



DIVING THE ARUNDO

6/22/08

It's difficult to imagine enemy submarines lurking off the coast waiting for the unwary freighter to pass by. But in the opening years of the Second World War this was the case and the ocean floor off the coast of New Jersey is littered with U-boat victims. In April of 1942 the Arundo, a Dutch freighter leaving New York harbor carrying war supplies to Alexandria for the North African campaign fell victim to the U-136.

Last weekend the Adventure SCUBA crew headed to the Arundo wreck site aboard the Independence II with Captain Dan Bartone at the helm. It's a 20 mile ride from the Manasquan Inlet but despite increasing seas we made it out in only a little over an hour.

The wreck sits in the "Mud Hole", the valley cut in the continental shelf by the flow of the Hudson River so the dives were in the 130 FSW range. Half our divers were in rebreathers and half in doubles. Several divers carried a stage bottle of O2 for accelerated decompression at their shallow stops, markedly decreasing their decompression obligation.

The wreck site is a debris field since the hulk was demolished and wire dragged to prevent it from being a hazard to navigation and therefore wreck reels were the order of the day. Not much seafood from the Arundo, just a couple of scallops and a single bug.

Severe thunderstorms were predicted in the early afternoon so Captain Dan asked the divers doing a second dive to do a short surface interval. Despite increasing seas building to 4-6 feet four divers jumped in for a second dive. At the 50 FSW decompression stop it was clear by the movement of the anchor line that the surface conditions were pretty rough. It's great to see your decompression obligation melt away when you switch to O2 for the shallow stops especially in rough water.

This is exciting diving on interesting wrecks. Call Justin at Adventure SCUBA to find out when the next Advanced Nitrox/Decompression Procedure course starts and learn how to dive these sites safely and comfortably.

Our next charter is on July 12th on the Venture III to the "Porthole wreck". This is a rarely dived site which has yielded several portholes and lots of seafood in the past.

Hope to see you on the boats.

Adventure Scuba Inc
1948 Main Ave Suite #5
Conshohocken Pa 19428
610.832.2570 – 866.4U2.DIVE
www.adventurescubastore.com