

NAUI SOURCES

Dive Safety Through Education

July 22nd 2021 Edition

8

Mermagic
Convention

10

New NAUI Armed
Forces Initiatives

11

NAUI's International
Think Tanks

3

Cave Diving,
The Last Frontier



Cover Photo By: Cristian Irimies

Please Note:

All Photos Used in this Newsletter are From NAUI Members!

CONTENTS

What You'll Find

- 2** *Members Photo Library & Photo Contest Winner*
- 3** *Cave Diving, The Last Frontier*
- 7** *Where can you find NAUI?*
- 8** *Mermagic Convention*
- 9** *Join us For the Next NAUI Talk*
- 10** *New NAUI Armed Forces Initiatives*
- 11** *NAUI's International Think Tanks*
- 12** *Announcements, News, Events & Careers*



Credit: Eric Alo

Members Photo Library

Thank you to all of the members for the photos that they have been sending. It is great to see what NAUI is doing worldwide.

Photos from the NAUI Members Library are featured in NAUI Sources, social media posts, marketing pieces and other NAUI promotions.

The NEXT Contest is to send in your best photo showing a photo of a diver at a safety stop. Go to <https://photolibrary.naui.org/> and upload a photo. Be sure to give us a brief description of the photo, what is happening in it and the names of those in the photo. We will announce the winner in the next NAUI Sources. The prize will be an Advanced Diver NES Kit.



Winner of the Sources Photo Contest!

Congratulations to Cristian Irimies for his submission of this photo for the theme of a new NAUI Dive Master or Instructor. You will be receiving a NES Code of Advanced Diver NES Kit.



In the term from 8 till 10th July 2021 close to Prague, Czech Republic, we held technical workshop with NAUI instructor Cristian Irimies, NAUI # 60220, from Transilvania, Romania.

Cristian is a young diver with a rich experience with cave diving. He started his cave explorations in 2008, in the beginning with dry parts of caves in Apuseni Mountains National Park in Romania. Because he wanted to go on explorations, he decided to start with scuba diving. He took his intro level course in 2011. In 2016 he started his cave diving training. His first instructor was Dan Lupu, NAUI # 48580.

During his cave career he has done a lot of exploratory dives. As a cave diver he was the first to reach the distance 300metres in Huda lu Papara Cave, 200 metres in Pauleasa Cave, 600 meters (plus 7 sumps and syphons) in Humpleul Mic Cave and many more successes.

Cristian is the Chief of the Mountain Cave Rescue Team – Scuba Division in his region (Cluj county in Romania). In addition to Romania, Cristian did a lot of dives in France, Lot and Dordogne region, with their famous caves and in the Greece. He is diving with JJ CCR and OC also.

I am sure that Cristian is qualified enough to become successful NAUI Technical Instructor and I am proud he will join us.

-Petr Rehak, NAUI TIE 52010

Cave Diving, The Last Frontier

Written by Daniel Millikovsky

When you think about cave diving the sensations are mixed and it is difficult to express what it feels like in a single word, but perhaps a possible description is to live the discovery.

Discovery is an experience and an intrinsic need in the human being since before the age of fire. Exploration on earth, oceans or the moon is driven by an impulse to see what lies beyond. To better understand who we are, and where we come from, and what is around us, hiding just below the surface.

Today we are going to venture into the most demanding but also the most incredible specialty that offers our beautiful activity which is cave diving.

Which is known as “The underworld”, (Xibalbá) according to Mayan mythology.



Our roadmap will be able to tell you all about the what, when, where and how of cave diving so that when the time comes, you know how to choose and decide if you are prepared for an experience that cannot be easily described but needs to be experienced to be understood.

What is Cave Diving?

Entering confined spaces flooded and formed by calcium carbonate or dolomite that have been undermined or dissolved throughout the history of the planet and are usually under the earth.

As described in the standards that govern our activity, cave diving is a modality included as a specialty of technical diving. In turn, technical diving contemplates three areas, one of them is diving in confined or overhead environments such as: wrecks and sunken boats, under ice, flooded mines, caverns, and caves.

This means that there is no direct vertical access to the surface as is required by open water diving. In fact, technical diving originated thanks to cave diving and great pioneers such as Sheck Exley (1949-1994) to whom we owe the starting point of some of the safety protocols that are still used today. This diving specialty had its boom initially in Florida, in the early 70's.

There are several types of caves depending on the soil, structure, and geological history, among which are:

Sea Caves – These are caves formed primarily by the wave action of the sea. The primary process involved is erosion. Sea caves are found throughout the world, actively forming along present coastlines and as relict sea caves on former coastlines. Some of the largest wave-cut caves in the world are found on the coast of Norway but are now 100 feet or more above present sea level.

Coral Caves – This type of cave is formed when colonies of coral in shallow water expand and unite, they form lacy or bulbous walls around an open area. When the shoreline is pushed up or the sea level falls, the cave is exposed. Waves and wind erode the coral, enlarging the cave, sometimes even destroying it.

Lava Tubes – A lava tube is a type of cave formed when a low viscosity lava flow develops a continuous and hard crust, which thickens and forms a roof above the still-flowing lava stream. Tubes form in one of two ways: either by the crusting over of lava channels, or from pahoehoe flows where the lava is moving under the surface.

Dissolution Caves – These are created by the dissolution of carbonate sediments (usually limestone and dolomite) of carbonic acid and the action of water flow through an aquifer. They are commonly found in karst terrain and are the most familiar to cave divers.

Cave Diving, The Last Frontier

The Yucatan Peninsula Region, located in Mexico, is famous for the beauty of its cenotes that make up caverns and caves with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, tree roots and labyrinthine passages that offer rays of sun light in their cavern areas, creating incredible visual effects. Now, upon entering the cave zone, the forms and passages become majestic and must be explored for them to be described.

How Can I do Cave Diving?

This type of diving requires a gradual staggering within the activity where important aspects must be previously resolved to be able to enjoy it safely and be able to apply the appropriate technique.

The pillars of cave diving are Buoyancy, Trim and Static. Along with this we also must add an appropriate and standardized gear configuration, like NTEC and several efficient propulsion techniques among other skills covered in formal training.



The route to follow to achieve all this is to start in technical diving with a comprehensive training such as the one provided by the NAUI Intro to Tech course where the bases of the above are included. From there on, obtaining solvency with the lived experience, you can move forward onto new challenges.

If the path is aiming for overhead environments, then cavern training would be the next step, and then continued with cave training. The dive training incorporated in the cave training has four phases to complete, so you can achieve a performance that allows these environments to be enjoyed safely and so that you will make the right decisions.

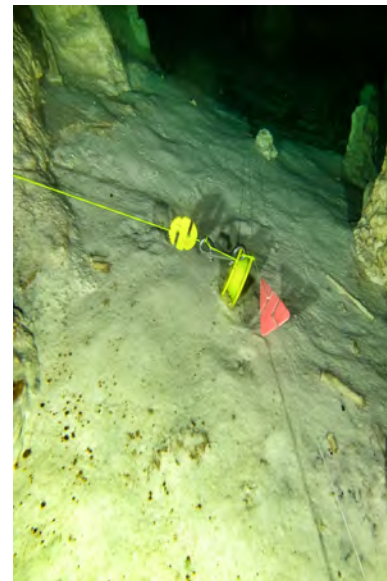
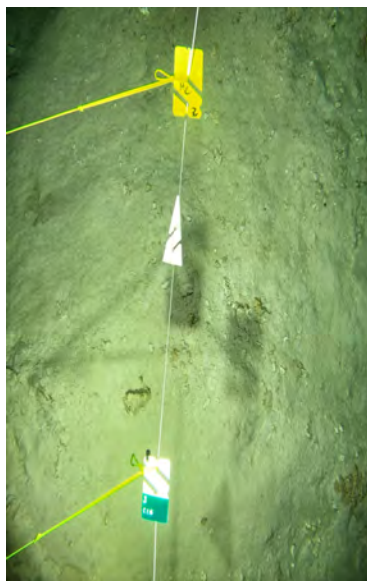
First, like any diving course, there is a theory that supports the activity to know the scopes, objectives, and limits. Geological aspects of the various formations are studied, and much of the theory is focused on all the safety protocols that will allow us to leave the cave efficiently and enjoy this wonderful environment.

The training continues with a particularly important phase, the dry skills, also known as the Land Drills. In this instance, real scenarios that the diver will face are simulated on the field. Here you learn the skills on the handling of the primary reel and its correct installation, finger spool (secondary reels) specific for making jumps and gaps, and the correct use of directional and personal markers for the correct navigation decisions (arrows, REM and cookies).

Situations like loss of visibility, lack of gas and how to share it, loss of the line and the team partner are also taught.



Teamwork, as well as pre checks on both land and water are mandatory protocols for planning and reducing the human factor. All of this is taught, in addition to the combination of other possible scenarios. Knowing how to solve situations that might arise, with the right techniques, is the best way to achieve successful experiences.



The third stage of training can be done according to logistics, initially in a pool, where one can advance some skills that will then be repeated in the open water area of the cenote and the cavern. This is the fundamental process where everything trained from Land Drills is applied in a space suitable for practice, reducing the environmental impact and preserving the cave zone. There are specific dive points and cenotes dedicated for training only, exactly for this purpose.

Finally comes the always expected final phase which is diving the cave zone. Now is the time to emphasize the planning and navigation decisions with the team, and all the safety protocols practiced that must be conducted in all dives as a mandatory procedure... one begins to live the new challenge of discovering and returning to the light, this is the result of proper training and methodology.



When is the Right Time to Cave Dive?

The first question someone might need to ask themselves is whether the desire to dive into these environments is being driven by mature decisions, and not group pressure or competition.

Once this is resolved, the second question you need to ask yourself is about the experience that you have as a recreational diver and if you are willing to face the demands and requisites of this specialty. Every effort pays off and is well worth it, but it is important to consider this path.

To tell the truth, it is not easy, it is not fast, and you must be willing to invest in time, equipment, and the possibility of traveling abroad to fulfill the last phase, the whole purpose for which you may embark on this path ... the prize of visiting the underworld!

Where to Dive in Caves?

Phases one, two and part of three of the cave diver courses can be done here locally (which ever country the candidate and Instructor are from), for the completion of training and certification, Tulum, Mexico, is not the only place to get certified, but it could possibly be the ideal destination for this important stage.

Mexico is undoubtedly the best option to continue training and certifying due to great diving conditions, logistics and surface support. The diversity of cenotes and the indescribable beauty of them makes you discover new places continually, even doing the same circuits repeatedly. It is amazing to think that there is an incredible parallel world beneath the earth you walk on.



Now, with more advanced experience, Florida in the High Springs area has miles of incredibly famous caves, where it all started. There are also many state parks where everything is designed for the cave diver and great support is offered. Florida has an environmental condition where caves with both a little and a lot of water flow adds a challenge and an extra demand, unlike in Mexico. This is where other propulsion techniques and other cylinder configurations should also be used, as the consumption factor at the time of entry is increased. It is quite common to use high pressure steel cylinders to meet this particularity and have excellent and safe dives using the rule of thirds, with the certainty that when returning with flow in favor, having complied with the protocols of predictability.

To these two so mentioned and famous destinations, we can add the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas (with the famous crystal caves of Abaco), both places with adequate support for divers. Finally, Brazil is known for the Bonito region, where you can venture into its caves. Currently they are closed for the activity but are in the process of complying with the local association to be able to reopen to the cave diving community.



Cave Diving, The Last Frontier

A Final Thought

Cave diving is not for everyone and the decision to do it must be made after having many dives in diverse conditions, as this is the way one builds growth. There is no need to rush, as any empty gap can produce an anticipated frustration or even an accident. The steps have already been described, and the sensory gift is unique if you decide to go for it, just be patient, have continuity, and make sure you receive quality training to have the best experience and minimize the risk.

Welcome to the Last Frontier ...

-Daniel Millikovsky, NAUI CDT & TIE, Cave Instructor (Credit for Photos Used)



NAUITEC Cave 1 Team

Carlos, Marcelo, Reinaldo, Daniel, Hairo, Marcia

Where can you find NAUI?

NAUI is active in so many places. This edition I would like to highlight this long standing institution of NAUI excellence in Canada. The Hart House Underwater Club was founded at the University of Toronto in 1962 and places a strong emphasis on training and continuing education, offering a full range of NAUI courses.

Check them out at [Hart House Underwater Club | Facebook](#)



Mermagic Convention

Dive into a world of wonder at MerMagic Con, happening August 6th to 8th in Manassas Virginia!

There will be lots to see and do, but we are proud to announce the NAUI Mermaid Certification – Level 1 Course, being taught by Don Markham & Lila Jones. It is a chance for anyone to expand their NAUI ISS (Instructor Specified Specialty) into the world of Mermaids.

Learn all about the entry level skills that you will need to complete safe dives in pools or other confined water environments. This course will also teach you and assist you in perfecting your dolphin kick. It is a two-hour course that is divided between time in the pool, and time putting your academic knowledge of mermaiding and safety practices to the test. This internationally recognized NAUI Mermaid Program will make anyone's professional portfolio truly stand out among the rest.

Please note the prerequisites that need to be met before beginning the course. To participate, the participant must be more than 12 years of age, have all medical questionnaires and waiver forms completed, have a Mermaid Tail with Monofin (Required) and there is the option of having goggles and/or a mask and snorkel as part of your equipment to bring. And please note that the length of the course is two hours and costs \$150 USD.

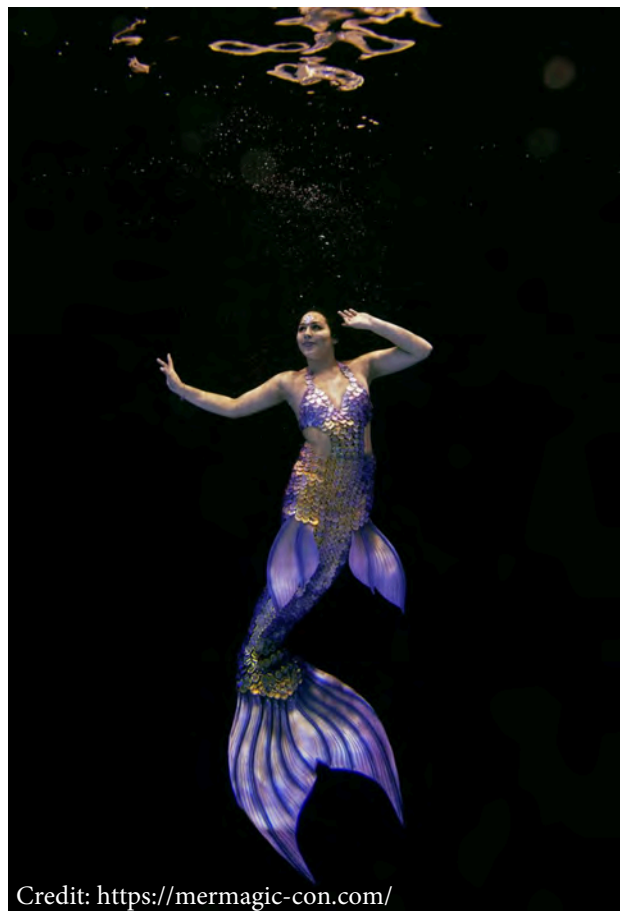
We are excited to share this course with you, and the world of Mermaiding, so we hope to see you there!



Credit: <https://mermagic-con.com/>



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Join Us for the Next NAUI Talk



very two weeks the NAUI Marketing department runs the NAUI Talk webinar series with guest presenters, speakers, and discussions. Each topic is an opportunity for NAUI members around the world to build and succeed in their businesses. Sessions range from 30-60 minutes, time well spent!

The next session where we will feature "Professional Tips & Tricks", where our host Bill Doran will present and discuss cost effective ways to create a full and professional image online, with the goal of bringing new customers and students to your operation. If you are a store, resort, independent instructor, or professional educator this presentation is for you!

The invitations will go out, but why wait? Use the link below and sign up now! Feel free to pass this link to your fellow divers!

Please click here to sign up: Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9wyRTHsURnaBS6iJmZiTvw



Upcoming Talks:

July 27th

Professional Tips & Tricks

August 10th

Profit, Returning Students & Continuing Education

August 24th

Increasing your bottom line means profits!

Check out Previous sessions of NAUI Talk by going to NAUI TV -

Click Here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NAUITV>



New NAUI Armed Forces Initiatives

VA Affiliates and NAUI Dive Centers,

NAUI is proud to announce two new NAUI Armed Forces Initiatives: the NAUI Hero Certification Card ProgramTM and Department of Defense SkillBridge Program. We welcome you and your teams to share these programs with your students, customers, and community so we can give back to our nation's heroes through these donation campaigns and deliberate partnerships.

NAUI Hero Certification Card ProgramTM

The NAUI Hero Certification Card ProgramTM is a year-round campaign built on giving back to non-profits dedicated to our nation's greatest heroes-past and present. Each quarter, NAUI will present 1000 limited edition certification cards to all NAUI members for a \$10 donation at checkout. All proceeds will be made on your behalf at the end of each quarter to the non-profit or foundation. Our goal is to donate \$10,000 each quarter... are you in?!

The Pat Tillman Foundation Edition is the first ever NAUI Hero Certification Card. The Pat Tillman Foundation provides resources and educational scholarship support to Active Duty Service Members, veterans, and their spouses. In 2002, Pat Tillman left his NFL career with the Arizona Cardinals to serve his country. In 2004, Pat Tillman was killed in action in Afghanistan while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment. His family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation to honor and carry forward Pat's dedication by helping leaders reach their fullest potential through the Tillman Scholars Program.



NAUI and the Department of Defense (DoD) SkillBridge Partnership

On June 1, 2021, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense authorized NAUI to participate in the DoD SkillBridge Program. The SkillBridge Program is an opportunity for Service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during their last 180 days of service.

What does this mean for you? SkillBridge is an opportunity for you to access and leverage the world's most highly trained and motivated workforce at no cost for up to 180 days. Service members who participate in SkillBridge receive their military compensation and benefits, while you, our NAUI Approved VA Testing Centers, will provide the training and work experience. Our internship allows service members to use your G.I. Bill[®] to become a NAUI Dive professional at one of our 65 NAUI VA approved testing centers around the world. After the service members become a NAUI dive professional they can stay and work for the NAUI VA approved testing center to learn how to run a business, learn about sales and gear maintenance, or we can place them on a live-aboard in the Caribbean or Bahamas. We have 1000 positions around the world where they can use your new license and experience to start a new chapter and/or just explore something they've never done before. If they end up liking what they are doing at their specific location, there may be an opportunity for them to be hired on after their internship is completed (all based on the need for each location). Through the SkillBridge and NAUI partnership, you can volunteer to help Service members bridge the gap between their end of service and the beginning of their civilian careers.

Reach out to Ray Reneau, Director of Armed Forces Relations and Training, at creneau@naui.org for more information about both campaigns!

Happy Diving!

NAUI's International Think Tanks

by Bill Doran

NAUI's International Think Tanks

As the Marketing Director for NAUI Worldwide I am starting some NAUI Think Tanks. Yes, NAUI Think Tanks, there I go again with the puns!

The goal is to be truly NAUI Worldwide and have people from each of our service centers around the world create a communicative environment that focuses on discussions and strategies that can help meet the needs of similar members as well as unique regional needs.

There will be three groups and they will be divided into these categories. One for Independent Instructors, one for Professional Educators (Such as teachers at Colleges and Universities), and one for Stores, Charters and Resorts. With these three groups we can really focus on member needs. The reason behind the three different groups is because each group type faces a different set of challenges, and it would be easiest for people who face the same marketing issues, to help come up with solutions and opportunities.

These meetings will be an open forum for positive discussion, allowing everyone in that group to share their thoughts and ideas for their category and region. In turn we all will be able to use other people's thoughts and ideas to help better our own plans and strategies.

Each of these groups will be meetings once quarterly (once every 3 months) virtually to have these discussions. Between these meeting I will be able to focus on different area needs. My goal is to have two people for each region within each group.

If you have any interest in joining a NAUI Think Tank, please email bdoran@naui.org with your name, which group you wish to be a part of and which region you are from. Then I will put you on a list and send out the date of the Zoom meeting as well as pass on further details.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Yours in fun, safe diving, Bill Doran.

Marketing Director NAUI Worldwide.



Credit: Alvanir S. Oliveira

Announcements / News

Check out what NAUI Members are doing and let us list your events on the NAUI Sources Site. These can be courses, Environmental Clean Ups, or more. Simply email your event information to marketing@nauui.org and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://sources.nauui.org/category/news/>



Promote your events!

Take a look at upcoming courses, environmental clean ups, special events and more.

Don't forget to tell us about your events so that we can list them too. Simply email your event information to marketing@nauui.org and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://www.nauui.org/events/>

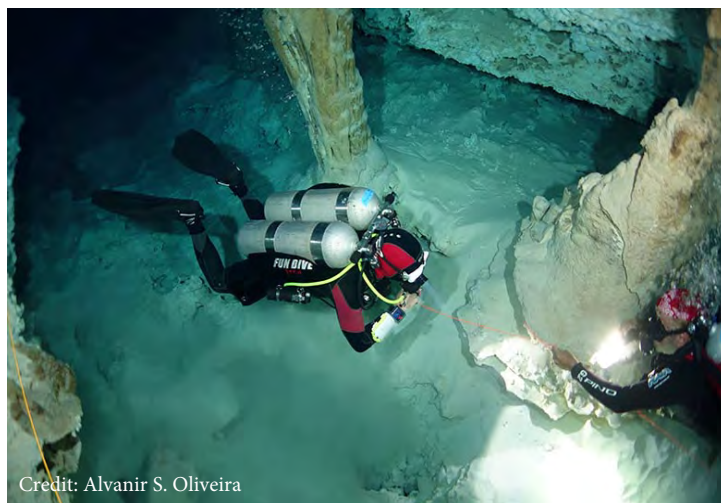


SCUBA Industry Careers – Check the NAUI jobs!

Looking for a career change? Are you looking for a NAUI Dive Professional? This is the place to go.

Posting career opportunities is simple. All you need to do is to email the job title, description, location and who interested members should contact to marketing@nauui.org and we will get the message out to NAUI members.

<https://www.nauui.org/careers/>



A scuba diver in a red wetsuit is exploring a cave. The cave walls are covered in numerous long, thin stalactites hanging from the ceiling. The diver is holding a flashlight, illuminating the rocky floor and the cave walls. The water is clear, and the overall atmosphere is mysterious and adventurous.

**That's All for this
Week, But...**

**For NAUI Sources to
Continue to Provide
an Amazing
Newsletter, We Need
Help from You!**

**Send in your Articles, Photos, Events, and
Anything Else that you want to share with
the rest of the NAUI Community, we
look forward to receiving your content,
which you can send to
marketing@nauui.org.**

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