



# Shipwreck Exploration & Global Diving Adventure

## Wreck-X is Launched

The Gateway to Shipwreck Diving Adventure



Wreck-X is a team of passionate wreck explorers dedicated to providing specialised adventurous expeditions to some of the world's best shipwreck diving locations.

Welcome to the inaugural Wreck-X newsletter, where you will read about some of our recent exploits and up-coming expeditions. We hope you can join us on our adventures. **Rod & Paul**

### ISSUE 1, NOV 15

#### In This Issue:



Book Launch in Truk: Rod launches his latest dive guide, *Dive Truk Lagoon*.

2



MV *Huskyaan*: The UK's newest and most luxurious live-aboard dive vessel. Scapa Flow has changed forever.

2



SS *Creemuir* Bell Recovery: After discovering SS *Creemuir*, Paul & Rod present the ship's bell to the last living survivor.

3

Underwater Photography Courses:



Internationally acclaimed underwater photographer Marjo Pauliina Tynkkynen teams with Huskyaan Charters.

3



Future Wreck-X Expeditions: Palau, Scapa, Truk - a look ahead to 2016.

4

*"Diving, a unique activity, it literally expands the world in which you live."*

## Explorers Club Membership Wreck-X Directors Rod Macdonald & Paul Haynes



In recognition of their North Sea shipwreck discoveries, general contribution to wreck exploration and diving education, Wreck-X Directors Rod Macdonald (rod-macdonald.co.uk) and Paul Haynes (www.haynesmarine.com) are honoured to announce the award of membership of the prestigious Explorers Club.



## Book Launch *Dive Truk Lagoon*

In November 2014 Rod and Paul were again in Truk Lagoon conducting a reconnaissance for the 2016 expedition. In addition, in collaboration with Truk Stop Hotel and Dive Centre, the Wreck-X Truk expedition partner, Rod launched his latest book *Dive Truk Lagoon*.



Left to right: Gary Petrie, Rod Macdonald, Cindy Hall, Paul Haynes

## *MV Huskyan*

The UK's Premier Dive Boat



In January 2015, Wreck-X Co-Director Paul, a small vessel commercial Captain, and RNLI Inshore Lifeboat Coxswain, assisted the owners to navigate their newly built luxury live-aboard dive vessel *MV Huskyan* from the shipbuilders yard on the South Coast of England to her new home in Stromness, Orkney, Scotland.

See Page 3

## Palau Expedition 2015

In March 2015, Wreck-X was in Palau. Over 10 days, with the assistance of fellow Scottish diver Gary Petrie, 20 WWII Japanese shipwrecks were surveyed in preparation for Rod's new book, *Dive The Japanese Shipwrecks of Palau*. A highlight of the trip was the participation on what was the second dive on a newly discovered Japanese war loss. After some extensive research Rod believes he has identified her. However you'll have to wait for the publication of the new book to find out the vessel's name.



## SS Creemuir: Ship's Bell Presented To The Last Living Survivor



EuroTek technical diving conference speakers Rod & Paul on stage with SS *Creemuir* Radio Officer Noel Blacklock and the recovered ship's bell.

During the last of the Autumn days light, as it made its way North along the East Coast of Scotland, at 1700hrs on the 11th November 1940, for the second time that day, convoy EN23 comprising 31 merchant vessels was attacked by German aircraft. The 3990 grt British Steam Ship *SS Creemuir* was the lead vessel of the port column and despite her defensive 4 inch gun and 2 Lewis machine guns, was struck mid-ships by an aerial torpedo, which exploded directly into the engine room. The damage was fatal and less than 3 minutes after being struck, *SS Creemuir* with most of her crew and Captain slipped below the surface, another casualty of an increasingly brutal war.

In 2009, Wreck-X Directors discovered and first dived *SS Creemuir*, in 75m of water 15 miles out into the North Sea off Scotland. In 2014 Paul and Rod recovered the ship's bell, later presenting it to the last living survivor *SS Creemuir's* Radio Officer Noel Blacklock. The full story of *SS Creemuir* can be found at the downloads section of: [www.haynesmarine.com](http://www.haynesmarine.com)

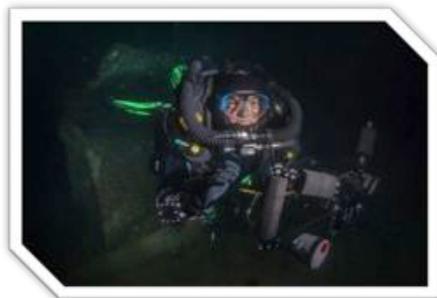
**Rebreather Safety:** Think you know about CO<sub>2</sub> and caustic chemical burns - with a 25 year military and civilian rebreather diving, design and test background, Paul writes two detailed articles for an on-line magazine. Find out more on-line at *Diver Medic & Aquatic Safety*, Issues 3 and 5.

**Oztek 2015:** In March Rod and Paul were in Sydney as invited keynote speakers at Oztek, the world's premier technical diving conference. Four presentations were delivered: *Improving The Probability of Surviving Loss of Consciousness Underwater When Using a Rebreather*, *Royal Navy Human Oxygen Diving Experiments of WWII*, *Operation Hailstone & The Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon*, *Force Z & The Shipwrecks of The South China Sea*.

Both Rod and Paul can be contacted to provide keynote presentations and after dinner speeches: [enquiries@wreck-x.com](mailto:enquiries@wreck-x.com)



**Underwater Photography Courses:** Paul was recently in Peru providing maritime safety and diving supervision for a UK production filming Giant Humboldt Squid 60 miles out into the Pacific.



Following this Paul was in Scapa Flow where he was 'captured' diving Submarine UB116 by underwater photographer Marjo Pauliina Tynkkyne, a highly talented professional photographer (<http://blindspotphoto.fi>) who is running advanced underwater photography courses aboard MV *Huskyan* during 2016 - a highly recommended event for those wishing to advance their skills.



## MV *Huskyan*: The New Queen of Scapa Flow

Internationally respected Scapa Flow diving amateur historians and MV *Radiant Queen* dive vessel owner operators, Emily Turton and Ben Wade had a dream. That dream was to build the most versatile, luxurious and practical live-aboard dive vessel the UK has ever seen. To achieve this they had to design a new vessel from scratch. The result is MV *Huskyan*, a superb steel hull, twin-engine dive vessel the likes of which has never been seen in European waters. Wreck-X is therefore delighted to team with Huskyan Charters providing a dedicated Scapa Flow history diving week in April 2016. Spaces remain available so email Paul & Rod for further information ([enquiries@wreck-x.com](mailto:enquiries@wreck-x.com)).



Rod is speaking at the Scottish Dive Conference Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2015. Tickets are still available ([www.scotsac.com/news/tickets](http://www.scotsac.com/news/tickets)).

## Expeditions 2016

Wreck-X has had an extremely busy twelve-months, however with numerous expeditions planned, next year promises to be even busier. We still have places available on all our advertised expeditions so come and share our 2016 adventures with us. For further information please drop us an email (enquires@wreck-x.com).



Oct 15: Paul & Rod recover a ship's bell from a depth of 60m. Shipwreck later identified as the *Galatia*, a fishing trawler sunk by U77, March 1917.

### Palau

**When: 22<sup>nd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 16**

Palau is internationally famed for its beautiful scenic diving with fabulous coral reef drop offs such as the Ngemelis Wall, the sharks of Blue Corner cruising in the gentle current and the manta rays of German Channel and the unique experience of snorkeling in Jellyfish Lake.



However Palau also boasts world-class WWII shipwrecks such as the massive tanker *Amatsu Maru*, the huge Fleet oilers IJN *Iro* and IJN *Sata* down to delicate intact coastal freighters such as *Chuyo Maru*.

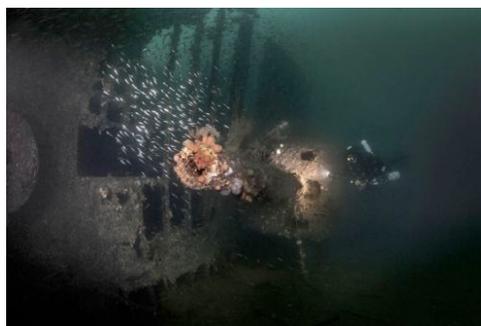
The majority of Palau's shipwrecks lie in depths of less than 40 metres to the seabed. This combination offers technical divers the opportunity to enjoy spectacular penetration dives whilst recreational divers can safely enjoy long bottom times at shallower depths. An auxiliary submarine chaser in 50 metres and an American destroyer in 75 metres off Angaur offer technical diving highlights.

### Scapa Flow

**When: 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> April 16**

The astonishing diversity of shipwrecks, along with the fascinating stories behind them make Scapa Flow a world-renowned destination for all those interested in shipwreck diving and maritime history. Rod's first book, *Dive Scapa Flow*, after over 20 years in print, is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Wreck-X is therefore delighted to announce a Scapa Flow history diving week. In late November 1918, as a condition of the Armistice that halted the fighting, the German High Seas Fleet arrived in Scapa Flow for internment. On June 21<sup>st</sup> 1919, believing the Great War might recommence and the British might seize the fleet, Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the order to scuttle the German High Seas Fleet.

Today the wrecks of three huge battleships and four light cruisers, which all escaped removal during later salvage operation, remain on the seabed of Scapa Flow along with many other wrecks from both wars and from peace time. Lying at depths from ranging from 45 to 12 metres, these wrecks have become insightful pieces of maritime history.



### Truk Lagoon

**When: Autumn 16, Dates TBC**

Truk Lagoon was Japan's main naval base in the South Pacific theatre and is arguably the world's premier WWII shipwreck diving destination.



Truk Lagoon was considered the most formidable of all Japanese strongholds in the Pacific. On the various islands that make up the atoll, the Japanese civil engineering and naval construction departments had built roads, trenches, bunkers and caves in addition to five airstrips, seaplane bases, a torpedo boat station, submarine repair shops, a communications center and a radar station.

February 17, 1944 heralded the opening air assault of Operation Hailstone. For three days, American carrier-based planes sank twelve smaller Japanese warships (light cruisers, destroyers, and auxiliaries) and thirty-two merchant ships, while destroying 275 aircraft, mainly on the ground; as a consequence the lagoon is the biggest graveyard of ships in the world.

**Advanced Diver Training:** With a 25-year military, occupational and technical diving career, Paul is one of the UK's leading technical diving educators (Facebook: *Haynes Marine Ltd*). If you would like to advance your training whilst participating in a Wreck-X expedition, please drop us a line to discuss further. Testimonies at: [www.haynesmarine.com](http://www.haynesmarine.com)

