



Illinois Council of Skin and SCUBA Divers, Inc

is a state-wide coalition of skin and scuba diving clubs and individuals with interests in the sport of skin and/or scuba diving or interest in the prudent preservation and conservation of our marine environment.

January, 2019

<i>President</i> Chuck Miller 815-887-5002 buzz_inc@sprynet.com	<i>Exec Vice President</i> Dean Nolan 773-550-2737 deannolan@sbcglobal.net	<i>Vice President</i> Margo Miller 815-887-5002 margomiller@sprynet.com	<i>Treasurer</i> OPEN	<i>Secretary</i> Claire Gadbois 773-883-1601 bobclarg@att.net
<i>Delegates:</i> Scott Reimer streimer1@comcast.net			OPEN	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

 A new year, a time of new beginnings, however it can also be a time to say farewell. I am saddened to report on the dissolving of one of our member clubs, the Sea Deucers. They were founded in 1966, fifty-two years of diving, outings, vacations, and celebrations but after nearly two years of attempting to revitalize the club, the majority of the officers have decided that as of January, 2019, the Sea Deucers Scuba Club ceases to exist. It is loss for all of the diving community. Our thanks to all the Sea Deucers for their years of service and dedication,

Wishing You Safe Diving, Chuck Miller
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OUR WORLD UNDERWATER 2019 FEBRUARY 17th – 18th CHICAGO MARRIOTT O'HARE

8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631

OWU runs 2 days offering informative Workshops, Seminars & Exhibitors from all over the world. There are seminars on wreck diving, photography, videography, editing, dive medicine, dive resorts. For more information, to purchase tickets for the show or register for the workshops go to:

www.ourworldunderwater.com

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CHECK OUT THE POSTINGS PAGE

There are new postings – be sure to check them out. Visit: <http://www.illinoisscubacouncil.org/> and click to open the **POSTINGS** section on the left side. Be sure to also look for recent event photos, such as the Underwater Competition, Pumpkin Carving or Underwater Beach Clean-Up. Also posted there are our newsletters so if you want to revisit something you read in an earlier edition you can do so easily. There is also our up-to-date Calendar of Events so if you are planning to dive or otherwise participate in a Council activity you will always have the latest information at your fingertips. Check it out!

2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

Meetings: Usually third Thursday of every month is the Illinois Council Business Meeting. Until further notice all will be held at Mr. Beef and Pizza in Mount Prospect. Exit I-90 (Northwest Tollway) at Elmhurst Road (Illinois 83) northbound. Go north 2 lights. Meetings begin promptly at **7:30 PM (Note time change)**. Directions can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

January 17	February 21	March 21	April 18	May 16
June 20	July 18	August 15	September 19	October*
November 21	December*	*No meeting		

February 16-17 **OUR WORLD UNDERWATER** - Marriott Chicago O'Hare, [8535 West Higgins Road, Chicago, 11L](#) OWU runs 2 days offering informative Workshops, Seminars & Exhibitors from all over the world. There are seminars on wreck diving, photography, videography, editing, dive medicine, dive resorts. For more information, to purchase tickets for the show or register for the workshops go to: www.ourworldunderwater.com

March 2 **GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL** – 4800 E Huron River Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 The Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival is a annual program held in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The show opens at 830am and runs till 5pm. With an exhibition hall and 2 presentation halls giving hour long talks about various topics. Tickets: www.greatlakeshipwreckfestival.org

March TBD **UNDERWATER COMPETITION** - Elk Grove Pavilion, Elk Grove Village. At the Elk Grove Pavilion Pool Aquatic Center, 1000 Wellington Ave., Elk Grove, IL. Check-in will start at 11AM and the events will start **promptly** at 12 noon. Relay races, puzzle building, tricycle races all done on or under the water. Come on out for the fun!!!

September 21 **INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY** – Location TBD This annual event is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort to clean up the aquatic environment. The event is coordinated by Ocean Conservancy and Project Aware. Divers see first-hand the effects of harmful debris. Without dive volunteers thousands of pounds of trash would remain "out of sight, out of mind."

October TBD **Pumpkin Carving Dive** - Haigh Quarry, Kankakee, IL Annual underwater pumpkin carving - show off your creativity and your buoyancy control, pumpkins are very, very buoyant. Can you do it? Come see the bobbing pumpkins. The event will be hosted by Atlantis Divers.

October TBD **PRESIDENTS; NIGHT** - Mack's Golden Pheasant Restaurant, 668 W. North Ave, Elmhurst Annual dinner and awards presented to the Club, Diver & Humanitarian of the Year. We will be collecting Toys for Tots to help ensure that underprivileged kids receive a toy for the Holidays. Fantastic raffle throughout the evening featuring trips, gear & more! This is always a fun evening and most go home with a prize!!

 Any comments or items you would like to include in the next newsletter send to the editor, Pam Romund, 1031 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068 or promund@gmail.com. Deadline is **February 1, 2019**.

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This item reprinted from Undercurrent On-Line, January, 2019

DUMPING LEAD DOWN THE TOILET GETS A \$197,000 FINE

We divers like to think of our fellow divers and dive businesses as environmentally sensitive -- we're in that business, aren't we? -- but then, along come scofflaws like Seasoft Scuba Gear in Lacey, WA, which has been dumping hazardous waste down a toilet, which flowed into a storm drain and then onto the ground. You see, they manufacture dive weights from corroded lead shot collected at shooting ranges, and after the weights are manufactured, their toxic lead and arsenic are a useless byproduct. Rather than spend the money to properly dispose of it, Seasoft just dumped it, allowing it to eventually seep into the once-pristine waters of Puget Sound, as well as into aquifers. Thankfully, the state's Department of Ecology had an eye on them and has fined them a whopping \$197,000 (good for them).

SHEARWATER RECALLS ITS COMPUTER TRANSMITTERS

Over the years, some of our readers have expanded their skills from sport diving to technical diving, and if you're a Shearwater computer user for the latter, this recall notice could be important. You see, Shearwater computers can be gas-integrated with multiple tanks, using several transmitters on their firststages. However, one of the transmitters is now subject to a voluntary recall. Shearwater discovered that the yellow transmitters may have the same transmission interval as the one found on the gray transmitters. When the transmitters of both colors are used by the same diver on the same dive, signal interference could potentially occur and cause dropped signals. (Otherwise, the computers aren't affected.) If you've got a Shearwater computer, stop using the yellow tank transmitter and contact the manufacturer online at www.shearwater.com/announcements/voluntary-recall-notice-yellow-transmitters

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ANOTHER GOOD STORY ABOUT THAT EPIC THAI CAVE DIVE RESCUE

There are more heroics to report about the story that kept the world captivated last summer, when cave divers successfully rescued a boys' soccer team from the Tham Lung cave in Thailand. During the underwater search, Ric Stanton and John Volanthen, two of the cave rescue divers, stumbled across four Thai water company workers who were also trapped in an airspace in the cave system during their search and not otherwise known to be there.

The workers had been there for some days, very frightened and not in good shape, so Stanton and Volanthen had to come up with an immediate plan to get them out. With only two sets of dive equipment between six of them, the cave divers took the Thai men out of the cave, one by one, by de-kitting and re-kitting so that each could escape, and exposing themselves to the danger of rising water while not wearing any breathing equipment themselves. It was a process that took several hours.

Modest to the end, it was thought of as a sideshow -- something that both divers failed to mention at the time of the successful soccer team rescue and the media was focused elsewhere. The information only came out in conversation later, and then was made public knowledge by cave diving medic Richard Harris during his presentation at a technical diving conference last month in England.

However, the difficulty that came from managing these four young men, who tended to panic and struggle during the underwater escape, proved a valuable lesson for the rescuers. That effort resulted in the decision to sedate the 12 boys and their coach (with appropriate doses of Ketamine) before passing them, secured to stretchers and breathing through full-face masks, through the much longer, flooded passages blocking their team's escape. The final evacuation was to take several days and the trapped boys voted among themselves which of them were to escape first. They did this on the basis of who lived farthest away, considering how far they would have to ride their bicycles home, which indicated they had no inkling of the world's interest and the media circus that awaited them outside the cave .

Stanton and Volanthen have since been awarded the George Medal, England's second-highest civilian award, by Queen Elizabeth.

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QUEENSLAND GETS THAT SINKING FEELING

It cost \$3 .9 million to prepare and sink the *HMAS Tobruk*, the Australian Navy's first heavy-lift ship, 15 miles off the Queensland coast. Intended as a world-class diving attraction, the sinking of the *Tobruk* followed a five-year campaign by the local dive industry and paid for by the state government. Unfortunately, the 416-foot vessel ended up on its starboard side, rendering useless much of the preparatory work to make penetration safe for divers. So the Queensland government is now spending another half-million dollars on a marketing campaign to promote diving on the portside-up *Tobruk*.

CONFUSED ABOUT LITHIUM BATTERIES?

The rules for flying with lithium batteries are tough, not always well understood, and enforced differently around the world. When one of our subscribers departed Cairo via Jet Blue for New York's JFK airport, screeners confiscated his wife's AA rechargeable batteries, "saying they needed to be in checked baggage " TSA wants batteries NOT to be checked, in case they short and cause a fire, so if we had put the batteries in our checked bags, they could have been confiscated when we got to the U.S.

"After finishing the screening, I asked to see a supervisor and find out how a diver could get to the Red Sea and take photos if batteries in checked luggage would be taken by the TSA and batteries in a carry-on would be taken by their checkers. The supervisor asked why we had so many rechargeable AA batteries (16). I told him that both strobes required four batteries, and we charged the second set while using the first set. The supervisor took my wife's batteries and put them in her strobes, then distributed the second set of batteries into each piece of carry-on luggage, and said we were good to go. As soon as we were away from the screening area, we took the batteries out of the strobes to prevent the strobes from accidentally powering up and creating a heating issue, then we put the batteries back into the original, and much safer, storage container"

Our subscriber arrived home with all his gear, but the rule interpretations don't seem quite right. You see, the rules depend on the gear's configuration and either Watt/Hour (Wh) rating for rechargeable batteries or Lithium Content (LC) for non-rechargeable batteries.

Batteries less than 100Wh or two grams of LC -- such as the AA batteries commonly used in much photographic equipment -- can either be carried in dive equipment onboard or stowed in your checked baggage. A traveler is limited to two spare batteries.

Laptops usually have 11 .1-volt batteries, while mobile phones use 3 .7 volts. Batteries more than 100 Wh but less than 160 Wh can either be carried on or checked if installed within your laptop, camera, or mobile phone, but you must carry on your spares (a maximum of two). If you have a video or powerful dive light with lithium batteries, check their size. They will be marked with Ah/voltage or Wh. Those of more than 160 Wh are to be packed in your checked luggage, and you are required to inform the airplane staff when you check in; then it is up to the discretion of airline staff (who presumably check with the aircraft captain) if they travel with you. Batteries in underwater lights are specifically mentioned in the rules, although even the most powerful Keldan lights have batteries of less than 100 Wh now.

There is a lot of inconsistency among security in different countries, including our own TSA. If screeners think you have too many spares -- the number seems arbitrary -- they may confiscate them. Our senior editor, John Bantin, was told to carry his spare AA batteries in his hand luggage when traveling from the UK], only to have them confiscated when making a connecting flight in the U .S. because "they should have been checked in." He says that in Egypt, security staff make a habit of confiscating batteries -- especially those that fit their private radios -- from a carry-on, so he conceals them in his checked baggage.

Security staff can still be confused. One reader recently reported that when a Cairo screener found he was carrying on his regulator, he was told all scuba gear must be in checked baggage, "so he insisted I check my carry-on bag (I had already checked my luggage). I believe the screener was confused about which scuba items are required to be checked." However, Bantin says that the reinforced high-pressure hose of a regulator shows up as a coil of wire on the X-ray, so it's wise to check it.

Yes, it can be confusing. What to do? If you don't want to miss your plane, just follow airport security's directions.

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ICSSD General Meeting Minutes

There was no business meeting in December. Hope to see you in January

THANK YOU to the following businesses
for their support of the Illinois Council!

BELOW H20

554 S. Route 59
Naperville, IL 60540
630-820-2531

CHICAGOLAND SCUBA

890A South Rand Road
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
847-540-7211

DIVE CHICAGO CHARTERS

586 E Waldron Dr
Chicago, IL
312-922-5090

DIVE RIGHT IN SCUBA

24222 W. Lockport St.
Plainfield, IL 60544
815-267-8400

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF DIVING

245 W. Roosevelt Road, Bldg 2 Ste 8
West Chicago, IL 60185
800-469-3483

PIRATE'S COVE DIVING

1103 West Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-482-1430

SEA LION DIVE CENTER

422 Springsouth Road
Schaumburg, IL 60193
630-289-1680

BERRY DIVE CENTER

3042 N. Milwaukee
Northbrook, IL
847-358-3848

DD DIVE SHOP

1039 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025
847-657-3483

DJ'S SCUBA LOCKER

9301 W. Ogden Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513
708-442-4388

HAIGH QUARRY

2738 E 2000 North Road
Kankakee, IL 60901
815-939-7797

PEARL LAKE RESORT

Highway 251
South Beloit, IL 61080
815-389-1479

SCUBA EMPORIUM

16336 S. 104th Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60467
708-226-1614

TOUCAN DIVE CENTER

756 Frontage Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-356-7826

UNDERSEAS SCUBA CENTER

611 N. Addison Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181
630-833-8383

COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

**Ongoing
Community
Service**

Toys for Tots – New Toys, non-violent, not gift wrapped and no stuffed animals
Council member clubs collect Toys for Tots throughout the year. We present them to the
U.S. Marine Reserve at the annual Presidents' Night Dinner. Ask your Membership bring a
new toy to an event – an easy way to collect a lot of toys for a worthy cause.

Pop-Top Pull Tab Collection

The clubs collect the pop-top pull tabs from aluminum cans. The tops are donated to the five Ronald
McDonald Houses in the Chicagoland area. The homes provide a supportive residence for families
while their child is being treated at a nearby hospital. The proceeds from the tabs go to the wish list
for the Houses.

January, 2019
News from ICSSD
The Illinois Council of SCUBA Diving Clubs
P. O. Box 6602
Villa Park, IL 60181

Check Out Our Website
www.illinoisscubacouncil.org

Directions

The next regular business meeting will be held **January 17, 2019** at **7:30 PM** at **Mr. Beef and Pizza**. Directions to Mr. Beef and Pizza: Exit I-90 (Northwest Tollway) at Elmhurst Road (Illinois 83) northbound. Go north 2 lights. Mr. Beef is located just north of the intersection of Algonquin Road and Elmhurst Road on the left side. Hope to see everyone there!