

International Scuba News

July 2015

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Howdy everyone!

*International Scuba presents a Sizzling Summer Savings Event with Aqualung, Apex, Deep See, and Suunto. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 1st** for a day of deals, information, food, and prizes. Special presentations from a surprise guest will be given every hour on the hour, starting at 11am . Attend one of these presentations to get secret one day only discounts on equipment. See the latest products, learn tips and tricks for your gear, test dive gear in our pool all day (make sure to bring your certification card), and win awesome prizes in our raffles at noon and 3pm (must be present to win). Snacks and drinks will be provided. If you have had your eye on a product from Aqualung, Apex, Deep See, or Suunto, now is the time to act. Don't miss some of the best deals you will get all summer and the greatest chance to get all the gear you want at an amazingly low price. The entire store will still be open to all business from 10am until 4pm that Saturday, just in case you need something else. See you then!*



Inside this issue:	
<i>Milestones & Certs</i>	2
<i>SHARKS IN PERIL!</i>	3
<i>Bonaire—Boat and Shore Diving</i>	4
<i>Meet the IS Team—Dennis Maurer</i>	5

Cheers!

Your IS Family

- ⇒ *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*

HELL'S GATE CLEANUP REMINDER

It may feel like September 12th is a long way away, but sign-ups for the Hell's Gate cleanup have already started and the list is filling up. Make sure you register as soon as possible to reserve your spot and t-shirt. Don't get left out of this awesome diving adventure. As a reminder, your \$30 cash/check goes



toward the following: a boat ride out to the dive site, an awesome t-shirt, and a fantastic barbeque after the dive with live music next door. You must register before August 15th in order to receive a t-shirt. Make sure you drop by ASAP with the names of the divers and their t-shirt sizes. If you would like to sign up over the phone, just drop a check in the mail to us and let us know you're coming. We look forward to diving with you soon!

Diving Milestones and New Divers

DSD

Leslie Wade-Bond
Seth Boyd
Stacey Boyd

Scuba Diver

David McCool
Gage Gambaro

Open Water

Abby Lewis
Allison Blackwell
Austin Holtz
Brittany Evaro
Charlie Lewis
Christie Bendele
Cooper Marshall
David Cantu, IV
David Choi
Debbie Jasper
Derek Spellman
Jack Davis
Kathy McCool
Kyle Swackhammer
Lauren Spellman
Lohith Satish
Parker Davis
Randalyn MacDonald
Rebecca Arbuthnot
Reid Jamesmeyer
Rhett Jamesmeyer
Ryan Jamesmeyer
Satish Narayan
Sterling Smock
Trey Newcomb
Tyler Lewis
Veronica Villa

Vincent Miranda
William Name

Peak Performance

Buoyancy
Abby Lewis
Charlie Lewis
Cooper Marshall
David Cantu, IV
David Whitehead
Hannah Whitehead
Lauren Whitehead
Marc Riccione
Stacey Whitehead
Tyler Lewis
Vincent Miranda
William Name

Enriched Air

Evan Winiger
Lohith Satish
Rosemarie Beck
Ryan McLin
Satish Narayan
Steve Winiger
Veronica Villa

Advanced Open Water

Carmen Runte
Joe Castro
Michael Sauer
Scott Gambaro

Night Diver

Robert McLain
Scott McLain

Sidemount

Darrel Conger
Joseph Beatty Jr
Steven Hoffman

Tec 40

Janna Charette

Master Scuba Diver

Steve Rodak

EFR

Bob Marquette
Rachel McLain

When are we diving

- July 18-19 CSSP— Terrell, TX
- August 1-2 CSSP— Terrell, TX
- August 15-16 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!

Another Year of Making Sharks the Enemy

Last week, the Discovery Channel hosted their annual Shark Week, filling our DVRs with shows like *Ninja Sharks*, *Bride of Jaws*, *Sharksanity 2*, and *Return of the Great White Serial Killer*.

Noticeably absent is the presence of any program dealing with the threat humans pose to sharks or the worldwide serious problem of overfishing and shark finning.

Shark finning is the practice of catching sharks, slicing off all of the fins, and discarding the shark body back into the water, all while the shark is still alive. Unable to swim, the shark body sinks to the bottom and slowly suffocates. If you aren't already disgusted and outraged by the description, just wait until you hear all the facts.

First of all, the collection of shark fins is not illegal when the entire shark is brought to shore, killed, and then finned. Many



organizations and governments claim that the majority of fins are collected this way. However, a closer look at the actual number of fins on the market is almost four times higher than the number reported as legitimately harvested.

In fact, it is so hard to truly tell how many sharks are killed a year, that conservationists can only estimate between 26 and 73 million. (Not very specific, huh?) In recent years, the number of sharks killed is estimated to be over 100 million. That's almost three sharks each second. Do you know how many humans were killed by sharks in all of 2014? Three.

Does that seem a little unfair to

you? To put it in perspective, you have a 1 in 63 chance of dying from the flu and a 1 in 3,700,000 chance of

being killed by a shark. In 1996, 43,000 Americans were injured by toilets. Only 13 were injured by sharks.

So why is this happening? Most people have heard of shark fin soup. Shark fins in China represent wealth, and with China's booming economy, there is now an increased demand, even though the actual fin in shark fin soup is flavorless and purely decorative. In places where shark fin soup is not popular, shark fins are collected as status symbols or trophies. A whale shark fin can sell for over \$20,000 and a basking shark fin sells for over \$50,000. When is the last time you heard of a whale or basking shark attacking a human? Other parts of sharks are also falsely rumored to be cures for ailments from arthritis to cancer and are made into supplement pills and powders.

Look for shark cartilage or chondroitin in the list of ingredients. Even the oil from a shark's liver is used in many name brand cosmetic products and goes by the name squalene. You can even find shark parts in your dog's chew toys!

Shark finning, the use of shark parts in other products, and shark bycatch are critically reducing shark populations and threatening a huge shift in the ocean ecosystem (and not in a good way). The IUCN

Redlist (the foremost list of all threatened and endangered species) ranks almost every shark as vulnerable and an alarming number as critically endangered.

You may be asking yourself, why should I care? While Shark Week draws millions of viewers, Discovery Channel relegates any reference to shark



population threats to a remote corner of their website. They write that "rather than being afraid of sharks, people should be afraid for sharks", a sentiment that is not reflected in their entertainment-value driven programming. They do suggest ways people can take action to protect shark populations. Their main reason? "There is no shark week without sharks".

That seems to be a slightly selfish reason, but if you are a fan of Shark Week, then you need to take action NOW! Start with Google and do your homework, sign petitions, don't use products made with shark parts, and tell your friends all about this problem. Project Aware is a great place to start, but there are hundreds of other organizations fighting this horrible tragedy. So get up and get moving or there won't be any more sharks for your television viewing pleasure.



Getting You There... Starts Here!

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September 19-27th
**Bonaire: One Big
Happy Island!
Side-mount/Tec
Friendly Trip!
With/ Rich**

Live to Dive and Dive to Live?! This is your trip!

- 6 glorious days of diving!
- UNLIMITED NITROX Shore Diving!
- 6 Boat Dives!
- Daily Buffet breakfast served Oceanside!
- 1 Bonairian Dive Truck per 4 divers.

We are diving at the "Home of Diving Freedom" Captain Don's Habitat.

This will be a small intimate group of likeminded avid divers. We are talking loooong long bottom times for all. Dive as much as you care or your computer allows. 24 hours a day!

Tec 45 and 50 courses planned for those wanting to explore beyond the recreational limits.

Interested in Side-mount? Get certified before hand and take your skills to the max. There is no better location to take advantage of side-mount's freedom than on Bonaire

Side-mount Rental Systems available on limited basis.

\$1200.00 Quad occupancy in spacious 2 bedroom bungalows

\$1600.00 Single occupancy in one bedroom

\$500.00 non-refundable deposit -Balance due 60 days out.

Airfare is currently 650.00 out of Houston on United

Departing Sept 19th IAH 1402 to BON

Returning BON Sept 27th 1401 to IAH

Contact the Shop ASAP to grab your spot. 972-416-8400





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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 originally got certified as a way to earn PE credits.

MEET THE STAFF
Dennis Maurer
Master Instructor

Number of years diving?

Number of years as professional? How many dives?

33 years diving, 5 years as a professional, Over 100 dives and counting

What brought you to International Scuba?

The good reputation, of course!

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

I'm happy driving my tractor round and round and round and round...

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

I love the islands, but I would go back to Fredericksburg, Texas, my hometown.



What is your oddest diving experience?

I left my fins on the dock so I dove without them. Very slowly.

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

Dive often and wherever you can!

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

A cuttlefish.

