Dive season is officially here in the Northeast. Hope everybody has had their gear serviced and is ready to go. Looking forward to getting in the water for some awesome dives.

Beneath The Sea was good a show as always. I attended the dive medical conference out there on Friday afternoon and had unique opportunity to see all the booths being set up. Looks like it was a great agenda for the weekend and hope everybody who went enjoyed themselves. There is no place on the planet like Secaucus…. The Crown Jewel of New Jersey.

The club is in desperate need of a secretary. Please please please!!!, if somebody could step up because a small group of us have been carrying the major load for the club over the past 10 years, nobody more so than Paul. Your help would be so much appreciated...yes you.

Our membership fees are quite reasonable, and if you have not paid them yet please do so. It is 1 of the ways we can keep the club running.

When the weather gets nice, we hope to start doing our pre-meeting barbecues.

Hopefully, the weather looks good for our April meeting. We look forward to a great presentation from Jason Giannaras on The Shipwrecks of Nassau Bahamas. BTW: not necessary to wear Bahamas Shorts or a cool Bahamas Bucket Hat to the meeting, but feel free to do so.

We additionally are looking to schedule presentations for the rest of the year. So if you have taken an interesting dive trip and would like to share some video footage or photos, please let Matt or myself know.

See y’all soon.....Mike
FCDA Donor

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

New England Dive Center at BTS 2019
Reported Shark Attacks Decline Worldwide in 2018 by Dave Carriere

The number of unprovoked shark attacks on humans was far below average in 2018, according to an annual report by the University of Florida International Shark Attack File.

Worldwide, there were 66 unprovoked attacks — four of which were fatal — compared to an average of 84 incidents over the previous five years. Another 34 attacks were confirmed as provoked by humans in 2018.

What hasn’t bucked recent trends is where the incidents are happening. The United States once again saw the most unprovoked attacks last year (32), followed again by Australia (20).

Half of U.S. attacks occurred in Florida.

The report didn’t specifically state why shark attacks might have dropped off so sharply last year, but did mention that shark-attack fatalities have been trending downward for decades due to improvements in ocean rescue, medical care and increased awareness about sharks.

“Statistically, this is an anomaly,” said Gavin Naylor, director of the Florida Museum of Natural History’s shark research program, in a press release. “It begs the question of whether we’re seeing fewer bites because there are fewer sharks — that would be the glass-half-empty interpretation. Or it could be that the general public is heeding the advice of beach safety officials. My hope is that the lower numbers are a consequence of people becoming more aware and accepting of the fact that they’re sharing the ocean with these animals.”

Most attacks happened to people who were surfing or doing board sports (53 percent). Snorkelers and freedivers accounted for 6 percent of attacks, and scuba divers 5 percent.

In all, there were five shark-attacks (Continued on page 5)

FCDA Member Ads

Hey - have you got a non retail-diving business that you’d like to share with your 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 554, Fairfield, CT 06824 or email to fcd@aol.com.

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Events of Interest to FCDA Members

Friday - April 26, 2019 - 8:00 PM - April FCDA Meeting - Jason Giannaras - *Shipwrecks of Nassau, Bahamas* US Coast Guard Auxiliary Cottage - South Benson Marina, Fairfield, CT

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February Meeting DAN Raffle Winners

After Captain Bill Palmer’s excellent video on *The USS Tarpon - Shark Boat* the club held its monthly raffle to support our DAN Sponsorship.

Winners were: Scubapro Dive Mask donated by Orbit Marine Dive Center - Jim Purcell; Shark Stapler donated by New England Dive Center - Toni Morgan; Dive Log Notebook donated by New England Dive Center - Toni Morgan; Sink The Stink donated by New England Dive Center - John Dunleavy and a Kraken Cosey donated by New England Dive Center - Annabelle Lemes.

Thanks to New England Dive Center and Orbit Marine 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!
Shark attacks — especially those that are fatal — receive a lot of attention. But researchers are quick to point out that sharks pose a very low threat to humans. Billions of people participate in ocean activities each year. For perspective, sharks kill an average of six people in unprovoked attacks worldwide, while “fisheries kill about 100 million sharks and rays annually,” according to the International Shark Attack File report.

The shark interactions off the coastal United States appear to be a mixed bag for shark populations. Florida’s drop from 31 attacks in 2017 to 16 last year could be a result of shrinking blacktip shark populations, Naylor said.

On the other hand, great whites are returning to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, as a result of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, he said, which is a good thing for the species but unfortunately might have led to two great white attacks in the area.

“An increase in sharks is a symptom of restoring healthy oceans,” Naylor said. “What the public needs to do is become informed about these animals, understand their behavior patterns and listen to the guidelines issued by beach safety patrols.”

Why You Had Better Confirm Your Flight Itinerary

Too often, even with their flight itinerary in hand, travelers expect things to go just as that piece of paper states, knowing, however, that bad weather or a mechanical problem may cause a delay. But that’s not enough if you’re traveling in Third World countries, especially in and out of small airports. If you haven’t confirmed your itinerary long before your flights are scheduled to depart -- at least a couple of times -- you could be in for a big surprise, as I was once while traveling to Papua New Guinea. Certainly, an airline should inform you of a cancellation, and when it doesn’t, you may suffer the consequences, as subscriber Carol Cox (Mexico Beach, FL) found out. She wrote to share her story. “I just returned from 28 days in Indonesia and want to tell you about a problem we had with Garuda Indonesia, which is leaving many travelers scrambling for flights at the last minute.” On March 20th, we four travelers showed up at the Sorong airport to catch a flight to Ambon, only to learn the flight had been canceled two months prior. None of us had been notified. I don’t know if it was the fault of Nusatrip, whom we booked through, or Garuda. The airline acknowledged it had not notified us, and a customer rep in Sorong provided us with a hotel and meals after some additional negotiations, then booked us on a Sriwijaya flight the next day. “We learned this wasn’t an isolated case. Another passenger taking the same flight from Sorong to Ambon on another day found out four days before her trip that her flight had been canceled two months earlier. And a couple of Aussies flying from Lembeh to Ambon learned three days before their flight that it had been canceled at least a month earlier. All these trips were booked through various travel agents, and the passengers were not notified in a timely manner. Our host at Dive Into Ambon said a lot of flights had been canceled.”

So, bottom line: Confirm all your flights a week before you leave home, then confirm again a couple days before each one is scheduled to depart.

FCDA Donor

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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2019
*** Apr 4 - 8 – Little Cayman
*** Oct 3 - 7 – Florida Keys
*** Dec 5 - 9 – Cozumel

2020
*** Jan 11-18 – Bonaire
*** Mar 8 - 15 – Maldives
*** Feb 8 - 15 - Utila
*** Apr 2 - 6 – Cayman Brac

www.orbitmarine.com/trips.html for more info

“I’m goin’ with or without YOU!”
Capt. Noel Voroba/Group Leader

New WINTER Hours:* Tuesday - Friday: 11 AM-6 PM  * Saturday:9 AM-5 PM
SUNDAYS & MONDAYS: CLOSED UNTIL MID APRIL
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 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

Hoodie also available in Grey with Red Insets.

High quality embroidered FCDA logo on the front and an embroidered dive flag logo on the back.

Available Colors for Tee Shirts and Long Sleeve Shirts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ash</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Graphite Heather</th>
<th>Irish Green</th>
<th>Navy</th>
<th>Red</th>
<th>Royal</th>
<th>Sport Grey*</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

NO LONGER AVAILABLE
**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 _______________________________________________

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**FCDA Tee Shirt with Logo and Dive Flag**

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**FCDA Hoodie with Logo and Dive Flag**

No. ______ Size ______ □ Black Inset @ $35.00  = $_________

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No. ______ Size ______ □ Black Inset   @ $35.00  = $_________

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No. ______ Size ______ □ Red Inset   @ $35.00  = $_________

Make your check payable to FCDA and mail to:

FCDA, P.O. Box 554, Fairfield, CT 06824

TOTAL  $___________
Next FCDA Meeting

Friday - April 26, 2019 - 8:00 PM

US Coast Guard Auxiliary Cottage - South Benson Marina, Fairfield, CT

"Shipwrecks of Nassau, Bahamas"

a presentation by

Jason Giannaras

Stuart’s cove Dive Center in the Bahamas has created one of the best wreck diving communities in the Caribbean. Tugboats, oil tankers, freighters and more! This video covers 10 wreck sites also includes a bonus shark video!