



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.

July, 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

 Summer is here, time to get out and get wet. Head to one of the quarries or small lakes or perhaps a charter on one of the Great Lakes. The opportunities are endless! Make the most of your summer.

Wishing You Safe Diving,
Chuck Miller

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The following article is reprinted from Undercurrent On-Line, July, 2019

DIVERS FIND THE LAST SLAVE SHIP

Alabama's Mobile River was confirmed in May to be the resting place of *Clotilda*, a 19th century two masted schooner that's the last known ship to bring slaves from Africa to America. She was deliberately sunk in 1860, just north of the Mobile Bay delta, after an illegal trans-Atlantic voyage by American slave trader Timothy Meaher. The *Clotilda's* authentication was led by the Alabama Historical Commission and SEARCH Inc., a group of maritime archaeologists and divers who specialize in historic shipwrecks, as well as the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture, which became involved through its Slave Wrecks Project.

The dive team found the remains of the wreck, originally 90 feet long, in only 10 feet of water. "But the conditions are sort of treacherous," Kamau Sadiki, one of the SEARCH Inc. divers and current president of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers told Smithsonian.com. "Visibility was almost zero and there's some current, but the most important thing is that you're among wreckage that you cannot see."

The African slave trade had been banned 50 years prior, but Meaher attempted to sneak more than 100 men, women and children into Mobile by night. He was caught, and the Federal government brought slave trading charges against him; the captain of the *Clotilda* ordered the ship taken upriver to be burnt and sunk.

Plans are in the works for the wreck site to be turned into a National Park Service Blueway, a water based heritage trail. The Smithsonian is also considering how to preserve the *Clotilda* and where it could best be saved for the long term so it can reach the most people. Says Sadiki, "The *Clotilda* should be known by everyone who calls themselves an American because it is so pivotal to the American story."

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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.

July 18	August 15	September 19	
October*	November 21	December	*No meeting

September 21 INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEAN-UP DAY – Greenwood /Beach, Evanston
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 5 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 co-hosted by Atlantis Divers.

October 19 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, 730 Creekside Dr. #210, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 or promund@gmail.com. Deadline is **August 2, 2019**.

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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!

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Reprinted from Undercurrent On-Line, July, 2019

WHY YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING “OXYGEN EAR”

Ever felt like your ear is full of water long after you’ve finished a dive? It’s more common than you might think. This blog post on Diver Alert Network’s European website explains the condition of “oxygen ear:”

“Also known as middle-ear oxygen absorption syndrome, oxygen ear describes a gas volume imbalance in the middle ear after diving with gas that has a higher oxygen fraction than air, such as nitrox. The higher-oxygen-content gas fills the middle-ear space over the course of the dive.”

“Post-dive, the tissues metabolize the oxygen, reducing the total gas volume below what it would be if the space were filled with air. If this loss in gas volume isn’t equalized, relative negative pressure will develop. This is in effect a squeeze, which can present as ear fullness, mild discomfort and/or impaired hearing.

“This problem can be avoided easily with occasional equalization for several hours after diving. A person who is active, talking and/or laughing during this period, may have no need to actively equalize. On the other hand, a person who goes to bed immediately after diving might wake up several hours later with mild discomfort. Full resolution is best achieved using gentle equalization techniques.”

ICSSD GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 20, 2019

CLUBS AND PEOPLE PRESENT:

People	Clubs
*Chuck & *Margo Miller	Tritons, CASA, UASC
*Claire Gadbois	UASC, CSM, Atlantis
*Scott Reimer	UASC, CASA, Tritons, CSM

(Note: * denotes Board member)

CLUBS NOT PRESENT: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Claire Gadbois reported a balance of \$3558.21 which includes UASC dues of \$60.00. The dues were deposited April 25th.

INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP-----September 21, 2019

Greenwood Beach, Evanston

PUMPKIN CARVING-----October 5, 2019, Haigh Quarry

Atlantis Divers will co-host.

PRESIDENTS' NIGHT DINNER-----October 19, Mack's Golden Pheasant

Chuck said he would have dinner tickets next month (July). Margo handed out awards applications for Presidents' Night and asked that they be returned by the September meeting on September 19, 2019.

BUDGET MEETING-----November 5, Mr. Beef and Pizza

OLD BUSINESS: Chuck said the person he was thinking about for the website is unable to do so. Scott Reimer said he would talk to another Triton at their meeting on Tuesday, June 25th. Scott said he would let Claire know.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

CLUB REPORTS:

CASA:

12/13/2019-----Christmas Party at Fellini's, Golf Road east of Arlington Heights Road.

Tritons:

Meetings 4th Tuesdays, 7:30pm, (**New Location**) Tap House Grill, 1472 Market Street, Suite 103-A, Des Plaines, IL.

07/10/2019-----Midweek Dive

07/13/2019-----Willy Dive

07/23/2019-----Business Meeting

07/28/2019-----Baseball Game, Rosemont

08/03/2019-----Howard/Etherton Day, Pearl Lake, South Beloit

08/18/2019-----Road Rally

Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago:

Meetings on the last Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm, at the Chicago Maritime Society Headquarters, 1200 W. 35th St, Suite OE 5010, free parking in back, enter back door & down the stairs.

Special Thursday night charters for research purposes. Steven Draska will be speaking on the "Wreck of the Calumet" on June 26.

Windy City Seals:

Meetings every 3rd Saturday in odd months (Jan, March, May, etc.) at Carver Park Fieldhouse, 939 E. 132nd St. No new information available at this time.

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KOMODO ISLAND STILL SCHEDULED FOR A SHUTDOWN.

The Indonesian government is pressing ahead with plans to make the home of Komodo dragons -- recent prey for animal smugglers -- off limits to tourists starting in January . They intend to keep it closed for a year while they carry out a conservation program to increase the dragon population and restore its habitat . You can still dive the island's waters via liveaboard, but those who prefer landbased resorts will need to look elsewhere -- the other 171 islands within the Komodo National Park will still be open during the shutdown.

The three articles on this page are reprinted from Undercurrent On-Line, July, 2019 www.undercurrent.org

DIVING IN CUBA IS HARDER FOR AMERICANS

If you're a U.S. citizen and diving the waters off Cuba has been on your bucket list, move that item down. The U.S. government now forbids the type of trip under which scuba diving was typically classified.

Things started heating up in April, when the Trump administration announced it was holding Cuba accountable for helping Nicolas Maduro keep his iron-fisted grip on Venezuela, and would start restricting non-family travel to Cuba. That put a lock on U.S. cruise ships stopping at the island; U.S. airlines are still running their regular flights, and tourist visas are still offered.

Then last month, the U.S. Commerce Department issued a rule that pretty much ends group travel with the purpose of "people-to-people" contact with ordinary Cubans. That category, under which popular dive trips (like *Jardines Aggressor II* trips to Jardines de la Reina), were classified, has now been eliminated.

Unless you purchased a flight or booked accommodations in Cuba before the first week of June, you most likely won't be able to do so going forward. The U.S. Treasury states you must have "already completed at least one travel-related transaction" before June 5. Within the travel industry, there is some discussion that the phrase might also apply to travel providers who book trips for clients, but that is still pending clarification.

Now U.S. law prohibits Americans from going to Cuba, except for 11 specific purposes: family visits; government business, journalistic activity, professional research and meetings; educational activities; religious activities; public performances and exhibitions; supporting the Cuban people; humanitarian projects; activities of private foundations; and importing and exporting. Travelers must pick one of those categories from a menu displayed during their purchase of an airline ticket.

According to the Associated Press, Cuba travel companies have started repackaging tours, including scuba diving, to make them compliant with "support for the Cuban people." But Kendra Guild, director of operations for New York City-based travel agency SmarTours, told the Los Angeles Times that the schedule of activities for those trips is more intense and runs at a challenging pace for some travelers to maintain. It's certainly no vacation -- which travel to Cuba is not supposed to be.

As with anything that deals with governments and politics, situations constantly change, so check the U.S. Treasury website (you can also sign up for updates) at www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/programs/pages/cuba.aspx for the latest news. We don't recommend booking your own solo shore dive trip to Cuba; instead, check in regularly with a dive travel agency about when, or if, Cuba dive trips for Americans can resume, and how to ensure you don't run afoul of U.S. government restrictions.

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RENOWNED DIVER LOST IN THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

Andy Phillips, a well-loved PADI dive instructor and trainer, went missing on June 11 during a dive in the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall, Ontario. Phillips, 46, was born in Inverness, Scotland, and some of you might have known him from his time at Koh Tao in Thailand, Dahab in Egypt, and as manager of the Utila Dive Center in Honduras' Bay Islands. He was responsible for training thousands of instructors at all levels, and setting up a global network of dive professionals.

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A VERY VALUABLE UNDERWATER VIDEO

A person who was deliberately standing on a green sea turtle while snorkeling near Taiwan on June 10 has been arrested for violating the Wildlife Conservation Act. He was witnessed by another diver, who recorded it on film, contacted the authorities and provided the video as evidence. That allowed the police to track down the snorkeler at a local hostel that same day. At first, the suspect denied the accusation, but changed his tune when he was shown the video, and now faces a fine of up to US\$9,500.

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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

SCUBA SENSATIONS

2475 W. Pratt Blvd
Chicago, IL 60645
312-404-7785

BERRY DIVE CENTER

200 Northfield Road
Northfield, IL 60093
847-827-3100

DD DIVE SHOP

552 E. Northwest Hwy
Palatine, IL 60074
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.

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July, 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 **July 18, 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!