



International Scuba

November 2009

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

Volume 8, Issue 11

Holidays are upon us!

Hi All,

Phew, well we all made it back from DEMA in one piece, and full of all kinds of information and good ideas for the up and coming months. The staff will be getting together here at the store to go over some of the far off distant & tropical Dive Destinations that you may see featured in some of our future newsletters or even make plans to go and Dive them. I attended some really great classes at DEMA and got a personal hug from Drew Richardson, what an awesome guy, I think the whole group got a lot out of the show and it was also amazing to see some of the up and coming new Dive gear being showcased, so watch this space, great stuff to come!!

Hey if you didn't already know Christmas is slowly creeping around and it's time to start thinking not only about all those great Diving gifts but also the opportunity to have your picture taken with Santa which will take place at the Garland store from 12-2pm on November 28th 2009. So lots of fun for you and ALL your family and friends.

Here's a reminder about the NTSRA Christmas Bash "In the Company of Big Animals" by Amos Nachoum, he's doing only 2, yes 2 exclusive shows and tickets are a just \$25.00 and can be purchased at either of our locations. All donations go toward Sharks.org and the North Texas Food Bank. So, call or email and reserve your tickets ~ supplies are limited so

don't miss out on this one.

Well, that about wraps it for this month, have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving for all who may be traveling or diving.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Donna

Specialty of the month— Search and Recovery

Sometimes I like a little adventure and challenge injected into my diving. One of the most exciting and fun things you can do in diving is to Search and Recover lost treasure underwater. There is no greater satisfaction then finding and recovering that elusive item thought to be lost forever under the surface. Even if the treasure has little value monetarily it can be a great test of your skills in navigation to work a search pattern. It takes accurate patterns to find an object and if your navigation skills aren't sharp you could leave an unsearched area within your search grid. Murphy's Law ensures that the area unsearched will be where the exact spot the lost object is hiding just beyond sight.

There are a list of search patterns that will need to be chosen from to match the size and terrain that the search will be conducted in. Line searches are popular with professional recovery divers and work well in low visibility. It allows communications between the divers and a tender at the surface. Another effective pattern is the Jack-Stay which involves setting a baseline and running a search perpendicular to the baseline. It's very accurate and ensures that you cover every bit without missing any area. One search that requires only a compass and good navigational skills is the U Shaped pattern which involves taking a heading for a fixed dis-

tance followed by a 90 degree turn for a distance determined by water clarity followed by a second 90 degree turn to a reciprocal heading to you first heading. This is often called mowing the yard as it is the same pattern often used to run an overlapping pattern working from one side to the other. The success is largely dependant on how well the diver can stick to his heading.

Once you find the lost object depending on the size and weight of it you now need to bring it to the surface safely and under control. Sounds easy in theory but can be very tricky in practice. Some of the variables include the shape of the object and its weight. Some shapes are hard to securely rig for lifting and require a working knowledge of several knots. The three most popular knots are the Bowline Knot, Sheet Bend and Double Half Hitch. Once you have these mastered and know which is the best for the job your halfway there. The next challenge is the safely deploy your lift bag and only add as much air to it as needed to create just enough lift to make the object neutrally buoyant. Once you have it neutrally buoyant you can slowly move it to the retrieval point and dump air as needed to maintain control on ascent.

It's always nice to find treasure but the skills you develop can also save a dive trip for a buddy. We often joke that no trip to the lake is complete until a mask or fin is lost. If you take

a quick position on the area where the mask is lost you can pick a good search technique and hopefully retrieve the lost mask and save the day for your buddy. With practice it will become second nature and all part of a days diving. It's always fun to surface from a search and casually ask if it looks like the mask lost knowing you've just earned a free lunch from the careless diver.

PADI Diving Society Members who sign up for Search & Recovery during the month of December will score a very cool towel with the unique artwork of Rogest woven into it.

Come join us for some fun and challenge yourself to find your own treasure.

Cheers,
Rich

Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- NOV 14-15 S&R WORKSHOP
- NOV 21-22
- DEV 5-6
- DEC 12-13
- JAN 16-17
- JAN 23-24

WHERE TO:

- FEB FLOWER GARDENS
- FEB 13-17 CARNIVAL COZUMEL
- MAR FLOWER GARDENS
- APR PALAYA CAVERN
- MAY FLOWER GARDENS
- JUN FLOWER GARDENS
- AUG BELIZE AGGRESSOR

FALL 2010—RED SEA

SPRING 2011—FUJI



Inside this issue:

Specialty of the Month	1
Our Stars	2
Milestones	2
3rd Annual Holiday Bash	3
CD Corner—Busy Time of Yr	4
Creature Feature — Blue Tang	4

Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Stormie Musselwhite
Kyle Wedin
Pooja Paranjpe
Hadyn Franklin
Chris Wilson
Stacie Lane
Samuel Skelton
Jonathan Savage
Svetlin Tchakarov
Gregory Higgins
Kaitlin Ingram

National Geographic Open Water

Doyce Ann Straetker
Jeff Straetker
Nicholas Hooten
Shelby Boatwright
Angela Boatwright
Moon Lee
Roger Miller
Kim Squires

Deep

Aaron Bath
Susan Nichols
Joe Munoz

Dry Suit

Russell Henarie
Joe Munoz
Linda Munoz

DPV

Dean Follmer

EFR

Dan Daniels
Charles Jenkins

Enriched Air

Amy Brock
Bill Rauhauser
Jeff Ogar
Kim Maurer
Corey Scott
Amanda Scott

U/W Videographer

Nathalie White

Search & Recovery

Matthew Phillips

U/W Pumpkin Carving

Chip Harding
Dennis Maurer
Michael Alsbrooks
Matt West
Stellene Cox
Greg Burfiend
Jeff Ogar
Jim Clingman
Robert Umpleby
Mike Lochabay
Tracy Thomas

Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Jonathan Savage
Chris Wilson
Haydn Franklin
Sam Skelton

Project AWARE

Chris Young
Doug Sheppard
Kevin Schneider
Justin Lacy
Greg Burfiend
Dan Badura
Michael Alsbrooks
Tracy Thomas
Tony Kunhell
Yanni Korakiantis
Stellene Cox
Dushyanth Bharadwaj
Jim Holler

Rescue Diver

Jeanie Martinez
Sarah Long
Barbara Bennett
Chip Harding
Gerald Baum



Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

William Stauter

Dive Master

Joe Bass

Master Scuba Diver

Trainer

Jeremy Shelby
Donna Jennings

Open Water Scuba Instructor

Joe Bass
Aaron Minto
Sharon Montoro

Nitrox Instructor

Joe Bass
Aaron Minto
Sharon Montoro

Navigation Instructor

Joe Bass
Aaron Minto
Sharon Montoro



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3rd Annual NTSRA Holiday Bash!

Saturday December 12, 2009 2-6PM

Join us for a truly Special Media Presentation
by Amos Nachoum

Famous for his spectacular photography and Big Animal adventures!

ONLY 2 EXCLUSIVE SHOWS:

2:30-3:50PM & 4-5:20PM

YOUR 2009 HOLIDAY BASH TICKET WILL INCLUDE ONE (1) TICKET
to see "In The Company of Big Animals" hosted by Amos Nachoum.

DUE TO LIMITED SPACE AVAILABILITY, Holiday Bash tickets
must be purchased in advance at any NTSRA Member Retailer
before December 5, 2009. See www.dfwdiving.com for full listings.

This year, your \$25 donation
for a ticket to attend this
exciting family event benefits:



Your \$25 donation to attend the event gets
you an exciting afternoon that includes:

5 Raffle tickets (\$25 value) that can be used in the raffles for any of our
dive gear and Door Prize drawings. Winners must be present to win.

2 Drink Tickets (\$12 value) toward beverages @ Dave & Busters.

Access to our "light" hors d'oeuvres from Dave & Busters.

1 Ticket to the show "In the Company of Big Animals" hosted by Amos Nachoum,
INCLUDING A CHANCE TO WIN ONE of Amos's signed museum quality prints
valued at \$1500- \$2500 to be drawn during each of the 2 shows.

Access to the Charitable Auction where you bid on 3 different signed museum quality Big Animal
prints by Amos, valued at \$2500 with the proceeds going to www.sharks.org to help further their
efforts to save the Ocean's shark & whale shark populations. An outstanding World Cause!

Saturday 12 December

Presented by

NORTH TEXAS

NTSRA

SCUBA RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
WWW.DFWDIVING.COM

graphics by www.blakemarketinggroup.com

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 — Busy Time of Year

Howdy Divers,

I know we all get caught up in the spirit of the multiple holidays that begin in October and continue to the next year.

Hope your Halloween was as fun as ours and that you stopped by to see what crazy things we were wearing and having fun with. If you wore your costume in during store hours you got a special treat!

We've just come back from our annual trade show—DEMA (Dive Equipment Marketing Association) in Orlando. No Mickey Mouse this year. Much to much to see and do. We were looking for cool new toys for you and attending training sessions to make us better instructors. Couple new things will be appearing in the shops to stay tuned.

Now we are on the Turkey Day. Please remember to take time and thank those that you forget throughout the year. I remember reading/

hearing one time that life has no dress rehearsal—we are going live. That means we forget to say thank you from time to time—we take things for granted when we shouldn't, and probably don't tell our family we love them near enough. DO IT!!!!

Don't forget Santa is just around the corner. We have "Dear Santa..." letterhead where you can put what you want is on your holiday list and then your family members can call in and get what you want at a price they want. Everyone wins. Never too early to start planning

Trips are beginning to jump on the board for 2010 as well. We have 9 Flower Garden trips to choose from all scattered through hammerhead, whale shark and manta seasons. Palau in February, Cozumel in February, Playa in April, Belize in August and more on the drawing board. Where do you want to go? We are looking at Galapagos and Fiji in 2011. Start planning!



Creature Feature — Blue Tang

So how many of you have watched Nemo? Who was his fish friend that made the journey with him to be reunited with Martin his Dad?

If you guessed Dori you are correct. If you missed it—go watch the movie—it is great!

This critter was chosen by one of our divers as their favorite fish and probably because it reminds them of their significant other. A little dingy but lovable.

Let's get the details out of the way first. Typically electric blue to deep purple with a little white or yellow on the spine. They are often referred to as surgeon fishes but aren't really. Young ones have lots more yellow on them. They grow to an average of 5-10" with a maximum of 15".

You can find them in the Western Atlantic, Bermuda to the Gulf of Mexico and the Eastern Atlantic. They range in depths from very shallow to 120'.

Their cuisine of choice is algae. It is often on the tops of the coral formations but you might catch them snacking on the underside of an overhang. Watch the next time you are out. I know I will.

Now, since they aren't all that big they need a way to camouflage themselves to avoid

being dinner. Therefore, they adjust the intensity of the blue to blend into their water environment.

Here's an interesting fact. Did you know the flesh of the Blue Tang is poisonous? Couldn't find out if that was poisonous to us or other fishes. No blackened tang for me.

Hope you will take a closer look at Dori and friends the next blue water adventure you head out on.



