PSDiver Monthly
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Dedicated to the expanding knowledge of Underwater Crime Scene Investigation

Basic Lift Bag Operations
By Mark Phillips

Marine Technology for Underwater Investigations
By Vince Cappone

News
Diving Medicine
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And More!
Greetings,

Years ago, when we were first starting PSDiver Monthly, I had the idea that we could build a resource for Public Safety Divers that would be both informative and educational. It was always intended to be a magazine but the original issues were more like newsletters. It took some time and a learning curve before we got a good handle on how to do what was intended.

I am not sure exactly how well we have achieved that goal nor am I satisfied that we actually reached that goal. I am pretty sure I will never be satisfied.

Each month we try to have articles relevant to our field of work that are written by our subscribers. There are no journalists, authors or professional writers who write to our audience. The books that are written are by people involved in the field, who do the actual work and sometimes train others. The articles we are able to share come from individuals within our own ranks and are not that easy to find. Occasionally I will get an email from someone who has an idea for an article or has written something that they believe is a fit for PSDiver monthly. Sometimes I contact people I hear about or have read about in a news article to see if they will write about their experiences. At best, we eventually have the opportunity to read about their work or experiences but most of the time that contact results in a good intentioned promise that is never fulfilled. They get cold feet and second guess themselves.

I have developed a few relationships over the years that allow me to call on a select group of individuals when a topic specific article for the magazine. I am very grateful for them and the trust they have in me with their work and reputations.

I am always looking for new writers and I am always looking for articles. We know you have stories to tell and we want to share them. One of the biggest challenges I face when trying to convince someone with a story or an article idea to write, is convincing them that they can do it.

We work in an extraordinarily hostile environment and do a job in zero visibility underwater that most people would avoid doing on dry land. We overcome obstacles, politics and fear, to do the job. But it is fear that sometimes prevents people from writing about their experiences. Perhaps they are embarrassed by their spelling or grammar skills. They do not want to put themselves out there for public criticism or critique. But you do not have to be a professional writer. Personally I would rather read an honest perspective than a researched scientific paper.

Tell us your story. Tell us about the last mission you were on. Tell us about a training idea you tested or problems you faced. What you have to offer is more than just a story; it is an experience you share with others.

Besides myself, I have two proof readers and editors who help me with the magazine. I do not expect you to be great writers and will help you with each step. We will work with you until your article is ready to be published and it will be something you are proud of.

Take a chance,

Stay Safe,
Mark Phillips
Editor / Publisher

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

Marine Technology for Underwater Investigations
By Vincent J. Capone

In the past, if you wanted to supplement your dive team with underwater remote sensing technology it required very deep pockets and darn near an engineering degree to operate the gear. Now with the cost of electronics dropping and advances in computers, the latest underwater technology is more readily available to underwater investigators especially with grants from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Are all these new technologies truly an asset to the underwater investigator or is it a waste of effort and funds? Starting with this article we would like to explore the advances in marine technologies and the practicality of use for such technology by the local underwater investigator or dive rescue team. We will separate myth and fiction from fact.

Other than the cool factor, why bother with new technology at all? First and foremost is safety. Whether the hazard is low visibility and entanglement, deep water, under the ice, strong currents or contaminated water, remote sensing allows you to identify the target and hazards before placing a diver in the water. In many cases it's like having an aerial photo of the terrain before an operation.

Secondly, when utilized properly, these technologies significantly reduce deployment time. Instead of divers executing search patterns with limited bottom time, we map large areas of the bottom and decide which targets require investigation. These electronic maps also become evidence in criminal cases.

Remote sensing technology also includes handheld diver operated sonars and or various types of remotely operated vehicles (ROV). Which type of remote sensing technology is best for your team depends on your response environment, your mission and budget. If your area of responsibility includes deep quarries or lakes, a remotely operated vehicle equipped with scanning sonar and articulator may be your best choice. Conversely if you cover miles of shallow muddy bayous, a side scan sonar purchased with a DHS grant would provide the most bang for the buck. Say you missed out on the DHS grant: Then perhaps the Hummingbird side imaging fish finder will fit the bill. Maybe you would prefer to augment your dive team with handheld equipment. Each may be the best choice for your situation.

Marine technology is a very broad field including vastly different systems which range from handheld devices to

In August 2009, Black Laser Learning provided a law enforcement version of its intensive two-day side scan sonar training in Baton Rouge, LA. The event was held in cooperation with the E. Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office, the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff’s Office, the Louisiana Division of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.
assist the diver in target location to robotic vehicles equipped with video cameras. To review each technology in detail will require several articles. For purposes of this edition let us examine the underwater search and crime scene mapping mission utilizing various types of sonars.

There are two ways to create underwater imagery. The most common is with light using our eyes or cameras to form pictures. Unfortunately most of our crime scenes are not in the Caribbean but in muddy bayous or ponds with limited visibility and littered with entanglement hazards. Thus the second option utilizing sound more commonly referred to as sonar to create the images has many advantages.

Sonars come in many flavors, handheld, mounted on remotely operated vehicles (ROV), hull mounted and towed. As divers we tend to gravitate to the handheld system because that is our environment. However there is a school of thought that suggests we should know where the target is and understand the entanglement hazards prior to entering the water. To further narrow the scope of this article we will focus on surface operated systems and tackle the hand held sonars in a separate article where we can do justice to the subject.

The most common search sonar is the towed system which is known as side scan sonar. These systems must be moving to create images but create high resolution, geographically referenced maps of the bottom. These systems are commonly used to locate drowning victims but also to locate hazardous waste containers, automobiles or other targets. Depending upon the system, weapons are sometimes possible but tend to be a very difficult target to identify.

The most common myth is these systems cannot operate in shallow water or small ponds. By changing the tow configuration to hanging just below the bow these sonars can be effective in as little as 3 to 5 feet of water. The bow or hip tow also allows maneuvering around hazards and into dead end canals or between piers not normally accessible with a towed system. Some folks will even pole mount a side scan which worked great as long as the water is relatively calm. These systems allow maximum flexibility being operational in very shallow water as well as deep.
A side scan sonar ranges in cost from under $10,000 dollars for the inexpensive versions to approximately $50,000 for the more prominent brands. You tend to get what you pay for. The least expensive brands tend to not produce the best imagery nor are they as robust in terms of operation without technical failures. The more expensive systems tend to have better resolution at longer ranges and easy to operate software.

Once you decide on a manufacturer you must also choose the frequency, cable length and other accessories. We will save that detail for an in-depth comparison of the sonar systems available in a later article.

The biggest advantage to side scan sonar is its ability to cover large areas very quickly with very high resolution. Advances in software have made side scans much easier to operate and when coupled with GPS, provide accurate positioning of targets. The disadvantages are the system must be moving in a straight line to create good images and even though they are easy to operate, both classroom and field training are essential for consistent results.

For under $5,000 investigators can now purchase a hull mounted side imaging system such as those made by Hummingbird or Lowrance Structure scan. These systems are very much like towed side scan sonars but hull mounted. The advantages are low cost and ease of operation. These systems are highly susceptible to boat motion and become less effective for small targets as water depths exceed 60ft. While training is not as critical, some expert training does improve the operator skills.

The third type of sonar is known as scanning sonar. These systems can be mounted on tripods, ROVs or poles. These systems must be stationary while scanning and are analogous to underwater radars. Scanning sonars provide very high resolution images but cannot cover large areas quickly because of the stationary requirement. Unique applications include easy operation through the ice. Older systems do not incorporate a compass or GPS so target positions are not as accurate as with other systems. There are tricks to utilizing the systems so some training may be helpful.

In black water ROV OPS these systems are essential. Scanning sonars mounted on ROVs allow operators to fly to targets rather than hoping to run into something of interest. We will talk more about equipping ROVs later.

So which sonar is right for your team? If you work shallow inland waters and have a very limited budget the hull mounted side scanning fish finders such as the Hummingbird 110 series for under $2,500 works. If you’re working in deeper waters or large areas, a towed side scan works best. If you work on frozen ponds six months of the year, you may prefer scanning sonar.

Exactly which system you choose depends on many factors. With this introduction you have a general idea of what the different sonars do and how they are utilized.

About the Author:
Vincent J. Capone president and founder of Black Laser Learning Inc. specializes in training the military, Homeland Security and Law Enforcement in sonar search and mapping techniques. He has over 30 years of diving experience and over 20 years of sonar experience operating all types of sonars in most every environment. Vince assisted the Navy with the space shuttle Columbia search and has worked with the FBI, Department of Justice and EPA on underwater investigations.
LIFT BASICS
Mark Phillips

Lifting an object using an air filled lift bag is probably one of the more common methods to get an underwater object to the surface. Public Safety Divers just have to decide when it is appropriate. At some point, lifting an object can become so complicated that it surpasses the skills and capabilities of a PSD team. So for now, let’s limit our scope to small object lifts.

Lift bags should be used on any object weighting more than 10 pounds. Grabbing onto an object weighing greater than 10 pounds then using your BCD for lift is dangerous. If the object is dropped and the BCD is full to counter the weight, the result can be an uncontrolled accent.

Small objects can be lifted using small lift bags. Professionally made small lift bags are made in different sizes. The most common are 25, 50 and 100 pound bags. These are usually open bottom bags that work like a hot air balloon. They fill from the bottom, rise up on an enclosed air bubble, and have attachment points that drop from the bottom of the bag and usually have a relief valve at the top of the bag that allows air to be manually released.

Small bags can be used by one diver though, depending on the size of the object and the ability to control it while moving vertically, two divers might be better. Small bags do not require a great deal of air and it is reasonable to assume the diver will use an octopus or other device connected to the main air supply to fill the bag. This might go against some traditional teaching but it is realistic. The alternative and safer method is to descend with a second air supply that can be used to fill the bag. This could be something as simple as an extra pony cylinder or even a *Spare Air*.

Before we get too involved in lifting, we need to drop back and reexamine some scuba basics: Archimedes’ Principle which describes buoyancy and displacement and Boyle's law describing the inversely proportional relationship between the absolute pressure and volume of a gas. These elements and how they apply to an underwater environment are key to successful lifting operations.

**Buoyancy and Displacement**
A cubic foot of fresh water weighs approximately 62.4 lbs, while a cubic foot of salt water weighs approximately 64 lbs. The difference in weight is due to the dissolved minerals in salt water. We tend to forget that there are differences in salt and fresh water. Unless or until we need to do calculations based on really large volumes, the difference for us is not really worth the added math. We will use generic salt water measurements; this means we...
use 33’ of sea water to equal surface pressure of 14.7 PSI (1 atm). In salt water, each 1 foot of water will add .445 psi. So 33 feet is 2 atms or 29.4 psi, and 66 feet is equal to 3 atms.

One cubic foot of sea water weighs about 64 pounds. A pint of water weighs about one pound. There are 8 pints in a gallon so a gallon of water weighs around 8 pounds. This means there are about 8 gallons (64 pints) of water in a cubic foot of water. To determine simple cubic feet of volume in a box shape, remember to multiply the length x width x height.

A Greek mathematician named Archimedes developed what is now known as the Archimedes’ Principle: Any object, wholly or partly immersed in a fluid, is buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object. This force is buoyancy and we recognize it as positive, neutral or negative. It is displacement that we will look at first.

Consider the size and shape of a five gallon bucket. Imagine – or experiment – that it is filled with water to the brim and has been placed on a large tray. The tray is constructed in such a manner that it will collect any water that might spill out of the bucket. There is also a hole on one corner of the tray that drains the water into a funnel that empties into a large measuring device. This device is sitting on top of a scale that measures weight in pounds.

What we now have is a way to measure both displacement volume and the weight of the water that has been displaced. So, let’s drop a 10 pound lead ball into the bucket. Does it float or sink? You know it will sink. When we dropped it into the filled bucket, because it took up a certain amount of space, a volume of water equal to that amount of space came out of the bucket and was collected in our container. It is the shape that made the water come out, not the weight. So if we assume that the water that sloshed out was around two pints in volume, the scale is registering about two pounds of weight.

Archimedes’ principle means that the lead weight will be buoyed up by a force equal to the weight of the fluid displaced. So for this illustration, the 10 pound lead weight only weighs eight pounds in water.

If we refilled our bucket and reset the experiment then dropped a 10 pound concrete cinderblock into the water bucket, would we see the same results? The cinderblock might weigh the same in air but because it is significantly less dense than the lead weight, it occupies more space. More water will flow out of the bucket because the cinderblock displaces more water. Let’s assume that we collected four pints of water. The weight of the water displaced is about four pounds so the cinderblock only weighs about six pounds underwater.

Dense materials do not have to sink. Consider a 12” x 12” piece of aluminum foil. If you fold it correctly into a boat shape, it will float on the surface of the water. The density of the sheet is the same but because of the shape and the weight the density spread over a larger area. The
The volume of water displaced is greater than the weight of the sheet. If you crush the sheet into a compressed ball, it will sink when it is placed on the surface of the water. The shape of the object is more dense and the weight of the water displaced is less than the weight of the ball.

If we could manage to trap just the right bit of air inside the ball and decrease the density enough so that the displacement weight of the water was the same as the weight of the ball, the ball would be neutral and would neither float nor sink.

Boyle’s Law
Boyle’s Law is the gas law we talk about a lot but rarely name. We caution divers to not hold their breath underwater. We teach divers to exhale or maintain an open airway when surfacing. This is part of Boyle’s Law.

Boyle’s Law states: For any gas at a constant temperature, the volume will vary inversely with the absolute pressure, while the density will vary directly with the absolute pressure.

What this means is as a volume of air is submerged to depth, the pressure of the surrounding water causes the volume to decrease and density to increase and when a volume of air rises to the surface, the volume increases and density decreases. So if you take a full breath of air at depth and hold it while you ascend, the expansion of air will rupture your lungs.

Lift bags harness this expansion of air. By calculating the expansion or using it in a controlled manner we are able to lift objects underwater and bring them to the surface. When necessary, we can calculate the volumes of air and the expansion of air as it rises in the water column.

The math used in this formula can get confusing so we will work to make it easier. Gas law calculations are done using absolute pressures and temperature. For ease, we can take out part of the math by making temperature constant. If \( T \) is constant, the formula is \( P_1V_1 = P_2V_2 \).

\( P \) is a measure of pressure at depth, not a generic number. \( P_1 \) or \( V_1 \) is usually a known starting point or number and \( P_2 \) or \( V_2 \) is what we are trying to determine. Since the work we are discussing is being done underwater we will compute pressure in atmospheres underwater. 1 atmosphere of change occurs ever 33 feet. To calculate \( P_1 \) in atmospheres, we can use:

\[
\frac{D_1 + 33}{33} \times \frac{V_1}{33} = \frac{D_2 + 33}{33} \times \frac{V_2}{33}
\]

Where \( D = \) depth and \( P_1 \) will be our starting depth and \( P_2 \) will be our ending depth measured in atmospheres.

Using this equation for \( P \), the overall formula will look like this:

\[
\frac{D_1 + 33}{33} \times V_1 = \frac{D_2 + 33}{33} \times V_2
\]

So if we filled a bag with 3 cubic feet of air at 50 feet, what will be the volume of air in the bag at the surface?

\[
\frac{50 + 33}{33} \times 3 \text{cf} = \frac{0 + 33}{33} \times V_2
\]

\[
83 \times 3 \text{cf} = 33 \times V_2 = 2.5 \times 3 = 1 \times V_2
\]

\[
V_2 = 7.5 \text{ cf}
\]
If we consider that a 25 pound lift bag provides 25 pounds of lift it will require 25 pints of air. A fifty pound lift bag, 50 pints and a 100 pound lift bag will require 100 pints of air. This air requirement is AT THE DEPTH the bag is being filled.

On the surface, our lungs can hold about a gallon (6 pints) of air if we take a deeper than normal breath. This converts to about .13 cubic feet of air at normal atmospheric pressure. At 2 atmospheres or 33 feet, to fill our lungs to the same capacity will take the same volume but the air we breathe will be twice as dense. Because of decreasing pressure during an ascent, the denser volume will expand and measured at the surface will measure .26 cubic feet. This means in our example above, if we simply breathed off of our regulator and exhaled into the bag, it would take us about 23 breaths to get 3 cubic foot of air into our lift bag. But if that equals to 7.5 cubic feet of air at the surface then we would have used almost 10% of our total air supply if we were diving with a standard 80 cubic foot cylinder. If we use air from our main cylinder and are depending on it being our breathing air, we can see that using air to fill a lift bag at depth from our breathing air source, even in small amounts, can deplete a diver’s available air quickly.

We calculated that the difference between 50 ft and the surface was 2.5 atmospheres. This quantity of air at 50 foot would provide 192 pounds of lift but if left unvented would provide 480 pounds of lift at the surface. You can see that by multiplying 2.5 atm x (3cf x 64lbs) or by multiplying 7.5 cf x 64. The rate of rise will increase as the air expands unless control is established. Control of a lift bag as it rises through a decreasing pressure column of water requires a few things be done right. Two primary things a diver can do are choose the right size bag and properly operate the manual vent.

The key to Boyle’s Law for lifting is the expansion of air during ascent. This expansion of air increases the volume of air during the lift and if not controlled or anticipated can be dangerous and is why you have been drilled constantly over your diving career to not hold your breath when you are diving.

Most teams will use bags that are rated in the 25 to 100 pound range. Lift bags should be used on any object weighing more than 10 pounds, grabbing onto an object weighing greater than 10 pounds then using your BCD for lift is dangerous and may result in an uncontrolled ascent if the object is dropped. It is doubtful that they will need to do these types of calculations to lift small objects. However, it is important to know how to do the calculations and what they mean. When teams advance into larger lifts or begin to use enclosed bags that have automatic over pressure valves, calculating volume becomes essential.

The smaller bags will be used to lift an occupied body bag or smaller but manageable object. If your team has a selection of lift bags, picking the
appropriate size bag is important. If the bag is too small, it will not provide the necessary lift. The density of the object can be disguised by the size or shape. For instance, a male body weighing around 170 pounds on the surface will only weigh between 12 and 16 pounds 50 feet underwater. A body bag and the body can be easily lifted using a 25 lb lift bag. If you used a 100 pound lift bag, the ability to over inflate it at depth could cause it to become uncontrollable on the ascent. If a bag is used that is closer to the actual need, it will be more manageable during the ascent. If a variety of bags are available and you are unable to preplan a calculated lift, it is better to start with the smallest size bag you think could be used instead of erring toward a larger bag. You can always get a larger bag if it is needed.

Small bags are usually open bottomed. This means that expanding air can escape from the bottom. These bags usually have a manual dump valve that the diver can use to regulate the volume of air in the bag. So while the ascent is made, the diver can release air and control the ascent. Even when lifting, ascent speed should not exceed 60 feet per minute. If you are holding onto a body bag and not paying attention to the air expansion and lift in the bag, you may have to let go of the rig to keep from being pulled to the surface too fast. When the bag hits the surface, it will roll or burp and the air inside will escape. When that happens, the body bag and lift rig will sink. Aside from being embarrassing, it could compromise evidence or even cause the body to fall to an even deeper depth. Therefore, the diver will be tasked with monitoring ascent rate, air management and control of the lift system.

The diver will need to rig the bag to the object to be lifted and secure it so that the object and bag are one system. Once secured, the diver will add enough air to the bag to cause the object to start rising. When using an open bottom lift bag, the diver will almost certainly have to ride the rig to the surface. Otherwise the lack of control at the surface will cause the bag to deflate and the rig to sink.

In order to control the ascent, the diver should be positioned on the outside of the rig and on the same side as the manual relief valve on the bag. As the ascent continues, the diver must control the speed of the ascent by deflating excess air from the bag. If too much is exhausted at one time and the rig begins to sink, a quick burst of air into the bag will correct the volume. This control is something that needs to be practiced. If a bag is selected and discovered to be too small, a larger bag should be used. Two small bags will probably not be controllable.

Knowing the weight of displacement will give the team the ability to calculate or estimate the necessary lift requirements of an object. Smaller objects may not require these calculations but will require the diver to choose an appropriate size bag. Lift will be monitored by the diver and will require the diver to ride the lift system to the surface. Because there is a great potential for over inflation and too rapid of an ascent, lift operations using small bags should be practiced and perfected in clear water before attempting them.
on an actual mission or in zero or limited visibility water.

An open bottom lift bag should not be allowed to fully surface. If it is allowed to break the surface and the weight of the bag exposed cannot be supported by air pressure, it will roll and the trapped air will escape. The bag will burp, lose air and everything will sink. The diver must manage the lift bag carefully. Until the object is removed from the water, it still follows Archimedes’ Principle and is being buoyed up by the amount of water the object is displacing. But as soon as an object breaks the surface and begins to leave the water, it gets heavier. The weight of the water contained in the object now comes into play. The weight of the object is no longer lessened by buoyancy or a lift bag. It has become dead weight.

Once the object reaches the surface, proper planning and preparation to retrieve it from the water must be in place. Proper planning and training with small lift bags should be part of a dive team’s normal training schedule. Small lift bags should be used to assist your divers whenever necessary.

Small lift bags should be a common tool used by dive teams. Their use should be incorporated into team training and team members should practice and learn how to use small lift bags. Sooner or later, every PSD team will need to lift something. For a little bit of money, some knowledge and common sense, small lift bags can help provide an added safety factor to your team.

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

LIFT BAGS

Lift bags are the most commonly used tool for recovering submerged objects and are available in a wide variety of sizes and shapes. A lift bag is recommended when recovering an object weighing more than 10lbs. If practical, divers new to lift bag operations should practice underwater tasks in shallow water before attempting them in deep water or work with a buddy that has prior experience with the task. When planning a dive involving the use of a lift bag, divers should consider the following:

• Bowline and Two Half-Hitches noted below are the most commonly used knots for securing an object to a lift bag.

• If possible and practical, an air source other than that being used for breathing by the diver should be utilized to fill lift bags. If this is not possible, considerations should be made to allow for completion of the task with a safe ascent and MONITOR YOUR AIR SUPPLY GAUGE OFTEN.

• If using a diver’s air source, be sure to fill in a manner that will minimize the likelihood of an air source being caught inside the bag or tangled on attached lines.
• Lift bags should be filled until the object reaches neutral buoyancy. Do this by adding small amounts of air and have the purge valve accessible in the event the bag should over inflate. Divers should then slowly guide the lift bag up to the surface being sure to continuously vent expanding air.

• Horizontal movement should occur along the bottom if possible.

• Divers should make sure the surface is clear over the object prior to lift and stay clear of the water column above and below the object.

• If the lift goes out of control, let it go and get out from under it.

• Be prepared for the full weight of the object once the lift bag is removed from the water.

• All divers should be away from the object as it is being loaded into the boat in case of unforeseen complications.

NEWS

Family faces horror of woman’s death

http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/909620.html

Search continues in channel after police accuse ex-fiance of murder, dismemberment

January 01, 2010 By Lou Michel NEWS STAFF REPORTER

They had been described as a loving couple. When Tomell HaSidi was released from prison last summer, he found an open door at the East Side home of his fiancee’s mother.

When HaSidi and Lekiesta Brown broke off their engagement, she was the one to move out of her mother’s home, and HaSidi was allowed to continue living there. But Brown’s family drew the line with HaSidi and ordered him out of the Briscoe Avenue home after Lekiesta — their daughter and sister — mysteriously disappeared Dec. 19.

The mystery ended Wednesday in a tragic, horrific conclusion. Family members sat in a mournful daze Thursday in the living room of their home, trying to comprehend the crime HaSidi is accused of committing.

Police say he killed the 32-year-old woman, then dismembered her body and dumped the parts into the Black Rock Channel, near the foot of Massachusetts Avenue.
Members of the Underwater Recovery Team began searching the waterway Wednesday morning after federal authorities at the nearby Peace Bridge reported that surveillance cameras had caught suspicious activity. Police divers continued their search Thursday and so far have collected several portions of Brown’s remains, including a leg. But they still were searching for upper body parts. “He claimed to love her so much. You wouldn’t think he’d do this,” said Veronica Gault, Brown’s mother. “I’ll never forgive him because I welcomed him into my home and tried to help him get his life together.”

The heartbroken mother had gone to City Court earlier Thursday to see the 32-year-old HaSidi, of French Street, for herself and hear the official charge lodged against him — second-degree murder “caused by means of stabbing and dismembering” Brown’s body. “He glanced at me, that was it,” Gault said. She and her older daughter say HaSidi never exhibited any signs of violence in the months he stayed at their home.

Official criminal records of his past crimes offer no indications of violent behavior. In August, he was released from the Wende Correctional Facility for his second parole violation stemming from convictions on felony charges of forgery and grand larceny.

Theola Gault, Brown’s older sister, recalled when she gave HaSidi his marching orders Dec. 21, two days after her sister disappeared. “He was the last one to see my sister. She had come over here to get some clothes. She was staying with a friend in Cheektowaga, and Lekiesta and Tomell left the house at about the same time. “I later asked him where she was, and he said ‘I don’t know.’ I told him he had to leave. I couldn’t take looking at him with my sister not being around,” Theola Gault said.

And while pain was the only thing Brown’s relatives were feeling New Year’s Eve, Theola Gault found some comfort in what would be her final exchange with her sister: “The last thing she said to me was, ‘I love you, big sister.’ I said, ‘I love you, too. Call me when you get off work.’”

That call never came.

Brown worked at a Getzville home for developmentally disabled adults and was working toward a degree in psychology at Erie Community College North in Amherst. “We talked every day. She would never just disappear,”

“Underwater Crime Scene Investigation”
By Eric Tackett

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the older sister said, adding that Brown loved working with those at the home.

As for HaSidi, a recent survivor of colon cancer, community activist Darnell Jackson said he had met with him and Brown about two months ago to discuss the possibility of renting the couple an apartment on Barthel Street. “He was disabled from the cancer surgery, and I was trying to get him a job to make some money,” Jackson said, expressing shock at the allegations against HaSidi. “I met with them and thought they were the sweetest couple. I’m not lying. She was so respectful and so proper. He was a real gentleman, very respectful.” Brown ultimately ended the engagement “because it just wasn’t working,” Theola Gault said.

Veronica Gault said that, once her daughter, the third oldest of her four children, had disappeared, the family was unable to take joy in the holidays. “We didn’t put up decorations or go Christmas shopping,” the mother said, listlessly looking about her living room. “Normally, I cook up black-eyed peas and rice as a meal for good luck on New Year’s Eve, but I won’t be doing that.” Instead, she and other family members say they will continue to mourn Brown’s unthinkable end. “He’s a monster,” Theola Gault said of HaSidi. “A monster.” HaSidi, who remained incarcerated, was scheduled to return to City Court on Monday for a felony hearing.

For police divers, this is not the first time they searched the Black Rock Channel for a homicide victim. Four years ago, they recovered the dismembered body of a West Side woman.

In that case, homicide detectives accused the woman’s teenage son and a convicted pedophile of killing Madeline Irene, who was drugged before being strangled and dismembered.

A 40-year-old man has drowned after being washed into a storm water drain in Darwin.
Jan 1 2010

The man’s body was found in Mitchell Creek at Rosebery about 6pm (CST) on Friday. Meanwhile, a 16-year-old boy had a lucky escape when he was pulled from storm water by relatives.

Police are frustrated that people, particularly children, are putting themselves in danger by playing in storm water. “It’s difficult to
make people understand just how dangerous these drains are in full flow," Duty Superintendent Michael Murphy said. "Earlier in the evening, police called six young children out of another one before we had even more tragedies on our hands.

"Education is the key to really hammering home the message about how dangerous these drains are. They are not playgrounds, they are not controlled water slides ... they are deadly during storm flooding and must be actively avoided, not actively pursued."

The name of the drowned man has not been released

'JAKE' Essential To Fisherman Recovery Mission
By Megan Boatwright, Local News 8 Reporter
VIDEO – CLICK HERE

Thursday we learned the body of a 66-year-old man who went missing on New Year's Eve was found. Friday we're learning how Bonneville County Search and Rescue was able to recover the body so quickly.

John Young of Idaho Falls was ice fishing in the Indian Creek area of the Palisades Reservoir when he fell through the ice. Police say it appears he was setting up on the ice when it broke and he fell through.

We've told you about the county's newest addition to their aquatic rescue team before, but this is the first time the team has been able to use 'JAKE' without extra trainers. Bonneville County first got the new sonar system this past summer. The system is equipped with mobile hands and video. 'JAKE' can go where divers can't, and really helped keep rescuers safe while searching for the fisherman's body. "It keeps multiple divers out of the water," said Alisa Prudent with Bonneville County. "Anytime you put multiple people in the water the chances of someone getting injured are higher."

'JAKE' is lovingly named after the child of a former Bonneville County Aquatic Rescuer, whose son tragically lost his life in a drowning accident over 10 years ago.

Remote TV spots 4 bodies in sunken ship
JANUARY 04, 2010 BY VICTOR REYES

PHILIPPINES - Video footage taken by a remote-operated vehicle has spotted at least four more bodies inside the M/V Catalyn B that capsized off Cavite on December 24 after colliding with a steel-hull fishing boat.
Commodore Luis Tuazon, district commander of the Coast Guard's National Capital Region-Central Luzon, said footage showed two male bodies. The third body had its hand protruding while the fourth had its feet protruding. Tuazon said the upper body of a fifth person was also seen during a review of the video. However, he said they are not too certain about this because the footage was not that clear. "There were four human figures (seen) but it's not sure ...but the four to five, that's for sure," said Tuazon, adding that they are still reviewing the video so that divers would be acquainted with the location of the ferry.

On Saturday afternoon, Coast Guard volunteer-divers recovered the body of Alex Matangkay and Lean Tejoso inside the sunken vessel, bringing to five the official death toll from the mishap. Twenty-two remained unaccounted and 46 have been rescued. "Although we have confirmed the presence of the four or five bodies (inside the ship), we are still including them in the list of unaccounted so that there will be no confusion in our tally," Tuazon also said. Tuazon said he is arranging for the dive of another team on Wednesday.

Two days after M/V Catalyn B sank, a roll-on/roll-off type vessel, M/V Baleno 9, capsized off the waters of Batangas. The Coast Guard said six were confirmed dead, 47 are still missing and 67 have been rescued.

Navy and Coast Guard officials have raised the theory that many of the missing passengers are trapped inside the sunken Baleno ship. However, Coast Guard commandant chief Vice Adm. Wilfredo Tamayo said they cannot dive into the ship which lies at least 1,000 feet below the sea surface. He said the wreck of the M/V Baleno 9 is four to five times deeper than that of the M/V Catalyn V. "The retrieval might be difficult (in the case of M/V Baleno 9) because the vessel, the wreckage is lying more than 1,000 feet below and the initial assessment of our divers is that would be risky and difficult to reach that deep," said Tamayo.

The PNP will confer today the Medalya ng Kadakilaan to a policeman who helped save passengers of M/V Baleno 9. Director Ronald Roderos, director for police community relations, said PO2 Mark Valliant Rey will be honored during the weekly flag raising activity in Camp Crame which will coincide with the 16th PNP Ethics Day today.

Rey, 28, is assigned with the 405th Police Provincial Mobile Group based in Siniloan, Laguna. He lives in Barangay \[Guardian Full Face Mask\] THE NEW FACE IN DIVING
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Tambong Gloria, Oriental Mindoro. Roderos said Rey saved at least 20 co-passengers before saving himself.

He said Rey showed extraordinary heroism during that incident. Rey can apply for a special promotion. – With Raymond Africa

Search For Missing Georgia Hunter Continues Past Two Weeks
Jan 4, 2010 Reporter: Vanessa Nguyen VIDEO-CLICK HERE

For the 15th day, recovery teams returned to the Jim Woodruff Dam area to continue looking for a missing Albany, Georgia man. Divers searched along the east bank of the Apalachicola River, looking for 34-year-old John Slappey's body. Today’s frigid temperatures only added to the difficulties of an already-exhaustive mission.

The water levels along the Apalachicola River have receded several feet since 34-year-old John Slappey first disappeared on Sunday, December 20th. "Some of the gates at the dam, they're starting to close, they're not closing them all the way, but they're slowing the water somewhat which has made the current not near as swift," says JCSO Dive Team Lieutenant Mike Hodges. It was those swift currents that carried Slappey through one of the gates of the Jim Woodruff Dam when he disappeared more than two weeks ago. He was duck hunting in a float tube at the time.

For many of these law enforcement agencies and volunteers, this search has become one of the longest with which they've ever been involved. "It's disappointing that we haven't been able to recover the victim yet," says Chattahoochee Police Chief Vann Pullen.

But they're refusing to give up.

State forestry workers cut down several trees along the east river bank Sunday, reducing obstacles for the divers. "The cadaver dogs have been searching a certain area where we're at right now, trying to clear out debris, there's so much debris filling in from the bank." And Monday's freezing temperatures didn't help.

Hodges believes the colder water is delaying the decomposition of Slappey's body. "I'm not an expert on that by no means, water temperature build, body mass has a lot to do with like right now, it's 46 degrees on the surface so it would probably hinder us."

Although the long search
has tested many of these men and women, they say they will continue looking as long as possible. "I don't wanna give up, I don't want to get to that point, I wanna get him home so the family can continue with their closure." But hope grows dimmer with each passing day.

Pullen says they will begin scaling back operations after Wednesday.

**Prompt rescue bid could have saved more lives**


5 January 2010

**OLKATA/KOLAGHAT:** A rickety boat hired for Rs 200 an hour. And a bunch of picnickers throwing caution to the winds. The recipe for disaster. If there’s anything worse, it’s that it took 24 hours to form a rescue plan.

A day after 18 people, including at least eight children, were lost in the Rupnarayan river, it is emerging that the disaster could have been avoided. More lives could have been saved if the local police had a few boats and some divers. Only two of the victims — Chintu Prasad and Arvind Ram — swam to shore. Nine were rescued, all of them by locals. There is still no trace of the missing.

Chintu shivers at the thought of the 25 minutes that he spent battling the waves of Rupnarayan’s high tide on Sunday afternoon. Clawing out from the jaws of death, he looked back to see only one person swimming after him. Twenty-four hours after the tragedy, the 19-year old is still to overcome the shock of losing his friends. They hadn’t even been for more than 10 minutes on the boat when tragedy struck.

Chintu admitted on Monday that the boat they had hired wasn’t quite up to it. "The current was so strong that it kept tugging at the boat, pushing it this way and that. We were near the bridge when it got caught in a whirlpool. The boatman tried to steer us away but by then water had started gushing in. All this happened very fast,” Chintu told TOI.

All that Chintu can remember is the cold water chilling his bones. He had to make a tremendous effort to beat the current and swim ashore. Logs and debris floating in the river battered him. “I cannot even imagine how I managed to swim across (the Rupnarayan is about 1 km across at the point). After I reached the shore, I saw Arvind Ram coming behind me. Neither of us knew where the rest were,” he said.

The tide was surging at around 5 metres per second at
the time, and even Olympic swimmers can manage 2 metres per second. The kids stood no chance in the tidal whirlpool.

At the site of the tragedy on Monday, 100-odd divers from BSF, Coast Guard, Kolkata Police and Kolkata Port Trust searched non-stop but in vain. As night fell, the divers were called off and fishing nets were used.

State disaster management minister Srikumar Mukherjee and relief minister Mortaza Hussain held a meeting with the East Midnapore district magistrate, superintendent of police and other officials on the rescue operation. A blueprint for the search was still being ‘finalised’ late on Monday evening.

Family members of the missing persons gheraoed East Midnapore DM Chhoten D Lama at Kolaghat. Police had to push them back. Union minister of state for tourism Sultan Ahmed visited the spot and blamed the administration for the delay in rescue operation.

Keeping in mind that the accident took place during high tide, the search radius has been fixed at 5 km but police suspect it could take as long as 72 hours to trace the picnickers. All police stations on the river’s 25-km course have been alerted.

"Coastal police camps have been set up at Digha and Khejury, but not on the rivers. We have two speedboats but there are no divers. That is why we had to depend on other agencies for the rescue operations," said additional SP (HQ) S H Mirza.

Burlington 'devastated' after boy's body pulled from Fox River
http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/2010/01/river-searched-for-7-year-old-boy-who-fell-through-ice.html
January 5, 2010 -- Jeff Long

Romayne Larson called out to 8-year-old Slade Baker from a bridge as the boy drifted by in the frigid Fox River in Burlington, Wis., but he just flailed his arms without making any progress toward the shore. "He never called out, never made a sound," said Larson, 77, who rushed from her nearby home after Slade fell into the river while sledding Monday afternoon. "I think the shock of the cold was just too much for him."

Divers pulled the boy’s body from the river about 10 a.m. Tuesday after searching the waterway for hours following the accident about 3:45 p.m. Monday.

The close-knit town of about 10,000 was left reeling from the child's death, a neighbor and family friend said. "The whole neighborhood is devastated," said Glenn Jante, 79, who has lived across the street from the boy’s grandfather for 20 years. "Everyone knew the little boys -- redheads."
The grandfather, William Baker, had picked up Slade and his brother, 7, from school Monday afternoon and dropped them at their home on Main Street near a park that adjoins the river, Jante said. Slade had sledded down a small hill and was walking near the river when he fell in, said Lt. Bob Zortman, co-chairman of the Racine County dive team.

Larson’s husband dialed 911 as she made for the river, Larson said Tuesday afternoon. She said ice from the river had accumulated on the shores, and the boy might not have realized he was past the river’s edge when the ice gave way. A Burlington police officer also saw the boy struggling in the water about 50 yards from where he went in but soon lost sight of him, Zortman said.

Cold weather forced authorities to call off the search late Monday, Zortman said. The effort to recover Slade’s body resumed about 8 a.m. Tuesday. A short time after the body was recovered, several family members congregated near the scene, arms wrapped about each other. They declined to speak about their loss.

Zortman said "he was just under the ice edge," about 250 yards from where he went in the water. He warned that ice on a river can be deceptive. "Anytime you have a river and ice, I tell people to stay away," Zortman said. "Anytime there is any ice on a river, you can't trust it." He said the boy would not have survived long in the frigid water. "Without protective clothing and dry suits, we couldn't last long," he said of the divers who joined the search from several area departments.

Divers in distress
Exposure to cold while working in creek sends 2 to hospital
January 12, 2010 By Andy Paras The Post and Courier

Two Charleston County Sheriff's Dive Team members who were trying to recover a stolen pickup truck from an icy West Ashley creek were hospitalized for exposure to the cold Monday.

Authorities said the two men -- one a sheriff's deputy and the other a civilian member of the dive team -- were attempting to attach an airbag to a truck that was submerged in about 9 feet of water in Rantowles Creek, between Charleston and Ravenel.
Authorities reported that the deputy was still in the hospital Monday afternoon while the civilian diver was held for observation and later released. The divers' names were not released.

The deputy surfaced from the water feeling disoriented, Sheriff's Capt. Ollie Puckett said. He said officials lifted the deputy into a boat and took him to the nearby Bulow Boat Landing where he faded in and out of consciousness.

Divers alerted dispatchers about 10:30 a.m. that they had a diver in distress.

Puckett said the civilian member surfaced from the water feeling cold in both his hands and feet. Both men were conscious and in good spirits when the ambulance arrived, he said. EMS took both men to Roper Hospital in "very stable" condition, Charleston County EMS Director Don Lundy said.

Parts of the brackish creek were covered with a thin sheet of ice. Puckett said the water temperature where the divers were was about 48 degrees. He said it wasn't clear whether the deputy became inverted or if water penetrated his suit, causing him to become ill and disoriented.

The truck was reported stolen out of Dorchester County. Divers checked it out Sunday afternoon to make sure there was no one inside. They returned this morning to hook it up to the tow truck, Puckett said. He said the divers were attempting to attach an air bag to make the truck more buoyant for towing.

Divers were later able to remove the truck from the water.

Farmer killed wife court told
http://www.ledburyreporter.co.uk/news/4849573.Farmer_killed_wife_court_told/
13th January 2010

A FARMER murdered his wife on Bonfire Night after she demanded a divorce and £800,000 of their matrimonial assets, a court heard yesterday (Tues). Kate Prout, 55, vanished from her home in the village of Redmarley D'Abitot, on November 5 2007 and has not been seen since.

Her husband Adrian, 47, is standing trial for her murder even though her body has never been found. Bristol Crown Court heard how Mr Prout had been violent towards his wife and threatened to kill her - and chillingly boasted that he "knew people who could get rid of bodies".

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The couple later agreed to divorce but it is alleged that Mr Prout murdered her on Bonfire Night before disposing of her body. Retired schoolteacher Kate vanished without taking any clothes or personal possessions such as a passport and Mr Prout waited five days before reporting her missing.

Despite extensive searches of the property, including the use of sniffer dogs, her body has never been found. Paul Dunkels (corr) QC, prosecuting, said Kate is “undoubtedly dead” and accused Mr Prout of murdering her and disposing of the body. He said: "He married Kate Prout in the year 2000. By late October 2007, though they were still living in the same house, the marriage was over and they were going to divorce. “On November 5 Kate Prout disappeared and nothing has been heard of her or from her since that day.”

Mr Prout initially told police his wife had run away despite all her belongings, including her passport and purse, being found in the farmhouse. Gloucestershire police combed the £820,000 property and surrounding countryside but failed to find a body despite having 100 officers on the case. Police divers, a helicopter, sniffer dogs and dozens of officers spent eight weeks searching 276-acres of land including woodland, lakes and ponds.

Prout, who runs a pipe laying and civil engineering business, was arrested on suspicion of her murder on November 27 2007. He was officially charged with the crime in March last year and after pleading not guilty in July his trial, expected to last one month, began on Tuesday.

Mr Dunkels told the court entries in Kate's diary, found in a House of Fraser bag following her disappearance, prove Prout was "threatening and violent". The jury was also told that Adrian Prout had fallen in love with their housesitter Diane Bellamy and told her he knew a hitman who would "cost £50,000".

Mr Dunkels said: “The defendant continued to see Diane Bellamy while the police investigation was still going on. They met at a pub called the Dog at Over near Gloucester. "Diane Bellamy confronted him asking him what he had done. 'He replied: 'Don't ask me they have taken her away, don't ask me any questions.'"

Mr Prout denies murder. The trial continues.
Two men and a dog crashed through a frozen canal after driving along the ice. Andrew Nisbet and James Naismith got more than a mile before their car sank. They and West Highland terrier "Jimmy Nisbet" escaped through a passenger window as the car filled with water. Their antics - which included performing handbrake turns on the ice. - sparked a major rescue operation.

But last night, Nisbet told the Record: "It was just a bit of a laugh." He and Naismith have been charged with reckless conduct. Nisbet thought he could drive 10 miles along the Union Canal from near Philipstoun, West Lothian, into Edinburgh in his W-reg Peugeot 406. He was convinced the ice. would take the weight after he hurled a rock at it and the stone shattered into pieces. Nisbet said: "We were pretty sure we could get a car down it. "We were on the ice. for about a quarter of an hour before deciding to head for the city and we managed to get about a mile along the route. "We were keeping in touch with a mate by mobile phone and he could not believe what we were up to. "Things were just about OK until we got to a bridge and it was not properly frozen underneath. "We must have been doing more than 30 miles an hour before we noticed the puddles up ahead. "We decided to go for it anyway and the front end just gave way on the ice."

The front end of the car sank to the foot of the canal and water poured in. The pair and the dog were saved because the passenger window was open. The hatchback also popped up as the vehicle went under. As the car lurched to one side, Naismith managed to free himself. Nisbet passed the dog out to him before clambering out to join them on the ice. From there, they were able to crawl the few yards to the bank.

Nisbet said: "It was pretty scary. The front of the car sank to the bottom in about five feet of water and, although the whole thing only lasted a few minutes, it felt like a lifetime. "James had not been keen on doing it anyway and he got the fright of his life. "When we started going down, my whole life flashed before my eyes. "It was just bravado. It seemed like a good idea at the time but I won't be trying anything like it again in a hurry."

Sorry Nisbet and Naismith, who were unhurt, stumbled to the nearest road and called for a pal to pick them up. But by then, police, divers and ambulance crews, alerted by a
999 call, were assembling at the scene. The crews were only stood down when police traced Nisbet, 24, through his registration number. He added: "Once we realised the emergency services were involved, we told the truth. We are sorry for the inconvenience we caused everyone. "It's also cost me a bit of money. "When the police released me, I got a text saying someone wanted to buy the car for £700."

Naismith, 22, said of his pal: "I won't be getting in a car with him again in a hurry. But I didn't ever feel as if my life was in danger. I was out the car in about two seconds after we crashed." Nisbet, of South Queensferry, and Naismith, of Bridgend, both West Lothian, will appear at Livingston Sheriff Court at a later date.

A police spokesman said: "Monday's incident serves as an example of the type of stupidity that the emergency services occasionally have to deal with. "These two individuals had a lucky escape and had the canal been deeper, there could very well have been a different outcome."

**Responders Looking For Dog Discover Woman in Frozen Lake**


January 14, 2010 Fort Worth Star Telegram via YellowBrix

FORT WORTH — Firefighters first arrived at the pond that claimed Andrea Benua’s life at 9:45 a.m. Monday, two hours before rescue divers pulled her from the icy water. It is not known whether she was in the water at that time.

Firefighters were initially at the scene in far north Fort Worth for 11 minutes, from 9:45 to 9:56 a.m., looking for a dog that a 911 caller had said was drowning in the pond, said Tim Hardeman, Fire Department spokesman. Firefighters tested the ice and concluded that it would not hold their weight.

The firefighters said they did not see anything in the ice-covered pond and decided that it was not safe for them to search the frozen pond for the dog. “We don’t know whether she [Benua] was in the water prior to the initial call, or whether she went into the water after the Fire Department left the scene,” Hardeman said.

At 10:02 a.m., animal-control officer Charles Hernandez arrived. After Hernandez talked to the original 911 caller, he saw Gollum, Benua’s small Italian greyhound that led him to her car keys, cellphone and jacket. Hardeman said Hernandez would not have found the items had he not crossed to the other side of the pond.

Firefighters were called again and returned to the scene at 10:45 a.m. A dive team found Benua at 11:45 a.m.; she later died at a Fort Worth hospital.
It was not until Hernandez found the items that anyone suspected that a woman might be in the water. “There is no indication by the initial caller that he knew there was a person involved in this initial incident,” Hardeman said.

Gollum was still missing at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday. A reward has been offered for his safe return.

- Timeline 9:35 a.m.: Initial call is transferred to the Fort Worth Fire Alarm Office.
- 9:37 a.m.: Quint 9 is dispatched.
- 9:45 a.m.: Quint 9 arrives at the pond. Animal-control officer Charles Hernandez is dispatched.
- 9:56 a.m.: Quint 9 closes the call and returns to service.
- 10:02 a.m.: Hernandez arrives at the pond, then follows Gollum, an Italian greyhound, to Benua’s jacket, cellphone and keys.
- 10:22 a.m.: Police are called, and they call firefighters to return.
- 10:45 a.m.: Engine 35 arrives.
- 10:58 a.m.: Fire Department Dive Team 7 arrives.
- 11:45 a.m.: Benua is found and taken to John Peter Smith Hospital.
- 3:09 p.m.: Benua is pronounced dead.

Family rejects suicide; lake to be searched
http://www.freep.com/article/20100115/NEWS02/1150350/1320/Family-rejects-suicide-lake-to-be-searched
Jan. 15, 2010 BY CHRISTINA HALL FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Authorities suspected suicide. But Joann Matouk Romain would never take her own life, relatives and friends said. As Detroit police divers prepare to search Lake St. Clair today, family and authorities wonder what happened to the 55-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman.

"Hopefully, it won't turn into one of these long mysteries," said John Ross, interim director of Grosse Pointe Woods public safety, which is handling the missing persons case. "The family is frustrated. We are, too." A Grosse Pointe Farms officer found Romain's Lexus in the driveway of St. Paul Catholic Church on Lakeshore about 10 p.m. Tuesday. Her purse was on the front seat. Small shoe prints led to a nearby breakwall, where the person appeared to sit at the water's edge. No tracks led away from the water.

Authorities saw no signs of a struggle. Romain's keys and cell phone, which was turned off Tuesday morning, were missing. A parishioner told authorities that she saw Romain in the back of the
church during a 7 p.m. service Tuesday. Searches of the lake Tuesday night and Wednesday yielded nothing.

Her family, including three children and friends have posted flyers, knocked on doors, posted information on Facebook and held vigils at churches she attends.

John Matouk said his sister "was the glue to our whole family." Matouk said his sister has no enemies and the family is hiring former FBI investigators to help with the case.

Attorney Kevin Kennedy represents Romain and her family in a civil case in Wayne County Circuit Court. They sued a construction company that was to remediate black mold in their former Woods home. Kennedy said he saw Romain on Tuesday, the first day of the trial. She is to testify next week, but the judge and the lawyers agreed to a mistrial after learning of her disappearance.

"We were all pretty upbeat on Tuesday night. I thought we had a great day in court," Kennedy said.

One student has died and two others are missing after taking part in the shooting of a TV series in Wenchang city of China's southernmost island province of Hainan.

The headmaster of their school, Liu Debin, had earlier made a deal with the producer of the TV production to receive payments in exchange for sending his students to shoot with the crew, for free, the China Youth Daily reported Wednesday.

Students from eight classes of the privately-run Kongzi Middle School were assembled on the playground on the morning of January 14, 2009 and told they had been selected to take part in the project. The TV crew picked more than 100 students, who were in the senior high grades one and two. The chosen students were then taken by bus to the Baijin beach in Wenchang to take part in the first day’s shooting, which passed without incident, although the students later complained of fatigue to their teachers.

Police investigations learnt that Liu received 2,500 yuan from the crew that day, which he did not hand in to the school's accountant. As part of the deal, Liu would have been paid on a daily basis for the 30-episode TV play. However, the students' fate took a dramatic turn the next day when they were moved to the Da'ao bay of Tongguling, where the currents were
treacherous under the sea, locals told the newspaper.

The TV crew arranged for the students to stand in several rows in waist-deep cold waters and told them to charge towards the camera on the beach posing as soldiers, although the sea was turbulent with large waves and strong winds.

At around 3:30pm, the students began to make their way towards the beach in formation, unknowing that a sand-trap had formed on the seabed ahead of them. Soon the students began to lose their balance in the water and a dozen of them were swept under the waves.

Several students were saved by their peers and crew on the scene, but others were missing. The local police were alerted of the accident, as was the party secretary of Wenchang, Pei Chengmin, who ordered an all-out rescue operation.

One student died in hospital after being hauled from the sea and seven others survived but were injured. Currently two students remain missing, even as police, divers, fishing boats and helicopters scour the area. Liu Debin has been taken into police custody and the city authorities have begun an investigation at the school.

The newspaper reports that some of the students were excited after they were chosen to take part in the production, after being encouraged by their principal Liu Debin, who told them they should feel proud as their school was the only one chosen by the crew in the whole province.

Some students hid the news from their parents in order to take part

'Omen' returns Layne Beachley's lost engagement ring

January 25, 2010 The Daily Telegraph

After losing her engagement ring in Sydney Harbour, retired surfer Layne Beachley believes it was an "omen" that brought it back to her two days later.

That, and the help of underwater metal detectors.

The 37-year-old world champion said the 1.35 carat silver-banded ring given to her by her fiance, INXS rocker Kirk Pengilly, was lost on Wednesday at Apple Bay, the small strip of beach near Taronga Zoo.

"I was training with the Manly Police squad and we were pretty much just throwing balls..."
around in the water, but by the end of the day I realised it was gone," she said yesterday. "I was devastated." Beachley enlisted the help of metal detector operators used by police divers, who looked the same night to no avail. "I thought it was gone," Beachley said. "They said to me the chances of finding it were really slim."

On Friday, Beachley assisted in the search to show the divers the exact place to look and walked past a bridal party taking pictures on the sand. "I saw that as an omen," she said. An hour later and Beachley was reunited with her ring, which was "buried under three inches of sand" in the water.

**Divers search harbour in murder probe**


January 25, 2010

POLICE divers yesterday searched an area of Devon coastline in connection with the murder of two pensioners this month. The frogmen searched the area around Haldon Pier in Torquay harbour after items belonging to Rosemary Windle, 72, and her partner Maurece Smith were found on Torre Abbey Sands.

Police yesterday reissued an appeal for information about the murder of the couple, whose bodies were found in their home in Warren Road, Torquay, on January 11. Officers also want to hear from a couple who they believe may have information about items being thrown into the sea on the evening the bodies were discovered. They could not say if they were looking for any weapon but a spokesman from the major crime team working in Torquay confirmed it was part of the double murder investigation.

Odai Salah, 28, of Windsor Road, Torquay, has been charged with both murders and is due to appear at Exeter Crown Court on February 2.

Det Supt Steve Carey, the inquiry's senior investigating officer, said some property belonging to the victims had been handed in by a member of the public. He said: "The property concerned was found during Wednesday, January 13, on Torre Abbey Sands, which is the beach between the pier and Torre Abbey Meadows. "It is believed that this property was thrown into the sea. "Still missing is a man's three-quarter length black jacket and a pair of gloves. I am also keen to hear from a man and a woman who were walking on the pier about 8pm."
Coast Guard searches for U.S. Navy Pilot after plane crashed into lake

Louisiana aviation accident attorney alerts—Plane crashed into lake; U.S. Navy pilot missing.

New Orleans, LA—A U.S. Navy plane crashed into Lake Pontchartrain, located outside out New Orleans, Louisiana, on Saturday night, January 23, 2010. There were allegedly two U.S. Navy pilots occupying the aircraft at the time of the wreck, according to information provided by CNN News.

The U.S. Coast Guard was allegedly informed that a U.S. Navy T-34 training plane had disappeared from the radar at 6:40 p.m. CT Saturday. Upon being notified by air traffic controllers at New Orleans, Louisiana’s Lakefront Airport, a helicopter and two small boats were dispatched from the Coast Guard Station in New Orleans to search for the lost aircraft. Initial reports allegedly stated that the pilots were “clinging to the aircraft before it sank” though only one pilot was found by responding Coast Guard rescue teams. The rescued pilot was allegedly transported to the hospital to be treated by medical professionals. Authorities have not disclosed his identity and condition.

Search efforts went on until dark on Sunday night and were allegedly to be continued Monday. The Coast Guard, with hopes of finding the missing Navy pilot, is probing a 5- by 7-mile stretch of the lake, located approximately a mile away from the airport. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are also aiding in the search. It is unknown what may have caused the aviation accident.

Navy pilot's body found in Lake Pontchartrain

Divers have found the body of a Navy pilot whose training airplane crashed Saturday in Lake Pontchartrain. Lt. Clinton Wermers' remains were located about 1 a.m., today, according to a statement released at midday by Naval Air Station, Whiting Field, Fla.

Wermers, 33, was a native of Mitchell, S.D., and a father of two daughters whose wife is pregnant with a third child, according to news reports. He was assigned to a training squadron at Whiting Field about three years, according to the Navy.
He and a Navy student aviator whose name has not been release crashed in a T-34C Turbomentor airplane about 6:30 p.m., Saturday, while on a landing approach to the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. The airplane crashed about a mile north of the airport, according to the Coast Guard, which received a report from air traffic controllers about 6:40 p.m., that an airplane dropped out of radar.

A Coast Guard boat crew rescued the student Saturday night. He has been treated and released from a hospital. Wermers' body was found near the airplane, which divers located about 10 p.m., Tuesday in about 15 feet of water, where "visibility was severely limited," according to the Navy statement. A Navy dive and salvage team is expected to arrive in the area Thursday to retrieve the airplane. The cause for the crash has not been determined, according to the Navy.

Volunteer divers from Gulf States Dive and Rescue, working with Crowder Gulf Disaster Recovery and Debris Management found Wermers' body, according to the Navy.

Two Teen Firefighters Found Dead After Car Plunged Into Icy Pond
January 28, 2010

ZELIENOPLE, Pa. – Two teenage volunteer firefighters who were reported missing after they didn’t show up for a training drill for their small-town department died along with a friend when their SUV slid off a slick road and into an icy western Pennsylvania pond.

The bodies of firefighters Elijah Lunsford and Sam Bucci, both 18 and seniors at Seneca Valley High School along with the third victim, 17-year-old Trevor Barkley, were pulled from the pond Wednesday morning, Zelienpole Fire Chief Rob Reeb said.

Spencer Mathew, 18, a schoolmate and fellow volunteer firefighter in the three-stoplight town of Zelienople, about 30 miles north of Pittsburgh, said the school was “all gloom and sadness” when he attended briefly Wednesday before leaving, struck with grief. “Not only did I lose two dear friends today, I lost two fellow firefighter brothers,” he said. “I’m truly going to miss them.”

Mathew said that he’s been a member of the volunteer fire department since he was 14, and that Lunsford and Bucci joined after he brought them around in recent years.

Lunsford had been with the department for two years and Bucci for more than a year, Fire Chief Rob Reeb said. They were like sons to many of the 48 firefighters in the company, he said. “Both the young men are an asset to the community,” he said, speaking to reporters in the fire
station’s truck bay as two black wreaths hung outside and flags flew at half-staff.

Nearby, wire mesh shelving held the firefighters’ boots, coats and other “turnout” gear. Heavy coats belonging to Lunsford and Bucci were laid over their boots on the ground, with one black ribbon each in front of their gear.

The Butler County coroner determined all three drowned. It appeared the driver lost control on the gravel road, patched with icy snow, but speeding or drinking did not appear to be a factor, Miller said. Lunsford’s family owned the Ford Explorer, but it wasn’t immediately clear who was driving. “It appears there’s some stones on the road and it may have lost control,” Miller said. Snow coated the road Wednesday morning.

Lunsford and Bucci didn’t show up for their weekly drill meeting on Tuesday night, leading worried colleagues and relatives to call around in an effort to find them. The fire department responded to a call early Wednesday of an overturned vehicle that police had found, and divers from a neighboring county recovered the bodies over the next several hours.

INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

2009 may well be remembered for its scandal-ridden headlines, from admissions of extramarital affairs by governors and senators, to corporate executives flying private jets while cutting employee benefits, and most recently, to a mysterious early morning car crash in Florida. The past year has been marked by a series of moral transgressions by powerful figures in political, business and celebrity circles.

A new study explores why powerful people – many of whom take a moral high ground – don’t practice what they preach. Above, a session of U.S. Congress prepares to listen to the president’s State of the Union Speech in a 2003 White House photo.

Researchers sought to determine whether power inspires hypocrisy, the tendency to hold high standards for others while performing morally suspect behaviors oneself. The research found that power makes people stricter in moral judgment of others – while going easier on themselves.
The research was conducted by Joris Lammers and Diederik A. Stapel of Tilburg University in the Netherlands, and by Adam Galinsky of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. The article is to appear in a forthcoming issue of Psychological Science.

“This research is especially relevant to the biggest scandals of 2009, as we look back on how private behavior often contradicted the public stance of particular individuals in power,” said Galinsky. “For instance, we saw some politicians use public funds for private benefits while calling for smaller government, or have extramarital affairs while advocating family values. Similarly, we witnessed CEOs of major financial institutions accepting executive bonuses while simultaneously asking for government bailout money.”

“According to our research, power and influence can cause a severe disconnect between public judgment and private behavior, and as a result, the powerful are stricter in their judgment of others while being more lenient toward their own actions,” he continued.

To simulate an experience of power, the researchers assigned roles of high-power and low-power positions to a group of study participants. Some were assigned the role of prime minister and others civil servant. The participants were then presented with moral dilemmas related to breaking traffic rules, declaring taxes, and returning a stolen bike.

Through a series of five experiments, the researchers examined the impact of power on moral hypocrisy. For example, in one experiment the “powerful” participants condemned the cheating of others while cheating more themselves. High-power participants also tended to condemn over-reporting of travel expenses. But, when given a chance to cheat on a dice game to win lottery tickets (played alone in a private cubicle), the powerful people reported winning a higher amount of lottery tickets than did low-power participants.

Three additional experiments further examined the degree to which powerful people accept their own moral transgressions versus those committed by others. In all cases, those assigned to high-power roles showed significant hypocrisy by more strictly judging others for speeding, dodging taxes and keeping a stolen bike, while finding it more acceptable to engage in these behaviors themselves, the researchers said.

Galinsky said hypocrisy has its greatest impact among people who are legitimately powerful. In contrast, a fifth experiment found that people who don’t feel personally entitled to their power are actually harder on themselves than they are on others, a phenomenon the researchers dubbed “hypercrisy.” The tendency to be harder on the self than on others also characterized the powerless in multiple studies.

“Ultimately, patterns of hypocrisy and hypercrisy perpetuate social inequality. The powerful impose rules and restraints on others while disregarding these restraints for themselves, whereas the powerless collaborate in reproducing social inequality because they don’t feel the same entitlement,” Galinsky concluded.
A Different Perspective

Two lives lost, a third forever changed

A year after her horrific Green River accident, Loni Mundell, 17, searches for a way forward through her grief.

January 23, 2010  Sonia Krishnan  Seattle Times staff reporter

Loni Mundell and her grandmother Karen Green prepare balloons for release at a memorial along the Green River one year after the accident that killed Mundell's cousin and stepbrother.

The girl stands on the banks of the Green River, shivering against the autumn air. Her eyes fix on one spot, then another, until the tears blur everything together.

Dozens of people gather around her. Some bow their heads. Others clasp pins with the boys' photos. "Today is a memorial, dear father," the pastor says. "Two young boys lost their lives in this river a year ago."

Loni Mundell is 17 now. A whole year gone; where, she isn't sure. It takes only one memory. And just like that, all those days and hours disappear, leaving her once again soaking and sobbing on the side of the road, her skin blue, unable to do anything but scream as the river rages, carrying away her car with her cousin and stepbrother inside.

The facts of what happened Nov. 7, 2008, are spelled out in a thick police file.

Heavy rainfall. Sixteen-year-old girl driving a silver Volkswagen Beetle on Green River Road Southeast. Driver loses control; vehicle crosses the center line and plunges into the Green River. Time of 911 call: 8:39 a.m.

There are names of the victims — Loni's stepbrother, Austin Fuda, 13, and her cousin, Hunter Beaupre, 2. Records show Loni was not intoxicated texting or talking on her cellphone. She did not drive recklessly; her brakes didn't fail. Detectives note the road was slick and littered with maple leaves. A prosecutor points out Loni's youth and inexperience, and recommends she be cited for an infraction — driving too fast for conditions. All of this appears in the file.

So, too, does the $175 ticket, tucked beside the witness statements, vehicle-inspection reports and police follow-ups. It strikes Loni, as she thumbs through the pages one year later, that no one wrote down what you're supposed to do after two family members die in a car accident and you were the one driving.
That there is no report on how to handle the gossip and stares at high school, or the crushing guilt, or the loneliness, or how to turn off the incessant loop of that day, or, more than anything, what to do with the biggest question of all: How do you forgive yourself?

* * *

It was 6:30 a.m.; time to get up.

Loni lived in Kent with her dad, Dave Mundell, and his longtime partner, Keleighn Fuda. To Loni, Keleighn was her stepmom. And Austin, Keleighn’s son, was like her brother.

There was never any shortage of clamor inside the one-story home. Either Austin was chattering away, or her dad was clomping around in his work boots, or Chewy the Chihuahua mix was yelping to go out.

That week, they had an extra-full house. Loni’s little cousins Hunter, 2, and Paul, 3, were staying over while their mother, Dori Beaufre, recovered from knee surgery. Hunter and Paul were blond mirror images. They played and wrestled like brothers do, fighting one minute, then falling into a giggling heap. Loni felt more like their big sister and helped get them ready for day care.

She had driven Hunter and Paul there all week. Loni had gotten her license six months and nine days earlier, but she already was a trusted driver. Her family depended on her. Outside, as rain crashed against the house, Austin begged Loni for a ride. He usually walked to his middle school, since it was just down the hill, but it was raining so hard.

Could Loni please take him? Keleighn and Dave had already left for work. The four of them got in the car.

Once at day care, Paul ran off to his class, but the teacher told Loni that Hunter couldn’t stay. He’d had diarrhea the day before and couldn’t come back for 24 hours. Loni decided she’d skip school to watch him. She didn’t want Aunt Dori chasing Hunter around on her bad knee.

Now, time to drop off Austin. Loni buckled Hunter in his car seat and the three headed north on Green River Road. From the back, Hunter shouted little demands in toddler-speak.

"Ding me a dong, Onni! Ding me a dong!"

"What?" Loni laughed. "I can’t understand what you’re saying."

"He said, ‘Sing me a song, Loni,’ you dork," Austin said, and they all cracked up. Loni put on an Alanis Morissette CD and started warbling to "Hand in My Pocket."

I'm broke, but I'm happy
I'm poor, but I'm kind ...
What it all comes down to
Is that everything's gonna be fine, fine, fine

"You suck," Hunter said, giggling. "But I still love you."

Then everything went dark.

* * *

It's early December, a year and a month after the accident, and fifth period has ended at Auburn Mountainview High School. Hundreds of students pour down the staircase, into the halls, through the cafeteria. Cellphones pop out, texts get fired off. Everyone shouts above everyone else.
Through the crowd, Loni appears, pretty, blond, smiling as a friend leans in to tell her something funny. In skinny jeans and a black jacket, Loni could be anyone. Just another senior. One more teen unsure of what to do after high school.

The masquerade works sometimes. On the good days, she can focus on classes: nutrition, global issues, poetry. Homework gets done, high school actually seems tolerable. Then maybe she’ll hear someone complain about not getting a pair of shoes. That’s when her anger starts to burn, getting hotter and hotter until she feels she’s going to explode. Who are these people? Don’t they see? She wants to shake them and yell, yes, yell, because, for God’s sake, they need to realize these petty things don’t matter.

A year ago, she was the one worried about shoes. And now, who was she? The girl in the cafeteria surrounded by people but totally alone? Or worse, the girl who killed those kids in the car? That remark got tossed around so casually in the hallways — as if she couldn’t feel the stares or hear the whispering.

They all had so many questions. "Hey, Loni, were you drunk?" "Hey, Loni, were you texting?" People were curious; she got that. And if they wanted the truth, she’d give it to them. Just don’t be mean or say something like, "I totally understand." Because no one does.

At one point, Loni stopped going to school. She stayed holed up at home for nearly three months, heading out only to see her therapist. The girl who used to rush out the door with friends and talk for hours on the phone was gone.

It felt right. How could she move forward when Austin and Hunter would never get to? She had robbed them in the worst possible way. This was all her fault. Wasn’t it?

Her family and teachers and close friends said no. And her school counselor, Dave Samuelson, got her thinking. Let people talk, he said. But don’t give them the power to destroy your future.

She’d survived. Now, she needed to start living and finish school.

So here she is, playing the part of a student. Listening, taking notes, passing class. But when the memories come at her dark and fast, there’s nothing she can do but rewind to that morning in the Green River.

** **

This is the end, Loni thought. I’m dying, they’re dying, everyone’s dying.

After the car pitched over the embankment, the water crept higher and higher.

She tried to signal for Austin to get out while she reached back for Hunter, but she could not see or hear. Words died in her throat. Her mind flashed the future: her family, her dad’s grief, the discovery of the car.

Air, she needed air.

Something her dad told her once, as a little girl, came rushing back. What should I do, she’d asked him, if my car ever went under water? Wait until you’re fully submerged, he said. Then open the doors.
As the car sank, her body rose. Water touched her lips. Now, she thought. Now. She grabbed the handle and pushed; it swung wide. A strong swimmer, Loni made her way to the surface, then dove under twice, looking for something, anything. But there was no car.

"Austin!" she cried.

She swam through the swift currents until she reached the bank, scrambling up 100 feet of grass and sticker bushes. Finally, the road. She started screaming.

Grant Gay was on his way to work around 8:30 a.m. when he noticed cars slowing down past the Auburn Golf Course. Then he saw the girl, drenched and dripping with debris. She was hysterical. He hesitated, but rolled down his window. "My car's gone in the river," she said. "There are two kids in there."

He walked to the river and looked. Nothing. If a car had gone in, he remembered thinking, it was like the fast-moving waters had swallowed it whole. The girl was shaking. He grabbed a towel, held her, and dialed 911. She wanted to see no one.

Sitting in the ambulance, naked, covered in heating pads and blankets, Loni could not move or cry. She had killed those precious boys. Her family would hate her forever. A paramedic walked in. "Your Aunt Dori is here," he said. "She really wants to see you."

Loni shook her head. How could she face Hunter's mother?

No, she answered. No, no, no.

He stepped out and Dori entered. She grabbed Loni's hand and kissed her forehead. In that moment, Loni saw something in her aunt's eyes that made her feel both sad and grateful. "Loni," she said, "it's not your fault."

It took the search-and-rescue team four days to recover the car. The current was so strong the day of the accident that a regulator was ripped from the mouth of one of the divers. As they hoisted the Beetle from the water, Hunter emerged, still strapped in his car seat.

Austin's body was never found.

* * *

The smell of hot cider drifts through the yellow house in Auburn. It's Nov. 7, Saturday afternoon, and dozens of people show up here after the boys' one-year memorial.

The home belongs to a family cousin, who stacks a table high with desserts. Everyone eats and drinks and talks, and it almost seems like an ordinary party with ordinary chitchat, until the lights go dim and a slide show starts. There's Hunter, the newborn. Hunter, with a coffee filter on his head. Hunter and Paul wearing Uncle Dave's work boots.

Paul didn't react much after the accident. He was just 3 at the time. But now he's 4 and something starts to click. He crumples into Dori's arms. "I miss Hunter!" he gasps between the sobs. "I want him back!" "We have the pictures, honey," Dori says, stroking his hair. "We have the memories. That's a gift, sweetheart. Remember that." Later, after Paul runs off to play, Dori sits on the stairs in tears.

In the living room, photos of Austin flicker across the screen, and Keleighn watches with a smile that doesn't
quite reach her eyes. People say a part of you dies when you lose a child, but really, Keleighn says, that's not true.

Everything dies.

For months, the only thing living inside her was a shard of hope that Austin would come home. She told herself he had amnesia, that he was lost, that one day he would open the door saying, "Mom, why didn't you find me?" and they would hug and she would never let him go. But September came, then October. And she said to Dave, "He's really gone, isn't he?" which is when they packed up his clothes.

As Loni watches the slide show, she feels the weight in the room and wants to leave, escape, go somewhere that isn't so damn sad. But her grandmother, Dave and Keleighn hold her close. Every day, they say, they feel grateful she survived. God had a plan; they believe it was the boys' time to go.

They need Loni to know she is loved unconditionally. And deep down, she does. Loni says she knows the boys are in heaven. That gives her comfort. But there are days when she sees them everywhere. Like that little blond boy on the playground, or that stocky kid with a dog, which reminds her of the time Austin tried to teach Chewy how to walk on three legs, just in case he ever lost a limb.

She laughs, and it feels good, and it leads her to talk about the future. Maybe she'll become a child psychologist or a teacher one day. Something to do with children, for sure. She just has to get through high school first.

Samuelson, her counselor, says he couldn't be more proud of Loni. She's a different student these days, more focused and mature. Loni got a second chance. And, she says, she owes it to the boys not to waste it.

Whenever she feels like talking to them, she writes letters and reads them at the river. Sometimes, the whole family will go with her and send up messages on balloons. The last time they did it, after the memorial, Loni had thought about what she wanted to say for two weeks. But in that moment, her mind went blank. "I love you boys so much," she scribbled. "It gets harder every day without you."

She let go of the balloon and watched the words float across the river, above the trees, until all she could see was a small black dot against a pale blue sky.
**Need for Medical Fitness Examinations**

http://www.scuba-doc.com/medexam.htm

**Why A Medical Exam?**

The only real reason for recreational divers to have an examination is to "maximize personal in-water safety". Other reasons possibly include the safety of others, limiting the progression of diseases (skin diseases), and prevention of long-term sequelae. Edmonds reported on 100 fatalities: 25 had known disqualifying factors --9 had been told not to dive.

Working divers have a need to anticipate the progression of natural disease, detect any long-term consequences of diving, check for other occupational requirements and protect the employers by ascertaining expected effective performance.

**What is Fitness to Dive?**

**NOAA LINKS**

NOAA Diving Program
http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/#ndp

NOAA Working Diver Minimum Physical Fitness Requirement

NOAA Diving Program Medical Standards
http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/tc_medical_standards.html

NOAA Diving Program Forms
www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html

**US NAVY - Fitness to Dive**

Navy Diving Questionnaire
Fitness to Dive? When?

- Exams
- Before training
- Periodically
- After surgery, diving accident, other illness or accident

Medical assessment is enhanced by a physician who has any diving knowledge or is himself a diver.

DOWNLOADABLE FORMS

Diving Medical History and Physical Exams

Fitness Problems
- The novice diver
- The asthmatic diver
- The diabetic diver

- Questions to ask the diabetic diver:
  - Any changes in insulin requirement over the past year?
  - Any hypoglycemia in the past year?
  - Any hospitalizations in the past year?
  - Is control well managed?
- The physically handicapped
- The aging diver
- After head injury
- The diver who has had CAGE or DCS with residual damage

*Adapted from David Elliott, Medical Seminars

Join our PSDiver and Water Rescue Discussion Group at:
(Just click the link or copy and paste the url into your browser.)

Public Safety Divers Forum

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PSDivers-PublicSafetyDiversForum
* EVENTS*

Come out to a DUI DOG Rally & Demo Tour and Actually TEST DIVE DUI Drysuits, DiveWear Insulation and Accessories
http://www.dui-online.com/dog_main.html

All Public Safety Diver programs are held in conjunction with DUI DOG Rally & Demo Tour dates. In most cases, the event is held on Friday for public safety divers only with the DOG Rally event open to the general public on Saturday and Sunday.

DUI DOG Rally & 2010 Demo Tour

- March 19  San Diego, CA National Polytechnic College of Science
- March 26  Pelham, AL Alabama Blue Water Adventures
- April 9  Austin, TX Windy Point
- May 14  Gloucester, MA Stage Fort Park
- May 21  Bethlehem, PA Dutch Springs
- June 4  Findlay, OH Gilboa Quarry
- June 11  Kankakee, IL Haigh Quarry
- Aug 27  Seattle, WA Mukilteo Lighthouse Park
- Oct 1  Portland, CT Brownstone Quarry
- Oct 22  Rawlings, VA Lake Rawlings
- Nov 5  Chiefland, FL Manatee Springs
- Nov 12  Terrell, TX Clear Springs Scuba Park

Our World-Underwater
http://www.ourworldunderwater.com/
February 19-21, 2010
Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, IL

Underwater Intervention 2010
http://www.underwaterintervention.com
Feb 9 thru Feb 11, 2010
New Orleans, LA, USA

Side scan Sonar Training
February 23, 24 and 25
Annapolis, MD

Technical Large-Animal Emergency Rescue Training
March 22-24, 2010
Eastern Kentucky University, KY

Beneath The Sea 2010
http://www.beneaththesea.org
March 26-28, 2010
Meadowlands Exposition Center, Seacaucus, NJ

Arkansas' Fourth Annual Search and Rescue K9 Working Dog Seminar
March 31-April 3, 2010
Camp Robinson Wildlife Demonstration Area, Conway, Arkansas.

Search and Rescue 2010
http://www.shephard.co.uk/events/44/search-and-rescue-2010/
April 21, 2010 - April 22, 2010
Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
9th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium  
http://www.ndpa.org/events/symposium.htm  
Pre-conference workshops on Sunday, April 25  
Sheraton at Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA.

SCUBA Show 2010  
http://www.scubashow.com/  
May 15th and 16th, 2010  
Long Beach, California

Biological & Trace Evidence Workshop  
http://www.imprimus.net/workshop_forensic_bio_and_trace.html  
May 24 - 26, 2010  
Springfield Police Training Academy, Springfield, IL

National Search and Rescue Conference  
http://www.nasar.org/nasar/conferences.php?id=159  
May 13 – May 15, 2010  
Tunica, Mississippi

TOPICS IN CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION: BODY FLUIDS AND TRACE EVIDENCE  
http://www.le-seminars.com/011.htm  
June 3-4, 2010  
Clay County Sheriff Training Academy, Orange Park, FL

Firehouse Expo 2009  
http://www.publicsafetyevents.com/emsfh/index.po  
July 20-25, 2010  
Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

EMS Expo  
http://www.publicsafetyevents.com/ems/index.po;jsessionid=dWZDQXpNtSo-T-pwDoQYP1GS  
Sept. 27 - Oct. 1, 2010  
Dallas Convention Center, Dallas, TX

Homeland Security Professionals Conference and Exposition  
http://thecounterterrorismmag.com/conference/  
October 25-29, 2010 - Las Vegas, NV

International Symposium on Human Identification  
www.promega.com/applications/hmnid/worformeetings/  
October 11-14, 2010 San Antonio, TX

Canadian Underwater Conference & Exhibition  
October 24-26, 2010 in Toronto, Ontario  
www.underwaterconference.ca

2010 IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security  
http://ieee-hst.org/  
8-10 November  
Waltham, MA USA

If you have an event or know of an event that might be of interest to PSDiver Monthly subscribers, send the information to: PSDiverMonthly@aol.com
Basic Lift Operations

1) Rating a lift device in pounds takes the guess work out of lifting.
   a. True
   b. False

2) What is the basic formula for lifting an object from depth?
   a. W-CX2
   b. 14.7XdepthXweight
   c. 2X14.7-weight
   d. P1XV1=P2XV2

3) Use must your breathing bottle when filling lifting devices under ______ pounds.
   a. 100
   b. 50
   c. 25
   d. 10
   e. You should never use your breathing bottle for lift filling.

4) Nitrogen is a common gas used for lift filling.
   a. True
   b. False

5) The best lifting device is a ________
   a. Non-Flexible container
   b. Flexible container
   c. Open pillow
   d. Plastic drums

6) Always ascend with the lift device to prevent run-away.
   a. True
   b. False

7) A general rule for lift amount is to double the weight of the object.
   a. True
   b. False

8) A pint of air at 33’ will provide ______ pounds of lift
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 1/2
   d. 5

9) Lifting devices should incorporate an over inflation valve.
   a. True
   b. False

10) A 25 pound lift bag would require how much air to fill at 45 feet deep?
   a. About .5 cubic feet
   b. About 2.6 cubic feet
   c. About 1 cubic foot
   d. About .25 cubic feet

11) At 45’ a full 25 lb lift bag could be used to lift an object that weights 175 lbs and displaces 2.5 cf of water
   a. True
   b. False
   c. True but only if the diver used his BCD too
12) If we filled a bag with 3 cubic feet of air at 50 feet, what will be the volume of air in the bag at 15 feet?
   a. About 4 cf
   b. About 1.5 cf
   c. About 5 cf
   d. About 6 cf

**TEAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

Discuss the differences between flexible devices over rigid devices and how each would, could or should never be used.

Discuss the benefits of using surface supplied air for lift device filling and how your equipment could be adapted for fill capability only.

Discuss the OSH rules and where they apply with respect to salvage and lift.

When would your team consider a lift to be a commercial operation? Discuss the criteria your team will use to make that determination and discuss your available resources.

As a team, review your safety protocols for lift operations. If your SOPs are not up to date for lift operations, review and revise them.

As a team, practice tying a bowline knot around a scuba cylinder valve. Do it as a timed skill. Then practice and the repeat the drill with dive gloves. Then practice and repeat the drill blindfolded. Then practice and repeat the drill blindfolded with dive gloves on.

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

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

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

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

We welcome all training agencies and organizations to participate.

For details, email

PSDiverMonthly@aol.com
Boudreaux the Cajun, died & went to the pearly gates. St. Peter said

"Boudreaux, I hate to tell you this but your name is not here in the book of life, you are going to have to take the elevator down below".

Boudreaux went down to hell & the devil said "I have been waiting for you a long time & I have a special place saved here just for you. Have a seat there on that flaming rock! Boudreaux went and sat on the flaming rock and after a while, started to smile.

The devil came back after a while and he sees a big smile on Boudreaux's face? Puzzled, he asked Boudreaux, "You are in HELL and sitting on a flaming rock! How can you be smiling? Aren't you hot??"

Boudreaux said to the devil "Man, dis be jus like a spring time day in southeast Louisiana." It made the devil mad & he kicked the thermostat & broke it & it made everything cold, cold, cold.

When the devil came back again, everything was froze up, but if anything, Boudreaux had an even bigger smile on his face.

The devil could not believe it. He asked Boudreux, “Man, aren’t you cold and miserable?”

Boudreaux said " Yeh man but since hell done froze over the Saints musta jus won da Super Bowl!"
Criminal Justice 440/640

Underwater Investigation
May 24 - 28, 2010 • Honolulu

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