



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!



Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2008

Merry Christmas To All In The IS Family!

Hey Divers,

It seems like no time since I started doing this column and this one will complete a year! Even after all this time I am still amazed at the generosity of the IS family. So far, we have received almost 800 cans of food between the Garland store for Hope's Door and the Carrollton Store for the Metrocrest Food Bank. All I can say is, "Thanks to all of you for your generosity and please don't stop!" I would love to have to use a trailer to deliver all the food. I also want to give a special 'Thank

you' to Terry Denning and his crew. They have been absolutely awesome about bringing food for these very worthy causes. We will continue collecting at both stores through January.

Christmas is certainly the time we think most about giving. I can't think of anything better to give than to share our passion with those we love. Give a Discover Scuba or even an Open Water Diver class to someone near and dear. You could be creating a life long dive buddy. You would most certainly be giving someone an entirely new outlook regarding life on this planet!

And of course there is still time to get stocking stuffers for Christmas or even a complete new rig for that first trip of the new year.

I haven't seen some of you in while. I know life is hectic right now, but come by and visit before the Holidays slip past!

Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Anthony



Specialty of the Month— Tasty Gas

Hi everyone,

Here we are at the end of another year. This year has brought many changes. We expanded to a second location, increased our teaching staff, and best of all grown our scuba family. Anyway, onto the subject at hand, the Specialty of the Month. Being the last month of the year, I'll also give you a preview of the year to come.

For January, we have the Enriched Air Diver course. This is a fantastic course. By using Nitrox you can significantly increase your bottom time. For example, using air on an 80 foot dive you have 30 minutes of bottom time (using the tables). With a 36% mixture of enriched air, you can bump that up to 55 minutes, nearly double. Not too bad, huh? With a computer and some multilevel diving you can stretch that 90 foot dive to 45 minutes to an hour. No more coming up with half a tank because you ran out of bottom time. The reason for this is that you are absorbing less nitrogen. Since you absorb less nitrogen, your body doesn't have to work as hard to get rid of the excess. This also means that you tend to feel a little less tired after a full day of diving on Nitrox than on air. I can tell you I really feel the difference when I dive air for 3-5 dives a day vs. Nitrox. It's a little extra planning,

but well worth the extra effort.

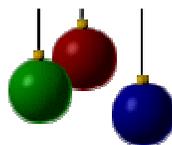
The course consists of an evening of classroom where you will learn to analyze the mixture, the ins and outs of planning a set of dives using Nitrox, and the extra safety aspects to consider. Optionally you can also take a Nitrox tank out and take it for a dive after the course. We tend to use Nitrox on nearly all of our trips. I want all the bottom time I can get and still remain safe. What a great way to do that.

Not to forget about the Specialty of the month for December, there is still time to sign up. The Search and Recovery course is a great one to not only hone your diving skill, but also help you find the various lost items that sometimes get dropped. Remember, you need to sign up in the month to get the free gift, not necessarily take the course then. Now, as promised here is a preview of all of the 2009 Specialties of the Month: As with all the specialties of the month, you get a free gift if you are a PADI Diving Society member.

Jan	Enriched Air Diver
Feb	Boat Diver
Mar	Drift Diver
Apr	Digital U/W Photo
May	Dry Suit Diver
Jun	Peak Perf. Buoyancy
July	Deep Diver
Aug	Wreck Diver
Sep	Project Aware
Oct	Night Diver
Nov	Underwater Navigator
Dec	Search and Recovery

The Specialty of the year is Underwater Naturalist. You can sign up for this any month of the year and get your gift from the PADI Diving Society.

Happy diving,
Brian



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

Dec 13-14 CSSP
JAN 17-18
JAN 24-25
JAN 31-FEB 1

WHERE TO:

FEB 7-8 FLOWER GARDENS
FEB 20-25 COZUMEL—CARNIVAL
APR PLAYA DEL CARMEN FOR CAVERN COURSE
MAR FLOWER GARDENS
APR FLOWER GARDENS
MAY 30-31 FLOWER GARDENS
JUN 11-12 FLOWER GARDENS
JUN 20-27 2-009—CAYMAN AGGRESSOR
JUL 6-8 FLOWER GARDENS
JUL 11-12 FLOWER GARDENS
AUG 1-2 FLOWER GARDENS
SEP 10-13 FLOWER GARDENS—CORAL SPAWN
SEPT 19-26 ST. LUCIA
OCT LITTLE CAYMAN

FEB 19-26 2010—PALAU

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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Karlynda Johnson
Michelle Picket
Olga Tenyakova
Gleb Tarassenko
Charles Pruiett

Billy Tallent
Billy Coffey
Bill Ryan

Gleb Tarassenko
Willard Correll

Advanced Open Water (Green Belt)

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey
JD Trotter
Olivia Trotter
Alan Donohoo
Mark Phillips
Weilun Wang

Fish ID
Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

Project AWARE

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey
Teresa Pechloff
Michael Pechloff
Mark West
Kirk Jones
Billy Tallent

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Willard Correll
Steve Haugen

Coral Reef

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

Digital Photo
Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

Rescue (Brown Belt)

Steve Haugen



Search & Recovery

Willard Correll
Alan Meador

Deep

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

Dry Suit
Steve Haugen
Tressa Marbach

Wreck

Willard Correll

EFR

James Pol
Karen Pol

Multilevel Diver

National Geographic

Tressa Marbach

Navigation

Aaron Bath
Steve Haugen
Willard Correll

Enriched Air

Tracy Thomas

Night

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

Equipment

Teresa Pechloff
Allen Donohoo
Susan Coffey
Michael Pechloff
Mark West

Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Mark West
Olga Tenyakova

Milestones—number of dives recognition

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

10 Dives

50 Dives

300 Dives

20 Dives

100 Dives

350 Dives

25 Dives

150 Dives

400 Dives

Billy Coffey
Susan Coffey

200 Dives

500 Dives

Tracy Thomas

250 Dives



Meet our Team— Jeff and Rick T

Hi everyone!

This month we are featuring a couple of guys that really rolled out the red carpet for me when I first arrived at the Garland shop. Everyone knows what it's like to be the new person in town. Well Jeff Davis and Rick Troutte made sure to come by and visit when they heard I was on there side of town, with delicious tacos no less! The visits and tacos were much appreciated. Jeff and Rick are working together on their new team for our Garland shop.

The neat thing about our team of professionals is that they all want to share something special with our new divers and prospective divers as well. Jeff and Rick have really gone that extra mile with their scouting program the Venture Crew 1020. For several years now Jeff and Rick have been helping scouts get involved in scuba thru Discover Scuba events which give them a taste of scuba and open the door to new adventures. When the kids and families got the bug to get certified, Jeff and fellow professionals donated time to make the courses available to them. Rick as a Scout Leader saw the need for more qualified divers to assist within the program and started to work his way thru the ranks to Dive Master and then Instructor.

I've known Jeff for several years and have just begun to see the other side of him. On first meeting he seems rather quiet and serious. Until recently I didn't know he had a downright mischievous side. Just ask his teammate Rick.

There is no doubt that Jeff has a thing for shooting video of fish and even underwater pumpkin carvers. If you've seen the pumpkin carving video on our website that is the fine work of Jeff including editing. Anyone looking to find out about underwater video should have a chat with him and take the specialty to learn from a true fanatic.

Sometimes there are divers and their families that just burst into the scuba world and it seems like they were always here. That's how it is with Rick and his family. Rick showed up at Lake Travis to take a rescue course and fit in like a hyper-stretch wetsuit. It was great to watch him work with his sons as they earned their Rescue certification. The next thing we new he was finishing his dive master and immediately joined the Instructor Program. Recently Rick introduced his daughter to scuba and it appears scuba is indeed in their blood.

Cheers, Rick

Jeff Davis—IDC Staff Instructor

How did you get started diving?

It's amazing what people do when they think they are in love.... Me? I blindly jumped into scuba diving because a girl-



friend in college was certified. She had talked about diving a few times, and I thought, "What the heck," and I signed up for a course. It wasn't long and I was hooked, looking for excuses... I mean reasons... to hit the water every weekend.

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

I've been diving for nearly 10 years now. I was a Divemaster for a while, and dove with the Commerce Emergency Corps as a recovery diver of their dive team for a few years. In 2005 I decided to take the leap into the world of instruction. I love sharing one of my passions with other people.

What brought you to International Scuba?

I came to International Scuba in 2005, commuting from the small town of Commerce, Texas. The logical step was taking an Assistant Instructor course with my instructor. Somehow I got talked into taking the entire IDC, and quickly found a dive shop to call home. For those that have been around a few years, I even worked several months of retail in Carrollton shortly after moving to the Dallas area.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.

I was a Youth Minister for a year in a small East Texas church. I figured out real fast that I had other talents that were more suited for me. But I do enjoy working with youth programs, and currently work with Venturing Crew 1020 of Rowlett as one of their resident scuba instructors.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?

I can leave tomorrow??? Sweet!!! Oh, it's not nice to temp me like that! And to make a choice??? I'm not really sure which island just yet. But I hope to figure that out before long.

What is your oddest diving experience?

I have such a range of experiences. Some of the recovery dives I've done in the past would certainly rank up there. Probably one of the most memorable diving experiences was in Cozumel for Christmas. My dive buddy and I got Santa hats and went diving on Christmas day with them. The best part was waving at the tourists on the Atlantis Submarine Tour. If only I could read their minds that dive....

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?

For new divers, I highly recommend spending time to practice and fine tune buoyancy. As I've taught scuba the few years, it's always fun watching the light go on seeing the someone instantly enjoy diving when they are not trying to figure out their buoyancy in the water. Probably the best tip with this would be to find your optimum weighting so that you are not over- or under-weighted, rather dead on with what you need.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?

I can have gills in my next life? Awesome! I love watching the Queen Angel. I could just hang in the water to watch them swim around.

What diving activity do you enjoy the most?

That's easy – videography. I have a background in video production, and have certainly found a way to combine it with my love for scuba. It's fun capturing a dive and coming home to watch it over and over again.

Rick Troutte—Open Water Scuba Instructor

How did you get started diving?

In 2006 Steve Moore and Dan Holsonback approached my two sons, Josh and Sam, and me about joining Venture Crew 1020 which was going to focus on diving. I thought, the boys aren't as active in Troop 1020 as I would like, maybe this would be a way to get them to continue scouting and complete their Eagle Scout ranks. Well not only did they get their Eagle ranks, but we are all hooked on diving.



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

I started diving in July 2006. I passed the PADI Instructors Exam August 2008. I am working on my second hundred dives.

What brought you to International Scuba?

Chris Armstrong introduced us to International Scuba and Patti and Brian. I complained all the way from Rowlett to Carrollton. Now the trip is a pleasure.

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.

I used to drive an AMC Gremlin.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?

I have no idea at this time. I have only been to a few (haven't found any I didn't like yet) and I plan to visit many more. Suffice it to say, retiring on an island would be a something I could get used to.

What is your oddest diving experience?

I don't know that it was necessarily odd but certainly memorable. We were doing our lights out exercise on a platform at CSSP and I realized there was a lot of light from above. I looked up and what a sight. The moon was full with a ring around and you could still see the craters even through the light ripples on the surface.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?

Other than DIVE every chance you get, continue to grow your education and enjoy all the people you meet. They are some of the best.

If you were to come back as a fish in your next life what kind of fish would you be?

I would be either a Black Tip Reef Shark or maybe a Manta Ray, still pondering.

Fall Activities

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!

November 1—January 15

Marine Dot Artist



This month I wanted to do something a bit different. I wanted to introduce you to a man with amazing and infectious energy and enthusiasm. If you have been around diving very long, you have certainly seen his art. If you are new to diving, you will soon come to appreciate his art. His art has been published in most of the diving magazines. If you have ever seen the DAN Scuba-opoly game, the picture on the board is Ron's. As an artist you may be more familiar with him as Rogest (actually a play on his name, Ron George Steven). Patti and I first met Ron when we were arranging a trip to Australia. We were fairly new dive shop owners at the time, and here comes this man with a distinct British accent. As we talk about the trip to Australia, he mentions a bit about his art and his history.



Ron was born in Montreal, Canada, but raised in England. After he left school he moved to the Canadian Rockies working in a restaurant. A friend if his introduced him to diving by cutting a hole in the ice. As you can imagine, it wasn't the best of introductions. Later he moved further west to Vancouver and agreed to dive again. This was a much better experience, so much so that a year later he became an instructor. He was presented an opportunity to mange the restaurant at the Sidney Opera House. As you can imagine, he jumped at the chance. Once his contract was done, he decided that he needed to dive the Great Barrier Reef. Off he went to Cairns. He pestered one of the local operators for a job until they finally relented (probably to get him off their backs. Ron can be persistent). Later he became the domestic sales manager, and eventually the job went international when he relocated to Vancouver.



Ron decided to his art. From his aboriginals. The Often his paint-are mostly marine



dabble in art. After much encouragement, he dove head first into travels to Australia, he was fascinated by the dot painting of the dot painting takes a lot of patience. He finds it very relaxing. ings will have over 10 layers before he is satisfied. His subjects and marine environmental in nature.

I usually run into Ron at the DEMA show. This year was no different. This year he was in the middle of a painting where teenagers were given the opportunity to help. Each person painted a different sea creature. He was doing this to increase the awareness of the sea. As we were talking the subject came up about our annual food drive/sale where for each can of food you bring in to for the local food bank, you receive 1% off (up to 20%). Because of his mantra of 'Think globally, act locally', he became excited about it. He is helping us out this year with some limited edition posters specially printed for us. This year we will be adding to the normal sale. If you bring in 25 cans of food, or make a \$25 donation to the food bank through us, you will get one of these posters. We don't know the exact numbers or the print yet, but it will be around 100-200 posters. Because of the limited nature of these, they could become collector's items.

We are excited about our relationship with Rogest and his help with our food drive this year. I like his quote he put in an email to me "A measure of any society is how they look after the less fortunate amongst us ." We are trying to do our part and hope you can help us out as well.

Happy Diving, Brian

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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GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

CD Corner — Rough Times call for Tough Measures or does it?

Howdy Divers,

I listen to the news and read the occasional newspaper only to get inundated with crummy news. I am choosing not to stick my head in the sand but come up with positives to act upon during this odd set of times.

Remember we bought International Scuba a mere 51 days after 9/11. That was a very sad time in our country and people had lots on their minds. So go figure that on 8/28 we closed on the Garland store only to have things take a turn we weren't expecting.

As a young child I can remember seeing my parents tighten the belt and change a bit of how we were doing things and what we were doing but I don't ever remember not going on a vacation. Maybe we didn't go to some place cool be we always went somewhere. My mom was from the northeast and my dad's family from the south which were scattered from Mis-

issippi to South Carolina so visiting family could get expensive.

Kind of like diving that we need to plan a little more and choose our destinations to get the best bang for our buck. As you will see in 2009, we have 10 Flower Garden trips and several Aquarena Springs. We are currently planning a California trip and have also been asked about a Florida trip.

We have to remember that when things get tough and we are watching everything not to forget to take care of ourselves—even in the simplest terms. Treat yourself to a Starbucks if that is a specialty thing now a days.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

If you will be traveling during the holidays please take care!

~ Patti



Creature Feature — You Decide

What is it about a creature that seems to intrigue you the most? Is it the colors or ways in which the colors are displayed? Is it the camouflage that is a characteristic? Or maybe it is the odd shape it takes? So for this month I'd like to try something new.

On one of our trips to the Bahamas a friend of ours came up the ladder exclaiming "Wow, what a wonderful dive, what kind of fish was that fish?" After a bit of laughing, we asked which one? Nancy replied, "the blue one." After that dive we did a pool side impromptu Fish ID course. And go figure, we have never let Nancy live it down.

It is amazing to go to the Caribbean, see all of the cool colored fish and then go to the Pacific to see the same shaped fish but an entirely different color. You think to yourself—is this the same family?

At some of the dive club or store events Rich will have his Fish ID quiz running. You think you know what's what only to find out it you weren't. UGH! The quiz is a lot of fun. Just a thought but a PADI Fish ID course might make you not ask what was that fish? And it is fun

too!

Now, onto a little quiz.

So exactly what kind of fish are these? These fish can get mixed up.



So what's your guess?

Guess correctly by responding to this email and receive a special discount when you come in the store.

You will learn their identity next month.

Happy Holidays to all!