



GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 9, Issue 3

What has happened and what's coming up!

March is here and diving is definitely in the air. Our area had our own little dive show the **North Texas Dive Show** hosted at the Embassy Suites up in Frisco on the snowy weekend of Feb. 12th and 13th. It was obvious from the huge crowds (2000 people attended) that divers are ready to get back to diving.

On Feb. 14th we joined the **Whites Demo Day** at Clear Springs. With we had 5 inches of snow on the ground, the turnout was incredible with 22 divers taking the plunge in White's new Fusion dry suits. If you haven't had a chance to try the Fusion, give us a call for a free pool demo. It makes winter diving fun & comfortable.

Dive around Texas is kicking off again this year and we are starting it off with a trip to **Valhalla Missile Silo** on March 6th. Come by and register to participate in the popular diving contest running from now thru September and win great prizes by doing what divers do naturally, dive!

Don't forget we have our **Spring break and Summer Kids Scuba Camps** running. If you know any kids 10 and up that want have the experience of a lifetime have them contact us now for the limited spots available.

Bubble Maker Birthday Parties are the big thing this year for kids of all ages. We make it easy to through a party that will never be forgotten. Let us set up a scuba party for anyone aged 8 and up! The party features a scuba experience for up to 6 people and includes a scuba themed cake and underwater camera to capture the moment. It lasts 2 hours and we even provide a party room for the cake and presents. You get all of this for just \$275.00.

Emergency First Response courses are offered monthly and are perfect for anyone that needs CPR and First aid training. Our courses go well beyond the typical CPR course to provide you with the skills and confidence to help in an emergency whether at

the dive site, office or in your own home. It's perfect for babysitters, coaches and others who are responsible for children as we offer the **Care for Children** component as well. Sign up today!

Do you have diving goals that you want to reach this year? It might be to achieve the rating of **Master Scuba Diver**. Have you thought about becoming a **PADI Pro— a Dive Master or Instructor?** This is the perfect time to come in and we can help you set a plan to reach those goals. Time flies by and summer is just around the corner. Don't let another summer slip away.

We are in the process of planning a full slate of local diving and are looking for divers interested in joining us on adventures. If you are interested give us a call and help us choose the next dive.

I hope to see you in the water soon,
Rich

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- MAR 6-7 CSSP
- MAR 13-14 CSSP
- MAR 20-21 CSSP
- MAR 27-28

WHERE TO:

- MAR 11-12 FLOWER GARDENS
- APR 10-11 FLOWER GARDENS
- APR PALAYA CAVERN
- MAY FLOWER GARDENS
- JUN FLOWER GARDENS
- JUNE 12-19 BVI WRECK WEEK
- JUL BLACKBEARDS CRUISE
- AUG BELIZE AGGRESSEOR

FALL 2010—RED SEA

SPRING 2011—FIJI

Specialty of the month— Digital Photo

What's the first thing everyone asks when you return from a great dive trip? Do you have any pictures? Your friends & family are excited to share the excitement through your photos. Many divers tell me they aren't very good at taking pictures and don't have an eye for it. Some are closet photographers that only take a few snapshots for themselves. With the age of digital photography anyone can take outstanding colorful photos and share them with friends over the internet. With PADI's Digi Photo Specialty everyone can get in on the fun, even snorkelers. It only takes a few simple steps to improve your photos and achieve great results that will bring life long memories.

PADI's S.E.A. method is the key to great photos and the reason that digital photography has become the standard in photography.

S is for **Shoot** Take the photo

E is for **Examine** Check your picture for composition and exposure

A is for **Adjust** If the picture isn't to your liking make adjustments and re shoot the picture till it's correct.

With film photography you couldn't review the film till it was developed

long after you were out of the water. With digital you get instant feedback. You still need to get it right but with the amount of automation in a camera that's becoming easier than ever.

Another great perk to shooting digital photos is that you are only limited by the size of your storage card which typically holds hundreds of high resolution photos. With film it was maxed out at 36 exposures. Now you can shoot away without worry, there is always room for a great shot that comes towards the end of your dive.

If you end up with a great shot of an elusive pygmy seahorse only to find out it was a little under exposed, don't worry with digital you can tweak the photos in Photoshop later. Previously it was difficult and expensive to correct small errors in the darkroom. Now days with a little training and some practice, it's amazing the magic that can be done to improve a less than perfect shot.

The Digital Photography Specialty will cover all the bases proper technique with your camera, how to use white balance to make the colors really pop, and how to manage and edit all your pictures once get back to shore.

By the end of the course will under-

stand all the technical jargon that at one time was intimidating to many intrepid photographers. What the heck is an F-Stop, Aperture or maybe ISO? These are all tools you will use to take great photos and will become friendly to use once you get some background.

Snorkelers can take outstanding photos underwater. Some of my best photos have been taken in very shallow water. The colors are so bright and lighting is no problem. Some of the most interesting subjects can be found around rock jetties and the pilings of a dock or pier. The same techniques hold true in snorkeling and you can often get closer to fish on a snorkel than on scuba.

Once you have taken plenty of pictures we will walk you through the steps of saving, editing and storing your pictures. Half the fun is editing the pictures and cropping them to create a dramatic story. With the popularity of facebook and other social media sites you can start sharing your pictures before you even get home.

Sign up today for the PADI Digital Underwater Photography Specialty and get started creating your very own exciting photo collection.

Inside this issue:

Specialty of the Month	1
Our Stars	2
Milestones	2
What's Happening	3
CD Corner—New Year	4
Creature — Mandarin Fish	4

Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Payne Ford
Bryce Ford
Bruno Alonso
Toni Haddox
Kenny Haddox

Boat

Barbara Bennett

Deep

Barbara Bennett

Digital Photo

Barbara Bennett

Dry Suit

Jim Clingman
Jason Redding
Neil Smith
Kenny Haddox

EFR

Kevin Murphy
Mary De La Zerda

Fish ID

Barbara Bennett
Nancy Witherington

Night

Jamie Wuistingering
Courtney Wuistingering

Project AWARE

Abigail Troutte

Search & Recovery

Jeff Ogar

Underwater Naturalist

Abigail Troutte

Wreck

Barbara Bennett
Susan Coffey
Billy Coffey

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Barbara Bennett
Russell Henarie

Assistant Instructor

Tracy Thomas

IDC Staff Instructor

Donna Jennings

Milestones

50 Dives

Jamie Wuistingering
Courtney Wuistingering

100 Dives

Barbara Bennett

160 Dives

Tressa Marbach

260 Dives

Brian Ronald



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

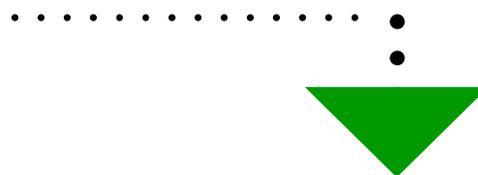
Contained

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

The Black Coral Divers of Dallas, Texas

Presents



&

MARINE LIFE PHOTO EXHIBIT

Proceeds will benefit the NABS Youth Summit and NABS Foundation



Brenna is gifted as a consummate performer with a warm angelic sultry sound, who has captivated and seduced audiences throughout the world. Her motto has always been "Do it with Style, Elegance, and Showmanship". Her personal repertoire consists of familiar jazz standard, Latin love songs, whimsical swing tunes and classic R&B ballads. She was hand selected to perform live before the late Bob Hope and his wife Delores on the "Tribute Show" in honor of his achievements in the late 80's. Brenna has shared the stage with performers such as, The Commodores, the Platters, Chuck Berry and Sergio Mendez.

The Black Coral Divers will host "A Night of Jazz Gala & Marine Life Photo Exhibit" to benefit the NABS Youth Summit and NABS Foundation. The attire is "after five" and will feature a dinner buffet, live entertainment by "Brenna", an acclaimed jazz soloist from San Antonio, Texas, Sherwen Moore, an outstanding jazz saxophonist from Chicago, Illinois and marine life pictures taken by NABS members and DFW area underwater photographers. Photos will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$50.00 per person and can be purchased online.

Please register and RSVP by clicking on the link below:

<http://hcdiozooonline.eventbrite.com/>

Room accommodations at the Renaissance are \$89.00/per night plus 15% tax if reservations are completed by Mar 19th. Reservations can be made online via the link below or at (800) 266-9432.

Hotel Reservation Link:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.d?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2500214

For More Information contact:

Jimmie Mack 972 978-0358



SATURDAY APRIL 10, 2010
7:00 PM until 12 Midnight
THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
2222 STEMMONS FREWAY
DALLAS, TEXAS 75207

SHERWEN MOORE is an elite saxophonist from Chicago, Illinois and a graduate of Northern Illinois University. He has performed as a warm-up act for Earth, Wind and Fire and Boscoe. He and Lawrence Blakely formed the group TWO COLD in 1987. TWO COLD's first CD, Zone Volume 1 (1997), has been used for various public service announcements background music. His unique tenor sax sound creates a round tone against classically oriented piano-chord structures. Sherwen has produced Reginald Torian, lead singer for the world-renown, fabulous Impressions.

Activities



Dive BVI invites you to enjoy the beautiful island of Virgin Gorda and the beautiful dives that surround her shores. This very special Wreck Week Package brings divers to a relaxing place where history and beauty supply the backdrop for camaraderie and adventure.

Jump in and join us!

Click the link above for details

Jun 12-19, 2010



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.

2540 Marsh Lane, Suite 128
Carrollton, Texas 75006
Phone: 972-416-8400
Fax: 972-416-8507

5418 Broadway Blvd
Garland, Texas 75043
Phone: 972-240-4559
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 part-

ner.

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 — Mandarin Fish aka Dragonet

These are the most amazing little fish. I mean little! The females aren't but about 1-1.5 inches while the males get about 1.5-2.5 inches. At least the ones I saw in Palau last month were that size. They are indigenous to the Philippines and Australia—no wonder I found them in between.

Interesting tidbit—they come out to eat just before sundown then once full of grub they go on a hunt for a date/mate. I sat in a coral heap for 45 minutes watching the action. Just before sun down you see the females out looking for dinner. As sundown approaches, out come the boys chasing the girls. Kind of funny—reminded me of the Chicken Ranch in central Texas from the movie Best Little Whorehouse.

The mandarin fish hurry out to eat and such and then spend part of the rest of their time running from little crabs who think they are a delicacy. Funny—they don't think so.

They are usually found in pairs (imagine that) in sandy bottoms near coral heads. This lagoon we were in wasn't deep at all—maybe 20-30 feet max and had 4 coral rubble heads that were full of the most brilliant colors in the waters of the world.

I did a little research about folks who put them in the aquariums—very pretty but don't

last long. Would be cool just to keep them in the oceans—live longer and multiply. Just the writer's two cents.

Having had the opportunity to dive in some pretty cool spots this little fish has stolen my heart as the prettiest.

Hope all of you can head west and see them for yourselves.

