

**“THE WRECK OF THE HILMA HOOKER, 1984, BONAIRE NA**

PERHAPS IT WAS JUST THE NAME THAT MADE SOMEONE SUSPICIOUS OR PERHAPS AN INSIDE TIP. REGARDLESS, WHEN SHE LOST POWER JUST OFF THE COAST OF BONAIRE AND WAS TOWED TO THE MAIN PIER ON THE ISLAND, IT WAS NOT TOO LONG BEFORE A SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED. SOON AFTER THAT THE CARGO SHIP HILMA HOOKER WENT INTO THE HISTORY BOOKS AS A DRUG SMUGGLER: 25,000 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA WERE REMOVED FROM BETWEEN A REAL AND A FALSE BULKHEAD AND PLACED ON SHORE BY THE AUTHORITIES.

ALL OF THIS IMMEDIATELY INDUCED BONAIRE DIVE OPERATORS TO APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT. THEY WANTED THE SHIP TO BE PURPOSELY SUNK AS A DIVE SITE. HOPES RAN HIGH AS EVERYONE WROTE LETTERS AND CALLED MEETINGS TO DISCUSS A LOCATION FOR THE SINKING AND WHAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MAKE THE SHIP SAFE FOR DIVING ONCE IT WAS SUNK. ALL THESE HOPES AND PLANS WERE SOON DASHED. THE SHIP COULD NOT BE SUNK BECAUSE IT WAS EVIDENCE FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. IF THE OWNER WAS PROVEN INNOCENT THE SHIP WOULD HAVE TO BE RETURNED IN THE SAME SHAPE IT WAS IN WHEN CONFISCATED. THE HOOKER, THEREFORE, REMAINED TIED TO THE PIER AS LEGAL PROCESSES MOVED ON. OF COURSE, LEAVING THIS UNMANNED SHIP TIED TO A PIER WAS NOT ONLY EXPENSIVE BUT ALSO DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF THE MANY LEAKS IN THE VERY POORLY KEPT HULL. THE OWNER APPARENTLY WAS NOT ABOUT TO COME FORWARD TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND PAY ANY MAINTENANCE OR TOWING CHARGES OR DOCK TIME, NOT TO MENTION POSSIBLE JAIL TIME. IT WAS NECESSARY THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE SOON OR THE SHIP COULD SINK RIGHT AT THE PIER CAUSING VERY EXPENSIVE PROBLEMS. A DECISION WAS MADE TO MOVE THE HOOKER TO A PERMANENT ANCHORAGE UNTIL ALL LEGAL ASPECTS WERE CLEARED. OWING TO A GREAT DEAL OF FORESIGHT WITHIN BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BONAIRE TOURIST BUREAU, ANOTHER MEETING WAS CALLED SO THE DIVE OPERATORS COULD SUGGEST AN ANCHORAGE THAT, IN THE EVENT THE SHIP SHOULD SINK, IT WOULD BE SAFE FOR NAVIGATION; CAUSE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF CORAL DAMAGE; AND POSSIBLY, BECOME A DIVE SITE. AFTER MANY MONTHS OF BEING TIED TO THE PIER AND PUMPED OF WATER, ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1984 THE HOOKER WAS TOWED TO AN ANCHORAGE. AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SLIGHT LIST BECAME NOTICEABLE. THE LIST WAS EVEN



[HTTP://WWW.SCUBABOARD.COM/GALLERY/SHOWPHOTO.PHP/PHOTO/59691](http://www.scubaboard.com/gallery/showphoto.php/photo/59691)

MORE OBVIOUS ONE MORNING. THE OWNER WAS STILL NOT COMING FORWARD TO CLAIM THE SHIP AND MAINTAIN IT SO THE MANY LEAKS ADDED UP UNTIL ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 1984 THE HILMA HOOKER BEGAN TAKING IN WATER THROUGH HER LOWER PORTHOLES. AT 9:08 AM SHE ROLLED OVER ON HER STARBOARD SIDE AND, IN THE NEXT TWO MINUTES, DISAPPEARED. AS SPECTACULAR A SIGHT AS IT WAS, HARDLY ANYONE WATCHED THE LAST FEW MINUTES OF THE HOOKER'S TOPSIDE LIFE. WITHIN SECONDS AFTER SHE DISAPPEARED FROM THE SURFACE SHE SETTLED IN 95 FEET OF WATER ON HER STARBOARD SIDE. THERE WAS NO FANFARE BECAUSE IT WAS NOT LEGALLY INTENDED THAT THE SHIP SHOULD SINK. THE HILMA HOOKER WAS A GENERAL CARGO SHIP WITH A LENGTH OF 71.8 METERS. SHE IS ABOUT 11 METERS WIDE, HER TONNAGE, 1,027 AND WAS BUILT IN HOLLAND IN 1951. PRIOR TO BEING THE HILMA HOOKER THE SHIP WAS KNOWN AS THE DORIC EXPRESS. BEFORE THAT SHE WAS THE ANNA AND BEFORE THAT THE WILLIAM EXPRESS. BEFORE THAT SHE WAS THE MISTRAL AND BEFORE THAT, THE MIDSLAND! BECAUSE THE SHIP WAS BEING HELD AS EVIDENCE IN A DRUG CASE, NOTHING WAS ALLOWED TO BE TOUCHED. THE HOOKER SANK WITH EVERYTHING ON BOARD. IT IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TOTALLY STRIPPED WRECKS MADE FOR DIVING BUT A TRUE, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS SHIPWRECK.

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THIS CAN CREATE PROBLEMS, THOUGH. THE BUNK ROOMS WERE STILL FILLED WITH DEBRIS SUCH AS BEDS, DRESSERS AND, OCCASIONALLY, SOME ARTICLES OF CLOTHING. MANY DOORS WERE STILL ATTACHED AND THOSE MADE FROM STEEL CAN BE HARD TO MOVE. A GREAT DEAL OF CAUTION AND DISCRETION IS NECESSARY FOR ANYONE PLANNING ON DIVING THE HOOKER. FOR THOSE FAMILIAR WITH BONAIRE, THE WRECK IS IN THE AREA OF THE WELL KNOWN DIVE SITE CALLED ANGEL CITY. THIS IS A SYSTEM WITH AN INNER AND AN OUTER REEF SEPARATED BY WHITE SAND. THE HOOKER RESTS ON THE SAND BOTTOM. ONLY 90 MINUTES AFTER SHE SANK, THE FIRST DIVERS WENT DOWN ON THE HOOKER. THE HARBORMASTER OF BONAIRE WANTED TO KNOW IF THE WRECK WAS DEEP ENOUGH NOT TO BE A NAVIGATION HAZARD. HE NEEDED THIS INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EXACTLY 50 FEET OF WATER WAS BETWEEN THE SURFACE AND THE SHIP, MAKING IT PLENTY SAFE FOR NAVIGATION AND DIVING. A REDDISH BROWN HAZE SURROUNDED THE LOWER HALF OF THE WRECK AS RUST AND DIRT SETTLED OUT OF THE CARGO HOLDS. IT WAS AN EERIE FEELING SEEING A SHIP THAT WAS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO. THE TEMPORARY LOW VISIBILITY ADDED TO THE FEELING. ALREADY, MANY FISH WERE LOOKING OVER THE WRECK, PROBABLY ARGUING ABOUT WHO WOULD GET WHICH ROOM FOR A NEW HOME. A LARGE OCEAN TRIGGERFISH SWAM SLOWLY OVER THE HULL, APPARENTLY NOT TAKEN ABACK BY THIS NEW ADDITION TO ITS TERRITORY. AIR STILL BUBBLED OUT OF VARIOUS HOLES RUSTED THROUGH THE HULL AT THE WATERLINE. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT LITTLE WAS DONE TO KEEP THIS SHIP IN SHAPE EXCEPT FOR ITS ONE MAIN JOB OF MAKING SOME QUICK MONEY. AN OCCASIONAL DROP OF OIL, MIXED WITH THE AIR BUBBLES, SLOWLY MADE ITS WAY TO THE SURFACE. IT WAS AMAZING HOW LITTLE OIL THERE WAS. THE ONLY REAL POLLUTION FROM THE WRECK WAS AN ODD PIECE OF WOOD THAT SOMEONE WILL EVENTUALLY FIND WASHED UP ON SHORE ON ANOTHER ISLAND OR COAST. BOATS SHOWED UP THE NEXT DAY WITH MANY ANXIOUS DIVERS WAITING TO GET A FIRST LOOK AT THE HOOKER UNDERWATER. EVEN FROM THE SURFACE IT WAS OBVIOUS THERE WAS A SHIPWRECK. ITS OUTLINE, 50 FEET BELOW, COULD BE SEEN EASILY FROM ABOVE. THE VISIBILITY HAD ALREADY CLEARED UP 100 PERCENT AND NOW ONE COULD SEE THE ENTIRE SHIP IN THE CRYSTAL BLUE WATER. THE SHIP ITSELF HAS TWO LARGE DECKHOUSES, ONE AFT AND ONE AMIDSHIPS. THE GALLEY AND CREW'S QUARTERS WERE AFT. AMIDSHIPS IS THE WHEELHOUSE AND CHART ROOM. IN FRONT OF EACH IS A HUGE CARGO HOLD, COMPLETELY OPEN, WITH NO DEBRIS. BELOW THE AFT HOUSE IS THE ENGINE ROOM: NO ONE SHOULD VENTURE HERE. LOOSE DECK PLATES THAT ONCE COVERED THE BILGE, AND MANY OTHER OBJECTS, ARE CAST ABOUT HAPHAZARDLY. THERE ARE COUNTLESS ITEMS UPON WHICH A DIVER COULD VERY EASILY GET HUNG UP.

VISIBILITY IS VERY LOW WITH VIRTUALLY NO LIGHT PENETRATING THE COMPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH THE SHIPWRECK HAS AREAS THAT ARE DANGEROUS, IT IS STILL A WRECK DIVERS OF ALL LEVELS CAN FULLY ENJOY IF JUST A BIT OF GOOD JUDGMENT IS USED. BEGINNERS WHO WANT TO EXPLORE IT CAN EASILY STAY AT A DEPTH OF 60 FEET AND SWIM AROUND THE



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OUTSIDE. THOSE WITH A BIT MORE EXPERIENCE CAN DIVE TO 70 FEET AND EXPLORE SOME OPEN PASSAGES. THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITH AN EXPERIENCED BUDDY. IT SHOULD BE PLANNED WELL SO NO ONE GETS TOO DEEP INSIDE THE WRECK. VERY EXPERIENCED WRECK DIVERS MAY WANT TO SEE AS MANY DIFFERENT COMPARTMENTS AS POSSIBLE. THE MAXIMUM DEPTH IS ABOUT 100 FEET SO EVERYONE MUST REALLY PAY ATTENTION TO BOTTOM TIME AND DEPTH. ONE COMMENT MOST DIVERS MAKE IS THAT IT IS SO EASY TO GO A BIT DEEPER THAN EXPECTED AND FOR LONGER THAN PLANNED. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE WRECK, NUMEROUS MOORINGS HAVE BEEN PLACED FOR THE DIVE BOATS. ALL OF BONAIRE'S DIVE SHOPS VISIT THE HOOKER ON A REGULAR BASIS. BECAUSE IT CAN BE DEEPER THAN MOST, THE TRIPS TO THE WRECK ARE USUALLY THE FIRST DIVE IN THE MORNING. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CROWD THIS WRECK. AND, SINCE IT LIES BETWEEN TWO REEFS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO FINISH THE DIVE AMONG THE MANY VARIED CORALS IN SHALLOWER WATER. PHOTOGRAPHIC POSSIBILITIES ARE UNLIMITED. ONE OF THE FAVORITE SHOTS IS WITH A DIVER NEXT TO THE LARGE BRONZE PROPELLER. ANOTHER IS THE OUTSIDE STEERING WHEEL ON THE AFT CABIN HOUSE. THIS IS NEAR THE FUNNEL OF THE ENGINE ROOM, WHICH IS ANOTHER FAVORITE SHOT. VIEWS DOWN THE PASSAGeways AND SILHOUETTES ARE SPECTACULAR IN THE CLEAR WATER. THESE AREAS ARE ALL OUTSIDE THE WRECK AT REASONABLE DEPTHS, MAKING PICTURE TAKING POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE. MANY FISH HAVE MADE THE WRECK A PERMANENT HOME. FOR YEARS BONAIRE HAS LOOKED FOR A SHIP THAT COULD BE USED AS A WRECK. WITH THE HILMA HOOKER, WHAT BEGAN AS A BAD IDEA FOR SOMEONE TURNED INTO A LUCKY BREAK FOR BONAIRE AND

ITS DIVERS. POST SCRIPT: SINCE COMPLETION OF THIS ARTICLE NEW EVIDENCE HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT REGARDING THE ACTUAL SINKING. THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION WISHES NOT TO HAVE HIS/HER NAME MENTIONED BUT IT CAN BE SAID IT COMES FROM HIGH UP IN THE CAP'N DON'S HABITAT STAFF-SORT OF AT THE VERY TOP, YOU COULD SAY. THIS SOURCE SAYS HE/SHE WITNESSED A PHOSPHORESCENT WAKE CUTTING THROUGH THE WATER LATE THE NIGHT BEFORE THE HOOKER SANK. IT IS CLAIMED IT WAS A TORPEDO FROM THE GERMAN SUBMARINE U-156, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN THESE WATERS SINCE LAST ATTEMPTING TO BLOW UP THE ARUBA REFINERY ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 13, 1942, CAPT. HARTENSTOIN, SKIPPER OF THE U- 156 HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THEN EITHER, SO HE WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONING.”

[HTTP://WWW.CARIBINN.COM/HILMAHOOKER.HTML](http://www.caribinn.com/hilmahooker.html)



Diver on the wreck of Hilma Hooker, Bonaire  
<http://www.fotosearch.com/IMG314/01028005>

## Upcoming Events/Products

**Discover Scuba Diving** We now offer three ways that you and your friends and family can “Discover Scuba Diving!”

- 1) We are working with local Police Departments in support of the D.A.R.E. program (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) so show your appreciation for the DSD course and your Instructor by making a \$25.00 donation to the D.A.R.E. program of your choice (locality.)
- 2) Reap the benefits of a 100% return on your next **fundraising event!** Enjoy Scuba diving and raise money for your non-profit group at the same time. Any weekend, invite your friends, family, neighbors and associates to experience our Discover Scuba Diving Program and we'll donate 100% of the normal course fees from your group back to your organization.
- 3) And as always, you can enjoy this experience at no cost, so call or stop by to schedule the start of your new adventure!

### Looking for a place to hold a Birthday Party?

Look no further, we can accommodate you and your children's friends! Kids' Discover Scuba Birthday Party, bring your friends and Dive in our pool!

Scheduling parties now, for up to 8 children between the ages of 10 and 15. Cost includes pizza, soda, and discover scuba diving. Goodie bags available for an additional cost.

### Also available:

Discover Bubblemaker party for up to 6 children between the ages of 8 and 10. Discover snorkeling party for up to 8 children, age 8 and up. Swimming parties for up to 10 children (all ages - Must be potty-trained).

### Have your own pool?

Then we will come to you! Discover Scuba, birthday parties or even open water pool sessions can be done in the privacy and convenience of your own pool! Just ask us how!

**Seminar Series...** July's seminar is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm with **Carrie Sowden**, Archaeological Director for the Peachman Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center and Great Lakes Historical Society. She will be presenting “**Shipwrecks of Lake Erie**” and as always we will provide food and beverages, so mark your calendar and don't miss this event. Carrie will talk about and show slides of some of her favorite wrecks in Lake Erie. Please RSVP.

**THE SEMINARS ARE FREE; THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND! SO COME AND ENJOY GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD FUN AND GOOD FOOD ON US!**

**SOON TO COME...POD CASTING!!!** Cant' make it to one of the free seminars? Soon they will be available on our website, so keep an eye out!!!

Aqua Immersion is constantly looking at new ways to bring you the latest industry news and information and this is just another way to keep you informed even if you are not able to attend some of our activities.

## Aqua Immersion's Aquanauts Dive Club Meeting Report

Our club meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Winking Lizard on Bethel Road at 8:00pm! Club president, Jacques Jones opened our last meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> by welcoming everyone, asking for dive reports and then introducing Mark Thomas and opening the floor to him and the rest of the group to have an open discussion regarding preventative safety measures needed while diving in light of the recent accidents at Gilboa. Michelle Ulrich-Thomas gave our first treasury's report. Collected monies have come in the form of membership dues, 50/50 drawings and donations. Club dues are \$30.00 a year for individual membership and \$40.00 a year for family membership. We will be taking \$9.00 out of your dues and sending it off to The Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc. so you will automatically be a member of the council as well if you are not already. Keep an eye out in this newsletter for accounts of the meetings and please feel free to submit dive reports or anything you would like listed in the newsletter to [mmccurry@aquaimmersion.com](mailto:mmccurry@aquaimmersion.com). Also, anyone who

completes their open water certification through Aqua Immersion will receive a one year free membership to the club, so tell your friends and don't miss the fun at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. If you have a video or a presentation you would like to offer to the group, don't hesitate to let us know, we are anxious to see and/or hear about your last dive trip! See you on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm at the Winking Lizard on Bethel Road!!! Also, don't forget, as an A.I. Aquanaut club member you will also enjoy discounts on gear purchases and other items as well!

**Product Lines...**As always watch for more new gear lines coming soon such as Harvey's and Pinnacle to add to our already large selection including Aqua Lung, Deep See, SeaQuest, SDS, DUI, Dive Rite, Diving Concepts, Tusa, Cressi-Sub, Tilos and many more!

Tilos Skins and Rash Guards are now in stock. Stop by and pick up yours today!

**Fourth Element** is now here!!! Come check out this wonderfully neutrally buoyant undergarment and see what everyone is talking about, Aqua Immersion is an exclusive central Ohio dealer!

### "4<sup>th</sup> Element Artic Extreme Undersuit Review

By Kim Sedgwick

Well here it is gang, the review you've been waiting for. First off, I'd like to thank Joe and Melissa for deciding to carry the 4<sup>th</sup> Element line at Aqua Immersions. Now I like to tell you about my two test dives on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Portage Quarry. I took the afore mentioned undersuit from its bag as my "Dive On Tuesday" friends were getting into there Weasels. The day was a great day for diving, not too hot and not cold. Anyway, there wasn't any hint of feeling of getting over heated. The undersuit fit perfectly underneath my DUI CF200 drysuit. While it was warm inside the suit, there was no feeling of getting over heated. We got into the water just fine and proceeded to help Randy (a diver from Circleville) get his new DUI drysuit weighted properly. Well we swam down and westerly towards the silo going to 35 to 40 feet, I stayed warm in the 4<sup>th</sup> Element undersuit with the exception of the initial suit squeeze. After taking care of the squeeze, the undersuit performed superbly never giving me the hint of a chill of getting cold. We spent a little less than an hour underwater, with me never feeling cold, a chill or any discomfort. Our second dive had a few problems, not with the suit but with keeping together. Guess we will have to plan the dive better next time. But the second dive went off just as well undersuit wise. This time it was wet from sweat, but again, the undersuit wisked the moisture away from my skin and kept me toasty and warm. I would recommend this suit to everyone who are dissatisfied with there current undersuits. And this is from a guy who stayed cold in his DUI 300 weight "pickle suit!"

Thank you Kim for your awesome review! Anyone submitting a review like this one will receive a \$25.00 gift card if published!

**DON'T FORGET!** Closed Circuit Rebreathers are available in our rental department to help keep your cost down! Must have your rebreather certification in order to rent one, so sign up for a rebreather course today!!! Also, Aqua Immersion has the largest in-stock dry suit selection in Central Ohio! Come in and try on your new dry suit today!

Joe McCurry has just designed and added gas boosting capabilities to both in store and field operations to support both technical open circuit and closed circuit rebreathers. If you need technical dive gases we have you covered. We are the Columbus area's only **tech gas** supplier. **Compare our fill costs to other locations!**

## Store Specials

- JULY -

PADI's Featured Specialty for July is "Deep Diver" so with the purchase of this specialty course you can buy a surface marker buoy and a reel and receive 30% off these two items! *Valid from 7/1/07 thru 7/31/07*

- AUGUST -

Aqua Immersion strives to be a dive center with the best customer service, quality and lowest prices in the area. If you find a better deal at another store let us know and we'll do our best to match it or beat it! Call for details!

## Ohio Quarry Reports

**Circleville Twin Quarries** - Temperature is around 78 degrees and vis has improved to around 20 feet as of July 1st, 2007. - Reported by Kim Sedgwick <http://www.twinquarries.com>

**Portage Quarry and Recreation Club** - Surface temp: 78 degrees, Visibility: 20-40 feet (depending on where you are), Thermocline temp: 65 degrees at a depth of 35 feet. - Reported by Michelle Ulrich - Thomas <http://www.portagequarry.com>

**Lakeview Park** - "We had an average of 15' and sometimes less than 3' vis when following the lines. Lakeview's temperatures are warming up, the surface was 67 F and below the thermocline it was 53 F" - Reported by Marty Bailey on 6/4/07

**Gilboa Quarry** - Temp is around 54 degrees at about 50 feet and vis is around 20 feet. - Reported by Jacques Jones <http://www.divegilboa.com>

**Whitestar Quarry** - Temp is in the low 50's on the bottom and in the low 70's at the surface and vis is around 20ft. as of 5/20/07. - Reported by Michelle Thomas <http://www.whitestarquarry.com>

## Dive Reports

"Hi Everyone

I've had one of the more memorable dives of my lifetime last night. It set two records for me. The smallest item recovered in the quickest amount of time. Monday at 6:30pm Maggie and I met Fred at the New Galena boat ramp in Alum Creek to recover his *smile*. On Friday while preparing to secure his boat to be taken out of the water, he lost his front teeth. He said he knew right where they fell and that it would be an easy recovery. I've heard that many times before, but this time it proved to be true! I geared up and entered the water at the ramp and swam over to Fred. We established a search area. I attached a line to me so that Fred could direct my bubbles and we placed a dive flag in the water to mark our spot. I descended slowly into the 1 foot vis, keeping my right hand index finger pointed below me. As soon as I touched bottom (11'), I inflated my BCD and kept the rest of my body away from the silt. I moved slowly and carefully by using my fingers and I thought I got lucky, right in front of my eyes were four lightly covered silt bumps.

Unfortunately, they turned out to be zebra mussels and I figured I was in for a long night. Then something shiny caught my eye. It turned out to be a broken mirror from a jet ski, but as was pulling my hand away from the mirror I saw four more bumps and something shiny attached to them. I picked them up, shook them off, and low and behold they were Fred's teeth! Found in 96 seconds!! I headed to the surface confirmed they were Fred's and then asked if he wanted me to look around for more treasure. He said no need he got what he was looking for so we headed for the parking lot." - Submitted June 19<sup>th</sup> by

Marty Bailey



"They are right here."

"Are these your teeth?"

"Well Capt. Bob and I headed up to Gilboa for a deep dive this past Sunday 7/1/07. The weather was great sunny and cool air temp was in the mid-70's perfect for being in a dry suit. With the double's and nitrox tanks on and the scooters in the water we headed off. Surface water temp 71\* below 30 feet the temp dropped down too 55\* and at 140 feet water was a cool 39\* vis was over 50 feet on the bottom no lights needed today. With the bottom time used up it was time to get warmed up. We got to see the helicopter a must see it's BIG so Bob and I finished up our deco looking it over. Great day of diving at Gilboa."

- Submitted July 1<sup>st</sup> by Mark Thomas

## Travel Info

Join Aqua Immersion from August 23<sup>rd</sup> thru 27<sup>th</sup> diving the St. Lawrence River experiencing both Canadian wrecks as well as American wrecks. We will leave Columbus on

Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> staying at the Days Inn in Brockville, doing 4 dives on Friday, 4 dives on Saturday and 4 dives on Sunday. Lunch will be provided each day on the boat along with air fills. The cost of your room is also included. We will return home on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. All this for only \$549 per person. *Meals and Transportation are not included (other than lunch on the boat)*. For more info on wrecks of the St. Lawrence go to [www.dive1000islands.com](http://www.dive1000islands.com) \$100.00 deposit holds your spot! **Other stores offer this same trip, compare the costs and then call us to reserve your spot.** Limited spots available so call today!!!

**Australia Live-Aboard** – November 13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, Costs beginning at \$4815pp (price varies depending on rooms) includes airfare from LAX, SpoilSport Live-Aboards.

**Wakatobi** – June 5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - \$4999pp includes round trip airfare from LAX.

**Curacao, Sunset Waters** – All Inclusive package for as little as \$1395 pp plus air until December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Call or stop by for complete details!

**Bonaire, Plaza Resort** – 7nights/6 days for as little as \$1224.00pp plus airfare.

**Learn Here, Check Out There...**Do your classroom and pool sessions here and your open water dives in Grand Cayman (or wherever your heart desires) and save 15%. PADI Open Water Certification fee with Aqua Immersion is great but if you book a trip with your training the cost is even better, call today for more details.

*We at Aqua Immersion really want to provide "value added" service to our Tech diver community and cater to their needs whether its equipment, special gases or trips. The following trip is just the first of our Tech/Rebreather/Advanced trips that we will be offering...*

**DiveTech @ Cobalt Coast Resort Tek Week Grand Cayman Open Circuit and CCR Divers Welcome! August 25<sup>th</sup> thru September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.**

"Join Divetech and Cobalt Coast for a truly phenomenal week of fun diving for both Open Circuit or Closed Circuit Rebreather Diving! Non Divers are welcomed too of course! Packages are available for divers & students wishing to get certified. Dives are available at the recreational, normoxic or advanced trimix level all in the warm, clear waters of Grand Cayman. Tek Week is a week of exploration on the deep walls and shallow reefs of Cayman for divers, adventure to go where no one has gone before. Situated on the pristine NW Tip of Grand Cayman in a unique diving resort, you will be entertained both above and below the water in a special setting of sunsets, the crystal clear aquamarine Caribbean Sea, and hosted to a week of diving and culinary delights. This is a fun filled program for diving couples. Tek Week will not only be a great week of diving, but you will be able to dive with some of the leading experts in the field!

We have a host of sponsors coming to the event to dive with you, entertain you with their knowledge, reward you with giveaway items and a great raffle too!

## 2007 Tek Week Sponsors

- Test dives using an U/W housing and digital video system from Amphibico! Plus clinics, tips and techniques for underwater video from the guys that made the stuff!
- Test dives using digital housings and camera from Reef Photo & Video! Plus clinics, tips and techniques for underwater photography from Florida's largest retailer!
- David from Technical Diving International (TDISDI) will be joining you, the training agency for technical divers on CCR and on Open Circuit with an overview of all courses offered and great gifts for you to take home! Plus a write up in Diving Adventure after the event!
- Pool dives on the field tested and proven Evolution and Inspiration CCR's complete with CO 2 monitoring from Silent Diving Systems – you might even talk us into a real dive!
- Curt Bowen from Advanced Diver Magazine, will be shooting you and writing an article for ADM!
- Kim Smith will delight you with the Sport KISS and Classic KISS to do a try dive on from Jetsam Technologies! You'll see the latest developments on their new Rebreather Monitoring Systems. Jim from Fourth Element will be coming along with a virtual warehouse of "to dive for" thermals from rash guards to socks and no buoyancy thermals! How about that – we can all shed some weight! • MicroPore, the manufacturer's of the Extend Air Co2 absorbent cartridges will have an ample supply for CCR divers or for those CCR test dives if you want to try them out and see what everyone is talking about – bubble free diving!"

[www.advanceddivermagazine.com/caymanccr/tekweek.html](http://www.advanceddivermagazine.com/caymanccr/tekweek.html)

*Stay tuned...more to come! Contact us for more details or to book your own dive trip today with our on site travel agent specializing in Scuba diving vacations - Caribbean Dive Tours/Worldwide Travel. Also, book your next Aggressor Fleet trip with us and save \$\$\$!*

**ASK ABOUT OUR IN HOUSE FINANCING!!! AN INDUSTRY FIRST IN THE CENTRAL OHIO AREA!!!**

## Service

- Air, nitrox, trimix, argon and oxygen fills **(Nitrox fills are only \$12.00 and there is no need to have your tank O2 cleaned to get a Nitrox fill since we use a membrane system!)** Ask about our fill card special!
- Cylinder visual inspections, valve repair, eddy current, oxygen cleaning, tumbling and hydrostatic testing
- Rental gear
- BCD and regulator repair & service (all brands)

## Training

- Bubblemaker & PADI Seal Team
- Junior Open Water

- Open Water
- Advanced Open Water
- Specialty Diver - Night Diver, Dry Suit Diver, Wreck Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy Control, Underwater Photography & Videography, Boat Diver, Drift Diver, Underwater Naturalist, Underwater Navigation, Altitude Diver, AWARE Coral Reef Conservation, AWARE Fish Identification, Enriched Air Diver, Deep Diver, DPV Diver, Multilevel & Computer Diver, Solo Diver, Gas Blender, Decompression Theory & Advanced Nitrox Diver, Rebreather Training (closed & semi-closed), Trimix Diver
- Scuba Tune-up
- Emergency First Response/Medic First Aid
- Oxygen Provider
- Master Scuba Diver
- Rescue Diver
- Divemaster
- Open Water Scuba Instructor
- Master Scuba Diver Trainer

**Training agencies utilized:** PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors,) TDI (Technical Diving International,) SDI (Scuba Diving International,) ERDI (Emergency Response Diving International)

## 2007 Class Schedule

**OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE  
(CLASSROOM/POOL SCHEDULE)**

### JULY

Class # OW0722, 10am-4pm, July 14 & 15

Class # OW0723, 6-9pm, July 17, 19, 31, Aug. 2

### AUGUST

Class # OW0724, 6-9pm, Aug. 6, 8, 20, 22

Class # OW0725, 6-9pm, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30

Class # OW0726, 10am-4pm, Aug. 18 & 19

### SEPTEMBER

Class # OW0727, 6-9pm, Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7

Class # OW0728, 10am-4pm, Sept. 8 & 9

Class # OW0729, 6-9pm, Sept. 11, 13, 18, 20

### OCTOBER

Class # OW0730, 6-9pm, Oct. 1, 3, 8, 10

Class # OW0731, 10am-4pm, Oct. 6 & 7

Class # OW0732, 6-9pm, Oct. 15, 16, 17, 18

### NOVEMBER

Class # OW0733, 10am-4pm, Nov. 3 & 4

Class # OW0734, 6-9pm, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28

Class # OW0735, 6-9pm, Nov. 13, 15, 27, 29

**DECEMBER**

Class # OW0736, 10am-4pm, Dec. 1 & 2  
 Class # OW0737, 6-9pm, Dec. 5, 7, 19, 21  
 Class # OW0738, 6-9pm, Dec. 10, 11, 12, 13

**OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE  
 (OPEN WATER DIVE SCHEDULE)**

**JULY**

Class # OW07-08, 3pm-8pm, July 5 & 6  
 Class # OW07-09, 9am-2pm, July 21 & 22  
 Class # OW07-10, 6pm-9pm, July 26 & 27

**AUGUST**

Class # OW07-11, 9am-2pm, Aug. 4 & 5  
 Class # OW07-12, 4pm-9pm, Aug. 14 & 15  
 Class # OW07-13, 9am-2pm, Aug. 25 & 26

**SEPTEMBER**

Class # OW07-14, 9am-2pm, Sept. 1 & 2  
 Class # OW07-15, 4pm-9pm, Sept. 15 & 16  
 Class # OW07-16, 4pm-9pm, Sept. 27 & 28

**OCTOBER**

Class # OW07-17, 4-9pm, Oct. 2 & 4  
 Class # OW07-18, 9am-2pm, Oct. 13 & 14  
 Class # OW07-19, 9am-2pm, Oct. 20 & 21

**ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER COURSES**

**JULY**

Class # AOW07-03N, 2-9pm, July 21 & 22 (Portage)

**AUGUST**

Class # AOW07-04, 2-9pm, Aug. 11 & 12 (Portage)

**SEPTEMBER**

Class # AOW07-05N, 2-9pm, Sept. 1 & 2

**OCTOBER**

Class # AOW07-06, 2-9pm, Sept. 13 & 14

**RESCUE DIVER COURSES**

**JULY**

Class # RD0703, Lecture: 6-10pm on July 27, Dives: 10am-2pm on July 28 & 29

**AUGUST**

Class # RD0704, Lecture: 6-10pm on Aug. 10, Dives: 10am-2pm on Aug. 11 & 22

**SEPTEMBER**

Class # RD0705, Lecture: 6-10pm on Sept. 21, Dives: 10am-2pm on Sept. 22 & 23

**OCTOBER**

Class # RD0706, Lecture: 6-10pm on Oct. 19, Dives: 2-6pm on Oct. 20 & 21

**SPECIALTY DIVER COURSES**

**JULY**

Class # EA0706, Enriched Air, 4-8pm, July 14

**AUGUST**

Class # EFR0708, Emergency First Response, 10am-4pm, Aug. 4

Class # EA0707, Enriched Air, 6-10pm, Aug. 17

**SEPTEMBER**

Class # SR07-01, Search & Recovery, 3-6pm, Sept. 1

Class # EA0708, Enriched Air, 4-8pm, Sept. 8

**OCTOBER**

Class # DS07-01, Dry Suit Diver, 2-5pm, Oct. 13

Class # EA0709, Enriched Air, 10am-2pm, Oct. 27

**NOVEMBER**

Class # ES0701, Equipment Specialist, 10-2pm, Nov. 10

Class # EA0710, Enriched Air, 10am-2pm, Nov. 17

**DECEMBER**

Class # EA0711, Enriched Air, 10am-2pm, Dec. 8

*If interested in any other type of course not scheduled here, please call or come by the store; many courses are not pre-scheduled, they are set up on an as needed basis.*

**A Few of Our Favorite Links:** (send us some of your favorites so we can share them!)

<http://www.ohiomast.org/>

<http://www.ocssdi.org/>

<http://www.padi.com/padi/default.aspx>

<http://www.scubafest.org/>

<http://www.eriewrecks.com/>

<http://www.newwavescuba.com/>

**OHIO QUARRIES**

[Circleville Twin Quarries](#) (Circleville)

[Gilboa Quarry](#) (Ottawa)

[Portage Quarry](#) (Portage - Bowling Green)

[Natural Springs Resort](#) - formerly France Lake (New Paris, Ohio)

[Plum Run](#) (Peebles - recently closed to divers)

[White Star Quarry](#) (Gibsonburg)

[Long Lake Quarry](#) (Lima)

Lake Amanda (Spencerville)

Lakeview Park [\[third party link\]](#) (Lancaster)

[Nelson's Ledges](#) Quarry Park (Nelson)

**Aqua Immersion**

929 Jasonway Ave. Suite A  
Columbus, Ohio 43214  
Phone - (614) 457-DIVE (3483)  
Fax - (614) 457-3485  
Toll Free 1(877) DIV-AQUA  
(1-877-348-2782)

Web Site coming soon!!!  
[www.aquaimmersion.com](http://www.aquaimmersion.com)  
*Currently under construction*

Store Hours:  
Monday through Friday 10am - 8pm  
Saturday 10am - 6pm  
Sunday 1pm - 6pm