



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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April 2008

Hey Divers,

Spring means time to do spring cleaning! I know this is always an unwelcome chore. But, this year you could make it profitable. As you clean out your dive closet, set aside all that gear you haven't used in years and put in our Garage Sale! Just bring it to the shop, tagged with your name and the price you want by April 21st. We will set it up in the sale on the 26th and if it sells—you get paid for spring cleaning. What could be better? Call Rich or me if you

have any questions.

With spring well under way, summer will be here before you know it. Now is the perfect time to book your summer "Dive, Dive, Dive Trip". Blackbeard's live-aboard, July 12-19, is the perfect way to dive the beautiful, warm waters of the Caribbean. This one is filling fast. With just a few spots left, you need to hurry to make sure you reserve yours!

Speaking of hurrying, it is not too early to book for the October 11-16 Little Cayman trip. This is go-

ing to be a fantastic dive opportunity at the Little Caymans Beach Resort. Unfortunately, the price for the trip is going to go up on May 1st. Book now and save \$250.00!

I would be remiss if I didn't extend an invitation to everyone to come and dive with us locally. The water is warming up nicely and we always have a good time. We're always looking for someone to go. Call or come by to see where we're going and dive with us!

Dive often, dive safe, have fun
~ Anthony

Specialty of the Month— Diving Dry

The days are getting sunny, the water is getting warmer. Clear Springs is already up 64. Two weeks ago it was closer to 59. Blue Lagoon is 72 already. Patti, I and a few others went to the lake this past weekend. Good visibility, nice water temperature, and great weather outside. On to the May specialty of the month; Dry Suit Diver. It may seem a bit odd that PADI chose to do Dry Suit in May for the specialty of the month, but there are a couple good reasons. First is that being an international company, and a lot of divers on the bottom side of the world, they needed to accommodate everyone. The other is that dry suits truly can be used all year round, warm and cold. You know that nice cool breeze that seems to come along just as you get out of the water and take your wetsuit off? In a dry suit you don't worry about it. No evaporative cooling. In addition, a dry suit allows you to extend the diving season as well as extend the diving locations to some beautiful ocean and fresh water areas. Next year we plan on having a couple cool water destinations on our trip board where a thick wetsuit or a drysuit is needed. Imagine diving with the giant octopuses, sea anemones, and other creatures of the Pacific Northwest. How about seeing pristine old wooden wrecks of

the great lakes? Maybe some lobstering in Maine?

With a wetsuit, a layer of water sits between you and the neoprene. It's very thin since the wetsuit is skin tight. The water is warmed up by your skin and the wetsuit helps to insulate it and keep the water from flowing. It works great in cool water, but just isn't quite enough in cold water. This is where a dry suit can come in. A dry suit completely seals around you so no water can get in. You are insulated either through undergarments, the dry suit material or both. A dry suit can be a shell type suit where it offers very little insulation on its own, but relies on the undergarments (fleece, thinsulate, etc) to provide the warmth. They tend to be lighter weight and less stiff. You can also get a neoprene suit (either full or crushed) that will offer some warmth on its own. This allows you to wear thinner undergarments and have a tighter fitting suit. This can make you more streamlined. However it comes at a price; a neoprene suit tends to be heavier and stiffer.

If you want a really great suit, Whites has come out with a suit that is flexible and completely waterproof called the Fusion. You get the light weight of a shell suit, without the bagginess. Ask Bonnie how she likes hers. It fits like a wetsuit, but works like a drysuit. The price is right in line with other shell suits as well.

So what is the big deal? Why do you need a special course for them? The ultimate answer is that it drastically changes your buoyancy. You will be wearing significantly more weight (anywhere from 10-30 lbs more depending on the suit, undergarments and salt vs. fresh water). You also have a bubble that instead of being just in your BCD can now travel the entire length of your body. You have two places to add air, and vent air (your BCD & your dry suit). We start out with a pool session that allows you to get used to donning and doffing the suit, buoyancy and weighting, safety items such as a free flowing valve, and removing and donning your scuba gear both in the water and on land. Once you are comfortable there we go into the open water. There we do 2 dives reviewing much of what you learned in the pool. It also gives you a good chance to swim around and get used to the dry suit while diving. Best of all, on that cool day, you get out of your dry suit and you are nice and dry and warm.

If you sign up for the course in May, you not only get the free gift, but also time to order your suit and/or practice while the water is a bit warmer.

If you are not interested in the Dry Suit specialty, it's a great time to take any Project Aware specialty. All Project Aware specialties are the Specialties of the Year. Remember there is still time to sign up for the Digital Underwater Photography course.

Happy Diving, Brian



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

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

WHERE TO:
MAY 24-29 BVI
JUN 23-25 FLOWER GARDENS
JUN 30-JUL 1 FLOWER GARDENS
JUL 2-6 COZUMEL
JUL 12-19 BLACKBEARDS
OCT 11-18 LITTLE CAYMAN
MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!
JUN 20-27 2-009—CAYMAN
AGRESSOR
FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Andrew Webber
 Mark Collins
 Josefina Brewer
 Kristin Flewelling
 David Visser
 Aaron Ball
 Whitney Morgan
 Cindy Haugen
 Tom Parkinson
 Steve Haugen
 David Buono
 Alina Alexander
 Pail Siebenlist
 Teresa Siebenlist
 Lindsey Serpone
 Jocelyn Sprinzi

Advanced Open Water

Tressa Marbach

Enriched Air

Mike Belleville
 Jamie Wuistingering
 Courtney Wuistingering
 Aaron Parets
 Randall Karkut
 Kim Ellison

Master Scuba Diver

Matthew Wright

Boat

Tressa Marbach
 Glenn Robinson

Drift

Tressa Marbach
 Glenn Robinson

Fish ID

Glenn Robinson
 Tressa Marbach

Dry Suit

Jim Pasant

Peak Performance

Buoyancy

Steve Haugen
 Teresa Siebenlist
 Paul Siebenlist
 Alina Alexander
 Lindsey Serpone
 Jocelyn Sprinzi

Special Note:

Master Scuba Diver

Trainer

Chris Simmons



Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

20 Dives

25 Dives

50 Dives

100 Dives

150 Dives

200 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives

Meet our Team— Alicia and Sylvia

This month the International Scuba spotlight shines brightly on two of our most dedicated team members, Alicia Pol and Sylvia Gomez.

Alicia has the distinction of being our youngest team member, yet has experience beyond her years. Alicia has recently stepped up to head our Seal Team which is a special program for children ages 8 years and up. We have conducted the program off and on as needed for several years but Alicia took up the challenge to make it a full time program. It takes a special approach to work with young divers and Alicia has made a great connection with her young future divers. Not only has Alicia put in pool time getting the Seal Team up and running but also applied her expertise from the working world. Alicia has designed a wonderful flyer and print media ads to get the Seal Team rolling. Alicia's first kiddo graduates Seal Team this weekend.

Sylvia is the better half of Chris Simmons. Sylvia came thru our instructor program during the whirlwind of instructors last year. Even though she travels all the way from San Antonio to be here, she is always ready to lend a hand. Chris and Sylvia plan to tie the knot in September. It looks like scuba will be a big part of their family life..

Alicia Pol—Master Scuba Diver Trainer

How did you get started diving? As a college phys. Ed credit. I knew a dive Master candidate, who was working with an Instructor and he provided a Discover scuba class at my school. I was hooked!



Number of years diving?
Number of years as professional?

4 years diving, 3 as a professional with 227 dives and counting

What brought you to International Scuba? The Instructor I trained through introduced me to IS. I became interested in becoming Pro and International was the right place to accomplish that.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. When I was younger, I hated the idea of snorkeling. My family took a trip to the BVI, and I stood on the beach screaming because I didn't want to get wet. Who'da thunk I'd change so drastically!

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? Anywhere. I'm not picky

What is your oddest diving experience? Being in a 5 knot current in Cozumel and flying past everything. What a ride!

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Once you start to get cocky, stop diving. Your life isn't worth a few moments of showing off.

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

Sylvia Gomez—Open Water Scuba Instructor

How did you get started diving? Chris Simmons and I were going on a cruise and we were looking at the excursions. He asked if I would go Scuba diving and I said, "Yes, I would love to." That started the adventure.



Number of years diving? Number of years as professional? I have been diving for 2 1/2 years. I have been a professional diver for 1 year. I have over 100 dives and looking forward to hitting the 1000 mark.

What brought you to International Scuba? I was looking for a Scuba shop that would accommodate my crazy schedule of living in San Antonio and diving in Dallas. The owners and staff at International Scuba welcomed me with open arms and helped me to achieve my professional status.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. I am not sure how to answer this. I hope that I have been open with my diving friends and they know all the crazy things I have done.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? I visited Puerto Rico in the past and found it to be a beautiful, contradicting island. However, I think that if I went to an island, I would be sure that the diving there would be spectacular.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Diving for the first time in blue water after learning to dive at Athens Scuba Park would be my oddest diving experience. Wow was all I could think.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Relax in the water. Keeping yourself relaxed in the water lets your mind open up to the experience of diving. When your mind soars in the water, your heart just opens up.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? I just catch my breath when I see a purple colored fish, any type of purple fish.



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 — Family Affair

Howdy Divers,

It has been so cool lately to see folks coming in asking how to get their kids certified. Some of the parents dive and some don't. We explain that there are very few activities left that teenage kiddos will be seen with their parents—this and skiing.

We will be attending some student job fairs very soon at high schools and colleges emphasizing that scuba diving could be more than a hobby or lifestyle that it could be a way to make a living.

Wouldn't it be fun if your kiddo got a job in the Caribbean somewhere and you could go visit. I know that Jeff and Casey's family enjoy going to the BVI to visit and dive with them.

Diving is a low impact activity and is great for parents who aren't thrilled about their kiddos playing some sports. We get to teach them a

little extra math, little bits of science, and some physical exercise along the way.

We have 2 summer camps set up designed especially for junior divers (ages 10-14). What, you say you have a 9 year old who is chomping at the bit to dive, why not try our SEAL Team program.



The SEAL Team members get to do confined water skills with us and rather than icky knowledge reviews we older folks have to do they get puzzles to learn by. To become a SEAL you will do 5 Aqua Missions designed to cover most of what we learn in pool dive one of the Open Water Diver course. Way fun as we set up missions of about 2 hours each. Covers some summer time for you as well.

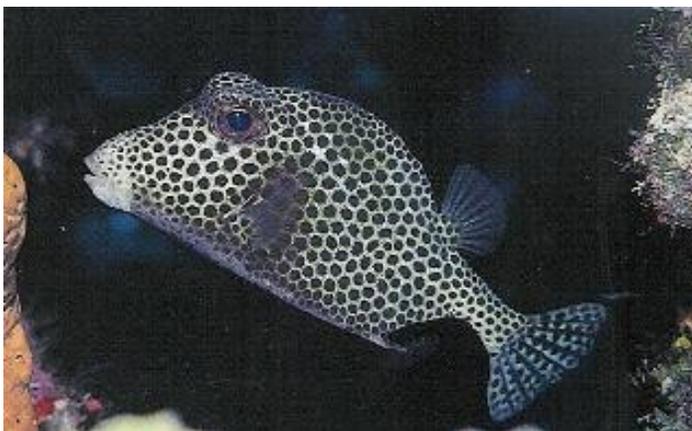
Back to the Junior Open Water camps. We hold one in June (16-20) and one in July (28-Aug 1). Both weeks will have a morning (8-12) or afternoon (1-5) session for the full 5 days and that weekend we take them out to CSSP to do their checkout dives. Moms and Dads are welcome to come dive with them on the tour portion of training and watch them turn into little divers. Way cool!!!!

If you are interested in getting your kiddo certified please call the shop to inquire and we will get you registered for fun.

~ Patti



Creature Feature — Spotted Trunkfish



These little guys look like an anomaly as their bodies are way larger their pectoral fins. You would think they don't move very fast underwater but they are the epitome of fish butt photos.

They are timid around divers and will often shoot away. The juveniles live under overhangs and are very weary of all who approach.

They range in size from 6 to 12 inches with the largest coming in at 16 inches.

You will see the spotted trunkfish at depths ranging from 15-60 feet.

The next time you are diving in blue water take a look around for out little friend. You will most likely see his cousin the smooth trunkfish who looks like a triangle with fins. The juvenile smooth trunkfish look like spotted bouncing balls.

~Anthony