

The Flipper

Membership: 48

DAN Sponsor #28939

Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

October/November 2005

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MEETING TREATS

Peg Wingard

HISTORIAN

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Kristina Troxell

HEAD, GLA HOMELAND

SECURITY

Hugh Walton

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

1. Thanks to John and Joanne Westman for their gracious hospitality for the Pumpkin Carving Contest and the potluck that followed. We had an enjoyable time sitting around a fire, talking.
2. Thanks to Rich Synowiec of Divers Inc. for his review of Tropical Dive Tip equipment. His pitch for a nitrox certification course encouraged three members, Linda Walton, John Westman and me to take the course. We planned to do our checkout dives in Cozumel.
3. Thanks to Bill Bradford of the Ann Arbor Camera Club, and past photography instructor, who put on a very thorough presentation on cameras both reflex and digital, and the techniques of underwater photography. Thanks, Sandy, for arranging our speaker.



4. Thanks to Frank for hosting our Hurricane Wilma party. Almost all our Cozumel travelers were able to attend. We all commiserated each other and came up with options for a future trip. As of right now a tentative date is March 25-April 1, 2006. This will depend upon the suitability of Scuba Club Cozumel, airfare, etc. The latest from Hugh is that the air fare for that period has gone up by \$170pp. We'll keep you posted.
5. November is elections month. We will be meeting at 7PM at Bellacino's Pizza on Northwestern Highway near 12 Mile in Southfield for our annual elections/pizza party. See directions and maps later in this Flipper. If you would like to be a member of the board, it's a lot of fun, please let me know. A lot of us have been doing this for a long time and would like even just one year off! Don't fear! We'll give you all the support you need.
6. It's time to get your reservations in for the banquet. We will be at Mama Mia's again this year and we must have 45 people. See the reservation form later in this Flipper.
7. A new year will be here before we know it. So, what does that mean? Well for one thing, it means that dues are again due, anytime between now and January 1, 2006. \$30, payable to GLA. See the membership form in this Flipper.

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".

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, 313-837-0145.
- **Underwater Metal Detector**, Garret Sea Hunt XL500VLF, \$500. Call Frank Klepadlo, 734-285-3084.
- **Wetsuit**, medium, women's with farmerjohn pants and tunic top, hot pink/black. Contact Andrea Wolf, andrea.ouellette@tufts.edu.
- **O'Neill Drysuit with weights**, Black/blue, XXL, \$450, Call Gary Morgan, 734-751-3688.

GENERAL MEETINGS

The next general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7PM, November 16, 2005, at Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders 29101 Northwestern Hwy. Southfield (248-358-1600)



Bellacino's is located north of 12 Mile and west of Northwestern Hwy.



BOARD MEETINGS

The **November 2005** board meeting will be held at:

Tim Ouellette's

Time: **7:00 PM**

Date: Monday,
November 7

The **December 2005** board meeting will be held at (Holiday dinner)

Time: **6:30 PM**

Date: Monday,
December 5

The **January 2006** board meeting will be held at:

Tim Ouellette's

Time: **7:00 PM**

Date: Monday,
January 2, 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, bags . . .
. We can even embroider on your existing apparel and accessories. Attend club and non-club events in style!

To Order, contact:

2005 DIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	DIVE SITE	LOCATION
Saturday, March 19	Pool Dive/Equipment Check-out	OCC Pool, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, \$5
Sunday, April 24	River Run/Float/Potluck	Huron River, Dexter, Westmans' house, see dive plan
Weekend, TBD	St. Ignace, Opening Dave's Boat	Dave Albright's Place, not a dive
Saturday, May 21	White Star Quarry	Gibsonburg, Ohio
Weekend, May 28-30, Memorial Wknd	Early season Straits Diving	Dave Albright's Place
Sunday, June 12	Monarch/Potluck/Board Meeting	Sarnia/Dave & Judy's house
Weekend, July 2-4	Straits dives	Dave's Place
Saturday, July 16	Portage Quarry	Portage, Ohio
Weekend, August 12-15	Lexington	Lexington
Labor Day Weekend, September 3-5	Tobermory	Tim Ouellette's Place
Sunday, October 9	Pumpkin Carving/Potluck	Silver Lake, Westmans' house
Saturday, December 10	Annual Awards Banquet	Mama-Mia's Restaurant, Livonia

2005 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

February 16	DAVE TROTTER, Two Ships Frozen in Time.
March 16	BOB MCGREEVY, Lost Legends of the Lakes
April 20	RIC MIXTER, Beginning Wreck Diving
May 18	Slides from Cozumel, Frank Troxell and Hugh Walton (video)
June 15	Bottle presentation
July 20	Dive Quiz
August 17	John Westman, Patagonia, Argentina
September 21	Taking care of equipment in salt water conditions
October 19	Underwater Photography, Nominations
November 16	Elections and Pizza Party (location to be determined)

DIVE THE BAHAMA OUT ISLANDS WITH LOST ISLAND VOYAGES ABOARD THE
65 FOOT SAILING VESSEL: AVALON
February 11-19, 2006 (9 nights)
www.lostislandvoyages.com



Scott and Lynn have been traveling to the Bahamas for a few years and will vouch for the fun, adventure, and value of this trip. **We had such a great time we are doing it again.** The sailboat accommodates just 12 passengers (to ensure plenty of room we will be limit this trip to 8 passengers) and travels from Bayside Marketplace Pier 5 in Miami, to some of our favorite islands and dive sites in the Bahamas, as well as some new areas. This will be a great trip filled with the adventure of sailing and diving the Out Islands of the Bahamas.

Each of the 6 passenger cabins can be made up with a double lower and a single upper berth so bedding assignments should be a snap. The Avalon has a nice galley, salon area with dinner seating for everyone, as well as two heads and two showers. This is one of the easiest ways to log lots of dives, have lots of adventure, and enjoy the intimacy, comfort and convenience that only shipboard life can provide.

Divers will appreciate the well-positioned and convenient dive staging area, and may count on making 3 – 4 dives daily. Of course we will also need to set aside time for snorkeling, sailing, relaxing, exploring, fishing and beach combing. Join us by calling to reserve your space with a deposit today.

COST: \$1250 per person, all inclusive while on the Avalon, includes a refresher pool dive and a limited edition item of Soggy Moose Clothing.

DEPOSIT: **\$500 non-refundable** deposit per person to reserve your space. All payments must be made by check or certified funds. **Deposit Due: September 1, 2005**
Final Payment Due: December 1, 2005

NOT INCLUDED:

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 10% – 15% | Crew Gratuity at your discretion |
| \$55 | Bahamas Port Tax |
| ??? | Scuba equipment gear rental |
| ??? | Advanced and specialty dive training |
| ??? | Roundtrip transportation to Miami |
| ??? | Ground transportation to the Avalon |
| ??? | Accommodations / meals in Miami |

MORE INFORMATION CALL SCOTT OR LYNN

**This trip is brought to us by our Wyoming contingent. Anyone interested in traveling in February, please contact them for further information.
Sounds like a great time!**

Cozumel/Wilma Update

On Friday, October 21, one day before we were to leave for Cozumel, Mexico, Hurricane Wilma was approaching.

Cozumel Storm Timeline

- Wednesday - October 19 - 11:30 PM - Cozumel Enters Tropical Storm Force Winds
- Thursday - October 20 - 11:30 PM - Cozumel Enters Hurricane Force Winds of 150 mph
- Friday - October 21 - Continuous 140 to 150mph Hurricane Force Winds, with Stronger Gusts
- Saturday - October 22 - Continuous 110 to 135mph Hurricane Force Winds, with Stronger Gusts
- Sunday - October 23 - 7:00 AM - Cozumel Exits Hurricane Force Winds of 100 mph
- Sunday - October 23 - 3:00 PM - Cozumel Exits Tropical Storm Force Winds of 70 mph

The eye of Hurricane Wilma passed over Cozumel on Friday. The storm stalled over the Yucatan, near Playa/Puerta Morelos/Cancun, on Saturday. The storm hit Cozumel with Category 4 strength and continued to pound the island with Category 3 force winds all day on Saturday.

• **Friday - October 21 - Large Eye Heading Tward Cozumel and Northeast Yucatan - Category 4**

- 1:00 AM CDT - Moving Northwest near 6mph/9kph - Sustained Winds near 150mph/240kph - 930 MB
- 4:00 AM CDT - Moving Northwest near 6mph/9kph - Sustained Winds near 150mph/240kph - 929 MB
- 7:00 AM CDT - Moving North-Northwest near 6mph/9kph - Sustained Winds near 145mph/230kph - 930 MB
- 10:00 AM CDT - Moving Northwest near 5mph/7kph - Sustained Winds near 145mph/230kph - 930 MB
- 1:00 PM CDT - Moving Northwest near 5mph/7kph - Sustained Winds near 140mph/225kph - 926 MB
- 4:00 PM CDT - Moving Northwest near 5mph/7kph - Sustained Winds near 140mph/225kph - 926 MB
- 7:00 PM CDT - Moving Erratically toward the Northwest near 4mph/6kph - Sustained Winds near 140mph/225kph - 930 MB

- 10:00 PM CDT - Moving toward the Northwest near 3mph/3kph - Sustained Winds near 140mph/225kph - 932 MB

Friday October 21, 1:00 AM - Large Eye Heading



Photos, above and right, taken on Friday, October 21, 2005, in Cozumel, Mexico.



*Directly to Cozumel with Category 4 Intensity
Friday October 21, 10:00 AM - Northwestern Eyewall Over Cozumel - Center 55 Miles Away
Friday October 21, 1:00 PM - Eyewall of Wilma Lashing Cozumel and Northeastern Coast of the Yucatan Peninsula
Friday October 21, 4:00 PM - Eye of Wilma Crossing over Cozumel - Northwestern Eyewall on the Coast of the Yucatan Peninsula
Friday October 21, 7:00 PM - Eye of Wilma Moving Slowly over the Northern End of Cozumel*

• **Saturday - October 22 - Large Eye Relentlessly Pounding Cancun and Cozumel - Weakens to Category 3, then Category 2**

- 1:00 AM CDT - "Meandering" During the past few hours - Sustained Winds near 135mph/215kph - 935 MB
- 4:00 AM CDT - Wilma is Stationary 25 miles/45km Southwest of Cancun - Sustained Winds near 125mph/205kph - 935 MB
- 7:00 AM CDT - Wilma is "Drifting" Northward - Sustained Winds near 120mph/195kph - 943 MB
- 10:00 AM CDT - Wilma is "Drifting" Northward - Sustained Winds near 115mph/185kph - 946 MB
- 1:00 PM CDT - Wilma is "Erratically Drifting" Northward - Sustained Winds near 110mph/175kph - 953 MB
- 4:00 PM CDT - Wilma is Moving toward the North near 2mph/4kph - Sustained Winds near 100 mph - 957 MB
- 7:00 PM CDT - Wilma is Moving toward the North near 3mph/5kph - Sustained Winds near 100 mph - 959 MB
- 10:00 PM CDT - Wilma is Moving toward the North near 3mph/5kph - Sustained Winds near 100 mph - 959 MB

Saturday October 22, 1:00 AM - Large Eye over Playa del Carmen on the Northeastern Yucatan Peninsula

Saturday October 22, 4:00 AM - Calm of Eye felt in Playa del Carmen - Really Clobbering Northeastern Yucatan

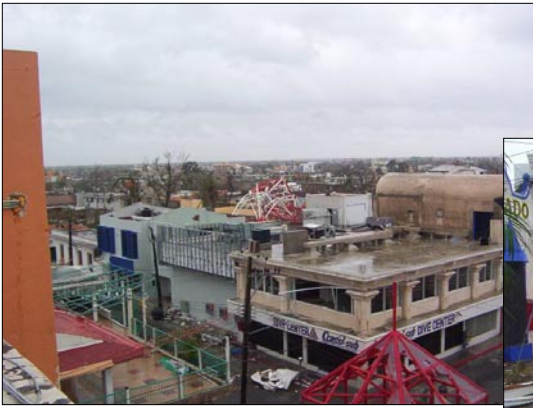
Saturday October 22, 7:00 AM - Eye Located just Inland between Cancun and Cozumel - Hurricane Force Winds Continue

Saturday October 22, 1:00 PM - Hurricane Force Winds have Persisted over Yucatan and Cozumel for 24 hours

Cozumel, Saturday, October 22, 2005



Cozumel/Wilma Update, continued



Naval Station



Before
and After



Before
and After



Scuba Club Cozumel



These photos illustrate some of the damage that occurred on Cozumel during Hurricane Wilma. As of Friday, October 28, not all the resorts and hotels had reported their damage and expected reopening date; however, the following is a brief list of locations with damages.

- The International Pier was moderately damaged and is missing the center section.
- The Punta Langosta Mall (near the new cruise ship pier) was extensively damaged and a reopening date is unknown.
- Puerta Maya Cruise Ship pier was also extensively damaged and a reopening date is unknown.

- The Barracuda Hotel suffered moderate damage and is expected to reopen at the end of January 2006.
- Chankanaab Park was extensively damaged and a reopening date is unknown.
- Scuba Club Cozumel reports suffering minor damage to the beach area with many broken windows and at least one boat (out of the seven) is out of commission. They have guests now and intend to be open November 15 for new guests.



Men attempt to bail out a partially submerged boat in Cozumel, Mexico, Oct. 24, 2005 in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.



Here is another article on the reefs from Bob Evans ...
<http://www.cdn.info/news/travel/t051027.html>

OUR LAST UPDATE FROM COZUMEL

Adrian phoned us at 7:30pm, Saturday. They have only been able to walk around downtown. The small piers for dive boats are destroyed. Punta Langosta cruise ship pier near downtown is partially destroyed. The roofs of Casa Denis restaurant and Plaza del Sol shopping area are gone. The giant flag pole is gone. he talked with the owner of Rock 'n Java restaurant and the building is intact, but all contents destroyed, as is the case with most oceanfront businesses. Almost every palapa structure has disappeared. It sounds like McDonalds has been destroyed. The expensive oceanfront shops were severely damaged or destroyed and some looting took place immediately after the storm (Adrian says that the streets are safe. The looting was isolated). They found a dead body on the oceanfront, but thought that this person had been dead for several days--and was washed up by the hurricane. The oceanfront street on the west side of downtown is intact--the seawall held. Most concrete structures are intact, but received water damage. Flooding was not a major problem in downtown, although rain was forced into every crack, so many homes received some water damage.



Scuba Tony and Encarna who we lost contact with yesterday are also fine. It is dark in Cozumel now, and they won't be going back out until morning. We hope to bring you further updates.

A Mexican naval base is destroyed when Hurricane Wilma hit the Mexican Caribbean island of Cozumel

24 Oct 2005

Source: Reuters

A Mexican naval base is destroyed when Hurricane Wilma hit the Mexican Caribbean island of Cozumel October 24, 2005.

REUTERS/HENRY ROMERO

--submitted by Chuck Pickett

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Annual GLA Dues

Payable now through January 1, 2006.

\$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.

Mail your dues payable to GLA to:
Linda Walton, 32532 Sandra Lane, Westland, MI 48185.

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

BANQUET RESERVATION

Watch for a formal invitation/reservation card coming under separate cover.
Tentatively, this year's entertainment will be Bob McGreevy.

The Annual GLA Awards Banquet

Saturday, December 10, 2005
Mama Mia's Restaurant, Plymouth Road, Livonia
6:30 PM Socializing, 7:00 PM Dinner
Awards and Raffles to follow

Name _____

Number in your party _____ Amount \$ _____
(\$26 per person)

Make your check payable to GLA; mail to
Linda Walton, 32532 Sandra Lane, Westland, MI 48185.

RSVP by Friday, November 25, 2005.