

DIVE LOG



The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

COLD IS GONE!



photo by Lea Nichols

WARM IS HERE!!



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- ◆ An Editorial
- ◆ A Day with The Boston Sea Rovers (Page 4)
- ◆ The Flip (Page 6)

Dive Log is the bi-monthly newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire, an organization dedicated to educating divers and expanding the knowledge of diving in the State of New Hampshire and New England.

Submissions

We welcome your input. Your stories, photographs, educational information, and other editorial contributions are what make this newsletter tick. Contributions may be e-mailed to Stephen at: stevedives@comcast.net Submissions can also be sent on paper, CD-ROM, or PC floppy to:

Stephen Cantelli
6 Myrtle Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Please include a brief byline and author contact information with your submission. Submission shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original and is in no way an infringement on the rights of others. While no compensation is paid for published submissions, a byline indicating the source of an article will always be provided. Authors grant *Dive Log* and United Divers of New Hampshire first print rights to the submission. *Dive Log* and its editors reserve the right to edit all materials as needed. The opinions stated in the articles in *Dive Log* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United Divers of New Hampshire or the editors of the *Dive Log*. For further information, please contact Stephen at (603) 772-9906.

Distribution

Dive Log is distributed via e-mail and is available at our UDNH website.

Advertising

Rates for a full year placement (6 bimonthly issues) range from \$75 to \$360, depending on placement size and location. For detailed information on advertising in *Dive Log*, contact Stephen Cantelli at (603)772-9906 or: stevedives@comcast.net

Copyrights

All material Copyright © 2004 by the United Divers of New Hampshire or Stephen Cantelli, unless otherwise noted.

Website:

Newsletters and other current info are available at our website: www.udnh.org Graciously hosted by Jake & Linda Richter.



An Editorial

The Diving Industry – Part 1- Certifying Agencies

This is the first of three editorials that I will write about the diving industry. The other two will be:

Part 2 - Diving Equipment Manufacturers

Part 3 - Dive Shops & Dive Operators

Some of the readers will either agree or disagree with this editorial. The one thing I will say before you read any further is that the information stated by me is based on fact. Some of this information is as it was told to me by people directly involved in the diving industry.

As we know the primary certifying agencies are PADI, NAUI, SSI and some others not necessarily in that order. The agencies all have a typical entry statement for those people looking to explore the undersea world:

Whether your interests are in taking pictures underwater, searching for lost objects, wreck diving, reef ecology, or just casually taking in the underwater scenery, your scuba experience begins with quality instruction. There are several different certifying agencies and levels of instruction, so learning can be (and usually is!) an ongoing process.

With the proper equipment, knowledge and skills, diving is both safe and easy. SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) diving requires that, physically, you should be a reasonably proficient swimmer who is comfortable and relaxed in the water. Mentally, you need a mature attitude, good judgement and self-discipline.

Now this all sounds very simple for the excited potential diver to hear. Here are some agencies all saying exactly the same thing and very willing to teach this person scuba diving. Or are they? The sad part is the fact that these agencies (out of the box) for the newbie or novice diver are telling them all the same thing in the manuals. It is some of the teachers and operators trusted by these people who are not. It is a fact that if you take ten open water newly certified people by any of these agencies and ask them ten basic identical questions about scuba diving

these people will respond similar, **if** they were trained properly. Some of these ten basic questions could be:

What is the normal level of oxygen and nitrogen in your tank?

When you want to descend from the surface, what do you do?

How deep is one atmosphere in sea water?

How fast should you ascend to the surface?

When ditching your weight belt, which hand should you use to release the buckle?

What is the difference between breath hold diving and scuba diving?

This all sounds familiar to most of you and too easy, right? If it is all taught the same, then why shouldn't the certifying agencies work together to cross certify new open water divers? As to breath hold diving, NAUI actually has a NAUI Skindiver Certification. Why don't all certifying agencies require to **start** with the basics? In the case of a couple, whom some of you know, they were book and pool trained by SSI. They were then sent to a PADI facility for open water and final checkup. This was arranged previously as an agreed cooperation between the two agencies. Once they were there, they were told that PADI would not accept their SSI training and they needed to do the PADI book and PADI water training. Was this the sign of two similar agencies working together? I think not. A friend of mine, who is in the diving industry has been known to say: "Everything works, just not together". This I will bring to your attention again, later in other aspects of the diving industry.

New England Divers of Beverly, Ma. open water certified me in 1969. I did not have a PADI, NAUI, SSI certification but a New England Divers Certification. Most shops in the early days of diving had their own certification. I ask, what was wrong with that? I learned the BASIC tools that I needed to scuba dive. My training was the same as it is today, except for different gear and it was MORE physical then, more swimming. If you believe what the agencies say, is that the gear today is easier. I must ask, why wouldn't my c-card do? It is a well-known fact that James Cahill, one of the founding fathers of NAUI, owned New England Divers. The answers are that MOST shops and operators require you to be certi-

An Editorial (continued).

fied by one of the recognized agencies to get air or book a trip. Once again I must ask, why aren't the AGENCIES working together with other entities?

I have heard some of my peers, at all certification levels, state, "PADI says it must be done this way". I must finally ask all of you, how many of you have actually met a PADI, NAUI, SSI or other certifying agency actual employee? Most of you have only met the dive shop owner or your instructor who is the "agent" for the certifying agency, is that not a fact? When I have been told that PADI says something must be done a certain way, most of the time it is someone interpreting the intent not PADI dictating. The fact is that NAUI's information is the way scuba should be taught, basic but complete. What is wrong with an Open Water Diver? We all put too much pressure on our fellow divers to go and get that advanced or divemaster certification. What is wrong with just diving for a while before rushing to get an advance certification someone may not be ready for?

Another question I must ask is where are the certifying agencies? Try calling one of them to ask a question. You are referred to your local dive shop. As in the case of a recent dive shop, who will stay unnamed, called a certain agency many times and never received a call back. Where is the support that they should provide? NAUI in the last two years is trying to build support as a certifying agency on the East Coast. This is noted by their banners flying in most dive shops.

To close I want to leave you with this question: Why in an industry that is reported to have a 95% drop out rate, isn't PADI, NAUI, SSI and the others trying to do something to be pro-active to keep those divers diving?

Stephen Cantelli, Editor

These opinions are the opinion of the writer and are not the opinion of United Divers of New Hampshire.

photo by Gary Thullier



Our President (John), April 10, 2004

**A Day With The Boston Sea Rovers 3/6/04
by Sarah Plummer - Maine-iacs Dive Coord.**

Great Day!!!!

We had a wonderful time attending the 50th anniversary of The Boston Sea Rovers.

I got up at 3:30 am, picked up some MAINE-iacs.....(we must be maniacs!, getting up at that hour!)

We drove to Boston (with a crew from our dive club), picked up the former Pres. of the NH dive club in route...went to the Fairmont at Copley Plaza (oh La La!...We had valet parking in front of the building)!

We had a great time....The Boston Sea Rovers put on a fantastic show....there were seminars that were soooo stuffed with "dive stuff"...I was like a kid in a candy shop!...the booths were filled with things from jewelry to tech equipment....

The day started off slow as the booths were just setting up....please see the photos and note how the day progressed.

We got to see slides, video and listen to stories and information from all over the world!...throughout the day there were 21 seminars we got to choose from.way cool!

The awesome artifact display wasn't to be missed!... The ships bell and stern helm from the Andrea Doria were there!...wow!...along with plenty of other artifacts from other wrecks.

If you're not familiar with the Andrea Doria, compare it to a local Titanic, including the massive size, but from Italy, loaded with art and people bound for NY... With this ship wreck, the loss of life was a lot less and the wreck is "local"...off Long Island NY....Tech divers attempt this wreck...she is in 200+ feet of cold water, with current...

The show had photos of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the Titanic...wow oh wow!...there was film / slide footage of ...you name it!...it was stuff from all over the world!

The one I liked the best was of the Bikini Atoll where the government did testing with a fleet of US Navy boats and an Atom bomb....the footage of the wrecks was incredible!...

If I can get to the show again...I will!...I hope you do too.

Captain Rob's Booth at Sea Rovers



NICE New Hampshire Cutout!



photos by Steve Cantelli





ESTABLISHED 1957




COMPLETE DRIVELINE SERVICE & REPAIR

ALL MAKES CARS, TRUCKS & RV'S - RETAIL, WHOLESALE, FLEET & MUNICIPAL

"3 Generations Of Service Since 1957!"

Nationwide Warranty - " Home of NH's Only Transmission Dynamometer"

625-6438

OUTSIDE MANCHESTER TOLL FREE 1800 562-8229247

SOUTH WILLOW ST. CORNER OF ALPHEUS ST. MANCHESTER






The Flip

by Linda Hurd

Saturday November 1, 2003

The alarm was set for 7:00 a.m., which would allow me to sleep in and still attempt to load the kayak on the car and load all the gear. I was awakened by the electricity coming back on and the wireless doorbell ringing at about 6:30 a.m. (the electricity has gone off about 6 times since Kerry left for England on Thursday afternoon). I hadn't even tried to reset the clocks (my alarm is battery powered). I rolled out of bed and started thinking of what I was going to wear. Layers, of what kind and how much? I put on my swimsuit and then my normal polartec pants with my zip-off pants over them, and a bright yellow t-shirt just in case it is warm enough on the water not to wear my paddle jacket. Went down and started packing gear in the house, and it was chilly in the house so I put on my polartec top under the t-shirt. Went out to drag the kayak to the front of the house. Called Don to see what was up and where we were going to paddle. He said we would be heading to Powder Mill Pond (Greenfield, NH), and we would meet at his house. I called Rick to let him know what was going on and to have him come to my house so he could help load my kayak on the car. Rick said he was going to be a little late (about 30 minutes), as he had to stop and get money. Recalled Don to let him know. Went back out, tried to and did put the kayak on the car myself as that would save time because Don would like to leave Rick's car at my house (lack of parking area at Don's). Rick got here and I told him we were putting his boat on the Jetta, so we did that. Rick also put his assorted gear in the car. As we were doing this, I told Rick that I feel like I've lost my brain because

nothing was happening unless I really thought about it maybe even two or three times. (As I write this I think that is because preparing for a kayak outing is not as automatic as packing diving gear and I haven't done this as much; today will be my fifth time having the boat in the water.) I helped Rick put his boat on the car and tie it down. I told Rick we needed to check the way I strapped mine to the car, as I didn't think I did it correctly. I was right - I didn't. Rick showed me which way to put the strap. That having been corrected, we got what we hope is everything in the car and headed for Don's.

Ken and Lea were already there and Don had his three boats on his truck (one for Ken). We talked a little bit about where we were going and how to get there and stops along the way. We all got in our cars/truck and headed out. Stopped so Don could get gas in his truck and Rick grabbed something for breakfast. We didn't need food for lunch as Gayla made us all sandwiches. We arrived at the boat launch area and unloaded the boats and started putting all the gear into the boats and getting dressed. I actually put on my gear in the right order (spray skirt then Gor-Tex jacket over it), and changed my shoes into my knee-high neoprene boots. Lea had us all stand near the water so he could get a picture of us with his camera in the underwater housing. Then each of us got into our boat and into the water. We decided to paddle up stream and then float back down stream with the current. Off we went. As we got further into the stream some of the currents wanted to take the boat places I didn't want to go, so I had to correct direction often. As we went along I started to work on my "J" lean (not very far) to help in turning the boat. I found this was very helpful, that paddling was not as hard as I thought it would be and I'm sure that had a lot to do with none of us was in a hurry. After paddling for I don't know how long (I didn't look at

The Flip (continued)

my watch when we left), we pulled off the side into a little pullout area, got out and ate - yummy (it was about 12:55 p.m. now).

I was very warm so took off my paddle jacket while we ate, and also noted that my pants were damp due to sweating through my polartec (by the time lunch break was over they were dry). Lunch was very good, nice talking about stuff. Lea and Ken took short naps.

We got back in the boats and decided to paddle a little further up stream, then turn around and come back. Shortly after we were underway again, we got into a current that totally turned me around. I laughed and said I was taking Rick with me, got turned around and started heading up stream again. We went under a railroad bridge. As I was behind everyone I saw what area to avoid to make it around the corner easier and made it just fine. We paddled a while longer and went through some other areas where the current wanted to do its own thing. The rest of the group had pulled ahead some distance. Rick and I were attempting another area that the water came around the corner and then into some trees that had fallen in the river causing the water to come directly back to the other side. You could see this by the ripples on the surface. Rick got caught in this and it spun him around. He tried again and made it. He told me to paddle hard to get through it. Just before I started I noticed the rest of the gang just starting to go around the corner and out of sight, but still not that far away. I dug into the water with my paddle for all I was worth to make it through this section. The current got hold of the front of the boat and started to turn me to the right. I tried to sweep my paddle to turn up stream and as I did **over I went.**

Okay, now I'm under water. I tried to turn up

enough to get my head above the water (to get a breath) a few times and it didn't work (I don't know why I tried to do it; the books didn't say to try this). So now I'm thinking it's time to make my wet exit. I grabbed onto the coaming and started to follow it forward to grab the loop at the front of the spray skirt to pull it loose and realized that the back was already free and gravity was already pulling me out of the boat. I did push myself out and held onto the boat with my left hand while coming to the surface.

I don't know if I had hold of my paddle or not (it is leashed to my kayak anyway), so I didn't worry about it. I coughed a couple of times after my head was above water (boy is this water cold!). My PFD held me up as it should and it didn't rise up at all. After coughing, I was taking short shallow wheezing breaths, still hanging onto the kayak. We (kayak and I) were headed back down stream quickly. I was attempting to get an end caught in the trees that were in the river to help stop me but couldn't make it happen. The bottom here I could have stood up on if the current wasn't so strong. By this time Rick was beside me and asking if I was all right. I hope I said I was or at least shook my head yes between wheezing breaths (this took a while to subside and I did say I was okay). Rick told me (later while on the way home) that as Don was going around the corner he saw me go over or that my boat was upside down and yelled "boat over", then started paddling back to us. Gayla, Lea and Ken were not far behind, but far enough back not to get in the way. Don got hold of my boat and told me to hold onto Rick's boat to stay above the water and that he had my boat. We are still drifting down stream (I was still holding on to my kayak). Don asked if I could stand and I told him I couldn't feel the bottom anymore. He decided that we would go down to the corner by the bridge and see if I could stand there. I

The Flip (continued)

couldn't until we were about 4 feet away from the bank. As I hung onto Rick's boat, he got out and onto shore. Don pulled my boat into the corner and Rick pulled it up on shore out of the water. Rick came over and helped pull me onto shore. This was difficult as my paddle jacket had a good amount of water in it, as the cuffs didn't let the water out until I pulled out the seals (this resulted in me looking like I had Popeye arms). My boots were also full of water and water was gathering around my knees - what a sight! All that water is heavy! While I was getting out, Rick was getting a towel out of one of his hatches and Don and Gayla were digging out a dry bag with extra dry clothes in it. Don told me to get out of my wet clothes. While I did this, Rick on shore and Don in his boat were trying to empty my boat of the water that was in it and having a little difficulty. I told him as I was already wet; I could come help and he told me no, get out of my wet clothes - okay, okay I am. As I started to strip down Ken told Lea now was the time to take pictures. Lea said he had been taking pictures but his batteries had died. I told them I was wearing my swimsuit anyway. As I took off each bit of clothing I wrung out that water and set in on a tree branch. It was funny how much water was in my boots and wool socks. So now I'm drying off with the towel and Gayla is tossing up the dry bag with clothes. Don said he was sorry that he only had wind pants and not polartec pants and that the polartec jacket was a XXL. That was all right as it was dry and warm (I didn't realize how cold I was getting; I know about hypothermia, and so does Don - I just wanted to help with the stuff they were doing to get my kayak ready for the rest of the trip back). While all this was going on the gang was joking about seeing my kayak up on e-Bay on Sunday. I told them I'd sell it to any of

them right now for \$5000.00. We kept up a good banter with lots of laughing while I was changing. By the time I got into dry clothes, poor Rick was soaked with sweat because he was running around on the shore so much to help me or Don with my kayak. I was done changing and all but my swimsuit was dry. Rick had towed off the new paddle jacket that Don had pulled out, and my spray skirt, so they would be dry as well. This time I put on the jacket first and then the spray skirt. That way I would be as dry as possible.

I wrung out my socks one more time and put them back on and into my boots. Gave Gayla back the dry bag and the remainder of the contents. I then grabbed my stuff off the tree branch and Don told me to put them under the bungees on the back deck of my kayak which he and Rick had aligned along the bank where I could stand to get back into it. Clothes under the bungees and my paddle jacket stuffed behind my seat, it was time to get back into the boat and head back. From in his boat, Don held my boat for support while I got in. Gayla, Ken and Lea were out of the way so I could get out. After getting in and putting the spray skirt back on, I tried to move the boat but it was stuck on the big tree that had fallen into the water. After some rocking and effort pushing with my paddle, I was free. Paddled backwards into the water and we were off. Most of my thoughts at this moment were this bridge was one of the tricky areas on the way up, was I going to be all right??? Paddled out into the current and was fine. Don was not far away and was always making sure I was okay. As we got further down the river, Gayla and Don stayed close and we talked about what happened and why I capsized.

Don told me that with the current coming at me like it was and by my paddling into it as I did, the water grabbed the bottom of my boat and over I went. We didn't

The Flip (continued)

have to paddle hard on the way back and I didn't even try to do a "J" lean to turn. We spent a while close to each other holding onto each other's boat and just floating. While they were waiting for me to change, they found an old volleyball in the stuff that was stuck by the river current in the corner where we all waited for me to change. They now pulled out this volleyball and as we worked our way back, they were playing with it with their paddles and throwing it at each other. Ken was also calling lots of people on his cell phone so they ganged up on him and took his paddle away. Then we all paddled away from him and went under a bridge into a little offshoot of the river to hide from him. As I was going into this area, the current coming out headed me right to the wall and I hit it with the right side front of the boat - *crunch*. (I was a little gun shy to over paddle to straighten out.) Made it through and was told to hide on the side in the grass. I was holding on next to Lea. He asked if I was cold, told him sometimes yes and sometimes no (for the most part I was warm enough on the way back). While we are hiding, Ken is floating downstream without a paddle. Don said okay let's go get him. Everyone else had turned around and now was my turn (good thing I watched Gayla do her 20 point turn). It was a little tough as the area to turn in was about 19 feet wide and the boat is 17 feet long; it was a little work but not bad. Got back to Ken and gave him his paddle back. Our little group broke up a little and spread out. Ken said he had seen a beaver, and I yelled forward and said that was good, and that the count for the day was one beaver and one drowned rat. Gayla yelled back, "no just a very wet rat." Again we were laughing and having a good time heading back. As we got nearer to the "put in" we had to do more paddling. By now it is getting darker. As we got to the boat launch, Don got there first and got his boat out of the water and Gayla was next. We paddled up next to the

ramp and got out that way. Now on dry land again, we took all the gear off and were putting the boats on the cars. I called Steve and Mo to see if they were home and if I could take a shower again at their house, because I flipped my boat and was covered with river stuff. Mo said yes, and was I okay. (Gayla said earlier that I could take a hot shower at her house, but due to time and the plans they had for the night, knew we wouldn't have time). Rick and I washed off my boat (Don rescued my sponge floating down back at the capsize area) back near the water as my boat had a lot of river scum on it (from the corner we were in and it being upside down). Gayla and Don and Ken took off as Gayla and Don had to get ready to go the Medieval Manor tonight and it is already past 5:00 p.m. Lea went to his house. Rick and I headed back. I asked if he was hungry, and he said not really. I told him I'd like to stop at Wendy's for chili - he said okay he could eat (after all Rick always eats at Wendy's). We talked about what happened above water and below, so I could get a better idea of everything that happened. On the trip back to Wendy's I noticed I had a good size lump on my left arm near my elbow on the topside of my arm. Rick and I looked at it at Wendy's, and we could see some scratches on the top of the lump and some discoloration around the area. Now back at the house, we put Rick's boat back on his car, and went into the house to look at the cockpit covers I'd found on the NRS web site. We wanted to know what the shipping charges would be. As it turned out, it was only going to be \$6.00 if we both got one, so I ordered them. Rick checked a couple of e-Bay items and he went home. I packed my bag to take to Browns again. We both left the driveway at the same time. As I was pulling out (8:27 p.m.) I called Browns again to see if it was still okay to come over, and Steve said yes.

Got to Browns and went down to talk about it a little

The Flip (continued)

while, then showered. Sat back down in the living room and just visited, when Steve had to leave to get Alex, I left. Got home about 11:30 p.m., and headed up for bed.

What a day, and I survived it!

Thanks to good friends, Don, Gayla, Lea, Rick and Ken.

Linda,
We're ALL glad you made it. What a day for a novice kayaker.
Steve Cantelli



Linda Hurd

photos by Lea Nichols



The Crew



Lea, Gayla, Don, Linda, Ken, Rick

Linda ALL WET!





Club Meetings

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, January through November. We encourage potential members to attend a meeting or two to experience our club before joining. The meetings are held at the YMCA on 30 Mechanic St. (off of Elm Street) in Manchester. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. Each meeting consists of a short business portion followed by a variety of presentations and discussions. Immediately following the club has an hour of pool time for swimming, trying out gear, and the occasional game of pool volleyball or underwater hockey. Members and guests often meet afterwards at a local restaurant for food and drink.

Extreme Weather

Meetings will be held if the YMCA is open. You can call them at (603) 623-3558. Check close to the meeting time as the front desk often has no advance warning of early closures.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 2004 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$30/individual or \$45/family. Dues are not prorated for members who join later in the year. To join, please contact Chris Nye at (603) 493-5411.

Get in the Swim

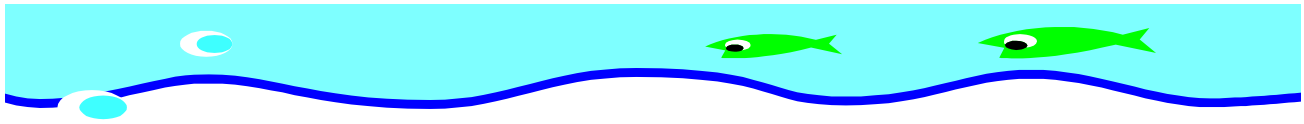
After every meeting, the YMCA pool is open to our dive club for an hour of fun and fitness.

Don't wait for the ice to thaw before trying out that new equipment, the pool is the perfect place. Check out the club calendar for special presentations in the pool like dive knife use or trying out a dry suit. So bring a suit and a towel to every meeting and get into the swim.

United Divers of New Hampshire

Contact Information - 2004

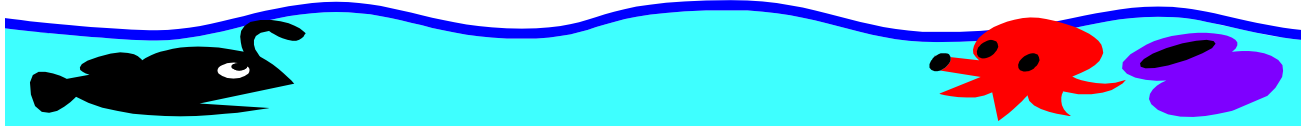
President	John Magruder	(603) 487-3025
Vice President	Tom Tremblay	(603) 625-8459
Treasurer	Lee Lajoie	(603) 225-1005
Secretary	Chris Nye	(603) 493-5411
Dive Coordinator	Vacant	
Dive Log Editor	Stephen Cantelli	(603) 772-9906



Watch Here Every Issue for the:

SCUBA WEBSITE OF THE MONTH! <http://www.sailorman.com/index.html>

This is a website for Divers and Boaters alike. Check it out and HAVE FUN!



USEFUL INFORMATION

Weather

Current marine weather for New Hampshire can be accessed online at

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/gyx/>

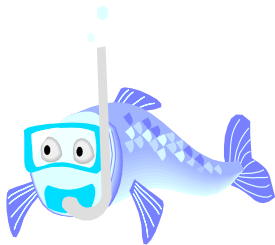
Tides

Tide information for New England can be accessed online at <http://www.maineharbors.com/>

Club Events

United Divers event calendar can be accessed online at

<http://www.udnh.org/events/index.htm>



UDNH Members,

It was about a year ago that we converted from a PRINTED newsletter to an ON-LINE newsletter. Please provide some input on what you think. Please e-mail me at stevedives@comcast.net with your input.

Thanks

Steve Cantelli/Editor



WATCH FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. July/August, 2004