

S.T.A.R.S International



November 2009

Larkin High School Introduction Night



Open Water Diver and has already been supportive to S.T.A.R.S. graduates at Larkin High School.

S.T.A.R.S. Logo wear



November 2nd designated our first call for teen candidates for the 2010 S.T.A.R.S. International program from Larkin High School. Senior leadership, (Dr. Jon Tuin/Randy Ellison) just received approval to keep their newly remodeled pool open just for the S.T.A.R.S. program. The Elgin city school district previously decided to close all school pools for 2010 in a cost cutting measure. Although the turn-out for the S.T.A.R.S. Introduction was not what anyone anticipated, time is still on our side to round-out a full group of teen candidates for the Discover Scuba sessions scheduled in January. Kevin would like to recognize Ana Medina's significant contribution at that event as a co-leader and Spanish interpreter of the evening's meeting contents. Kevin was appreciative to have the overwhelming staff support for the kick-off event S.T.A.R.S. also welcomes the support of Ms. Kathy Dickerson as the Larkin High School liaison to S.T.A.R.S. Ms. Dickerson is coincidentally a PADI Advanced

Following the design of our new logo last year by Rogest, the first embroidered shirts were created by the WorkWearStore.com. The new staff shirts made their debut at the Larkin High School

Introduction Night and were also worn by Kevin each day of the Orlando DEMA convention. A wide array of items are available at very reasonable prices (blankets, sweatshirts, hats, shirts, bags, etc.). In order to contrast with any potential color you desire, it has been determined that the official logo lettering colors can be changed to provide a good contrast around the red star and turtle. S.T.A.R.S. staffers are looking good these days and our next possible use of logo is for the Discover Scuba sessions and the candidates "shirt-of-the-day" for any potential international trip next summer.

Staff Additions & Updates

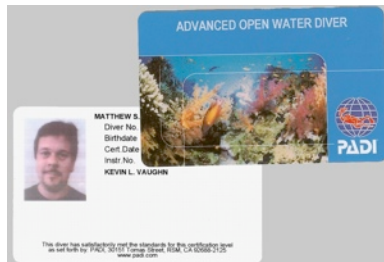
Boys N Girls Club Update



Illinois Scuba Council Vice President Dean Nolan has solicited 7 volunteers to staff a 2010 S.T.A.R.S. offering at the Dr. Martin Luther King Boys N Girls Club in Chicago. The program is slated to have between 15-30 inner city youth and be held entirely at the BnG Club facility on Washington and Sacramento Streets. The goal is to share the current equipment resources of the core program, and have an independent group of staff and funding projects for the BnG location. Join me in offering them the support, best wishes, and all the coaching they need to get started!

New Staff Member Spotlight

Matt “Xander” Schirmacher: PADI Advanced Open Water Diver with 2 PADI Specialties to his credit this year (Night Diving and Search & Recovery). Although Matt was certified as an Open Water Diver back in 1990 he has just now gotten around to completing three adventure dives with S.T.A.R.S. this past summer while managing a full-time career at Motorola as an Engineer. Matt shares his Lake in the Hills home with his wife, Carrie, and their 2 daughters.



“Xander” is one of two nicknames he picked up prior to coming to S.T.A.R.S. and his diving aspirations include becoming an instructor at some point. We welcome Matt’s enthusiasm, quick wit, and confident diving skills along with his past experience as a life-guard and swim instructor.

S.T.A.R.S. Board Acquires New Talent



November brought some much needed new talent to the S.T.A.R.S. Board of Directors with the arrival of Dawn Engler. Dawn comes to us with vast experience from her 26 Diveheart Foundation trips and her instrumental role as Vice President of Diveheart. Dawn intends to become an instructor in 2010 and has come on-board for the next 12 months to help guide S.T.A.R.S. through their kick-off with the Larkin High School program and the Chicago Boys and Girls club. Dawn’s sensitivity to our cause and love of diving will make her a valued asset in the year to come. Please take a moment to welcome Dawn at Dawn@STARSIInternational.org.

Donations for S.T.A.R.S

Scuba Buccaneers Sweep Out Their Account for S.T.A.R.S.

Dave Cobb, Irene Bach and a merry club of Scuba Buccaneers decided to clean out their club bank account to the benefit of S.T.A.R.S. who was one of the beneficiaries of their generosity. The windfall was a Christmas in September for S.T.A.R.S. and went a long way to meet some of our critical needs. Who said pirates were all bad? Don't ever confuse these Buccaneers with Pirates!

Woodworking Equipment a Treasure for S.T.A.R.S.

This is the season of charitable cash and equipment donations for deductions and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bounds of Huntley sure did it big. Ralph contributed three pieces of quality woodworking equipment (band saw, joiner, rechargeable hand tools) valued at over \$1,000 for S.T.A.R.S. to use as a fundraiser. With a little back breaking work, a few internet postings (thank you Ty), and word of mouth we were able to sell all three items which really helped out at a time when the first expenses for 2010 began to roll in. A huge THANKS to Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Bounds for thinking of us. We appreciate your continued support.

Staff Meeting Oct. 24th

S.T.A.R.S. kicked off the 2010 season on October 24th with an all-hands staff meeting held at the community room of the Algonquin Bank and Trust. The turn-out was great and after "getting the band back together" we enjoyed a pizza dinner and completed all of our mandatory annual forms for insurance coverage. The highlight of the evening was watching a video production produced by Laura Medrano, founder of the Dive-Kulture program in Boston. This season will include the largest number of new "staff" (Ana, Ronald, Brandon, Doc, and Xander), many of which are former graduates. Mentors returning in 2010 include Matt, Claudet, and Nick). Welcome back and Welcome Aboard!



Bridgestone Firestone Triples S.T.A.R.S. IT Resources

S.T.A.R.S. applied to receive 1 refurbished laptop from a special offer announced by Bridgestone Firestone. The requested laptop was intended to enable S.T.A.R.S. with additional laptops for presentation sessions for our Elgin program. Within days of our inquiry a representative from Bridgestone Firestone contacted Kevin to advise us that they had received the request and evaluated our needs. They were so impressed that S.T.A.R.S. was seeking to expand the

at-risk youth program that they tripled the request and provided S.T.A.R.S. with *not one but three* Dell Latitude laptops with cases. We hope to have these very nice donations updated and in-use by Thanksgiving.

Moral of the story: If each volunteer were simply able to promote the program needs by sharing information, inquiring about donations, or suggesting alliances we all would realize how quickly it pays off to simply ask and put out the word for donations.

Kevin reported-in that he had another stellar year at DEMA last week promoting the program to vendors from around the world. He considers himself a sort of “Johnny Appleseed” planting seeds that should yield exciting returns within the upcoming months. Consider this a ONE YEAR NOTICE to all staff that Kevin expects some significant help from about 4-6 volunteers next year at DEMA as this trip is always a 4 day networking and promotion sprint. The next DEMA is November 17-20, 2010 in Las Vegas ... so make a point to put that on your vacation calendars for next year. We will rent a home there for the event and have many memorable evenings after the convention. Remember what happens in Vegas... stays in Vegas. *If we get to Vegas on Monday that week then we could do a group trip to the Grand Canyon on Tuesday.*