Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios

Dr. Anita George-Ares
Dr. Anita George-Ares Anita, a marine environmental consultant, has dived in 22 countries. She was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. Anita participated as a research diver for both National Geographic and Mote Marine Laboratory expeditions. She discovered 5 new species of fish while doing research at the Smithsonian.

Diving the Maldives: A 16 Year Perspective
Located in the Arabian Sea, the Maldives comprise 1,192 islands. The Maldives are famous for manta ray and whale shark encounters. Diverse and prolific fish species make the Maldives a “must dive” destination. We highlight unique diving experiences, including multiple manta encounters and diving with dozens of nurse sharks at a time.

Laurent Ballesta
A long time closed circuit rebreather diver, Laurent was the first man to bring back pictures of the Coelacanth in his ecosystem. Laurent has many times taken pictures of species not yet described. The naturalistic and artistic approaches intertwine in his work. His works are a testimony of the remaining extraordinary rich and yet still unknown life, and an endeavor to contribute to a global inventory of marine biodiversity.

700 Sharks Into The Dark
“700 Sharks into the Dark,” tells the story of a dive team of underwater photographers in the Fakarava Pass in French Polynesia filming over 700 grey sharks feeding ferociously on prey. Photographed at night in the middle of this feeding frenzy, “700 Sharks into the Dark” is a tale when told, should not be missed.

Susan Bangasser, Erin O’Neill and Maida Taylor
Susan Bangasser, Ph.D., Erin O’Neill, Maida Taylor, MD., have an accumulated dive history stretching over a century and they each continue to avidly dive! Their deep backgrounds in training, medicine, research, and dive leadership enabled each to publish volumes on diving; each were inducted to the 2000 class of the Women Divers Hall of Fame.

What’s Age Got To Do With It?
Whether a veteran diver with no intention of giving up the thrill and passion for diving or newly-retired and ready to dive, we each wonder about our “mature” diver status. We will address concerns we face now or in the future and provide strategies to enjoy our underwater world.

Jonathan Bird
Jonathan Bird is a professional underwater cinematographer and photographer. He has shot and produced over 40 films for broadcast and education. His films have appeared all over the world, on networks such as National Geographic Channel, PBS, ABC, USA Network, Discovery and even the SciFi Channel. He has won nine Emmy Awards, two Cine Golden Eagles and over a dozen more awards for his television and video work. He has published seven books as well as articles and images in hundreds of magazines, calendars and books. He is the host and director of Jonathan Bird’s Blue World, an underwater science adventure series. He is currently in production on his first IMAX film, being shot in caves all over the world. For more info: www.blueworldTV.com

Family Diving
Young children make dive vacations a lot more difficult, but once the kids hit age 10, family dive vacations are a fantastic way to get kids and parents having fun together. What are some of the issues with getting kids certified? How can family dive trip costs be kept under control? Jonathan and Christine Bird have two “diver kids” (ages 13 and 16) and will present an informative seminar with tips and tricks for getting the whole family together underwater!

The Sand Tiger Sharks of North Carolina
There are very few places in the world where you can dive with sharks without bait, simply observing the sharks at close range doing what they do. In North Carolina however, Sand Tiger sharks are plentiful, approachable and completely non-threatening. Other than the unpredictable weather, it’s one of the most reliable shark encounters in the world. Jonathan will share his experiences and advice for diving with Sand Tigers.

Space School
Many people do not realize that all astronauts are certified scuba divers, because much astronaut training is done underwater. Underwater training is one of the only ways to simulate micro-gravity on Earth. Recently, Jonathan Bird Productions completed production on a giant screen film for the fulldome theater market called Space School, about underwater astronaut training. Jonathan and his crew followed a team of astronauts through underwater training at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab and the Aquarius Reef Base and learned how they prepare for space walks and for mining asteroids. In this exciting presentation Jonathan will take you into the secret world of underwater astronaut training.
Tova Harel Bornovski
Tova is the founder and president of the Micronesian Shark Foundation and General Manager of Fish ‘n Fins and Ocean Hunter Palau liveaboard. The mistreatment of sharks led to founding of the Micronesian Shark Foundation in 2002. Tova initiated the first shark research in Palau, created the first shark count in Micronesia, and collection of DNA samples. She was indicted to the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2013.

Micronesian Shark Foundation a non profit foundation based in Palau
MSF has been a driving force behind Palau’s shark conservation. MSF has been actively involved in shark research, shark education and book publishing and shark community outreach since 2002.

Barbara Buchanan
Barbara Buchanan is a photographer, videographer and writer. She has worked on Blackbeard's shipwreck Queen Anne’s Revenge expedition for Dive Down Project. She is owner of Scuba Planners Dive Travel specializing in group travel for dive shops and clubs. Her articles, photos and videos are posted at www.FishTalesProductions.com

Sinking A Russian Submarine: What Could Have Started WW III
In the Cold War era battle, the news of this sinking could have started WW III. Wreck Diving Magazine editor Joe Porter teamed up with Ken Sewell, author of Red Star Rouge and All Hands Down to locate and document a Russian submarine that recently declassified reports placed it sunk off the coast of Japan.

Francois Burman PE MSC
Francois Burman is a nuclear, welding and hyperbaric engineer, and manages the underwater and hyperbaric risk mitigation department at Divers Alert Network. He is an active contributing member of several industry, scientific and safety committees.

Right of Refusal: Why Would A Dive Operator Turn Me Down?
Many divers think that medical considerations, certification limitations and blatant discrimination are the only reasons a dive operator might deny them service, but this is not so. You can be refused service for various sound, safety-related reasons. We will examine some of these reasons so you can be better informed and prepared — rather than disappointed.

Jose Castellano
Jose Castellano is a biologist, scuba diver and underwater photographer from Spain. He is also the founder of Biology for Divers, a project in which he has combined his academic knowledge and his passion for scuba diving to show the diving community the wonders of the marine life. He’s done this for several years now in liveaboards around the world and loves to see the divers gain understanding of marine life and, therefore, enjoying their trip even more!

Indonesia and the Coral Triangle, epicenter of marine biodiversity
The Indo-Pacific area called the Coral Triangle, is considered to be, by far, the most biodiverse place in our oceans. The amount of different species living on these waters is remarkably high compared with other parts of the ocean and Indonesia lies at the heart of this Triangle. Understanding the factors that have made that possible is a beautiful journey to some of the best coral reefs in the world.

Biology for Divers
Biology for Dives explores how knowledge of marine life can advance your dive experience. Indonesia and the Coral Triangle are the epicenter of marine biodiversity.

Bernie Chowdhury
Author, The Last Dive. Diving 30+ years; recreational, technical, scientific instructor; expedition organizer; industry consultant; magazine publisher and editor; documentary co-producer; Fellow of the Explorers Club. Recipient: Year 2001 BTS Diver of the Year (Education); 2019 NYS Marine Education Association Gene Ritter Aquatic Education Award.

Diving Safety: A Community Responsibility
It “takes a village to raise a child”; it takes a community to maintain diving safety. Unfortunately, the reality is that safety is often given only lip service; in practice, divers die and are injured each year because corners are cut, “rules” go unenforced, and safety drills are frequently non-existent. What changes are needed?

Cathy Church
A recognized pioneer in u/w photography who has been at it since 1967. She has an MS in Marine Biology , has presented her workshops throughout the United States since 1973 (and one in the UK.) Author of several hundred articles, one video, five books and one coffee table book.

Fun With Photoshop
Cathy shares exciting ideas to turn your photos into works of art. Don’t miss this opportunity to get great ideas about how easy post-editing can be with just a few useful tools and let your imagination go wild.

How To Coach Fearful Divers
For instructors, people who have been too fearful to try SCUBA and/or their support person.
Larry Cohen and Olga Torrey

Larry Cohen has worked as a studio and location photographer. His underwater photos have appeared in many publications. He is the USA East-coast editor for the web-based magazine X-Ray. Larry is a past president of the NYC Sea Gypsies, and a founding member of NYUPS. See his work at www.liquidimagesuw.com

Originally from Russia, Olga Torrey is a fine artist and a life member of the Art Students League of New York. Her underwater photographs have been published in many US and international publications. In 2017, she was a DivePhotoGuide.com Photographer of the Week. See her work at www.fitimage.nyc

Close To Home Diving Adventure!
As Divers we love to travel to exotic destinations, but we also love to dive close to home. Join Larry and Olga as they travel up and down the east-coast. They will show images of blue lobsters, wrecks, blue sharks and other underwater subjects. Larry and Olga will also discuss the photo techniques used to capture the images.

Nature Photography Submerged
Larry and Olga have traveled the world documenting nature above and below the waterline. They will present images from a variety of locations including the cold waters of the Northwest to the warm waters of the Caribbean. They will explore our local waters and will talk about the photo techniques used to capture the images.

Hawaii: The Big Island
Join travel photographers Larry Cohen and Olga Torrey as they explore Kona, Hawaii’s Big Island above and below the waterline. They will show images of tropical fish, giant manta rays and even a tourist submarine. They will discuss the condition of the reefs and the photo techniques used to capture the images.

Annie Crawley
Award winning filmmaker, photographer, and author, Annie Crawley inspires audiences into action for our ocean. An adventure traveler and storyteller Annie feels at home with fins on her feet and cameras in hand. She’s a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame connects people around the world to understand and take action for our ocean.

Let There Be Light: Underwater Lighting Revolution
Be inspired by everything you need to know about lighting above and below the surface. This power seminar will get your imagination flowing while sharing images and video from all different lighting situations. Discover when/how/where to light and when not to light. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced Image Makers will be wowed with creativity.

Henrik Enckell
Henrik is a CCR IT with 25 years diving experience who has lead dive expeditions in the Antarctic/Arctic regions since 2002. He is also a keen wreck diver having visited many wrecks including Steuben and Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic and HMS Victoria off the Lebanese coast.

Polar Diving in the Arctic and Antarctica
Join us in discovering the pristine nature of our polar areas. Our Dive Team Leader, Mr. Henrik Enckell, will take you on a visual journey through both the Arctic and Antarctica, both underwater and topside, covering the logistics of getting there and back.

Donald Ferris
Over the past 40 years, I wrote the book(s) on wreck diving on Cape Cod, ‘Exploring The Waters of Cape Cod’, ‘Beneath The Waters of Massachusetts Bay’; ‘Beneath The Waters Of Cape Cod’ and “Cape Cod’s Anthology Of Shipwrecks. With over 1000 ships lost around her shores, the Cape is a wreck hunters dream. Don is a PADI Master Instructor.

Diving Shipwrecks of Cape Cod
Jutting 30 miles out to sea, the waters of Cape Cod have sunk over 1000 ships. Join us to explore several dozen of the “Diveable” shipwrecks, which lie in the shallow, clear waters, off Cape Cod & Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. Discover the steamer Horatio Hall, the freighter Port Hunter - full of clothing and munitions. Plus many more stories.

Cathryn Castle Garcia & Gui Garcia
Cathryn Castle Garcia and Gui Garcia are veteran scuba instructors who own C2G2 Productions, specializing in underwater 8k film production. Cathryn has served as executive editor of Dive Training magazine for over 20 years and is the managing editor of California Diving News. In addition to being a photographer and filmmaker, Gui is a yacht captain. The couple recently published their first book, Ocean Metaphor: Unexpected Life Lessons from the Sea.

There’s Always a Party Goin’ On!
A Divers Guide to Caribbean Carnivals and
With a little advanced planning you can have as much fun above the sea as below. Discover all the fun and exciting cultural events – carnivals, art and music fests and culinary events – that await the Caribbean dive traveler.

Planning And Packing For Adventure: A Mission-Specific to Dive Planning
Veteran dive travelers use a mission-specific approach to dive planning, packing and traveling. Come learn the tricks and tips that will help you travel far and wide with ease as you get the most from your scuba diving adventures.
Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios

Natalie Gibb
Natalie’s passion in life is underwater cave exploration. With her exploration partner Vincent Rouquette-Cathala, she has led her team to discover over 20 previously unknown cave systems. Natalie is co-owner of Under the Jungle, a cave diver training center in Mexico and is an author, photographer and videographer.

Cave Curious? Getting Started In What’s NOT The World’s Most Dangerous Sport
Cave divers are crazy, right? Think again! Safe cave divers aren’t underwater for an adrenaline rush -- but for the privilege of seeing one of the most beautiful environments on the planet. Learn about the training involved in becoming a cave diver, and peek into the magical world of flooded caves.

Nuno Gomes
Nuno lives in Brooklyn, New York. Nuno used OC to dive to a depth of 1,044 feet in the sea, this excludes the rope stretch of 11.68 feet (1056 feet). World Record for the deepest cave dive, to a depth of 927 feet, at an altitude of 5,085 feet ASL, equivalent to a depth of (1,112 feet).

Deep Diving Records: The Successes, Failures And Fatalities
Not all world record deep dives go according to plan, what can go wrong? Why do some divers succeed while others fail and some die. Is it just luck? Do they have the right physiology or was their plan flawed.

Nasreen Haque
Marine scientist since 1989; among the first to research transgenic fish using recombinant DNA technology; diving since 2004; Associate Professor, New York Medical College; founder, Genomic Observatory, a 501(c) 3, (not-for-profit organization) seeking marine and land-based organisms for medicinal uses; 20+ years educating and researching biology.

Conservation In Your Local Area (with Bernie Chowdhury)
We’ll explore what each of us can contribute toward local conservation, creating and encouraging sustainability, and cleaning up existing pollution. Videos and photos from efforts by individuals and groups in several geographical areas will be shown. Audience interaction encouraged.

What’s in Your Diving Water? (with Bernie Chowdhury)
Humans impact their environment and leave behind their microbes wherever they go, including underwater. What impact has this had on some popular local diving environments, including lakes and shipwrecks? What impact does this have on an underwater habitat? What does it mean for you as a diver?

Jill Heinerth
Jill Heinerth is a veteran of over thirty years of filming, photography, and exploration on projects in submerged caves around the world. She has been awarded the Beneath the Sea Diver of the Year Award and the NOGI from the Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences.

Under Thin Ice
This highly acclaimed documentary, released in fall 2019 documents the changing Arctic and its inhabitants, with gripping footage of polar bears, narwhals, walrus and belugas. Heinerth and her colleague Mario Cyr tell the story of climate change and the urgency to act now.

Butch Hendrick
With 55 years teaching thousands of sport and public safety divers worldwide, butch created ground-breaking programs including “Rescue Diver” and “Field Neurological.” This father of diving rescue invented the rescue throw rope bag, the do-si-do and in-water mouth-mouth procedures, the right-hand release weight standard, the 90% contingency diver.

Anatomy Of A Double Fatality That Never Should Have Happened – Lessons Learned
They did just what they were taught and told, which led to their needless deaths. A collision of molehills over 6 months lead to a mountain that never should have existed. Learn what you can do as divers, instructors, dive leaders and boat captains to prevent any future similar tragedies.

Laura & Rich Howard
Founding Oceans Of Images Photography, Inc. in 1995, Rich and Laura Howard make an excellent underwater team. The couples humorous story-telling style paired with their stunning imagery has been featured in international broadcasts on National Geographic, the BBC, CNN and The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

Vacationing With Great Whites: A Family Affair
This diving family did in fact get “a bigger boat” spent some quality time with Guadalupe Island’s famous residents. What does it take to get in the water with these fish, besides a really thick wet suit? Join the Howard’s as they share their humorous adventure full of amazing shark facts & of course, stunning imagery.
Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios

Peter Hunt
A wreck diver since 1979, Peter Hunt left New York to become a Navy pilot in 1985 and later flew commercially. The author of The Lost Intruder, Angles of Attack, and Setting the Hook, a Diver’s Return to the Andrea Doria, Peter was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2005. www.peterhuntbooks.com

The Lost Intruder
In 1989, a Navy Grumman A-6 Intruder crashed off Whidbey Island, Washington. Despite an extensive sonar and ROV search, locating the attack jet’s wreckage proved “futile and cost prohibitive.” Join former A-6 pilot, diver, and author Peter Hunt as he battles Parkinson’s disease to discover the aircraft 26 years later.

Jennifer Idol
Jennifer Idol is a designer, author, and underwater photographer recognized as a PADI Ambassadiver (2016 & 2017), and a member of the Ocean Artists Society. Her photography and articles have been widely published, including in her book An American Immersion.

Bonaire: Diving it Right
Known as the land of shore diving, Bonaire is also an island full with life above and below the waterline. Operators work hard to protect their reefs by encouraging and promoting good diver behavior and a conservation mindset. Learn about these reefs, mangroves, and wetlands where flamingoes roost.

Todd Kelly
Todd is an Emmy Award winning, underwater cinematographer for Jonathan Bird’s Blue World. He has been diving since 1983. Based in New York City, Todd assists major broadcasters and film productions in editing and post production. He has advised on Super Bowl productions, multiple Olympic Games, and major Oscar winning film productions.

Diving Into The World Of Rebreather
We walk through the considerations of new rebreather divers, while looking at the advantages and disadvantages, with a focus on the Northeast diving. The seminar discusses realities: costs, considerations, and joys that you want to know. The focus is on sharing experiences that anyone considering, or new to, rebreathers will want to hear.

Ryan King
For over 20 years, Ryan has been diving, teaching, and photographing marine life, caves and wrecks from Canada to the Caribbean. He has a passion for helping others enjoy and appreciate the underwater world.

Hunt For Eagle 56
Eagle 56 sunk April 23rd, 1945 a few miles of the Maine coast. The US Navy classified the sinking an accident but the survivors knew the truth. It took a dedicated researcher and a team of divers working in more than 200 ft of water to locate and document the wreckage to finally set the record straight and provide closure for the families.

Kenneth D. Knezick
Diving for 40 years, Ken Knezick directed Houston’s SEASPACE Exposition, served as President of Houston International Diver’s Club, and is a founding member of Houston Underwater Photographic Society. Ken is recipient of the PADI Project Aware / SEASPACE Environmental Awareness Award, and member of the SSI Platinum Pro 5000 Society

Photographing Sea Lions: How To Make Better Wide-Angle Images
This seminar is designed to improve your wide-angle photography. Framed in the context of a dive trip to swim with and photograph sea lions in the Sea of Cortez, this program shares tips and techniques to increase the quality, sharpness, composition, and appeal of your wide-angle photos. It will offer suggestions on how to carefully approach and interact with marine life and examine how to create underwater images that have a story to tell.

Heather Knowles and David Caldwell
Heather Knowles and David Caldwell are the co-founders of Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions, Inc. They operate their dive charter boat, Gauntlet, with a focus on shipwreck diving and exploration. Both are technical diving instructors and fellows of the Explorer’s Club. Heather and Dave have had the privilege of exploring some of the world’s notable shipwrecks off the East Coast U.S. as well as shipwrecks in Canada, the Mediterranean and the South China Sea. In addition, they have made shipwreck discoveries in their local waters, including the USS Nezinscot, among others, and have collaborated on research projects with NOAA in support of exploration in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Solving The Mystery Of The Lost Steamship Allentown
For more than 130 years, the final resting place of the doomed collier Allentown has been a mystery. The Allentown was a 250-foot-long iron-hulled collier and on its fateful voyage was carrying over 1600 tons of anthracite coal bound for Salem, MA. However, the Allentown never arrived in Salem. On that ill-fated voyage during a severe November 1888 storm, the Allentown essentially vanished, lost with all hands. But where did the Allentown sink? Reports placed it off Minot’s Light in Scituate, but ultimately it was nowhere near there. Join us as we share a four-year exploration project to solve the mystery of the Allentown.
Learn about joining exhibitions where you can put your diving experience to use while benefiting others. You might be mapping a historic shipwreck, clearing debris in a marina or swimming area, recovering artifacts for a museum, doing fish surveys or helping to restore a coral reef. And you might even get a tax deduction.

**Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios**

**Michel Labrecque**
Michel is an accomplished dive trainer, trimix instructor, rebreather diver. During the last decade, Michel certified over 1400 students. He is a full time underwater photographer, photojournalist, expedition leader and speaker. He is a Fellow of the Explorers Club, Ass-Member of the Boston Sea Rovers and was named as a PADI Ambassador in 2016.

**African Diving: Where In The World Is Moheli?**
Located in the Mozambique channel, the tiny island of Moheli in the Comoros is visited by fewer than 100 divers a year. Turtles nest on its shores, whales migrate to its waters and its reefs host a number of surprising species, not to mention schooling fish by the hundreds, mantas and dolphins.

**Nathalie Lasselin**
Awards winning filmmaker and producer, Nathalie is an avid Arctic, cave and wreck’s explorer. Between teaching tech diving, leading exploration, filming and giving lectures all around the world, she creates projects to empower people in water protection. WD-HOF 2018, RCGS fellow All seminars will be presented with marie-José De Carufel

**Journey To The Center Of The Earth**
Following the adventure of Jules Verne, Nathalie takes you on a world tour of caves in 10 different countries. A hidden surprising world.

**Dr. Michael Lang**
Michael A. Lang, Ph.D., is an environmental physiologist, marine biologist, author, and international lecturer with experience as a scientific, recreational and commercial diver trainer. Michael’s long-term interests in marine science, hyperbaric medicine and diving physiology allowed him to serve currently as Co-Director of the San Diego Center of Excellence in Diving and Research Faculty in the UC San Diego Emergency Medicine Department.

**Bi-Polar Diving And Biodiversity**
Compares Arctic and Antarctic diving and highlights the issues these regions face along with the unique adaptations of the endemic organisms living in polar regions.

**Michel Lavitt**
Mike Lavitt has been diving in New Jersey since 1977. He has made hundreds of dives in New Jersey, the Great Lakes, Thousand Islands, Caribbean, Mexico, Bali, California and Florida. He was an assistant scuba instructor and has written about diving subjects for newspapers and magazines. He is vice chair of the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs.

**Diving For Good: Having Fun While Giving Back**
Learn about joining exhibitions where you can put your diving experience to use while benefiting others. You might be mapping a historic shipwreck, clearing debris in a marina or swimming area, recovering artifacts for a museum, doing fish surveys or helping to restore a coral reef. And you might even get a tax deduction.

**Dan Lieb**
Dan Lieb is the president of the New Jersey Historical Divers Association, a non-profit dedicated to preserving New Jersey shipwreck and maritime history. He has identified 14 shipwrecks off the Jersey Shore. Working with archaeologists, he has mapped numerous shipwrecks throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

**Shipwreck Disruption Or Destruction**
Are shipwreck sites being destroyed by nature or man? Shipwreck researcher Dan Lieb will describe via photographs and illustrations how commercial fishing practices have hastened the process of shipwreck site deterioration. Real-world examples will be used to show how some of our favorite dive sites are being pulled apart.

**Conserving Long Island dive access for future generations**
Having being committed to the world of diving for over 5 decades, Barry Lipsky has always felt that diving should not be for a select few, but for all who have the desire to see the underwater world. Recently, under his guidance as President of the Long Island Divers Association, he has been able to procure and preserve new diving opportunities off the shores of Long Island, New York.

**Nancy McGee**
Nancy McGee has lived a life of adventure and diversity. An Explorers Club Fellow, she is the first female Exosuit pilot and has dived and filmed on 7 continents. She has been the first to explore several archipelagos and opened tourism in the Andaman and Forgotten Islands.

**Lilliput vs. Blefuscu (or, “how to shoot it all; macro and big animal)**
The dichotomy between the macro world and the hunt for big animals reflects greatest for image makers. Which lens to choose? I don’t have multiple cameras and a Sherpa. Should I go wide, or stick with macro? Find out how to deal with this ongoing challenge from a pro. The answer is easier than you think!

**From Iron Bottom Sound**
The Solomon Islands were critical to Allied success in WWII. The last stopping point between Japanese troops and Australia, they were inundated with soldiers and supplies. 70+ years later, much...
of the history and the excitement rests on the bottom of the ocean, along with the denizens that guard it.

**Lynn Miner**
Physicist / SSI IT / PADI MI - Developer of fluorescence dive lights, filters, and camera components for underwater fluorescent viewing, photography, and videography. Author of the PADI Fluo Diver and Fluo Photographer Specialty courses. Published in over one dozen international dive and photography magazines. Used by universities around the world.

**See The Reef In A New Light**
Fluo diving is not new but not well known to divers. People say it’s the most exciting diving they’ve ever done. In the past, it was only done at night - this is no longer the case, it can be done in daylight. It’s exciting, fun and can reenergize divers looking for something new. Used by the BBC, Nat Geo, divers, photographers from novice to pro.

**The Best Of Papua New Guinea**
A Travel Seminar

**Chantelle Newman**
South African WDHOF Chantelle is a diving veteran--at 13, having her first encounter with a white shark--swimming right next to her! Chantelle moved to the UK, combining passions for diving and medicine—to increase diving safety. She founded Diver Medic magazine and has dedicated her career to topside/subsurface safety!

**The Diver Medic**
A Diver Medical Technicians (DMTs) serve as the critical first step in the dive medicine chain, caring for injured divers on the scene and acting as tenders in the hyperbaric chamber, but many of them are also dive professionals interested in advancing their knowledge of dive medicine so they can better tend to the divers in their care.

**Diving Deep Into A Career**
Whether it’s your first job or the last of many, there are careers you can choose that will let your avocation turn into your vocation. We visit some of the options you may not have considered and look at some of the available scholarships that might help you to attain your dreams, regardless of your age.

**Dan Orr**
Dan Orr is President of Dan Orr Consulting providing diving expertise to the global diving industry. He is retired from the position of President of Divers Alert Network (DAN). He has been honored by his peers with numerous awards and honors including the NOGI Award in Sports/Education, Beneath the Sea’s Diver of the Year and the DEMA Reaching Out Award.

**Scuba Diving Safety 101**
A review of risks in recreational scuba diving with a discussion of how divers can identify and reduce risks for themselves and their diving partners.

**Faith Ortins**
Faith began as a scientific diver and volunteer for public safety diving operations. She created the DUI DEMO TOUR, which promoted local diving while allowing divers to test dive DUI products and the DIVEOPS program which promotes education about the risks of diving in contaminated water. Recently, she co-founded Blue Green Expeditions and now runs expeditions full time. She is a 2010 inductee into the Women Divers Hall of Fame and a member of the Boston Sea Rovers.

**Off the Beaten Path**
Faith Ortins has had the opportunity to dive all 5 oceans and around all 7 continents…multiple times! In this presentation, she will share with you some of her favorite spots around the world that are particularly challenging to get to but rewarding for those that dare to travel off the beaten path! Prepare to be amazed at our planet’s diversity and to have your geographical skills challenged!

**The Diver Medic**
A Diver Medical Technicians (DMTs) serve as the critical first step in the dive medicine chain, caring for injured divers on the scene and acting as tenders in the hyperbaric chamber, but many of them are also dive professionals interested in advancing their knowledge of dive medicine so they can better tend to the divers in their care.

**Margo Peyton**
When she started Kids Sea Camp 18 years ago Margo Peyton didn’t set out to become the industry’s leading provider of child and youth diver certifications. Margo simply wanted a way to include her children in her dive travel adventures. Eighteen years later, Kids Sea Camp is in 13 countries, with more than 350 families participating over the program’s 24-week run.

**Family Dive Vacations Made Easy**
Are you looking to create a unique trip for the whole family? Margo Peyton, President of Kids Sea Camp, a leader in family travel for over 30 years, will share with you the great places to go in this world, along with her lifelong expertise and experience in creating not only a fun dive adventure for the whole family but a safe one as well.
Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios

Erin Quigley
Erin Quigley is an Adobe expert specializing in post-production techniques specifically developed for underwater shooters. She is a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, Boston Sea Rovers, and Ocean Artists Society. Erin writes the Imaging Techniques column for Scuba Diving magazine, and teaches workshops worldwide.

New Dirty Tricks For Underwater Photographers
Straight from the Go Ask Erin secret laboratory, Erin Quigley demonstrates new Lightroom and Photoshop sorcery that will make your images shine. Think you can’t sharpen an out-of-focus eye? Think again. Join Erin for a fun foray into the dark arts and add some new dirty tricks to your repertoire.

Alex Rose
Alex Rose is a biologist, diver, and underwater photographer. She is the Science Editor of Ocean Geographic Magazine, Managing Editor of Ocean Geographic Explorers, and founder of ocean conservation company Blue Ring. She seeks to protect our world’s precious marine habitats through diving, writing, photography, and education.

Case Studies in Aquatic Habitat Mismanagement
Humans tend to do an incredible job mismanaging aquatic ecosystems. This presentation will spend some time looking at specific examples, in both fresh and saltwater habitats, of aquatic ecosystems negatively impacted by anthropogenic factors, as well as what is being done (in some cases) to remedy the problems.

Michael Rothschild
I am chief of pediatric otolaryngology at Mt. Sinai Hospital, past president of the American Bronchoesophalogical Association, and I have served on board of other national medical societies. I am a ScubaBoard medical moderator, a technical CCR diver, past-president of the NYC Sea Gypsies, and a published author and underwater photographer.

Underwater Photography In Technical Diving And Other Challenging Conditions
Diving in cold, low visibility water requires special gear and techniques, especially when doing staged decompression. Photography in these conditions is particularly challenging. But these dive sites are often home to spectacular marine ecosystems and/or historic shipwrecks, providing endless opportunities for the well prepared photographer.

Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver
Michael Salvarezza and Christopher Weaver have been diving the waters of the world since 1978. In that time, they have spent hundreds of hours underwater and have accumulated a large and varied library of photographic images.

Diving In The Land Of The Pharaohs: The Egyptian Red Sea
In the shadow of the Pyramids of Giza and under the eternal gaze of the Great Sphynx, the Egyptian Red Sea beckons divers to explore its underwater treasure. Journey to these fabled lands with Eco-Photo Explorers to experience an adventure for the ages.

Frozen Fins: The Art and Science of Ice Diving
When the weather turns cold, many divers pack up their dive gear and wait for the return of summer. The arrival of winter does not need to mean the end of local diving. In this program, you will learn the techniques, equipment requirements and reasons for safely venturing below the ice in one of diving’s most challenging, and rewarding, activities.

Wild Alaska: Diving Prince William Sound
Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they dive the cold waters of the Prince William Sound to uncover its secrets. Along the way, the viewer will join the search for Salmon Sharks, Giant Pacific Octopus, colorful marine invertebrates and schools of Salmon swimming in frigid rivers fed by melting glaciers.

Brian Skerry
Brian Skerry is a photojournalist specializing in marine wildlife and underwater environments. Since 1998 he has been a contributing photographer for National Geographic Magazine covering a wide range of subjects and stories Brian has also worked for Sports Illustrated, The NY Times, The Washington Post, Paris Match, Esquire, and Audubon. Brian is the author of 11 books including the acclaimed monographs Ocean Soul and SHARK.

Ocean Storytelling Of National Geographic
In this presentation, Brian will share his experiences producing stories about the sea for National Geographic magazine, shedding light on the types of stories that resonate with magazine editors and with readers. He will share examples from some of his more than 25 features for NGM, discuss how he pitched these stories and offer insights into his coverage plans for shooting them.

Hagen Spalink
Hagen Spalink is a noted underwater photographer who lives and works at the forefront of underwater imaging, using the latest gear provided by industry-leading equipment manufacturer Nauticam. Since 2010, Hergen and his partner Kerri Bingham have been leading exclusive underwater photography safaris and workshops in the world’s best dive destinations. Hergen is also the co-author of the Underwater Photography Series.

Diving Indonesia
Take a trip across some of the most popular dive destinations in the Indonesian archipelago with Nauticam ambassador Hergen Spalink through photos and videos taken during his decade of living and working in the heart of biodiversity with his wife and fellow photographer Kerri Bingham.
Speakers’ Abstracts & Bios

Jim & Pat Stayer
Jim & Pat are explorers and well-known filmmakers dedicated to sharing shipwrecks, animal behavior, and remote dive destinations. They have directed several evening film festivals and are popular presenters. Pat is a member of WDHOF. They have discovered 8 shipwrecks, authored 3 books, produced 33 DVDs and their work has appeared on major networks.

Dragons, Mantas, And The Amazing Creatures Of Komodo
Komodo is an amazing group of islands, where dragons roam freely and mantas glide gracefully. It’s a multi-colored jungle of life with amazing bio diversity. Brilliant corals, sea fans, and sponges carpet the reefs. Crawling among them are hundreds of crabs, nudibranchs, and shrimp with their vivid patterns and designs. Exotic fish are everywhere.

Underwater WWII Planes of Kavieng, PNG
During WWII the Papua New Guinea campaign was characterized by fierce air battles with heavy losses on both sides. Many aircraft were shot down; others suffered mechanical failures or got lost and ran out of fuel. Join the Stayers as they explore several of these underwater planes, unlocking each one’s special story while sharing a divers insight into these tragedies.

Socorro Islands: Scientific Studies And Sensational Diving
Jim & Pat joined a scientific expedition searching for new species of fish and collecting samples for DNA testing. The experience was amazing as was the diving. Several species of sharks including hammerheads, Galapagos, tigers, and even whale sharks gather around these islands. Giant oceanic mantas seek out divers for incredible close encounters.

John Stella
John Stella has been a dive industry professional for over 30 years. John has represented some of the most iconic equipment brands in the dive industry. He is currently the Northeast District Manager for SCUBAPRO USA. His recent trips to Greece and the Aegean Sea, as a member of a Greek archaeological dive team has changed his life.

58 Ancient Shipwrecks Recently Found in Greece
Pre-Christian history is brought to life and the surface in this rare and historic shipwreck discovery.

Jim Vafeas
Jim Vafeas became certified in 1986 on Long Island. He became a NAUI Instructor in 1996 and since then, became a certified regulator repair technician and attained additional credentials from PSI, SSI, DAN and TDI. He now organizes dive trips and teaches Technical Training courses on Long Island with Tiedemann’s Diving Center and Scuba Network.

The Canadian Caribbean: Diving The 1,000 Islands
Learn about some of the best fresh water wreck diving available in the world only a few hours north of the tristate area. From wooden barges over 100 years old to contemporary steel lakeors, the 1,000 Islands has wrecks to accommodate all levels of divers.

Peter Venoutsos
Peter Venoutsos has been a scuba diver since 1976 and a commercial diver since 1983. He has worked for private underwater engineering firms, the federal government, and the United States Navy; he is an active member of the Connecticut Underwater Archaeology Committee. Peter has published underwater photography articles and teaches.

Chasing Pinnipeds
One of my all-time favorite marine animal encounters is diving with seals and sea lions. In this presentation we will travel from the Northeastern United States to northwestern Canada and down to California. Encountering some of the most curious and playful creatures in our oceans.

Diving the Pacific Northwest
Canada may not be at the top of your dive list but Jacques Cousteau said that Vancouver Island was second only to the Red sea as one of his favorite dive locations, from giant octopus playful sea lions to large than life Nudibranch and many wonders in-between. Come and explore with us as we dive into the emerald sea.

Last Kill
Hitler is dead and the war is coming to an end, but one his U-boats has ether not gotten or has ignored the news, still sinking vessels off the New England coast. With never before seen footage of the interview with the weapons officer of the Atherton (FF-169) which is credited with the sinking of the U-853.

Stan Waterman
Stan Waterman pioneered underwater 16mm film shooting and operated his own small live-aboard dive boat in the Bahamas for three years, from 1955-58. He continued filming in oceans around the world and producing documentaries for many years, finally retiring from diving at the age of 91.

Yap And The Mantas
It is about the prolific dance and feeding of manta rays as well as about the island and its people. Yap is in the Caroline islands, a part of the Federation of Micronesia, and is readily available by air from Guam. Few divers have visited the island and there are fine diving facilities, fine reefs, and one of the most spectacular and intimate contacts with mantas in our diving world.

Zach Whalen
Zach Whalen is an underwater camera operator and dive instructor dedicated to bring the stories of the underwater world to everyone. Whatever the story from shallow ponds to deep caves there is something to capture. Zach’s work can be seen in dive publications and on Jonathan Birds Blue World.

Gray Seals Of The Isle Of Shoals
The Gray Seals of the Isle of Shoals are a stellar example of the positive impact the Marine Mammal Protection Act has had on
a northeastern species. Diving with the seals is a large animal encounter unique to New England, and best of all, the experience is accessible to divers with a variety of skill levels.

**Wyland**
Internationally renowned marine life artist Wyland is one of the most celebrated and recognized artists of our time. An innovative painter, sculpture, writer, photographer, philanthropist, and filmmaker, he captured the imagination of people everywhere by completing over one hundred monumental marine life murals around the world from 1981-2008. “My art has always been about art and conservation,” Wyland says.

**Art And Conservation**
Art and music may play one of the most important roles in sharing both the beauty and destruction of our water planet. The pictures that I paint are hundreds of feet tall and are seen by 1 billion impressions a year. My hope is that when people see the beauty in nature they’ll work to preserve it.

**Nicole Zelek**
Nicole is the 27-year old founder of NYC-based dive business Superdive Scuba. She also is a Founding Board Member of the Superdive Foundation. Her mission is to knock down barriers to the underwater world and make sure people from all walks of life can experience (and therefore care for) it.

**Smashing Barriers For A New Generation Of Divers**
It’s not just about attracting younger divers... here’s how (and why it’s crucial) to focus on diversification & address the barriers to entry that prevent so many from experiencing the underwater world.

**Cristina Zenato**
Cristina is an ocean and cave explorer, a shark expert, a speaker, writer and conservationist. Some of her qualifications are PADI Course Director, NSS-CDS Advanced Cave Diving Instructor and a TDI mixed gas instructor. Cristina is a member of the Explorers Club, The Women Divers Hall of Fame and Ocean Artists Society.

**Learning About Water From The Sahara Desert**
Using her twenty plus year exploration work in the caves in The Bahamas, Cristina will illustrate how the devastating damages of Hurricane Dorian didn’t limit to the surface of these islands but damaged ecosystems beyond the boundaries of a Country, affecting health safety for generations to come, and demanding an immediate change in our behavior.