

The Surface Times

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What can diving do for you?

By Gary Blanton

Hi my name is Gary and I am 35 years old. I was in a motorcycle accident five years ago that put me in a wheelchair paralyzed from the mid back down. It's been a tough road getting back to normal but I think I have done a pretty good job. An important step on that road was to start living my life again. One thing I always wanted to do was learn to scuba dive. So one day I went into We B Divin' where I met Judy for the first time. After talking to her for a minute I was really excited about the possibilities. Then my Dad found out he wanted to join me.

I can't tell you how incredible it felt the first time I was able to get into the water and feel free of my chair. There was a huge learning curve for everyone involved. I was amazed how easy it was for me to use my arms and hands to move through the water.

I had an idea of the type of people that were in the diving community yet it still surprised me when I experienced it first hand. There are some amazing people out there and they all put me at ease being around them. It's true I need quite a lot of help getting my gear on and getting in the water but once in there I feel equal to everyone else.

I felt like a kid in a candy store the first time in the water out at Clear Springs Scuba Park. That first little perch I saw was a whole new world of which I had only dreamed. Now it was a reality for me. Even though it was cold in October I didn't want to get out of the water. And on top of that it was the first time in a really long time that I was really close with my Dad. I think he was having just as much fun as I was.

I have even achieved my Advanced Open Water certification and my Enriched Air Diver certification. I have already dove twice in Cozumel and I just got back from a trip out at Possum Kingdom lake. The more I get in the water the better I feel about my life and what I have to offer others that might be in my situation. I definitely found something I love very much and look forward to more and more diving in the future. So if you see me out at the lake or in Cozumel. Stop by and say hi. Always glad to make new friends.



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Dive Around Texas—Valhalla Missile Silo by Tony Clark



I will always remember this dive — and claim bragging rights about this dive! The dive briefing was outstanding, part Cold War history, part natural science, and a great walk-through introduction to the site. I learned so much studying for the dive, planning, and then doing it and having fun. From all of the smiles I saw surfacing, I wasn't the only one.



This dive takes some planning. It is cold, deep, and dark after 30 feet. I wore my dry suit, hood, gloves and used 27% enriched air. I was paired up with a great best dive buddy. We kept a close eye on each other, and then came up smiling.



The stairs were not fun. We joked that we should have taken them at work the last month or so. It was well worth the effort though to get to write in my dive log — Altitude (2500 feet), Deep (108 feet) Night, Nitrox (27%), Dry Suit (57F) and Search and Recovers! I got lucky and found a snorkel one of the divers in our group had lost on an earlier dive and a dive light that had been there for some time. I brought it to work for show and tell, and a co-worker flipped the switch. It lit up and then burned out.



My buddies are asking me if I'll do it again as well as tons of other questions. They haven't 'Been There, Done That'. I look forward to us planning a dive there. It has made me a better diver, and I hope to pass that on.



Creature Feature

Longnose Hawkfish:



Hawkfishes comprise some twenty seven species in nine genera. Principally found in the Indo-Pacific with two species in the tropical West and East Atlantic.

Most species are found in shallow water with some to a few hundred feet. The Longnose Hawk is found widely throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific; the Red Sea, eastern Africa, to Southern Japan, Noumea over to

the Eastern Pacific; the lower third of the Sea of Cortez, northern Columbia down to the Galapagos.

Found skirting about lacey fan-shaped stinging-celled animals, particularly sea fans and black corals. Unlike most of the other Hawkfish family, the Longnose is more secretive, it is bright, intelligent, frisky at times, disease resistant and a real character.



Education Honor Roll for 2009

Seal Team

Lain Bickley, April
 Scotty Landers, April
 Christopher Repko, April
 Brandon Snow, April

Open Water

Mark Richardson, January
 Tyler Sparkman, February
 Meredith Schaefer, February
 David McGregor, February
 Jordan Carroll, March
 Annalene McKenna, March
 Kristen Belcher, March
 Ryan Nichols, March
 Logan McKenna, April
 Ali Garrett, April
 Tyler Hart, April
 Danielle Heinrich, April
 Kevin Ogle, April
 Brenton Sambay, April
 Amber Allred, June
 Kevin Kleibrink, June
 Joseph Gray, June
 Stephen Nelms, June
 Chris Gradidge, July
 Teresa Gradidge, July
 David Lopez, July
 Jim Calkins, July
 Steve Griffith, July
 Brandon Boyer, July
 Gloria Boyer, July
 Kyle Boyer, July
 Traci Blevins, July
 Rachel Jefferies, July
 Melleni Jefferies, July
 Jeremy Kiss, July
 Misty Parsons, July
 Bobby Goodson, July
 Susan Pino, July
 Kathryn Wattenbarger, July
 Jimmy Wattenbarger, July
 Donna Wattenbarger, July
 Theron Jackson, July
 Christopher Tyrone, July
 Tom Candalino, July
 Jared Dorman, July
 Jeff Day, July

Advanced Open Water

Michael Harris, April
 Jessica Patterson, June
 Mike Patterson, June
 Gary Blanton, June

George Ogle, June
 Christopher Lohman, May
 Llonda Bins-Lohman, May
 Michelle Baviera, July

Adventure Diver

Sydney Seeley, May
 Craig Brooks, July

Specialties

Project AWARE

Nick Dyer, January
 Sydney Seeley, May

Boat Diver

Paula Dorn, July

Computer Assisted Diver

Scotty Ford, June

Coral Reef Conservation

Nick Dyer, January
 Scotty Ford, January
 Sydney Seeley, May

Deep Diver

Kim Alloy, July

DPV Diver

Nick Dyer, July

Dry Suit Diver

Blake Dorman, February
 Nicholas Dyer, February
 Manuel Marquez, February
 Brandon Wood, February
 Mark Richardson, February

Digital UW Photophraphy

Greg Baviera, July
 Nick Dyer, July
 Craig Brooks, July

Enriched Air

Scotty Ford, February
 Danny Shirley, February
 Kevin Guiles, March
 George Ogle, March
 Gary Blanton, March
 Michael Harris, April
 Craig Brooks, May

Fish ID

Kim Alloy, July
 Zac Alloy, July
 Alex Alloy, July

Peak Performance Bouyancy

Nick Dyer, April
 Michael Mooney, June

Jim Ely, July

Night Diver

Nick Dyer, April
 Kim Alloy, July
 Zac Alloy, July
 Alex Alloy, July

Emergency First Response

Scott Ford, March
 Jennifer Ford, March
 Michael Harris, March
 Keith Holt, April
 Blake Dorman, May
 Brandon Wood, May
 Mark Richardson, July

DAN DEMP

(O2, AdvO2, AED, HMLI)

Blake Dorman, March
 Brandon Woods, March
 Nick Dyer, March
 Dave Seeley, March

On-Site Neuro

Scott Williams, March
 Nick Dyer, March
 Dave Seeley, March

Dive Medicine for Divers

Tim Landers, April
 Mike Manila, April
 Nick Dyer, April
 Dave Seeley, April
 Angela Garrett, June
 Scott Williams, June
 Paul Skinner, June

EFR Instructor

Karen Bostic, February
 Scott Williams, February
 Gregory Baviera, February
 Michael Turner, February

OWSI Instructor

Karen Bostic, May
 Rebecca Shannon, June

DUP Instructor

Mike Manila, April

Dry Suit Instructor

Mike Manila, April

Equipment Instructor

Mike Manila, April

UW Navigator Instructor

Mike Manila, April



Trips for 2009

Cozumel

Christmas

Diver \$TBD

Non Diver \$TBD

Staying at Park Royal with an all-inclusive package this time. The trip price also includes round trip airfare, transportation to and from the airport, 2 dives on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Most trips the group opts to add dives so many times we do 3 dives on Friday, 3 or 4 dives on Saturday and the 2 dives on Sunday.

St. Lucia

September 12-19

\$1665Dvr, \$1305NDvr Seven nights in an ocean view room, airport transfers, all taxes and services. Basket of local fruit, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Snorkeling, windsurfing, snorkeling, towels, beach chairs and towels available... AND 12 boat dives, 2 night dives, unlimited nitrox



Sold Out

St Croix

December 5-12 \$1410+ air

Nekton Live aboard

Nitrox available with up to five dives per day. If you have never taken a dive vacation on a live aboard you have not lived! Make this your first.



Training Specials

Learn to Dive Package

A whale of a deal, tell your friends.

Group Class Tuition, Student Materials, Personal Gear (Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Boots, Bag) chosen from a wide variety of options, and a shorty wet suit. Upgrades are available should you desire.

\$695

WBD Season Pass

Take any or all of the 38 PADI/DAN specialties offered at We B Divin' in a 12 month period. Up to 3 crew packs included.

Get your PADI Master Scuba Diver and your DAN Diving Emergency Specialist.

\$699 — **Unbelievable!**

eLearning

Don't have time to spend in classroom but want to get certified? Sign up for on-line learning. Do all of the classroom on your time at your location on your PC. Then spend 8-12 hours with us in the pool and 4 dives in open water. Package price \$720

Divers Alert Network

DAN Travel Insurance

This is Dan's newest product. I am sure that I have not reviewed every Trip Cancellation and Interruption policy available out there on the market, but this one is very competitive in benefits as well as cost. Also, of course, when we

use this product we are supporting DAN which is always a plus.

Travel insurance is good for those who want to plan a trip but have pending concerns like the health of a loved one. It is very valuable when planning a BIG trip like Galapagos. Many times trips like this

must be planned far in the future and we simply cannot know what life will put on our plate in the interim. So this type of insurance protects us from a total loss.

Check the details from our web site by clicking here

DAN Dive Insurance



A Word from Our Sponsors — Reminder, expires Aug 31



- Kronos & Kronos Supreme
- Tungsten XTX
- Tek 3 Regulator Set
- XTX200 • XTX100 • XTX50
- XTX50/DS4 DIN
- XTX STAGE 3 SET
- XTX40/DS4, DIN - Oxygen

Free Airsource

Purchase an Aqua Lung or Sea Quest BC, regulator, Suunto computer and take any scuba training course and receive a free airsource.

Offer valid through 31 December 09.

GEAR UP & GO!

With your purchase of a qualifying BC, regulator and computer, you can save up to \$1,550 on a dive vacation. Destination options in Wakatobi, Palau, Grand Cayman and Bahamas. For more details visit www.aqualung.com/gear-up-and-go

**Dive the Best for Less
Save Up to
\$100 Instantly**

The Offer:

Regulators with a MSRP of \$500 or more receive a **\$100** instant rebate.

Qualifying regulators includes:

- Legend LX & Legend LX Supreme
- Legend & Legend Supreme
- Legend Glacia

Regulators with a MSRP less than \$500 receive a **\$50** instant rebate.

Qualifying regulators includes:

- Titan LX & Titan LX Supreme
- Mikron
- Titan



New Products — Just Came In! — Color My Dive World...

Mares ICON HD Computer

- Stores images and dive site maps.

ICON HD is a True full-color display computer. Its screen is made using LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) with TFT (Thin Film Transistor) technology.

An intuitive software, the use of large characters, and the contrast created

by using different colors, makes the on screen information easy to read, immediate and clear.

During the dive besides the standard navigation mode, divers can switch to a second dive mode which shows the full dive curve in real time. The computer's memory allows the storage of images and photos, including digital maps of diving spots.



Divers Alert Network

Membership

DAN is the only organization I am aware of that is actively pursuing medical dive research. They provide assistance to all divers (regardless of membership status) through 800 phone numbers and will accept collect calls from anywhere in the world. This alone

is worth our support with membership fees of \$29 per year. The included subscription to Alert Diver is just a bonus.

Dive Insurance

This is the best option for Medical Dive Accident Coverage that I have reviewed. There are three plans from \$25 to \$70 per year covering

not only medical coverage for a dive accident but extra transportation, extra accommodation, lost diving equipment and much more.

I cannot stress enough how valuable it is to have this coverage. Check the details from our web site by clicking here

[DAN Dive Insurance](#)



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The Surface Times

We B Divin' is your personal resource for scuba training (PADI), equipment sales, service, and travel.


We pride ourselves on individualized training, especially for people with water related anxieties. Our rental gear includes SeaQuest weight integrated BCD's (women's and men's), computers, and regulators for state of the art training and the ultimate in safety.

Remember, enjoyment and safety are enhanced by comfort and proper fit. We will personally fit you, whether your primary interest is diving or snorkeling.

We offer both group and individual travel opportunities. Both singles and couples are welcome. Singles may ask to room share or can choose the single supplement option. Everyone is welcome - divers, snorkelers, non-divers, shoppers, etc.

Think Outside the Bowl!

There is much to learn, many places to go and much to see.



Come learn with us, go places with us and see with us.



What do sweet corn and goats have in common with diving?

In 1841 decompression sickness appeared in humans for the first time. French coal miners began digging in the world's first pressurized mine. Physicians clinically described DCS in 1854 noting that leaving pressure caused the condition, and returning to pressure relieved it. They could not adequately explain their observations.

The condition cropped up next in workers laboring in pressurized caissons on bridge foundations. The caissons used compressed air to hold back water while work progressed on the river bottom for the Brooklyn Bridge in New York city.

In 1878 Bert published his theory in La Pression Barometrique. Armed with this report in 1906 Haldane, a physiologist interested in gas effects on the body, turned his attention to decompression sickness. Along with other researchers, he began experimenting with goats. Theo-

rizing that the body could hold a fixed quantity of excess nitrogen in solution, he used goats to demonstrate how much excess nitrogen the body could hold before 'bends' bubbles resulted. Since goats love sweet corn, he used their interest in eating it as a way to judge their level of sickness since they had no way to vocalize how they felt.

Haldane published his first dive tables in 1907. In 1908, along with other researchers, he published "The Prevention of Compressed Air Illness." This paper is still considered the groundwork of decompression theory. To this day, the vast majority of dive computers and dive tables have their roots in Haldane's original model, with comparatively minor modifications to his work about a century ago.

