

# BLUE OCEAN DIVERS

## NEWSLETTER

<b>We are Expanding Training Offerings</b> <i>Expand/Refine your skills with Specialty courses</i> <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b>Cool PodCasts</b> <i>Want to have HD video delivered to your computer once a month?</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 OUR JANUARY NEWSLETTER

I don't know about you but I'm not going to let all the sensational negative press get me down. Every time I look into the details of some key indicator going south 50%, it turns out that the indicator went from 2% to 3%. That means we are still 97% positive! Spin it and spin it to sell the news.

Yes we can't keep doing things the way our parents did, technology moves us forward. Look at all of the self paced on-line training opportunities. College classrooms are changing and guess what, so is the PADI diver training opportunities. Have you seen the PADI e-learning opportunities? You can do your Open Water and Advanced Open Water academic learning at 2 a.m. if that is what works for when you utilize the PADI e-learning option. How great is that! Learning on-demand, on your schedule! So what are you waiting for, do your e-learning and come dive with Blue Ocean Divers.

Happy Diving,

Mach10 Mike

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### News from the Dive Center

#### D.A.N. Holiday Basket Raffle

If you haven't been to the website lately you wouldn't have seen that Rebecca R. was the lucky person to win the DAN Holiday Basket. Congratulations to Rebecca and thank you to all that entered.

#### Really good PodCast

Have you joined the growing group of PodCast'ers yet? Do you like watching short videos of you favorite pastime - scuba diving? Go to iTunes and subscribe to DiveFilm HD Video. This is a free podcast with lots of BEAUTIFUL underwater footage. After watching a couple of these short videos I realized just how little I've seen underwater.

Not into the iTunes thing?? Go to [http://divefilm.com/dive\\_films/indexbd12.html#](http://divefilm.com/dive_films/indexbd12.html#) and you can download the videos in various formats to match your internet connection speed. Check it out! You will be amazed!

#### Come and Learn about Truk Lagoon

Join Tom R. & Kurt H. at Gander Mountain Lodge Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. and learn about the dive trip of a life time! Tom & Kurt will have pictures, videos and lots of stories about their trip to the World War II wrecks of Truk Lagoon. The interactive discussion is planned to inform you about Operation Hailstone which occurred February 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 1944 and show case the unbelievable diving that can be had there.

An RSVP to Blue Ocean Divers is requested as the Gander Mountain Lodge can only accommodate 50 folks.

#### Scuba Challenge

Now that all of the excitement of the holidays are over and we find winter settling in... are you ready to get wet? Our Scuba Challenge is back! We are going to keep the first challenge simple - WATER GAMES! Can you toss a frisbee underwater? How many golf balls can you juggle underwater? Plan now to join us at the West Family YMCA from 8:30 p.m. until 10 and pay games in the pool.

Sign-up includes all the fun at the pool and a tank of air. Need gear? No worries Blue Ocean Divers can rent you the gear for the night. Stop in today and sign-up today!

#### Trivia Contest



Everyone needs mask defog. So starting this month, if you are the Trivia winner you get your choice of 1 bottle of in stock mask defog.

Looks like making the questions easier worked. Everyone that submitted an entry got both questions correct. We still are having a few good entries come through without a name or eMail address. Don't forget to fill in your name, we can't pull your name out of the old dive hood if you don't include it!

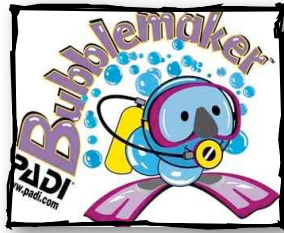
Well, the names are in the old dive hood and the name is... Paul Cushing. So Paul, come on in to Blue Ocean Divers and a bottle mask defog.

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.

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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 many 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

#### Specialty of the Month

Want to keep your dive skills current? Do you want to learn more about our wonderful sport to better enjoy it? Blue Ocean Divers is taking a page from PADI and will be offering a Specialty of the month this year. We will do our best to match the PADI specialty each month. We will have to make minor concessions for our very “dive friendly” weather here in the northeast.

Our January Specialty will be Equipment Specialty. Plan now to join us on January 17th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and learn in detail how your dive equipment works. We will also cover save-a-dive kit contents, common tools every diver should have and some basis you can apply to save your weekend dive.

#### PADI Open Water Diver

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 February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our December/January class is running and the February class is filling. Enroll them today in our PADI Open Water diver course starting Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> before it is completely filled.

#### We are Expanding our Training Program

This winter we will be having a Scuba Challenge that will introduce you to the **DARK SIDE** or Technical diving. We will have sets of doubles and rebreathers for you to try. This is a future Scuba Challenge so stay tuned for the dates and details.

We are also launching some basic Technical Diving classes where you can see what Technical diving is all about and if it is for you. We will be offering 3 Technical courses, each builds on the predecessor.

**Intro to Tech:** Here you will further refine your recreation skills by doing multiple skills simultaneously. This is a 2 day course that any Advanced Open Water Diver will benefit from. The course starts with a classroom component covering Physics, Equipment considerations, Dive planning and procedures. You will do 3 dives with the instructor. These dives will have you practicing the Open Water skills you have already learned but doing 2 of them simultaneously. In addition you will be introduced to the proper way to deploy a Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) from depth and you will learn new kicking techniques. This course is conducted at depths not to exceed 75 feet on any of the 3 dives. You must be an Advanced Open Water to participate in the course.

**Advanced Nitrox:** This class takes your PADI Enriched Air certification to 100% oxygen. This course will introduce you to the benefits of higher than recreation EAN when decompression diving. This course may be combined with Decompression Procedures. You need to be a basic Nitrox diver or have your PADI Enriched Air certification. You will also need to have access to a pony bottle or side-mount (these can be rented).

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**Decompression Procedures:** Here you will learn the theory, methods and procedures for staged decompression diving. With this course you will extend your maximum depth from the recreational limit of 130 feet to 150 feet. The course will cover the risks and hazards of diving to these depths along with the equipment necessary to minimize those risks. This course has a classroom component and when combined with Advanced Nitrox, 6 dives of progressive depth not to exceed 150 feet will be conducted with your instructor.

Intro to Tech is a great course to help you take your recreational dive skills to the next level. Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures are not for everyone. But if you are starting to think, "been there seen that" maybe these courses are an opportunity for you to recharge your drive to dive.

## The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

Ol' Tug has had a year to remember and he is taking a break this month. I know he is keeping his buddies close, and sharing some incredible adventures of the past and planning even greater adventures for the future. That being said, he wishes everyone a Happy and Safe New Year.

Never Dive Over Your Head

"The Unknown Diver"

## Travel

### St. Lawrence River



The trips to the "River" for 2008 are over. Did you explore the local historical diving the St. Lawrence River has to offer? Did you grow your dive skills by earning your PADI AOW while diving in the "River"? We were able to introduce many of you to the natural wonders and relaxation the St. Lawrence River has to offer. If you missed the fun we shared in 2008, plan now to join us in 2009.

Our trips in 2009 will be with Abucs Scuba doing three boat dives on Saturday, two boat dives on Sunday, lunch on Saturday and lodging Saturday night. You will be responsible for providing all of your own dive equipment including weights and three tanks. We will get air fills in Canada for Sunday. 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. Watch the calendar for the dates and mark your calendar NOW so you don't miss a minute of the fun! The best fresh water dive destination in the USA is the St. Lawrence River, right here in our own backyard! Come and dive the St. Lawrence River.

### Links to St. Lawrence Dive Site Information

Gas prices are coming down. Are you thinking about getting back on the road and diving local dive sites 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! Do you want to know more about the dive sites we dive every summer? Check out <http://www.saveontarioshipwrecks.on.ca/News/Shipwreck%20articles.html> and see what there is to explore in the St. Lawrence River! Watch our calendar for our next trip will with ABUCS Scuba in Brockville Canada.

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### Warm-water Dive Trips

#### Sunset Waters in Curacao

If you missed out on our 2008 Sunset Waters, Curacao and you didn't sign up for our February 2009 trip; you missed out again. We finalized the trip and are now planning the before trip party! Stay tuned to hear all about this very family oriented trip. We have at least 3 families on this trip with 3 generations in attendance.

#### AquaCat Live-Aboard

##### All spots sold!

We dive the Bahama waters of the Exumas from May 2<sup>nd</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 aboard the Aqua Cat liveaboard. The Aqua Cat is a 102' catamaran making this boat very calm and stable.

The Aqua Cat offers a leisurely liveaboard scuba diving and snorkeling adventure cruising from Nassau, Bahamas to the remote islands of the Exumas, and especially the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, the most pristine area in all the Bahamas. Imagine sinking your toes into sugar sand, diving among the lemon sharks and sting rays, or hiking the trails of pirates and bootleggers of years gone by. No crowds, no set itineraries, nothing to do but sit back, relax and choose from an incredible variety of liveaboard activities including scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, fishing, sunbathing, and island exploring. Photographers will find underwater life in the Exumas some of the most prolific and varied of any coral reef in the world. Aqua Cat enables you to scuba dive remote walls, wrecks, and coral reefs with sharks.

Our Aqua Cat adventure will include painted walls, friendly grouper, thrilling shark encounters, drift dives and mysterious blue holes. We won't miss out on the shark feed dive usually offered during our scuba diving liveaboard adventure vacation. You will experience truly virgin diving in the Exumas. For over 30 years, much of the northern Exumas has been a National Underwater Park. The park contains miles and miles of undersea gardens and reefs perfect for snorkeling with gin clear waters and lots of fish.

#### August Trip

We are moving our August trip to the first week of the month. We are going... but where. We looking hard at destinations in Mexico, Honduras and the Virgin Islands for this trip.

#### Calendar

Date	Activity
January 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Happy New Year! Blue Ocean Divers will be closed</b>
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Dive Master class starts
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Scuba Challenge - Games at the West Family YMCA
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	PADI Equipment Specialty 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Truk Chat
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	PADI Open Water Diver
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Emergency First Response
February 14 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sunset Waters, Curacao (Full)
May 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	AquaCat Live-aboard, Bahamas (Full)
August 1 <sup>st</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Not Florida - Watch this space!!!

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### Store Hours

Monday – Friday Noon until 8:00 p.m.

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

Sunday Closed