



# International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 6, Issue 11

## How About this weather

Howdy Divers,

Can you believe the cool evenings and warm days, almost feels like California weather. It was in the 80's at the lake last weekend.

We hope everyone had a great Halloween or Harvest time with friends and family. We were at DEMA learning about the latest and greatest new products from Aqualung and Mares. Stay tuned for Rich's article on the details.

Brian and I spent a few days prior to the show at Disney World/Epcot for our anniversary. If you haven't been—it isn't just for kids. We had so much fun even though it rained a

little bit. They host a wine and food festival in the month of October. There are anywhere from 10-20 countries that participate throughout the world showcase. Even if we can't always visit these places we can try their food and drink. Several of our dive buddies joined us for a day of world travel. We had a blast!

Our spring trips are filling up so don't wait too long. We still have spots on Turks and Caicos, Carnival in Cozumel only has 5-6 spots left, etc. Check out the website for Flower Gardens and all of the other fun destinations. We look forward to traveling with you in 2008.

We will have a sale each weekend for the rest of the year so you don't have to run too close to the holidays for the divers near and dear to your hearts.



November 2007

## Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

### WEEKEND:

OCT 27-28 TERRELL

NOV 10-11 TERRELL

DEC 8-9 TERRELL

JAN 19-20 AQUARENA SPRINGS

FEB 2-3 AQUARENA SPRINGS

### WHERE TO:

JAN 12-19 —TURKS AND CAICOS

AGGRESSOR

JAN 25-30 CARNIVAL COZUMEL

MAR 1-6 AKUMAL

MAR 15-16 FLOWER GARDENS

APR BELIZE

MAY 24-31 BVI

JUNE 13-21 BONAIRE

JUN 23-25 FLOWER GARDENS

JUN 30-JUL 1 FLOWER GARDENS

MUCH MUCH MORE!!!!!!

FEB 2010—PALAU

## Specialty of the Month— Project AWARE

Hi all, I hope everyone enjoyed their trick or treating. Now it's getting time to think about turkey day. The weather is turning to the nice fall temperatures. Nice and cool in the morning, comfortably warm during the day. There is still great diving to be had locally and we have some great trips for 2008 to plan for.

For December, we have another great specialty of the month, Project Aware. If you want to learn about the plight of worldwide aquatic ecosystems and how you can protect them, this Specialty course is for you. It's a non diving course, so it's perfect for December. In it you learn about some of the most pressing problems facing these vulnerable environments and everyday actions you can take to help conserve them.

As divers we have a unique view and responsibility into the underwater world. As we visit various places we notice both short and long term changes in the environment. How many times have you said or heard other divers say things like, 'The diving in Cozumel (insert your favorite location here) isn't what is used to be'? Sometimes the difference is simply that the tourism on land has changed the out of the way feel to the area. Other times we notice things like coral bleaching, trash on the reef, over fishing, or physical damage to the reef.

In the Project Aware class, we go over these issues and more. In addition, it shows actions we can take both as an individual and as a group to make things better. Some of the things are as simple as taking a look at the threatened species list and avoiding them at our local restaurants, taking that bottle or can back and dispose of it properly instead of overboard, practicing good buoyancy control when we dive, and encouraging good behavior of others.

What can we do as a group? By supporting organizations such as the Project Aware Foundation, writing to government officials, and encouraging the creation of protected marine areas we can make a very large difference.

I know this sounds like a lot of underwater 'tree hugging', and it probably is. At the same, we can make a difference in how we look at things and the behaviors we have. We enjoy the underwater world, and want to make sure our children and grand children have the same opportunities.

It's a great course that we enjoy teaching. As the specialty of the month, you also get a gift if you are a PADI Diving Society member if you sign up in the month of December. Since it has no dives, you can get your underwater fix even if the tem-

perature is a bit chilly outside. Also don't forget that November is the Equipment Specialty. There is still time to sign up for that one. You don't have to take it in November to get the gift, just sign up in November. There is also time for the Specialty of the year, Digital Underwater Photography. Sign up before the end of the year for that one.

Next month I will go over not only the Specialty of the month, but give you a preview for the 2008 monthly specialties. Remember we teach all specialties at any time as well.

Happy diving,

Brian



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## Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

### Open Water (White Belt)

David B Allen  
Colleen Ohlde  
Wyatt Francis  
Alison Indergard  
Kirsten Tulchin

### National Geographic Open Water (Green Belt)

Bryan Wright  
Teresa Pechloff  
Mike Pechloff

### Enriched Air

Bruce Strickland  
Wyatt Francis  
Jeannie Duarte

### Emergency First Response

Matt Wright  
Chuck Jenkins  
Jim Pasant

### National Geographic

Robinson Pittet

### Gas Blender

Anthony Griffin

### Rescue

Andrew Levi  
Elena Perez  
Lance Thomas

### U/W Pumpkin Carving

Ho Lee  
Kevin Gibbs  
Jim Pasant  
David B Allen  
Yanni Korakiantis  
David Ivie  
Pat Ivie  
Michael Smith  
Bonnie Jones  
Jeff Louden  
Matt Wright  
Bryan Wright  
Tom Baggett  
Diana McKeever

### PPB

Craig Brooks  
Wyatt Francis

### Wreck

Lance Thomas

### Assistant Instructor

Aaron Parets  
Ho Lee  
Daniel Porter

### Open Water Scuba Instructor

Aaron Parets  
Ho Lee  
Jeremy Shelby  
Jon Barcellona  
Chris Harris  
Tom Marsh  
Eric Hopkins  
David Brush  
Haley Marsh



## 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

David Ivie

### 150 Dives

### 200 Dives

### 250 Dives

### 300 Dives

### 350 Dives

### 400 Dives

### 500 Dives

### 600 Dives

### 700 Dives

## Meet our Team— Walter and Brian

This month I felt it was appropriate to pair up Brian Divine and Walter Hodges for several reasons. Both Brian and Walter share a unique sense of humor along with a mischievous side not always seen by many. Most of our students would say that both Brian and Walter are quiet and reserved upon first meeting. It's only after getting to know them a bit better you get to appreciate their warped sense of humor and tom foolery. Both men have a great appreciation for well made beer. Walter brews his own beer and Brian is quite the connoisseur of beers from around the world.

I have noticed other similarities also, such as the calm, reasonable manner used to deal with students. I am often impressed with the patience they both show while helping students overcome challenges. I think you will see the similarities after reading their interviews.

Brian has earned the rating of Master Instructor and seems to have dabbled in just about anything that is scuba related; photography, tech diving, scuba repair, emergency first response, and the list goes on. Brian's coolest trick is the way he can hold his breath for minutes at a time while free diving. I have laughed so hard my regulator has nearly fallen out watching him zoom by on his underwater scooter at 20 ft with only mask, fins and snorkel. Student divers aren't sure whether to believe their eyes as he circles the platform for far longer than anybody should be able to on just one breath. Brian has a background in the medical field and has brought his expert insight to EFR and DAN courses.

Next time you see these pranksters around at the lake or shop ask Walter about the golf ball trick and have Brian share his latest joke of the day.

### Walter Hodges - IDC Staff Instructor

**How did you get started diving?** I made a giant stride entry, signaled, oriented, replaced my snorkel with my regulator, noted the time, deflated my BCD and descended.

**What brought you to International Scuba?** My Miata, before I had my Jeep. Actually, the shop I had completed my Dive Master

through closed and I was homeless. So after a search of the area for a new home, I met Patti, Brian and Jeff McNutt. International SCUBA had a lot of energy, and was small enough so that everyone knew each other. It felt like a good fit then, and still is today.

**Number of years diving? How many dives?** 22 if you count from my first certification. 8 if you count from my second. Number of years as professional? 6 How many dives? 375 or

some number there about.

**Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.** I make my own beer.

**If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?** Little Cayman, it's close to home

and less than 200 people live there, in addition to having world class wall dives.

**What is your oddest diving experience?** Finding the giant RDP off of West Caicos.

**What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?** Relax, un-pucker and enjoy the dive.

**If I were reincarnated as a fish, what kind of fish would I be?** Whale Shark, so I would be the biggest fish in the sea and could cruise around the world.

### Brian Divine Master Instructor

**How did you get started diving?** First I signed up for class, bought the basic stuff, attended class, did some pool work, and finally went to the open water site for my final checkout dives.

I suspect you want more of a personal nature on why I started diving. Believe it or not, it's a pretty boring story. It was something I had thought of doing for a long time. A few people at work got certified and that prompted me to actually pursue it. I lived in Huntsville Alabama at the time and found a local dive shop that I liked and did their open water class. I like it so much that I decided to do Advanced Open Water, joined a dive club and went on a few trips. I was hooked.

**Number of years diving? How many dives?** I initially was certified in 1993, so if I do the math right that's a little over 14 years. I became a professional in 1999 so about 8 years at that. I have a bit over 800 dives.

**What brought you to International Scuba?** My car.

Oh, you want more detail? Why did I come to International Scuba? When Patti and I met, she wasn't certified. After a trip to Hawaii, she decided that she wanted to learn. (I'll let her tell that story). I called around and was put out by a number of the people I talked to. They all tried to hard sell me, which I don't care for. A guy I worked with told me about a relatively new shop in Carrollton, called International Scuba. I called and talked with



Mike Rowe. He told me about the class and informed me rather than selling. After Patti learned, we took a classes together, decided it might be fun to be a dive master, and pretty soon Instructors. The opportunity presented itself to buy the shop, and the rest is history. We try to instill that initial contact that Mike gave to me. We want to educate people, and the rest will take care of itself.

**Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.** I once entered a home made bikini contest and won a trip to Cozumel. (I'd be embarrassed if I had lost). The rest of the story needs a few beers.

**If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?** Just one island? Hmm. I would have to be an island with a bit of character, both in the geography, and the people. I would have to say either Palau, or Grenada.

**What is your oddest diving experience?** Isn't every other dive an odd dive? The rest would be even dives. Rather than going into all those, How about if I tell you about one of my strangest dives?

If you mean on scuba, I would have to say the dives I did in the Puget Sound near Seattle. There wasn't anything particularly strange about it other than it was very different to dive cold saltwater. One of the dives we did I came up facing an island where there were pine trees right down to the water's edge. It reminded me of the mountain lakes I grew up near in Montana, only the water was salty. It was a very surreal feeling.

If you open up diving a bit more to include skin diving (breath hold diving), I would have to say Jellyfish Lake in Palau. To dive among thousands of jelly fish is an experience that can't be matched. It truly felt like another world. Words and pictures can give you a taste, but until you actually do it, you can't really get the true feeling.

**What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?** After you are certified, work on your buoyancy and weighting. If you have that down, the rest is much easier.

**If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?** This is actually a hard question. Let's see. How about the red lipped blenny, for no reason than I like saying 'red lipped blenny'. That doesn't sound like a good reason



## DEMA Recap

I just returned from the DEMA Show 2007 and want to share the experience with you. There are several reasons that we attend this annual event. Traditionally, this is the time of year that dive shops order gear for next year and look for exotic new destinations. It is also the time most of the manufacturers unveil the latest and greatest innovations in scuba. We typically have our orders placed ahead of time so we can focus on the many seminars offered by manufacturers and PADI.

There is an air of excitement and anticipation as the crowd waits for the doors to open to the show floor. For something different and fun, Scuba Radio had three real life Mermaids on hand to welcome everyone. There were a few exciting new products and we saw a few new trends in diving. The biggest trend I have noticed is that color is back. Not the wild neon of the 90's, but tasteful and varied color trim everywhere.

The world of re-breathers is growing. It seemed like every aisle had re-breathers and the prices are coming down a little bit too. I have heard that in the tech world the re-breather will soon be taking over the place of open circuit diving. If prices keep coming down, I expect to see more recreational divers jumping in. Just about every wetsuit maker makes a stretch suit. Bare has introduced a very cool 7mm suit that looks very comfy. Aqualung also introduced an 8mm, with attached hood, that is a snap to put on and take off. With our mild winters here in Texas, there is no reason to stop diving when the temperature drops. Either of these wetsuits will keep you warm and you can avoid the hassle of the stiff, thick wetsuits that made divers hang up their gear for the winter.

Aqualung came out with several last minute surprise products this year and caught our attention the most. The new Micron regulator is going to be a huge hit with traveling divers. The best description to describe it would be itsy-bitsy. It has one of the smallest first stages I have ever seen; yet it still performs like a full sized regulator. It was designed from the ground up to maximize performance and minimize the weight and bulk.



It even has a cool, cosmetic packaging with cool color options, including pink. I will write more on this later. Aqualung's much heralded fin, the Slingshot, was unveiled and promises to be an interesting new technology in fin design. We will soon have a set of fins to try, but I will give you a quick run down on it now. It uses tension bands and a hinge type section to capture the



energy as you kick and put that energy back into the kick on recoil. It even features a three-setting device to adjust the effort. A cool accessory that Aqualung released is a



very flexible low pressure hose that remains bendable even under full tank pressure. With all the cool stuff I have mentioned, I still have not covered Aqualung's best of show, the all new Airsource III! This is a much higher performance version of the already successful Airsource II. This is going to be the industry standard for alternate air/ inflator combos.

Not to be outdone, Mares has introduced a full line of bags that are sure to become near and dear to many divers' hearts. These bags are able to hold all your gear and then fold up to nothing when empty. They even feature wheels to roll around the airport. Mares newest regulator, called the Prestige, is the descendant of the Proton. The prestige prom-



ises even more performance at a nice price. In addition to the bags and regulators, Mares has a complete line of accessories including new compasses, lights, and other toys.

Whites Dry Suits has introduced a unique design in their new Fusion Dry Suit System. This dry suit features a stretch outer layer that keeps the dry suit streamlined and is very mobile. The inner liner is made from a more traditional laminated dry suit material that keeps you dry; then the outer layer keeps it in shape, providing a wetsuit like profile in the water. I met with a group of dry suit divers that had just test dove the Fusion. Each diver had glowing reports about the comfort and flexibility never before found in a dry suit. One size in the Fusion suit will conform to 4 sizes of a traditional suit. If a dry suit is in your future, you might just want to look into the Fusion Dry suit System.



Most of you know I have a bit of a thing for Tech gear and I was surprised to find that Oceanic/ Aeris has introduced their own line of tech called Hollis. The line includes re-breathers, dry suits, all manner of back plates and wings and all the goodies that come with gearing up tech. It was impressive that they have developed a fairly complete line-up to begin with. Time will tell if this will become a tried and true line of equipment.

Most folks think DEMA is all about the toys. That is a fun part of it, but travel and training are also huge. In the travel sections, I saw new exotic liveaboards from places I cannot find on the map, much less pronounce. Some of these are offering the trips from the lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. No holds barred luxury can be yours in paradise for the right price. We also ran into old friends, Captain Frank from the MV Spree, our Flower Gardens people, and Larry, from Larry's Wildside in Bonaire. It was good to see two of my favorite dive operators busy with excited new customers. A treasure map with stops to all the Bonaire exhibitors was a fun way to meet just about every operator on the island. Brian and I both dutifully completed the hunt only to forget to show up for the drawing of prizes.

Training was foremost on the minds of our group. PADI brings in the big guns to get folks up to speed on changes and new developments. The seminar on Standards has long been required, but not always much fun. James Morgan of PADI has changed that 180 degrees. We watched hilarious videos and were quizzed on our knowledge about the exact standards involved in each clip. Prizes were given for those brave enough to speak up with the correct answer. It is my pleasure to announce that we came home with a clean sweep. Each team member has a memento from our course. Patti is working on getting some of the video clips to share in our classes. If you can imagine Mr. Bean giving CPR than you will have an idea how funny these are. There are now crew packs for those taking the Boat and DPV specialties.

There was a video contest this year for PADI pros to tell why they went pro. The top five videos were submitted to everyone gathered at the PADI Social to vote the winner. Every one of them was fantastic. Some featured exotic diving and beautiful reefs, others told stories that we all related to. Our favorite was from a brand new instructor from a Texas dive shop that traced her steps thru the dive ranks in truly exotic places such as Lake Travis and other local sites. It really brought home how much fun our sport is and what great relationships are forged thru diving. Keep an eye out for new things being implemented around the shop. Things we learned from our seminars, toys we saw while shopping, and fellow dive shops from around the world that shared ideas and their enthusiasm for diving. It would be impossible to cover all the great happenings of DEMA and I know I missed out on lots of things myself. The good news is that diving is doing great and headed in the right direction. More affordable gear, more choices for men, women and children, and wondrous new locations to go dive!

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 — Always Learning

Howdy Divers,

Coming from DEMA always scares our retail team because either Brian or I have ideas that need to be implemented or updated. I think they hope one year we don't go.

We just celebrated the beginning of our 6th year in the dive business. Every time we think about not going or not staying for all of the show, something comes up and we decide to stay. When we first started attending, it was a chance to look over manufacturers and see their entire line. We could look to see if we wanted to add to the line, add a line or change a line. Now we are looking at better ways to take care of you our customers and do business more wisely. That also means change of processes.

We are always looking for ways to make you guys have more fun and have more avenues to dive in. We are looking at new locations in the Pacific and hope all of you will be excited to join us.

All of us who attended took educational seminars as they related to what we do in the store. Brian and Rich attended manufac-

turer's repair clinics, Amanda became a DAN Instructor Trainer (like me), and I looked at how to improve Instructor Development. We all enjoy listening to others in their journey to success and hope to learn from them while sharing our successes with them.

This year we came home planning to implement some new software to more smoothly manage the operations side of the house and take care of you in the process. It will be a time consuming process and we expect to be functional by the first of the year if not sooner. Please bare with us as we learn new things. Our invoices will look different, learning agreements will look nicer, newsletters will get snazzier, and much more that we haven't even seen yet.

We have lots to be thankful for this year. Lots of students both recreationally and professionally have come through the front door and had lots of fun with us. We have a great team to support us. Best of all, Rich and I can breathe because of Anthony's arrival to the retail group.



~ Patti

## Creature Feature — Orange Garibaldi



The garibaldi damselfish (*hypsopops rubicundus*) is a fish of the damselfish family that is native to the northern subtropical parts of the Pacific Ocean ranging from Monterrey Bay to Guadalupe Island and Baja California.

Garibaldi's are renowned for their brilliant orange color and group up to 30cm in length. They live at depths of up to 30m, usually in association with reefs and typically over rocky sea-bottoms. They feed mainly on invertebrates that they remove from rocks. Adult garibaldi's maintain a home territory. The male clears a sheltered nest site within his territory, and the female then deposits eggs within the nest. The male subsequently guards the nest until the eggs hatch.

The garibaldi is the official "marine fish" of the state of California and is protected in California coastal waters. They are commonly seen around Santa Catalina Island.

An interesting feature of the Garibaldi is the ability to change its sex throughout its lifetime. This process is prompted when the ratio of males to females is out of balance. Garibaldi's of the over-represented gender will change in order to make up the deficit. This process can be undergone multiple times by the same fish.