



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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October 2008

Fall—A Time to Dive!

Hey Divers,

It is the time of the year when many people are slowing down their outdoor activities (except for tail-gate parties). They seem to be closing themselves in for the coming winter. That is probably a good thing—if you're a farmer. As a diver, however, it is now time to really get involved.

The lakes are starting to clear up because of the algae die off. While the water may be cooler, it simply means a thicker wetsuit. This

is a great time to work on skills and specialties.

There are so many fun activities available to our dive family. The specialty of the month for October is Night Diving, November is Underwater Navigator, December is Search and Recovery. But, you can take any that we offer at any time. Just call and ask and we will work on scheduling what you need. Fall is an excellent time to take your Dry Suit certification. The cooler temperatures keep you comfortable both in the water and out.

If you are already having an attack of the "fall blues," maybe you need some tropical weather to brighten up your spirits. We still have four slots for the Thanksgiving Bonaire trip.

Don't forget about the Annual "Punkin Carvin" and Chili Cook-off. This year they will be held on October 26 at Clear Springs Scuba Park. Remember that you can get a Distinctive Specialty for Pumpkin Carving!

Dive often, dive safe, have fun
~ Anthony

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

OCT 11-12 CSSP

OCT 25-26 PUNKIN CARVIN

NOV 8-9 CSSP

NOV 22-23 CSSP

DEC 13-14 CSSP

JAN

WHERE TO:

NOV 21-29 BONAIRE

FEB 20-25 COZUMEL—CARNIVAL

FLOWER GARDENS—LOTS!!!!

JUN 20-27 2-009—CAYMAN

AGRESSOR

SEPT 19-26 ST. LUCIA

FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

Specialty of the Month— Underwater Navigator

Finding our way

Hi all,

Wow, what a month it's been. We have met some pretty great people at the new shop in Garland. Divers all over are definitely passionate about their sport. Rich is having fun meeting all the new people. (Speaking of Rich, congratulate him and his new bride [no it's not Muffin]. He's now a newlywed). Anthony is taking on his new role as Retail Manager in Carrollton with a passion. The instructional staff at both locations is outstanding. What a team we have.

Am I rambling again? Ok, I'll stop for now. I actually want to talk about the Specialty of the Month for November, Underwater Navigator. For those of you who know me, you know I have a compass in my head. The only problem is that it is missing the magnet. Because of that I need to rely on both compass and natural navigation. In your open water course you learned how to use your compass to go out and back. If you have taken the advanced open water, you have added a square and some distance calculations to that. In the Underwater Navigator course you learn how to get comfortable with that little item on

your console. You will learn both natural and compass navigation, how to create a course and how to run a course. This will create a nice confidence to trust your compass. This is a three dive course. The good news is that if you have taken the advanced open water, you have done one of the dives. So, you haven't taken Advanced Open Water yet. That's OK. The first dive of this specialty will count toward that course. Not a bad deal huh? This course is a great lead-in to the Search and Recovery specialty. I won't give too much away, but you will be using your compass a lot in that one. It's hard to do a lot of search patterns without it. Don't forget, if you are a PADI Diving Society member, you will get a free gift for taking the specialty of the month or the specialty of the year.

Remember to come check us out at both locations. Rich and Anthony both like to see both the familiar faces and the new ones.

Happy diving,
Brian



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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Dennis Foote
Stephanie Rocha
Logan Wilson
Rob Jones
Amy Cote

Tressa Marbach

Wreck

Jocelyn Sprinzi
Aaron Bath

Navigation

Tressa Marbach

Naturalist

Daniel Cho

Night

Michael Pechloff
Teresa Pechloff

Advanced Open Water

Jason Freeman
Steve Cantu
Alan Meador
Joe Bass

Enriched Air

Patrick Oden
Butch Pugh
Sheryl Pugh
Joe Bass

EFR

Trey Van Pelt
Lori Fox
Gale Smith

DPV

Tressa Marbach
Alan Meador
Rick Troutte
Daniel Cho

Search & Recovery

Rick Troutte
Steve Cantu

Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Amy Cote

Deep

Rick Troutte

Equipment Specialist

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Brinni Gentry
David Gentry
Jocelyn Sprinzi

Assistant Instructor

Danny Rowell
Ken Olivier
Patrick Wirtz

Open Water Scuba Instructor

Danny Rowell
Ken Olivier

IDC Staff Instructor

Tom March

Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

Mayve Strong

300 Dives

20 Dives

Jeff Strong

350 Dives

Fred Bernhart

25 Dives

Ruth Bernhart

400 Dives

50 Dives

Lori Fox

100 Dives

150 Dives

200 Dives

500 Dives



Meet our Team— Jim and Kevin

Howdy Divers!

This month we are featuring two longtime instructors that may be new to some of our divers.

Kevin Murphy has been around helping out here and there for years but has recently joined the team to play with us full time. He is well known for his help in developing the famous Underwater Pumpkin Carving Specialty and then team teaching the class dressed as Jake from the Blues Brothers. Kevin is always ready to have a good time and bring his sense of humor to diving. Kevin is also our in house Re-breather instructor. If you are interested in this increasingly more popular dive technology just ask Kevin. It's rumored that Kevin has wonderful video from his trip to Palau, but it has yet to surface. If we ever get our hands on this video there will certainly be a public showing of the spectacular diving found in Palau.

Jim Clingman AKA Scuba Jim has been spreading his love for scuba for years over on the Garland side town. His is known far and wide for his prowess with a spear gun. Jim travels far and wide to compete in spear fishing tournaments and often taking home the prize.

Jim also has extra strong Mojo! You are probably asking what the heck are you talking about? Jim is extremely successful at winning any raffle or drawing by using his mojo as I saw first hand at the Zero Gravity Dive Club meeting last month. Jim walks up just before the winner is announced. Everyone laughs at him for being funny. Then the darndest thing happens, his name gets called and he is the winner. It seems this has been going on for sometime now and I look forward to trying his technique myself.

Make sure and welcome two of our newest team members Kevin Murphy and Jim Clingman next time you see them.

Cheers,

Rich

Jim Clingman—Open Water Scuba Instructor

How did you get started diving? I started my diving life with a trip to Playa Del Carmen back when there were only a few resorts there. My wife (previous) and I signed up for the Discover



Scuba. We did the hour or so in the pool and headed out on the boat for our dive. My wife didn't handle the trip very well and chose no

to make the dive so I went by myself while she stayed on the boat. It was everything I thought it would be and more. We returned to the resort and the dive Instructor asked if I would like to go back out with them and use the tank my wife didn't. The answer was YES!

Number of years diving? Number of years as professional? How many dives? I have been diving for approx 11 years and have been an instructor for 9 years. I have over 1000 dives and counting.

What brought you to International Scuba? International Scuba came to me! I have been an instructor at Aqua World

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. Nothing too shocking! I was a DJ in a dance club both here in Dallas as well as in Pensacola Florida back in the early to mid 80s. I have 2 grown sons 22 and 28 along with 3 grandchildren. My grand kids call me Grumpy Grandpa Jim. If you know me well enough you would know that I am anything but grumpy!

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? I am not really sure. I think I would need a year or so to travel and find just the right place.

What is your oddest diving experience? On a dare I once spent an entire dive in Cozumel drifting along upside down. 1 hour and 15 minutes of watching the world in a different way.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Dive, Dive, Dive! Especially working on your buoyancy skills. It makes all your diving so much more fun.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? Whale Shark! Nobody wants to eat you, the little guy's all want to tag along, you get to each as much as you can and They are just plain cool!

Kevin Murphy—Master Instructor

How did you get started diving? Back in 1979 I found an old tank and regulator in our garage. I had the regulator serviced, purchased a horse collar BC and began diving (still have that gear).



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

almost 30 years, was a Commercial Diver working in the gulf in the early 80's, and became a recreational instructor in 1998. Log books came and went over the years, and the exact number of dives is unknown.

What brought you to International Scuba? I took my instructor training from Mike Rowe when International Scuba was just starting out. I returned about 4 years ago and met Patti when I needed assistance with a kid's scuba program. Been hanging around the shop ever since.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn. Nobody knows "I'm Elvis"

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be? My plans are to retire on an island, still looking for the right place, have been thinking lately about working on a live-a-board somewhere

What is your oddest diving experience? A couple of odd questions I have been asked over the years: "How many breaths can I get out of this snorkel" and "How long does it take you to swim under the island" (meaning one side to the other)

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver? Join a club and keep diving

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be? I would not mind cruising the blue water as a Hammerhead shark

Fall Activities

October 22—25 DEMA in Las Vegas

It's that time of year again. We are heading to the annual Dive Equipment Manufacturers trade show to look for cool new things for the store. What would you like to see. Please let us know by early October and we will definitely look for you.



October 26 3rd Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest & Chili Contest.

Come out to Clear Springs Scuba Park for our annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest. And since you're participating anyway, sign up for the Distinctive Specialty and tell your friends that you spent the weekend carving Jack-O-Lanterns underwater! If you have a favorite chili recipe, bring it pre-made in a crock pot and enter the Zero Gravity Chili Contest. You could be this year's winner!



October 31 Look for special activities at the shop. You will get additional savings for coming in costume. More to come!!!!!!

November 15 Pre-Holiday get together in **Garland**. Start the season off right by shopping early. Avoid the Christmas rush—yes gentlemen that includes you. With so many parties and such in December we forget to feed our favorite habit so we are doing our annual Bash in November instead.

December 13 North Texas Retailers Association (NTSRA) will host it's annual Christmas Party/Bash at Love and War in Texas in Plano from 4-8pm. Lots of cool raffle prizes and the chance for a trip to destinations yet to be determined. The \$5 admission fee goes to the North Texas Food Bank. Everyone wins this way!

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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CD Corner — Fall Fun

Howdy Divers,

You know when spring is in the air, everyone is in the flower beds and counting the days until summer hits and vacations come.

I am a bit of the opposite. As many of you know I am a college football maniac followed closely by holiday decoration nut. The guys at the shop and Brian cringe this time of year. For good reason—even Muffin got drafted last year to be my sidekick at Halloween.

The weather is cool again but that doesn't mean we can't go diving just means a wetsuit or a thicker one for some of you. We are excited about the **3rd Annual Pumpkin Carving and Chili Cook-off** on the 26th. We hope you will join us.

Watch for decorations in both stores and special sales and promotions as the year ends. We are bringing in new lines in Garland that

will help your decision making and increase your selections. We have been asked for a while now to carry Atomic and Oceanic so here they come! They have a great line of products that complement what we carry here in Carrollton.

I know it is the fall because in between skills divers are talking about the game last weekend, the one coming up for what are you doing for Thanksgiving or Christmas. We're going to Bonaire this Thanksgiving and still have room for 4 folks if you care to join us.

It's never too early to think about your Santa wish list so don't forget to come shopping and fill out an "All I want for Christmas List".

The stores are under a metamorphosis so if you haven't been in for a while do drop by to see the changes. We think you will approve.

Also, watch closely as the new website unfolds. We look forward to hearing from you and your com-

ments.

We are off to DEMA in a couple of weeks so if there are products you would like us to look into please let us know so we can plan for you. That includes new travel destinations as well.

Happy Halloween everyone! I am off to watch for the Great Pumpkin with Linus.

~ Patti



Creature Feature — Sea Urchins

Sea urchins are small, globular, spiny sea creatures, composing most of class Echinoidea. They are found in oceans all over the world. Their shell, or "test", is round and spiny, typically from 3 to 10 cm across. Common colors include black and dull shades of green, olive, brown, purple, and red. They move slowly, feeding mostly on algae. Sea otters, wolf eels, and other predators feed on urchins. Sea urchins are harvested and served as a delicacy.

At first glance, a sea urchin often appears to be incapable of moving. Sometimes the most



visible sign of life is the spines, which are attached at their bases to ball-and-socket joints and can be pointed in any direction. In most urchins, a light touch elicits a prompt and visible reaction from the spines, which converge toward the point that has been touched. A sea urchin has no visible eyes, legs, or means of propulsion, but it can move freely over surfaces by means of its adhesive tube feet, working in conjunction with its spines.

On the oral surface of the sea urchin is a centrally located mouth made up of five teeth or jaws, with a fleshy tongue-like structure within. The entire chewing organ is known as Aristotle's lantern, which name comes from Aristotle's accurate description in his *History of Animals*.

The spines, which in some species are long and sharp, serve to protect the urchin from predators. The spines can inflict a painful wound on a human who steps on one, but they are not seriously dangerous, and it is not clear that the spines are truly venomous (unlike the pedicellariae between the spines, which are venomous).

Typical sea urchins have spines that are 1 to 3 cm in length, 1 to 2 mm thick, and not terribly

sharp. "Diadema antillarum" familiar in the Caribbean, has thin, potentially dangerous spines that can be 10 to 20 cm long.

Sea urchins feed mainly on algae, but can also feed on a wide range of invertebrates such as mussels, sponges, brittle stars and crinoids. Sea urchin is one of the favorite foods of sea otters and are also the main source of nutrition for wolf eels. Left unchecked, urchins will devastate their environment, creating what biologists call an urchin barren, devoid of macroalgae and associated fauna. Where sea otters have been re-introduced into British Columbia, the health of the coastal ecosystem has improved dramatically.

