

# The FACEPLATE

The voice of  
The Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.



Summer, 2004

## OCSSDI Officers for 2004

### 3 YEAR TRUSTEES

Donald Hudson  
*Cincinnati Underwater  
Explorers*  
PO Box 062  
Cincinnati, OH 45224  
(513) 681-7802  
dhudson513@aol.com

Dick Colwell  
*Southern Ohio Scuba*  
5791 Dublin Rd.  
Dublin, OH 43017  
(614) 766-8120  
dcolwell@rrohio.com

Patrice Heschel  
*Bay Area Divers*  
603 W. Third Street  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
419-732-1728  
patricsscuba@cros.net

### TREASURER

Lu Ann Howard  
*Buckeye Divers*  
384 Jefferson Street  
Pataskala, Ohio 43062  
(740) 927-5663  
lhoward@subaquatics.com

### SECRETARY

Sandy Heschel  
*Bay Area Divers*  
603 W. Third Street  
Port Clinton, Ohio 43452  
419-732-1728  
sheschel@hotmail.com

### COMMITTEES:

- Legislative Action: **Joyce Hayward**
- Archeology, Promotions: **Linda Pansing**
- Oxygen Legislation: **Scott Pansing**
- Faceplate, Membership: **Rich Lauer**
- Speakers Bureau: **Marty Bailey, Annette Soule**
- Mel Sheehan Scholarship: **Dick Colwell**
- Dive Ohio: **Rod Maxson**

### 1 YEAR TRUSTEE

Roger Roth  
*Gavia Scuba Club*  
10632 Cinderella  
Cincinnati, OH 45242  
(513) 793-9896  
rroth2@cinci.rr.com

Tim McCloud  
*Buckeye Divers*  
2099 Bridlewood Blvd  
Columbus, Ohio 43207  
614-264-8457  
tmcloud@columbus.rr.com

Elex Ali  
*Bay Area Divers*  
1729 Oak Lane  
Fremont, Ohio 43420  
419-332-2331  
elexali@juno.com

Mark Pansing  
*Columbus Sea Nags*  
1400 King Avenue #12  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
614-488-9959  
mark.pansing@core.com

### WEBSITE DIRECTOR

Mark Beatty  
*Gavia Scuba Club*  
321 S. Waynesville Rd  
Oregonia, OH 45054  
513-932-5983  
mark@diveflag.com

How quickly the seasons pass: We go from winter, to flood, to drought, and then back to flood, in hardly the blink of an eye.

Summer is here. It's hard to fill a newsletter, because everyone is out diving (see pages 6-7). Forget the long lines at the airport -- we're ready to travel. We're seeing Ohio divers traveling all over the globe. We're hearing reports of 40- and 50-foot visibility in some of the quarries.

No excuse not to get wet.

Coming up very quickly is the **20th annual barbecue for DAN**, held at Portage Quarry July 24 & 25. It's a weekend of Ohio diving, a Saturday treasure dive (with great prizes), Saturday night *movies on the beach* (The Deep, starring Jacqueline Bisset and some other people), the Sunday barbecue, and the prize drawings at 2 pm.

It's a good way to get in a weekend of diving, win some prizes, great camaraderie, a night under the stars, all for a good cause.

Your ticket (\$16) gets you one day admission at Portage, the barbecue, and a chance at the Sunday prizes. You can get tickets at the TA Club meeting July 21, or at Sub-Aquatics.

You can get tickets at the gate, while they last. Your club can also order them, and have them waiting for you. Call Rich at (614) 759-0357, or e-mail [rlauer@ohiohills.com](mailto:rlauer@ohiohills.com). Better make that call before Friday, July 23.

**Summer meeting of the OCSSDI will be 10 am, Sunday. You are welcome!!**

**Your 2004 OCSSDI Membership card is here! Those of you who are receiving your Faceplate via e-mail, will receive your card in the mail within a few days. Those of you getting the Faceplate via US Postal should have the card in the same envelope.**

**Let me know if there's a problem.**

# Members of the Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.

**Aqua Amigos Scuba Club  
Cleveland, Ohio**  
Fred Lilly  
2895 Brighton Road  
Shaker Heights, OH 44120  
flilly@lillycpa.com

**Aqua Mariners, Inc.  
Canton, Ohio**  
Jean Griffin  
PO Box 8064  
Canton, OH 44711-8064  
(330) 452-5582  
jaybee@ameritech.net

**Aqua Masters, Inc.  
Lakewood, Ohio**  
Carol Dennison  
1705 Allen Drive  
Westlake, OH 44145  
(440) 899-5096  
carolegir@aol.com

**Ashland Scuba Club  
Dublin, Ohio**

**ASK Snorkel Divers  
Dublin, Ohio**  
Carol Kender  
6522 Riverside Drive  
Dublin, Ohio 43017  
(614) 889-2822  
carol@askscubacenter.com

**Bay Area Divers  
Bellevue, Ohio**  
Joyce Hayward  
1791 CR 296  
Bellevue, OH 44811  
(419) 483-3074  
joycehayward@cros.net

**Buckeye Divers  
Columbus, Ohio**  
2603 Youngs Grove Road  
Columbus, OH 43231  
DennisLaRue@columbus.rr.com

**Central Ohio Divers  
Columbus, Ohio**  
Tara Chesshir  
chesshir@columbus.rr.com

**Cincinnati Underwater Explorers  
Cincinnati, Ohio**  
Ernest McAdams Jr.  
PO Box 0062  
Cincinnati, OH 45224  
(513) 681-7802  
dhudson513@aol.com

**Columbus Sea Nags  
Columbus, Ohio**  
Tim McCloud  
PO Box 72007  
Columbus, Ohio 43207  
614-834-1562  
tmcccloud@columbus.rr.com

**Gavia Scuba Club  
Cincinnati, Ohio**  
Bill Libecap  
4349 Clifford Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45236  
513-608-3858  
mr\_bill@mailcity.com

**Kittyhawk Scuba Club  
Dayton, Ohio**  
Barb Fissell  
1554 Mapledale Drive  
Kettering, Ohio 45432  
(937) 252-9041  
fizz30@msn.com

**Lake Erie Wreck Divers  
Lorain, Ohio**  
Dave Soule  
1417 W. 37<sup>th</sup> St  
Lorain, Oh. 44053  
(440) 989-1086  
diverdown@centurytel.net

**Lima Scubanauts  
Lima, Ohio**  
Gene Mertz  
3831 Meadowview Drive  
Lima, Ohio 45805  
(419) 999-2076  
briddiver@aol.com

**Mid-Ohio Divers  
Columbus, Ohio**  
Andy Silverman  
4933 Muleagy Court  
Columbus, Ohio 43221  
(614) 353-DIVE  
columbuscuba@aol.com

**Newark Poseidons  
Newark, Ohio**  
Dave Rauch  
362 Coffman Blvd  
Heath, OH 43056  
(740) 522-4710  
rauchhouse@alink.com

**North Coast Aquatic Scuba Explorers  
Cleveland, Ohio**  
Yvonne Ladd  
16201 Sunny Glenn Road  
Cleveland, OH 44128  
(216) 662-4613  
divescooter@aol.com

**Quarry Commandos  
St. Marys, OH**  
Luann Lee  
401 N. Main Street  
St. Marys, Ohio 45885  
(419) 394-2703  
star@quarrycommando.com

**Southern Ohio Scuba Club  
Portsmouth, Ohio**  
David Vetter  
P.O. Box 1582  
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662  
(740) 353-7811  
dvetter@zoomnet.net

**Springfield Scuba Society  
Springfield, Ohio**  
Jody Lewis  
1238 Shrine Road  
Springfield, Ohio 45504  
(937) 323-2545  
wtjalscubaharley@aol.com

**T. A. Dive Club  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio**  
Ernie Naples  
3790 Mount Hood Court  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230-1191  
614-471-2227  
tim.broderick@matesichdistributing.com

**Toledo Submariners  
Toledo, Ohio**  
Dan Klimek  
859 Plank Street  
Dundee, MI 48131  
(734) 529-3321  
scuba734@comcast.net

**Underwater Adventurers  
Columbus, Ohio**  
Art Baschnagel  
9341 Industrial Parkway  
Plain City, Ohio 43064  
614-873-4324  
arbasch@aol.com

check us out on the web:  
[www.ocssdi.org](http://www.ocssdi.org)

# MAST Survey

LORAIN, OH – The Maritime Archaeological Survey Team (MAST) is conducting an archeological survey of a barge that sank in Lake Erie near Lorain 46 years ago, according Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). MAST is a non-profit corporation associated with both the Great Lakes and Ohio historical societies.

Mapping of the *Craftsman*, now resting 40 feet below the surface, took place June 12-13. Maps will allow recreational divers and researchers to better study the wreck as part of a larger Great Lakes shipping history project. An \$11,000 grant from the ODNR Office of Coastal Management funds the effort.

The *Craftsman* barge was built in the Cleveland yard of the American Shipbuilding Company in 1921. She was reduced to a derrick scow in 1946, with the original dimensions changed and a crane added. Over the years, the barge worked on coastal breakwater projects and the construction of the Vermilion Lagoons. While being towed back to Cleveland, the 90-foot craft foundered and sank off Avon Point on June 3, 1958. Her remains are the focus of this survey.

A total of 45 divers participated in the two-day event. The dive area, located about a mile off Avon Point, was appropriately marked and boaters were urged to avoid those waters while diving operations were underway.

MAST is dedicated to the documentation of Ohio's underwater historic resources. In past years, MAST surveyed wrecks of the *Adventure*, the *W. R. Hanna* and the *F. H. Prince* in western Lake Erie. Based on these surveys, dive slates were printed describing the vessels, cause of wrecking and a current site plan. A similar slate is being planned for the *Craftsman*.

*EDITORS NOTE: Digital images of the weekend's underwater survey will be available Monday, June 14, at [ohiodnr.com](http://ohiodnr.com).*

For Further Information Contact:

Brenda Culler-Gautschi, ODNR Office of Coastal Management (419) 626-7980, -or- Mike Wachter, Maritime Archeological Survey Team (440) 933-4601

**During ScubaFest 2004, there were orders taken for @ 30 T-shirts.**

**Unfortunately, there were a few problems with the T-shirt company, and it took a lot longer to get them than we expected. As of today, everyone should have received the shirt(s) they ordered.**

**If you, or someone you know, did not get their ScubaFest T-shirt, please contact me at (614) 759-0357, or [scubafest@ohiohills.com](mailto:scubafest@ohiohills.com).**

## OCSSDI PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

- **Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center**  
Vermilion, OH (440) 967-3467
- **Aquatic Realm Scuba Center**, Centerville, OH  
(937) 428-9836
- **ASK Scuba & Snorkeling Center**  
Dublin, OH (614) 889-2822
- **Blue Water Consulting**, Baltimore, OH  
(740) 862-8992
- **Buckeye Diving School**, Bedford, Ohio  
(440) 439-3677
- **Central Ohio Visual Cylinder Inspectors**,  
Columbus, OH (614) 895-9200
- **Dale's Diving Shop**, Sandusky, OH  
(419) 625-4134
- **Deep Six Specialists, Inc.**, Akron, OH  
(330) 724-8737
- **Discover Diving LLC**, Newark, OH  
(740) 344-2803
- **Diver's Paradise**, Toledo, Ohio  
(419) 535-6828
- **Huntington Sport & Commercial Diving**,  
Huntington, West Virginia (304) 528-6622
- **JRS School of Scuba**, Rootstown, Ohio  
(330) 325-2233
- **Lakeview Park**, Lancaster, OH  
(740) 653-4519
- **Long Lake Scuba**, Lima, OH  
(419) 331-3483
- **New Wave Complete Diving Store**,  
Port Clinton, OH (419) 734-2240
- **North Coast Adventures**, Cleveland Hts., OH  
(216) 932-6315
- **Portage Quarry Recreation Club**,  
Bowling Green, OH (419) 352-8488
- **Quarry Divers**, Gibsonburg, OH  
(419) 637-7911
- **Scuba Recovery Dive Charters**, Findlay, OH  
(419) 422-3215
- **Sub-Aquatics, Inc.**, Reynoldsburg, OH  
(614) 864-1235
- **Todd's Scuba Sales**  
Circleville Twin Quarries  
(740) 474-9530

## *Swimming Recue at Portage Quarry*

**Here's an article from a Toledo-area paper. You never know where the heroes will come from:**

A Bowling Green girl has a new best friend after being pulled from deep water by a big-hearted Labrador retriever.

Seven-year-old Sara Boise was swimming with her sister Kayla, 9, and another girl at nearby Portage Quarry Recreation Club last weekend, on Saturday, when she found herself in over her head — literally. Without prompting, a yellow Labrador retriever named Sugar Cane jumped into the water and helped the little girl make it back to safe and shallow waters.

“Sugar jumped in and swam out to her,” said Stacy Heilman, Sara’s older half sister who also works at the recreation club. “Sara grabbed (Sugar Cane’s) collar and the dog pulled her to the shallow beach area where she could touch bottom.”

She said Sara, who just finished the first grade at Kenwood Elementary School, now has a new best friend. “Sugar must have sensed something was wrong,” she said. “She just jumped in to help her.”

Recreation club owner Jeff Rice was a bit skeptical when first hearing about his dog’s plucky plunge to save Sara. “The kids came up and were saying ‘Sugar Cane saved Sara from the water,’” Rice said this week. “I thought it was a fluke or some thing, that maybe they were just playing in the water. But then some adults confirmed it, so apparently it’s true.”

He said Sugar Cane is only 10 months old, the latest in a line of Labradors that have graced the quarry grounds over the years. Labradors are known for their skill and strength in the water, making them a favorite among hunters. Historically, they also were used as fishermen’s assistants

## *Recalls Announced On BC Inflators*

*We've received this letter from Oceanic:*

Oceanic has been informed by its supplier that they have received isolated reports of BC Inflator mechanisms exhibiting continual flow of air into the BC after release of the power inflation button. Affected are Oceanic Reliant model Inflators that are fitted on various models of Oceanic BCs that were sold between February 1, 2004, and June 24, 2004. BCs sold prior to February 1, 2004, do not have these Inflators and are not affected.

Testing and evaluation has shown that the Power Inflator Button may stick in the depressed position. Engineers have designed new replacement parts that will prevent the Button from sticking. Oceanic asks that all owners of Oceanic BCs that have Reliant Inflators return them to an Authorized Oceanic Dealer for a retrofit at no charge.

**WARNING: DO NOT CONTINUE USE** of the BC or attempt to disassemble any components of the Inflator. Take the BC with Inflator to your nearest Authorized Oceanic Dealer for inspection and service. Only Authorized Oceanic Dealers and their trained service technicians must perform this retrofit. Non-authorized personnel who attempt the retrofit procedure risk voiding the products warranty and rendering the product dangerously unsafe for normal SCUBA use.

We have also received word of the following recalls issued this year: **Halcyon** is recalling all stainless-steel power inflators. According to Halcyon, machining has caused the problem. The recall affects all STAINLESS STEEL inflators sold after October 21, 2003.

**Genesis and Sherwood** have announced an urgent recall on BCDs. Again, the problem is that some inflators could stick during inflation, and release air into the BC. The models affected are the Genesis Silhouette, Magnum, Avid, Luna, and Freedom vests; and the Sherwood Cayman, Cobra, Athena, and Phantom models. The only vests recalled are those sold after July 1, 2003.

For all of these, the recommended action is to take them back to the store where you bought them.

## *New Staging Attraction*

A new staging area is being added to Circleville Twin Quarries, I am told.

My secret sources (don't worry -- they're not CIA) tell me that a 54-foot tractor trailer will be sunk in one of the quarries. Besides giving divers a new “artifact” to visit, it would be a good staging area for student training.

Rumors are afloat (very bad pun) that the sinking will take place the July 17-18 weekend. At this time, I don't know which quarry will get the new attraction.

**I am trying to track down  
a contact for the  
Ashland Scuba Club.**

**Can anyone help me with that?  
If you know the name or  
phone number of a club member,  
please contact me at  
(614) 759-0357, or  
[faceplate@ohiohills.com](mailto:faceplate@ohiohills.com).**

# Joe Wysocki Will Keynote Scubafest 2005

The Ohio Council ScubaFest Committee announces the Keynote Speaker for ScubaFest 2005.

Joe Wysocki, President of Optiquatics, a California-based photography, video, and travel agency, will give the keynote presentation at the Saturday night Banquet Ball. Joe was a featured speaker at the 2004 event, giving two very popular shows: *Diving the Inside Passage*, and *Great White Sharks*.

For the 2005 event, he will expand the *Vancouver to Juneau* presentation, allowing us Midwest divers to experience a type of diving many have not before seen. You can expect the stunning and exciting photography and videography that wowed the audiences this past year.

Optiquatics, and Joe, have worked with individuals and dive instructors, dive boats, clubs, and scuba shops to develop a successful underwater photography program. He has conducted workshops in dry suit training and photography specifically targeted to beginners and novices.

We also plan of having him again give a couple presentations during the day.

The annual ScubaFest is produced by the OCSSDI, and dates back to 1959. Today it is the largest scuba show in the Midwest. The 2004 event attracted some 1000 divers and interested people. The Saturday night Banquet Ball is an evening of dinner and scuba presentations, including the awarding of the OCSSDI Scholarship, and the announcement of winner of the International U/W Images photo and video competition.

You can get more information, and relive the 2004 show, by visiting [www.scubafest.org](http://www.scubafest.org), and [www.uwimages.org](http://www.uwimages.org). ScubaFest 2005 will take place at the Wyndham Dublin Hotel, March 11-13, 2005.

## New DAN President

Divers Alert Network (DAN) has named career Navy officer and research psychologist Michael D. Curley, Ph.D., as its president and chief executive officer. The appointment became official in June.

A search committee selected Dr. Curley to replace Dr. Peter B. Bennett, who retired as president and CEO of DAN in June 2003 after having founded the organization and led it for 23 years.

"Dr. Curley brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his position as President and CEO of DAN America," said DAN Chief Operating Officer Dan Orr. "We are confident that he will lead DAN into a new era of growth and development in diving medical research and safety."

Dr. Curley noted that, at first, he was most impressed by the mission of service that DAN provides to the recreational diving community.

"My perception of DAN and its medical services were positive, shaped by my recreational scuba diving experiences over the past 20 years," he said. "It is noble to provide expert medical information, advice and training for the diving public as a not-for-profit organization."

## 2004 BBQ For DAN

20 years supporting the Divers Alert Network!

*Sponsored by the T.A. Dive Club, Portage Quarry, and Sub-Aquatics*

**July 24 & 25, 2004**

**Portage Quarry Recreation Club  
Bowling Green Ohio**



*Good food, good Fun,  
and thousands of dollars  
worth of prizes!!*

**OCSSDI meeting  
10 a.m. July 25**

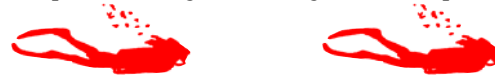


### Treasure Hunt

Saturday, from noon until 3:00 p.m.

*limited to first 25 buddy teams*

\$25 per team. Registration begins at 11:30 p.m.



### BBQ for DAN

Sunday, from noon until 2:00 p.m.

#### MOVIES ON THE BEACH!!

Weather permitting, join us Saturday night for movies on the beach.  
Bring your own chairs and popcorn.

Tickets are \$16, from TA members, or at Sub-Aquatics.

**Send check to:** TA Club, 8855 E. Broad Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Ticket covers entry fee to Portage (one day), dinner, and raffle

# Club News from across the state

As of July 2004, there are 23 member clubs in the OCSSDI. We're diving in Ohio, in the Great Lakes, and travelling around the world.

If there is a particular thing you want listed in our club news, or a flier you want published for a special event, drop a line, or e-mail. Next issue will come out late October.

How do I get the information for this page? First I got what I could from the newsletters I get in the mail, and from the newsletters I get on line. Then I write your club OCSSDI contact. If you're not listed here, it's time to ask your representative why. Let us know what's going on -- we love to hear from you.

---

## North Coast Aquatic Scuba Explorers

We made it back from our June expedition to Belize. For July we decided to stay on top, with the annual White Water Rafting trip, then join MASK to dive Lake Huron. Anyone want to join us for a Niagra River drift dive in August?

## Aqua Masters

We had an excellent weekend diving the wrecks off North Carolina -- rays, sharks, and lionfish! July we dive with Osprey Charters, and head north to Lake Huron. We'll try Ohio quarries in July and August, before heading for the St. Lawrence in September.

## Lima Scubanauts

We're back from our June trip to Cozumel, Mexico, and ready to dive locally. We start in July with a meeting/potluck lunch/ dive at Long Lake. Meanwhile, we can start looking ahead to Palau in November.

## Columbus Sea Nags

Not many of us stayed dry so far this summer; we had divers in most of the Ohio sites, plus New York, North Carolina, and Florida. In later summer we head north to the St. Clair River and to Kingston, Ontario. Then down to Little Cayman in September.

## Lake Erie Wreck Divers

We spend July going east, and diving with osprey Charters. See us throughout the summer taking advantage of the presentations of the Great Lakes Historical Society. In September, we join BAD to dive the wrecks of Tobermorey.

## Kittyhawk Scuba Club

Members are just doing their own thing this summer. We've had Kittyhawks diving in Utila and on the Nekton Pilot. We've enjoyed slides and video of each trip. Working on a Panama City Beach trip for the fall.



## Central Ohio Divers

Coming up soon is our cookout/campout at Gilboa Quarry Saturday July 31st. Meanwhile a few of us are headed to Bonaire in August. You'll see us many weekends at Circleville and other quarries throughout the summer months.

## **Aqua Amigos**

We decided to dive the quarries and eastern Lake Erie this spring: the weather kept us out of the Lake, but Gilboa turned out to be a beautiful day. In July we participate in the Cleveland Triathlon, working as volunteer lifeguards.

## **T.A. Club**

*Dive Ohio Days* in full swing -- it was Circleville in May, and Whitestar in June, August is Lakeview Park, and September is Gilboa. See you at Portage Quarry July 24 & 25, for the 20th annual Barbecue for DAN!

## **Aqua Mariners**

Much fun at Whitestar Quarry in May -- we'll do several of the quarries over the summer. Two DAN treasure dives -- at Portage Quarry July 24, and at Lake Anna September 18. Meanwhile, we'll try Kelly's Island September 10.

## **Buckeye Divers**

We had two great trips to start the season -- Key Largo in May and North Carolina in July. Now we head north to the St. Clair River in August, and we'll do Kingston, Ontario over Labor Day. For warm water, it's Little Cayman in October.

## **ASK Snorkel Divers**

We toured the Discovery Reef Sunday, June 27, where tour guide, Ramon Villaverde, answered many, many more questions for club members. We also saw where creatures are kept for R & R between stints in the Touch Pool.

## **Cincinnati Underwater Explorers**

We start our regular local diving, heading to Gilboa in June. And you can join us in Indiana in July, when we try Blue Springs.

## **Toledo Submariners**

We're getting our fill of the Great Lakes this summer -- in June we dived Kelly's Island, and we're off to dive the wrecks at Tobermorey, Canada, July 24. Meanwhile, we'll dive locally in July, at Portage Quarry.

## **Newark Poseidons**

Our June meeting program was outstanding. It dealt with environmental issues that threaten coastal sea life. People in areas such as Fiji have banded together to preserve the shorelines -- Jean-Michel Costeau's guidance had great influence. July 17 Poseidons will meet at Circleville Twin Quarries, with pizza for lunch.

## **Bay Area Divers**

We cross the border in July, heading over for our popular Pelee Island trip. In July we dive Portage, and August is at Gilboa. Who likes salt water? We do -- Turks and Caicos in August, and the Bahamas in October.

## **Springfield Scuba Society**

We try all the Ohio sites this year -- Natural Springs in May, Portage in June; July it's Long Lake and Gilboa, and White Star in August. Next club meeting is at July 21.

# ***Project Aware Photo Contest***

Project AWARE Foundation's 6th Annual Photo Contest, Interaction Without Distraction, is underway!

Winners compete for fabulous prizes including the grand prize, a trip aboard the Cayman Aggressor IV. Proceeds from the contest support Project AWARE's conservation efforts in 2004. Contest deadline is **July 31**.

Prizes are awarded to the top three winners in all four contest categories including gear from DAKA, Patagonia and PADI and artwork from Simon Morris Sculpture. And one lucky grand prize winner will receive the ultimate dive package aboard the Cayman Aggressor IV, courtesy of Aggressor Fleets.

Contest categories include Creature Feature, Diver Down, Up Close and Personal and Above the Surface. And photographers of all ages and experience levels are encouraged to participate. Best of all, every participant contributes to a great cause -- conservation of the underwater environment.

Proceeds from the contest support Project AWARE Foundation's ongoing conservation efforts such as beach and underwater cleanups, research initiatives, public awareness and education.

In order to win, you must remember the contest theme. Interaction Without Distraction means enjoying underwater adventures while preserving resources for future generations. So use conservative diving practices and take care not to touch fragile underwater creatures or environments with your body, diving equipment or camera.

For more information, log on at [projectaware.org](http://projectaware.org); after navigating through the Americas and English crap, go to [activities](#); way down at the bottom you'll see [photo contest](#).

# Schedule of Events

July 23-25: **Water Rescue Seminar,**

Circleville Twin Quarries, for law-enforcement, fire, & rescue. Contact (740) 474-7105

July 24-25: **Barbecue for DAN,** Portage Quarry

July 25: **OCSSDI meeting,** Portage Quarry

July 31: **deadline, 6th Annual Project Aware Photo Contest**

*Interaction Without Distraction* [www.projectaware.org](http://www.projectaware.org)

September 28: **Instructor Appreciation Day,** Natural Springs Resort

[www.naturalspringsresort.com](http://www.naturalspringsresort.com)

September 24: **Deadline, International U/W Photo Competition**

Los Angeles U/W Photo Society [www.LAUPS.org](http://www.LAUPS.org)

October 9: **Halloween Dive,** Natural Springs Resort

[www.naturalspringsresort.com](http://www.naturalspringsresort.com)

November 20: **Shipwrecks Remembered,** Out of the Blue Productions

November 13: **Shipwrecks and Scuba,** Sandusky

Bay Area Divers

November 14: **OCSSDI meeting,** Sandusky



## *Here's A Job Opportunity -- Sewer Diving In Mexico*

**MEXICO CITY, Mexico (10 July 2004)** — Julio Cesar Cuc spends his days blindly feeling his way through sewage and occasionally risking his life deep in the bowels of Mexico's capital.

"It's a great job," the city's most experienced sewage diver said recently just before a dive, his tone betraying only the slightest hint of irony. "It's unusual, it's challenging, it's exciting, and it's a real public service." The four-man team spends much of its time fixing the pumps that push sewage out of a sprawling metropolitan area twice the size of London, or pulling out rubbish impeding its progress.

The risks are real, from minor infections to being stabbed with infected syringes. A diver drowned 10 years ago in a cascade unleashed when a pipe he was painstakingly clearing suddenly unblocked. Mr. Cuc's own close shaves include nearly getting sucked into the whirring blades of a pump. But the veteran diver, who was one of the founding members of the team, formed in 1982, prefers to talk about the things he's found, including half a Volkswagen beetle and more than a dozen dead bodies - "I don't know how they get down there, but we have to get them out."

There are industrial divers in other cities from Kuala Lumpur to Stockholm who sometimes work in waste, but Mexico City's are probably the only ones who do nothing else, earning a maximum salary of £400 a month. Their dives last anything from 10 minutes to three hours, at depths ranging from four to 100 meters. The preparation is always the same. Like medieval knights, the divers step into impermeable suits designed for the icy waters of the North Sea, hold out their arms for thick gloves to be taped on, and then disappear into a helmet connected to a tube that supplies them with oxygen from a surface tank and allows radio communication.

Getting waste out of Mexico's capital has always been complicated. The Aztecs had a fleet of canoes to collect it from the city they built here on top of a highland lake system. The problems really began once the Spaniards arrived. Their grand engineering feat of draining the lakes condemned the generations after them to a never-ending battle to remove not only ever more toxic refuse, but also rainwater which no longer had anywhere to go.

A huge tunnel built in the 17th century provided a partial answer for a time, as did a network of surface canals. This year, work began to extend the network, which is already under strain. But there will still be plenty of work for the proud sewage divers of Mexico City.

# U-Boat Found In Canadian Waters

**HALIFAX, Nova Scotia** — It was announced this week, July 13, 2004, that a team of explorers and documentary filmmakers has found the wreck of a rare type of German U-boat, 200 kilometres off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia.

But many questions remain about what happened to U-boat 215, which was recently captured on film, sitting on the ocean floor, 90 metres below the surface of the Atlantic. The 7-D class minelayer, with a crew of 49, was sunk in 1942 while attacking a convoy headed to Halifax from Boston.

Mike Fletcher, a Canadian diver who helped find the sunken vessel, said the captain of the U-boat, Fritz Hoeckner, made a fatal mistake after he spotted the convoy. “The captain of the boat got greedy when he saw a very tempting target in a Liberty ship loaded with Sherman tanks and . . . bombers,” Fletcher said in an interview Tuesday. “He ignored his orders and took out the Liberty ship *Alexander Macomb*, but in doing so exposed his vessel and brought about his own demise.”

One of the convoy’s escort vessels, HMS *Le Tigre*, a British naval trawler, tracked down the submarine and sank her on Georges Bank.

The 7-D minelayer was one of six built, according to the website [uboat.net](http://uboat.net). Only one survived the war.

Fletcher said his group, which is filming a segment for the TV program *Sea Hunters*, said fishermen were asked if their nets had snagged anything while trawling near the Hague line, which separates Canadian and American fishing zones in the Gulf of Maine. “One fisherman in particular said, ‘There’s a bejeezus big hook up out there,’ and it turned out to be our submarine,” said Fletcher, an experienced treasure hunter who lives in Port Dover, Ont.

The team used side-scan sonar and conducted two dives while battling strong tides and currents.

The big sub was found about 25 kilometres from where military records suggested it should be.

“She’s rolled very hard over on her port side but she’s sitting upright,” said Fletcher.

While this type of German submarine is unusual, U-215 was not the only U-boat sunk off the coast of Nova Scotia. Naval historian Dr. Roger Sarty, who teaches at Wilfred Laurier University in southern Ontario, says another German submarine, U-754, was sunk nearby by a Royal Canadian Air Force squadron in 1943.

“At that point (in the war) our defenses were actually quite good and the Germans were sending out the U-boats on lone wolf patrols,” he said.

Meanwhile, the German and Canadian governments have been notified of the most recent find, said Fletcher. Such wrecks are generally regarded as military gravesites and are not to be disturbed.

“The owner without question is the nation of Germany,” said Fletcher. “I know they care. I know the families of those lost sailors care.”

A documentary of the expedition is being produced by Halifax-based Eco-Nova Productions. It will be broadcast this spring on History Television and National Geographic Television.



Photo by Miriam Welsh