

Saturday January 27 Dive Trip to Bonne Terre Mine

The Bonne Terre Mine has been open to divers since 1981. The mine offers crystal clear 59 degree water of varying depths and air temperature of 60 degrees, even in winter. The mining of Galena, lead ore ceased in 1961 after over 100 years of ore extraction. Artifacts of that bygone mining era are still seen close up on dives in the mine.

The mine is entirely underground in spacious rooms that rise above the water surface as much as forty feet. Lighted trails lead the diver to the dive dock where tanks are waiting to be attached to dive gear. A few steps more takes the diver to the water and off you go with a guide who will show the mine. Grand portals and arches of stone, deep holes that look bottomless, and ore carts or tools left by the miners are readily enjoyed by divers. First time visiting divers are limited to three specific areas of the mine and returning divers can schedule dives to more remote areas of the mine. This is Midwestern diving at its best, and while the cold wind howls outside the diver is comfortable in the mine and underwater. The beauty here is grand vistas and the handiwork of thousands of toiling miners.

What is needed to dive the mine? A 1/4 inch thick full wetsuit is recommended; while hood and gloves are required. Dive knives and lights cannot be carried in the mine. Bonne Terre Mine provides tanks but divers must bring all other diving equipment. Your log book and certification card are absolutely required at the mine. More information on Bonne Terre Mine can be found at www.2dive.com.

We plan on three dives during (there is a two dive minimum) January 27, 2017. The cost is \$80 per dive (cash or check only). When reserving your dives with us please remember that once funds are sent to the mine they are non-refundable. Please reserve soon. We must make a firm reservation by December 13 but sooner is best: so please do not delay. Lodging will be at a local motel and that cost will be shared by trip participants. We will probably stay at the Super 8 Motel in the town of Bonne Terre. We will travel to the town of Bonne Terre on Friday evening and return home after dives on Saturday. Travel time to Bonne Terre is about five+ hours. Between dives it would be good to have a vehicle for each group (first timers and returnees) so they can find nearby lunch, snacks, etc. We always have a great time diving in winter at Bonne Terre Mine. The mine is close to home and a great place to cure the winter doldrums.

Make payment to...

Southern Indiana Scuba to...

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First time divers at the mine will be on trails 1, 2, and 4. Returnees will be on trails to be determined. It is best to rent any needed dive equipment at Southern Indiana Scuba to ensure

quality equipment. On dive number one if this is your first time at the mine, there will be a skill check. This is usually a mask clear and some air sharing.

We will arrival at the mine by 7:00 AM (local time) so paperwork can be completed and watch a safety video. ALL DIVERS MUST HAVE THEIR CERTIFICATION CARD AND LOG BOOK. You cannot dive without a c-card. After the video is a dive briefing and suits are donned for the first dive. There is a changing room outside the mine but it is best to store clothing and valuables in the vehicles. Divers gather with their gear at the mine entrance for the walk to the dive dock. Eighty cubic foot tanks are provided for each dive and 95 cubic foot tanks can be rented for an addition fee at the mine. Nitrox is available but needs to be requested with your initial reservation. It is \$15 per dive.

Restaurants are not far from the mine for meals during surface intervals but remember to follow the schedule for returning to the mine. Late arrivals make for late dives and an extra long day for everyone

Before each dive there is a briefing by Bonne Terre personnel about 1 ½ hours prior to the actual dive time (this allows time for suiting up, walking into the mine, and donning gear). At the end of each dive ask the guide when the next briefing will be. The exposure suit and BC are worn into the mine while other gear is carried; so a bag is advisable. After dives the gear is stored in the mine and carried out after the final dive

We will try to get drivers, carpooling, and lodging worked out by mid-January. Anyone who needs to drive or desires to drive please let Sam know (contact at Frushour@indiana.edu, or 812-339-2130). We will stay at the Super 8 Motel that can be found as one approaches the town of Bonne Terre. By booking at least two people to a room we can keep the cost reasonable.

Directions to Bonne Terre from Bloomington-----

West on highway 46 to highway 59 and north to highway I-70

West on I-70 and join with I-55 then go nearly to St. Louis.

Highway I-255 south toward Memphis (St. Louis bypass) and cross Mississippi River.

Rejoin Highway I-55 south and then take highway 67 south at Bonne Terre exit.

Exit highway 67 at Bonne Terre and Super 8 motel is visible near the exit.

The mine is in the heart of town and found by going west from highway 67