

Advanced Diving & Expeditions Inc.

Fall 2005 Newsletter

Greetings friends!

I hope that this letter finds each of you and your families in good health and spirits. There's been a lot of water pass under the proverbial bridge so let's get at it.

Empress of Ireland 2005

What a year this has been! We ran more expeditions to the Empress than in any previous year and most of the divers who participated were treated to outstanding conditions. We enjoyed unusually calm sea conditions and mild currents, but the real treat was visibility! On many of the dives, 30 feet visibility was average and 50 feet was not uncommon. That is unheard of! Just imagine being on the seabed, looking up and seeing the port rail and all the detail of the top deck. On other dives we were able to explore the debris field at 140 - 150 feet and still have natural light! With the calm sea conditions the maximum numbers of dives were enjoyed day after day. In fact on two expeditions we had a 100% success rate which meant we dove every day. I have not witnessed that in all my years of diving this amazing site.

On our last expedition, it was time to be snapped back into reality. The winds were strong and the sea was whipped into a frenzy. We were unable to dive for four days. Such is life when diving in this part of the world.

Empress of Ireland 2006

We have confirmed seven expedition dates for 2006. If you have thought about diving this incredible site visit our website at www.advancedexpeditions.com/expeditions and book your trip now before the dates fill.

Gunilda / Judge Hart Expedition

We will be running an expedition to these two incredible wreck sites in Lake Superior, September 26, 2006.

The Gunilda was the flagship of the New York City Yatch Club and ran aground in 1911. She was 195' in length and nearly 25 feet wide. The salvage operation didn't go quite as planned and the Gunilda sunk in 270 feet of water when it was pulled off the shoal. Today the Gunilda sits upright, level and completely in tact. Everything and I mean everything is still there and the wreck is in pristine condition.

The Judge Hart was sunk in a storm in November 1942. It now sits upright and level in 190 feet of water. It too is in pristine condition.

Due to the depth of these sites divers, these are advanced trimix dives. If you are interested in this expedition contact tyler@advancedexpeditions.com for more information. You will be required to have Dan Master Insurance or an equivalent coverage. Air dives will not be permitted. You will also need to show proof of 4 cold water dives to a minimum of 250' in the 2006 season. We will arrange suitable dives for those who don't get these in on their own. This trip will be limited to eight divers and at the time of this writing there are 3 spaces available.

Andria Doria

Many of you have expressed interest in doing an Andria Doria expedition. With next year marking the 50th anniversary of her sinking we have tried to put together a trip. Unfortunately, like the Empress of Ireland, the diving window is small and all dates that were available to us directly conflicted with our Empress of Ireland dates. This trip will not be happening in 2006 but there's always 2007!

Cliff Simoneau Loses Battle With Cancer



Death of dive industry veteran a serious loss for the entire industry.

Popular industry veteran, Cliff Simoneau, of Silent Diving Systems passed away peacefully on Sunday November 13th with his family and friends at his bedside. Cliff was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in early September and courageously battled the disease right up until the last hour refusing to accept defeat. It was typical of his approach to life and business. He had recently celebrated his 46th birthday.

Friends are encouraged to attend and celebrate Cliff's vibrant life and career.

His long time friend and business associate Bret Gilliam reminds us all that "The Key To Immortality is Living a Life Worth Remembering." Cliff will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Technical Dive Training



September and October finished off the in-water training (at least in Canada) for the year. Course's ranging from Advanced Nitrox to Wreck Penetration to Advanced Trimix were completed. It's always interesting to watch the development of a diver who progresses up the technical ladder. From one course to the next the challenges increase and the diver's expertise and competency to handle challenging conditions builds.

We have already set the training schedule for spring of 2006 and the details can be viewed at www.advancedexpeditions.com/training .

A number of divers waited until the last minute to book their courses only to find out that they were full or not available. To overcome this problem we will be making a number of changes that should have a positive affect on those wishing to pursue technical training. If you are considering taking any technical training take a look at the available dates and contact us right away to secure your place on the course. Keep in mind that most course are limited to 4 students for the in water component. A deposit will hold your place and the materials will be sent to you right away. We will also be starting into the theory and equipment components of the courses over the winter months. This will provide you with ample time to acquire any missing gear. Who knows... you may even add it to your Christmas list!

How to Get the Most Out of Your Training

Training is training ... right? Well that's kind of like saying a car is a car. Most of them have four wheels but beyond that, there is a world of difference between them. When it comes to diving, how can you differentiate between a good course and one that's superficial or not so good? Although this may seem to be an easy task, it's quickly complicated by the fact that you likely don't know what a good course should include or what to look for. Let's face it, if you knew, you probably already have the skills. Here are a few pointers that may prove useful when making this critical decision.

Instructor Track Record - The instructor will make or break the course. The good news is that there are lots of good instructors. The bad news... there's even more

bad ones. (I can imagine the emails that are going to come out of this comment.) Look into how long they have been teaching and to what level. The best measure of this can be talking to other divers that have already taken course taught by the instructor. Find out what they liked and disliked about the course and the instructor. Is the instructor in the water with the students at all times? It's a little challenging to teach a student who's 100 feet below you! Does the instructor walk the talk? Does the instructor regularly dive beyond the level of the course they will be teaching you or will that course tax their skill level as well as yours?

Course Structure - In today's world we're all busy and time is a premium. Does the course have a set time, or will it be run on a "when I have spare time basis"? If the course does have a structured time table, does the instructor respect it?

Dives - Are the boats set-up to accommodate technical divers and all their gear? Are dive schedules being shortened and otherwise compromised because of recreational divers onboard? Is the training location suitable for the course being taught? Have steps been taken in advance to deal with any emergencies?

Pass / Failure Rate - Does everyone pass the course? Here's a bit of a revelation. Technical diving is not for everyone. This is a major peeve of mine. By passing a student who has not reached the required proficiency level, does an injustice to the student and potentially paves the way for them to enter into a life threatening situation.

These points should represent a starting point, not a finishing point. Do your homework well in advance and you will likely reap the rewards of your efforts.

In closing, feel free to share this newsletter with your friends. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions and yes, even criticisms.

Be well and live each day as though it was your last. One day you'll be right!

Tyler Bradford
tyler@advancedexpeditions.com
www.advancedexpeditions.com