Happy Thanksgiving All!

As a reminder, our November meeting will take place one week earlier than usual and will be on Friday, November 18th. We are excited to have Sir Mel Rich share a collaborative video presentation entitled “Blue Sharks – Nomads of the Deep”.

Mel has put together various video footage of recent dives aboard Snappa Charters of RI. The collaborative video includes footage from various vantage points of multiple divers, including FCDA members Lisa Jarosik and Michelle Lapin, along with Mel’s own awesome GoPro film (if we still call it film). We took some up close videos & stills, should be fun.

Our October meeting was well attended. It was a true pleasure for me to share a presentation regarding Newtown Underwater Search & Rescue (NUSAR). We provide year round water based search, rescue & recovery services to Newtown, CT and the surrounding communities. We are professionally trained volunteers capable of working winter, summer, spring & fall (24/7 365 days/year); both above & below the surface. I hope you all enjoyed the presentation and it was fun to show off some of our gear.

There will be no December meeting, but we will be hosting a holiday open house at the cottage on Friday, December 2. We will resume our normal meeting schedule in January 2017.

We are in the process of scheduling speakers for next year, and would appreciate any help. As a reminder, FCDA will be holding our annual elections at the January meeting. Hopefully Wiki Leaks will not upset the votes.

And lastly, please join us on Friday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM for our annual FCDA Holiday Party! This year we would like to give back AND have fun. Please see the last page of the newsletter for further information!

See you all soon.... Any Questions???

Mike
AKA: “David S Pumpkins”
FCDA Donor

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

http://nedive.com

NEW ENGLAND DIVE CENTER

Welcome to the underwater world from New England Dive Center. New England Dive Center is located centrally to meet Connecticut residents in Wallingford, CT. As a family run dive shop we share a common goal of trying to make the whole world SCUBA certified. For the past 20 years we have offered beginner scuba diving classes to people of all ages. Upon your first visit you will notice we take pride in keeping our scuba store stocked with the latest in diving gear and equipment. If a SCUBA diving adventure is in your desires then you've found a home at New England Dive Center.

Welcome aboard to the following individual who has recently become a new member of the Fairfield County Diving Association:

Ken Easley
45 Denise Terr.
Fairfield, CT 06824
H: 203 613-4363
ken@kennetheasley.com
October Meeting DAN Raffle Winners

After a presentation on New-town Underwater Search & Rescue by Mike Cassetta the club held its monthly raffle to support our DAN Sponsorship.

Winners were: Key Chains donated by Jeff Susa - Paul Gacek, Michelle Lapin, Ken Easley; Mouthpiece donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Ian Chiou; Slapstrap donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Michelle Lapin; 50 foot Reel Spool donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Ken Easley; Aquaseal donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Michelle Lapin; SDI Divers Log donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Matt Rownin, GoPro Case donated by New England Dive Center - Doug Reitmeyer, 2 Air Fill Card donated by New England Dive Center - Michelle Lapin, $10 Gift Card donated by New England Dive Center - Michelle Lapin, GoPro Red Filter donated by New England Dive Center - Paul Gacek, Suit Juice donated by New England Dive Center - Michelle Lapin and a NUSAR Tee Shirt donated by NUSAR - Michelle Lapin.

Thanks to New England Dive Center Orbit Marine Dive Center, NUSAR and Jeff Susa 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!

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.
Developers Consider Turning Sunken Titanic Sister Ship Into Divers' Theme Park
Fox News.com

The HMS Britannic, a WWI era ship dubbed “Titanic 2,” has been resting at the bottom of the Aegean for almost 100 years.

But now the owner of a local diving club is considering redeveloping the wreckage into an underwater theme park that could generate tourist-driven capital into Greece’s cash-strapped economy.

Yiannis Tsavelakos has been guiding dives throughout the Mediterranean for years. After recently attending a forum about the Britannic, the diver says he came up with the idea of creating a subterranean diving paradise, connecting the Britannic with other sunken wrecks in the Kea Channel, reports the Independent.

“We have a unique diving area right on our doorstep,” said Tsavelakos. The Britannic was built by the White Star Line in 1911 and launched as a sister ship to the Titanic in 1914. After the disastrous sinking of the Titanic in 1912—where thousands died due to a lack of lifeboats—Britannic’s Belfast-based builder Harland and Wolff fitted it with extra lifeboats, a double hull and added engine power. Still, many at the time believed the ship to be “unsinkable.”

Like the Titanic, the Britannic was designed as a transatlantic passenger liner. But at the outbreak of WWI, the vessel was transformed into a hospital ship.

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Developers Consider Turning Sunken Titanic Sister Ship Into Divers' Theme Park

Fox News.com

On Nov. 21, 1916, the Britannic triggered an underwater mine while en route to pick up wounded British soliders on the isle of Lemnos in the northern Aegean Sea. All but 30 of the 1,065 people on board were rescued but the sinking marked the largest ship lost during the war.

The wreckage lay 400 feet below the sea until 1975 when it was discovered by French underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau.

Earlier this month, Grecian authorities organized a conference that drew a community of international influencers including historians, diving experts, oceanographers and relatives of the crew to discuss future plans for the vessel as the 100th anniversary of its sinking approaches.

Priceless treasure: That’s how a team of divers and archaeologists describe evidence of centuries-old shipwrecks discovered off Cape Canaveral.

Just a couple of miles from Jetty Park, a popular swimming beach, divers found cannons made of bronze and iron; anchors, crusted with marine growth; and the Fleur de Lis, along with a French coat of arms archaeologists call priceless. And maritime wreckage is around 400 years old.

Finders, working for the company Global Marine Exploration, said they’ve discovered the remains of what appear to be three French ships. The origin of the ships will be difficult to verify, they said.

The ships could be from the French colonial period on the Florida coast, around the year 1560, Global Marine Exploration archaeologist Jim Sinclair said. The ships may have sunk in a hurricane, he said.

The debris was found in shal-

(Continued from page 4)
Evidence of centuries-old shipwrecks found off Cape Canaveral (continued)

(Continued from page 5)

low water, very close to shore, very close to rocket launch pads at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

“We’re looking at ships that were basically here trying to colonize and explore what to them was the New World, in the shadow of an area where human beings were reaching out to explore a whole different sort of new world.” Cape Canaveral and the nearby Kennedy Space Center are the cradle of space exploration, where American astronauts first left the planet. Divers also found hundreds of pieces of old rockets among the maritime relics, Sinclair said.

Working with the Florida Department of Historic Resources, the company hopes to bring up the ship artifacts and conserve them. Further searching may reveal the origin and destination of the ships, Sinclair said.

Priceless treasure: That’s how a team of divers and archaeologists describe evidence of ancient shipwrecks discovered off Cape Canaveral. Dan Billow reports.

US Navy reveals latest hi-tech 'Iron Man' diving helmet for elite soldiers (which unfortunately makes them look like a minion) by Mark Prigg for DAILYMAIL.COM

Helmet has high resolution heads up display built in
Operators can send soldiers images and video during missions
Allows divers to send live video back during secret missions

It is the latest in diving technology, helping the Navy's elite forces in underwater battles. Boasting a heads up display, it has a real time link allowing operator on the surface to chat and even send video.

However, there is just one issue - it makes soldiers look uncannily like a minion.

Called the Divers Augmented Vision Display (DAVD), it is a high-resolution, see-through head-up display (HUD) embedded directly inside of a diving helmet.

"By building this HUD directly inside the dive helmet instead of attaching a display on the outside, it can provide a capa-
The sinking of the **RMS Lusitania** remains one of the greatest disasters to occur in Irish waters. On 7th May 1915 while nearing the end of its voyage from New York to Liverpool in waters some 11 miles off Kinsale, Co. Cork, a German U-boat fired upon the 787ft luxury cruise liner. The ship promptly sank taking with it nearly 1200 men, women and children.

A tragic event – but one that would quickly fall into infamy – remembered as much for the mystery surrounding its sinking and its use as a tool of propaganda to encourage America to enter the war.

There were many wealthy passengers on board the journey from New York to Liverpool and tales grew of the treasure that went down with the ship.

Stories of precious diamonds, gold bullion and priceless paintings. Rumours began of a secret cargo of arms and conspiracy ran rampant – was the Lusitania masquerading as a passenger ship to get arms past the German blockade?

The wreck became the stuff of legends with many eager to uncover her secrets and plunder her treasure.

Several diving expeditions were undertaken to find the wreck and on 6th October 1935, after three months of searching, the Lusitania was located. It was the crew of the salvage steamer *Orphir* – using a depth sounder – that found her almost 12 miles out from Old Kinsale Head.

Nearby three weeks later diver Jim Jarrett was lowered to the wreck wearing the 1-atmosphere JS Peress Tritonia diving suit. The suit was designed by a British diving engineer Joseph Salim Peress and weighed an impressive half ton (1000 Lbs). It was more than capable of resisting the intense pressure found at the wreck site, some 305 feet (93 metres) below the surface. The design of the suit, innovative at the time, allowed the diver to move more freely.

Today the wreck is under private ownership of Greg Bemis, a retired venture capitalist who acquired it in the 1960’s. The wreck was originally claimed by the Liverpool & London War Risks Insurance Association who sold it to a navy diver John Light in 1967 for £1,000. Bemis became a co-owned a year later and fully acquired the wreckage in the 1980’s when he bought out his partners.

Bemis has since mounted several dive expeditions to the site to recover artifacts from the wreck and try uncover the mystery of the second explosion. He continues to search for any proof that the ship was carrying a substantial amount of munitions and finally put an end to at least one of the mysteries that surround the sinking of the RMS Lusitania.
Back by Popular Demand!
FCDA Tee Shirts and Hoodies!

Get your FCDA Tee Shirts and Hoodies with a high quality embroidered FCDA logo on the front and an embroidered dive flag logo on the back. Available in sizes from Small to 3XL.

**Gildan Heavy Cotton T-Shirt**
- Graphite grey shown - Cotton/Polyester blend - Adult Sizes SM - 3XL
- $25.00
- Also available with long sleeves (not shown) $30.00
- Both available in choice of ten colors

**The Endurance Poly Hoodie**
- High quality embroidered FCDA logo on the front and an embroidered dive flag logo on the back.
- 100% polyester performance fleece - Quarter zip pullover for easy on and off - Mesh lined hood and front pockets - Rib knit hem and cuffs / Draw string in hood - Grey/Black or Grey/Red
- Adult Sizes SM - 3XL $35.00
- Hoodie also available in Grey with Red Insets.

Available Colors for Tee Shirts and Long Sleeve Shirts

- Ash
- Black
- Forest
- Graphite Heather
- Irish Green
- Navy
- Red
- Royal
- Sport Grey
- White
FCDA Shirt/Hoodie Order Form

Please note that all items are custom made and must be prepaid. Items will be ordered as soon as we have the minimum quantity for an order and will generally be available at the next scheduled meeting.

Name ________________________________________________

eMail ________________________________________________

FCDA Tee Shirt with Logo and Dive Flag

   No. _____  Size _____ Color _______ @ $25.00  = $_______
   No. _____  Size _____ Color _______ @ $25.00  = $_______

FCDA Long Sleeve Shirt with Logo and Dive Flag

   No. _____  Size _____ Color _______ @ $30.00  = $_______
   No. _____  Size _____ Color _______ @ $30.00  = $_______

FCDA Hoodie with Logo and Dive Flag

   No. _____  Size _____ □ Black Inset @ $35.00  = $_______
   or
   No. _____  Size _____ □ Red Inset    @ $35.00  = $_______

   No. _____  Size _____ □ Black Inset @ $35.00  = $_______
   or
   No. _____  Size _____ □ Red Inset    @ $35.00  = $_______

Make your check payable to FCDA and mail to: FCDA, P.O. Box 3005, Fairfield, CT 06824

TOTAL  $__________
Next FCDA Meeting

Friday, November 18, 2016 - 8:00 PM
Coast Guard Cottage, South Benson Marina, Fairfield, CT

"Blue Sharks - Nomads of the Deep"

a video presentation by
Mel Rich Jr

With their sleek bodies and long pectoral fins, they're a marvel of ocean engineering. The dorsal area of their bodies is a magnificent deep blue, easily distinguishing them from any other shark. Every summer, these long range cruisers make their pilgrimage to the offshore waters of Rhode Island. Our expeditions have been organized by our own Lisa 'Shark Girl' Jarosik. Yes, she truly loves sharks! Please come aboard the charter boat Snappa as we venture offshore to dive with and film Blue Sharks. When most people hear the word SHARK, they exit the water. That's when we jump in!

FCDA Holiday Party!

Please join us on Friday, December 2nd at 7:00 PM at the Coast Guard Cottage. Please bring a dish to share with your fellow Divers—homemade or store bought, it doesn’t matter! Mel Rich has graciously offered to bring two main dishes, and of course Lisa Jarosik plans on making dessert.

In the spirit of the season, we would like to raise money for two causes: Project Aware and a local charity as well. We will split any money raised 50/50. We are asking $15 per person, but any donation is welcome. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

RSVP to Lisa if you would like to come and what you can bring at: sharkfeeder1@gmail.com