

International Scuba News

October 2015

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Howdy everyone!

We know there's a whole lot left to 2015, but it's time to start thinking about where you will be diving in 2016 and beyond. As always, we will be heading to Cozumel several times (Carnaval, Memorial Day, Funfest) and jumping down to Tulum in the mid summer. Dates for our Flower Garden's trips will be available soon. And we have some spectacular live aboard trips planned for 2017 already to Fiji and Palau. More trips will be announced soon so just stay tuned to our newsletter and Facebook page for more details. We look forward to diving with you!

*Cheers!
Your IS Family*

Pumpkin Carving Details

I know everyone is super excited to join International Scuba for our annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving class and contest and our top side Chili Cook-off. Here are the details:

Date: Sunday, October 18th

Time: The class will start at 10am. Judging for the pumpkin carving contest and chili cook-off will commence at 12:30pm sharp

Place: Clear Springs Scuba Park in Terrell, TX at the International Scuba pavilion

A few things to note: Pumpkins and carving tools will not be provided, please bring your own. It is important that you have the inside of your pumpkin cleaned out before the dive. There are two contest categories, dive knives or "other" pumpkin tools, please stick to one method or the other when carving your pumpkin. Each buddy team of two will be able to submit one pumpkin to the contest. All divers are welcome to participate in the contest and are invited to earn their Underwater

Pumpkin Carver specialty certification. The specialty certification is \$45 and includes two training dives. Please register for the class ahead of time. The chili cook-off is open to all divers and non-divers. Participants will bring a crock pot of your own chili (with toppings, chips, etc if you wish) to serve. Extension cords and outlets will be available. Judging of the chili cook-off will take place by popular vote.

Hopefully that answers all of your questions, but feel free to call the store at 972-416-8400 if you need anything. We look forward to seeing you at the lake!

- ⇒ *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*



Diving Milestones and New Divers

DSD

Courtney Agnew
Kyler Anderson
Michael Cross
Sabeel Fatehdin
Zoe Hopkins

Tec 40

Amber Pashon

EFR

Darryl Brantley
Rick Given

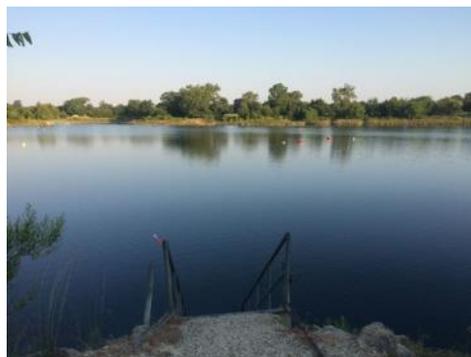
Open Water

Aaron Reinert
Alex Trumble
Alisa Culp
Carter Jarrett
Greg Sartor
Kim Phelps
Mark Trumble
Patty Gray
Sean Manning
Teresa Medrano
Tyler Bruce



Enriched Air

Greg Sartor
Marlena Day
Patty Gray



PPB

Eric Bennis
Greg Sartor
Jonathan Osbaldeston
Kara Bennis
Patty Gray
Teresa Medrano



When are we diving

- October 10-11
CSSP—Terrell, TX
- SPECIAL! October 17-18
CSSP for Zombie and
Pumpkin Carving
- October 24-25 TBD
- 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!

How to Be a Better Buddy

Have you ever heard the term “Same Ocean Buddy”? This term is applied to those divers who get paired up as buddies for a dive, but don’t plan, communicate, or stick together. Essentially, they are buddies only in the sense that they are in the same ocean. You may laugh, but this is a common occurrence and a very dangerous practice.

So let’s take a look at some of the things you can do to be a better buddy.

TALK ABOUT IT!

Whether it’s a buddy you’ve been diving with for years or a stranger you were introduced to on the boat ten minutes before the dive, communication is key. Ask about your buddy’s diving history, if they have experience in the conditions you are about to dive in, and what their goals are for the dive (taking photos, practicing skills, etc). Review hand signals, buddy separation procedures, and the general dive plan (including max depth, projected dive time, entry/exit techniques, the direction you will swim, and how you plan on staying together). Don’t ever be afraid to speak up and let your buddy know what you need. It might also be a good idea to take a slate on your dive just in case you and your buddy need to communicate something you didn’t plan for on the surface.

DO A PREDIVE SAFETY CHECK!

Do you even remember the pre-dive safety check (BWRAF)? Let me jog your memory:

- **BCD:** how does it inflate and deflate? Does it look like it is in good condition and set up



properly?

- **Weights:** Where are they located? How can you dump them in an emergency?
- **Releases:** Are all the straps and clips secured? Is anything twisted or caught in an unsafe manner?
- **Air:** How much air are they starting with? Do their regulator and alternate air source breathe freely?
- **Final Ok:** Did you communicate and plan the dive? Do you have mask, fins, and any accessories you need? Are you mentally prepared for the dive?

You should be going over these steps

automatically on your own equipment as you set it up, but don’t neglect checking your buddy’s gear as well, they may have something that is different from what you are used to.

With new technology like the i3 inflator mechanisms, combined inflator/alternate air sources, and integrated weight pockets, it’s easy to get confused in an emergency. There is no better way to help avoid an accident than doing a pre-dive safety check.

INCREASE YOUR DIVING KNOWLEDGE

It should be no surprise that taking additional classes and increasing your diving knowledge will help you be a better buddy. An Underwater Navigator course



can help you and your buddy avoid getting lost. An Equipment Specialist course can help you solve those little equipment malfunctions that could result in a postponed or cancelled dive. The Rescue Diver and Emergency First Responder courses can help you prepare for and solve potential emergencies. There are a plethora of core and specialty courses that can help you become a better diver and therefore a better buddy.

SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES

Working toward being a better dive buddy is always a good idea, but what if your buddy isn’t working to be a better buddy to you? Sharing responsibilities is a great way to help both of you improve. Try switching up who is navigating/leading the dive so that everyone gets practice. If you and your buddy both like to take photos, switch up who is filming for each dive. It shouldn’t always be one buddy’s responsibility to remind their partner about the pre-dive safety check or to check that all the gear is in the dive bags before you head for the boat. Make sure that your buddy is as invested in being a better buddy as you are.

Statistics show that most diving accidents and fatalities could be avoided if proper buddy procedures are followed. There is no excuse for not knowing the dive plan or not doing your pre-dive safety check. Go the extra mile to be a better buddy and encourage your buddy to be the same. Having a good dive buddy makes everything better!



Getting You There... Starts Here!

2540 Marsh Lane
Suite 128

Phone: 972-416-8400
Fax: 972-416-8507

Carrollton, Texas 75006 info@internationalscuba.com

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!



Start with 2 nights at Palau Plantation to get into the island mode (~180/night).

Join us Mar 29– Apr 11, 2017

Then.....

Spend an awesome 8 days/7 nights aboard the most phenomenal live-a-board. Up to 5 dives a day with multiple night dives.

**All meals aboard included.
2 additional days at Palau Pacific Resort (~490/night) before returning home not included.**

\$3495/diver standard cabin

\$3595/diver deluxe cabin

\$3995 master cabin



2540 Marsh Lane, #128
Carrollton, Texas 75006
P: 972-416-8400
F: 972-416-8507

Nonrefundable \$500 deposit due by 04/05/15.

Bi-monthly invoice of \$500 until balance is paid.

All pricing based on Double Occupancy.





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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 discovered scuba back in 1984.

Number of years diving? Number of years as professional? How many dives?
I have been diving for 29 years, a professional for six, and probably have close to 50,000 dives

What brought you to International Scuba?
I was looking for a shop that I trusted enough to teach my son. International Scuba was the clear choice.

MEET THE STAFF
Kevin Murphy
CD

Tell us something about yourself that your diving friends would be surprised to learn.
I'm not actually as afraid of sharks as people may believe.

If you could leave tomorrow to live in the islands where would it be?
It would have to be an island with some caves. Maybe the Bahamas.

What is your oddest diving experience?



The first time I ever swam over a halocline and saw the swirl of the fresh and salt waters combining below my hand.

What is the one tip you would like to share with a new diver?
Relax! It will help your air consumption, make your swimming more efficient, and let you have more fun.

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

