



# MAN UNDERWATER

Manitoba Underwater Council

Spring 2010

Volume 40, Issue 1



**Porker Derby, September 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, West Hawk Lake,  
See article on page 4.**



**Clean up Dive at West Hawk Lake,  
June 20<sup>th</sup> 2009, article on page 5**

**Manitoba Underwater Council  
2010 AGM  
Sunday, 11 April 2010 1:00-4:00  
Sport Manitoba Building**



**Dive Flag Awareness,  
See insert**



## Manitoba Underwater Council Executive Board Members

### Board of Directors

**President** – Jim Yankoski      **Treasurer** – Brent Shabbits      **Special Projects** – Peggy Ray  
**Vice President** - Joel Langley    **Health and Safety** – C. Hitchon    **Communications** – Sean Ennis

### Chairpersons

**Membership Service** – Peggy Ray    **News letter** – Shauna Langley    **Bingo** – Ed Stark  
**Underwater Football** – Sean Ennis    **Equipment** – Ed Stark    **Water Safety Coalition** – Doreen Draffin

### Manitoba Dive Clubs

For information or contacts for any Manitoba Dive Club email [info@manunderwater.com](mailto:info@manunderwater.com)

**Brandon Scuba Club**

**C.A.S.T**

**Club Aquarius**

**Dauphin Dolphins**

**The Goldeyes Scuba Club**

**The Independents**

**The Regulators Scuba Club**

**U of M Scuba Club**

**Contact MUC**

**PO Box 711**

**Main Street**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**R3C 2K3**

**Or [info@manunderwater.com](mailto:info@manunderwater.com)**

## Message from the President - Jim Yankoski

What's new this year? New location and funding model with Sport Manitoba, the Clean up dive, another great Porker Derby, Club events, Monster Dive, West Hawk Lake float renewal, passing of a community member, and new MUC board members.

We are moving to a new location with Sport Manitoba. The Sport for Life Center will be opened at 145 Pacific Avenue. Our funding model at Sport Manitoba has also changed. The new model is similar to past models and the game plan type of approach is back. How it affects Underwater Council remains to be seen. It does appear that we will need to maintain our fundraising efforts. We hope to retain the opportunity for clubs to work Bingo events. I am sure that we need to continue our annual social event to keep our community contacts as well as to raise funds.

This year we had another new event with the Clean Up Dive at West Hawk Lake. PADI's Project Aware was part of the plan and we incorporated a Dive Flag Awareness. Thanks to our board members and members who participated. It was a successful as well as enjoyable. We took about 100 lbs of garbage out of the lake, including fishing line and hooks. Our reward is a cleaner ecosystem. We hope the fish population will benefit! Thanks to our sponsors including Crescent Beach Marina for complimentary air fills to the participants.

The Porker Derby was well attended and qualified as another success. The weather was good, the food was great and the camaraderie was excellent. We had a few divers return from a long hiatus as well as a few new divers. Thanks to our volunteers, participants and of course, our sponsors from One Stop Diving, Underworld and Diver's Den.

Our club events continue and we have seen a resurgence of participation including the Regulators Dive Club.

The Goldeyes sponsored the Monster Dive and it was great fun. Underwater Football continues to thrive. Nonetheless, there is always room for another competitor.

We have a new project with the dive area float renewal. A few new floats have been installed in the dive area at West Hawk Lake. We will continue this year and intend to complete the transition to new style marker floats. They will be consistent with those used to mark swimming areas by Manitoba Parks authorities. Boaters are aware that they must stay out of those areas. Enforcement of the boundaries by police will be easier. MUC seeks to improve safety for divers by maintaining the boundary markers of the dive training area.

A well-known member of the dive community passed away this year while on vacation. Dr. Gary Podolsky was a travel and dive medical specialist and founder of Skylark Clinic. He performed medical exams for scuba divers and treated returning vacationers ailments. He maintained a website, published articles, and was a travel show exhibitor. There was always a project in the works. Gary was a supporter of the Manitoba Underwater Council and a good friend to all. He is missed and fondly remembered.

On another note, a big thank-you goes out to all the Local Dive Stores who have supported the Manitoba Underwater Council and diving in Manitoba. Thank you also to all the volunteers who work quietly behind the scenes to make it all happen.

As we move into a new diving season and a new Council fiscal year, I would like to recognize some changes to our board. New members have brought new ideas and sparked motivation. We anticipate some changes from existing board members. The Manitoba Underwater Council will be accepting candidates for the Board. Nominations will be accepted at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010. I encourage all members to attend. Memberships are valuable! See you there! Jim Yankoski

### **MUC Memberships**

Please help in supporting our Provincial Sport Organization to promote safe Scuba Diving in Manitoba by becoming a member.

Single membership \$20      Family membership \$25

Download the membership from the MUC website or contact your local dive store or club.

### **FOR SALE**

MUC has a beautiful female mannequin for sale. She has a body like Twiggy and comes complete with brunette wig. You can store your dive gear on her, to make sure it keeps its natural shape. She may like gardening and could help keep the crows away. Dress her up as part of your Halloween display. Many, many uses. Anyone interested contact us through our website.



## Summer's Over....Now What?

With the leaves changing color and temperatures slowly approaching the lower end of the mercury, fall is finally upon us. There are various routines for the change in seasons. If you own an RV you need to drain the water and add antifreeze, for a car it could be as easy as adding some antifreeze or putting on snow tires. If you own a home you might need to disconnect your sump hose, put your outdoor furniture away, and rotate your lawnmower with your snow blower for better access in your shed or garage.

So is there something for my SCUBA gear?

After doing some research there are some simple things that could be done to extend the life of your gear, and at the very least time for some annual cleaning.

Before storing your tanks, be sure tanks are pressurized to at least 25psi to prevent any moisture from entering the cylinder. Store tanks securely and upright in a cool dry place.

All compressed air cylinders should be inspected regularly. Before diving, check for any corrosion or heavy wear on the outside of the tank. Visual inspection is required annually and more frequently if used heavily, filled in a humid environment, or if the tank is drained completely. Stickers should be removed prior to a visual inspection. Tanks must be hydrostatically tested once every five years to ensure the integrity of the tank walls.

Since I did my basic open water course in Alaska, I was taught to rinse all of my gear with fresh water as soon as possible since I was diving in the ocean. That habit has stuck with me, even diving in fresh water. I know all of my gear is clean when I put it away. Some individuals who dive fresh water let their gear dry after use and then store it right after. Depending on how many dives you have done that season, your wet suit will start to have a certain body odor to it. Yes we do sweat, we all have bacteria and body oils that end up on the inside of our suits, so rinsing them with fresh water and drying them inside out will help control odor. Try not to cram it into a dive bag afterwards, this will only compress the insulation of the neoprene, and your insulation factor will be decreased. For those with dry suits, rinse your outer suit same as the wet suit with fresh water and turn it inside out and allow it to dry and air out. For your thermals wash them with a mild detergent.

For those who own a dive computer, it is a good practice to take your battery out and spend the extra dollar for a fresh battery for the spring. This will save you from the frustration of having a dive computer with a dead battery at a dive site with no spare! Also you will know for certain your computer has a fresh battery.

As for your mask and snorkel, one word, snot! Yes, we do snot in our masks and we do add snot to our snorkel. Fall is a good time to clean your mask and snorkel with a mild detergent so there is no wildlife living in your mask or snorkel during the winter months. This way, you will not have a science experiment on your face for your first dive of the year.

The regulator should be soaked in clean fresh water (no additives) for an hour or so. During the soak, work any buttons, control levers or knobs back and forth to loosen any particles that may have accumulated inside. Follow by running fresh water over the first and second stages to remove loose

debris. It is very important to prevent water from entering the first stage. Ensure that the dust cap is in place and do not depress the purge button on the second stage. Dry the regulator with a clean towel after rinsing, then store the regulator in a cool dry place, away from dust, light, heat and fumes of any kind. Ideally, the regulator can be kept in a plastic bag. Store the regulator where there is little or no stress on the hoses. All regulators should be serviced according to manufacturer's suggestions, which is usually once a year.

Lastly your BCD should be rinsed off and your air chambers should have air left in them to keep the bladder inside from sticking together.

These are some of the things I do for winter maintenance for my SCUBA gear. The more care I put into my gear the longer it will last me. Plus my wife will not allow me to buy more SCUBA toys.

Joel Langley

## **Manitoba Water Safety Coalition**

By Doreen Draffin

A number of years ago, as a member of the Manitoba Underwater Council (MUC), I was given an opportunity to represent MUC on the Manitoba Water Safety Coalition (MWSC). The MWSC is made up of representatives of all parties concerned with water safety in Manitoba including the Manitoba Camping Association, the Red Cross, the Lifesaving Society, Conservation Manitoba, Parks, and RCMP etc. There have been many initiatives that have promoted safety: an annual convention that is quite successful and personal floatation devices (PFDs) to be provided to Northern and rural areas along with summer swimming lessons.

More pertinent to MUC, the Diver Down flag was included in the Coalition Safety Study as well as the Critical Incident Form to be filled out and submitted whenever something "amiss" with diving occurs.

I have learned lots from my time on the Coalition and I hope to keep it up in the future.

## **The MUC Annual Porker Derby**

The MUC Annual Porker Derby was held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at West Hawk Lake. After registration, dive teams were in the water for the first of 2 dives. First dive was to find the canisters to deposit the porker chips. Canisters were hidden at various depths. For the second dive, each diver received a playing card. They were to find the hole punch, with a specific punch shape, also hidden at various depths. The idea was to find and punch each shape onto your playing card for points. You also received extra points if you registered early, either on our website [www.manunderwater.com](http://www.manunderwater.com) or at a local supporting dive store. After the diving was complete we dined on wonderful roast pork dinner. Prizes were awarded and divers got to socialize before the day was complete. Great time, see you next year.

## *In the News*

The **Lake Clean Up and Dive Flag Awareness Day** was held on June 20, 2009. We had 6 volunteers to do a dive at both Crescent Beach/Marina and Millers Beach. We also had 3 volunteers doing shore clean up. Approximately 100 lbs of trash was collected – everything from a hair gel container, children's toys, an air mattress, lots and lots of fishing line, a piece of carpet to shoes and underwear. 20 lbs were items such as plastic bottles, glass bottles and beverage cans that could have been recycled. All items were inventoried and data forwarded on to ProjectAWARE [www.projectaware.org](http://www.projectaware.org). Dive flag awareness was carried out at the Crescent Beach marina and was a great success. Diver down stickers and diver down brochures were handed out to boaters. The information was well received by everyone.

On Saturday, July 11, the **Goldeyes Scuba** club held their **Monster Dive** at West Hawk Lake. Divers were searching for the hidden monsters lurking in the deep waters. Everyone enjoyed a hot dog lunch and prizes were distributed to all the lucky winners.

**Dauphin Dolphins** held their 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Spearfishing Derby on Saturday and Sunday, August 8/9th at Child's Lake in the Duck Mountains. There were 16 teams and 33 divers. Ken Baker earned the honor of catching the largest fish at 7.82 lbs. There were in total of 236 fish caught, weighing 796.37 lbs. Saturday was complete with a wonderful steak and fish dinner. There were approximately 120 plates sold for dinner. Unfortunately the skies opened up and we got a little wet, but were all dried out for the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning. The fishing wrapped up on Sunday afternoon and prizes were awarded. Great weekend, great time. Watch for news on the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Spearfishing Derby coming August 7/8, 2010.

## *The MUC Annual Fundraising Social 2009*

The social was held on Friday, November 13, at the Canad Inns Tijuana Yacht Club, at Polo Park, Winnipeg.

Silent auction, 50/50 and special prize draws were held. Most importantly, divers got to meet new divers and catch up with some old dive buddies. There were some great discussions about the summer dive season, that was winding down. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers, who did just a great job. A big thank-you also goes out to the business and individuals who donated prizes. It was a great social evening. See you at next year's social.

## **2010 Manitoba Underwater Council AGM**

The 2010 Manitoba underwater Council, Annual General Meeting (AGM), will be held at the Sport Manitoba Building, Sunday, 11 April 2010, from 1:00 – 4:00. You probably heard through various venues, come out and support the Manitoba Underwater Council (MUC). If not from these venues maybe it was word of mouth from Jim or Peggy. Why support the Manitoba Underwater Council, you ask? It's an easy answer, the council needs volunteers to help implement its programs, and to promote safety and participation in SCUBA diving throughout the province of Manitoba. Myself like so many other divers in the province was unfamiliar with the MUC, so I went to the AGM last year, as to get some more information about the council. The turnout was small, but the members that were sitting there that day, were very dedicated to the sport of SCUBA. Some members of the council decided to step down from the position they held for many years, other members happily volunteered to fill vacant committee positions. It was like the changing of the guard! The only problem that day, there was not enough volunteers to fill all of the vacancies. That is when Jim Yankoski, and his henchman Ed Stark stepped up to the plate. For those who do not know Jim or Ed, they are very charismatic well spoken individuals, before I knew it, I was the new Vice President of MUC. Thanks Jim and Ed! During my time as the Vice President, I learned very quickly what MUC has to offer. From cleaning up dive sites, dive flag awareness, installing and maintaining the dive buoy's at West Hawk, to promoting the sport with new and safe dive opportunities through local dive clubs. This could not have been done without volunteers!

As defined in the dictionary, **Volunteering** is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life, but people also volunteer for their own skill development, to meet others, to make contacts for possible employment, and to have fun.

If you want to be part of an organization that has a special bond, promote quality of life, and just have fun, please come out and join us at the MUC 2010 AGM.

When: Sunday, 11 April 2010, 1:00 - 4:00

Where: Sport Manitoba Building, 145 Pacific Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Joel Langley  
Vice President MUC