



International Scuba

Open House and 2005-2006 Trips

Remember to visit our website!

www.internationalscuba.com

Upcoming Lake Weekends:

Nov 20-21
Dec 4-5
Dec 18-19

Upcoming Trips:

Nov 20-27 Bonaire
Jan 14-17 Cozumel Advanced!
Feb 5-6 Flower Gardens
Feb 11-14 Cozumel Carnival!!!!
Mar 17-18 Flower Gardens
Apr 11-18 Akumal

Upcoming Classes:

Adv. OW 11/20, 12/4,
EFR 11/2, 12/7
Rescue 11/11, 11/24, 11/9
Nitrox 11/16, 12/21, 1/18
DAN 02 11/9, 12/14, 1/11

Howdy everyone:

Did everyone have a great Halloween? We had a lots of costumed kiddos at our doorstep. Earlier in the afternoon we were having a team meeting on the anniversary of purchasing the store. We have a great team that sacrificed a Sunday to plan for the Open House and learn about the new Rescue program.

While I mentioned Rescue, we would like to invite Rescue divers to the participate in the Rescue workshops we will begin to hold at the Natatorium. We are all trained to rescue someone but, thank goodness we haven't needed to use it—that also means you might be a little rusty. Practice is fun. Don't forget we all need to renew our MFA/Emergency First Responder/CPR every 24 months as well. Keep an eye on the schedule for both..

This newsletter is devoted to the upcoming Open House and Happy Hour we will be having on December 4th. We will have great sales on new and used

gear, mini seminars on new travel locations, hazardous marine life seminars, and great munchies.

The travel section of the website has been updated to show you where we will be going in 2005. Watch closely as the 2006 schedule begins to show up as well. Wakatobi—Fiji—Little Cayman—Akumal—Galapagos—Solomon Islands, etc. Stay tuned for Tami's great travel discounts as the day progresses.

We hope all of you will stop by on December 4th from 10am—5pm. Great gift ideas. We will have gift certificates, and wish lists—this is a great way to make your wishes known and give Santa some hints. If you have toys you want here is a WAY to get them.

Have a great weekend and hope to see you soon.

- Patti Stewart

Patti@internationalscuba.com

The World of Divers Continues to Grow

The number of certified divers in the world continues to grow and International Scuba continues to contribute to that growth. We would like to congratulate and thank all those divers who completed their certifications: **If you have hit a milestone please send me an email.**

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Open Water/Junior EFR

Open Water

JJ Whitaker
Ben Rabinovich
Trevor Sutherland
Windy Brown
Patricia Pendell
Adrian Pendell
Doug Brown

Advanced Open Water

Jon Phillips
Ryan Sterling
Lynn Troxel
Brian Cleveland
Matthew Muehleiser
JT Cowden

Emmanuel Dubois

Enriched Air Diver

Rogério Bachega
Selma Bachega
Brian Cleveland
JT Cowden
Ryan Sterling

Peak Performance Buoyancy

Matthew Rodger
Bill Gutknecht
KW Weaver
Ryan Sterling

Navigation

Denise McNally
Matthew Rodger
Bill Gutknecht
Rogério Bachega
Selma Bachega

Wreck

Brian Cleveland
Alex McNally

Assistant Instructor

Paul Gilmore

Milestones

25 Dives

30 Dives

40 Dives

50 Dives

60 Dives

70 Dives

100 Dives

Gale Smith

500 Dives

Destination—Wakatobi

Join us on a ten day adventure exploring the lush reefs of Indonesia searching for some of the ocean's most unique creatures. We will be staying at Wakatobi Dive Resort, home of the "world's greatest house reef."

Situated on the beautiful tropical island of Onemobaa in the remote and peaceful Wakatobi archipelago in the Banda Sea, the resort boasts of its superior service and the beauty of its protected marine park.



With miles and miles of pristine, breathtaking drop-offs, walls and slopes to ridges, caverns, caves and seamounts; Wakatobi provides unlimited underwater exploration in the epicenter of marine biodiversity. If you're looking to dive the most pristine reefs on the planet - Wakatobi Dive Resort is your place!

Top off your trip with a short stay in beautiful Bali! *Optional:*

Stop by our open house and see a short presentation on Indonesian diving and Wakatobi at 2:30pm.

- George Vincent
George@internationalscuba.com

Destination - Akumal

Are you ready for a different kind of dive trip without spending 17 hours on a plane? Then Akumal is where you want to be. It is located just one hour and ten minutes south of Cancun on the Mexican Caribbean coastline of the Yucatan peninsula. It has long been a secret getaway, discovered only by those who dared to travel down the coastline in search of adventure. Yet once discovered many travelers found themselves returning to Akumal year after year. Why...? because Akumal has "Magic", tropical therapy for the soul!

Curious about Cenotes but not willing to venture alone. Join us April 8-11 for a quick and exciting trip to Akumal. We will have lots more to share with you at the Open House.



Patti Stewart
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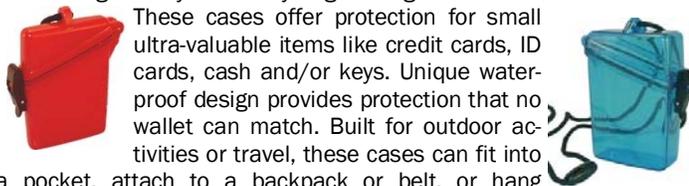
Featured Product— Witz Sport Cases

You're at the beach, geared up and ready for an awesome twilight shore dive when you discover you still have your driver's license, credit card and money with you... the car is parked three blocks away... Now what do you do????!!

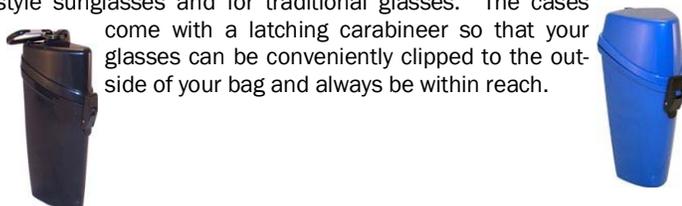
Well, you could take all your gear off and hike it back to the car OR if you had a Witz® waterproof sport case you would just put those items in your Witz® case and take it along with you on your dive. Which would you choose?

The Witz® Compact Cases are small yet highly versatile and some can even go with you when you go diving to a maximum of 100 ft! .

These cases offer protection for small ultra-valuable items like credit cards, ID cards, cash and/or keys. Unique waterproof design provides protection that no wallet can match. Built for outdoor activities or travel, these cases can fit into a pocket, attach to a backpack or belt, or hang around your neck. Perfect for those small items that you never want to leave behind.



Witz® Eyewear Cases have a hard-shell to prevent crushing, a felt liner to protect from scratching, plus foam end pads to cradle the frames. Witz® Eyewear cases are available for the "Wraparound" style sunglasses and for traditional glasses. The cases come with a latching carabineer so that your glasses can be conveniently clipped to the outside of your bag and always be within reach.



In addition to the cases described above, Witz® offers waterproof cases for your cell phone, point shoot camera and to utility "Locker" cases to hold and protect multiple small, precious valuables. Foam inserts can also be ordered so you can make a custom fitting case for your valuables.



Stop by the shop and check out these nifty little waterproof cases, especially before leaving for a trip.

- Suzanne
Suzanne@internationalscuba.com

Destination - Little Cayman (Jun 4-11)

Don't let the name fool you. There's nothing "Little" about the adventures divers and snorkelers will find off the shores. Bloody Bay Wall, the island's most famous attraction, offers the finest drop-offs in the Caribbean. It is a tropical wilderness above and below the sea. The least developed of the three Cayman Islands, her human inhabitants number just over 100. Though famous for her walls, the island also offers pristine shall reefs hosting an incredibly abundant and diverse collection of marine life, both large and small. Since the underwater citizens barely notice the human presence, even barracuda and



groupers have no qualms about posing for photos. Night dives on the island are delightful. Octopus can be found roaming about the reefs looking for dinner while squid dart to and fro flashing their vibrant colors at unsuspecting onlookers.

To learn more about the fabulous walls that Little Cayman is known for, drop by the Open House on December 4th. Plenty of pictures and travel discounts will be available.

-Suzanne Williams
Suzanne@internationalscuba.com

Destination - Cozumel for Carnival (February 11-14)

The holiday season is upon us. Soon we will all be eating turkey, putting up Christmas decorations and celebrating New Years, 2005. What do you have to look forward to then? Cold, dreary, weather for the next 3 months sound right? Wrong!

You can join us in Cozumel for an all-inclusive stay at Casa Mexicana with all your food and beverages included.

Saturday and Sunday evening you will be able to stand on the pool balcony and watch the parades.

Also included with the trip is up to 6 dives with our friends at Dive Paradise.

Contact us to reserve your spot today.

-John Williams
John@internationalscuba.com



Destination - Fiji (Sept 22–Oct 2)

Two years ago I had the opportunity to go with Bradley (my 11 year old son) and his class on a field trip to the Dallas Aquarium. It was fascinating to see with fish from all over the world. We saw different displays and actual aquariums from 7 different oceans all very different and representing very different marine life. I think I was a lot more impressed than the 3rd grade class I was with. There were a couple of things that stuck in my mind above all others. The most outstanding and beautiful specialty aquarium was by far FIJI. The fish in this tank were NEON!! They actually glowed and gave off a bright shine around them. When you walked into the room the FIJI aquarium just screamed look at me and my beautiful marine life we are the best!!! That trip was over 2 years ago for me and I have wanted to visit Fiji ever since.

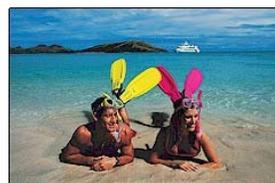
September 22 - October 2nd of 2005 I will be there to see for myself if this ocean really is the best!! I am so excited about this trip to Beqa Island Resort on Beqa Island. The small Resort captures the beauty not only of the ocean, but the land and the unbelievable diversity of the beaches, lush gardens, and waterfalls. Yes, I am the most excited about diving, but it never hurts to enjoy the top side as well. The Beqa Island resort also offers the interaction of the native people from Fiji. They are happy to welcome you to their country and will perform fire walking, show you the culture, and help you enjoy the island of the South Pacific to its fullest. Of course there is a hammock if you would rather read and relax alone.



Let's talk about food!! This resort is known around the globe for their award winning 5 star cuisines. If you do not like what is prepared they will cook something just for you. You will not go hungry on this trip. 3 huge meals a day are provided for you as you relax and enjoy the sunset. Drinks will be extra and are on an honor system, No bar bill, just let them know how many you have had and you pay at the end of your trip. Cool!!!

I cannot remember being so excited about visiting a destination. When I visited their booth at DEMA they came down on the price and helped us get a really good package with air on Air Pacific from LAX. I have added the air from DFW to LAX or you are welcome to use miles for that part of the trip. I cannot take the Air Pacific part out of the package. This package is normally \$3200 and we are able to offer it you @ \$2999.00 THAT IS GREAT!!! I really did not think I could put a quality trip to Fiji together under \$3500 (with everything). This package includes air from DFW to LAX then air from LAX to NAN, airport transfers, 7 night accommodations in the deluxe Fijian villas, 5 days of 2-tank boat dives, unlimited shore diving, 5 star gourmet dining and a peek at the South Pacific Culture. Come join the experience of a lifetime of the South Pacific with us!!!!

-Tami Gardner
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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

CD Corner

Hi there divers,

We have had a very busy fall. I think we have taught more professional divers in the last two months than we have the last year. That is great. We have new EFR Instructors, new MSD Trainers, and while Jeff was here he earned DPV and Gas Blender Instructor. Paul Gilmore has also earned the Assistant Instructor credential. Congrats Paul!

We went to our annual DEMA trade show in Houston in early October. This groups associates all scuba manufacturers where we can see all of them at one time in one place. It is nice to walk on a showroom floor and see catalogues displayed so we can touch and decide what to purchase. We confirmed our intent to bring in the Bare wetsuit line which compliments the Xcel brand we already carry. If you haven't seen the new super stretch stop by and take a look—it easily competes with the Henderson Hyperstretch without the price.

I took a really interesting course from DAN while I was there. It is called Neurological Field Testing. The idea is for trip leads to be able to assist even more the dive professionals on a trip.

It involves taking a personal health history, dive history and current conditions of a diver who is exhibiting DCS symptoms. We are able to provide even more information than before to officials. We are also getting qualified in Hazardous Marine Life across the board. We don't run into to many jellies in Terrell but it is possible in Wakatobi.

We will be doing lots of fun courses in 2005 for professionals, the ones listed above are just a couple. If you are interested in taking the recreational versions of the course, come on in and sign up.

I wanted to take a second and give kudos to the many Divemaster candidates we have. There are several that should finish by the end of the year. Some of them include: TK Laux, Gale Smith, and Phil and Wendy Fox. We expect Gene and Carol Howard back after the holidays, right now their hands are completely full with Haylee.

Hope to see you at the Open House on December 4th.

- Patti Stewart
Patti@internationalscuba.com

Creature Feature — Bluegill Perch & Catfish

Description: The bluegill is a member of the sunfish family. The body has an overall oval shape, tall and thin, 3 to 6 inches in length. Color is a slightly bluish gray with dark vertical stripes. A small blue-black lobe extends back from the gill plate. Colors are brighter in males, and peak during spawning it is recognized by the dark lobe on the gill cover.

Habits: Found in warmer waters, usually shallow. The bluegill is not shy and will readily approach divers. Likes cheese and chunks of meat (ears), and can be hand-fed. Bluegill hollow out a depression on the bottom for spawning, and will guard the nest area after laying.



Description: Catfish are long and slim, with a smooth slimy skin. Long "whiskers" protrude from the mouth. A spike is present in the front of the dorsal fin, and can cause a very painful wound if the fish is stepped on. Many of Texas' catfish are mud cats, a small green-yellow species about a foot in length, or channel catfish, larger and grayish in color.

Habits: Catfish are bottom-feeding predators. While they will strike at a lure, most often they locate their prey by smell. Catfish often feed at dusk or early dawn, but are sometimes active all night long. In some waters, you can spot catfish cruising into the late morning. Unlike bluegill and bass, catfish do not school, but are solitary hunters.



- Suzanne
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