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Membership: 53  
DAN Sponsor #28939

Volume 36, Number 10

# The Flipper

Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

December 2003

## GLA Board

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Tim Ouellette

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Kristina Troxell

## THE UPCOMING AWARDS BANQUET

The annual awards banquet is just a short time away. By now you should have received your invitation in the mail and hopefully you have checked the date with your social calendar and have reserved your spot at the banquet.

We will be at Mama-Mia's again this year and hope that most of you can attend.

Here are some of the particulars:

Social hour at 6:30 PM

Dinner at 7:00 PM

Awards and raffle following.

Tickets again this year are \$26 per person or \$52 per couple.

We have already acquired some great prizes this year and want to encourage everyone to come and join in the fun.

Mark your calendars, Saturday, December 13.

Check the special banquet sheet in this *Flipper* for further information.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. Let's go people. We only have 26 people who have paid for the Banquet. Don't forget, this is our biggest fund raiser and there're lots of great prizes, not to mention the food and friends. Call Linda Walton or Jan Ouellette. We will accommodate you.

2. Congratulations to Donnie Anderson on his cave diving certification. This is quite an accomplishment, even for older more experienced divers.

3. We will finalize the dive schedule for 2004 at this month's board meeting. Look for the new schedule in the January 2004 Flipper.

4. Kristina Troxell, with board approval, has expanded our web site. This will cost a little more, but far less than the postage we've saved since most members get their Flipper via the internet. This has been a real savings in both time and postage.

5. If you are interested in the Belize trip, contact Jan soon as she is going to cancel airline reservations January 1 or sooner, which ever comes first.

6. Last but not least, you'll be surprised to learn there will be no change in our board. Thanks to all those dedicated people who are willing to serve.

## SAVE THE EARTH

Probably the first thing concerned citizens think of when the word "endangered" pops up is an animal: the California condor, the giant panda, the bowhead whale, the leatherback sea turtle. But right under our feet may be something equally endangered: the soils of America. Of the 13,129 soil "series," or species, that occur in the United States, 4,540 are classified as "rare" (having a total area of less than 2,500 acres) or "rare-unique" (present in only one state, and having a total area of less than 25,000 acres). According to Ronald Amundson, a soil scientist at the University of California, Berkeley, and his colleagues, if more than 50 percent of a rare or rare-unique soil had been lost to such incursions as housing, highways, or agribusiness, the soil should be considered endangered. The earth scientists caution that the diversity of soils on Earth today is the product of an unrepeatable combination of unique fauna and flora (many of them now extinct), as well as cyclic glaciations beginning

about 1.6 million years ago. The resulting soil types -- characterized by such features as depth, mineral composition, organic content, and texture -- are therefore as unique as living species. Unusual soil types, moreover, are often the substrate for rare plants. Alter the soil, and the ecosystem changes.

By correlating a map of soil distribution with a satellite map showing land use, Amundson's team found 508 U.S. soils that alter now endangered. California leads the list with 104, the most of any state. The rare soils of the country's agricultural heartland are in greatest jeopardy; more than 80 percent of Indiana's and Iowa's rare soils, for instance, are endangered. ("Soil diversity and land use in the United States," *Ecosystems*, 6:470-82, October 2003).

-- from *Natural History*  
December 2003/January 2004

## SAFETY AND ED

### **DAN O<sub>2</sub> Courses**

For the course nearest you, check out DAN's website: [www.DanAlertNetwork.org](http://www.DanAlertNetwork.org). Look under "Training and Education".

## OTHER DIVE RELATED INFO

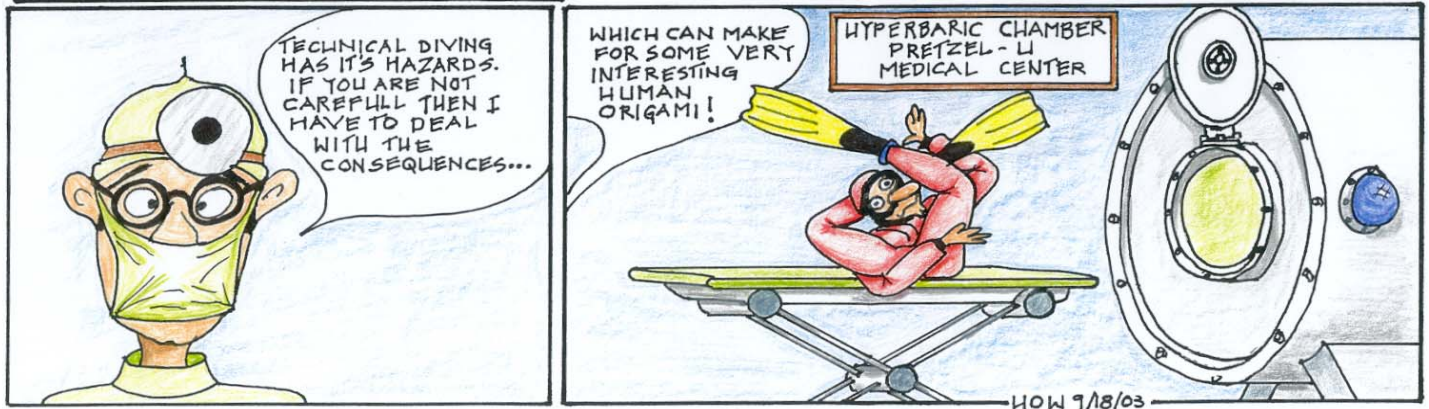
### **Great Lakes Indepth**

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](http://www.moreindepth.com).

### **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.
- **(2) Dacor regulators** plus 1st stage (console) pressure/depth gauge and compass, **(1) Dacor BC** (adult med). Call Dave Albright.
- **Miscellaneous scuba gear**: fins (\$15 & \$25), mask/snorkel (\$10), Dacor BC (small) \$40, gloves (\$10), knife (\$10). Call Sandy Prochazka.



## 101ST DIVE ENDS IN DEATH IN LAGUNA

Laguna Beach, California--Daryll Shatz was known as a conservative diver, scrupulous about his scuba equipment.

That made it hard for fellow diving enthusiasts to accept that the Laguna Niguel computer analyst died Sunday while diving in a Laguna Beach cove and that malfunctioning gear might have contributed to his apparent drowning.

"He was not a risk taker or a foolhardy person. He was not one of the people you would expect this to happen to," said Rick Valasek of San Juan Capistrano, a fellow officer in the South Orange County ?dive Club.

Shatz's body was recovered about 20 yards off Montage Beach, formerly known as Treasure Island Beach, in an area known as Golf Cover by rescue divers from Laguna Beach and state lifeguards.

A 911 call from Shatz's diving partner at 11:15 AM brought Laguna Beach police, fire and lifeguard personnel to the beach. They were joined by Harbor Patrol and US Coast Guard craft, as well as a helicopter from the Newport Beach Police Department.

The diving partner, Steve Feldman of Mission Viejo, said he and Shatz were trying to handle an equipment problem with Shatz's inflator hose, which helps regulate a diver's buoyancy, when Shatz slipped underwater, Laguna lifeguard Capt. Kevin Snow said.

"I dove with him there a week ago, in the same spot," said Konrad Fry, the diver club's president.

"It was beautiful. Underwater caves, schools of fish and sea life," Fry said.

Shatz, who turned 55 a week ago, began diving three years ago and Sunday was his 101st dive, Fry said.

"He loved every minute of it. He was an incredible person, sweet, giving and

kind," he said.

Fry and Valasek remembered dive trips to San Diego, Catalina Island, the Coronados, and Cozumel, Mexico.

"Daryll was very outgoing and enthusiastic about getting new members into the club and promoting the sport," Valasek said.

Fry credited Shatz with helping build the club from 50 members to more than 200 partly by bringing in top-flight speakers to the club's meetings, such as a famous National Geographic underwater photographer. Shatz opened his Somerset Point home to club meetings and threw a barbecue to celebrate a new relationship with a Dana Point dive shop, Fry said.

On Sunday, news spread to the six neighboring homes on the one-block cul-de-sac where Shatz lived.

Next-door neighbor Belinda Bain tearfully recounted how she had teased Shatz on Saturday as he put up outdoor Christmas decorations.

"I joked with him that he was making the rest of us look bad," she said.

Bain called Shatz's wife, Brenda, after finding out why a police officer and chaplain came to the Shatzes' door about 2 PM. Brenda Shatz said she had family around her and asked neighbors to give her time.

"She adored him," Bain said. "He was her world."

She said she would take up a collection among the neighbors to send flowers, "just to let her know we are there for her, any time," Bain said.

"They're the greatest neighbors. It's so sad," said Julie Cook, who lives across the street.

"It's a shocker," said her husband, Greg.

Fry was unsettled by the manner in

which Shatz died.

"He was extraordinarily competent. He was rescue-certified. He double- and triple-checked his equipment," he said.

Fry said he spoke with Feldman after the accident and said Shatz, as experienced as he was, might have panicked when his air hose disconnected from the inflator attached to his buoyancy compensator.

The compensator is worn like a vest. Divers use it to stay at the depth they want by pressing a button to inflate or deflate the vest.

Shatz and Feldman were on the surface trying to fix the problem after they had walked into the water from the beach.

Shatz was not wearing his swim fins, Feldman told authorities and Fry.

Feldman dove to locate Shatz and when he could not find him, yelled for somebody to call 911 and alerted a Montage Resort employee, who dove into the water, too, searching until lifeguards arrived.

Feldman declined an interview request.

"Steve did everything he could," Fry said. "They were best friends and it's hard not to blame yourself. That's what happens when you are a dive buddy. He's torn up."

The club will plan a diving memorial for Shatz to remember the man who became so enthralled with diving that he spent thousands of dollars on an underwater digital camera and whose pictures grace the club's Web site, Fry said.

The cause of Shatz's death will be determined by the Orange County coroner's office, which also will examine Shatz's scuba equipment.

--submitted by Mike Sitko,  
Orange County Register, Dec. 1, 2003

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## GLA-WEAR



Hats and T-shirts are available at the General Meetings.



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

(add \$3 for sizes over XL)

Plus 6% sales tax

Add \$5 for names/monograms  
50% deposit on all special orders.

T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, jackets, bags . . . We can even embroider on your existing apparel and accessories.

Attend club and non-club events in style!

### **To Order, contact:**

Jan Ouellette at 248-685-9505, jano1999@msn.com or  
Nadeen Ouellette at 734-421-5890 or fcebd@earthlink.net

## GENERAL MEETINGS

There is no general meeting for December. See you at the Banquet.

The **January** general meeting will be held at:

Place: **Farmington Hills Library**  
Date: **Wednesday, January 21**  
Time: **7:00 PM**  
Program: **Belize! A travelog of this exotic place. Videos, photos and discussions. Sandy Prochazka has been to Belize and will be on hand to answer questions.**



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is time for membership renewal. Dues again this year are \$30 for an individual or a family living at the same address. Membership dues are payable from now through January 1, 2004. After January 31, 2004, if dues are not paid, membership services, including receiving *The Flipper*, will be suspended. If you are not receiving *The Flipper* by email and you would like to, email Jan Ouellette at GLA2003@MSN.COM.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send your dues (\$30) and this form to:

Linda Walton  
35235 Sandra Lane  
Westland, MI 48185

## BOARD MEETINGS

The **December 2003** board meeting and dinner will be held at:

Tim Ouellette's  
Time: **7:00 PM**  
Date: **Monday, December 8**

The **January 2004** board meeting and dinner will be held at:

Tim Ouellette's  
Time: **7:30 PM**  
Date: **Monday, January 5**

# Belize or bust . . . ?

## February 27-28 through March 6-7, 2004

### Aboard the *Nekton Pilot*

*At last year's banquet, I was fortunate to win the 2-for-1 Nekton Cruise. Tim and I have chosen Belize aboard the Nekton Pilot as our trip. We would like you to join us! --Jan Ouellette*

**Tentative Schedule of events:**

**Saturday:** Departure, boarding after 7:30 pm

**Sunday through Friday:** Diving, 4-5 dives a day, including a night dive. visibility along the walls is exceptional, 100 feet or better.

**Saturday:** Check out is by 8:00 AM. Complimentary tour of Altun Ha ruins (9:00 AM to Noon).

**Note:** Travelling to Belize requires that US and Canadian citizens have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after they first enter Belize. You will be granted a 30 day visa.

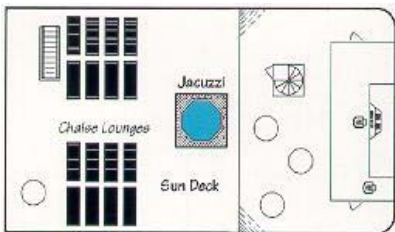
**Cost and payment schedule:**

Nekton Pilot \$1495 pp  
 (Credits: non-divers, \$100; snorkelers, \$50)  
 Airfare (Group rate via Continental) \$ 700.40 pp  
 (this price includes a \$40 deposit and taxes)  
 Est. Hotel cost in Belize City \$109.00/nite

**Payment schedule:**

Nekton Pilot deposit due Nov. 28 \$400.00 pp  
 (33% refund on cancellations 180-90 days out)  
 (no refund on cancellations w/in 60 days of trip)  
 Continental Airlines due Nov. 28 \$ 40.00 pp  
 (no cancellation after 12/23)  
 (\$660.40 balance due, 12/23)

**Total deposit due NOW \$440.00 pp**  
 (With deposit, include copy of passport photo page)



**Count me in for the trip to Belize on the Nekton Pilot**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diver \_\_\_\_ Non-Diver \_\_\_\_ Snorkeler \_\_\_\_  
 Deposit enclosed: \$400 for Nekton Pilot \_\_\_\_  
 \$ 40 for Continental Air \_\_\_\_

Please send this form along with a copy of the photo page from your passport to: Jan Ouellette





Banquet reservation information has been sent out. Please return your reservation to Linda Walton NOW!

This year's banquet has been organized by Ken Anderson who was elected to the Vice President position at last year's elections. If you have any questions regarding the banquet, contact Ken at dogdiver@aol.com or 517-694-0369.

Frank Troxell will present a slide presentation on the club's trip to San Salvador, April 2003.

As always we will have items to raffle from local dive shops, contributions from our members as well, along with a 50/50 raffle.

If you frequent a particular dive shop, feel free to ask them for a donation for our raffle. Letters have gone out to all of last year's sponsors.

*We hope to see you all there!*

# Annual Awards Banquet

## Saturday, December 13, 2003

\$26 per person (\$52 per couple)

Mama-Mia Restaurant

6:30 PM Socializing

7:00 PM Dinner

Awards and raffle to follow.

### *Banquet reservations*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ No. attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$26 per person/\$52 per couple

**RSVP by November 29**

Send your reservation to:

Linda Walton

#### Mama-Mia Restaurant

27770 Plymouth Rd, Livonia, MI 48150

Phone: (734)427-1000

[Driving directions](#)

