



## What's Happening

Howdy,

So who helped us with the **Hell's Gate Cleanup** at Possum Kingdom last month? Wow, what a mess we cleaned up. Nearly twice what we did last time which was over 2000lbs. Looking into a fall cleanup but haven't finalized.

Have you been to the lake with us lately? What do you think of the new **DPV** or underwater scooters? Come play as they are fantastic, they go faster and last longer than our old ones.

Even more fun than the clean up—stay tuned for the **2nd annual Search and Recovery weekend** with Kevin and Rich. It will be either September or October. IF you haven't finished your navigation specialty come on in and get done.

October will bring the **4th annual Pumpkin Carving** contest so start looking for a design that can beat last years. The carvings have been amazing over the years.

Our dive trade show better known as **DEMA** (Dive Equipment Manufacturers Assoc) is late this year in November 17-20. Anything you want us to look at? We are struggling to keep the Aqualung Zuma's in stock, they are a bit hit. The new matching micron has come out as well.

Don't forget if you are excited about taking specialties that the best bang for your buck is the **Season Pass**. For \$899 you get as many specialties as you can take in a calendar year.

We have just finalized **Cocos Aggressor** for Sept 23 - Oct 4, 2011. We

only have 10 spots and 5 are sold - don't wait much longer. It is a 10 day sail with lots and lots of fish with teeth and hopefully some whale sharks.

Can't travel right now, just come to the lake and camp or play for the day with us. Believe it or not it does cool off nicely at night for camping.

Hoping to dive with you soon. Stay tuned for reports from the Belize Aggressor when I get back.

Cheers,

Patti

## Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

### WEEKEND:

- AUG 7-8 CSSP
- AUG 14-15 CSSP
- AUG 21-22 CSSP
- AUG 29-30 CSSP
- SEP 4-5

### WHERE TO:

- AUG / SEP - FIJI
- AUG BELIZE AGGRESSEOR
- SEP ROATAN
- NOV BONAIRE

### JUN 2011—FIJI

- SEP 24 2011—COCOS AGGRESSOR
- AUG 2012—GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR

## Specialty of the month— Project AWARE

It seems almost every news outlet has been doing their best to let us know that the world is on the brink of destruction. Global Warming is now renamed as "Climate Change". The movie The Cove won an Academy Award for best documentary last year. The cove by the way is must see movie if you haven't seen it yet. The movie takes you undercover and behind the scenes of the annual dolphin slaughter in Tajiri Japan. One of the most watched shows on TV is Discovery Channel's Whale Wars which features a group of dedicated advocates fighting to save the whales that are declining rapidly due to disregard of laws established to abolish whaling.

It might be surprising how ecological issues can be so hotly debated. There are villages and even entire cities that rely on the income brought in from fishing. Once upon a time it appeared that the ocean was an endless food supply. We are learning a tough lesson with some of the most popular seafood dishes becoming unavailable due to extinction. Long line fishing and the giant bottom trawling nets have become the most effective way to supply the never ending demand for fish. The only problem is that they take too much byproduct and indiscriminately kill fish that should be released back into the ocean.

Unless you've been living under a rock the headlines for the past couple months have all been about the Oil leak in the gulf. The damage done in this spill will be unimaginable. Time will tell what the toll will be on the ocean, the fishing communities and tourism around the gulf. It would be easy to say stop the drilling but we have developed an addiction for oil and that will be a hard habit to break.

It's not all doom and gloom, we have come a long way towards protecting the oceans and better managing our natural resources. The key is education and getting a better idea of how choices we make locally trickle down and make a big impact when combined with the efforts of others.

Project AWARE was founded in 1989; Project AWARE was created by a group of environmental advocates at the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), who were concerned about emerging threats to the underwater world. In 1992 Project AWARE Foundation became a separate nonprofit organization.

AWARE stands for (Aquatic, World, Awareness, Responsibility and Education). Each year, Project AWARE exposes nearly one million people to aquatic education programs, responsible dive practices and conservation efforts through its worldwide network of more than 100,000 PADI Professionals.

As a fellow scuba diver and ambassador to the underwater world, I highly recommend you take a moment to learn a little more about how our choices will affect the world our children will inherit.

The Project AWARE Specialty is a non diving specialty which means that everyone can enjoy the course regardless of age or even if you dive or not. This is a great way to get kids and non divers introduced to the underwater environment.

The PADI Diving Society is offering a Free Fish Flip Identification cards to all those that take The Project Aware Course during the Month of September and are members of the Diving Society.

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## Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

### Open Water (White Belt)

Joe Fesenbek  
 Matthew Fesenbek  
 Jacob Cervantes  
 Kevin Rote  
 Shane Hancock  
 Alyssa Beardsley  
 Miki Beardsley  
 Luis Solis  
 Lauren Bate  
 Jake Davis  
 Jennifer Holland  
 Jared McPherson  
 Amanda Green  
 Alex Tedesco  
 WO Mills  
 Susan Mills  
 Cliff Carter  
 Robert Holland  
 Robin Kiefer  
 Garry Kiefer  
 Chris Trevino  
 Elizabeth Nguyen  
 John Rote  
 Robbie Michel  
 Joe Koester  
 Mark Bak  
 Alex Bak  
 Kestrel Erickson  
 Ben Whitcomb  
 Lewis Frazier, Jr  
 Lewis Frazier  
 Laura Bate  
 Larry Bate  
 Cynthia Padin  
 Arturo Padin  
 Ch-Li Lin

### National Geographic

#### Open Water

David Alexander  
 Rick Alexander  
 Joshua Smith

#### Advanced Open Water

Erryn McGrath  
 Andy Pate  
 Raymond Coffey

### EFR

Barbara Weber  
 Lisa Yare  
 Maddi Gentry

Briand Gentry  
 Carolyn Gray  
 Sarah Long  
 Michael Hughes  
 David Gentry  
 Sarah Thorne  
 Terrance Cottle  
 Taylor Hendricks  
 William Allton  
 Thomas Hendricks  
 Natasha Houshmand  
 Kristy Corbeil  
 Danielle Alcala  
 Alicia McCarthy

### Enriched Air

Erryn McGrath  
 Raymond LaPlante  
 Amber Terry

### Peak Performance Buoy- ancy

Robert Holland  
 Jennifer Holland  
 Zachary Peterson  
 Seth Peterson  
 Jeremy Peterson  
 Garry Kiefer  
 Alyssa Beardsley  
 Nicholas Beardsley  
 Robin Kiefer  
 Valerie Brandt  
 Tim Kettering  
 Ben Whitcomb  
 Harley Mimura  
 Muriel Mimura  
 Larry Bate  
 Laura Bate  
 Lauren Bate  
 Raymond Coffey

### Rescue

James Maher  
 Gregory Walter  
 Neil Smith  
 Joe Munoz  
 Robin Croley

### Underwater Naturalist

Linda Munoz

### Master Scuba Diver

### Dive Master

Sarah Long

### Assistant Instructor

Dwayne Butts

### Specialty Instructors

Aaron Turner  
 Jim Amick  
 Jeff Bailey  
 Kyle Omberg  
 Michelle Kraft  
 John Stanton

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**Details:**

- No blackout dates or destination restrictions; subject to availability
- Offer valid from June 20, 2010 – August 31, 2010 at U.S and Caribbean retailers
- To receive voucher, form and receipt must be post marked by 9/30/2010
- Voucher must be redeemed within one (1) year of purchase
- All reservations are made through your dive center, or Aggressor Fleet or Dancer Fleet reservations.

**How to receive your voucher:**

1. Purchase an Aqua Lung/Apeks/Sea Quest BC, regulator, and Suunto computer package from an authorized Aqua Lung retailer. To find a retailer near you, visit our dealer locator at [aqualung.com](http://aqualung.com)
2. Log on to [aqualung.com/buysavedive](http://aqualung.com/buysavedive) and fill out the online [voucher application](#)
3. Mail voucher application to: Buy, Save & Dive c/o Aqua Lung 2340 Cousteau Ct., Vista, CA 92081
4. You will be emailed the Buy, Save, & Dive voucher.
5. Once you receive your voucher, you will be able to redeem it by contacting your dive center, Aggressor Fleet or Dancer Fleet reservationist.

[Get your voucher application here](#)



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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## GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

### CD Corner — Go Pro

Howdy,

Another successful IE, this one in Nacogdoches, Texas. Next month it is back to Oklahoma City.

Have you thought of going pro? What a life of teaching people to teach people to blow bubbles I have. I want sand between my toes in the future but right now clay soil of North Texas is just fine.

What's it take to become a dive professional you ask? You need the passion to want to share your diving experiences with others.

Then, you need:

- ◆ To be 18 years old
- ◆ to be both an Advanced Open Water Diver and a Rescue Diver
- ◆ at least 20 dives to enter the program. You will need 60 to exit the program
- ◆ current first aid / CPR within 24 months

- ◆ Medically cleared to participate in diving activities

- ◆ time to commit to the program

A PADI Dive Master is the first rung of the professional ladder. It is your platform to grow. From here you can become an Oxygen instructor or Digital Photo instructor.

The Dive Master program entails:

- ◆ classroom time - there are 9 academic presentations that include: physics, physiology, dive theory, skills and environment, equipment, and conducted programs, supervising students and working with certified divers, business and careers in the dive industry, and risk management
- ◆ Pool time - stamina swims of 400 and 800 yd, 15 minute float/tread, 20 skill demonstration quality circuit, and minimum of 5 confined water sessions where you work directly with students

- ◆ Open Water time - a minimum of 6 sessions including students from open water course, adventures course, specialty course, and fun divers needing a tour of our local area

- ◆ Mapping project of a local area

- ◆ Emergency Assistance Plan - build on what you started at the Rescue Diver course

- ◆ Equipment exchange be sure to bring the popcorn for the instructor's to eat while you show us what you have

If you want more than leading folks on dives and assisting other professionals then you might consider going the Instructor route. Come see me if that sounds like a plan you want to make.

We will host a Go Pro night in a month or so be on the look out for listings on the website and emails.

### Creature Feature — Salp

Many people have heard of sea squirts (ascidians), but not as many people know about the other members of the phylum Tunicata. Divers frequently see large numbers of transparent barrel-shaped creatures called salps in open water (salps look nothing like sea squirts, but are related to them). There are also appendicularians, tiny tadpole-like organisms that spin a translucent and gelatinous 'house' around them to trap food particles. Sea squirts, salps, and appendicularians are all important in our marine ecosystems, but identification of species is difficult and there are no specialists in New Zealand. Systematic collection and taxonomic research are needed to help us better understand this group for ecological, bio-security, and biotechnology purposes.

Solitary and colonial sea squirts (class Ascidiacea) are abundant in some seafloor assemblages. In Foveaux Strait pyurid sea squirts play an important role in regeneration of habitat after long-term oyster dredging. The leathery tunics of adjacent colonies stick to one another as they grow,

creating large clumps that can also include sediment, broken shells, and other organisms. At least a dozen sea squirt species appear to be alien immigrants to New Zealand's ports and harbors, and are responsible for fouling marinas, boat hulls, and other structures. Several New Zealand species contain bio-chemicals that could be valuable to the biotechnology industry, but the lack of a New Zealand tunicate taxonomist is slowing progress in this area.

There are currently 166 species of sea squirts, 19 species of Thaliacea, and 5 species of Appendicularia recorded in New Zealand.

