

ed a BBQ (for a fee) at the restaurant on one evening and most of the divers came for that. At the end of our week, the Mavi van transported us and our gear back to the dive shop so we could give it a final rinsing. We were able to store it in their dive shed overnight to dry and pick it up the next morning. Mavi Diving doesn't offer shore dives, but you can do some shore night diving through another shop across the street. The Linda Beach Hotel was across the road from the dive shop and several restaurants. It was a 3-minute walk into town, and 10 minutes from the boat. The room was small, but cheery and neat as a pin. The hotel had a small pool that was crystal clear. Turkish breakfast (tomatoes, cucumbers, fruit, cheese, bread, and boiled eggs) was included.

UNITED STATES

Missouri

Bonne Terre Mine, September 2007, Jack Gullo (jgullo@carr.org), New Windsor, MD. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 100 to 150 Feet. Water: 58 F, calm. A flooded lead mine. No current, super viz, water a constant 58, so a 7 mm or drysuit is needed. The mine is cavern-like, with the more experienced trails being more like cave diving. All the mining equipment still underwater — trains, ore carts, rails, shovels, shacks, dynamite boxes, etc. Lighting is provided from surface to light the cavern so underwater gives a twilight type of viz. The staff is super safe — briefings, planned trails, guide and safety diver with the group. Skill checks before the dives — air checks during the dive. While it may appear to be cave diving, the beginning trails aren't and can be done by anyone with good buoyancy

control. It is a unique experience. Take the boat and walking tour too!

Nevada

Desert Divers Supply, January 2007, F. Rattray (fratray@hughes.net), Elora, ON. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 35 to 40 Feet. Water: 53 F, calm, no currents. Desert Divers Supply does recreational and technical training; polite, friendly and professional. I was able to rent 85 cu. ft. steel tanks. Dived at the Lake Mead Scuba Park; astounding to see how far down the water level has dropped in the past few years. Scuba Park is where open water and other training happens, and I tagged along with some local divers for a little tour of the park.

New Mexico

Santa Rosa Dive Shop, July 2007, Wayne Taylor (taylor_wn@yahoo.com), White Lake, MI. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 20 to 50 Feet. Water: 61 to 61 F, calm. Within the city of Santa Rosa, NM. A dive permit is required and may be purchased at the visitor center on the main street of town for \$8. C-cards are checked, but no matter your dive level, you are allowed to dive the site. Though this is a nice site to dive in the southwest, there is no emergency action plan should something unfortunate happen to a diver. Bring all of your own equipment. While there, we had the opportunity to look at four tanks that were provided by the dive shop to some open water divers who were finishing as we were setting up. At least three of the four were out of VI and hydro. To contact the shop, you must ask a local hotel or visitor center and they will place you in touch with someone from the Santa Rosa Dive Shop.

South Carolina

Cooper River

Off The Wall Charters, Inc., March 2007, Mary Jo Milazzo (mmilazzo@wi.rr.com), East Troy, WI. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 2 to 8 Feet. Water: 56 to 58 F, currents. What a hoot! Diving the black water in the Cooper River for fossilized shark teeth and artifacts with Bill Routh is the ultimate in adventure dives, a refreshing variation to most other diving experiences. You need to be comfortable alone in the dark and low viz, capable of some multitasking, and willing to work in varying intensities of current. We did four dives a day in drysuits. Two other guys on the boat were in 3 mils and were chillin'. A canister hand-held and/or mounted 10W HID light is the best light. Bill sells and

rents the accessories (tools) he finds work the best. Trust him; he knows and wants you to have a great experience. He also provided information to arrange reasonable prices to stay at a nearby hotel. Bill and his dive master, Greg, were knowledgeable about all aspects of the river, shared information about the past and present history of the river and were able to check and identify the fossilized teeth and artifacts we surfaced with. We all took home a nice booty and great memories. Bill gave good briefings before each dive. The river scenery was gorgeous and wildlife was plentiful, including alligator sightings on the afternoon ride back to dock. His pontoon boat is large and roomy for the 6-person groups he'll take out. I will take full blade fins next time; my split fins were OK, but fulls would have been better.



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