



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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Howdy Divers,

While the kids are back in school whether they are in public school or college and we had a reprieve of 100 degree days, summer isn't over. There is still a lot of diving to be had.

We start a PADI Tec Deep course today that has folks excited. We brought a friend and colleague of mine from Akumal to work with the folks. Her name is Alessandra Figari and she hails from Playa Del Carmen but based on her name - Milano, Italy. This is the wonderful person whom we dive with for cenotes and ocean diving while on the mainland. If you see some familiar faces in the store while she is here training that is be-

cause Rich is one of her students and I am around but busy with an Instructor course. We can't wait to hear all about their course in the next newsletter.

We have folks leaving next weekend for Flower Gardens and the weekend after that to Bonaire. We have tapered the Caribbean travel off for a month or so because of Hurricanes but don't be shy to come play on the weekends with us. We do have a November Grand Cayman trip that has spots left. What are you doing for New Years - how about the BVI? If you need to stay local, the water at Clear Springs is still plenty warm enough. You could join the dive club for a Sunday day as well. We are at an Open Water dive

site Sept 23-24 and pretty much every other weekend the rest of the year. Come fun dive or give Peak Performance Buoyancy (PPB) or Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) a go. Both are fun experiences. Besides, who doesn't like riding scooters?

Travel is already planned for much of 2007 but don't let the schedule fool you as we can always add or subtract trips. We are still investigating a Blackbeard's trip - the folks who requested this one didn't give a time frame? Any requests?

You might see a spring exotic trip from George Vincent pop on the board. Anticipation is a good thing.

We hope to dive with you soon,
~Patti

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- SEP 9-10 TERRELL
- SEP 23-24 TERRELL
- OCT 7-8 TERRELL
- OCT 21-22 ??
- NOV4-5
- NOV 18-19

WHERE TO:

- SEPT 17—STILLHOUSE
- SEP 23-24 FLOWER GARDENS
- SEP 29-OCT 7 BONAIRE (2 SEATS LEFT)
- OCT—WAKATOBI
- OCT COZUMEL
- NOV 19-23 GRAND CAYMAN

Specialty of the Month

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather. It sure has been great getting the rain and days that don't hit 100 degrees. A couple weeks ago we held the kick off for the new Zero Gravity Dive Club. We were overwhelmed by the attendance. Thank you all for your support. Remember, it's not too late to join. Rich is writing more about the coming events, so I'll move on to what I really wanted to write about, the Specialty of the Month.

Last month I talked about the National Geographic Specialty. That one is still going on for the rest of September. It's a great program and if you are a PADI Diving Society member you also can receive a National Geographic rash guard.

For next month (October) the specialty of the month is Night Diver. Imagine this: As the sun sets, you don your dive gear, slip on your mask and bite down on your regulator. A deep breath and you step off the boat - into the under-

water night. Although you've seen this reef many times before, this time you drop into a whole new world and watch it come to life under the glow of your dive light.

In the course, you learn about night dive planning, equipment and navigation. You practice these on three night dives, plus introduce yourself to the whole new cast of critters that comes out after the sun goes down. It always amazes me how much different the underwater world looks at night. New fish and creatures are out. Some of the critters that are out during the day are sleeping or hiding at night. Some others actually change colors at night.

One of the other things I like about night diving is that because you are using a flashlight to see by, you tend to notice more detail. During the day you have the whole reef to take in; at night, you just see what is in the flashlight beam.

As will all the Specialties of the Month, you will get a free gift if you are a PADI Diving Society member. For the Night Diver, it's a GloTube Marker light.

Come in and talk to us about the night diver. Also don't forget about our season pass. All the specialties you can do in a year as long as we teach them (sorry no ice or altitude) for one low price.

Happy diving,

Brian



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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

Luisa Mosquera
 Lesly Veliz
 Joshua Bixby
 Jacob Williams
 Mary Nix
 Kimberly Yon
 Chris Earnest
 Harold Pruitt
 Bobby Rothel
 Dee Mauldin
 Chris Hostetter
 Marianne Hostetter
 Ray Kelly
 Graham Jones
 Matt Lopez
 Blake Burnworth
 Sharon O'Neill
 Tom Barton
 Ric Pallanich
 Cass Andrews
 Michele Andrews
 Sarah Andrews
 Jeremy Smith
 Cody Johnson

Adventure Diver

Rani Davis
 Jordon Howle
 Lauren Casteel
 Lauren Couch
 Lesly Veliz
 Luisa Mosquera
 Michael Zimmermann

Advanced Open Water Diver

Jessica Solis
 Amy White
 Michael Zimmermann

Debbie Ryan
 Lyle Biddinger

Enriched Air

Dee Mauldin
 Chris Ehrich
 Mary Nix

DPV

James Pucket
 Elizabeth Kaiser
 Rachel Ford
 Greg Howard
 Nick Howard
 Tom Baggett
 Robert Miller
 Kim Miller
 Brian White

Night Diver

Aaron Biddinger

Gas Blender

Richard Thomas

PPB

James Pucket
 Rani Davis
 Jordon Howle
 Mary Nix
 Chris Earnest
 Joshua Bixby
 Jacob Williams
 Harold Pruitt
 Dee Mauldin
 Wade Dyer
 Ray Kelly
 Graham Jones
 Matt Lopez
 Blake Burnworth
 Sharon O'Neill
 Tom Barton
 Pat Ivie
 Ron Folkes

Boat

Jessica Solis
 Amy White

EFR

Rachel Ford

Drift

Jessica Solis
 Amy White
 Bill Ryan
 Kathleen Ryan
 Kelly Ryan

Divemaster

Denise McNally

Assistant Instructor

Shannon Adams
 Dave Allen
 Bill Gutknecht
 Colonel Echols
 Dani Kempa

Master Scuba Diver Trainer

Stacie Collins

Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

30 Dives

50 Dives

75 Dives

100 Dives

Paul Gilmore

150 Dives

200 Dives

250 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives

Zero Gravity Dive Club Takes Root!

Join us for the Still-house Dive on Sunday September 17th. We would love to have you!

Hi, I'd like to pass along a big thank you to all those who showed up for the first Zero Gravity Dive Club event at Clear Springs from Bonnie, Romy Terri, Tim and Tina and the many others who helped put it together. Darrell Gardner and Paul Gilmore went above and beyond with their mouthwatering BBQ. Thanks Guys! We were taken by surprise at the great turnout. Over 50 people signed up for the club that afternoon. Wow! Now we're working hard to come up with other fun events to top the last. We have decided to take a short ride down to Still House Lake Marina in Belton on Sunday September 17th to join other divers from around the state in Eco Day 4. This is becoming a huge annual event with great prizes, food, diving at three scuba parks located in Lake Stillhouse. The entry fee is 30.00 and includes park entry, lunch, been there done that t-shirt and a chance to win some great prizes while helping clean up the marina. This is open to all ages and fun for the whole family. Bonnie and Romy are leading a group of divers to camp out on Saturday night. You can even bring your dogs along! It takes about 2 ½ hours to get there and more info is posted here; www.zerogravitydiveclub.com. If you want to head down to camp out shoot an email to either Bonnie@zerogravitydiveclub.com or Romy@zerogravitydiveclub.com. Regis-

tration is at 11:00am and the clean up begins at 1:00.

Rich

We want everyone to know what's going on with the club as we grow so if you would like to be kept in the loop please let us know you want to be added to the email list. In the future most updates to club activities will be via club newsletter and the soon to be launched message board.

We have had several people mention they have experience with clubs and are interested in taking an active part in the planning and hosting of events. Please let one of our steering committee know of your interest and we'll find a place for you.

September 22nd there will be a Zero Gravity Dive Club happy hour and meeting at The Bavarian Grill in Plano. If you are interested in attending but not a member you are still welcome to join us for any club events. Some of the benefits of joining the club include a special discount on International Scuba purchases, periodic training sessions, seminars, group priced travel thru Travel for You and other programs yet to be dreamt up. But the biggest benefit will be the fun we all have sharing the Scuba lifestyle!



New Products—Aeris Elite T3

Aeris Elite T3 Hose less Computer

We're excited to have finally received the new **Aeris Elite T3**. Some of you might have seen the demo model during our open house last winter. Some of the features include Multi Gas; up to 3 transmitters can be used at once. You can either use the 3 transmitters for gas switching or you can assign each transmitter to a different buddy to monitor their air consumption, a great feature for any diver that dives with his kids and wants to keep a close eye on things. The display on the **Elite T3** is nice and large with a ton of info at your fingertips but still it is laid out in a manner that makes it easy to find what you want with only a glance.

One cool feature for those that enjoy free diving is the Free Dive Mode. Free Dive Mode allows you to set various audible alarms that track your depth and time while breath hold diving. It even saves your dives for down load later.

The gauge mode is great for Tech diving and allows for tracking bottom time on Deco dives.

The computer is controlled with three buttons and is surprisingly simple to use considering the many advanced functions it will perform. The **Elite T3** can be wrist mounted or for those who prefer an uncluttered arm it comes in a retractor mounted set up. The **Elite T3** has the same functions as the eagerly awaited **Epic** which will come in a smaller almost watch sized package later this fall.

If you have had the desire to cut loose from your hp hose yet still remain air integrated stop by and check it out for yourself.

~Rich



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 — Remembering Our First Breath

I just finished another IDC and we are heading to the Instructor Exam in Nacogdoches this weekend. One of the questions that is asked during introductions is why you want to become an Instructor.

We get a lot of answers but the consistent answer is "we love watching people take their first breath underwater"

Isn't that why we all started diving? We wanted to get closer to the aquatic life and snorkeling just wasn't doing it for us. I can remember snorkeling in Maui with Brian and enjoying the colorful fish but getting tired of free diving. On the flight home, I asked him (already certified since '93) to check into dive shops when we got home. Brian called several shops and International Scuba was the only one that made him feel welcome. That was the warmth that Mike Rowe provided the shop. I came in, signed up and began my journey. I enjoyed everything except my jaws hurt at night. I asked Brian why and he said that was normal because I was new. He told me to relax and enjoy and

my jaws wouldn't hurt so much. He lied a little bit as I soon found out there are different types of mouthpieces. I now swear by SeaQuest comfo bites. They aren't for everyone but they sure helped me.

Those of us who went past the hobby of diving have turned it into a complete lifestyle. We plan vacations around diving destinations and most of the time wouldn't dream of going somewhere without our dive gear.

I finished my Advanced in the late summer and went right into Rescue Diver. What a wonderful course but I was exhausted afterwards. I can't remember the drive from Austin being so long. It was during Advanced Open Water that I realized I wanted to teach Scuba.

I wanted to watch people take their first breath underwater into divers. We are actually in the Transformation business and the way we get there is scuba diving. One of my favorite parts of diving is the first blue water dive where I position myself to watch the divers come out and descend. Their eyes are as big as saucers just like the first night in the pool or the first dive at the lake. They are terrified and amazed all at once. This truly why we do what we do. It doesn't get

any better than watching their expressions and eyes light up at the splendor of the underwater world.

If you enjoy diving and wish to share your love with others, there are spots left on the Dive Master board with your name on it. This is the first step in the transformation business.

~ Patti

Creature Feature — Rock Beauty



Same fish or two different fish—same family? You decide? These are the same fish but between youth and adult they change quite significantly.

As a juvenile as seen in the left above picture, they are bright neon yellow with a dark spot to their back which is somewhat circled in blue.

The adult seen left below looks more like someone took a black paint brush down the midsection on both sides.

Even the fins are different. Hmmm.

Face and lips are occasionally navy blue. They are ready to party.

Rock Beauty are common to occasional in the Caribbean, occasional to uncommon in Florida, Bahamas, Gulf of Mexico, George, Bermuda, and south to Brazil.

The adults establish and patrol defined territories on reefs while the juveniles are secretive and hide in shells and recesses in the reef. They are somewhat shy to divers but can also be curious. Here's the chance for a cool photo.