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The Flipper

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Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

July-August 2003

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THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

What is an island? By definition, an island is a body of land extending above and completely surrounded by water at the mean high-water stage. Islands can occur in rivers, lakes, oceans and can be composed of both continental materials and volcanic matter.

Islands made of continental material are most likely chunks of a nearby continent which have broken loose from the main continental mass allowing water to surround the "chunks".

Islands composed of volcanic material on the other hand have been created by lava flowing from fissures in the ocean floor, which over time have grown to seamounts and finally to poke above the surface of the water as islands. One recent case in point is Surtsey, off the island of Iceland in the North Atlantic. In

November 1963, a plume of steam appeared and within a very short time, the seamount spewing lava into the sea and became a new island that is now named Surtsey (from Surtur, the god of fire in Scandinavian mythology). ("Surtsey", *MSEncarta Online Encyclopedia*, 2003)



Other volcanic islands include the Canary Islands, the Philippines, Japan, Martinique and other Caribbean islands, the Hawaiian Islands, the Society Islands, and Wizard Island in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, just to name a few.

-- submitted by Jan Ouellette

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. Special thanks to Scott Campbell of Divers Inc. for his enthusiastic presentation on Fiji. His photos and talk inspired a lot of questions and offered ideas for a possible future club trip. Thank you, Scott.

2. Kristina Troxell is working on our new website layout. If you have any photos you think would be good for the site, get them to her via email.

3. Nominations are still open for president.

4. The Gilboa quarry dive was very successful for our club but not so for an advanced diver trainee with his instructor. Though our divers were safe, a near fatal accident occurred in the deep side of the quarry.

5. July's meeting consisted of slides

and photos from the San Salvador trip presented by our members. Hugh Walton showed a short video he produced of the Eastern Lake Erie trip, June 21-22. Thanks to Joanne, Frank and Sandy for putting slide presentations together.

6. Time is fast approaching for the Straits dives, July 26-27. We have given a final count to David Albright who hosts the event each year. If you were not on the list and you plan to attend, notify Dave *immediately* as he is getting supplies together. See page 6 for more information.

7. Likewise, Tobermory is just about six weeks away. If you have not signed up, yet plan to attend, contact me.

See page 6 for more information.

GILBOA QUARRY UPDATE



GLA divers enjoyed their dives in Gilboa Quarry . . . as evidenced by the “roly-poly” drysuited divers above (Ken Anderson on the left, Chris Price on the right). Unfortunately not all the divers in the quarry that day had good experiences. One diver, working on his advanced diver card, panicked when his regulator free-flowed at 118 feet and bolted for the surface. He was taken to the chamber for treatment of decompression sickness.

PROGRAMS

Mark your calendars!

- July 16** **GLA San Salvador Trip**
GLA members will present slides of the April trip to San Salvador. Since this is a little known destination and features lots of wall diving, it should make for an interesting show.
- August 20** **TBA**
- September 17** **Storm of the Century**
Ric Mixer, creator of this video, is a PBS producer whose weekly program, Great Lakes Indepth, chronicles Great Lakes shipwrecks. Ric’s documentary work includes the Edmund Fitzgerald and the Carl D. Bradley.
- October 15** **Marine Ecology** (Presentation coordinated by Sandy Prochazka)
We will also accept nominations for board positions.
- November 19** **Elections and Pizza Party** (location to be determined)

2003 GLA DIVE SCHEDULE

Mark your calendars!

July 13 (Sunday)	Blue Water Bridge (tentative)
July 26-27 (weekend)	Straits of Mackinac (Dave Albright’s)
August 16 (Saturday)	White Star Quarry
August 30-31 (Weekend)	Tobermory
September 13 (Saturday)	Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Rescue Dive class included
September 28 (Sunday)	Monarch
October 12 (Sunday)	Pumpkin Carving, Silver Lake Potluck, Westmans’
December 13 (Saturday)	Annual Awards Banquet

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 Mixer 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 Ouellette.
- **(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.

GIANT SEA SPECIMEN SLICED FOR SCIENCE



A huge sea specimen, found on Chile's coast, becomes a big question for scientists around the globe as they wait to get their hands on samples. Already, some were discounting the possibility it could be the remains of a giant octopus.

Sidney Pierce, the chair of the biology department of the University of South Florida told MSNBC.com that he had little doubt that it was going to turn out to be from a whale . . . "but maybe I'll be surprised."

Pierce's team is one of five teams that have been sent samples for DNA testing, along with teams from England, France, Italy and New Zealand.

Sergio Letelier, a scientist with the Museum of Natural History in Santiago, took samples from the 40-foot long mass said he was certain it is not a giant octopus. Letelier heads a mollusk laboratory and said the tissue was extremely tough and thick but did not have the tentacles, organs or the smell of an octopus. Unfortunately he was too puzzled to venture a guess on its identity. He did speculate that it may be an unknown species of marine animal, or part of the stomach of a whale. He could not confirm anything until tests were done.

Pierce was awaiting a sample this week and said it would take a week

or so to do some of the measurements. "If we are able to recover any IDNA, it would take a couple of additional weeks after that".

Pierce noted that his team has tested samples from four earlier finds and that electron microscopy determined that all were whale blubber collagen. The oldest specimen was found in 1896 on a Florida beach. Others have been found on Australia's

Tasmanian coast in the 1960s, another off Bermuda and one along Nantucket Sound.

Dubbed the "blob" since it was first spotted two weeks ago by a Chilean Navy plane. When whale experts from Chile's Center for Cetacean Conservation got to the remote site, they didn't know what to make of it. "We'd never before seen such a strange specimen, said Elsa Cabrera, director of the center, adding that the blob didn't smell like a whale or feel like whale skin. The round substance looks like a mammoth jellyfish and is about as long as a school bus.

Steve Webster, senior marine biologist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California suspects the blob may be skin, possibly separated from a whole whale.

-- MSNBC.com/news,
July 10, 2003

GLA-WEAR



- T-Shirts \$15 (S-XL)
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- Jackets \$70 (S-XL)
(add \$3 for sizes over XL)
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Hats and T-shirts are available at the General Meetings.



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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

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DIVERS DEN - TOBERMORY, CANADA

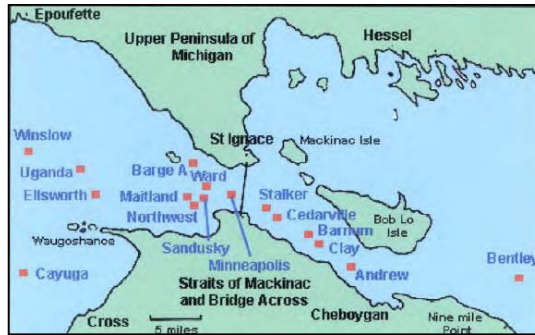
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STRAITS OF MACKINAC

The Straits diving weekend is fast approaching. If you have not already been accounted for by signing the sheet at the general meetings, please call Tim Ouellette or Dave Albright . We need to know this information to schedule divers and to shop for food. Dave is providing dinner on Saturday night.

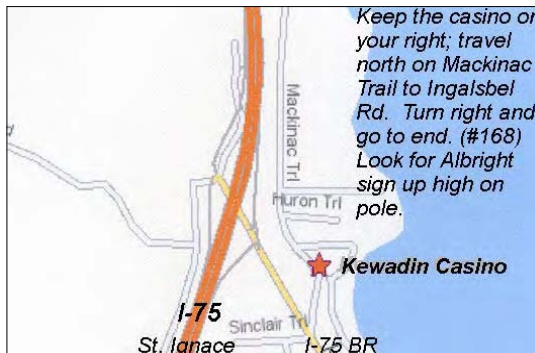


Above, wreck sites in the Straits area.

Below, map to David Albright's.

There is plenty of sleeping space, just bring your sleeping bag and personal items. There are also a few hotels/motels in the area. A lists of a few locations is attached.

Diving will be done from Dave's and Frank Troxell's boats -- single tanks only. There are 41 known locations of shipwrecks in the Straits area, with an additional 43 wrecks known to be submerged in the area.



To meet for diving, go to the Shepler's Mackinac Island ferry dock. Dave's and Frank's boats will be tied up there.

TOBERMORY -- LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Mark your calendars for Labor Day weekend, August 30 through September 1, for our annual Tobermory dive trip. We have secured the Bruce Isles as our dive boat through Divers Den. The diving is scheduled for Saturday afternoon (August 30) and Sunday afternoon (August 31). We have 10 spots on the boat, both days, and the cost is very reasonable, under \$50 US per day. This scheduling will allow you time to rest if you drive up Friday night and adequate time to register for diving in Fathom Five National Marine Park. (It is about a 6-1/2 hour drive from Farmington Hills to the 'tip of the Bruce'.)

Tim and I will provide dinner on Saturday night at the cottage on Dyer's Bay, and spaghetti dinner on 6 Sunday evening.

Tobermory has quite a few motels, B&Bs and cottages for lodging along with various campgrounds.

Packets of information on the weekend will be available at the August general meeting, August 20th, or you may contact me

to request an information packet. I can email it to you or send it by snail mail.

We will need to know how many people to plan for meals and diving, so please contact us, ASAP, if you plan to join us. If you already put your name on the list at the general meetings in June and July, you do not need to let us know again.

-- Jan Ouellette

GENERAL MEETINGS

NOTE: NEW EARLIER TIME

The **August** general meeting will be held at:
 Place: Farmington Hills Library
 Date: Wednesday, **August 20**
 Time: **7:00 PM (sharp)**
 Program: **TBA** (arranged by Ken Anderson)



BOARD MEETINGS

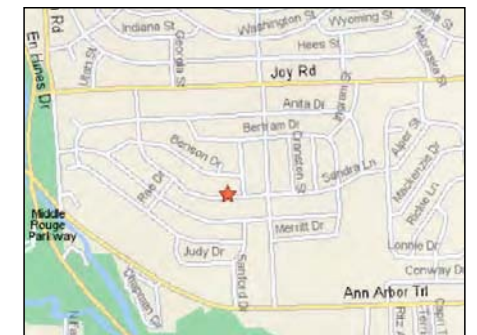
The **August 2003** board meeting will be held at:

Hugh and Linda Walton's

Time: **7:00 PM**

Date: **Monday, August 4**

Hugh and Linda Walton
 32532 Sandra Lane, Westland
 734-522-1631



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

Tim Ouellette's

Time: **7:30 PM**

Date: **Monday, September 8**

GREAT LAKES AQUANAUTS Dive Planner

Dive Site:	White Star Quarry	Date:	Saturday, August 16, 2003
Type of Dive:	Quarry	Time of Dive:	11:00 AM
Dive Coordinator:	Ken Anderson	Arrive at Location:	10:00 AM
Contact Number:	Alternate:		Chris Price

Directions:	US-23 to I-75 or I-75 south to Toledo. Take Hwy. 280 S past Ohio Turnpike (80/90) about 2 miles to 20/23 (Fremont/Perrysburg) heading southeast (left). go through Woodville (slow down!) to 300 S/Gibsonburg; White Star Park (Sandusky Park) entrance is a few hundred yards on the left. If you get to Hwy. 6, go back!
Meeting Place:	Southeast end of quarry, picnic shelter; look for GLA signs/vehicles.
Equipment:	Standard dive gear, tanks, etc.
Entry:	Various sites
Facilities/Fees:	\$6 per diver/day, air fills \$5
Depth:	Maximum depth is 70 feet
Visibility:	
Water Temperature:	
Restrictions:	Admission charge and proof of certification is required. Cash or checks only.
Dive Support:	

The quarry includes 15 acres of water. White Star Park includes a beach with swimming area, playground, fresh-water well, small boat launch, several fishing platforms and easy accessibility for the diver. Only a few picnic tables separate the water from the diver parking lot. Air fills and equipment rental are available onsite. There is also a snack bar and changing rooms and portapotties.

There is a primitive campground (\$7/campsite per night admission charge)

Emergency Assistance:		On Site Assistance:	
DAN:	919-684-8111	Oxygen	YES
EMT:	419-334-4401	Back Board	YES
Sheriff/USCG	419-332-2613	First Aid	YES



STRAITS OF MACKINAC -- LODGING INFORMATION

	HOTELS/MOTELS		
Boardwalk Inn	316 N. State Street		906-643-7500
Budget Host Inn	700 N State Street		906-643-9666
Comfort Inn	927 N State Street		906-643-7733
Harbour Pointe Motor Inn	797 N. State Street		906-643-6000
Holiday Inn	965 N. State Street		906-643-0200
San Bar Motel	625 N. State Street		906-643-8880
Vitek's Motel	980 N. State Street		906-643-7922
Wayside Motel	751 N. State Street		906-643-8944



	CAMPGROUNDS		
Castle Rock--Mackinac Trail	2811 Mackinac Trail	906-643-9222	Between Dave's & dock
Tiki Travel Park	200 S. Airport Rd.	906-643-7808	3/4 mile to dock, \$22/night