

S.T.A.R.S. INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Thank you to Pat Hammer for once again supporting our efforts to keep our graduates engaged in the sport. The OWU show tickets will be greatly appreciated by our kids.

Thanks to Suzanne Kiffman of SeaSigns for donating our STARS training materials and an incredible underwater video camera to document the progress of our future participants. You never cease to surprise us!

Thank you to Ralph & Judy Bounds (Reef Rovers Dive Club) for their generous donation of dive equipment. Your donation provided us with both useable gear and some great teaching aids!

Thanks to Bill Harting and Katie (Chicagoland Scuba) for donating their excess wetsuit stock to help keep our participants warm in the coming year. Bill & Katie...your heart is in the right place!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...

JANUARY 12, 2008 7:00 - 8:30 PM, IS SET FOR A MEET AND GREET FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS.

Location: The Centre of Elgin - 100 Symphony Way - Elgin

Join our dedicated 2007 volunteer staff who are returning to the excitement of STARS training in 2008! The personal fulfillment of mentoring STARS clients is truly addictive in nature with the opportunity to create lifetime memories and friendships. Our kickoff meeting will give everyone a chance to gain an overview of the program and meet the staff, board and some of our finest graduates.

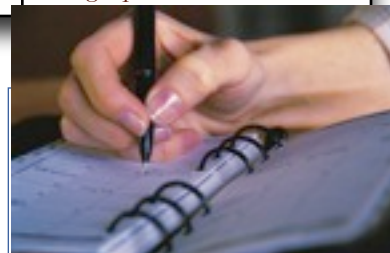
All new volunteers please bring a photocopy of your driver's license to the meeting for our staff records and your background check.

A conference bridge is available for those who cannot attend in person. Please contact Ann at Ann@STARSInternational.Org for the bridge number.



The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

Arthur C. Clark



Upcoming Events:

- January 5 - Equipment Speciality Class (page 2)
- January 12 - Volunteer Meeting
- January 12 - JR Divemaster
- February 15-17 - Our World Underwater (page 4)
- March 5 - ICSSD Scuba Competition (page 3)

Dive Club Meeting Dates:

- January 18th 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- March 7th 6:30 - 9:00 pm
- April 11th 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Meeting location-
Panera Bread
2484 N. Randall Road,
Elgin IL 60123
Tel: (847)426-7000

S.T.A.R.S INTERNATIONAL

Equipment Speciality

Course:

DATE: January 5, 2008

TIME: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Naperville

COST: \$105/pp includes pizza lunch

Join STARS PADI Instructor Duane Johnson for a detailed education on all of your critical dive gear. Divers are at a significant disadvantage if they don't have a good understanding of the operation and maintenance of their equipment. This full day class includes a pizza lunch and a short field trip to a near by dive shop to learn about regulator test equipment. We will go over your own personal equipment to show you how to troubleshoot and perform common maintenance. This class involves no pre-reading and completion will result in achieving a PADI Equipment Specialty certification helping participants work towards the level of a PADI Master Scuba Diver.

To sign up for class or if you need more information please contact Duane Johnson at ppo2_diver@yahoo.com for more class info go to: www.precisiondiving.net.



Any one can hold the helm when the sea is calm.

Publius Syrus

Men of Scuba



S.T.A.R.S. INTERNATIONAL

Underwater Scuba Competition

Location: Elk Grove at Rec Center

Date: March 30th - Time TBA

This event has Chicago area dive club teams facing off in a series of entertaining underwater events. See the IL Scuba Council web site for further details:

WWW.ILLINOISSCUBACOUNCIL.COM

- 5-members per team with entry fee
- Practice is suggested
- Prizes are awarded

Here is a list of a few events:

Inner Tube Relay Race

Obstacle Course

Underwater Dive Problem

Underwater Tricycle Race

Underwater Pipe Construction Race

Free-Style Skin Relay Race

Underwater Equipment Exchange

Three Leg Race

Nothing serious, but seriously funny.



CELEBRATING THIS MONTH:

January 16 -Jay Mendez

January 16 -Christine Mitchell

January 16 - Ty Varner

Did I miss anyone this month?

CONGRATULATIONS ON NEW S.T.A.R.S. CERTIFICATIONS

Rescue Diver, Nick McGregor - Underwater Digital Photography

Rescue Diver, Matthew Mursewick - Underwater Digital Photography

Rescue Diver, Brandon Tejera - Underwater Digital Photography

DM Candidate, Gil Valencia - Underwater Digital Photography

Congratulations to Matthew Mursewick for finishing third in the knot tying competition with his boy scouts troop. I

witnessed Matt's ease with knot tying this summer during the Search & Recovery class. Matt whipped out the knot we were suppose to be tying while I struggled to remember the sequence of the steps that Kevin gave us to keep the steps in order - was it the rabbit in the hole or out of the hole?

S.T.A.R.S INTERNATIONAL

Our World Underwater

February 15-17, 2008

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.
Rosemont, Illinois

Divers are strongly encouraged to go for the entire weekend - this is not like the car show. One day at the show gives you only 1/2 of the value.

Weekend passes include:

- 1) Exhibits/booths all weekend. This is your chance to see it all and try on equipment you've been interested in.
- 2) Friday night celebrity film festival glimpse you a glimpse of shows planned for the weekend.
- 3) Mini-seminars all day Saturday and Sunday. Pick a topic (shipwrecks, photo/video, destinations, critters or the latest diving craze) and see different speakers every 45 minutes all weekend long.
- 4) Silent auction. Pick up quality

reference materials and accessories for a fraction of the cost.

5) Saturday Night Film Festival. See and hear the latest dive adventures from around the world and the hottest video and photography shot by leading dive enthusiasts. Get a chance to meet Stan Waterman, John Chatterton and Richie Kohler in person and pick up a copy of their latest book or Dive Portal DVD.

New S.T.A.R.S participants will be asked for their interest in attending the OWU dive show on February 17th for 3-4 hours. The cost per participant is \$12 for the exhibits only. S.T.A.R.S. is looking for a few staff willing to drive 3-4 participants from Elgin to Rosemont and back to Elgin after the event. Saturday night the Film Festival runs from 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm and this is the highlight of the weekend. The mentors that are at OWU on Saturday should plan to return to Elgin around midnight on the 16th.

Check Out:

www.ourworldunderwater.com
For information on -

- Workshop information
- Ticket information
- Weekend at a Glance
- Manufacturer clinics
- List of Exhibitors
- Exhibitor floor plan
- 2008 Underwater Photo Competition
- Book signing schedule
- Presenter Bios

*Congratulations to Matthew
Mursewick for achieving the coveted
CASA Aquanauts Membership*

“08 S.T.A.R.S.”

S.T.A.R.S. support of the Wyland Foundation

S.T.A.R.S. Mentor Opportunities

S.T.A.R.S. interest from the Philippines

New PADI Seal Team Activities involving 08 S.T.A.R.S.

S.T.A.R.S. 2008 Equipment Acquisition

Blogging Jay Ireland (Bradley Ireland Productions)

RD, Zac Stanley to get a peek inside Marineland

RD Brandon Tejera attends Chicago Shell Club

Interest by the Philippines