

▼ Carol Connors and Barbi Benton djve Hawaii.



Photo/David Scull

## Dive Buddies Make Beautiful Music Together

“We’re water babies, there’s no doubt about it,” says Barbi Benton, former *Playboy* playmate, model and songwriter in describing her relationship with close friend and dive buddy, Carol Connors.

Benton, well-known for her acting, performing and modeling roles, together with Connors, Academy Award winning composer of such favorites as the themes for *Rocky* and TV’s *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, are always looking for an opportunity to get in a dive or two. “If we’re anywhere near water and have a chance to dive, we don’t hesitate—we’re in the water,” Benton says enthusiastically.

Benton’s and Connors’ relationship goes back nearly 20 years. In that time, they have dived together in Mexico, South America, Hawaii, Florida and most recently, The Bahamas. “Barbi’s very focused on taking pictures or looking at the underwater sights, so I’m usually the ‘protector’ when we dive.” Spending so much time together has made communication much simpler underwater. “We have our own set of hand signals so it makes things that much easier during a dive.”

Business opportunities and personal appearances keep the pair very busy. Fortunately, they are often able to travel together. They were recently in The Bahamas, where Connors unveiled her latest work—a new theme song for the Sandals resort chain. Benton frequently performs with Connors at these high profile events.

Their best dive together? “There isn’t one,” Connors points out. “I think our best dive is yet to come.”

## Happenings • Happenings • Happe

### OHIO SUBMERSION EXCURSION

The Ohio Council of Skin and Scuba Divers, Inc., will hold its 40th annual scuba convention, the Submersion Excursion, February 19 to 21, at the Holiday Inn East, Columbus, OH. The theme this year will be “Voices from the Past, Visions of the Future.”

The event will feature exhibits, speakers, photography and a photo contest and banquet ball.

The keynote speaker will be Dee Scarr, author of *Touch the Sea* and *The Gentle Sea*.

For information, call Sue Farrow at (614) 855-2348; for contest information, call Roger Roth at (513) 793-9896.

### BOSTON SCUBA SHOW

The Boston Scuba Show will be held February 20 at the Holiday Inn and Resort in Marlboro, MA.

The show will feature PDIC Celebrity Series presentations, highlighting Dave Woodward of Ocean Below, one of the first NAUI instructors and staff members of the Underwater Explorers

Club on Grand Bahama Island.

Tickets are \$10. For information, call (978) 897-0877.

### AVALON HARBOR UNDERWATER CLEANUP

The 19th annual Avalon U/W clean-up will be held February 20 in Avalon Bay, Catalina Island, California. Awards will follow.

The cost is \$25 per diver, which includes airfill, commemorative T-shirt and limited baggage transportation. Participants must register before February 7.

For information on the event