

The Surface Times

Volume 3, Issue 4
 May 2009



PADI Seal Team By Tim Landers, MSDT

PADI Seal Team is a great way to get kids involved in scuba. Although students must be ten-years-old to be certified as a Junior Open Water Diver, they may join the Seal Team at eight years of age.

The program basically takes Open Water dive one and divides it into five "missions". Kiros, Shina, Blade, Daria, and Alano are five characters in the activity book and video that introduce the skills. The fun characters help keep the kids attention and generate excitement for the dives. All work is done in confined water and mostly in the shallow end of the pool (often younger students have trouble clearing their ears and are more comfortable there).

The initial five missions, taught by a teaching status PADI Instructor or PADI Assistant Instructor, include gear assembly and disassembly, ear and mask equalization, hand signals, descent and ascent, regulator removal and recovery, partially flooded mask, octopus breathing, fin tip pivot, hovering, snorkel clearing, and snorkel/regulator exchange.

In addition to the fundamental skills and hand signals, the participants learn the PADI Seal Team Code of Conduct:

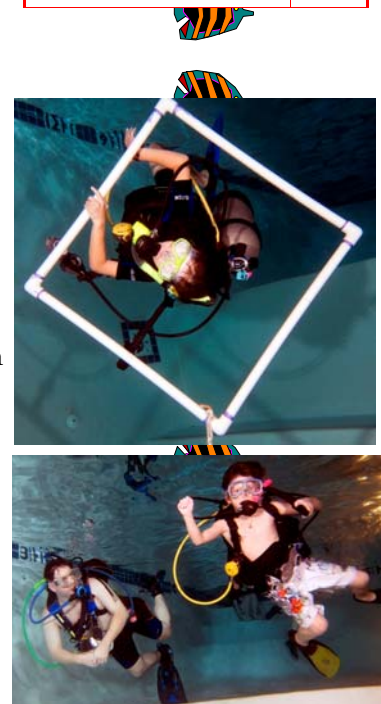
- Carefully dive at all times – remembering the rules.
- Offer help to my diving buddy.
- Defend and protect the aquatic world.
- Educate myself by learning more about diving and developing my skills.

Once the student completes the first five missions he or she is an official PADI Seal and receives a member card and wall certificate. They are not certified to dive in open water as children may not have the mental capability to handle potential stress and emergencies that might arise. In addition, there are medical concerns for children and diving (<http://www.scuba-doc.com/Q&A.html>); most of these concerns are for children under the age of ten.

PADI Seals can proceed to optional AquaMissions including Creature ID Specialist, Environmental Specialist, Inner Space Specialist (buoyancy), Navigation Specialist, Night Specialist, Safety Specialist (rescue), Search and Recovery Specialist, Skin Diver Specialist, Snapshot Specialist (photography), and Wreck Specialist. Seals that receive ten specialties receive PADI Master Seal Team recognition. PADI Seals may also receive credit for Confined Water Dive 1 (referral is valid for 12 months from the last AquaMission).

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Great Skills = Great Fun

By Rance McCloskey, Assistant Instructor

I just came back from the Bahamas where I had the most incredible dive experience. As I related the events to Judy she reminded me just how far I had come as a diver. My first experience in the pool was a disaster to say the least and I still get kidded about levitating out of the pool as my class ended just about 30 seconds after it started!

It has been my good fortune to have good instructors who taught me many things that improved my diving skills and I find that I need to constantly work to keep my skills sharp and improve them.

The first two dives I did in the Bahamas were shark dives. Dive one

was on Shark Wall and dive two was in the Shark Arena where a feeding took place. Prior to this dive I told my wife that I was thinking about trying the feeding experience that was offered by the resort. I observed the feeder and the skills that he had and came to the conclusion that I too could feed the sharks.

As soon as we got back to the dock I signed up. Part of the feeding experience was a shark specialty class and a full feeding lesson that teaches how to feed a shark, its not as easy as it looks.

I would not have signed up unless I thought my skills were good enough



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Creature Feature

From Last Edition:

Red Snapping Shrimp

One enlarged claw makes a loud popping sound. It can often be found in the protection of the Corkscrew Anemone. Their color



varies from bright red to brown with banded red and white antennae. Always take time to examine the area around the edges of the Corkscrews as it is not uncommon to see several of them there. You will also be likely to see tiny crabs and cleaner shrimp there too. This makes them great photo opportunities.

Hint: Think jewelry



PADI Specialty of the Month

May: Dry Suit Diver

Dry suits let you dive more challenging dive sites. With the right attire, you can stand up to the elements and take advantage of generally better visibility offered by winter months. You'll be equipped to scuba dive the world's most incredible dive sites.

June: Peak Performance Buoyancy

Learn to precisely weight yourself for optimum control, poise and balance; ascend and descend effortlessly; master streamlining, and you'll move through the water cleanly, efficiently and gracefully.

July: Deep Diver

Go deep to see things others can only dream about. Experience what it's like to dive beyond 60 feet. Down there, it's different. It takes additional training. July 12/13 we are scheduling training. Enroll Now.



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

Advanced Open Water

Michael Harris, April

Adventure Diver

Sydney Seeley, May

Specialties

Project AWARE

Nick Dyer, January
 Sydney Seeley, May

Coral Reef Conservation

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

Dry Suit Diver

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

Enriched Air

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

Peak Performance Bouy- ancy

Nick Dyer, April

Night Diver

Nick Dyer, April

Emergency First Response

Scott Ford, March
 Jennifer Ford, March
 Michael Harris, March
 Keith Holt, April
 Blake Dorman, May

Brandon Wood, May

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

EFR Instructor

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

DUP Instructor

Mike Manila, April

Dry Suit Instructor

Mike Manila, April

Equipment Instructor

Mike Manila, April

UW Navigator Instructor

Dive Around Texas aka We B Divin' Around Texas, 2009

by Dave Seeley, OWSI

Well good diving weather is upon us once again and those of you that have been holding out on logging some dives for the Dive Around Texas program have no excuse anymore. The water temperatures are warming up quickly at many of the local dive spots and the nights are still comfortable enough to do some camping. So let's go diving! For those of you that are not familiar with the Dive Around Texas program, take a minute to visit www.divearoundtexas.com and then come to the shop and sign up. All you have to do is dive at 4 different locations and log 12 dives total by September 25th for chances to win tons of cool prizes and have free BBQ at Aquarena Springs September 26th.

During the month of April we had two outings in support of Dive Around Texas. We visited Stillhouse Hollow Lake on April 4th (detailed in the March newsletter) and then had an Easter Egg hunt at the Blue Lagoon on March 11th. Blue Lagoon is so beautiful and laid back. Those of you who have still not visited should do so right away. It is distinctly

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Dive Around Texas

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different from other Texas lakes. There are videos from the hunt available to view at www.youtube.com.

Winners of \$25.00 We B Divin' gift certificates were Nick Dyer and Sydney Seeley who found golden Easter egg's on one of the shipwrecks. Thanks are in order to Judy Kay for putting up the prize money and buying candy and hot dogs for everyone. Unfortunately, some of the gift certificates were returned to the shop unused as there wasn't a very big turnout. Had you come, you would have come home with Easter treats, a fuller logbook, and probably a gift certificate. What do I have to do to get you people diving?

For May, we are going to have a Mammoth Memorial Day Weekend. We will be camping at Mammoth Lake down by Houston starting Friday May 22nd to do some night diving, then dive all day Saturday. Depending on turnout we may dive more on Sunday or head out to the beach at Galveston (just 12 miles away) for some sun and waves. Mammoth Lake is a purpose built SCUBA park outside of Houston with attractions from the now defunct Astroworld amusement park and also Houston's Space Center. There are lots of planes and boats, a huge gorilla, and a yellow submarine. Check out the site at www.divethemammoth.com



Mammoth Lake began its life as a bend in an ancient river. As animals fell



into the river their bodies were swept to this area and deposited. Mammoth Lake was mined for its sand and clay deposits beginning in the 1950's. In 2003, an excavator operator unearthed the remains of an early inhabitant of this area, a Colombian Mammoth. Shortly thereafter, the remains of another Mammoth, along with bison, camels, three toed sloths, and a saber toothed tiger were found. The name, Mammoth Lake, was born! As the sand played out, the decision was made to turn this large 55 acre pit into the largest scuba specific park in the U.S. Planning meetings were held in October 2006 then the pumps removing water from the pit were turned off on December 29, 2006 and Mammoth Lake began filling. At present the deepest part of the lake sits around 61 feet.

Please email me, dave@we-b-divin.com if you intend to come to Mammoth Lake so I can get a feel for about how many divers to expect. I will send out an email between May 11-13 with details, cost of admission and camping, local attractions, hotels for the non campers and directions.

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 or by clicking here



Trips for 2009

Cozumel

May 29-01
 July 10-13
 Aug 14-17
 Diver \$792
 Non Diver \$652

Staying at Hotel Cozumel 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. Sailing, windsurfing, snorkeling, tennis, beach chairs and towels available... AND 12 boat dives, 2 night dives, unlimited nitrox



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 one.



A Word from Our Sponsors—Reminders



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

The Offer: Valid until August 31, 2009

Regulators with a MSRP of \$500 or more receive a \$100 instant rebate. Regulators with a MSRP less than \$500 receive a \$50 instant rebate.

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

Offer valid through 31 August 09.

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.



Great Skills = Great Fun

(Continued from page 2)

to ensure my safety during the feeding dives. Then I made two dives with normal classes again that reinforced the feeding skills I had been taught. The next day it was my turn.

As I descended down to the wreck wearing chain mail for protection I discovered that as awkward as the gear was to wear my buoyancy seemed just perfect.

I then had a once in a lifetime experience of feeding sharks. During the feeding one grabbed my primary hose and shook it, several bit my hands and arms, they ran into me and pushed me around and I even got to hug one. Once I came out of the water the instructor told me that I did great, that I was calm amongst the chaos. One of the main reasons that I got to have this great experience was that I felt extreme confidence with the skills that I had been taught over

the years. It's important to keep your skills sharp so that when your time comes for that once in a lifetime dive you will be ready and be able to fully enjoy it without having to worry about your skills.



We B Divin'

The 'Ultimate Dive Shop'

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North Richland Hills, TX 76180

817-605-8833, voice and fax

E-mail: editor@we-b-divin.com

Think Outside the Bowl!

There is so much to learn, so many places to dive and so much to see.

AND SO LITTLE TIME!



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.

We're on the web!
www.we-b-divin.com

Deal or Dud?

By Rance McCloskey, Assistant Instructor

Prior to my recent trip to the Bahamas I bought one of the portable scales, Balanzza, at We B Divin' and was grateful I did. I used it to ensure my bags remained at the 50 pound weight limit imposed by the airlines now. It kept me from getting a hefty fee and best of all from having to move things around at the airport ticket counter.

The trip going was easy to pack for as I knew exactly what I needed and packed accordingly. Once we got to our destination and things got wet and we added souvenirs and things for friends and family the weight factor began to change quickly. I took my scale with me and moved the weight around so that all four of my bags were below the dreaded fifty pound limit. The scale made it easy and I checked the weight several times as I moved things around. We got to the airport and the weight was right on so my travel experience was much less of a hassle. I will never travel without the scale again and I recommend everyone consider getting one for future travel purposes.

Definitely DEAL.

