



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 4, Issue 7

July 2005

It is Crazier Than Ever at the Shop

Howdy Divers,

We hope you are having a fantastic Summer because we are having a blast. Between trips and training, there is never a dull moment at the shop. Tami and her group sent folks to Cozumel every weekend in June—isn't that amazing because that also overlapped Roatan and Little Cayman. Glad to hear travel is back up. For July we have folks there 3 of the weekends along with a group heading down to see Jeff and Casey—and they are getting married. A big

round of CONGRATS to Laura Osborne and Alan Randall.

If you are daring enough to be in the store on Tuesdays when we have both classrooms full, the pool occupied, and even the showroom floor packed with pre-trip meetings it is pleasant chaos. Folks are having fun taking more classes, advancing professionally, and planning their next trip. Please check out our 2006 Travel Schedule as we are finalizing those trips. If you don't see your dream trip — just ask. We'll see what we can do.

Come get wet with us before school starts—we have plenty of lake weekends left and plenty of trips to choose from.

~ Patti Stewart

Our World of Divers Continue to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water

Erin Rener
Cheryl Townsley
Edward Kabelle
Shelli Boge
Shelley Epps
Heath Hamberlin
AJ Davis
Brian Sommers
Kyle Causey
Fiona Park
Xin Sui

National Geographic Open Water

John Richardson
Kristin Younse
Danny Younse
Brian Hill
Paul Owen

Advanced Open Water

Le Tong
Blythe Henderson
James Henderson
Kyle Causey

Cheryl Nolan
Amber Sterling
Jerry Butler
Daniel Grubbs
David Isaacs
Dawn Rudolph
Colby Henderson
Ashley Henderson

Rescue Diver

Tony Cowles

Boat

Ryan Sterling

Deep

Ryan Sterling

Drift

Ryan Sterling

Enriched Air

Erin Reynolds
Gary Goode
Bret Kissell

Gas Blender

Matthew Rodger

Night

Tony Cowles
Tom Baggett

PPB

Le Tong

OWS Instructor

Andrea Sorlie
Scott Marshall
Jeff Davis

MSD Trainer

Jeff Davis

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

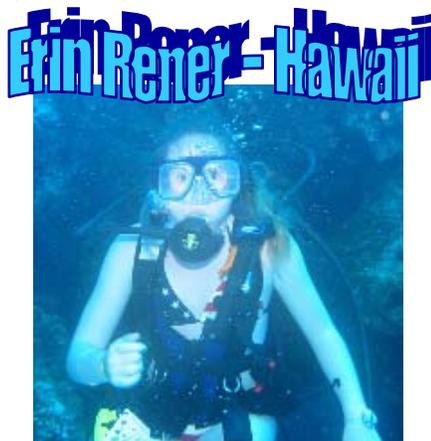
JUL 16-17	SEP 24-25
JUL 30-31	OCT 8-9
AUG 13-14	OCT 22-23
AUG 27-28	NOV 5-6
SEP 10-11	NOV 19-20

WHERE TO:

JUL 15-18 COZUMEL
JUL 18-22 COZUMEL
AUG 5-8 COZUMEL
SEP 16-19 COZUMEL
SEP 22- OCT 2 FIJI
OCT 28-31 AKUMAL
NOV 21-25 COZUMEL

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International Scuba



Curtis at the Flower Gardens in March—earn the Boat Diver Specialty or even the Deep Diver Specialty—he did!

Getting Your Masters

As we get more into diving, the question that comes up a lot is “what can I do next?” There are many choices along the way. If you are interested in specific areas of diving you can do specialties, if you want to push the envelope there is technical diving, if you want to share the experiences you have with others you can go professional.

I want to talk about going all the way down the recreational path. The highest certification you can get in the recreational arena is Master Scuba Diver. This tells everyone that you have experience and a wide breadth of training. So what does it take to become a Master Scuba Diver? You need be at least a Rescue diver, have 50 dives, and 5 different diving specialties. Once you finish that you should be recognized for your accomplishments.

What else do you get? We'll recognize you with a fantastic t-shirt to show everyone and for a limited time PADI is throwing in a couple extra things, a very nice custom wall certificate, and a nice Master Scuba Diver backpack. All you have to do is finish by December.

The road to Master Scuba Diver is an exciting one. Some of the specialties people are taking to get there are:

Search and Recovery: You get experience with a number of different search patterns, using a lift bag to recover various size objects, and develop good communication and

signaling skills with your buddy.

Underwater Navigation: You learn how to plot your own course, follow a predefined course, as well as how to use the features underwater for natural navigation.

Underwater Photography: Want to learn some of the tips and tricks the pro's use to get the good shots. How is lighting different underwater than on the surface, what are some of the challenges you face underwater that are not in land photography.

Peak Performance Buoyancy: Want to make that tank last longer, look in the hole on that wreck, swim more efficiently, or use less weight.? This is the course. It's full of fun skills and games that show you what it means to be properly weighted (both amount and placement) and what you can do once you achieve that.

Diver Propulsion Vehicle: Learn to use the underwater scooter (or DPV). Talk about a good time here.

Deep: What are the differences at depth, how does nitrogen narcosis affect you, and what is it like closer to the recreational scuba limit (130 ft)? This course is all about planning and coping with the deeper dives.

There are a number of others as well. Just ask us, we are happy to help.

The Master Scuba Diver program is a great path to not only improve

your SCUBA skills, but also find enjoyment in different aspects of diving and meet new dive buddies.

Happy diving,

~ Brian Divine

Go Wreck Diving with Dutch



“The Master Scuba Diver program is a great path to not only improve your SCUBA skill, but also find enjoyment in different aspects of diving and meet new dive buddies.”



What a way to end your day — in paradise.

The Way the World Learns to Dive®

take the
MASTER SCUBA DIVER Challenge

 **PADI**
padi.com

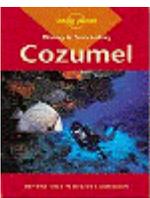


Fish ID - What am I?

What's It Like Where I'll Be Diving

As you can imagine we get this question a lot!! New and even very experienced divers are always looking for really cool places to go diving. Logically they contact friends, other divers and their local dive shop for suggestions and recommendations. While we "collectively" have a great deal of experience and knowledge on several "cool dive locations" we certainly don't know about all of them.

That's where our friends at the Lonely Planet come in. For SCUBA Diving they publish Diving and Snorkeling Guides that include the best attractions above and below the sea including awesome underwater photography, as well as health and safety tips to be aware of for each travel destination.



Below is a list of their Diving & Snorkeling "Top 10 Best Sellers" but there are many, many more. If you are traveling to a location not listed here, please give us a call, we'll check to see if a book is available and order it for you.

Lonely Planet - Diving & Snorkeling Top 10 Best Sellers :

- Florida Keys
- Cozumel
- Cayman Islands
- Turks & Caicos
- British Virgin Islands
- Belize
- Hawaii
- Honduras Bay Islands
- Baja California
- Fiji

Their staff is comprised of over 400 members in the US, UK and Australia. Lonely Planet is home to a wide range of diverse people, from architects to physicists, SCUBA Divers to photographers. They have a pool of 150 authors from over 20 countries. While covering the world, authors become experts in everything from mapping and visa regulations, to hotel prices and the hot-

test new bar. Because they are internationally recognized travel experts, the world's media regularly turns to Lonely Planet for commentary on breaking news, travel advice and what's happening in the travel community.

What Will I See While I'm Diving?

OK, you are now armed with information on what it will be like where you'll be diving... how about what kind of marine life you can expect to see while you are there? I'll tell you, I've seen many "Fish and Coral Id" books, but none of them compares with the marine life books published by Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach. These guys did it right – the first time and now they are adding extra editions, making them even better!!! Following are the three most widely used books but they also have Reef Fish Id books for the Galapagos, the Tropical Pacific, Coastal Fish from California to Alaska and Baja to Panama. If you like being "in the know" concerning the fishes, critters and corals you encounter underwater you need to add these to your collection.

A "New" 20 percent larger 3rd edition is now available and includes the addition of more than 100 exciting new fish species. The scientifically up-dated text now boasts 825 classic marine life photographs of 600 common and rare reef fish species. The easy to use, quick-reference format designed for divers makes it a snap to identify the myriad fishes that inhabit the waters of Florida, the Caribbean, Bahamas and now Brazil! Featuring a new durable, cloth-stitched flexi-binding that folds flat for easy use and water-repellent plastic covers.

This is the book that has been relied on for over a decade to identify the weird and wonderful lobsters, crabs, shrimps, jellies, sponges, tunicates and mollusks that inhabit the reefs is now 30 percent larger! The 2nd edition

includes 220 new photos of beautiful shells, outrageously camouflaged crabs, a superb collection of exquisite nudibranchs and the most outrageous octopus ever discovered in the Caribbean!

The scientifically up-dated text, illustrated with more than 660 fascinating photos, is the most comprehensive and beautiful visual ID reference published for marine invertebrates of the Florida Caribbean and Bahamas region.

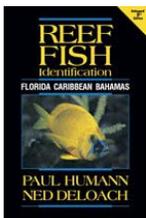
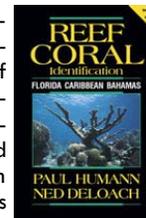
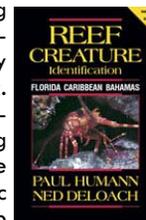
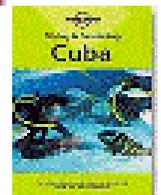
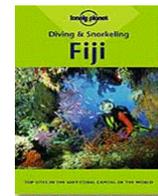
You know the fishes and can identify the reef critters, but what about the animals that actually form a coral reef? Existing in an abundance of colors and intriguing shapes, these animals are definitely worth a closer look. 530 classic photographs of living specimens and the most current scientific classifications help identify virtually every species of stony coral, gorgonian, fire coral and black coral inhabiting the tropical western Atlantic.

The new 2nd edition includes a comprehensive photo-essay of coral diseases and predation and a photo gallery on coral reproduction. If you want to know more about marine plants, we've got them, too; an appendix with descriptions and photos of 100 species of marine plants is included. Improved flexi-binding with plastic covers allows book to lie flat.

So now you know!!! If it's a dive/snorkel destination, Lonely Planet has probably "been there, done that" and has a book to tell you all about it and once you get there the Marine Life Reef Fish, Reef Creature and Reef Coral books by Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach can help you learn more about what you will or are about to see on your underwater adventure.

These are just a few of the "must haves" for every diver/dive family. 'Til next time, dive often, dive safe and DIVE HAPPY!!!

~ Suzanne Williams



YOU KNOW THE FISHES AND CAN IDENTIFY THE REEF CRITTERS, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ANIMALS THAT ACTUALLY FORM A CORAL 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 staff. That's part of why we dive.

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Getting You There... Starts Here!

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CD Corner — Dive Masters—Never Leave Home without one

We often forget the folks who take care of us at the lake, on a dive boat, at the dock, and the dive shop. A good dive master knows what instructors need before the instructor needs it. These folks are priceless and we as instructors couldn't do our job so well without them.

How do weights magically appear on the shore or boat deck, who filled those tanks, and filled the water cooler — the Dive Master.

We have an awesome staff mixed with Dive Masters and Assistant Instructors that are bar none. For the pool sessions gear is laid out neatly for the students. Tanks are filled during classes and at the end of the night. Students receive extra practice time during sessions because there are assistants in the water.

Dive Masters are also the folks we like to talk to if we are experiencing

some kind of difficulty whether it be equipment or health related. For some reason we don't like telling instructors things. They are after all meanies right? Just kidding but it is the truth.

If you have the desire to work with students and share your love of diving with the new kids on the block we have an outstanding program.

We meet every Tuesday night to cover some part of the academics or water skills. The program belongs to the candidates not the 5-6 staff who typically take part in the course. The schedule is laid out for the full year and you drive which sessions you can make as they always come back around in 5 or so weeks.

Dive Master is the first Professional level within the PADI system. Once you complete DM, if you still have the yearning to learn more and maybe even teach a bit, then Instructor is where you head next. That's another article though. I wanted to

pay homage to the hard working folks that make trips and training more fun.

Please give a round of applause to the newest Dive Master—Bill Gutknecht. Bill currently interning here at the shop and would like to have his picture on the wall.

Please give a shout if DM or further is in your future.

~ Patti Stewart

Creature Feature — Mantis Shrimp



Mantis shrimps are crustaceans in the Order Stomatopoda. Genetically, they are rather primitive cousins to many of the modern Decapods—shrimps crabs and lobsters.

Mantis shrimps can grow up to 30 cm in length but start out as tiny creatures that burrow into holes in rock. Small mantis shrimps embed themselves in rock, and that is how they get into reef tanks: some unsuspecting hobbyist buys live rock and ends up with a monster.

You may be thinking "what's so bad about mantis shrimp?" Well, look at those claws. Imagine those claws enlarged to the size of a switchblade knife. Mantis shrimp have a special nickname,

thumb-splitters. In a full-grown mantis shrimp, those claws are entirely capable of delivering a nasty wound to an aquarist who sticks his or her hand in the wrong hole.

Of course, thumbs are not the only thing that mantis shrimp will slice with their vicious claws. Mantis shrimp are highly predatory, and can decimate populations of fish and invertebrates. They lay in wait, like our praying mantises on land, and simply lash out at whatever prey is near. What a way for a beloved pet fish to go—cut in half by the claws of a mantis shrimp.

Their burrows are deep in the rock or sand bed, and when they

come out, they move quickly. An aquarist with mantis shrimp can try to remove them with tongs, spear them or trap them in some kind of container.

However, if a capture technique fails, chances are it will never work. Mantis shrimp are capable of learning, and they will be cautious the second time. Often, the only way to remove a mantis shrimp is to remove every piece of rock until the mantis shrimp's home is exposed.

Pretty critters but not nice.

~ Patti Stewart