



GROUNDHOG NEWS

Volume 6 Number 2

June 2003

The Official first day of Summer is quickly approaching and it won't arrive soon enough. A long hard winter and a cold spring has left many divers with Dive Bag Fever and itching to get into the water. Divers are reporting warming water temperatures so everyone check the schedule and the website for the times to get wet.

ANNUAL TENT SALE

June 20,21,22

ALL THREE STORES

Kitchener, Orangeville & Port Elgin

Best pricing we have ever seen
Complete regulator/BC systems
50% off

At these prices ***EVERYONE***
can afford to *own their personal*
SCUBA equipment

OUC Treasure Hunt

June 14 & 15, 2003

Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Brighton

A fun weekend for the entire family organized by the Ontario Underwater Council. This is one of the largest events in Ontario with a great variety of above and below water events. Prizes are donated by most of the SCUBA shops in Ontario (Groundhog included) Information is at shops and at www.underwatercouncil.com.

SCUBA EXPERIENCES

Kincardine	June 18
Vanastra	June 19
Orangeville	July 23
Kitchener	by appointment

Family Picnic

The 18th annual family picnic is July 18, 19, 20. Many thanks to Don Bryce for once again hosting our event on his farm. Free camping (bring your drinking water, no electricity) starting Friday night. This is a family weekend for divers, spouses, children, friends & dogs. Please pre-register at shops so we can ensure a sufficient number of prizes and food for the BBQ.

We will be setting up a box to collect non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

9-11:30 **Underwater Treasure Hunt** - Scuba encouraged but not necessary. Rocks from 2" to 25 feet. Beautiful sand beach to build sand castles or sunbathe.

@11:30 **CAR RALLY** - 4th annual car rally (a new course slightly shorter). No time limit except you must arrive at the campground by 5:00 p.m. to be eligible.

4 p.m. **Old Fashioned Games** - the kids (young & old) enjoyed these last year so we are doing them again.

5 p.m. BBQ at campsite
6 p.m. Prizes

7 p.m. **Groundhog Court** - reminder charges must be forwarded to Court clerk (Judy in Port Elgin) by July 11. Person laying charges will prosecute their case and subpoena witnesses for prosecution. Court clerk will advise defendant who acquires defence counsel and subpoena defence witnesses. Forms are available from Judy.

Evening **Bonfire and jam session.** - bring your instruments!.

Sunday a.m. Flexible. Lay around campsite, go diving, your choice

Sunday 12 noon 8th annual 9 holes of golf - Southport Golf Club
Bring item for prize table (\$10 value)
Water guns are optional, but fun

Congratulations

It has been a very busy spring with many different training courses being completed. Thumbs up to all the students who attended. Some of these courses were in pretty cold environments and some were in the sunny south.

CERTIFIED ASSISTANT

The weekend of April 26&27 was extremely busy as 31 people completed the new IDEA Canada Certified Assistant Program. Diving theory, people skills, water skills were only a few of the many components presented by the instructors. Everyone involved went home Sunday night tired, but feeling well prepared for the upcoming season. Congratulations.

Michael Arsenault	Rick Edwards	Shannon Gough	Tim Murphy	Sheila Shaw
Randy Bennett	Larry Freiburger	Steve Karley	John Pentilchuk	Dale Snyder
Don Bryce	David Galloway	Rob Kobe	Mike Petrik	Jeff Tanner
Jeff Conrad	Rod Gillis	Lyle McGill	Anne Rollings	Dave Thomson
Rob Curan	Cara Grant	Chris McGrath	Ewald Rothmaier	Sue Wilson
Derek Edelkoort	Jamie Grant	Jamie Morphy	Shannon Sellers	Christina Zold
				Christopher Zold

ICE DIVING

At long last, Mother Nature cooperated and provided us with sufficient ice to hold an Ice Diving course on March 14,15,16. The weather topside was gorgeous with on-lookers discarding hats and gloves under the sunny blue sky. Divers enjoyed quiet clear waters and had a wonderful time. The only downside was the warm sun created a LITTLE slush on the surface of the ice.

Scott Darroch	Ken Leslie
Gail Douglas	Mike Petrik
Cara Grant	Lyle McGill
Jamie Grant	Dave Roenspiess
Rob Kobe	Dave Thomson
Wendi Lindsay	

DAN 0² PROVIDER

This course teaches individuals how to significantly reduce pre-disposition to diving injuries, as well as how to provide Oxygen first aid to an injured diver. Their goal is to be prepared, the plan is to never need to use this information.

Douglas Allen	Lyle McGill
Dave Grolla	
Christina Zold	
Christopher Zold	
Treasure Kauppila	
Wendi Lindsay	
Bevan Ratcliffe	

NITROX

Two nitrox programs were held this spring. The following people participated:

Mike Petrik	Dave Thomson
Dave Clark	Dave Roenspiess
Liane Clark	Christina Zold
Bob Starr	Christopher Zold
Nancy White	

EQUIPMENT COURSE

Wishing to learn more about their equipment and how to save a dive due to minor equipment challenges, the following individuals completed the equipment course this winter:

Ralph Brooks	Minneke Jorens
Kent Hunter-Duvar	Roi Moore
Gary Sanwald	Brad Nixon

OPENWATER

Barbara Scholz	Jason Thom
Terry McCann	
Maggie Hobbs	
Ryan Miller	
Steve Good	
Kim Yeoh	
Indra Tan	
Irene Enns	
Jeff Chatterton	
Wilfred George	
Scott Jameson	

GROUNDHOG

Ervin and **Jarmila Majdloch** both groundhogged on our group trip to Cayo Coco, Cuba, on November 28, 2002

Scott Darroch groundhogged Feb 11/03 while vacationing in Grenada.

Norm Trudel groundhogged May 30/03, doing it the hard way with 12 very cold dives in 7 days.

ADVANCED

The following completed their training on one of the coldest wettest weekends we have had:

Karen Dillabough
Hank Lammers
Leslie Lammers

Congratulations on 50 dives in your first year of diving!!

MY FIRST SALTWATER DIVE By Kailan Gough

My first salt water dive was dive #20 on April 19, 2003, in the Gulf of Mexico. I was diving with a group from The Tarpon Springs dive shop, Narcosis. We started the day by loading up our gear onto the small boat. It was a tight squeeze, but we all fit. On the way out we set up our tanks, BC's and regs so that suiting up wouldn't take as long. It was about an hour out before we reached our destination. The dive was AMAZING. I had to get some help getting down because I was extremely nervous, but once I was down, I soon forgot all fear. We were down about 45 feet and the visibility was 40 ft horizontally. I got to see some very colourful fish, a beautiful starfish and a live sand dollar (which is actually purple when it's alive). All in all, the dive was awesome, the people were great and the water couldn't be better. I would definitely recommend salt water diving to anyone who is looking for

ATTENTION GROUNDHOGS

In the last newsletter we placed a request for groundhogging informaton so we can provide wall certificates and wallet cards to all the fraternity members. To date only 56 groundhogs have provided their information. THIS IS IMPORTANT. ALL GROUNDHOGS (*I don't care who you are or how long you have been a groundhog!!*) need to email Judy at ghogd2@inetsonic.com With more part time staff in the stores who don't know who is or is not a groundhog, without this identification they will not be able to provide you with groundhog

WAHOO!!

By Yvonne Kingsbury

Before the start of another busy dive season Bruce, Yvonne, Doug and Judy were lucky to fly back to Cozumel for some rest, relaxation and fun.

This year the weather in May was very hot and humid with average temperatures at around 36-37°C. We managed to get out for a few games of golf and also did some spectacular diving.

The main focal point of the trip was, of course, to participate in the annual fishing tournament with Mike & Margaret representing Papa Hogs. This year over one hundred boats entered the two-day tournament, all of us hoping to catch "the big one" It's quite a sight to see boats of all sizes and shapes all take off in different directions at the shotgun start. Various points are awarded for fish caught over a certain weight and of different species. Marlin is the biggest points getter. Adrenaline was pumping as we headed across the channel to Puerto Aventurus. It didn't take long before we had a hit. It's exciting to see Manual and Chelacha, the captain and mate respectively in action. They certainly know that boat and how

to fish. They scurry to reel in all the fishing lines so they don't get tangled up. It was Mike's turn in the chair and he reeled in a 21 lb Durado. Not long after that we had another hit and Bruce reeled in a 44 lb Wahoo. Margaret reeled in a Barracuda and Mike caught another Durado. It was a successful day of fishing and life doesn't get much better than that.

Day two was not as fruitful but it turned out to be a relaxing day on the ocean that is hard to beat.

We attended the closing ceremonies where trophies and prizes were handed out. We were hopeful that our Wahoo caught on the previous day might be big enough, and we were all very pleased to discover that it was. We won a beautiful trophy and a vehicle for a family of 5. That is, of course, a scooter in Cozumel. All you who have been there will know what I mean.

Thank you Mike and Margaret for inviting us down as we all had a wonderful holiday!

Dear Diver Doug:

I would like to know how I can learn to dive just like my instructor. She seemed so comfortable and proficient in the underwater environment

Uncomfortable Mermaid in Georgian Bay

Dear Mermaid:

So you want to dive just like your instructor. Is this very difficult to do? *The answer is No.* The answer to the question **How?** is quite simple: **Dive.** Just get out there with other divers and dive. The Fraternity of the Groundhog was started to give people the incentive to dive so that they could become proficient in the activity of scuba diving. Everything we do or learn is only

improved and perfected through participation in that activity on a regular basis.

This, of course, brings into question the cost of scuba diving and how does scuba compare with other activities. The answer to this is inexpensively, even when you rent your equipment. Have you checked the prices on the ski slopes or golf courses lately? This leads to another question that is related directly to one's diving ability. Should I own my equipment or rent? It is a known fact that people who own their own equipment dive more often and become good at it. They also meet numerous new friends. Also, owning your own equipment is like owning your own golf

clubs or your own car. You become very familiar and comfortable with its use and with that comes proficiency. The hygienic side to owning your own equipment is a minor portion of the equation, but credence should be given to this fact as well.

Owning your own equipment is, in fact, the short answer to your question because it will save you money, make you more comfortable with the activity, lead you to more genuine friendships and, most of all, help you to dive just like your instructor

Keep diving, Diver Doug.

POTPOURI

FATHOM FIVE DIVER REGISTRATION FEES

Fees at Fathom Five are increasing. They are currently \$10 and will be increasing to \$15, valid for a full year. These fees help support the Tobermory hyperbaric chamber, the access to the Tugs, toilets at the Tugs and Lighthouse, moorings on wrecks within the park and water patrols by Parks Canada wardens. This fee is still very inexpensive considering

SOS - Goderich

Unfortunately the Marine Archaeology NAS 1 course scheduled for Goderich this summer has been cancelled. Plans to hold this program in 2004 are being made. Anyone wishing to take this program this year can check out the SOS website www.saveontarioshipwrecks.on.ca to find other courses being held this summer throughout Ontario.

DRYSUIT Suspenders

A limited number of USIA drysuit suspenders are in stock, available on a first-come first-served basis..

TANK SKID SALE

Anyone wanting to purchase tanks need to put your name on the skid sale order list to receive the special pricing. We bring tanks in by the skid once or twice a year and only individuals who pre-order receive the special lower pricing.

JACKETS

Several people have indicated interest in ordering the light Groundhog jackets. The plan is to place the order 1st week July.

DAN O2 Training

A course can be arranged anytime whenever 6 individuals can be at the same location at the same time. Call shops to indicate interest and we will set up the courses.

NITROX

As we have nitrox instructors on staff, Groundhog Divers is able to provide training to groups of as few as two people, times being flexible – weekends or evenings. Programs are

MILESTONES

100 dives	Randy Bennett	Feb 25/03
100 dives	Shelley Brooks	May 18/03
700 dives	Dave Wedge	May 12/03

WEB SITE www.groundhogdivers.com

GROUNDHOG DIVERS I

194 Victoria St. N.
Kitchener, Ontario
(519) 742-5415
info@groundhogdivers.com

GROUNDHOG DIVERS II

582 Gustavus Street
Port Elgin, Ontario
(519) 389-3629
ghodg2@inetsonic.com

GROUNDHOG (ORANGEVILLE)

85 Broadway
Orangeville, Ontario
(519) 941-6112
groundhogdivers@inetsonic.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Family Day - July 6

Due to last year's success, we will be repeating our family day at the dive site on July 6 at Cedarhill. Come diving... bring the whole family... Everyone welcome. We will supply the BBQ's - bring your hotdogs or hamburgers. A perfect opportunity for new divers to enjoy some diving in a relaxed atmosphere with experienced support available. The SASSY unit will be available for the children to try.

Brockville - August 9-10

Brockville has near 75+ visibility and 72° water. Follow the anchor chain from Sparrow Island down to the Lillie Parsons and finish with a wonderful drift down river to the boat. Swim into the gigantic cargo holds of the Keystorm or hug its giant propeller. Closely check out the Robert Gaskin, one of the few ships that sank not once, twice, but three times.

Two days of some of the best current boat diving in Ontario. Advanced certification required. Make your reservations today.

Family Day - August 10

Another day at Cedarhill for the entire family.

Niagara II - August 17

Once again we will be heading to Tobermory to dive the Niagara II. Advanced certification. Reservations and deposits required

Fall Dive Getaway – Nov 22-29

Wanting to travel in the fall and do some exotic diving. Let the shops know. Trips being organized now with destination details to follow

DIVEMASTER

Congratulations to:

Christina and Christopher Zold who completed their Divemaster training on February 20, 2003.

Shelley Bengner who completed her Divemaster