

Police Officer Bill Reddan

Bill Reddan's affinity for the water dates back to his childhood. "I grew up in Sheepshead Bay," explains Bill, now 70 years young. "As a kid I dove for coins, worked the rowboats and became a lifeguard."

As a young man his innate sense of duty led Bill first to the Marine Corps Reserves, where he became a Naval Aviation Water Survival Instructor and still holds the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant (E9), and eventually to the NYPD. "I joined the Department in 1965 and was assigned to the Brooklyn North Task Force in Bedford Stuyvesant," recalls Bill. "Two years later the NYPD organized its first SCUBA team and put a call out for qualified divers."

Though Bill seemed to be in the right place at the right time, his application was just one of 31 vying for a place on the squad. "I was the only one to pass the test," Bill deadpans, "so I got it."

Bill worked in SCUBA for over 19 years where by his reckoning, he recovered close to 100 bodies and hundreds of guns. Among the most noteworthy, was a firearm sought in conjunction to the Ptl. Philip Cardillo Murder at the Harlem Mosque in 1972.

"We dove everyday back then," recalls Bill. "Now they have equipment that shows them what's down there before they ever go in the water. We had to find out for ourselves."

Though he retired in 1986, Bill had no urge to get complacent. Instead, he banked on his expertise and love for the water to open his own business. Today he's Captain Bill, and proudly continues to run the only certified SCUBA tour boat in New York City, as well as his own diving school.

Bill's boat, the Jeanne II (named after his wife) runs about a dozen pleasure dives a month between April and October. It gets cold sometimes but on clear days visibility can reach up to 100 feet. "Most people don't realize," notes Bill, "that there are more wrecks around New York Harbor than anywhere else in the world."

Over the years Bill has been profiled numerous times by a bevy of news outlets that praise his tours and cite his tough reputation as a dive instructor. Bill's teaching philosophy is simple: There is no substitute for time in the water and good swimming skills. When he thinks a student needs more training, he does not hesitate to have them repeat the class (which he lets them do for free). If that sounds too harsh, consider that just last year Bill was honored by the National Professional Association of Diving Instructors for his 40th

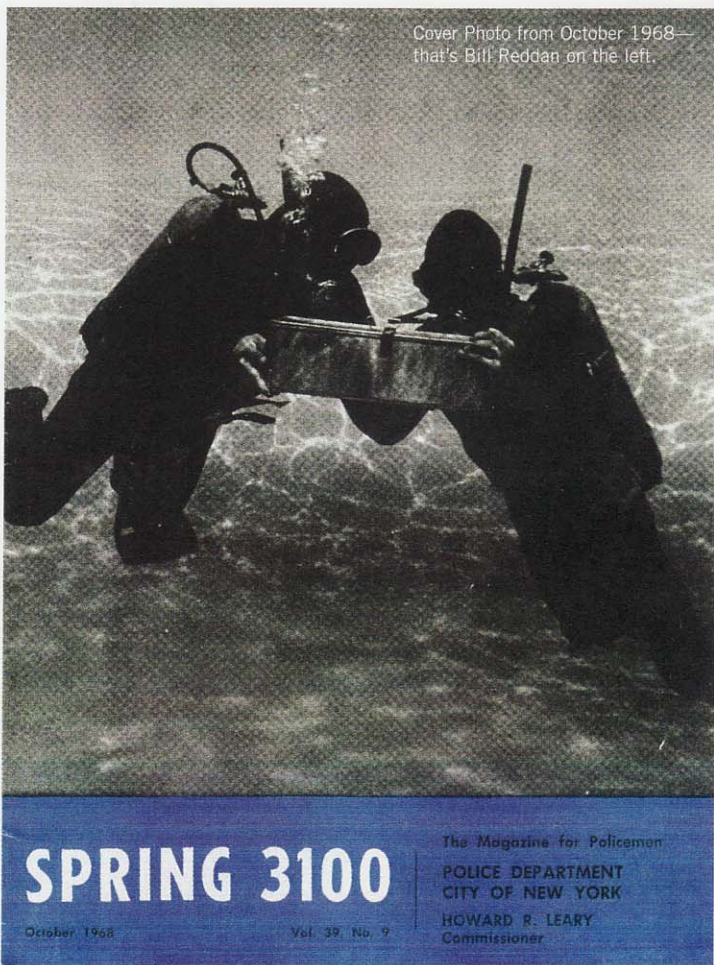
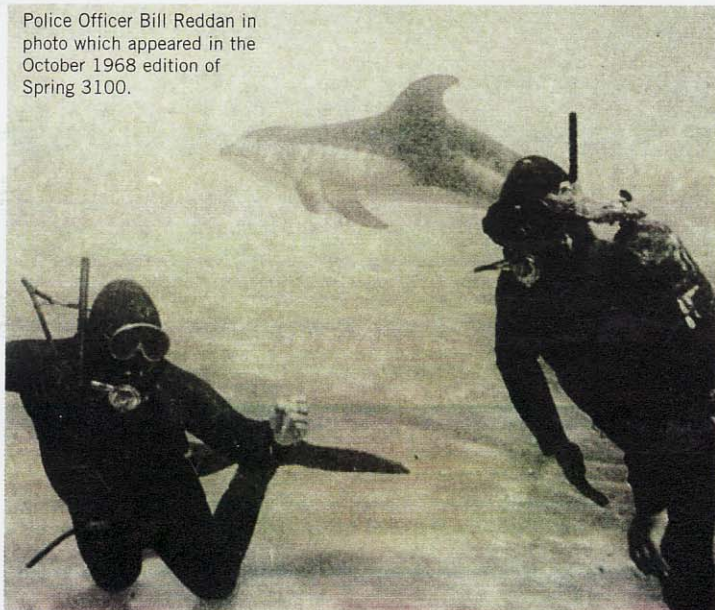
year as a Master Instructor. So honeymooners need not apply, but if you're serious about diving Bill's got quite a selling point: "I've never received a call informing me of the accidental death of a former diving student."

For more information, or just to say hello, Captain Bill can be reached via his website: www.jeanne-ii.com; or email: CaptBill2@verizon.net.



Captain Bill (front and center) and his crew aboard the Jeanne II. Back row (L-R): Esther Aspens, George Schramm, David Tilzer and Marcin Ficenes. Photo courtesy of Pearl Gabel, *New York Daily News*.

Police Officer Bill Reddan in photo which appeared in the October 1968 edition of Spring 3100.



Cover Photo from October 1968—that's Bill Reddan on the left.

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