



# SWODA Guidelines

Providing positive direction to SCUBA divers



January 2007 Edition

### Next Meeting

There will not be a meeting for the month of January as the Club will be taking on a different meeting schedule for 2007.

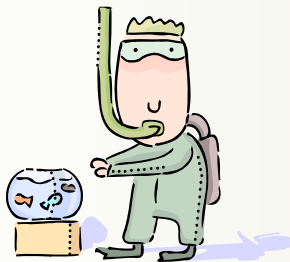
### Presidents Corner



Well, 2007 is here and SWODA is one year older/wiser. Coming in this year as President, I have some big shoes to fill and am excited to continue working with our fantastic executive to make this year a great success. The year is still young, but the Club is already busy with administrative work and decision-making. Before we know it,

it will be time to renew our memberships and start deciding which dive trips we want to go on this year. The dive season is quickly approaching! In lieu of this fact, the executive has begun planning for 2007. One of the first major changes being made this year is the reduction of meetings. An unavoidable fact in our busy day-to-day lives is that many SWODA members are either too busy or live too far to make it out to meetings every month. Addressing this, the executive has decided to cut the number of meetings per year. Since most members meet often at Club events and dives anyway, meetings will occur less frequently, and when necessary. More information on this matter will be given when the wrinkles are ironed out. In keeping our members connected and informed, SWODA Guidelines will still be sent out on a monthly basis, and the Club's website will become more interactive. I am personally excited for the 2007 season and hope that all of you are as well. If anyone has suggestions or comments on how the Club can improve, please feel free to contact any one of the executive members. I look forward to sharing a great dive season with all of you; Happy New Year!

~Patrick Briscoe~



### Your SWODA Executive for 2007

The following individuals are excited to be your executive for 2007:

**President-** Patrick Briscoe

**Vice- President-** Mar Smith

**Treasurer-** Ed Hatfield

**Secretary-** Needed

**Webmaster-** Patrick Briscoe & Luigi DiRaimo

**Newsletter Editor-** Patrick Briscoe

**Promotions-** Steve Brandow

**Events Team-** Cathy Brandow & Phil Shelley

We are looking for more volunteers, to share the load. So please contact us to see if you too would like to hop in and become a team player.

Patrick Briscoe, pbriscoe@rogers.com



### Marlyn Smith — Vice President



Mar has been an avid diver for over 18 years, diving in areas all over the Great lakes, to the East Coast of Nova Scotia, down to the Carolinas, extensively across the Caribbean, and Cave Diving in Florida and Mexico. Mar has been teaching for 9 years, with her own teaching Facility in the London area. Mar is cross certified with P.A.D.I., N.A.U.I., S.D.I., and is an Instructor Trainer for T.D.I Canada.

Mar teaches everything from Open water right through to Trimix. Mar has coordinated dive trips for her dive club, (SWODA), as well as acting as a dive consultant for Squba Holidays for over 17 years.

Mar is currently the dive coordinator for the "Arrow Recovery" search team. She has also completed her NAS level 1 and is looking forward to achieving her next Marine Archaeology NAS 2. Mar is also one of the founders of the Great Lakes in Depth dive symposium and professes never to get enough diving.

~Marlyn Smith~

### Ed Hatfield—Treasurer



I live in London with my wife Catherine. I have five sons and I am the grandfather of three, with a fourth on the way. I have been self employed in the security industry since leaving the London Police Department in 1989. I enjoy traveling and recently spent five weeks back-packing across southern Mexico, Guatemala and Belize, visiting and photographing Mayan archaeological sites.

I am a novice diver but I am determined to improve my skills. The picture was taken in San Andreas, Colombia, in February, 2006. I was in north Florida with Marlyn in the fall for my first taste of cave diving. This, combined with trips to Brockville and Gilboa Quarry, has been the extent of my SCUBA experience. My wife and I fell in love with the Mayan Riviera and have been avid snorkellers for years. As great as it was - IT WASN'T ENOUGH. While in the water off the coast of Akumal, I caught the SCUBA bug and vowed to get certified. I also joined the SWODA family and haven't looked backed.

I look forward to a busy diving season in 2007. I will be the club treasurer for 2007 and invite everyone to support the club by attending meetings whenever and wherever possible.

~Ed Hatfield~

### Web Master—Luigi DiRaimo



My name is Luigi Di Raimo and have been with SWODA for over 10 years. I have been Club President for 2 of those years and a Divemaster for a bunch more. I am currently taking on the responsibility of Webmaster for the Club.

I am actively involved in sport diving as a PADI Instructor and do much of my diving in the Great Lakes. I am also involved in technical diving with certifications in extended

range, trimix and cave diving. I can usually be seen carrying a camera – whether its for taking photographs topside (nature, landscape, etc) or underwater. In my real job, I am an Area Manager for General Dynamics Land Systems – Canada.

~Luigi DiRaimo~

### Newsletter Editor—Patrick Briscoe



Hi Everyone!

In 1998 (age 12) I received my Junior Open Water certification through Marlyn Smith. After a break from the underwater world, I started diving again in 2002 and since then have gotten my Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver, Basic Nitrox, DAN

O2, and First Aid certifications. Currently, I am working on getting my Dive Master Cert. I am also fortunate enough to be on the Avro Arrow Recovery Team (this year will be my third).

Favorite Wrecks: Keystorm, Forest City, Lilly Parsons, Arabia

Outside of my scuba life, I'm a third-year student at the University of Western Ontario, taking a double major in Political Science and Social Justice.

I'm really looking forward to this dive season as I know our new Exec has many fresh ideas which are going to make this year a great success! I hope to see everyone out at the club events; have a great start to the New Year!

~Patrick Briscoe~

### Promotions—Steve Brandow



Steve Brandow is married with 2 kids that are both certified as scuba divers. Steve has been a club member for 5 Years.

Steve has been doing a great job of our Club Promotions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. To date Steve has logged over 150 dives and holds certification in Open Water (OW) and Advanced (OW) as well as his Nitrox & Dry Suit Diver rating.

Steve has his future dive plans on Advanced Nitrox, Deco Procedures and Cavern diver levels. Some of his favorite dive destinations locally have been diving in Brockville, Kingston, and Sarnia River. Port Sanilac in Michigan, Gilboa Quarries at Ohio and even Innerkip at the right time of year. South destinations have been Barbados twice, Jamaica, Cuba, Aruba 3 times and this year off to Bonaire with the SWODA gang. Special interest for Steve other than Scuba is hockey.

~Steve Brandow~

Newsletter submissions may be e-mailed to:

Patrick Briscoe, pbriscoe@rogers.com

All users are required to sign a standard release of liability in order to participate in Club SWODA dive activities.

A copy of the release may be obtained from the executive for your review.

## Phil Shelly—Events Team



The Phil Guy

Born only a few years after the invention of SCUBA, The Phil guy, or Philmon, did not take up this crazy sport until the late 80's when his cardio therapist told him to do something for himself for a change. So with a note from his doctor, he asked a

friend, Brad Groshok a dive master with Good Guys Scuba to take him to the next class, and the rest, as they say is history. He currently holds certifications for Master Diver, Rescue Diver, Nitrox as well as spending many years as a teaching assistant for many of the club's instructors, past and present. He would be both a NAUI and PADI dive master if he had a shark on his butt while doing the long swims.

Phil was President of SWODA in the last century for two years, as well as Director of Industry for the Ontario Underwater Council for three years. He has also been the factory rep for several scuba equipment manufacturers in the early to mid "90s. He is a Parrot Head, a pirate, a traveler and a volunteer for whatever comes his way. As a traveler, both professionally and for pleasure, he has been to a dozen Caribbean destinations as well as all the Great Lakes and even the Mediterranean 3 years ago.

~Phil Shelly~

## Cathy Brandow—Events Team



Cathy Brandow is married to Steve Brandow and they have 2 boys. Cathy has been out on occasion encountering a Discover Scuba both here and in the Caribbean. Cathy enjoys snorkeling and has even have been on "SNUBA" in Aruba! How cool is that? Cathy has been coming out to dive events since Steve has been involved and enjoys the weekends or

the day trips.

~Cathy Brandow~

## Pool Nights 2007



Yes, SWODA Pool Nights are back! We will be booking pool time for members to come out and get your Christmas gifts wet and keep your underwater skills fine-tuned. We are planning to have a pool night in January, February, March and April. Come out and join the fun and plan to bring family members to swim with us! Stay tuned for more details.

## It's That Time of Year

With a SWODA membership comes many benefits. To keep our great club afloat, the time has come to submit our dues. Fortunately, those who "do the due" before signup night (TBA) get a special discount! Remember, the more members we have the better we can serve you. With a strong membership base, our Dive Masters can tailor dives to suit the varying levels of divers as our club grows, which means more and better diving for everyone!

### S.W.O.D.A. 2006 Membership Options:

Early Bird Renewal \$40 ( Before March meeting)  
\$ 45 Single- After

Early Bird Renewal \$64 ( Before March meeting)  
\$ 69 family- After

\$ 10 Newsletter Only( Friends Of SWODA)

\$25 Introductory Offer for New Members

### Member Benefits

- Access to club sanctioned dive trips, under the supervision of qualified Dive Masters, with SWODA's high standards and safety equipment.
- Ontario Underwater council (OUC) is extended automatically.
- This relationship is an opportunity to network with the dive community, and to participate in the activities of the fellow dive clubs, such as Ice flow, in Peterborough or the Underwater Olympics in Hamilton. The OUC is also a facility to obtain recognized representation with the government.
- Access to unbiased information about equipment, agencies, charter and dive site without the inherent conflicts of retail or agency affliction.
- The opportunities to become a active member of the club, with voting rights or executive privileges.
- Newsletters delivered monthly are an opportunity to share information or obtain details regarding club activities or diving opportunities.
- Encountering the support of divers with broad ranges of experience.
- Dive buddies to dive with.

*Price is what you pay, Value is what you get!*

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Patrick Briscoe, pbriscoe@rogers.com

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## Birthday Corner



**January 2006**

**Jan 2nd**  
 Craig McCulloch  
**Jan 22nd**  
 David Rosseel  
**31st**  
 Albert Taylor



## SWODA Executive 2007

Position	Name	Email
<b>President</b>	Patrick Briscoe	pbriscoe@rogers.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Marlyn Smith (Mar Smith)	mar@divewithmar.on.ca
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ed Hatfield	hatfields@rogers.com
<b>Secretary</b>		
<b>Webmaster</b>	Luigi DiRaimo Patrick Briscoe	ouigiman@sympatico.ca
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Patrick Briscoe	
<b>Promotions</b>	Steve Brandow	scubasteve@amtelecom.net
<b>Events Team</b>	Phil Shelley	thephilguy@porchlight.ca
<b>Events Team</b>	Cathy Brandow	islandhopper@amtelecom.net

## The Gear Bin

### Looking for used Gear!

- L-XL Neoprene dry suit. 170-190 pds.  
 Dan Varewyck- (519) 686-8208



## The Gear Bin

- UK 1200 underwater light.  
 Mar Smith -(519)-672-3100
- Black Military Viking Dry suit - Men's med/large, bag/repair kit included \$800; Whites black neoprene dry suit 10 dives \$500...or \$1000 for both! Jeff Lindsay lindsaycave@gmail.com
- Canister dive light, with both long and sort batteries for long or short dives options with 2 charges.  
 Mar Smith. 519-672-3100



Please inform us of your progress so we can keep this column current. If you're not using your gear or wanting to upgrade, keep watching this column for dive gear you might be after.

Mar Smith



## SWODA Wear



Proud owner

Steve Brandow is your guy with the smart SWODA wear. Steve and Sean Dunn from Tommy White's Source for Sports in St Thomas are really coming up with great options this year. Steve can get SWODA wear with our logo on almost

anything, so ask to see the catalog for all the great SWODA gear.. Come out to our next meeting to see what cool SWODA wear options we have.



### SHARKS!

We also have the **Happy Sharks** available now. Great for stocking stuffers. These Happy Shark are for your vehicle or dive gear boxes, it is a dive flag too. We have them now so if your are interested.

Contact:  
 Steve & Cathy 519-773-5143  
 or email: [scubasteve@amtelecom.net](mailto:scubasteve@amtelecom.net)



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## SWODA Dives and Events Schedule 2006

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	LEVEL	CONTACT	PHONE
January 7th 2007	New Year Dive	Sarnia	Everyone	Patrick Briscoe Ralph Darbyshire	453-5221 pbriscoe@rogers.com
<b>2007</b>					
March-April TBA	Bonne Terre Mine	St Lewis. Missouri	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
March—TBA	Trip sign up night	Elephant & Castle	Everyone	Patrick Briscoe	pbriscoe@rogers.com
March 1-8th	SWODA Winter Trip	Belize	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Feb 23-25-07	Toronto's Outdoor Adventure Show	Toronto	Everyone	Executive Member	pbriscoe@rogers.com
May—TBA	Quarry Diving	Ohio	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
June TBA	River Drifting	Forte Erie	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
June—TBA	Shore & boat diving	Tobermory	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
July –TBA	Great lake wreck diving	Toby & North channel	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
July –TBA	Great lake wreck diving	Alpena Mic	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Aug 11th-12th	Wreck Diving	Kingston	Everyone	Steve Brandow Patrick Briscoe	<a href="mailto:scubasteve@amtelecom.net">scubasteve@amtelecom.net</a>
Aug –TBA	Wreck Diving	Toby	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca
Sept 7-9 th	Wreck Diving	Brockville	Everyone	Marlyn Smith	672-3100 mar@divewithmar.on.ca

*Pool nights throughout the winter will get booked in for club use, so stay tuned to changes in the newsletter!*

This schedule may change as the season comes closer. If Dive Masters do not get commitment or interest on promoted trips. This will bring changes to our coming dives and events calendar. Please contact the DM running the trip or event so we can plan great things for Your Dive Season! Help us help you!

## Other Non-Club Dives and Events In our Area

THIS CHART WILL BE TO KEEP OUR MEMBERS INFORMED OF OTHER DIVE RELATED EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
April 14 2007	Hamilton & Scourge event	Museum of Ontario Archaeology	Don McLeod 457-4557 donm357@sympatico.ca
July 14-15 2007	Kingston Dive Weekend	Kingston, Ontario	Ron Sisson ronsisson@rogers.com
OUC—Newsletter— <a href="http://www.underwatercouncil.com/news.htm">http://www.underwatercouncil.com/news.htm</a>			

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