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Volume 36, Number 8

The Flipper

Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

October 2003

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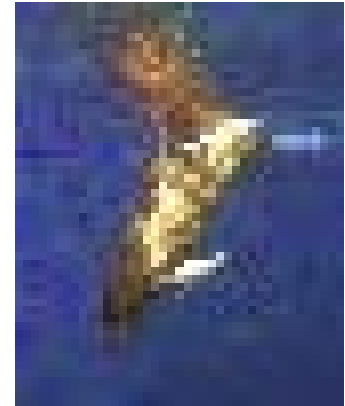
THE UPCOMING AWARDS BANQUET

San Salvador Photo Show



This

(photo made at a drug store)



Or This

(photo reprinted by Frank)

Frank Troxell will again be presenting a show of the photos that GLA travelers have taken. This year's trip was to San Salvador this past April. If you have some great shots, or even some not so great shots, get the slides or negatives to Frank no later than November 5 so that he can work his magic and create fantastic slides for presentation.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. We had a good turnout at John and Joanne's for the Pumpkin Carving/Potluck. Only 3 divers, though, actually braved the "depths" and hazards of knife wounds. It was a beautiful day and the food was great. Thanks, John and Joanne.

2. Bob and Rachael Evans wish everyone well. They love Florida living and Bob gets to dive often. Jan and I got to see them the first weekend in October and really enjoyed our visit.

3. No one has come forward at this point to volunteer for board positions. I would like to have seen

Hugh Walton as President, but he cannot be, due to other contractual obligations. So if at this next general meeting, no one comes forward, our board will remain the same. I will reluctantly stay on as President.

4. The banquet is fast approaching. Invitations will be going out soon so watch your mail boxes and buy your tickets early so we can plan. It's always a lot of fun.

5. Thanks to Rick Mixter for supplying a tape for our meeting in September. Rick could not make it in person, but agreed to do a program early next year.

When the September Flipper went out, I slipped a note into Bob Evans' issue letting him and Rachael know that Tim and I would be in Florida, in Highland Beach, from Friday, October 3 through Sunday, October 5. I said that we'd love to get together with them if that was possible.

We received a call back from Bob that he and Rachael were really excited that we were coming down and really wanted to connect with us, and that if Tim wanted, he could go diving on Saturday.

As it turned out, Tim's cold was in full force and he ended up not

diving, but we got together with Bob and Rachael for dinner on Saturday night.

We drove down to Ft. Lauderdale and ate at Aruba's, right on the beach. The drinks were good and the seafood was marvelous. Later Rachael showed us where her grandmother's apartment is and where her uncle lives, before we headed back to Highland Beach.

We had a great time and promised to come back.

--Jan Ouellette

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



Bob, Tim and Rachael

Bob, Rachael and Jan
(a little wind-blown)



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.

HOW TO WASH YOUR BC

(You need more than a quick dip in the rinse tank to get rid of the creepy-crawlies inside, by John Francis)

Inner cleanliness is as important as outer, and my great-aunt Grace frequently quoted scripture to prove it. Your BC needs to be clean both inside and out because microscopic evils will grow in the dark, moist interior of the inflation bladder. And when that happens, you don't want your mouth anywhere near the oral inflator. Here's how to keep it clean:

Step One: Soak It

It's best to wash your BC by soaking it in a tub instead of just hosing it off. A mild solution of warm, soapy water is best. Soaking also gives you a chance to test the valves for leaks: Inflate the BC, hold it under water and look for bubbles. Work the inflate and deflate valves under water, then watch them closely. Next, scrub the outside of the BC, especially Velcro tabs. When those hooks and eyes accumulate dirt, they stop working. Now rinse it off thoroughly.

Step Two: Slosh It

Fill the BC about one-third full with soapy water, and then inflate it the rest of the way with air to take the wrinkles out of the bladder. Rumba with the BC a while to swirl the water into all the nooks and crannies. Drain, rinse, rumba again and drain.

Step Three: Hang It

Inflate the BC and hang it so water inside drains to the big oral inflation hose. (Hang it so the

place where the hose joins the BC is lowest, and let the hose hang down from there.) Hang the BC in the shade or indoors rather than in the sun, which attacks Velcro and nylon. When the outside of the BC is dry, open the oral inflate valve to drain the water from the hose. For extra credit, rap the inflated BC smartly a couple of times first. That knocks off whatever drops of water are still hanging inside. Give them a minute to reach the hose before draining.

Step Four: Eyeball It

Look for stressed fasteners, frayed straps and degraded Velcro. Do all the valves work as smoothly as they should? Fix anything that needs it now, not an hour before your next dive trip. If you are going to fold and pack your BC, don't brutalize it and especially don't stress the connection between the corrugated hose and the BC. If you are going to store the BC, partially inflate it and hang it by a strap if you can. Bagging it will protect it from ozone, carbon monoxide and the fumes of paints and cleaners.

-- Rodale's Scuba Diving, October 2003



PUMPKIN CARVING AND POTLUCK



View across Silver Lake, October 2002

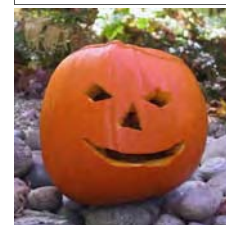
Everyone who attended the Pumpkin Carving and Potluck had an enjoyable time.. The day was a perfect fall day (the above picture is representative of the weather, but our skies were cloudless, and temperatures were in the mid to upper sixties). The divers were Chuck Pickett, Chris Price and Tom Snigier. Tim and Brian were in attendance, but did not dive. This dive was Chris Price's first pumpkin carving. He had a few comments: "Holy shit, this is hard. I didn't know these things can float. . . . I kept the top between my legs, tried not to cut myself with the knife but when I clutched the pumpkin to my chest, it hit the inflate valve on my drysuit and I popped to the surface."

Not only were there pumpkin carvers, but Mike Sitko took a group on a mushroom hunt. Later the mushrooms were cooked with onions and enjoyed.



Chris, ready to carve his pumpkin.

Chuck's and Tom's pumpkins



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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

NOTE: NEW EARLIER TIME

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

Place: Farmington Hills Library
Date: Wednesday, **October 15**
Time: **7:00 PM (sharp)**
Program: **Marine Ecology**



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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

Linda Walton

BOARD MEETINGS

The **November 2003** board meeting will be held at:

Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:30 PM**
Date: Monday,
November 3

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

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

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

Special amenities:

- Spacious cabins with private bathrooms, showers, large picture windows, and twin or queen beds maximize comfort and privacy.
- Independent air-conditioning controls in cabins
- Spacious lounge area -- perfect for socializing, watching videos and evening slide shows, or reading a good book
- Huge 2,000 square foot sundeck with chaise lounges, jacuzzi and shaded area.
- Delicious cuisine served in our scenic dining room
- Super stable SWATH design virtually eliminates ship motion.
- E-6 processing lab, video editing facilities
- Two tenders for assisting divers in the water and for shuttle ashore
- Warm towels straight from the dryer on rear deck
- Friendly, professional crew members
- US Coast Guard Certification; Ship's registry -- USA

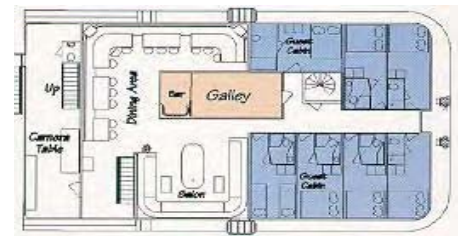
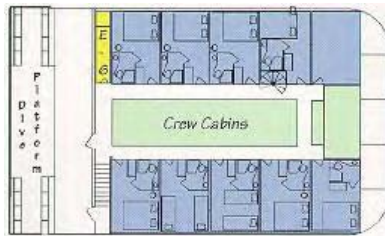
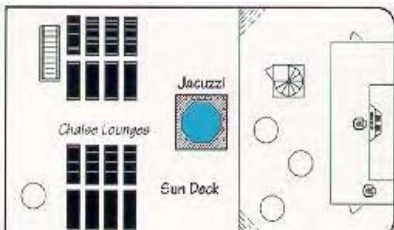
Tentative Schedule of events:

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.



Travel Information: (This is tentative and will be updated when group information is received from Nekton Pilot and the airlines.)

Detroit to Belize City (through Houston), round trip (Feb 27-Mar 7, 2004)	\$560-\$690 pp
Nekton Pilot accommodations, all inclusive	\$1495 pp
Two nights' stay, Belize City (Feb 27, Mar 6)	\$100-199 per night

Sign up sheet available at the meeting or contact Jan Ouellette:

Per Nekton Pilot and Contintal Air, \$440 will hold your place.