



# International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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October 2007

## Let the Fall Fun Begin

Howdy Divers,

Well, late September and early October have proven to be quite the lineup in College Football. If you are betting folks I don't think I would look at colleges based on the shakeup of the top 10. That means sit back enjoy the games and in between come diving with us.

There is still plenty of diving to be had as the weather hasn't cooled off just yet. Rich is heading to Possum Kingdom on Sunday to do a little deep diving if you are interested. Email him to say you're coming or if you need gear.

Remember we will have our 2nd

Annual Zero Gravity Dive Club Pumpkin Carving and Chili Cook-off at CSSP on the 28th. We had so much fun last year, can't wait to see the winners.

We are waiting for the lineup of Flower Gardens trip but we have definitely signed up for the Dry Tortugas in May. Come join our newest team member, Anthony Griffith as he leads the trip.

Stop in some time and chat with Anthony, you would swear Dutch is back. Lots of cool dive stories and enthusiasm to boot.

Happy Halloween to all of you as we will be at DEMA when the spooks

arrive this year.

Hope to dive with you soon!

~ Patti



## Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

### WEEKEND:

- OCT 13-14 TERRELL
- OCT 27-28 TERRELL
- NOV 10-11 TERRELL
- DEC 8-9 TERRELL

### WHERE TO:

- OCT—WAKATOBI
- JAN 12-19 —TURKS AND CAICOS AGGRESSOR
- JAN 25-30 CARNIVAL COZUMEL
- MAR 1-6 AKUMAL
- APR BELIZE
- MAY
- FEB 2010—PALAU

## Specialty of the Month— Getting Equipped

Hi everyone. Hopefully you are back in the swing after school has started. I am writing this at the same time we are preparing to go to DEMA, the annual dive industry trade show. It's really pretty exciting. We attend lots of seminars for travel, equipment, and industry changes. In addition, the showroom floor is huge. All the travel destinations are there telling us about their area (it makes me want to go to them all). Also we see and learn about new equipment. It's our chance to learn all about the things we tell you when you walk through our doors.

That brings me to Novembers Specialty of the Month, Equipment Specialist. We get a lot of questions about how equipment works, how do you best maintain it, and what is the best equipment for someone. Those are all good questions. Some are fairly easy to answer, some the short answer is 'it depends'. All these questions and more can be answered in the equipment specialist course.

The equipment specialist course takes one evening, and no dives are required. It covers topics such as how equipment works. We'll show you the inside of a couple different regulators and explain what they do. How do the various BCD's work? What makes a good wetsuit? What are all those markings on a scuba tank? What about dive computers, depth gauges

and pressure gauges? How do you take care of all this equipment? What is done in an annual service? What is done in a visual inspection on a tank, how about a hydrostatic test?

This course is quite flexible. There are certain things we must cover, but we can also tailor it to the interests of the students. If you want to go more in depth on a particular subject just let us know. Do you want to see a full blown annual service on a regulator; we can schedule a time when we are doing one and you can watch and see all the things we do.

There is one thing that this course is not. It is not an equipment repair course. In order to be able to repair equipment, you must take classes offered by the manufacturer, since each brand does things slightly differently.

The Equipment Specialist course required no dives, so if the weather is a bit off for diving, you can still learn. It does count toward your Master Scuba Diver rating, and like all the specialty of the month's, there is a gift available from the PADI Diving Society for signing up in the month of November.

Also a couple reminders, there is still time to take advantage of the October specialty of the month, Dry Suit.

Also if you order a Dry Suit through us, we will get the dry suit specialty as part of your purchase price through November. There is also still time to take the Underwater Digital Photography course as part of the Specialty of the Year. Let us know if you are interested in any of these.

Happy diving,

Brian



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## Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

### Junior Open Water

Tyler Kabelleo

### Open Water (White Belt)

Ryan Abrey  
 Steve Abrey  
 James Frazer  
 Tommy Hatfield  
 Zac Fowler  
 Susan Coffey  
 Billy Coffey  
 Seneca Menard  
 Ronn Harbin  
 Chris Cummings  
 Doug Bohannon  
 Selena Solis  
 Josiah Ruddell  
 Craig Brooks  
 Jarmo Alm  
 Jeff Morgan  
 Cheryl Quisenberry

### National Geographic Open Water (Green Belt)

Daniel Merkel

### Advanced Open Water Diver

Tonni Shook  
 Greg Walter  
 Randi Walter  
 Elena Perez  
 Nathan Edwards  
 Maryn Gier  
 Lance Thomas

Mike Duncan  
 Diana McKeever  
 Leo Gonzalez

### Enriched Air

Lisa Piper  
 Didi Wykes  
 Pat Arnett

### Emergency First Response

Jon Barcellona  
 Dan Porter  
 David Ivie  
 Pat Ivie  
 Andrew Levi  
 Lisa Sorensen  
 Jennifer Long  
 Ruth Bernhardt  
 Fred Bernhardt  
 Mayve Strong  
 Jeff Strong

### Deep

Jim Pasant

### Boat

Steve Abrey  
 Ryan Abrey  
 Randi Walter  
 Greg Walter  
 Lisa Piper

### Navigation

Lance Thomas  
 Brian Brewer  
 John Else

### Drift

Steve Abrey  
 Ryan Abrey  
 Randi Walter  
 Greg Walter  
 Lisa Piper

### Dolphin Re-breather

Ho Lee  
 Steve Vaughn

### Gas Blender

Greg Johns

### Rescue

Pat Arnett  
 Cindi Smart  
 Lisa Sorensen  
 Jennifer Long  
 David Ivie  
 Pat Ivie  
 Dean Follmer

### Hazardous Marine Life

Cindi Smart  
 Pat Arnett

### Onsite Neurological Assessment

Cindi Smart  
 Pat Arnett

### PPB

Melinda Beyer  
 Brian Beyer  
 Mike Trevino  
 Jana Trevino  
 Seneca Menard  
 Ronn Harbin  
 Chris Cummings  
 Doug Bohannon  
 Jarmo Alm  
 Jeff Morgan  
 Cheryl Quisenberry  
 Debbie O'Connor  
 Colton O'Connor

### Dive Master

Aaron Parets



## 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

Cindi Smart

### 100 Dives

Jennifer Long

### 150 Dives

### 200 Dives

### 250 Dives

### 300 Dives

### 350 Dives

### 400 Dives

### 500 Dives

### 600 Dives

### 700 Dives

## Pre-DEMA Preparation

Every year thousands of dive professionals, from all over the world, make their way toward DEMA. There they are shown wondrous new toys offered by the manufacturers. It boggles the mind to wander the aisles and take in all the new products fighting for space in our gear bags. Some of the inventors attend DEMA to launch a new invention or try to build hype for its future release. I have watched for 3 years straight a prototype for jet propelled fins. I am not sure it will ever reach production. Sometimes we run across cutting edge gear that is worth keeping an eye on. I first saw the manta fins at DEMA and have been very happy with them. Once a Dive Master from Phuket handed me a cool mask strap he had invented that had some neat possibilities. I loved that strap, but did not know where to order it from. I have never seen him again.

Gear is not the only reason we attend DEMA. Last year, Patti, Amanda, and I spent about 90% of our time in seminars and classes. We wanted to improve our knowledge on products, and attend repair courses to keep current with the latest repair and warranty procedures. We also sat in on intensive instructor trainer level courses only offered at DEMA, such as DAN BLS-Pro Training or EFR Instructor Trainer courses.

You might have heard that Patti and International Scuba were honored with an award for Outstanding Contribution to the Dive Industry in 2006! This year we have been invited to join other top retailers and operators from around the world to brainstorm

new ideas to improve diving education and how we can better take care of you, our divers.

One very important piece of business we take care of every year is to visit as many dive operators as possible. This is an opportunity to feel out operators that might be just right for a new exotic destination. We might also learn about the best deals at your favorite dive spots.

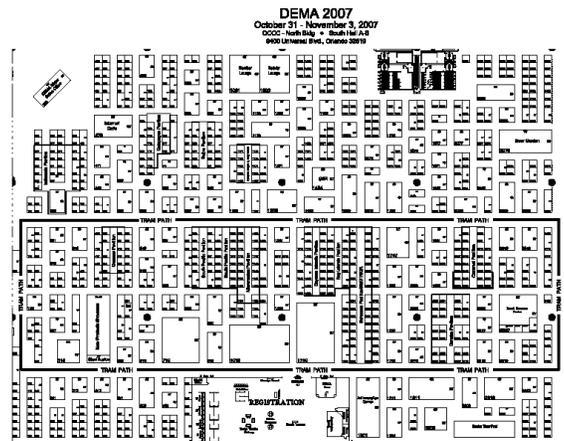
There are still several weeks before we leave for Orlando this year, yet Patti, Brian, and I have already had a couple of strategy meetings for attacking all the possibilities and zeroing in on the must see and do vendors.

Unless you are a dive professional, you will never get to walk the aisle of DEMA yourself. I have always thought what a shame not to share the experience with all of our avid divers. So this year I am going to try an experiment. If you have a certain piece of gear or exotic location you want more info about, let me know, and I will do my best to get you the information that has eluded you before. To make this a streamlined process, and keep it simple, just send me an email at [Rich@Internationalscuba.com](mailto:Rich@Internationalscuba.com) with DEMA Request in the subject line. If you will limit your requests to 2 items, I will try to make the rounds and find information on each request. Please submit your requests by Oct. 25th so I will have time to sort through them. I will take the most

requested items and write a recap, for the newsletter, of what we saw and learned while in Orlando. I hope this can become an annual feature that will give you a behind the scenes look at diving's biggest gathering.

Since DEMA is for professionals we have a plan for our recreational Divers. The North Texas Retailers Association is hosting a mini-DEMA show on December 8th in the afternoon. We will have 6-8 vendors and the same number of travel folks displaying their goods. Stay tuned for details so you can purchase your tickets in advance. There will be a chance to win an Australian trip for 2.

~ Rich



## Meet our Team—Curtis & Bonnie

I've noticed lately that some of our new divers and longtime divers have asked about the growing number of smiling faces on the team wall. With a team as large as ours you might not have had a chance to meet some folks. I want to devote a little space each month to introducing you to our superb group of diving professionals. We've asked them to share a few fun facts so you can get know them better. I'll try to mix a newer team member along with a seasoned pro.

For our first time I would like to introduce you to our Crusty Old Veteran, **Curtis Powell** probably one of the best dive masters to ever suit up, and now as an instructor one of our most requested. Curtis has cut his teeth conducting countless Discover Scuba dives with intrepid divers to be. Curt is famous for taking a nervous newbie and turning them into confident divers. If you've never camped out with Curt during one of his Open Water weekends you haven't had the complete International Scuba experience. Curt embodies the spirit of the scuba lifestyle and always makes every weekend a special one that students will remember long after getting certified.

**Bonnie Jones** is our second team member featured. It seems like Bonnie has always been here but really it's only been a short time. Bonnie has literally jumped in with both feet, spending darn near every weekend diving. Many people have seen Bonnie working hard to show members of the Zero Gravity Dive Club a good time as a founding member. It's appropriate that Bonnie is featured along side Curtis, as Bonnie has the same passion to share scuba and the deep commitment to make each training weekend a memorable one.

### Curt Powell - PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer



**How did you get started diving?** My best friend David Lee got me interested in diving years ago. He was a volunteer fireman and on the U/W search team in his hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. His stories sounded adventuresome. I thought diving might be for me

too. So, in 1988 I earned my Open Water certification. I wish I hadn't waited till I was 28 years old. My wife Carolyn met my instructor and became interested also. She signed up for the next class he was teaching. Cool for me. Instant dive buddy! This also worked out well as we were able to share in this new activity. We traveled some and dove together.

Then we decided to have a child, our daughter Jessica. We were busy being parents, and didn't dive much. I was also water-skiing every warm w/e and my scuba equipment was shelved most of the time.

**What brought you to International Scuba?** In 1999, after a third knee surgery, I decided water-ski injuries might impede me at work. I needed a different hobby. I dusted off my tanks and stopped by International Scuba to have them hydrostatically tested. After talking with Mike Rowe, then the I.S. store manager, he convinced me to take the Advanced Open Water class. I sure was glad I did. During my AOW lake w/e, I was impressed with the Dive Master that was helping the instructors. I wanted to be a Dive Master too. My instructors encouraged me to go for it. They explained the steps it took to get to that level of certification. So, in July 2000, I completed DM. I Dive mastered for I.S. classes for 3 years. Then Assistant Instructor was made available to me and the other staff DM's. Patti conducted the IDC and made it fun. The 5 of us had a great time earning

our new titles. A.I. A.I was great, much more to do and learn. I also tried to do every Discover Scuba that came along, so I could share the scuba experience with new people. That was personally rewarding. In March 2006, I was encouraged by all the staff at I.S. to go on to Instructor. Patti conducted the 2nd portion of the IDC for Rich Thomas, Stacie Collins, and me. Patti made us successful, and with effort on our part we all passed the instructor evaluation. I was very fortunate to have gone through my instructors training with Rich and Stacie. I know the 3 of us will always have the closeness of friendship from our experience on those two weekends. Hopefully, I'll be able to share scuba with many others for a long time. I can't give back to those who taught me, they already know. But, I can "Pay it forward" to the new people who I get to meet.

**Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.** Something about me that no one knows.... I like the quiet in my home after we bug bomb. Those insects can be real "chatty." Especially spiders after the bug bombing, I can never seem to hear them. Until they re-populate.

**If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?** I don't think I would like to live on the "islands" right now. I like it here in the states.

**What is your oddest diving experience?** Probably the time I inadvertently swam into a mini-cave at Lake Whitney. Low viz, dark, and unfamiliar area. I was truly scared for about 5 seconds since my head had hit an unseen rock ceiling. Then, I remembered my training, reversed course, and came right out.



**What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?** Keep learning by practice and courses. You'll be amazed at the benefits.

**If I were reincarnated as a fish, what kind of fish would I be?** I'd like to come back as a Barracuda. They seem so relaxed and independent. Plus, they have the Dallas Cowboys colors built in.

Thanks to all of you in my "scuba" family, Instructors and Students. I am truly fortunate to have had you all in my life.

And especially, Thanks to my wife, Carolyn. You'll always be my #1 dive buddy.

### Bonnie Jones PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor



**How did you get started diving?** I went to eat sushi one night in McKinney and the hostess sat me next to TK. TK can talk to just about anyone and he struck up a casual conversation. I was at a point in my life that I needed new challenges and he gave me his business card and told me about the class called Discover Scuba Diving. I went to International Scuba and took the DSD class and my life has never been the same. I found an undiscovered passion with that first breath under water. I have been diving every chance I get since that day I decided to go eat sushi. You never know what choices we make that can alter our lives. If I had gone to eat Mexican food that night, where would I be now?

**Number of years diving?** 2 years **Number of years as professional?** 2 months

**How many dives?** 200+

### What brought you to International Scuba?

TK introduced me to IS. The friendly people and atmosphere kept me coming back.

**Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.** I don't know. I am pretty much an open book. I guess that I enjoy TEACHING diving as much as I enjoy diving.

**If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?** I would love to live in the Caribbean where there are beautiful reefs and warm water.

**What is your oddest diving experience?** In the Bahamas at a dive site called Bull Run, there is a grouper the dive masters have named "Peaches". She is huge and beautiful! She is intrigued with divers and will allow you to hold and pet her if you stay very still and move slowly. She will even kiss you if you are really patient. I used up a full tank playing with her on one of my dives last summer.



**What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?** Have fun and be safe!!!

**If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?** I think I would have to be stingray. They are so beautiful and graceful.

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.



Getting You There... Starts Here!

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## CD Corner — New Journey

Howdy Divers,

It isn't too many of us who get to take a hobby, turn it into a life style then get to take it on the road. Many of us know Jeff and Casey are living the life in paradise. I also get to take the next step. While I am not beach bound just yet, I am embarking on the next step. There are lots of Course Directors who get to travel abroad so this is nothing new in the grand scheme of the PADI system — just new to me.

I am privileged to work with two other great shops in the Metroplex, Dive Monster and Aqua World. Having delivered programs with these folks it's now time to pack my bags. I leave Saturday evening after completing an IDC here for another IDC across the Red River. I am really excited to be forging a new relationship with Blue Water Divers in Oklahoma City. I staffed an IDC when Allen was becoming an instructor. When he decided to take the next step himself and become an IDC Staff Instructor, he went searching for his Course Director who he believed in whole heartedly. Allen got me instead. I had to prove to him that I could

do the job and fill big big shoes. We worked hard together over the last few months to grow the dive industry in our parts of the world. When he decided to take his 5 Star Dive Center to the next level (5 Star IDC), he asked me to help him. Now that he has this new status, I am privileged to head north and conduct his first complete IDC with 5-6 candidates. We will be at Lake Tenkiller on October 21<sup>st</sup> if anyone wants to head north for some nice diving.

Think about the first time you slept away from home. You didn't have your bed, your smells, and your routine. That is something that takes time to adjust to. I traveled corporately for close to 15 years so the whole packing is routine. Even the packing of products I needed for each client was easy. Because of the way we teach within the PADI system, we use lots of educational tools and such so packing these have been a challenge. I am not going to the sticks or anything but when you get settled into a routine and expect things to be there and now you have to pack it... I can't wait to start the new journey. We will teach for a solid 8 days and prepare candidates to go from Dive Masters to Open Water Scuba Instructors. The

plan is to have a total of 10 new instructors by the end of the month.

So, stay tuned for my exciting update on how the new journey is progressing next month.

~ Patti

## Creature Feature — Great Barracuda



Who hasn't been cruising along a reef and looked up to see a curious jagged toothed fish just staring? They seem to come from no where and just watch you.

I remember being told not to wear jewelry or shiny things that might look like fishing lures. I dive a shiny second stage so I tend to duck down a bit and cross my arms when they come along. No need to test the theory. I always think they could use a dentist. Moral of the story is dive safe.

Some facts about our toothy friends: range in length from 1'-6', typically found in depths of 5'-60', cylindrical body with scattered dark blotches.

Typically the Great Barracuda is solitary or very small groups. Must be a lonely way to live.

There have been no reports of unprovoked attacks on divers but certainly spear fisherman have had incidents.

~Jennifer