



Diving into Fall!

Hey there Divers...

Wow how time flies it's October already and we are now looking forward to our Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and Chili Cook Off at Clear Springs Scuba Park on October 18th the staff in our two locations I know for sure have been telling everyone about it, so make sure you have it etched on your calendar we look forward to seeing ALL our International Scuba Family out there to help celebrate the fall, Halloween and just the simplicity of doing something we all love to do...Diving!!

I can't go without mentioning the absolutely awesome turn out we had for our Project Aware Clean-up last month at Possum Kingdom, we had over 50

enthusiastic divers turn out and scour the bottom, we fished out the lake over 2500lbs of trash consisting of discarded can's, bottles, plastics, even the odd anchor or 3...it truly was an amazing experience and everyone here on the International Scuba team applauds every diver for their hard work effort and not to mention the fun we had doing it....Hope to see you all and more next clean-up!!

Who's afraid of the Boogey -Man this Halloween...(Not I..) I Dare you to stop by any one of our two locations and speak to the staff about one of our more adventurous Specialties this month...Night Diving...how cool to dive at night and watch as your flashlight illuminates all the cool critters and fish that unseen by day 'are' seen

by night, this is definitely one of our more popular specialties, so don't waste time give us a call or stop by and we can get you scheduled for your next Night Diving Adventure!!

We have some busy months coming up year round for the IS family. Diving and training never stops and next month will find some of your IS staff attending DEMA (Nov. 4th - 8th) in Orlando, FL. We hope to come back with so much cool, new, exciting and interesting new product information that we hope to share with you, so watch this space...

Until Next Month, safe and happy diving!

Donna

Specialty of the month— Navigation

I'm lucky to get the chance to practice navigation on a regular basis teaching classes and leading students around various dive sites. It's always nice when the students are surprised by the tour which might run from our training platform to the shark and then along the wall to the staircase exit. Usually someone will pipe up asking how in the world I knew where I was going. When explained we just follow a few headings memorized before hand. I'm often met with skepticism. For some reason folks think it's harder to use a compass than it really is. Once you become friends with your compass and develop a few skills you'll find that it's almost like a game testing yourself to on how accurate you can get.

The best way I know to improve your navigation skills is thru the PADI Underwater Navigation Specialty. Some of the benefits you reap from the course include: Underwater navigation builds confidence and puts you in control of your dive plan, saves energy, makes dive planning more effective, helps buddies stay together even in lower visibility and good navigation skills reduce air consumption.

You will learn methods to estimate distance traveled during a dive which include kick cycles, time, air pressure and arm spans. You will also learn to use the natural sur-

roundings to find your way without the need for a compass.

During the Navigation Course you will get a chance to practice navigating several patterns which are useful for touring a dive site or searching for lost items. This will be a great time to hone your compass skills and learn the various ways to use a compass. The compass can be used in a very simple way or you can utilize more advanced features if desired.

A favorite skill in navigation is to get a fix on a location and then try to return to the same spot again. It's a useful skill and fun to practice.

If you are really ambitious you can make a map of your favorite dive site and record headings to impress your dive buddy on your next dive. Mapping is fun and really enhances future dives to the same location. The maps don't have to be pretty. I often write a few headings and distances on my slate to help remember where things are.

Members of the PADI Diving Society will receive the same PADI Backpack that the dive pros use by taking the course during the month of November.

Don't forget that October's specialty is Night Diver. Sign up now!

Cheers,
Rich



Class Schedules & Trips— at a glance:

WEEKEND:

OCT 3-4

OCT 10-11

OCT 17-18 PUMPKIN CARVING

OCT 31-NOV 1

NOV 7-8

NOV 14-15 S&R WORKSHOP

WHERE TO:

JAN FLOWER GARDENS

FEB 13-17 CRNIVAL COZUMEL

MAR FLOWER GARDENS

APR PALAYA CAVERN

MAY FLOWER GARDENS

JUN FLOWER GARDENS

FALL 2010—RED SEA

SPRING 2011—FIJI

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Our World of Divers Continues to Grow

Open Water (White Belt)

Justin Lacy
 Shelby Boatwright
 Emily Glomski
 Ethan Doe
 John Holmes
 Cameron Holmes
 Anu Venkitkaraman
 Asa Backlund
 Malena Jones
 Amy Glomski
 Gus Glomski
 William Huckabee
 Jeffrey Conn
 TJ Cottle
 Heather Olney
 Blair Elliott
 Nathan Bitner
 Angela Boatwright
 Doug Petersen
 Jana Petersen
 Lisa Meade
 Aubrey Burns

National Geographic Open Water

Kirsten Jordan
 Bill Jordan
 John Schwartz

Adventure Diver

Aidan Shori
 Jim McNutt

Advanced Open Water

Kim Miller
 Robert Miller
 Robyn LaCasse
 Calvin Weaver

Rescue Diver

JW Safford
 Brett Hardin

Altitude

Teresa Pechloff
 Michael Pechloff

Boat

Greg Burfiend

DPV

Christi Yong

EFR

Barbara Bennett
 Jeanie Martinez
 Jon Bailey
 Brett Hardin

Enriched Air

David Morrisson
 Corey Smith
 Kerry Kreitzer
 Greg Burfiend

Equipment

Susan Nichols

Fish ID

Gas Blender

Chris Brock
 Jason Goostree

Hazardous Marine Life Injury

Search & Recovery

Russell Henarie

Underwater Navigator

Joe Munoz

Peak Perf. Buoyancy

Kalvin Weaver
 David Morrisson
 Christi Yong
 Henry Menzies
 Taylor Hendricks
 Tim Corbeil
 Danielle Alcala
 Heather Olney
 TJ Cottle
 James Henson
 Aubrey Burns
 Jason Combiths
 Mary Phillips
 Dennis Phillips
 Robert Phillips
 Sheryl Cherry
 Kathryn Vallo
 Nathan Owen

Project AWARE

Carl Lacy

Night

Russell Henarie

Master Scuba Diver (Black Belt)

Wreck

Kim Miller
 Robert Miller
 Lyn Zastrow

Dive Master

Marc Corbeil

Milestones



Activities

Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Sunday October 18th

It's our **4th Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest** and you are invited to join the fun! There will be great prizes and lots of fun for all. In keeping with tradition we will offer the exclusive **PADI Underwater Pumpkin Carving Specialty** for just the cost of the certification card 25.00! There is nothing that impresses a Caribbean Dive Master more than the moment you pull out the Underwater Pumpkin Carving Card and slap that in his sun burned hand. Instant diver's credibility! Don't leave home without it! Ok that might be a bit of an exaggeration but you will stand out from the crowd and have a blast learning to safely carve a pumpkin into a ghoulish work of art! UW/Pumpkin Carving certification is not required to participate in the contest.

Advanced Search and Recovery Workshop November 10, 14, 15

This Search and Recovery Workshop is an intensive introduction to advanced search and recovery techniques and go well beyond the scope of the PADI Search and Recovery Specialty. It is designed to get you familiar with advanced techniques and tools used by the pros to find wide ranging sized object under various conditions. The prerequisite for this workshop is to have completed the S&R Specialty. If you haven't you will be able to achieve the specialty while participating in the workshop. There will be some additional study needed prior to the weekend for those needing Search and Recovery.

Some of the skills and equipment used will include the following;

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Harness and line search | Blacked-out mask search | Full Face Mask w/ com system |
| Underwater metal detector | Use of lift-bags including rigging multiple bags for larger objects | |
| Interviewing witnesses to better define search area | Use Team Work to Accomplish Missions | |

NOTE: We're setting your expectations from the outset that the class will be quite intensive. The pool session will last 4 hours. The weekend will be two full days 9am-4pm. Certificates will be handed out upon completion.

The cost for the workshop is **\$50.00**

Search and Recovery Course along with the Workshop **\$175.00**

Sign up Early! Space is limited and this workshop will fill very quickly!

Scuba Trips in 2010

I've been fielding lots of calls about where we are going diving in 2010. The simple answer is where do you want to go? In 2010 we will be offering the most flexibility and best rates on scuba travel ever! Over the next month we will be charting a course to your favorite destinations. But we need your input to pick the most sought after destinations. We have also added our new travel page that can help you find the best rates around on travel near and far. Check it out at Travel.InternationalScuba.com and click the preferred customer button. By filling out a quick form you unlock the door to special travel rates usually reserved for travel agents. We have tested this program all year long and are excited to offer it to our scuba family.

Aqualung's NEW Ultimate Travel BCD: THE ZUMA!

George Roseberry of Aqualung recently brought by the new ZUMA Travel BCD for our feedback. My first impression was that there wasn't much to it. George's reply was: "Exactly! This is a travel BCD and is designed to be light and compact." Without a doubt, this is the lightest and most compact BCD I have ever seen. Usually, a travel BCD is code for "stripped down" and "less than durable". That, however, is not the case with the Zuma BCD.

What makes it so special? It has been designed from the ground up for efficiency. If you have ever used one of the modern back packs for hiking, you'll immediately recognize much of the same technology. The Zuma has moved the tank band down to the level of the cummerbund which has the amazing effect of transferring weight to your hips and off of your back. I was impressed by the way the weight seemed to virtually disappear with this configuration. The shoulder straps are comfy, padded and easy to adjust. The Zuma is extremely versatile in adjusting for different sizes. It only takes four BC sizes to cover any sized diver XXS-XXL. With all the streamlining, I wouldn't have expected integrated weight pockets, but Aqualung has managed to keep the SureLock™ mechanical lock and release mechanism.

There is also a knife attachment point, a utility pocket that folds down and 4 lightweight D-Rings. Best of all it rolls up and takes up about as much space as 2 souvenir t-shirts!

I'm not sure if I would have this as my primary BCD as I put a lot of wear and tear on my gear. In reality its not designed for that. But, with the low retail price of \$395.00, it could make a great second BCD to be used exclusively for travel. I can see the Zuma paying for itself in just a couple of trips to an exotic hard to reach destination. You could have this in your carry on luggage and not worry if your BCD will even make it on a crowded puddle jumper, not to mention that if you did check your luggage, you could avoid those excessive baggage fees!

On October 18th, we will have all sizes to try at the lake. If you would like to be one of the first to experiment with the new Zuma BCD, come by and sign up. The four BCDs we have will be available for use from 10am until around 4pm. It's doubtful that one will be available during the pumpkin carving, but another great reason to get another dive in!

For more details on the Zuma, go to www.Aqualung.com or stop by either of our International Scuba locations.

Getting You There Starts Here!

Rich



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 — Teaching an Old Dog new Tricks!

Howdy Divers,

I find myself writing this month's article when I should be working on a presentation for DEMA. I have been asked to make a presentation about risk taking and not being afraid to fail.

Wow, that is one tough topic to present. Between 9/11 and a slower world last year I guess that counts as risk taking. We have always subscribed to a willingness to experiment and try new things so nothing is new with my endeavor. Will let you know how it turns out after DEMA.

I am excited to say I am venturing into a new world within the industry. I have managed to avoid regulator repair thus far but at Brian's insistence that I would be good will be taking my first classes in a couple of weeks. I won't be alone as Donna will be there learning as well. You are never too old to learn a new task. I am kind of excited as I like a little mechanical.

As a kid I watched my dad work on the vehicles around the house and asked if I could help. He taught me how to replace spark plugs, alternators, brakes, and such. Go figure, now a days it is all computerized and tough to do your own. Many of us don't have the time to invest so the likes of Firestone, Goodyear and our dealerships make out well.

Stay tuned for the saga of how Donna and I become service techs for the store. Remember the more stuff you have on your resume the more marketable you are.



Creature Feature — Sea Turtle



Turtles... one of the oldest reptile group and would you believe even more ancient than lizards and snakes!?! It's

true, the earliest known turtles existed over 215 million years ago. There are about 300 species of turtles today; sadly most of them are endangered. They breathe air and do not lay their eggs underwater, though many species are found in and around water. The largest of them are aquatic, those being the leatherback sea turtle. The leatherback's shell can be as long as 6.6 feet and over 2,000 lbs. Have you ever seen one that large?

Freshwater turtles are smaller in size. One of the largest in North America are the Alligator Snapping Turtle which, the largest recorded, had a shell length of 2.6 feet weighing 130lbs. Big difference in the 2 to say the least!

There is the giant tortoise that can grow over 51 inches in length and weigh about 660 lbs. These guys are only found in Seychelles and in the Galapagos. As history proves, they became extinct with the appearance of man

and it is assumed that humans hunted them for food. In prehistoric times the giant tortoise was found in the Americas, Australia and Africa.

Most turtles spend most of their time on land looking down at objects in front of them. Some turtles have eyes closer to the top of their head - these are the aquatic such as the snapping and soft shelled turtles. These species lie low underwater only having their eyes and nostrils exposed hiding from predators. Excess salt taken in from water they drink is expelled from their bodies through the glands found near their eyes.

- ◆ They have exceptional night vision and see color.
- ◆ Turtles use their rigid beaks to cut food and chew food. The upper and lower jaws are covered by horny ridges. There are carnivorous turtles that have knife-sharp ridges for slicing through prey (so be careful) and herbivorous turtles that have serrated-edged ridges that help them cut through tough plants.
- ◆ Tongues are used to swallow food only not to catch.
- ◆ Turtles have an upper and lower shell (lower encases the belly) that are joined together by the sides of the bony struc-

tures. Inner shell consists of 60 bones which includes the backbone and ribs. The outer layer, outer skin, is covered by horny scales which is made up of fibrous protein and keratin.

- ◆ Thought some species tend to be more slow moving on land than others, they can fly through the water with grace and speed. They use the front flippers (their feet) to thrust forward by using an up & down motion. The back feet are used more as rudders for steering.

Fact –

Did you know that in 1975 the FDA established a regulation to discontinue the sale of turtles under 4 inches due to the ease of contracting salmonella through casual contact with turtles. It is illegal in every state in the U.S. for anyone to sell any turtles under 4 inches long. If you spot the selling of the small critters note that it is a loophole in the law as the FDA allowed turtles under 4 inches to be sold for educational purposes. Humm...

There is much more to be told about the turtles. If you found this article interesting do read more about them.

Until next time...J