

The FACEPLATE

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



Winter, 2003/2004

OCSSDI Officers for 2003

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- Legislative Action: **Joyce Hayward**
- Archeology, Promotions: **Linda Pansing**
- Speakers Bureau: **Marty Bailey, Annette Soule**
- Dive Ohio Video: **Roger Roth, Andy Dennis**
- Mel Sheehan Scholarship: **Dick Colwell**
- Dive Ohio: **Rod Maxson**

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Welcome to 2004! This last one has been a good year to get behind us, hasn't it?

Before you read any further!! Have you ordered your tickets yet for ScubaFest 2004? Today's the day.

On January 15 the **early-bird discount** runs out. That can save you \$10 per person, \$20 per couple. You have a week -- don't delay.

Look inside for a list of exhibitors, and some of the speakers. This will be the biggest show in the midwest; you don't want to miss it.

Here's something you have to remember: Entrance to the Exhibit Hall is free!!. That's right. Tell your fellow divers, club members, and those non-diving friends who are just interested. They'll never see a gathering of scuba equipment and speakers like this anywhere in the midwest. They can also participate in the raffles and silent auctions. This may be the thing to get them underwater.

Speakers, of course, door prizes, and film shows are for ticketed attendees only.

February 1 is the deadline for the Underwater Images photo and video competition. More inside.

To date, we have 21 scuba clubs in the Council, with the addition of the Mid-Ohio Divers in Columbus. We have some 150 members on top of that, making OCSSDI the largest scuba organization in the state, along with being one of the oldest scuba agencies in the country.

Don't forget to renew for 2004. Details inside.

The next OCSSDI meeting will be Sunday, March 21, at ScubaFest. Along with regular reports and discussions, we will elect new officers.

The Ohio Council is run by seven elected Trustees. Each year, four 1-year Trustees are elected. There are no term limits; they may be renewed year after year.

There are three 3-year trustees. Each year, one 3-year is elected. The senior of the three serves where many organizations have a president; after that year is up, she or he retires as trustee, for a whole at least.

For 2003 our senior trustee is Annette Soule; for 2004, it will be Donald Hudson.

There are a lot of clubs, many dive clubs, where they warn you to not miss the meeting, because you might be elected to something. That hasn't been the way with OCSSDI for years; we've been fortunate to have quite a few talented, enthusiastic people willing to step up and serve. Join us March 21, meet some of your fellow scuba enthusiasts, and maybe you'll want to get involved, too.

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check us out on the web: www.ocssdi.org

SLAC Committee Disbanded

The Submerged Lands Advisory Council (SLAC) is a Governor-appointed committee that was established in 1987 to oversee the management of shipwrecks in Lake Erie. The Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 turned title of the shipwrecks over to each state, and each state had to form its own legal process for the management of this resource. The SLAC committee was included in Ohio's Law, and includes subcommittees for education and legislation.

It was mentioned at the SLAC meeting early in 2003 by David Mackey of ODNR, that this committee might be disbanded, along with CRAC (Coastal Resource Advisory Council), and combined into one committee.

This possibility was met by the grave concern of the SLAC Council, and all those in attendance at this meeting, because this Council has accomplished a great deal since its inception, and has served as a voice for Ohio divers. The CRAC Council has a dissimilar agenda, focused on Lake Erie's coastal development, plus shoreline erosion and preservation.

Divers fought hard during the process of passing Ohio's original bill, to have a voice specifically focused on the management of shipwrecks. ODNR did not want another "special interest" group, so they tried then to include us in the CRAC. We won at the final hearing, and the SLAC was included in the law.

We had hoped to hear more on this possible disbandment and to have a voice in addressing our concerns; however, divers later heard after-the-fact that the disbanding had already taken place. We cannot express our disappointment enough!

The merging of the two councils has still not taken place to date, and many divers feel that there is no longer a driving force behind the tasks that faced this Council (including shipwreck buoys, support and sponsorship of underwater archaeology courses and shipwreck conservation, intentional sinkings and artificial reefs, and the Kelleys Island Underwater Preserve.)

Divers are encouraged to monitor the progress of merging the councils, and to help keep everyone up to date. We will do our best through the OCSSDI, via the *Faceplate*, the website, and special mailings, to keep you informed.

Scuba Swim for Diabetes

For years, the *Faceplate* has been announcing the annual Scuba Swim for Diabetes, held by the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland. This year we're happy to announce that there are two: New Wave Dive Center and Aqua Hut have added a program in Toledo.

The two programs are different dates: Toledo's is February 29; Cleveland's is April 25. In both of these, divers will do games and puzzles underwater, while raising money for the Diabetes organizations by raising pledges. In Toledo, there will also be a Discover Scuba for anyone ages 10 and above.

To get involved, contact Aqua Hut or New Wave (numbers on this page), or the web sites, which I've listed with the dates on page 10. Get involved, and have fun!

OCSSDI PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

- **Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center**•
Vermilion, OH (440) 967-3467
- **Aquatic Realm Scuba Center**, Centerville, OH
(937) 428-9836
- **ASK Scuba & Snorkeling Center**
Dublin, OH (614) 889-2822
- **Blue Water Consulting**, Baltimore, OH
(740) 862-8992
- **Buckeye Diving School**, Bedford, Ohio
(440) 439-3677
- **Central Ohio Visual Cylinder Inspectors**,
Columbus, OH (614) 895-9200
- **Dale's Diving Shop**, Sandusky, OH
(419) 625-4134
- **Deep Six Specialists, Inc.**, Akron, OH
(330) 724-8737
- **Discover Diving LLC**, Newark, OH
(740) 344-2803
- **Diver's Paradise**, Toledo, Ohio
(419) 535-6828
- **Huntington Sport & Commercial Diving**,
Huntington, West Virginia (304) 528-6622
- **JRS School of Scuba**, Rootstown, Ohio
(330) 325-2233
- **Lakeview Park**, Lancaster, OH
(740) 653-4519
- **Long Lake Scuba**, Lima, OH
(419) 331-3483
- **New Wave Complete Diving Store**,
Port Clinton, OH (419) 734-2240
- **North Coast Adventures**, Cleveland Hts., OH
(216) 932-6315
- **Portage Quarry Recreation Club**,
Bowling Green, OH (419) 352-8488
- **Quarry Divers**, Gibsonburg, OH
(419) 637-7911
- **Scuba Recovery Dive Charters**, Findlay, OH
(419) 422-3215
- **Sub-Aquatics, Inc.**, Reynoldsburg, OH
(614) 864-1235
- **Todd's Scuba Sales**
Circleville Twin Quarries
(740) 474-9530

OCSSDI MTG – Sunday, July 27, 2003

MINUTES: Motion to accept: 1st Jack Hardy 2nd Dave Soule

OLD BUSINESS:

Website: Mark Beatty has make payments available online via PayPal (we may have received one). Dive trip postings also available online now.

Legislative Committee: O2 - Ron Smith will keep us informed on O2 bill status (awaiting Senate vote). Following discussions concerning the 1) possession hurdle; and 2) guidelines to administer, Ron Smith proposed motion to appoint a committee to address training guidelines for administering Medical Oxygen upon passage of HB64. 1st Marty Bailey 2nd Dave Soule
A committee was formed with a timeframe of March 21st (the next Council meeting) to compile agencies guidelines. The following are the committee members and agencies they have agreed to contact:

Scott Pansing -	Committee chairperson
Rich Lauer -	YMCA
Marty Bailey -	SDI/TDI
Jack Hardy -	SSI
Pat Heschel -	PADI/DAN

Shipwreck Buoys – OCSSDI considered using its nonprofit status in order to assist with some of the obstacles on buoying Lake Erie shipwrecks per SLAC committee meetings. SLAC and CRAC committees have been disbanded to our knowledge. No news on a new “combined” Governor Advisory Council. Per Ron Smith, strict laws are in place for nonprofits. Must have trustees and statutory agent with address. Operates as a corporation (with articles of incorporates). “Should” be insulated from liability (but not definite).

OH Drivers License Plate: Per Ernie Naples, we currently have 482 signatures (432 are “valid” signatures). We need 1,000. There is no designated deadline for obtaining additional signatures for this.

Scholarship Committee: Joe Hoyt has reapplied for the scholarship. Marty Bailey worked with Joe on the Windiate project, and highly recommends that Joe receive this. Joe is now instructing at East Carolina University, is a senior now, and is intending to continue to grad school. Roger Roth proposed motion to accept the current applicant (Joe Hoyt) and give \$1000 scholarship. 1st Marty Bailey, 2nd Linda Pansing.

There is currently \$1640 in the scholarship fund. Last year \$1000 was given (we had \$2200 at that time). Discussions followed as to whether we give an annual flat rate, half the fund, or a percentage of the fund, and how to address continued funding for scholarships. Council had hoped the license plates would continue to fund. currently, ScubaFest is the only source. Roger Roth offered to commit a portion of the underwater photo contest funds to the scholarship fund. A question was raised as to members that volunteered for the scholarship committee previously, but were never contacted to assist.

Dick Colwell proposed a motion to form a committee for ongoing application issues to meet prior to ScubaFest 2004. 1st Rich Lauer 2nd Marty Bailey. A new committee formed with Dick Colwell as chair and a signup sheet for volunteers in attendance (Note: I believe Dick has this committee list.) The purpose of the committee is to report back to Council with the following recommendations:
1) designate how much to expend; 2) where funds will come from; and 3) what to do with multiple applications.

Dive Ohio Video: Andy Dennis can loan his existing video, but is currently unavailable to work on. Joyce Hayward mentioned that there used to be a Dive Ohio slideshow. It was agreed that a PowerPoint version may be easier to produce than video. We could still incorporate video snippets and stills and make available on CDs. Joyce thought Rod Maxson might be able to work on this (Rod was not present). Marty Bailey said he could check with Rod.

ScubaFest Committee:

ScubaFest Location:	Wyndham Dublin Hotel
Date:	March 19 – 21, 2004
Chairperson:	Rich Lauer
Exhibitor Chairperson:	Carol Kender of ASK Scuba
Exhibitor Co-Chairs:	Dick Colwell and Lynn Wickline

One room to be used for travel shows; One room for exhibitors. Marty Bailey suggested having a speaker from each dive club present details about their club and recent/upcoming dive trips to share what is going on with Ohio divers. As far as equipment for presenters: Rich Lauer may be able to get LCD for highest quality video presentations; Joyce Hayward has two slide projectors, and Marty Bailey has two slide projectors. Carol Kender may be able to accommodate PowerPoint slide shows with one computer (Carol was not present to confirm).

Rich Lauer mentioned there are two schools of thought as to whether Council should hold ScubaFest at the same location each year. Last year 350 people attended. Maximum that may attend for this location is 275-300 (for dinner). Final decision on location is still to be determined.

Linda Hudson asked whether we can continue to add speakers. The answer was “Yes,” although some of the specific speakers mentioned may be best used as keynote speakers for upcoming ScubaFests.

Discussion about program ads asked whether to accept business card size and at what cost. Current advertisements for programs cost: Full page, \$100; ½ page \$60. Business card ads could be \$ 25 with all business cards accepted (dive clubs, dive shops, etc.)

There is currently no room available for dive clubs and dive shops. We may have a long table in the hall with all the dive club info at no charge to member clubs.

NEW BUSINESS

MAST: MAST (Maritime Archaeological Survey Team) is also researching nonprofit status for the purpose of buoying shipwrecks. Attendees asked to consider assisting MAST/LESRC with volunteer projects.

U/W Photo Contest: Roger Roth mentioned that any and all help with this international competition is appreciated. Specifically marketing agents (inviting sponsors and notifying of promotions we'll do for them).

BAD Banquet: Joyce Hayward thanked Patrick Heschel and Rich Lauer for their assistance in pushing for responses for ticket commitments. The 2003 Shipwrecks & Scuba banquet was nearly cancelled as only 42 tickets were committed a month prior to the event! Joyce wanted to make the Council's ScubaFest committee aware of their struggle to get responses for the banquet this year. She also asks that people forward their suggestions for the three-hour in-depth seminars for upcoming banquets.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 1st Rich Lauer 2nd Roger Roth

NEXT MTG LOCATION: March 21st, following ScubaFest banquet

OCSSDI Committee Reports - Oxygen, Kelleys Island

2003 was a year of legal dialogue, meetings, and negotiations, some of which went well for OCSSDI and the scuba community, some did not. A lot of your fellow divers have spent a good deal of time working for your interests. You've already read on page 3 about the SLAC committee. Here are a couple others:

The best news of the year has to do with the **oxygen legislation**. As you've been informed, it is technically illegal in Ohio to possess or administer oxygen to a person, unless you have a prescription. At the federal level an exception is made for emergency use; in Ohio there has been no such exception. Since we know that oxygen is a miracle drug when it comes to scuba accidents, OCSSDI has been working with State Rep. Keith Faber to have a law passed allowing certified divers to possess and use oxygen for diving emergencies.

In June, H.B. 64 passed the House 98-0, and in October it was introduced in the Senate. We were expecting to see it come out of committee sometime in 2004. However, it went rapidly through the committee hearings, was approved, and passed out of committee in December. Only a fluke kept it from going before the Senate that day.

So early this year, H.B. 64 should come up on the senate floor, be passed, and move on for Governor Taft's Signature. Ohio is one of the first states to go this far, and we should see a lot of others follow suit.

There is still work to be done, drafting guidelines for the state Pharmaceutical board. But we have a lot to be happy about, and a lot of people to thank, for this bill.

We're not so happy on the **Kelleys Island Preserve**. This was an attempt to designate an area around the island, site of several historic shipwrecks, as an underwater preserve, as has been done in other Great Lakes states.

Extensive research and efforts by a committee for the Kelleys Island Underwater Preserve (a subcommittee of SLAC), were met head on by the concerns of Kelleys Island locals. The Island residents had several concerns, including whether there would be any limitations on current Lake Erie activities, or whether the Preserve would affect use of people's private property.

Although a series of question and answer meetings were held attempting to address these concerns, many remained opposed to the Preserve. The SLAC committee eventually re-examined the shipwrecks intended for the Preserve and considered a non-contiguous Preserve approach. This would allow more intact shipwrecks to be included and move the focus away from the shores of Kelleys Island.

Between Preserve opposition and the afore-mentioned disbanding of SLAC, there are no further plans to pursue the Kelleys Island Preserve at this time.

We are made up of 21 member clubs. We are as varied as you can imagine: Some clubs have been around more than 40 years; some just a couple. This one requires OCSSDI membership; that one has just a couple representatives. Some clubs are affiliated with scuba shops, other independent; some are active in Council, some we hear from only at membership renewal time. Sizes from 12 to 100!

A reminder that each club has a \$50 credit from OCSSDI, to bring in a speaker or presenter to your meeting. We don't want you to pay one of your own members for giving a show, but feel free to request an honorarium to bring in an outside speaker.

OCSSDI's contact with you is done through your club representative, listed on page 2. I've noticed that this often changes year after year, but many of the OCSSDI reps have been the same for more than 8 years. Remember, we contact your rep each quarter to get info for our club news page; we also send them the annual renewal notices (Club renewals went out last month -- you should have gotten yours already).

You and your group are welcome to be as active as you want to be. Make sure you're getting all the info from us. Also remember, if your club can't come up with activities on your own, there is a lot going on elsewhere. Check out the calendar on page 10.

Club News from across the state

We got through it. 2003, with all its ups and downs, is history now. We look forward to a prosperous, peaceful, and wet 2004.

As of December 2003, there are 21 member clubs in the OCSSDI. I hope all of you are with us again next year. 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.

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. Then I write your club OCSSDI contact. If you're not listed here, it's time to ask your club representative why. Let us know what's going on -- we love to hear from you.

T.A. Club

In what's become an annual thing, a group of us burned off the extra Thanksgiving calories at Gilboa Quarry the day after Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, since lots of our members are busy with the ScubaFest in March, we'll plan our annual Bonne Terre Mines trips for April 2 & 3.

Aqua Amigos

October gave us a beautiful fall day for our canoe trip. And we were diving, Gilboa and White Star. Weather for the Treasure dive for Diabetes on the 25th was not so great, but we had 18 divers for our first one. Who wants to try again next year?

Toledo Submariners

President's steak fry in October was great -- we had 26 hungry people come. Continuing the tradition, our PostChristmas Party is January 10. If you're wanting to get wet January through April, join us at the YMCA for Sunday night swim nights.

Cincinnati Underwater Explorers

We had our year end party December 6, at Ernest McAdams Jr's house, where we relived the past year's dive trips with photographs and videos. In March we head back to Missouri to dive the Bonne Terre Mines.

Bay Area Divers

Catching our breaths after another successful Shipwrecks and Scuba -- see you again next year? Just a few weeks before, we helped sponsor the Underwater Pumpkin Carving contest at White Star.

Gavia Dive Club

After our week at the Cay Sal Banks on the *Nekton Pilot*, this cold weather is not appreciated. Gavia Club has volunteered to handle the souvenir book for the upcoming ScubaFest in March. Open House is again scheduled for April.

Buckeye Divers

A great St. Clair River dive in August -- maybe the best visibility we've ever seen there. October gave us our annual pig orast. Next year, we're off to the Keys over Memorial Day, North Carolina in July, and to the Cayman Islands in October.

Brooke Lauer photo



Aqua Masters

We took the prize for the most divers at the October pumpkin carving contest. November saw a group head west for diving British Columbia -- the rest of us, with families, join the pool party at the Lakewood Y.

Aqua Mariners

Our November Caribbean trip was delayed, because of engine trouble, then a nervous couple who opted to not go. Don't pity us -- once we got there, the trip was great.

Easter egg dive tentatively scheduled for May 2.

Columbus Sea Nags

We're not ready to slow down yet. In December we heard reports from members who dived Cooper River, St. Thomas, Scapa Flow, and Bikini Atoll. Plus we hit pretty much every dive quarry in Ohio.

Lake Erie Wreck Divers

Whirlybird Lazertag was so much fun last year, we're doing it again in January. Come February we travel; how about Belize on board the *Nekton Pilot*? For those stuck at home, we're going to the Ford Seahorses show.

North Coast Aquatic Scuba Explorers

After a winter of hibernating, we'll be heading for warm salt water. June 15 you'll see us at Ambergris Caye, San Pedro, Belize.

Springfield Scuba Society

We have to do something until the water warms up -- how about steak and wine? Our Club outing to Valley Vineyards was in November. In January, we do it again, this time dinner and a movie.

Quarry Commandos

As you're reading this, we are diving the Florida Keys, early January. Our 4th Annual Christmas Tree Dive was held at Gillboa on November 1, and we'll be retrieving the tree in January.

Central Ohio Divers

Over the holidays we dove the Spiegle grove for the first time -- the largest thing we've ever seen underwater. Cold in Florida, but, Hey! We're off doing a Blackbeards cruise in May.

Kittyhawk Scuba Club

Several of the Kittyhawks are going on the Solmar V in January. Rest of us are jealous, and are in the early stages of planning a warm water trip for later in the year.

Lima Scubanauts

We're back from Utila, and ready to settle into the Ohio winter. Our club meetings feature dinner, the meeting, and diving in the YMCA pool.

Newark Poseidons

Membership and attendance has soared for our club recently! Good programs and many doorprizes are enticing. We have booked a meeting room at the EndZone Restaurant for all of 2004.

Marine Archaeology

The Maritime Archaeology Survey Team (MAST) is an avocational group dedicated to the documentation of Ohio's underwater cultural heritage. The Lake Erie Shipwreck Research Center (LESRC) serves as the headquarters for MAST, and hosts meetings at the Great Lakes Historical Society (GLHS) in Vermilion, Ohio.

MAST recently published a series of workshops for December 2003 with presentations that included shipwreck exploration, researching shipwrecks, and use of sidescan sonar. Announcements came out too late for inclusion in the *Faceplate*; we were able to publish them at ocssdi.org, and to all OCSSDI members who are on the e-mail list.

Follow-up workshops are planned for 2004, along with an underwater survey of a Lake Erie shipwreck. Past surveys include: the Adventure, the W. R. Hanna and the F. H. Prince. We hope that those attending workshops will consider joining MAST and actively participating in future surveys.

Erika Washburn, the LESRC Archaeological Director, currently chairs MAST; however, full-time staffing funds have not been solidified. Volunteer assistance and interns are needed to continue progressing with coordinating and publicizing workshops.

Volunteers may contact MAST via the Inland Seas Maritime Museum, 480 Main Street, Vermilion, OH; call Erika Washburn, 1-800-893-1485; or e-mail shipwreck@inlandseas.org.

ScubaFest 2004

March 19-21, 2004

Wyndham Dublin Hotel

600 Metro Place North, Dublin, Ohio



A weekend of top-notch scuba festivities, right here in Ohio. Exhibits, silent auction, speakers, door prizes, film festivals, and the Saturday evening Banquet Ball. The Saturday buffet dinner includes the awards ceremony, the announcement of winners for Underwater Images 2004 (the national underwater photography contest based here in Ohio), presentation of the Mel Sheenan Scholarship, and the Keynote Speakers' program.

EXHIBITS

A Who's Who of the Diving Industry. Manufacturers, Travel, Training!! Aggressor Fleet, Akona/Genesis, Aqualung/U.S. Divers, Dacor/Mares, Dive Industry Association (representing about 100 companies), Divers Alert Network (DAN), Draeger Rebreathers, DUI, Erie Quest, Frog Rebreathers, Harvey Dive Suits, Ikelite, Medic First Aid, Nekton Pilot, Oceanic, Optiautics, PADI Travel Network, Scuba Max, Sea Signs, Seaquest/Aqualung, Sherwood, Silent Diving Systems, Tabata, Trip N Tour, Undersea Explorer, Viking/Poseidon, and more.

Exhibit Hall, displays, and auctions are open free to the public.

Rooms at the Wyndham Dublin are \$89 per night. Call (614) 764-2200.

Tell them you are with the Ohio ScubaFest.

SCUBAFEST 2004 Advance Registration

- ALL-INCLUSIVE weekend pass and banquet \$60 (\$50 before 1/15/04)
- Weekend pass \$25
- One day pass \$15
- Saturday night banquet only \$40 (\$35 before 1/15/04)
- total enclosed Make checks payable to ScubaFest 2004



NAME: _____ Dive Club _____

ADDRESS _____ e-mail or phone _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to: **ScubaFest 2004**, PO box 85, Summit Station, Ohio 43073

or, you can order tickets via PayPal, at **ScubaFest.org**

Keynote speakers for the Saturday night banquet are

Jim and Pat Stayer

Out of the Blue Productions,

- authors of three books, & numerous videos and DVDs
- Keynote presentation: *Yap...More Than Mantas and Mandarins.* featured at the 2003 DEMA show.

Friday: Exhibits Room Open
March 19 6:00-9:00 pm
Film Festival
Mixer and Social

Saturday: Exhibit Rooms Open
March 20 Speakers and Presentations
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Pool Demonstrations
Saturday evening Banquet Ball
Awards: U/W Images
Presentation: *Jim and Pat Stayer*

Sunday: Exhibit Rooms Open
March 21 OCSSDI Meeting, 9 am
Speakers and Presentations
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Pool Demonstrations

Ticket Information:

Daily Pass \$15
exhibits, speakers, door prizes

Weekend Pass, no banquet \$25
above, two days, plus Friday film festival

All Inclusive Pass \$60
weekend pass, Friday night film festival,
Saturday night Banquet Ball,
speakers, door prizes, exhibits

Banquet pass only \$40

Door Prizes!!!
Scuba equipment
Dive Vacations
Big and Small
Check the web
for list

Three rooms of speakers will run concurrently, with topics ranging from travel, photography, technical, shipwrecks, ecology, sign language, equipment, caves, education....

Gearing up for Technical Diving: **Ryan Parkevich**; Signing Underwater: **Susanne Kiffmann**; Rebreathers Just Another Way to Dive: **Carol Kender**; Great Lakes Whalebacks: **Jim & Pat Stayer**; Great Whites/California Coast: **Joe Wysocki**; Fiji: **Roger Roth**; Shark Research in Australia: **John Rumney**; Alaskan Inward Passage: **Joe Wysocki**; Inspiration and Evolution Rebreathers: **Cliff Simeneau**; Cave Diving/What's Hot: **Steve Ormeroid**; Digital Photography: **Dave Haas**; Become a PADI Professional: **Patrick Heschal**; 3D Photography: **Marty Bailey**; Cave Diving: **Mark Thomas**; ErieQuest Marine Heritage Reserves: by Jeff Olmsted. Presentations by DAN, Draeger, PADI Travel Network, the Aggressor Fleet, Trip & Tour, Nekton Pilot, and many more!

U/W Images Photo Competition

February 1 is the deadline for the 2004 U/W Images Photo & Video Competition. This is an International Competition, based right here in Ohio! Each year, it attracts hundreds of photographers and videographers from all over the world. Thousands of dollars in prizes are awarded. Could this be the year for you?

There are five categories: Wide Angle, Macro, Freshwater, and Togetherness; and a category for Video. This year, a new category has been added for Digital. Two other categories, Creative and Conservation, can be slides, video, or digital.

Each year, because of the competition's Buckeye roots, there is a category open *just for Ohio Photographers*. After competing against the worldwide assembly, you have another chance competing against just those from Ohio. It's a great opportunity for veteran or new photographers alike.

You really ought to go to the website: www.uwimages.org. There, you will see the fabulous list of prizes, and you will see the winners from past years (spectacular!).

There is no limit to your number of entries. The fee is just \$10 per entry. For a complete list of rules, you may write: U/W Images, 10632 Cinderella Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45242-4911. Or better, just download from the website.

Schedule of Events

January 15: **Deadline, Early-Bird Special** for ScubaFest tickets

www.scubafest.org

January 17: **Deadline, Ford Seahorses Photo Contest**

www.fordseahorses.org

February 1: **Deadline, Underwater Images Photo Contest**

www.uwimages.org

February 21: **Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival**

Ford Seahorses, Dearborn, Michigan

26th annual! www.fordseahorses.org

February 21: **Boston Scuba Divers Show**, Marlboro, Mass.

55th Annual (978) 897-0877

February 21: **Swim for Diabetes and Scuba Too**, University of Toledo

www.dyp4kids.org

March 5-6: **Ghost Ships Festival**, Milwaukee, WI

www.ghost-ships.com

March 19-21: **ScubaFest 2004**, Dublin

Largest Scuba celebration in Great Lakes region!

45th annual! www.scubafest.org

March 21: OCSSDI meeting, Dublin

March 27: **Shipwrecks 2004**, Niagra Divers Association

Welland, Ontario www.vaxxine.com/nda

March 26-28: **Beneath The Sea**, Secaucus, NJ

(914) 664-4310, or e-mail info@beneaththesea.org

April 22: **Dive in Earth Day**, the Coral Reef Alliance

www.coralreefalliance.org/divein

April 23-25: **Our World Underwater**, Tinley Park (Chicago), IL

www.ourworldunderwater.com

April 25: **Scuba for Diabetes**, Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland

www.dagc.org/scuba/

May 2: **Easter Egg Dive**, Aqua Mariners

Details in Spring newsletter

July 24-25: **Barbecue for DAN**, Portage Quarry

July 25: OCSSDI meeting, Portage Quarry

Your Pictures Are Needed For The *Dive Ohio* Show

During the November OCSSDI meeting, Council decided to change the focus of the proposed *Dive Ohio* video. With today's technology, it was discussed, a Power Point presentation would seem to be a better idea.

Power Point, or similar, is easily stored and distributed on a CD Rom, and can be edited and modified much quicker and easier, as new images are provided. Plus, it should be easier to come up with and deal with underwater pictures than video. Rod Maxson has volunteered to head up the project, and have a show ready for ScubaFest.

The concept is a 5-minute show, quick-moving music, with hundreds of pictures flashed across the screen. Any of you who saw Jack and Sue Drafahl's presentation at *Shipwrecks and Scuba* know how exciting that looks. To make it work, we need pictures, maybe thousands.

Your photos, both topside and under water, of Diving Ohio. The quarries, the Lakes, the River; fish, clams, divers, shipwrecks, quarry buses and trucks; suiting up, hanging on lines, taking photos – everything. Talk it up in your club – your pictures are good enough. Digital video is also welcome.

If you're sending digital, Rod is hoping for digital quality of 1600x1200 pixels, where possible, but send whatever you have. The sooner the better, but definitely by Mid-February. Pretty much any format is OK. Don't forget to tell us where they're from!

You can send them via e-mail, at rod.maxson@us.abb.com. Or you can send photos or discs to Rod Maxson, 3242 Kenyon Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221.

Ever have someone say to you: the trouble with diving in Ohio is there's never anything going on? We're too far away from everything? When you hear that again, show that person the schedule on page 10. Anyone who is bored is missing a lot.

Why be a member of Council? Besides informing you of all the scuba around the state and nearb, remember this agency is working for you, the divers of Ohio. There is a lot of time and effort going towards keeping Lake Erie shipwrecks open and available to all of us. Oxygen legislation, the archaeological seminars, license plate proceedings, educational forums, the website, social activities, and community involvement, you'll see it here in the OCSSDI.

You can renew on-line, with your credit card and through pay-pal. Just go to OCSSDI.org.

Starting last year, more than half the members are getting their *Faceplate* via e-mail. Your choice. Just fill in the e-mail blank below. PRINT CLEARLY. If you've signed in already, or have been getting the mailed edition of the *Faceplate*, it's easy to change. Just e-mail faceplate@ohiohills.com, and request to receive yours via e-mail in the future.

As a Council member, you can be enrolled on the OCSSDI News Group. This is an e-mail service; if something happens regarding scuba in Ohio, you will receive a news flash on-line.

Membership for 2004 Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLUB AFFILIATION, if any _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

If you give us your e-mail address, we will automatically send you the *Faceplate* on-line, unless you request a hard copy instead.

Dues: \$12 per year. \$9 per year, if a member of an affiliate club. Make checks to OCSSDI, send to:

Rich Lauer
710 Ravenna Circle
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

