



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 4, Issue 8

August 2005

Summer Has Hit

Howdy Divers,

Summer has hit—hasn't it? We have had several days of 100 degree weather, a bit of rain, and a few hurricanes.

Many of you were scheduled to travel to Cozumel or other destinations in the Caribbean during July, August, and September but Emily squished those plans. We are sincerely bummed for you and I know the folks at

Travel For You are working hard to get you somewhere for some sand and diving. We have a lot going on in October for destinations: Jamaica (CHEAP!) and 3 trips to Cozumel with different hotels that are all priced very well. We still have a spot or two on the Akumal trip over Halloween but look to close that out within the week.

I know it isn't the Caribbean

but come join us at Clear Springs in the coming weekends just to get wet. We have a couple big rescue weekends coming up and actors are always welcome.

The 2006 Travel schedule is well underway to being finalized but if there is a destination you would like to hit and it isn't listed—just email us, we'll try.

~ Patti Stewart

Our World of Divers Continue to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water

Renick Hall
Hilary Kurland
Katherine Gutierrez
Renee Speicher
Kim Won
Greg Jackson
Deanna Strickland
Brittany White
Samantha Pettit
Chris Demont
Andrea Kruse
Robert Armbruster
Brian Bogard
Duane Stoddard
Shirley Smith
Don Tilden
Sharyn Rogers
Sharon Ferguson
Carlos Mendez
Mary Danley
Bill Schlegel
Alexandra Meaders
Shelley Stitzlein
Steven Zimmermann
Michael Zimmermann

Billy Ballard
Joyous Israel
Liz Bogard
Josh Mayer
Joelle Mayer

National Geographic Open Water

Lee Lindsey
Bryan Ward

Advanced Open Water

Tyler Skeen
Bryce Skeen
Brian Sommers
David High
Jordon Conti
Mark Hall
Sue Ann Hall
Matthew Smith

EFR

Ray Savage
Sue Ann Hall
David Potyraj
Jeff Van Matre

Jennifer Webb
Jeff Huggins

O2 Provider

Ray Savage
Jennifer Webb
Jeff Van Matre

Rescue Diver

Ray Savage

Enriched Air

Tyler Skeen
Bryce Skeen
Karen Owens
Brian Sommers
Duane Stoddard
Andrea Kruse
Robert Smith

PPB

Sharyn Rogers
Jim Pol
Karen Pol
Bonnie Jones
Liz Bogard
Shelley Stitzlein
Bryan Ward

Billy Ballard
Carlos Mendez
Josh Mayer
Joelle Mayer
Joyous Israel
Matthew Smith
Jeremy Armstrong

Dry Suit

Bill Gutknecht

DPV

Dave Allen
Jeremy Armstrong

DPV Instructor

Jeff Davis

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

AUG 13-14 OCT 8-9
AUG 27-28 OCT 22-23
SEP 10-11 NOV 5-6
SEP 24-25 NOV 19-20
SEP 24-25 DEC 10-11

WHERE TO:

SEP 22— OCT 2 FIJI
OCT 7-10 COZUMEL—REEF CLUB
OCT 7-10 JAMAICA—BEACHES
OCT 28-31 AKUMAL
OCT 28-31 COZUMEL—FIESTA AMERICAN
NOV 21-28 COZUMEL
DEC—NEW YEARS COZUMEL
JAN COZUMEL
FEB COZUMEL
MAR BONAIRE, GALAPAGOS

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International Scuba

Ve Got Dem New Vetsuits In! By Hans and Frans (aka Suzanne)



These shorties will definitely stand out on a trip

“As highly experienced suit makers, the folks at Waterproof are very aware that the most common factor that keeps you from achieving the ultimate dive experience is hypothermia (getting cold)... “

Vel ow bout dat??? Dey are vynally ere!!!! Not to worry, you haven't slipped away to Sveden! We're just excited about announcing Water-Proof Wetsuits as the newest addition to our wetsuit arsenal. Coming directly to you from Partille, Sweden by way of Tarpon Springs, Florida are some of the "hottest" new wetsuits on the market!! Designed and manufactured by folks who really know their stuff about cold water and wetsuits these are hot!! (Pardon the puns)

As highly experienced suit makers, the folks at Waterproof are very aware that the most common factor that keeps you from achieving the ultimate dive experience is hypothermia (getting cold)... even in the warmest waters this can be a major factor. Their advice is based on numerous years of experience over thousands of dives. Plan your dive and dive as you planned. Dangerous species, strong currents and bad weather conditions are typically within the normal scope of your dive planning. Part of the pre-dive drill is to check your equipment, however, working equipment does not always equal the optimal equipment needed. Few things change the experience of a dive more dramatically than when a piece of equipment is used beyond the limits for which it was intended.

The folks at Waterproof put it this way... It's a simple matter of math:

Minutes in "X" Temperature = Chill Factor/Air Consumption + Fatigue

While Einstein might not have set the equation up exactly this way, you don't have to be an Einstein to understand that if the water chills you and you begin to shiver, your muscles get weak, your air consumption goes up and your bottom time goes down. Here's where the rubber (ha, ha, ha) meets the road... I mean water!

If you simply equate this to one hour and 10 minutes versus 1 hour and 20 minutes – no big deal right? WRONG!!! Look at it this way... 10 minutes less per dive during a 7 day "live-a-board" trip to the Bahamas

with 4 dives a day = 280 minutes = 4 hours and 20 minutes less dive time!!! Still not a big deal??? I THINK NOT!!! That's a lot of diving to miss just because you are cold.

Okay, now that I've explained why we liked the Waterproof suits, let's have a look at the suits themselves. The first thing you'll notice is their unusual names. The 3mm full "tropical" suit is called the "ZubZor" and its shorty counterpart is the "MiniZor" – only in Sweden! The color schemes are also a little unique; there is only one for the gals and only one for the guys – Black-Dark Grey-White for the women and Black-Silver Grey-Royal Blue for the men. Another unique feature of both suits is they have zippers at the neck – eliminating that "tugging" feeling some wetsuits have. Check 'em out!

3mm ZubZor Full Suit & MiniZor Shorty Features

- Colors: Men: Black-Silver Grey-Royal Blue Ladies: Black-Dark Grey-White.
- DUPONT & Microcell Neoprene
- Double thread stitch and all ends knotted together
- 2 year warranty
- Back zipper with YKK KA Bronze slider
- Back zipper with stretch panels
- Front neck zipper, provided with under layer of neoprene
- 5mm stretch-harmonica-neoprene at the kidney area
- Men: New 3-seam-design at crotch area
- Ladies: Push-up-bra-design at

Chest area

- Inside lining of Nylon plush
- Tough-Tex coated back

Specific ZubZor Features

- Pre-bent arms and legs for maximum anatomical fit
- Embossed knees and elbows for maximum protection
- Polyurethane kneepads
- Wrist- and ankle seals have round-cut endings, which are additionally protected by fabric tape
- In-stitched Lycra fabric at the neck for best comfort

Specific MiniZor Features

- In-stitched Lycra fabric at the neck for best comfort
- Arms and legs endings have in-stitched seals of mesh-skin neoprene.

Both suits have a reinforced back-side, a "fitness" styled upper body and anatomically designed crotch area, with a push-up Bra for the ladies. These are not what you'd normally expect on a 3mm wetsuit unless it's from Waterproof!

Come on in and check out the wetsuits from "across the pond" – Waterproof's ZubZor and MiniZor are waiting for you!!!

~ Suzanne



What a cool looking suit. The neck, arm, and ankle zippers are standard in these suits.



Diving in Southeast Florida

My husband and I recently spent 3 months in the Fort Lauderdale area, specifically May, June, and July. Not a real vacation, since we were working, but we spent many of our days off exploring the local diving opportunities.

The first thing we quickly learned both from experience and local dive masters was that the diving conditions were quite unpredictable. Visibility and current often changed hourly or within minutes, with the weather above not having much influence, except for maybe which way the wind was blowing. It could be choppy and raining on the surface and beautiful below, or vice versa.

That being said, we had both fabulous and difficult dives, sometimes on the same wreck but different days. If there's a wicked current it may mean hanging on for dear life, so be prepared. The divemaster who sets the line will let you know what conditions are like before you go under. We did most of our Ft Lauderdale dives with a group out of Pompano Beach, South Florida Diving Headquarters. This area is famous for its wrecks. Our favorites were the Captain Dan and the Rodeo. In good conditions, they are great, with neat swim troughs and lots of schooling fish; sometimes a turtle will come by and we were able to get close to a couple Goliath Grouper. The barracuda come

big here. We also dove the Sea Emperor or the "Zoo" as they call it, and the Ancient Mariner. We also dove further south with another dive operation, American Dream Charters, in order to visit Tenneco Towers – oil rig partitions that are overgrown with black coral, very beautiful to swim through with many fish and critters. It is easy to reach 100+ feet on these wrecks, so watch your depth.

The second dive here is usually a drift dive. There are three lines of reefs running north and south, the shallowest is also for snorkelers, if you like the easier stuff. We've had variable experiences on the reefs here, sometime great and sometimes a little boring, depending I think on where you got dropped. Groups of 2-4 people take a buoy line and come up on it to be picked up by the boat. Our favorites were Abby 2 and Grouper Den – lots of varied life, including the biggest stingray we ever saw.

We tried a diving day in West Palm also, where the diving is current driven. They have wreck diving too, which could be interesting. If the captain positions the boat correctly, the divers drop off together go down immediately, hopefully in front of the wreck, drift to the end, and come up for a pick up. We didn't try that – just a couple reef drifts. We didn't have

great vis that day, but saw lots of fish, morays, lobster, and a couple loggerhead turtles.

Our other diving was in Key Largo and Marathon Key. Of course we headed for the Spiegel Grove, 1st on its side and then in its upright position. Both times the current was pretty strong. In Marathon, we dove the Thunderbolt and liked it a lot. The reefs in the Keys are pretty shallow – about 25-30 feet mostly. You can dive deeper, but you won't find more life or prettier coral. It was relaxing diving, great for pictures – all kinds of fish (a new one we hadn't seen before – the snook), eels, turtles, nurse sharks, lobster, crab, etc. etc.

The 2 tank dives cost us \$45/pp and we provided our own gear and air. Add 10-15 dollars for tanks and weights. Water temps were 81-84 degrees. All boats provide water, many provide soda and some snacks, and the ever-present fresh pineapple on the return trip. We enjoyed our time there, but there are many other dive sites nearby left to explore.

~ Marie and Jerry LaPlante



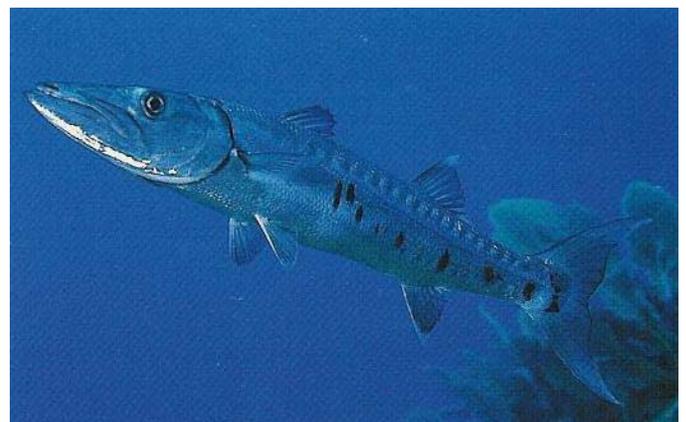
Common Snook

THAT BEING SAID, WE HAD BOTH FABULOUS AND DIFFICULT DIVES, SOMETIMES ON THE SAME WRECK BUT DIFFERENT DAYS.



Goliath Grouper

Great Barracuda



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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CD Corner — CPR and First Aid

Have you ever witnessed an accident on the highway or some other location? What thoughts ran through your mind?

Many of us associated with International Scuba have taken Medic First Aid or more recently Emergency First Response. That means we have stepped up to the plate and agreed to be more trained than the average person out there. Most of us think our training is restricted to diving accidents but it isn't. I know one instructor has stopped to render aid more times than I have fingers or toes. Of course he is a master plumber and spends a lot of time on the road so the likelihood of him coming upon an accident scene are higher than

many of us.

For all of the years I have been trained, I have never gotten to use these skills ...until recently. I was having a business lunch a couple of weeks ago and as I was leaving the restaurant a Ford Sport Trac decided to rearrange a small sports car driver's door. I wasn't necessarily the first one on site but certainly the first one to stop. I was actually car number three at the light where the accident took place. I jumped out and checked on the driver of the car first then on the folks in the truck. Except for being totally shaken up on all accounts, there was no physical damage on any person. I did some quick neurological checks on the driver in the car and she was fine. When the fire and rescue squads showed up, I was asked if I was part of the accident and I re-

plied, no, just an emergency first responder. The Firefighter shook my hand and asked if everyone was conscious and I report all I knew. He said thank you and thanks for assisting. That was a pretty cool rush.

My point in telling this story is to remind everyone that they should renew or refresh their skills every 2 years. If you haven't practiced in a while, call the shop so we can schedule a refresher. Remember these days, AED's are commonplace, wouldn't it be nice to know how to use one if ever called upon?



~ Patti Stewart



French Angel in Juvenile Stage



French Angel in Intermediate Stage



French Angel all grown up

Creature Feature —

We see angel fish on every dive in every destination don't we? You can tell by the disk-like or oval shape of their bodies. Problem is sometimes we look at them and can't possibly figure out what kind they are.

Take the French Angel shown here. You look at a reef with lots of little black and yellow striped fishes and go hmmm, what kind is he or she? Low and behold it is a juvenile French Angel. Not very obvious in markings except for the black and yellow part. And what's with the blue tips on the pectorals and anal fins?

Then maybe on another dive you run across what looks like a French Angel but with a couple of

white strips up close to the head, is he or she sick? Did they get hit by something, no they didn't. This is the Intermediate phase in their life, kind of like us maturing and starting to shave...

The French Angel is such a beautiful creature and can often be found swimming in pairs. Watch on your next dive how many pairs you run across in relation to Grey or Queen Angels.

Their reaction to divers is relatively unafraid and therefore can be approached for photos. Good luck with them as they love to turn just as you snap. Be patient, the picture will come.

They can grow as large as 10-14 inches with a maximum of 18 inches. That is a pretty healthy size.

Have fun on your next dive and try to find each phase of this gorgeous fish.

~ Patti Stewart