



International Scuba

Experience the Adventure!

Remember to visit our website!

www.internationalscuba.com

Upcoming Lake Weekends:

May 21-22	Jul 30-31
Jun 4-5	Aug 13-14
Jun 18-19	Aug 27-28
Jul 2-3	Sep 10-11
Jul 16-17	Sep 24-25

Upcoming Trips:

May 21-28 Belize
May 21-22 Flower Gardens
Jun 3-6 Cozumel
Jun 4-11 Bonaire
Jun 18-25 Roatan
Jul 18-22 Cozumel *****

Upcoming Classes:

Adv. OW	5/21, 6/4, 6/18, 7/2
EFR	6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6
Rescue	5/26, 6/9, 6/23, 7/7
Nitrox	5/17, 6/21, 7/19,
DAN 02	6/14, 7/12, 8/9,

Howdy everyone:

I wanted to take a second to thank all of our staff and divers for a fantastic Spring into Dive Season Event. The Water Dogs and Finz kept us watered and fed throughout the day and the SingleDivers help register folks for giveaways and such. Thanks to all of you.

We are moving quickly these days as we go from one event to another. If you have some time this weekend International SCUBA will be participating in the Adventure Expo Weekend at Meadowmere Park on Lake Grapevine. If you are an outdoor enthusiast then this is the place for you. Expect to see info on: kayaking, boats and RV's, hot air balloons, rock climbing, archery, hang glider and power parachute demos, kids catching live fish, adventure race zones, etc. Admission is free and parking is only \$2. The show runs from 9-5 on Saturday and Sunday. Check out this website: www.TexasOutdoorExpo.com for more info and directions. A Similar show has been held in Austin the past 4 years and it has been a blast. We can't

let them have all of the fun now can we? Come comfortably dressed in case you want to try any of the fun sporting activities. If you have friends who want to try Scuba bring them along as we will have the pool setup for you. Tami and Travel For You will also be there with great trip opportunities as well.

See and dive with you soon,

- Patti Stewart

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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 Open Water

Heather Boyd
Brian Fry
Natalie Cooper
Jonathan Couch

Advanced Open Water

EFR
Thomas Payne

Nat Geo Open Water

Rescue
Kim Norris
Emmanuel Dubois

Enriched Air

Curtis Cook

Master Scuba Diver

Bill Gutknecht

HMLI

Matthew Rodger

DPV

Rich Thomas

Milestones

25 Dives
Marty Cummins

30 Dives

40 Dives

50 Dives

60 Dives
Bill Gutknecht

80 Dives

100 Dives

500 Dives

The Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act

This month I would like to follow up on Patti's article from the last newsletter. If you remember, she asked that you do just one thing to help the environment. For divers it is natural to think about the environment underwater. I think all of us have seen trash underwater that we would rather have not seen. Right now there is an act in the senate to help with this. Below is an article that was reprinted with permission from Project Aware that describes the act and how to help much better than I can.

One nice thing to note about the proposed act is that it is supported across party lines. It is always nice to see cooperation in Washington. I would encourage you to call your local senator to support this act.

If you would like more information on things that you can do either individually or as a group, please visit www.projectaware.com. Happy diving and here is the article, Brian

Marine debris in the form of trash, litter and fishing gear on our beaches and underwater environments is a serious problem. It contaminates natural habitat, harms ocean life and makes shorelines unfit for divers and swimmers.

This problem can be solved. The new Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act will establish programs with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to identify, assess, reduce and prevent marine debris and its negative impacts.



The Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act will:

- Establish a Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program with NOAA. This program will include tracking, sourcing, removal and mitigation of marine debris in US waters. Additional efforts include the development of new fishing gear, gear tracking techniques and incentives for reporting lost gear. Funding will also be available for education, outreach and mitigation activities.
- Enhance USCG marine debris prevention efforts. Monitoring and enforcement of current marine pollution laws under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) will be enhanced. New regulations may include requirements for ports to provide proper disposal of debris, reporting lost fishing gear and enhanced ship logs regarding debris disposal.
- Establish interagency coordination. An Interagency Committee on Marine Debris including representatives from NOAA, USCG, the Environmental Protection Agency, The US Navy, the Maritime Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of State and the Marine Mammal Commission. The Committee will provide annual reports to Congress on its efforts.
- Establish a Federal clearinghouse of information of marine debris data. This database will serve as the US contribution to an international database of marine debris information in cooperation with international governments.
- Authorizes \$10 million in funding for NOAA and \$5 million to the Department of Homeland Security for the USCG each year to carry out the requirements of this act through 2010.

The Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act (S. 2488) introduced by Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Ted Stevens (R-AK), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), John Kerry (D-MA), Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) will address serious marine debris problems.

Ask your Senator to support the bill as a cosponsor with Senators Inouye and Stevens. Visit http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for contact information for your state Senators.

- Brian Divine
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Featured Products— eRDP

Finally, "Technology catches up with the Table"!! How many of you are still struggling with the Recreational Dive Planner (RDP)? Well, now you have some relief. PADI just began delivering their new eRDP, which is an electronic version of the ever-popular RDP and we have 'em in stock!!

The eRDP is a specialized calculator, not a computer; that makes table use simpler and more convenient. It uses the same information found on the plastic version of the RDP Table including maximum dive times, pressure groups, no decompression limits, etc., only in an easy to use electronic format. The eRDP looks like a regular calculator so those who are intimidated by the conventional RDP Table should find it more user friendly and appealing.

It allows you to enter dive times, dive depths and surface intervals so you can planned single and repetitive dives. Although it "resists moisture" the eRDP IS NOT WATERPROOF, it is designed solely for use on the surface and CANNOT BE TAKEN UNDERWATER. The same general rules and guidelines that apply when using the Table or Wheel versions of the RDP apply when using the eRDP, but one of the really cool features is that it prompts you to refer to some of those rules which are attached to the unit.

Some key features include:

- A user replaceable 3.0 volt #2032 battery.
- Accommodates both Imperial and Metric measurements
- Offers three modes – Dive Planning, Minimum Surface Interval and Maximum Depth Planning.
- Allows you to plan up to five consecutive dives, or more by entering with a known pressure group.
- Includes warning, prompts and alarms.

- Automatically shuts off after five minutes of not being used to conserve battery power.

PADI is allowing the eRDP to be used in the following circumstances:

- In Open Water Training, it can be used when taking the Module 4 Quiz and the Final Exam but students should know that they will be required to know and understand the RDP Table for back-up purposes.
- Divemaster candidates can use it when answering the RDP Table questions on the Decompression Theory and Recreational Dive Planner Theory exam but they will still be required to learn how to use the RDP Table and The Wheel.
- Instructor Examination candidates can use it when answering the RDP Table questions on the Decompression Theory and Recreational Dive Planner Theory exam.

So, as mentioned earlier, the eRDP's familiar calculator like format makes it easy for you to plan dives quickly and accurately. Plus it reduces the most common error in dive planning, that of forgetting to add the Residual Nitrogen Time to the Actual Bottom Time to find the Total Bottom Time. This will particularly appeal to the new diver who may be anxious about the calculations when using the RDP Table.

Additionally, as a diver you will quickly see the benefits and ease of electronic dive planning and, if you don't already own a computer, you might want to consider purchasing one. Those of you who already own a dive computer might consider purchasing it as a back up should your dive computer fail.

In summary, the eRDP is a new take on an old tool that will make it easier for new and old divers alike to do their dive planning. Stop by the shop to play with and learn more about the new eRDP – we've got one out on the counter!!

- Suzanne

Featured Products— Apollo Tank Bands

Are you tired of having your tank slip no matter whether you wet the band or not? Everyone has had this happen at least once in their diving career and we can only hope it wasn't at depth or in a dangerous situation.

Apollo has redefined the standards for Scuba Diving. The new Bio-Tank Lock can secure a diving tank in seconds with little effort and up to ten times more tightening torque than any conventional tank lock on the market today.

Apollo employs an advanced adjustable screw system that makes installation and removal a breeze; even with thick gloves. The heavy duty spring automatically adjusts as webbing expands and contracts. It will accommodate any tank size and is adaptable to most BCD's.

Like some of Apollo's other products— the bio-filter, the bio-tank lock has to be experienced to appreciate its advantages. Having used one you'll wonder how you could ever go back to a conventional tank lock. No more re-threading or struggling with buckles and cams to lock your tank only to find it slipping. With its ease of use and reliability the bio-tank lock adds confidence, safety and comfort, for every diver.



apollo Bio-tank lock system
The new standard!

Bio-tank lock system
A loose tank can take valuable time to fix, is extremely annoying and dangerous. Apollo's NEW patented tank lock system virtually eliminates the risk of tank slippage.

Oversized knob
No more struggling or re-threading. Simply turn the oversized knob to install or remove the bc. Knob flips in for streamlined placement.

Performance

- The trapezoidal screw provides up to 220 lbs of torque to eliminate the risk of tank slippage
- The mechanism is simple, strong, and stable.
- Buckle and tension system are made from rugged metal castings and superior quality stainless steel
- System is easy to install and will quickly adjust to different size cylinders

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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

CD Corner —

Howdy Divers,

I hope you have all been wet at least once this year. If not, no time to waste as trips are filling fast. I just want to remind everyone to make sure their gear has been serviced in plenty of time to get wet once as a sanity check. Not a bad idea to get wet in general if it has been several months. Diving is kind of like riding a bike but it is amazing the little things we forget as time passes.

If you are thinking of taking your next training course it is an even better idea to come get wet so you'll be sharp for the new skills to be learned. Even if you can't get wet where you want to there is plenty of local diving that can quench the thirst so-to-speak. In Texas you can hit, Clear Springs Scuba Park, Athens Scuba Park, Windy Point or the Dam at Lake Travis, Possum Kingdom, Blue Lagoon, and then there is always the Comal in New Braunfels where you can have fun German refreshments afterwards. Oklahoma isn't far away either with Broken Bow and Ten Killer. If you have the time and monies, join us on a trip as that is the easiest place to pick up specialties and such.

This summer we are concentrating on Advanced Open Water and Specialties such as: Enriched Air, Navigation, Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV), Search and Recovery, Photography, Naturalist, AWARE Fish ID, Hazardous Marine Life Injuries, On-site Neuro, etc. Speaking of AWARE. I will give a magna slate to the first person that responds to the newsletter email with the definition of the acronym. (Santa you can't respond). We always have a specialty of the month but that doesn't preclude you from doing other specialties, these are meant more to peak your interest.

If you are thinking of going the professional route we would love to have you. We currently have 8-9 folks working through Dive Master and 4 folks working on Assistant Instructor. If you love helping other divers learn new skills then going Pro just might be the answer. Please call or email me to discuss how you might get to live the island dream or simply give back to the others what cool things you have learned and enjoy doing.

I guess the moral of my rambling story is always keep learning be it in the water or in the classroom as there is so much to learn about our vast oceans and what they do for us and how to have safe fun in them.

- Patti Stewart
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Creature Feature — Yellow Goatfish

.Goatfish are common throughout the Caribbean. Their bright yellow tails and single yellow body stripe that runs the length of their bodies easily identify them. They get their name from their "beards" which are really a pair of "whiskers" called barbels that hang down from their chins. These barbels are narrow fleshy limbs, and resemble the "whiskers" of catfish. Goatfish use their barbels to dig in the sand for food. When Goatfish aren't eating, they can be found swimming in small schools above the reef. They swim to areas of sand or rubble near the reefs or shallow wrecks hunting for small worms or other invertebrates. Notice the clouds of sand these Goatfish are stirring up as they dig in the sand with their barbels.

I have seen Yellow Goatfish on many different reefs and around shallow wrecks, including reefs/wrecks in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Belize, Cozumel, Florida and even Hawaii. Goatfish are not afraid of divers so they are fun to watch as they sift through the sand for their next meal. While in the BVI, diving the stern section of the RMS Rhone, I was quite entertained and amused as I patiently hovered above a school of Goatfish and watched as they dug and "puffed" through the sand debris. Next time you are



diving a shallow reef or wreck keep an eye out for these amusing fellows, you might even have a laugh or two.

- Suzanne
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