

Divers talk 'underwater' at party

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Rec Dive is owned by Mike Kobut of Bloomfield Hills. It's a good place to learn about diving and to meet the instructors who lead their trips from shipwrecks to coral reefs worldwide.

YOU'LL FIND them all together at the Halloween Party which starts at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30, at Pasquale's Restaurant in Royal Oak. Make your \$10 reservation by calling Rec Dive, as the insiders call it, at 549-0303.

"Lots of people are intrigued by diving but they think it would be too difficult. It's not. I've taught basic skills in three or four hours, although we recommend the regular seven week course, which can often be done in the winter.

"The fear that most people must overcome is the fear of water itself. They may know how to swim, but they are not sure about going underwater.

"**PEOPLE WHO** want to explore diving should sign up for a splash party. We go into three feet of water and that gives them a taste.

"We do the basic teaching in a pool and then graduate from that to open water. One of our open water sites is near Toledo."

There are of course many dive shops in the area that offer all or some of these services, including Don's Dive Shop in Farmington Hills, Divers Inc. in Ann Arbor, US Scuba Center in Rochester Hills, Great Lakes Diving in Novi, Spill's Underwater Outfitters in Union Lake.

AS FOR diving under ice, I heard those stories from diver Steve Harrington, a Grand Rapids attorney who is the author of "Divers Guide to Michigan," a 300-page guide to the most popular dive destinations in the state. (It's available from Maritime Press, P.O. Box 275, Mason, Mich. 48854 or from your local dive shop or bookstore.)

Steve was telling me that people who put their diving equipment away as soon as the first leaves fall miss some of the best diving in Michigan.

"In fall, as less sunlight penetrates the water, some aquatic plants die, leaving the water clearer. Autumn visibility in inland lakes can approach 30 feet. In the Great Lakes, visibility can exceed 50 feet. And the water stays warm well into October.

"**SOME PEOPLE** even dive under the ice."



John Burns, manager of Recreational Diving Systems, Inc. of Royal Oak, conducts many of his scuba diving lessons in Isle Royal.

I was sure I didn't hear him right.

"It's true, some people dive right under the ice, using safety measures of course.

"You would have to be crazy to dive into those lakes when they're frozen," I objected.

"Nobody said that divers are a sane and sensible lot," Steve replied.

Tell you what. I love to get reader mail, so I'll stand by while you dive under the ice, using professional precautionary measures of course, and then you can write us a letter all about it. Sure.

Tris Jones is travel editor for Camden Publications, serving Suburban Communications Corp. publications.

travel bits

Winter activities

Looking for things to do during the winter holiday season? The Michigan Travel Bureau has compiled a Michigan Holiday Activities fact sheet that provides a sampling of the many holiday activities and events held throughout the state during November and December. Where to cut your own tree, who has sleigh rides, Victorian-era Christmas bed and breakfast packages, a Hanukkah opera, highlights from the Winter Calendar of Events, as well as whom to contact, addresses and phone numbers are all included.

Activities range from train rides to a tree farm to sleigh rides, from a five-course dinner to sipping hot chocolate in front of a warm fire in a Victorian bed and breakfast.

Travelers needing more information may write or call the Michigan

Travel Bureau, P.O. Box 30226, Lansing, 48909, (800) 5432-YES.

Rome and Athens tour

Dr. Wesolowski, an English teacher from Churchill High School and Madonna College in Livonia, has coordinated a 10-day tour of Rome and Athens.

The trip is scheduled for March 29 until April 6, 1991 but a deposit of \$75 and a complete application must be mailed before Dec. 1, 1990 to reserve a spot. The trip is open to the public and is priced at \$1,360.

The tour will give travelers an opportunity to visit historical sites that shaped Western Civilization.

For more information, call Dr. Wesolowski at 668-1026 or write to him at 3824 Bradford Square Dr., Ann Arbor, 48103.

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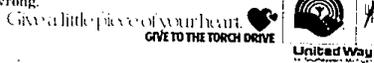


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