



SCUBA NEWS

GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER, INC.

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PADI 5 STAR INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER

GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER CONTINUES TO PUT YOUR SAFETY FIRST!

Spring of 1999 we added a tool to our repair department that helps us in our visual tank inspection. This tool is called an eddy current machine and it aids in the inspection of the threads in the neck area of a cylinder. There has been some controversy as to why dive stores require this inspection on tanks that may not need it. I would like to take the time to elaborate just a little, and then you can decide if you think it is necessary. Over the years scuba tanks have been made from different metals. The first tanks I know of were made of steel. A strong material that does not fatigue easily but is susceptible to corrosion. When we inspect steel tanks, a major concern is the level of corrosion and the depth of the pitting corrosion causes. As technology progressed we found tanks made out of aluminum. Up until 1988 tanks were mainly made of the aluminum alloy – 6351. The number designates the content on the alloy, primarily aluminum. According to Department of Transportation records, there have been 17 reported explosions of these tanks with almost all occurring at the time the tank was being filled. Most were due to what is referred to as “sustained loading cracks” in the neck area. Cracks begin in the crown area and over time work their way up through the threads. As “sustained load” indicates, storing a cylinder under full pressure aggravates this problem. From 1988 through today we see tanks made from the aluminum alloy – 6061. This is still aluminum, just a different mix in the composition. Because these tanks have not been around as long as the earlier tanks, we do not see “sustained loading cracks”. Whether they ever do appear in cylinders made from the 6061 alloy, only time will tell. Our philosophy at Great Lakes Divecenter is to maintain the highest degree of safety we can, not just for our staff, but for all our customers. In doing so we will continue to require visual eddy current testing on all aluminum cylinders we fill. Actually, cracks are not that uncommon. Most cracks do not cause explosions. If we can see a crack early in its development, we may have possibly stopped an explosion before it happens. To date, we have found 9 cylinders with cracks. Of those one is a text book example and there is no doubt in my mind that it would have been a statistic for the D.O.T. We now use the crown portion of this tank for demonstration when we conduct our Equipment Specialty course. During this course we will show you how our Visual Plus machine works. Now you tell me, is your safety worth us requiring eddy current testing on your tanks. Or how about the other customer’s tanks that are getting filled the same time you are in the store? For tips on equipment storing read the article our full time technician Bob wrote further on in this newsletter.



PREPARE YOUR TANK FOR 2001

We have noticed that some divers forget to look at the visual date and the hydro date on their tanks before having them filled. Especially the first dive in early spring. To aid you in having one less thing to check when your dive buddy calls to go diving, we are offering you a savings. The catch is you must act now. Well we’ll give you the entire first quarter of the year. That means this savings ends April 1st, no fooling! If you bring your tank in for either a visual or a hydro from January 1st through March 31st, 2001, we will give you \$5.00 off the cost of your visual or hydro. Then for the entire year you will not leave your dive buddy hanging because he had to wait for you to get your tank back. Remember a hydro includes: hydro testing, visual, neck thread eddy current testing on aluminum tanks, new burst disk, new o-ring, v.i.p. sticker and air fill.



JOIN THE GROWING RANKS of certified divers! Do it the easy way, with one of Michigan's finest PADI 5 STAR training centers...using the number one educational system in the world today!

JOIN US at Great Lakes Divecenter for an enjoyable, non-strenuous weekday or weekend class. This is scheduled for your convenience, and tailored to enter you into the **WORLD OF SCUBA!** Your course "**Part 1**" will allow you to complete your pool and classroom training here at our Training Facility. Your instructor will be friendly, highly

qualified and have years of experience training people to dive safely.

JOIN US AGAIN for your "**Part 2**". This consists of open water training dives. It may begin with a "refresher" pool session, if necessary, so you are totally at home in the open water environment.

BEFORE YOU JOIN US for Part 1, you will receive a student packet containing your books and *a reading and workbook assignment that must be completed prior to class. You will also be supplied with a set of video tapes you will need to view prior to attending the classroom portion of your course.* They will help reinforce the information that you've read from the manual, and also compliment the lectures in your classroom portion. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit secures your place in the class, and will have your student packet on the way to you. The remainder of your tuition is due ***prior to the first day of class.***

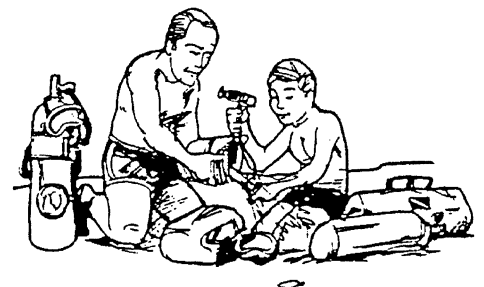
TOTAL COST \$389.00 INCLUDES:

- ★★ Books, set of instructional videos, dive table, log book, certification card and wall certificate.
- ★★ All instructional fees for pool and openwater dives.
- ★★ Rental gear for your first pool includes: mask, snorkel, fins, tank, jacket style B.C. with auto inflator, regulator with submersible pressure gauge, weight belt and weights, wet suit and wet suit boots. **All that is necessary for each student to have is a bathing suit and a towel!!!** After completing your first pool session in "Part 1", you will have the knowledge to correctly purchase your personal gear which will be needed for the remainder of your class and your open water dives. This consists of: mask, fins, snorkel & boots. All other equipment supplied for your pool sessions will again be supplied for your "Part 2". If we cannot fit you with a wetsuit from our rentals and you have to rent elsewhere, **we will give you a \$25 in-store credit** that can be used to **purchase your own scuba equipment!**

OPPORTUNITIES: After earning your PADI Open Water Diver Certification, you are welcome to join us in our constant program of diving activities. You will have the opportunity to explore shipwrecks in the Great Lakes, dive in the local area, or accompany us around the world for excellent diving. All this time you will be in the company of our professional staff, your classmates, or other divers like yourself from all over. During this time you will be experiencing some of the **most exciting times of your life!!**



ABOUT THE COURSE: The course is staffed by a team of instructors dedicated to diving education in a fun, safe, relaxing manner. To become part of this program you need to be at least 10 years of age, and in reasonably good health with a medical form filled out by your physician. There is a minimal swimming requirement...you simply must feel comfortable in the water. The classroom is used to review and better your understanding of what you have already learned from your student package (***the manual must be read, videos viewed and assignments completed prior to your first class session***). The format of the classroom is designed for your participation, and totally involves you in many aspects of diving. The pool is to help you relax and have fun in the water using scuba gear. With an instructor always at your side, we have plenty of time to cover all the skills, and gain proficiency in scuba techniques. The open water training dives are in local inland lakes, local quarries or in Florida. During the dives we will be practicing all scuba skills learned in the pool.

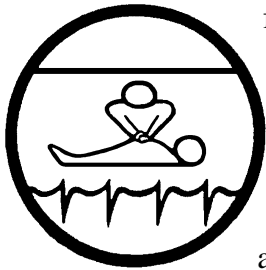


CALL US AT GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER (810) 254-7670

GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER HAS GONE TECHNICAL. It's become clear over the past few years that a small, but growing, group of divers want that 'on-the-edge adventure' technical diving offers. It's also evident, that these divers are looking for training via a professionally designed instructional system. The continued success of our Enriched Air -Nitrox Diver course has convinced us to expand our training programs to include TDI Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures courses. These courses cover the use of Enriched Air between 22% and 100% not only for diving beyond recreational limits (130ft) but also for use as decompression gases. Granted this type of diving is not everyone's cup of tea, but technical divers are active divers and dedicated to their recreation. We feel we can offer divers who want to venture beyond the conventional limits of recreational diving a place to receive the training they demand. We already have our new courses on the calendar as well as Nitrox courses every month so come in and sign up or just stop by if you have any questions.

In addition to the TDI courses, come January 2001 PADI will announce their TEC-REC program. This program will fit between the Technical Divers and the Recreational Divers. Hence the name TEC-REC. Some of our staff will be attending the dive industry's trade show DEMA and we will return with the most up to date information on training and equipment.

ANOTHER COURSE ON OUR CALENDAR...MEDIC FIRST AID. This course is for the diver and non-diver alike. *It is also a requirement for Rescue Diver.* Medic First Aid combines First Aid and CPR training. This life saving, *hands on training will benefit everyone.* A course where you should have the training in hopes you never have to use it. Medic First Aid was designed to 'fill the gap' we've had in our PADI continuing education program. When a diver wanted to reach the PADI Rescue Diver level, we had to ensure that they

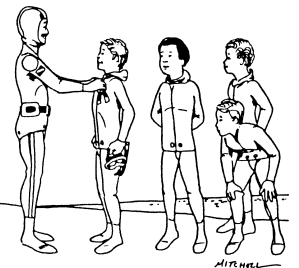


fulfill the required First Aid and CPR courses on their own. The Medic First Aid Certification does just that. This is an 8 hour course taught either in two 4 hour sessions or one 8 hour session. We have tried to make this available to everyone because of its importance. Medic First Aid is available through a PADI training facility and is *approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administration.* This course covers primary care, secondary surveys and treatment, according to JAMA standards (June 86) and teaches the average citizen to follow the same emergency first aid procedures and priorities used by paramedics and doctors, but at a lay person's level. *This course is recommended for you and all your family members.* Course dates and times can be found in our calendar of events. Reserve your spot today.

FOR THE PADI INSTRUCTOR AND ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR. We are also conducting Medic First Aid Instructor programs in conjunction with the Medic First Aid course. If you are current in you Medic First Aid certification, you may qualify for the instructor course. This will continue your education and enable you to teach Medic First Aid. As a MFA instructor, you can possibly canvass workplaces and introduce a MFA program. If you have any questions, feel free to call. Check our calendar for dates and times.

THE DIVEMASTER COURSE IS THE FIRST STEP IN DIVING LEADERSHIP.

Divemasters are very important members of the diving community and are extremely valuable to instructors. Divemasters are found in all facets of the dive industry from assisting instructors with training programs to organizing and leading dives in resort settings. During our Divemaster program, you will refine your diving skills and learn instructor level diving knowledge that is valuable when assisting with courses, and when you have the responsible role of organizing diving activities. During the pool and open water sessions of the divemaster program you will practice and sharpen your diving skills. Also, you will practice leading students and acting as an instructional assistant.



Our program also includes advanced training in equipment maintenance and techniques for minor "field" repairs. If you're certified as a Rescue Diver, have 20 logged dives and are 18 years of age, you could be on your way to becoming a PADI Divemaster.

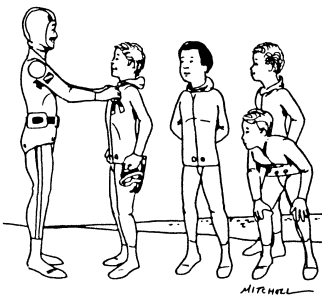
GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER HAS EXPANDED OUR CURRICULUM TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING.

PADI instructors are in great demand today and work in all facets of the diving industry. Many are employed full time at diving resorts, dive stores, or cruise ships throughout the world. Other instructors teach part time and enjoy the rewards of having a really enjoyable weekend job. If you really enjoy diving, you can turn your hobby into an exciting career. **Just think about entering the diving industry as a professional PADI scuba instructor.** It can open up a new world of opportunities for you. With your instructor certification, you will enjoy diving and travel opportunities that can make your life and the enjoyment of diving more exciting and fulfilling. PADI Divemasters and Assistant Instructors meeting the starting requirements may enter into the Instructor Development Course and then complete your training with the Instructor Evaluation. Upon passing, you will be awarded the esteemed PADI Open Water Instructor certification. **Now is the time to join the ranks of the professional diving educators.** Requirements for entering the Instructor Development Course: PADI Divemaster or Assistant Instructor certification, 18 years of age, 1 year since your beginning certification and 100 logged dive. CPR and First Aid or PADI Medic First Aid training within the last 2 years. Call for additional information, schedule and details.



IF YOU'RE NOT TOO SURE YOU WANT TO BE AN OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR,

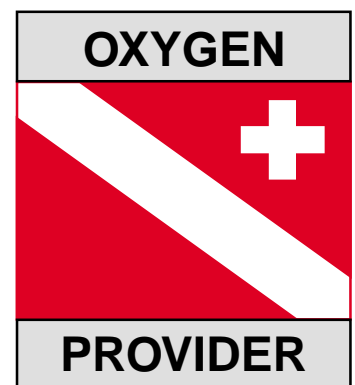
but would like to gain more knowledge and scratch the surface of the realm of teaching, then the PADI Assistant Instructor course is designed for you. This course provides PADI Divemasters, and those certified to leadership levels with other diver training organizations, with additional training as instructional assistant and dive educators. This course builds upon the divemaster's abilities to organize and supervise dive activities while concentrating on developing teaching skills. Through independent study, classroom sessions and practical application, candidates learn to construct effective teaching presentations and conduct PADI programs. With additional training, an Assistant Instructor can also teach the PADI Medic First Aid and Equipment Specialty courses



as well as the D.A.N. Oxygen Provider Course. This is a good way to decide when to further your training to PADI Open Water Instructor.

D.A.N. OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE IS ADDED TO OUR CURRICULUM.

You will now find the Oxygen Provider course on our calendar of events. This course has been structured by Divers Alert Network. It is designed to educate you to better recognize possible dive-related injuries and how to provide emergency oxygen first aid while activating the nearest emergency medical services and/or arranging for evacuation to the nearest available medical facility. The course content is for the novice as well as the diving professional alike and will introduce you to the fundamentals of dive accident recognition, response and management as well as increase your training and further your education. The minimum age requirement is 12 years old. CPR is also a requirement. This is why this course has been conveniently scheduled following the P.A.D.I. Medic First Aid Course. Contact us for more information or to sign up. Remember that with all classes we offer, space is limited.



BECOME A D.A.N. OXYGEN PROVIDER INSTRUCTOR. Similar to Medic First Aid for instructors, Great Lakes now is an instructor training facility for D.A.N. The Oxygen Provider Instructor Course is available not just for PADI Instructors and Assistant instructors, but for instructors from any nationally recognized training agency. This is also on our calendar or events. Check it for dates and times.

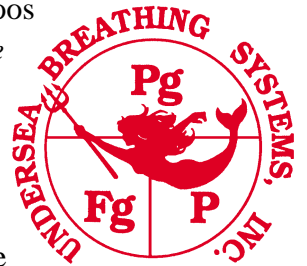


DRYSUIT DIVER: THE ART OF BEING WARM FOR ALL MICHIGAN DIVING!

Michigan diving is great, but to take full advantage of our natural resource, fresh water, and to extend our sometimes referred to as 'seasonal diving', you'll benefit with a drysuit. When the water chills, the algae dies along with the plant life. This just makes the visibility that much better. In your class you will develop your knowledge of drysuits and drysuit accessories. You'll learn maintenance and how to make minor repairs. You will get a chance to learn techniques, first in a controlled, pool environment. Then you go to open water to refine your skills. All this while you learn to plan, organize and conduct safe dives using a drysuit and have fun doing it! By the way, here at Great Lakes Divecenter, we feel that

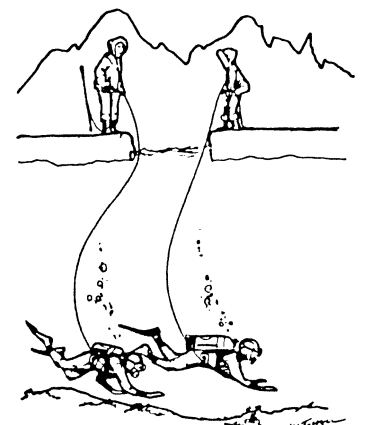
there are not 4 seasons, but 1 season. *That's the dive season!!*

TO GIVE YOU MORE TIME UNDERWATER...LOOK INTO NITROX! When we were looking to open our retail store, we said, "We will not do Nitrox!" At that time, the advocates of Nitrox were, what I considered the Yahoo divers, the cavers and the deep wreck divers. Then I attended a 5 day technical conference put on by the technical diving community. The majority of the speakers were not the yahoos I thought they were. *They were respected divers in the medical field. Most trained in the specialized area of Hyperbaric medicine. They were saying that air is not the breathing gas of choice for all dives.* Nitrox will not extend your depth. In fact, it makes you more aware of your depth and restricts you from going deeper than recommended. What it does do is give you more time underwater. So does a bigger tank, but Nitrox greatly reduces the chances of decompression sickness. Why did you take up diving? To see the beauty underwater. *Now you can see the whole feature presentation, not just the previews!*



With our course the only special equipment **you should have is an oxygen analyzer.** Your tanks do not have to be cleaned and dedicated. You do not have to have special regulators. *On site, we have a state of the art, Undersea Breathing Systems membrane filter.* We can determine what percent of oxygen is in the air we fill your tank with. Your tank or regulator is never exposed to 100% pure oxygen. This is a safer way for us to offer fills with Nitrox. If you have any question before you sign up for class, we will be more than happy to show you around. *We are proud of every aspect of our store, but the air/nitrox fill equipment is like our monolith.* See for yourself.

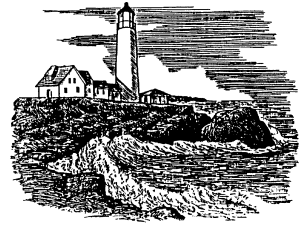
ICE DOESN'T JUST BELONG IN A GLASS! It's that time of year for the water outside to become hard. I think they call it ice. With that brings out the hardy divers who agree with us that **Michigan has only one season. That is the DIVING SEASON!** Our **Ice Diver Specialty** is scheduled for 3 days in February. One classroom session and 3 open water dives. During the classroom session here at our facility you will learn the techniques and procedures used while diving under the ice. Then, during the open water dives, you will experience the unusual clarity of the water due to the settling of the sediment. Included in the course is all the specialized equipment such as line, harnesses and hot chocolate. Also, tank use and airfills. The reason we include tanks and air is that a visual will be done on the tanks we will be using just prior to class to ensure that no water or moisture is in the tank. **Advanced Open Water certification is a prerequisite for this course.** To assure us that there will be suitable ice for diving, Jack cannot register until the day of class.



ALL PADI SPECIALTY COURSES ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE YOU A BETTER DIVER. By instruction, planning, organizing and practical applications you will gain experience and confidence to make your diving career more safe and enjoyable. We hope to see you in class soon.

COZUMEL IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3RD – 10TH, 2001. An island off the Yucatan Peninsula, Cozumel is an excellent dive destination, and with our dollar vs. pesos exchange, it is probably our best dollar value.. We are planning to stay at the Scuba Club Resort. This resort is located just south of San Miguel, the Capitol City of Cozumel. Not far from the famous Palancar Reef. Our trip includes: Return trip airfare, taxes, island transfer, 5 days of 2 tank dives, unlimited shore diving, and food! The only thing you will need money for is drinks, departure tax, wooden tom-toms and spears. If you are Nitrox certified there is also a minimum charge for nitrox fills. If you are adventurous, there will be plenty of time to go sight seeing. Imagine exploring ancient Mayan ruins like Chitzen-Itza, where the Mayans would do battle in a civilized fashion...in a game similar to today's football. At the end of the competition, only the losing captain would lose his head. If the NFL followed that practice, what would happen to the Detroit Lions or Charlie Batch? These ruins are also the location of a Pyramid style altar and the Mayan calendar. The history is very interesting and the diving is great! We are limited on space. Cost is \$1599 for darn near everything! Like I said the trip is FUN!

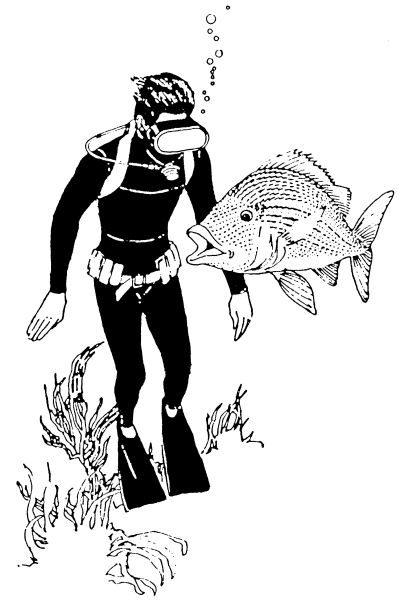
FOR A WEEKEND DIVE TRIP... THE DAWNLIGHT IS #1! Capt'n Ray and crewmate Scott run one of the best local live-aboards we've seen in the Great Lakes. We have had such a terrific time in the past with them, that we again booked 2 separate weekend trips for the summer 2001. Both trips are similar in itineraries with the first weekend, July 12th – 15th geared for the beginner diver as well as the seasoned diver. Our August 9th – 12th trip will be for the more seasoned diver. Both trips will include some of the most awesome wreck diving around the Tobermory area and in Georgian Bay. You may be diving the wrecks of the 'Wetmore', the 'King' and the new wreck the 'Niagara II'. Tobermory is the diving Mecca of the Great Lakes. Both trips extend their travel to the wreck 'Northwind'. This is a fantastic dive site just south of Manitoulin Island. Then you will continue to more dive sites along the Northern Passage. Each of these trips includes lodging, food and air fills. There is no better way to spend a dive weekend in Georgian Bay than to have Capt'n Ray chauffeur you to your destination while you sleep. Wake up to a meal prepared by Scott, whose is an excellent cook. Dive a great dive site and then get fed again! As you read this, we are taking reservations, and the trips are filling fast! A \$100 deposit will hold your spot. Don't wait or you'll be too late!



TO GIVE YOU A VARIETY OF LOCAL DIVE DESTINATIONS...We have again contracted Abyss Dive Charters for weekend dive packages. We have 3 separate weekends scheduled. Capt'n Dan moves his boat to different harbors to allow a change of scenery and different dive sites. Our 1st weekend with Capt'n Dan is July 27th – 29th in Whitefish. A great dive location in the Upper Peninsula. Or should I say 'Yoooper Peninsula'? Wreck dives there may include the 'SAGAMORE', the 'PANTHER', the 'VIENNA' and the 'MIZTEC'. These are great dives and will be impressive when they are logged in your logbook. Mackinaw is also on our Calendar with Abyss Charters. Like Dave Swanson says...September 7th – 9th will find us in the land of the 'Fudgies'. There our dives can include the 'SANDUSKY', the 'EBER WARD', the 'BARNUM' and the famous 'CEDARVILLE'. If both of these trips tempt your diving palate and you are drooling just reading this newsletter, we have a Whitefish/Mackinaw 4 day combination weekend scheduled for August 23rd – 26th. This is the last weekend The Abyss will be in Whitefish and Capt'n Dan moves his boat to Mackinaw for the remainder of the season. We have worked out this weekend for those who just don't get enough of the great wreck diving the Great Lakes has to offer! For all three of these dive weekends space is limited and will fill fast. I don't mean to repeat myself, but if you snooze, you stay home and cut the grass!

CAN YOU MAKE A DIVE AND NOT GET WET? We have reserved a day to take a group of 15 (maximum) divers to experience a controlled Hyperbaric (recompression) chamber dive under the direction of the well trained staff at the Great Lakes Institute of Hyperbaric Medicine in Kalamazoo, MI. The Institute is a division of Bronson Methodist Hospital. Our dive will not only be a learning experience, but will also be used to gather valuable data for the institute by the means of dexterity tests and a comprehension test. Not to worry, there will be no final exam! You will also be shown the effects of pressure on objects such as a piece of wet suit material, an inflated balloon at the surface and at depth, a ping pong ball, etc. We will be escorted to pressure depths greater than 100 feet. Divers are welcome to bring their own dive computers and log books. If time permits, we might tour the monochamber facility with Rod Albrecht, RRT, who is Director of Operations, and is quite knowledgeable on Hyperbaric medicine. He will also answer any questions you might have. Please bring your own cotton sweat suit or other comfortable clothing.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF is also on our travel calendar... We have dove with Mike Ball's operation out of Australia and found his operations to be excellent. He has added a new boat to his fleet operating out of the Milne Bay Province in Papua New Guinea. If you have never been on a live-aboard, this is the way to go. You will have a stateroom on a 100' long vessel that is 34' wide. It is a HUGE catamaran. Your meals are fit for a king and a king or queen is exactly how you are treated during your trip. The diving is outstanding! Not to give all the surprise away, but you may see rare blue ribbon eels, seahorse, flamboyant cuttlefish, ghost pipefish leaf scorpion fish, mantis shrimp and possibly a live nautilus! Not to mention the exceptional wall and reef diving with pristine coral and abundant fish life. I don't mean an occasional school of rainbow runners; we are talking about more fish than you can count. Wreck diving is there also and may include the B-17 Bomber "Blackjack", a P-38 Lightning or possibly the magnificent S'Jacob wreck. Since you have gone all that way, you may want to add on the Great Barrier Reef and feed the giant potato cod of Ribbon Reef. These Creatures are the largest fish I have ever seen that will come up and eat from the divemaster's hand. And the Mori-Wrasse are even more beautiful. These mammoth fish are the size of a Volkswagen and appear to bear the same tattoo patterns of the ancient Mori warriors. Like I said, we don't want to give away all the surprises, but this trip will be a trip of a lifetime! We will be meeting with Mike Ball in January so we will have the final details of our itinerary then. We have booked a small amount of spots, so if this trip interest you, call in and be put on our list to be the first to be called and have the first opportunity to join us.



BOB AND I HAD TO FINISH THIS NEWSLETTER ON OUR OWN...

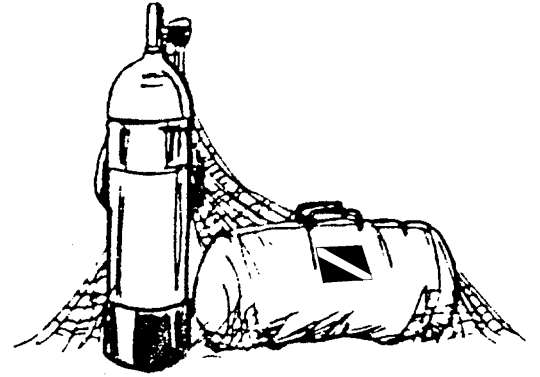
So while Pam and Dave are slaving away with our group of adventurous divers in the Caribbean we decided to have a sale. Pam and Dave don't know it yet, but we really went overboard this time and it's just in time for Christmas. We have put together a huge selection of items on sale that range from mask, fin and snorkel packages all the way to \$500 off a new DUI drysuit and underwear package. Our sale starts Sunday, November 19th and what the heck, let's surprise them when they get back and continue this sale through Sunday December 3rd. Remember to ask for me (Donna) or Bob (he's in on it too!) and we can hand you a flyer with our **"They're Out of The Country Specials!"** We have conveniently added a **Wish List** on page 9 of this newsletter for you to copy and distribute to your friends and family with the items you want to see under the tree. This will help stop the gifts of handkerchiefs and ties that you get from someone who doesn't know what to get you. Now you can fill in what you want, size and color and avoid the return lines after Christmas. But remember the **sale ends December 3rd!**

JUST A REMINDER ABOUT EQUIPMENT WARRANTIES. Most manufacturers warranty their regulators and octo's for life against manufacturer defect. Some even include parts for the first 2 years. But in order to maintain that warranty it is required that they be serviced every year within 30 days either way (before or after) the original purchase date. It is important that you hang on to those warranty cards and bring them in with you when you bring your regs in for service. Also remember that it normally takes about a week for service if we have the parts needed on hand. If we have to order a special part, it may take a little longer. We do however stock an enormous amount of spare parts. That's Bob's area. Sometimes we think it's his Mecca the way he takes care of our repair room. We are very proud of our service – repair department and we want you to know that we will do the best we can for your equipment. If you want a tour, next time you are in we will be happy to show you around. Don't be surprised if Bob has you genuflect before entering.

CALL US AT GREAT LAKES DIVECENTER (810) 254-7670

TIPS ON WINTER STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT

Proper care and maintenance of your equipment is essential in scuba diving. That's why knowing how to store it correctly is a must! Over the winter months, when the diving season has ended for some of us, you'll find dive gear packed away in the corners of basements and garages. During that time you could be doing irreversible damage to your equipment. Special attention is necessary for every piece of gear. Here are just a few pointers. Let's start out with a good rinsing of everything. While doing this it's a good idea to use some kind of cleanser on your B.C., wetsuit, and all other neoprene products. Don't just use any cleanser though, there are special products made for your B.C. like "B.C. Life" which kills all bacteria that may have started to grow and multiply inside your B.C. You may have remembered to rinse the outside, but forgot the inside. This area is a trap for the nasties!! Make sure your B.C. is partially inflated, whether hanging or laying flat (hanging is the best). For your wetsuit, there is a new solution to that smelly problem. "Sink the Stink" is a concentrated formula that will take that smell away! When packing your wetsuit

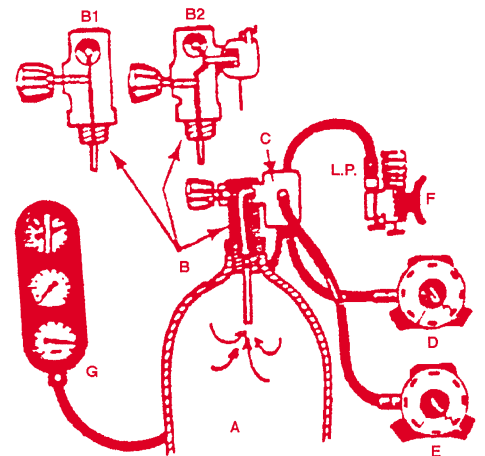


away, you'll want to make sure that it is hung in a position that will cause no creases in the neoprene. Creases cause an area that will compress the gas bubbles in the wetsuit material which will cause it to lose warmth and eventually cause additional wear. Your regulator and gauges need special care also. When was the last time you had them overhauled? Now is a good time to get it done, so you'll be ready for your first dive next spring or that dive trip you are planning. Make sure when storing your regulators that none of the hoses are kinked. For this reason hanging is your best bet. Adding hose protectors and hose wraps will help extend the life of these hoses and make them more visible. Your tank requires

special attention in the diving season and during the off season, too. Tanks should be stored securely with the valve protected. It should be drained down to 300-500 p.s.i. so metal fatigue will not occur. **DO NOT DRAIN COMPLETELY!!!** Check your hydrostatic dates and V.I.P. stickers to see if service needs to be done on your tanks. When storing your mask, snorkel, and fins there are some considerations that should be taken. Never mix silicone and rubber products, as they aren't compatible and will cause discoloration. Spray your mask and snorkel (silicone only!) with a vegetable grade silicone spray to prolong its shelf life. Fins should be laid down flat or hung by straps, setting them on their tips will cause the fin to bend and eventually ruin them. As always, only store your gear in a clean, dry place. We hope these tips will help keep your gear in excellent condition.

ANOTHER WAY TO KEEP YOUR INVESTMENT IN TOP WORKING order is by attending our *EQUIPMENT SPECIALTY COURSE*.

In this course you will be instructed in the operation and maintenance of scuba equipment. You will learn periodic, recommended and required manufacturers maintenance procedures. ***This course will not replace the manufacturers required maintenance to maintain the warranty on scuba equipment.*** This course will include demonstrations of repair procedures. We will also answer any questions on equipment you now own or plan to purchase in the near future. This information alone will help you in your buying decisions so your purchases are for the optimum quality for your dollar. Look for course dates in our calendar.



JANUARY						
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JANUARY

- 12, 13 & 14 DRY SUIT SPECIALTY COURSE (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL)
 13 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 13 & 20 OPEN WATER BEGINNING COURSE (PART 1) 2 SATURDAYS FROM
 8:30AM – 9:00PM.
 20 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)

FEBRUARY

- 3 MEDIC FIRST AID 9:00AM – 5:00PM (\$89 INCLUDES MANUAL, BANDAGES & CERTIFICATION)
 4 D.A.N. OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE (\$89 INCLUDES STUDENT KIT, MASK & CERTIFICATION)
 (9:00 AM – 1:00PM)
 4 D.A.N. INSTRUCTOR – OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE
 (9:00AM – 5:00PM)
 11 MEDIC FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE
 9:00AM – 1:00PM
 13,15 & 25 NITROX DIVER COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL,
 FILLS & CERTIFICATION)
 17 FORD SEA HORSES FILM FESTIVAL
 18 EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST COURSE (\$89 INCLUDES MANUAL & CERTIFICATION)
 22, 24 & 25 ICE DIVER SPECIALTY COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL & CERTIFICATION)
 27 & MAR 1 UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS – DIVES ON COZUMEL TRIP OR SPRING

FEBRUARY						
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MARCH

- 3 – 11 COZUMEL, MEXICO (SEE BROCHURE FOR DETAILS)
 10 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 10 & 17 OPEN WATER BEGINNING COURSE (PART 1)
 2 SATURDAYS FROM 8:30AM – 9:00PM.
 17 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA
 (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 16, 17 & 18 DRY SUIT SPECIALTY COURSE (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL)
 13,15 & 18 NITROX DIVER COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL, FILLS & CERTIFICATION)
 24 MEDIC FIRST AID 9:00AM – 5:00PM (\$89 INCLUDES MANUAL, BANDAGES & CERTIFICATION)
 24 MEDIC FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR TRAINING COURSE 5:00PM – 9:00PM
 25 D.A.N. OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE (\$89 INCLUDES STUDENT KIT, MASK & CERTIFICATION)
 (9:00 AM – 1:00PM)
 25 D.A.N. INSTRUCTOR – OXYGEN PROVIDER COURSE (9:00AM – 5:00PM)
 26,27,29,31 & APR 1 ADVANCED NITROX AND DECOMPRESSION THEORY 2 COURSES IN COMBINATION

MARCH						
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APRIL

- 3 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 6 – 7 INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND COURSE STARTS
 (1ST WEEKEND)
 15 EASTER SUNDAY (STORE CLOSED)
 21 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 28 **FREE** INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (4:30PM – 7:30PM)
 21 - 22 INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND COURSE (2ND WEEKEND)
 21 & 28 OPEN WATER BEGINNING COURSE (PART 1) 2 SATURDAYS
 FROM 8:30AM – 9:00PM.
 24, 26 & 29 NITROX DIVER COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL, FILLS & CERTIFICATION)
 27, 28 & 29 DRY SUIT SPECIALTY COURSE (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL)
 29 – MAY 6 INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WEEK LONG COURSE

APRIL						
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MAY

- 5 – 6 INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WEEKEND COURSE (3RD WEEKEND)
- 11 – 17 INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE (BARABOO, WISCONSIN)
- 13 MOTHER’S DAY
- 19 – 20 INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION (BARABOO, WISCONSIN)
- 22,24 & 27 NITROX DIVER COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL, FILLS & CERTIFICATION)
- 26 – 27 OPEN WATER BEGINNING SCUBA COURSE (PART 2)
- 26 – 27 ADVENTURE & ADVANCED OPEN WATER (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL, SLATE & CERTIFICATION)
- 30 FREE INTRODUCTORY TO SCUBA (6:00PM – 10:00PM) **OAKLAND UNIVERSITY POOL**
- 31 – JUNE 3 HUGE 7TH ANNIVERSARY SALE**

MAY						
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JUNE

MAY 31 – 3 HUGE 7TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

- 9 & 10 OPEN WATER BEGINNING COURSE (PART 1) 2 SATURDAYS FROM 8:30AM – 9:00PM.
- 9 **TREASURE HUNT HIGGINS LAKE**
- 9 & 10 DRIFT DIVER SPECIALTY
- 17 FATHER’S DAY
- 18,19,21,23&24 ADVANCED NITROX AND DECOMPRESSION THEORY 2 COURSES IN COMBINATION
- 22,23 & 24 DRY SUIT SPECIALTY COURSE (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL)
- 23 - 24 OPEN WATER BEGINNING SCUBA COURSE (PART 2)
- 26, 28 & JULY-1 NITROX DIVER COURSE (\$169 INCLUDES MANUAL, FILLS & CERTIFICATION)
- 30 – JULY 1 ADVANCED OPEN WATER (\$199 INCLUDES MANUAL)
- 30 – JULY 1 RESCUE DIVER COURSE

JUNE						
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JULY						
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JULY

- 15 DAWNLIGHT LIVE-ABOARD GEORGIAN BAY, CANADA
- 27 – 29 WHITEFISH POINT WEEKEND WITH ABYSS CHARTERS

AUGUST

- 8 – 12 DAWNLIGHT LIVE-ABOARD GEORGIAN BAY, CANADA
- 22 – 26 WHITEFISH POINT & MACKINAW DIVES WITH ABYSS CHARTERS

SEPTEMBER

- 7 – 9 MACKINAW DIVE WEEKEND WITH ABYSS CHARTERS
- 28 – 30 TOBERMORY WEEKEND DAWNLIGHT LIVE-ABOARD

AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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30						

www.greatlakesdivecenter.com is alive and running. Check us out. There is a Bulletin Board where you need to register and then you can post if you need a buddy. To date there are about 40 divers already communicating with each other. We made this available so if you don’t have a buddy, you can introduce yourself and invite yourself to go diving. Now you can’t say, ‘I don’t have a buddy.’ There is description on our classes, dive sites both local and exotic. We also have a page on the local shipwrecks. You’ll even be able to link to the manufacturers we carry in our store. Our current newsletter and past newsletters are also on a page. Our hours, location and about us are there also for your information. Or if you just want to drop us a line. We hope someday to eliminate the mailed newsletter and just go to an email version. Someday you may see that, but for now we praise the letter carriers! Let us know how we can improve our site. It may take a while, but yes we will get to it!

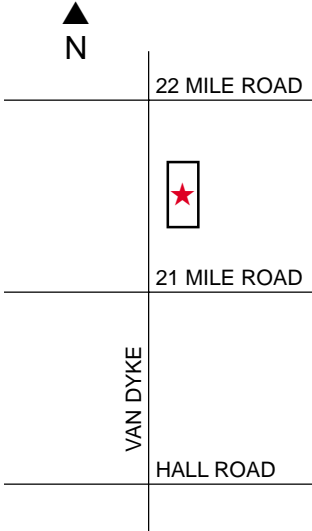
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47450 Van Dyke • Shelby Township, Michigan 48317-3317
(810) 254-7670 • FAX (810) 254-7520

PADI 5 STAR INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT CENTER



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

capture the wonder
of the underwater
world...scuba dive!

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Website: www.greatlakesdivecenter.com

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