



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 5, Issue 10

Another Day in Paradise

Howdy Divers,

I am spending my 10th wedding anniversary with some very special friends from the BVI—Jeff and Casey McNutt. It is not only special because they are here but it is also the shop's fifth anniversary. Without them when we were starting out, we wouldn't be where we are now. Funny enough, Jeff and Casey celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary this December.

If you can remember what the shop looked like in the fall of 2001 I hope you think it has improved. Multiple actions achieved this. We have a great team of PADI professionals who work together to make training fun and keep divers diving. We have such a cool culture that folks love to travel and just love to dive.

We are being asked to provide

information to PADI about how we have fun. I would love to hear from you guys about why you hang with us. I personally challenge my Instructor Candidates to build a training weekend where they maximize student fun and certifications and possibly make a little bit of money along the way.

On a special note, we would like to welcome to the team our two newest dive masters: Bonnie Jones and Romy Verhovshek. Please give them a warm welcome and look for their pictures to show up soon both on the wall and the web.

Even better than gaining 2 new team members is the fact that these two ladies also just won the Dive Across Texas program sponsored by Aqualung. They will be the proud recipients of a regulator and BCD. Congrats and keep

on diving. We will be starting a new Dive Across Texas in January 2007. Watch for details.

~ Patti

State Fair? How about Carnival...

Well the corny dogs, fried Twinkies and Oreos are here as the State Fair of Texas is in full swing. So have you thought about Carnival 2007 in Cozumel? From what I hear the trip is selling fast. The trip departs DFW on Friday February 16th and returns Monday the 19th. We will be staying at Casa Mexicana which has a balcony over-looking the parade route. The trip includes a welcome shore dive and 5 boat dives. An additional afternoon boat and night dive are optionally available. Log on to www.travelforyouinc.com today for details or call our friends at 972-306-3260.

Hope to see you there,
John & Suzanne

October 2006

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- OCT 7-8 TERRELL
- OCT 21-22 ??
- NOV 4-5
- NOV 18-19
- DEC 2-3

WHERE TO:

- OCT 22—CSSP PUMPKIN CARVING
- OCT—WAKATOBI
- OCT COZUMEL
- NOV 19-23 GRAND CAYMAN
- FEB 16-19 COZUMEL
- MAY DIVE BVI
- JUN 22-30 BONZIRE
- JUN 29 COZUMEL
- WATCH FOR 2007

Specialty of the Month—Night Diver

Last month I gave you a preview into the October Specialty of the Month, Night Diver. If you've never done a night dive, it's a great way to see creatures in a whole new light. If you have done a night dive, but maybe haven't felt comfortable with it, you can learn a lot more before the next trip. Don't forget if you are a PADI Diving Society member and you purchase your Night Diving course in the month of October you get a free tank marker light.

Now I want to talk about the Specialty of the month for November, Equipment Specialist. Have you wondered exactly how your regulator works? What does balanced, unbalanced, piston and diaphragm really mean? How does a wetsuit work, how about your BCD, SPG, etc? How do I take care of my gear so it will last the longest? What happens during an annual service? All these questions and more will be answered. If you already have your gear, we will cover

these curiosity questions as well as care and maintenance information. If you haven't gotten your own equipment yet, this will help arm you with more information to make the right decision for you.

I can hear it now, the specialty of the month is for November and I don't want to go to the lake to go diving. Well, with that I would say two things. If you are properly dressed, the water temperature doesn't matter much (besides the water temperature will probably still be in the 70's). But even better, for this specialty, there is no dives. Its one evening of classroom and it still counts toward your Master Scuba Diver.

I hope to see you for either the Night Dive for the rest of this month or the Equipment class next month.



Inside this issue:

Specialty of the Month	1
Our Stars	2
Milestones	2
Mares—BCDs	3
Summer Vacation	3
Summer Vacation	4
Instructor Exam	4
CD Corner— Dive Club	5
Creature — Lettuce Sea Slug	5

Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

Ronnie Shy
Wendy Wilson
Rick Guhr
Carla Guhr
Steve Carlson
Dawn Hamilton
Nina Rulon
Greg Nelson
Mark Grover
Marga Bonner
Lisa Lippe
Kristen Lippe
Michelle Daniel
Matt Shanahan
John Bertlesman
Deidrea Johnson
Devion Campion
Micah Wallace

Adventure Diver

Kim Miller
Robert Miller
Dana Poer

Advanced Open Water Diver

Matt Lopez
Tom Barton
Bear Hutchinson
Bobby Rothel

Enriched Air

Pam Hodges
Paul Gilmore
Ray Kelly
Graham Jones
Kevin Gibbs

Tom Barton
Brad Sample

Equipment Specialist

Romy Verhovshek
Bonnie Jones
Pat Lynch
David Love
Tom Baggett

Rescue Diver

Jim Pol
Karen Pol

Gas Blender

David Love
Ale Figari

PPB

Dawn Hamilton
Deidrea Johnson
Nina Rulon
Kristen Lippe
Lisa Lippe
Micah Wallace
Marianne Hostetter
Chris Hostetter
Devon Campion
Marga Bonner
Jim Snyder

Navigation

Tom Barton
Matt Lopez

Wreck

Tom Barton
Matt Lopez

Search & Recovery

Jim Pol
Karen Pol

EFR

John Bailey
Bear Hutchinson

Master Scuba Diver

Jim Pol

Tec Rec Level 1

Richard Thomas
Brian Divine

Open Water Scuba Instructor

Paul Gilmore
Colonel Echols
Adam Fowler
Richard Lemmon
Teri Robinson
Roxie Russell
Richard Russell
Tony Salter

Specialty Instructor

Paul Gilmore
Colonel Echols
Richard Russell
Tony Salter
Richard Thomas
Ale Figari

Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

Sharon O'Neill

30 Dives

50 Dives

Susan Gutknecht
Rhonda Stonaker

75 Dives

100 Dives

Denise McNally

150 Dives

200 Dives

TK Laux

250 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives

Mares unleashes new BC's—taking the market by storm

For female divers:

elegance, functionality, comfort.

Kaila (means "style" in Hawaiian): for the elegant female diver who wants functions and comfort allied with style and distinction. The modern and exclusive design of the Dragon bag allows for optimal buoyancy. The slender design of the front also facilitates buoyancy on the surface. Practicality and style—who says you can't have it all.



Here are a few of the features:

- dual adjustable shoulder straps to adapt to different torso lengths.
- Trim weights that hold up to 10lbs
- Elastic cummerbund
- Neoprene padded collar
- Interior plush lined
- Should straps designed to relieved pressure on the shoulders
- Adjustable chest strap

- 2 rear quick dump / over expansion valves
- Dual position hose clip for you gauges

Next is the Dragon for men. Tightly tailored bladder reducing drag, placing much of the air around the tank, and contoured to greatly minimize the feel of the bladder underneath your arms and creating comfortable surface flotation.

Here are a few of the features:



- Lift is 44lbs
- Innovative protective buoyancy cover: Super combination of 3D Alutex protection, abrasion resistant net, smooth shield fabric covering 420 denier
- Trim weights that hold up to 10bs. They are positioned in the lower part of the BCD for better upright efficiency at the surface and a more streamlined profile

- Dual position lumbar capability patented as BPS Plus (Back Protection System). You can double the padding for increased support or extend the length of the padding depending on body shape
- Elastic cummerbund
- Quick Adjust System to adjust the length of the cummerbund
- Neoprene padded collar

No matter which BC you choose you will get the new MRS weight system. MRS Plus represents the evolution of the first mechanical-release weight system introduced on the market. Incorporating a newly designed buckle system, simply click the buckle in place for optimum security, one pull movement to release your weights. Shaped pockets to form to your waist. Large, zippered opening allows for easier insertion of weights. Max load of 6 Kg/13 lbs with most sizes. Inside Velcro to section the pocket in the event you don't use the full capacity.

~Rich

MRS Plus represents the evolution of the first mechanical-release weight system introduced on the market.

What I did on my Summer Vacation

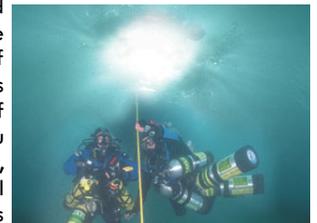
Well, that title brings back some odd childhood memories. Hopefully all of you had a great summer and are enjoying the nice weather that finally came. We had a lot of people both go on trips with us and tell us about the trips they went on independently. I was jealous of most of them. Unfortunately I was not able to go on many trips this year, but I did do something that I rarely get to do these days. I got to play student instead of instructor. I still enjoy learning new things and decided it was time again. If you were in the shop at the end of September, you probably noticed that Patti was working a lot and alone. That's because Rich and I took a little over a week off to take the DSAT Tec Deep course.



You may remember that I had taken the TDI Advanced Nitrox/Deco Course about 2 years ago. So why did I take this course? For a couple reasons: 1) The DSAT Tec Deep course actually goes a bit further. It is nearly equivalent to the two TDI course plus their extended range course (to me it actually is a bit more than that as well, but that is the closest equivalent). 2) It had been a couple years and my skills were very rusty. It would take as much time and energy to get my skills back up to where they should be on my own as it was to take the class. 3) I eventually want to teach the course, so taking it from the beginning will give me that perspective.

For those of you who do not know, the DSAT Tec Deep course teaches you to go beyond recreational diving in a planned and controlled way. It allows you to go to 165 feet on air/Nitrox and used accelerated decompression on Oxygen up to 100%. Ok what did all that mean? Basically you can go past where the tables or computers tell you for both time and depth.

You will get into decompression (as opposed to no-stop diving) and so will have to plan for and make decompression stops. You can make those shorter by using higher mixes of Nitrox and switching gasses along the way. You train using double cylinders and up to two decompression mixes. This means you are carrying up to 4 cylinders, two on your back and two on the sides. If that sounds like a lot of gear, you are correct, it is. But all that gear is what keeps you safe and controlled. There is redundancy for everything, but at the same time everything is kept as simple and streamlined as possible. If you don't need it for the dive, don't take it. If you do need it, take two and keep it stowed but easily accessible.



Since there are not many people in our area

Summer Vacation Continued...

that teach this course, we had a friend of ours from Mexico come up to teach us. She is a Course Director that went through the Course Director training with Patti. If you saw a little Italian lady who currently lives in Mexico around the shop last month, it was Ale.

Technical training is a bit more intense than any other course I have taken, including the instructor course. At this level you can no longer go directly to the surface if needed so more can go wrong. That is a lot of what the course is about, to train you to see what can happen and plan on ways to prevent the problem.

The course consists of 12 dives that gradually get more complex. You start in fairly shallow water (no deeper than 30 feet) doing basic skill in doubles. It doesn't matter how long you have been diving, you feel like you are starting over with all the new gear. Fortunately, it comes together fairly quickly. The dives progress a little deeper each time with a number of skills on each dive. The skills build on each other, so toward the end what at first seemed like it was complex is now fairly straight forward. That's not to say we didn't struggle, trust me, we did. However, it was some of the more subtle points of doing multiple things at once that caused issues. Once you get the priorities in mind it becomes more a matter of practice.

I would like to say Rich and I are now successful Tec Deep divers, but unfortunately I can't (we are level 1 or Tec Deep apprentice though). It's not because of anything we did, but rather this lovely drought we are in. We could get the depth for the final dive that we needed. Ale will be returning in February where we can go to a different location if we need to get one more dive in. After that we (Patti, Ale, Me and a number of others) head to Palau. A few of us will do some technical dives since they have areas for both technical and recreational levels. I'm looking forward to that.

Technical Diving is not for everyone. As you can imagine there is more risk involved. If you aren't willing to take that risk, then there are plenty of places to see at the recreational level. If this sounds intriguing, come by and talk to Rich or myself. We will be holding more classes next year. Ale will be coming back. We will arrange the classes so we can do academic work in the evenings during the week and the dives over the weekend (maybe with a couple 3 day weekends). We have a few places we have found since Rich and I did the course that we can go to make sure we get the depth we need toward the end.



Instructor Examination from the newest Instructor on the team

Hello everyone, being the latest one from the shop to go to the IE and while it is still fresh on my mind I wanted to relay to you what it is all about and what you can expect should you decide to go the open water scuba instructor route. I want to tell you it is very rewarding. If you hang out in the shop or at the lake for any amount of time you will hear people say that the Rescue course was the most challenging and the most rewarding. I want to say that the IE is the same way. By the time you get to the IE you have already done all of the things the evaluators are going to ask you to do. You have come through the dive master course and have also completed the Assistant instructor course as well as doing the OWSI course with Patti.

Before you get to the IE, you have spent lots of time with Patti and the staff. Let me assure you that if you heard a rumor that PADI wants to fail a certain amount that is not true. The IE is truly a review of what you have already learned. Patti also will tell you if you should or should not go to the IE. She has been around a while and she knows what it takes to be successful. You can count on her to tell you the truth.

So for the IE. In my case we loaded up Friday night and headed to Nacogdoches. We checked into the hotel. The whole way down there the group was reviewing us with knowledge questions. We got there and checked into the hotel and we reviewed some more. We then woke up way to early and we had our orientation. After the orientation we started with our 5 theory test and our Standards test. This was the most stressful part for me. Looking back on the whole weekend the hardest part was the pressure I put on myself. Because by this point you truly do know everything you will be doing. After the test we then went in and did our classroom presentations, again the hardest part was the stress I put on myself. About this time I realized they really are just doing a review of what we know. From this point on I really started having fun and started seeing light at the end of the tunnel. We then went to the pool and did our pool presentations. This made for a long day. We were all beat and went out as a group to have dinner and relax.

The next morning we got up again way to early and went to the lake for our final two exercises. The first was the rescue scenario and the second was our lake presentation. All of us that went were successful! Let me

tell you by the end of the weekend we were exhausted and very excited. I hope that many of you will experience this as it is very rewarding. Patti and her staff do a great job and we went in knowing that we were going to be successful because we knew she had prepared us well. If you have any questions about the IE or the process to get there don't hesitate to ask me or any of the staff at International Scuba. This is after all a passion of ours and we love talking about it. I hope to see you soon in the water.

~Paul Gilmore (new OWSI)



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



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CD Corner — Zero Gravity Divers

Howdy Divers,

I am the spokesperson for the dive Club this month. Sorry about that.

I would like to invite you to the dive club meeting on Wednesday night at Fish City Grill October 18th at 7:00pm. The location is 18149 Dallas Pkwy #110 in Carrollton. Topics to be included: fun and planning for 2006-2007 events. Bring your ideas—nothing is too silly!

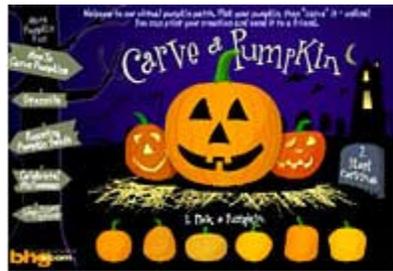
Sunday October 22nd at 2pm at Clear Springs we will hold our 1st annual pumpkin carving and chili cook-off contest. This should be a blast. Please remember to bring your own pumpkin and carving tools. Note to self: pumpkins float.

When you bring your chili—we will have power to keep it warm so a crock pot type of appliance is recommended.

As for voting. Should be fun because instead of a traditional panel of judges you will be the judges. Everyone will have the opportunity to sample the chili and look at the pumpkins then vote.

Those of you who don't wish to participate in either activity are welcome to fun dive—there should be plenty of folks around to dive.

~ Patti



Creature Feature — Lettuce Sea Slug



Is this not the coolest little critter you have ever seen? John and Suzanne just came back from San Salvador and have some great pictures of this little guy.

If you don't look closely it appears on the reef as a piece of leaf lettuce. Your first thought is what's a piece of salad doing on the reef and how is it that it's not wilted.

Well, that is because he is a little sea slug that typically doesn't grow more than 2 inches long.

The skin ruffle colors vary from the neat green you see to baby blue to cream.

The next Caribbean dive you are on—watch the reef closely for more salad. You never know what you will see.

Also, watch in next month's newsletter for an article from John and Suz about their awesome trip on the Caribbean Explorer.