



Buddy Line

August - September 2010



Celebrating 50 years of Fostering the Sport of Recreational Scuba Diving in Scarborough

By Jack Purchase

1. REFLECTIONS ON THE DIVE SEASON

Well, our 2010 dive season has wrapped up. The final event was the Advanced Course Weekend. Special thanks to our dive season planners Kari MacChesney and Lee Ann Smith who stepped in mid season to ease the work load on Kari. Many of you may recall that Kari took on the roles of both 1st Vice President and Training Director. This represents about two thirds on our club activity and is too heavy a workload to expect one person to carry out in a volunteer organization like ours.

One of the great challenges facing dive season planners is to book charter boats 6 to 9 months in advance based on anticipated membership demand. Often, SUCI must pay 50% of the charter cost at the time of booking. The cost to members is the actual charter cost divided by the number of places on the boat. This means SUCI breaks even if all the charters are completely sold out. This has not happened in each of the last two years. This year of the five boat charters we planned, only one sold out: Brockville. Two were cancelled due to lack of interest but fortunately these were on SUCI members' boats and cancellation resulted in no cost to the club. The Kingston and Tobermory charters were not full despite opening these up to intermediate level divers two to three weeks ahead of the dives. In any event, both proceeded as "Experienced" charters and were greatly enjoyed by those who participated.

This year we also expanded our shore diving weekends. This was in an effort to make sure we had plenty of low cost opportunities for our novice and intermediate divers in addition to experienced divers who wanted to join in. Many members signed up for these dives and failed to show up. Each SUCI official dive requires a Divemaster, a Rescue diver and the Oxygen kit as part of our conformance to OUC and Insurance requirements. Divemasters and Rescue divers, who are volunteers, committed their time and skill to weekends that were under supported by members. Clearly something will

have to change in the future. The basis for next year's dive season will change. Members will need more "skin" in the game. SUCI will be asking for financial commitment for all dives earlier than in the past. The old system worked well when there were more divers than dive season places. (Often to the frustration of some members.) Judging by the past two years, times have changed. The old system is too tough on both our finances and our volunteers. Lee Ann Smith, SUCI 1st VP, will have more to say about this at a future monthly meeting.

SUCI members have also been scouting out new dive sites. This summer, led by Raimund Krob SUCI Instructor, Divemaster and Divemaster candidate members explored diving in the St. Clair River at Sarnia (Point Edward). I had the pleasure of participating in this event and it was my "Highlight" of the year. Not for the faint of heart (literally), a good level of fitness is required. Diving covers an exciting spectrum of opportunities. A SUCI dive weekend here is definitely in the plans for next year. No charter cost. Great environment. Cheap hotels and camping. Good restaurants. The good things go on and on! To do the big challenging dives we need more DMs experienced with these dives; however, under SUCI leadership, there are some dives that can be safely completed by much less experienced divers. We will soon be hearing more on this subject when Raimund presents a formal scouting trip report at a monthly meeting. Many thanks to Raimund for spearheading this trip.

2. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW ADVANCED AND OPEN WATER DIVERS

Raimund Krob recently conducted the Advanced course, assisted by SUCI DMs and Rescue divers. The dives sites were in the Barrie area. Many thanks to Nora Mark for arranging overnight accommodation and breakfast at the Randsalu family lake house on Lake Simcoe. It made for a wonderful club weekend. Diving conditions on Saturday were a challenge: between substantial onshore breakers and the occasional silted out bad visibility, our course divers did a great job.

Well done:

Adrian Van Vroenhoven
Andrew Mark
Barb Rotschild
Erin MacChesney
Heather Courneya

Kari MacChesney, our SUCI Training Director, conducted a special Open Water course for a new member, Ester Blank. Congratulations Ester, for completing the OW course and welcome to SUCI!

3. GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP

This event is part of our club's effort to "give back to the community". This year SUCI was successful in committing early, with The Vancouver Aquarium, the event organization, and won the exclusive opportunity to clean up and survey Rouge Beach Park. We had a modest turnout in part due to the conflict with our advanced course weekend.



Thanks to Patricia Striewe, our SUCI Marketing Director, for organizing the event and thanks to all who did come out to clean the beach. We were supported with supplies from the city of Toronto though the local councilor Ron Moeser. I have since received phone calls from both the Toronto Zoo and the Ministry of Natural Resources, thanking us for our participation. It's great for our club to be noticed - we do make a difference. At a future GM, Patricia will give us a briefing on the event and what we surveyed.

4. 50TH YEAR COMING UP

SUCI is approaching its 50th year (2011). The official kick off to our celebration will be the SUCI Annual Awards and Dinner night November 13th. Many of you already know of the club trip to Curacao Jan 23rd for one or two weeks. This will be a great club event with lots to entertain non diving spouses and friends. All will be

welcome. Details will be published to the SUCI website shortly. Many thanks to Janet Hulbert, Dieter Aupperle, Nora Mark, and Walter Cang on the SUCI 50th Anniversary Committee.

5. INCREASE IN COSTS

No doubt it will not surprise you to learn that SUCI operating costs are rising. Since we operate on an "at cost" basis we will have no alternative but to pass these costs on to membership. As an example, the pool cost us \$85 this year but it rises to \$91 soon. Mike Durst, SUCI Treasurer, will present a budget soon. This will determine next year's membership cost.

6. ELECTIONS

The election of the 2011 SUCI Executive will take place at the November 8th General Meeting. Nominations will take place then as well as at the upcoming October 18th GM. We always welcome this opportunity for others to serve SUCI and its members. We are a dynamic organization and being on the Executive is a lot of work but also a lot of fun: personal growth in facing new challenges, the satisfaction of teamwork, and the chance for members to apply their own unique talents.

Director team members are appointed by the Executive - we are definitely looking for a new Social Director. This is a fun position, with plenty of opportunity for creativity and new ideas. Let us know if you're interested!

Dive Often and Dive Safe

Training Director's Report

As we say goodbye to summer, allow me to re-cap SUCI's fantastic training this year:

We kicked off the dive season as usual with our Spring Discover Scuba. It was a very successful one and as a result we had a full Spring Open Water Course. We also, conducted the Rescue Course at the same time and came out with 11 New Open Water Divers and 4 Rescue divers.

The summer went on with a very exciting dive season and we closed out the year with one final training weekend in Barrie where we conducted an Advanced course as well as a small Open Water course.

Congratulations to Heather Courneya, Andrew Mark, Barb Rotschild, Adrian Van Vroenhoven on the completion of their Advanced Certification and **Congratulations** to Ester Blank on the completion of her Open Water Certification!!! Job Well Done!

Although Heather Lemieux was not with us on our Barrie weekend I would also like to send out congratulations to her as she too gained her Advanced Certification over the summer.

I would like to send out a big thank you to Raimund Krob for leading the Advanced Team Weekend. Between scoping out the dive site with Nora Mark on the Friday prior to the weekend, to completing 2 dives in the morning and then fleeing the scene to drive out for a wedding, to then come back and continue on with the third and final dive of the night..... That shows a phenomenal amount of dedication, so THANK YOU RAIMUND!!!!

I would also like to thank all the Divemasters, Divemaster Candidates, Rescue Divers, Records and Helpers of all kinds who came out to make the weekend such a success.

We also owe enormous thanks to Nora's daughter, son-in-law and mother who opened the doors to their home and allowed a group of strange, soggy divers in, to feast on their delicious edibles and rearrange their furniture to create one giant air mattress infused slumber party. A good time was had by all.

Even though our summer has passed us by so quickly; SUCI is not about to give up on the training. We are holding the Fall Discover Scuba on October 2nd, followed by the Open Water course on October 18th in which we anticipate yet another group of eager, energetic soon to be divers.

Thank you once again to the entire SUCI membership for making this training year such a success!!

"Goodbye Summer

*The winds of summer, hot and dry,
lazy days go quickly by.
Sun so hot it burns your nose,
seasoned grass 'tween your toes,
mowed and raked in piles and rows.*

*Flowers need water...you do too!
Sprinkler system aimed at you
and friends who come for fun and play,
spend a lazy summer day,
kids at heart in sun's hot ray.*

*Steaks they sizzle...'burgers drizzle,
hotdogs burst, then they fizzle.
Smells so good, can't wait to taste,
we sample chips in our haste
and nothing here goes to waste.*

*Iced tea sweats in glasses tall,
lemonade 'n pop for all,
ice cream churned 'til cold and creamy,
in the sun makes air turn steamy
and pies and cakes make us dreamy!*

*Soon t'will be a memory,
these lazy days so hot and free.
Mother Nature has the rule
and kids are soon back in school.
Summer dust that winds did blow,
hasten Autumn's amber glow...
summer's gone...where did it go...."*

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Niagara River Drift Diving at Night

by Patricia Strewie

We soooooo wanted to jump off the wall again, but as usual, Raimund was right. Jumping off the wall at night wasn't a good idea. If you lose gear like your weight belt during the day jump, there's a pretty good chance you'll find it. Not so at night. So we entered the river from the little beach under the railway bridge to do our night dive of the Niagara River. What a blast! Visibility was good and as far as our dive lights would shine. Heather Courneya, Raimund and I did 50 kick cycles out, then drifted along on a buddy line close to the bottom. Big joke on the fishermen out there! If only they could see the number and size of fish we

saw. They were everywhere, as far as the eye could see, which was as far as the lights would shine. We were hugging the bottom, and one swam between me and the riverbed, giving me quite a nudge between the legs as it cruised by.

Heather recalls: "Do you remember how many tiny silver fish we saw?" I am sure they were in the water on our other dives but having the light allowed us to see them, whereas in the daylight we couldn't see them. Also remember all the large fish we saw? Some of them seemed to have lost their colour in the night and looked quite white. Also, as we were floating down the river the large fish seemed just as surprised to see us as we were to see them. We were able to pet several of them. And the way the weeds were blowing in the current was magical. It was like a woman's hair blowing in the wind, so long and flowing with the light shining on it. And how about when each of us were holding Rai's arm. It was like taking a stroll down a quiet street, so peaceful but exciting at the same time because it was all so new!"

About two-thirds way through the dive, we saw less fish but were able to continue to enjoy the speed at which we were drifting. When a drift dive is that relaxing, you can practice yoga breathing.

Raimund says the fish we saw were hundreds of freshwater drum (aka "sheepshead"), redbfin suckers, pickerel, emerald shiners, and catfish. I thought the catfish looked delicious. And he, as likely the club's best scrounger, managed to pick up a 12" Muskie lure along the way.

Most dives with Raimund end in perfect landings. This one was no exception. When we surfaced, I looked up to see Jack and Barb awaiting our arrival, then looked further up to see the big dipper greeting us. Turns out they were a bit concerned about the length of time we spent underwater and followed the green glow of our lights. Not to worry - it was so relaxing that we ascended with plenty of air to spare. Then there was our welcome back at the campsite. When I got out of my vehicle, Cheryl was standing there with a glass of wine for me. Thanks, buddy! The campfire was cozy and the company was entertaining. Life is good.

Diving with the legendary Pete Lane in Tobermory on the Labour Day Weekend

article & pictures by Sergey Zinchenko

The September long weekend in Tobermory started out windy and wavy...

Saturday morning saw 6 meter waves and all dive boats were staying in the Little Tub Harbour. Even M.S. Chi-Cheemaun turned back to the dock...

Sunday morning it was sunny and choppy. Dive boats went out but could not get to most of the dive sites. The mooring line on Niagara II was broken by one of dive boats.



Finally, on Monday morning The water was almost flat the sky is gray and it was about to rain...

Afternoon forecast is not very promising either due to the strong wind. Our big trip to the wrecks the City of Cleveland and the San Jacinto had been changed to the Forest City and the Arabia - not bad considering the forecast.

I'm on the boat "Deep Obsession" operated by Divers Den along with bunch of technical divers. It looked like all of them were buddies and I needed one recreational diver to dive with. Somebody mentions name Pete Lane... I wonder, "Is that the same guy who's plaque I've seen so many times inside Niagara's II machine compartment???"

"Yes, it is him," the captain replies, and "he is diving with us today. As a matter of fact he has over 300 dives on the Niagara and we have a new plaque, that we just need to put it on."

Pete lives not too far from Tobermory and dives there pretty much every weekend. Perfect buddy for my first dive on the Forest City. Luckily for me Pete was doing recreational dives and was diving on air so we were on the same page. It took as just one moment to agree on the dive plan - he has dove these wrecks many many times so I followed his lead.



The Forest City was dark and cold as usual. The thermo clime at 70 feet was 42F = 5.5C below thermo clime. She sits on the steep slope and goes as deep as 150 feet. The site is well protected by the Bears Rump Island so we did free descent and landed right on the wreck. I felt very confident and safe diving with Pete. "Slow is fast" - this is so true. We had enough time to see entire wreck, take some pictures and Pete even fixed the line connecting the mooring block and the wreck.



The wind picked up and the Deep Obsession was crushing the waves with her still bow on the way to the Arabia site. I was really impressed by our fellow technical divers. By the time we reached each site they were fully geared up and jumped in

the water the moment the "pool was open". It was really hard to get to the descent line fighting the waves, wind and current so the decision was made to leave camera on the boat.

It was the first time I had a chance to see Arabia without looking through the viewfinder of the camera. She is amazing. No pictures can express what the human eye can see. Once again I followed



Pete's lead and was not disappointed. We had enough time to see the wreck, and make a safe ascent. On the safety stop we joined the "decompression party" with a bunch of techies hanging on the line. I even had enough air to blow huge air rings and entertain the crowd.

Great dives, excellent dive buddy, good times. My wish is that I get to dive as often as Pete so I can put a plaque with my name beside his on one of Tobermory ship wrecks.

Some Interesting Facts: Advanced Rating

The Forest City was built in 1890 and was steam propeller driven and 216' in length. She sunk in 1904 after ramming into Bears Rump Island in heavy fog and lies in a depth ranging from 70' to 150'.

Her badly broken bow is reached at 60' with the relatively intact stern in about 150' of water. You will find the most interesting part of the wreck lies between 100' and 150'. You need to be an experienced diver and be equipped with dive computers and a redundant air supply. The smoke funnel and boilers are in place located at 110 to 130 feet. The name "Forest City" can still be seen on the transom. Divers can penetrate the stern and there is

much debris to be seen. This wreck provides an eerie environment due to low light, cold water and nitrogen narcosis.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!!!

For those of you who like Ice Diving, maybe you'd like to check this one out?

Ship lost for more than 150 years is recovered



AP

This 1851 illustration shows the HMS Investigator on the north coast of Baring Island in the Arctic. Arctic archaeologists have found the ship that forged the final link in the Northwest Passage and was lost in the search for the Franklin expedition.

The Associated Press
TORONTO —

Canadian archeologists have found a ship abandoned more than 150 years ago in the quest for the fabled Northwest Passage and which was lost in the search for the doomed expedition of Sir John Franklin, the head of the team said Wednesday.

Marc-Andre Bernier, Parks Canada's head of underwater archaeology, said the HMS Investigator, abandoned in the ice in 1853, was found in shallow water in Mercy Bay along the northern coast of Banks Island in Canada's western Arctic.

"The ship is standing upright in very good condition. It's standing in about 11 meters (36 feet) of water," he said. "This is definitely of the utmost importance. This is the ship that sailed the last leg of the Northwest Passage."

The Investigator was one of many American and British ships sent out to search for the HMS Erebus and the Terror, vessels commanded by Franklin in his ill-fated search for the Northwest Passage in 1845.

Environment Minister Jim Prentice said the British government has been notified that one of their naval shipwrecks has been discovered, as well as the bodies of three sailors.

Captained by Robert McClure, the Investigator sailed in 1850. That year, McClure sailed the Investigator into the strait that now bears his name and realized that he was in the final leg of the Northwest Passage, the sea route across North America.

But before he could sail into the Beaufort Sea, the ship was blocked by pack ice and forced to winter-over in Prince of Wales Strait along the east coast of Banks Island.

The following summer, McClure tried again to sail to the end of the Passage, but was again blocked by ice. He steered the ship and crew into a large bay on the island's north coast he called the Bay of Mercy.

There they were to remain until 1853, when they were rescued by the crew of the HMS Resolute. The Investigator was abandoned.

"This is actually a human history," said Bernier. "Not only a history of the Passage, but the history of a crew of 60 men who had to overwinter three times in the Arctic not knowing if they were going to survive."

The Parks Canada team arrived at Mercy Bay on July 22. Three days later, the ice on the bay cleared enough that researchers were able to deploy side-scanning sonar from a small inflatable boat over the site where they believed the wooden ship had eventually sunk. Within 15 minutes, the Investigator was found.

"The ship had not moved too much from where it was abandoned," said Bernier.

The masts and rigging have long been sheared off by ice and weather. But the icy waters of the McClure Strait has preserved the vessel in remarkably good condition.

"It's incredible," said Prentice from Mercy Bay. "You're actually able to peer down into the water and see not only the outline of the ship but actually the individual timbers."

Archaeologists have also uncovered artifacts on land left behind by the stranded sailors, who unloaded everything before abandoning the Investigator.

The graves of three sailors thought to have died of scurvy have been marked off and will be left undisturbed, said Bernier.

Bernier said the next step will be to send down a remote controlled video camera to get actual pictures of the wreck. There are no plans to bring it to the surface and all legal steps will be taken to ensure the site remains protected.

Bernier also said the team will use similar technology to find the Erebus and Terror.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUCI'S ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT &

DINNER DANCE by *LeeAnn Smith, Social Dir.*

Where: Bluffer's Restaurant (7 Brimley Rd. South)

When: November 13, 2010

Cost: \$50 per person for members & guest

\$55 for other non-members

Cash Bar & Draw Prizes

As usual - the night will start with a selection of hot and cold appetizers - a full buffet dinner with wine on the table and a lovely dessert tray with tea and coffee. There will also be the much anticipated draw prizes and the awarding of the Diver of the Year Award and Trainee of the Year Award. Tickets will be available at the October General Meeting and every Monday night at the pool up to the week before the event.

SUCI CELEBRATES IT'S 50th YEAR WITH A CLUB TRIP DOWN SOUTH THIS FEBRUARY

***SUCI's Anniversary Committee has
planned a trip to celebrate the clubs 50th
Anniversary at the Super Breezes Club in
Curacao in February for either 1 or 2
weeks departing Jan. 23, 2011.***

***Full details are available by contacting
Dieter Aupperle***

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Kingston Dive: July 10/11th

(by Nora Mark)

On Saturday, July 10th, several of our members boarded the Proteus Diving Charter <http://www.proteusdiving.com> for a wonderful weekend of diving. Our first experience with this relatively new charter, it was very impressive. The boat is a 55 ft. steel vessel, includes 2 heated berths, a very clean, spacious head with hot and cold running water...and patio umbrellas on both port and starboard sides. We also made good use of the ice chests and top-notch barbecue. Captain Frank (yes, he is also a captain in the Kingston Military) went out of his way to make everyone comfortable - throughout the day, there was cold, bottled water and an array of treats: Tim's muffins, watermelon, grapes, chips and salsa, cookies...need I say more? We were really fortunate weather wise: sunny, warm and most of the time, hardly a ripple in the water - well, maybe 10 inch waves a few times!

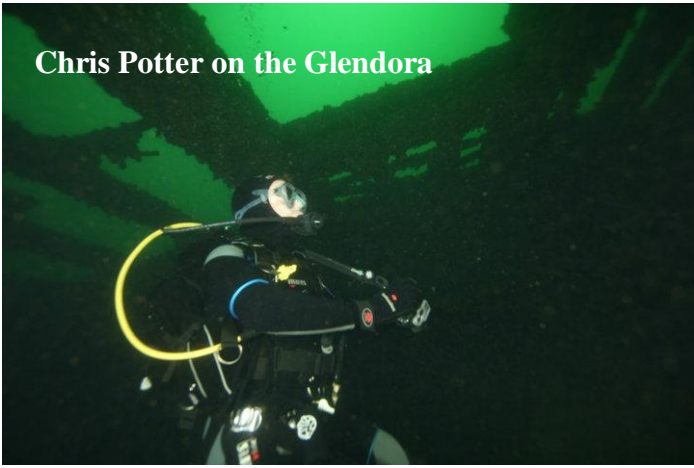


On Saturday, we dove on the Glendora and the Comet: always good wrecks and the lowest temperature was a balmy 63°F. On Sunday, we did the lovely George C. Marsh (interesting history) and the ever popular Wolfe Islander II - so much to see on both of these wrecks! Again, temperatures varied from 61° to 64°F - not bad for mid-July. Surface temperatures were well into the 70's.

I might add that we were delighted to have on board Sergey and Lena's little 9 month baby daughter, Sophia. An engaging smiler, she was a lot of fun!

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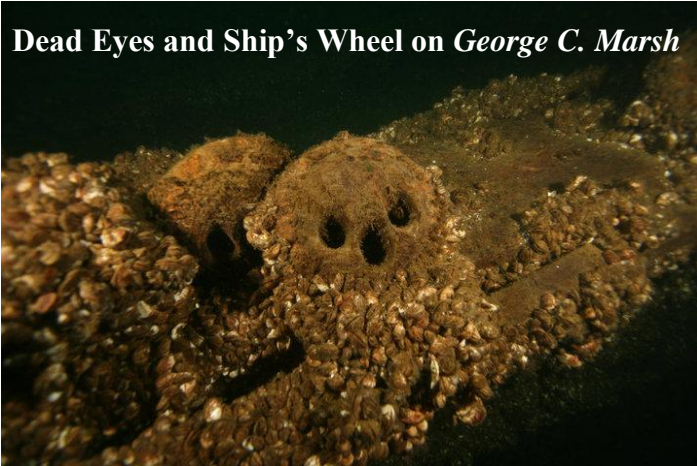
Chris Potter on the Glendora



Lena and dear little Sophia...hey, who's driving this boat anyway??



Dead Eyes and Ship's Wheel on *George C. Marsh*



Paddlewheels of the *Comet*....neat



Aye, Aye Captain Frank



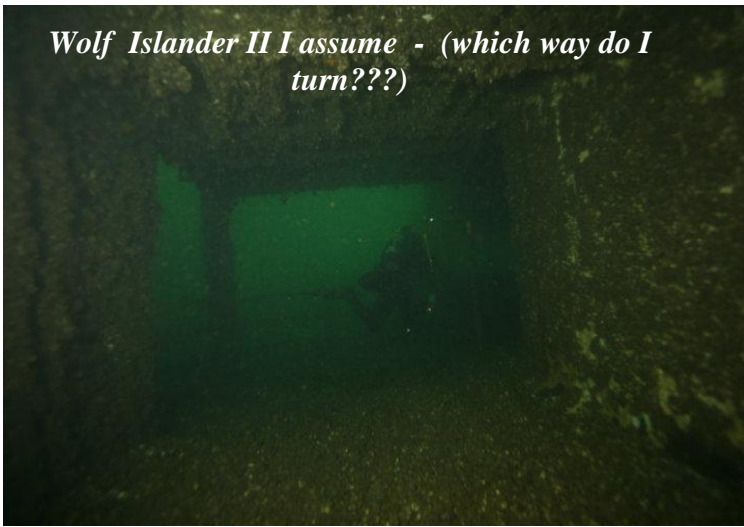
Tastes sooooo... good!



Ride anyone?



Wolf Islander II I assume - (which way do I turn???)



Captain Frank dragged this down...to grind zebras????

