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**Editor's Note**

**What a fabulous summer.**

We got to dive from April until ???, well I guess some of us aren't quite done yet. Although the Wednesday night dives officially ended the last week in August, some diehards are still out there every Wednesday night trying to get in more bottom time. The water is still extremely comfortable in a dry suit. Eh, Greg! As the sun starts to set earlier, we are finding that most of these dives are becoming night dives, but what isn't in 30 feet of water in Muskoka. If you dive here, you are used to dark dives and carry lots of light. The final club dive of the year and annual windup is still coming, You haven't missed it yet.

If you got all of your shopping done at our Christmas sale on Dec. 7, why don't we go for a dive on December 22? Call to let us know if your interested (pending open water).

If you are moving a little slow on January 1, 2003, just think of jumping into 38 degree water for the first dive of the New Year. What a great way to start off the season and get the heart going. Give us a call if your interested (pending open water).

- If you are like most Canadian divers, you are probably asking yourself a few of these questions.
- Do I wash off the wet suit and put it away for the winter?
- Can I get in a few more dives in the wet suit?
- Do I wash off the wet suit and bring out the dry suit or is it time to buy a dry suit?
- Do I forget about washing the wet suit, put it somewhere that it won't smell up the house all winter, dig out the tropical gear and plan to go to Roatan with the Scuba Shack in February?
- Where can I go ice diving in February or March and am I trained to do so?
- What courses can I take to increase my diving safety, fun and experiance?
- Where can I practice in the middle of winter?

This list will go on and so can the diving. Just because we get a little cold weather and snow doesn't mean that we have to stop diving

until next year. We will find ways to keep our diving skills up over the winter. To do this we'll create new ideas and drag out some old ones. This allows us to stay wet and on top of our form (some of us may not have any form).

The Scuba Shack has some of these answers for you .

We will have open pool nights set up during the winter. These are free to all paid up club members. Non club members are subject to a \$5.00 charge. We will hold Discover Scuba courses on those days, so if you have non diver friends that are interested, let us know in advance and we will make arrangements for them. Skin diving (snorkeling) lessons will be arranged on the same nights.

We will be holding open water courses throughout the winter, with the classroom and pool sessions being held on the Thursday night and with the open water segments being held in the late spring and early summer. If you want your class and pool sessions in January and the open water portion the first week of February at Fantasy Island in Roatan (there will be more on Roatan later in the newsletter), we can do this for you.

Winter is a perfect time to take the non diving courses or get the classroom and pool sessions done for the courses that you wanted to take all summer long but didn't have time. We will be holding the academic portions of Rescue, Divemaster, Nitrox, Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures, Entry Level Trimix, CPR and CPROX, Nitrox Gas Blending, Advanced Gas Blending, Equipment Service Technician and PSI Visual Tank Inspection courses throughout the winter. All open water dives will be held in spring of 2003. Be sure to advance register with us early to confirm your spot in the courses of your choice.

HMM!!! One of those might make a great suggestion for your Christmas wish list.

Want to go Ice Diving? Chop a big hole in the ice and jump in? No, that would be unsafe and down right stupid. It is a lot more involved than that and a lot more fun than it sounds. February 22 ice and weather permitting. Give us a call if you are interested in our Ice Diving Course.

Keep in touch and check the web site for more information.

- The Christmas / Anniversary sale is on. Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM through until 5:00PM.
- Time to bring in your equipment and get it serviced by our professional certified staff. Need some incentive? Read on.
- Roatan in February, do we have to say more. No, but we will.
- Going to the Boat Show or Cottage Life Show in Toronto in, stop by and say hello.
- The Waome can sleep for the winter, the Scuba Shack has taken its charter boat out of the water.
- A special thank you to our instructors, dive masters, shore support and to all of our students new and old.

**New Winter Hours**

Tuesday - Friday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday & Monday	Closed

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Gravenhurst, Ontario, P1P 1H6

Phone: 705 687 5879 Fax: 705 687 8251

[www.scubashack.on.ca](http://www.scubashack.on.ca)

## OUC and Underwater Canada

Ontario Underwater Council is downsizing. Due to reductions in grants and additional revenue, OUC is reducing its size and staff to better manage its existing programs.

For 30 years, Underwater Canada, operated by OUC, was a fixture in the scuba diving industry. As a stand alone entity, it has drawn all aspects of the dive industry into its presentations.

I remember in the 90's hopping on a plane from Winnipeg and flying into Toronto to spend two days looking at new equipment, talking to the manufacturers, watching the newest underwater movies, taking a few courses, saw presentations from divers such as Cousteau and listened to some unbelievable keynote speakers. It was a wonderful way to meet new divers and see a bunch of old ones. You could always run into someone you knew from home in the bar at the hotel. This was a wild place for new divers, such as myself at that time, to be able to do these things. What a great weekend. With DEMA being such a huge North American show, our only Canadian National show (although it was put on by OUC, it was still considered a National show by all of us that lived outside of Toronto and Ontario), is being reduced to part of "Scuba World" at the Outdoor Adventure Show. It will run from Feb. 21 to 23 at the International Center in Toronto.

It may not be what it was, but I'm going to see what its like. Maybe I'll still be lucky and find an old friend from Winnipeg in the bar.

## The Seals last club dive and BBQ of 2002

No, you haven't missed it yet.

The customary last club dive and bar-b-que is going to be held on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002, weather permitting. We have yet to determine the location for this dive, but we know that it will be a shore dive as the boat is now out of the water. The dive location may not be known yet, however the bar-b-que will be held at Dean and Jane's house. The address is 1065 Springdale Park Road, Bracebridge. We would appreciate a phone call or email so that we can be sure that you, your spouse and children can find the house and so that we can have enough food on the barbi.

Although we do have some lawn chairs, you may want to bring your own, just in case that we run out. If its ugly outside we will move inside. The festivities will start after the dive, around 3:00 in the afternoon. There is no cost for the club members, however you may want to bring your favorite alcoholic beverage along, just in case we don't have it. Club point prizes will be handed out at that time.

Store: 687-5879

Email: dean@scubashack.on.ca

## Christmas sale

Keep your calendar open for the annual anniversary / Christmas sale coming up on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

This years will be the biggest one ever. We will have so much product on sale, for such ridiculous prices that you must come down in person. Fill the stocking's and load up the Christmas tree with presents for that special diver in your life (or someone else).

There will be factory representatives in attendance from 10:00 AM thru until 2:00PM. For further information, you can listen to ROCK 95, STAR 107.5 or our own MOOSE 99.5, who will be onsite doing a remote.

Want a teaser? How about one of a kind items, such as ladies or men's select BCD's regular price up to \$700.00 for as low as \$350.00. Perhaps a new wet suit at \$???.?? off (count the number of question marks). Remember to shop in person as phone and mail orders will not be accepted.

## Hibernation is setting in

The Scuba Shack charter boat has been taken from the water and put into winter storage. It is been cleaned, winterized and refurbished, so you can be sure that it will be ready to head back out to the Waome and Lake Joe next spring. Because charters are booked up to a year in advance, make sure that your spot is confirmed for next year. As all spots are reserved on a first come - first booked basis, you should call now and reserve your usual charter weekend before it disappears.

## Keep your equipment in good working order

Your regulators, tanks and other scuba diving equipment is your life line between the aquatic world and the surface. This equipment is supposed to be serviced once a year. Some people wait until it is to late, their equipment is breathing wet or not breathing properly at all before they bring it in for service. I have always considered my scuba equipment as life saving equipment and I have treated it as such. I never drag it through the mud and sand and always place it back in their cases, secure it and / or hang it up after a days use. If I ever thought that there was a problem with it, I would get them looked at right away. It is amazing the number of people who will trust a piece of equipment that hasn't had a service technician look at, update, repair or adjust in years.

Have you ever had an expensive dive trip or holiday not gone the way it should because of a piece of your equipment has failed?

In order to help you make that decision to have your equipment properly serviced, the Scuba Shack will give you a 10% discount off of all parts and labor from now until January 31, 2003. Now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity before your next dive or diving holiday.

## Going to the Toronto Boat Show and The Cottage Life Show

The Scuba Shack will have a booth at both the Toronto International Boat Show, held at the National Trade Center from January 11<sup>th</sup> thru to January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and at the Cottage Life Show held at the International Center from March 28<sup>th</sup> thru to March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Both of these consumer shows are geared towards people who cottage and play where we call home. There will be all of the latest and greatest of everything you need to live on or near the water.

If you are in attendance either of these, drop by and say hello as we would love to see you.

Although we will be attending Scuba World at The Outdoor Adventure Show held at the International Center in Toronto, February 21 22 & 23, we will not have a display booth set up this year. This may be the show to replace Underwater Canada. Stop in at the OUC (Ontario Underwater Council) booth to show your support for our industry and find out.

## Pool Nights

We have already given you the reasons to come out to the pool nights and explained the costs, so lets just give you the time, place and date. All pool sessions are being held at the Bracebridge Centennial Center. Please let us know if you are coming.

Club members are at no charge / guest cost is \$5.00.

Thursday	January 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	From 9:00PM thru to 10:30PM
Thursday	February 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	From 9:00PM thru to 10:30PM
Thursday	April 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2003	From 9:00PM thru to 10:30PM
Thursday	May 22 <sup>n</sup> , 2003	From 9:00PM thru to 10:30PM

The Scuba Shack would like to give a special thank you to all of our shoremasters, divemasters and instructors. It is you that gives us all the reputation as one of the finest and safest training facilities in Canada. We hope for your continued support in the upcoming season.

### **Congratulations**

The Scuba Shack would like to say congratulations to all of our new open water divers and all of our more experienced divers that have successfully taken additional scuba diving courses. These are all huge steps in becoming more familiar with underwater adventure. We hope that you will join in on pool nights to keep your training current. We are currently updating our buddy board, If you want to dive but don't have anyone to dive with, come on in and register. There are always people around who want to dive.

Just as a side note, in taking over the position of editor of the Scuba Shack / Muskoka Seals newsletter, Chester and Sandy have also allowed my wife Jane and myself to assume Management and Ownership of the SCUBA SHACK. Although ownership has changed after 22 years, do not expect them to disappear, they will not be far away. You may be surprised at how close they still are.

Safe diving all. .. Dean

# ROATAN FANTASY ISLAND BEACH RESORT

**Fantasy Island** offers the ultimate in guest comfort and luxury. The professional and courteous staff present the amenities you expect with the island flavour that our guests have come to love. The tastefully decorated air conditioned rooms, are fully equipped with satellite TV, refrigerators, and telephones. We are proud to offer a fresh water swimming pool and Roatan's only lighted tennis courts for your recreation and leisure. Guests can unwind in intimate indoor and outdoor lounges, and enjoy one of the best restaurants in all of the Bay Islands offering outstanding culinary selection, including sumptuous seafood steaks, native specialties, and delicious desserts.

**Fantasy Island Beach Resort - Dive & Marina** was built specifically to accommodate the needs of travelling divers. Our convenient dive center features dockage for a fleet of six custom 42 foot dive boats directly adjacent to the secured and spacious gear storage area, an underwater photo center, onsite compressors, and equipment rental facility. The famed south shore dive sites, noted as some of the world's best are but minutes away, and when conditions favour we offer north side diving to ensure the ultimate in dive experiences. Spectacular crevices and tunnels open to breathtaking walls covered in brilliant corals and surrounded by exceptional marine life. Fantasy Island's unique Gazebo allows direct access to excellent beach diving. There you will find a mysterious shipwreck, a sunken airplane and a beautiful shallow reef and dramatic wall diving just a giant stride away. All of our Dive Masters are certified and experienced and our 6 dive boats can accommodate from 5 to 20 divers. We also offer the ultimate in safety with a hyperbaric chamber staffed by certified medical personnel. **Nitrox** is available for those certified in Nitrox Diving.

**Water conditions:** Expect water temperatures in the low 80's in summer and high 70's in winter. Although visibility can peak at 100 feet or more, average visibility is an excellent 80 feet barring unusual conditions caused by weather and nature.

## **Join The Scuba Shack Dive Travellers For This All Inclusive Diving Holiday !!! February 3 -10, 2003**

### **Your all inclusive holiday includes**

- Return flight from Toronto
- Airport transfers to and from hotel
  - Canadian airport taxes
- 7 Nights accommodations
- Hotel taxes & service charges
- 3 buffet style meals daily
- House wine with lunch & dinner
- All domestic beer & drinks
- 3 days diving (3 boat dives per day)

### **All This For ONLY**

**\$2114.00\*** (per person/double occupancy)

Single supplement add \$270.00 Triple/Quad Deduct \$40.00

**Non-Refundable Deposit Of \$250.00 Plus Optional Insurance Required At Time Of Booking.**



### **Important Notes**

With today's highly volatile world peace it is highly recommended that you purchase the 'Deluxe Insurance Package' at only \$115.56 Cdn funds. Balance of holiday payment is due **December 20, 2002**. **EXTRA:** Belize airport tax paid locally - \$25.00 US Funds. Additional weeks available. Prices upon request. Non-diver rate is \$1654.00 Cdn funds. Non-diver package includes all of the above except the diving portion and have use of canoes and kayaks at no charge and of course they have the beach!

# Course Schedule Fall / Winter 2002

**Skin Diving (Snorkeling)** ~ Learn proper snorkeling techniques & skills in just a few hours.

**Cost:** \$40.00

**Dates:** Thursday January 30: 9-10:30 pm;  
Thursday April 10: 9-10:30pm;  
Thursday May 22; 9:10:30pm

**Discover Scuba** ~ Non divers can experience the fun and excitement of scuba diving simply and easily, with an instructor, in the safe confines of the pool site in Bracebridge

**Costs:** \$25.00

**Dates:** Thursday January 30: 9-10:30 pm;  
Thursday April 10: 9-10:30pm;  
Thursday May 22; 9:10:30pm

**Basic Openwater** ~ Full Certification as a Scuba Diver

**Cost:** \$395.00

**Dates:** Thursday Evening, January 9,16,23,30  
Thursday Evening, March 20,27, April 3,10  
Thursday Evening, May 1,8,15,22

Openwater: All openwater classes will be held in spring of 2003, Jan. Class : Openwater can be held in Roatan, Feb. 3-10, 2003

**Rescue** ~ Learn the skills required to prevent and manage diving emergencies. Improve your diving skills.

**Cost:** \$350.00 + manual

**Dates:** Thursday Evenings ;March 20,27 & April 3  
Openwater: TBA Spring 2003

**Divemaster** ~ The first level in becoming a Scuba Instructor. Learn to organize, conduct and supervise recreational diving activities both land and boat based. Work as a instructional assistant.

**Cost:** \$400.00 + manual

**Dates:** Thursday Evening, May 1, 8, 15 22;  
Openwater: Spring 2003

**CPROX & CPR1st** ~ Learn the necessary skills to save a dive buddies life. You will learn the basics of CPR and Oxygen administration, or CPR and First Aid.

**Cost:** CPROX or CPR1st \$90.00  
CPROX and CPR1st (combined) \$160.00

**Dates:** Tuesday, January 28  
Thursday, April 24

**Nitrox Diver** ~ Certification allowing the openwater diver to use Enriched Air Nitrox (EAN) mixes up to 40% Oxygen.

**Cost:** \$150.00 + manual

**Dates:** Tuesday, January 21  
Thursday, April 17

**PSI Visual Inspection Course** ~ Certification training in the proper procedures for visually inspecting scuba cylinders. This is a must for all divers wishing to work in the SCUBA industry either here in Canada, the USA or the Caribbean.

**Cost:** \$250.00 + manual

**Dates:** Saturday, March 15

**Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures** ~ Enhance your diving pleasure by learning the proper techniques for doing decompression stops and carrying those extra bottles effortlessly along with the proper use of greater Nitrox mixtures.

**Cost:** \$595.00

**Dates:** Thursday, February 20, 27, March 6  
Openwater Dives: Spring 2003

**Entry Level Trimix** ~ The first step in training for the proper use of Trimix for those deeper dives .

**Cost:** \$ 600.00

**Dates:** Thursday, March 13, 20  
Openwater Dives: Spring 2003

**Equipment Specialty** ~ This course is designed to give a more in depth look at how dive equipment works. It will cover general repairs and maintenance of types of exposure suits, BCD's Regulators, and other accessories.

**Cost** \$125.00 + Manual

**Dates:** Saturday, February 22

**Oxygen Equipment Service Technician** ~ This course teaches the student the proper techniques and procedures to prepare scuba equipment for use with oxygen.

**Cost** \$295.00

**Dates:** Saturday, March 1

**Nitrox Gas Blender** ~ Learn the proper techniques and safety measures involved in blending oxygen enriched gasses.

**Cost:** \$295.00

**Dates:** Saturday, March 22

**Advanced Gas Blender** ~ Blending of trimix and other gasses for technical scuba diving activities.

**Cost:** \$295.00

**Dates:** Saturday, April 26

**SDI Openwater Instructor Course** ~ Learn how to train divers in the sport you love. Pre-requisite is Divemaster level.

**Cost:** \$1495 + manual and registration

**Dates**

Call for information and dates

Courses are continually being added to our schedule. We teach all specialties, so if the course you are looking for is not listed, contact our store.

Please be properly prepared for your course. Pre registration is a must as all academic material(s) must be read prior to attending class.

Instructor courses are also available for all levels of training, contact us for details.

# Scuba Shack's 23rd Anniversary Sale

**When: Saturday December 7th, 2002 - 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: Scuba Shack, Gravenhurst**

Meet The Representatives From  
**Sherwood, Genesis, Akona, Trident, Sea & Sea, Suunto & Bare.!**

Getting tired of doing this all winter?  
Chlorine breaking down your old gear?  
Roll me over!



**Yo...**  
Need a Christmas gift for that special diver?  
At these prices you can even buy for someone else!



Live Moose FM Broadcast  
From 10:00 am - Noon  
Free Giveaways, Coffee & Donuts

**Aluminum 80 ft Tanks Only \$189.00**

**Selected Buoyancy Compensators up to \$350..00 OFF!**

**Selected Ocean Run 7mm 2 Piece Wet Suits \$299.00**

**Bare Wetsuits and Accessories**

**Suunto Diving Computers**

**Genesis Yukon and Atlas Regulators Sets  
With and Without Gauges**

**UNDERWATER KINETICS Dive Lights**

**A Whole Bunch of Stocking Stuffers**