



(left and right) Some of the bottles on display at the S.O.S. Maritime Antique Shop. (above) A few pieces from Doug and Tejo's collection.

reef. As this is a known wreck site current USVI laws restrict the collection of artifacts. None the less, this is a great shallow dive and a wonderful primer to get you ready for hunting in the pseudo-barren sand bottom areas known to produce great bottle finds. Numerous other

great dives are also nearby including more modern day wrecks, and traditional reefs.

Back on shore, we had an opportunity to have dinner with Doug and Tejo at their condo overlooking Bolongo Bay. This invite allowed us to see just how robust their bottle and stoneware collection really is. Hundreds of black glass specimens lined their bookshelves. Interspersed amongst these blown and 3 part specimens, Doug & Tejo have on display numerous sodas, beers, inks, varietal torpedos, limitless plates, bowls, and cups, as well as "clay" Dutch wines and pipes. Other finds include a few onions, some case gins, and even an amphora! Beyond this, Doug also allowed me to view and photograph some of his historical newspaper clippings. Most notable are the front page features showing lithos of maritime tragedies.



Jeanne with some of her collection

Our host for this trip to explore bottle diving opportunities in the U.S. Virgin Islands were Bolongo Bay resort and St. Thomas Diving Club. Bolongo Bay is situated directly on their own private pristine beach, and features 75 ocean front rooms...as well as a great



restaurant. They can be reached by calling (340) 775-1800. Paul and Richard Doumeng are local owners, who see that all guest have an optimum visit. Paul has also collected bottles over the years. The other great thing about staying here is St. Thomas Diving Club (which is located right on property). You are mere steps from the shop or pier where they dock their boats. The driving force behind this decades old five star PADI operation is Bill Letts. The best way to contact Bill is by email to simply ask questions or arrange a trip. Bill can be reached at: bill2381@viaccess.net whereby he will be happy to arrange a trip and itinerary of interest to individuals or even a small group. Good Hunting!!!!