



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 7, Issue 5

April 2008

Hey Divers,

It is already Summer and I haven't recovered from my first Spring at IS. Life around the shop is very hectic but lots of fun.

We have several things on the agenda for the next few weeks, starting with Main Street Days in Grapevine this weekend. Come out Friday thru Sunday and enjoy the festivities. Bring all those friends who have been putting you off about getting certified and let them do a Discover Scuba Experience to get them excited about

diving!

Next, there is the North Texas Scuba Retailers annual "Fun Dive". Join the IS team at Clear Springs Scuba Park on June 8. The fun begins at 10 and goes through 3. There will be food, fun, free demos, giveaways and of course DIVING! What more could you ask for?

Don't forget that now is the time to sign the kids up for Scuba Summer Camp. We will have the first camp June 16 -20. The second camp is scheduled for July 28—

Aug 1. You can choose between the morning or afternoon sessions for either camp, but you need to hurry to get the spot you want.

There are only a few spots left on the Blackbeard's Cruise in July. If you want a perfect diver's vacation, this is the one! Call us soon to make your arrangements for one of the greatest trips this summer.

Dive often, dive safe, have fun
~ Anthony

Specialty of the Month— Effortless Diving

The weather is getting warmer, the sun is shining, and I'm wishing I was able to spend the day outside instead of behind a desk. With all this warm weather, the local watering holes are warming up very nicely. I just love this time of year.

Last month we talked about the dry suit diver specialty. It is May's specialty of the month. There is still plenty of time to take advantage of it. Even though the water is warming up, it's still a good time to prepare for the fall and extend your diving season.

The Dry Suit diving specialty leads nicely into June's specialty of the month. The biggest issue with diving in a dry suit is actually one of the most important things for diving in general, Buoyancy. Peak Performance Buoyancy is June's specialty of the month. In nearly every activity, there are a few stages you need to go through. The first is to get the mechanics down. This is what we do in the Open Water Course. The next step is the ups and downs of trying to get everything to come together at once. This takes a while. You will gain proficiency in one area, but seem to lose it in another. This goes back and forth until it becomes almost automatic. Once it does, you can polish techniques and

fine tune areas. This does not mean you quit learning just that the learning is now going outside of the basic techniques and comfort. All of a sudden you find that you don't think about the basics any more. You don't seem to be working as hard when you dive, your air consumption is way down. You almost feel as one with the water. If you talk to anyone who has gotten here and ask them about it, you will find one core element beyond the basic mechanics of diving, buoyancy. Without it, nothing seems to work right, with it, everything is almost effortless.

Buoyancy is a lot more than hovering. Learning to hover alone will not make your buoyancy correct. Buoyancy is also about proper weighting (many people dive very over weighted and don't even realize it), trim, breathing techniques and finning techniques. Proper buoyancy means you control your position in the water. While swimming you are horizontal and streamlined. When you are looking around you can go head down or up as needed with little effort. Safety stops become a breeze. Proper buoyancy also means that you have just enough weight to get down and maintain your safety stop on a nearly empty tank (500-750psi). If you are weighted properly, you will sink slowly. This makes it much easier to equalize as well as compensate for your wetsuit compressing. When you get to the bottom you will have to add very little air to your BCD to

get neutral and probably will rarely if ever touch your inflator until it is time to ascend. Your air consumption will get better very quickly because you don't have to work as hard. You will move through the water effortlessly.

Peak Performance Buoyancy is my favorite class to teach. Why you might ask? Simple, because it makes such a huge difference in all aspects of diving. The other specialties are wonderful, but they are focused on specific tasks or environments, this one is something you will use in each and every dive, no matter what you are doing or where you are doing it. Until you master the techniques, you will never be truly comfortable with your diving. As an instructor I truly enjoy seeing the progression of students. With Open Water I get to see the twinkle of newness and accomplishment in people's eyes. With PPB, I get to see lights go on and a huge difference in peoples diving. I watch them go from student divers, and average divers, to truly comfortable divers. It's a wonderful progression to see and still makes me smile. Ok I've gone on long enough. And yes for the month of June if you sign up for Peak Performance Buoyancy, you will get a gift from the PADI Diving Society (if you are a member).

Happy diving,

~Brian



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- MAY 24-25—CSSP
- JUN 7-8—LAKE TRAVIS
- JUN 21-22—CSSP
- JUL 5-6—LAKE TRAVIS
- JUL 19-20—CSSP

WHERE TO:

- MAY 24-29 BVI
- JUN 23-25 FLOWER GARDENS
- JUN 28-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 AGGRESSOR
- FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

Inside this issue:

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

Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Scuba Diver

Christy Milkereit
 Bill Milkereit
 Charlie Morton

Open Water (White Belt)

Linda Beardsley
 Nicolas Beardsley
 Rebecca Beardsley
 Adam Cohen
 Tracy Dejewski
 Scott Dorsett
 Marcy Dorsett
 Tom Gallagher
 T Henry Gallagher
 Gray Huey
 Bridget Hughes
 Marlen Key
 Nathan Klick
 James McLaughlin
 Annette McLaughlin
 Laura Mellon
 Shamus O'Connor
 Linda Palmer
 Chad Palmer
 Kevin Passmore
 Stephanie Porter
 Ronald Rhone
 Scott Rhone
 Colin Scott
 David Shield
 Steven Shuetz
 Lujenna Shumaker
 Tyler Stearns
 Brian Wootton

Advanced Open Water

Steve Haugen
 Paul Siebenlist
 Teresa Siebenlist
 Shelby Love

Enriched Air

Andrew Webber
 Andrew Lin
 Matthew Porter
 Banon Ellison
 Steve Haugen
 Cindy Haugen

EFR

John Jones
 Glenn Robinson
 Ann Keller
 James Paul
 Robert Rasmussen
 Robert Stephens
 Bryce Skeen
 Douglas Teamor
 Dave Allen
 George Vincent
 Darrell Gardner
 Jeff Rudolph
 Randy Gustafson
 Curtis Powell
 Stacie Collins

Dry Suit

Dean Follmer
 Alicia Pol

EFR Instructor

Allen Gwinn

Night Instructor

Marc Maurer
 Anthony Griffith

Enriched Air Instructor

Marc Maurer
 Anthony Griffith

Search & Recovery Instructor

Marc Maurer
 Anthony Griffith

Gas Blender Instructor

Marc Maurer
 Anthony Griffith

DPV Instructor

Marc Maurer
 Anthony Griffith

DPV

Lance Thomas
 Shelby Love
 John Love

Gas Blender

Marc Maurer

Peak Performance Buoyancy



Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

Steve Haugen

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— Darrell Gardner and Tony Salter

I hope everyone is enjoying getting to know the International Scuba team. This month I have picked two very unique instructors to feature, Darrell Gardner and Tony Salter. If you spend much time around the shop you probably now these crazy guys.

If you've gone to Cozumel, I bet you were accompanied by Darrell. He is our Cozumel specialist and a blast to dive with. Darrell is 1/3 of the instructor team with Curtis Powell and Walter Hodges. It's widely known they have some of the most memorable lake weekends known to the local scuba world. If you've never met Darrell just walk up and say hello and he will do the rest. Next thing you know you'll have a lifelong dive buddy and possibly a new nickname in the process.

Tony has helped put the "International" in International Scuba. We love to tease him about his English accent and how he's from East Texas. Tony is best known for his Cozumel table dances. What happens in Cozumel is supposed to stay there but a funny picture got back to Texas and everyone was impressed with his hidden talent. Tony really stepped up two winters ago and did a lions share of the training during our coldest months endearing him to many divers that wanted to get certified.

Darrell Gardner—Master Scuba Diver Trainer

How did you get started diving? I was a workaholic and had worked for 5 years straight without a vacation. My wife decided to intervene. So she booked us on a trip to Cancun all inclusive at the Pyramids. After 1 1/2 days laying on the beach I started to unwind. She then booked us on a resort course for a 2 tank dive. Which I thought was super. We returned home and I thought nothing of it I went back to work. My wife on the other hand (being open water certified) decided we had so much fun that she gave me for fathers day an open water course. Its been nonstop ever since.



Number of years diving/Number of years as professional? How many dives? My open water class was in June of 2000. I went to dive master in 2001 just 12 months later. 2 of my 3 kids got certified and they can't wait until the next trip. I've been Instructor for 2 1/2 years now and enjoy sharing the sport I love with new students. I now have somewhere around 1000 dives and about 1/2 of them are in BLUE water.

What brought you to International Scuba? A gift certificate! My wife Tami met the then store manager and course director extraordinary Mike Rowe and feel in love and the rest is history.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. I love to Dive? Oh I know I play to radio real well.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? Is there any other place besides Cozumel?

What is your oddest diving experience? ? Night dive British Virgin Islands. We were finishing our dive and swam into a school of silversides, their were lots of them. As you shined your light thru them they would part to stay out of the beam. Then came the Tarpon which were feeding on the silversides that did not get out of the light. This was very interesting until we ran out of air and had to surface. After surfacing the boat captain said he had also had a show the silversides that were escaping the light were also jumping out of the water also. He said it look like a fountain all around the boat, as we shined our lights around where ever the beam was the fish was jumping. Oh and the captain was Mike Rowe.

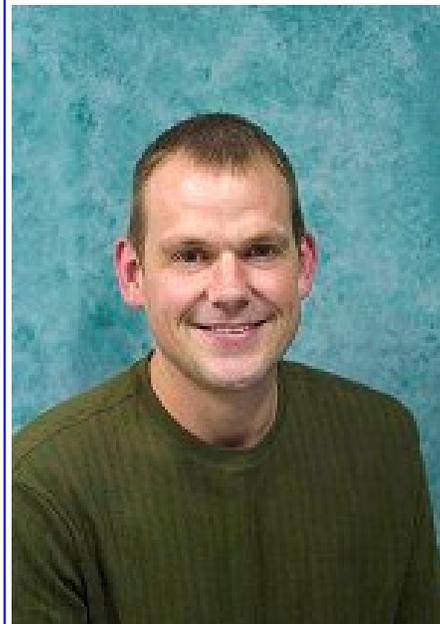
What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? A good drift dive in Cozumel of course. Ride the wave Baby.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? Rock Fish. You blend so well most people swim right by and never see me, those that do just look and don't touch.

Tony Salter—IDC Staff Instructor

How did you get started diving? Scuba diving was something that had fascinated me for many years but the cold waters of my little home town in East of Texas put me off. Then eventually I settling here in the DFW area and one of my friends wanted to obtain their scuba certification so they could dive on their family vacation. I thought what the heck and decided to take the class as well. At the time I had no trip planned and didn't even know when I would dive next. Well.. that first evening in the pool was when my life changed..... I was hooked and started thinking what my next certification would be. From then on I pretty much finished one course and then would sign straight up for the next... and here I am today!

Number of years diving? 3 1/2 years Number of years as professional? 2 1/2 years How many dives? 285



What brought you to International Scuba? It was the name... "International" thought they would have translator so people could understand me accent but no.... So now I have teach everyone to talk like I do.. haha

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. That I'm not really from East Texas.... I'm actually from England but keep it a secret as I blend in pretty good round here.. haha The only thing that may give it away is me bubbles when I'm diving, they have a bit of an accent to them!

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? What ya mean, I can only pick one!!!! Why not island hop around the Caribbean or the world for a bit.. Haha

What is your oddest diving experience? In my hot tub scrubbing the algae off the walls.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Really think about taking that PPB specialty; it will really help cut down the time to get the buoyancy thing figured out.. also it always nice to have your own gear... knowing where all those clips and buckles are on the BCD without looking or how to set that dive computer without just pressing buttons randomly..

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? Don't want to be a fish... I'm just meee!!

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.

2540 Marsh Lane
Suite 128
Carrollton, Texas 75006

Phone: 972-416-8400
Fax: 972-416-8507
E-mail: info@internationalscuba.com



GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

CD Corner — Can Bring a Smile on your face

Howdy Divers,

As many of you know I am not a real parent even though we have 20 some odd kiddos around the store and I occasionally get called mom; but to watch students go from very nervous to coming into their own in open water brings a smile to my face like nothing else. I can only imagine what a real parent feels like.

I rarely get the opportunity to work with new diver anymore but when I do I get a kick out of it. It is fun to watch someone who was struggling at the beginning change during the pool dives then when we hit the open water bloom.

I also get to watch students make the leap from the first level of professional diver to the role of in-charge instructor. I can remember being a pro-candidate and watching the senior staff like a hawk to learn from them everything I could so I could be as good as they were. I watched a particular DM move effortlessly

through the water and know where to be and when. It was truly amazing. I patterned myself after her and think I have done a reasonable job except on air consumption because she can still be me. I got to watch her mentor new kids and then finally this spring move into the role of instructor. It has been fun to watch her grow.

It is fun to watch the first or second night of an IDC where the candidates are overwhelmed and thinking—why did I torture myself like this? I paid to be tortured? I am never going to get this? I don't think this is for me? And many more statements like that. When we hit the lake on Sunday and all of a sudden things click, I get that silly smile on my face again.

I like to watch the candidates at their evaluation that takes place a week after the IDC where they are adequately prepared and are as nervous as a cat on a porch full of rocking chairs. Once Sunday afternoon arrives and they have their graduation certificate in hand they will admit that it wasn't

so bad. Not before then—once again they paid to be tortured. I get to smile again :-)

I think anytime in life that you get to share your knowledge with an eager learner you should do it. They are looking to you for advice and guidance to grow. Help them out!

~ Patti



Creature Feature — Whale Shark

The whale shark is a slow filter feeding shark that is the largest living fish species. It was first identified in April 1828 following the harpooning of a 15 ft. specimen in Table Bay, South Africa. Known as a deity in a Vietnamese religion, the whale shark is called "Ca Ong", which literally translates as "Sir Fish"



The whale shark inhabits the world's tropical and warm-temperate oceans. While thought to be primarily pelagic, seasonal feeding aggregations of the sharks occur at several coastal sites such as Ningaloo Reef in Australia; Utila in Honduras; Donsol and Batangas in the Philippines; off Isla Mujeres and

Isla Holbox in Yucatan Mexico; and the Tanzanian islands of Pemba and Zanzibar. Its range is restricted to about $\pm 30^\circ$ latitude, and it has been found to a depth of 2,300 ft. The whale shark is solitary and rarely seen in groups unless feeding at locations with an abundance of food. Males range over longer distances than females (which appear to favor specific locations).

The whale shark is one of only three known filter feeding shark species (along with the basking shark and the megamouth shark). It feeds on phytoplankton, macro-algae, plankton, krill, and small nektonic life, such as small squid or vertebrates. The many rows of teeth play no role in feeding; in fact, they are reduced in size in the whale shark. Instead, the shark sucks in a mouthful of water, closes its mouth and expels the water through its gills. This fine sieve-like apparatus prevents the passage of anything but fluid out through the gills (anything above 2 to 3 mm in diameter is trapped). Any material caught in the filter between the gill bars is swallowed.

Whale sharks congregate at reefs off the Belizean Caribbean coast, supplementing their ordinary diet by feeding on the roe of giant

clubera snappers, which spawn in these waters between the full and quarter moons of May, June, and July.

This species, despite its enormous size, does not pose any significant danger to humans. It is a frequently cited example when educating the public about the popular misconceptions of all sharks as "man-eaters". They are actually quite gentle and can be playful with divers. There are unconfirmed reports of sharks lying still, upside down on the surface to allow divers to scrape parasites and other organisms from their bellies. Divers and snorkellers can swim with this giant fish without any risk apart from unintentionally being struck by the shark's large tail fin.

