



**"A ski and travel club...
and a whole lot more"**

February at a glance

- Every Sun Breakfast Club starts at 10 a.m. Anton's Family Restaurant (16 Mile Rd.) and Dequindre
- Every Sun Co-Ed Walleyball. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Warren Racquetball & Fitness.
- 2 Thur General Meeting – Warrilow's Restaurant 2140 Hilton, Ferndale, MI 7 p.m.
- 5-12 Aspen Ski Trip ---
- 7 Tue Ski Pine Knob with the MDSC
- 7 Tue GMSC Board Meeting. Darrell's house
- 10 Fri Dive of the Month – Dragonmead Microbrewery, 14600 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Warren, Mi -- 6:30 p.m. till ?
- 24 Fri Restaurant of the Month – The Post Bar, 3880 Lapeer Rd., Auburn Hills, Mi
- 25 Sat Classic Movie- "A Hard Day's Night" starring The Beatles. Redford Theatre, Lasher Rd, just north of Grand River.

GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB Website:

www.gmskiclub.org
(recent photos, upcoming events, membership applications, bylaws, forms, and fun music)

MDSC Website: www.mdscski.org

Deadline

The deadline for articles or pictures submitted for inclusion in this newsletter is 5 p.m. on the 20th of the preceding month.

Late submissions will be held for the following issue or discarded.



NEWSLETTER

SKI and TRAVEL

FEBRUARY 2006

WEBSITE: www.gmskiclub.org

GM CLUB: FOUNDED 1957

VOLUME I, ISSUE II

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 2, 2006

(Now on the FIRST Thursday of the month!)

Warrilow's Restaurant

2140 Hilton, Ferndale Mi 48220 (248) 545-5861.

Door opens at 7pm. Come early for dinner.

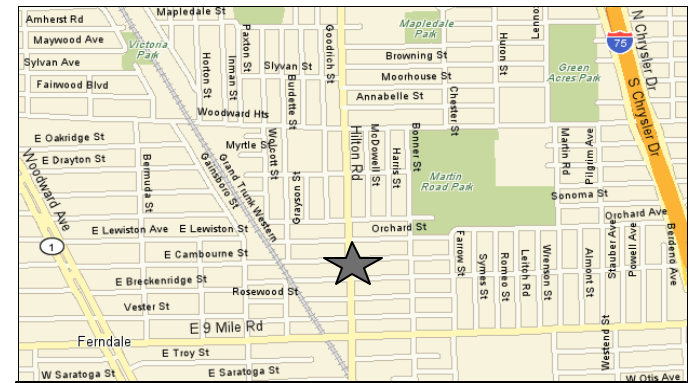
\$2.00 Admission for our members and \$4.00 for Guests

We are very proud and excited to put together outings and events that you would like to see and do. But we would like ask for your help. We need your ideas for new events you would like to see us put together. We would also like to invite you to participate by leading these events.

Leading any single event doesn't require a great deal of work, but becomes quite a chore for a select few to organize them all. So we appreciate your participation in sharing the wealth. Besides, if you have an idea for an outing, it would be your opportunity to see it through as you envision it. Members of the board will always be there to offer assistance if you need it. After the event is completed, we would like invite you to write an article for our newsletter summarizing the event.

If you have any suggestions for new outings, or our monthly themed outing such as Restaurant of the Month and Dive of the Month, please let us know. You can contact us by e-mail at gmskiclub@comcast.net or you can bring your ideas to any of our monthly general meetings. We look forward hearing from you and seeing you at the next meeting.

-Darrell



Map to Warrilow's Restaurant, 2140 Hilton, Ferndale, Mi. 48220

GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (day) _____ (Evening) _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Email address _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP \$30 **RENEWAL \$25**

In consideration for me being able to join the GM Ski and Travel Club, I agree to abide by the GM SKI and TRAVEL Club's by-Laws and constitution. Membership runs October 1 through September 30.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

How did you hear about the GM Ski and Travel Club?

Friend Newspaper Racing Event (list) _____

Skiing Interest: ↑ **Skiing Ability:** ↑ **I'd like to help:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Downhill	<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Trips
<input type="checkbox"/> Racing	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> X-country	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowboard		<input type="checkbox"/> Activities
		<input type="checkbox"/> Other (list) _____

• **Referral:** I am a New Member and was referred to the GM Ski and Travel Club by:

Referring Members Name: _____

Payment made by: ? Cash ? Check Check# _____

GM Ski and Travel Club Board of Directors

President: Bill Given 248-540-4547	Membership: Darrell Ahlberg, 586-899-8203
Vice President: Les Skrzycki 248-693-1794	Mdsc Representative: Denise Korzetz 248-343-0111
Treasurer: Alan Toomey 248-391-5180	Newsletter: Michael Bourke 586-776-7685
Secretary: Darrell Ahlberg, 586-899-8203	Ski Trips: Ted Zubeck 248-549-5082
Activities: Brian De Leo 248-626-6192	Webmaster: Alan Toomey 248-391-5180
Hospitality: Greg Ronan 586-979-9512	

The board meets once a month, the week after the General Meeting

TO JOIN THE GM SKI and TRAVEL CLUB:

Please send completed application at the left along with check (payable to "GM Ski Club") to:

**GM Ski and Travel Club
 40377 Kraft Dr.
 Sterling Heights, MI 48310**

Or bring the completed application with you to our General Meeting.

Membership runs Oct. through Sept.
 Mail changes of address to the above.

You don't have to work for General Motors to belong to the GM Ski and Travel Club! (but it's okay if you do).

February Birthday

Joan Timko February 17



Treasurer's Report
 The account balance is:

\$7531.29

**Alan Toomey,
 Treasurer**

Breakfast Club. Every Sunday at 10:00 am, GM Ski Club members and friends meet at Anton's Family Restaurant for breakfast. Anton's is a place that truly believes life is about the THRILL O' THE GRILL. Northwest corner of Big Beaver (16 Mile Rd) and Dequindre. For a great breakfast and fun with friends, c' mon out and join us and be sure and bring a friend.

Editor's Notes

Submissions to this newsletter will be accepted in any visual, but not oral, form. Electronic transmissions are preferred. The deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the 20th of the preceding month.

Michael Bourke Home: 586-776-7685
 16724 Collinscon E-mail: excelsiomb@netzero.net
 Eastpointe, MI 48021

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- Every Sun Breakfast Club every Sunday, starts at 10 am.
- Every Sun Anton's Family Restaurant Big Beaver (16 Mile Rd.) and Dequindre, Northwest Corner. Co-Ed Walleyball. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Warren Racquetball & Fitness, 29901 S. Civic Center Blvd. in Warren. Contact Les (248) 693-1794
- 2 Thur General Meeting - Warrilow's Restaurant, 2140 Hilton, Ferndale, MI (248) 545-5861 Doors open at 7 p.m. Come early for dinner.
- 5-12 Aspen Ski Trip --- Call Ted Zubeck for info. (248) 549-5082
- 7 Tue Ski Pine Knob with the MDSC, in conjunction with the MDSC monthly council meeting. Lift tickets will be discounted by \$3.00 to those with GMSC membership card. Call Les (248) 693-1794 or email: lskrzycki@ameritech.net
- 7 Tue GMSC Board Meeting. Darrell's house
- 10 Fri Dive of the Month - Dragonmead Microbrewery, 14600 E. Eleven Mile Rd., Warren, MI 6:30 p.m. till ? ...Call Les (248) 693-1794
- 24 Fri Restaurant of the Month- The Post Bar, 3880 Lapeer Rd., Auburn Hills, MI Call Les (248) 693-1794
- 25 Sat Classic Movie- "A Hard Day's Night" starring The Beatles. Redford Theatre, 17360 Lasher Rd., Detroit. Just north of Grand River. Meet in the Lobby at 7:30 p.m. Movie starts at 8:00 p.m. Prizes awarded for Beatle look -a-likes! Call Brian (248) 626-6192 or email: Zer ton4@aol.com

MARCH

- 2 Thur General Meeting - Warrilow's Restaurant, 2140 Hilton, Ferndale, MI (248) 545-5861 Doors open at 7 p.m. Come early for dinner.
- 7 Tue GMSC Board Meeting. Location TBD.
- 11 Sat Restaurant of the Month- Feather Bowling at Bath City Bistro Inn, 75 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Feather bowling from 4:30 - 6:30 P.M. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. We must have reservations for this event! Contact Bill (248) 540-4547 or email: Bill.Given@phmic.com
- 31 Fri Dive of the Month - Wellington Pub, 44819 Hayes, Sterling Hghts. Contact Darrell (586) 566-0260

APRIL

- 6 Thur General Meeting - Warrilow's Restaurant, 2140 Hilton, Ferndale, MI (248) 545-5861 Doors open at 7 p.m. Come early for dinner.
- 11 Tue GMSC Board Meeting. Location TBD
- 22 Sat Restaurant of the Month- Bocce Ball and dinner at the Palazzo di Bocce, 4291 S. Lapeer Rd., Lake Orion, MI. Bocce Ball 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. with dinner following at 8:00 p.m. We must have reservations for this event! ... Call Les (248) 693-1794

Always watch your email for our up to the minute E-Newsletter for last minute events and activities.

2006 ASPEN SKI TRIP
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5 - 12, 2006
Cost Including 5 Day Lift Tickets \$1220.00

Sold out
Wait list only

Trip Details:
 Roundtrip Northwest Airlines to Aspen Eagle Airport
 7 Nights lodging at the Chateau Chaumont Condos
 5 Day lift tickets your choice: Aspen Mtn., Aspen Highlands or Snowmass
 Trip Contact: Ted Zubeck 248 549-5082 Tzubeck4627#wowway.com

(Bonaire, contd)

thing. A very exciting night if you are into this kind of night experience.

Diving on the reefs is quite the visual experience for color and fish life. In Bonaire we got to see sea horses and frogfish. These are a rare find so it was quite pleasing to experience them. The visibility was probably about 90% of perfect because there were heavy showers occasionally and the water had suspended particles. But what the heck, 80-90 feet isn't bad.

Traveling to Bonaire is an all-day trip. Most of us had to start the day about 4am in order to make the early morning flights. There were connections, layovers, and flight time. This made both the outgoing and return about a 14-hour day or more. Given the location of Bonaire, there is little that can be done. Bonaire's motto is a "Diver's Paradise" for several reasons. First because it is the most pristine place in this hemisphere to dive, and the travel weeds out most lighthearted vacationers.

I can say that we were 100% on the luggage arriving. It's hard to believe that all the gear made it. We were not 100% on the people though. Rose had made her own flight arrangements for frequent flyer miles, and through no fault of hers (the plane broke), missed the San Juan connection. She did show up two days later. Did I say getting there was part of the adventure? The schedule is quite tight getting to these islands because flight service is not as frequent. So I would recommend adding some buffer time if there are connections. But the airline industry has us where they want us. What you gonna do?

What else was there to do? Well, obviously we didn't get around to doing enough. On the windward side there is world class wind surfing and has been voted the #1 place to learn five years in a row. One of the fastest growing sports today is kayaking. Bonaire, being blessed with lots of calm waters and mild winds, has been quick to offer the sport to visitors. Did I mention there was a casino right at the Divi Resort? There is the Washington Park located at the north end of the island where you can go hiking and bird watching. Rent a car and drive yourself around the island. At least they drive on the same side of the road as us. The list can go on and on.

We had our picture and video review already, and missed a couple of participants who didn't make it. Thanks to Lisa who hosted us. We had food and spirits as we watched the video, bringing back the longing to be there and do it again. A few chuckles about the video is an objective of mine, and I think I succeeded. Disks were exchanged containing some wonderful digital underwater shots (as well as the above water). It is interesting to see for the first time what someone else saw, that you didn't, on the same dive. Very cool.

A few of my recollections, meant lightheartedly for the participants:

- Beth Broderick – the great logbook notary, we would be lost without her. Her face to make the return on the night dive spoke volumes.
- Rose Harris – glad you made it. Dang those airlines. Dang those colds.
- Greg Kurze – looks like a fine-tuned swimming machine but loses his slate regularly. Needs an underwater cannon to get his attention.
- Beth Kish – always seems to need a dive buddy. Maybe her dive buddies should speak out. We take her out to sea and she keeps coming back. We'll keep trying.
- Fun Ng – has a nice backup regulator with a long hose he doesn't share. He has become the scout for spotting noteworthy subjects and doesn't mind using his equipment to root them out for you.
- Linda Pendergast – persisted through the week to achieve certification. I'm not sure what else makes her certified, but diving is now one of them. Congratulations.
- Lisa Perazza – as a new diver, needed a couple of days to figure out this was exciting, relaxing and fun. Otherwise, a word of warning, "don't be a roadblock." Look for her on the next dive trip.
- Diane Reaser – found her three niches for Caribbean diving: convenience, convenience, convenience. She has relieved herself of ever having to make a decision on what Caribbean diving destination to accept.
- Kurt Roehm – did some good bottom time. Always a good sport and good company. We met Kurt for the first time on this trip and decided we need him to go again.
- Noseeums – takes about 2 weeks to get over them, but we left them behind.
- New Yorkers – some new friends. I think we should watch for them on another trip.
- Alan Toomey – documented most of this on video, the other undocumented stuff stays in Bonaire. I also get to write about everyone, and give you all thanks for making a trip most memorable.

What a great trip. Be sure to get on board next time.

Alan

Bonaire December 3-10, 2005

Ten of us departed the cold weather of the north to head south to Bonaire for a week of warmth and scuba diving. The weather was a comfortable 85°-90°, and we had enough time there to completely forget about the miserable Michigan weather. There were periods of brief showers, as typical of tropical islands, but it never dampened our outlook.

We stayed at the Divi Flamingo Resort located within a five minute ride of the airport and a five minute walk to downtown. We all had deluxe rooms; and, after a brief shuffle of roommates, we got settled in. There was a charter group that didn't make it as scheduled, so whatever complaint we had about our room was easily accommodated by the Divi. When it rains it pours. Linda and Lisa had a bit of water intrusion, so they were provided another room. I thought the upstairs room was nicer than the water level room, but the water level room really gave you the impression of being at water level. It all worked out great.

Not only will we get to diving, but I wanted to say that eating out was a good experience. Our first night we ate at the Chibi Chibi, the Divi house diner. I would rate the food a little below par if it wasn't for its convenience for our first night. Thereafter, since we didn't purchase the resort dinner plan, we ate out and about at some very good restaurants at reasonable prices. I would make these my recommendations should you ever go: Casablanca, Capriccios, Mona Lisa, and Richard's. All within a few minutes walk from the resort and excellent food and selection.

The Divi really knows how to accommodate divers. There were three boat dives available daily in the package, and most of us used them all. Fair to say a couple of people brought a little Michigan congestion with them which made it a little uncomfortable, so soaking in the sun was elected instead. On several dives our group had a "private boat" which gave us a lot of room and special attention from the Dive Masters, Pepe and Orlando. Couldn't ask for more. There's a lot to say about having a group of friends sharing such a unique outing.

The dive lockers and the rinse tanks on the dock next to the dive boat proved to be a real convenience. We didn't have to lug our gear every day from our rooms. The dive shop at the end of the dock made it easy to visit and keep our names signed up on the next day's outing.

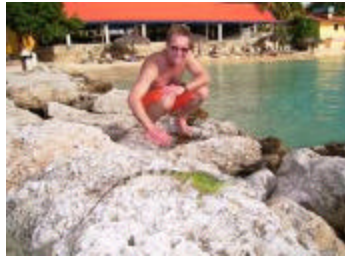
In all, our ten-person group had nine certified divers, and one in training. Congratulations to Linda for overcoming her bout of cold and completing the Open Water (OW) Certification. If you're not going to complete your OW in the cold murky depths of a quarry or lake, there is no better place to go than on a trip such as this, to Bonaire. Warm water, visibility at least ten fold, a tremendous amount of sc energy, and all packaged into a vacation.

Bonaire is known for its popularity for divers because of its location next to Venezuela, outside the path of hurricanes. Maybe once in a hundred years it is hit with something big, so the reefs are predictably in good shape. All the dive sites are on the leeward side of the island, with a few "wild side" exceptions. This will keep until next time. There was too much to see on the leeward side for our first visit. The dive sites are all accessible from shore and are clearly marked should you decide to rent a vehicle and start exploring on your own. For our first visit we decided to be chauffeured by the experience of the boat captain and dive masters. Did I mention how convenient this is from the Divi Dock? Oh, yeah.

As if this wasn't enough, we had access to all the shore diving we could want. Kurt would spend hours after the first boat dive just soaking up more of the warm water. The water temperature was 80-82° so there was no problem trying to stay in as long as your heart desired.

There was a lot to see just off the resort. You could go down to the dock and strap on another tank anytime you wanted. Several of us tried doing a night dive for the first time. The ocean has two shifts, the day shift and the night shift. Most of the fish you see during the day go to bed (a nice way to say go into hiding), and the nighttime creatures come out to play (a nice way to say the predators feed).

Eight of us armed with lights headed out one night to see what we could find. Not only were we looking for things to find, some things found us. A tarpon is a rather large fish and several the size of submarines (actually 5 feet) came to swim with us. (a note, things appear 25% bigger due to the visual distortion of the dive mask, and 50% bigger just because it is dark) The above size is actual, the impression is tremendous. The tarpon were intimidating because they approach closely in order to use the dive lights for hunting. You can only see where you are shining your light. It can be startling when one glides from behind within a couple of feet, then you gasp "didn't see that coming." We also got to see a rather large spotted moray eel out in the open hunting. We never saw the elusive octopus out doing its





Dive of the Month



Dive of the Month

