

# BRANDON SCUBA CLUB

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It has been a while since our last newsletter as I spent most of last summer on the west coast and in the Northwest Territories. That meant I missed the Crack the Safe dive which was held in July. The pictures on the right are from this dive and we have a write up on page 1.

The pictures above are of the BSC logo and right sleeve from a Brandon Scuba Club golf shirt. If you don't have yours yet and want to find out how to get one come to the next club meeting being held on November 28th.

I hope to see you all at the Scuba Club Christmas party on November 25th. The Christmas party is always a lot of fun.

Dive safe,

Ed Burrige  
burrige@mts.net

## Brandon Scuba Club Meeting

7:30 PM November 28, 2006  
UFCW Office





## Presidents Message

Here we are again at that famous time of the year. During the year, some divers had lots of dives and some others had less. As a diving club, we try to bring Westman divers together through some planned events so they can get to know each other and benefit from each other's experience. But as a club we can do just so much, the ultimate factor to the club success belongs to every diver.

Soon we will be together celebrating the Brandon Scuba club Christmas party in Sprucewoods with others fellows divers.

There will be games, dancing, music and a potluck supper, everything to make it a great evening. It is up to you to make it a success. Sometimes when we go to a party, we know only a few people which limits the interaction with other people. But lucky for you at this Christmas party everybody shares the same pastime either directly or indirectly.

Some fellow members already have the jitters to go south this winter. Some will go and some will only dream of going south. There is nothing wrong with dreaming and hoping. In the mean time, we can train here in Manitoba to be great divers.

Hope to see you soon.

CAMIL

## CRACK THE SAFE DIVE

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the Brandon Scuba Club held the first annual crack the safe dive. It was held at the Glen Beag dive site in Riding Mountain National Park. Before the divers arrived, twenty five keys were placed around various locales around the dive site. The goal of the dive was to find the key that "cracks the safe" and winning the grand prize – which was a myriad of camping gear and gift certificates. Brian was kind enough to be the Divemaster of the event, and Ryan and Jason served as rescue divers who were luckily not employed, despite Ed's antics. I swear Russell thought the clear lake monster itself had him. There were around 30 people attending and ten or so teams to search for the winning key. Everyone came in safe and sound with a couple keys and a story. When the time arrived, all but three of the keys were found. Everyone checked their keys and we determined that the winning key had not been found! Having set up this event, I can honestly say I did not take this into consideration – so we decided to draw from a hat of the divers present for the grand prize. Jay and I headed out into the water to prove that we in fact did not rig the event and a winning key existed. Also partly because that was the only key that would open the now-locked safe, so it was fairly important that we did find it. We came back with the winning key and presented the grand prize to Jonathon Murray. Several draws were made for divers and non divers alike. A BBQ provided by the BSC followed and everyone seemed to enjoy their time, despite it not being a freebie with the parks as we thought it might be. The event was an official success, and we hope to build on it for next year and have more members out!!

Ryan Bartlette  
Events co-chair

## ODDITIES

For those of you that haven't taken advantage, the club has purchased an online subscription to the source *Undercurrent*. Simply go to the site [www.undercurrent.org](http://www.undercurrent.org) and go to the Online Members section. The username is BdnScl and the password is bdnsc1. Remember it is case sensitive! They've got some good reviews in their, enjoy.

The Brandon Scuba Club has a new logo! It is pictured here and you can get whatever apparel you so desire at regent custom cresting in Brandon. Simply go down there to their place on southern ave, tell them you want the Brandon Scuba Club logo and pick away. Come out to the next meeting sporting your shirt and you will be reimbursed for a part of it!

Please send your email to [bartletter@westman.wave.ca](mailto:bartletter@westman.wave.ca). This makes it easier to get out to people about future events and "goings on" within the club without waiting for meetings. It also allows for people planning non club sanctioned event to get the word out.

Have you ever been to the Glen Beag dive site in Clear Lake and wondered where it got its name? Was it named after anyone? I did, so I took the liberty of finding out. After preliminary research I thought it probably wasn't named after a person but I couldn't be sure. So I went straight to the horses' mouth and asked the fine people at Parks Canada. "The Glen Beag picnic site at Riding Mountain National Park of Canada is not named after a person. But the word "glen" means a meadow and the word "beag" is the Gaelic word for small. Therefore the meaning of "Glen Beag" is the small meadow." It's all from Gaelic and Celtic meaning. Glen actually comes from a Welsh language meaning clean or purity. Beag as Régan noted means small in Gaelic, and is also related to Irish mythology where the Goddess Beag was known for having a magic well (certainly fits the area). So all in all, I am unsure if all I did was really raise more questions (where does all the Celtic influence in RMNP come from??) but I hope this helps. Thanks to Régan Smith at Parks Canada for the info.

## **Versatile vinegar zaps pains, stains**

By Twila Bauer

Next to water, that five percent acetic acid solution, vinegar, is the diver's second most serviceable liquid. When asked, several people were nice enough to share a few tidbits of information on the many uses for which this adaptable wine can be applied while on your next dive trip.

PADI Educational Consultant Mal Fousek suggests that vinegar can be used as a sunburn treatment mixed with water (either 75/25 or 50/50) and patted on the affected area. It will have a cooling effect and help stop blistering and peeling.

Vinegar can also be used to clean up that disgusting black growth (mildew) that sometimes shows up in your mask and snorkel or regulator mouthpiece. Let soak for about three hours, be sure to wash well.

Should you succumb to the urge while diving and have to clean your wetsuit later, try placing the wetsuit in a warm bath with about a cup of vinegar for about an hour. Rinse well. The suit will be nice and fresh for the next use. White vinegar is the perfect solution for breaking down uric acid.

If you are having seafood on your trip, a wine vinegar, when mixed with lemon and/or Worcestershire sauce makes a delightful marinade for fish, clams, scallops, mussels, and lobster tails.

Dennis Graver, scuba author, consultant and instructor, notes that one of the most common uses of vinegar is its remedial ability to be used as a solution to neutralize marine-life stings - jellyfish, fire coral, and bristle worm stings, as well as sea sponge and sea cucumber irritation.

The vinegar can be used straight or mixed with distilled water (75% vinegar/25% water) poured over the sting area to cleanse the area and wash away any remaining stinging devices.

According to Mark Bricklin, executive editor of PREVENTION Magazine, since vinegar has a high content of acid, it has the property of retarding the growth of some pathogenic bacteria. However, it is not wise to rely on them exclusively to prevent infection in a really severe burn or cut.

Although not exactly directly related to a dive trip this second hint from Bricklin could possibly make a trip more enjoyable. The bacteria growth-retarding factor of vinegar has also been found to be applicable to the prevention of plain old under-the-arm body odor... so the next time when you are caught with an empty deodorant in your suitcase, pull out the dive gear first aid kit and try a splash or two of white vinegar.

The Heinz Company has a few hints for the 'morning after' dilemmas... you don't have to cry over spilled cola or wine, if you apply undiluted white vinegar directly to the stain within 24 hours, (on washable 100 percent cotton, polyester, and permanent press cotton fabrics).

Then wash and dry as usual. And, when you wake up with a smoky odor permeating your clothes, vinegar can absorb all the bad smells so your breakfast buddies don't have to. Pour two cups of vinegar in a bathtub of hot water, hang your clothes above the tub, and let the odor disappear.

*Taken for NYSDA's September 2003 edition of Diver's Digest*

## **TIRELESS SEARCH PAYS OFF, WITH LOTS OF HIGH-TECH HELP**

Charron Lake will give up its ghost. The Ghost of Charron Lake is a Fokker Standard aircraft built in 1928 and a link to aviation history - Manitoba's, Canada's and the world's. It was one of the first planes bought by James A. Richardson, the aviation pioneer, and was a workhorse in the Manitoba wilderness when air travel was in its infancy.

Richardson foresaw the role aircraft could play in unlocking the riches of the roadless north, and it was on a freight haul to a mine on Island Lake that the ghost made its last flight. That was in December of 1931.

Pilot Stuart McRorie and mechanic Neville (Slim) Forrest ran into a snowstorm and were forced down on Charron Lake, a 35-square-kilometre lake at the point where Manitoba's keystone angle juts off from the north-south boundary.

They were found alive by rescuers almost two weeks later, but their plane had become frozen in the ice. In the spring of 1932, before a salvage operation could be mounted, the ice thawed and the plane went down in nearly 40 metres of water. And there it sits, 73 years on.

Since then, the location of the sunken aircraft has eluded many teams of volunteer and expert searchers. As a result, it came to be known as the Ghost of Charron Lake. It remains a ghost no longer.

Early last week, a five-member search team working for the Western Canadian Aviation Museum (WCAM) discovered the wreckage while making global positioning system-guided paths across the body of water. Using sophisticated 'side-scan sonar equipment, the team found an eerily clear image of the ghost plane resting on the lake's bottom. The find was confirmed days later when the crew used a remotely guided vehicle (ROV) housing an underwater camera to take video of the aircraft's remains.

"The discovery of the plane and the retrieval of the plane is important not just to the Western Canadian Aviation Museum. It's part of Canada's aviation heritage," said Shirley Render, executive director of the museum, which attracts 30,000 visitors annually.

Render said historians have regarded the single-engine, open cockpit plane as an instrumental part of Canadian aviation history, responsible for opening up much of northern Manitoba to human activity and industry.

The Fokker Universal, a single engine, open-cockpit aircraft was key to the exploration and development of Manitoba's north.

The bush plane is the last one of its kind and was primarily used to fly prospectors and trappers to mine and hunting sites, demonstrating a practical use for airplanes in peacetime.

George T Richardson - son of James has been actively involved with the WCAM searches that began in 1974, providing financial backing for search team expeditions. Richardson an aviation buff who usually prefers to remain out of the public eye has huge hopes of one day having the aircraft restored and put on display at the museum. One of only 44 Fokker Standards built, the Charron Lake plane is the only model known to exist in the world today.

"We've waited years for this, and now we've found it," said an ecstatic Richardson from his summer home on the Lake of the Woods. "It was a very wonderful airplane and it's the last one in the world, so it's very significant."

It's significant also for volunteers Patrick Madden and Annette Spaulding the husband-and-wife duo that led the search team. For them, the discovery of the historic bush plane comes after years of research and well planned expeditions to the deep, rocky-bottomed lake.

Madden, a retired RCMP sergeant, and 37-year scuba diving veteran, began searching for the plane in 1991 while he was supervisor of the police force's underwater recovery team in Manitoba. Spaulding, also a professional scuba diver, joined him in the hunt in 1999, with the couple making annual 3,200-kilometre pilgrimages to the isolated lake from their home in southern Vermont for the past six summers.

"They come up here year after year on their own dime and they found that airplane," recalled Richardson, adding he has always been impressed with the pair's enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the non-profit museum.



Together, Madden and Spaulding assembled the team of experts from across Canada that found the plane. Ken McMillan, a marine geophysicist, geophysicist Bil Thuma and Gordon Nowicky, a retired Air Canada ground equipment technician and WCAM volunteer, have worked on the recovery with Madden and Spaulding for the past three years.

For several years, the team concentrated its search on the northeast section of the huge lake based on a previous WCAM interview done with McRorie before his death and a magnetometer survey done for the museum in 1999 to identify areas of the lake with unusually high metal content.

Early information suggested that the aircraft had been carrying steel drill rod. The magnetometer report identified several promising areas, but dives came up empty.

But after poring over reports at the Manitoba Provincial Archives and the museum's library, Madden and Spaulding discovered the plane actually wasn't carrying drill rod.

"Once I realized that there was no drill rod, I started questioning everything from this report that we really had relied on," said Spaulding. The targets identified in the survey were actually from natural geological magnetic trends, she said.

After this discovery, the team made plans to search the entire lake. During two expeditions - one lasting a week in 2003 and another lasting two weeks in 2004 - the team worked 14-hour days, battling severe wind and rain storms, to survey almost the entire bottom. Despite the extreme weather conditions, they managed to search over 90 per cent of it with side-scan sonar equipment. Interesting images caused the team to think they had found the plane numerous times, but in each case, those images turned out to be geologic rock formations.

This year, using newer, more technologically advanced equipment and spending the winter months doing additional research, the team found the Charron Lake ghost on only their third pass across the water, in an area the group had searched in previous years. "The hair on the back of my neck stood up and I got goose bumps," said Thuma, president of Toronto consulting firm GeoTec/Plus Ultra.

Resting in 40 meters of water, the skeletal remains of the aircraft's tubular steel frame and wooden wings seem reasonably intact, most likely preserved by the cold temperature. Video footage showed that the canvas that once covered the frame has been eroded away.

Anyone thinking they will quickly scoot up to Charron Lake and try to retrieve the plane should realize the rights to the historic find are owned by the aviation museum.

McMillan, president of McQuest Marine Sciences Limited, who has worked on numerous other historic searches, said team members will return to Charron Lake with a professional experienced archeological diver to assess the condition of plane and then determine the best methods to use in recovering it. That will likely happen next summer using a helicopter with canvas and nylon slings placed below and around the frame of the aircraft to lift it out of the water.

"Now that we have seen it on a side-scan sonar and seen it with the ROV, I can't wait to be able to touch this plane that nobody else has touched or seen for almost three quarters of a century," said Spaulding, adding that it will be interesting to see how closely the contents of the plane match the lists found during their research.

Immediately after it rises from the depths, it will be thoroughly sprayed with WD-40 to prevent damage, rust and corrosion that can occur once it hits the air.

The team also wants to be sure that once the plane is recovered, the museum has knowledgeable and capable volunteers in place, able to work on preserving and restoring it to prevent any additional deterioration of its condition.

Said Thuma of the recovery and preservation process, "This is now the hardest part. It's just the beginning."

*Taken from July 14, 2005 Winnipeg Free Press*

## **THE EDITOR SPOUTS OFF AGAIN!!!!**

In this day and age, where the pace of life seems to be getting faster and faster. We continually find that our free time to do what we like is constantly being used up. Not by doing what we like, but by the vast amount of choices of ways to use our free time.

For example; I have to choose between diving, kayaking and mineral hunting. Which activity wins? It is not just as easy as picking one over the other. I have to throw in spending time with the family, doing things with friends and trying new activities into the mix.

Years ago the outcome was more certain, I'm going diving. Not true for me anymore.

What I'm slowly getting to is this. Does organized diving (local, state and national) have a place in today's fast paced world? Here are some Pros and Cons.

### **Cons:**

The few people that work hard in organized diving get burned out and slowly fade away.

The turnout at events seem to have dropped off in the past few years.

Time constraints will not allow for everyone to attend.

People get tired of the same old thing.

### **Pros:**

Organized diving provides a wealth of information, advice.

Unique experiences - There is nothing like sitting around a blazing campfire in the Association Area of Rogers Rock Campsite listening to dive stories and sipping Johnson's Bug Juice.

Life Long Friendships.

Diving experiences that you might not have had except for organized diving.

Fun and good times.

We all need to work at making organized diving live up to its full potential. Tired of the same dives? Host one in your area. Host a Convention in your area. Time constraints too much? Make a calendar and pick as many events as possible to attend. Don't be afraid to bring your family and friends along.

To those of us that have or are getting burnt out or just asking WHY? All I can say is "Keep the Faith". Rest up over the winter and start refreshed next spring.

So if I was asked does organized diving still have a place in today's world? My answer would be Yes, it does. Why not Join us.

*Taken from September 2005 edition of NYSDA's "Diver's Digest".*

## **UPCOMING BRANDON SCUBA CLUB EVENTS**

- November 25**      -      **BSC Annual Xmas Party**  
**Waggle Springs Fish & Game Association**  
**Just outside of Shilo**  
**Pot Luck supper, prizes, cash bar, gift**  
**exchange, dancing, lots of fun**
  
- November 28**      -      **BSC Meeting**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**UFCW Office**
  
- May, 2007**        -      **Place dive buoys in water**  
**B-B-Que**  
**Date to be confirmed**
  
- July, 2007**        -      **BSC Sanctioned Dive**  
**Date to be confirmed**
  
- August 11-12,**    -      **Dauphin Dolphins Spearfishing Competition**  
**2007**                    **A must attend function (even if you don't dive)**

***This is just a start of the events that will be held in 2007***  
***Support your club, come to the events***  
***Meet new friends and divers***  
***Have fun!***