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We value your comments!*

Membership: 47

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The Flipper

Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

November/ December 2004

GLA Board

PRESIDENT

Tim Ouellette

VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Anderson

TREASURER

Linda Walton

RECORD SECRETARY

Jan Ouellette

THE FLIPPER

Jan Ouellette

PROGRAMS

Joanne Westman/
Sandy Prochazka

CHARTERS

John Westman/Hugh Walton

MEMBERSHIP

Everyone

SAFETY & EDUCATION

Chris Price/Ken Anderson

LIBRARIAN

Jan Ouellette

MEETING TREATS

Linda Walton

HISTORIAN

Vern Tratechaud

WEB SITE COORDINATOR

Kristina Troxell

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. Thanks to Rich Synowiec from Divers Inc. for coming to our meeting. He brought some of the newer scuba gear and told us about the National Geographic Diver Certification program. Thanks again, Rich.
2. Regarding nominations: it appears as though the board will remain the same with a few exceptions. We need someone to take over the position of Safety & Education along with the position of Vice President.
3. We need people for the banquet. Come and join in the fun, Saturday December 11, 6:30 PM, Mama-Mia's, Livonia.

Reminder

GLA annual banquet this weekend,
Saturday, December 11, 2004, at 6:30 PM,
Mama-Mia Restaurant in Livonia.

Plenty of great food, getting together with
friends and winning prizes including another
free trip on Blackbeard's Cruises!

Find out the winners of the photo contest!

THE GREAT GLA MOUSE CAPER

It was the day of the pumpkin carving and potluck. After dark we sat around a fire and talked. The caper began innocently enough, with John Westman bringing a number of drawer units home from the University of Michigan after a remodeling process. After sitting in storage in the Westmans' barn for nearly a year, two units were loaded into the back of Hugh and Linda's van, and eight units were put into the back of Frank's truck.

Frank had left for home. Later after dark encroached upon the world, as we walked by the vehicles, there, sitting on the top of one of the cabinets in the back of Hugh's car was a *Mus musculus*, better known as a house mouse. Panic set in and the cabinets were hauled out of the van.

The drawers were pulled out one at a time. Low and behold five mice were found in among the drawers in one cabinet. As each drawer was pulled out and little critters hopped out and fled off into the meadow, everyone was becoming hysterical with laughter.

It was decided to inspect the other cabinet as well. Eventually the two drawer units were completely disassembled and yielded a total of sixteen mice.

Calculations led us to believe that at eight mice per drawer unit, Frank could conceivably have sixty-four mice scampering around in the back of his truck.

For weeks Linda drove around with a set mouse trap in her van . . . just in case!

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 Klepadlo4.
- **Wetsuit**, medium, women's with farmerjohn pants and tunic top, hot pink/black. Contact Andrea Wolf.

DIVE SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMS

Dive Schedule

After the first of the year, the board will begin working on the dive schedule for the 2005 season.

If you have any suggestions, please forward them to anyone on the board. We want to get more divers to each dive this year so please let us know your favorite dive spots.

Programs

Joanne Westman has once again volunteered to do programs; John is going to help.

If you have any suggestions for interesting programs, please let them know so that they can schedule them.

Or if you have an interest you would like to share with the club, please feel free to make a presentation to the club.

THE FUTURE OF GLA

For several years many of the members of the GLA board have been elected and re-elected to the same positions. In some instances, such as Tim Ouellette as President, he has continued to do the job because no one has stepped forward to undertake the task. Ken and Jayne Anderson are moving to Florida; Ken will therefore no longer be vice president after this year.

At the last board meeting, a few options were put on the table. First of all, we can continue to struggle along as we are, meeting monthly, with declining membership and interest in the club and its events. Secondly, we can change the scope of the club and meet on a quarterly basis. Thirdly, which no one really wants to do but might become a necessary option due to the great lack of participation, or rather, good participation by just a few, is to dissolve the club. It has been in existence for over thirty years and it would be sad to see it end.

Please, if you have any thoughts on this, come to the next general meeting and give us your feedback.

2004 DIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	DIVE SITE	LOCATION
Sat. December 11	Annual Awards Banquet	Mama Mia's

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, bags . . .
. We can even embroider on your existing apparel and accessories. Attend club and non-club events in style!

To Order, contact:
Jan Ouellette or
Nadeen Ouellette

ELECTION RESULTS

Due to the great lack of response for nominations for board and committee chair positions for the Board of GLA, mostly everything will remain as status quo with the exceptions of Vice President (vacated by Ken Anderson as he moves to Florida) and Safety & Ed Coordinator (vacated by Chris Price). These positions are open and we welcome any volunteers to fill the positions.

The major responsibility of the Vice President is to coordinate the efforts for the banquet beginning in early Fall each year. It's been done the same way for many years and basically the VP just needs to follow "procedure."

The Safety & Ed Coordinator is responsible for coordination of divers at the club dives and providing safety equipment at each dive should the need arise. Candidates should have had DAN O2 training and either be available for each dive or coordinate assistants to be at the dives.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual GLA Dues

Payable now through January 1, 2005.

\$30 per year per individual or per family member at the same address.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____
Email _____

Your email address (if you have one) is important to notify you of last minute club information such as scheduled dive changes and meetings. Also, we need it if you wish to receive the Flipper via email.

*Each family member must have a membership app on file.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2005.

Watch the Flipper for the presentation.



BOARD MEETINGS

Note: New time: 7:00 PM

The **January 2005** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
January 3

The **February 2005** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
February 7

The **March 2005** board meeting will be held at:
Tim Ouellette's
Time: **7:00 PM**
Date: Monday,
March 7

BLACKBEARD'S CRUISES UPDATE

Spectacular! On Saturday, October 9, seven GLA members set sail with Blackbeard's Cruises aboard the Sea Explorer; we cruised (albeit roughly) across the 50 miles from Miami to Bimini. The boat, a 38-foot ketch-rigged sailing vessel, provided our home away from home until Friday, October 15. We experienced good diving (it was not exceptional due to the recent disturbances from the hurricanes that passed through the area), great food, adequate accommodations, and made the acquaintances of thirteen fellow divers from Canada, England, and the US. I think the ultimate part of the trip was the shark dive!

The crew, consisting of our captain, Mike; "first mate/alternate captain" Pete; cabin boy, Matt; engineer, Roddy; cook, Darlene; and our dive mistress, Karen, were very accommodating. The food was wonderful from marinated pork loin, grilled, to succulent roast beef, and grilled fresh caught lobster tails. There were a few minor problems which the crew worked diligently to overcome but on the whole the trip was a great experience. Sailing home (it was a lot calmer), it was exciting to see the skyline of sparkling multicolored lights get closer and closer.

Photo from www.scuba-chick.com

