

2010

2nd Quarter

Deep Blue

TD Scuba • 816-525-3487

If Dr. Seuss Were a Diver

I would not, could not dive in winter.
I shall not, shall not dive in snow.
Not in the ice, and not in the slush,
So all you icy divers, hush!

Not in the rain, and not in the snow.
Not in the sleet, and not in the hail.
I like to dive when it is hot.
Dive in the cold, I do NOT!

In other words, c'mon warm weather! The warm-water divers are starting to get cabin fever...and some of them are starting to write really weird stuff!

Don't forget...it's that time of year again. Time to get your gear checked out and serviced so you'll be ready to hit the water with a splash in the coming months. Drop by TD Scuba, and the folks there will be sure your gear's in tip-top shape for diving season.

And speaking of diving, why not make some plans to meet us at the lake for some fun diving or training? There will be lots of great opportunities this season for you to brush up on your diving skills or just do some fun diving with old friends. Check out the online calendar on tdscuba.com for upcoming dates and activities, and stop by the shop to get on the calendar!

Cool Stuff Calendar

- 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



Group Travel—Confessions of an Anti-Social Diver

You may be able to dig up a memory of having traveled with a group in the past, a memory that's probably buried beneath the dust of time and encased in a shroud of traumatic incidents that are better off left in the past. For example, I remember a trip taken with a bunch of high school seniors. We were wild and energetic and excited. We were full of mischief and hormones and other unmentionable things. We never slept. We escaped from our rooms at all hours of the night to play pranks on each other and on the unsuspecting adults who were supervising us at the time. In short, we were revolting creatures that stayed awake for days at a time, feeding on our own obnoxious behaviors.

So, you might understand why, in my tamer adult life, I've been hesitant to participate in group outings. Mostly it's because I'm old, and I need sleep, but there are other reasons, too. I like to think I've outgrown the shaving-cream-on-the-face-while-sleeping pranks and all the other juvenile things that went along with that. (Except, yes, there are times when I would consider the shaving cream thing, if only to relive my wild and crazy youth.)

Keeping this in mind, it was with great trepidation that I agreed to a group trip with the dive shop. Not that I'm accusing anyone there of being the short-sheeting type, but you know, you can never be too certain. With much arm-twisting and cajoling, I was convinced to give it a try. How bad could it be, right? I should mention now that I'm sort of anti-social, so bear that in mind as I reflect on the experience.

It was decided that Bonaire would be the trip. I agreed to give group travel a chance, but there was no small level of anxiety, I'll have you know. I tend to like to keep my face creams and curlers private, and somehow, the idea of traveling with a group of friends threw me back to the days of running our camp counselor's underwear up the flagpole. But I digress.

Anyway, here's the thing: It was amazing! No one smeared shaving cream on my face as I slept, and I never once awoke to find my underwear gracing the bow of the boat—a very good outcome in my humble opinion.

So taken aback was I by the courteous and friendly nature of this group, that I immediately began planning our next group trip. I would travel with people—real, actual people. And I would have conversations—real conversations with other adults. It was as if my mind was opened to this crazy new phenomenon of socializing, a word that has, up until this point, been in the same category as several four-letter words I will refrain from mentioning. (Cont. on page 3)

Group Travel—Confessions of an Anti-Social Diver (cont.)

Long story short, Bonaire was amazing. The country, the island, the people—all amazing. The diving was nothing short of fabulous. It was as good as I've heard it is, with great visibility and some of the healthiest reefs I've ever seen. I couldn't find a current if I was looking for one, and the shore diving—don't even get me started on the shore diving!

I remind myself all the time that I could have missed this if I hadn't come out of my shell a little bit—ok, maybe it was more like being dragged bodily and forcibly from my shell—but who am I to split hairs? The point is, going outside your comfort zone every now and then can be a great thing.

So if you haven't been on a group trip lately, give it a try! There are some great ones coming up—and I promise not to short-sheet your bed.

Get out there and try something different! If you haven't checked out some of the cool diving specialties lately, why not go for it? You never know what you might get out of the experience.

It's Golden

Recently, while diving, I found myself without my favorite mask de-fog. Not only did that serve to remind me that the good fairies do not double-check my packing list the night before I travel, but it also made me think about those dive gadgets and goodies I just can't live without.

Mine is Sea Gold. I have tried everything. I've tried all the other de-fog products, and honestly, I'm not much of a spitter. In fact, we have a running battle between Sea Gold and 500 psi in our house. I win though. Every time. Sea Gold rocks. I'm serious when I say that I think the Sea Gold people are sitting on a gold mine. They should sell that stuff by the gallon, and maybe they do. (Someone please tell me if you can buy it by the gallon at Sam's Club or anything.)

So, thank you to the person who saved my entire dive trip by providing me with my own personal-sized bottle of that magic goop—you know who you are!

Now it's your turn. What's your can't-live-without-it diving accessory? It can be gear or goop or anything you want it to be. How does it make your diving life better? Did it save a dive? An entire trip? The best, most creative answer wins a prize! Yes, you read it right—a PRIZE! Don't miss out on the fun. E-mail your answers to me at diverjanny@aol.com. And one of your entertaining responses will end up in the next newsletter for all to read!

It's Not the Sharks I'm Scared Of

The sweet little sharks are the least of our worries today as scuba divers. And really, I'm not too concerned about the Portuguese Man-o-War—well, I would probably be concerned if I were to see one, but that's unlikely, so I'm not currently concerned. What worries me are the renegade Kamikaze boat drivers that are running over people in the water like speed bumps.

Here's the scenario. You are enjoying the underwater world and leisurely floating along looking at the fishies, when, to your utter shock and dismay, a giant hunk of metal with a motor attached to it comes careening at you at 60 miles per hour. Now, chances are if you were trained properly, you have some sort of signaling device in the water to let boaters know that you, too, are occupying the space they are currently in—you know, something along the lines of a huge flag that communicates the message of 'Hey, please don't run over me' to boaters who may happen by.

I may be a bit of an old fashioned diver, but I'm pretty sure I would prefer to dive now and in the future with all my extremities attached. So, if you've followed all the rules and you're still living in fear of becoming boat roadkill, here are some simple tips you can use to make sure you remain in one piece:

- Be sure to look up and around as you ascend, paying careful attention if you happen to hear anything that sounds like a large, ominous motor.
- Remember to float a dive flag near the site where you are diving and stay within 100 feet of it.
- Educate boaters in a friendly way about divers who may be in the water. It's possible they think that giant red flag bobbing in the waves is signaling them to raise their speed. Example: If you have friends who are chatting about the next "prison rules" boat race over the reef, it would be appropriate to remind them there might be divers below.

Now that we've covered some basic safety tips, here's a friendly shout-out to all the boaters out there. For the love of Neptune, we're not playing a frenzied game of water-whack-a-mole out there, so watch out for us! People are getting hit at an alarming rate—so pretty please, with an o-ring on top, look out for divers, snorkelers, and the occasional manatee you may see in the water (well, maybe not here in Missouri, but you know...elsewhere).

And thank you to all you boaters who share the water with us in a safe and friendly way. We can all live in peace and harmony and enjoy the aquatic world together!

Did Ya Know...?

Sometimes I'm scraping for ideas of topics for the newsletter, so this is a new section dedicated to ocean conservation in its various forms. Today's rant will focus on the alarming decrease in the shark populations in our oceans. Did you know that approximately 3 sharks per second are killed by some form of human intervention? (Meaning caught in nets, used for their fins and then discarded, etc.)

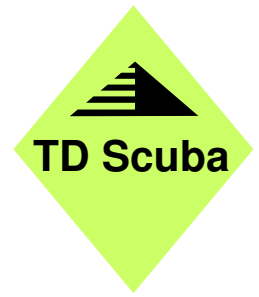
I'm sure everyone here is an ocean lover, and even if you're not exactly signing up for the next tour with Sea Shepherd (formerly known as Green Peace), there are still things you can do right here at home to ensure that our oceans are protected for years to come.

One of the easiest things you can do is boycott all restaurants that serve shark byproducts. Shark fin soup has seen a steady increase in popularity, and yet, many people are unaware of how that soup comes to rest on the table in front of them. In many instances, sharks are pulled from the water, stripped of their fins, and then thrown back into the water to suffer a miserable death. Not only is this contributing to the declining shark population, but the cruelty alone should be enough to propel us into action.

If you've ever found yourself in the ocean marveling at the grace of these magnificent creatures, then step up now and protect them. The first 50 people who swing by TD Scuba to check out the spring calendar and just say 'hi' will get a **Free** (and WAY cool) **Sticker** proclaiming your love of sharks.

If you are a seafood eater, you may want to download your own free copy of the Seafood Watch Card, which helps you determine which seafood to avoid and which choices are ocean-friendly ones. You can download your free Seafood Watch Card at:

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/download.aspx



Congratulations to the Grads!

**Fulfilling the urge
to submerge.**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
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- 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!