The Presidents’ Corner
by Mike Cassetta

It’s July, and the Great Whites are back off of Cape Cod. I’m glad I’m not a marine mammal. I hope you all had the chance to see the photo of the guy in a kayak being trailed by a shark last week. As the kayak he was in is about 12 feet long, the photo shows how impressive these fish are.

Recently, Tom T., Mel, Matt, the Shannon Family and I travelled up to Fort Weatherill. We had an excellent dive. As we were cleaning up, some of the boats for The America’s Cup were racing, which was pretty cool. Our June meeting went well. Our guest speaker, Lisa Jarosik, was kind enough to share footage of her days as a shark feeder in the Bahamas. Capt Noel will be our featured guest in July. He will present photos of a recent trip to the Maldives, apparently including some Whale Sharks.

Speaking of sharks, the program at the Maritime Aquarium continues. It’s been a great opportunity to dive in close company with 8 Sand Tigers and 1 Lemon Shark. I recently was the guest for an episode on “Life on The Carousel”, a talk interview show on Cablevision (public access TV). I really hope I didn’t embarrass myself too bad. The topic was Scuba and featured a brief clip of the Halibut feeding, filmed by our very own Mel Rich.

Well, we hope to see you all at the July meeting. Dive safe and be good......did I mention anything about sharks?....Mike
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May Meeting Raffle Winners

After an excellent presentation on "Shark Feeding in the Bahamas" by Lisa Jarosik, the club held its regular raffle to support our DAN Platinum sponsorship.

The winners were: Dive Bag donated by New England Dive Center - **Jeff Susa**; Akona Mask donated by Orbit marine Dive Center - **Sal Florio**; Bottle Bandit donated by New England Dive Center - **Nick Ricciardelli**; 3mm Soft Boots donated by New England Dive Center - **Nick Ricciardelli**; Dive Care Essentials donated by New England Dive Center—**Jeff Susa**; Mystery Prizel donated by New England Dive Center—**Jimmy DiPreta**.

Thanks to New England Dive Center, Orbit Marine Dive Center and Rex Dive Center for donating tonight’s raffle prizes for our DAN raffle.

Remember, you can't win if you don't buy tickets and you can't buy tickets if you don't get up and come out to FCDA events and meetings!

Events of Interest to FCDA Members

**Our own Dr. Mike on Cablevision “Life on the Carousel”** Wednesday July 25 @ 9:30pm and Friday July 27 @ 12:30 pm on Channel 88

Shore diving on Friday; Contact - Mel Rich at email divermel@optonline.net for details and for camping.

**New Members:** Lisa Jarosik, Sal Florio and John S. Franuko

FCDA Member Ads

Hey - have you got a non retail-diving business that you’d like to share with fellow members of FCDA? Get your business card size ad in the FCDA monthly newsletter “Surface Interval” for only $50.00 for one year. Give your business a boost and help support the production of our monthly newsletters. For more information, write to FCDA, P.O. Box 3005, Fairfield, CT 06824 or email to fcda@aol.com.
Member of the Month  
(by Charlie Blanchette)

I am ashamed to write that in last month’s newsletter I made the mistake in writing that Capt. Noel served in the Army while in fact Capt. Noel served in the Navy (I believe it was ours). Sorry Captain Noel, one of our founding fathers

Our member of the month is Mel Rich Jr., a past President of our club, Mel served as President for 10 years.

Mel was certified in 1981 and has been diving all over the world, one of Mel’s fondest diving trip was two weeks in Truk Lagoon.

On Mel’s Bucket List is to dive the “Isle de Guadalup” to do their Great White Shark dive.

When not diving Mel is running his business “NuTech Pest Control”

(Continued on page 5)
Member of the Month by Charlie Blanchette (continued)

Where his motto is “No matter if it is male or female I always get rid of your pest”, here is Mel getting rid of one of the club’s pest.

Mel can also be found Hiking, Backpacking, Camping, Kayaking, and he loves to Cook, if you haven’t been to Cape Ann or had Mel’s Chili then you haven’t lived or if you had then may you rest in peace.

Mel, thanks for your past service to the club and for your continued contribution to it.

Editor’s Note: if you have any dive trips you would like to write about or any interesting pictures please send them into me at “uncas297@att.net”

FCDA Donors

The business listed on this page has donated dive gear and dive services to help support the Fairfield County Diving Association.

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Wreck of Admiral Perry's USS Revenge
Discovered off Long Island

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP) — A team of divers say they have discovered the remains of the USS Revenge, a ship commanded by U.S. Navy hero Oliver Hazard Perry and wrecked off Rhode Island in 1811.

Perry is known for defeating the British in the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie off the shores of Ohio, Michigan and Ontario in the War of 1812 and for the line "I have met the enemy and they are ours." His battle flag bore the phrase "Don't give up the ship," and to this day is a symbol of the Navy.

The divers, Charles Buffum, a brewery owner from Stonington, Connecticut, and Craig Harger, a carbon-dioxide salesman from Colchester, Connecticut, say the wreck changed the course of history because Perry likely would not have been sent to Lake Erie otherwise. Sunday is the 200th anniversary of the wreck.

Buffum said he's been interested in finding the remains of the Revenge ever since his mother several years ago gave him the book Shipwrecks on the Shores of Westerly. The book includes Perry's account of the wreck, which happened when it hit a reef in a storm in heavy fog off Watch Hill in Westerly, Rhode Island, as Perry was bringing the ship from Newport to New London, Connecticut.

"I always thought to myself we ought to go out and have a look and just see if there's anything left," Buffum said.

The two, along with a third man, Mike Fournier, set out to find it with the aid of a metal detector. After several dives, they came across a cannon, then another.

"It was just thrilling," Harger said.

They made their first discovery in August 2005, and kept it secret as they continued to explore the area and make additional finds. Since then, they have found four more 42-inch-long cannons, an anchor, canister shot, and other metal objects that they say they are 99% sure were from the Revenge.

Buffum and Harger say the items fit into the time period that the Revenge sank, the anchor appears to be the main one that is known to have been cut loose from the ship, and that no other military ships with cannons have been recorded as sinking in the area.

They have not discovered a ship's bell or anything else that identifies it as the Revenge, and all the wood has disappeared, which is not unusual for a wreck that old, they said.

The Navy has a right to salvage its shipwrecks, and the two say they've contacted the Naval History & Heritage Command, which oversees such operations, in hopes the Navy will salvage the remains. A spokesman for the command did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

If the Navy does not, they said they hope to raise the money for a salvage operation so the artifacts can be displayed at a historical society.

They say they are concerned now that they are going public that other divers might try to remove objects from the site, which is a violation of the law. Many of the objects they found are in only 15 feet of water, although the area is difficult to dive because of currents, they said.

As for whether the wreck of the Revenge changed the course of history, David Skaggs, a professor emeritus of history at Bowling Green State University, said Perry might not put it that way. Skaggs has
written two books on Perry, A Signal Victory, about the Lake Erie campaign, which he co-authored, and a biography, Oliver Hazard Perry: Honor, Courage, and Patriotism in the Early U.S. Navy.

While Harger and Buffum say Perry was effectively demoted by being sent to the Great Lakes rather than getting another high-seas command, Skaggs said the Great Lakes commission still gave Perry great prestige. Perry, a Rhode Island native, became known as the "Hero of Lake Erie" after he defeated a British squadron, becoming the first U.S. commander to do so.

"Whether or not there is another officer that could have done as well as Perry did is one of those 'might-have-beens' that historians are not prone to ask," Skaggs said.

Still, Skaggs said he was intrigued by the discovery.

"It is certainly an interesting new find on the eve of the bicentennial of the War of 1812," he said.

source: AP

If you have cable don’t forget to watch our own Dr. Mike on “Life on the Carousel”
Next FCDA Meeting

Friday, July 27, 2012 - 8:00 PM
Coast Guard Cottage, South Benson Marina, Fairfield, CT

"Diving the Maldives"
a presentation by
Captain Noel Voroba