



# International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 7, Issue 3

## Spring Is Here! - Let's Go Diving!!

Hey Divers,

Well spring is finally here and since we didn't freeze during the late snow, we're getting ready for a great summer. We have so much planned in the near future it is hard to get it all in.

The annual Spring Break Summer Camp is getting ready, so be sure to get your 10—14 year olds signed up for Junior Open Water Certification. We also have Summer Camps scheduled for June 16—20 and July 28—August 1.

Warmer weather also makes me think of going somewhere, even though I just got back into town.

We have trips filling up for the Dry Tortugas live aboard and BVI in May, Bonaire in June and Blackbeard's live aboard in July. and Blackbeard's live aboard in July.

Most of us are always looking for new dive experiences and new places. Names like Cocos Island, Antigua, Saba, Galapagos, Sea of Cortez, Isla Coronado and others just seem to call to us. If there is someplace you'd like to dive, but don't see it on our webpage, call or come by and let us put a trip together for you.

Don't forget to have your gear

serviced before the season really gets under way. Or better yet, come in and check out what's new.

If you need to sell some old gear to get that special new piece of equipment, we can help with that, too. We're having a Garage Sale on the 26th of April. You bring your old gear to us and we'll put it in the sale. Call Rich or me for more details.

Dive often, dive safe, have fun

~ Anthony

## Specialty of the Month— Digital Underwater Photography

### Moon Shots and Fish Butts

When you go on vacation do you tend to take pictures? Most people do, especially if they go to a new place. When people learn to dive, most people want to do the same thing, take pictures. However taking pictures underwater and topside are two very different beasts. How many of you have gotten those flat looking boring pictures? I like to call them moon shots. Typically they are taken straight on to a bunch of coral with one fish or two in them. It looked great when you swam up to it, but the picture is downright boring. The other shot that I have seen a lot of is the fish butt shot. You got him just where you thought you wanted him; snap the picture only to get the hind end. I think we need to create a fish id book titled 'Identifying fish butts'.

With the digital age upon us, getting the feed back we need is much faster than it was in the film age. Also it's much less expensive in the long run. With film if you took a bad shot you still had

to develop and print it. With digital it's just a click of a button and its gone. Because you can both look at the display on the camera and download the camera right after your dive, you can nearly instant feedback on what you did good and not so good.

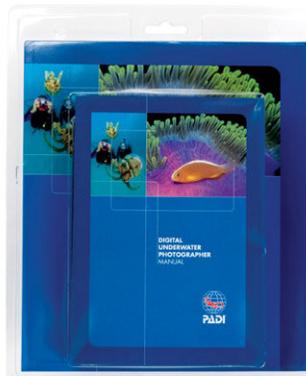
The good news is the April Specialty of the Month is Underwater Digital Photography. This is a great course. With the advent of digital photography you can improve your photo taking abilities pretty rapidly using the techniques in this course. In it you will learn the SEA method of taking pictures, (Shoot, Examine, and Adjust). You could do that with film, but the feed back loop was pretty long. With digital it is almost immediate. There are two levels for this course. Level one gets you in the pool and works on buoyancy, basic photography techniques, and care and maintenance of your equipment. Level two gets you out into the open water to refine those techniques as well as teaching you some digital darkroom techniques (a fancy name for programs like Photo-shop).

The cool thing about this course is that it can be easily modified for both the Scuba Diver and the Snorkeler. The basic techniques are the same; the only difference is where you are in the water column. Don't forget that you get a cool gift if you are a PADI Diving Society Member.

Also don't forget that the Specialty of the month for March is DPV. Remember to get the gift all you have to do is sign up for the course in the month, you can take it any time.

Happy diving,

~ Brian



March 2008



### Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

#### WEEKEND:

MAR 15-16  
MAR 29-30  
APR 12-13  
APR 26-27  
MAY 10-11  
MAY 24-25

#### WHERE TO:

MAR 15-16 FLOWER GARDENS  
APR BELIZE  
MAY 24-31 BVI  
MAY 24-28 DRY TORTUGAS—  
SPREE

JUNE 13-21 BONAIRE  
JUN 23-25 FLOWER GARDENS  
JUN 30-JUL 1 FLOWER GARDENS  
MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!!

FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

### Inside this issue:

Specialty of the Month	1
Our Stars	2
Milestones	2
Meet the Team	3
CD Corner—Enough Time	4
Creature Feature—Bluegills	4

## Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

### Scuba Diver

Stephanie Rocha

### Open Water (White Belt)

Linda Roberts  
Brian Fike  
Rick Fuller  
Joe Poehler

### Enriched Air

Anthony Griffith  
Sandy Burrows  
Tressa Marbach  
Jerry Butler  
Margaret Hughes

### EFR

Becky Ronald

### Master Scuba Diver

Brian Brewer

### Dry Suit

Tom Baggett  
Bonnie Jones  
Jim Pasant  
J.D. Trotter

### Gas Blender

Anthony Griffith

### Underwater Naturalist

Tressa Marbach

### Dry Suit Instructor

Rich Thomas

### Special Note:

Ho Lee has completed every specialty available at this time!

### Open Water Scuba Instructor

Becky Ronald  
Anthony Griffith

### Master Scuba Diver Trainer

Pat Lynch



## Milestones—number of dives recognition

Don't forget to email us your milestones—remember you are working hard!

### 10 Dives

### 20 Dives

### 25 Dives

Tressa Marbach

### 50 Dives

Glenn Robinson

### 100 Dives

### 150 Dives

### 200 Dives

### 300 Dives

### 350 Dives

### 400 Dives

### 500 Dives

### 600 Dives

### 700 Dives

## Meet our Team— Jeff Rudolph & Pat Lynch

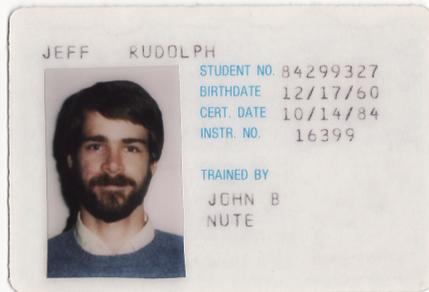
This month we are featuring two men that are both active in shaping young men's lives. Jeff Rudolph and Pat Lynch are both very active in the Boy Scouts. It must be their background in scouting that gives them both an advantage with our younger divers. I have seen some of the most patience ever displayed by both Pat and Jeff on lake weekends, helping out divers with issues navigating or perfecting buoyancy. I usually like to share some embarrassing moment but both of these men are always true gentlemen and have never given any material for razzing. I take that back Jeff was kind enough to share some pretty funny pictures of his path through scuba. Pat Lynch has just achieved the rating of Master Scuba Diver Trainer. Make sure to congratulate him next time you see him.

Here's your chance to get to know them a bit better.

### Jeff Rudolph-Assistant Instructor

#### How did you get started diving?

For years, I dreamed about scuba diving while watching "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau" and reading books about living in the undersea cities of the future (right next to those other great books about the Colonies on Mars and the Flying Cars of tomorrow).



#### Number of years diving? Number of years as professional?

I finally certified with PADI in the chilly waters of Lake Champlain, Vermont, in the Fall of 1984. For a long time, most of my diving experience was casual and recreational. A couple years ago, I decided to go professional. I took the leap shortly after my wife and youngest son got certified. I figured going Pro would help me to be the best dive buddy they could find.

#### What brought you to International Scuba?

I came for the goodies... but I stayed because of the hospitality and friends!

#### Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.

At 18, I was accepted into the Oceanography program at the University of Rhode Island. I was ready to follow in the wet footsteps of

Cousteau... but life had other plans for me - "C'est la vie"

#### If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?

I can't say... there are still so many islands I need to visit!

#### What is your oddest diving experience?

Diving some cenotes (freshwater caverns) near Playa del Carmen on the Yucatan Peninsula.

We surfaced in a small dark cavern full of tree trunks that were extending through the solid Limestone ceiling down into the fresh underground water.

#### What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?

Remember the two rules of scuba diving...

**Always breath & Always look good** This is another way of saying...

Take some extra time after you have been certified to get comfortable with your breathing. Also, as a new diver, be sure to focus on improving your buoyancy skills and on streamlining yourself so that you "look good".

#### If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?

It would have to be the "Creature from the Black Lagoon". I think most fish live a dull and soggy existence. However, I remember a beautiful heroine who was traveling up the Amazon River one day in 1954 and decided to take a quick dip in the creature's Black Lagoon...



### Pat Lynch—Master Scuba Diver Trainer

#### How did you get started diving?

I started diving by taking a Discover Scuba Diving in Cairns, Australia in 1996 on the Great Barrier Reef. Not a bad place for a first dive.

#### Number of years diving?

11 years using straight math but is really 9 - I took 2 more years to get certified.

#### Number of years as professional?

Obtained Dive Master Rating in 2006 and Instructor Rating in 2007

#### How many dives?

More than 200

#### What brought you to International Scuba?

I had just returned from a Jamaican trip where I obtained my 5<sup>th</sup> Specialty Certification. I was interested in my Master Scuba Diver Certification and was looking around for a new shop to service my req. As is the normal answer at International Scuba – "yes we can do that" and as they say the hook was set.

International Scuba offered a friendly place to hang out and talk about diving, a place where "no" is not in the vocabulary, and a great staff.

#### Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.

I am one of three staff members formally licensed to drive tanks, I am a techno geek at heart and, I do not like the outdoors that much (might be too much Army time).

#### If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?

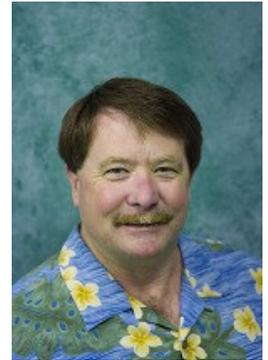
Wow this a hard question --- so many great choices-- First things first - - I have a great experience in Palau and could move there today (why wait until tomorrow?) but my life savings would not last a lifetime so since I have not won the Lotto closer to home it is - I think I could live forever in the VI's – BVI, USVI does not matter.

#### What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?

Never stop learning – con ed makes diving more fun – Start w/ PPB and keep learning!

#### If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?

Although not a fish – I would like to be a Loggerhead Turtle. Get to spend some time on land – but lots of the time it's hanging out on the reef.



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 team. That's part of why we dive.

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GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

## CD Corner — Enough Time In The Day

Howdy Divers,

Have you ever looked at your list of chores to do and think there is no way I am going to get this done on time. I know I seem to do a lot of that lately. The joke around here is that my free time exists between midnight and 4am. I sometimes think that isn't my time either.

As some of you know we migrated all ten years of our customer data and inventory from November until January while we were also still busy teaching. There isn't much in the way of slow time anymore which is fantastic. We think diving should be a year round activity and we have gotten you guys to think the same. We are also trying to get ready to go live with an online store. That too is a time consuming process but will prove to be the best thing we have done lately. We have also added a new retail team member that has helped tremendously. The best news is we are branching out to some health clubs in the area. Once again

midnight is looking better and better J.

It might sound like I am whining or complaining, but not at all. We are excited to be busy and have you playing with us.

I guess the plan of this article was to talk to you about fun time planning. I think we all sometimes can't see the forest for the trees and forget there is more to life than working — such as family, friends, and of course diving.

Don't forget to schedule time for yourself throughout the year to play at what your heart tugs at. I have loads of fun just vacuuming the pool by hand just for an excuse to blow bubbles. If you are finding it hard to get a trip scheduled please join us at the lake for a weekend or stop by the shop to play in the pool. Remember that Rich goes diving almost every Sunday around lunch time so there is a chance to come play as well.

We will be having a garage sale next month that

will give you the opportunity to sell some older toys so you can buy newer toys. Stay tuned for details. We will also have a great fun dive day on June 8<sup>th</sup> where some of the manufacturers will have newest toys to try, scavenger hunts, and great trip opportunities. If you haven't planned your next trip — let us help. We have spots going to Dry Tortugas and British Virgin Islands in May, Bonaire and Cozumel in June, and lots more. Check out the website for more info — [www.internationalscuba.com/travel](http://www.internationalscuba.com/travel).

Don't forget to get your gear out very soon to look over and remember when your last gear service was. Make sure you get it serviced with plenty of time to jump in the pool prior to the trip. If you don't own your own gear but you are rusty as it has been awhile since you've gotten wet, schedule some pool time.

We look forward to diving with all of you soon — remember to take some time for yourself. Don't forget your family either. ~Patti

## Creature Feature — Bluegill

The Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) is a species of freshwater fish sometimes referred to as bream, brim, or copper nose. It is a member of the sunfish family. It is native to a wide area of North America, from Quebec to northern Mexico, and has been widely transplanted to stock game fish for anglers. It is commonly fished in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas, and Louisiana, and is the state fish of Illinois. It is renowned as an excellent tasting fish on par with Walleye.

Of tropical sunfish body shape, the bluegill's most notable feature is the blue or black "ear", actually an extension of the gill cover called the opercular flap. Its name, however, comes from the bright blue edging visible on its gill rakers. It can be distinguished from similar species by the vertical bars along its flanks. The bluegill grows to a maximum overall length of approximately 16 in. Bluegills are popular game fish, caught with live bait, flies, hot dogs, raw chicken or other lures, chiefly at dawn and dusk. One of the easiest baits to use for them is white bread or a corn kernel. Another efficient bait would be redworms or waxworms on ice jigs. They are noted for seeking out under-

water vegetation for cover; their natural diet consists largely of small invertebrates and very small fish. The Bluegill itself is also occasionally used as bait for larger game fish species such as blue catfish and largemouth bass. The bluegill is a schooling fish with schools of 20–30 individuals. These fish spawn in June in nests in the shallows. During this period males assume a very bold coloration, as they are guarding their nests. An interesting piece of their biology is that some males assume the coloration of the



female fish so that the nest guarding males won't show aggression towards them. Then

these "sneaker" males enter nests and spawn. Because of their size and the method of cooking them, bluegills are often called panfish. Bluegills are excellent fish to teach children to fish. They are notorious for their nibbling or pecking style of feeding and commonly steal bait off a fisherman's hook. They hit hard for their size, making it easy to tell when the angler has one on the line. Adult channel catfish, largemouth bass, and turtles prey upon bluegill.

In some locations where it has been transplanted, it is considered a pest: trade in the species is prohibited in Germany and Japan. In the case of Japan, bluegills were presented to the crown prince, Akihito in 1960 as a gift by Richard J. Daly, mayor of Chicago. The prince, in turn, donated the fish to fishery research agencies in Japan from which they escaped, becoming an invasive species, which has wreaked havoc with native species.

Look for Bluegills in Clear Springs Scuba Park. It is one of the most colorful of all freshwater fish and makes a great subject for underwater photography,

~Anthony