



## Illinois Council of Skin and SCUBA Divers, Inc

is a state-wide coalition of skin and scuba diving clubs and individuals with interests in the sport of skin and/or scuba diving or interest in the prudent preservation and conservation of our marine environment.

**November, 2009**

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☞ We have had to change the date of our annual Presidents' Night event. The facility was overbooked so we are now holding the event on Saturday, November 14. Please let your membership know of this change. We will have a similar program to years past, great food, fantastic raffle and awards. And don't forget the Toys for Tots collection, please be sure to bring a new unwrapped toy for the Marine Corps Reserves annual effort. See you on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Burnham Park Yacht Club!

Yours for Safe Diving,  
Chuck Miller, President

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## **FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AMONG HEALTHIEST CORAL REEFS IN GULF OF MEXICO**

ScienceDaily (Oct. 26, 2009) — Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is among the healthiest coral reef ecosystems in the tropical Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, according to a new NOAA report.

The report, "A Biogeographic Characterization of Fish Communities and Associated Benthic Habitats within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary," offers insights into the coral and fish communities within the sanctuary based on data collected in 2006 and 2007. Sanctuary managers will use the report to track and monitor changes in the marine ecosystem located 70 to 115 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

"We found that 50 percent of the area surveyed for this report is covered by live coral," said Chris Caldwell, a NOAA marine biologist and lead author on the report. "This is significant because such high coral cover is a real rarity and provides critical habitat for many different types of fish and other animals that live in these underwater systems."

The sanctuary is also unusual in that it is dominated by top-level predators, including large grouper, jacks, and snappers that are virtually absent throughout the U.S. Caribbean. Researchers looked at the relationship between physical measures of the sanctuary's habitat such as depth, slope and geographic location, and the nature of the fish community in each location.

"Ultimately our goal was to develop a protocol that would detect and track long-term changes in fish and sea-floor community structure," Caldwell said. "Once managers are equipped with this information, they can better understand how threats from climate change and other stressors will impact the ecosystem."

The report cautions that despite the sanctuary's relatively healthy condition, it may be more susceptible to environmental impacts than previously thought. For example, scientists observed high levels of coral bleaching and corals severely impacted from hurricane activity. NOAA prepared the report based on data collected in 2006 and 2007, with input from scientists and managers at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

# 2009 EVENTS CALENDAR

**Meetings:** Third Thursday of every month is the Illinois Council Business Meeting. Until further notice all will be held at Mr. Beef and Pizza in Mount Prospect. Exit I-90 (Northwest Tollway) at Elmhurst Road (Illinois 83) northbound. Go north 2 lights. Mr. Beef is located just north of the intersection of Algonquin Road and Elmhurst Road on the left side. Meetings begin promptly at 8:00 PM.  
November\*                      December\*\*

\* No meeting Presidents' Night                      \*\* No Meeting, Happy Holidays!

**November 14 Presidents' Night Dinner/Raffle** – Burnham Park Yacht Club, Chicago, IL  
**Note Date Change** Annual dinner dance. This year it will be held at the Burnham Harbor Yacht Club. There will be a choice of Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon, and Pasta Primavera. Drinks can only be charged on a Credit Card tab. Awards presented to the Club, Diver & Humanitarian of the Year. Fantastic raffle throughout the evening featuring trips, charters, gear & more!

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✍ Any comments or items you would like to include in the next newsletter call or send to the editor, Pam Romund, 1031 N. Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL 60068 or [promund@kraft.com](mailto:promund@kraft.com), Deadline 12/4/09

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

**Ongoing  
Community  
Service**

### Toys for Tots

Council member clubs collect Toys for Tots throughout the year. We present them to the U.S. Marine Reserve at the annual Presidents Night Dinner.

### Pop-Top Pull Tab Collection

Many of the clubs collect the pop-top pull tabs from aluminum cans. The tops are donated to the Ronald McDonald Houses in the Chicago area – the tops are recycled and the proceeds go to the wish list for the Ronald McDonald House.

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## Celebrating the 40th Anniversary in 2009!

**Early Bird Tickets Now Available for the Week-End – Order tickets the week of November 9th.**

**For ONLY \$65.00    Children 9-12 \$40.00    8 Years and Under FREE!**

### WEEK-END TICKET INCLUDES:

- 3-DAY Admission to Exhibit Floor
- Friday & Saturday Film Festivals
- Saturday & Sunday Seminars
- 40th Anniversary T-Shirt (Design will be available soon)

### NOT Included:

- Workshops
- Manufacturer Clinics
- Training Agency Updates

Go to [www.ourworldunderwater.com](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com) for more information and to purchase your tickets!

Many thanks to Sandy Horn for sending this on in. October 20, 2009, Reprinted from [http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/science/20creature.html?\\_r=2&th=&emc=th&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/science/20creature.html?_r=2&th=&emc=th&pagewanted=all)

## **FOR FISH IN CORAL REEFS, IT'S USEFUL TO BE SMART**

By SEAN B. CARROLL

I have long suspected that fish are smarter than we give them credit for. As a child, I had an aquarium with several pet goldfish. They certainly knew it was feeding time when my hand appeared over their tank, and they excitedly awaited their delicious fish flakes.

They also exhibited a darker, disturbing behavior. Evidently, a safe life with abundant food was not fulfilling. From time to time, either sheer ennui or the long gray Toledo winter got to one of the fish and it ended its torment with a leap to my bedroom floor.

Maybe my anthropomorphizing is a bit over the top. But, really, just how smart are fish? Can they learn?

A 10-gallon tank with a plastic sunken pirate ship is certainly not the most stimulating habitat. But in the colorful, diverse and dangerous world of coral reefs, fish must be able to recognize not only food, but also to discriminate friends from foes, and mates from rivals, and to take the best action. In such a complex and dynamic environment, it would pay to be flexible and able to learn.

A series of studies has recently revealed that reef fish are surprisingly adaptable. Freshly caught wild fish quickly learn new tasks and can learn to discriminate among colors, patterns and shapes, including those they have never encountered. These studies suggest that learning and interpreting new stimuli play important roles in the lives of reef fish.

To test the ability of fish to learn to discriminate shapes, [a research team](#) led by Ulrike E. Siebeck at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, trained damselfish to feed from a feeding tube to which they attached a variety of visual stimuli. The latter included a three-dimensional latex disc, a two-dimensional blue disc painted on a plastic board, or black circles or propeller patterns on white boards. The fish were rewarded with food when they repeatedly tapped the stimulus — not the tube — with their snout or mouth.

The fish rapidly learned this task. The researchers then presented the fish with the original stimulus and one alternative distracting shape — bars versus discs, squares versus discs, or circles versus propellers, and the fish had to nose the shape they had been trained to tap in order to receive a reward. The fish tapped the correct shape about 70 percent of the time in the first trial; this improved to 80 percent to 90 percent in subsequent trials.

Remarkably, the fish also learned when the food reward was delayed and delivered far from the stimulus. The damselfish exhibited what is called anticipatory behavior, in that they would tap the image and then swim quickly to the other end of their tank in anticipation of their food reward. This response is much like Pavlov's dogs who learned to anticipate food at the sound of a bell.

[In another set of experiments](#), Dr. Siebeck trained damselfish on different color stimuli. She selected blue and yellow because these are highly contrasting colors that are found on many reef fish. After the fish quickly learned to repeatedly tap colored latex targets to gain a food reward, they were presented with a choice between the training target and the alternative color target. The fish were even better at color discrimination, tapping the correct target more than 90 percent of the time.

Perhaps it is less surprising that the fish learned to discriminate colors. After all, they live in a colorful environment. But the question of why reef fish are typically so colorful has challenged biologists for a very long time. It seems obvious that bright color patterns would be effective communication signals in the shallow, well-lighted water around coral reefs. But in that fish-eat-fish world, bright colors would also make fish conspicuous to predators. So how are these advantages and disadvantages balanced?

It turns out that some brightly colored fish make a living by providing a valuable service to what may otherwise be their predators: they clean them. In fact, cleaner fish like the cleaner wrasse form an

important part of coral reef communities. They establish small territories as “cleaning stations,” which are visited by all sorts of “client” fish that have their parasites removed.

The cleaners’ work ethic is astounding. Alexandra Grutter of the University of Queensland found that individual cleaner wrasse inspected as many as 2,300 fish and consumed up to 1,200 parasites a day, which amounted to about 7 percent of their body weight. Furthermore, Dr. Grutter found that fish on reefs without cleaner fish had about five times the number of parasites compared with fish on reefs with cleaners.

It would seem, then, that it would benefit potential clients to visit cleaning stations, and for carnivorous clients not to eat their cleaners. So, how do clients find and recognize cleaners? It appears that certain body colors, particularly blue and yellow, signal cleaning behavior to potential clients.

To investigate the role of color in the cleaner-client relationship, [another research team](#) from the University of Queensland — including Dr. Grutter, Karen Cheney, Simon Blomberg and N. Justin Marshall — first looked at the distribution of body colors among cleaner and noncleaner fish from the same families. They found cleaner fish were significantly more likely to have a blue or yellow coloration.

Furthermore, they showed that these colors were the most contrasting ones on coral backgrounds to clients like barracuda or surgeonfish and that the contrast was enhanced against black backgrounds. In fact, all species they examined that make their living solely from cleaning also had a contrast-enhancing black lateral body stripe adjacent to these colors, whereas none of the 31 noncleaner species were so marked.

To test whether potential clients paid attention to these color schemes, the researchers painted models with various permutations of cleaner colors in which they omitted the blue pattern or replaced it with red, or altered the pattern, orientation and width of body stripes. They then placed these models around reefs fringing Lizard Island, at the northern end of the Great Barrier Reef, and observed the frequency with which client fish visited the models. They found that the model that most closely represented the natural blue-streak cleaner wrasse pattern was visited more frequently than any other model color scheme.

In a similar study performed off Sulawesi, Indonesia, the length of the model’s black body stripe also affected the frequency of client visits. On coral reefs, it pays to advertise, even when potential enemies abound.

With their attention to colors, patterns and shapes and their ability to learn about new forms, one wonders how much these creatures can learn and what limitations they might have. They couldn’t read [Dr. Seuss](#), of course, but they might enjoy looking at the pictures.

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Reprinted from: [http://www.divernet.com/home\\_diving\\_news/348871/atocha\\_ring\\_find.html](http://www.divernet.com/home_diving_news/348871/atocha_ring_find.html)

## **ATOCHA RING FIND**

### **A rare gold and amethyst ring has been found on the Nuestra Senora de Atocha in Florida.**

The famous 1622 wreck, 35 miles off Key West, was salvaged by treasure hunter Mel Fisher in the mid-eighties, but items are still found and brought up.

Family member Kim Fisher said that the ring, found by salvage divers, was the "first ring with an amethyst found on the Atocha site".

“It has a "plain gold band with a large box-shaped gold setting on the top with amethyst inside". The "almost black" amethyst "probably would have come from a large crystal in order to be that dark".

The Fishers run diving trips to the site. Mel Fisher’s Treasures - [www.melfisher.com](http://www.melfisher.com)

# DIVEHEART LUAU

**Saturday, November 14 – 6:00PM to Midnight**



We realize this event occurs on the same evening at the annual Presidents' Night Dinner so if you can't drag out your grass skirts, flower print shirts and coconut tops to come out and have a fun night out with friends how about giving someone else a chance? You can sponsor a vet to attend this fun-filled evening. You may sponsor a table for \$350 (that is 10 vets) or \$35 for a single veteran.

The event tickets include buffet dinner, DJ music, dancing and a silent auction. It will be held at the American Legion Post #80 at 4000 Saratoga Avenue, Downers Grove, IL 60515. There will be a raffle with prizes

including a Grand Prize Drawing - prizes include \$1000 Around Chicago Package, a week in the Florida Keys including diving for 2 (airfare not included), a boat cruise on Lake Michigan for 25 people and many more. Drawing tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Winner does not need to be present.

If you would like to sponsor a vet or purchase raffle tickets please contact Diveheart at 630-964-1983 or [info@diveheart.org](mailto:info@diveheart.org).

Thanks

Dave Zigman,  
[zigcpa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zigcpa@sbcglobal.net) or call my cell at 815 342-4103.



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Last Updated: 10/15/2009 6:54:35 PM, reprinted from <http://dan.org/News/Article.aspx?newsid=985635145>

## DAN NEWS

### **DAN 24-Hour Diving Emergency Hotline Gets NEW PHONE NUMBER**

**Effective immediately, the phone number for the DAN 24-Hour Diving Emergency Hotline has changed. The new number is (919) 684-9111.**

The change, dubbed "One Call," is part of the continuing mission of Divers Alert Network® (DAN®) to increase the safety of divers. With the new hotline number, divers need only to call a single phone number to activate emergency services, regardless of what kind of emergency assistance is needed. "Over the last few years, as the benefits and resources we provided the dive industry increased, so did the phone numbers to access the assistance," said Nicholas Bird, MD, vice president of DAN Medical Services. "Divers were getting understandably confused. By simplifying the process to a single phone number, we've given divers needing assistance one less thing to think about in a stressful situation."

The new number replaces the need to decide whether to call DAN, TravelAssist to facilitate emergency evacuation, or a medical facility. Simply call DAN at the new hotline number, and all emergency assistance will be triaged and facilitated from there. "We had a goal this year to streamline our emergency assistance resources," said Dan Orr, president and CEO of DAN. "One Call is a huge step toward that goal, and it's an extremely positive step in moving diver safety forward."

DAN's previous hotline numbers will remain in effect for a transitional grace period. However, all divers are encouraged to update their emergency contact information and emergency assistance plans as soon as possible. As always, in the case of an immediate life-threatening emergency, contact 911 (or the equivalent emergency response system), and then call DAN.

The DAN Emergency Hotline (919-684-9111) is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. It can be reached by collect call or from outside the U.S.

The following is a press release from the Great Lakes Boating Federation. (312) 266-8408  
Jessica Tobacman, [jessica@greatlakesboating.com](mailto:jessica@greatlakesboating.com)

## **ASIAN CARP: ONE RAINSTORM AWAY FROM THE GREAT LAKES**

CHICAGO – OCTOBER 14, 2009 – Great Lakes Boating Federation urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to quickly enact new measures to prevent Asian carp from advancing into the Great Lakes. The carp could be carried past the fish barrier in the Sanitary & Ship Canal by flooding of the Des Plaines River. The Corps should take the following actions soon: 1. Construct a barrier to separate the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal from the Des Plaines River, with a material like sandbags; 2. Build a second barrier in the Des Plaines River, upstream from the current location of the Asian carp in the waterway; and 3. Prevent carp from swimming into the Sanitary & Ship Canal by filling in certain parts of the Illinois & Michigan (I & M) Canal.

The Electric Fish Barrier is the main preventative measure keeping the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The barrier is currently operating in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal at parameters that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard have tested and approved as both aggressive enough to prevent Asian carp from crossing, and safe enough not to harm boaters in certain vessels.

If the fish get beyond the fish barrier in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal, they are extremely likely to wreak havoc on the Great Lakes ecosystem. Asian carp have ferocious appetites and may grow to 100 pounds in weight, which will allow them to out-compete animals native to the Great Lakes, decimating the local economies. The carp have, and continue to, injure many boaters by leaping out of the water when startled by vessels.

However, to prevent the carp from bypassing the barrier altogether, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must enact the additional measures stated above. The major threat is that, if the Des Plaines River floods, Asian carp could be carried over the small strip of land separating the two into the canal, which is less than 100 feet away.

The fish could also swim into the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and advance from there during floods through small culverts that connect the I & M Canal to the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal.

Great Lakes Boating strongly recommends that you call your Congressional Representatives and Senators, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army, to request that they ask the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. To reach your members of Congress, dial (202) 224-3121 and request to be connected to their offices. To contact the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Ms. Jo Ellen Darcy, call (703) 697-8986, or write to 108 Army Pentagon, Room 3E446, Washington, DC 20310-0108.

Eventually, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River must be fully separated to prevent any invasive species, including the Asian Carp, from advancing from one of the bodies of water into the other. Until then, actions must be taken to keep Asian carp from moving forward, and the Great Lakes ecosystem from being destroyed.

“We’re gratified that the lakes are safe, knowing the barrier is keeping the Asian carp at bay. However, our preparedness after a heavy rainstorm is of great concern,” says F. Ned Dikmen, Ph.D., chairman of

the Great Lakes Boating Federation. “No single stakeholder on the Great Lakes would be as harshly affected as the 4.3 million boaters who would be navigating among them.”

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### **ICSSD MINUTES**

No business meeting was held in October. Hope to see everyone at the Presidents’ Nite festivities, November 14<sup>th</sup> at Burnham Park Yacht Club.

# ICSSD PRESIDENTS' NIGHT

## Saturday, November 14

### Burnham Park Yacht Club - Chicago

The annual Illinois Council of Skin and SCUBA Diving Presidents' Night, will be held on **Saturday, November 14th at Burnham Park Yacht Club**, 1500 S Linn White Dr, Chicago, IL 60605. This is our Annual dinner dance and awards will be presented to the Club, Diver and Humanitarian of the Year. There will be a choice of Chicken Marsala, Grilled Wild-Caught Salmon, and Pasta Primavera. Drinks can only be charged on a Credit Card tab.

There is a fantastic raffle throughout the evening featuring trips, charters, gear & more! This is always a fun evening and a great way to get to know other divers and perhaps win a prize or two. The evening features the very best raffle around, you won't be disappointed.

Don't forget we will collect **Toys for Tots** at this event, bring a new, unwrapped toy or two to share with those less fortunate. Tickets are available through your club rep or Board member of the Illinois Council.



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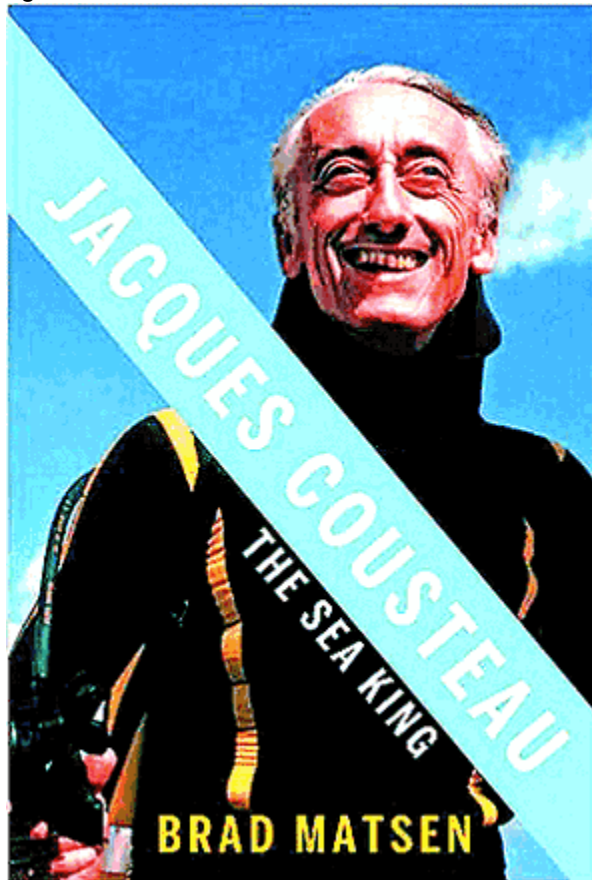


Never too early to begin your collection for Toys for Tots. A good way to jump start this worthy effort, is to make that an entry to an event your club is hosting. The Council will be passing these toys on to the Marine Reserves at our annual Presidents' Night Dinner in November. Let's make sure we have a huge pile for them.

Please REMEMBER no stuffed animals, toy guns or knives. Sports equipments and board games are need for the tweens and teenagers. If you are giving a gift that uses batteries please supply plenty along with the gift. These children are from underprivileged homes and money for batteries is not easy to come by.

The mission of U.S. Marines Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as holiday gifts to needy children in the community. The primary objective is to deliver a message of hope to needy youngsters and to unite all members of local communities in a common cause; and to contribute to better communities in the future.

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## 'JACQUES COUSTEAU: THE SEA KING': A LIFE IN AND ABOUT THE OCEAN

By John Hartl Special to The Seattle Times

'Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King' by Brad Matsen  
Pantheon, 336 pp., \$26.95

"I loved touching water. Physically. Sensually. Water fascinated me."

Trying to describe an early memory, of diving into a silty lake and opening his eyes under water for the first time, Jacques Cousteau was instinctively eloquent on the beginnings of a lifelong obsession.

"He was not at all frightened," adds his Vashon Island-based biographer, Brad Matsen. "The water soothed him and banished all fear."

Perhaps it was this trauma-less, literally eye-filling underwater experience that led to so many brave confrontations with death, so many narrow escapes, so many advances in the technology of underwater exploration.

When he died on June 25, 1997, Cousteau owned one of the most recognizable faces on the planet. Oscar-winning filmmaker, environmental activist, French resistance fighter and scuba diver extraordinaire, he seemed to jam many lifetimes into one very busy and public one.

Yet, as Matsen deftly demonstrates, we hardly knew him. For all his fame, Cousteau, who had an official wife and two sons, successfully led a secret life that included a mistress and two children. Only after the first wife died would he reveal that he'd had a second family for two decades.

During his later years, Cousteau continued to accept awards, create landmark movies and make speeches for his beloved Cousteau Society. But, as Matsen so wryly puts it, "he saw few people outside his immediate families." Even then, Cousteau could be snippy. When his older son, Philippe, announced that he would marry an American, Jacques and his wife, Simone, refused to attend the wedding.

The black sheep in the Cousteau history was his older brother, Pierre-Antoine, an anti-Semitic journalist who became a Nazi collaborator. Around the same time, Jacques was spying for the other side, earning the French Legion of Honor for his work.

Possibly the strangest event in their relationship was a 1942 screening of Jacques' early movie, "Sixty Feet Down," for an audience of German officers and Vichy politicians in occupied Paris. Pierre-Antoine arranged the screening and a reception. After the war, he was nearly shot for following Nazi orders. Also after the war, Jacques' follow-up film, "Epaves," won a special prize at the first Cannes Film Festival in 1946. One decade later, he would return to take the top Cannes prize for "The Silent World," which later won a documentary Oscar. In 1965, he would win another Academy Award for "World Without Sun."

Matsen describes Cousteau's Oscar winners as huge box-office successes, yet neither led immediately to other films. Cousteau was forced to go into television — where he had his greatest success, collaborating with David Wolper, PBS and eventually Ted Turner. Each of these relationships led to problems too, partly because Cousteau's ratings winners (sharks, sunken treasures) were often followed by pessimistic programs about lead poisoning, nuclear waste and Japanese fishermen slaughtering dolphins. By the end of his life, he no longer believed that the planet was salvageable.



*November, 2009*  
*News From ICSSD*  
*The Illinois Council of SCUBA Diving Clubs*  
*P. O. Box 6602*  
*Villa Park, IL 60181*

Check Out Our Website  
[www.illinoisscubacouncil.org](http://www.illinoisscubacouncil.org)

# Directions

There will be **no business meeting in November or December**. Don't forget **Presidents' Night, Saturday, November 14**. Our next regular business meeting will be **January 21, 2010 at 8:00 PM** at Mr. Beef and Pizza. Directions to Mr. Beef and Pizza: Exit I-90 (Northwest Tollway) at Elmhurst Road (Illinois 83) northbound. Go north 2 lights. Mr. Beef is located just north of the intersection of Algonquin Road and Elmhurst Road on the left side. Hope to see everyone there!