

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

<b>New Training Offerings</b> <i>Time to dust off your Save a Dive skills</i> <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Recent Certs</b> <i>See who is advancing their dive skills with addition training?</i> <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>News from Tug</b> <i>Checkout the stories and tales from our very own "Unknown Diver"</i> <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Calendar</b> <i>Don't miss all the happening at Blue Ocean Divers</i> <a href="#">Click here</a>
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### Welcome to April

Happy April Fools day! Not much fooling around here as we get ready for a trip to Bonaire and the start of the local dive season. If the days stays warm and the nights don't get too cold we are going to have a very good summer to dive. Are you ready? Dive skills all fresh and practiced? Equipment all tuned up and ready to go? If you can't say yes to both of these questions stop by Blue Ocean Divers and we can not only tune your equipment up but also your dive skills.

To get you in the mood we are having a movie night April 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 to 8 pm. We will show old episodes of Sea Hunt and provide the popcorn. Need more details? [Click here.](#)

Mach10 Mike

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### News from the Dive Center

#### Movie Night

Are you old enough to remember Mike Nelson and Sea Hunt? Well OK maybe you don't have the gray hair or the receding hair line that says you were around way back then. But some of us got hooked on becoming divers because of Sea Hunt. Bay Watch it is not but it is from the early 1960's.

Join Blue Ocean Divers for 2 Sea Hunt episodes and some popcorn Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7 to 8 pm. Tom R. is sharing the Sea Hunt DVDs and Blue Ocean Divers is popping the corn.

Come and see what started it all for some of us!

#### March Certifications

One 9 year old young lady had the birthday party to die for! She and 9 of her friends had an eye popping Bubblemaker party at the Athens High pool! That was a birthday party even the parents won't forget!

We continue to have folks expand their knowledge and grow their diving skills. The following folks have earned certifications.

PADI EFR/AED

Laszlo S.

Congratulations to Laszlo

#### The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

The wood stain is gone from my finger nails, my thumb is healing nicely from repeated hammer blows, and most of the water has dried from my attempts at plumbing. For now my home improvements are complete and I have time to reflect on our favorite past time.

Its April. Very soon we can resume local diving. When we completed our Open Water Training our instructors encouraged us to continue our education. Peak Performance Buoyancy, Specialties, Adventure Diver, Advanced Open Water, Rescue and on and on. At times this might have seemed like just one big commercial for the dive center or training agency, but hang with me for a few.

- TRUE Dive Centers are businesses, not clubs. As such they exist to make a profit.
- TRUE Certification agencies are a business. Same rational as line one.
- ALSO TRUE Continued Education will make you more competent, confident, comfortable and SAFE

While there is expense involved in continuing our progression and education in the sport through advanced class room and water instruction, lets take a look at some alternative ways to learn and grow.

- First Responder and A.E.D. training
- SCUBA Review
- Read. There are many publications available that provide valuable information, do's and don'ts and handy tips.
- Divers Alert Network. A fantastic organization offering medical support, safety procedures and dive insurance
- Talk. Ask questions. I can't think of one Instructor, Assistant Instructor or Dive Master that didn't have an opinion
- Listen Any experienced diver has wisdom.

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Rest assured this epistle is not meant to short change the importance of continued education, in the water, with an instructor. Nothing beats bubble time, but you can continue as your schedule and check book allow.

Just don't quit learning. More on this to come in May. In the mean time.

Never Dive Over Your Head.  
"The Unknown Diver"

### Trivia Contest

With the new website it's much easier to update the questions. But you still have to get the answers right to get your name put in the old dive hood. The names are in and the name that popped out is Jason Tingley. So Jason, stop on down to Blue Ocean Divers and pick up your bottle of mask defog.

How's your supply of mask defog? Go to our website and answer the 2 Trivia questions. Upon submittal you will be told if you found the correct answers to the questions. Your chances in the drawing will be based on the number of questions you answered correctly. If you answer both questions correctly you will have 2 chances in the drawing. If you answer only one correctly you will get one chance in the drawing. Good luck to one and all.



### Educational Opportunities

We have many opportunities for you to get a new buddy and advance your diving skills and knowledge.

Our next PADI Open Water course starts April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

PADI EFR April 17<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m.

PADI Rescue Diver course is scheduled to start April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Check it all out on our [website](#).

### PADI Open Water Course

Do you have a friend that you would like to see as your new dive buddy? Are they getting cabin fever already? Are they looking for something that will get them thinking warm sunny thoughts? Enroll them now in our next PADI Open Water Diver course starting April 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be our last weekend class. After this class finishes we will hold our PADI Open Water class on Tuesday evenings.

### PADI Emergency First Responder

As one of the foremost international CPR and first aid training companies, Emergency First Response gives you the confidence to respond to medical emergencies -- not just in the diving world, but in your every day world with your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers too. Emergency First Response courses encompass:

Adult CPR,

First aid for adults, children and infants and

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training.

Join Blue Ocean divers April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. And master these life saving skills.




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### Travel

#### Bonaire at Easter

We are off. As you read this we are almost there or already there. I'm told the local weather will be lovely spring warm New England weather. Oh well I guess I'll miss the local weather while I'm suffering the warm tropical

breezes of Bonaire. Poor me!s 

#### Planning for a Summer of Diving

##### *Diving In St Luci*

St Lucia is a diving paradise. The island is at the tip of an underwater volcano where both beginner and experienced divers alike will enjoy the stunning variety of coral, sponge and marine life. Artificial reefs have developed around a number of sunken ships which have become home to huge gorgonians, black coral trees, gigantic barrel sponges, purple vase sponges and black lace corals. Exciting Caribbean diving trips will reveal turtles, nurse sharks, seahorses, angel fish, and golden spotted eels, to name but a few, among the dazzling cross section of Caribbean marine life.

There are several spectacular diving sites just off St Lucia, ranging from easy to challenging. Keyhole Pinnacles consists of 4 seamounts rising from incredible depths to within a few feet of the surface. Superman's Flight, a drift dive on a gentle wall which drops to 1,600 feet. At the base of Gros Piton the Coral Gardens rise from a depth of 15 to 50 feet and Anse La Raye, midway up the west coast is a superb wall and drift dive, where huge boulders cover a shallower slope creating fascinating formations to explore. On the point of Anse Chastenet, a plateau slopes gently from 40 - 60 feet. The reefs fall away to a depth of 140 feet in a unique coral chain, meandering out from the Bay. A number of shipwrecks provide adventure and exploration for divers. For the experienced only, off the southern part of the island, the Waiwinette freighter lies 90 feet below. The currents here make this dive extremely challenging, whereas further up the coast off Castries, there is a pleasant wreck dive in 20 feet of water for those less experienced. Diving schools and centers abound in St Lucia. Trips, tuition, guides and equipment for scuba or snorkeling are offered for all levels of diving experience and can be arranged through your travel agent or when you arrive. You can also visit the award-winning Soufriere Marine Management Area on the west coast. An important project created to conserve St Lucia's coastal environment, its activities and vigilance ensures that underwater St Lucia retains its immense wealth and beauty.

Divers from all over the world know the exotic beauty and warm crystal waters of St Lucia. A great deal of care has been exercised to ensure that the island, as well as the surrounding water remains as pristine as it was a generation ago when it first began attracting divers in search of a paradise less traveled.

As mountainous below sea level as it is above, St Lucia offers incomparable sightseeing for divers who are drawn to the tremendous variety that nature has to offer: huge gorgonians, black coral trees, gigantic barrel sponges, purple vase sponges and lace coral. Angelfish, black beauties, golden spotted eels, seahorses, Stingrays, nurse sharks, turtles and many varieties of schooling fish are as plentiful as they are colorful and varied. A few submerged shipwrecks and a mysterious serpentine creature of mythical proportions known as "the thing" add to the excitement of diving in the waters of St Lucia.

##### *The wreck of the Islander (aka the Hospital Wreck) on the St. Lawrence River*

The Islander is one of the most popular shore dives in Alexandria Bay. Easy parking, access, entry and support make this a delightful introduction to diving in the 1000 Islands. Located just downstream behind the Hospital at Alexandria Bay, it's easy to find. You will also generally find other divers there, so you can nearly always find a dive buddy, if you didn't bring your own. It's a popular site for Open Water and other dive certification classes.

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The dive site is sponsored by Delta Divers of Rome, NY. Delta Divers maintains an underwater navigation course and underwater dive platform at the site. Weekends during the summer months parking can be at a premium so get there early and have a full day of fun. Hunt's Dive Shop has air and nitrox right at the dive site to support multiple dives. Many people consider this DIVE CENTRAL for diving the Thousand Islands.

There are actually at least 4 distinct dives you can do from the Islander. There is the Islander itself, a drift dive from Casino Island to the Islander, a trip to "The Wall" and a tour under "The Only Floating Restaurant" in the Thousand Islands.

The Islander was a wooden side wheel steamer built in Rochester, NY in 1871. 125 feet long, displacing 118 tons owned by the Folger Lines. She was tied to the Cornwall Building Dock near the Thousand Island House in Alexandria Bay, when she caught fire just after midnight and burned to the waterline on September 16, 1909. It was feared that the Thousand Island House and the nearby Marsden House would catch fire as well. The guests were woken, but fortunately the buildings were spared. The Islander was valued at \$50,000 at the time of her demise.

She lies mostly intact in depths from 35 to 50 feet with a mild current. She lies parallel to shore with her bow pointed upriver. Be aware that the current at this site is usually reverse of the way you would expect it, due to the eddy created by Casino Island and the speed of the current in the main channel which lies beyond the green buoy.

With years of being one of the most popular dive sites, she still turns up an occasional bottle or piece of china. Some of it is planted there for your entertainment, so please leave it for others to enjoy as well.

Just downstream from the wreck there is an obstacle course and underwater dive platform set up for dive training. A nice opportunity to test your skills and polish up your communications and other techniques.

As you continue your tour down river you will pass the pilings holding up what's left of Captain Thomson's old hotel. Shortly thereafter you will find the Captain Thomson's Floating Restaurant overhead. On the southwest corner of the floating hotel, you will find a camera on a pole. Do a favor for the nice folks sitting up in the bar, clean the lens and then smile and show them your pearly whites.

Watch your depth and your air at all times and determine the best time to turn around and go back to the Islander for your 3 minute safety stop and/or deco if you've been down long enough to require one. If you follow the contour of the shore and stay at 15-20 feet for the return, you'll likely not need to stop when you get back to the collapsed pier and the Islander.

## Calendar

Date	Activity
March 29 - April 2	BU Spring Break
April 3 - 10	Buddy Dive Resort, Bonaire
April 11	PADI Open Water Diver Course Starts
April 17	Emergency First Responder Course
April 23	Movie Night at Blue Ocean Divers
April 25	PADI Rescue Diver course starts
April 28	Next PADI Open Water Class
May 22 - 23	Dutch Springs Training Weekend
June 26 - 27	Dutch Springs Training Weekend

## Store Hours

Monday – Friday Noon until 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Closed