

# S.T.A.R.S.

## International Newsletter

August 2010



### *S.T.A.R.S. Fleet Expands*

After months of waiting, AT&T Fleet Management found a more suitable truck to donate to S.T.A.R.S., and it was delivered on July 16th. The 1997 3500 series Chevrolet utility vehicle with 91K miles provides opportunities to employ the vehicle to transport our extra heavy gear, potentially handle any size trailer, or be used to

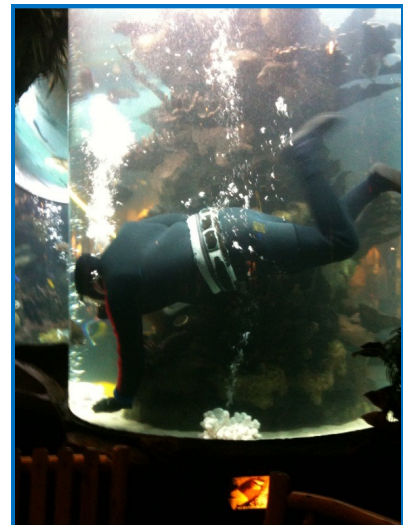


raise funds through a public sale. Our expanding foot print could easily use this vehicle for logistics, but our bank account is in dire need of replenishment.

**Thanks AT&T for  
"Rethinking Possible" and  
coming to our rescue.**

### *From the Bottom of the Tank*

Now in his 6th month at the Rainforest Café, Kevin has yielded over \$700 through this part-time work to support the S.T.A.R.S. operations and overhead for the S.T.A.R. cruiser. The Rainforest Café is now looking for new hires for the Fall which Kevin hopes will be offered to S.T.A.R.S. participants and staff needing employment. After a major cleaning job on the signature 5,000 gallon, arch tanks, the facility will drain, clean, and fill the remaining 5,000 gallon, cylindrical tank the last week of July. It is an incredible sight unlike any fish tank cleaning you have ever seen.



### Upcoming Events

#### July 25 All Day

Jim Haigh  
Memorial Dive  
Haigh Quarry

#### Aug. 14 (1-5 PM)

Emergency  
Oxygen  
Provider Course  
Lake-in-the Hills

#### August 20 & 21

(7-10 pm)  
Night Diving  
Pearl Lake

## ***Lost and Found 112 Years Later***

A great wooden steamship that sank more than a century ago in a violent Lake Michigan storm has been found off the Milwaukee area shoreline and divers say the intact vessel appears to have been perfectly preserved by the cold fresh waters. The 300 foot vessel was the largest wooden ship that remained unaccounted for in the Great Lakes. The Doty was carrying a cargo of corn from South Chicago to Ontario, Canada in October 1898 when it sailed into a terrible storm. Along with snow and sleet, there were heavy winds that possibly whipped up 30 foot waves. The ship was only five years old and the wooden behemoth's hull was reinforced with steel arches which should have been able to handle the weather. But it was towing a small schooner, the Olive Jeanette, which began to founder in the storm after the tow lines apparently snapped. The Doty probably sank when it came to the schooner's aid. All 17 of its crew members died along with the ship's cats, Dewey and Watson. A fisherman in 1991 reported snagging his nets on an obstruction about 300 feet under water. The incident was forgotten for decades until diving technology improved enough to enable exploration at greater depths.

A number of explorers did some preliminary scouting on the Lake Michigan's bottom in recent months using deep-sea technology to find a massive submerged object. Divers waited until the weather was just right to descend. As soon as they reached the lake's floor, they knew they had found the Doty. The ship, upright and intact, had settled into the clay on the bottom. Even the ship's cargo was still in its hold. The Doty is so well-preserved because it's in a cold, freshwater lake. It's also far enough below the surface that storms don't affect it. There are no plans to raise the Doty, which is now the property of the state of Wisconsin.

The ship will remain preserved indefinitely where it is, rather than exposing it to the air which would cause it to rot away within a few years. Few divers are expected to disturb it. It's in such deep water that only a small group of highly experienced divers can access it.

## **Recycled STARS**

As part of a group assignment on May 13th, the group summarized the amount of recyclable material disposed of from their homes during a typical week. With 85% of the team providing results, we calculated the approximate, annual, total amount for the team and their families.

10,140 cans	2,860 glass bottles
3,328 boxes	2,912 newspapers
7,488 plastic bottles/containers	

The team had learned during a previous session that unless these items are specifically "recycled" through the correct process, glass has an infinite life span if placed in a dump/landfill and plastics will not breakdown in the life spans of 2-5 generations of their kids.

### **RECYCLE!!!**

There is no other smart option. Otherwise, we are burying our kid's kids in garbage....or filling the ocean with it forever.

"There is a choice you have to make in everything you do.

So keep in mind, that in the end the choice you make

Makes you."

# Where in the world is Rogest?????



As reported in the June 2010 issue of Northwest & Midwest Dive News, Fly and Sea Dive Adventures is excited to announce that the environmentalist, marine artist, and Scuba Diving Hall of Fame inductee, Ron Steven (aka "Rogest") will lead a dive expedition to Egypt and the Red Sea. Yes, this is the very same talented Canadian that promoted S.T.A.R.S. earlier this year at Larkin High School. Combining Ron's keen environmental awareness and artistic talent with great diving in the Red Sea and Egypt's amazing historical sites promises to make this expedition both fun and educational for all who participate.

The trip dates are October 31st to November 14th.

For more information call (888) 995-3483.

**Dive like an Egyptian Ron!!**

## STARS Newsletter Editor Meets Magic Staff



Our own S.T.A.R.S. International Newsletter editor, Carol Kovacs, retired from her full time job at Ashland University on June 11<sup>th</sup>. After calling her favorite radio station to say good-bye from their morning drive time show, she was excited to get an invitation to visit the radio station she had listened to since..... well since radios were put in cars! As a recognition for her many years of dedicated listening that she would miss in retirement, the station's morning crew invited her up to visit the show on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Here is a memorable photo of DJs Tracy Carroll, Jimmy Malone, and the famous John Lanigan who welcomed her to WMJI, Magic 105.7. Good luck in your retirement and congratulations... we are lucky to have you assisting S.T.A.R.S. with such beautiful/professional/creative monthly newsletters.

## Night S.T.A.R.S. Diving Reminder

Mark your calendar for Aug. 20 & 21 when S.T.A.R.S. will be holding their annual night dives at Pearl Lake for all staff and graduates. If you are needing S.T.A.R.S. equipment for this very special two night event, equipment will be on a "reservation" basis only. For new



night divers, there will be a briefing on Friday evening about 6-7 pm, followed by the start of the first two half-hour dives at 8:00 pm. Contact Kevin by August 10th to reserve your participation and he will leave a light on for you.

## S.T.A.R.S. a Close Second at April IL Council Underwater Competition

This year at the underwater competition, S.T.A.R.S. had three returning team members, Kevin, Ann, and Gil, plus a new attendee, Jennifer. The competition was tough this year, but we had a good showing. Kevin supplied tips like "adding air" for the tricycle push when the team started up the hill and "let it out quickly so we don't rise to the surface". Without this help, it could have been disastrous.

Ann took on the obstacle course by herself and did a great job until the hoop got stuck on her tank. She would have been way ahead of everyone else if not for this unfortunate mishap. The team had to push each other across the pool in an inner tube. This event went off without a hitch except for the initial jumping onto the tube from in the pool. It's way harder than it looks really!

The last two events were the underwater pipe puzzle and the ping pong ball push. Kevin and Gil bravely worked on the puzzle at the bottom of the deep end of the pool while Ann and Jennifer cheered them on from above. It seemed an impossible feat and the seconds felt like hours as the crowd waited for the divers to emerge. Finally, Kevin and Gil surfaced and handed their puzzle and directions to the judges. The judges told them to keep working on the puzzle as it was "incorrect". "What" they shouted as they put their regs back in and made the descent back to the pool floor. Within minutes, the judges realized they had made a mistake and beckoned for the pair to surface. However, Kevin and Gil were so engrossed in correcting the puzzle that Jennifer was sent down to get their attention and bring them to the surface.

Finally the ping pong race started. Moving a ping pong ball across the surface of the water only using the front of your mask was a daunting feat. Everyone did a great job although some of the team appeared to be directionally challenged and had difficulty staying in their own lane. Overall the event was a huge success. Team S.T.A.R.S. missed first place by just one point. Next year S.T.A.R.S. hopes to have 2 teams (or more) at the event and we are determined to WIN again!

### Kenosha S.T.A.R.S. Program

#### Begins to Glow

Late in June, Ann Paulsen, Kevin Vaughn, and new board member, Ana Medina, traveled to Wisconsin to meet with Kenosha's Diver Dan shop owners regarding a collaboration for a 2010-2011 expansion into their immediate area. The dive shop owners truly demonstrated an astounding "sense of community" and spoke of their involvement with Diveheart, Boy Scouts, and Wounded Warriors programs. With initial funding in-hand for a Fall 2010 Kenosha kick-off, the next steps include soliciting staff volunteers, incorporation, and drafting a proposed schedule of events. A new universe of divers appears on the horizon in Wisconsin.

### Boys N Girls Club Takes the Plunge

On July 29th, selected participants from the July S.T.A.R.S. Discover Scuba event will be treated to a unique day of diving in Kankakee, IL. This special S.T.A.R.S. event led by instructor, Mark Neiwoehner, will provide a handful of Boys N Girls Club candidates with two enjoyable dives at nearby Haigh Quarry. Dean Nolan hopes to provide candidates with a grilled lunch between dives and wet their appetite enough for them to commit to full blown S.T.A.R.S. program at the facility starting in 2011. At the parents meeting on July 21st, there was no shortage of enthusiasm by either the parents or the kids involved. We wish them Good Luck exploring the underside of this very unique dive venue.

