



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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July 2008

Mid Summer—Prime Time for Diving

Hey Divers,

The days are hot, a lot of folks are back from vacation, and the kids are bored. It seems as though some people are thinking that summer is over. Well vacation may be over, but our dive season is just reaching prime time! The area scuba parks and lakes are tropical. Water temp on the platform at CSSP last weekend was a balmy 87 degrees. Of course it's a bit cooler below the thermocline. Just enough to cool off if you exert yourself too much.

Now if you **are** back from vacation, and the kids **are** bored, it is the perfect time to come dive with us. Get the kids certified, we still have some room in our Jul 28—Aug 1 summer camp. And get those specialties you've been telling yourself you were going to do for so long!

The specialty of the month for August is my absolute favorite—Wreck Diver. Brian's article gives you some idea why we love wrecks. They are just fantastic places to visit. Come get your Wreck Diver specialty and we will try to set up a

short trip to the Liberty Ship reef off Freeport, Texas in September.

If you're already thinking of another vacation in the fall, don't delay any longer. Book now—we only have four spaces left for Bonaire over Thanksgiving week. Patti, Brian and Rich will all be going, so it will be a trip to remember. Unlimited diving with three of the best divers you can find anywhere!

Dive often, dive safe, have fun
~Anthony

Specialty of the Month— Wreck Diver

Getting Wrecked

What a beautiful summer it has become. The water is warm, the weather is great. We couldn't ask for anything more.

How many of you like history. No, not high school history class. How about looking at old buildings, wondering what may have happened there, listening to old stories about what did happen. As divers we get a great opportunity to visit historical sites that few people can, underwater wrecks. Some of the wrecks are put down as artificial reefs, or just something for us to look at. Others were more what we think of as wrecks, that is a ship that sunk accidentally (or sometimes on purpose).

Looking at the wrecks underwater, you get the feeling of seeing history. Often you get stories about them and you can imagine it as you dive. Even if you don't like the history side, you can see a huge amount of life around a wreck. They tend to attract the smaller fish for the hiding places, which then attract the larger fish since there is a food source. You see, wrecks have something for everyone. Animal life, history, and just unique sites underwater.

You can find wrecks pretty much

everywhere. Almost every island in the Caribbean has at least one wreck. Off the east coast of the U.S. are a huge amount world war 2 wrecks (many people don't realize that a lot of ships were sunk off of our coast). The great lakes are full of beautiful wrecks. Because of the fresh water there are some old wooden wrecks that are still intact.

For the month of August the special of the month is wreck diver. It's a 4 dive specialty. We can do it at



any local site, as well as some trips. The class works on not only the safety side of wreck diving, but also the observation skills needed for really enjoying the wrecks. Those skills translate very well into finding areas on a reef and noticing the small things.

Also don't forget that July is deep diver. As long as you sign up in July, the PADI Diving Society will give you a free gift. We have another deep weekend in August.

This time we are going to Ten Killer in Oklahoma. It's about the same distance as Lake Travis, but an easy beautiful drive. The lake itself is great, very pretty, great animal life. If you haven't been, I highly recommend it. I think you will enjoy it.

Happy diving,
Brian



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- JUL 19-20 CSSP
- AUG 2-3 TENKILLER
- AUG 16-17 CSSP
- AUG 30-31 CSSP
- SEP 13-14 CSSP

WHERE TO:

- JUL 12-19 BLACKBEARDS
- OCT 11-18 LITTLE CAYMAN
- NOV 21-29 BONAIRE
- MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!
- FEB 20-25 COZUMEL—CARNIVAL
- JUN 20-27 2-009—CAYMAN
- AGRESSOR
- FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Scuba Diver

Open Water (White Belt)

Sam Porter
 Miranda Sheldon
 Connor Cox
 Kyle Barnes
 Josh Wiersema
 Garrett Putnam
 John Rowe
 Hannah Sharpe
 Cameron Sharpe
 Jared Dahl
 Tylor Farhat
 Bobbie Wiersema
 Kay Porter
 Henry Woram
 John Porter
 Brandon Ivey
 Josh Townsend
 Hayden Baker
 Larry Atchley
 Kirsten Dahl
 Charles Weigel

Julie Ford
 Sarah Quigley
 Xuan-Du Nguyen
 Andrea Grubbs
 Holly Nicholas
 Ryan Martin
 Lauren Huddleston
 Nicole Flora
 Carolyn Wiersema
 Michael Rediker
 Jesse Smith

Jeff Smith
 Devin Cox

National Geographic

Open Water

Alan McAfee
 Joy Scott
 Paige Petty

Enriched Air

Matthew Porter
 Lindsey Serpone
 Kathleen Schiber
 Mike Duncan
 Kathy Weinberg
 Jocelyn Sprinzl
 Pat Knutson
 Dan Porter
 Nathan Klick
 Allison Indergard
 Bard Allen
 Blake Hatfield

Oxygen Provider

James Puckett
 David Gentry
 Briand Gentry
 John Jones
 Nathan Edwards

EFR

David Gentry
 Briand Gentry
 David Moulton

Robert Howard
 Nathan Edwards

National Geographic

Andrew Levi

Underwater Navigator

Andrew Levi
 John Jones
 Matthew Porter
 Paul Siebenlist
 Teresa Siebenlist

Peak Performance Buoyancy

Connor Cox
 Damon Taylor
 Diana McKeever
 Steve Cox
 Charles Weigel
 Lisa Sorensen
 Alan McAfee
 Lauren Huddleston
 Nicole Flora
 Pete Partida

Xuan-Du Nguyen
 Kathy Weinberg
 Josh Wiersema
 Henry Woram

Rescue Diver

Matthew Porter
 Tressa Marbach

Special Note:

John Jones - Master Scuba Diver

Open Water Scuba Instructor

Blake Hatfield

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

Jim Pasant

150 Dives

Anthony Griffith

200 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives



Meet our Team— Becky and Major Bill

This month we have two very special staff members, Becky Ronald and Major Bill Gutknecht. To many of you Becky might seem like the new kid on the block. But really she's been here since way back in the day. When Becky married Brian, the love of her life, she was whisked off to California away from her International Scuba family. But one happy day we received a call that she was coming home. There were stories told of her days as the ultimate dive master. Also legend had it that Becky didn't really breathe air at all. Even Patti made mention the envy of Becky's air consumption.

Well Becky arrived and has lived up to all the hype. Becky immediately continued her diving education by moving up to instructor. We all still shake our heads and mutter about our lousy air usage compared to her but; she also brings smiles to faces with her unique beanie. You'll just have to dive with her to find out what it looks like. If you haven't met Becky make sure to say hello and congratulate her on her Master Scuba Diver Trainer status. Way to Go!

Major Bill has been a main stay with us for several years now. Bill specializes in quietly making things happen. As an Assistant Instructor Bill is liable to pop up anywhere around town at a moment's notice, ready to introduce future divers to scuba via Discover Scuba classes.

Many of our divers have experienced Bill's special touch learning to navigate or fine tune their buoyancy. There are few people that are better to travel with than Bill. He is very laid back and always rolls with the punches. He has even laughed off my last minute running out the door forgetfulness on a trip. Sorry, I won't share that embarrassing story. Bill can though if he chooses. We're glad to have Bill there to jump in whenever we call him. Make sure to give Major Bill a big high five for being a go to guy!

Bill Gutknecht—Assistant Instructor

How did you get started diving? My wife and her sister planned a vacation in Roatan and they thought that scuba diving would be fun to learn and do while there.

Number of years diving? Number of years as professional? How many dives? Number

of years as professional? 2 How many dives? 220

What brought you to International Scuba? My wife found International Scuba and set up



training. I had never even thought about scuba diving as a hobby or a profession at that time.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. Susan and I have lived in Kansas, Nebraska, Virginia, Illinois and Texas since we have been married. Daughter was born in Nebraska and my son was born in West Virginia.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? Not sure, I haven't been to enough islands to make that decision.

What is your oddest diving experience? That would have been in Maui, one of the divers exceed the 133ft max depth. Because of that we all had to cut our dive short at 20 minutes. We didn't get to see very much on that dive.



What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Purchase your own equipment it is worth it. You will know that you have excellent gear and you won't get stuck with old equipment as a rental that should have been retired years before.

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

Becky Ronald—Master Scuba Diver Trainer

How did you get started diving? I took Scuba in college. An easy A right? Oh yeah, and I was the only one in my family at the time not certified.

Number of years diving? I have been diving for about twelve years.

Number of years as professional? How many dives? I was certified as a dive master in 1999 and just recently became an Instructor in February 2008. I have over 300 dives but always adding more.

What brought you to International Scuba? I was at International Scuba from almost the very beginning. I followed friends over and have been here ever since. I moved to California for



about five years but they ship whatever you want wherever you live.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. I was at International Scuba from almost the very beginning. I followed friends over and have been here ever since. I moved to California for about five years but they ship whatever you want wherever you live.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? That's a hard one but for diving and relaxing I would have to say Bonaire...

What is your oddest diving experience? As a college student with very little money I met my family in some pretty random places to do a little diving in East Texas. What don't they sink for the amusement of diver? The toilet next to the tricycle could make for a good photo op.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver.

If you could come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? A trunkfish—I could watch them all day. They just seem like happy and laid back fish, and how often do you see trunkfish on the menu?



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 — Carpe Diem

Howdy Divers,

I think many of us have plans that never come to fruition. I know I have had a few over the years. I have had the privilege to watch someone who is young change original plans of theology (degreed already) and decide to go medical. In between studying for the MCAT he decided that while he had the time he would become a PADI instructor. That is a drastic change but something he wanted to do. On the flip side I have watched some very close friends savor the limited time they had with their son. Both of these folks and their families are doing what Robin Williams said way back when in a movie named "Carpe Diem" which means Seize the Day.

If you have thoughts or ideas about becoming certified to scuba dive or move up the professional levels within PADI, go ahead and do it. Scuba Diving is therapeutic, educational, and a way to get close to nature.

Remember there are few things left in life that we can do that are quiet and bring solitude to the mind. No cell phones, blackberries, and no voices in general. As Becky said on a previous page she could watch trunkfish all day, I could do the same with cleaning shrimp. Just me and some bubbles.

Here's a few things we have going on before school sneaks up on us.

We have spots left in our second Junior Open Water (10 years old and up) Camp on July 28-Aug 1. We also have classes every other Monday/Wednesday and corresponding Friday/Saturday/Sunday. The next classes start July 21st. We had a great group of divers at Lake Travis over the 4th. The weather was awesome and we have new Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Specialty and Rescue divers with their names on the web site.

We know travel has been a bit overwhelming

lately so we are looking at planning some local diving where we rent a van or bus. We are thinking Florida, Bon Terre Missouri, Oranago Missouri, Santa Rosa, New Mexico. Where would you like to go.

It is all about change modifying the way we do things not putting them off.

~ Patti

Creature Feature — Trunkfish

One of the more unusually shaped fish in the ocean is the Trunkfish. Their bodies average six or seven inches in length and are very box-like. Their unusual shape prevents them from swimming quickly, however, they are quite agile and can play a good game of hide and seek among coral heads and underwater vegetation.



Also called boxfishes, they have short triangular bodies covered by firmly united hexagonal bony plates. Only the jaw, the bases of the fins, and the tail protrude from this cara-

pace, and the locomotion of these fishes is necessarily peculiar. The dorsal and anal fins propel the fish with a rotary motion, while the tail acts as a rudder. The ventral fins move continu-



ally, forcing air through the constricted gill openings.

Many trunkfishes are patterned in bright colors. They are sluggish, frequenting shallow water and feeding on minute plant and animal matter. Members of some species have been found to secrete a poison, fatal to other fishes, when disturbed.

Trunkfishes are most abundant in tropi-



cal waters. The cowfish, one of the larger trunkfish species, is up to 1 ft (30 cm) long and has a short spine over each eye.

Trunkfish have palatable flesh (sorry Becky!). They are served baked in their shells by the inhabitants of some South Pacific islands. Trunkfish are classified in the phylum [Chordata](#), subphylum Vertebrata, class Osteichthyes, order Tetraodontiformes, family Ostraciidae.