



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit

2023 Dive Briefings

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chief Diver Contact Information2

Weekly Club Dives3

Long Weekend Club Dives5

Gilboa Quarry – May 26-28, 2023.....6

St. Clair River Sturgeon Run – June 23-25, 20239

Fathom Five National Marine Park – July 21-23, 2023.....12

U-352, North Carolina – August 24-28, 2023.....15

Cuba 202318

Sign Up Instructions19



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Chief Diver Contact Information

Chief Diver: Derek Causarano
Telephone: 226-220-7231 (Call/Text/Whatsapp)
Email: derek_causarano@hotmail.com
Discord: Derek Causarano#4353
Facebook Messenger: Derek Causarano



**Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit
Dive Briefing**

Weekly Club Dives

Thursday Night Dives

May 4, 2023	Welland Scuba Park
May 11, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Riverside Tavern to Boat Launch
May 18, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
May 25, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Knightsbridge Park to Boat Launch
June 1, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
June 8, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Floodgates to Boat Launch
June 15, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
June 22, 2023	Thompson's Hole
June 29, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Boat Launch to Stanley Ave Bridge
July 6, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
July 12, 2023 (Wednesday)	The Tiller (Charter Dive 5pm)
July 20, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Riverside Tavern to Boat Launch
July 27, 2023	Thompson's Hole
August 3, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
August 10, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Knightsbridge Park to Boat Launch
August 17, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
August 31, 2023	Thompson's Hole
September 7, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Floodgates to Boat Launch
September 14, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
September 21, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Knightsbridge Park to Boat Launch
September 28, 2023	Frenchman's Creek
October 5, 2023	Chippewa Creek - Riverside Tavern to Boat Launch
October 12, 2023	Welland Scuba Park

All dives are subject to change. Please sign up via Discord by 12pm on the day of a dive. A social event will be planned following each dive.

Dive Start Times (unless otherwise stated):

May 4 – June 15 – 5pm

June 22 – August 31 – 6pm

September 7 – October 12 – 5pm



**Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit
Dive Briefing**

Weekly Club Dives

Monday Night Dives

May 22, 2023	Welland Scuba Park
May 29, 2023	Sherkston Shores
June 5, 2023	Welland Swing Bridge
June 12, 2023	The Raleigh (Charter Dive)
June 19, 2023	Windmill Point
June 26, 2023	Welland Scuba Park
July 3, 2023	Sherkston Shores
July 10, 2023	Welland Swing Bridge
July 17, 2023	Windmill Point
July 24, 2023	Welland Scuba Park
July 31, 2023	Chippewa Creek – Riverside Tavern to Boat Launch
August 7, 2023	Welland Swing Bridge
August 14, 2023	Windmill Point
August 21, 2023	The Raleigh (Charter Dive)
August 28, 2023	TBD

All dives are subject to change. Please sign up via Discord by 12pm on the day of a dive. A social event will be planned following each dive.

Dive Start Times:

May 22 – June 12 – 5pm

June 19 – August 28 – 6pm



**Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit
Dive Briefing**

Long Weekend Club Dives

Location: To Be Determined

Dates: May 21, 2023 May 2-4 Long Weekend
July 2, 2023 Canada Day Long Weekend
August 6, 2023 Civic Holiday Long Weekend
September 3, 2023 Labour Day Long Weekend

All dives are planned on Sundays and are subject to change.

Dives will be determined prior to the weekend and posted on Discord.

A social event will be planned following each dive.

Please sign up on Discord under *Weekly Club Dives 2023* by 12pm on the Saturday before the day of the dive.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Gilboa Quarry – May 26-28, 2023

- Location:** Gilboa Quarry, Ottawa, Ohio, USA
- Dates:** May 26-28, 2023 (Friday to Sunday)
- Description:** Gilboa Quarry is a spring-fed limestone quarry in northwest Ohio. The quarry serves as a diver training ground and boasts various training platforms, fish (including catfish and a paddle fish), vehicles (airplane, school bus, van, boat, motorcycle), swim throughs (stacked storm drains and suspended tires), a wall, and even a Christmas tree or two.
- Gilboa Quarry offers a safe open water environment to divers of all abilities and skill levels. This provides the opportunity to brush off those winter cobwebs, practice some rusty skills or play with some new equipment. Due to operating hours, night dives are not available.
- Depth:** The “shallow” side of the quarry ranges from 10-60ft. While recreational divers are requested to stay at a maximum depth of 60ft, the bottom of the wall maxes out at 140ft. The “deep” side of the quarry is limited to divers with redundant systems (available for rent) and has a depth of 75-140ft.
- Temperature:** Yearly water temperatures range from 35°F to 75°F, with a summer average in the mid-50°F to mid-60°F range. Suitable for wetsuit or drysuit divers. There is a noticeable thermocline in the quarry at approximately 40-50ft.
- Visibility:** Ranges from 10-30ft, depending on the temperature and number of divers in the quarry. The bottom composition is silt and easily stirred up by newer divers or divers who are not comfortable with their buoyancy, kicks, etc. Visibility can be reduced to 1-2ft very quickly.
- Services:** The quarry has on-site air fills (including nitrox), change rooms and a limited supply of equipment for rent.
- Diving Costs:**
- Admission fee: Divers: \$35/person/day
 - Non-Divers/snorkelers: \$5/person/day
 - Parking: Main Lot: Free; Quarry Side: \$15/vehicle/day
 - Regular air fills: \$10+tax
 - Tank Rentals: \$15/tank/day (includes one fill)
- All prices in US dollars. Cash or Credit Card accepted. Paid at the Quarry.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Gilboa Quarry – May 26-28, 2023

Accommodations: There are many hotels in the Findlay area. Costs range from \$50-200/night (based on double occupancy) depending on the quality of hotel that you choose. **Recommended hotels:** Super 8 or Rodeway Inn on Broad Avenue. Approximately \$50-60/night. Rooms are very basic but clean. The Rodeway will let us hang our dive gear from the eave troughs, but we cannot at the Super 8. The Super 8 has breakfast in the morning but no breakfast at the Rodeway. Both hotels will also allow us to sit outside. All hotels around the I-75 & W Trenton Avenue interchange are approximately 20-25 minutes from the quarry.

Camping is also available at the quarry. \$15/night for tent camping, \$40/night for RV. Reservations are required.

Food: Food is not available for purchase at Gilboa Quarry; however, you can bring your own. There is a Tim Horton's, a Walmart Supercentre and a grocery store all within 5 minutes of the I-75 & W Trenton Avenue. There is a fantastic Mexican restaurant called Cancun near this interchange (that makes great fish tacos and frozen margaritas!) as well as several other restaurants.

Requirements: There is no minimum sign up required for this trip as we are not booking charters, hotel rooms, etc. The trip will not be cancelled if we do not have enough people and each member will be responsible for securing their own accommodations, food, quarry passes (purchase on the Saturday morning), air fills, transportation, etc.

Other notes: Gilboa Quarry is approximately a five hour drive from Fort Erie. Make sure that you have money for tolls (Peace Bridge). Carpooling and room sharing can be arranged prior to the weekend.

Certified divers of all levels & experience are permitted and encouraged to attend. Non-divers and snorkellers are welcome.

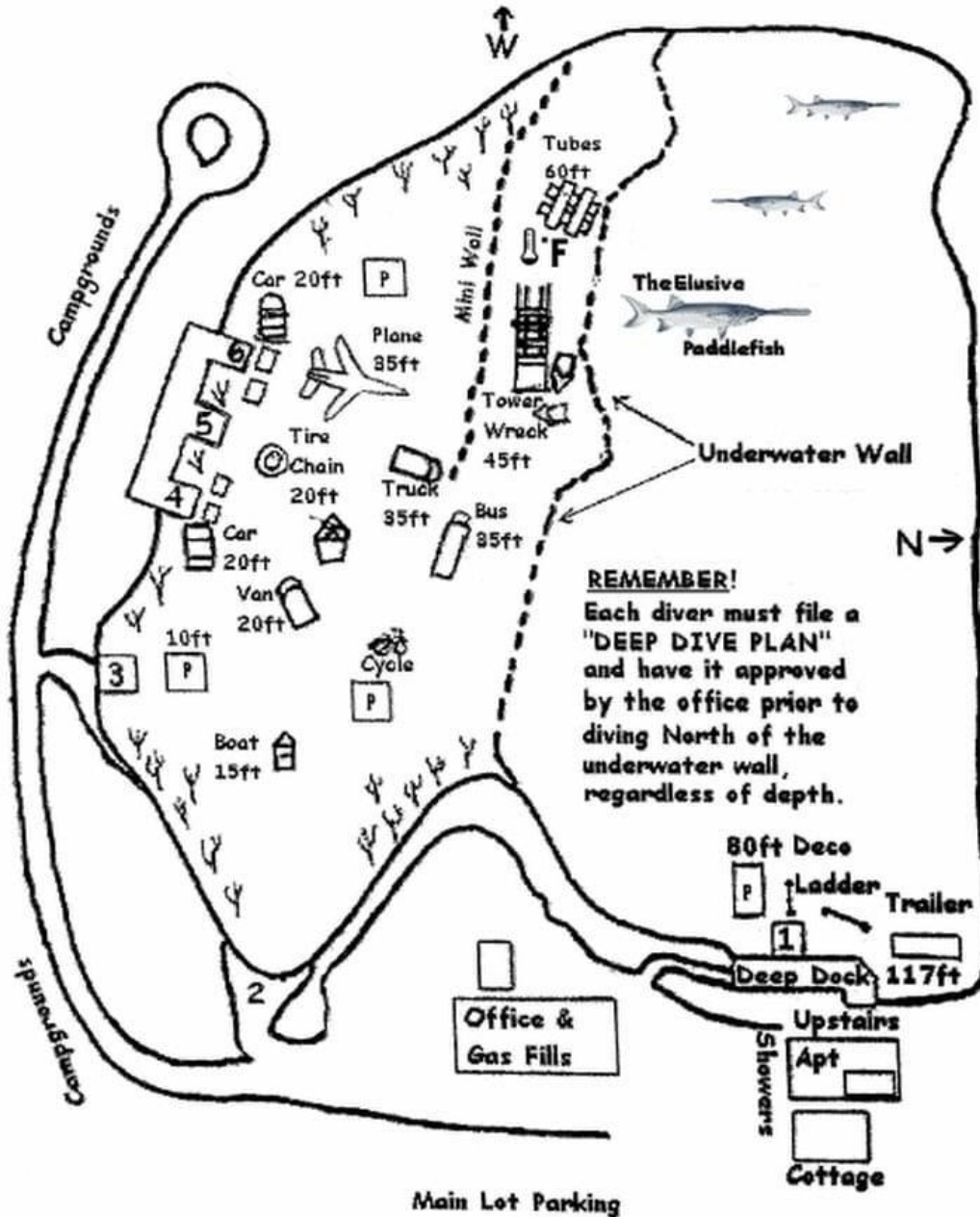
Space at the quarry is limited and fills up quickly, especially since we will be going during the American Memorial Day long weekend. It is recommended that all divers be prepared to be at the quarry for 8:00 am when it opens.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit
Dive Briefing

GILBOA QUARRY

3763 Old St Rt 224 Gilboa OH 45875
419.456.3300 www.divegilboa.com
Map is not to scale -- All depths are approximate





Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

St. Clair River Sturgeon Run – June 23-25, 2023

- Location:** St. Clair River, Point Edward, Sarnia, Ontario
- Dates:** June 23-25, 2023 (Friday to Sunday)
- Description:** The St. Clair River in Sarnia is an international shipping channel that flows from Lake Huron to Lake St. Clair. It offers several different dives in high current conditions. The signature dive is called the “Superman”: Starting at Canatara Park, divers will make a surface swim towards the mouth of the river then quickly descend to a depth of approximately 80-90ft and be sucked into the river. While travelling at speeds of 5-10km/h, you will literally run into schools of 3-10ft sturgeon that spawn in the area. The dive lasts approximately 40-45 minutes, depending on river conditions, and you will know that you are at the exit point when you come up on the twin wrecks under the Bluewater Bridge, the *Barge* and the *Monarch*.
- Sarnia also offers divers of all experiences and levels opportunities to explore. Just off the beach Canatara park is the *Gladstone*, a 280ft wreck in 15-25ft of water, no more than 200m from the entry. The Gladstone is easily accessible to all divers but lies in low current conditions. The *Barge* and the *Monarch*, mentioned above, are two wrecks that sit in the middle of the river at approximately 55ft.
- Depth:** Depth in the river range from 55-90ft. Depth of the *Gladstone* at Canatara Park is 15-25ft.
- Temperature:** Water temperatures ranges from 60°F to 65°F in the summer. Suitable for wetsuit divers.
- Visibility:** Ranges from 10-50ft. The bottom composition is silt and easily stirred up but quickly cleared by the current. Visibility can change quickly depending on rain fall and the speed and direction of the wind. These dives have blown out during a surface interval.
- Services:** There are no facilities, including air fills, for divers in the Sarnia area. Please ensure that you have enough tanks and redundant equipment for all of your dives. Canatara Park has washrooms.
- Diving Costs:** None



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

St. Clair River Sturgeon Run – June 23-25, 2023

Accommodations: There are many hotels in the Point Edward area. Costs range from \$100-200/night (based on double occupancy) depending on the quality of hotel that you choose. All hotels in the Point Edward area are approximately 5-10 minutes from the dive sites.

Food: Food is not usually available for purchase at Canatara Park; however, sometimes there might be a food truck come by the park. There is a fry truck that parks under the Bluewater Bridge (one of our exit points), that locals think offers the best fries in the country. There are many restaurants around the Sarnia area.

Requirements: We will possibly be sharing this trip with the NDA. There is no minimum sign up required for this trip as we are not booking charters, hotel rooms, etc. The trip will not be cancelled if we do not have enough people and each member will be responsible for securing their own accommodations, food, air fills, transportation, etc. Carpooling and room sharing can be arranged prior to the weekend. Please remember that diving conditions change frequently and that we might have to cancel the dives if conditions are unsafe for diving. The club takes no responsibility for any losses incurred because of diving cancellation.

Certified divers of all levels & experience are permitted and encouraged to attend; however, only divers who have completed their Advanced Open Water certification or higher should attempt any diving directly in the St. Clair River. Divers should consider their experience and comfort level in high current and overhead environments when choosing to participate. Divers who do not want to dive in the river can still dive from Canatara Park. Non-divers are welcome and snorkelling is limited to Canatara Park.

Other notes: Sarnia is approximately a three hour drive from Fort Erie.

Parking at Canatara Park is limited and fills up quickly, especially since we will be going on a weekend. There is ample parking under the Bluewater Bridge. Cars are frequently broken into at both parking sites. Please do not leave any valuables in your vehicle.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

St. Clair River Sturgeon Run – June 23-25, 2023

Considerations: The St. Clair River offers several different challenges that you will need to consider:

1. Unlike the Niagara River, the St. Clair River is an international shipping channel. Emergency ascents must be performed along the slope of the river; therefore, **all St. Clair River dives will be considered overhead environments and not open water dives**. Divers that have ascended in the channel can be fined and/or face jail time and the fine/jail time is considerably worsened if the diver causes any boat traffic to have to change course. Dive flags are not permitted on any dive in the river.
2. Unlike the Niagara River, the St. Clair has a intake for the water treatment plant that divers have previously been pinned against. Unprepared or unskilled divers have died while attempting these dives, as recently as 2022.
3. Like the Niagara River, the St. Clair River is a variable, high current environment. It is recommended that you ensure that you are comfortable with diving environments like Thompson's Hole before you attempt to dive the St. Clair River.
4. The St. Clair River is more susceptible to quick visibility changes due to rainfall and wind direction & strength than the Niagara River. These dives can and will be cancelled at any time if conditions are deemed unsafe.
5. Entry or exit underneath the Bluewater Bridge requires crawling up or down several 3-4ft high concrete blocks with all your equipment. If you are not comfortable or capable of carrying your equipment on your back while ascending or descending a block wall, these dives may not be appropriate for you.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Fathom Five National Marine Park – July 21-23, 2023

- Location:** Fathom Five National Marine Park, Tobermory, Ontario
- Dates:** July 21-23, 2023
- Description:** Tobermory is one of Canada's top diving destinations! Riddled with shipwrecks, there is so much to see! Most wrecks are accessible only by charter boat; however, there are a few that are easily accessed by shore dives.
- We will be doing one 2-tank charter and a series of shore dives at the Tugs near Little Tub Harbour and the lighthouse near Big Tub Harbour.
- Depth:** Varies based on location. Shore dives range from 10-30ft while the deeper wrecks range from 60-90ft.
- Temperature:** Average water temperature ranges from 60-70°F in July; however, this drastically changes with depth and Georgian Bay has multiple thermoclines.
- Visibility:** 10-30ft
- Services:** Divers Den offers diving services such as equipment and tank rental, charters, air fills and a limited shop. Divers Den also sells park passes to Fathom Five National Marine Park.
- Diving Costs:** Diver's Park fee – Payable at Visitor Information Centre or Divers Den
Daily: \$5.25/person/day
Annual: \$20.50/person
Charters
2-Tank Charter: \$148.25/person plus tax (Tanks & tipping not included)
Air fills: \$15+tax
Tanks and Equipment Rentals are available
Parking: Municipal Lots: \$3-5/hour/vehicle
- Accommodations:** Hotel accommodations in Tobermory are extremely limited. As a result, we are looking into an AirBNB. This will require the club to make a reservation sooner than later. A deposit of \$200/person is required as we will likely have to pay up front for accommodations.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Fathom Five National Marine Park – July 21-23, 2023

Food: There is only one grocery store in Tobermory and it tends to be overpriced. There is a Foodland in Wiarton and in Owen Sound, both along Highway 6 on the way into Tobermory. There are also a few restaurants, including a good place for fish and chips.

If we get accommodations with a barbeque or kitchen, we will be having a potluck on the Saturday evening.

Requirements: Minimum of 10 people required for the AirBNB (including non-divers). We are considering co-running this trip with the NDA, so accommodation costs might change. FEURU or NDA will be making the AirBNB reservation.

Accommodation Deposit: \$200/person (***not*** per diver) payable to FEURU

Signups and Deposits are due by April 30, 2023

If we do not get 10 people to sign up and pay their deposit for the AirBNB by the deadline, the trip will be cancelled. If the trip is cancelled, anyone who has put down a deposit will get their deposit back.

There will be no refunds if you cannot attend. Anyone who has put down a deposit is responsible for their spot in the AirBNB. If you need to cancel, you either need to find someone else to fill your spot or you forfeit your deposit.

There is not a minimum number of divers for the charter; however, divers will be responsible for pre-booking their own charters on the Divers Den website.

Once the trip has been confirmed, divers will be invited to register for the charter directly with Divers Den. Any diver who registers with Divers Den prior to the trip being confirmed will be responsible for cancelling their own charter. Divers Den's cancellation policy states that charters can be cancelled up to 7 days prior to the dive with a full refund. Any diver who cancels with 2-7 days' notice will get a store credit. Any diver who cancels with less than 24 hours' notice will not get a refund.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Fathom Five National Marine Park – July 21-23, 2023

Other notes:

Non-Divers & Snorkelers are welcome; however, they may not be permitted on the charter.

All participants are responsible for their own transportation, equipment, charter fees, park passes, air fills, etc.

Assistance will be provided to organize carpooling and/or room sharing (if needed).

All divers will need to present their C-Cards to Divers Den in order to either board the charter or rent equipment. Please make sure that you have your C-Card with you.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

U-352, North Carolina – August 24-28, 2023

Location: Morehead City, North Carolina, USA

Dates: August 24-28, 2023

Description: On May 9, 1942, German U-Boat 352 was sunk off the coast of North Carolina, near the town of Beaufort, after a battle with the USCGC cutter *Icarus*. The *Icarus* dropped depth charges that forced U-352 to surface. A barrage of machine gun fire from the *Icarus* prevented the U-Boat's crew from manning the deck guns. Of the crew of 48, 33 survived and were taken prisoner on board the *Icarus*. The wreck was found in 1975 and is now one of the most famous shipwrecks off the coast of North Carolina.

FEURU members have tried to get to U-352 many times in the past but have been blown out by poor weather conditions. We are going to try again this year. While there are no guarantees that we will make it to U-352, there are many other wrecks in the waters near Morehead City and, hopefully, we will still get some great diving in!

Itinerary:

- August 24 Drive to Morehead City, North Carolina
- August 25 2-Tank Full Day Charter with Olympus Dive Center including the U-Boat 352
- August 26 2-Tank Full Day Charter with Olympus Dive Center
- August 27 2-Tank Full Day Charter with Olympus Dive Center
- August 28 Drive back to Fort Erie

Depth: 90-140ft

Temperature: 75-85°F with multiple thermoclines

Visibility: 50-100+ft

Services: Olympus Dive Center offers diving services such as equipment and tank rental, charters, air fills and a limited shop. Olympus also has a Diver Lodge that we will be staying at.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

U-352, North Carolina – August 24-28, 2023

- Diving Costs:** 2-Tank Charter: \$185/person/charter plus tax
(Tanks & tipping are not included)
Air Fills: \$8-9/tank
Tanks and Equipment Rentals are available. Nitrox and trimix also available.
All prices in US Dollars
- Accommodations:** Olympus offers divers accommodations in their Dive Lodge. This is a 35-bed bunk house that is two blocks from the dive shop and provides the opportunity to meet other divers from around the world. The cost is \$45USD/person/night. Everyone will need to bring their own linens (typically a sleeping bag) and towel.
- Food:** There are grocery stores on the drive through Morehead City towards the Lodge. There are also several restaurants around the Lodge. Food is not provided onboard the charter and it is recommended that you bring your own snacks. There is a microwave and a refrigerator in the bunk house but no real cooking facilities.
- Requirements:** There is no minimum sign up required for this trip; however, FEURU will be booking the Dive Lodge. The trip will not be cancelled if we do not have enough people.
- Accommodation Deposit: \$300/person (**not** per diver) payable to FEURU (in Canadian Dollars, \$220 in US Dollars)
- Signups and Deposits are due by April 30, 2023
- if the trip is cancelled, anyone who puts down a deposit will get their deposit back. Once the Dive Lodge has been booked, anyone who has put down a deposit is responsible for their spot in the lodge. If you need to cancel, you either need to find someone else to fill your spot or you forfeit your deposit.
- Once the Dive Lodge is booked, there will be no refunds if you cannot attend.
- Once the trip has been confirmed, divers will be invited to register for the charter directly with Olympus Dive Center. Any diver who registers with Olympus Dive Centre prior to the trip being confirmed will be responsible for cancelling their own charter.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

U-352, North Carolina – August 24-28, 2023

- Requirements:** Olympus Dive Center has requirements of every diver that boards their charters:
- Advanced Open Water Certification is preferred. Experienced divers with Open Water Certification and the required dives are accepted.
 - A minimum of 25 logged dives.
 - At least 2 dives in the ocean to 70 feet or greater.
 - At least 2 logged boat ocean dives.
 - At least 2 dives in the last 12 months.
 - Minimum Age for Full Day Dive Trip is 15 years of age.
 - Additional requirements for rebreather divers are available.
 - Divers must be at the dive shop by 6am on the morning of the charter.
- Any diver that is late and misses the boat forfeits their charter.

Other notes: Morehead, North Carolina is approximately 13 hours from Fort Erie. Carpooling is highly recommended and will be arranged prior to the weekend.

Non-Divers & Snorkelers are welcome; however, they will not be permitted on the charter.

All participants are responsible for their own transportation, equipment, charter fees, air fills, etc.

All divers will need to present their C-Cards **and** logbooks to Olympus Dive Center in order to either board the charter or rent equipment. Please make sure that you have your C-Card and logbook with you.

Please note: This trip runs Thursday to Sunday



**Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit
Dive Briefing**

Cuba 2023

Location: To Be Determined, Cuba

Dates: To Be Determined, November, 2023

Description: The Cuba Trip is in the planning stages. More details will follow at FEURU Club meetings and on Discord. We are looking for a person to be our point person in Cuba. If you are interested, contact Chief Diver or Club President ASAP.



Fort Erie Underwater Recovery Unit Dive Briefing

Sign Up Instructions

- Weekly Club Dives:** Sign up on Discord by 12pm on dive days
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Let Chief Diver know by 3pm if you are going to be late
- Long Weekend Dives:** Sign up by 12pm on the Saturday before the dive
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Let Chief Diver know by 10am if you are going to be late
- Gilboa Quarry:** Sign up on Discord ASAP
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Contact hotel and quarry directly to book accommodations
Details will follow on Discord
- St. Clair Sturgeon Run:** Sign up on Discord ASAP
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Contact hotel and quarry directly to book accommodations
Details will follow on Discord
- Tobermory:** Sign up on Discord by April 30, 2023
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Pay deposit of \$200 to FEURU by April 30, 2023
Book charter dives with Divers Den when instructed
Details will follow on Discord
- North Carolina:** Sign up on Discord by April 30, 2023
Email Chief Diver if you do not use Discord
Pay deposit of \$300 to FEURU by April 30, 2023
Book charter dives with Olympus Dive Center when instructed
Details will follow on Discord
- Cuba:** Details on sign up and deadline dates to be determined
Check out Discord and Club Meetings for more information