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The Flipper

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Official Newsletter of the Great Lakes Aquanauts

December 2008

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Holiday Issue

Merry Christmas!!
Happy New Year!!

Editor's Notes: As we close out another year with GLA, I look back at the events we had this past year. We had some real successful ones and some not so successful. The dive at White Star with lunch afterwards at Tony Pachkos seems to be the best attended. Also the meetings and pot lucks at members homes, seems to be a huge success. We had great events at the Walton's, Westman's, Kunder's, Ouellette's, and Steve Mahr's condo clubhouse. Thanks to all who opened their homes to these events. Also thanks to John Westman who spent so much time planning our fall dive trip, even though we did not get the numbers to make it go, we all know how much work it is. As next year approaches I hope we can plan many more diving events, after all we are a dive club, but I think the key to success is to plan these with food events included, that should make them well attended. I wish all a very safe and Merry Christmas, and a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Steve

Programs

2008 Meeting Schedule

Saturday December 13th,
Holiday banquet. Details in this issue.

2009 Meetings to be announced.

**See you all at the
Banquet!!!**

FOR SALE

Call, or email Steve Kunder to place your ad.

O'neil Dry suit, size XXL with weights. \$250.00 Gary Morgan

GLA Member's

David's stroke kept him from diving for two years. Pictured is David and his daughter, Jackie, an advanced diver. Prior to this, his last dive was on the Great Barrier Reef with his love and dive buddy, Judy.



Welcome back to the water David!, Keep up the good progress, We are all behind you!!

Hey Divers,

It's now the end of your dive season and time to bring in all the equipment for servicing.

But did you know that every year there is a ice flow race up in Canada in March.

It's near a town about 1&1/2 hours NorthEast of Toronto called Petersboro.

It's a blast (of cold air and water) and one thing you should do in your lifetime even if you just watch.

The float had a mascot that was a mermaid, and the story goes that a female member of our team drove to a adult store and paid for the blow up girl. Then of course she had to see how she looked and used her scuba tank to fill her up... And yes,, the 1st one did blow up!! And within one hour she was back to the same adult store buying another doll.. I wish I had seen the face on the cashier that day.

Now back to the race....

It starts with some of the teams meeting at one motel and then onto the race that

is about 10 miles away. Each team makes a float to put on top of the ice chunk

(that is if it's cold enough for ice) and they assemble it near the water's edge.

Then each team member (for a good team you need 16 divers in the water and surface support too). Then the 2x4's are nailed into the ice and the float is pushed into the water, and attached. Then the fun part begins!!! The drysuit divers suit up and so do the wetsuit divers, and the warm water is pored into the neck seal of the wetsuits.

The wetsuit gloves are usually taped on so that the hands don't freeze too fast.

Once the divers are ready and all at their positions (4 on front right and 4 on rear right and the same on the other side), they wait till the whistle is blown.

Then off they go downriver, trying to beat all the other team records and to let the judges pick their float with a flag and a mascot as the best.

Sometimes a white out from the snow that is falling happens but you just keep on kicking till the end of the race. Maybe first this year your team leader yells out!!

Then everyone from the team gets out of the water and watches as the other teams come ashore while they are taking off their suits, filling up with hot chocolate and drying off.

One year there was even a bonfire at the end of the race to warm up around.

And some even bring a small bottle of alcohol with them and their buddies.

I was worried about safety during the race till we pulled up that morning, EMS were at the start and a trailer to change in. Every team once in the water were watched by a emergency staffed dive team that went around the ice flow from a small boat with drysuit divers all suited up and ready to jump in and save anyone. And at the end they had another EMS van and plenty of help, just in case!

Yes, this is a blast and a must do for any crazy diver, it is something to tell your grandkids about.

The banquet afterwards with excellent food is where they give the awards away and usually over \$20,000 in prizes.

I will remember it till I die,,, it really was a blast! And I never laughed so hard in my life!

And one last thing,, take plenty of pictures cause no one,,, I repeat.. no one will believe you without these pictures...

Divemaster Down,,

Bob Evans

I'm back,,,

Forgot to tell you to bring all your Grandkids to the race so they could watch and someday tell their Grandkids about it.

Remember to call ahead and ask if the race is going on and when this year, and then plan.

The trip is about 4 1/2 hours from the Blue Water Bridge, that's with good driving conditions, but up there, with the snow blizzards go a day or 2 ahead of time.

Make sure to book a room ahead of time over 10,000 people come to watch the race.

And pack extra blankets,,, food,,, drinks,,, cameras in the cars!!!

Do it right, for it can save all your lives

And then make sure to have the chairs to sit and watch the race...

Take pictures and enjoy the winter ice flow race!

When: Saturday, December 13, 2008

Time: Cocktails and appetizers at 6:15 PM, Dinner at 7:15 PM
Bring your beverage of choice including mixes. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Cost: \$10 per person, \$20 per couple (Mail your check to Steve Mahr,
23730 Ravineview Ct., Bingham Farms, MJ 48025
or bring your payment to the banquet)

For the Chinese Auction: Each person bring a \$10 non-gender gift, wrapped

Raffle: Bring your cash!



*Bingham Woods Condominium Association
Club House
30760 River Crossing St.
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