

Let's get wet

Have you got a little spare time or a free weekend with nothing to do? Do you want to put a little adventure into your life? How would you like to explore sunken ships or find a little treasure? Do you like seafood, such as flounder or scallops? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then why not learn to scuba dive? There is a very active club right here on campus who sponsors scuba courses and is now looking for new dive buddies.

For those who wish to learn how to scuba dive, the UNB Scuba Club offers a basic course each term. In order to register for the fall course, there will be introductory meetings Friday, Sept. 14 and Monday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 pm in room 210, LB Gym. After the Monday meeting, there will be a swim test at 8:00 pm in the Sir Max Aitken pool, so please bring your bathing cap and suit. So as not to scare anyone, the swim test consists of swimming 8 laps of the pool using a minimum of 3 different strokes at your own pace, treading water for 5 minutes, swimming a short distance underwater, picking up an object off the bottom of the pool, and towing someone your own size one length of the pool. If you don't know how to do any of the above, someone will be there to show you how.

The course leads to an internationally recognized NAUI (National Association of Underwater Instructors) certification. This enables you to rent scuba equipment, get tanks filled and go on dive charters. The course costs \$125, which is tax deductible. This includes the use of all club equipment in the pool and checkout dives (except for wetsuits), cost of certification, and club membership until next September.

The course lasts approximately 10 weeks, with a 2 hour lecture and a 2 hour pool session every Monday night starting at 6:00 pm. There are also 2 checkout dives at the end of the course which must be completed in order to receive certification.

For those who already know how to dive and may need a buddy, the UNB Scuba Club could be for you. Last year was one of the most active in its history. Activities included scallop and boat dives in the Bay of Fundy, dive trips to Halifax (wreck diving) and to the north shore of New Brunswick, night dives, an ice dive at Yoho Lake Scout Reserve and the occasional dive in local freshwater lakes and rivers. During the past summer the club also participated in a couple of scuba diving competitions, and surprisingly, even managed to win some prizes.

For the upcoming year, the club would like to expand on the experiences gained from the past year. Another dive trip to Halifax to see some ship wrecks, a boat dive to the Wolves Island in the Bay of Fundy, a scenic dive off Deer Island, and a local freshwater dive are already being planned. To further the knowledge of club divers, the club is examining the possibility of sponsoring advanced diver courses. Depending on the interest shown, these courses could be an advanced open water, scuba bronze, or an assistant instructor course.

In order to plan these activities the club is going to hold a monthly meeting for the already certified divers. The first of these meetings will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 pm in room 210 of the LB Gym. The business covered will consist of planning future dives, organizing club social events, discussing club policies and ideas brought up by members, and anything else relevant to the club.

For those divers who do not yet own all their own gear, please don't let this discourage you from diving as the club has gear available for renting. The club has its own compressor to fill tanks; all club equipment is available to members at a nominal fee.

Here's a final thought for all you divers out there. The next time you are suiting up for a dive after hauling your gear on your aching back for a mile and a half, having climbed down a steep slippery cliff where even mountain goats fear to tread, in cold, damp, drizzly weather with ice forming on the shore and the water itself still murky from yesterday's gale, just remember to keep repeating to yourself, "Diving is Fun, Diving is Fun."

Let's make this a wet year of great diving.



Duh...which way to the beach?

Not all dive sites are conveniently located at roadside. Getting to some sites may involve a short hike. On this particular dive, everyone agreed it was well worth the effort.



"...but I really DO have to go to the bathroom."

Checkout dives are the last step towards certification and the first step into a new, exciting world. Although nervous at the start, students are extremely excited after the dives and usually can't wait to do more. The course checkouts are usually done at Chamcook harbour near St. Andrews, N.B.



We told them not to do that.

While some divers may be a little apprehensive on their first night dive, they soon learn that night diving can be very exhilarating.



I just gotta catch that mermaid.

This diver is about to explore the "Hulda", a shipwreck near Peggy's Cove. The "Hulda" ran aground in the late 50's and now rests in a sheltered cove. This is one of the wrecks we visited while on our Halifax trip.



Did I see the great white what??

Some of the club's best dives have been boat dives. The above picture is from our Black Rock dive. Black Rock is located between Campobello and Deer Island and is one of the most scenic underwater dive sites in the Bay of Fundy.