



GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 9, Issue 2

Dive into New Year

Hey there Divers,

Well as we settle into 2010 we are seeing more and more divers pop there heads outdoors and get their gear serviced fort he up and coming warmer months...although we saw a lot of cold water divers brave the elements I think we are all ready for our 3mm shorties again!!.

Before we don the shorties we have our Valhalla trip coming up here March 6th & 7th we have had a lot sign up already for that so if your considering it, it's time to pick up the phone and make the call as seats are limited, \$50 secures you a place who wouldn't want to dive a missile silo..!!

On a different note we will be in attendance for the whole duration of the Dive Show we will be in booth 200

with experienced divers attending and even those who are not yet a part of the diving family will have a chance to come and check what all the hype is about...so it's up to the staff manning the booth to show them, I'm sure it will be a great time, don't forget to stop by either store and pick up 50% off entrance fee tickets. Hope to see you all there, swing by and see us !!

It's funny where life takes us but I have some news to pass on. I have been a member of the International Scuba family for almost 9 months and I have had the opportunity to meet some of the best divers around and make some lasting friendships, but life is taking me down a different path and so this will be my last contribution to the International Scuba Newsletter,

as I am relocating to San Diego, CA. Yep, it's true the west coast has me in it's grips and so I leave with many fond memories and some great friendships. Good luck to all the Instructors and staff at International Scuba and a personal Thank you to Patti Stewart who is truly an inspiration to the world of Diving. Happy Diving Y'ALL (I did pick up a little Texan)

Good luck and see you all in the Water, blowing bubbles...

Happy Diving.

Donna

Specialty of the month— Boat Diver

Hi everyone,

For a lot of divers, the first time they get on a boat to go diving can be a bit intimidating, especially if you do not have much experience around boats. For those of you in that boat (pun intended) the good news is that the specialty of the month for February is just for you, boat diver. This is a great course to get you familiar with the terminology, etiquette and procedures for boat diving. Do you know the difference between the bow and the head (probably not a good thing to mix up)? When are you allowed to board the boat? For the answers to these questions and more, sign up for the boat diver course. If you sign up in the month of February and you are a PADI Diving Society member, you can get a cool gift. You do not need to complete the course in February, just sign up for it. If you don't have a trip planned soon, stop by and talk with the retail team. We often go out boat diving on Possum Kingdom. Its great fun and we get to go places on the lake that we don't get to dive often.

In addition to learning boat terminology and such, the new course offers knowledge about knots commonly used on a boat. They don't call them ropes but rather lines—if

you get on a sail boat then the terms change again.

Have you ever wondered how boats don't crash into one another very often? Or that there are green and red lights on the sides of the boat and channels. There is something to that. You too can learn more in the Boat Diving Specialty.

Another great course for that trip to Possum Kingdom or your favorite warm water destination is Enriched Air Nitrox. That is the specialty of the month for January. Take a look at last month's newsletter for more information. Remember to get your free gift, you just need to sign up in February, you can complete it later if you need.

Happy diving,

Brian

This is the Belize Aggressor we will be on August 14-21. There are 3 spots left—sign up soon.



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

JAN 16-17 CSSP

JAN 23-24 -

JAN 30-31 AQUARENA SPRINGS

FEB 6-7

FEB 13-14 CSSP

WHERE TO:

FEB 6-7 FLOWER GARDENS

FEB 17-27 PALAU

MAR FLOWER GARDENS

APR PALAYA CAVERN

MAY FLOWER GARDENS

JUN FLOWER GARDENS

JUL BLACKBEARDS CRUISE

AUG BELIZE AGGRESSEOR

FALL 2010—RED SEA

SPRING 2011—FIJI

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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Tabatha Green
Mike Long
Juan Contreras

National Geographic Open Water

Angela Menick
Zachary Collins

Adventure Diver

Advanced Open Water

Cavern

Deep

EFR

Enriched Air

Barbara Bennett
Jeanie Martinez
Jeff Alman
Rose Yorio
Jason Bernanke
Jodi Zabolotny

Oxygen Provider

Search & Recovery

Joe Munoz

Project AWARE

Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Assistant Instructor

Tracy Thomas

IDC Staff Instructor

Donna Jennings

Milestones

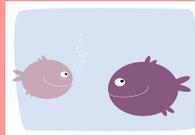


Activities

LEARNING CAN BE FUN!

If you are 10 years or older, now is the time to **DIVE** in and

complete your PADI Jr. Open Water Scuba Course.



You get to breathe

Do you know what SCUBA stands for? ...

Self

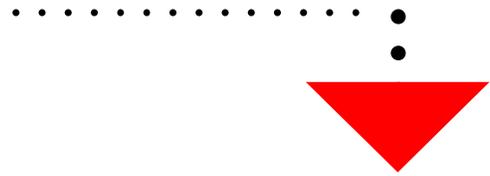
Contained

Underwater

Breathing

Apparatus

... Now you know!



Want to learn how to



Upcoming 2010 classes:

March 15-19 8am—Noon

June 21-25 8am—Noon

July 12-16 8am-Noon

Activities



Welcome to the Annual Texas Dive Show



*Now in Dallas, TEXAS
We are excited about our New Location at the
Embassy Suites Dallas - Frisco*

*February Friday the 12th & Saturday the 13th
Show Hours Friday 5 PM till 8 PM
Saturday from 9 AM till 5 PM*

Come by either location for 1/2 off tickets!

*Whites will be hosting a Dry Suit Demo day on the 14th at CSSP.
If you would like to try out a suit please schedule your pool dive prior to
the show. It's FREE*



Activities



MISSION TO VALAHALLA MISSILE SILO 2010

*March 5th is the launch date for this much anticipated adventure. Do you have the right stuff to enter the lair of the **ICBM Atlas Missile** and explore it's secrets?*

Camp Friday night on site and conduct 2 dives on Saturday. That evening we will move operations to Possum Kingdom Lake for some serious fun and diving on Sunday.

***Altitude Specialties** will be awarded for just \$25.00 to those that volunteer to join this mission.*

We have room for 20 brave divers on this adventure. The cost will be determined by the number of divers that participate.

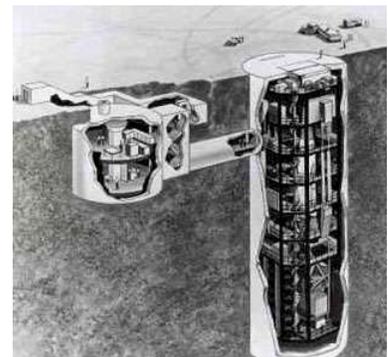
\$50.00 will ensure a spot.

More information may be obtained by calling either shop:

Garland 972-240-4559

Carrollton 972-416-8400

email:Rich@internationalscuba.com



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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Carrollton, Texas 75006
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Fax: 972-240-5953



GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

CD Corner — Specialty Courses and such

Howdy Divers,

I often get asked—why should I take another course I learned everything in Open Water? Did you really learn everything? Was your course 6 weeks long or longer? I bet not. In the open water course we teach you the foundational skills of how to clear your mask, recover a regulator, and introduce you to buoyancy but we certainly can't teach you everything. There is so much to experience and learn within our sport that we should always be open to learning something new.

I know some of you take pictures underwater—wouldn't you like to learn to take better ones. Walter and Jeremy intend to have an entire weekend dedicated to photography. Stay tuned for the dates.

Did you know you learn something new every time you dive in a new environment or new location. Imagine lots of dives in the local

lakes or quarries vs. in clear tropical water—do you think things look different at 100' in both places. Different stressors? There is a reason to take the Deep Diver course.

Has anyone ever used a Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) and ended up with sore ears or a flooded machine. A little training could make the experience awesome. I know on a live aboard they are fun.

Also, what about Enriched Air better know as Nitrox. How many of you think it is for going deeper? Not so much. It is actually prime for 80-100'. It extends your bottom time, shortens your surface interval and it is possible that you might even feel better after using it.

Finally, even if you think you don't need to take another because you learned everything previously, consider taking a course because it is FUN and your dive buddy needs a partner.

We think that even if you don't get to take too many additional courses it is a good idea to become a Rescue Diver—we know you didn't learn that in open water. It is the most fun course there is and you become a better dive buddy.

Sign up today!

Creature Feature — Nudibranch

When asked what my favorite ocean critter was, I quickly answered Eagle Ray but I immediately felt like I had done a disservice to the nudibranch. Like something straight out of a twisted science fiction novel, nudibranchs are one of the most fascinating and colorful critters that divers may encounter. Nudibranchs are found around the globe in virtually all underwater environments from warm shallow coral reefs to the icy dark depths of the world's oceans. They are popular with divers due to their diversity, amazing color variations and relative ease to photograph (because they don't move fast), but for many divers the hunt for one of these small flamboyant little mollusks is half of the fun.

branch from the flatworms and sea cucumbers of the world. Most nudibranchs have a round feathery circle of gills used to breathe while others have a more tube-like organ called cerata.

Much is still unknown about nudibranchs, "nudi's for short", but the species count today stands at over 3,000. A large number of the nudi's that divers encounter are approximately the size of a Cheeto but they vary in size from the size of a grain of rice to that of a medium pizza. Yes, you read that correctly...a medium pizza. Me and my three favorite dive buddies were speechless, partly because of the regulators in our mouths, when a pizza sized nudibranch slimed its way across the reef.

stinging cells and toxic secretions that they either produce on their own or gather from their own prey. Some alter and secrete these toxins from sponges that they eat while others borrow the stinging cells, called nematocysts, from fire corals, anenomes and hydroids.

Although simple organisms, nudibranchs have a sense of sight and smell. Their eyes are basic and essentially can only distinguish light and dark. It is believed that the sense allows them to recognize potential predators by detecting shadows and to help keep their internal clock aligned with day/night. Their sense of smell comes from a pair of Rhinophores located on the front of their body. They are used to detect chemicals in the water to help them locate food. Also if threatened many species can withdraw their Rhinophores and gills for protection.

Once you start looking for and learning more about these little creatures, I am confident that you will be hooked. For some additional information, Nudibranch Behavior by David Behrens is a great read and www.nudipixel.com is wonderful web site for exploring the many different species. Also, if traveling to the Indo Pacific region, do not leave home without 1001 Nudibranchs by Neville Coleman. Now stop reading and get out there to find some nudibranchs!

Sean Stark



The word nudibranch is derived from two Latin words "nudus" meaning naked and "anbranchia" meaning gills since this class of mollusks has lost its protective shell exposing the gills. These exposed gills are one of the tell tale characteristics that distinguish a nudi-

Now that you are hungry from all the food references, it is best that you know not snack on the critters. Even though some camouflage themselves well a large number of species are able to be so flamboyant because the other sea creatures know not to snack on them either. Nudibranchs are loaded up with an arsenal of