

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

<b>Welcome</b> <i>News from Mach10</i>  <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Scuba Challenge</b> <i>Are you up to learning something new? Check it out.</i>  <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Travel</b> <i>Checkout our new Florida trip accommodations.</i>  <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Calendar</b> <i>Don't miss all of the happening at Blue Ocean Divers</i>  <a href="#">Click here</a>
---	--	---	--

## WELCOME TO OUR MARCH NEWSLETTER

I think we are well on our way to getting the kinks out of our new newsletter format. We are better able to send it to you directly with fewer bounced sends due to the internet and mail programs thinking we are sending spam. (At least I hope you don't think this is spam.)

We just got back from Roatan so we're better rested but even more behind. We had good diving and everyone learned and grew their diving skills. The seas were on the rough side but we adapted and everyone learned the importance of keeping your mask and regulator in place until you are completely back on the boat. Checkout the Travel Section for a complete trip report.

We have many activities starting so make sure and checkout the training and calendar sections to see what you are missing!

Our trip to the Florida Keys is all set and we are going with a new dive shop and new lodgings. Checkout the Travel section for all the details.

Happy reading,

Mach10 Mike

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

### Scuba Challenge

On Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> Blue Ocean Divers held our Dry Suit Challenge. Phil Estrelle was the winner of the Henderson hood and gloves. Our next challenge will be Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Binghamton YMCA pool for a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) and Reel Challenge. This challenge will be in a basic skill of deploying a SMB from depth. Sign-up today and learn about the safety of being able to deploy a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) without having to expose yourself to the surface! Win the challenge and walk away with a new Surface Marker Buoy!

### Pool Play

Feeling the urge to submerge? Not to worry, Blue Ocean Divers can get you wet and have you blowing bubbles! In conjunction with the Scuba Challenge you can sign up for our pool play that will be held at the same time in the Binghamton YMCA pool as the Scuba Challenge. Stop by the dive center and sign up. For a mirror \$10 you will have an hour and a half of pool time and Blue Ocean Divers provides the tank to use!

### My Most Memorable Dive

My most memorable dive was in Seneca Lake, August of 1996. Six of us with freshly printed certification cards were headed to The Box Car. A railroad box car had washed into the lake during a flood back in the '30's. According to those in the know at that time, this was a "must see". This was a boat dive and here is where the fun begins. Boat number one was a non-descript Bayliner, but boat number two was a thing to behold. It was a 1974 Starcraft Holiday. The craft originally belonged to my Dad who died in 1995. With a ton of help from family and friends we refurbished it. She, Dad's Boat, was truly a thing of beauty, sporting a new transom, floor, paint job, tank racks and even a dive flag insignia on the windshield. The power plant on this fine craft was a 1970 Evinrude 60 H/P outboard. To the best of our ability we serviced the motor and even repainted the cover to match the original design. The motor tested fine in the yard. Without a care in the world we headed for the lake.

Boat number one started and pulled from the dock. Dad's Boat cranked, blew out a plume of smoke that killed every mosquito within a three mile radius then refused any other attempt to start. No worries. The dive site was only three miles from the launch, we will tow it. You should have seen the look on the faces of the boaters returning to port seeing a fully loaded craft being towed OUT to sea! About a mile out, the skipper of the disabled scow got the motor started. We released the tow line and sped off to the dive site. When my sonar (a.k.a fish finder) located the wreck, we heaved anchor and began preparing for the dive. Eventually all six of us got into the water. We found the wreck and it was pretty neat. It was fairly well preserved and was home for nine rock bass, three perch and numerous strands of monofilament fish line. One of the divers was fascinated with a twenty-five cent plastic lure still affixed to a line and tried their best to recover the treasure. Fortunately I was there to un-sheath my dive knife, cut the line and remove the hook that had bonded both of his gloves together. After surfacing we learned you really can vomit through a regulator. Seems like one of us was a little hyper. Their breakfast became lunch for the nine rock bass and three perch!

All and all a pretty good dive and we all made it back to the boats. Neither of which would start. Perhaps leaving the radio and fish finder (I mean SONAR) on was too much for boat number one. Heaven only knows why the other one wouldn't start. We were less than fifty yards from shore so I never feared for our safety. However I did think about emptying the gas can of each boat on the hull and flicking my Bic. Arson is a crime, but stupidity is not. I figured the penalty for leaving two derelict ships on the lake was by far the lesser of two evils. After a few minutes boat number one started. To the best of my memory I think that boat number two stated as well. BUT.. we ain't finished yet. Boat number one's anchor would not budge. One of the divers entered the water (I know this is a no.. no) and freed the anchor. By the way, it was lodged on the open door of the wreck. At the end of the day, a very long day, both boats and all six divers made it home safely. Since then the six of us have had many more dives and been privileged to experience some neat sites and critters. This dive though is one that always bring a few laughs to us...

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

P.S. I can't reveal the names of the other divers to protect the innocent.

### Trivia Contest

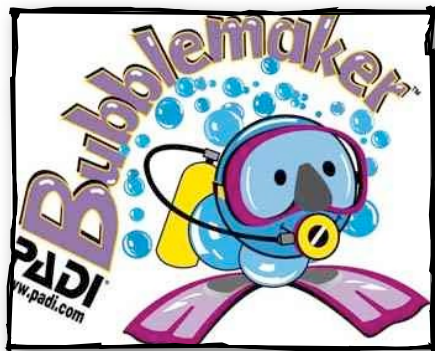


When you looked at the questions, did you get them both correct? Did you include both your first and last name? If you forget to fill in your name we can't pull your name out of the old dive hood! Many of you participated and did get both of them correct. Well, the names are in the old dive hood and the name is...Kurt Weir. So Kurt, come on in to Blue Ocean Divers and pick up your tee-shirt.

How can you win a Blue Ocean Divers tee-shirt? 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.

Breakout your RDPs, review your buoyancy concepts. There even may be questions from the new Digital Underwater Photography Specialty. If it's been awhile since you looked at any of your course books, a PADI Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving book might be a good investment. Good Luck to one and all.

### PADI BubbleMaker Birthday Party



Have you been looking for a very unique birthday party for your 8 to 10 year old? Then sign them up for a PADI BubbleMaker Birthday Party. The birthday celebration will be a BubbleMaker experience and a party celebration with birthday cake and party favors for all party goers. During the pool/BubbleMaker experience the children will learn a few basic scuba skills and spend an hour underwater experiencing the joys of breathing underwater while playing lots of underwater games. Medical forms and releases must be completed by all children with parent signature prior to the start of party. Contact Blue Ocean Divers for all the details.

## Educational Opportunities

### Nitrox Certification

Are you looking for longer bottom times? Are you coming to Curacao with us? For our trip to Curacao Nitrox is offered free for the week, so Blue Ocean Divers is offering PADI Nitrox certification for free. You just have to buy the training supplies. If you are not one of the lucky folks coming with us for all of the fun and fellowship in Curacao you can still enjoy the benefits of longer NDL times and shorter surface intervals with Nitrox.

The next Nitrox class is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>, come in today and sign-up.

### Rescue Diver

Do you feel comfortable with your dive equipment after your PADI Open Water certification? Are you understanding some of the different underwater environments after your PADI Advanced Open Water certification? Do you want to be able to help other divers if they begin to have difficulty? Then it's time for YOU to sign-up for the PADI Rescue Diver program! Our Rescue Class starts March 16<sup>th</sup> and will complete all but the open water scenarios by April 6<sup>th</sup>.

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

### The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

It's March. Definitely not dive season yet, but it is getting closer. Hopefully you are getting prepared for the 2008 season. This is a great time to take inventory of your gear and make any needed repairs or replacements. Have you checked the Hydro and VIP dates on your tanks? When was the last time you had your regulator serviced?

How long has it been since you have taken a refresher course? Is this the year to take additional or advanced training? During a recent visit at the dive center I noticed a first responder class being conducted. This class is mandatory for some advanced certifications. Having taken this class in the past I can tell you the content is much more than dive oriented. Anyone with family, friends, a drivers license, or participates in ANYTHING will benefit from the experience. I strongly encourage all to ask Mike or Deb about participating in the next session.

I spent a day with my old dive buddy Earl a while back. He related a story to me that he swears is true. Of course he swears at everything but I digress. Seems like one of his neighbors over indulged during happy hour and decided the prudent course of action would be to walk home. The tipsy traveler took a shortcut through the local cemetery and stumbled into an open grave. Too dazed to get out, he laid there hollering, "Help me I'm cold, Help me I'm cold". After a while one of the other neighborhood imbibers heard him and went to investigate. He quickly assessed the situation and responded, "No wonder your cold your durn fool.. You kicked all your dirt off ya!"...

With that I will close. Beware of the Ides of March and I hope to see you on the bottom.

Never dive over your head

"The Unknown Diver"

### New from On-line

#### Links to St. Lawrence Dive Site Information

With the price of gas are you thinking about diving closer to home this summer? Do you know that we have one of the best fresh water dive destinations right here in our own backyard? It's the St. Lawrence River! What to know more about the dive sites we dive every summer? Check out St <http://www.saveontarioshipwrecks.on.ca/News/Shipwreck/%20articles.html> and see what there is to explore in the St. Lawrence River!

#### Dive Links for Kids

Do you have a budding diving that just can't get enough of the oceans and all of the critters and life they contain? Here is a link that they should enjoy. It's Jonathan Bird's Blue World website. The URL is <http://www.blueworldtv.com/>. Direct from their website here is what they are all about. "Jonathan Bird's Blue World is an educational family-oriented underwater adventure series being co-produced by [Jonathan Bird Productions](#) and [Oceanic Research Group](#). It is hosted by dynamic naturalist and underwater photographer Jonathan Bird. The format is magazine style, with short 7-10 minute segments each containing a complete adventure story with an educational component." Check it out. I think the kid in all of us will enjoy it.

### Travel

#### Florida Keys

Are you ready to try something new? Well we at Blue Ocean Divers are always looking for a better dive experience and we think we have found it. This year we will be going to the southern end of Key Largo and dive with Conch Republic and stay with Coconut Palms just around the corner. This trip will be a little more than in years gone by but the quality of accommodations is significantly better. That's the good news. The bad news is

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

Coconut Palm is a small resort with 400 feet of sandy beach front on the bay side with only 11 rooms. I have booked 8 of these rooms so we most likely will not be able to grow this trip.

This trip is on the books and you can join us August 17<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be our usual Florida itinerary. Arrive Sunday, dive 2 tank boat dives, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Leave for home on Saturday. The trip price includes double diver lodging with continental breakfast and diving, tanks and weights included. This year the cost is \$795 per person, double diver. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 will hold your spot. Don't delay, once this trip is full it's full.



### St. Lawrence River



We'll be going to the "river" six times this summer. Three times will be strictly shore diving and the other trips will be with Abucs Scuba in Brockville, Canada. The shore diving will be bare bones. We will provide a dive guide that will get you to the dive sites and explain/brief the dive. You will be responsible for all diving necessities, transportation, meals and lodging.

The trips with Abucs Scuba will provide three boat dives on Saturday, two boat dives on Sunday, lunch on the boat Saturday and lodging Saturday night. You will be responsible for providing all of your own dive equipment including three tanks (for Saturday), air fills and weights. Of course, if your dive locker is a little lacking, Blue Ocean Divers can provide any equipment you are missing or a complete weekend package.

Don't miss out on experiencing the best fresh water dive destination in the USA! Come and dive the St. Lawrence River.

### Roatan

Roatan weather is definitely better than Vestal weather in February! We had 85° to 89° air temperatures with water temperatures measured between 80° and 82°. (Depends whose computer you are looking at.)

Thanks to Eve I can report that we saw more than 75 species of fish, 50 species of critters and 30 species of corals. We saw lots of good stuff on the reefs and walls. The seas were on the ruff side so getting back on the boat was sometimes a challenge. The good news was the dive staff was always there to help us and did anything and everything they could to make it as easy as possible.

We made 3 boat dives a day. We had to cancel the night boat dive because the seas kicked up that night. The shore diving was very good. We did a survey of the airplane and confirmed that it is a DC-3 and found the news story describing the actual airline crash on the internet. The ship wreck has lots of life on it and it is very open for diver exploration.

If you were not able to be with us on this trip you missed some good diving, lots of good food and friendship. We had a very good time.

### Sunset Waters in Curacao

Time is up for joining us on this years trip to Sunset Waters. We have a full crew going and we are going to have the time of our lives. This will be the largest group we have taken to Curacao. We are planning on many extra

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

certifications from Open Water to Rescue and even a specialty or two. Check out the May newsletter for a trip report of the fun, sun, sand and water activities.

### Calendar

Check it out for upcoming diving and training opportunities just right for you.

Date	Activity
Mar 2, 2008	PADI Open Water Module 1
Mar 14, 2008	Roatan Picture Party
Mar 16, 2008	PADI Rescue Diver pool 1
Mar 17, 2008	Happy St. Patrick Day
Mar 24, 2008	Scuba Challenge - Bag blow & reel
Mar 24, 2008	Pool Play
Mar 30, 2008	PADI Rescue Diver pool 2
March 28 - 30, 2008	Beneath The Sea
Apr 5, 2008	Curacao Pre-Trip party
Apr 5, 2008	PADI Enriched Air Specialty Course
Apr 6, 2008	PADI Rescue Diver pool 3
April 12 – 19, 2008	Sunset Waters, Curacao

### Store Hours

Monday – Friday Noon until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Closed