

BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME TO OUR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

We are continuing to make adjustments to our newsletter format. Please be patient with us as we “get the kinks out”.

Did you notice the size of the file for the newsletter last month? Can we say **HUGE!!** Some of you undoubtedly had a problem downloading it or even having it arrive in your mailbox. I'll be more aware of the quantity and size of pictures I place in the newsletter from here on out. (Besides, it took 2 days of constant sending to get it out.)

Well, we are off to a busy year already. Did you see that Derek P. ran away from the competition in the buoyancy challenge last month! This month's challenge is to try a drysuit! Checkout the Scuba Challenge section of the newsletter for all the details.

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

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Scuba Challenge

On Sunday, January 13th Blue Ocean Divers held our buoyancy Scuba Challenge. Derek Packer was the winner of a new set of Sling Shot fins. Our next challenge will be Monday, February 11th from 7 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. starting at Blue Ocean Divers and then to the Binghamton YMCA pool for a Drysuit Challenge. This challenge will be in a basic skill associated with drysuit use. Sign-up today and learn about the benefits of diving in a drysuit! Win the challenge and walk away with a new pair of Henderson 5 mm Hyerstretch gloves and hood. (hood can be bibbed or non-bibed) We will need to know your height, weight and shoe size. You will need to **bring** a long sleeve sweatshirt, sweatpants and 3 pairs of heavy socks.



Pool Play

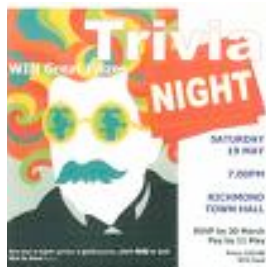
Not quite sure about a drysuit? Feeling the urge to submerge? Not o worry, Blue Ocean Divers can get you wet and have you blowing bubbles! In conjunction with the Scuba Challenge you can signup for our pool play that will be held at the same time in the Binghamton YMCA pool as the Scuba Challenge. Stop 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

This month's most memorable dive is from a new Seal Team Diver who is VERY excited about her 10th birthday next year so she can become a PADI Open Water Diver. Here is Skylar Groover's most memorable dive and favorite dive buddy.

My Grandpa has a gray beard and hairy arms. He likes to scuba dive and snorkel. He always works a lot. I love my grandpa. I am happy for him. I think he is special. My grandpa always says, "we are going to Curacao". He says, "I love you". He also says, "get back here, I have something for you". We dive and snorkel in different places. He works as a sheet metal maker. I am happy for him because he has a great family. He is special because he is a grandpa, an uncle and a dad. He always gives me something like a wetsuit, my mom's safe, my college fund and a lot of other things.

Trivia Contest



Last month I made a little mistake and in my effort to update the Newsletter format I failed to pick a trivia winner. So I'll make up for it this month by picking a winner for December and January. So here we go...

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 for December is...**Amanda Mittan** and for January it is **Dale Barrows**. So Amanda and Dale, come on in to Blue Ocean Divers and pick up your tee-shirt.

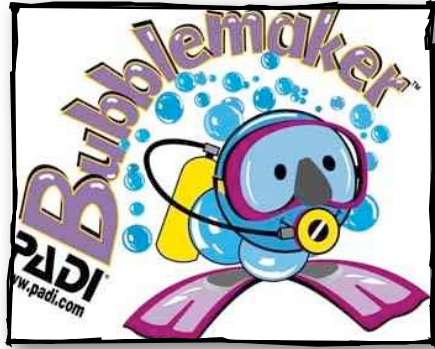
How can you win a Blue Ocean Divers tee-shirt? Go to our website and answer the 2 Trivia questions. Upon submittal you will be told if you found the correct answers to the questions. Your chances in the drawing will be based on the number of questions you answered correctly. If you answer both questions 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.

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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.

Specials

Do you need a Fleece?

Get a Blue Ocean Divers' fleece to keep you warm and comfortable as the temperatures drop. Elegantly show that you are a diver with this very comfortable pull-over fleece. While supplies last they are 25% off.

Hey guys, how about a new swimsuit?

Are you tired of that same old swim suit? Is it getting a little thin in the back? Blue Ocean Divers to the rescue. Grab a suit while they last for only \$15.95. A deal at twice the price!

Nitrox Certification

Are you coming to Curacao with us? With Nitrox offered free for the week, Blue Ocean Divers is offering PADI Nitrox certification for free. You just have to buy the training supplies. That's a \$100 savings. What are you waiting for?

The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

Happy Holiday! For those of you miffed by my greeting, February 2nd is Ground Hog Day. If Phil, doesn't see his shadow it's only six weeks away from Spring and the 2008 dive season. While we are waiting for Phil's Phorecast, let's talk.

Several weeks ago a friend, non diver, and I were returning from a sportsman show. We were remarking about the expense of equipment these days and he asked if diving was expensive. I thought for a minute before I answered. Before anyone can dive there is a cost associated with certification. After certification there is additional expense involved to pursue the sport. Equipment and exposure suit, either rented or purchased. Location, be it local or exotic, you have to get there. Souvenirs? Maybe a T shirt, perhaps some pictures, video or stills. We all want something to add to the memory. If you were to price out all of the above you could make an argument that diving is expensive. Now lets compare it with other activities.

There is no certification required for fishing, golf, snow skiing or boating. Although for the last one there should be. Anyone who has witnessed some of the antics by jerks on jet skis or bozos in boats will support my position. Hunting in most states require a safety training certificate before one can purchase a license. Ah.. the purchase of a license.

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My Pennsylvania non resident license starts at \$101.00 and is good for one year. My resident New York License is around half of that and again is good for one year. SCUBA certification is good FOREVER. It would take just a few years to recover that expense. My gun cabinet is moderately stocked. The cost of just two pieces would buy me a B/C and a regulator. I have a closet full of hunting apparel. I can tell you the price of a good hunting parka would be in line with most wet suits. Boots are more expensive than fins, and the best mask would be less than half the cost of a pair of binoculars. Fishing is no bargain either. My Dad paid less than a dollar for his favorite lure. The last one I bought was four times that much and I have boxes of them. Unfortunately with my skills they don't last as long as a tank of NITROX. Golfers, have you priced a set of clubs lately? How about greens fees? If you are a weekend boater I don't have to go on about the price of a gallon of gas at the marina. Starting to get the picture?

As a diver you share the expense with the whole family. Mom, Dad, the kids and even Grandma and Grandpa can participate on equal footing. (Or should I say finning.) In the grand scheme of thing diving is an affordable and enjoyable past time. The staff at Blue Ocean Divers can take you, your friends and family from surface dwellers to a diving devotee, and at less than you might think. Stop in and See Mike and Patti and I will see you on the bottom.

Never dive over your head

"The Unknown Diver"

New from On-line - SeaLife announcement

In an ongoing commitment to the highest level of quality, SeaLife would like to announce an important technical update for the SL961 - Digital Pro Flash, which commenced shipping in December 2007.

It has been recognized by our Quality Control Department that the coiled sleeve which covers the cable inside the waterproof door can cause stress and possible damage to the cable connection. Repeated opening and closing of the door may weaken and break this cable. If the cable does break, the flash will still fire but the flash power adjustment function would not work.

In order to eliminate this possible breakage, we have removed the wrap from production. Attached you will find a technical update that will also be available on our website at, www.sealife-cameras.com, that gives simple instructions on how and what to remove.

Product shipped from SeaLife as of January 21, 2008, will have been updated and can be identified by a red dot sticker on the outside of the packaging. We will continue to identify these updated items with these dots until February 15, 2008.

This information will also apply to any set that contains the SL961 Digital Pro Flash:

SL168 - DC600 Elite (shipped from SeaLife commencing December 10, 2007)

SL169 - DC600 Maxx Kit (shipped from SeaLife commencing December 10, 2007)

SeaLife apologizes for the inconvenience this has caused and if you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact SeaLife at 856 866-9191.

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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 Coconut Palm is a small resort with 400 feet of sandy beach front on the Atlantic 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 17th through the 23rd. 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

Our trip to Roatan as seen in "The Worlds Best Diving & Resorts" issue of Sport Diver is ready to get on the nonstop plane and go! We are going to leave this wonderfully cold winter weather for the warm, sandy, sunny beach of Fantasy Island Dive resort. With three boat dives a day and unlimited shore diving. It's a tough life but someone has to do it.

We'll have a trip report, pictures and videos to share with all that couldn't make the trip. Maybe this trip will have someone's most memorable dive!

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Sunset Waters in Curacao

Time is quickly running out for you to join us for a grand time here at Sunset Waters in Curacao! This trip is booking beyond all expectations. We will be in Curacao at Sunset Waters from April 12th through the 19th. The only reasonable airfare was with Air Jamaica out of Philadelphia. This year's trip will be a \$2,200 per person double occupancy diver.

This trip includes airfare from Philadelphia to Curacao and return, eight days, seven nights with six days of two tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving. As part of the special package we will be getting all of our Nitrox for free. Not Nitrox certified, no worries. Sign up for this trip and earn your PADI EAN certification for the cost of the training materials. That's a \$100 saving to YOU!

Meals and all standard beverages are included. Of course the use of all non-motorized beach toys are there for your pleasure.

This trip is priced at \$2,200 double diver and \$1975 non-diver. We have added room for 29 folks and all are filled BUT I can get more if you want to join the group and enjoy this wonderful dive destination.

Calendar

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

Date	Activity
Feb 2, 2008	DAN Oxygen Provider training
Feb 2, 2008	Ground Hog Day
Feb 3, 2008	PADI Open Water Module 2
Feb 11, 2008	Pool Play
Feb 11, 2008	Dry Suit Demo/Challenge
Feb 12, 2008	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 14, 2008	Valentine's Day - Don't forget your sweetie
February 16 – 23, 2008	Fantasy Island, Roatan
Mar 2, 2008	PADI Open Water Module 1
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