

New Mexico Scuba Center Newsletter

Summer

July 2011

As a full service dive shop we have revamped our newsletter to better serve our dive community. Our newsletter is an evolving process and we would like to know what you think

Welcome to our newer format.

It has been a busy summer with new divers, try scuba, and trips to Bonaire, Cayman Brac, and soon to the Channel Islands. As your full service dive shop, we look forward to training, equipping, and enabling your diving.

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Stacey and Si

Welcome to the July newsletter. It looks like a hot summer ahead of us. One sure way to beat the heat is to go diving.

While the fabled Blue Hole of Santa Rosa offers immediate and nearby relief, one should consider the distant but very accessible sites like Cozumel, the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands and so on.

Despite our seemingly land locked location, Albuquerque has good air connections to many world class dive sites. Some of you are already aware of these, while others of you new to diving or just contemplating diving didn't realize how close you are to these marine wonders.

In this and subsequent issues, we will include photos and commentary from our New Mexico diving

community. I think you will be surprised how far many of us



have gone from the banks of the Rio Grande.

In addition to where to dive, we will continue to provide information on equipment. This includes both how it works as well as what to look for in equipment. Clearly we want to be your first choice as an equipment provider. Our larger commitment is to help you select the right equipment fitting both function and your

budget. And, as annual or needed servicing occurs we would like to be the go to shop.

Continuing education and training is a desirable part of diving. Some courses such as the advanced open water, NITROX, and Stress & Rescue are essential foundation courses. Other courses open opportunities in extended range diving. As an SSI facility we adhere to a high standard of performance, professionalism, and conformance to safe diving practices.

In short, we want to be your dive center. Just want to discuss diving? Stop by, one of us will find time to chat. Need a dive buddy? We will help you find one with similar interests and skills. Our mission is

to serve you, the New Mexico diver.



The Blue Corner of Palau



WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE

The Lionfish is beautiful but unwanted in the Caribbean. An invasive species, it has a price on its head and dive masters in many areas will find and kill them on site. They are easy to find but one should take care to avoid the poisonous spines. Don't be surprised if you see Lionfish on the menu next time you travel



Lionfish seen in Bonaire

ADAPTIVE DIVING

We just got back from Cayman Brac with Dive Pirates. This years theme was "Brac with Friends" Our boat won the Deep Dive Challenge (which awarded us the pneumatic water balloon launcher) the "Miss Dive Pirate" contest and the "Pimp my Chair". More to follow—it will be worth the wait.



Save up to \$600

Oceanic wrist computers

Bonaire

David Olson

So everyone needs to dive Bonaire, or so the ads might have you believe. Located just north of Venezuela, it is one of the ABC islands in the Netherlands Antilles. Its capital, Kralendijk (kraw-in-dike) literally means "coral dike," which is apropos of the small island. Over the centuries it has passed from the Spanish, English, Dutch, Germans (during WW II), and back to Dutch. We stayed at the Buddy Dive resort.

Part of our package included a small pick-up ("Pepito my little donkey"), which allowed us access to several shore sites. Yellow painted stones along the road, such as "Atlantis," mark the location. Not all entries are equal, and the northern sites tended to be steeper and rock coral.



The drive south is not without interest, and testament to the island's history. Sea salt extracted through evaporation remains an industry. The Dutch



used slave labor in the mid nineteenth century to load the salt on ships anchored just offshore. The salt was graded and anchoring sites were indicated by orange (in photo), red, or blue pillars. Today, one of the really interesting dive sites is the Salt Pier, which has controlled

access. The dive shop will set it up.

Photography is an interesting avocation, that ranges from my point and shoot to the more

capable camera set ups. Bill, in the below photo, has a very nice set up, which really framed nicely with the backlight. I guess all photos have a story,

Bill and his really nice camera set up



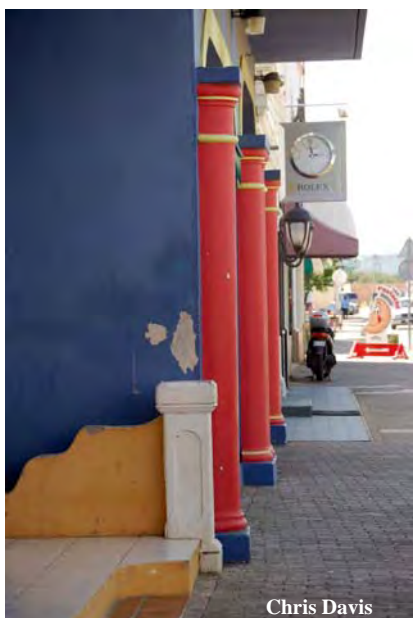
Atomas AI Console Computer with Compass

"The shore diving in Bonaire is pretty cool. Jump in a truck, drive north or south, find a yellow marker, and in you go."

Bonaire (cont'd)



“The first dive is always one of anticipation and excitement...but you have to set-up your gear first.”



Downtown Kralendijk



The inside out octopus

the unwanted attention, retreated and avoided being captured by diver Bill. I did give my apology topside. Asked how I got the octopus to pose inside out...dipped if I know, and gifted photographers rarely share their secrets.

It pays to watch, and now that my wife, Lynne is a full-on dive buddy I also have an additional set of eyes. Frankly, I think she might rival some of you other fish finders. Lynne swears I missed the really good stuff, but fortunately I did turn around and look a few times. The Stone Fish was one reward.

While the shore diving is great, I gotta say I love diving from boats especially when the shore entry is a little steep or the swim out is bit far. One site I really recommend for a change is the wreck

100 feet (bottom). It's a nice change from the coral walls. The wreck is fairly open, and allows diver penetration into the holds.

I found the dives to be fun and easy to do. The dives, boat or shore, usually involve descending to around 30 feet to intercept a steeply sloping coral



Way cool stone fish

found at Hilma Hooker (don't you just love the names). The wreck, a confiscated drug ship, rests on its port side at



Flamingo Tongue on bottom of coral

wall. The walls drop to a sandy bottom around 100 feet. Mostly sponges and coral with some good coral fish can be found. While I searched for the elusive whale shark, in fact any shark, I was rewarded with Cow Fish, squids, Drum Fish, Trunk Fish, and so on. I'm not complaining because I happen to like these critters, as seen in my shot of the Flamingo Tongue.

I know some of you are looking for more photos, and Stacey will likely publish them on a website!

I rate Bonaire as a great place for the new to more experienced diver and snorkelers can have fun too! Kralendijk is nearby and offers some topside attractions in terms of shops and restaurants. The US dollar reigns, so don't worry about currency. Flight connections aren't bad apart from the red eye we took from Houston.

In summary, if you haven't been to Bonaire you should consider it.



Chris snorkels with the squid



Eric is having fun



Chris Davis

Harbor Lady and her divers depart



Chris Davis

Al takes a giant step into the blue

Surface Interval

It's a beautiful day, a little breezy and cool, and the dive boat operator wants you in the water as soon as possible. Recognize the scenario? So what should you do?

"Computers are an important tool for divers, and knowing how your computer works is a must."



Diver ascending from the depths of Truk Lagoon

If we use a computer, it's easy. We go to the plan mode and input our anticipated depth. The result is the bottom time for that depth. Recall bottom time is the maximum time at that depth one can stay followed by a direct ascent to the surface. If we exceed bottom time, we have gone outside the no decompression limit and must make mandatory decompression stops (note: the safety stop is really a non mandatory deco stop).

Some computers allow inputting the estimated surface interval (current surface time + time to next dive), while others only consider current time from last dive. For planning, you should use the least bottom time when compared with group or your buddy. Hence our necessary surface interval occurs when the plan mode shows we have enough no deco (bottom) time for the next dive at the de-

sired time and maximum depth. Note: Plan modes are square profiles and do not consider multilevel diving, hence the actual dive time may easily exceed the plan mode.

Forgot your dive computer? It happens to all of us at one time or another. When this happens we are faced with a dilemma: don't dive until we have our computer, or use the tables. If we go to the tables, we have to be a new diver. In other words, it should be twelve hours or more from the last dive.

When using the tables, we must observe the underlying premise that bottom time is based on the deepest point of our dive and our underwater time begins at descent and ends with our direct ascent to the surface. Unlike computers that continuously update our estimated nitrogen saturation based on our actual profile, tables use a square profile. The result is much longer surface intervals compared to computer divers on the same dive.

A dive computer

continually computes your residual nitrogen both during and post dive. Consequently, you should not change computers once you have started your diving day or alternate be-



The surface interval is a good time to relax and enjoy each other's company

tween the computer and dive table on the same dive day. You should wait 24 hours before using a new or reset computer. Finally, no two divers have the same profile hence you should never dive off your buddy's



New Certified Divers

Open Water: Emily Powers, James Young, Kody Emerson
Daniel Word, Bobby Jones

Adaptive Dive Leaders: Nigel Lakey, Gregg Wentworth

Stress & Rescue: Jim Wilson

Nitox: Chris Hocker, Randal Vandever, Karen Scott, Sean Barr, John Crawford, Leland Walker, Carolyn Galante, Hillery Donner, Eric Kolb, Randy Smith, Jesse Cannon

Advanced Open Water: Glen Wagner, Jim Wilson

“SSI offers a very broad selection of continuing education courses such as NITROX, Advanced Open Water, Stress & Rescue, and Dive Leader

Continuing Education this month

- OPEN WATER
- STRESS & RESCUE
- FIRST AID / CPR / AED
- O2 PROVIDER
- ENRICHED AIR NITROX
- ADAPTIVE DIVE LEADER & BUDDY



This is one very strange boarding ladder: Bonus points if you can figure out how to board the boat.

Equipment

As we develop our skills, we also find our equipment needs evolve. The basic needs of a mask, fin, and snorkel quickly expand to buoyancy compensators (BC), regulators, computers, dive tools, lights, and so.

Smart divers buy gear they know and can trust. At New Mexico Scuba Center our ob-

jective is to get you in quality gear meeting your needs and budget. We stand behind our sales and provide routine maintenance as well as warranty support when needed.

We carry and service many major brands such as Scuba-Pro, Oceanic, Zeagle, Tusa, and Sherwood.



We carry a range of LED lights. These lights produce a surprising amount of illumination, are lightweight, and easily fit into a BC pocket. Some of us use these as primary lights.

New Mexico Scuba Center

7618 Menaul Avenue
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: (505) 271-0633
Fax: (505) 278-7601
E-mail: nmscuba&qwestoffice.net

Not just an adventure of a lifetime, but a
lifetime of adventure

*Photos courtesy of
David Olson and Chris
Davis (as noted on
photo)*

www.nmscuba.com

*We are looking for contributors and
encourage to share stories, travel notes, and/
or photos.*

Upcoming Dives

Catalina: July
Philippines: November
Barbados
Dominica
BVI



Coral in Palau

Call us for details!
