

# 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>Pool Play</b> <i>Been dry and out of the water too long?</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 February

Do you know why February has so few days? Because it's the coldest month all year. Or so it seems. Do you have cabin fever yet? Are you ready to jump in the water and blow some bubbles? We have another fun night in the pool schedule for February 16<sup>th</sup>. Come on in and signup!

We know you want to make sure your dive gear is in tip top shape for the start of the 2010 dive season. Maybe you're getting ready for a Caribbean dive trip and you can't remember the last time your gear was serviced. Blue Ocean Divers to the rescue! Bring your gear in for service before March 1<sup>st</sup> and receive 10% off any new equipment purchased before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blue Ocean Divers want to find ways to provide the best support to you, the diver. We're going to ask everyone to participate in a 4 question survey this month. It will be a web based survey and only 4 questions. Please take this brief survey so we can better understand your diving needs.

Our Trip to Bonaire is almost filled. We have 2 slots left. Come and share the fun of this unhurried island where diving is the number 1 thing to do!

Keep thinking warm thoughts and the dive season will be here before you know it!

Mach10 Mike

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### News from the Dive Center

#### January Certifications

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

PADI Enriched Air Diver

James V.

PADI Advanced Open Water

John A.

PADI Equipment Specialty

Skylar G., Mike B., Guy R., Mike N. & Steve C.

Congratulations to one and all.

#### Pool Play Day

Are you already missing the sound of your breath underwater? When was the last time you practiced an air share skill? Plan now to come to Blue Ocean Divers Pool play day February 16<sup>th</sup>. Ten dollars will get you a tank and weights and an hour in the pool to blow all the bubbles you can.

Need more than just tanks and weights? You can rent a BCD and regulator for an additional \$10. We will have toys in the pool for your enjoyment along with staff to answer any dive related question on your mind. Please sign up in advance to ensure we have all the equipment needed at the pool.

#### The Unknown Diver

Hello Divers,

Before I go on let me set the record straight on Mike's comment about my deer season. Both deer were legally shot and tagged. That being said, I would not have chose to shoot two that late in the day and so far away from the truck. The details would best be shared around the water cooler. Now I will move on.

A few weeks ago I ran into an old friend. As we were catching up on the last twenty-five years he informed me that he and his son were both Karate instructors and had several schools in the area. Both hold advanced degrees of black belt or whatever Karate gurus do. His son has the higher rating and certified "Old Dad" in one of the courses. I guess Junior was pretty tough on the old guy. Pop commented to his son he should consider their relationship and his advanced age and cut him some slack. The son looked his dad in the eye and said "There are standards to be met and everybody is expected to meet them". What a great response. Our sport is much the same. PADI has set requirements to meet various certifications and ALL of us have to meet them. Diving instructor should not be Drill Sergeants but they do need to assure students meet all standards and requirements. Any relationship between student and instructor ceases when they gear up for a dive or take a written test. Anything less than competently learning to dive may put the student and future dive buddies at risk. As I have covered in this space in the past there are no skills in PADI criteria just for something to do take up pool time or round out the day at Dutch Springs. Ok, end of my pontification.

Have you heard this one ? Two fisherman were watching a group of Divers on Seneca Lake. Bubba asked Cooter, "Why do SCUBA Divers always fall backwards off their boats?" To which Cooter replies, "You moron, If they fell off forward they would still be in the boat!"

Never Dive Over Your Head.  
"The Unknown Diver"

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### 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 Pete Damico. So Pete, 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 February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Not sure if diving is for you? Join us for a Discover Scuba February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Want to be able to help a distressed diver? Enroll in DAN Oxygen provider class. Been there done that? How about DAN's Advanced Oxygen Provider class? Or how about Emergency First Responder (EFR) and AED training?

Or how about DAN's DEMO program scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>. A combination of courses from DAN covering; Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Divers, Advanced Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Divers, First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for Scuba Divers.

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

Finally, don't forget our Nitrox on-line offering all month long.

### On-Line EAN Special ends this month

We'll make this as simple as possible. Sign-up and complete the PADI on-line training for Enriched Air and come to Blue Ocean Divers to complete the certification any Saturday this month. No open water dives required.

Dive more with less nitrogen loading and experience a post dive feeling only the young can attest to. Nitrox will not make you a safer diver, just a diver able to dive longer and more often than a diver diving on straight air.

Please make sure and schedule an appointment to complete your certification so we can provide adequate staff for those attending each Saturday.

### PADI Discover Scuba

Do you have a friend who likes to hear all about your adventures under the sea? Are they a little hesitant to take the plunge? Enroll them now in our Discover Scuba experience on February 16<sup>th</sup>. All they need is a swimsuit and a towel. Blue Ocean Divers will provide everything else. Please stop by the dive center and enroll to make sure we have sufficient gear and staff there for everyone.

### 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 February 28<sup>th</sup>.

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### DAN DEMP Course

It is a rare event when a dive emergency is a single event. More often than not, separate small problems compound to create a larger problem.

Divers interested in understanding first aid care for dive emergencies can now take the Diving Emergency Management Provider course from Blue Ocean Divers. This single program integrates the knowledge and skills from several DAN Training Programs into a single eight-hour day.

The Diving Emergency Management Provider course includes:

- Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries
- First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life Injuries
- Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) for Scuba Diving

The knowledge and skills from the DAN Advanced Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries module are covered with Blue Ocean Divers even though DAN lists them as optional in this program.

After reviewing the skills and knowledge development portions of this program, the students then participate in an integrated scenario where they get the opportunity to bring together all the skills they learned in each of the segments into a single scenario.

### Travel

#### Bonaire at Easter

Blue Ocean Divers has 2 spots left of the 16 spots we reserved at Buddy Dive Resort in Bonaire. Plan now to join us and spend Easter 2010 (April 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>) in Bonaire at Buddy Dive Resort. This unhurried, unspoiled natural paradise offering spectacular sunsets, gentle breezes and crystal clear, turquoise waters. Buddy's is a resort where you can DIVE DIVE DIVE, take part in a multitude of activities or just sit back, relax and enjoy the atmosphere.

- This trip is loaded with extras.
- 8 days 7 nights double occupancy lodging in one bedroom apt
- 6 boat dives
- Unlimited shore diving
- Free Nitrox for EAN certified divers
- 7 days rental vehicle (double cabin pick-up truck or van)
- American style breakfast buffet daily
- Lunch Al a Cart from menu
- Welcome drink
- Manager's Rum Punch Party
- Airport transfers
- Airfare is not included

You can enjoy this wonderful trip for only \$1,225 plus airfare.

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### Planning for a Summer of Local Diving

#### The wreck of the *Lillie Parsons* on the St. Lawrence River

The *Lillie Parsons* is a favorite wreck in the Morristown, NY area. Downstream from Alexandria Bay and just west of Brockville, Ontario, lying on the North side of Sparrow Island in Canadian waters. She lies in 60 to 80 feet of water with a moderate current of 2-3 knots. The current can vary widely, depending on the amount of water going through the Hydroelectric dam at Massena. Boat traffic must be a consideration as she lies in the channel. It's unlikely that a freighter will pass directly overhead, but small boat traffic can be frequent and unpredictable.



The *Lillie Parsons* was a fore and aft cabin, two masted centerboard schooner, 131 feet long with a 26 foot beam. Launched on September 14, 1868 by Parsons and Humboldt of Tonawanda, NY (Buffalo, NY), she was named after Parson's young daughter. She held a number of speed records including the fastest round trip between Oswego and Chicago of 25 days and Milwaukee to Oswego in just 7 days.



She lived a fast, furious and short life of only 9 years, when she found her final resting place during a storm on August 5, 1877. The captain was not intimidated by the brewing storm and subsequent squall as he made his way towards Brockville with his load of coal. A sudden blow put her over on her beam ends, causing her cargo of coal to dangerously shift. She then struck a rock and began to take on water and drifted onto a 18 foot shoal just off the north corner of Sparrow Island. Fortunately there was no loss of life. Salvage was considered, but within a few weeks, she was washed

from the shoal and settled upside down on the north side of Sparrow Island. An anchor and chain placed by Save Ontario Shipwrecks (S.O.S.) on Sparrow Island attached to her stern. The bow is pointed downstream.

As with most wrecks there are at least a couple of ways to dive it. One is by land, two is by drift. If you choose to drift dive it, don't dally too long on the wreck itself or you won't have enough air to complete the drift.

### Diving a WWII Submarine in New England

U-853 is the last German submarine sunk in World War II, being sunk on May 6, 1945. This wreck is remarkable for several reasons.

All submarines in the Kriegsmarine had been ordered to cease offensive operations and return to their bases the previous day by the German Commander in Chief of Submarines (Befehlshaber der Untersee) Karl Dönitz. It has been subject of debate whether U-853 did not receive these orders, or whether 24 year old Captain Helmut Frömsdorf simply chose to disregard the orders.



Regardless of the reason, U-853 torpedoed the collier SS Black Point off Point Judith, Rhode Island the evening of May 5, 1945. One of the rescuing ships, the SS Kamen sent a report of the torpedoing, which was picked up by several United States Navy and Coast Guard vessels, including USS John D. Ericsson (DD-440), USS Amick (DE-168), USS Atherton (DE-169) and USS Moberly (PF-63).

Shortly after being dispatched, these ships discovered U-853 in 18 fathoms (approximately 140 feet) of water, and began a relentless assault on the U-boat, dropping more than 100 depth charges and several hedgehog spreads throughout the night. The assault continued through the morning of May 6, 1945, reinforced by two Naval blimps from Lakehurst, New Jersey, K-16 and K-58, the former adding rocket bombs to the usual antisubmarine arsenal of depth charges and hedgehogs.

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U-853 was deemed sunk when various debris, including planking, life rafts, clothing, an officer's cap, and a large amount of oil floated to the surface. All 55 men aboard were killed in the sinking

The Coast Guard and the Navy did a thorough job of destroying U-853. Enough damage was done to sink the sub several times over, with two blast holes in the pressure hull that are the width of the ship. The first hole is immediately forward of the conning tower; the second is near the stern. Both blast holes are large enough for a diver to drop down into and have a look around, but further penetration into the ship is dangerous and requires special training in wreck penetration techniques.

The sub lies largely intact and upright on the bottom, in 130 feet of water. The sixty plus years U-853 has spent on the bottom are beginning to take their toll; part of the bow of the sub collapsed over the winter of 2003-2004, and the majority of the pressure hull has eroded, leaving the ribs of the ship visible.



This is a fairly large wreck, being 251 feet long by 23 feet wide. It takes several dives to familiarize yourself fully with this wreck. Aside from the blast holes previously mentioned, some of the highlights of the wreck include the aft torpedo loading tube, the largely intact rudder all the way to the stern, and dropping down in front of the bow to appreciate the size of the wreck.

Because of the depth of this dive, it is recommended that all divers carry a redundant air supply when diving U-853.

BE AWARE that this site is a war grave, and is recognized as such by the governments of both The United States and Germany. There are still human remains on board the ship, and they should be treated with respect. Removal or disturbance of any human remains from the ship is a felony.

## Calendar

Date	Activity
Every Saturday in February	Nitrox Certification completion class
February 2	Ground Hog Day (Lets hope for a cloudy day!!)
February 5	PADI Open Water class starts at the Oneonta YMCA
February 6	DAN DEMP Class
February 14	Valentines Day - Don't forget your sweetie! How about a trip to Bonaire?
February 16	Discover Scuba
February 16	Pool Play
February 20	Emergency First Responder
February 28	PADI Open Water class starts
March 27 & 28	Beneath The Sea - Meadowlands, Secaucus, NJ
April 3 - 10	Buddy Dive Resort, Bonaire
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