AQUA MERSION, LLC
Dive 'N Travel Center

Aquatude!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006 PAGE 1

Welcome Back!

Wow, it's November already! And BRRRRR! But this doesn't mean it's time to put the SCUBA gear away, it means it's time to get your gear serviced and ready to dive in the cold water!

There are several dive sites right here in Ohio to dive during the winter months; White Star Quarry is open until December 31st, Circleville is open all year around (suggest calling before driving to be sure the gate is open,) Portage Quarry will open it's gates for a group of 10 or more divers during the winter months, Gilboa Quarry is open all year round and Lakeview Park is open as well. And don't forget about the Great Lakes! Here's a little trivia, did you know…

"The Great Lakes -- Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario -- and their connecting channels form the largest fresh surface water system on earth. If you stood on the moon, you could see the lakes and recognize the familiar wolf head shape of Lake Superior, or the mitten bounded by lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie. Covering more than 94,000 square miles and draining more than twice as much land, these Freshwater Seas hold an estimated 6 quadrillion gallons of water, about one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply and nine-tenths of the U.S. supply. Spread evenly across the contiguous 48 states, the lakes' water would be about 9.5 feet deep. The channels that connect the Great Lakes are an important part of the system. The St. Mary's River is the northernmost of these, a 60-mile waterway flowing from Lake Superior down to Lake Huron. At the St. Marys rapids, the Soo Locks bypass the rough waters, providing safe transport for ships. The St. Clair and Detroit rivers, and Lake St. Clair between them, form an 89-mile long channel connecting Lake Huron with Lake Erie. The 35-mile Niagara River links lakes Erie and Ontario, and sends approximately 50,000 to 100,000 cubic feet of water per second over Niagara Falls; the manmade Welland Canal also links the two lakes, providing a detour around the falls. From Lake Ontario, the water from the Great Lakes flows through the St. Lawrence River all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, about 1,000 miles away. This system greatly affects our way of life, as well as all aspects of the natural environment, from weather and climate, to wildlife and habitat. Yet for all their size and power, the Great Lakes are fragile.

In the past, this fragile nature wasn't recognized, and the lakes were mistreated for economic gain, placing the ecosystem under tremendous stress from our activities. Today, we understand that our health and our children's inheritance depend on our collective efforts to wisely manage our complex ecosystem." http://www.great-lakes.net/lakes/

LAKE ERIE

"While Lake Erie is the smallest and shallowest of the Great Lakes, she is estimated to have some 1,400 shipwrecks within her waters. The average depth is only 62 feet, with a 210-foot maximum depth on the eastern end. This contributes to diver interest as Lake Erie offers shipwreck diving within recreational and technical ranges. There are still many undiscovered vessels in Lake Erie's waters and, in researching shipwrecks; it is sometimes difficult to determine a vessel's location or whether it has been salvaged. Historic accounts in newspapers and books are not always available, resulting in piecing together the vessel's history and sometimes approximating the location. Lake Erie actively participated in Great Lakes maritime trade, and her shipwrecks represent a cross-section of the vessel types used during the 1800's (schooners, schooner barges, tugs, sidewheel steamers etc.) Her historic vessel sinkings were often caused by poor navigation (resulting in collisions), storm damage, groundings and fires. Thus, her shipwrecks often display the resulting damage that caused their sinking." http://www.ohiomast.org/Webpages/Shipwrecks.html

Why not join us for a trip to the St. Lawrence Seaway? See more info regarding trips on page 3!

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For those of us who don't do cold-water dives, winter means…

It's time to service that GEAR!!! Don't get caught this spring with gear that doesn't work properly and don't wait until the last minute to take your gear to your dive center to have it checked out. You wouldn't want to take that long awaited plunge in April or May just to have to climb back out of the water because of a faulty BCD, inflator hose, tank valve or regulator, would you? Of course not! So bring in that equipment over the winter (any brand!) and we'll make sure that your first giant stride this spring is a pleasant one!

Baby, it's cold outside!

But it's warm in our dive center's pool! Yes, winter is on its way that is for sure. There's a definite chill in the air but our pool is a constant 80-85 degrees, just the right temperature to brush up on your dive skills! Come in for a refresher or just to keep your skills keen between dives. Also, we offer free Discover Scuba Diving sessions for those friends and family members who keep telling you, "One of these days, I'm going to give that 'SCUBA' thing a try!" Bring 'em in and we'll take them under, who knows, maybe they'll catch the bug just like you!

Don't Forget…

About our Friday night movies and games on the weekends in the Surface Interval Lounge! Stop by to watch a new or classic dive related movie, bring in your own "home" movies or any movie favorite to share on the big screen! The fun and popcorn flows at 7:30pm on Friday (or whenever you get here!) And the games start on Saturday and go through Sunday, even Monday night football is up and running on the big screen for your viewing pleasure!

Meet our Staff

Michelle Ulrich-Thomas - PADI OWSI 193203

"It all started in Cancun; my boyfriend (at the time, now my husband) left me by the pool at our hotel to go diving, twice. Afterward he bought my first mask, fins and snorkel and took me snorkeling. I saw people below me diving and that was the beginning of my life as a diver! That was back in 2001, since then I've worked hard and took as many SCUBA classes as I possibly could. My hard work has paid off because now I enjoy watching a student diver drop below the surface for the first time. I'm currently an Open Water Scuba Instructor for PADI and in the process of completing my Master Scuba Diver Trainer certification along with my National Association of Cave Divers Full Cave Diving certification; I've made it through the NACD's Cavern and Intro to Cave Diving certifications and have my Apprentice and Full Cave certification left to complete, my goal is to have those finished up by spring of 2007. After which I plan to begin completion of my next goal which is PADI's DSAT program and then become a DSAT Instructor, I follow the philosophy of "a good diver is always learning" so that is what I will do, continue my education in the sport I love and live everyday!"

Doug Hotchkiss - PADI OWSI 198489

"I started diving in 1992 for the U.S. Marine Corps doing Special Operations. I went to Scuba School in Little Creek, VA and combat diving in Key West and Panama, FL. This was a great start to my diving career because it gave me every opportunity to explore many areas of diving. We used many types of DPV's and rebreathers; things that are gaining popularity today. After I got out of the service there was a period of time I did not do much diving. I started diving for a local sheriff Dept. in 1999 and 2000. It opened the door to Public Safety Diving for the Columbus Division of Fire Dive Team under PSDA. I enjoy the technical side of diving and will continue to learn more and possibly instruct in these areas. I love watching people as they learn to dive. They go from having a little apprehension to growing gills and wishing they had started sooner."

Look for more staff Bios in future newsletters!

Upcoming Events

BIG DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE! Hey guys, while the ladies are hitting the Department store sales on Friday, November 24th, you can hit Aqua Immersion's sale while relaxing and enjoying the games in our surface interval lounge!

The A.I. Dive Club coming soon!

Dive Silver Jewelry and Dive Watches coming soon!

Gift Cards now available!!!

Underwater Scooters just arrived!!!

Holiday Specials soon to come need that special Christmas gift for the diver you love, come in and see what we have on sale for the holidays, you just might find that gift he/she has always wanted. If you don't know what they want, you could always get them an Aqua Immersion gift card and let them pick out something special.

D.E.M.A. 2007 Orlando, FL November 8th – 12th keep an eye out for December's Aquatude and read about the highlights of the show and find out what's new in the dive industry!

Diving Concepts Dry Suits now available! Place your custom order today and sign up for a dry suit specialty course so you can be out diving with the rest of us this winter!

Digital Photography Editing Class now here, sign up for winter classes!

Dive Trips

Turks and Caicos – November

Key West – December

Bonaire with Rick & Michelle Thomas – June 9th thru June 16th at Buddy Dive Resort!

St. Lawrence Seaway with Joe McCurry in August

Learn Here, Check Out There…Do your classroom and pool sessions here and your check out dives in Grand Cayman (or wherever your heart desires and save 15%)

Grand Cayman, Cobalt Coast and Dive Tech – 4 nights/3 days from January 11th-15th, 2007 for $1020/pp (Diver) and from February 16th-20th, 2007 for $1095/pp (Diver.) Includes accommodation, tax, airport transfers, all meals daily, 1-day 2-tank boat dive and unlimited shore diving. Average airfare from Columbus during January 2007 is $650/pp and during February 2007 is $800/pp.

OR…same trip from January 11th-15th, 2007 with 3 days of 2-tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving for $1195/pp (Diver) and $940/pp (non-diver) and from February 16th-20th, 2007 for $1270/pp (Diver) and 1015/pp (non-diver) also includes accommodation, tax, airport transfers, all meals daily,

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.)

Classes

- Bubblemaker & PADI Seal Team
- Junior Open Water
- Junior Advanced Open Water
- Open Water Dive
- 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,)

Service

- Air, nitrox and trimix fills
- Cylinder visual inspections, valve repair, eddy current, oxygen cleaning, tumbling and hydrostatic testing
- Rental gear
- BCD and regulator repair & service (all brands)

November Specials *(valid from 11/1/06 through 11/30/06)*

1) Book any full trip through Aqua Immersion during the month of November and receive a bottle of Key West Aloe Scuba Sunscreen, DeepSee Mesh gear bag and Cetacea money belt. ----OR-----

Get $50.00 worth of Cetacea or McNett "bits"

2) Buy any regulator and get a regulator bag Free!

3) Buy any set of fins and get boots for ½ off!

Our Dive Center (and yours!)

Our outdoor sign

Front door, come on in!

Showroom

Pool room

Service room

Large classroom

Small classroom

Air Fill Station

Surface Interval Lounge

Travel Entrance