



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

Volume 42

Issue 7

August 2020



This Month's Meeting

Online Meeting Through Zoom

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00pm (Board meeting 6:30pm)

[Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 867 6303 0189 Password: 458296

Speaker: Annette Smith

Annette Smith is the mom of a 35 year old son, a Past President of the Juneau Gastineau Rotary club, a licensed boat Captain, underwater photographer and retired from a 33 year career in Information Technology.

She is an Alaskan diver who started diving late in life (learned at 45) and has only been diving for 23 years. She spends at least three days a week underwater and cannot think of a place she would rather be!! She describes it as her beer after work!!

Annette is known for her willingness to take new divers out and reveling in their excitement of finding their first king crab or their sighting of their first starfish that is 6 feet across or the first time they are cruised by an 1800-pound sea lion!!

Her underwater photography is used in several scientific sites, scientific writings, printed in newspaper articles both in the US and Canada. Her underwater videos have been used in programs like Deadliest Catch and she was featured in The Alaska Triangle episode that focused on the wreck of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Princess Sophia. She is the underwater expert on the Princess Sophia shipwreck and has presented that wreck in several shipwreck symposiums.

Annette is always open to talk to people who are interested in learning to dive, or are looking for dive buddies.

In this presentation, that is dedicated to Ellen Evans particular interest in how things arrive in the sea.....we will explore some Alaskan Underwater romances!

4 Lakes Scuba Shirts

Last year we ordered club t-shirts featuring the [logo on the front and anchor design on the back](#). A number of folks said they were interested in ordering more of these shirts in a different size/color/style.

Brad's looking to gauge interest in placing another order. If you're interested, please email him at vp@fourlakesscubaclub.org by the virtual social (August 12). Below are the base prices, but price may vary depending on the number ordered. If there's enough interest he'll ask for

actual order details and how to pay.

Approximate costs and types:

- Ladies Scoop Tee \$11.75 each
- Gildan Long Sleeve \$13.75 each
- Gildan Short Sleeve \$10.25 each
- Ringspun Short Sleeve \$12.50
- Performance Short Sleeve \$13.50

Let us know if you want to show your 4LSC pride!

Dive “oops”

By Randy Lee

During the second half of July I had a dive “oops” moment. While rolling into Lake Mendota off my small boat holding the primary second stage with one hand while holding my prescription lens facemask with the other... or so I thought. When I bobbed back up the regulator was where it was supposed to be... as was my hand holding the mask. What wasn't there was **the mask!**

I spent the next 20 minutes literally “Braille diving” the bottom. No joy in locating my mask. On the other hand I did recover a “shorty” Bud bottle. A partially successful dive.

Once I surfaced and back in the boat I GPS marked the spot. The following day I sent a note to my LDS... Diversions SCUBA requesting they spread the word to anyone diving near the GPS spot to be on the lookout for the mask. Tami (Tamara Thomsen) got back to me that she would try to visit the spot the following day.

On July 26th at 11:28 a.m. I received a two word message: “*Found it.*”

To say I was elated would be understatement. Thank you Tami! A few days later I was able to pick up.

Now the “after action” findings.

Primary reason for loss... diver error. I found that when back rolling from a small craft a better technique would be to use the left hand to hold both the regulator and mask front and the right hand to hold the mask band **AND** to keep your chin

tucked as tight to the chest as possible.

This does two things in theory... keeps the mask from rolling up and off when contacting the water and helps with keeping the diver from doing an underwater reverse somersault.

More importantly, the Zebra mussel explosion occurring in Lake Mendota! We all know this is occurring however I never imagined to what extent! My mask was submerged for only 72 hours in about 10' of warm water. Surface temp around 80°. I was shocked with the mussel colony that had started in that short of time. Perhaps 13± a couple per lens.

In this time of COVID-19 uncertainty, social distancing with the fish is a great idea. Keep the faith... Be safe and healthy.

Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

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Vice President:	Brad Acker vp@fourlakesscubaclub.org
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Social Media Editor:	Lisa Vorburger media@fourlakesscubaclub.org
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fourlakesscubaclub.org info@fourlakesscubaclub.org	

Your Article Could Be Here!

We are always looking for contributions to the newsletter! Please send your trip reports, articles, photos, etc. to news@fourlakesscubaclub.org.

