

FOUR LAKES SCUBA CLUB NEWSLETTER

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March 2002

WWW.DANENET.ORG/4LKSCUBA

4LKSCUBA@DANENET.ORG

Meeting

**Wednesday,
March 13
7:30 pm**

Jingles Coliseum Bar

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Four Lakes SCUBA Club

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Platinum DAN Sponsor #3035



Autonomous Underwater Vehicles *What are they?*

This subject was promised at an earlier presentation by Phil Keillor which was so interesting we ran out of time (restoring the native lake trout populations to Lake Michigan). Perhaps this is the Segway Human Transporter of the seas, we don't know.

Last Month's Monitor Talk

Thanks to Tami Ebert for an inside look at her participation in archeological missions to the USS Monitor as a volunteer for the Cambrian Foundation and National Undersea Research Center. She showed video clips of wildlife in the National Marine Sanctuary, the engine lift & recovery and of the participating Navy divers.

March Raffle Prize

\$25 gift certificate to Three Little Devils.

Underwater hockey

The Spring schedule: All games are from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. By popular demand, we have added occasional Wednesday nights to the schedule.

Mar 4, 6, 11, 18

No hockey Mar 20, 25, 27 or Apr 1

Apr 3, 8, 15, 17, 22, 29

May 1, 6 (last game)

Join us at the McFarland high school pool.

Bring mask, fins and snorkel. First time is free, continuing players contribute about \$4 for the pool rental. Contact Danny Aerts 821-0048

Dives Done

February 2, '02 Ice dive:

Well I don't suppose freshwater gets much

colder. I Did two ice dives today, water temp 32 ° F, verified by analog gauge and separately by computer. Maybe the fact that there was open water a hundred yards further out in the lake (Mendota, Madison, WI) had something to do with it, as temps usually run about 40 beneath solid ice. The ice was only five inches thick, where we cut the hole, barely enough thickness for a safe ice dive. All things went well, only a couple divers (out of six total) had freeflows, and one freeflow was easily corrected. My fingers and toes were so numb after the first dive that I went back for a second dive ...doesn't hurt as much when you can't feel em. Air temp 36°, sun shining, sky blue, good company, and of course the usual onlookers thinking and asking why we are so crazy. A fun, but chilly time, was had by all.

Blue Planet Series

Don't miss this series of stunning underwater videos on the Discovery channel: 4 programs are supposed to be repeated in March and 4 new programs will be aired in May. Go to Discovery.com for specifics.

Ghost Ships Festival

This annual conference is scheduled to be held March 16, 2002, in Milwaukee. For more info, email: tickets@ghost-ships.org.

Our World-Underwater

Save the date: April 26-28, 2002, in Chicago. More information at: www.ourworldunderwater.com.

Look for the internet only special at the

Hyatt. http://www.hyatt.com/special_offers/internet.shtml

WUAA Spring Meeting – Shipyard Tour

Saturday, May 11, 2002, Sturgeon Bay.

Gather at 10 am at the Door County Maritime Museum, 120 North Madison and proceed to the start of the Sturgeon Bay shipyard tour.

Bay Shipbuilding and Palmer Johnson facilities are open from 9 am to 1 pm., \$5/adults, \$2/children. (Sponsored by the Rotary Club, call 800-301-6695 for more information.)

Lunch will be noon – 1:15 followed by a business meeting. There will be time afterward to tour the museum. To be expected contact Russ at 271-8172 or rtgreen@mail.shsw.wisc.edu.

Travel Advisory

A report from Diane Schuck, our resident travel agent, is that x-ray scanners at many airports will be used to screen checked luggage and will be strong enough to fog film. The best advice is to carry your film in clear plastic canisters as carry-on and request a hand search.

Similarly we are advised to not lock our checked luggage since it will be hand searched. Locked bags will be broken open, then will be at the mercy of the handlers. Those quick-release DAN luggage straps have just become more useful.

Stake in the Lakes

We need more volunteers: shore captains and barge drivers, to assist at the Stake in the Lakes dives, May 18 & 19 and June 1 & 2. Contact a board member at the next meeting.

Eat for DAN

This June 8 event is now recreated as a picnic dive and a modest raffle. It will still be a benefit, but scaled back. A shelter at Mendota County Park has been reserved.

From WI State Journal:

Wanted: Old Fishing Lures

Fish Decoys, lure boxes, reels, toy boat motors, bamboo rods, musky baits, tackle catalogs. Free appraisals and buying select items. Call 655-3758

Our Four Lakes: the second edition

New and improved. Written and produced by club members. Available at the meetings and through local dive shops. \$14.95.



Dive gear for sale:

Force Fins, size L, new \$500: \$150
Force Fins, size XXL, new \$140: \$50
Dive kayak, paddle, pack rest, anchor, life jacket: \$500
DUI CF-200 drysuit with hood mitts, underwear, ankle weights and C-4 thinsulate underwear for \$850 OBO.
Contact Jon Zeaman at Jon.Zeaman@waterloo.k12.wi.us or 224-0531

Woman's BC for sale:

Dacor Sea Chute BC Jacket, size medium, with cumberbund size 28-32. Works fine, no longer fits owner! \$50
Contact June at PJLewandoski@tds.net.

Club T-shirts

There are only four left. Get your collectable official club t-shirt for \$10. See Ellen.

Swim Suit Deals

Some of us go through suits like socks. Members are sending in news of good deals. Victor swimsuits are being offered at a considerable discount on the internet. Go to www.TheVictor.com/save50.html

Another member recommends Kiefer at <http://www.kiefer.com> for good prices.

Publicity

The board is making efforts to announce our activities in the local papers. If you have a local paper that publishes club events please contact Ellen Evans or Betsy True.

Calendar 2002

Steering committee:

March 27, Nekton Rorqual, Bahamas



April 10 meeting:

Nan Field will talk about her experience tagging Lemon Sharks in the Bahamas.

Stake in the Lakes: May 18, 19

Stake in the Lakes: June 1, 2

Dive for DAN: June 8, Mendota County Park

Picnic: Lake Farms

Lake Levels End 3-Year Decline

Excerpted from Littoral Drift

Water levels of Lakes Michigan and Huron have remained near their last mid-summer peak rather than declining. Although still lower than average, levels at this time are higher than the same time last year by 9 inches. The forecast by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is that the average levels of the two lakes will rise further this spring.

If you have material you think should be in this newsletter (stories, reviews, dive reports, gear for sale) contact this editor.

If you are willing to receive your newsletter electronically instead of by US mail and are not already doing so, send an email and let me know.

btrue@facstaff.wisc.edu

Water Quality Database Available On-Line

Database includes 15 years of data collected by thousands of volunteers

MADISON - Lake enthusiasts, anglers, and prospective lakeshore property owners can now go online to learn more about the clarity of water and the phosphorus levels in more than 1,000 lakes across Wisconsin. A database containing 15 years worth of data collected by thousands of volunteers in the Self-Help Citizen Lake Monitoring Network is now available through the Department of Natural Resources Web site. People can access the database from the DNR home page, <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us>, search for "lakes," then click on "WDNR - Wisconsin Lakes Partnership" then "Self-Help." Select a different year if the lake name fails at first to bring up any data — some lakes may have had vol-

unteers actively monitoring them during some years but not others.

"It's an interesting tool you can use to track water quality trends on a large number of lakes," says Nate Feuerer, who coordinates the network for DNR. "There's not much other data like this out on the web - you can find it for a couple of larger lakes, like Mendota, but until now there hasn't been much available about other Wisconsin lakes." The effort to get the data online was aimed primarily at allowing the lake monitoring volunteers immediate access to the data they had collected and turned in to DNR. Self-Help Citizen Lake Monitoring is a partnership between DNR and 1,000 volunteers who receive the training and equipment they need to monitor a lake's water clarity and chemical make-up. Volunteers also may be involved in monitoring lakes for beneficial aquatic plants

and the presence of invasive species including Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels. The network, which started in 1986 with 150 volunteers, now boasts involvement of just over 1,000 active volunteers monitoring a like number of lakes, Feuerer says.

The most complete information in the database is for water clarity readings taken using a secchi disk. Volunteers lower the black and white metal disk into the water until its alternating black and white quadrants are no longer visible. The depth of this disappearance indicates the density of suspended plants and solids, and serves as a possible early warning that human activity is affecting the lake.

For more information contact: Nate Feuerer (608) 261-6430

Ice dive veterans 2002 laugh at the cold: Dave Brooke, Carol Konkol, Mike Black, Randy Lee, Ken Jungenberg, Kevin Willey, and Rob Stroud.

