

THE EXPLORERS LOG



THE EXPLORERS CLUB
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SUMMER 2020

SCOTT TRAGESER MN'18
& ROSS MAYNARD

Río Manduracu Reserve

ROD MACDONALD FI'15

the wreck of HMS Hampshire

CHALLENGER DEEP, 2020

BERTRAND PICCARD MED'00
BØRGE OUSLAND FI'09
KATHY SULLIVAN MED'81

isolation

ALAN NICHOLS FE'84

who am I... an age-old quest



The submersible Limiting Factor being hauled aboard its accompanying ship DSSV Pressure Drop in the waters above the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench.
Photo: Reeve Jolliffe, courtesy of EYOS Expeditions Ltd.

Challenger Deep, 2020

LEE LANGAN MED'99, EDITOR

This year is the 60th anniversary of the first deep dive to the lowest place on Earth, the Marianas Trench, some 200 miles southwest of Guam. It was accomplished on January 23, 1960, by the designer of the vessel, the bathyscaphe *Trieste*, Jacques Piccard with then Lt. Don Walsh USN. It was 2012 before another member of The Explorers Club, film director James Cameron, accomplished the second manned descent, by himself in a vertical vessel of his design, the *Deepsea Challenger*.

In 2019, Victor Vescovo, made the same dive, twice alone, as part of his Five Deeps Expeditions to reach the deepest parts of all oceans. He was joined by Patrick Lehey, Jonathan Struwe, and John Ramsey last year.

In June, 2020, Exploration Medalist Vescovo returned to hover over the deep and make use of his *Limiting Factor* submersible. On June 7, he and TEC Honorary Chair Dr. Kathryn Sullivan reached the bottom of the trench at 35,810'. She became the first woman to do so, adding to her accolade as the first US woman extraterrestrial walker (on October 11, 1984.) After capturing images aboard the *Limiting Factor*, Dr. Sullivan and Vescovo began the four-hour ascent back to surface from a 35,810-foot depth. Once they reached the support ship, they called a group of astronauts aboard the International Space Station, hovering some 254 miles above. We live in an astounding world of communication!

While at sea, Vescovo joined Don Walsh's son Kelly on June 20, allowing him to match his father's dive of 60 years before. They have become the first father-son team to accomplish this investigation of the greatest ocean depth.

Another Explorers Club fellows provided support for the deep sea investigations around the Ring of Fire and was able to participate in deep dives. Vanessa O'Brien

added to her K2 ascent to also become the first British woman (and second woman) to dive so deep on June 11. She had previously climbed the seven summits (and trekked the last degree to each pole), making her the first woman to span the distance between the highest point on Earth and its lowest depth. (Vescovo was the first to do so!)

Walsh, Piccard, Cameron, Sullivan and Vescovo are all Explorers Medalists!

Caladan Oceanic is a private company dedicated to the advancement of undersea technology and supporting expeditions to increase the understanding of the oceans. Founder Victor Vescovo, as noted, has summited the highest peak on all seven of the world's continents including Mt. Everest, skied over 100 kilometers to both the North and South Poles, and has descended to the bottom of all its oceans. This multi-phase 2020 expedition for Caladan Oceanic encompasses four dive series.

1. CHALLENGER DEEP

JUNE 5-15

DR. KATHY SULLIVAN'S AND VANESSA O'BRIEN'S DIVES, ARE AMONG FOUR DIVES TO THE "EASTERN POOL" OF CHALLENGER DEEP, FIRST 4K VIDEO RECORDING OF CHALLENGER DEEP, AND AN EXTENSIVE TOPOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL SURVEY

2. CHALLENGER DEEP

JUNE 17-28

KELLY WALSH TO THE BOTTOM OF THE WESTERN POOL OF CHALLENGER DEEP; THREE ADDITIONAL DIVES INTO CHALLENGER DEEP INCLUDING THE WESTERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN POOLS, FURTHER TOPOGRAPHICAL AND MARINE LIFE SURVEY OF THE ENTIRE CHALLENGER DEEP FOR A CUMULATIVE TOTAL IN 2020 OF EIGHT DIVES, ALL PILOTED BY VICTOR VESCOVO.

3. NORTHERN MARIANA TRENCH

JUNE 29-JULY 10

FIRST MANNED DESCENTS TO THE NERO, TINIAN, SAIPAN AND ROTA DEEPS, FIRST AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST, SUSAN CASEY, TO A DEPTH GREATER THAN 8,000 METERS, EXTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACROSS DIFFERENT DEPTHS AND LOCATIONS.

4. CHALLENGER DEEP

JULY 11-LATE JULY

DEEPEST ATTEMPTED WRECK DIVE IN HISTORY, IN THE SAMAR ISLAND MARINE BATTLEFIELD (1944) OFF THE PHILIPPINE COAST, FIRST DESCENT OF EMDEN DEEP, THE DEEPEST POINT IN THE PHILIPPINE TRENCH AT >10,000 METERS, GARRIOTT'S DEEP DIVE; CONTINUED EXTENSIVE MAPPING OF PREVIOUS UNMAPPED SEAFLOOR; BRINGING TO A TOTAL OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION THE NUMBER OF KILOMETERS MAPPED BY THE TEAM SINCE LATE 2019.

BY JUNE 2020, THE FIRST DOZEN WHO'VE DIVED TO THE MARIANA TRENCH (SOURCE: DR JON COPLEY @EXPEDITIONLOG):

BATHYSCAPHE TRIESTE

JACQUES PICCARD (SWITZERLAND) 1960
DON WALSH (US) 1960

DEEPSEA CHALLENGER HOV

JAMES CAMERON (CANADA) 2012

DSV LIMITING FACTOR

VICTOR VESCOVO (US) 2019
PATRICK LAHEY (CANADA)
JONATHAN STREWE (GERMANY) 2019
JOHN RAMSAY (UK) 2019
DR. ALAN JAMIESON (UK) 2019 (SIRENA DEEP, 10.7 KM DEPTH)
DR. KATHRYN SULLIVAN (US) 7 JUNE 2020
VANESSA O'BRIEN (US/UK) 11 JUNE 2020
JOHN ROST (US) 14 JUNE 2020
KELLY WALSH (US) 20 JUNE 2020



Explorers Medalist and Honorary Chair Kathryn Sullivan display Explorers Club Flag #114 after their joint dive into the Challenger Deep on June 7. Photo: Enrique Alvarez



Astronaut and Aquanaut Kathryn Sullivan returns to surface as the first woman to dive into the Challenger Deep. Photo: Enrique Alvarez



Mountain Climber and Aquanaut Vanessa O'Brien completes her Deep Challenger dive, the first woman to have the highest and lowest points on Earth. Her capsule-mate Victor was the first person to do so! Amazing.



Limiting Factor being recovered after it's first dive to the deepest point of the Challenger Deep, June 2019. Photo: Tamara Stubbs

