



FORT ERIE UNDERWATER RECOVERY UNIT



560 NIAGARA BLVD FORT ERIE ONTARIO CANADA L2A 6V6 905 871-3681 e-mail info@feuru.com

VOLUME 2 – WINTER 2012

The Dive Season is fast approaching, it seems like yesterday that the New Years Day Drift took place and the Polar Bear Dip was an event. With the warmer weather rapidly making its way towards us I thought a few reminders, suggestions, and preparations would be in order. Now is the time to check our equipment, renew old parts and pieces. Here are a few tips, again as a reminder.

Buy 4 snorkel keepers as part of your Save a Dive kit. Use them to tether your octopus. It's simple, cheap & works great. You can also use them as a backup snorkel keeper. Don't forget your other spare parts: mask strap, fin strap, tank o-rings, tools (adjustable wrench, knife), small canister of silicone and plastic tie wraps.

Apply the KISS rule to your gear configuration. Keep it simple & clean AND know your scuba rig configuration "blindfolded". Buy a gear bag or box with wheels. After lugging a heavy gear bag around for years, why not take advantage of one of our greatest inventions ... the wheel. You will really appreciate this when traveling often.

PROPERTY CHAIRMAN – John Gilmour – john@jcgilmour.ca – 905 346-3488

Our ongoing negotiations with MPAC and the Town of Fort Erie regarding our Reconsideration of Assessment and Property Tax Bill are in process. We have gone through the appeal process and the Board has made the decision to present our claim regarding the value of the property to a Town Tribunal. Questions and answers on this matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

John has asked that all members be reminded about tank inspections. Bring your tanks in as soon as possible so this inspection can be arranged.

A new piece of equipment has been placed at the club for exercise. Feel free to drop down to use the treadmill, walk a few miles while enjoying the scenery overlooking the Niagara River. John has even arranged for music and video entertainment while burning off a few calories.

CHIEF DIVER – Michael Domitrek – n2gypsy@roadrunner.com

Michael is proposing a dive weekend in Tobermory Ontario on a weekend in August 2012 depending on interest and response. A Charter can be arranged for approximately \$ 85.00 cnd a day based on 10 people. Contact Michael for details. Planning for this will require Michael to ask for a deposit.

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CHIEF DIVER – Michael Domitrek – n2gypsy@roadrunner.com

Michael has requested a head count of members who are certified to use " NITROX" . When responding please specify if basic or technical.

If you have a specific dive sight or dive location that you would like to have for a club event please contact your Chief Diver. Lets give him our support.

SECRETARY TREASURER - Larry Mathewson – lmathewson@sympatico.ca

A reminder that 2012 Dues are due. If you have an outstanding account please contact Larry to arrange settlement .

If you have sold Pasta Dinner Tickets please let Larry know the sold ticket count. He would like to collect the sales revenue as soon as possible . If you need more tickets dont be shy just ask, or if you have unsold tickets let him know the number. Larry reports that the ticket sales to date are going very well and as of this writing we have about 2 weeks left prior to the gala event.

PLANNED EVENTS AT THE CLUB

Check out the Units Web site and calendar. A blog has recently been added as a forum to discuss SCUBA stuff . Post an opinion , a question or share your knowledge.

Christine Lovett – Schaus is working on putting something together to offer Divers Alert Network courses at the club (DAN). She has mentioned a desire to offer more courses if club members and also members of other clubs or SCUBA enthusiasts want to further their skills and knowledge. The EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE Program is an excellent course which Christine has given at our club. Techniques in CPR, First Aid, and AED were discussed and practiced. Candidates when completing the course will be qualified Emergency First Responders.

Now is the time to check equipment and replace gear with the newest and latest. You surplus SCUBA gear can be used by someone else. The club has an annual SCUBA SWAP so keep an eye out for dates of this event.

Keep in mind the Unit's Shore Clean Up Project in May . We will be conducting a clean up from the International Railway Bridge south along the Canadian shore on the Niagara River to the Peace Bridge.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM ERIE - (C O P E)

COPE is a local food bank located at 32 Dufferin Street in Fort Erie. Phone 905 871- 2526.

The manager Barb Volzke welcomes donations of food items. Items such as tuna, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, juice boxes, dry cereal, canned pasta, spaghetti, sauce, and also toilet paper would be appreciated and always welcome. They have refrigeration space at the location that allows for donations of eggs, butter, bread and milk.

The Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit (SCUBA Club) has recently got involved doing what it can when it can in aid of COPE. Our club has an annual Pasta Dinner Night selling tickets to our friends and family. This year we've included COPE by donating 20 Pasta Dinners to the organization .



The Western New York

Advanced Local Emergency Rescue Teams
Region 1 - Mutual-Aid Marine Response Teams - Region 1
P.O. Box 685 Hamburg, New York 14075

Date: February 16, 2012

This letter is to inform SCUBA divers and dive shop owners/ operators that the hyperbaric chamber at Millard Gates Hospital, in Buffalo NY, was closed in December 2011.

As a diver or dive shop owner/ operator, the ALERT Region 1 Agency feels that you should be aware of this closing and that next closest available chamber for use in a dive related critical bends incident would be either Syracuse, NY or Tobemory, Ontario.

Although the hyperbaric chambers at Mount Saint Mary's, Hamilton and Toronto Hospitals are available for bends patients, they are single station chambers which may not be conducive for a critical care patient. Such patients in the WNY Region may have to be driven or flown to Syracuse or Tobermory for proper care, after being stabilized at a local hospital first.

The ALERT agency has met with local officials of the Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (WREMAC) and has addressed these concerns. WREMAC has been very receptive to our concerns but have stated that there are currently no plans to install or construct a new multi place chamber at the new facility opening soon next to Buffalo General Hospital.

This is an informational letter and the ALERT Agency is collecting data as well as a list of concerned dive personnel for what our agency feels is a serious problem to divers and rescue personnel across Western NY and Southern Ontario Regions.

If you are interested in going on record and backing our concerns, please contact the following ALERT Coordinator:

Ron Klimowicz 716-864-8804 Ronklimo@aol.com

ALERT Region 1 Assistant Coordinator

Sincerely,
The ALERT Agency, Region 1
President, John Seeley

