

Underwater Alberta



**ALBERTA
UNDERWATER
COUNCIL**



Underwater Archaeology In SPAIN

Hello Everyone!! It's Indiana Dianna reporting updates from the November Archaeological dives on the Spanish island of Menorca in the Mediterranean.

This last November, eight Alberta divers, myself and Colin (part of team 2008) made the trip back to Menorca to continue the under water Archaeology diving. We arrived in rainy weather, but who cares!! We were going to just get wet diving anyhow. We arrived a few days early to acclimatize to the weather and time change. The head archaeologist Fernando and his wife Lana picked us up from the airport and took us to our hotel. The group was very diversified, a few divers only had 6 dives and others had many more, but we already knew we would work well together. We enjoyed a few days of walking about, eating paella and having cafe Americano at the green door tavern. Always great to take a couple of days to get into the RELAXING lifestyle that is Spain!

This year the government not only allowed permits for 2 dives a day but also allowed us to dive at different locations if the weather was bad at the research site. This is an excellent indica-



tion that the government is onboard with the research, something that is very difficult to achieve in Spain.

Our first orientation dives were exciting, seeing 2000 year old things that have not been touched by humans in as many years never gets boring! Fernando got the boat ready and took us to the opposite shore line so we could look for a

Roman anchor the previous group were unable to mark. Guess what??? We were unable to find it! I think someone moved it over night! That is my story and I am sticking to it. This year a few of us are bound and determined to find it and mark it.

.....Continued on Pg 6

SUMMER 2009

2009 DIVE ALBERTA EVENTS

Mark your Calendar now for 2009 Dive Events & see the AUC Website for Updates just prior to the Event:

July 19/09

Bow River Snorkel - Calgary

Aug 15/09

U/W Rodeo—Cold Lake

Aug 22/09

Bear Grass Dive – Waterton

Sept 13/09

Banff Lake U/W Clean-up

Sept 19/09

Gull Lake U/W Cleanup

Sept 20/09

Sylvan Lake U/W Clean-up

Sept 26/09

Pumpkin Dive –Wainwright

Oct 23/24th/09

**Divescapes Conference—
Calgary**

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Dive into Adventure!
DIVESCAPES
Conference & Exhibition



DIVESCAPES
KEYNOTE
SPEAKER:
JILL
HEINERTH

Photo by:
Wes Skiles

Preparations for the AUC's Divescapes Scuba Conference & Trade Show in Calgary: OCT 23/24th 2009 are almost complete. Get your GOLD/SILVER or Dinner & Film Show Pass (Always Sold Out!) or even just come for the Keynote Speaker's: FILM SHOW. Enclosed with this newsletter is our Divescapes speaker's bios, topics & the ticket order form. HINT: For the best chance of winning fabulous prizes, choose a GOLD or SILVER PASS! PLUS COURSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR: PSI Tank Inspection, DAN INSTRUCTOR COURSE, DSAT GAS BLENDER, CPR + AED Course, DAN 02; See pg 7 inside, + the Divescapes Ticket Order Form—enclosed or available on-line from your favorite local dive centre.

Underwater Hockey Dates:

**Pacific Coast Championships:
Sept 25-27/09 in Victoria, BC**

Other Important Dates in '09

**Nov 4-7/09: DEMA (Diving Equip-
ment Mfg. Assoc) Trade Show for
Dive Professionals: Orlando, FL**



YOUR SUBMISSIONS WANTED: DIVER'S TIPS & TRICKS

QUESTION: I've only done boat dives in the past but I will be doing some shore diving in Alberta this summer. How do you keep sand out of your gear?

DIVER'S TIP

Glad you asked, because getting sand in your regulator is certainly bad news! Sand inside your wetsuit can also "rub you the wrong way".

⇒ Place a tarp on the ground to keep things clean while gearing up. Buddy communications are also important topside, i.e. be sure to keep clean/dry feet on the tarp, and wet/sandy feet off the tarp, otherwise you'll soon have a muddy messy platform to work from!

⇒ Keep sand out of ALL your vital gear, such as the regs, BC inflator/deflator (uncontrolled ascent, anyone?), and also your compass so they all work the way they're designed to! Your dive buddy would not be pleased if your octopus turns out to be full of sand or your compass is grinding to a halt underwater. So try to attach your hoses so they aren't dangling, to keep them from dragging in the sand either on shore or under water. A mouth-piece holder also works well for the regs.

Take care of the equipment, and it will take care of you!

Submitted by Rhonda Lee Curran



AUC MEMBER'S FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Please see AUC's website:

albertaunderwatercouncil.com

& click onto "Classifieds" for the full listing of gear for sale by members for members!

Do you have a handy dive tip or idea that you would like to share with your fellow divers?

All relevant "tips and tricks" are welcome, please send your questions or suggestions to the AUC office, attn: News Editor & we'll include them in an upcoming AUC newsletter!

AN ALBERTA DIVE TRIP REPORT: Sylvan Lake



**GREAT BOAT DIVING IN
CENTRAL ALBERTA!
WHO KNEW?!**

**Lucky Prize Winner at 2008
Sylvan Lake Clean-Up Event:
Rhonda Lee Curran**

I discovered boat diving opportunities in Alberta thanks to Roy Farrington of Farrington Diving Services, Ltd. who donated four generous prizes of a spot on his 1-day boat charter at the Sylvan Lake Clean-Up Event last fall. As you can tell by the photo of me accepting one of these draw prizes, I was excited to experience what diving on the "Gypsy Lady" is all about!

Roy Farrington certainly did not disappoint. We met at his new building at the Sylvan Lake marina and got settled in his well-equipped boat – complete with an upper level for sight-seeing and sunbathing, a dry area with comfy seats (Mmm!), safety gear, racks for hanging exposure suits, drinks for hydration, and an excellent dive platform/ladder.

At the "underwater playground" dive site, in Sylvan Lake, my dive buddy (AKA husband) and I found a variety of items underwater such as an old wreck, plane, oil derrick, tub and toilet, and a treasure chest with a REAL (and heavy...) SWORD in it! The vents on the bottom of the lake were interesting,

and we saw some shells and fish too.

We noticed that Roy's open water students also had a lot of fun that day. I was impressed to hear that Farrington Diving Services is typically on the lake 7 days a week, with dives available during the day, evening or even at midnight.

So truly, land-locked we ain't!

See www.farrdive.com



UNDERWATER CLUBS IN ALBERTA—*Underwater Hockey & Scuba*

AUC welcomes you to the company of underwater enthusiasts from all across the province. Joining a dive or under water sports club offers you a great opportunity to have fun underwater and above water, with a group of similar minded individuals.

Many clubs also offer opportunities to continually improve your diving skills through ongoing training programs or travel. Meet new people and enjoy your sport! Join one today!

Alberta's UNDERWATER HOCKEY CLUBS:

CALGARY:

Calgary Underwater Hockey Club Contact: www.calgaryunderwater.ca

EDMONTON:

Edmonton Underwater Hockey Association
Contact: www.edmontonunderwaterhockey.com



ALBERTA'S SCUBA CLUBS:

CALGARY: Scuba Clubs

Calgary Sub-Aquatic
Axel Kollewyn: (403) 285-2340

Scuba Divers Dinner Group
Tony Lamb: (403) 283-3368
TonyLamb@shaw.ca

Underwater Outlaws
Email: uoutlaw@telus.net
Website: underwateroutlaws.com

COLD LAKE : Scuba Club

4-Wing Cold Lake Scuba Club
Ben Payette
Email: bpayette@telus.net
<http://www3.telus.net/public/jjparr/clubs/scuba.htm>

Charles (RED) Ehrich
780-639-4564

EDMONTON: Scuba Clubs:

AquaTek Voodoo Gas Divers
Contact Via Email: Carol or Jeff
voodooogas@aquatekscuba.com
Web Site: www.aquatekscuba.com

Edmonton Club's Cont'd

Edmonton Aquanauts
Ken Kozak: (780) 960-0263
kpsd@cruzinternet.com

Edmonton Pub Divers
Brian Nadwidny
Email: nadwidny@gmail.com

U OF A Scuba Appreciation Club
scuba@ualberta.ca
uofascuba.com

Wing Divers
Tom or Cathy Davies: (780) 462-1551
Email: tedavies@telusplanet.net

SPECIALTY RESCUE CLUB:

Northern Alberta Aquatic Rescue Society (NAARS)
Cliff Bergunde: (780) 450-1206
<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3310>
Email: naars@shaw.ca

FORT McMURRAY: Scuba Club

Wet & Wild Diving Society of Fort McMurray
9 Birch Rd, Ft McMurray, AB , T9K 1P2
www.wWSCuba.com
PH: 780-743-3123

GRANDE PRAIRIE: Scuba Club

Grande Prairie Scuba Club
Carsten Andersen 780-539-7595
Lyndell Weldon 780-539-0562
Email: donwel@telus.net

LETHBRIDGE: Scuba Club

Scuba Group Lethbridge
Marni Anderson: (403) 328-5041
www.awesomeadventures.com

PEACE RIVER: Scuba Club

Jeff Protz: (780) 624-1619 jeff@protz.ab.ca

WAINWRIGHT: Scuba Clubs

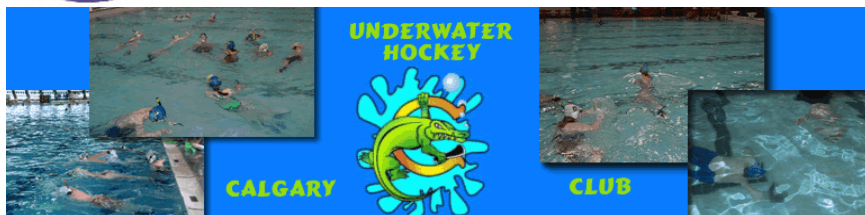
Buffalo Divers - New president:
Andrew Laschuk, Phone: Hm: 780-842-6168,
crusader@telus.net

Davco Diving Aquamaniacs
Dave & Connie Faas: (780) 842-5559
www.davco.cc





NEWS FROM ALBERTA'S UNDERWATER HOCKEY CLUBS & DIVE CLUBS



NEWS FROM CALGARY UNDERWATER HOCKEY CLUB

The Calgary Underwater Hockey Club is seeking a head coach for the upcoming season. We are looking for an individual with a love and in-depth knowledge of underwater hockey to lead our club. Practice times are Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30-9:30 pm and Sunday 5:30-7:30 pm. The new head coach will be responsible for: providing curriculum for programs offered by the CUHC, overseeing all aspects of practice sessions, delegating specific duties to junior and intermediate coaches, providing support and leadership for junior and intermediate coaches, traveling with teams to tournaments as required, selecting players for specific teams and advising the CUHC executive on appropriate upcoming tournaments. Please email Natasha Kozak with questions and for more information about pay packages. Email: kozak@nucleus.com

See the website: calgaryunderwater.ca for more info & contacts



NEWS FROM EDMONTON UNDERWATER HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Results from Canadian Nationals – hosted in Edmonton, May 16 & 17th at Kinsmen Pool: 1. Calgary Crocs, 2. Vancouver, 3. Edmonton, 4. Octopushers, 5. Calgary U19, 6. Saskatario, 7. UNBC/Prince George.

National tournament in Edmonton: It was great to see many people out to Edmonton for Nationals. Teams included Vancouver, Calgary youth and adults, Prince George, Saskatchewan with some help from some players in Ontario and of course Edmonton had 2 teams. Thanks to Amy for running an organized tournament. The Calgary Adults upset Vancouver in the Gold Medal game placing first. Edmonton came in 3rd and 4th, Calgary youth came in 5th, Saskatario placed 6th and Prince George came in 7th. Thanks to Jacques Toupin from Saskatchewan and the Prince George team for coming out. We look forward to seeing their groups grow. A special thank you to NAARS for storing our barriers until our next big event. We are hoping to host another tournament next year. Thank you to AUC for having me on the AUC Board. Good luck and thank you to Tom Tan for taking the torch of UWH rep on the new Board in 2009/10. Respectfully, Gilles Benoiton

See the website: edmontonunderwaterhockey.com for more info & contacts

Dreamless Sleeper – The Lure of the Greenland Shark

Whet your appetite for our guest speaker at Divescapes this fall, Oct 23/24th in Calgary: Jeffery Gallant's Presentation:

Steinbeck quoted: "An ocean without its unnamed monsters would be like a completely dreamless sleep". Since 1998, GEERG1 shark researchers Jeffrey Gallant and Chris Harvey-Clark have pursued a mythical monster – *Somniosus microcephalus* – the mysterious Greenland shark. This rare and elusive deep-sea and Arctic animal is virtually unknown to science, and until recently few humans had ever seen it alive, let alone encountered it underwater. This multimedia presentation will tell the story of how two diving scientists searched for, and ultimately found a population of Greenland sharks in the cold waters of the Arctic and Northern Quebec. Perhaps even more compelling than the initial discovery has been the continuing story of how these giant predators survive in thousands of feet of water in the deserts of the deep sea, and what may be attracting them to shallow depths in the subarctic waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Using a variety of sophisticated research tools, Gallant will tell the story of a new, non-invasive approach to studying rare marine species, circumventing conventional research methods which usually result in the death of the animal. Underwater video footage which has never been shown publicly will reveal some of the mysteries of this apex predator, and the only shark known to inhabit the Arctic year-round.

DIVE ALBERTA 2009 EVENTS—Mark Your Calendars & Make plans to Join in at some of These FUN DIVE EVENTS—Hosted by AB Dive Clubs, Dive Stores and/or the AUC

April 25/09: AUC's Annual General Mtg— not a diving event but your provincial scuba assoc. AGM with Lunch Social & Film Show

May 16/17th—JASPER AQUATHON with a River Race, Lake Cleanup & Dive Event on May Long Weekend, Jasper

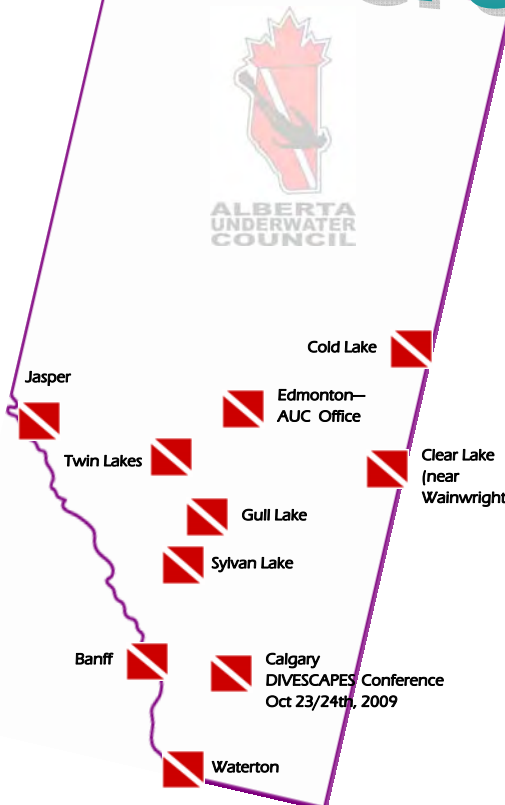
June 20th—Twin Lakes—Wing Divers Club Treasure Hunt Dive Event & Lake Cleanup at Twin Lakes Training Facility near Winfield

July 19th—Bow River Snorkel Event—snorkel down the Bow River & enjoy the view of Calgary

Aug 15th—Cold Lake U/W Rodeo & Cleanup —hosted by Fort McMurray's Wet & Wild Diving Club

Aug 22nd—Waterton Bear Grass Dive—hosted by Lethbridge Scuba Club &

Dive Alberta 2009



Sept 13th—Banff Lake Clean-up—exact locale TBA

Sept 19th—3rd Nick Young Memorial Gull Lake Clean-up—located this year on NW side of lake @Parkland Beach

Sept 20th—Sylvan Lake U/W Clean-up—sponsored by North West Scuba Edm & local dive community, supported by Town of Sylvan Lake & with local Boy Scouts & Guides on shore

Sept 26th—Wainwright Pumpkin Dive & Lake Clean-up —sponsored by Davco Diving & the Buffalo Divers Club @CFB Wainwright

Oct 23/24th—AUC's DIVESCAPES 09 CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW at Calgary's Executive Royal Inn, NE. Keynote Speaker: Jill Heinerth/Women Hall of Fame



ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

11759 Groat Road,
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T5M 3K6

Phone: 780-427-9125

Toll Free Ph: 1-888-307-8566

Fax: 780-427-8139

E-mail:

info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com

WEBSITE:

www.albertaunderwatercouncil.com

FREE TO NEW MEMBERS— ONE YEAR AUC MEMBERSHIP ACTIVATION



Are you a certified diver or underwater hockey player?

Please print clearly the info below, then fax/scan/email/mail or phone this info into AUC office to activate your 1st Yr AUC Membership Free

Name _____

Address—Full Mailing Address _____

CITY/TOWN _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Phone _____ DATE OF BIRTH: M/D/Y _____ SEX: MALE/FEMALE _____

E—MAIL ADDRESS _____ Do you wish to receive monthly E-News Bulletins? _____

Dive Club or Dive Store Affiliation—if applicable, OR Underwater Hockey Club _____

PLEASE CIRCLE LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION: O/W DIVER ADVANCED DIVE MASTER INSTRUCTOR OR _____

UW HOCKEY: PLAYER COACH REFFREE OR OTHER: _____

Thank You for your support of the AUC!

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY IN SPAIN — Continued from page 1

The diving is challenging but well worth it. We divided into 2 and sometimes 3 groups to work on projects set out by Fernando and Rex (lead underwater archaeologist from Ireland). Dives consisted of measuring to base lines of the grid, to photograph as well as video any significant finds (of which there were MANY!). There sure are a lot of artifacts down there still waiting to be discovered. My suggestion—come with us later this year to continue the treasure hunt!

I thought last year was exciting, but this year we were able to do 2 dives and go to other historical sites, this was absolutely fantastic. We dove at Fort Marlborough looking for cannon balls and shipwrecks. We dove at Calas Coves where there are caves in the cliffs from the Bronze Age. We dove where NOBODY gets to dive without a very special permit and an Underwater Archeologist leading the way! We went to the museum in Mahon (the capital city on the island) to see some of the artifacts Fernando has donated- this gave us an opportunity to see what things we should be looking for underwater.

On one of the days off, the group went walking through the fields of the old military fort and of the city. Fernando and Lana painted a very vivid picture of where the people lived, how they made wine and stored them in the amphorae we were finding, how they fought and died, and more interestingly how they buried the dead. I really could see the slingers attacking the walls of the fort and the lead ammunition piercing their armor killing their foe. Fernando and Lana took us to see the tombs they had been excavating during the land portion of the field study. We stood next to a tarp, and as Fernando pulled it back... it was like going back into time. The tomb contained 2 skeletal remains from around 200 yrs ago, one was a man and the other a woman or teenager. In the times of the Romans you got married at 12 or 13 and had family and most likely died by the age of 30. Heavens to Betsy, I would be some old maid in their times!!! As we looked into the tomb I wondered what they looked like and who they were. What were their lives like, how many children did they have, and how did they die? I looked to my right and I found a molar tooth from the tomb. How cool is that! Experiencing these things is truly a positive life-changing event that I hope to share with many of you in the future. Back at the Fernando's museum, we had a lecture on



Photo Credit:
Dianna Ungarian

the fort and the city. When Fernando pulled out some artifacts found in the tombs we all gathered around the table not knowing what to expect! UNBELIEVABLE!! We were holding, touching, and looking at coins from Julius Caesar's days. Buttons and fine pottery were also found. All artifacts are cataloged as to where and when they were found before they go to the Mahon museum. What an awesome experience!

Phew... This is exciting to write!!! Back underwater... Colin and I went to photograph and video yet another suspected Roman anchor but got lost along the way. We were a bit (ok... a long bit- we were um-mm... TREASURE HUNTING!!) too far and too deep from the heading. After a hand signal conversation we figured we should go shallower and back. We did not even go 5 feet and we discovered another anchor! This one was incredible, and if we had come at it from any other angle than what we did- we surely would have missed it! Looking at our computers, we only had 15 minutes to photograph and get some video footage to show Fernando. As we hit the surface we hooped and hollered scaring the goats from their peaceful grazing. Fernando thinks we Canadians are his lucky charms to finding the treasures of the Sanjata ruins. The anchor turned out to be an incredible find, and has now become the subject of much research into its exact age. We can only hope that other groups can find it, as Colin and I were on one of the last dives when it was found, and the group did not have time to measure it accurately. Oh well... WE know where it is, and we will take you right to it if you come along this year....

As we prepared to leave for Barcelona, I was already thinking what adventures

are waiting for the upcoming 2009 INDIANA DIANNA tour to Spain. There is so much more I want to say here, however WE ARE SWORN to secrecy on many things as this is incredibly exclusive and sensitive!!

This year Fernando has received permission to bring up some sensitive artifacts so that they may be preserved and placed into the museum in Mahon. If you are interested in coming please contact me ASAP. We have 2 options, 1st is to join a group of 4 divers for the November 1-14 course, or to run with just our own group from November 16-30. The later option I must have 12 divers to make it work. I already have several people interested in the latter. Please remember you don't have to be an expert diver to come, heck you can get certified THIS SUMMER and come. I was also thinking that if we had our own group that I would like to do some lake training before we go. If you would like to see video footage and pictures from last years trip go to www.ecomuseodecavalleria.com/en/aquas escuela.asp

P.S. I am taking Spanish so I can order food and drinks, as well as tell you what color the sky is.

SUBMITTED BY EDMONTON
PADI INSTRUCTOR: Dianna Ungarian

Please contact me at: Ocean Sports, in Edmonton: 780-432-1904, email: dianna@oceansports.ca or ducuba@canada.com

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING AN ARTICLE??
PLEASE Send your submissions (with photos) via email to:
info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com

DIVESCAPES '09—a Scuba Conference, Plus Trade & Travel Exhibition



DIVESCAPES—what is it? For those of you who haven't attended one before—it is the ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL'S "Scuba Conference & Exhibition". This extensive event, brings to your own backyard, an underwater trade show venue that brings divers, travel agents, tourism boards, manufacturers, resort & boat charter operators and dive store retailers together into Western Canada's largest scuba conference.

Plus, you'll enjoy the Keynote speakers, of which previous speakers included some of the dive industry's best known & popular personalities....people like James Delgado, Mandy-Rae Cruickshank, Stan Waterman, Dee Scarr, John Stoneman, Terry German, Dr. David Sawatzky, Jim Willoughby, Dr. Phil Nuytten, Andy Lamb, Dan Orr, Greg Mossfeldt, and Jim Cosgrove.

Your Divescapes committee is working hard to bring to Alberta in 2009, some very exciting & dynamic speakers.

Oct 23, 24th, 2009 Venue: *Executive Royal Inn & Conference Centre*, 2828 23rd Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8T4, (877) 769-2562, www.executivehotels.net

Breakout sessions are planned so you can enjoy an up close & personal sitting with our keynote speakers. Also in the works are plans for an underwater photography contest for amateur local divers to have the opportunity to share their digital photos & experiences with us all. Banquet tickets are reasonably priced, so here is your chance to see it all under one roof without traveling many kilometers away from Alberta.

So what will all this cost? A lot less than you'd think. You will have the opportunity to take in as little or as much as you want. But many previous attendees will tell you that it's absolutely worth it to be a part of Western Canada's most exciting underwater symposium! For the best in value, prizes & perks consider purchasing the Divescapes "GOLD PASS"!

BUT there are options if you can't commit the full weekend to your (and our) passion—of scuba diving! Silver Passes, Dinner & Film Show only passes, etc. are available to purchase but don't delay too long—we have such an exciting line-up—we'll sell out again!

Exciting speakers have been lined up for you to enjoy. You won't be disappointed with this cast—from cave diving & technological advances in scuba diving to the wonders of studying & seeking out the denizens of the deep oceans of the world! These amazingly talented underwater explorers, authors, educators & photographers are among the world ranking elite.

Jill Heinerth: Canadian, Women Hall of Fame Explorer, Cave/Rebreather Instructor & awarding winning Underwater Photographer. Best known as a pioneering technical diver, Jill combines a mastery of underwater technology with a formal Fine Arts degree to produce artistic documentation of the national environment, above, below & inside our planet. An award-winning filmmaker, Jill wrote, produced & appeared in "Water's Journey", the PBS documentary series that takes viewers on visceral travels thru the world's greatest water systems.

Jeffrey Gallant: A Canadian award-winning underwater photographer, videographer & author, he is also the co-director of "GEERG" Greenland Shark & Elasmobranch Education & Research Group in Quebec. In addition to his university prep level teaching he is the author of the annual DIVING ALMANAC—Book of Records published yearly establishing all the records & interest to the world diving community.

Mandy-Rae Cruickshank & Kirk Krack: this dynamic team travels the world as Free Diving Coaches, competitors & World record holders. Their special skills were used in the production of the Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS) first documentary film, *The Cove* assisting the team in stealthily filming an annual dolphin massacre in a secret cove in Taiji, Japan, helping to make it a SUNDANCE Film Festival award winner!

COURSES: Yes, there will be courses available during this weekend for dive professionals & divers alike. The AUC (your non-profit scuba & underwater sports association) is now arranging an array of courses to take advantage of, such as PSI Scuba Tank Visual Inspection & Refresher Courses, DAN Instructor Courses, DSAT Gas Blender, CPR + AED Courses, Dan 02 & First Aid for Scuba Emergencies, etc. All courses will require a minimum numbers of participants. Prices and registration info to come.

COMPETITION: Attn: Amateur u/w photographers. We are looking for still or video presentation on anything underwater. So put together your best work & enter to WIN! The best prize of all: the opportunity to present during DIVESCAPES film show on the evening of Saturday, Oct 24/09.

We've provided the venue & opportunity for dive related companies, travel operators, boat charters, dive resorts, scuba manufacturers, etc to come out to showcase their products & services - now it's up to you!

Please mark your calendar, book the hotel (or arrange to stay with family/friends) in Calgary, sign-up for courses & then purchase your tickets from the Alberta Underwater Council's office for DIVESCAPES 2009.



Divescapes 09 Poster

Photo Credit: Carson Ganci



TRIP REPORT: THE PHILIPPINES MINDANAO by Antoine Van Dierendonck

Why so far? what a waker upper.

The waters off the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua are home to the richest concentration of marine life in the world with as many as 3,000 species of fish, 75% of the world's coral species and 40% of the world's coral fish species.

Just recently two major finds were discovered around the Islands, one, a Megamouth shark, the rarest shark in the world, and second a baby (26" long) whale shark, the first time a baby was found and proves the area to be an important birthplace/migratory route for the whale shark.

On this last trip, I traveled in and around the city of Cagayan De Oro, on the southern island of Mindanao. First, we traveled along the ocean and found a well equipped diving resort (\$50/night cabin). And just snorkelling off the beach, I saw my first coral snake.



It's not just about the diving!

Boat Dives are \$25.00/person and they took us to a cliff dive and a deep basin dive with tons of coral.

Just a short distance away, along the coast, a sea biologist has a cabin by the ocean and re-builds the coral that was damaged by fishermen. He is starting his own dive resort, one day, but for now simply acts as guide for us guys. So he took me out for a dive by Banka, small paddle boat, where he showed the spider like structures made of concrete and steel used to coax corals back.

Another place we visited was Camiguin island, a short ferry ride away, this small island has 7 volcanoes, a number of hot and cool springs. You can even spend the night inside one of the cones, if you like to test mother-nature.

At first, I went to the Philippines just to see it and meet my extended family, diving was really an after-thought. There, I went to Paras resort, again with its own dive shop right on the premises. From there, you can access numerous dive sites all around the island for about \$65 for 3 dives including the boat ride. I opted for a drift dive by a small semi-submerged sand dune where I saw sand sharks, giant turtles, and colourful nudibranchs. Next we went diving along cliffs formed by lava flowing into the ocean...



Nudibranch resting on sea squirt

If you like to party, probably not the best place... The evenings were spent chatting with other travellers, checking out a great pizza place owned by an Italian and simply resting by the beach.

While in the area, There are also a couple of hot spring resorts worth visiting, with a wonderful waterfall with natural pool at the base.

Locals are wonderful and very friendly.

So, why travel so far? Well I'm already planning my next trip....this time near Bohol and Malboa, areas where hammerhead sharks and whale sharks are known to joyride. Apart from getting there, the rest is just gorgeous and very reasonably priced. May you all enjoy your next dives!

Submitted by: Antoine Van Dierendonck
Calgary's Underwater Outlaws Club

Want to see your dive trip report in print? Submit entry, with photos, etc to: info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com, attn: Newsletter Editor in subject line



THINK DIVE SAFETY— *Why not take a course?*

DID YOU KNOW???

An emergency can happen to anyone at anytime and perhaps at 30 feet or on surface (yes, emergencies can happen on surface!). You may question "What do I do?" I am neither a Dive Master nor an Instructor. I am just another diver out to enjoy the sport of Scuba Diving. I dive with confidence in my buddy because I know that if something were to happen to one of us we have training to help us through. Do you?

After pondering what to write about in this section, I was reading a posting on Scuba Board about a rescue that the poster was involved in. It made me think that some of our dive community are not

aware of the importance of training regarding an emergency.

You arrive at the dive site late intending to meet your buddies for what is to be a beautiful day of relaxation with your local diving community. You see that crazy person out there waving their arms and screaming, that crazy person diving without a buddy, you wave back, turn around continuing to get your own gear together or perhaps talking to your friends. Finally you realize it is 5 minutes later and this person is still screaming and now the excitement on shore has begun.

People are geared up swimming towards this person. Another is calling 911 but only refers to the site as the Plaque Site at

Lake Minnewanka to the operator & she is now asking you for proper directions, unfortunately you do not have a clear map or location to give to the emergency services that they may have to rely upon to get to the site (valuable time lost). The divers gone out to help are now wrestling with the crazy person in the water and you watch the divers as they try to calm the person down.

Soon more divers are in the area of the crazy person, you watch a buddy pair descends out of sight. Soon they ascend with another person in tow performing rescue breathing. At this point you begin to think silently "What is going on? What can I do? Where are the emergency services? What is taking them so long to get here?" **CONT'D on page 14**

NEWS FROM THE AUC—HIGHLIGHTS from Board Mtg Minutes

April 20/09 Board Mtg: Attendance: Tom Davies, Dave Pohl, Gordon Ross, Rhonda Lee Curran, Mike Hussey, Axel Kollewyn, Tony Lamb, Wayne Zimmerman, Absent: Brian Nadwidny, Jeff Grimson, Gilles Benoiton

President: Tom reported that things are going well except for the concern caused by the loss of Bingo Revenue but doesn't foresee any immediate change to our global pooling system. It seems to be a fair manner in which clubs can earn funds for gaming approved objectives.

Vice Pres: Gordon reported an update about the Twin Lakes Training Facility. A new "raft" has been built thanks to the efforts of himself, Mike Hussey, Wayne Zimmerman & Kurt Collins.... It will have an electric motor attachment (donated by Thane from Free Spirit Marina/NW Scuba) so that it can be used to transport divers to the cliff's site or used for club barbecues, socials, etc. When not in use by the divers - it will be anchored out away from the dock for kids/public to use. Gordon recommended that proper "signage" be added to this new asset & Rudy/ABC will be contacted to make up a "Wing Diver" stencil that can also be used elsewhere at Twin.

Treasurer: Dave reported that the "Audit Committee's Report" went well & it confirmed that there were no problems with the AUC's finances. That report will be added to the "Prepared Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements for 2008" that will be printed & handed out to membership attending the AGM. The Audit Committee comprised of volunteers: Connie Baker, Tim Baker & Lily Ho.

Exec Director (E/D): The AUC office has been very busy lately: All the trade shows are done & went very well, Visited the U of A Scuba Club's Mtg (their last one of 2008/9 school yr) & presented the AUC Dive Alberta Events DVD & promoted memberships & renewals. Spring Newsletter was sent out on time with 2 full pages of paid advertising but need additional proof-readers to point out the mistakes - they're surprisingly easy to miss. E.g. dates on front page are 2008. Happy & relieved to report that all the recent over-due Gaming Reports have been finished & sent in. Intro to UW Hockey have received a few more booking, Working on upcoming Jasper Aquathon

Old Business: AGM, April 25/09 in Red Deer: *Everyone is encouraged to invite and/or bring many members as possible with them to the upcoming AGM.* Lunch & Film show after to hopefully provide incentive to members to attend.

New Business: JASPER AQUATHON, May Long Weekend: Board went over plans for this event, with clubs volunteering to run the different dive events. Board members to flip pancakes at the breakfast before diving events on Sunday.

New Business: UW HOCKEY: City of Edmonton employee & long time EUHC member requested to borrow uwh gear. All agreed that while promoting UW Hockey is important - it still doesn't sit right that the City gets loan of all this gear that was purchased for an AUC uwh hockey program for "free".

May 25/09 Board Mtg Highlights: Attendance: Attendance: Tom Davies, Dave Pohl, Gord Ross, Rhonda Lee Curran, Mike Hussey, Axel Kollewyn, Tony Lamb, Brian Nadwidny, Wayne Zimmerman - WELCOME NEW MEMBER: TOM TAN - uwh rep, Absent: Tony Lamb & Brad Pool

President: Tom reported that the Jasper Aquathon wasn't that well attended due to the less than favorable weather forecast which fortunately didn't pan out as predicted. In fact it couldn't have been nicer weather. It was a great event with lots of help & great food. So many thanks & credit to all who helped out. received much support for prizes from The Dive Outfitters, Northwest Scuba & Ocean Sports, made \$200 on the raffle of the Sherwood BC donated by NW Scuba. Board members are encouraged to attend & participate in any upcoming events - whenever possible.

Treasurer: Nothing new to report - business as usual.

E/D: The AUC office daily activities for the past month include: ordered & received more gear for: Discover Scuba Program & UW Hockey Intro, prepared for Jasper Aquathon, including new Emergency Plan for event, picked up prizes, etc., UWH intro program - donated 2 sessions to help out at "NAIT" to introduce uwh to the "Go Girl" program which encourages sport to underprivileged girls - now they're looking at another workshop booking in Aug for the NAIT students, received another inquiry from "Red Deer" area from summer camp program director looking to rent uwh gear, plus cost of a workshop sometime this summer, have another school booking in Spruce Grove later this week for uwh.

Old Business: Divescapes: Brian reported that we have: Jill Heinerth, Mandy-Rae Cruickshank & Kirk Krack, Jeffery Gallant (head of Study of Greenland Sharks & publisher of Diving Almanac book), plus a speaker from Artificial Reef Society of British Columbia, etc. Goal is to sell 80 - 100 Gold Passes (more would be nice) with Gold Pass (\$100), Silver Pass (\$85), etc.

New Business: UW Hockey: Tom Tan reported Nationals, Hosted by EUHC on May long weekend (same as Aquathon) at Kinsmen Pool. Very successful event, no major problems, great accommodations at Grant McEwen College, no major budget over-runs, and successful barriers were built for less than budget & now have for next several years' use. Seven teams came from Prince George, Sask-Ario (Sask/Ont combo team), Calgary, Vancouver, & U-19's. Have been asked to try to host the next "Alberta Invitational" for next Feb'10

New Business: Twin Lakes Treasure Hunt Event: Gord Ross & Mike Hussey have been busy with other volunteers working on improvements to the dock to prepare for the event.

New Business: Bow River Snorkel Event Calgary: Calgary Board Members: Axel & Tony are having a planning meeting with event organizers: Andrew Lavoie & Rick Barnett

June 15th Board Mtg Highlights: Attendance: Executive: Tom Davies, Gord Ross, Dave Pohl, Cathie McCuaig, Board Members: Rhonda Lee Curran, Mike Hussey, Tony Lamb, Brian Nadwidny, Brad Pool, and Wayne Zimmerman.

Absent: Tom Tan, Axel Kollewyn

President: Tom reported that the "City of Edmonton" is going to an all "allocation" system of pool rental time which affects EUHC, Wing Divers & the Dive Stores, especially NW Scuba & Sub Sea. The Wing Divers are in danger of being bumped from their time slot if/when Scona Pool closes. Events coming up are: Twin Lakes Treasure Hunt, Bow River Snorkel. Concerned about upcoming bingos for June/July/August. The EUHC hasn't worked a bingo since April.

Vice Pres: Gordon reported that he & Linda have sorted thru the "leftovers" from the Jasper Aquathon and will be using these up at the Twin Lakes event.

Treasurer: Dave reported that he has briefly looked over the May bank statements just as he came into the meeting & first glance everything looks good. We've received interest on the GIC's. There isn't much left in the Gaming Funds, until our next Casino - most of the GIC funds in reserve now from "General" funds. The General account is at about \$64,000. The usual cash flow is ok & we've received some increased revenue from Bingo recently (\$1400) from April pooling & the new tickets that they're using.

E/D: The AUC office been working on: Jasper Aquathon deposit & accounting, Helped with UWH session in Spruce Grove & had a planning meeting with interested instructors. Quoted NAIT & Red Deer summer camps for UWH sessions for summer, Set up posters for Twin Lks & Bow River events, Went with Tom Davies to evening meeting with City of Edmonton about Aquatic rental & usage, worked on plans for Gull Lake Cleanup (Parkland Beach area this year - 25th Anniversary of Summer Village of Parkland Beach), Worked on eNEWS sent out to AUC subscribers June 10th. Working on "Underwater Alberta" Summer 09 Newsletter, Working on Divescapes with Brian Nadwidny, Volunteered at Kinsmen Pool with Brian Nadwidny for Lifesaving Games Fri/Sat/Sun, Went to "Save Scona Pool" party hosted by NW Scuba & attended by other user groups, aldermen, etc.

New Business: -apparently after all the great work by the volunteers - it is believed that the Navy Reserve cadet inflatable boat tried to use the buoys to anchor while doing some training & loosened the supports at that point - AUC office to keep board members informed about this issue.

THANK YOU'S TO RETIRING AUC

BOARD MEMBERS:

GILLES BENOITON
 & **JEFF GRIMSON,**
your contributions
are appreciated!

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED AT THE AUC's AGM APRIL 25th/09 IN RED DEER:
BRAD POOL & TOM TAN

WEST COAST FUN!! Campbell River's Abyssal Diving

We recently took a group to the west coast and enjoyed a great time at a great resort.

We flew into Comox and drove up to Quadra Island and stayed with Abyssal Diving. Earl & Deb and the crew did a good job of keeping us all fed, rested and most important Diving. The big House was cosy and comfortable with plenty of room for drying gear and lounging between dives. Quadra Island is a beautiful island that was not too busy as it was before the summer season started. We went for drives and explored in between the dive schedule and found lots of things to see. The Diving was great. We did wall dives, current dives, a night dive and wreck dives. The HMS Columbia is a great dive, in a sheltered bay, that was not affected too much by the current. We were able to do two dives, with a surface interval, without the current changing much. We were there on the second highest tidal change of the year, so the current flows were nothing but spectacular. On our last day as we waited to fly home, we went out on a Zodiac to go current surfing and play. We saw a lot of amazing toilet bowl current swirls that were impressive. We saw kayakers surfing the waves as well as Sea Lions, Humpback Whales and of course us. We also saw so many Bald Eagles in one location all over the trees we couldn't count them. The highlight of the trip was of course, the diving. With the tide changes being close to 15 ft during that time our current diving was the best. We would just float along and enjoy the scenery. Earl did a great job of getting us in and out safely and trying to read the currents. The colourful soft corals and life was amazing. Fish were plentiful and the walls were loaded with so much life you could spend a long time in one spot just looking. We would definitely return to this location again. Our Thanks to Abyssal Diving for a great time!

Marni Anderson, Awesome Adventures, Lethbridge



Earl Lowe, operator of Abyssal Dive Charters, Campbell River



West coast grows them bigger!

BANFF'S MARKER BUOY SYSTEM— an AUC supported Safety Program

LOCATION: Lake Minnewanka, Banff. *Why become an AUC member is a question that divers ask often—ANSWER:* Because your membership fees help support & pay for Dive Safety Projects like the Marker Buoy system in place around the 1912 Dam, Bridge Pilings and Plaque Dive Sites at Lake Minnie. Recently, volunteer divers working with Parks Canada & the AUC have re-designed & greatly improved upon these marker buoys to help keep the area's active boating community at bay away from divers.

- ⇒ **BUT please remember if you have a boat—don't use Lake Minnie's marker buoys to anchor to—they are not strong enough. If you must—drop anchor away from the dam or better still leave an operator in the boat.**
- ⇒ **Do not anchor at the town-site dive location or remove or damage any artifacts—please leave them for intact for the next diver to enjoy!**

Without your support this & other projects, like DIVESCAPES Conference & Travel Show (which is coming to Calgary this fall) wouldn't be possible. The AUC with the help of ASRPWF & Alberta Lotteries & Gaming funds invested nearly \$4000 in this new marker system! Many thanks are also owed to the faithful volunteer divers who participate every spring & fall in placement/removal of the Lake Minnewanka Dive Marker Buoy Safety System. This is just one example of your membership dollars at work for you—the Alberta underwater sport enthusiast.



Let's go diving!



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Creature Feature By Andy Lamb



Photo Credit: Mike Ranson
 Port Hardy, B.C.
 Liveaboard Dive Boat:
 Mamro Adventures
 See mamroadventures.com

DENIZENS OF BROWNING PASSAGE,
 NORTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND (near Port Hardy)

Nearly every diver who frequents the coastal waters of British Columbia will instantly recognize this charming fellow. For the few aquanauts that do not (and any non diving reader in a quandary), the fish featured in Mike Ranson's photograph is a large male wolf-eel *Anarrichthys Ocellatus*. This particular specimen was encountered at Cardigan Point (wreck site of the *Themis*), at the northern entrance to Browning Passage, near Port Hardy, northern Vancouver Island. Its large puffy, light coloured head is that of a male – a female's is sleeker and a darker gray colour. A particularly lucky diver may even find a mated pair, peering out of a rocky den.

A diver/wolf-eel encounter is common as this large (up to 2.4 metre or 8 ft long) inquisitive creature may often approach a diver. The wolf eel is often sighted at depths between 40 and 80 ft – territory very accessible for almost any diver. Although it has powerful jaws capable of crushing the heavy shells of molluscs and exoskeletons of crabs, this special creature seems to bond with the diver, showing apparent 'fascination' rather than aggression. A wolf-eel interaction is always the highlight of a dive – no matter how often such an event has happened before.

⇒ ED NOTE: Attend Divescapes 2009 in Calgary to see our Regular Contributor: ANDY LAMB—a frequent guest & very humorous speaker on West Coast critters!

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COMMENTS? QUESTIONS? IDEAS?
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 PLEASE CONTACT AN AUC BOARD
 MEMBER OR the AUC OFFICE!
 (see back cover of this newsletter)

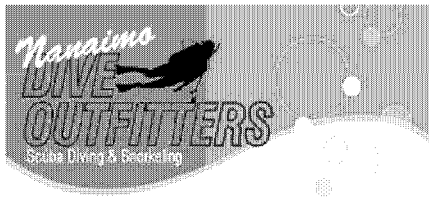
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The Alberta Underwater Council is looking for the next James Cameron. We are looking for multimedia presentations of 15-20 minutes long showing your adventures in the underwater world!

Cold water or warm water! Fish or wrecks! Stills or video! All welcome!

Grand prize – \$250 gift certificate to the dive shop of your choice, all-inclusive Gold pass to the Divescapes conference in Calgary (Oct 23/24) PLUS you will present your show at the Divescapes Dinner and Film show on Saturday night starring Jill Heinerth and YOU!

For more information email the AUC at info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com or call us at

1-888-307-8566.

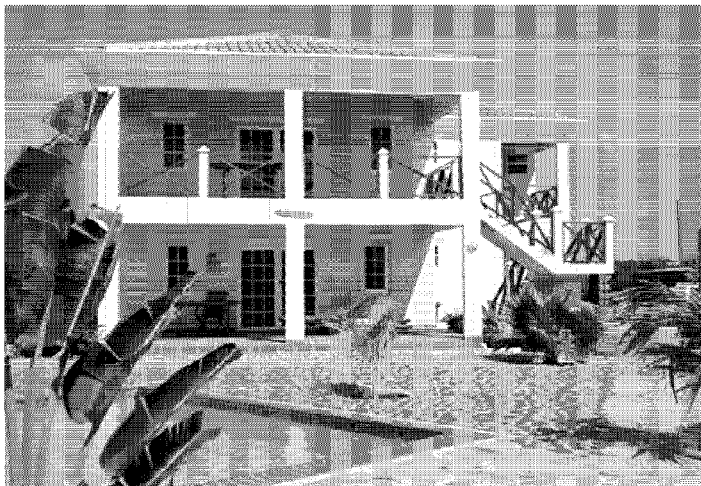
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ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

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THINK DIVE SAFETY— Why not take a course! Continued from page 8

As they bring the victim to shore you realize this is your friend and the feeling of helplessness takes over. Thankfully the people who responded had training to help your friend.

As this year's dive season starts, we hope that we are never exposed to a situation that would involve putting emergency training to use but can be very comforted that should the need arise that the basic knowledge is there to help. Training is available in different forms from different resources and can not only be put to good use diving but at work and at home as well.

CPR, First Aid, EFR or a Rescue Diver (or DAN, O2, etc) course is never wasted; they all give you knowledge of how to handle an emergency situation. The more training you have the more your natural instinct will kick in and help you out.

The simple knowledge of your dive site location and direction including a GPS location can be very helpful to have. Many of the shops have access to Dive Site Orientations for the local areas and would be more than happy to give them to you to keep with your diving gear. Knowing the emergency numbers

for the local area are also a valuable resource as some areas may not have a 911 dispatch so emergency response (hospital, ambulance, fire & rescue and Police Services) may have to be called directly.

(ED NOTE: Most Alberta locations now have access to 911 BUT knowing your exact dive site location will save considerable time & maybe even a life!)

Having training gives us knowledge of recognizing an emergency and can also give us confidence in ourselves and in our buddies, because we know what to do.

Submitted by: Leigh-Ann McCuaig
Calgary Underwater Outlaw's Club Member



ALBERTA
UNDERWATER
COUNCIL

AUC's Diver's Safety Responsibility & Assumption of Risk

As a certified scuba diver, participating at AUC Dive Events and/or Lake Cleanups (or during any dive) —you are responsible for your own safety and for managing the risks that are inherent within the sport.

- ⇒ Because your certification qualifies you to dive independently, there is no requirement for supervision – we are only there coordinating the logistical aspects of a dive event.
- ⇒ We will do our best to inform you of the dive's risks & of any uncertainties or unknowns.
- ⇒ If anybody does not understand any aspects of the dive site or the risks, Speak up Ask questions.... Stay safe!
- ⇒ Knowing the risks and understanding the limits of your training and experience, it is now your responsibility to manage the risks and acknowledge that you are fully responsible for your own actions.
- ⇒ If anybody feels uncomfortable with the any dive at any time, your dive plan should be adjusted to accommodate your comfort level & this could include deciding to not dive today - without any fear of embarrassment or pressure to perform. Don't push your luck—today it might run out!



Always have a Safe Dive!!

SAFE DIVER DECREE: RSTCC

TO BE A GOOD SAFE DIVER, I SHOULD:

- ⇒ Maintain good mental and physical fitness for diving. Avoid being under the influence of alcohol or dangerous drugs when diving.
- ⇒ Keep proficient in diving skills, striving to increase them through continuous education and reviewing them in controlled conditions after inactivity in diving.
- ⇒ Be familiar with my dive sites. If not, obtain a formal diving orientation from a knowledgeable, local source. If diving conditions are worse than those in which I am experienced, postpone diving or select an alternate site with better conditions. Engage only in diving activities consistent with my training and experience.
- ⇒ Use complete, well-maintained, reliable equipment with which I am familiar: and inspect it for correct fit and function prior to each dive. Deny use of my equipment to uncertified divers. Always have a buoyancy compensation device and submersible pressure gauge when scuba diving.
- ⇒ Listen carefully to dive briefings and directions, and respect the advice provided of those supervising my diving activities.
- ⇒ Adhere to the buddy-system throughout every dive. Plan dives – including communications, procedures for reuniting in case of separation, and emergency procedures – with my buddy.
- ⇒ Be proficient in dive table usage. Make and allow a margin of safety. Have a means to monitor depth and time underwater. Limit maximum depth to my level of training and experience. Ascend at a rate not faster than 30 feet per minute. In addition, a safety stop of not less than 15 feet for 2 or 3 minutes is highly recommended after every no-decompression dive.
- ⇒ Maintain proper buoyancy. Adjust weighting at the surface for neutral buoyancy while underwater. Be buoyant for surface swimming and resting. Have weights clear for easy removal, and establish buoyancy when in distress while diving.
- ⇒ Breathe properly for diving. Never breath-hold or skip breathe when breathing compressed air and avoid excessive hyperventilation when breath-hold diving (e.g., snorkelling). Avoid over-exertion while in and under water.
- ⇒ Dive within my limitations!

DIVESCAPES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Interested in helping out at DIVESCAPES '09, Oct 23/24th??

Individual volunteers who feel that they are responsible for insuring that their conduct, behavior & actions will reflect the highest professional manner as a representative of the Alberta Underwater Council are wanted!

Positions such as Drivers needed to pick up Guests & Speakers at the Calgary Airport, Audio/Visual Assistance Crew, Friday Night Reception Hosts, Saturday Night Film Show Greeters, Speaker & Seminar Hosts, Silent Auction Booth, Ticket Sales, T-Shirt Sales, Set-up & Tear Down Crews, etc. are needed to assist the Alberta Underwater Council Divescapes Committee crew to ensure that we can successfully host an event of this caliber.

WE can't do it by ourselves—we need you—
Alberta divers & underwater enthusiasts!
Together, we're better! THANK YOU!

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NEWS FROM ALBERTA DIVE CLUBS: Please send in your clubs news!

CALGARY:

SUB AQUATIC SCUBA CLUB:

New Marker Buoys at Lake Minnie: Update—The lake is a reservoir, operated by TransAlta Utilities so the ever-changing lake levels, spring run-off, winds & rains made for interesting & often challenging visibility for diving. The Marker is on the Dam and the Coast Guard Buoys are on the perimeter. The swim floats connecting the Orange perimeter floats will be placed when time permits. Normally this would take several weekends of diving. Connecting the anchors and floats by rope has sped up the process with only two dives being necessary to free fouled floats. Well done to the dive crew, who despite the shore supervision/support and back seat diving provided by Steve and Axel were able to get the job done. Advanced divers interested in helping with this joint project, please contact Warren at divedaddy@shaw.ca or Phone: 403-519-2002.

ED NOTE: This dive safety project – staffed by club volunteers is funded yearly in part by your AUC membership dollars – which helps supports this and other programs of the Alberta Underwater Council! Thanks to all the club volunteers & AUC members for their support! Together, we're better!

If you wish to help out please contact: Warren Robinson (403) 519-2002. **All divers note: do not to use the "Boat Launch" area to at Lake Minnewanka as this area is heavy with boat traffic! Thanks to the AUC for sharing the cost of this project 80/20 with Parks Canada Banff.**

SCUBA DIVER'S DINNER

GROUP: Meets: 3rd Mondays each month at: Emerald Garden Restaurant, at the corner of 9 St & 16 Ave, NW, Calgary at 6:15 pm for Dinner followed by a Film Show or DVD Presentation at 6:45 pm. Costs: Dinner: \$15, plus Beer/Wine: \$3.50 extra Usual attendance: 30-50 Divers. All are welcome—especially Tropical Divers!

UNDERWATER OUTLAWS:

see their website:

www.underwateroutlaws.com

The Underwater Outlaws is a non-profit social club that all divers, from Calgary and Southern Alberta, have been looking for. Our social club is dedicated to keeping you, the social diver, out there enjoying our sport and exploring local diving opportunities. To promote enjoyment, fellowship, safety and knowledge among scuba divers and those interested in the underwater world. FUN DIVING, for People that just want to jump into the water, DIVE and have good buddies to do it with.

Membership Benefits: Available to all members are car pool lists and buddy lists so you can always find a buddy to head out to a function or just to dive. Interested in becoming a member? Pick up forms at the local dive shops or send us an email at willf@telus.net

Throughout the year there are many diving and non-diving club functions in and around the Calgary area.

UPCOMING: Two Jack Camping Weekend, August 8-9, 2009, Spend the weekend out in the Banff National Park camping at Two Jake Main campsite. We are looking to reserve an entire top just for divers. Start the day off with a pancake breakfast, then there will be 1 to 2 dives Saturday and then a dive on Sunday, depending on air. Bring your best campfire songs! Event Coordinator: Steve Peddie & Todd Clark, www.underwateroutlaws.com

⇒ **Note to Alberta Divers:** This is intended for your information and warning. On August 15-16 there will be [Dragon Boat races](#) on Lake Minnewanka outside the normal dive area. PLEASE NOTE: there will be increased vehicle traffic and boat traffic around the dam & area.



COLD LAKE

4 WING COLD LAKE SCUBA

CLUB: see their website at:

<http://www3.telus.net/public/jjparr/clubs/scuba.htm>: Thanks to outgoing president: Larry Dublenko & welcome to new president: Ben Payette, bpayette@telus.net

EDMONTON:

NAARS: Northern Alberta Aquatic Rescue Society has on-going Public Diver & Rescue Training scheduled throughout the year. See their website: www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3310, Email: naars@shaw.ca

PUB DIVERS: Usually meets once per month during the off season at a centrally located Edmonton Pub for an evening of meeting, greeting & swapping dive stories with other divers & with monthly summer dive outings, trips, etc. Contact: nadwidny@gmail.com, TRIP REPORT: Members have just returned from recreational wreck diving heaven (albeit very cold water) diving the famous WWII Bell Island Wrecks in Conception Bay, Newfoundland. Our thanks to our super hosts: Rick & Debbie Stanley from Ocean Quest (oceanquestadventures.com) for an amazing dive trip. Attend John McCuaig's presentation at AUC's DIVESCAPES in Calgary in October for some great video & photos on this uniquely Canadian wreck diving destination!



WING DIVERS'

CLUB—Host of the Twin Lakes Treasure Hunt on Father's Day weekend every year! 2009: June 20th: Special thanks to: Event

Organizers: Mike Hussey, Gord & Linda Ross & everyone who helped to make this event happen! Hosted 30 divers in sunshine this year plus family & friends. Participants got wet, enjoyed the events, cleaned up the lake & then were very well fed with BBQ hamburgers & hot dogs at lunch, all the trimmings at the Bring Your Own Meat evening BBQ & Social, and for those who stayed overnight - a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast in the Dive Trailer (out of the rain)! PLUS a big Wing Diver thanks to our Sponsors: The Dive Outfitters, Northwest Scuba,

Ocean Sports, and Nanaimo's boat charter: Diver's Choice Charters for donating a one day boat charter: see: www.divingbccanada.com

FORT McMURRAY

Wet & WILD DIVING SOCIETY

OF Fort McMurray: Living or working up in Fort Mac?? See their website @ www.vvwscuba.com Special thanks are due to this club for their financial support introducing the sport of scuba diving to the local area high school students. This is a great use of their casino funds to support scuba & youth! LAKE CLEANUPS: Volunteer divers have participated in a underwater cleanup this year at Gregorie Lake. See AUC Website for details about the upcoming event: U/W RODEO Cold Lake: Aug 15/09

GRANDE PRAIRIE

GP SCUBA GROUP meets every third Sunday of the month

Contact: Carsten Andersen: 780-539-7595, Lyndell Weldon: 780-539-0562, Email: donwel@telus.net

LETHBRIDGE

Lethbridge Scuba Group

Marni Anderson:(403) 328-5041 www.awesomeadventures.com Plans are underway for the upcoming annual "BEAR-GRASS DIVE EVENT" in Waterton, Aug 22nd, 2009. See AUC Website

WAINWRIGHT

Buffalo Divers: Canadian Forces, Wainwright New president is Andrew Laschuk, Phone: Hm: 780-842-6168, crusader@telus.net

Davco Diving Aquamaniacs

Local recreational club in Wainwright. Come out to Clear Lake on Tuesday evenings this summer and join us at dive night.. The visibility is always best early in the dive season! see the website from Davco Diving for upcoming trips, meetings, local dives, etc. Contact: Dave & Connie Faas, PH: (780) 842-5559.

<http://www.davco.cc>

Co-Host of Annual Event: Pumpkin Dive & Lake Cleanup: Sept 26th, 2009

Clear Lake update: Visibility is still good – especially as you go deeper. New map of the lake: This Tuesday is the day. Our finely tuned divers will coordinate with two teams on the surface to create a masterpiece.

NEWS FROM ALBERTA DIVE RETAILERS & TRAVEL AGENCIES:

Calgary:

Adventures in Scuba- Dive Safety Tips – check out this great link from Adventures in Scuba staff for tips to keep in mind before any dive in Alberta.

Click here & Think Dive Safety!

Aqua-Sport Scuba –Course in “Free Diving” in June & July 2009, see website for dates

www.aquasportscuba.com, cost \$350.00 min age 12, books included, c-card included, for more info see www.performancefreediving.com.
Diver Enhancement Weekend: Aug 22/23, 2009

The Dive Shop – new website now under construction, check out www.diveshopscuba.com soon for new look! Diver Enhancement Weekend: Aug 22/23rd, 2009

Edmonton

Aqua-tek Scuba: Dive BC on the Explorer! Join Aqua-Tek Scuba on our Explorer DB Charter in Nanaimo. Upcoming dive trip: Dive New Zealand/Australia: July 26-Aug 20/09. If interested please contact the shop or see our website: aquatekscuba.com

Dive Outfitters -

www.thediveoutfitters.ca

Drysuit rentals now available. Drysuit courses running every month. Call the store for: “Wednesday Quickie” at Twin Lakes. Meet at the lake after work around 7pm for a quick dip. Half price rentals with fun diving & prizes for participants. Check out our new TRAVEL page on our website for some awesome upcoming dive trips!

THANKS TO THE DIVE OUTFITTERS for their generous donation of “Water Bottles” AND for their donation of prizes for Dive Alberta 2009 Events!



Edmonton Cont'd.....

Northwest Scuba Check out our website www.northwestscuba.com for the latest news about Save Scona Pool – also see www.savesconapool.org and sign the petition to save this facility!



Many thanks to Northwest Scuba & their staff for helping to volunteer at the last minute at the RLSS (Royal Lifesaving Society) World Championship Life-guard Games at Kinsmen Pool (Edmonton) on June 12-14th, 2009. AND for their donation of prizes for Dive Alberta 2009 Events!

Ocean Sports – shop on-line 24/7, www.shopoceansports.ca! **Check out Ocean Sports' extensive opportunities for PADI Training!** Dive into

Adventure on one of Ocean Sports' scuba holidays! Limited space available for Hornby Island, BC - July 12-17, 2009, Limited space available for Aqua Cat Luxury Liveaboard, Bahamas - August 15-22, 2009. Join Ocean Sports' instructor Matthew Atkins for tons of diving in Utila - October 26-November 5, 2009. Enjoy the clear waters of Cozumel with OS instructor Kari Taylor, Atkins - January 17-24, 2009 and March 27-April 3, 2009. Dive Bonaire with OS instructor Ed Lip for 1 or 2 weeks - January 30-February 6/13, 2009. Join OS instructor Brent Podruzny in Belize for a week of incredible diving - April 3-10, 2009.



THANKS TO OCEAN SPORTS FOR THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF THE RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) World Championships Life Guard Games at Kinsmen Pool (Edmonton) June 12-14, 2009. AND for their donation of prizes for Dive Alberta 2009 Events!

Sub Sea Experience -Dive Cozumel, Mexico, August 7-15, 2009. Join Alvin, our Cozumel expert, to explore the best sites of this Mexican dive destination. We can customize one and two week packages to meet your needs.



Thanks to SUB SEA for their continued sponsorship & support of the Great White North Triathlon at Hubbles Lake in July 2009
www.subseaexperience.com

Lacombe/Blackfalds

Farrington Dive Services. Our boat “The Gypsy Lady” is on Sylvan Lake and ready to serve! We are now taking bookings..... Come Dive With Us; in 2009. Sylvan Lake.... We Plan To Be There Almost Daily! Starting the first week of June we will be commencing Confined Water & Classroom and Open Water training as well as Advanced Open Water and Stress & Rescue courses as interest dictates.

Lethbridge

Anderson Aquatics. Check out the recent dive trip report in this letter about about BC's Campbell River's Abyssal Dive Charters & Lodge. Scuba Diver Class In Cardston Starts Aug 4th, Wed, 4 wks, In Lethbridge: Sept Depts TBA, Assistant Instructor Class—Ongoing, After work divers on & off all summer—Email to get on the list!, Bear Grass Dive: Aug 22/09, West Coast Trip: Oct 09, Bonaire Trip: Nov 13-22/09, Red Sea Trip: 2010, www.awesomeadventures.ca

Wainwright

Davco Diving – Contact: Connie Faas, Davco, Ph: (780) 842-5559, www.davco.ca
Seal Students & refresher: meet Saturday at 10:30 at the Wainwright pool – on the pool deck.
Photography: The pool session allows the photography students to focus on buoyancy and photo skills in a controlled setting, before going to the lake to practice the skills. The cost is \$180, which includes the PADI underwater photography book, pool time, open water dive, instruction and certification card. Please email if you wish to take this specialty – we will get the manual to you for pre-study this week.
Rescue Course: The course will be the first or second weekend in September. Prerequisites are Advanced certification and first aid – standard first aid, with CPR.
DIVE TRAVEL: the Kona Aggressor Jan 9-21/10, call for more details.

CARADONNA

Dive Adventures, Calgary

Ph:403-263-1699

1-800-803-1383

caradonna.com

DEEP DISCOVERIES

Dive Travel Specialists

1-8000-667-5362

deepdiscoveries.com

Alberta's Independent Instructor Listings:

Rocky Mountain House:

Denise Boniface, PADI:
403-846-3914, email:
dbon@telusplanet.net

St. Albert: Perry Solloway,

PADI Instructor,
www.flamingodivers.ca

Technical Dive Instructors:

Calgary:

Greg Mossfeldt,
mossmanscuba.com

Edmonton:

Tech Zone Scuba, John McCuaig: TDI Advanced Trimx: 780-915-1681,
skubaski@hotmail.com



Attn: Independent Instructors in Alberta:
To be listed here, please contact: AUC OFFICE:
1-888-307-8566, or
780-427-9125, or
info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com



ALBERTA DIVE RETAILERS & TRAVEL SPECIALISTS

The dive stores operating in Alberta provide a wide variety of services – from initial snorkel or scuba training and gear – up to exotic travel opportunities! Please help support them by shopping in Alberta. Give your local store a visit via website, phone, email or in person today!

CALGARY:

ADVENTURES IN SCUBA

9950 MacLeod Trail South

Calgary, AB T2J 3K9

Ph: (403)299-7751

Fax: (403) 299-6628
adventuresinscuba.com

AQUA-SPORT SCUBA

3411-20 Street SW

Calgary, AB T2T 4Z6

Ph: (403) 686-6166
www.aquasportscuba.com

THE DIVE SHOP

4652 McLeod Trail SW

Calgary, AB T2G 5E8

Tel: (403) 243-4616

www.diveshopscuba.com

COLD LAKE

Air fill stations only:

Contact: Charles Ehrich
780-639-4564

OR: 4 Wing Scuba Club



EDMONTON

AQUA-TEK SCUBA LTD.

16919 - 111 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5M 2S4

Tel: (780) 484-2780

www.aquatekscuba.com

THE DIVE OUTFITTERS

17826 107 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5S 1J1

Tel: (780) 483-0044

1-888-483-0049

thediveoutfitters.ca

NORTHWEST SCUBA

6815 -104 Street

Edmonton, AB T6H 2L5

Tel: (780) 438-1218

www.northwestscuba.com

OCEAN SPORTS

10133 - 82 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T6H 1Z5

Tel: (780) 432-1904

www.oceansports.ca

SUB SEA EXPERIENCE

6926 -104 Street

Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Tel: (780) 434-1433

Fax: (780) 436-5430

www.subseaexperience.com

FORT McMURRAY

OUTDOOR ESSENTIALS

#7 - 213 Timberline Drive

Fort McMurray, AB T9K

1S1 Tel: (780) 743-5121

GRANDE PRAIRIE

Just for You Dive Services

Grande Prairie, AB T8V 3X5

Tel: (780)-832-7209

Email: lyndell@jfy.ca

LACOMBE/Blackfalds

FARRINGTON DIVE SERVICES

R.R. #2,

Lacombe, AB TOC 1S0

(403) 885-4635

www.farrdive.com

LETHBRIDGE

ANDERSON AQUATICS

314 -11 Street South

Lethbridge, AB T1J 2N8

Tel: (403) 328-5041

www.awesomeadventures.ca

MEDICINE HAT

Jim Smith Scuba Sales & Instruction

24 Stevenson Street SE

Medicine Hat, AB T1B 3H1

Tel: (403) 527-4426

jim@ymca-medicinehat.org

SOUTH & CENTRAL

Mountain Tide Aquatics

Toll Free: 1-866-249-4721

moutaintideaquatics.com

ST PAUL

Atlantis Diving Ltd.

Rob & Shelly Tymofichuk

Box 1539

St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0

Tel: (780) 645-1861

Fax: (780) 645-1161

WAINWRIGHT

DAVCO DIVING

Wainwright, AB

Tel: (780) 842-5559

www.davco.cc

Looking for Dive Travel with a group?

Check out the trips offered by Alberta Dive Centres or our Alberta Dive Travel Specialists Companies:

CARADONNA

Dive Adventures, Calgary

Ph:403-263-1699

1-800-803-1383

caradonna.com

DEEP DISCOVERIES

Dive Travel Specialists

1-8000-667-5362

deepdiscoveries.com



The AUC thanks our outstanding Alberta Dive Businesses for their support - past, present & future!

***BRONZE**

**** SILVER**

***** GOLD**





ADDITIONAL INFO FOR TRAVELLING UNDERWATER ENTHUSIASTS

DIVE TRAVEL:

The AUC provides this list of local Dive Travel Specialists, Dive Charters, Dive Centre's & even U/W Hockey travel info to help you plan your next exotic international or west coast underwater trip:

CARADONNA DIVE TOURS

Calgary, AB
PH: 1-800-803-1383
www.caradonna.com

Deep Discoveries Dive Travel Specialists

(800) 667-5362 (Toll Free)
www.deepdiscoveries.com

Just for You Crew & Dive Services

1-888-258-7848
lyndell@jfy.ca

Underwater Hockey Tourist

www.pucku.org/tourist/

WEST COAST DIVE TOUR OPERATORS -

For more up-to-date listings of B.C. Dive Operator/ Charters/Stores/Lodging see: www.bcdiverguide.com

Abyssal Dive Charters

Quathiaski Cove,
Quadra Island, BC
1-800-499-2297
www.abyssaldive.com

Broken Island Adventures

Bamfield, B.C. Phone:
1-888-728-6200
brokenislandadventures.com

Cedar Beach Resort

Phone: 250-246-9770
Thetis Island, BC
www.cedar-beach.com

The Dive Outfitters

Nanaimo, Ph 250-756-1863
www.nanaimodiveoutfitters.ca

Dive Victoria/Ogden Point Dive Centre

1-888-701-1177
www.divevictoria.com

God's Pocket

Port Hardy, BC
1-250-949-1755
www.godspocket.com

WEST COAST DIVE TOUR OPERATORS - cont'd

Hornby Island Diving

Hornby Island, B.C.
1-250-335-2807
hornbyislanddiving.com

Mamro Adventures

Live-aboard-based in Nanaimo, B.C.
Ph: 250-756-8872
www.mamroadventures.com

Oona River Retreat

Adventures for Diving, Kayaking, Ocean Fishing & Tours
Prince Rupert, BC
1-866-545-2005
www.oonaretreat.com

Pacific Pro Dive

Courtney/Comox
1-877-800-3483
www.scubashark.com

Porpoise Bay Charters

Egmont, B.C.
1-888-665-DIVE
www.porpoisebaycharters.com

Rendezvous Dive Adventures

Port Alberni, BC
1-877-777-9994
rendezvousdiving.com

Sidney Dive Centre Inc.

Ph: 778-426-3483
Sidney, BC Canada
email: sidneydivecentre@gmail.com

Suncoast Diving

1-866-740-8006
Sechelt, B.C.
www.suncoastdiving.com

Sundown Diving

Nanaimo, B.C.
1-888-773-3483
www.sundowndiving.com

Sunshine Coast Tours

1-800-870-9055
SunshineCoastTours.ca

Tahsa Dive Charters

Tahsis, B.C. 1-866-934-6365
tahtsadivecharters.com



DIVE MAGAZINES

Dive magazines offer the underwater enthusiast an opportunity to broaden his or her horizons. Whether it's a review of a new destination, technique or just brushing up on skills that may not be practiced during the long winter months, these magazines can keep you in contact with the sport during the times that you can't be underwater! A selection of popular titles are listed below:

Diver Magazine

www.divermag.com
Diver Magazine is a Canadian based international publication offering regional diving information, travel, diving medicine, naturalist and instruction articles.

Dive Training

www.dtmag.com

Ocean Realm

www.oceanrealmjournal.com

NW Dive News

Rodale's Scuba Diving

www.scubadiving.com

Sport Diver

www.sportdiver.com
The official magazine of the Padi Diving Society

Undercurrent

www.undercurrent.org

X-Ray Magazine

www.x-ray-mag.com
bi-monthly pdf format over the internet

HINT: Before embarking on any dive trip, remember to see your local favorite dive centre for a schedule of their "Scuba Refreshers" or "Scuba Skills Updates" to help you check out both your gear and your current diving skills. Get out & get wet—before your dive holiday!

HINT: To meet new dive buddies — see your favorite local dive centre for a listing of their upcoming trips, charters & training schedules! Or join in on an upcoming AUC Dive Alberta event!

⇒ *A good diver is always learning*

Please Note::

Alberta Underwater Council offers this as information for interested divers only and is in no way responsible for the safety, services, practices, etc., offered by these businesses.
BUYER ALWAYS BEWARE!

DIVE TRAVEL INSURANCE

Divers—don't leave home without it!

DAN (Divers Alert Network)

helps support a non-profit organization specializing in diving related treatments, issues, research, etc. Or just be a member without the dive insurance.

diversalertnetwork.org

SOCIAL NETWORKING LINKS:

[See AUC on FACEBOOK](#)



Happy Diving, Stay Safe!

Ed Note: This Info is current as of June 09 but is always subject to change without notice!

Please notify the AUC Office of any corrections, additions, comments, etc, attn: EDITOR.



ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL

AUC's ELECTED OFFICERS & BOARD 2009/10

President: Tom Davies, Hm: 780-462-1551
Vice President: Gord Ross, Hm: 780-406-3678
Treasurer: Dave Pohl, Hm: 780-436-9656

Executive Director: Cathie McCuaig, AUC OFFICE: PH: 780-427-9125,
Fax: 427-8139, Toll Free Ph: 1-888-307-8566, Hm: 456-6427, Cell: 916-2179
11759 Groat Rd., Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Directors at Large:

Brad Pool—Edmonton: 780—434-4821
Rhonda Lee Curran—Edmonton
Mike Hussey—Winfield: 780-682-2223
Axel Kolleywyn—Calgary:Hm: 403-285-2340
Tony Lamb—Calgary: Hm: 403-283-3368
Brian Nadwidny—Sherwood Park: Hm: 780-467-0972
Tom Tan—Fort McMurray
Wayne Zimmerman—Winfield: Hm: 780-682-3787

MISSION STATEMENT:The Alberta Underwater Council represents and encourages responsible participation, in and an, awareness of underwater activities while seeking to preserve the aquatic environment.

Objectives:

- To effectively represent the needs and interests of the Alberta underwater community
- To be recognized as a leading source of information on responsible underwater activities
- To be recognized as a leader in the preservation of the aquatic environment
- To provide services which recognize and meet the diverse needs of Alberta underwater sport enthusiasts.

AUC OFFICE
2nd floor, 11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



Phone: 780-427-9125, Toll Free Ph: 1-888-307-8566
Fax: 780-427-8139
E-mail: info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com

The AUC Directors would be happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding the Council. Please feel free to call the Executive members, a Director near you or the Executive Director to help answer your questions or concerns. We hope that your membership in the council is fun & rewarding!

NEED A DIVE BUDDY?

Register today on the AUC WEBSITE!
ALSO CHECK OUT WEBSITE FOR YOUR
NEAREST SCUBA DIVE CLUB and/or
DIVE CENTRE/RETAILER!

EDMONTON BINGOS: At Flamingo Bingo
Hall at the Millwoods Town Centre:

To Volunteer Please Contact:

Bingo Coordinator for Divers :
Tom Davies Hm Ph: 780-462-1551

OR for UW Hockey Please contact: Gilles
Hm Ph: 780-478-8447

AN INVITATION & OUR GRATITUDE TO: ALBERTA DIVING COMMUNITY, AUC MEMBERS & PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTORS:

Your contributions are welcome to help the Alberta Underwater Council maintain the relevance of this newsletter by sending in your comments, articles, photos, recent trip or destination reports or questions, queries, on issues relating to scuba diving, underwater sports, club activities, environmental issues, dive safety, etc. Please send to: info@albertaunderwatercouncil.com with attn: newsletter editor in the subject line. Or phone the AUC OFFICE: Toll Free: 1-888-307-8566, or 780-427-9125



The ALBERTA
UNDERWATER
COUNCIL

is pleased to
acknowledge & have
the support of the:



Enhancing Alberta's Communities

UNDERWATER ALBERTA NEWSLETTER:

The ALBERTA UNDERWATER COUNCIL publishes "Underwater Alberta" 3-4 times a year. Articles, photos, ad copy must be received at the AUC office at these deadlines: at the latest.

Spring Newsletter: March 15, mailed by Apr 1
Summer Newsletter: June 15, mailed by July 1
Winter/Fall Newsletter: Nov 15, mailed Dec 1
Bulletins will be sent out as needed.

All articles & submissions will be subject to the approval of the editor. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the AUC. Reproduction in part or whole permitted only with written permission of the AUC. Advertising Rates: Add GST to the following:
Business Card Size: \$25+, 1/4 Page: \$30+
1/3 Page: \$40+, 1/2 Page: \$50+
Full Page: \$75+

Looking for gear or thinking of selling gear?
AUC Members can access free classified ads.