

The Flipper



Membership:

DAN Sponsor #28939

Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

April 2006

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. First of all, Happy New Year! then Happy Valentine's Day! followed by Happy St. Patrick's Day, and Happy Passover and Easter!
2. If you didn't notice, GLA had a display in the Farmington Community Library on Twelve Mile Road, where we hold our meetings. We were asked by the library to make a display while the book, Shadow Divers, was the main focus of the reading series. Stop in and see our display. It was in the lobby area, to the left of the main door, across from the computers for book check out from the first of February until the first of April.
3. We are doing something a little different this year. Instead of a formal dive schedule, in April at the general meeting, we will select, based upon the interest of those at the meeting, the dive sites for May and June. In June we will select those sites for July, August and September. There will still be the standard fun weekends such as The Straits dive hosted by Dave and Judy, date to be determined, and Tobermory over Labor Day weekend. So please attend and put in your two cents worth.
4. At last GLA has experienced the warm tropical waters of Cozumel, Mexico. We were all very delighted with the accommodations, the diving, the food, etc. I think everyone had a great time.
5. The dive season is here! The weather is turning nice and it is time to get into the water! Let's have a great season this year.

SAFETY AND ED

DAN O₂ Courses

For the course nearest you, check out DAN's website: www.DanAlertNetwork.org. Look under "Training and Education".

OTHER DIVE RELATED INFO

Great Lakes Indepth

Watch Ric Mixter on public TV. Check your local listings for days and times. For more information, "dive" into the web at www.moreindepth.com or write to Ric in care of:

ISE
2302 US Hwy 41 W
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-7800.

FOR SALE

Call, fax or email Jan Ouellette to place your ad. This is a free service to GLA members.

- **Contour weights**, any size, call Mike Sitko.
- **Underwater Metal Detector**, Garret Sea Hunt XL500VLF, \$500. Call Frank Klepadlo .
- **Wetsuit**, medium, women's with farmerjohn pants and tunic top, hot pink/black. Contact Andrea Wolf.
- **Oneill Drysuit with weights**, Black/blue, XXL, \$450, Call Gary Morgan.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7PM, May 17, 2006, at Farmington Hills Public Library, 12 Mile Road west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

BOARD MEETINGS

The **May 2006** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
May 8, 2006

The **June 2006** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
June 5, 2006

The **July 2006** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
July 12, 2006



GLA-WEAR



T-Shirts \$15 (S-XL)
Hats \$10
Sweatshirts \$30 (S-XL)
Jackets \$70 (S-XL)

(add \$3 for sizes over XL); add \$5 for names/monograms
Plus 6% sales tax
50% deposit on all special orders.



T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, jackets . . .
. We can even embroider on your existing apparel and accessories. Attend club and non-club events in style!

To Order, contact:
Nadeen Ouellette or
Jan Ouellette

FROM WILMA TO PARADISE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

Twenty-nine members of Great Lakes Aquanauts were supposed to be on our way to Cozumel, Mexico, to spend a week diving and enjoying the hospitality of the Scuba Club Cozumel. However, a rip-roaring hurricane named Wilma decided to attack the Yucatan Peninsula, the island of Cozumel and the resort community of Cancun, not to mention everything else in between.

For thirty hours the hurricane raged over the island of Cozumel ripping leaves from trees and uprooting them, downing power lines and poles, blasting out windows and doors, sinking boats and stripping sand from the shore. For sixty hours the residents of the cheerful divers' paradise remained inside until finally the beast moved on.

In consolation a majority of us met at Frank Troxell's home to commiserate and plan our "hurricane recovery strategy."

HURRICANE WILMA PARTY NEWS

As a new club member I wanted to comment about last month's (October's) Hurricane Party. What a success this party was! Everyone was very creative in their choices of potluck dishes. The margaritas were a fantastic beverage of choice! I think that I can speak for everyone that we were very disappointed about our trips postponement, and at the same time relieved that the timing worked out in our favor. Having a party in Frank's newly finished basement was a lot of fun with many friends participating in pool tournament. Both Frank and I loved hosting this party. I have known most of you for seven years and truly value your friendships. Both Frank and I look forward to hosting many more events together.

-- Sue Lowell, November 2005

¡COZUMEL OR BUST!

On March 25, 2006, almost five months to the day, 27 GLA members met at gate B7 in the McNamara Terminal ready to board our Continental flight with an ultimate destination of Cozumel, Mexico. Almost every one of the original travelers (with the exceptions of Cyndi's friend, Bob, who was replaced by her friend, Ann, and Michelle and her boyfriend, Fabrice, who were unable to join us) were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed (sort of at 4:30AM) and ready to embark on our adventure.

We had all gotten various bits and pieces of information regarding the condition of the island, the diving and the resort. We were to be pleasantly surprised. Our flights (from Detroit to Houston and from Houston to Cozumel) came off without a hitch and we arrived in the sunshine shortly after 12:30 CT. We were told that a cold front had just gone through (the temp was in the 70s and the wind was out of the north) leaving behind a bright, clear blue sky. After lunch and our dive/resort briefing we had an opportunity to relax and/or explore.

Despite the fact that the storm had wiped out the upper reefs removing the soft corals, sea fans and sponges, and depositing tons of white sand in its wake, the diving we discovered was still very good below 50 feet. There were a lot of big fish (French Angels, Grouper) and numerous Spotted Eagle Rays. Lobsters were abundant and out "lusting after female lobsters" -- is is spring after all. Things are slowly being rebuilt on the island and we are pleased to announce that Scuba Club Cozumel was an excellent host for our week long trip.



Work on the new dock



Dinner ... one of our favorite activities!



Happy Hour ... and Amazing Grace at sunset!



Dave and Judy



Cyndi and Ann