



## Upcoming Events

### Green Bay Scuba Poker Dive

10 AM Sunday, Sept. 25

Harbor Lights Lake

Suamico, WI

More information,

Contact Green Bay Scuba

(920) 498-8499

### M&M Pumpkin Dive

noon-6 PM October 8th

Menominee Marina

Menominee, MI

Carving, Diving, Food & Prizes

More information,

Contact Bob Berg, M&M Diving

(906) 863-7330

[www.mmdiving.com](http://www.mmdiving.com)

### Neptune Meeting

7 PM Tuesday, October 11th,

Sports Corner

500 Grant St., De Pere, WI

[www.deperesportscorner.com](http://www.deperesportscorner.com)

### Fox Valley Scuba Club

#### Pumpkin Dive

4 PM Saturday, October 22

West Point Dive Quarry

Lohrville, WI



[www.neptunesdiveclub.com](http://www.neptunesdiveclub.com) September 2011

# Trident Newsletter

## Eagle Scout Project Benefits

### E.R. Williams Shipwreck.

by John Tuscany

In 2007, Boy Scout, Chris LaMarche had to find a project that would satisfy his community service requirement if he was to make Eagle Scout. At the time, Chris, a sophomore at Gladstone Area High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 473 had recently become certified to scuba dive. His father and Scoutmaster, Gary LaMarche had been certified two years prior and was a member of the local rescue dive team.

It was brought to their attention that the shipwreck E..R.Williams was in desperate need of a permanent buoy anchor for the dive boats that frequent the shipwreck during dive season. "Up until recently, the buoy line had been attached directly to the wreck." said Chris in a recent interview. "that was damaging the structure of the shipwreck."

And the idea for his community service project presented itself. Chris decided he would develop a plan to construct and place an anchor and sub-buoy at the site of the E.R.Williams shipwreck.



A diver approaches the LaMarche sub-buoy placed on the E.R.Williams in the summer of 2009.  
Photo by [www.dennismullen.com](http://www.dennismullen.com)

Great Lakes Shipwreck historian, Cris Kohl writes in his article "Top Five Michigan Dives" in Sport Diver magazine. "The three-masted schooner E. R. Williams lies upright and very intact in 105 feet of water in the Michigan part of northern Green Bay, an arm of Lake Michigan. This ship sank near St. Martin's Island during a severe storm on September 22, 1895, the crew escaping in the lifeboat. With anchors in place and a long portion of the bowsprit pointing the way, this wreck appears like it could sail away on its own hull very easily."

Chris's first job was to get permits in place and the permits he needed had to come from two federal agencies. The Corps of Engineers and the Dept. of Environmental Quality, (DEQ). That took a year. "I learned the Corps of Engineers owns the lake bottom, the DEQ owns the water, and the Coast Guard owns the surface." said Chris.

While waiting for the permits, Chris and his dad, Gary began developing designs for the anchor and the sub-buoy. "Bob Berg of M&M Diving in Menominee, MI was a big help with ideas for the anchor." said Chris. Eventually they decided on a rebar reinforced one ton cement anchor.

**October  
Meeting Agenda**

Treasurer's Report

Activities Committee Report

Fund Raising Committee Report

**Old Business:**

2012 Neptune Banquet

Water & Shoreline Stewardship

**New Business:**



**Green Bay  
Scuba**  
www.gbscuba.com  
(920) 498-8499  
1316 Velp Ave.  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
Green Bay's  
Premier Dive Shop Since 1994

[www.gbscuba.com](http://www.gbscuba.com)



**Door County  
Off Road  
Segway Tours**

Fall Orchard Tours

Starting at \$45

**Seaquist Segway**

(920) 421-4111

[www.seaquistsegway.com](http://www.seaquistsegway.com)

The sub-buoy would be fabricated of aluminum pipe and sheeting into a four-sided box with large handles. And water-proof graphics would be placed on all four sides with information about the E.R. Williams, Chris's Eagle Scout Project, and mention of everyone who provided support and help.

That same year, Chris also presented his project at Ghost Ship Festival in Milwaukee and was awarded \$500 towards the cost of the project. Chris also raised money locally to help cover his costs. Chris says, "I was able to get contributions to cover 90% of our costs."

To get the anchor and sub-buoy to the site of the E.R. Williams out by St. Martin Island, Chris enlisted the help of the Coast Guard and the Mackinac cutter. "The Mackinac's crane was easily able to lift the anchor onto the deck and later, lower it down to the 100+ ft. depth next to the Williams." said Chris. "They have this incredible technology



Eagle Scout, Chris LaMarche shows off the sub-buoy he and his father built for the E.R. Williams shipwreck.

on the board that allows the ship to remain in one fixed place, in seas as high as 12 feet." This also provided the Mackinac's crew with the valuable experience of placing large objects on the lake bottom.

Once the anchor was placed, Chris and his Dad, Gary attached a line from the weight up to where the sub-buoy would stay, 15 ft. below the surface.

Then a surface buoy with a boat line was attached to the sub-buoy. This allows a dive boat to easily moor itself to the wreck's location without having to drop and drag an anchor, which could cause additional damage to a shipwreck's structure.

When his project was complete, Chris received the Eagle Scout award and won Best Eagle Scout Project of 2010 for his region.

Today, Chris is in his sophomore year at Michigan State and is studying microbiology. Great Job, Chris! Smart, ambitious young men like your will go far in this world.



**Shipwreck Buoys and Facebook**

After months of research and discussion, a solution to track the placement, removal, storage and status of shipwreck buoys has finally emerged. And **Facebook** became a logical platform on which this information can be posted and stay current.



[www.aquacntr.com](http://www.aquacntr.com)

### Your Ad Here

The Trident Newsletter goes out to over 240 Scuba Divers in Wisconsin & the Midwest.

**Learn More, Contact:**

**John Touscany**

[jtouscany@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtouscany@sbcglobal.net)

**(920) 246-7800**



Sunlight silhouettes Neptune Treasure Diver, Deb Scovronske. Photo by [www.dennismullen.com](http://www.dennismullen.com)

**John Touscany** is setting up a Facebook page for each shipwreck. Once they are in place, visitors will be able to see the current status of the wreck they might be diving and find current information. i.e. Is there a buoy on the wreck? Who's storing the buoy? Who's removing the buoy? etc.

This seemed to be the best way to post and monitor information about each individual shipwreck. And each shipwreck Facebook page will be linked back to the Neptune's Dive Club website, <http://www.neptunesdiveclub.com>



Currently Facebook pages have been set up for the **Frank O'Connor**, **Daniel Lyons**, **Fleetwing**, and the **Oceanwave**. Please visit these pages and 'like' them. This way you will receive e-mails each time someone posts new information about your favorite wrecks. Look for more soon.

Thanks goes out to Al Pahnke & Green Bay Scuba, Bill DeGrand, John Touscany, Jim Robinson, Dennis Mullen, Jeremy Saunders, Todd Haleen, Tamara Thomsen & Keith Meverden of the Wis. State Historical Society.

### 2011 Neptune Treasure Dive

The 2011 Neptune Treasure Dive attracted 28 divers was treated to perfect weather this year at Weborg Point, Peninsula State Park. Divers came from as far away as Western Wisconsin for the event. A big "Thanks" goes out to event organizers, **Jim Baye** and **John Touscany** for making it a fun day for everyone who attended., **Dennis Mullen** for his underwater photographic skills, **Gary Cihlar** for his Kayak support., **Greg Schaller** for feeding everyone with his 'World Famous' Sloppy Joes, and **Seaquist Segway** for donating gift certificates as prizes.

The Grand Prize, a new Steel Tank was won by **Bob Schroeder**. **Tom Bishop** won \$19 for finding the Golden Anchor and he got to keep the anchor too. "That anchor will find a new home on my duck hunting boat." said Tom. **Dan Hurst** won \$45 from the 50/50 raffle.



Jim Harper & past Neptune President, Kevin Beck



Mikaela Bothun & Mom, Polly King



Meghan & Matt Smits Photo by www.dennismullen.com



Pat Smits signals 'OK' to his dive buddy. Photo by www.dennismullen.com



Grand Prize winner Bob Schroeder, (right) with son Colton



50/50 raffle winner Dan Hurst & daughter, Danielle.



Golden Anchor winner, Tom Bishop



Kenya, Cat & Carissa Henderson, (front row) Kent Mehne & Kevin Henderson, (back)  
All the way from Menomonie in western Wisconsin.



Jeremy Saunders shows off his one found golf ball.



Fox Valley Scuba Club President,  
Rich De Pas



'Sloppy Joe' King, Greg Schlaller



Craig Golik



Julie Mullen & Husband/Photographer Dennis Mullen



Past Neptune President, Gary Cihlar & Al Fencil



Doyen Family, Cody, Bob & Cathy



Ray Leisgang & Jim Baye, Neptune Treasure Dive Event Coordinator.

### Neptune Trident Newsletter

**Editor: John Touscany**

Ideas, Questions & Advertising

e-mail: [jtouscany@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtouscany@sbcglobal.net)

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### Green Bay Scuba

Green Bay Scuba is planning a March dive trip to **Cozumel, Mexico. March 10-16, 2012** and staying at the **Fiesta Americana**. Contact Al @ Green Bay Scuba to learn more about this Spring trip. (920) 498-8499

### Aqua Center of Green Bay

Aqua Center has a November dive trip traveling to **Utila, Honduras** November 19-26th. There is still one spot open for a female diver, (to share a room with Connie). And a live-aboard dive trip to **Maldives** is being planned for a year from now. September 16-26, 2012. Contact Aqua Center for either of these trips. (920) 468-8080.

### Wanted: Swamp Monster

Green Bay Scuba has been approached by the NEW Zoo and is looking for volunteer divers to dress up during the **Zoo Boo** and become the **'Swamp Monster'**. Think, 'Creature from the Black Lagoon.' The swamp monster will be located in the penguin's lagoon and will entertain and 'scare' Zoo Boo guests. Weekends are October 15-16, 22-23, 29-30. Interested in volunteering? Learn more, Contact Al Pahnke @ Green Bay Scuba (920) 498-8498



### 2012 Neptune Banquet

**Brian Bangert**, 2012 Banquet Coordinator has begun planning the February winter banquet. Dates being considered are Saturday, February 11th or 25th depending upon the availability of a speaker. The banquet location is changing this year to the Sports Corner in their second floor banquet room. Look for information more next month. Please consider volunteering. Contact Brian Bangert for more information. e-mail: [built1boat@hotmail.com](mailto:built1boat@hotmail.com) Cell: (731) 234-7610

### Porte des Morts Staircase Project

The Porte des Morts Fund continues to grow and is now at **\$1,100.00**. The fund sits in an account under the watchful eye of the Door County Community Foundation. All monies contributed will remain in this fund until the project begins.

The 50/50 raffle at the Treasure Dive yielded another \$57 towards the fund. And the **Fox Valley Scuba Club** has offered to put on an October Pumpkin Dive to raise money for the Staircase Project. That **Pumpkin Dive** is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at the West Point Dive Quarry, Lohrville, WI.

## September Meeting

Al Pahnke            Jim Harper  
Troy Pahnke        Paula Benbow  
Don DeWitt         Dawn Delforge  
Jim Baye             Dakota Delforge  
John Touscany     Jeff Hackl  
Mark Schroeder   \*Kate Smits  
Wayne Nighorn    \*New Member  
Brian Bangert



Polly King diving at Porcupine Bay Rd. after the Treasure Dive.  
Photo by www.dennismullen.com



Jeremy Saunders stays cool while waiting for the rest of his  
dive group at Porcupine Bay Rd.  
Photo by www.dennismullen.com

## Porte des Morts cont'd

The objective of this project is to build a staircase from the top of the bluff to the shore below at Porte des Morts Park. Currently, there is no safe way to get to the shore, 30 ft. below. Building a staircase to the shore will benefit all park visitors providing much valued shore access for diving, swimming, hiking and enjoying the beauty of Door County.

Learn more about this project, click on this link:

[www.neptunesdiveclub.com/portedesmorts.html](http://www.neptunesdiveclub.com/portedesmorts.html)

Please send your contribution to: PDM Staircase Project, c/o Neptune's Dive Club, P.O. Box 10893, Green Bay, WI 54307-0893

And, anyone that has ideas, input or questions, please contact:  
John Touscany. e-mail: [jtouscany@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtouscany@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: (920) 246-7800

## Thanks!

Dive Master, **Jim Harper** showed a Powerpoint show of his images from the July M&M Diving trip to the Straits of Mackinac. Jim's images showed divers on the many shipwrecks like the Young, Barnum, Sandusky and the Cedarville. Jim teaches the specialty certification Underwater Photography at Green Bay Scuba and outlined the course content and requirements for this certification.

Next month, Instructor **Mark Schroeder** will talk about the Underwater Navigator specialty certification.

## Parting Shot



The Porcupine Bay Gnome lives at a depth of 90 ft. standing guard on Mullen's Log.  
Photo by www.dennismullen.com

