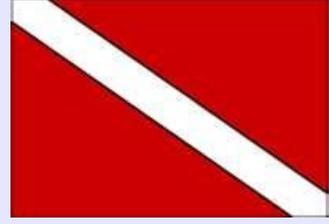




FORT ERIE UNDERWATER RECOVERY UNIT



560 NIAGARA BLVD FORT ERIE ONTARIO CANADA L2A 6V6 905 871-3681

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. Wishing you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2013. We look forward to an exciting year, an active year of events and activities.

The Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit is a SCUBA club made up of members with a common interest in the sport of recreational open water diving. The club is open to all who share this interest and hold a Certification Card from a national or international recognized organization. Contact the President or the Secretary Treasurer regarding membership enquiries .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2013

President :	Ryan Fazekas, ryan@regionalsignal.com	905-894-3697
Vice President :	Jim Traves, jtraves@cogeco.ca	905-871-0265
Past President :	Mike Larocque, mvnlarocque@gmail.com	905-894-9994
SecretaryTreasurer :	Larry Mathewson, lmathewson@sympatico.ca	905-894-7277
Property Chairman :	John Gilmour, john@jcgilmour.ca	905-964-0614
Chief Diver :	Michael Domtrek, n2gypsy@roadrunner.com	716-425-2536

NEW MEMBERS

We want to extend a warm welcome to the following new members. Members that have not already met the new faces joining us should make a point of introducing yourselves to them. Welcome to the club.

Bob Cosby, bob@blackcreekbuilding.com

Gary Clermont, garyclermont@ymail.com

John Cosby, jw.cosby@gmail.com

John Lovering No email, 905-871-2563

Mark Fazekas, mfazekas422@gmail.com

Shawn Willick, sdwillick@yahoo.com

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NEW YEARS DAY DRIFT DIVE

On New Year's Day the club held its very first event of the new year. The Drift Dive took place on the Niagara River between the Historic Old Fort Erie shore and our club house down river. A short swim out to the current, the exact location known to the members taking part, then a rapid drift downstream. Members and Guests taking part had the scenic delight of the underbelly of the Peace Bridge during their aquatic tour. The approximate distance of the drift is 2.91 miles or 4.68 kms.

We had 17 swimmers in the water both members and guests made up the group slipping into the cold January waters of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Throughout the dive Mike Laroque our Past President and his Son In-Law James Kelly provided a Safety Escort in our Zodiac Inflatable. Note the Diver Down Flag, not too much traffic on the river at this time of year but I'm sure the Border Security Service were keeping a close eye on our event. Thanks Mike for your efforts in handling this very important safety aspect of our day.



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I mentioned that 17 took to the water but it seemed impossible to assemble all of them for a group photo, they were so excited and impatient to hit the water.



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Deserts were whipped up by Donna Wood, thanks Donna for providing that added treat . Now we certainly have to mention the efforts of Doug Leonard our Master BBQ Chef. Doug had the BBQ fired up and the cooking began early. Doug has a unique way of handling BBQ techniques for a large group. Not sure but it appeared that Doug pre cooked and kept food warm while one of our new members Gary Clermont hustled back and forth keeping Doug and his BBQ going with a constant supply of buns, weiners and burgers.



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Doug likes to be illusive and is quite modest. Note how he is armed with BBQ weapons fending off all photo opps !

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Happy New Year ! Len makes a point that the toast to Neptune was with non alcohol sparkling wine. He was Johnny on the spot doing diver checks and beach clean up.

Mike Larocque was the lucky draw winner for the Cuba Dive video DVD #3 which was generously donated by our SecretaryTreasurer Larry Mathewson. Thanks Larry it added to the day and the suspense of who the lucky winner would be. Rumour had it that Mike figured he was on a roll and ran out to buy some lottery tickets. Just a rumour and I'm sure Mike will set us straight at the next Meeting on Sunday January 13 at 10:00 am.

Many hands pitched in to make the day a very sucessful event. We had around 40 people attending New Years Day. Up front or in the background members were busy as bees hustling about arranging, cleaning, cooking and overall preparation. Thanks Glenn Dickey for importing those wonderful delights from across the border. Salens Hot Dogs are indeed a club favorite.

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As part of our agenda for the days events we considered our friends at COPE . COPE stands for “ Community Outreach Program in Erie operating a food bank here in Fort Erie. Friends and Guests kicked off our drive in support of the organization with generous donations of cash and non perishable food items. Thanks to all who brought in food items and contributed cash donations. A sum of \$90.00 was collected .

POLAR BEAR DIP AT BERTIE BOAT CLUB IN CRYSTAL BEACH

On Saturday January 5th the Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit provided “in water” safety spotters for the annual Polar Bear Dip. Many spectators showed up for the event to watch about 30 souls plunge into the cold but ice free water . Our members wore an assortment of both wet and dry suits spending an hour in the water. We had 4 spotters keeping a sharp eye on the swimmers. The Band of Brothers consisting of Ryan and Mark Fazekas, and Bob and John Cosby handled the task. Note that 3 of the 4 divers are new members. Mike Larocque was on hand to look after the guys with offers of Chili and Hot Chocolate as well as collecting \$ 100.00 in donations. Thanks to all who took part.



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On the same day Jan 5th at the same time activity was taking place at Point Abino, our club was active assisting at another Polar Dip north of Fort Erie.

POLAR BEAR DIP AT CHIPPAWA ONTARIO

Weather was sunny and relatively warm for this event. A good group of spectators showed up to watch the 50 swimmers hit the water. At this event we had 5 members acting as “ in water “ safety spotters. Members Mike Domitrek and Steve Simon were in full scuba gear as an additional precaution due to a very sharp and deep drop off at the end of the boat launching ramp. We had 3 more members in the water suited up in both wet and dry suits. Members Jim Traves, John Gilmour, and Larry Mathewson were on hand to assist swimmers. The club enjoyed donations in the amount of \$ 43.80 in appreciation for our service.



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Its been a great kick off for the New Year to date with a flurry of activity. The New Year Drift dive, and 2 Polar Bear Dips allowed us to gather with friends and family as well as their guests. We've had 6 new members joining us to date bringing skills, ideas, and stories of their experiences to share. Our keen Executive is in full gear introducing some new and innovative ideas for 2013. The interest and activity mood is strong as we all look forward to the coming season.

I would like to thank all those who provided material to make this " Our Newsletter" possible. In addition to myself gathering material and recording some photo opportunities I thank both Sue Marley and Nora Mathewson for providing a visual record.

You can also take a look at more pictures on our photo albums 1 and 2 on our web site. Our Property Chairman John Gilmour has been so helpful providing the time and patience to include photo's and some video on our web site.

The Newsletter is available on our web site by hitting the tab *NEWSLETTER* That John Gilmour has set up on the site. This is available to all members, those interested in SCUBA and the activities of The Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit – scuba club.

The intention is to keep all informed including all clubs and Dive Shops. Feel free to post our Newsletter in your Dive Shop or at your club. During the dive season many clubs visit us here in the Niagara Penninsula as the Niagara River and Lake Erie have a lot to offer. We ask Clubs (group of 6 or more) planning a dive trip to this area to give us advance notice if you wish tank fills or have us provide our Zodiac. If you would like a BBQ lunch between your dives we can provide that too .

To our members who plan and take trips or dive excursions let us know about the location and conditions, water temperature and visibility. Share your experiences and stories as well as any technical suba advice or new equipment .

Contact any of our Executive Board with information or send to Newsletter Editor – Bill Chipp at w.chipp@hotmail.com I would be happy to include your Dive Log information in our Newsletter. If you have equipment to sell or are looking to buy or trade keep us informed of that too.

Thank you all for making this possible

Your Newsletter Editor

Bill Chipp

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