



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2006

Luck o' the Irish to You!

Howdy Divers,

I hope this newsletter finds you planning your blue water adventures. I know we are busy here planning lots of trips and local diving destinations.

We are ramping up for the Spring with our annual Junior Open Water Spring Break week. The folks are having a blast and will be heading to Open Water on April 8-9—come do some fun diving with us. The water is warming as we speak.

As many of you know, we had three of our team go for Instructor the first weekend in March. I am please to announce our three newest instructors: Curtis Powell,

Rich Thomas, and Stacie Collins flew through their exams with flying colors. We had great weather in New Braunfels that weekend.

Some of you also know that Rich Thomas—better known as Omaha—has taken the Retail Manager position. Don't fret that you won't see Jeff's smiling face as he will still be playing with us. After all, he is our resident videographer.

We still have spots for TEXAS in Cozumel in June but that one is closing out fast.

July 7-10 we are back in Cozumel, this time with the TWISTER 96.7 and Steve Holy. Want to

attend a mini-concert on the beach between dives? Join us as we sing along to his songs

If country music isn't your thing—Join JACK FM 100.3 and Jackin' Around in Mexico with us on July 28-31.

~ Patti



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- MAR 11-12 BLUE LAGOON
- MAR 25-26 BLUE LAGOON
- APR 8-9 BLUE LAGOON / TERRELL
- APR 22-23 TERRELL

WHERE TO:

- MAR 18-19 FLOWER GARDENS
- APR 14-17 COZUMEL
- APR 22-29 BVI WITH DIVE BVI
- MAY 13-14 FLOWER GARDENS
- MAY 27-JUN 2 GRAND CAYMAN
- JUN 9-12 COZMEL
- JUN 16-23—TEXANS IN COZUMEL
- JUL 7-10 COZUMEL WITH STEVE HOLY TWISTER 96.7
- JUL 28-31 COZUMEL JACK FM
- OCT—WAKATOBI
- FEB 2007—PAUAU OCEAN HUNTER



Our World of Divers Continue to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

- Candace Bunch
- Joe Constable
- Brandon Shirley
- Steve Eichten
- Pat Lechtenberg
- Matthew Wallace

National Geographic Diver

- Randall Decker

Advanced Open Water (Brown Belt)

- Amber Ferguson
- Bill Heard
- Lyn Zastrow
- Logan Zastrow

Enriched Air

- Bill Heard
- David Gunderson
- Frances Heard
- Steve Whitworth

Dry Suit

- Randal Ben Wilson
- Simon Warner

Photo

- John Eriksen

PPB

- Zach Womack

Navigation

- Jeff Rudolph
- Nick Rudolph
- Jim Pasant

Search & Recovery

- Randal Ben Wilson

Emergency First

Response

- Dana Nurge
- Richard Thomas

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International Scuba

Learning New Things

Here we are in March and it's over 80 degrees outside. It certainly looks like spring has arrived for us. In previous newsletters we have talked about the Master Scuba Diver challenge and the specialty of the month. As you are probably already aware, we teach nearly any PADI training course on any training weekend (every other weekend). Of course we limit it by the site where we are doing our training (sorry we can't do altitude diver at Clear Springs).

Continuing on in that vein, I wanted to remind you that for March, the specialty of the month is Search and Recovery. This is a great course that lets you play with some new toys (lift bags), learn new techniques (search patterns), and really works on your underwater communications. For April, we have Project Aware. This course is geared toward what we can do to recognize and help our underwater environment. Here is the cool thing; there is no certification requirement or age requirement. In other words, do you know someone who is interested in the underwater environment or ecosystem, but is not currently a diver? No problem, this is a great course for them.

We also have a number of courses that we don't offer quite as frequently. I would like to go through some of those as well.

Emergency First Response: This is a great First Aid/CPR course. It is open to anyone. Do you need to have CPR training for work, or just want to be more prepared in case you come across an accident? Here is the course for you. We offer this course on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month.

Emergency First Response Instructor: Would you like to teach other people CPR and First Aid? We can train you for that as well. You can make a little extra money and at the same time help people along the way. We go over how to teach the course, and how to market it. The possibilities are pretty wide. The pre-requisites for this course are EFR and EFR for children or the equivalent (which means you need first aid and CPR training for both adults and children). You do not have to be an instructor for anything else.

DAN Oxygen Provider: This course teaches you how to provide oxygen for scuba diving injuries. That wonderful green box that is on any reputable dive boat contains oxygen. This course teaches you everything from how to assemble/disassemble the unit, to which mask to use and when to administer it. It's a fun course that is offered on the second Tuesday of the month.

DAN Hazardous Marine Life Injuries: Have you ever accidentally touched fire coral or gotten stung by a jelly fish? Perhaps you know someone who has. This course builds on the First Aid course to teach you the specifics of dealing with marine life injuries. It is offered on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

TDI Advanced Nitrox/Decompression Procedures: I have written about this course in the past. If you are interested in learning what technical diving is about, learning more detail about Nitrox, its benefits and limitation, extending your diving abilities and times, or going on to more advanced diving (Trimix, cave, advanced wreck) then this course is for you. We are offering the next course on April 21, 22, and 23 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).

Let us know if you have any questions. We would be happy to help. If you are interested in the courses, but the schedules don't work for you, give us a shout for more options. Is there a class you want to take but don't see it here? Take a look on our website or give us a call.

~ Brian

As you are probably already aware, we teach nearly any PADI training course on any training weekend.

Milestones—number of dives recognition

10 Dives

25 Dives

50 Dives

75 Dives

Denise McNally

100 Dives

Wendy Fox

150 Dives

TK Laux

200 Dives

Tami Gardner

250 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives

Aeris full tilt



DVT (Dry Valve Technology) is a patented design that puts an end to flooded regulators without sacrificing performance! DVT is a revolutionary regulator technology designed to automatically prevent moisture and contaminants from entering your first stage even if the dust cap is left off.

Pneumatically balanced, user-adjustable second stage. This pneumatically balanced, adjustable second stage is sure to provide you the highest performance for many years. The pneumatically balanced second stage provides the lowest possible inhalation effort. The second stage adjustment allows you to adjust your breathing effort, fine-tuning the regulator to your desired setting throughout your dive.

The venturi assist deflector vane directs airflow from the valve directly to the mouthpiece producing a smooth "venturi assisted" inhalation. Turning the venturi assist down, to a pre-dive position, prevents regulator free-flow while on the surface.

- Pneumatically balanced
- Diver-adjustable inhalation effort
- Adjustable venturi switch
- Nitrox compatible to 40%
- Paired with your choice of the new AT 400 Balanced Diaphragm First Stage featuring DVT (Dry Valve Technology) or our popular ATMOS Balanced Diaphragm First Stage

AT 400 First Stage

High performance over-balanced diaphragm first stage with environmental seal and the added protection of DVT (Dry Valve Technology).

- 4 LP ports, 2 HP ports for maximum hose placement
- DVT eliminates corrosion of critical internal components, bacteria, hose deterioration, and damaged gauges and computers.

Nitrox compatible to 40%
Aeris computers speak for themselves in flexibility, reliability and user friendly interfaces. Below are just a few of the computers to choose from.

EPIC—Hoseless Air Integrated Dive Computer Technology.



The epic is the latest addition to the Aeris line of dive computers, due out this month. It's so small and stylish you can wear it on your wrist to dinner as well as your next dive trip. Enjoy the freedom of eliminating a hose from your system, while enjoying the freedom of movement underwater with complete dive data at a glance.



ELITE—Hoseless Air Integrated Computer. The ATMOS elite is small and ergonomically styled, yet the display is large and easy to read. Enjoy the freedom of eliminating a hose from your system, while enjoying the freedom of movement underwater with the ATMOS elite hoseless air integrated dive computer.

A.I.—Compact Air Integrated Computer.



The ATMOS AI is a very small, compact console; yet, the information is displayed with large, easy to read digits. It is available with or without a compass; with or without a quick disconnect

XR2—Full-Featured Air or Nitrox Dive Computer in a compact package.



The AERIS XR-2 is small in size, but with easy-to-read oversized digits, bar graphs, and intuitive icons. Loaded with features but still very user friendly with two operating buttons.

Talk about freedom of movement!

Introducing the Reef Rider, an ultra-streamlined BC ideally suited for the traveling diver.

With the air bladder positioned on the back and minimal obstruction up



front, we're sure you will find the Reef Rider a very streamlined, comfortable BC. This is certainly a great choice for the traveling diver. Lightweight, and it has all the features you would expect to find on a much more expensive BC.

The Reef Rider features the unique EZ Equip Weight System. It's called EZ Equip because that's exactly what it is; easy to load and easy to unload your weights. No complicated threading or buckles systems - just the EZ way.

- Lightweight, only 6.5 lbs.
- Padded neck collar for extra comfort
- Large, zippered pockets
- Adjustable sternum-strap for a more-secure fit
- Low-profile design for total freedom of movement

Stop by and check out the Aeris line of dive gear!

~Jeff

If you want a full set of gear that fits in a single carry on—then look no further.

Please visit our website. We do our best to keep it up to date. Let us know what you think about the site and the newsletter. An important part of our success has been the friendships developed among customers and staff. That's part of why we dive.

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CD Corner — Growing

I am sure you folks are aware that Brian and I are blessed with an fantastic team of instructors and assistants. It didn't happen by chance, we take care of them and they take care of us.

I have had the pleasure of working with one of our newest instructors since I was a wee divemaster. Curtis Powell and I have been diving together since 1998. I hope he gets divemasters that are as good as he once was.

All of our team of assistants know what we as instructors need before we know we need it. I believe part of that comes from the fact that from the beginning we utilize our divemasters as colleagues and allow them to demonstrate, lead dives, and communicate dive briefings. Curtis is no different. We have worked together so long that a nod of my head or eye movement causes him to move into position to assist me without many students ever even noticing.

Curtis just took his instructor exam two weeks ago. The examiner complimented him to me indicating that he was there to prevent problems before they ever hap-

pened.

You can see the candidates below with the examiner anxiously awaiting their scores at the Open Water training portion of the weekend. Once this score is received you know if you are a new instructor! You should recognize most of them.



Come dive with us soon.

~ Patti

Creature Feature — Fireworm



These cute little fuzzy creatures that you just want to pick up aren't so friendly—so no touching! I call them underwater caterpillars which suggests they can be picked up.

They are called bearded fireworms. Anything with the name fire can't be too good. They have large pleated and branched appendages of flesh on the head, called a caruncle, which distinguishes this species. The segments have short tufts of white bristles and stalks of red, branched gill filaments. The color varies from shades of red to green to yellow and brown. They grow typically to 4-6 inches with a max of 12 inches. Depth is open from one foot to 130.

They are common in Florida, the Bahamas, and most of the Caribbean.

They like to inhabit reefs, areas of reef rubble and sea grass beds. They often hide under rocks, slabs of coral and in recesses. Occasionally they forage in the open. They feed on a variety of attached marine invertebrates, including gorgonians, anemones and stony corals.

When disturbed by divers, they display bristles which can easily penetrate and break off in skin causing a painful burning sensation and irritating wound.

~ Rich