

# International Scuba News

June 2015

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Inside this issue:

<i>Milestones &amp; Certs</i>	2
<i>Diving Etiquette</i>	3
<i>Tulum Whale Sharks and Caverns</i>	4
<i>Meet the IS Team— Jimmie Garza</i>	5



*Howdy everyone!*

*First of all, we want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to the divers who came out to the Fun Dive Day and helped with the Clear Springs cleanup. Our favorite local dive site is just a bit cleaner due to your efforts. For anyone who missed out on the festivities, don't worry, International Scuba is out at Clear springs every other weekend for training and we love for our fun divers to come dive with us. Grab some gear and meet us at the lake. It's always a good time! For a list of upcoming Open Water weekends, please see page 2 of this newsletter.*

*Local diving not your thing? We also have two amazing trips coming up to Tulum and Bonaire. Warm water and colorful fish aplenty! See page 3 for details on Tulum and see our website for more information about Bonaire. We hope to dive with you soon!*

*Cheers!*

*Your IS Family*

- ⇒ July 3-5: Flower Gardens (Whale Sharks)
- ⇒ July 22-26: Tulum, Mexico Caverns & Whale Sharks
- ⇒ Aug 16-20: Guadalupe Shark Diving, Solmar V
- ⇒ August 29-30: Flower Gardens (Coral Spawning/ Manta Rays)
- ⇒ September 19-20: Flower Gardens (Coral Spawning/ Manta Rays)
- ⇒ September 19-27: Bonaire
- ⇒ October 3-10: Annual Cozumel Fun Fest
- ⇒ January 2016: Solmar V, Socorro Islands
- ⇒ March 29-April 11, 2017: Palau Ocean Hunter 3
- ⇒ May 6-13 & 11-20, 2017: Fiji Aggressor and Beqa Lagoon

## Prepare for Possum Kingdom!

Every year, International Scuba hosts a cleanup of Hell's Gate at Possum Kingdom. This year is proving to be more exciting than ever! Mark September 12th on your calendars for a day of diving, barbeque, and music. Your donation of \$30 will get you an awesome t-shirt, a boat ride out to the dive site for the cleanup, and a fancy barbeque cookout afterwards with live



music next door. Last year, over 6,000 pounds of trash were collected! The cleanup project will be featured on the Project Aware website on the Dive Against Debris page.

Donations can be made by cash or check ONLY and dropped off at International Scuba. Must sign up before August 15th to receive a t-shirt. Please provide names, contact info, and shirt size for each diver.

# Diving Milestones and New Divers

## DSD

Alyssa Smith  
Ethan Garner  
Harrison Ulrich  
Jessica Roberts  
Jonathan Osbaldeston  
Patrick Osbaldeston

## Scuba Diver

Margie Wilkes

## Open Water

Andrea Cockrell  
Bobby Wunderlick  
Bryan Murley  
Chris Wilkes  
Cole Morin  
Elizabeth McCullough  
Erin Barutes  
Foad Vafaie  
Hailey Walter  
Jack Lynch  
John Dorfi  
John McCullough  
John Victor  
Julie Wright  
Katherine McCullough  
Katherine Wilkes  
Katie Patterson  
Lynda Pranulis  
Lynn Erickson  
Mackenzie Baldwin  
Max Thomas  
Michael Patterson  
Michael Wilkes  
Mike Hulcy  
Scout McCullough

Sherry Campbell  
Wyatt Johnson

## Peak Performance

Buoyancy  
Bobby Wunderlick  
Cole Morin  
Curtis Marshall  
Dawn Marshall  
Jack Lynch  
Keith Marshall  
Lynn Erickson  
Mary Keenan  
Max Thomas  
Sherry Campbell  
Sullivan Curry  
Wyatt Johnson

## Enriched Air

Bobby Pfeil  
Christopher Smyth  
John Coleman  
John Victor  
Katie Patterson  
Marissa Bennatt  
Michael Patterson  
Ryley Matos  
Sean Luhr

## Digital Underwater

Photography  
Gary McCoy

## Self-Reliant Diver

Darien Beatty  
Mike Kinsey  
Steve Rodak

## EFR

Doyce Ann Straetker  
Jeff Robert Straetker  
Kerry Kreitzer



## When are we diving

- June 20-21 CSSP— Terrell, TX
- July 4th-5th CSSP— Terrell, TX
- July 18-19 CSSP— Terrell, TX
- More to Come!



Click above to "Like" International Scuba on Facebook! Read our latest news, hear from others in your dive community, and enter all our contests. Great friends and great rewards are waiting for you!

## Mind Your Diving Manners! The Don'ts of Diving Etiquette

Divers are generally very chill people and it takes a lot to get us upset, but an unruly or inconsiderate diver can get on anyone's nerves. Are you guilty of any of these diving don'ts?

### Don't Harass the Wildlife!

Many of us have no patience for divers who grab coral and chase turtles. We are privileged to be able to see and interact with the amazing creatures of the ocean. When we abuse that privilege we can do harm to the reef and leave less for the next set of divers to see. Good buoyancy can help too. Remember, take only photos, leave only bubbles.

### Don't Butt In!

And speaking of photos, I have been elbowed out of the way by more than one over-eager photographer trying to get a shot of the cool thing I found. Be nice and wait until the other divers are out of the way before going in for the shot or signal politely to ask if you can squeeze in. This also works in reverse. Divers, if you see a photographer setting up for a shot, stay back. They won't appreciate seeing

your hand in the corner of their photo. Be patient and share.

There are more than enough fish in the ocean for everyone to have something pretty to look at.

### Don't Make a Mess!

Diving is a very gear-reliant



sport and we tend to have a lot of things to keep track of. Don't leave your belongings all over the boat. Make a neat pile by your gear or keep it all in a bag stowed under the seat. This will make it easier for you to find what you need and keep the other divers from tripping over your stuff. Ever heard the word "Shipshape"? It means to remain neat and tidy as sailors on a ship do. Follow that example and don't make a mess.

### Don't Ignore Your Divemaster!

Your divemaster is there to inform you, guide you, and keep you safe. If they tell you something, please listen. Even Master Instructors with 1000+ dives will listen to the divemaster and follow their recommendations. They live there, and they know the sites, so their insights are golden. Also, don't forget to tip your divemasters! In some places, that is their main source of income. In the Caribbean, \$10 for each dive (and for each diver) is recommended. Standard tipping practices differ around the world, so do your research before you go.

### Don't Be Late!

This rule applies in several ways. First, don't be late in the morning to board the dive boat. If you hold the boat up and it has to be back at a certain time for the next group, you just shortened everyone's dive time and they probably won't be happy about it. Second, don't be late getting

into the water. If you know that you take a little more time to get your gear on, start getting ready before the others. There is nothing worse than being in the water ready to start your dive while a diver on the boat is still trying to get their wetsuit on. This may be a vacation, but "Island Time" doesn't apply when it comes to diving.

### Don't Leave Your Buddy!

I have had divers joke with me before about being "same ocean buddies", meaning they did not intend to stick together, but called themselves



buddies because they were in the same general body of water. Not only is wandering away from your buddy kind of rude, it's incredibly unsafe. Buddy separation is the number one contributing factor to dive accidents and fatalities. Don't become a statistic! Stick with your buddy!

### Don't Think This Is It!

This is just a small list of proper diving etiquette practices, so don't think that this is everything you need to know. Learn from your experiences with other divers and never feel embarrassed to ask if you aren't sure of something. In general, be nice and say please and thank you. That can't steer you wrong.



Getting You There... Starts Here!

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# Tulum—Cavern Trip



July 22-26, 2015

## Wonderful Week

Join us for a week of Cenote Diving and  
Whale Shark Snorkeling.

Trip includes:

- Taxes
- Transfers
- Continental Breakfast
- Whale Shark Trip
- 7 Cenote Dives
- Park Fees
- Tulum Adventure

Accommodations\* at iTour Mexico or Cave  
Heaven dependent upon number of travelers

**\$1485**

\*Does not include Airfare (currently \$500)  
Must take AA#1343 dep 7:00a on 22nd and  
return AA#1077 dep 6:45pm on 26th

Cavern Course Available while there \$400  
Prep done before at Clear Springs Scuba Park



*Perfect for those seeking high adventure and non-  
traditional dive trip fare.*



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We've been in your neighborhood for over 15 years serving your diving, education, travel, sales, and service needs. Who better to take care of you than a neighbor?

International Scuba is a 5 Star PADI Instructor Development Center with a Platinum Course Director and over 70 years of experience amongst the group.

Looking for a change of lifestyle?—come see us, we can help!



How did you get started diving?

I went on a trip to Spain and was encouraged to go certified

Number of years diving?

Number of years as professional? How many dives?

I have been a diver for seven years, a pro for five, and I have over 200 dives

MEET THE STAFF

Jimmie Garza MSDT

What brought you to International Scuba?

My original certifying instructor joined International Scuba so I followed her here

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



I pee in my wetsuit

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

Bonaire. It's just such a great place and you can't be being able to walk in off the shore to dive anytime you want.

What is your oddest diving experience?

A night dive with a squid

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

Always let your DM know that you are a new diver. They are always happy to help you and can plan the dives according to your experience level.

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

A trunkfish

