

## Dean's Desk

### Muskoka Seals Dive Club

What an impressive year we've had with the dive club. Not only was the membership up again over last year but so was the number of members that came out to each dive. A good time was had by all!

Well, we finally added up the club dive points this year, it wasn't much of a surprise to see who this year's winner was, with just under 90 dives so far for the year, taking 6 courses (rescue and dive master included) and getting his wife certified, we feel that Kris Rhodes has earned the number one spot for the second year in a row – we did severely reprimand him for missing one club dive. Appropriate action has been taken and Kris has promised to never let it happen again. Peter Parkinson came in second with over 40 points and Wendy Rolph (who is currently taking her dive master in Thailand) came in third.

And...if **you** want to knock Kris out of first place next year, you'll need to spend more time in the water!

While diving this year, we found two "new to us" dive sites and hope to add two more again next year. Thanks to all club members for providing us with so much fun this summer.

For some of our more adventurous divers, we will be having one more final dive before ice-up. The way the weather is, that could be a New Years day dive—we'll keep you posted.

Please remember to bring in your Seals membership cards when you renew for next year's diving season and we will put a new 2006 sticker on your card for you.

If you want to keep your diving skills honed, we will be having club pool nights on the following Thursdays: February 2nd, April 13th & May 25th. So keep your gear ready to go.

One comment we've heard a few times from the members is that we're a bit shy of opportunities to get together during the non typical dive season. So, Jane and I have decided to have a winter get together at our house in January. We'll be calling you to give you the date and we look forward to seeing you.

**Happy 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!** This year's sale starts on **Saturday, Dec. the 3rd.** And continues throughout the month..

As in the past, we have gone to our suppliers and asked for their support to bring to you the best deals possible. Everything in the store will be on sale with exceptional values for everyone

Know someone who you think would like to learn to dive or take snorkeling lessons? Do you want to take any additional courses? Whether you need to upgrade some gear or if you just want some new toys, now is the time to do it.

#### Winter Store Hours:

Tue – Fri: 10am - 5:30pm  
Sat: 10am - 5:00pm  
Sun – Mon: Closed

#### Contact Information:

PH: 705-687-5879  
AD: 141 Hotchkiss Street, Gravenhurst, Ontario  
WB: [www.scubashack.on.ca](http://www.scubashack.on.ca)

Thanks for your business throughout this past summer and remember we are open year round, so drop in and say hi once in a while during the snowy season.

Have great Holiday season and Happy New Year!

Dean & Jane

### Inside this issue of Bottom Times

With the pending vacation season, **see page 2** for items you should have in your underwater camera travel emergency kit and what to do with them.

We had such a good time diving and great stories to tell upon our return, that we're going back to San Andres Columbia. **See page 3** for details. (I have a great shot of James Cook with a rasta hat in San Andres, and Gary Hanslip and Peter Parkinson with rasta hats on in Roatan Honduras. If we can assist you in choosing a dive destination—just give us a call or drop in and see some of the photos.

The course schedule for the winter and 2006 is **on the back page**—just in time for a Christmas gift giving and great for planning purposes.

## Flooded Cameras or: What Should Go Into An Emergency Toolkit?



Flooded photography equipment can often be recovered for immediate re-use, provided that: (a) Someone knows how to strip-down and reassemble the equipment, and (b), action is taken before corrosion begins - i.e., immediately. If you don't know how to reassemble the equipment, you can still stop the corrosion by taking appropriate action; but you will need to understand how to work with high voltages when dismantling any piece of equipment which contains a flash tube (and that includes compact cameras) because this can be dangerous. We do not advise anyone without the relevant experience of working with high voltage equipment to attempt a repair. Expert assistance should be sought.

A suitable tool kit is as follows:

1. A set of good quality watchmaker's screwdrivers; and various small tools, e.g., pliers, wire-cutters, adjustable spanner, Swiss army knife.
2. Tweezers, preferably fine pointed with curved tips. It is doubtful that anyone has ever successfully repaired a small-format camera without using tweezers.
3. A 1 litre bottle containing distilled water. Water is the best solvent for removing salt deposits, and it does not dissolve lubricants and adhesives. Distilled water leaves no residues after evaporation. Deionized water can still contain dissolved organic material and should be regarded as second best. Drinking water is better than nothing, but in hard-water areas may contain as much as 0.5g/litre of dissolved solids. **Never wash out a camera mechanism with alcohol.**
4. Cotton buds and paper towels.
5. Small self-sealing plastic bags for cataloguing the parts.
6. A pencil and writing pad for making notes.
7. A small soldering iron and some multi-core solder. Soldering irons are available for field use, powered by a gas cartridge, or from a 12v battery.
8. A 56 $\Omega$  10W ceramic bodied resistor, with insulation sleeving on the leads: for discharging flash capacitors.
9. A tube of Molykote 111 O-ring lubricant (or Molykote FS1272 for silicone O-rings).
10. A Pocket Multimeter (A,V,W); for testing cables and batteries, and for checking that flash capacitors have been properly discharged. There is really no excuse for not

### Just In Time For Christmas!

Scuba Shack is pleased to announce Scuba Shack Online. Our very own online web-site store. Visit, shop, or just browse. Our online store has a complete line of what we carry on site and with items being added daily, we will soon be one of the most comprehensive on-line sites available.

You have the option of having products shipped directly to you, which saves you a potentially long journey to our store. Or, should you prefer, you can arrange to pick up your order, pre-packaged and ready to go, with no shipping charge.

Our online store can be found by visiting our website: [www.scubashack.on.ca](http://www.scubashack.on.ca) and clicking on our web store link. We welcome your constructive criticism on anything you see that could use improvement, or if we have inadvertently left anything out please let us know.

Adrian

owning a multi-meter - a cheap one can be bought at the local market for about \$10.

### What Should I Do If I Flood A Camera Housing?

Rinse it (or wipe it if only a few drops) and dry it thoroughly.

Chances are you can get back in business - if you get your spare camera out!

First, figure out where the water came in. You don't want to knock out your backup camera too! Most floods are attributable to user error so it was probably a main o-ring. Test the housing without a camera to be sure you have found the leak.

Sadly the long term effects may cause you on-going problems due to salt getting into cables. See the section below about flooded connectors. When you get home take professional advice. Then - get the insurance out!

For more useful camera tips and a copy of this article, visit [www.underwaterphotography.com](http://www.underwaterphotography.com).





## San Andres

### A Unique & Exotic Caribbean Hideaway

The All-Inclusive Royal Decameron Aquarium Resort . . . . Feb. 09—16, 2006



Tiny, enchanting San Andres Island lies in the Caribbean north of Panama & the coast of South America. Creamy white beaches, crystal turquoise waters, great water sports, duty-free shopping and the pulse of reggae are all reasons to join us for this incredible week. Stay with us at the Aquarium and play at all 5 Decameron properties on San Andres Island.

Your hotel is located on the waterfront, a short walk to downtown and the Decameron Isleno Hotel and within a 15 minute drive to all other Decameron Resorts.

The property has an amazing choice of restaurants featuring à la carte and buffet dining. Enjoy the sunset or an evening under the stars while sipping a cool exotic drink from one of four bars or go try your luck at the nearby Marazul Casino.

All this from only . . .

\$1400.05 CDN Funds/Double Occupancy (includes CDN departure tax of \$193.05)

Two week rates are available.

The dive operation . . 'Divers Dream' . . is located right on the resort premises. .

#### WOW... All Of This Is Included:

- Round trip airfare from Toronto
- Airport /hotel transfers
- Toronto departure taxes
- Buffet breakfast and lunch daily
- Dinner is a choice of buffet or à la carte (reservations required)
- Snacks daily
- Wine with dinner
- Domestic drinks from 11am – 2am
- Non-motorized water sports: windsurfing, snorkelling, kayaking & sunfish sailing
- Volleyball, water polo
- Daily activities
- Evening entertainment
- Use of facilities and shuttle service to all Decameron Resorts
- Up to 3 dives per day (\$65.00 US per day extra)
- Tanks, air and weight belts

#### February Weather Forecast\*

	Ontario ☹	San Andres ☺
Temp	-30°C (MINUS!!!)	+30°C (PLUS)
Weather	Snow	Sunshine
Wind	Chill Factor -45°C	Tropical Breeze
Water	Hard (ICE!!)	Clear, 27°C
Preparation	Chainsaw, Shovel	Show Up, Jump In
Clothing	Drysuit, Parka	Optional
Activities	Shoveling & Sneezing	Hammock & Book
Drink	Hot Chocolate	Pinã Coladas

\*If you have to think any harder, something's wrong?

#### Extra Information, Optional Items and Additional Costs

Travel Insurance is available and very highly recommended. We have a variety of packages to suit your needs.

'Deluxe Package' – includes coverage for cancellation, and interruption, medical, flight accident, travel accident and baggage. Cost is \$122.04

'Non-Medical Package' – designed for those requiring the coverage of Deluxe Package without the Emergency Medical coverage. Cost is \$104.76

'Emergency Medical Only' – designed to cover emergency medical expenses only. Cost is \$26.00

All insurance packages must be purchased at the time of initial deposit.

San Andres Departure Tax \$30.00 US Funds To Be Paid Locally Upon Departure From Island.



## 2006 Course Schedule

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

Cost: \$40.00

Dates: Thursday evenings; Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Apr. 6, 13 and May 18 & 25

**Basic Open Water** ~ Full Certification as a Scuba Diver

Cost: \$395.00

Dates: Thursday Evenings, Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 2  
Thursday Evenings, Mar. 23, 30, Apr. 6 & 13  
Thursday Evenings, May 4, 11, 18 & 25  
Open water: Sat. & Sun. June T.B.A.

**Ice Diver Specialty** ~ Learn the proper techniques and use of equipment for diving under the ice in an overhead environment.

Cost: \$375.00 + manual

Dates: Friday Evening, Saturday & Sunday  
March 3, 4 & 5

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

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Saturday Jan 28 -10:00 am  
Saturday April 15 -10:00 am

**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: Sat., March 11 - CPROX 10:00; CPR1st 1:00  
Sat. April 22 - CPROX 10:00; CPR1st 1:00

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

Cost: \$350.00 + manual

Dates: Thursday Evenings, Mar. 23, 30 and Apr. 6 & 13  
Open water: Sat. & Sun. June T.B.A.

**Equipment** ~ 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: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Saturday, April 8 - 10:00am

**PSI Visual Inspector** ~ Learn the proper techniques used to visually inspect and certify cylinders. Attendees of this course must show proof of employment with a scuba store or attendance request letter from a scuba club president.

Cost: \$285.00 + manual

Dates: Saturday, April 29 - 10:00am

**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 an instructional assistant.

Cost: \$450.00 + manual

Dates: Thursday Evenings, May 4, 11, 18 & 25;  
Open water: Sat. & Sun. June T.B.A.  
Plus additional open water T.B.A.

**Dry Suit Diver** ~ This course allows you to develop knowledge and skills to properly use a Dry Suit. It will discuss the different types of dry suits, accessories maintenance and how to make basic repairs.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Friday evening May 5 & Saturday, May 6

**Night / Low Visibility Diver** ~ Learn the procedures, techniques, and potential hazards associated with night diving or limited visibility so that you will be able to enjoy night diving with maximum confidence and safety.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Saturday, May 13 - 10:00am class  
Saturday, May 27 - In water session

**Navigation Specialty** ~ Learn how to navigate properly underwater using both natural and compass type navigation.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Friday evening, June 2 class  
Saturday, June 3 - In water session

**Search & Recovery Specialty** ~ Learn the special skills and techniques necessary to successfully Plan, execute and evaluate a search and recovery dive.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Friday evening, June 2 class  
Sunday, June 4 - In water session

My course list for the year is:

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**Please be properly prepared for your course. Pre-registration is a must, as all academic material must be read prior to attending any of the courses.**

Courses are continually added to the program. If you don't see the one you are interested in, or the schedule doesn't fit yours - let us know; we'll try our best to accommodate you.

Instructor courses for all SDI and TDI levels are also available. Call for info and registration 705-687-5879