



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 7, Issue 6

Summer Has Officially Arrived

Hey Divers,

Wow, the water is warm, the fish are biting. Oops wrong analogy for the scuba industry. The water is warm and clear. Now, that's better.

We have lots of fun for the summer ahead of us. We start a Junior Open Water camp this next week if there are some kiddos still out there.

We head to Clear Springs on the 21st-22nd and then Lake Travis on Jul 4th weekend. Come play ei-

ther of those weekends with us and every other weekend after that.

If you haven't been in the water in a while and you are getting ready for your big trip of the summer call to schedule your Scuba Review or just come jump in the pool.

It's that time of year again for annual servicing and computer battery changing. Bring it in and then give yourself an hour or so when picking up to jump in the pool with it and make sure we

have tuned it to your satisfaction.

There are still openings on the Flower Gardens, Blackbeards, and Bonaire trips. We are also finalizing the Cayman Aggressor for June 2009—don't miss out.

Dive often, dive safe, have fun
~ Anthony

Specialty of the Month— There Be Dragons There

If you look at some very old maps of the ocean, you will find some interesting things. A good amount of detail right by the shore, and a warning beyond that says 'There be dragons'. At that time no one knew what was beyond the sight of land. As you can imagine stories of sea monsters abounded. In diving we have areas where 'there be dragons' as well. Many of you have heard this story, but its worth repeating.

Quite a few years ago now, Patti and I were on our first trip to Grand Cayman. It was a week long trip with a group of great friends. We dove hard, played hard, walked around town, and made many memories (and inside jokes). Toward the end of the trip we made a couple dives on the North Wall. If you have never been there, it's a spectacular dive. The wall starts about 60-80 feet and just goes down. As this was our second dive, we wanted to limit the depth to about 80 feet. Our previous dive was in the 110-120 foot range. I still remember the dive master during his briefing. He told us, "Be careful of the voices. Everyone that dives here hears voices." Of course we thought this was just local BS for the tourists. He goes on to say, "Here is what the voices will say - 'come on down. It's only another 5 feet. There's more stuff to see

down here. Look at that fish; it's only a little way down".

We had a wonderful dive. As we came to the edge of the wall at about 70 feet and looked over, we see a bunch of sponges, huge angel fish, hard coral, fantastic reef fish, and all the other wonders of the deep. And we heard the voices. It was very tempting, but we resisted the voices and still had a great dive. There are many areas since that I have heard the same voices. Because of my training it's pretty easy to resist them now. That first time though, it was very tempting.

Doing deep dives does require some extra training and experience. In your Open Water class we teach you the basics, how to clear your mask, recover your regulator, swim with those big things on your feet, and so forth. We also recommend that you not go any deeper than 60 feet without further training and/or experience. Why 60 feet? A couple reasons: At 60 feet, nitrogen narcosis starts to set in. Most people won't notice it, but it is there slowing reflexes and affecting judgment. In addition, beyond 60 feet, you can no longer rely on a CESA for ascending to the surface (60 feet is pretty extreme as well, 40 feet is more like it). That means that the buddy system needs adhered to. (I don't mean to imply that you can go lax at less that 60 feet,

but that more than that there is no more room for being lax).

In the Advanced Open Water course we give you a taste of deep diving. That gives you the experience to go to 100 feet. Why 100 feet? Beyond 100 feet, virtually everyone is showing some signs of nitrogen narcosis, they may not feel it, but it is most definitely there. What does that mean? Well, we are back to the voices. If judgment is impaired, it's harder to resist the voices. The buddy system is even more important because between the two of you the voices should be able to be resisted. But the recreational limit is 130 feet. That is where July's specialty of the month comes in - Deep Diver. With the Deep Diver specialty, we will take you on 4 dives ranging from 60 - 130 feet. We show you about the pressure differences, color differences, as well as the nitrogen narcosis differences. We talk about the importance of planning and maintaining the buddy system. By the end you are able to plan and execute a deep dive up to 130 feet. With the proper training those dragons of the depth turn into little guppies.

Continued on page 2.....

June 2008



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- JUN 21-22—CSSP
- JUL 5-6—LAKE TRAVIS
- JUL 19-20—CSSP
- AUG 1-2—LAKE TRAVIS
- AUG 16-17—CSSP

WHERE TO:

- 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 AGRESSOR
- FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

Inside this issue:

Specialty of the Month	1/2
Our Stars	2
Milestones	2
Meet the Team	3
CD Corner— Kids and Teaching	4
Creature Feature— Loggerhead Turtle	



Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Scuba Diver

Blake Fesler

Open Water (White Belt)

Pat Garrison
 Holly Holmes
 Aaron Murphy
 Amber Adair
 Jim Adair
 George Clark
 Matthew Anderson
 Natalie Walker
 Angela Haugen
 Ian Makool
 Richard Lester
 Brian Baxter
 Blake Baxter
 Jenni Rudolph

National Geographic Open Water

Ryan Brookman
 Sean Studzinski
 Tessa Bisignano

Advanced Open Water

Matthew Porter

Enriched Air

Andrew Lin
 Jim Tullos
 Ron May
 Damon Taylor
 Amy Morris
 Blake Morris

Oxygen Provider

John Jones
 Mike Duncan
 Matthew Porter

Hazardous Marine Life

Mike Duncan
 Nathan Edwards

On-site Neurological

Mike Duncan
 Nathan Edwards

EFR

Mike Duncan
 Cindy Haugen
 Steve Haugen
 Dean Follmer
 Matthew Porter
 Jamey Reeves
 Theresa Pearson
 Helen Hocking
 Joe Trotta
 Steve Bratton
 Ramsay Ellis
 Jonathan Ellis
 Colinda Jefferson

National Geographic

Andrew Levi

Digital Photo

Mayve Strong
 Fred Bernhardt

Drift

Chris Simmons
 Sylvia Gomez

Courtney Wuistingering
 Jamie Wuistingering
 Becky Ronald

Naturalist

Ruth Bernhardt

Boat

Courtney Wuistingering
 Jamie Wuistingering

Fish ID

Chris Simmons
 Sylvia Gomez
 Becky Ronald
 Courtney Wuistingering
 Jamie Wuistingering

Multi-Level

Becky Ronald
 Chris Simmons
 Sylvia Gomez

Peak Performance Buoyancy

George Clark
 Laura Mellon
 Andrew Levi
 Tessa Bisignano
 Nathan Klick
 John Jones

Rescue Diver

Mike Duncan

Continued from Specialty of the Month—Dragons?

If you sign up in July and are a member of the PADI diving society, you will get a gift. You can take the course on one of our trips, or we can head off to Lake Travis, Possum Kingdom, or Ten Killer and do it there. We have a couple of 'deep' weekends planned for the summer. The next one is over July 4th weekend. Being a long weekend, you can not only do advanced, but also the full Deep Diver specialty. If you are already advanced, there are lots of other fun specialties that we can do as well. The weekend is yours. Don't forget, you still have time for the month of June to sign up for Peak Performance Buoyancy. Remember, you only need to sign up for the course in the month to get the Specialty of the Month gift. You can take the course afterwards. Sign up for PPB in June, take it over the long weekend in July, or any other time this summer. Also, just because a specialty is not listed as the specialty of the month does not mean that it isn't available. We teach anything all year round (as long as the location fits the specialty, sorry no ice diving at Lake Travis).

Happy diving,

~Brian

Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

Angie Haugen

20 Dives

Cindy Haugen

25 Dives

Steve Haugen

50 Dives

100 Dives

150 Dives

200 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives



Meet our Team— Paul and Brian B

It's appropriate that this month we pair Paul Gilmore and Brian Brewer for our staff spotlight. Paul has been around forever it seems and is always easy going and ready for a laugh. Brian is brand new to the staff but has been putting in crazy amounts of time pursuing his love of scuba. Paul and Brian go together like peas and carrots. Both men love diving, camping and shooting the breeze late into the night by the campfire. Both Brian and Paul are about as friendly and ready to lend a helping hand as could be.

Paul has an interesting and varied background that includes Law Enforcement and now Real Estate. He is a great dad and husband with a house full of beautiful girls. Paul is working at earning his title of King of Cozumel by leading most of our trips to his favorite destination. Paul is also gaining a reputation for his spicy guacamole. Yum! Yum!

Brian was bitten by the scuba bug big time right from the get go. It seems like only yesterday Brian came in asking about open water classes. Now here he is as a new staff member and Dive Master. Brian is already very popular with students and staff alike. I tease him that he knows all the secrets due to the fact he is so easy to talk with and never shares his secrets. Brian surprised me when he shared he has dabbled in drag racing. And not your run of the mill street racing but the real deal supped up dragsters. He seems pretty mild mannered until he straps in behind the wheel. Then watch out!

If you don't know these guys, you need to get out to the lake more often camping and swapping stories by the fire.

Paul Gilmore—Master Scuba Diver Trainer

How did you get started diving? I got my start in diving because of a good friend and fellow instructor Darrell Gardner. Darrell had the bug and kept bugging me every time I saw him. I was in the middle of a career change. Once I got settled in my new career I drug my wife to the shop and we have been diving every since.



Number of years diving? Number of years as professional? How many dives? I was certified in Aug. of 01. From the moment I got in the pool I was hooked. That makes 7 years of diving. I have been a professional since July 04, when I earned my Divemaster. I was a regular at the lake. In 05 I decided I could help the instructors more by becoming an Assistant inst. In Aug. of 06 the opportunity presented itself for me to take the Instructor examination. So, in Sept. I became

an instructor and became a teammate with Amanda. I am in the neighborhood of 500 dives.

What brought you to International Scuba? I think I covered it already but Darrell brought me to International Scuba. What has kept me here is the level of training, professionalism and the family that is offered @ International Scuba.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. What would surprise you about me. I think I am a pretty open book. I do like to sing. I was in the Vocal Majority and sang Bass.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? If I could live on an island I would just cross the border to Mexico. I love diving there and go several times a year. I love the food, people, the diving and the Food. Did I mention the diving and the food?

What is your oddest diving experience? I don't have to many odd dive experiences. The one I can think of is when I was doing my deep dive for AOW. My wife Kim was suppose to stay above us since she was not training. Well the current brought her to our depth. I just happened to do my math

wrong for the problem solving portion of the dive. Patti took



the slate wrote Don't let him do the checkbook. Kim just starred. She was narced. That was my first time to see that. The rest of us had a good laugh.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Take PPB. This will make you a better diver in a short amount of time. Also, make it to rescue diver. Everyone needs to be a better buddy.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? I don't think I would come back as a fish. Maybe an octopus

Brian Brewer—Dive Master

How did you get started diving?

Myself and my best friend Matt went on a cruise to Cozumel. When we were there we went snorkling and realized that the divers below us were having more fun.



Number of years diving? 1 yr and 1/2 diving,

Number of years as professional? How many dives? got my DM about 2 months ago. I have about 80 dives in.

What brought you to International Scuba?

Well I went to every shop in town. And Rich's great customers service is what brought me to the shop.

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

I use to race drag cars. Finished in the top 10 in the points series for two years in a row.



If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? mmmm not sure only been to Cozumel

What is your oddest diving experience My first deep dive in Austin.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Take BPB!!!! it helps

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

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 — Kids and teaching

Howdy Divers,

As you know we teach a lot of kids here at the shop. It is amazing to watch their minds think through the concepts.

Wouldn't it be nice to go back to being a kid every now and again where we can just soak up what we are being taught, not question every motive and not fear much.

I think that is what I enjoy about teaching Junior Divers the most. When we get into the pool and you ask them to do something, first of all they do it without much description and they don't get afraid. At what point in life do we suddenly start fearing things. My mom used to tell me that you got fear as you got older since you were closer to pushing up daisies. I guess she was right but it sure would be nice to push those thought processes further out.

We have to educate youngsters on the safety

behind diving and help them understand some rather big words such as decompression sickness or the effects of nitrogen narcosis.

We teach in the IDC that we need to explain topics by relating the objective to something you already know in real life and then tie it to diving. That certainly makes tough concepts a little easier to digest. For example, if I shook a bottle of coke up and asked you if it is similar to the nitrogen bubbles that would form on a rapid ascent you would probably agree. Nice way to describe a serious injury.

About the only hard part of teaching kids is their ears. They don't have a lot of experience flying or driving at altitude to get into the habit of clearing before they need to. I sure wish someone had told me how to clear my ears when we were having fun as kids diving to the bottom of the swimming pool. I might have had more fun.

~ Patti



Creature Feature — Loggerhead Sea Turtle

The Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) is the only member of the genus *Caretta*. A loggerhead sea turtle reportedly grows up to 800 lbs (364 kg) and 3.5 feet long. Their shell color is a reddish brown color, and the color of their skin is brown yellow.

The species feeds on mollusks, crustaceans, fish, jellyfish, and other small to medium-size marine animals, which they crush with their large and powerful jaws. Females return to lay their eggs on or near the same beach where they hatched, like other sea turtles. Unlike other sea turtles, courtship and mating usually do not take place near the nesting beach, but rather along the migration routes between feeding and breeding grounds.

Loggerheads are the most common sea turtle to nest in the United States. With the largest concentration of nests in south Florida, they nest from Texas to Virginia, requiring soft sandy beaches, where there is little light. Statistics collected in Florida since 1998 indicate the lowest nesting levels Florida has seen in 17 years, where nesting rates have declined from 85,988 nests in 1998 to approximately 45,084 in 2007.

After approximately 60 days, the hatchlings

emerge usually at night when protection from predation is greater. Usually following the brightest light to the ocean's edge, an artificial light, such as from a home can lead them astray. Once in the ocean they use ocean currents to travel to the Sargasso Sea using the Sargassum as protection until they mature.

Most loggerheads that reach adulthood live for more than 30 years, and can often live past 200 years. They are immune to the toxins of a Portuguese Man o' War as the turtles have often been seen feeding on them.

Loggerhead Sea Turtles were once intensively hunted for their meat and eggs, along with their fat which was used in cosmetics and medications. The Loggerhead Sea Turtles were also killed for their shells, which are used to make items such as combs. As a result both subspecies of the Loggerhead are now internationally protected.

Today the main threat to the adult loggerheads lies in shrimp trawls and crab fishing nets, to which many loggerheads annually fall victim. Furthermore, adults are often injured by speedboat propellers and by swallowing fishing hooks or getting caught in nets.

In many places during the nesting season work-

ers search the coastline to find evidence of nests. Once found a nest will be uncovered and the eggs carefully counted, if the nest is dangerously located the eggs will be moved to a better spot. Plastic fencing will be placed at or near the surface to protect the eggs from large predators such as raccoons or even dogs. Several days after there is indication that the eggs have hatched the nest will be uncovered and the tally of hatched eggs, undeveloped eggs, and dead hatchlings will be recorded. If any hatchlings are found, they are either taken to be raised and released, or taken to research facilities. Ones that appear strong and healthy may instead be released to the ocean. Typically those that lacked the strength to hatch and climb to the surface by that point would have died otherwise.

Hatchlings require the travel from their nest to the ocean in order to build up strength for the journey ahead, so interfering by helping it to the ocean actually lowers their chances of

