/towerhamlets/advertiser/news/story.aspx?brand=ELAOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newselat&itemid=WeED11%20Jun%202009%2017%3A14%3A17%3A600

11 June 2009 By Else Kvist

POLICE divers have recovered the weapon used in the street stabbing of a 15-year-old schoolboy near Victoria Park in East London.

They were brought in to search the muddy water of the Regent’s Canal at Bethnal Green last Thursday following the attack on the youngster during a street clash involving several youths by the canal bridge in Roman Road.

The boy was taken to hospital in a critical condition, but has since recovered and been allowed home.

The specialist diving team from the Met’s marine unit at Wapping recovered the knife close to the bridge.

Eight youths aged 16 to 19 were later arrested and bailed in connection with the stabbing.

**Victims of plane crash in river drowned**


06/16/2009

GLENVILLE, N.Y. (AP) - Police say two men and an 11-year-old boy drowned when the small plane they were flying crashed into an upstate river.

The bodies of George Kolath and 52-year-old Krishnan Raghavan were recovered from the Mohawk River after the Piper aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from a Schenectady County airport Sunday afternoon. The body of the boy’s father, 41-year-old Mathai Kolath George, was recovered Monday when the plane was pulled from the river.

Frogman finds stab weapon in canal
Autopsies performed Monday night determined all three drowned; there was no evidence of traumatic injuries.

Mathai Kolath George, a native of Kerala, India, was a successful businessman who owned several hotels in several cities.

The National Transportation Security Board is investigating.

Tail-lights only sign of tragedy
17th June 2009 Clementine Norton

STARING into the murky waters of the Burnett River on Monday night, the family of a Bundaberg man saw tragic proof that the 60-year-old truck driver would not be coming home.

The tail-lights of his trailer were the only evidence that the man's journey had gone horribly wrong.

The Bundaberg man was killed after his truck went off a Cedars Road bridge and into the Burnett River about 7.20pm. Friends yesterday mourned the loss of “Aussie bloke” Dave Hammerton, who died in the crash. Boylans Produce owner John Boylan, who hired Mr Hammerton as a delivery driver for more than 25 years, said the workplace was stunned when they heard about the crash yesterday morning. “He was really one of the crew down here, a real great bloke,” Mr Boylan said. He described his friend as a “family man” who lived for his three grown-up children and his horses.

Another friend, Bob Ellis, who knew Mr Hammerton through the draught horsing community, said the Hammerton Haulage owner was a “character”. “He was a typical bushman, straggly as all buggery, he never wore a pair of shoes in his life,” he said. “You would even see him going down the road on a horse and cart from time to time.”

The initial alarm for Mr Hammerton's safety was raised by another transport worker, who reported speaking to Mr Hammerton on a hands-free set as the accident unfolded.

About 9.30pm, the man's family contacted police, after setting out to find him by travelling the route he was believed to have taken - where they made the distressing discovery. “The family sighted what they believed was...
Tail-lights from his trailer (in the river),” Bundaberg Police Inspector Kevin Guteridge said.

Police went to the scene and searched the area but, after police divers conducted a search yesterday afternoon, they confirmed the man's body was in the cab. Bundaberg Police Inspector Kevin Guteridge told gathered media that the divers travelled up from Brisbane to conduct the search yesterday afternoon. “Visibility was at zero,” Insp Guteridge said. He later informed the NewsMail the man's body was recovered about 3.30pm.

The road was closed in both directions, with SES workers manning roadblocks to turn away unwanted traffic on the popular shortcut between Bundaberg-Gin Gin Road and the Isis Highway. The bridge may have been damaged in the crash and will not be re-opened until it can be inspected by Main Roads engineers.

It is not known how long it will take before the truck can be pulled out of the river, but Insp Guteridge said it was likely a crane would be used. “It will be a major operation to retrieve the truck,” he said. “The road will remain closed until we can certify that (the bridge) is for all traffic.”

Initial investigations indicate the owner-operator was travelling along Cedars Road towards South Bingera about 7.20pm when he lost control of his vehicle and crashed into the river. He was towing two empty trailers, and it is believed he was making a telephone call using a hands-free kit at the time of the crash.

**Paula Poolton detective: 'I will bring Paula's killer to justice'**

http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/newshome/Paula-Poolton-detective-391-will.5380691.jp

18th June 2009 By Chris Broom

The officer in charge of the Paula Poolton murder case has pledged that he will bring her killer to justice.

Speaking at the lake where specialist police divers have been searching for the Titchfield Common woman's missing possessions, Detective Chief Inspector Darren O'Callaghan expressed confidence in the investigation.

Forty-year-old Paula's body was found in the boot of her Peugeot 206, close to Swanwick Railway Station, on October 28 last year. She had been missing since October 17 and had suffered seven stab wounds. As revealed in yesterday's News, the investigation has been focusing on the lake in Burridge, about two miles from where her car was found. Set several hundred yards down the end of a wooded path in
a secluded location, the lake is on an angling club's private property off Botley Road.

DCI O'Callaghan said: 'I am confident that we are moving forward and I am still committed to bringing the offender to justice. We aim to bring them to justice and do it as quickly as we can.' He refused to say what had made them look more closely at the lake, but said: 'The information that gives rise to me being here is a worthwhile line of inquiry. Otherwise we wouldn't be following it.'

Teams of divers, brought in from Avon and Somerset's force for the job, have been searching the lake since Monday and were expected to finish today. They have been looking for Paula's missing mobile phone, car keys and a flip flop. DCI O'Callaghan added: 'It is early days to speculate about what we may find and what we may go on to do, subject to other forensic or other examinations. 'I need to review the results of this particular search and we have still got a number of ongoing inquiries including those from the Crimewatch appeal.'

DCI O'Callaghan appeared on the BBC show two weeks ago.Anyone with any information should contact Fratton's major crime unit on 0845 0454545 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

DOZENS OF IMAGES RELEASED
Police have released dozens of CCTV images over the course of the investigation, centring on Swanwick Railway Station on the night Paula Poolton vanished, October 17 last year. Officers now believe her car could have been in Duncan Road next to the station from that evening until it was spotted by constables on a routine patrol.

Forty-seven images were initially released in January, and the majority of those people have now come forward. A further 35 from earlier and later that evening were released on Crimewatch earlier this month.

Lake search in car boot murder
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/8106063.stm
17 June 2009
VIDEO STORY – CLICK ON PHOTO

Police divers have searched a lake nearly eight months after a woman was found stabbed to death in the boot of her car in Hampshire.
**Cops: Car pulled from lake contained human bones**

http://www.ksn.com/content/news/also/story/Cops-Car-pulled-from-lake-contained-human-bones/Ug19GZAzUycIF1ZM0MAow.cspx

6/19/2009

**ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (NBC) --** New Mexico State police have pulled a car containing the remains of at least four bodies out of Cochiti Lake. One of the discovered skulls is described as smaller, and was found in a child's car seat.

Investigators say there is more than a foot of silt inside the car. They say the registered owner of the vehicle is wanted in connection with a custodial interference and kidnapping case in which three children were taken in 2001 in Albuquerque.

Authorities have been at the scene all day, using a dive team to look for clues and figure out who was inside the car.

The state police dive team was out at the lake with sonar equipment trying to find another truck that reportedly rolled into the lake. Instead, they discovered the car with the remains inside.

Crews pulled the muddy Ford Taurus out of the lake onto a boat loading ramp at Tetilla Peak on the north side of the lake. Inside the car, investigators found a human skull in the back seat. Investigators were sifting through silt inside the car Thursday evening to attempt to find more bones.

Albuquerque police were called in to the investigation when the vehicle was discovered to be potentially related to a missing persons case from eight years ago. Police say in that case, Richard Sanchez took his three boys for the weekend, but never returned. They were 12, nine and 2 years old.

They were last seen in a white Taurus like the vehicle found submerged Thursday. Police say they are talking with the woman who reported her children missing in that case. They say she is understandably upset, but also relieved to finally know what may have happened to her children after eight years.

**More:**

Dental Records May Be Used To Identify Remains – VIDEO LINK
Fire chief to defend himself at hearing
Complaints prompt City Council to consider disciplinary action
Jun 21, 2009 By Charles Winokoor, Staff Writer
GateHouse News Service

Taunton — When Taunton Fire Chief Leman Padelford goes before the City Council Tuesday night for a formal disciplinary hearing, his job literally will be on the line.

During the past year, Padelford has come under increased scrutiny by the council’s subcommittee on Fires and Wires, regarding a potpourri of complaints stemming from what many say is the chief’s inability and or unwillingness to work with fellow departmental commanders.

Tuesday night, the council will be in a position to mete out punishment ranging from a suspension of less than a week up to a permanent termination of his position as fire chief.

Mayor Charles Crowley, who will chair the hearing, said that in his 20-plus-year career in city government he can’t recall there ever having been a civil service hearing for a fire chief the likes of which will convene this week.

Since being appointed by the City Council in August of 2006, Padelford has been on what many observers have come to regard as one long collision course within his department. He’s been accused by his own men of being willfully and inexplicably obstinate and uncooperative when it comes to almost every facet of his role as fire chief.

Accusations have run the gamut from failing to ensure that air tanks are properly inspected and maintained, to refusing to cooperate with the department’s mechanic, and squandering a total of over $600,000 in budgetary funds that went into city coffers, instead of using the money toward new and sorely needed equipment.

Caught up in the middle of the ongoing troubles between rank-and-file union members and the chief has been the Fires and Wires subcommittee. On many a Tuesday night that particular committee has reluctantly served as a referee of sorts between frustrated firefighters and Chief Padelford.

To paraphrase one of their more common refrains: “Why are we even talking about this? It should have been handled in-house.” During those nights of accusations and disciplinary threats, Padelford has appeared unfazed.
When asked Friday about the significance of the upcoming hearing, he offered up a characteristically measured and professional response. “It’s an opportunity to get the facts on the table, and continue to move forward as we have for the past three years,” Padelford said, as he sat at his desk inside the Central Fire Station on School Street. “You’ll have to ask them,” he said, when asked why the civil service hearing was scheduled.

Two weeks ago, the Professional Firefighters of Taunton, Local 1391, held a press conference to publicize the department’s 104-to-1 no-confidence vote in Padelford. The mayor and Mark Baptiste, president of Local 1391, both insist that the vote has no direct relevance to the upcoming hearing. But to those on the outside it’s hard not to draw a corollary.

Baptiste said that under Padelford there has been “a continued erosion of leadership.” He said the first incident that tipped him off that something was amiss occurred in December of 2006, less than four months after Padelford had replaced interim chief Joseph Rose. “I noticed that the snorkel and rescue trucks were down [and that] there were delays in getting them repaired,” Baptiste said.

Then-mayor Robert Nunes, he said, had ordered Padelford to get a new motor for Engine 4. The budget wasn’t a problem, Baptiste said, because Nunes had agreed to use emergency funding.

But, according to Baptiste, Padelford dragged his feet so that it wasn’t until the spring of 2007 that a new motor was installed. Baptiste is also upset about an incident in January of 2009 involving the department’s snorkel truck, which had previously gone out to a Connecticut company for repairs.

He alleges that the truck was put back into service before mechanic Mike Perry could inspect it and that Padelford intentionally prevented Perry from performing his duties. Not long thereafter, Baptiste said, during an ice removal operation on the exterior of the Taunton Superior Court building, the truck’s bucket — which was occupied and extended some 60 feet up into the air — suddenly dropped two feet after being shifted away from a ledge onto which it had been resting. The malfunction, he said, was caused by a hydraulic fluid leak. The outcome could have been much graver, he stressed, had enough fluid leaked out so that the bucket would have suddenly dropped a greater distance and with more force.

Baptiste also alleges that following the snorkel bucket mishap (during which no one...
was injured) the acting chief at the time was blocked by Padelford from retrieving repair records from that same outside repair company. And it took roughly a year, he claims, before it went back out to Connecticut to be fixed again.

**But if there’s one single issue that truly galls Baptiste it’s that the department’s dive team has not received training since 2005.**

The good news, he said, is that the training is finally expected to resume within the coming week. But that might have come too late for a recent drowning victim, according to Baptiste.

Less than three weeks ago David Deforest fell off a train trestle behind the DPW building on Ingell Street, according to his wife, who was with him at the time. The homeless man’s body wasn’t found by Taunton police divers until some 18 hours later.

Baptiste said that if fire department divers had been ready to go — both in terms of training and inspection of equipment — there would have been a possibility that the victim could have been found, pulled from the water and given emergency aid.

Police divers that night were not able to mobilize and begin diving for almost two hours — by which time it was already dark — after Deforest had reportedly stumbled off the bridge.

Baptiste said the fact that it was a “witnessed drowning,” presented a rare opportunity, because his divers would have had a jump on where exactly to search the river. And, he said if they could have pulled the man out within what is referred to as the “golden hour” — that time in which a submerged individual stands a chance of being revived — then it certainly would have been worth the effort. “It’s most upsetting,” Baptiste said.

The mayor said that Padelford “is a very bright guy,” but unfortunately “is just set in his ways.” “It’s been a bumpy ride for him,” Crowley said. “But it’s been one of his own making.”

Padelford and his lawyer will have the option Tuesday night either of going into private “executive session” with
the council, or responding to questions publicly in front of local cable TV cameras.

Police find human remains in a well in Lebanon
June 23, 2009

LEBANON, Maine (AP) -- Investigators seeking evidence in the disappearance of a young woman three years ago have found human remains in a well near a home in Lebanon.

The remains were discovered Tuesday following an 18-month coordinated investigation by Maine State Police and Sanford police into the disappearance of Frances Moulton of Lebanon, who was 27 when last seen in July 2006. She was reported missing that September.

Stephen McCausland of the state Public Safety Department said the remains were being transported to the state medical examiner's office for positive identification.

State police divers, a cadaver dog and police detectives took part in the search for evidence at the site off Creamery Hill Road.

More Evidence Found At Lebanon Crime Scene
Relatives Hope Seek Answers In Frances Moulton's Disappearance
June 23, 2009

LEBANON, Maine -- Relatives of a woman who disappeared three years ago hope new evidence found this week will help provide some answers. With special equipment brought by detectives from Connecticut, Maine State Police and local authorities investigating the case found new evidence Wednesday in Lebanon, 24 hours after discovering human remains in a well. The remains were sent to the Maine State Medical Examiner's Office in Augusta for examination and positive identification.

Frances Moulton was 27 years old when she was last seen in the summer of 2006, said Stephen McCausland, a spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety.

"The location of where we were and what we found is indicative of foul play. It's really too early to tell everything."
- Lt. Brian McDonough, Maine State Police
She last contacted her family in July 2006 and was reported missing in September 2006.

**Family Loses Contact With Frances Moulton**
Shawn Ladd said he hopes to find out what really happened to his stepdaughter. He told News 8's Will Lewis that he has been looking at a lot of pictures of Moulton, especially the one from 2006 when they put out the word that his stepdaughter had disappeared.

"I have it on my wall. Every day I walk down the hallway, I stop and look at it -- her and her mother. So, it has been pretty rough," Ladd said.

Moulton's mother passed away nine years ago, and since then, Ladd said, Moulton has always been in contact with her family, even when she was moving from place to place.

"From what I was told, she was on a motorcycle, and the next thing I know, she hasn't called," Ladd said.

Moulton lived in Lebanon at the time of her disappearance, but she often stayed with friends and family in Sanford, McCausland said. According to police, Moulton moved around and spent quite a bit of time in the Lebanon neighborhood, gathering around bonfires.

**Divers, Cadaver Dogs Search Property**
Divers and a cadaver dog joined the search efforts Wednesday with detectives from Connecticut who brought special equipment to take another look inside the well behind a trailer at 76 Creamery Road. Authorities said they found new evidence today, but would not elaborate.

"They have a surface breathing machine. That means a diver can go down with a hose instead of bringing a tank down with him. It's pretty tight quarters," Maine State Police Sgt. Chris Harriman said. With the evidence police are gathering, Ladd said he hopes the family will finally have closure once a positive identification is made.

"It's been rough, it really has," he said. "We've all been wondering and puzzled (about) where she is, if she was out of state or kidnapped, or she was missing? We had no clue," Ladd said.

Police said the well has a circumference of 3 feet and is 25 feet deep. Tammy LeTourneau, the property's owner, said she never knew the well that's located behind a shed existed, News 8's Jim
Keithley reported. LeTourneau said most of the people who lived here then don't live here now. She described a rough crowd, with parties and drugs. "I don't necessarily think it was the people living here, at the time. I think there are a couple other houses here in the neighborhood that she frequented more often," LeTourneau said.

Sources told News 8 that Moulton dated a man who lived down the road at that time, saying Moulton's former boyfriend is in jail.

**Missing Woman's Death Not Accidental, Police Say**

*Given the location, police said they believe Moulton's death wasn't an accident. "The location of where we were and what we found is indicative of foul play. It's really too early to tell everything," state police Lt. Brian McDonough said.*

Family and friends were overcome by emotions when they heard the news of the discovery. "There are leads that lead them there, obviously. You just don't go dig up a well somewhere," said Chris Millington, a friend of Moulton. "Somebody that was already in custody had said something that led them (police) to that well."

Relatives said they hope that if the remains belong to Moulton, they will finally reach closure, and that will come when they can do one thing: "When we can put her to rest our way," Millington said.

Detectives described the remains pulled from the well as a torso, saying a positive identification could be pending for quite some time because the remains are in such poor condition.

**Scuba divers fail to find 19-year-old missing in river**

*http://www.columbian.com/article/20090625/NEWS02/706259963/Scuba+divers+fail+to+find+19-year-old+missing+in+river*

William Small had been swimming with 3 friends in Columbia

*6/24/2009 JOHN BRANTON COLUMBIAN STAFF WRITER*

A dozen scuba divers Wednesday searched the area in the Columbia River where William Small, 19, is believed to have drowned Tuesday afternoon, but they didn't find him.

"They gave it a great effort, but unfortunately it did not produce any results," said Jim Flaherty, firefighter-spokesman with the Vancouver Fire Department.

Members of Southwest Washington Organization of Rescue Divers and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Dive Team worked the area north of the Vancouver Lake flushing channel, and other areas as well, from midmorning to late afternoon.

Divers said they didn't anticipate further searching today. Flaherty himself arose early Wednesday and, soon after daybreak, walked the shore, popular with fishers and...
families, in case Small's body was there. Small remained missing Wednesday night. Small, a Vancouver resident, graduated in 2008 from Skyview High School.

Tuesday, he'd been swimming with three friends between the flushing channel and Frenchman's Bar Regional Park when the four became tired. A boater found them struggling in the water and managed to rescue three, but couldn't locate Small, officials said.

After the boater called 911 about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday, a massive interagency search ensued, including several rescue boats, tethered fire department rescue swimmers using grid tactics, scuba divers and a U.S. Coast Guard MH-60 rescue helicopter crew from Astoria, Ore.

The effort continued for about four hours Tuesday before being called off around sunset.

On Wednesday, Vancouver police had not yet identified the boater who rescued three of the swimmers.

"We wish him the best and thank him a hundred times over for getting involved," Flaherty said. "Everybody's thoughts are with the family, that's for sure."

It wasn't known Wednesday why Small and his friends were in distress in the water.

But rescue swimmers said the murky water ranged from 3 to 8 feet deep, indicating the possibility that someone who was wading could fall into deeper water.

In September, the same area claimed the life of 20-year-old Samuel D. Garvin of Vancouver. He'd been trying to swim across the flushing channel when he went under, according to The Columbian's files.

The area is along Northwest Lower River Road in Vancouver.

**Police find woman's head, arms in suspect's freezer**


June 26, 2009 By Theodore Decker, Bruce Cadwallader and Jim Woods THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

When police searched the West Side apartment of Robert Knight on Wednesday night, they found the head and arms of his live-in girlfriend in his freezer, authorities say.

Knight, 50, is expected to appear in court today for an initial appearance on a single count of murder in the case.
death of Tracey F. Moore, a 44-year-old woman whom police say previously had been assaulted by Knight.

Police said in court documents that Moore probably was killed Sunday evening. They said she died of blunt-force trauma. Franklin County Coroner Jan Gorniak said she might hold off on an autopsy until police think they've recovered all the remains they can. Gorniak's office has Moore's head and arms.

"They haven't brought everything to us," she said. "It might be Saturday before they get everything." Depending on the extent of the damage to Moore's body, the final ruling could end up being "undetermined homicidal violence," she said.

The search of the West Bay Apartments complex dragged into the evening yesterday as police continued to build their murder case against Knight. They said he killed Moore, dismembered her, and scattered the remains in the pond, trash bins and the brush around the complex, located on the east side of I-270 south of the Georgesville Road exit. Employees of the complex made the grisly find Wednesday night, prompting an assistant manager to call 911 at 9:25 p.m. "Could you please send a detective or homicide detective over to West Bay Apartments?" she asked. "We believe we have body parts in our pond and in one of our Dumpsters."

Within an hour, investigators swarmed the complex, later joined by the coroner's staff and anthropologists from Ohio State University. Tiny flags and traffic cones marked pieces of evidence on the perimeter of the pond. Divers hauled assorted debris from the depths in their search for evidence, cadaver dogs sniffed the perimeter of the complex near I-270, and city crews hauled trash bins to a nearby transfer station to be dumped. Detective Jim Day said Knight's garage also will be searched.

Sgt. Rich Weiner, a Police Division spokesman, would not say what led them to Knight's apartment at 1496 Bay Club Dr., but they quickly focused
on him and he was arrested late Wednesday.

Knight allowed authorities to search the apartment, he said. Gorniak confirmed yesterday that Moore's head and arms were found in the freezer.

Michael Davis, 23, who lives in the same building as Knight, said he'd seen Knight hauling books and other items, including an antique sewing machine, from his apartment to the trash and to his nearby garage in recent days. "He was out there working on a washer and dryer a few days ago," he said. "He was taking the back off." He last saw Knight on Wednesday, again in the garage. The washer and dryer were gone.

Other neighbors said Knight drank heavily, often making the trek to a nearby convenience store for 40-ounce malt-liquor bottles. His dreadlocks got him noticed. "He looked like Predator," said one young man, referring to the sci-fi movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger that featured a dreadlocked alien. "He looked that weird."

Moore and Knight fought often and would walk 15 or 20 feet apart whenever they went anywhere, neighbors said. Davis was baffled as to why Knight dumped the body parts in and around a pond encircled by hundreds of tenants. "I don't get the idea of putting it 5 feet from your bedroom window," he said. "You should have just mailed it to the police with your name on it."

Moore had previously been a victim of violence at Knight's hands, police said. According to a complaint, officers were called to the same apartment Feb. 2, 2008. Moore had been stabbed with a knife in her forearm, the complaint said, and Knight also pushed her to the ground and tried to strangle her while punching her in the head.

On the day of trial, however, Moore didn't appear in court and prosecutors dismissed the charges, court records show. Knight has served at least three prison terms in Ohio, beginning with a 10-month stay in 1979 for breaking and entering.

In 1981, a jury convicted him of the aggravated robbery of an older woman; the woman's pelvis was cracked when he knocked her to the ground at gunpoint for her money and purse. A judge sentenced Knight to between seven and 25 years in prison. He was paroled in 1988.

In 1989, he served six months for possession of criminal tools and, one year later, he held a couple at gunpoint on the Near East Side. Knight pleaded guilty to one count of felonious assault and one count of kidnapping. He was sentenced to consecutive terms of 10-to-25 years in prison.

He was paroled Nov. 1, 2005.

**Police eye Japan's mafia over body parts**


Jun 29, 2009 By North Asia correspondent Mark Willacy
Japanese police have found a number of severed hands and other body parts in Tokyo Bay. Investigators believe the Yakuza, or Japanese mafia, could be behind the killings.

A man was fishing in Tokyo Bay off Yokohama when he reeled in a man's head and part of a leg. Police divers later found more body parts, including several severed hands. Fingerprints taken from one of the hands match those of a prominent Yakuza member, heightening police suspicions that they are dealing with a gangland slaying involving at least two victims.

The Yakuza have at least 80,000 members in Japan, and control organised crime from prostitution to drugs and extortion.

Human leg found in river awaits autopsy
June 29, 2009 The Associated Press

EASTON - A human leg found in the Delaware River just north of Easton yesterday morning remains a mystery today. Forks Township Police Chief Greg Dorney said "it's hard to speculate" about how a leg ended up in the river or became separated from a human body until the Northampton Coroner's Office conducts an autopsy. "It's pretty much a coroner's investigation," Dorney said.

Northampton County Coroner Zachary Lysek said today that DNA testing would begin as soon as possible. Lysek said it will take a few weeks for any conclusive results. Dorney said township detectives will wait for the coroner's recommendations to determine if further investigation is warranted.

An area resident found the leg yesterday while fishing from the bank of the Delaware River below the scenic overlook on Route 611 in Forks Township. Dorney said officers from his department searched the entire shoreline within Forks Township, but they found no other body parts.

Also, five different water rescue teams from the region searched both sides of the river for about 25 miles from Upper Mount Bethel Township south to Riegelsville.

On Memorial Day, an 18-year-old Phillipsburg man, Brian Lynch, disappeared after jumping into the river from a bridge in Upper Mount Bethel Township. The bridge crosses the river from Upper Mount Bethel Township to Knowlton Township in Warren County, N.J. Lynch, a Phillipsburg High School senior, had been with four friends when he jumped into the river.

Police were called about 9 p.m. May 25, and volunteer rescue teams searched the river for several days. New Jersey State Police divers spent a week in the water looking for him before officially ending the search June 1.
Dorney said Lynch is the only person he knows of who is missing in this section of the Delaware River. Yesterday's search lasted about 51/2 hours, with crews quitting around 2:30 p.m. "We did as thorough a search as we could do on land and in water," Dorney said.

**Swimming hole turns deadly again**
June 30, 2009 By Kathy Bowen Gazette Reporter

**River search continues for missing Knolls sailor**

HADLEY — News that a swimmer was missing and presumed drowned in the Hudson River between Lake Luzerne and Hadley had Hadley Supervisor Arthur Wright thinking about the loss of his own brother in those waters 34 years ago this week.

His brother, Ronald Wright, was 18 and had graduated from high school the week before he drowned on the Fourth of July in 1975. "This latest news just brings up all those bad memories," Wright said.

Divers from three agencies were searching the river Monday for a man who disappeared in the water while swimming with a group of friends on Sunday.

Investigators identified the sailor as Jesse M. Lyon, 20, of Soda Springs, Idaho. They said he was stationed in the area with the United States Navy.

The search Monday failed to recover Lyon. Police are expected to continue the search today, and may bring in a Side Scan Sonar unit to assist in locating the body.

Warren County Sheriff Bud York said the man disappeared under the water at about 4:30 p.m. Sunday in the area of the bridge at Rockwell Falls. York said nine sailors were swimming from the Saratoga County side of the river to the Warren County side when the man went under and disappeared. The others made it to shore and called authorities.

A search of the area was ended Sunday night because of darkness and resumed early Monday morning with divers from Saratoga and Warren counties as well as the state police.

Authorities said Lyon was a Navy sailor based at the Knolls Police divers have resumed searching for a U.S. Navy sailor who disappeared while swimming in the upper Hudson River. The Warren County Sheriff’s Office says the 20-year-old man is presumed to have drowned after he was seen struggling and drifting south Sunday afternoon past the Rockwell Bridge, off Hadley.

*Photographer: Marc Schultz*
Atomic Power Laboratory-Kesselring site in Milton. Wright said the area where the sailors were swimming is known as a deadly location by local residents, but its rapid waters and the cliffs and bridge are touted on Web sites for their adventurous features.

Several videos on YouTube show swimmers jumping from the bridge or swinging from ropes and landing in the rushing water below. “I would say 95 percent of the people who swim in there are from out of town,” Wright said. “Most local people know someone who has drowned there.”

He said the shore of the river is privately owned, mostly by National Grid Power Corp. “Fences are put up, and the kids cut holes in them. Signs that warn of dangerous waters are torn down. That whole area had graffiti because the kids just don’t care. They think they are indestructible,” Wright said.

He said the large amount of rain that has fallen over the past two weeks has swelled the river and made it flow faster. “There’s one part of the flow that the kids call Alka-Selzer because it’s so wild,” Wright said. “The water is just roaring right now because of the rains.”

Fire department changes response plan for Annapolis Neck
July 1, 2009 By Ryan Bagwell Muckraker Staff Writer

New policy ensures Station 8 crew will be replaced sooner during extended incidents. Anne Arundel fire officials have changed their response plan for the Annapolis Neck Peninsula after it took nine minutes for a fire truck to get to a recent two-alarm blaze.

Under a new policy set by Fire Department Chief Robert Ray, dispatchers will immediately replace the crew of the area’s closest fire station when it’s tied up rescuing people from a waterway. The change came in the wake of a June 19 fire in the Oyster Harbor community that prompted residents to wonder why a crew from the nearby Annapolis Neck Fire Station didn’t show up.

Those firefighters – which double as the county’s dive team - were part of a massive water rescue when the fire broke out at 1313 Washington Drive. But dispatchers didn’t post a replacement crew at that station, which opened specifically for Annapolis Neck in April.

Now the crew will be immediately replaced when it’s handling water rescues, which can tie up the station’s firefighters for long periods of time. The decision pleased Oyster Harbor residents, who commended officials for their quick decision to change the response plan for their neighborhood. “It’s going to save at least another three or four minutes,” said Ian MacKinnon, president of the Oyster Harbor Citizens Association, who watched last month’s fire from his house across the street.

Oyster Harbor residents questioned the response to the Washington Drive fire after some said it took up to 20
minutes for firefighters to arrive on scene. And with a previous, more devastating blaze still fresh in their minds, they wanted to know why the newly opened Station 8 – less than two miles away – didn't respond to the fire.

A five-alarm fire in December just around the corner from Washington Road destroyed three houses and left three families homeless. High winds fueled those flames and iced-in creeks hampered firefighter’s efforts to get water to the blaze. But the Washington Drive fire was different, MacKinnon said. Firefighters got water to the house quickly, and never ran out of water in an area that doesn't have fire hydrants, he said. Fire department officials concurred. “In this incident, the first officer made good decisions, there were no issues with rural water delivery,” wrote Deputy Chief John Scholz, one of the fire department's senior commanders, in a report.

Officials also confirmed that the first call to 911 was made at 12:31 p.m. and transferred to fire department dispatchers within seconds. One caller thought he dialed 911 at 12:20 p.m., which would have meant firefighters took about 20 minutes to get to the fire from the first call.

Justin Mulcahy, a police department spokesman, originally said a Public Information Request was needed for that information. The police department runs the county's 911 center, and transfers callers to the fire department for fire and ambulance calls. But Mulcahy on Friday said he decided to expedite the information request and pass the 911 call time along himself.

Confusing incident
It's standard policy for dispatchers to post “transfer crews” at stations whose firefighters will be tied up for extended periods of time. Dispatchers decide if a replacement crew is needed, relying on firefighters' reports from the scene of incidents, Cox said. But on June 19, Station 8's dive team took a while to say how long it would be working in Prince George's County. The crew had trouble assessing its assignment because of the complexity of the Patuxent River rescue, Cox said.

With sketchy reports coming in, Prince George's incident commanders called Anne Arundel's dive team at 11:01 a.m., according to a report by the fire department. But before the crew left the station, officials said they didn't need the team's help any more. But at 11:10 a.m., the dive team was called to Prince George's County again. For a second time, the request for help was canceled.

Incident commanders called for Anne Arundel's dive team a third time at 11:23 a.m., and this time joined the rescue efforts until just after 1 p.m. The team searched a six-mile stretch of the Patuxent River and found 10 kayakers who became stranded on the river's banks. But it took some time for the crew to get to the scene and assess the situation, Cox said. By the time the dive team knew it would be involved with the rescue operation for an extended period of time, the fire at Washington Road had started.
Dispatchers didn't have a reason to replace Station 8's crew, Cox said. “I think that it was just one of those sad events,” MacKinnon said. “It just happened to happen at the wrong time.” Even if dispatchers had, it probably wouldn't have made a difference, officials said. It appears the fire spread quickly, leaving firefighters without enough time to get water to the flames before it engulfed the house. “Based on the status and the severity of the fire upon their arrival ... the fire had gained considerable headway,” Cox said.

Though Station 8's crew will be immediately replaced when it's working on a water rescue, dispatchers won't get a crew there immediately. It takes time to find an available crew, Cox said, and “It won't be instant,” Cox said. “If that unit is out and there's a call somewhere, the transfer crew might have to come from a different area of the county or outside the county”.

**Family's plunge into canal a mystery to police**

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20090702/autopsy_bodies_090702/20090702?hub=Canada

Jul. 2 2009 CTV.ca News Staff

Police in Kingston, Ont., say they still don't understand how a car carrying a 50-year-old woman and her three teenaged nieces ended up in the Rideau Canal. An autopsy might solve some of the mystery, but it might not explain how the vehicle passed through a series of barriers.

The family, which hasn't yet been identified, were on a vacation and were driving home to Montreal. Their black 2004 Nissan Sentra was spotted by a Parks Canada employee on Tuesday morning, about 10 metres north from the doors of the canal lock northeast of Kingston. The car was submerged in about five metres of water.

There are no obvious tire tracks that explain what happened. In order to get into this particular lock in the canal system, the car would have had to pass through at least two roadblocks, including a pair of poles on the dock. John Bruce, a lock operator for Parks Canada, told CTV...
News, "It would be very, very hard to put it in there." At first, Bruce thought it was a stolen car that had been dumped. "We didn't know until after that it was more serious."

On Thursday, the coroner's office said it expects to have a preliminary report completed by the end of the day, which should indicate whether the victims suffered any obvious signs of trauma prior to their deaths. But it will take longer to determine if drowning was the cause of death. Found inside the vehicle were the bodies of three teenaged sisters -- ages 13, 17 and 19 -- as well as a woman described by police as a relative. Police believe that the car went into the water sometime between midnight and 6 a.m. Tuesday. But officers aren't sure what the family members were doing near the locks, in the location where their car was found.

Police divers also discovered that a car window was left open, and they aren't sure if the car floated downstream any distance. "We have to really get into the forensics before we can really piece together how the vehicle went in and what movement the vehicle may have taken once it entered the water," Staff Sgt. Chris Scott said Wednesday.

Scott said the "tragic occurrence" is not an easy case to investigate. "Anytime we have a multiple death scene, it's traumatic for the families and it's difficult for police and taxing on police resources because there's a lot of things we need to close off just so we can do the right thing for the victims and satisfy the family's needs," he said.

On Thursday, Const. Michael Menor told CTV.ca that the car is now at Kingston police headquarters and will be examined thoroughly by staff mechanics. "It will undergo a complete mechanical safety check and everything, and we're looking for forensic information as well," he told CTV.ca.

While Montreal police confirmed that they were previously asked by Kingston police to locate a second vehicle in Montreal's Saint-Leonard area, Menor said investigators are currently "not looking for another car."

**MORE:**
- Police call 4 drowned in car near Kinston, Ont., suspicious
- Passersby stirred by deaths of four people found in submerged car
- Autopsies underway for bodies found in Rideau Canal
- Investigators probe bodies found in submerged car in Kingston
- Mystery surrounds bodies found in sunken vehicle
Police Divers Train for Underwater Recovery  
June 22, 2009 By Jenn Karlman

Wisconsin - More than a dozen local divers spent the day in the waters of Sturgeon Bay collecting evidence from a sunken car. Action 2 News went underwater for this first-of-its-kind training.

It is police work on a whole new level -- 15 feet below the surface of the water. It's an area where these divers do their best work.

"Believe I found the target."

Matt Cain and Joe Merrill are two of roughly a dozen area police officers practicing evidence recovery under water. A sunken blue sedan sits on the floor of the harbor at Olde Stone Quarry Park. Inside is a mannequin, fake blood and hair samples, and bullets -- all clues divers need to collect. Their mission Friday was to find a sunken car and search it for clues.

"What we're doing here this week is essentially applying the same skills that police officers, detectives, investigators use above ground," Captain Arleigh Porter, Sturgeon Bay Police Department, said, "and now taking that one step further and taking that under water."

This is a first-of-its-kind training for these local agencies. For two days they were in the classroom learning what to do, and Friday they put their skills to the test. "We've learned during class periods how to collect blood, hairs -- with something as simple as a turkey baster," Cain, of the Green Bay police dive team, said. "The difficulty of being in the water is your buoyancy, being able to float and stay a certain distance from the vehicle without kicking up too much dirt or silt from the bottom," said Merrill, another member of Green Bay's dive team.

They took pictures of the mock crime scene then continued their search. "Young target in passenger seat. Belted in." They eventually found a mannequin -- the "driver."

With 60 pounds of gear on their back, they covered the body and brought it to the surface just like they would in a real situation. "Water is the common denominator for all the agencies here, and crimes can occur on the water, in the water, on land and end up in the water," Captain Porter said.

It is knowledge they know they'll use. Many of these divers worked when Mahalia Xiong disappeared two years ago and she was found inside her car at the bottom of the Fox River. "That case was handled to the very best of our abilities at that point. Now with this school added in to it we have a lot more evidence recovery systems available to us," Merrill said; Systems with which they now have hands-on experience.
INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

New Product that will allow you to Fight Flooding with Water and NOT Sand - FloodSax®

FIGHT FLOODING with FloodSax®, the new technology distributed by SSI, engineered to replace the traditional sandbag: The answer to flood damage during Hurricane Season 2009.

As Floridians, we know how vulnerable we are to floods - damage from wind-driven rain, damages to balconies, garages, hangers, storage facilities across the state. By many estimates, up to 26 percent of homes in Florida - one out of every four - are vulnerable to flooding of some kind. Sandbags are the Old World answer. They are inconvenient, heavy to move, labor-intensive and simply impossible for residents of upper floors, senior residents and many more.

The 22 ounce FloodSax® deploy in seconds, absorbing and retaining up to 44 pounds of water, converting them into a better and much more effective solution. No need for time-intensive solutions. Five to five hundred vacuum-packed FloodSax® can be conveniently stored in a closet or garage and deployed immediately. FloodSax® is an effective solution against flooding, plumbing problems, and more.

Beyond being more green, FloodSax® are a more economical alternative to the sandbag because of the sandbags' heavily labor-intensive, time-intensive, transportation-intensive real costs.

Learn More...

FOUND ON THE WEB

Fisherman honoured for rescuing police divers


Friday, July 3, 2009

A fisherman who put his own safety at risk to save two police divers working off Newfoundland's northeast coast has received the highest honour from the RCMP.

Reg Cooze was skippering a boat in February 1993 that was towing two RCMP divers, who were looking for a body in Hare Bay. When the current suddenly shifted, and pulled the divers into loose ice, Cooze tied on a rope and crawled across the ice, where one of the divers had become trapped. "I guess I never realized..."
the danger at the time, because it was dangerous. The currents were bad," Cooze told CBC News on Thursday, when he was presented with a Commissioner's Commendation for bravery. "This officer was pretty well under the main body of ice. I could have very easily went there also, but I felt safe with the rope around me," said Cooze. "Believe me, I'm not a hero. It was just something that I had to do."

Cooze and another man, Carl Starkes, brought the second diver to safety. Cooze was among a group of civilians and RCMP officers who received commendations on Thursday. Among the others were four RCMP officers who were posted to the coastal Labrador community of Hopedale, and who raised money and then helped build a community rink for the town's children.

"Once the rink was constructed it seemed to be in use almost every hour of the day, till late at night," said Cpl. Howard Fitzgerald. "We just found that because there was so much youth activity there, the crime dropped." Added his colleague, Const. Peter Gosse, "To finally put the skates on and finally play hockey with the kids, that is really when we felt we made a difference."

Diving Medicine Online
Comprehensive information about diving and undersea medicine for the non-medical diver, the non-diving physician and the specialist.
http://www.scuba-doc.com

Problems With Moving Water
http://www.scuba-doc.com/divcurr.htm

Avoid this Disaster

Accidents caused by divers being carried away by currents have been reported since the early days of diving in the 1950's. Most of us have heard about the horror story of the five Japanese divers, who came up after a very beautiful and enjoyable current dive off Peleliu, only to find that they had not only missed their boat but had missed the end of the island. All of these divers died after a prolonged float in what must have been a strong current. The current was not at fault, however, but poorly qualified dive operators and faulty equipment, an uncertified diving guide, a small faulty single engine vessel without a radio and novice divers --all pointed toward this disaster. See Guidelines for the Abandoned Diver

Diving in currents is easily one of the most enjoyable - but can be one of the most dangerous dives that a diver
encounters. It is a low energy high speed trip that allows you to see much more of the rapidly passing reef. The flip side of this is that you miss a lot of small life, and the hazards of loss of control and any efforts to work against the currents are high energy and stress producing. Recognizing that a problem exists is the first thing a diver has to face. Divemasters usually are on top of the problem and brief you appropriately.

**Signs of a Current**

Each diver can detect signs of current, such as:

1. fast moving surface water;
2. which way the boat is facing (depending on whichever is the stronger, the current or the wind);
3. movement of floating material on the water or in the water;
4. movement of divers away from the boat rapidly on entry;
5. bubbles moving away from a diver at an angle underwater;
6. if the plant life and soft coral underwater are laying down.

The contour of the ocean bottom will change currents, often dramatically. A diver can adjust his speed by moving to the bottom, slowing behind coral heads and outcroppings or holding on to permanent objects, all the time presenting the smallest frontal surface area to the current. Because of a "boundary layer" condition, water molecules that are closest to a surface move the slowest due to their nearness to the surface. Other areas of calmness are areas behind obstacles and the sides of walls. Getting close to the bottom and using your finger or dive knife to stabilize you is usually all you need to hold your position.

As the diver moves through the water column he encounters resistance-and this increases by the square of the velocity of the current as it passes over the body. As a diver works against the current along the bottom, a good indication of the amount of work being performed is by monitoring the respiratory rate, this rising exponentially as exertion increases. "Bottom crawling" is a technique that may have to be used when the swimming exertion level rises. This is easily done in rocky areas but can be a real challenge in sandy bottoms-where a good dive knife comes in handy as an anchor.

If conditions exist so that exertion levels continue to rise, it's better to surface, inflate and wait. Here is where a safety sausage comes in handy. This is an inflatable, long
red plastic tube that juts above the water 6-7 ' and can be easily seen as much as a half a mile or more. Shining a flashlight in the bottom of the sausage at night provides a long red light that can be seen at a great distance.

Surface floats are other techniques used in diving in currents. A line attached to a float and to a diver give two advantages; the dive group is marked for the boat operator and any tired or nervous divers can hang onto the line and rest. When drifting free without a line, the boat operator relies on visualizing the diver's bubbles for location; a surface chop can make it difficult for the boat operator to see the divers bubbles.

Strong currents can rip away a mask or snorkel when turning sideways or looking up. Snorkels do better stored in the BC or under a leg strap underwater so as to reduce drag on the mask. Place a little extra tension on mask straps if strong currents are expected.

The dive group should have a clear understanding of exiting and entering the water in conditions of current. Divers should try to let the current work for them by initiating dives into the current on the first part of the dive and planning the return with the current. Float lines are essential for an orderly entry for the divers to hold position for descent and ascent, otherwise divers will be strung out too far apart for a safe dive. Entries should be timed so that there will be no stragglers and the descent be made under control. Exits are also planned so that the float line can be used to pull against the current rather than having to swim against it.

Currents are usually generated by wind and tides or a combination of the two. Predicting what you will encounter generally depends on using information from the local weather service combined with tide information from local dive operators. In certain areas, such as "The Great White Wall" in Fiji and "Blue Corner" in Palau, the currents are almost always due to tidal action and are fairly predictable. One should always go with local experience in making decisions regarding diving into currents.

**Surges**

Surges occur in areas where swells are forced against a barrier of some sort, such as a beach, wall, rock, or wreck. A surge is a to-and-fro action complicated by indentations such as caves, rocks or large holes in wrecks. Surges can be used to aid in your movement, carrying you forward in one direction where you can stabilize yourself as the surge retreats, and move forward again with the next surge. They are also dangerous since they create huge forces that can carry you into places that you don't want to go. Divers should remain distant from diver-size holes in wrecks and caves and learn to
use surges as a method of aid in movement, either upward to get back into the boat or to move onto a ledge.

**Wrecks**

Wrecks create special problems with currents. Frequently the boat will anchor on the wreck, playing out enough scope so that divers can easily descend on the line. A tag line is helpful placed between the anchor line and the stern of the boat, facilitating the descent from the dive platform. Divers who lose contact with the line run the risk of being swept away from the wreck and the diveboat, sometimes requiring rescue after coming up predictably exhausted from fighting the current.

Adapted from Glen Egstrom, Ph.D. Medical Seminars, Inc

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**PSDiver Monthly is a free subscriber E-Zine distributed by Press Release notice and website download. We have a world wide distribution and a verified email subscriber list of over 12,000.**

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**EVENTS**

**Underwater Crime Scene Series**

**Body and Weapon Recovery Class**

Hosted by:

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Department of Criminal Justice

**ALVIN, TEXAS * August 28, 29, 30**

PREPAID Advanced Registration - $250.00 per person. After August 10, 2009, $300.00 pp

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For more information or to RESERVE spots call:

Ronny Phillips: 281-756-3774
FAX: 281-756-3950
Email: RPhillips@alvincollege.edu

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PSDiver™ Monthly Issue 63
DAN Offers Training for PSDivers
Diving First Aid for Professional Divers to be offered at select DUI events

DURHAM, NC – For the past few years, Divers Alert Network® (DAN®) has joined Diving Unlimited International (DUI) on the road for several DUI DOG Rally and Demo Days events. DAN hits the road with DUI once again in 2009, with a special offering added for Public Safety Divers.

At DUI events that include a special day for Public Safety Divers, DAN will offer training in its Diving First Aid for Professional Divers program. The course will be offered the day before the DUI event starts.

PSDiver™ Monthly Issue 63
• Seattle/Tacoma, WA August 27  (deadline: August 14)
• Manatee Springs, FL November 12 (deadline: October 23)

For information on Diving First Aid for Professional Divers, or to register for any of the DAN-DUI events, please visit www.diversalertnetwork.org or call (800) 446-2671 ext.555.

2nd Annual
Green Mountain DNA Conference
July 27-29th, 2009
Burlington, VT
www.greenmountaindna.com

NOAA/UHMS/USRF Physician's Training Course in Diving Medicine
AUGUST 10-21, 2009
NOAA Diving Center, SEATTLE, WA
Registration: ONLINE  WORD  PDF

REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO: JULY 25

NOTE: Foreign Nationals must register & have all related papers in by JULY 10 in order to have access granted to NOAA facilities

Illinois SAR Conference (ISARC)
August 21 – 23
http://www.illinoissar.org/Conference.htm

ISARC will be held at Rend Lake Resort & Conference Center in Whittington, IL. Conference agenda, activities and registration info is now available online.

Arizona SAR (AZSAR) 2009 Conference
September 18 – 20
This year’s Arizona SAR Conference will be held at the Salvation Army Camp Ponderosa in Heber, AZ. Classes include Man Tracking, K9, Mounted, ATV & UTV, helicopter safety, Wilderness First Aid, NASAR SARTECH Certification, CASIE (Computer Aided Search Information Exchange), Alzheimer’s, and swift water rescue. Meals, rooms, RV and tent camping on the facility are available. An online registration form should be up and running soon, but in the meantime, contact James Langston at (620) 464-6220

Canadian Underwater Conference and Exhibition
http://www.underwaterconference.ca
September 13 to 15, 2009
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

“Man & Machine Underwater: Operations and Initiatives”.

The conference addresses commercial diving and remotely operated vehicles working in the offshore and inland waters.

For more information, contact jim@calvesbert.ca
**SARCon 09**  
Oct. 15-18, 2009  

Northwest SARCon is a search and rescue conference developed for emergency responders and their supervisors, including: sheriff’s deputies, SAR team members, SAR volunteers, police officers from state and municipal agencies, firefighters, military and national guard personnel and Emergency Medical Services crews. At the conclusion of the conference, participants will have received hands-on training and participated in discussions on topics related directly to the conduct of search and rescue missions.

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**PSDiver Monthly Continuing Education**

**PSDM-CE-63**

Match the following left column to the corresponding right column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The mass of a substance</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Refraction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The taking within of light waves</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Speed of light</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Absorption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bending of light wave</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Diffraction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Return of a light wave towards source</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>186281 MPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Speed of sound</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Wave length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Changes in direction of light waves</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Density</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Distance of a light</td>
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<td>1125 FPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
(9) Using the association of letters we can predict the loss of light color using the following.
   (a) YOG VIBR
   (b) VIBGYOR
   (c) ROYGBIV
   (d) GORYVIB

(10) In a general statement, light begins to reduce in _________ feet of water.
   (a) 8 to 15
   (b) 25 to 35
   (c) 40 to 50
   (d) Less than 1 foot

(11) Water decreases the wave lengths of light starting with the ____________.
   (a) Shortest
   (b) Longest
   (c) Mid-range
   (d) Density has no effect

(12) Water is _____ denser than air
   (a) 100
   (b) 400
   (c) 800
   (d) 900

TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. If your team is not taking photographs at, during, etc. a dive call, discuss the reasons for not doing so.

2. If you are not taking photographs and agree that you should, discuss ways you can add an underwater camera to your arsenal of tools.

3. Discuss the types of cameras available – do some research if necessary and decide if a land camera with an underwater housing will fill the need or if dedicated underwater and surface cameras will be needed.

4. Discuss lighting requirements for your area if underwater photography is to be employed.

5. Talk with the local LE ID Team. Determine what types of photos and or video will be the most useful to them to support their surface photography. Discuss training ideas that will allow your team to practice.
These training agencies have recognized PSDiver Monthly as a valued addition to their programs and Continuing Education requirements.

We welcome all agencies to participate. For details, email PSDiverMonthly@aol.com

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.

"Accept than some days you’re the pigeon, and some days you're the statue."

Just for Laughs …

Texas Logic

Two South Texas ranchers, Jim and Bob, are sitting at their favorite bar, drinking beer. Jim turns to Bob and says, "You know, I'm tired of going through life without an education. Tomorrow I think I'll go to the Community College and sign up for some classes."

Bob thinks it's a good idea, and the two leave. The next day, Jim goes down to the college and meets the dean of admissions, who signs him up for the four basic classes: math, English, history, and logic.

"Logic," Jim asks, "what's that?"

The dean says, "I'll show you. Do you own a weed eater?"

"Yeah."

"Then logically because you own a weed eater, I think that you would have a yard."

"That's true, I do have a yard."

"I'm not done," the dean says. "Because you have a yard, I think logically that you would have a house."
"Yes, I do have a house."

"And because you have a house, I think that you might logically have a family."

"I have a family."

"I'm not done yet. Because you have a family, then logically you must have a wife."

"Yes, I do have a wife."

"And because you have a wife, then logically you must be a heterosexual."

"I am a heterosexual. That's amazing. You were able to find out all of that because I have a weed eater."

Excited to take the class now, Jim shakes the dean's hand, and leaves to go meet Bob at the bar. He tells Bob about his classes, how he is signed up for math, English, history, and logic.

"Logic," Bob asks, "what's that?"

Jim says, "I'll show you. Do you have a weed eater?"

"No."

"Then you're a queer."