



SWODA Guidelines

Providing positive direction to SCUBA divers



August 2007 Edition

Next Meeting
October 15th, 2007 at the Elephant and Castle Restaurant.

President's Corner



Welcome to August. I cannot believe I'm saying this! The summer is flying by and so too are our many scheduled dive trips. We have had a great year so far with dives in Gilboa, Fort Erie, Tobermory, Sarnia, and Kingston. With more trips and events on the horizon, including Mar's annual Brockville trip and the

SWODA barbecue, we still have lots going on before the summer is out.

While on the topic of Brockville, this signature SWODA trip still has spots available, but they are filling up fast. If you would like to jump in on this trip give Marlyn a call at 519-672-3100.

Also, are there any aspiring writers out there? How about people that just want to share their dive-related experiences or knowledge? If this sounds like you, then submit your stories, pictures, or even questions to the SWODA Guidelines newsletter. We are always looking for new content and there is none better than that which comes from our members. Please send submissions to me (Patrick) via email: pbriscoe@rogers.com.

Have a great August!

~Patrick~

2007 Club Meetings

Just a quick reminder that SWODA will not be having meetings every month this year. Meetings will take place on the following dates:

March 19th—8pm @ E&C *completed

April 16th—8pm @ E&C *completed

October 15th—8pm @ E&C

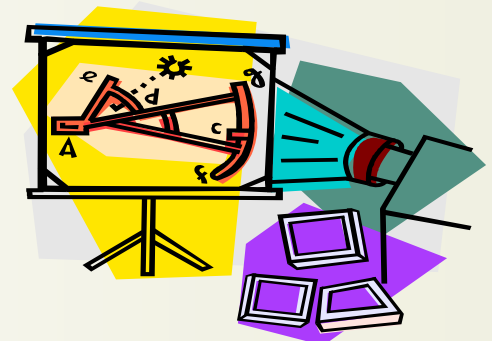


SWODA Executive 2007

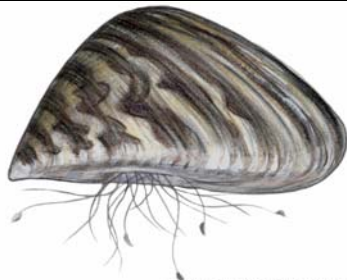
Position	Name	Email
President	Patrick Briscoe	pbriscoe@rogers.com
Vice-President	Marlyn Smith (Mar Smith)	mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Treasurer	Ed Hatfield	hatfields@rogers.com
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Webmaster	Luigi DiRaimo Patrick Briscoe	ouigiman@sympatico.ca
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Promotions	Steve Brandow	scubasteve@amtelecom.net
Events Team	Phil Shelley	thephilguy@porchlight.ca
Events Team	Cathy Brandow	islandhopper@amtelecom.net

October Meeting

Since monthly meetings are no longer in place, this is a quick reminder that we will be holding a general meeting at the Elephant and Castle on October 15th at 8:00pm. If you have any pictures from dive trips or functions you've taken part in over the summer, please email them to pbriscoe@rogers.com. A slideshow presentation of these events will be shown at the meeting.



Zebra Mussels: Curse or Blessing?



Gina Mikel, <http://www.scientificillustrator.com>

As divers of the Great Lakes, we are very familiar with those pesky, shelled critters that cover our wrecks and lake floors. Zebra mussels are native to freshwater lakes of southeast Russia but are thought to have been carried over to North America via the ballast water of a ship coming

from a European port. The ballast (and in turn, the "zebies") was/were released into the Canadian side of Lake St. Clair where they quickly populated and spread. A single female zebra mussel can produce between 30,000 and 400,000 eggs per year. These mussels have damaged harbours, boats, and power plants and have especially hurt water-treatment plants whose intake pipes brought larvae directly into their treatment facilities. Zebra mussels are believed to cost North America billions of dollars per year in impact damage.

However, before we curse these small shellfish all the way back to Russia, we may want to consider their benefits. According to a July 18th article in the *Globe and Mail* (which unfortunately is no longer free for viewing), zebra mussels have played a large role in cleaning up our lakes:



After becoming so badly polluted it was labelled a "dead lake" in the 1960s, few would have imagined the waters of Lake Erie would one day be compared to the vibrant hues of the Caribbean. But in an ironic twist of fate, a destructive invasive species that entered the Great Lakes about 20 years ago has created increasingly clear waters, leaving many to reasonably assume the lakes keep getting cleaner and healthier. -G&M

Zebra mussels are filter feeders and thus filter pollution out of the water naturally. It is here that we may appreciate their addition. Besides, seeing zebra mussels on the wreck is better than not being able to see the wreck at all--isn't it? Also, the expansion these mussels has meant more food for bottom-feeding fish. Since the zebie introduction, the catch of yellow perch increased five-fold in Lake Saint Clair.

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So, as we can see, determining whether zebra mussels are a curse or a blessing is a little harder than we may have originally thought. What is your opinion on this matter? Are you grateful for these little underwater additions or would you rather see them boxed up and sent back to where they came from (not that this would even be possible)?

*Sources: other than the quote from the *Globe and Mail*, all other statistics were taken from wikipedia.org's article on zebra mussels.*

2007 SWODA BBQ

It's that time again. This September, SWODA will be holding its annual barbecue on the 15th of September. Marlyn and Dave have generously opened their backyard for the club event again this year, which is greatly appreciated. To mix things up a bit this year, we will be moving from solely pork to a combination of pork, beef, and possibly chicken. We understand that our members have different tastes and we're working towards satisfying them. More details on this event will be sent in a separate email in the coming weeks.



Newsletter submissions may be e-mailed to:
Patrick Briscoe, pbriscoe@rogers.com

All users are required to sign a standard release of liability in order to participate in Club SWODA dive activities.
A copy of the release may be obtained from the executive for your review.

Kingston Trip

On the August 11-12 weekend, SWODA explored the depths of Kingston, diving on the Munson, Comet, Marsh, and Glendora. This trip was my first as a Dive Master and with the appreciated organizational help of Steve Brandow, we were able to make the weekend a success. The weather was fabulous and everyone had a great time. I'm looking forward to offering more trips under the SWODA banner in the future.



SWODA Wear

Steve Brandow is your guy with the smart SWODA wear. Steve and Sean Dunn from Tommy White's Source for Sports in St Thomas are really coming up with great options this year. Steve can get SWODA wear with our logo on almost anything, so ask to see the catalog for all the great SWODA gear.. Come out to our next meeting to see what cool SWODA wear options we have.



SHARKS!

We also have the **Happy Sharks** available now. Great for stocking stuffers. These Happy Shark are for your vehicle or dive gear boxes, it is a dive flag too. We have them now so if your are interested.

Contact:

Steve & Cathy 519-773-5143

or email: scubasteve@amtelecom.net



Birthday Corner



August 2007

24th
Joanne Drager

The Gear Bin

- Black Military Viking Dry suit - Men's med/large, bag/repair kit included \$800; Whites black neoprene dry suit 10 dives \$500...or \$1000 for both! Jeff Lindsay lindsaycave@gmail.com

Please inform us of your progress so we can keep this column current. If you're not using your gear or wanting to upgrade, keep watching this column for dive gear you might be after.

Mar Smith



Dive Description Chart

Level	Description
1	Maximum depth 60 feet. No special conditions
2	Maximum depth 90 feet. No special conditions
2	Maximum depth 60 feet. Special conditions such as strong current or night dive
3	Maximum depth 130 feet. No special conditions
3	Maximum depth 90 feet. Special conditions such as strong current or night dive
4	Overhead environment, (i.e. wreck penetration, ice, cave or extended range, special gas mixtures, i.e. Trimix

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SWODA Dives and Events Schedule 2007

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	LEVEL	CONTACT	PHONE
TBA	Bonne Terre Mine	St Lewis, Missouri	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
June-Aug	Wexford	Grand Bend/ Goderich	2	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
July –TBA	Great lake wreck diving	Toby & North channel	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
July –TBA	Great lake wreck diving	Alpena Mic	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Aug 11-12	Wreck Diving	Kingston	3	Steve Brandow Patrick Briscoe	scubasteve@amtelecom.net pbriscoe@rogers.com
Aug –TBA	Wreck Diving	Toby	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Sept 7-9	Wreck Diving	Brockville	2	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Sept—TBA	SWODA BBQ	TBA	Everyone	Cathy Brandow	islandhopper@amtelecom.net
Oct 15	Club Meeting	Elephant & Castle	Everyone	Patrick Briscoe	pbriscoe@rogers.com
Nov 12	Club Meeting	Elephant & Castle	Everyone	Patrick Briscoe	pbriscoe@rogers.com
Nov 24	Christmas Party	Elephant & Castle	Everyone	Cathy Brandow	islandhopper@amtelecom.net

This schedule may change as the season comes closer. If Dive Masters do not get commitment or interest on promoted trips. This will bring changes to our coming dives and events calendar. Please contact the DM running the trip or event so we can plan great things for Your Dive Season! Help us help you!



Other Non-Club Dives and Events In our Area

THIS CHART WILL BE TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS INFORMED OF OTHER DIVE RELATED EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT

OUC—Newsletter—<http://www.underwatercouncil.com/news.htm>

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