

The FACEPLATE

The voice of
The Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.



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FACEPLATE

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Winter, 2001

Wait. Stop. Go no further until you've read this....

If you haven't ordered tickets yet for Aqua Fest 2002, do it now! If you want to attend the Saturday night banquet, January 18 is the latest you can order your tickets. That's the same with getting the hotel room. An order form is inside.

If you don't plan on going to the banquet, of course, you can still get day tickets, even at the gate. Check out the list of speakers confirmed so far. It will be a great weekend!

OCSSDI meeting will be Sunday morning. You are invited, if you can pull yourself away from the presentations.

OK, catch your breath, and read on. It's also time for your OCSSDI dues, for 2002. We already have more than 50 people for 2002, and half the clubs haven't renewed yet. Membership is sure to double, and maybe triple.

Why join the OCSSDI? Check out the minutes in this newsletter -- the Council is involved in a lot of projects to protect the interests of divers in the state -- from oxygen legislation to the buoying of shipwrecks in Lake Erie. Council's support has been important in such activities as the shipwreck archeology courses, and of course next month's Aqua Fest.

Plus, it's fun. There are a lot of great people out there whose interests are the same as yours. You'll like them.

Membership application is inside.

Now that all that's done-- *Happy New Year!*

Faceplate Goes Electronic

A big change is in store for the Council in 2002. At the November meeting, it was decided to begin sending out the *Faceplate* electronically, via e-mail.

The advantages are numerous. There will be a considerable savings to the Council treasury -- the printing and the mailing of the *Faceplate* is the single biggest expense OCSSDI has. We spend @\$2 per member each year for postage alone, not counting printing costs.

Electronic newsletters allow us to add extra pages whenever something comes up that might interest members.. We can have more pictures, and they can be in color. It is also quicker, relatively instantaneous.

When application or registration forms are part of the *Faceplate*, you will already have them in your computer, to print yours and extra copies as you need. And when the situation merits it, we can put out a quicky, special edition.

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- **Todd's Scuba Sales**
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check us out on the web
www.ocssdi.org

Faceplate via e-mail

from page 1...

At this point, at least six of our member clubs publish their newsletter via e-mail.

Before you freak out, Council will still send out paper copies of the *Faceplate*. Paper copies will be sent to all 18 clubs, and professional members, and to anyone who does not have an e-mail address listed. It will also be sent via regular mail to *anyone who requests it*, instead of the e-mail version. But it is up to you to let us know you'd rather have it by mail -- if we don't hear from you, we'll assume e-mail is OK.

We are planning on starting this with the first *Faceplate* of 2002, officially the March newsletter. (This one you're reading is the December issue, get it?) There is a lot of work to be done first, since no one has accused your *Faceplate* editor of being a genius.

First question -- which way is best? Our several clubs do it different ways. One club sends just a text newsletter. We get others as a PDF attachment.

Another way is to e-mail a hot button, which takes you to an attachment in the Club website. I think the newsletters sent as an attachment to the web site, are sent out by clubs where the web page director also sends out the newsletter, which would not be the case with OCSSDI.

We will make the final decision on this at the February 10 general meeting. Again, as always, your input and advice is welcome, solicited, and encouraged.

Nikonos V Camera Will Be The Last Produced

Nikon, producers of the popular line of underwater camera bodies for more than 35 years, have announced that their amphibious underwater camera line will come to an end with the Nikonos V.

Citing a diminished market, the company has decided to stop producing the underwater camera that has long been a staple among professional and amateur photographers alike. "The customer demand for Nikonos V is too small to justify future production costs," said Nikon in a statement to the press. The latest in their line of cameras, the Nikonos V, was introduced in 1984.

"While I was disappointed by Nikon's decision to discontinue the Nikonos V, it's no surprise," said Jim Church, author of numerous photography how-to books and articles, and a noted Nikonos expert. "Given Nikon's huge market, the Nikonos V was only a drop in the bucket."

Nikonos V was especially popular among photo fish for their wide-angle, 16mm lens. In recent years, the general trend for more serious underwater photographers has been to put their 35mm SLR cameras in housings to take down under.

Some housing manufacturers, such as Sea & Sea and Aquatica, produce housing almost exclusively for Nikon cameras. Ikelite, the U.S. company, makes housing for dozens of camera bodies.

Nikon will continue to offer repair service for the Nikonos V for the near future. They will also sell accessories such as

DUI VALVE RECALL

DUI, makers of dry suits and buoyancy compensators, is recalling 3,500 overpressure valves because they can stick open, creating a potential drowning hazard.

Diving Unlimited International of San Diego has received two reports of the valves sticking open, although no injuries have been reported, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

Moulding variations in one component of the overpressure valve (OPV) used in the DUI Buoyancy Control Systems (BCS) could, in rare instances, prevent the OPV from sealing properly creating a potential drowning hazard. While this variation is not present in every OPV, it may be difficult to determine in the field which OPV's are suspect.

The recall pertains to all Models purchased before November 1, 2001. Note the plastic pull on the overpressure valves -- the suspect valves have a red pull. The new replacement OPV will have a yellow pull.

The safety commission advised consumers to stop using the valves immediately and contact the dealer for a free replacement. Consumers can contact DUI at 1-800-325-8439, weekdays between 11 am and 8 p.m. EST; or email the company at CustomerServiceDUI-Online.com

lenses, speedlights and macro equipment through 2002. Even today, though, many users of Nikonos V will deal with dozens of repair shops (some of them located in Ohio) other than Nikon, Inc.

Sea & Sea has also made a big splash in the amphibious camera market, with their the Motor Marine II and the Pro EX systems.

Ooops! It Was Supposed To Be Funny

In the September issue of the *Faceplate*, I published a letter from a potential club member, who took us to task for our risqué activities. The letter cited the *LEWD* club functions, *BAD* get togethers, the T&A, and finally confused *N-Case* with *In Synch*. (NOTE -- Lake Erie Wreck Divers, Bay Area Divers, TA Club, and North Coast Aquatic Explorers.) She signed the letter *Needa Clue*.

The letter ticked off more than one member of the Council, who expressed anger that a person could be so prudish. They asked me for the return address, and wondered why I bothered to print it....

Ooops. It was my feeble attempt at humor. *Needa Clue* is me, *Faceplate* publisher Rich Lauer, trying to make a joke. Is it possible I'm not as funny as I think I am?

I hereby resolve to leave the jokes out in the future. Unless they're really funny....

Club News from across the state

Welcome to 2002. I hope the holiday season was happy for all of you.

There are 18 member clubs in the OCSSDI. Many fewer than usual put out a newsletter in December -- it's a busy season. But here's the news I could glean.

How do I get the information for this page? First I got what I could from the newsletters I get in the mail, and from the newsletters I get on line. For those who don't publish a newsletter, or choose to not send it to me, I e-mailed the OCSSDI rep and asked for your story.

If there is a particular thing you want listed in our club news, or a flier you want published for a special event, drop a line, or e-mail, early in March, June, September, and December.

Toledo Submariners

President Terry Loar fascinated us with his stories of his first dives in the Ceynotes of Riviere Maya. This sounds like an exciting expedition for the club in the future!

Christmas dinner was December 8

Southern Ohio Scuba

We're not staying home for the winter. We hit the Florida Springs in December, and we'll do more fresh water (Bonne Terre Mines) in January. The best for this winter though, will be Belize, February 26.



Newark Poseidons

We ended up the year getting together Dec. 18, for the regular meeting, and election of officers. Next club meeting is Jan. 22, at the Blue Raccoon Restaurant.

Aqua Masters

Back in Ohio, after a nice warm water trip to Santa Domingo in December. Then for a change of pace, we do an ice diving seminar February 16, with dives the 18 and April 1.

Don't forget pool time each Friday.

Lima Scubanauts

Are you ready? We'll be diving New Year's Day at Long Lake, like we have for years. Can't promise ice, though.

Monthly pool swims have begun, and will continue through March, if the pool is open.

Aqua Amigos

Two biggies coming up. The first, of course, is AquaFest 2002 -- be sure to make it!

Second is the annual Peterborough, Ontario, ice flow race, in March. Last year we won, beating out 16 other dive clubs. Here we go again!

Cincinnati Underwater Explorers

We ended up the year at our Caribbean Christmas Party. The party room was decorated with palm trees, blue water (photos) and sandy beaches. We had visitors from Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky. See us at the Bonne Terre Mines in March.

Buckeye Divers

We're off to Ft. Lauderdale over the Memorial Day weekend. Even more excitement is building for our trek to the the WWII wrecks of Brittany and Normandy.

Ashland Scuba Club

Early September a group of us went to Summersville Lake for camping, diving and hiking. We'll coordinate a Discover Scuba this winter, and we're in the planning stages for a Caribbean vacation in the fall.

Lake Erie Wreck Divers

As the cold weather sets in, we look ahead to our charters with Osprey in Barcelona, in July and August. In the meantime, the LEWD annual banquet will be February 16.

Columbus Sea Nags

Shiprecks of the Great Lakes was our program for the December meeting. Meanwhile, our members kept the Ohio quarries busy, as we visited at least one of them each weekend.

Springfield Scuba Society

Snow doesn't bother us -- we had a Christmas Party and New Year's Party in December. In January, our club outing takes us to the Heritage Center Museum.

T.A. Club

Traffic and weather didn't cooperate, but we haunted the pond again in October. We never get over scaring kids!

Ready to dive down under? Under ground that is. We head west in February for our annual trek to the Bonne Terre mines.

Bay Area Divers

We're reconvening after a successful Shipwrecks and Scuba November meeting and a well-attended December Christmas Party. Our future has a lot of the various conventions coming up, plus pool nights, and setting the calendar for 2002.

Aqua Mariners

In the middle of winter, we start planning for the Easter Egg Dive the end of April. You'll get more info in the Faceplate.

The club provided the meat and mix for the annual Holiday Party in December.

Membership for 2002 Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.



NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____
CLUB AFFILIATION, if any _____

Dues: \$12 per year. \$8 per year, if a member of an affiliate club. Make checks to OCSSDI, send to:

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