Monarch and Barge

The Monarch is a 64ft long wreck lying on its side.

Often done on the same dive by entering and swimming to the Barge spending a few minutes on it then drifting off its stern. If you drift along the area that puts sand on your left (east) and clay and rock on the right (west) your depth will be fairly consistent for a couple minutes. When the depth starts to increase and reaches 40-45ft you should work your way into the sandy side.

If you do not move into the sandy side it is easy to miss the wreck. If you drift for 4 minutes you missed it exit to the east.

The wreck of the Monarch rests in the sand in the 55-60ft zone. The current is strong on the wreck. You are relatively protected from the strong current when in the sheltered deck area.

Spend some time on the Monarch then exit by swimming across the sand to the east. The current can spin in this area creating underwater sand dunes. This makes a compass mandatory as you can not use the current to gauge direction. It also means you may need to swim against the flow in some areas heading toward shore. Once you return to the shoreline you can use the eddy that causes the water to flow upstream back toward the bridge. This allows you to enter and exit the water at the same location.
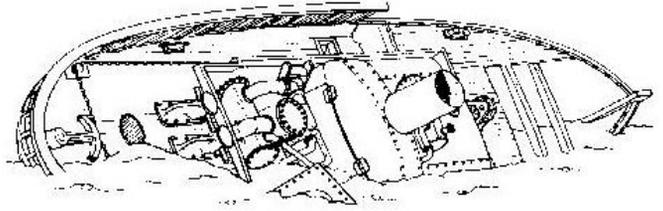
The old CSL dock structure underwater, offers refuge to local marine life. This location has minimal current as it is along the shoreline.

Some Considerations:
• **The current being very strong can separate buddy pairs quickly you will need to be extra attentive .**
• **Boat traffic is heavy and surfacing in the river is hazardous. This is a shipping channel for lake freighters and with multiple marinas there are lots of motor and sail boats traveling this zone.**
• **The swim to shore exerts more energy than drifting and you need to start with an ample gas supply.**
• **A compass is required. Due to changing water direction on this dive you can not use it to gauge direction.**

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