



DOLPHIN CAPITAL INVESTORS

The Julius Kroehl Submarine (1865) at the Pearl Islands *featured by 'The Sea Hunters', on National Geographic Channel*

Very close to Dolphin's Pearl Island Resort in the archipelago de las Perlas on the Pacific side of Panama, lies one of the most important submarine shipwrecks of mankind. The Julius Kroehl submarine, located 24 miles from Pearl Island Resort, is not only in pristine condition only with signs of natural erosion, but also one of the most important vessels of its kind that can still be found today. Lovely for history learning, the partially submerged submarine, has drawn a lot of attention from international researchers and explorers, and has been featured on the Sea Hunter series (www.shipwreckcentral.com) on National Geographic Channel.

Julius Kroehl, a German-born, American inventor, built the Sub Marine Explorer, an early submarine in the 1860's initially to be used for the American Civil War. The War ended and Kroehl moved to Panama along with his submarine, and became chief engineer and shareholder of the Pacific Pearl Company. During that time, the pearl collectors would roam the seas of the Pearl Islands with canoes, free dive, drop to the bottom and 'fish out' as many oysters as possible, hoping they would be 'full' with big pearls. The Pacific Pearl Company with its newly acquired machine was looking at entering a new era, whereby the Submarine would transport the pearl collectors to the sea bed, and they would be able to 'fish out' the oysters through the sub's hatches. The Explorer was indeed technically advanced for its era, but destined to failure, because it had not taken into account the different pressure inside and outside the vessel, exposing thus the crew and divers to decompression sickness, which was not widely understood at those times. This is the primary reason why it was abandoned in 1869, thankfully within 2 small pockets of sand and protected beaches, on San Telmo Island, in the Pearl Islands Archipelago, remaining intact until 2001 when it was 'rediscovered'.

The wreck of the Sub Marine Explorer was rediscovered on *San Telmo* in the Pearl Islands in 2001 by archaeologist James P. Delgado of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology. The wreck was well-known to locals, but was assumed to be a remnant of the Second World War. Identification of the craft, with the assistance of submarine historian Richard Wills, led to four separate archaeological expeditions to the Explorer in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008. Documentation of the Explorer has resulted in detailed plans, including interpretive reconstructions of the craft, scientific study of its environment and interaction with the surrounding water, bathymetric assessment, scientific analysis of rates of corrosion, and considerable historical research.

Pearl Island Resort guests shall be able to dive around Sub Marine Explorer at high tide and learn more about its origins, as well as the history of pearl fishing in the Archipelago.