



# International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE—STARTS HERE!

Volume 5, Issue 7

July 2006

## Happy Summer

Howdy Divers,

Wow, we have just finished two spectacular trips to Cozumel both over 100 folks. Not all divers—so don't cringe. Just lots of happy folks. The Reef Club has taken great care of us. It seems like this is the summer to get certified and take a family vacation.

We have done 3 very successful junior summer camps and the Junior divers aren't done yet. It is really nice to see families traveling together and even more so watching them dive together for the first time. The Reynolds (Jay, Denease, Cody and Justin) just traveled with us on the Twister 96.7 trip. Jay has been certified for 15 plus years, while Denease the nervous mask woman (smile) finished last summer and the two

youngest finished in early summer. Their celebration was winning the Twister free trip. Jay will tell you it was the most expensive free trip he has ever taken but wouldn't have changed a thing.

There are still plenty of trips to fill the dog days of summer and well into the fall. I know Rich still has some spots on his September Bonaire.

Tami and I are working on the 2007-2008 schedule. We would love to have your input. We are looking at Belize, Bahamas, Bonaire, Cayman Brac, and of course the staple—Cozumel. 2008 will start off with Turks and Caicos and then who knows. Please let us know where you want to go.



**Calling all divers:** We have 2-3 spots left on July 28-31 Cozumel trip. We are staying at the Reef Club. Please call 972-306-3260 and ask for Tami.



## Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

### WEEKEND:

JUL 15-16 TERRELL

JUL 29-30

AUG 12-13

AUG 26-27

SEPT 9-10

### WHERE TO:

JUL 20-21 FLOWER GARDENS

JUL 28-31 COZUMEL JACK FM

AUG 4-7 COZUMEL FAMILY

AUG 19-20 FLOWER GARDENS

SEP 29-OCT 7 BONAIRE (4 SEATS LEFT)

SEPT 30-1 FLOWER GARDENS

OCT—WAKATOBI

NOV 19-23 GRAND CAYMAN

## Our World of Divers Continue to Grow

### Junior Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

Jamie Pilukaitis  
Scott Foster  
Matthew Harper  
Andrew Harper  
Amber Brixey  
Matthew Fisher  
Kevin Gibbs  
Margaret Tully  
Linda Woosley  
RJ Hudacek  
Brandon Douglas  
Trent Koen  
Luke Black  
Diana Hitchcock  
Michelle Tichenor  
Bill Ryan  
Kelly Ryan  
Kathleen Ryan  
Shelly Peck

### Adventure Diver

Don Lawrence

### Advanced Open Water

Mike Ridgley

### Enriched Air

Ross Leonard  
Linda Purcell  
Brandon Oswalt  
Kim Lynch  
Rachael Cryderman  
Jeremy Lopez  
Matthew Fisher  
Amber Brixey  
Saikat Chattopadhyay

### Wreck

David Ryan

### PPB

Luke Black  
Matthew Fisher  
Amber Brixey  
Amanda Rickman  
Kevin Gibbs  
Matthew Harper  
William Ryan  
Andrew Harper  
Kelly Ryan  
Kathleen Ryan  
David Browning  
Mike Ridgley  
Kelly Ryan  
Kathleen Ryan  
Bill Ryan

### U/W Navigator

Saikat Chattopadhyay  
Caron Lawrence

### Emergency First Response

David Gentry  
Briand Gentry  
Mike Davis  
Josh Racca

### Oxygen Provider

Briand Gentry  
David Gentry  
Bonnie Jones  
Wade Dyer

### Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Thomas Payne

### Divemaster

Shannon Adams

### Assistant Instructor

David Love  
Roxie Russell  
Richard Russell

### Inside this issue:

Tips for U/W Photography	2
Milestones	2
Apeks—Newest in Tech Gear	3
CD Corner— Having Fun	4
Creature Feature— Redlip Blenny	4

# International Scuba

## Tips for Underwater Photography

Here we are in the midst of summer. The Fourth of July holiday just past. For me that is the mark of the middle of summer-time activities. This seems especially true for those of you with kids. We've seen a few large trips to Cozumel go successfully and we are coming up on our big annual 'family' trip in August. Along with the travel we seem to be having more and more people coming in for cameras. With that, I thought I would pass on some tips for all you photographers out there. Although I take decent pictures and could probably pass on tips to you for how to take better, I thought this I would talk about how to be a better diver with that camera in your hand. Some of these will make you a better photographer, all of them will make you better aware of your surroundings. With that, lets get down to it.

**Tip 1:** Be cautious of your surroundings. Most creatures underwater are surprisingly fragile. A small bump from a camera, tank, fin or hand can do more damage that is immediately seen. Be sure you know where your body fins are when you are taking that picture. No photo is worth damaging the surroundings. You want it to be there for your next trip as well.

**Tip 2:** Dive neutral. This goes along with tip 1. Many camera setups are negatively buoyant. Make sure you take this into account when you dive. You may need to add a bit more air to your BCD at depth. Just in case you drop your camera, make sure you are properly weighted without it. Even if you are a seasoned diver, consider the Peak Performance Buoyancy course. It's amazing how much it helps. If you have already taken it, come out to the lake with us and refresh some of those skills. You may

even want to do some of the exercises with your camera after you are comfortable without.

**Tip 3:** Don't listen to the voices. If you have ever dove with a camera, you've heard them. They say something like this. 'It'll be a great shot, just a little closer. Try hanging on to something, come on, it's ok'. The voices are bad. Listen to the other voice that tells you to take the picture the right way or perhaps try a different angle that wont do harm. Remember, the voice is bad.

**Tip 4:** Take it easy. Let the fish come to you. You'll get a better picture, your air consumption will improve and you can set yourself up in the best way to protect the surroundings.

**Tip 5:** Get Informed. If you don't like how your pictures are turning out, it may be because of composition, or maybe not understanding the general nature of what you are photographing. For techniques, you might consider the Underwater Photography or Underwater Digital Photography specialties. For general behavior and knowledge later as you are sharing your pictures, consider the Aware Fish ID, Project Aware, Underwater Naturalist or Aware Reef Conservation specialties. These will teach you about the critters, behaviors and sustainable dive techniques. That translates to good pictures and better diving.

**Tip 6:** Share and Share alike. Show off your pictures, share techniques you have picked up and help others be aware of correcting bad diving and camera habits. You can also share your images with conservation organi-

zations and scientific research. Examples of these are the Reef Foundation and Project AWARE.

The biggest tip of all is have fun and be safe in all aspects of your diving. I hope these tips have helped. They are useful no matter what camera you have, from a small disposable, to an intermediate digital, to a fully housed SLR camera.

Happy diving,  
~ Brian

They are useful no matter what camera you have, from a small disposable, to an intermediate digital, to a fully housed SLR camera.



## Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

**10 Dives**

**25 Dives**

Tim Mellon  
Tina McCrea

**50 Dives**

Pat Ivie  
David Ivie

**75 Dives**

Bonnie Jones

**100 Dives**

Bill Gutknecht

**150 Dives**

**200 Dives**

**250 Dives**

**300 Dives**

**350 Dives**

**400 Dives**

**500 Dives**

**600 Dives**

**700 Dives**

## Apeks—Newest Tech Back Plate, Wings and Regulator

Apeks has long been a popular choice for the discriminating Recreational diver and Technical diver alike. Apeks lines of regulators are among the finest high performance regulators made. The newly designed **XTX200 Regulator** features include an over balanced diaphragm design delivering superior breathing performance. The environmentally sealed



Diver adjustments permit the diver to control ease of breathing reducing inhalation to near zero effort.

chamber helps to resist freezing and keeps the internal mechanism clean and dry. Diver adjustments permit the diver to control ease of breathing reducing inhalation to near zero effort. All ports are angled for optimal hose position. Newly designed diver changeable exhaust system allows for the choice of low profile exhaust tee for low drag or a larger exhaust tee for bubble dispersion especially valuable to underwater photographers. A reversible venture system enables the diver to configure the regulator to a left handed hose orientation. This is helpful when mounting a regulator on a twin manifold. While you don't need to push the recreational limits to appreciate the regulator's attention to detail and bullet-proof reliability many of Apeks strongest supporters come from this demanding group of technical divers.

This year Apeks has decided to embrace the world of Technical diving with its new line of **WTX Technical Buoyancy Compensators**. Apeks goal is to produce the premiere line of technical BC's. The line includes a selection harnesses, buoyancy cells and accessories that will appeal to today's technical divers. The key to the system is its modular design. The components can be configured into highly technical rigs or streamlined to create a travel friendly setup anyone would love to use. Apeks has designed the new line along with the input from top technical divers across the world.



Components of the **WTX** line include the **Deluxe One Piece Webbed Harness** which features a stainless steel back plate, choice of buoyancy cells either 32lb, 60lb or 80lbs, 6 - D-rings, a crotch strap to secure twin tank configuration. This simple setup is a classic configuration that is preferred by many divers. Another option is the **WTX Harness** which can be used with or without the back plate and with doubles or a single tank. It has 6 - 2 inch D rings and 6 - 1 inch D rings allowing for unlimited versatility in mounting accessories such as light canisters and marker buoys. A removable back pad and heavy duty waist buckle make the harness a pleasure to dive. Sure lock weight pockets make adding weight to the system a breeze. Each pocket holds up to 10 lbs and includes a 2 inch D ring attachment.



SureLock™ pockets not included

By mixing and matching the various components almost any diving situation can be accounted for and easily accommodated with little fuss. Many non technical divers will want to dive the **WTX BC's** just for the cool factor. The comfort a back plate provides along with the flexibility and room to grow if more demanding diving is in your future is reason enough to check one out.



**Scuba Diving Magazine** recently reviewed the **WTX Harness and Buoyancy Cell**. "Rugged," "versatile," "comfortable," are some of the words used to describe it. While more complicated than some of the BC's reviewed by their recreational divers it still achieved a **Testers Choice** in the review.



Backplate not included with harness

If all this talk about a technical diving has you asking what the heck is technical diving anyway? Stop by the store and chat with Brian. He has been dipping his toes in the technical world for awhile now and will be sharing his passion with those interested in the very near future.

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.

2540 Marsh Lane  
Suite 128  
Carrollton, Texas 75006

Phone: 972-416-8400  
Fax: 972-416-8507  
E-mail: [patti@internationalscuba.com](mailto:patti@internationalscuba.com)



Getting You There... Starts Here!

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

## CD Corner — Having Fun!

I am coming up on two years now as a PADI Course Director and not regretting taking 3 weeks off two summers ago. I just made Gold level within the ranks which indicates we are 1 of only 100 around the world that taught additional classes after Instructor (Specialty Instructors and such). It feels good. The bad news is we don't see much of Mike Rowe anymore. Sorry about that folks.

We have folks coming in next month from Wisconsin and South Dakota to be trained in addition to local folks. This should be fun. The professional business is blooming like the recreational side of the house.

I wanted to take a minute and apologize to all of you who come in to say hello only to find me running between the showroom and the classroom. I don't get to socialize much like I used to. That said, they are building a new Applebee's around the corner from the shop that I hope we adopt as the store hang out. Watch for upcoming specials.

For those of you who don't really know what a Course Director or IDC Staff instructor or Master Instructor do, let me give you a little idea.

In order to become an Instructor Development Center Staff Instructor (IDCS) you must be a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer (MSDT) which means you hold at least 5 specialty instructor ratings and you successfully complete the IDCS course. This course entails sitting through another complete IDC as a student but this time learning to teach portions of the course. I am proud to have the following IDCS working with me: Brian Divine, John Williams, Suzanne Williams, Chris Armstrong, George Vincent, and Amanda Rickman. Outside of the International Scuba team: Kevin Murphy, Nancy Witherington and Chuck Gill. We usually compare the IDCS to Divemasters. A Divemaster is to an Instructor as an IDCS is to the Course Director. We all need certified assistants. I think we have some of the best as our Gold status says that. An IDCS can teach the Assistant Instructor Program independent of a Course Director as well as teach portions of the Open Water Scuba Instructor Program. (That's when you see me flying around the showroom and no one is on break)

A PADI Master Instructor is a special credential that typically indicates you have done your time. By this I mean, you have certified well over 150 people across the PADI system. (Open Water, Advanced, EFR, Rescue, Divemaster, Assistant Instructors, and lots of specialties)

In order to become a Course Director, you must be a PADI Master Instructor or equivalent for more than 12 months, have over 250 logged dives, have some working knowledge of a resort or dive center to apply to the Course Director Training Course held two times a year with about 45 participants in each. When I applied two and a half years ago there were 120 folks or so applying for 90 spots. There is competition.

I hope this helps clarify where I am these days and where you see our team members fitting into the PADI system.

Have a great weekend—See at the lake!

~ Patti

## Creature Feature — Redlip Blenny



These are Rich's favorite little guys to see under water. When you swim along and encounter these little guys, they are sitting majestically atop a rock or coral.

They have blunt reddish brown heads with large lips. Typically vary from dark reddish brown to bicolor with gray or nearly all gray, most commonly bicolor. Pectoral fins and upper border of tail may be edged and tinted with yellow to gold or red. The size is 1—2.5 inches and typically can be found in 1-12 feet of water.

They are common to occasional in Florida, Bahamas, Caribbean; also northwestern Gulf of Mexico, north to North Carolina, Bermuda and south to Brazil. Can be locally abundant.

Look for them on your next dive. They look very regal.