



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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Cozumel needs our help!

Howdy Divers,

Well, we had a strange October, just when we thought you guys stopped diving, you came out in full force. We had a quick trip to Cozumel at the beginning of the month, DEMA at the beginning and then yucky hurricanes the middle of the month to wreck many trips. We told an old friend and team member to find us knew spots to dive in New York (Dutch) and wished him well with a fun going away party. That didn't stop you from coming in. and showing support for all of our buddies in Cozumel.

As you will see from the web site and flyers throughout the store we are focusing on a Cozumel relief fund and party to be held December 13th at Cozymel's in Plano. A \$75 ticket buys you dinner, drinks and the funds to help our friends pick up the pieces. These monies will go directly to the Divemasters and such, not the operators, hotels, or others who have a more obvious means to survive. Without us down there diving, our Divemasters aren't making any monies. On top of the cool party on December 13th, we are also raf-

fling off a Harley Davidson bike at \$100 a ticket. I believe there are only 500 or so tickets being printed, so get yours if you've had the dream of owning a hog.

We have our annual Open House coming up December 10th. Should be a lot of fun. Santa will make an appearance for pictures and wish lists. Better make sure his report indicates you have been nice and not naughty.

~ Patti Stewart

Our World of Divers Continue to Grow

Junior Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

Brian Bruner
Danny Padilla
Jim Heptig
Amber Ferguson
Marnie Jackson
Lance Thomas
Bear Hutchinson
Claudia Slaten
Dominic Owens
Hiep Tran
Lynsey McGlothlin
Karen Jenny
Denase Reynolds

Advanced Open Water

Brian Sommers

EFR

Danielle Ker

Brian Sommers
James Whitworth
Bruce Miller
Carmen Elam
Ken Johnson
Renee Mack
Bill Batchler

O2 Provider

Danielle Ker
Brian Sommers
James Whitworth

Rescue

Danielle Ker
Brian Sommers
James Whitworth

Enriched Air

Mike Ridgley
Robin Ridgley
Bryan Ward

PPB

Thu Tran
Hiep Tran
Danielle Ker
Robert Harrell

DPV

Robert Harrell
Alex McNally

Wreck

Robert Harrell

Search & Recovery

Rich Thomas
Denise McNally

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Denise McNally

Dive Master

Alicia Pol

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

NOV 19-20 FEB 25-26
DEC 10-11
JAN 14-15
JAN 28-29
FEB 11-12

WHERE TO:

DEC—NEW YEARS COZUMEL
JAN PUERTO RICO OR BELIZE
FEB COZUMEL?
MAR BONAIRE, GALAPAGOS
MAR 18-19 FLOWER GARDENS
APR 14-17 COZUMEL
APR 22-29 BVI WITH DIVE BVI
MAY 13-14 FLOWER GARDENS
MAY 27-JUN 2 GRAND CAYMAN
OCT—WAKATOBI
OCT—TEXANS IN COZUMEL
FEB 2007—PAUAU OCEAN HUNTER

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International Scuba

Thank You To All of You

Most of you know that I have a job during the day, and Patti runs the shop. In the evening I come in to help where ever I can. It's a rarity that I don't see at least one of you sitting and chatting with Patti. Invariably someone new will come in and they get a warm welcome from not only the staff, but from which ever of you may be there. Often you some of you may get up and answer questions, and help out. There always seems to be a surprised look on the faces of the new people when they realize that they

are being help by another customer not one of the staff.

I can name so many instances that are similar to the above. I realize that this is not only a great industry, but that we have such a wonderful set of customers on top of it. It's nice coming into the shop to see the people we have come to feel are family and friends.

This article is so I can show my appreciation to all of you. The excitement that I see at all levels of training, after a trip, or just dreaming about the next dive trip (be it local

or in a far off destination) is truly infectious. After a hard day in the 'real' world, that excitement really gets me going again.

The Open House that Patti has written about is our way to say thanks to all of you. We will have a lot of activities, sales and just a chance to socialize. Please stop by and say hi. We'll have food and beverages, as well as a few surprises along the way.

Again thanks and happy diving,
Brian

Have you ever been curious about what it's like to dive with double cylinders? How about how to make a planned decompression dive?

More on Technical Diving

Have you ever been curious about what it's like to dive with double cylinders? How about how to make a planned decompression dive? Maybe you want to dive more extreme, or just understand more so you can be a better recreational diver. In any case the Advanced Nitrox/Decompression Procedures course may be what you are looking for.

During the class we will do all of the above and more. You will find that your diving improves after the course as well as increasing your understanding of why some of the rules are in place. The course is oriented to understand the thought processes behind safety, comfort, and planning decompression dives.

Why would someone want to dive beyond the recreational limits in either time or depth? Actually, there are a number of reasons:

- Are you a history buff? Many historical wrecks are beyond the recreational limits, or if they are

within the limits the time afforded with no stop diving does not allow you enough time to study the wreck.

- Do you like exploring the unknown? Cave diving allows you to do this, and the Advanced Nitrox/Decompression course is the first step to getting there
- Are you an avid photographer? Imagine how close to the creatures you can get with hardly any bubbles. With a rebreather, you can do just that. Again, this is the course to get the basic principles down for using re-breathers.
- Are you curious about the deeper corals and fish? This course is the first step to perform extended range or Trimix dives to allow you to go to these depths.

If you are curious about any of these things, we have an Advanced Nitrox/Decompression Procedures course scheduled for classroom on December 8, and open water De-

ember 16-18 (Friday - Sunday). For the classroom portion we will be going over equipment configurations and logistics. Most of the teaching will be done during the open water portion. The open water will be 6 dives over 3 days (typically 1-2 dives Friday, 2-3 dives Saturday, and 1-2 dives Sunday).

This time of year we often go to the Blue Hole in Santa Rosa, N.M. as it's a constant 62 degrees all year and quite clear. Santa Rosa is about an 8 hour drive from the DFW area. We may also go to Lake Travis in Austin depending on the preferences of the participants (Travis is closer, but not as clear and colder).

We need a minimum of 3 people signed up for the course to be able to hold it. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions about the course.

Brian



Now What do I do?

Autumn has finally arrived in the Great State of Texas. As the water temperature starts to drop, do you find yourself asking the question, "now what do I do, am I finished with dive training until next season"?

The answer to that question is "no, your dive training doesn't have to be over for the season"! Are you looking to achieve Master Scuba Diver, the "Black Belt" of recreational diving? Maybe you have



thought about increasing your knowledge of diving. What about taking an Equipment Specialty class? This class is designed to teach you about various styles of equipment, and to show you techniques on maintaining and storing it. Oh, you aren't ready to get out of the water. How about completing

the Dry Suit Specialty? We'll show you how to don and doff a dry suit, proper maintenance, and what to do should you find yourself in a head down, feet up situation.

What if a co-worker slips and breaks a leg, or even worse, a loved-one has a heart attack. Would you know what to do and be ready to render assistance? The cooler months are also a great opportunity to complete an Emergency First Response (EFR) class. EFR has several options, Primary Care, Secondary Care, Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), Emergency Oxygen Use and Care for Children. EFR Primary Care will instruct you in the proper techniques of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and during Secondary Care, First Aid, you'll learn things such as Injury and Illness Assessment, Bandaging Techniques, and Splinting for Dislocations and Fractures. Did you know that most airplanes, airports and many businesses now have emergency boxes marked "AED". Wouldn't it be good to know that you have the knowledge to use it should the need present itself? We can teach

you! For those of you that either have kids or work with them, we can show you how to care for them in case of an emergency as well.

You see, there is a lot you can do during the cooler months in Texas. For those of you that just can't stay away from the water, we also have trips almost every month to a warmer, saltier climate. Check in with Chris at Travel for You, Inc. or Patti to schedule



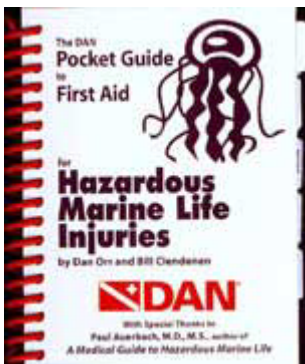
your class or trip this winter.

Lastly, does your company need someone to come in and teach a CPR course? We can assist there as well.

~John Williams



WHAT IF A CO-WORKER SLIPS AND BREAKS A LEG, OR EVEN WORSE, A LOVED-ONE HAS A HEART ATTACK. WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO AND BE READY TO RENDER ASSISTANCE?



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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Getting You There... Starts Here!

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CD Corner — Helping Out

This article isn't about furthering your career as a dive professional like many of my articles. I am going to focus on the Relief efforts that are necessary to get Cozumel back on it's feet.

Many of you have seen the devastating pictures that have been sent via email as well as many of you have visited websites in disbelief that our favorite close dive spot is not doing so well.

Our focus now through December 13th and probably the end of the year is to raise a considerable amount of money for those buddies of ours who make diving so wonderful for us. The Dive Masters, Captains, and First Mates are the folks who pick us up, drop us off, and find lots of critters for us to see along the dive.

Darrell Gardner and partners have created a 501C Organization

www.cozumelrelief.org that is taking donations or you can come to the shop. All of this is tax deductible. I am not into hounding folks for money because I don't like it when it is done to me.

Right now, it is almost impossible for us to get to Cozumel so we can dive and have the folks make money. Think about how our friends down there make a living. If we can't be there, then they don't get paid. That is way different from most of us who are used to vacation or some sort of paid leave. The operators are scrambling getting things going via insurance or monies in the bank. Most of the folks we deal with don't have that kind of support.

Okay, enough of the band wagon. Stay tuned for more info. If you can get down there and dive—go for it. I would love to since I had planned a mainland trip that didn't go either. We will be going to Akumal January 13-16 if anyone is interested. I have one spot remaining.

On the upside we are looking at destina-

tions we have never looked at before, such as Puerto Rico or Barbados. I believe this is where our January group is going. I would love to go to Cozumel but flights are uncertain and hotels are even more of a challenge. If you are interested, respond to the email for the newsletter and I will fill you in.

The moral of the story is do what you can to help no matter how small it is.

I don't know about you but as I sit here typing this it is an absolutely gorgeous day out except that it is in the 40s. I am ready for the beach and sand between my toes.

Happy Turkey Day to everyone!

Remember the Open House is December 10th and the Relief Party is December 13th.

See all of you soon,

~ Patti

Creature Feature — Butterflyfish



Four Eye



Banded

Butterflyfish (Chaetodontidae – key-toe-DON-ti-day) are one of the most delightful groups of fish observed by divers. There are 114 family members worldwide; only six, however, inhabit our region.

Their small size (less than six-inches), rounded bodies and slightly concave foreheads easily distinguish them from similar-appearing angelfish that are larger, have rounded foreheads and generally exhibit elongated dorsal and anal fins.

Reminiscent of their butterfly namesake, these small, colorful fish spend their day flitting about shallow to deep reefs, dock pilings and rubble fields using keen eyesight to search for exposed coral polyps, tiny worms and other invertebrates.

Butterflies generally travel singly or in pairs within a rather limited home-range. At dusk they find shelter in a reef recess and become inactive. As they settle in for the night, daytime colors pale and markings change.

Let's take a look at Banded Butterflyfish first. Their two dark midbody bands make them a snap to identify by simply associating the bands with the species' name. Note the dark band running through the eye; at first, this might seem to be a distinctive feature until you notice that similar markings are present in all five species.

Foureye Butterflyfish are also easy

to recognize and recall. Their distinctive feature is the black spot, ringed in white, on the rear body. This characteristic, known as a false eyespot, is thought to further befuddle predators as to correct location of the true eye. If you count the two real eyes and the two false eyespots, you quickly come up with the species' name, Foureye Butterflyfish.

Watch for our little friends the next time you are diving.

~ Patti