



International Scuba

GETTING YOU THERE... STARTS HERE!

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September 2007

An unusual summer

Howdy Divers,

Well, another summer is behind us and the school season has begun, football season is getting underway but the water is still warm and we are still diving.

We booked lightly for the fall for trips due to hurricanes but that doesn't mean you can't call and make your own trip or join us at the lake from some great fun and diving.

We are heading to Lake Travis this coming weekend—please join us as you know we don't know how much longer Windy Point will still be around.

Those of us who have lived in Texas long enough or are natives know never to be surprised when the weather men are wrong on predictions. Can you believe we only had 1-2 weeks of real heat and lots of rain. I think we are still ahead for the year.

Stay tuned to the 2008 schedule as it should be on the web within days. We still have a couple of spots left for the January Turks and Caicos Aggressor trip—call to book soon. As for Carnival in Cozumel we didn't book as many spots so don't wait much longer.

The Spring brings Belize, Grand Cayman, BVI, and Akumal while the sum-

mer is filled with Cozumel, Little Cayman, Utila and of course Flower Gardens.

Hope to dive with you soon!



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

- SEP 1-2 TERRELL
- SEP 15-16 LAKE TRAVIS
- SEP 29-30 TERRELL
- OCT 13-14 TERRELL
- OCT 27-28 TERRELL

WHERE TO:

- AUG 31-SEPT 3 COZUMEL PAMPER YOURSELF
- SEP 8-9 FLOWER GARDENS
- OCT—WAKATOBI
- JAN 12-19 —TURKS AND CAICOS AGGRESSOR
- JAN FLOWER GARDENS
- JAN 25-30 CARNIVAL COZUMEL
- MAR 1-6 AKUMAL
- APR BELIZE
- MAY BVI WITH DIVE BVI
- FEB 2010—PALAU

Specialty of the Month— Getting Wet and Staying Dry

As I sit and write this, I am looking out the window and it is an unseasonably cool week. Just after Labor Day and it is in the mid 80's. I am also getting back to the real world after spending the Labor Day weekend in Cozumel. It's always hard to come back. We had some very good dives, and spent time with old and new friends. What could be better?

Anyway, let's move onto the subject at hand. I want talk about the October specialty of the month; Dry Suit Diver. A dry suit will allow you to extend the diving season to all year, as well as extend the diving locations to some beautiful ocean and fresh water areas. Imagine diving with the giant octopuses, sea anemones, and other creatures of the Pacific Northwest. How about seeing pristine old wooden wrecks of the great lakes? Maybe some lobstering in Maine?

With a wetsuit, a layer of water sits between you and the neoprene. Its very thin since the wetsuit is skin tight. The water is warmed up by your skin and the wetsuit helps to insulate it and keep the water from flowing. It works great in cool water, but just isn't quite enough in cold water. This is where a dry suit can come in. A dry suit completely seals around you so no water can get in. You are insulated either through undergarments, the dry suit material or both.

A dry suit can be a shell type suit where it offers very little insulation on its own, but relies on the undergarments (fleece, thinsulate, etc) to provide the warmth. They tend to be lighter weight and less stiff. You can also get a neoprene suit (either full or crushed) that will offer some warmth on its own. This allows you to wear thinner undergarments and have a tighter fitting suit. This can make you more streamlined. However it comes at a price; a neoprene suit tends to be heavier and stiffer.

So what is the big deal? Why do you need a special course for them? The ultimate answer is that it drastically changes your buoyancy. You will be wearing significantly more weight (anywhere from 10 to 30 pounds more depending on the suit, undergarments and salt vs. fresh water). You also have a bubble that instead of being just in your BCD can now travel the entire length of your body. You have two places to add air, and vent air (your BCD and your dry suit).

We will start out with a pool session. This allows you to get used to donning and doffing the suit, buoyancy and weighting, safety items such as a free flowing valve, and removing and donning your scuba gear both in the water and on land. Once you are comfortable there we go into the

open water. There we do 2 dives reviewing much of what you learned in the pool. It also gives you a good chance to swim around and get used to the dry suit while diving. Best of all, on that cool day, you get out of your dry suit and you are nice and dry and warm.

As always you will get a gift from PADI for signing up through the month of October. Don't forget that September's specialty of the month is National Geographic. There is still plenty of time to sign up for that one.

Happy Diving,
Brian



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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Junior Open Water

Bree Black
Andrew Wright
Jennifer Tonti
Bryan Tonti
Brian Wright

Scuba Diver

Logan Gass

Open Water & Open Water (White Belt)

Yanni Korakiantis
Jeffrey Strong
Stephen Tonti
Laraine Allred
Barry Gass
Michelle Gass
Ruth Bernhardt
Fred Bernhardt
Mary Vancompernelle
Scott Strong
Mayve Strong
Jennifer Howe

National Geographic Open Water (Green Belt)

Edward Wheeler
James Vincent
Amanda Meyers
Greg Biggs

Adventure Diver

Wendy Sheriff
Ed White
Carman Polk

Yen Nguyen
Lan Ngyuen
Carlie Polk

Advanced Open Water Diver

Edward Wheeler
Denis Poirier
Les Holben
James Vincent
Greg Biggs
Jamie Wuistingering
Courtney Wuistingering
Sam Troutte
Josh Troutte
Rick Troutte
Yanni Korakiantis
Tonni Shook

Enriched Air

Lisa Sorensen
Ellery Noah
Roscoe Van Zandt
Sommer Walden
Pat Arnett
Steve Dawkins
John Benka
Chance Gibson
Daryl Harris

Emergency First Response

Aaron Parets
Carlie Polk
Huy Nguyen
Lan Nguyen
Yen Nguyen

Jeremy McCay
Carman Polk
Jennifer Webb
Matthew Wright
Daryl Harris
Jeff Van Matre

Deep

Brian Brewer
Jamie Wuistingering
Courtney Wuistingering

DPV

Ed White
Sheriff Wendy
Yen Nguyen

Dry Suit

Jayne Rogers

Rescue

Aaron Parets
Josh Troutte
Rick Troutte
Sam Troutte

Hazardous Marine Life

Cindi Smart
Pat Arnett
Brian Brewer

Onsite Neurological Assessment

Cindi Smart
Pat Arnett
Brian Brewer

Navigation

Lauri Schisel
Dean Follmer

PPB

Lauri Schisel
Dean Follmer
Sherry Marsh
Ed White
Wendy Sheriff
Yen Nguyen
Scott Strong
Mayve Strong
Jeff Strong
Ruth Bernhardt
Fred Bernhardt

Wreck

Cindi Smart
Reagan Humphries

Master Scuba Diver

Chris Simmons
Sylvia Gomez

Dive Master

Jennifer Webb

Open Water Scuba Instructor

Bonnie Jones
Pat Lynch
Chris Simmons
Sylvia Gomez
Chuck Webb
Mike Hamilton
Mike Conrad
Manny Sanchez
Daryl Harris



Milestones—number of dives recognition

Don't forget to email us your milestones—remember you are working hard!

10 Dives

Andrea Ketcham
Todd Ketcham

20 Dives

25 Dives

Tonni Shook

50 Dives

Lauri Schisel

100 Dives

150 Dives

200 Dives

250 Dives

300 Dives

350 Dives

400 Dives

500 Dives

600 Dives

700 Dives



Zero Gravity Celebrates their First Birthday

Wow how time flies! One year ago we had our kick off party for the **Zero Gravity Dive Club**. Many of you remember the tasty BBQ prepared by **Darrell Gardner** and **Paul Gilmore**. That first meeting drew a staggering 75+ people for food, fun, and diving. We had planned to start off slow and build up, but it was evident that there was a call for a different style of dive club. In the past year, we have sponsored and participated in many fun-filled events.



Our **First Annual Pumpkin Carving and Chili Cook-Off** were big draws even though the weather turned a bit cool on us. Who would have thought divers could carve such beautiful jack-o-lanterns underwater? The judges had a really hard time with awarding the prizes. Buddies, **Tom Baggett** and **Ron Folks**, took first place. The chili cook-off was a blast as well. It seems we have several divers who like to cook up a hearty pot of chili to warm up after winter dives.

This year we are going to celebrate and build on last year's success. The pumpkin contest will feature four categories: Best Overall Pumpkin, Scariest Pumpkin, Funniest Pumpkin, and The Best Effort at carving a pumpkin! There will be a fabulous prize for the Best Overall Pumpkin and fun prizes for the other winners. This year, we will limit the tools to a dive knife only. Last year, we had lots of specialty pumpkin carving tools. We thought it might be fun to up the challenge. The Chili cook-off brought out lots of competitors and this year should be no different. There will also be a very special prize for the top chili as voted on by the entire club. Of course, there will still be the coveted Witch's cauldron/ Chili pot trophy awarded to the top chef. The date for the next **Fall Fling** will be Sunday, **October 28th at Clear Springs Scuba Park**. Events will start at **1:00pm**. Tell your friends our events are always open to the public and everyone is welcome.

Our next **Zero Gravity Dive Club** meeting is **September 19th at Awaji** on Park Blvd just east of Preston Rd. The start time is **6:30pm**. We are excited to have **Rick Golden**, of **Bare**, addressing the club. Rick will bring in the latest Dry Suits offered by **Bare**. You might be surprised to learn that a dry suit is just the ticket for extending your diving into cool weather diving. Rick has been an active member of the dive community for years and has lots of experience to share on many topics. I'm sure Rick will be a repeat guest speaker with his diverse background in diving.

Zero Gravity Dive Club has been up to many exciting things the past year. We started off with a BBQ/ Navigation contest that was a blast. The next big event was the Pumpkin/Chili cook-off, as mentioned above. Our Christmas party was held at **Whirlyball**, and is now referred to as **Whirlyball I**, and will be followed up with **Whirlyball II** as requested by members. New Years Day 2007 brought in the

Polar Bear Dive at Clear Springs Scuba Park. The huge turnout by **Zero Gravity Dive Club** earned an award for the largest turn out by a dive club! Pretty good turn out for our first year. There is nothing like a brisk dive to start off the year on a good foot. Members took part in two lake cleanups this year. The first was held at **Still House Marina**. This was a huge hit with our divers. Prizes were given to divers and every one of our group came back with great prizes like a dive computer, scuba tank, fins, and much more. It's always great to lend a hand in keeping our lakes clean. In May, we took a large group over to help clean up **Hell's Gate on Possum Kingdom Lake**. Zero Gravity Dive members pulled up so much trash from the bottom, that we almost sunk the collection boat. While enjoying delicious burgers after the clean up, many divers were overheard saying it's the most fun they had diving in a lake. This is sure to become a yearly event.



One of the goals of the dive club, besides having fun, is to promote diving within our communities. One of the first projects was to set up near the International Scuba booth at local events and talk up scuba to anyone that would listen. **Greg and Randi Walters** made a beautiful book of diving photos from previous trips around the world to share with our non-certified friends. Sometimes just clearing up misconceptions about scuba or an invitation to try scuba will allow people to try our wonderful lifestyle. Get out and Dive at Clear Springs was our next chance to greet the public. **Sherry Marsh** was one of the first people to offer up help. Sherry is a new diver and now avid Zero Gravity member. Ask her about her Zero Gravity bikini idea sometime.

There have been many learning experiences for our members also. **George Roseberry, of Aqualong**, shared a humorous and educational walk through the history of scuba, with a special look at his Texas upbringing and his lifelong love affair with diving. **John Cannon** a local diving icon, shared regulator tips and scuba life lessons. J.C., as friends and former students call him, hung around and answered all questions until we closed down the restaurant. There have been several trips by the club to **Aquarena Springs** for the Scientific Diver course. We now have over 20 Diving for Science volunteers within our dive club. A big get-together at Aquarena is in the works for the near future. With year round warm waters, we can dive there anytime. **Ale Figari** gave us a glimpse of what tech



diving and cave diving is all about. Ale even offered club members a chance to try out a technical rig in the pool for free.

Peak Performance Buoyancy was offered, along with Diver Propulsion Vehicle specialties at the BBQ. There were opportunities to take the Deep

specialty and others for reduced prices. Darrell, our Aeris Rep, was kind enough to give the dive club an advanced preview of the Data Mask which features a built in computer and heads up display. Recently, **Roxanne Schwartz**, our newest member brought out an incredible array of wines from her wine import company. Roxanne gave the club an entertaining and informative wine tasting. I know I will be able to swirl my wine glass and judge the bouquet with the best of them now. Sometimes the club has an event just for fun and a reason to come together with friends; the wine tasting was perfect for that. The club has some ambitious plans for 2008 guests. Stay tuned for exciting guest speakers.

Our first official **Zero Gravity Dive Club Trip** was a huge success. **Bonnie Jones** took club members on a Black Beards Bahamas adventure. Diving with sharks was just one of the adrenaline pumping adventures that took place on the trip. This year, the group will help pick another great destination for the club to invade. Let us know where you want to go and the club will vote to decide if that will be the hot spot to visit as a group. A group of hardy souls have stepped up to give Bonnie a hand with club activities. **Brian Brewer, Tonni Shook, and DiDi Wykes** are bringing a lot of energy and ideas to the club. You will see all the great work they are doing show up in the form of more events and better communication between members. Get yourselves signed up on MYSFACE because that is where we'll discuss upcoming events and talk about the club!

It's really been an exciting year for the club and its members! When a few of our customers came together and asked to start a dive club last summer, we weren't sure it was a good idea. What a chore it would be to handle all the details and ensure things were done responsibly and safely. It's now been a year since our little project took the plunge and it has been a much larger labor of love than anyone anticipated. However, the rewards have been great also. The many diverse people that now gather monthly, and on weekends, have made it all worth it. None of this could have been possible without the tireless work behind the scenes from Bonnie. If you have enjoyed one of the club activities be sure to tell Bonnie thanks for all her work.

Happy First Birthday Zero Gravity!

Upcoming events open for everyone!

Sep. 19th 7pm— Come join the fun! Awaji Sushi on Park Blvd - west of Preston

Oct. 17th 7pm Meeting, Location TBA

Oct. 28th 12pm 2nd Annual Fall Fling Pumpkin Carving and Chili cook-off at CSSP

Dec 9th Holiday Party AKA "Whirlyball II"

For More Info Email: info@zerogravitydiveclub

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 staff. That's part of why we dive.



Getting You There... Starts Here!

2540 Marsh Lane
Suite 128
Carrollton, Texas 75006

Phone: 972-416-8400
Fax: 972-416-8507
E-mail: patti@internationalscuba.com

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CD Corner — Balancing Act

Howdy Divers,

How many of us have tried to do multiple activities and found ourselves thinking—maybe I should give one of them up? I go through this every Fall. I am a college football fiend but yet I teach many weekends during the height of the season. Last year, before I bought my season tickets, I sat down and planned the courses so as not to overlap too badly with the games. I am a business person but some of you know I bleed a deep streak of maroon.

If I can find a way to manage to keep both of my passions I bet you can too. I know I do it without the benefit of kiddos to take care of but I bet you too can have your cake and eat it too.

Many folks figure the beginning of school starting or the first cool evening is the end of the dive season and learning. This isn't really the case.

Here's what's brewing right now: 10-12 divers heading to Lake Travis to get certified or do their Advanced Open Water; a full instructor course starting in 2 weeks; 10-12

Open Water Divers and 5-6 Rescue Divers heading to Clear Springs at the end of the month.

There is plenty of dive season left. Just call and ask where Rich is diving. He still tries to dive every Sunday. I get in the way every now and then as does his musical career. By the way, some of you may not know but Rich's birthday was last Saturday and he has officially joined the 40 age bracket. Ask him about the ribbing he took on his birthday Flower Gardens trip. :-)

I just wanted to take a minute and let you know that you can balance your passions and still eat cake too.

We will offer all sorts of diving and non-diving learning opportunities this fall and winter—stay tuned.

Of course we head to DEMA next month so if there is a place you want to go or a new type of dive gear you want to see us carry please let us know what to look for!

~ Patti



Speaking of other passions!

Creature Feature — Giant Clam



A little known fact is the giant clam houses lots and lots of tiny algae under the skin. In exchange for the safe home the clam gives the algae, the algae used the energy from the sun to consume the clam's waste and turn it into for the clam.

Like a bright blue pair of lips, the fleshy part of the giant clam peeks out of the top of the shells during the day. There are no two giant clams with the exact same coloration.

Each side of the shell is made by outer edge of the mantle or the skin of the giant clam. The shell is fused together and encloses the mantle cavity which is the entire fleshy part of the clam. The two siphons (holes where the water is sucked in or out) in the middle of the mantle cavity. The clam can grow nearly 2 feet long and weigh over 600lbs and can live for more than one hundred years.

These guys typically live in shallow water to help their zooxanthellae receive ample amounts of sunlight. Once they find their home whether it be in a sandy area or surrounded by corals and sponges, they live out their lives comfortably sharing the nutrients and providing a home for many other creatures.