

2010

1st Quarter

# Deep Blue

*TD Scuba • 816-525-3487*

## Happy 2010!

Time to ring in the diving new year, fellow divers! It may still be a bit cold out for most of us, but it's never too early to look forward to hitting the water. If you are one of those divers plunging in even during the coldest time of the year, the rest of us will think of you fondly as we sit in our flannel pants around a fire and sipping hot cocoa.

And as we toast our toes and try to keep warm, we'll be envisioning tropical landscapes and temps. that'll be here before you know it! Don't forget, it's a great time to get your equipment checked out or to get into one of the upcoming no-water-required classes at TD Scuba. If you are itching to do anything that has something to do with water, then check out the in-shop classes for Underwater Photography, Rescue Diver, Enriched Air, or Equipment. There's never a shortage of things to do, and if you're like most of us, you'll want to be getting ready for summer diving all year long!

Also, don't miss out on the new youth programs available at the shop. Stop by and check out what's being offered, and get the youngest divers-to-be involved! Remember, the family that dives together...well, has a BLAST together!

And if you're looking for something to do at work while you dream about diving, check out the new and rockin' TD website!

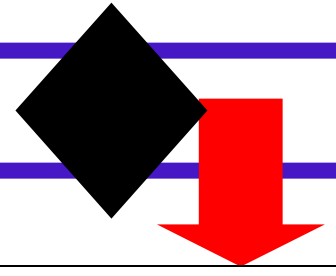
## Upcoming Diving

February 13-30 – Bonaire – SOLD OUT! This will be a fun trip, full of familiar faces! The countdown is on! If you missed out on this one, be sure to join in one of the upcoming trips.

Cozumel – April 11-18, 2010 – Sign up at the shop! Only \$725 ground—WOW!

Check out the calendar at the end of the newsletter for more info!

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



The structure of a reef itself is made up of polyps, tiny animals that live in colonies.

## Protecting Our Reefs

Scientists say coral reefs have been around for millions of years. They are the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth, providing a home to at least 25% of fish species. They have survived through storms, climate changes, and anything nature has thrown at them. So why now are our reefs in danger of collapse? What is causing the decline of our reef systems, and what can we do to stop it?

Reefs line approximately 60,000 miles of shoreline along 109 countries, and in addition to being home to the world's most diverse ecosystem, reefs are an early indicator of environmental changes. They are extremely sensitive to even the slightest changes in the environment, and it's because of this that reefs show us the early signs of change within the ocean.

Did you know that scientists estimate that 25% of our coral reefs have disappeared and that nearly 2/3 of the remaining reefs are at risk? There are several things that contribute to the deterioration of reefs, including:

- Pollution
- Disease
- Over-Fishing
- Global Warming
- Human Destruction

We are reminded every time we dive in the ocean of the richness and importance of coral reefs, and as divers it rests partially on our shoulders to protect and defend the reefs we enjoy. We can't single-handedly stop all the damage that is caused to the reefs, but by doing our share, we can begin to see reefs thrive once more.

What divers can do to protect the reefs:

- Look but don't touch. Be careful not to bump coral with your equipment or kick it with your fins. Even the smallest encounter can kill the fragile coral colonies that can take years to develop.
- Don't anchor in the reef. If mooring buoys aren't available, anchor in the sand.
- Support the protection of marine parks and marine protected areas.
- Volunteer for beach clean-ups.
- Encourage and teach others how to protect the reef.

If everyone does their part, the reefs will be here for generations to come!

## Dive Safety – The Big Vending Machine in the Sea

You know how, when the vending machine eats your last quarter and you are only 25¢ short of getting a refreshing drink, but the machine is trying to rob you? And you know how it's really nice to have a friend with you who just happens to have a quarter?

Open water is a lot like that vending machine. We all know we should probably travel with extra quarters, because vending machines are notorious for stealing from us. But we often don't. Or we can't find our spare quarter. Or our quarter malfunctions...whatever. No matter the reason, that's when it's handy to have a buddy along.

And that's sort of like diving with a buddy. The only difference is that, not only can this buddy lend you a quarter, he could also save your life. Most of us try to plan for the unexpected, but even if we do, it's hard to prepare for every instance. A buddy can be your lifeline, your quarter-lender, your air-sharer, your line untangler, etc. If you are lucky enough to have a buddy you would trust with your life, chances are, your buddy also trusts you with his.

Long story short, it's smart to dive with a buddy. And if you are being smart, there are a few tips to help you and your buddy be invaluable to each other.

- 1) BWRAF is not texting shorthand for teens. It's safe, it's a good reminder to check everything, and it's ultra-cool. Do it.
- 2) Peer pressure is awesome. If you notice your buddy doing something unsafe, let him know. (For example, if your buddy forgets to turn his air on, it's common courtesy to remind him. Trust me, he'll thank you.)
- 3) Review your dive plan with your buddy. It helps if you both have the same game plan when you get to depth, and it's much easier to discuss it on the surface rather than at 80 feet.
- 4) Have a way to communicate with each other. Know and review common hand signals, and let your buddy know if you have a tank banger or other type of signaling device to get his attention. (Note: If you'll just be hitting him upside the head to get his attention, it would be a good idea to mention this.)

Remember, if you lose your buddy and haven't located him within 1 minute, surface safely and meet him topside.

Diving with a buddy is a great way to be a safe diver, and it's also good to have a witness in case you happen to see the elusive whale shark or other such creature—because you know no one is gonna believe you. A buddy can back up your story.

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**B**-BCD  
**W**-Weights  
**R**-Releases  
**A**-Air  
**F**-Final Check

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## Surface Interval Amusement

We've all been there. You know what I'm talking about—the surface interval that seems to go on forever. Picture the scenario: middle aged men in Speedos leaning perilously close to the pineapple tray, photographic geniuses explaining to you why all of your pictures are green, seasick passengers popping Dramamine like M&Ms, and black, hazy fumes from the boat slowly eating away at your brain cells while you focus on the feeling of salt drying in your skin.

So, what's a semi-normal diver to do? How does one cope and make it through the seemingly never-ending surface interval? Well, just in the nick of time, here's a list of handy surface interval entertainment that can—and will—make your stay above water more enjoyable.

- 1) Look for dolphins. Everyone onboard would love to get a look at this adorable creature, and you'll be a hero for spotting one. Heck, even if you don't see one, it's fun to shout it out just to see the other passengers strain to catch a glimpse of it. (Note: This becomes much less believable if you are diving in a lake rather than the ocean.)
- 2) Pretend to sleep. This is fun as well, because it's amazing the things people will discuss in front of you if they think you are asleep. You will likely overhear some juicy family secret, but beware, this could backfire, and you could be the recipient of unwelcome information regarding old-timer Lou's latest colonoscopy.
- 3) Read a book. If you are looking for quiet and rest, pretending to read will usually do the trick, however, be prepared to double up on the Dramamine. If you actually do read more than a complete paragraph, chances are, you'll be waving bye-bye to your breakfast.
- 4) Check for unsecured tanks. It's always fun to point out who could have potentially killed someone with a renegade tank that wasn't secured. But before doing this, it's a good idea to make sure your own tank is secured first.
- 5) Listen to island music that entices you to chuck it all and live in a hut made of tropical trees, spending your days sipping on fruity concoctions with umbrellas. (Warning: I've come dangerously close to moving the family into a cozy hut of our own on the beach, so it could definitely happen. Be prepared.)

## Cool Stuff Calendar

- April 11-18 Cozumel
- April 23,24,25 DUI Dog Days
- May 22-23 Beaver Lake (Easter Egg Hunt)
- June 26-27 Beaver Lake (Poker Run)
- July 24-25 Beaver Lake (Stingray Dive Club)
- August 28-29 Beaver Lake (Pirate Weekend)
- September 25-26 Beaver Lake Project AWARE Cleanup!
- October 17-24 Cozumel

You heard it here first! (Yep, it's like the world's first scuba tabloid! ) Here's the scoop...well, a hint at the scoop. For all you travel hounds out there, you'll want to play close attention, and for all of you who may have missed the last WAY cool trip, you'll also want to raise your antennae.

Are you ready? Guess where we're going in 2011!?! Go ahead, guess.

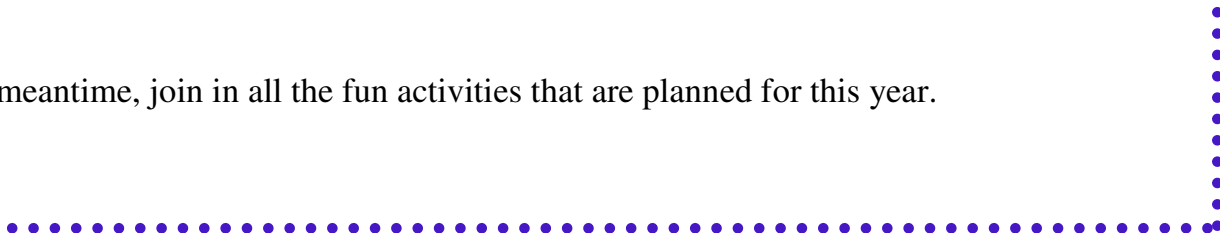
You'll never get it, so I'm gonna give you a hint.

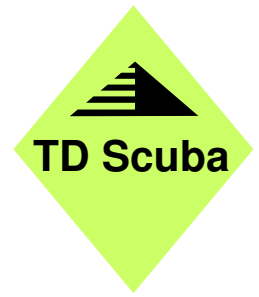
Grass skirts. Scuba. Clear water. Pineapple. Islands.

Do you have it? I can't "officially" tell, but the word of the day is Aloha! I'm so excited I'm going to start packing now. Ok, it's a year away, but what an amazing trip!

This one will fill up, so watch for information at TD Scuba as it becomes available.

In the meantime, join in all the fun activities that are planned for this year.





**Fulfilling the urge to**

**TD Scuba**

1173 N. E. Rice Road  
Lee's Summit, MO  
64086

**Phone:**

816-525-3487

**E-Mail:**

terrydavis@tdscuba.com

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*  
tdscuba.com

**Congratulations to the Grads!**

- Batzold, Fredrick** – Open Water
- Boles, Daniel** – Emergency Oxygen Use
- Boles, Ed** – EFR – CPR/First Aid, Emergency Oxygen Use
- Champ, Kevin** – Open Water
- Conard, Timothy** – Dry Suit, Equipment Specialist
- Euslin, Elizabeth** – PADI Seal Team
- Gay, Bonnie** – Project AWARE, Equipment Specialist
- Gay, Rickey** – Equipment Specialist
- Gonzalez, Rodrigo** – Open Water
- Hedrick, Michele** – Open Water
- McCinnis, Elizabeth** – EFR – CPR/First Aid
- McIntyre, Terra** – Open Water
- Miller, Joy** - EFR – CPR/First Aid, Emergency Oxygen Use, Master Scuba Diver, Equipment Specialist
- More, Terry** - EFR – CPR/First Aid, Emergency Oxygen Use
- Perez, Miriana** – Discover Scuba Diving, Open Water
- Roth, Anna** – PADI Seal Team
- Shaw, Tyson** – Open Water
- Taylor, Bryan** – Open Water
- Theiss, Jonathan** – Master Scuba Diver
- Theiss, Zachary** – Master Scuba Diver
- Trotter-Valverde, Elizabeth** – Open Water



**Way to go!**