

# AquaMarines

## Wreck Month!

By Ian Wimmer

Beneath the surface of the sea rests a once proud and mighty vessel. She once patrolled the seas, tall and strong, protecting her native Canada. She now rests on the floor of the sea, her new mission; to support a testament to man's ingenuity being slowly reclaimed by the sea. Her name is Yukon.

### Hello Divers!

If there is anything I like to dive more than a wreck I haven't found it yet. San Diego's Wreck Alley has been featured in a plethora of diving magazines and we are extremely lucky to have it right here in our own back yard. I know what some of you might be thinking, maybe you've dove the Yukon and you have seen what there is to see. I say "No my friend." Once I was wreck certified and could safely penetrate into the wreck I found a whole new environment with its own set of challenges and rewards. I've been penetrating the wreck for a couple of years now and I'm still finding places that I've never seen before!

PADI's specialty of the month for August is Wreck Diver. I would suggest to anyone who enjoys diving off a boat to come down and sign up for the course. You won't regret it. So in honor of Wreck Month I thought I would talk a little bit about the Yukon and what it took to get her here.

The HMCS Yukon (DD 263) is a Mackenzie Class Destroyer laid down on 25 October 1959 at Burrard Dry Dock Ltd., North Vancouver and launched on 27 July 1961. She was commissioned into the Royal Canadian Navy on 25 May 1963. She was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and served as a patrol ship and as a training ship with the Royal Canadian Navy and was later transferred to the Maritime Forces Pacific where she served until she was finally decommissioned on 31 July 1992.

The Yukon sat waiting at Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt until it was purchased by the San Diego Oceans Foundation in early 2000. From there she was towed to San Diego for cleaning before she would be sunk. (On a side note, due to some laws it was illegal for the Yukon to come into American waters with her gun barrels intact). To resolve this, her barrels were removed and replaced with fiberglass street light poles that remain on the ship to this day (If you look down the barrels on your next dive you'll notice how thin they are).

After the cleaning she was rigged with explosive charges below the waterline. The charges were placed both fore and aft to flood the ship evenly and set her on the bottom more horizontally. The plan was to maneuver the ship into position the night before and sink her in the morning, but mother nature had her own plans. The dive holes cut in the sides of the ship were too close to the waterline and with rough seas the ship began to slowly fill with water. First her bow slid under the waves, the aft rising high into the air. Then quickly and silently she was gone. She now rests on the bottom with a 76 degree list to port.

"What are some of the interesting things I'll find inside?" you might ask. Well I'll tell you. In what was the galley there is a wall covered in plaques that honor those who made the sinking of the wreck possible. This area is aptly called "The Honor Wall." In rooms throughout the ship there are paintings and murals. Keep a keen eye out for these because they are hard to recognize under a thin layer of growth... but don't be too surprised to turn a corner and see a painting of a dancing lobster or some other craziness. Because the wreck is sitting on its side, this is one of the few places I know of where you will find toilets, bathtubs, and desks firmly secured to the wall.

We have wonderful dive sites like the Yukon due to the hard work put forth by a few organizations. When you have the time I would like you to check out the websites for the San Diego Oceans Foundation (SDOF) and the California Ships to Reefs Program. Get involved, this is our back yard and it's the only way we will see more of what the Yukon has brought us

## **Aquamarines Club Officers**

**President Conrad Carvajal**  
**Vice President Occhi Moore**  
**Dive Master Dennis Kleyh**  
**Secretary Adrian Ledesma**  
**Treasurer Ray Simon**

**Have ideas you'd like to share?**

Please contact us with any questions, comments, or ideas at

**aquamarinespres2007@yahoo.com**  
Or join the discussion at  
**Aquamarines-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

**Join the Dive Club**

- ◆ Meet new dive buddies
- ◆ Attend special events
- ◆ Meet guest speakers
- ◆ Club sponsored diving
- ◆ Only \$25 for Individual or \$40 for Family per year
- ◆ \$10 off any class beyond Open Water
- ◆ \$5 off all dive boat tickets

**The next DIVE CLUB MEETING is**  
**Wednesday**  
**Aug. 19th, 1830 at**  
**THE SCUBA CENTER**

## **DIVE TRAVEL**

**The Conception  
of Santa Barbara**

**22—24 Oct 2009**

**LOBSTER TRIP!**

**Reservations taken now.**

**Come to the  
Aug. 19th  
Aquamarines  
dive club  
meeting, let  
us know the  
places that  
YOU would  
like to dive.**

**Right now we  
are looking at  
a club trip to  
Catalina...**

**HAMMERHEAD**



**AQUAMARINES DIVE CLUB**

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**DIVERS!!!**

**Open Water Diver**

Carla Jurczynski  
Chris Jurczynski  
Nathan St. Clair  
Keith Ward  
Jonnie Seely  
Justin McConnell  
Charles Robinett  
Nicholas Robinett  
Charles Malan

**Junior Scuba Diver Diver**

Logan McConnell  
Nick Tolbert

**Advanced Diver**

James Warren  
Charles Malan

**Dry Suit**

Jason Kertz  
AJ Eckhart

**Rescue Diver**

Ron Sowers  
Clark Belts  
Lonnie Belts  
Steve Gorin

**Nitrox**

Eric Wright  
Gary Shilts  
Paula Shilts  
A J Eckhart

**Emergency First Responder**

Richard Brahy  
Nicole Tolbert

***DIVE REPORT NUMBERS***

*SAN DIEGO (619) 221-8824 LAGUNA (949) 494-6573*

**Check out this website! See the waves before  
you decide to dive there!**

**<http://www.surfingsandiego.com/report.asp>**

***CA Dept Fish & Game Groundfish***

**<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/>**

***Regulations Hotline (831) 649-2801***

**FREE!!!**

**FOR PADI DIVING SOCIETY  
MEMBERS-  
RECEIVE A FREE GIFT FOR  
ENROLLING IN THE PADI  
DEEP DIVER  
SPECIALTY IN THE MONTH OF  
AUGUST....**

**WRECK DIVER!**

**NOT A DIVING SOCIETY  
MEMBER? COME IN AND SIGN UP,  
OR VISIT [www.PADI.com](http://www.PADI.com)  
WHAT'S COMING UP?**

**Wreck Diver August 8-9  
ADVANCED August 15-16  
ADVANCED August  
EFR/Rescue July 10-16**

**Aquamarines is now  
part of the  
Project Aware Team!!!**

THE SCUBA CENTER  
 MCCS 14 AREA POOL BLDG. 14116  
 Box 555020  
 CAMP PENDLETON, CA. 92055-5020  
 (760) 725-5910  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Receive the Newsletter in Color  
**ELECTRONICALLY!!**  
 E-MAIL US AT : raybo@adnc.com

*Let The Scuba Center make your Diving Adventure one to remember!*  
**August 2009**

*Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat*

|  |  |  |  |    |   |   |
|--|--|--|--|----|---|---|
| 30<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM<br>O/W kelp 0900<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM<br>Yukon/x 2 1:00 PM<br>O/W kelp 2 p.m. | 31<br>Ruby E/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 9:00 AM                            |  |  |    |   | 1<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00PM                                  |
| 2<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM   | 3<br><b>Open Water Class</b><br>Ruby E/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 9:00 AM  | 4<br>Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM                         | 5<br>Ruby/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 8:00 AM<br>Double Kelp 9:00 AM                                      | 6  | 7<br>Kelp/3Fingers 8:00 AM<br>Kelp 2:00 PM  | 8 <b>Wreck Diver Class</b><br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00PM         |
| 9<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM   | 10<br><b>EFR</b><br>Ruby E/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 9:00 AM              | 11<br><b>RESCUE DIVER</b><br>Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM | 12<br>Ruby/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 8:00 AM<br>Double Kelp 9:00 AM                                     | 13 | 14<br>Kelp/3Fingers 8:00 AM<br>Kelp 2:00 PM | 15<br><b>Open Water Class W.E.</b><br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00PM |
| 16<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM  | 17<br><b>Open Water Class</b><br>Ruby E/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 9:00 AM | 18<br>Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM                        | 19<br><u>Aqua Marines Club Meeting</u><br>Ruby/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 8:00 AM<br>Double Kelp 9:00 AM | 20 | 21<br>Kelp/3Fingers 8:00 AM<br>Kelp 2:00 PM | 22<br><b>Advanced Diver Class</b><br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00PM  |
| 23<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00 PM  | 24<br><b>Open Water Class</b><br>Ruby E/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 9:00 AM | 25<br>Kelp/3Fingers 9:00 AM                        | 26<br>Ruby/Kelp 8:00 AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 8:00 AM<br>Double Kelp 9:00 AM                                     | 27 | 28<br>Kelp/3Fingers 8:00 AM<br>Kelp 2:00 PM | 29<br>Coronado 7:00 AM<br>Yukon/NOSC 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby 7:30AM<br>Yukon/Ruby E 1:00PM                                 |

Join us for your **2009 Diving**