

The FACEPLATE

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



Winter, 2004-2005

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- Archeology, Promotions: **Linda Pansing**
- Oxygen Legislation: **Scott Pansing**
- Membership: **Rich Lauer**
- Speakers Bureau: **Marty Bailey, Annette Soule**
- Memorial Scholarship: **Dick Colwell**
- Dive Ohio: **Rod Maxson**

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Welcome to 2005!! This last year went out with a grudge, didn't it? I hope your power is back on; disagreements with ice-covered tress held this issue back a week.

So first on the agenda -- look at page 11! You have just about a week before the ScubaFest early-bird discount expires. Save \$10 on a full-weekend ticket, allowing you to take part in everything ScubaFest 2005 has to offer: seminars, exhibits, door prizes, film festivals, pool demos, and the Saturday night Banquet Ball.

Joe Wysocki has promised us an exciting (and humorous) show for Saturday night. Diving from Ohio to the horthwest Pacific -- what an evening.

Also, winners of the 2005 U/W Images competition will be presented. Excellent images and videos from the best amateur photographers from all over the world. If you've never seen this show before, prepare to be awed.

ScubaFest 2004 -- March 12-13. This is the biggest scuba event in Ohio. We'll plan on seeing you there!

A couple other things: First, the deadline for applications for the 2005 OCSSDI Memorial Scholarship has been extended -- you can still apply. Deadline now is February 1. See details on page 5.

Jane Henze is looking for volunteers. This year, the ScubaFest committee is looking for people willing to committ at least four hours over the ScubaFest weekend. We will arrange your station and times beforehand, so it can fit in with what you want to do.

Volunteers this year will receive their All-events weekend package ticket for \$35, which includes the Saturday night Banquet Ball, and a special volunteer T-shirt. This is a good deal.

We can take only 40 volunteers, first registered, first taken. If interested, don't delay. Go to ocssdi.org, and download the volunteer application.

Finally, make this the year that you, too, send in some images to Underwater Images. They couldn't make it easier for you -- this year you can also enter digital pictures, and pay with PayPal.

See details on page 9. This could be your year!

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check us out on the web:
www.ocssdi.org

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
- **Captain Nemo's Dive Shop**, Dover, Ohio
(330) 364-1314
- **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 Dive Charters & Tours, Inc.**
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- **Discover Diving LLC**, Newark, OH
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- **Dive Mates Scuba**, Mansfield, OH
(419) 524-6210
- **Diver's Paradise**, Toledo, OH
(419) 535-6828
- **Great Lakes Historical Society**, Vermilion, OH
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- **Huntington Sport & Commercial Diving**,
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- **JRS School of Scuba**, Rootstown, Ohio
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- **Lakeview Park**, Lancaster, OH
(740) 653-4519
- **Long Lake Scuba**, Lima, OH
(419) 331-3483
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(513) 226-3941
- **New Wave Complete Diving Store**,
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- **North Coast Adventures**, Cleveland Hts., OH
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- **Portage Quarry Recreation Club**,
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- **Quarry Divers**, Gibsonburg, OH
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- **Sand-n-Sea Scuba Diving Center**, Gahanna, OH
(614) 337-0526
- **Scuba Dew, Inc.**, Fairfield, OH
(513) 939-DIVE
- **Scuba Recovery Dive Charters**, Findlay, OH
(419) 422-3215
- **Straits Scuba Center**, E. China, MI
(866) 329-DIVE
- **Sub-Aquatics, Inc.**, Reynoldsburg, OH
(614) 864-1235
- **Todd's Scuba Sales**
Circleville Twin Quarries
(740) 474-9530
- **Treasure Cove Scuba**, Niles, OH
(330) 544-6230
- **Underwater Adventures**, Sandusky, OH
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Scuba Equipment Recalls

Sticky inflator valves continue to be a headache in the industry, prompting more recalls.

Aeris has announced a recall of all Aeris BCDs with AW3 power inflators due to reports that the power inflator buttons can stick, which could cause a rapid ascent and serious injury or death. The recall affects Aeris BCDs sold from May 2004 through June 2004.

This same inflator was apparently sold Reliant power inflators, sold with Oceanic BCDs. The recall affects Oceanic BCDs sold from February 2004 through June 2004.

Scubapro has announced a recall of all Air II alternate regulator converters due to reports that an insufficient bond may cause a break in the converter coupling, which could impact the diver's ability to control buoyancy.

No injuries have been reported and the recall does not affect owners of Air II alternate air sources that are attached to Scubapro BCs. The recall affects Scubapro Air II converters sold from from December 19, 2003 through August 30, 2004.

Finally, Ocean Management Systems has announced a recall of all OMS Rotating Cross Bar Manifold due to reports of undersized O-rings that can cause a loss of breathing air leaking from a cylinder. No injuries have been reported.

The recall affects OMS manifolds sold from from December 2003 through September 2004. The recall involves the 200 and 300 Bar versions of the OMS Rotating Cross Bar Manifold. The manifold consists of two valves which have "O.M.S." stamped on the side of each valve and a crossbar that has three O-rings per side. Each part has a black plastic knob.

With all of these, the recommended action is to immediately stop using the product, and then return the device to the store where you bought it, for repair or replacement.

Club News from across the state

The best of the holiday season to all of you. I hope 2005 finds you happy, healthy, and wet quite a lot. Look below to see what's goin on around the state....

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. Are you listed?

What are you doing this spring or summer? If there is a particular thing you want reported in our news, or a flier you want published for a special event, drop a line, or e-mail faceplate@ohiohills.com. Nextst issue will come out after the ScubaFest, in March.

THREE DIVE CLUBS, The Aqua Masters, Bay Area Divers, and Lake Erie Wreck Divers, teamed up for a pumpkin carving contest at White Star quarry, October 30. All the underwater fun that's allowed by law.

Cincinnati Underwater Explorers

We ended up the year with a splash -- a swimming party. CUE members were hoping from the hot tub to the pool to the sauna, and, oh yeah, we did complete some business at the meeting. We're heading off to Bahamas in May.

Toledo Submariners

Like so many of the rest, we're finishing off the year with a party and banquet December 17. Remember, here's your chance to find out who is Submariner of the Year.

T.A. Club

Entertainment at December's meeting was a slide show put together from people just back from Curacao. All pictures taken digital; all but one photographer had never shot underwater before. Back to Bonne Terre Mines in April.

Aqua Masters

We're not ready to quit yet -- our last official club dive was November 20. Meanwhile, we still had fun at the Halloween Bash. December seemed warmer, because of our week in Cozumel.

Lake Erie Wreck Divers

The LEWD banquet will be on us fast -- we'll hold it February 5. We may like the cold, but we're heading down to Panama City Beach in April, and to North Carolina in May.

Aqua Amigos

We don't want the year to end, so we've scheduled an end-of-year dive at Whitestar Quarry Park December 31. Think we'll have ice?



Buckeye Divers

Two months late, we finally got to Little Cayman. Instead of the original 10, there were six, but no hurricanes this time. Still a few spaces left on our July *Nautilus Explorer* trip to Washington and Alaska.

ASK Snorkel Divers

In November half our members headed down to Crystal River, Florida to snorkel. Manatees, fish, turtles, and birds were abundant. We also enjoyed a drift snorkel on the Rainbow River. Our Holiday party was in early December.

Columbus Sea Nags

Trying to stay active, diving Whitestar throughout December and find 80 feet visibility! Now we're planning to dive the *Empress of Ireland* in June, and joining the Buckeye Divers in Alaska in July.

Newark Poseidons

Our January meeting will be End Zone in Newark, and the February meeting will be at the YMCA indoor pool. What better way to enjoy Ohio warm water diving?

Springfield Scuba Society

It's the party season -- our Halloween bash was a lot of fun; now there's two in December -- Christmas (and club meeting) and New Year's. We look ahead to diving Belize February 19-26.

Aqua Mariners

We'll keep in shape over the winter with a club swim in February. This is in preparation for our Roatan trip coming up in March. Looking ahead, join us for the Easter Egg Dive at Lake Cable, May 1.

Lima Scubanauts

It's winter out there, so we're doing our diving inside for a while. Pool scuba/swims will be January 9, February 13, and March 13. Then we're off to Utila in May.

Gavia Scuba Club

Who likes meetings? Our December meeting was cancelled in favor of a Christmas Party. After ScubaFest we get a special treat -- entertainment in April's meeting will highlight the winners of the Underwater Images Photo & Video competition.

Kittyhawk Scuba Club

No big changes here -- we will continue to meet at Elsa's Mexican Restaurant the 3rd Tuesday of each month. After hibernating over the winter, a couple of the Kittyhawks are headed to Belize in the spring.

Bay Area Divers

North and south to end the year: we dived Tobermorey in September, then went south to Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas the same month. Now we look forward to Bonaire with LEWD in February.



Memorial Scholarship Extended To February 1

The deadline for application for the OCSSDI 2005 Memorial Scholarship has been extended to February 1, 2005, says Dick Colwell, Scholarship Chairman.

The OCSSDI scholarship is offered for students pursuing careers related to marine biology, underwater archaeology, and other related fields. The OCSSDI raises scholarship money through raffles at the annual spring ScubaFest and Banquet Ball, donations from the state association, and support provided by [Underwater Images](#) photo/ video competition.

Although this awarded hasn't been given out annually, it is awarded when a deserving candidate comes forth.

Applications are generally due prior to our state association meeting, held in November, immediately following the annual Shipwrecks and Scuba event that is held in Sandusky. This year, as we discussed changes in requirements and guidelines, the Scholarship Committee felt that we may not have given enough notice to possible applicants. So the deadline has been extended to February 1.

Applications are accepted from OCSSDI members, and from individuals who have an immediate family member that is currently a member.

Interested individuals may download the scholarship requirements and application from the Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, web site. Click on the Scholarships tab along the left border. The application, and all supporting documents, should be mailed to OCSSDI Scholarship, PO Box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073, posted to arrive not later than February 1, 2005.

For a list of some of the recent recipients, click on Past Scholarship Recipients, on the scholarship web page.

WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED for SCUBAFEST

We are very excited to announce a diverse and wide-reaching array of specialized workshops for the ScubaFest weekend, March 11-13.

The workshops are a result of requests from OCSSDI membership. In 2004, the Ohio legislature passed the historic Oxygen Provider Bill, allowing certified divers to administer oxygen in aquatics emergencies. Getting O2 cylinders refilled does require certification in oxygen administration; we will offer the DAN Emergency Provider class on Sunday.

Today, many divers are diving with mixed gases, or mixing their own EAN, and want to acquire the knowledge to care for their own tanks. Several PSI courses throughout the weekend will accomplish that.

Video editing, digital photography, rebreathers -- where are your interests? Check the list below, and see which workshop will compliment your scuba weekend.

Pre-registration is required!!! You may use the form below, or register on line through Pay Pal.

Ticket Information:

<i>Diving with Inspiration or Evolution Rebreathers</i>	_____
Silent Diving Systems	
Friday, 1pm -- 3:30 pm	\$40
<i>PSI Workshop, full course</i>	_____
Saturday, 10 am -- 4 pm	\$180
<i>PSI Workshop, refresher course</i>	_____
Saturday, 10 am -- 4 pm	\$120
<i>Digital Video Editing</i> Roger Roth	_____
Saturday, 10 am -- noon	\$40
<i>Digital Photography</i> Dave Haas	_____
Saturday, 1-3 pm	\$40
<i>Digital Camera Pool Dives</i> Dave Haas	_____
Participants receive a CD ROM of their pictures	
Sunday, 10 am -- noon	\$15
<i>Pool Dives with Inspiration or Evolution Rebreathers</i>	_____
Silent Diving Systems. Use the rebreathers in the pool	
Sunday, 10 am -- noon	\$15
<i>Eddy Current Course</i>	_____
Sunday, 1 pm -- 4 pm	\$110
<i>DAN O2 Oxygen Provider</i>	_____
Sunday, 1 pm -- 4 pm	\$60
TOTAL	_____

**Pre-registration is required. You may register on line with paypal,
or by writing: ScubaFest 2005, PO Box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073
e-mail: info@scubafest.org**

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ e-mail or phone _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: **ScubaFest 2004**, PO box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073
 or, you can order tickets via PayPal, at **ScubaFest.org**

OCSSDI Minutes for November 14, 2004

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn (Sandusky, OH)

Attendance:

Total Representatives Present: 18

Clubs Represented:

- Bay Area Divers
- Buckeye Divers
- Columbus Sea Nags
- Gavia Scuba Club
- Lake Erie Wreck Divers
- TA Dive Club

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the July 2004 meeting were approved with the following correction made by Linda Pansing: Under the Archeology, Promotions Committee Report, the booth being discussed is not a MAST Booth. It is actually an OCSSDI Booth

Motion to accept: 1st - Roger Roth, 2nd - Scott Pansing

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report (at right) from the July 2004 meeting was approved as read. Motion to Accept: 1st - Linda Pansing, 2nd Scott Pansing

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee Report

Update on House Bill 218 (Termination of the SLAC committee) given by Joyce Hayward

- The SLAC Committee will "sunset" in December (as requested by ODNR)
- A subcommittee may form to advise CRAC, however it is the opinion of ODNR that Shipwrecks have no special interests.
- Even though the committee is being "sunset", Ellen Keller (Attorney) suggests that OSSDI should let our voice be heard: We request that all interested individuals email or write the legislators.
 - o Joyce Hayward will get any information required to interested individuals
 - o Rich Lauer will email Joyce Hayward an OSSDI membership roster

Archeology, Promotions Committee Report

Update on Craftsman Survey by Linda Pansing

- Weather Condition and Bad Visibility have made the project a challenge. However, after much hard work we do have the rendering of the wreck for use on a slate.

Update on OSSDI Booth Shows/Locations by Linda Pansing

- Linda gave updates on the possible venues for the OSSDI Booth suggested at the July meeting
 - o Columbus Show (ScubaFest) - Yes
 - o Cincinnati Show - Sold Out
 - o Cleveland Show - Too Expensive
- Roger Roth suggested that OSSDI possibly share a booth space with Tri-State at the Cincinnati Show. The only possible hang up here is that Tri-State is not an OSSDI member. Roger will discuss with Tri-State the possibility of sharing its booth space and becoming a member of OSSDI.
- Linda also requested \$200 as seed money to help update the booth and get an OSSDI banner made. The request was approved.

New Archeology Committee head suggested by Linda Pansing

- Linda suggested that Carrie Sowden with the GLHS and MAST be appointed to head the Archeology Committee
- Appointment was approved

Oxygen Committee Report

Update on Oxygen Bill by Scott Pansing

- Below is a copy of the handout introducing the amendment:

OHIO COUNCIL SKIN AND SCUBA DIVERS TREASURE REPORT

STATEMENTS July-October 2004

Beginning balance 9030.58

INCOME

INTEREST	
July	1.19
Aug	1.20
Sept	1.20
Oct,	1.23

DUES/DEPOSITS

(checks and paypal)		
July	DUES	615.00
Aug	DUES	113.67
Sept		0.00
Oct	DUES	92.00

EXPENSES/PAYOUTS

CHECKS	
418 AQUA AMIGOS	-50.00
SPEAKER	
419 RENEW PO BOX	-26.00
420 D KUSHNER	
DUES REFUND	-6.00

* ENDING BALANCE 9774.07

* SCHOLARSHIP TOTAL INCLUDED IN ENDING BALANCE
2241.91

4729-21-06 Wholesale sales of medical oxygen to S.C.U.B.A. divers (10-1-04)

S.C.U.B.A. divers who hold a valid certificate in the following nationally recognized S.C.U.B.A. diving certifying organization programs may purchase, possess, and use medical oxygen for the purpose of emergency care or treatment at the scene of a diving emergency pursuant to divisions (b)(1)(i) and (C)(4) of section 4729.51 of the Revised Code:

- 1) Diver Alert Network (DAN): Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries;
- 2) PADI: Emergency First Response;
- 3) PADI: Rescue Diver Course;
- 4) PADI: Oxygen First Aid;
- 5) PADI: Rescue Diver Course;
- 6) PADI: Tec Deep Diver;
- 7) Scuba Schools International: Medic First Aid Emergency Oxygen Administration.
- 8) Technical Diving International – S.C.U.B.A. Diving International: Diver Advanced Development Program as a CPROX Administrator;
- 9) YMCA: Slam Rescue.

(B) In order for a certificate to be considered valid, a course must have been successfully completed within two years of the certification date.

(C) Any subsequent revisions to a course after the initial approval must be submitted to the state board of pharmacy for approval.

- In the future, if there are major changes to any dive agency or new agency's programs they will have the opportunity to be reviewed by the pharmacy board and possibly be added to the list of approved programs. This will most likely happen on an annual or semi-annual basis. OSSDI is now responsible to work with the Pharmacy Board from this point.
- In December 2004 there will be an Open House for Wholesalers and Retailers of Oxygen to present this new information. Then if all goes well, the sale of Oxygen should begin around February 2005.
- There was also concern brought up about possession vs. purchase of oxygen. Mark explained that these rules are only for the purchase of oxygen. Divers may still possess and administer oxygen due to the amendment

Faceplate Committee Report

Update on club members given by Rich Lauer

- There are currently 21 club members listed on the Faceplate
- Still one or two clubs that may be eliminated from the list if word is not received.
- Memberships run from January thru December.

Speakers Bureau Committee Report

No Update

Scholarship Committee Report

Update on Scholarship applications and promotion given by Dick Colwell

- Currently we have not received any applications. As a result, Dick suggested that OSSDI extend the deadline through February 2005.
 - o 1st – Rich Lauer
 - o 2nd – Annette Soule
 - o Motion approved
- A big problem seems to be just getting the word out that the scholarship is available and that there have been changes made to the requirements. Dick asked for suggestions and help:
 - o Annette Soule said that she would help “jazz up” the look of the application itself
 - o Carrie Sowden said that she would pass on a number of websites and contacts she and fellow students have used to track down scholarships.
- Dick asked all the Dive Clubs to please promote the scholarship in their newsletters and at their meetings.

Scubafest Committee Report

Update given by Rich Lauer

- The Committee has approved a new program for volunteers. If a volunteer works for 4hrs at ScubaFest, he/she will receive a full package including a T-Shirt for \$35. Contact Jane Henze for more information or to sign up.
- Tickets are available for purchase now, and the paypal option for payment will be available in one week
- There will be lots of workshops this year, and we will be adding ending times to all workshop information.
- The Scubafest Committee will update Scuba Fest posters and distribute them to the Quarries.

Old Business

Status of Ohio License Plate Issue

Update given by Ernie Naples

- Marsha Walters from the License Bureau said that we cannot change anything on the forms. She also said that the Bureau will not chase anyone down for purchase of a license plate. Finally, she emphasized that it is up to us to promote the plate and get the signatures.
- Currently we have about 500 signatures collected and we need 1000
- Ernie suggests that we continue to push for signatures at trade shows and take the information back to club meetings and local dive centers.

Status of Dive Ohio Video

Update given by ?

- The Dive Ohio Video is not going to happen.
- We are considering doing a smaller program highlighting Ohio Dive Sites for OSSDI to use at Sports and Travel Shows

New Business

Dive Show(s) Information

Joyce Hayward took the opportunity to update everyone on the fact that the Ford Seahorses Show (Dearborn, MI) is now taking place in April every year.

Joyce also took the opportunity to announce the date for the next Shipwrecks and Scuba: November 12, 2005. She would appreciate everyone's suggestions for workshops to be presented in 2005.

Next Meeting

Where: ScubaFest (Clarion Dublin Hotel in Dublin, OH)

When: March 13, 2005 @ 9:00 am

Motion to Close the Meeting

Motion to Close Meeting: 1st - Dick Colwell, 2nd - Dave Soule

Submitted by Sandy Heschel

Underwater Images Photo Competition

The Underwater Images Photo and Video Competition is now accepting entries for the 2005 contest. Slides, Digital, and Video entries are accepted. The competition is open to amateur underwater photographers worldwide.

Major prizes will be awarded for the winners in all categories. There are a lot of exciting first this year: In all still photo categories, you may enter slides or digital. There are new categories, new sponsors and prizes.

Entries can be submitted now, and until February 1, 2005. Winners will be announced at Scubafest 2005 in Columbus, Ohio, USA on March 12, 2005. See the website for information on late entries.

Scubafest is presented by the Ohio Council of Skin & Scuba Divers, Inc. (OCSSDI), a non-profit council of scuba clubs. At Scubafest, Underwater Images will have a film festival with all video entries presented on Friday night. All winners will be announced and shown at the Saturday night Banquet in a special presentation. SPECIAL NOTE: entries from Ohio will also be entered in a separate local Ohio Category with separate prizes, in addition to the international competition entry.

Some of this year's prizes include dive travel on liveboards Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Belize, and the Bahamas; Land based dive trips in the Honduras Bay Islands, Hawaii, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, Provo, PNG, and Sipadan. Equipment prizes includes photo and video equipment, Dive equipment, books, software, marine jewelry, and more. One of these great prizes can be yours!

Complete rules, entry form, and information on the prizes and sponsors are online at www.UWimages.org. You can also see winners from previous years. For the first time this year. entry fees may be paid online with PayPal using your paypal balance, a credit card, or electronic check.

Underwater Images is non-profit with proceeds donated to Marine Conservation and Educational programs. For details on beneficiaries or to make donations, please visit the uwimages.org website.

ScubaFest 2005



ScubaFest 2005

March 11-13, 2005

Clarion Dublin Hotel

600 Metro Place North Dublin, Ohio 43017

It's coming back -- a weekend of scuba festivities right here in Ohio, dating back to 1959! Pool activities, speakers, door prizes, workshops, film festivals, and Saturday night banquet dinner....

Demonstrations, shipwrecks, photography, travel, technical, ecology, caves, medical, equipment, training, and more.

More than 45 exhibitors representing all major equipment manufacturers, travel companies, and training organizations.

*NEW! Workshops on video photography & video editing, rebreathers, and PSI training classes. *View the workshop schedule at scubafest.org.*

THIS YEAR'S SHOW IS BIGGER AND BETTER FOR THE SAME PRICE!

Friday:	Exhibits Room Open Rebreather Workshop
March 11	Film Festival, U/W Images Mixer and Social
Saturday:	Exhibit Rooms Open
March 12	Speakers and Presentations 10:00 am - 4:00 pm PSI Courses Pool Demonstrations Saturday evening Banquet Ball Scholarship Presentation Awards: U/W Images Presentation: <i>Joe Wysocki</i>
Sunday:	Exhibit Rooms Open
March 13	OCSSDI Meeting, 9 am Speakers and Presentations 10:00 am - 3:00 pm DAN Oxygen Provider Pool Demonstrations

A lineup of the biggest names in Diving!
New Faces, plus many repeats!!
Dive Chronicles, Sherwood/Akona, Ikelite,
Harveys Wet and Dry Suits, Optiquatics, Tabata,
Aggressor Fleet, Seaquest/US Divers,
DUI, Mulryan Enterprizes, Oceanic,
Tawali Resort (Papua, New Guinea), EFR,
Silent Diving Systems, Anthonys Key Resort,
Cayman Islands Department of Tourism,
Great Lakes Historical Society, Mares,
Dive Tech (Colbalt Coast, Grand Cayman),
Dive Industry Association, *Nekton Pilot*,
Bill Beard's Costa Rica Adventures,
St. Croix Dive Center, and more!!!

Exhibit Halls are open free to the public

We are proud to welcome back **Joe Wysocki**, of Optiquatics, this year as the Keynote Speaker. Optiquatics is a California-based photography, video, and travel agency. Joe was a featured speaker at the 2004 event, and will give three presentations in 2005. His Saturday night presentation, *Where in the World?*, will take the audience from local dive sites to more exotic diving on the west coast and in the South Pacific. Don't miss it!

Our speaker list grows day to day. The list includes Carrie Snowden, *Great Lakes Historical Society*; Dr. Herb Newton, *Causes of Decompression Sickness*; Roger Roth, *Kid's Week at Anthony's Key Resort*; Nancy Esterbrock, *Deep Tech Wreck Diving in the Caymans*; Ed Buckley, *St. Croix The Ultimate Bluewater Adventure*; Jeff Omstead, *Eriequest*; John Boozer, *20 Years of Diving with Aggressor Fleet*; Jeff Ginther, *Cayman Islands, Three Great Islands*; John Dixon, *Nekton Diving Cruises*; Mike Fowler, *Evolution Rebreather*; Lix Carver & Carol Kender, *Australia, Guam, & Hawaii*; Bill Beard, *Costa Rica Diving and Adventures*; Arie vBarendrecht, *Dive Tech at Colbalt Coast Grand Cayman*; Randy Johnson, *Great Lakes Shipwreck Diving*; and Mike Ball, *Papua, New Guinea*.

More to come....

SCUBAFEST 2005 Advance Registration

Ticket Information:

Daily Pass	\$15	
speakers, door prizes		
Weekend Pass, no banquet	\$25	
above, two days, plus Friday film festival		
All Inclusive Pass	\$60	
(\$50 before 1/15/05)		
weekend pass, Friday night film festival,		
Saturday night Banquet Ball,		
speakers, door prizes, exhibits		
Banquet pass only	\$40	
ScubaFest 2005 T-shirts	\$15	
(XXL & XXXL, \$16.50) white, ash, navy, red, black size__ color__		
NEW!! ScubaFest 2005 golf shirts	\$24.95	
white, ash, navy, black size__ color__		
TOTAL		_____

Tickets may be ordered on line with paypal, or by writing:
ScubaFest 2005, PO Box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073
e-mail: info@scubafest.org

Exhibit halls are open free to the public

NAME: _____ Dive Club _____
 ADDRESS _____ e-mail or phone _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: **ScubaFest 2004**, PO box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073
 or, you can order tickets via PayPal, at **ScubaFest.org**

Open Water Student Faces Tsunami

When a friend invited Lea Kreidie on a Christmas break trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, then Thailand, to learn scuba diving, Kreidie hesitated. I don't like the water, Kreidie told her mother. I don't like being submerged. It hurts my ears. Little did she know.

On Dec. 21, Kreidie, a 21-year-old studying communications and political science at UC Berkeley, headed to Malaysia with her friend's family. They spent time in Kuala Lumpur - a gleaming fusion of the ancient and the modern - and then headed to the idyllic Thai island of Phi Phi, a tropical paradise of soaring limestone cliffs, powdery white beaches and brilliant crystalline waters. Swallowing her fear, Kreidie checked into a hotel and began working on her scuba-diving certification.

The world beneath the waves was a revelation. It was a glittering jewel box of coral reefs and fish that gleamed like shards of stained glass - parrot fish, clown fish, ghost pipe fish, angel fish, sea snakes, silky sea anemones.

"This island is like paradise," she wrote in an e-mail to her family on Saturday. "I do not know what heaven is like, but if it is anything like this, I will be content."

The next day was going to be a very big day, her e-mail said: her final open-water dive. After that, she would be a certified scuba diver. She was feeling so much more comfortable in the water. She'd come such a long way.

The next morning was Sunday. The morning a monstrous earthquake rocked the coast of Sumatra. The morning murderous waves began pulsing through the Indian Ocean and South China Sea.

It was early Sunday in Laguna Niguel when Kreidie's family first heard the news of the devastation in Southeast Asia. An icy panic coursed through her mother. "I saw her island on TV," Lina Kreidie said. The seaside hotels were obliterated. "If she's scuba diving, she's gone," she said. "If she was in the hot tub, she's gone."

Kreidie's sister Lana immediately called the American Embassy in Thailand. They had no information about Phi Phi; all communication lines were down. She kept calling and calling, and was eventually able to get a list of people taken to the hospital; Kreidie wasn't on it. They called the Red Cross: nothing. They called every hotel on Phi Phi island they could reach; none listed Kreidie as a guest. They prayed she had made it to high ground. They prayed she wasn't in the water.

When the tsunami swept through Sunday morning, Kreidie was in the open ocean, deep under water. The fish were acting strange. Rather than swimming away, the fish were bunching up below the divers, almost as if they were trying to find shelter.

She felt pressure. They all started drifting. Then a mighty thrust launched her forward, sucked her down some 45 feet, and shot her up again. She lost control over her body, her movements, her orientation in space. The water, once so clear, became sandy and dense. But she didn't panic; she had so little experience diving that she didn't know how strange it was. When they finally surfaced, the instructor said that was no ordinary current.

A Thai ship plucked them from the sea, and they soon learned they would not be going back to Phi Phi. There was nothing left of their hotel. No one knew if another rogue wave was on the way. Soon, they could see debris floating in the ocean - trees, food, bottles of water.

Kreidie was transported to Phuket, then to Bangkok. Kind locals made sure she had food and a place to sleep. But she had no passport. No clothes. No money. She called home with a borrowed cell phone. About 4 p.m. Sunday, the phone rang in Laguna Niguel. Mom Lina Kreidie answered. She screamed, then fainted. Sister Lana grabbed the phone. Kreidie was in tears. "Lana, are you guys OK?" Kreidie said.

Sister Lana sprang to action, getting back on the phone with the embassy, faxing over proof of Kreidie's citizenship, explaining to her sister what she must do next. Kreidie flew back to Kuala Lumpur, then back to America.

Kreidie's first instinct was to say she'd never dive again. "But after thinking about it, I feel like I could handle anything at this point," she said from Bangkok. "I just dove in a tsunami. "I feel like I should definitely devote part of my life to helping people. I feel lucky to be alive; I can't even tell you. Somebody is watching me. I thank God every single moment."

Sister Lana has learned a powerful lesson. "Your worst enemy will save your life," she said. "Face your fears and try to overcome, whether it be the ocean or anything. That's the moral of the story."

Schedule of Events

December 31: **Deadline, Beneath-the-Sea Photo Contest**

www.beneaththesea.org

December 31: **Deadline, Scuba Diving Magazine Photo Contest**

www.scubadiving.com/photocontest

December 31: **Deadline, Smithsonian Magazine Photo Contest**

www.photocontest.smithsonianmagazine.com

December 31: **Dive Whitestar, Aqua Amigos**

www.vicepresident@aquaamigos.com

January 1, 2005: **New Years Day Dive**

check website as the New Year approaches

January 14-16: **Our World Underwater**, Hyatt Regency O'Hare

www.ourworldunderwater.com

January 15: **Deadline, Early-Bird Special** for ScubaFest tickets

www.scubafest.org

January 29: **M.A.S.T. meeting**

February 1: **Deadline, Underwater Images Photo Contest**

www.uwimages.org

February 18-19: **Ghost Ships Festival**, Milwaukee, WI

www.ghost-ships.com

March 11-13: **ScubaFest 2005**, Dublin

46th annual! Don't miss it!! www.scubafest.org

March 13: OCSSDI meeting, Dublin

March 18-20: **Beneath The Sea**, Secaucus, NJ

www.beneaththesea.org

April 1: **Deadline, Seahorses of the World Photo Contest**

www.sportdiver.com/projectseahorse

April 2: **Shipwrecks 2005**, Welland, Ontario

www.vaxxine.com/nda

April 8-10: **MAST Workshops** **Surveying the Craftsman**

mark.pansing@core.com

It's Time To Renew for 2005!

A couple notes, as you renew for 2005:

- More than half the members are getting their *Faceplate* via e-mail. This is quicker, and it comes in color. It's also less expensive for OCSSDI. Your choice. Just fill in the e-mail blank below. **PRINT CLEARLY.**
- If you've signed in already, or have been getting the mailed edition of the *Faceplate*, it's easy to change. Just e-mail faceplate@ohiohills.com, and request to receive yours via e-mail in the future.
- You can renew on-line, with your credit card and through pay-pal. Just go to OCSSDI.org.
- As a Council member, you can be enrolled on the OCSSDI News Group. This is an e-mail service; if something happens regarding scuba in Ohio, you will receive a news flash on-line.



Membership for 2005 Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLUB AFFILIATION, if any _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

If you give us your e-mail address, we will automatically send you the *Faceplate* on-line, unless you request a hard copy instead.

Dues: \$12 per year. \$9 per year, if a member of an affiliate club. Make checks to OCSSDI, send to:

Rich Lauer
710 Ravenna Circle
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068



*Remember, you may also renew through Pay-Pal.
Go to ocssdi.org.*