



Buddy Line



May - June - July 2010

By Jack Purchase

Our Open Water weekend was a great success and a good start to our dive season.

On behalf of the whole club, we would like to congratulate our newly certified divers and our new rescue divers. We applaud this enthusiastic group of divers who, hopefully, will soon embark on many new underwater adventures: They are:

Open Water Divers

Nichole De La Cruz
Steve Cybulski
San Tam
Amy Zubick
Bill Hammond
Derek Cowbourne
Dylan Phillips
Wayne Crawley
Paul Reza
Souphy Saythong
Chris Spencer

Rescue Divers

Vital Boucher
Cheryl Maugham
Patricia Striwe
Chris Potter

None of this would be possible without our SUCI team of dedicated Instructors, Divemasters and helpers.

Our instructors were: Kari MacChesney, Mike McCabe, May Loo and Raimund Krob. Divemasters and DM candidates were all over the place helping instructors and we had a great team of rescue victims and shore helpers.

Kari MacChesney has done a wonderful job this year serving as both 1st Vice President and Training Director but has positions, but has stepped down to pursue other career interests. We are pleased to announce that Lee Ann Smith has kindly accepted the position of 1st Vice President."

Raimund Krob led the SUCI scouting trip to explore the possibilities of adding the St. Clair River at Sarnia as a site for future SUCI dive locations. Raimund will report to us at the monthly meeting after our dive season. I joined Raimund and others

on this trip and we had a great time. Two pictures as a teaser are below.

Please mark on your calendar: **September 18th**, for SUCI's participation in the **Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup**. For this year's cleanup, we have secured exclusively to our club, Rouge Beach Park. More details will follow later.

The dive season is in full swing and I would like to wish everyone the best of Ontario diving.

Stay fit and dive safe.



St Clair River Sarnia: International shipping channel.



St Clair River under the Bluewater Bridge.

Open Water/Rescue Weekend at Windmill Point Park, Fort Erie

*article by Nora Mark
pictures by Jack Purchase & Richard Ho*

The weather gods were with us during the weekend of June 11/12th! Most of the volatile systems passed north of us, leaving a beautiful hot, sunny Saturday and a cloudy, sometimes drizzly but warm Sunday.

We are most appreciative of the many SUCI members who played a variety of roles in



supporting these students both in getting organized at the shore and ensuring their safety in the water. Several expressed their gratitude of all the help that was made available to them. It is this kind of teamwork that generates much life and vitality into our club.



**Winners of the SUCI Fin Race
(looks like a stacked team to me)**

Thanks to Lee Ann's efforts, our Saturday evening buffet consisted of an array of healthy appetizers, lots of interesting salads, plus the tantalizing aromas of a variety of meats sizzling on the barbecues. Desserts were also plentiful, from cakes to fruits and even Raimund's popsicles! It was amazing how quickly food was devoured – obviously everyone was very hungry!

During the late evening, many enjoyed the music of several guitarists and joined in the singing. We have lots of multi-talented people in our midst.



open water check-out



No more practicing in the safety of the pool.
This is for real now.



Plenty of Good Food - Even the Leftovers



Relaxing after a busy day

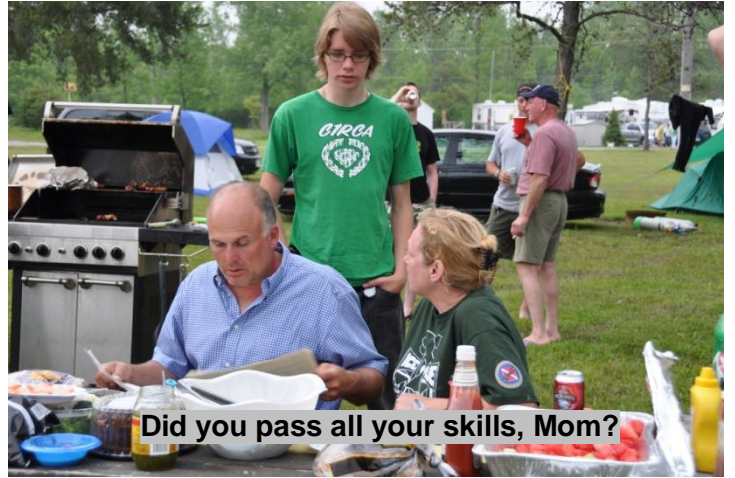
What the is it dead?



Our morning cheer!!!! Thank you Kari



Raimund giving instructions the new Rescue Divers



Did you pass all your skills, Mom?

A little down time is always nice



Is it our turn yet?



NIAGARA ENTHUSIASM - Drift Diving in the Niagara River

article by Patricia Striewe & photos by Sergey Zinchenko

The Germans call it "Lebensfreude", the love of life. It's easy to enjoy life diving with SUCI! We dove in the Niagara River last weekend and had a great time. Contrary to the forecasts, the weather was perfect – not too hot, and even a little overcast to prevent us from getting burned while on land.



There's an entry point for one of the dives where you can choose to enter gently from a little beach or jump off a high, concrete wall. Jumping off that wall fully geared up is a hoot – one, two, three, am I crazy?... Geronimo!

The drift dives were very relaxing. We kicked out into the river (after scrounging the shoreline for a bit to look for goodies), then just floated along. It's was so easy to do that a tank that would normally last 45 minutes lasts 1 hour.

We found some interesting things along the way, for example, Joanne's lost flashlight (against all odds), golf balls, fishing tackle, a bicycle

Is this a Roman Urn?



and a barge from the War of 1812. Just imagine those soldiers crossing the river, then sinking the barge to hide it until they needed it again. I wonder what happened to them. The fish were just as curious about us as we were about them. They swam along with us and occasionally came right up to our faces to say hello. There were plenty of pickerel, bass and a couple of 5 – 6 foot muskies, who were not at all aggressive despite their reputation. I'm happy to announce that we've managed to convert Cheryl, and she's is no longer a self-proclaimed Caribbean diving snob.

We had a great time camping together as well. Raimund pondered whether or not our joy of camping stems back to humans' primal need to wander in tribes for food and suitable living conditions. I like the idea of still having that primal instinct. Anyway, we shared good food, sat around the bonfire (huge on Saturday night thanks to Rick's kids), marveled at the full moon, played guitar and sang, and even managed a late swim Saturday night that was perfect just before going to sleep. Good times with good people. What more could one ask for?



Synchronized Diving!



Equipment Course by PADI

by Dieter Aupperle

In January Dive Source offered a Padi Course on Scuba equipment. This course was not meant to provide the students with the ability to do equipment servicing, but to allow the students to do basic repairs so as to continue with a dive weekend. The basics that a Diver should know about the operation of their equipment.

The course was a 1 day course that started at 9 am and ran to 5 pm. The course covered both theory and hands on knowledge and cover all the equipment most divers have, from regulators to fins and masks.

The class had 8 students ranging from experience to newly certified. I found it very informative and I recommend it for all divers of all levels. The course is design to give the diver a basic understanding of how their equipment works and some basic skills in both maintaining and repairing them.

In the first part of the course we concentrated on the regulator, both the first stage and the second stage. We covered how the first stage breaks down the tank pressure into a more manageable pressure and the differences of the regulatory. Manufactures handle the pressure change differently. We then spent time in the work shop where the instructor broke down some standard regulators from different manufactures and showed us how they worked and explained the difference in their manufacturing and operation.

Once we completed the first stage regulators we then moved on to the second stage. We dealt with the operating concepts and their basic operation and maintenance, any possible problems that might be encountered at dive sites, and the possible fixes that can be made there. Once the theory was cover we again proceeded to the workshop where the instructor again took apart some different second stages and explained the operation, the many different parts and how they worked together. We spoke about how some second stage regulators allow the diver to make adjustment on them and how these adjustments work. At this time the instructor asked those students who had brought in their own regulator to hand them over and he proceeded to take them apart and explained how they worked. We examined how the first stage operated and checked the intermediate pressure and verified if the intermediate pressure was stable

and did not creep up during usage but maintained the same pressure.

Once we finished the Regulators we moved on to BCDs and we discussed the many different types of BCDs available on the market - from a Wing design to a Bladder design to Horse collar. We also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of integrated weight. Then we discussed the maintenance of a BCD and some common problems encountered due to wear and tear. We were shown how the valves work and how to clean them and fix them should they break.

We spoke about the different type of Wet Suits and Dry Suits and the maintenance they require. The last part of the course dealt with Mask, Fins, Camera O-Ring and other O-Rings and the different types of tools and other parts that can be used to repair the many different things that could break and ruin a dive trip.

All in all I found the course interesting and very beneficial.

Golf vs Scuba Diving

An Anecdote by Richard Hepburn

Took up golf again after a 20 year absence. I found lots of new, items to buy. The green fees in some cases have tripled, and with all the new, easier to hit clubs, I can still throw the ball better that I can hit it with a club.

I really like diving, The water is still wet, in some cases still very cold!

The gear is more reliable, and the friends I meet on a dive are still lots of fun to be with. So after 20 years of changes, I enjoy Diving more than ever!

Look me up in 20 years, I will probably still be diving in Brockville.

As for the golf, Well who knows, my arm may get tired of throwing that damn little ball.

Hope to see you all in the water!

SUCI's Contribution on Mayor Miller's City Clean Up Day

by Nora Mark



SUCI's Enthusiastic Clean-Up Crew

On the warm, beautiful morning of April 24th, 9 SUCI members gathered at the front steps of Centennial Arena to do our part in making our city a little more presentable. I couldn't believe that we actually filled 11 garbage bags (checked my records, sorry it was 11 not 10). After an hour and a half or so, it was interesting to share some of our findings:

- 100's and 100's of cigarette butts...far too many
- many beer bottles and beer cans...a result of park partying, I guess
- a exorbitant number of *Tim Horton* lids...
- more pizza boxes than many would expect - rather blatant
- Q-tips...huh???
- tie wraps - they don't disappear.
- takeout shrimp boxes...see pizza boxes!
- condom packs...at least they're using them!
- many large slushie cups...size alone makes them unsightly.
- plastic bottles...the only way to stop these are to fill reusable bottles!

Wildlife items? Well, some of us had a few stories to tell: Paul Francis found a very old (Jurassic?) skeleton of a bird and Marilyn Ricci found the carcass of a squirrel - anyone into veterinary pathology? Also, I just about jumped out of my skin when, as I knelt down to pick up some nondescript item in deeper grass, a rat scattered away...yuk! Not the sort of thing I was looking for...they're obviously out there!

We were all happy to do our bit for our Monday evening SUCI home and afterwards enjoyed a

hearty breakfast/brunch at our favourite "divers' site", Shoeless Joe's.



Adrian cleaning up the last bits & pieces



Paul Francis with his home made fork picker. The shafts of old hockey sticks can be very useful. Check it out in the crew picture.

Some Helpful Tips and Information

Supplied by Nora Mark

- * Apparently, a sniff of Olbas oil awhile before a dive helps to clear the airways.
- * Another tip is to exercise your ears by gently practice ear clearing in your normal every day life to get your ears used to the movement: a very gentle way of ear clearing is to hold your nose and swallow.

Fascinating Links:

A bit more advice for divers (and some cute cartoons!) http://www.divernet.com/other_diving_topics/medical_health/161005/firstaid_kit_for_divers.html
Another site gives basic pointers on cold water diving but if you scroll down, there are a series of short scuba videos, including the muscle groups exercised in diving. Quite interesting. <http://www.life123.com/sports/water-sports/scuba-gear/scuba-equipment.shtml>

Another interesting & often funny site. <http://forum.scubatoys.com/tragedies-accidents-unfortunate-events-etc/13025-what-dumbest-thing-you-have-ever-seen-diver-do.html>

Scuba Gear for Sale

by Patricia Striewe

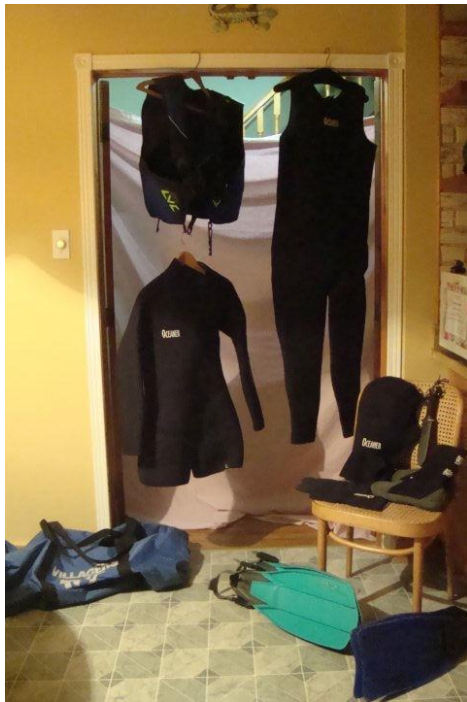
Mares XL BCD with:

- large diameter inflation/deflation hose
- overpressure relief valve
- low pressure inflation mechanism
- comfortable harness & backpack

Large Oceaner:

- 7 ml suit
- farmer john
- boots
- mitts
- hood

+ knife and 2 sets of fins.



For further information all interested parties should contact: psstriewe@rogers.com

More Pictures from Open Water Weekend

