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## The Presidents’ Corner by Matt Rownin

As we quickly approach the first day of summer on June 21 I sit and write this letter to with a sweatshirt on, the windows closed and the AC is not on. I even have a small glass of bourbon that I am drinking to keep chill away. What is happening???? Is Mother Nature pissed or just confused. Oh well, I will just take another sip and warm my bones. Just lucky for you this is my first glass of bourbon or this letter could get really interesting.

Mel Rich and I drove up to Rhode Island for a dive at Fort Wetherill this past weekend. Our trip started off later, my son’s baseball team was playing in the league championship that morning (they won!!!) so we hit the bricks after the game. The weather was great, the drive up a bit longer than usual due to the traffic but we made it. The wind was blowing and the surge was coming into the cove so we decided to enter down the boat ramp and take a compass reading west and go down the far wall to the point and come back on a reverse heading. Visibility was decent and we started our dive, it was a typical dive, I was shooting some video, Mel was spotting different critters to play with and all was good. About 40 minutes in we decided to turn the dive and come back. At this point we were out in the sand and off the wall so I just took a northerly direction back toward shore. And that was when we had a very shocking experience……… Can anyone guess what we ran into, literally? No not a shark, which some we spoke to guessed. Any clue? Well Mel had the first shot of what we saw. Something hit him and it felt like it hit him hard and then it immediately swam at me and did the same thing. It was an Atlantic Torpedo Ray which we estimate was about 3 feet across. The Atlantic Torpedo Ray is also referred to as an Electric Ray and can send out a jolt of almost 220 volts according to the information we looked up on the internet. It hit Mel with a pretty good shock to the shoulder and then swam at me and gave me a secondary shot to the thigh. Needless to say we were both very startled. I saw it was a Ray of some sort and the shot I took felt like it could have been the barb from the tail but my dry suit was not punctured. We surfaced, got our wits about us and did a surface swim the rest of the way. I have to admit that was the first time I was generally scared when diving, I have been in the water with big animals and they come in close but then move off but this one seemed to have purposely swam at us. So the next time you are out there minding your own business, keep an eye out in the distance. Remember you are not alone……… Anyone want to go to Wetherill this weekend?

How about Cape Ann in July? We have our trip planned for Thursday July 10 we will be heading up that afternoon and will stay until Sunday morning July 13, staying at the Cape Ann Campground. Shore Dives planned for Friday and a 2-tank boat charter for Saturday. Contact me, at (203) 767-2361 or at Matt@CTHomeSales.com if you want to come.

Matt
New England Dive Center offers complete training for all levels of diving, from Open Water through the most advanced technical courses. Our instruction provides certification through SSI, PDIC, TDI and IANTD.

The region's foremost source for scuba and technical diving gear, training and everything for the recreational or serious tech diver.

New England Dive Center offers complete training for all levels of diving, from Open Water through the most advanced technical courses. Our instruction provides certification through SSI, PDIC, TDI and IANTD.

Visit us on the Web: http://www.nedive.com
May Raffle Winners

After a very informative presentation on the Saba & Andros by Capt. Noel Voroba, the club held its regular raffle to support our DAN Platinum sponsorship. The winners were: Dive Bag donated by New England Dive Center - **John Stewart**; Scuba Pro Dive Mask and Snorkel donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - **Paul Gacek**; Dive Caddy Tee donated by New England Dive Center - **John Hill, Jr.**; Ball Cap donated by New England Dive Center - **C-C**; Flash Blue Light donated by New England Dive Center — **Charlize Blanchette**; 2 Air Fills donated by Rex Dive Center — **C-C**; 2 Air Fills donated by Rex Dive Center - **Paul Gacek**.

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

Events of Interest to FCDA Members

**July 10—13,  2014 Summer Cape Ann Trip.** Our July Cape Ann trip is just around the corner for great diving, great food and great company. It’s always a great time. We are planning to get to Cape Ann on Thursday July 10 in the afternoon and stay until Sunday July 13. Come up anytime, Friday too. Our accommodations will be at the Cape Ann Campground and we are planning shore dives for Friday and a charter dive on Saturday for a 2-tank dive. If you are interested in joining us give Matt Rownin a call at 203-767-2361 or send an email to matt@CTHomeSales.com. We need to know so we can reserve you a spot on the Saturday charter.

**Sept. 18—21, 2014 Fall Cape Ann Trip**

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.
FCDA Donors

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

Mike to the Rescue!

The Bad news is that this years annual club clambake was canceled do to the lack of participants, it was unfortunate that we had to cancel, but the officers felt that we could not run it with such a small number signed up and Swanson would not come down and do the cooking.

The good news was that our Co-President Mike Cassetta decided to do an impromptu cook-out at the Coast Guard shack that evening, no lobsters, but we had hamburgers, hot dogs, steamers, cole slaw and des-

(Continued on page 5)
First submarine wreck dive trail in UK opens to tourists

LONDON, England - A wreck on the seabed in the Solent has become the first submarine dive trail in the UK opened up to tourists. The HMS/mA1, which was the first British-designed and built submarine used by the Royal Navy, sank in 1911 in only 39ft (12m) of water.

Licensed divers can tour the wreck with the help of an underwater guide.

The waterproof tour program helps them recognize features such as the conning tower, torpedo loading hatch and stern towing and lifting cable. Built in 1902, the submarine was actually sunk twice - first in 1904 and again in 1911 while unmanned and being used for underwater target practice.

'Amazed at condition'

It now lies complete and upright on the seabed. In 1998, it was designated under the Protection of Wrecks Act (1973). The dives are being organized English Heritage and the Nautical Archaeology Society, which already run three other trails around the UK on sunken wooden warships.

Mark Beattie-Edwards, program director at the Nautical Archaeology Society, said: "We are sure that the visiting divers will be amazed at the condition of HMS/mA1, which despite having spent over 100 years on the seabed is still to a great degree intact."

"It is our hope that visitors will be inspired to help us to protect other examples of our maritime history that now lie on the seabed."

Terry Newman, adviser for English Heritage, said it would "encourage greater understanding and recognition of England's underwater heritage".

The submarine was built in July 1902 by Vickers Sons & Maxim Ltd.

Source: bbc.com

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Mike to the Rescue! (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

So Mike and two of his daughters, Kate Rickard, Lisa Jarosik and son, Mel Rich who stopped off from his dive at Fort Wetherill, and my wife and I had a fantastic time on the beach Mike did a fantastic job of cooking, Lisa brought along some steams to cook and some home made cup cakes for a pre Mike Birthday celebration.

So we did kick off the summer diving with a cookout at the beach thanks to Mike.

We hope that next year we will be able to have our clambake.

Charlie
Two Divers from Kent have pleaded guilty
To not declaring valuable items from shipwrecks

Two divers from Kent have pleaded guilty to not declaring valuable items from shipwrecks off the U.K. coast.

David Knight and Edward Huzzey, both from Sandgate, admitted to 19 offences between them, contrary to section 236 and section 237 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) announced that two divers from Kent have pleaded guilty to not declaring valuable items from shipwrecks off the U.K. coast.

David Knight and Edward Huzzey, both from Sandgate, admitted to 19 offences between them, contrary to section 236 and section 237 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995.

MCA said it is aware from diary entries that Knight and Huzzey used explosives and sophisticated cutting equipment to free wreck material.

Sentencing has been scheduled for July 2, 2014.

Alison Kentuck, the MCA’s Receiver of Wreck, said, “Our message is clear: all wreck material found within or brought within UK territorial waters must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck. It is not a case of ‘finders keepers’.”

Kentuck continued, “Finders of wreck have 28 days to declare their finds to the Receiver. This case highlights the importance of doing that and demonstrates what could happen to you if you don’t. By reporting wreck material you are giving the rightful owner the opportunity to have their property returned and you may be adding important information to the historic record. Legitimate finders are likely to be entitled to a salvage award, but those who don’t declare items are breaking the law and could find themselves facing hefty fines.”

English Heritage has provided advice on handling cultural objects, assessed the importance of objects seized as evidence and provided expert advice in relation to uncontrolled salvage on submerged archaeological remains.

Mark Harrison, English Heritage’s National Policing and Crime Adviser, said, “We recognize that the majority of divers enjoy the historic marine environment and comply with the laws and regulations relating to wrecks and salvage. This case sends out a clear message that the small criminal minority will be identified and brought to justice.”

Mark Dunkley, English Heritage’s Maritime Designation Adviser, said, “The investigation has highlighted the need to tackle heritage crime, wherever it occurs, so that the remains of our past remain part of our future.”

The MCA also appealed to the public regarding the whereabouts of six bronze cannons that remain outstanding. The cannons were constructed in 1807 by W & G and have the English East India Company logo (VEIC) on them.

The MCA asked for anyone who knows the location of any of the cannons to contact the Receiver of Wreck on 02380 329 474.
WASHINGTON, May 15 (Reuters) - A horrible day for a teenage girl perhaps 13,000 years ago - death in a Mexican cave - has turned into a wonderful day for scientists who have managed to coax important secrets out of the oldest genetically intact human skeleton in the New World.

Scientists said on Thursday genetic tests on her superbly preserved remains found by cave divers have answered questions about the origins of the Western Hemisphere's first people and their relationship to today's Native American populations.

These findings determined that the Ice Age humans who first crossed into the Americas over a land bridge that formerly linked Siberia to Alaska did in fact give rise to modern Native American populations rather than hypothesized later entrants into the hemisphere.

Scientists exploring deep beneath the jungles of Mexico's eastern Yucatán peninsula discovered the girl's remains underwater alongside bones of more than two dozen beasts including saber-toothed tigers, cave bears, giant ground sloths and an elephant relative called a gomphotherium.

The girl - with her intact cranium and preserved DNA - was entombed for eons in a deeply submerged cave chamber before being discovered in 2007. The petite, slightly built girl - about 4 feet, 10 inches tall (1.47 meters) - is thought to have been 15 or 16 years old when she died.

She may have ventured into dark passages of a cave to find freshwater and fallen to her death into what archeologist James Chatters of the firm of Applied Paleoscience, one of the leaders of the study, called an "inescapable trap" 100 feet (30 meters) deep - a bell-shaped pit dubbed Hoyo Negro, "black hole" in Spanish.

Chatters said the chamber - more than 135 feet (40 meters) below sea level - was "a time capsule of the environment and human life" at the end of the Ice Age.

WATER NYMPH

The divers named her "Naia," a water nymph from Greek mythology. One of the divers, Alberto Nava, recalled the moment Naia was spotted - her skull resting atop a small ledge. "It was a small cranium laying upside down with a perfect set of teeth and dark eye sockets looking back at us," Nava said.

The pit was dry when she fell but Ice Age glaciers melted about 10,000 years ago, inundating the caves with water. Tests determined she lived between 13,000 and 12,000 years ago.

Scientists long have debated the origins of the first people of the Americas. Many scientists think these hunter-gatherers crossed the former land bridge between 26,000 and 18,000 years ago and subsequently pushed into North and South America starting perhaps 17,000 years ago.

But the most ancient New World human remains have confused scientists because, like Naia, they have narrower skulls and other features different from today's Native Americans.

This led to speculation that these earliest New World people might represent an earlier migration from a different part of the world than the true ancestors of modern Native Americans.

But mitochondrial DNA - passed down from mother to child - extracted from the girl's wisdom tooth showed she belonged to an Asian-derived genetic lineage shared only by today's Native Americans.

This indicates cranial and other differences between the earliest New World human remains and today's Native Americans are due to evolutionary changes that unfolded after the first migrants crossed onto the land bridge, the researchers said.

The study, led by the Mexican government's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and supported by the National Geographic Society, appears in the journal Science.
Next FCDA Meeting

Friday, June 27, 2014 - 8:00 PM
Coast Guard Cottage, South Benson Marina, Fairfield, CT

Pre Meeting Barbecue 7:00 PM - BYOM* (*meat)

"Diving Galapagos"

a presentation by

Don Brown

Don Brown presents his recent trip to the Galapagos Islands.