

DIVING BONAIRE.....



“I completed the Open Water certification this summer at a nearby quarry. The quarry served admirably, allowing me to practice the skills I learned in the Aqua Immersion class. However, the mental picture I had for future diving was more along the lines of experiencing the azure waters of the Caribbean. Sure, a quarry is fine but I’ve watched too many Jacques Cousteau specials growing up, so my mind was now spinning with the possibilities.

So there it began – my scuba dreams! Perhaps you’ve had them too? Maybe something like waking up to 80+ degree weather, sauntering a few feet to an equipment room, gearing up, and walking - not driving, not hopping on a boat – into the warm sea full the most abundant aquatic activity any where on the planet.

My dreams got a little more exotic as time went by. At first, they merely consisted of going deeper than the grand depth of 17 feet I tallied in the quarry, and maybe even seeing more than the cloud of sand I had nervously churned up by myself.

Later throughout my dream episodes, I felt like I was actually floating in a giant aquarium without glass and sides, being a part of the reef itself, instead of a clumsy intruder. I would see flounders waffling by, moray eels seemingly snarling at my mere presence, and countless brightly colored fish, luminescent coral, multicolored everything - my dreams were getting out of hand – could my “deep sleep” be causing some sort of mattress nitrogen narcosis?

I had one dream that included, appropriately enough, a night dive complete with a group of very large and curious tarpon repeatedly circling me, as if they were welcoming me to their world. These dreams played out five concurrent days – and each one got a little better, a little more spectacular a little more unbelievable.

My recently completed trip to Bonaire with my wife and daughter, along with many from the Aqua Immersion gang was indeed the dream – very much in the “dream come true” sense. We had a great time, and traveling with a group of expert (and patient) divers was very helpful and assuring. The accommodations were nice (two bedroom condos), and the trip package included a vehicle (oh, it’s good to know how to drive a manual transmission to take full advantage of the vehicle!), a breakfast buffet, and unlimited air/nitrox, on an island where you could dive at any time in the day or night by simply walking to the water.

If you’re looking for a steady mix of nightlife and expansive beaches, you may want to consider nearby Aruba or Curacao. However, if you’re dreaming of a quieter island intensely devoted to diving first and foremost, I strongly suggest you inquire with the travel experts at Aqua Immersion about an excursion to Bonaire. Come on – it’s time to stop only dreaming about the perfect diving destination!” John A. – COLS.

John thank you for sharing your article with us. John will receive a \$25 gift card for providing our lead story this month. If you would like to receive a \$25 gift card, submit your photos and/or story to us and if published you too will receive a gift card.

If you would like to dive Bonaire join us March 22 - 29, 2008. Not certified, no problem. It’s not too late to sign up for classes today and do your open water check out dives while in Bonaire.

CONTENTS	PAGE
LEAD ARTICLE	1
CLUB REPORT & STORE NEWS	2
UPCOMING EVENTS / TRAVEL	2 - 3
QUARRY REPORTS & SEMINARS	3
SERVICE	4
CLASS SCHEDULE	4 - 6

Travel Info

Bonaire – March 22nd – 29th, 2008 – Reserve your spot today! **SOLD OUT!!**

Wakatobi – June 5th – 18th, 2008 - \$4999pp includes round trip airfare from LAX.

St. Lawrence – August 14th – 18th, 2008 - Don't miss the boat on this one – call today to reserve your spot!

Future trips... Grand Cayman, Key Largo, Turks and Caicos, Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon, Crystal River, New Jersey, North Carolina, St. Lawrence, Belize.

Winter Time Is A Great Time To Get Certified. Save on your PADI Open Water Certification fee when you book your trip with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR February 2008

February 23rd – Monthly Seminar

February 28th – Dive Club Meeting

Aqua Immersion's Aquanauts Dive Club Meeting Report

During last months meeting our dive club president, Jeff Dye, updated us on the delivery of the toys at Christmas. According to Jeff, the fireman were very pleased at all the toys the club donated, they didn't realize you could get that many toys in Jeff's SUV. We want to thank each and every one of you who participated in this event. Without you it would not have been successful. Congratulations goes out to Randy B. on winning the 50/50 raffle. We had 30 members attending last months meeting. Our next dive club meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Winking Lizard - Bethel Road location. If you haven't attended one of our meetings make plans to do so. We have a great time - Great Food, Great Drinks and Great Company. Just a reminder Dive Club Fees are due for 2008.

2008 Dive Club Calendar - All meetings will be held at the Winking Lizard on Bethel Rd. at 7:00pm. The dates are as follows:

January 24	July 24
February 28	August 28
March 27	September 25
April 24	October 23
May 22	November 20
June 26	December 18

AQUA IMMERSION NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS to our sales staff for a job well done! Aqua Immersion was named **#2 Top Dealer** in Dive Rites Midwestern Territory for top sales! We were the only shop in Ohio to place in the top 5! The Midwest territory covers 9 states so this is an honor to us all. We would especially like to thank all of our customers for without you this would not have been possible. Way to go everyone!

We are pleased to announce that we now offer arthritis aquatic classes in addition to our regularly scheduled water aerobic classes. We have joined forces with the Arthritis Foundation in providing this service to you. If you would like more information on how you can sign up for a class call us today.

For all you specialty gas divers, Aqua Immersion is the only shop in Central Ohio to offer nitrox, trimix, argon, helium and oxygen (up to 100%) If you need technical dive gases we have you covered. **Compare our fill costs to other locations, you'll be surprised at the difference.**

We congratulate Hugh, Brandie, Donna and Rick on becoming new divers. They each did their open water dives while in the Caymans with Brad in January. Congrats also go out to Heather and Loren for advancing their dive abilities in completing the Nitrox certification. Maria earned her Junior Advanced Open Water certification. Linda now has her Advanced Open Water and Adventure Diver certifications. Congratulations to all of you. If you want to join our growing list of dive students call or come in today and let's get diving.

IT'S DRY SUIT SEASON

Aqua Immersion has the largest in-stock dry suit selection in Central Ohio! Come in and try on your new dry suit today! We even have financing available for your dry suit purchase. Aqua Immersion and DUI is now offering you up to 12 months same as cash - no interest! (With approved credit). What a better way to dive all year. Stop in today to order yours! We guarantee the best price in town on our dry suits as well as everything else in the store.

We would like to thank Dave Smith from DUI for a wonderful seminar last month. If you haven't ordered your dry suit yet what's stopping you.

Seminar Series... Our next seminar will be on February 23, 2008 at 6:30pm. The topic for discussion will be **ICE Diving**. Mark Thomas will be showing off show of his latest Ice Diving videos and telling you what you need to do to dive in the ice. Food and drinks will be provided.

Our Dive Literature Library is growing!!!! Come in and browse our books and take one home for your reading pleasure. We have Children's books, fiction and non-fiction. Honor system check-out process.

Store Specials

Discover Scuba Diving Know someone who is interested in learning to dive? They can come in and "try it" for a small fee, then when they sign up for a class they will receive a discount and you will receive a referral point.

February special - All jewelry 20 - 40% off.

February 14th - 17th buy any item that is RED or PINK - and receive 10 - 20% off

Aqua Immersion strives to be a dive center with the best customer service, quality and lowest prices in the area. If you find a better deal at another store let us know and we'll do our best to match it or beat it! Come in for details!

Ohio Quarry Reports

Circleville Twin Quarries - Temperature is in the low 30's with excellent visibility. <http://www.twinquarries.com>

Portage Quarry and Recreation Club - Surface temp: Low 30's, Visibility: 20-30 feet. <http://www.portagequarry.com>

Lakeview Park - Lakeview's temperatures are in the low 30's.

Gilboa Quarry - Temp is in the low 30's. - <http://www.divegilboa.com>

Whitestar Quarry - Water temperature is in the 30's. & ICY - <http://www.whitestarquarry.com>

Training

- Bubblemaker & PADI Seal Team
- Junior Open Water
- Junior Advanced Open Water
- Open Water
- Advanced Open Water
- Specialty Diver - Night Diver, Dry Suit Diver, Wreck Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy Control, Underwater Photography & Videography, Boat Diver, Drift Diver, Underwater Naturalist, Underwater Navigation, Altitude Diver, AWARE Coral Reef Conservation, AWARE Fish Identification, Enriched Air Diver, Deep Diver, DPV Diver, Multilevel & Computer Diver, Solo Diver, Gas Blender, Decompression Theory, Ice Diver, Diver Propulsion Vehicle, Draeger Ray Rebreather, Search and Recovery, Cavern, Project Aware, Equipment Specialist, Equipment Service Tech., Advanced Nitrox Diver, Rebreather Training (closed & semi-closed), & Trimix Diver
- Scuba Tune-up

- Emergency First Response/Medic First Aid
- Oxygen Provider
- Master Scuba Diver
- Rescue Diver
- Divemaster
- Open Water Scuba Instructor

Training agencies utilized: PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors,) TDI (Technical Diving International,) SDI (Scuba Diving International,) ERDI (Emergency Response Diving International), DAN (Divers Alert Network), MEDIC FIRST AID, YMCA

Service

- Air, nitrox, trimix, argon and oxygen fills
Nitrox fills are only \$12.00 (up to 40%) and there is no need to have your tank O2 cleaned to get a Nitrox fill. Ask about our fill card special!
- Cylinder visual inspections, valve repair, eddy current, oxygen cleaning, tumbling and hydrostatic testing
- Rental gear
- Our service technicians are trained to service all lines of gear.

Don't trust service techs from other locations, ever wonder if they really did work on your gear or just said they did and charged you for it – well that's worries you won't have when your gear is serviced here at Aqua Immersion. All of our service technicians go through intense training before they can work on your gear. If your gear does not perform properly our service techs we will let you know. We would never let you dive with gear that we would not dive with ourselves. Now that the dive season is winding down why not bring in your dive gear to be serviced and be ready when the spring season starts.

Just a reminder if you are planning a dive trip, have your gear serviced first so you have less to worry about.

Did You Know..... there are several specialties that you can earn during the winter months that don't require open water dives such as equipment specialist, nitrox specialty, CPR, and gas blending just to name a few. We will be holding these classes on a regular basis. If there is a certain class you would like to take contact us and we can get it scheduled.

2008 Class Schedule

**OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE
(CLASSROOM/POOL SCHEDULE)**

FEBRUARY 2008

Class #OWQ080202, 10am-4pm, Feb. 2 & 3

Class #OWA080204, 6 - 9 pm, Feb. 4, 11, 18, & 25

Class #OWB080212, 6 - 9pm, Feb 12, 14, 19 & 21

Class #OWQ80216, 10am-4pm, Feb. 16 & 17

MARCH 2008

Class #OWQ080308, 10am-4pm, March 8 & 9

Class #OWA080305, 6-9 pm, March 5, 12, 19 & 26

Class #OWB080212, 6-9pm, March 11, 13, 18 & 20

Class #OWQ080322, 10am-4pm, March 22 & 23

**OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE
(OPEN WATER DIVE SCHEDULE)**

MARCH 22 - 29 OPEN WATER DIVES 1 - 4 IN BONAIRE.

REFERRALS ARE PROVIDED IN THE WINTER MONTHS OR JOIN US ON ONE OF OUR MANY ISLAND TRIPS.

ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER COURSES

MARCH 22 - 29, Advanced Open Water Training will be offered in Bonaire.

Advanced Open Water Training will resume locally in the Spring. However, if you are interested, we will be providing open water and advanced open water training on our monthly trips this winter.

RESCUE DIVER COURSES

FEBRUARY 2008

Class #RD080222, 6-9pm Feb. 22 Lecture
10am-5pm, Feb. 23

MARCH 2008

Class #RD080321, 6-9pm March 21 Lecture
10am-5pm, March 22

SPECIALTY DIVER COURSES

FEBRUARY 2008

Class # ES080202, Equipment Specialist, 10-4, Feb. 3
Class # GB080209, Gas Blending, 10am-3pm, Feb. 9
Class #ET080210, Equip Service Tech, 1-6pm, Feb. 10
Class # EA080216, Enriched Air, 12-5pm, Feb. 16
Class # EA080220, Enriched Air, 6 - 10pm, Feb. 20
Class#EFR080223, Emergency 1st Aid/CPR, Feb. 23, 12-5pm
Class #AGB080224, Advanced Gas Blending, 1-5pm, Feb. 24

MARCH 2008

Class # EA080301, Enriched Air, 10am-3pm, March 1
Class#ET080302, Equip Service Tech, 10am-3pm, March 8
Class # DS080309, Dry Suit, 1-6pm, March 9
Class # GB080315, Gas Blending, 10am-3pm, March 15
Class # IC080316, Ice Diving, 1-5pm, March 16

Class#AGB080322, Advanced Gas Blending, 10am-3pm, March 22

Class # EA080329, Enriched Air, 10am-3pm, March 29

If interested in any other type of course not scheduled here, please call or come by the store; many courses are not pre-scheduled, they are set up on an as needed basis.

DISCOVER REBREATHERS

Our next Discover Rebreather class will be offered February 24th. Limited space available so call today to schedule your spot.

WATER AEROBICS

Now offering Water Aerobics!!!

Join us for fitness and fun! Water Aerobic classes are being held 4 times each week in our pool. Come in today to pick up a schedule or call to schedule a class! \$15/class or \$75/six classes.

Now offering Arthritis Aquatics

Warm water therapy is one of the best things for Arthritis sufferers. We now offer a program that will help you feel better. Call for more information.

PADI SEAL TEAM

PADI Seal Team – Now in session for ages 8 -12. Meeting once a month, the

Seal Team is working on the history of diving timeline for the showroom, building an artificial reef for the pool to use for photography courses, and on just having fun in the water. Call for more info.

DISCOVER SCUBA

FEBRUARY 2008

Discover Scuba offered Feb. 13 6:00pm,
Feb 17 1:00pm and Feb. 24 1:00pm

MARCH 2008

Discover Scuba will be offered on the following dates and times...

Every Sunday starting at 1:00pm

Every Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00pm

Call to reserve your spot.



Oceans for Youth Foundation was founded by Wayne Hasson, a SCUBA diver of 40 years and an advocate for the protection of all aspects of the oceans, as most SCUBA divers are. He has put together a program for the volunteers of the foundation to present educational materials about the oceans to groups of kids of all ages to understand the importance of protecting our seas.

Oceans for Youth is a 501 (c) (3) non -profit organization that inspires youth to care about our oceans and marine creatures. The more children and young adults understand about the ocean and the ocean environment, the more prepared they will be to make decisions to protect it.

As these children grow and become the leaders of our society, they will be more apt to choose the policies and

programs that will do the most good for the environment, having had the exposure to the information at a young age.

Many notable people are on the advisory committee for the foundation, including Jean-Michel Cousteau and Dr. Guy Harvey. Some of the sponsors are AquaLung America, Dive Training Magazine, Aggressor Fleet Ltd., DEMA, PADI, Tabata, SDI/TDI International, AERIS, and many others.

Aqua Immersion has an Ocean for Youth Foundation volunteer on staff, ready to come to your school, organization, or group, to present the educational materials available. The program can be as long or short as you need it and about any aspect of the ocean and its environment. We have had positive feedback from the presentations so far and are looking forward to many more in the future.

"The future lies in our youth and their understanding of our oceans."

-From the Oceans for Youth Foundation brochure

Aqua Immersion
929 Jasonway Ave. Suite A
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Phone - (614) 457-DIVE (3483)
Fax - (614) 457-3485
Toll Free 1(877) DIV-AQUA
(1-877-348-2782)
info@aquaimmersion.com

Web Site coming soon!!!
www.aquaimmersion.com
Currently under construction

Store Hours:
Monday through Friday 10am - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 1pm - 6pm