

## November 25 to December 3, 2006 - Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, BWI

“Brad Mullin, John Bennett, and I had an amazing time in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We stayed at the Harbour Club Villas, just a few minutes’ walk from the dock where the dive boat anchored. The weather wasn’t too great when we first arrived, but became beautiful a few days later.

Brad put John and I to work immediately on our Advanced Nitrox test and on making sure we’d read all of the Inspiration manual. The first full day, Sunday, was spent learning to build our “units” (the Inspiration and Evolution Closed Circuit Rebreathers) and familiarizing ourselves with them by doing drills in the pool at Flamingo Divers. Then we had to re-build and leave the units for the next day’s diving. Our homework that evening was to write out our own check list for building.

Monday, my birthday, we went out on the Flamingo Divers boat in terrible weather! (We were the ONLY dive boat to go out that day!) There was rain, wind, and 4’ - 5’ swells at West Caicos. We managed to get in the water and proceeded through our first set of open water drills in the sand at 15 meters. (Yes, I dive in “meters” now!) During our surface interval, which a rebreather diver doesn’t REALLY have to do, I started to get a bit sick to my stomach. I got in the water off the back of the boat and we continued to talk about what drills we would be doing during the second dive. I got more and more nauseated and finally “fed the yellow tail.” I managed to do quite well on the second dive and we all got back to the dock in one piece about 2:30 in the afternoon.

Each day was a repeat of this, except for the bad weather. Dive, wait, dive, rinse, re-build, and repeat - daily. We also actually had time to eat out for dinner a couple of times, but mostly we just had pizza or sandwiches in the villa and worked on our homework and tests.

The last day of the course, Thursday, we had a dive for drills then we had a “fun” dive. During this dive, I had the most amazing experience ever.

While watching at the edge of the wall for whatever may come our way, a reef shark shot up over the edge and startled Brad, John, and himself. (I had just swum away from the wall.) It then went and got a buddy and the two sharks circled us for quite some time. They came within arm’s reach a few times, but would skid away if we moved our arms at all. Finally, it was time to head back to the boat. I didn’t want to leave. It was too beautiful down there and I had to keep reminding myself that I was under water and not watching at an aquarium.

Diving a closed circuit rebreather is an experience beyond compare. The silence of being in the water is even more profound when there are no bubbles and the only thing you can hear is your own breath and the solenoid firing oxygen into the breathing bags.

Brad did his usual wonderful job as instructor and both John and I passed the Advanced Nitrox course and the Inspiration / Evolution course. It wasn’t easy, in fact it is referred to as “Rebreather Boot Camp”, but it was definitely worth it. All the time spent in preparing for a dive, making sure every aspect of your unit is just right, was worth seeing those sharks. I wouldn’t trade it for an easier course for anything.”

**-Cathy Mullin**

AOW, TDI Advanced Nitrox, Evolution Rebreather certs.

**Did you enjoy Cathy’s article? Think you might like to try out a Rebreather? Maybe you’re interested in taking a Rebreather course? Well come on in and sign up for a course today or talk with one of our Rebreather instructors and possibly try one out!**

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## Ohio's Living Underwater Fossils

The Paddlefish (a.k.a. Spoonbill or Spoonbill Catfish) is one of the oldest fish known, appearing 300 to 400 million years ago. There are 2 current species left, the Chinese and American Paddlefish. The American Paddlefish lives in the Mississippi River, Ohio River, and Oklahoma River systems. At one time they lived in the Great Lakes. Typically 5 feet in length and 50 lbs, they can live 50 years. An important source of freshwater caviar, its numbers are declining because of overfishing as well as habitat deterioration and dams. Dams block migration patterns. They take 9 to 10 years to mature to spawning age and are being reintroduced into the Ohio and Allegheny Rivers.

Paddlefish are filter feeders, straining zooplankton from the water with their gill arches. Their bill may detect weak electrical fields or just keep the head in a steady position for feeding. Because they are sought for their eggs, they are protected many places.

Ohio's Gilboa Quarry provides a unique opportunity to dive with these prehistoric creatures which existed 50 million years before the dinosaurs. Check in at Aqua Immersion for the next group excursion. Stunning images can be viewed at [www.divegilboa.com](http://www.divegilboa.com).

Source: Wikipedia



Paddlefish image from Wikipedia.

## Staff Bio's

Bio for Bradford B. Mullin, M.D.

PADI OWSI # 193661

TDI Inspiration/Evolution Closed Circuit Rebreather Instructor #11025

When Brad isn't at his Neurosurgical practice, he is pursuing his passion for SCUBA diving. He first began diving in 1975 when he became certified with his father. For many years he explored the Florida Keys as a recreational hobby. A trip to Cozumel convinced him that he wanted to advance his education and skills. This first meant becoming a Master Scuba diver then on to Divemaster and Instructor. Meanwhile he also found rebreather diving and fell in love with it.

This led to his instructor rating in Closed Circuit Rebreathers.

He has found that diving is a tremendous way to see the world and has traveled to destinations as remote as Cocos Island, Truk Lagoon and Palau. All of his family, Cathy, Linda, Brent and Maria, are avid divers so that diving is an important family activity through which they can all find common ground.

"We founded Aqua Immersion in order to share our passion for diving with others who desire to learn or advance their diving skills. We also believe that divers want to be in a culture that fosters association with other divers. The chance to see the wonders of the underwater world is truly a privilege that will instill in the diver the desire to preserve it for future generations. It is an honor to help other divers realize their goals." - Brad Mullin

## Don't Forget!

**FIRST!**

Friday night movies and games on the weekends in the Surface Interval Lounge! Stop by to watch a new or classic dive related movie, bring in your own "home" movies or any movie favorite to share on the big screen! The fun and popcorn flows at 7:30pm on Friday (or whenever you get here!) And the games start on Saturday and go through Sunday, even Monday night football is up and running on the big screen for your viewing pleasure!

## For those of you who don't do cold water dives, winter means...

It's time to service that GEAR!!! Don't get caught this spring with gear that doesn't work properly and don't wait until the last minute to take your gear to your dive center to have it checked out. You wouldn't want to take that long awaited plunge in April or May just to have to climb back out of the water because of a faulty BCD, inflator hose, tank valve or regulator, would you? Of course not! So bring in that equipment over the winter (any brand!) and we'll make sure that your first giant stride this spring is a pleasant one!

## Upcoming Events/Products

**Diving Concepts Dry Suits** now available! Place your custom order today and sign up for a dry suit specialty course so you can be out diving with the rest of us this winter!

**FIRST!**

**Digital Photography Editing Class** now here, sign up for winter classes!

**New Air Fill Card!** We now have a card you can buy for air fills, purchase 11 air fills and receive the 12<sup>th</sup> fill free! Air fills are \$6.00 per tank and nitrox is \$12.00 per tank, so with the new card, you pay \$66.00 and receive 12 air fills or 6 nitrox fills while your wait. Our air is banked, so it only takes a few short minutes to fill your tanks. And our nitrox is filtered through a membrane system so your nitrox tanks don't even have to be oxygen cleaned (up to 40%)

**ScubaFest 2007** March 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, held at the Holiday Inn/Roberts Convention Centre located on I-71 at State Route 68, Exit #50 in Wilmington, Ohio. Keynote speaker for the weekend is Gary Gentile, author of *Shadow Divers Exposed - The Real Saga of the U-869*. Enter the wild, exciting, and exotic world of Gary Gentile: author, lecturer, photographer, explorer, and deep-sea wreck-diver. A world of adventure and thrills tempered by poetry and subtle beauty. Gary will take you to shipwrecks, show you marine life, and explore the great outdoors the way no one else can. Gary has written 44 books, published over 3,000 photographs, discovered more than 40 shipwrecks, and led a life of adventure! [www.ggentile.com](http://www.ggentile.com) MORE THAN 60 EXHIBITS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ALL WEEKEND (FREE), DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING SATURDAY (FREE), EQUIPMENT DEMOS IN THE POOL (FREE), WORKSHOPS: PSI-PCI, EFR, DAN O2 PROVIDER, WRECK/TECH ROOM CASINO PARTY, DOOR PRIZES, FRIDAY NIGHT FILM FESTIVAL, TRAVEL SEMINARS, SILENT AUCTION, GENERAL INTEREST SEMINARS, MUSIC AND DANCING, FUN, FOOD AND FRIENDS AND MUCH MORE...! Weekend Pass \$65 (includes banquet) Weekend Seminar Only Pass \$25, Daily Pass \$15, Banquet Only \$43, Exhibits FREE. For more details email [DIVCHIK@columbus.rr.com](mailto:DIVCHIK@columbus.rr.com) or go to [www.scubafest.org](http://www.scubafest.org)

**FIRST!**

**Earn Free Gear!** For every two people you refer to Aqua Immersion who registers for any class you will receive a \$20.00 credit to your account good toward any purchase you make! For every three referrals you'll receive \$30.00 credit and for every five referrals you'll receive \$50.00 credit! So be sure you're friends and family mention that you sent them when they sign up and pay for any class!!!

**Discover Scuba Diving** We now offer three ways that you and your friends and family can "Discover Scuba Diving!"

**FIRST!**

1) We are working with local Police Departments in support of the D.A.R.E. program (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) so show your appreciation for the DSD course and your Instructor by making a \$25.00 donation to the D.A.R.E. program of your choice (locality.)

**FIRST!**

2) Reap the benefits of a 100% return on your next fundraising event! Enjoy Scuba diving and raise money for your non-profit group at the same time. Any weekend, invite your friends, family, neighbors and associates to experience our Discover Scuba Diving

Program and we'll donate 100% of the normal course fees from your group back to your organization.

3) And as always, you can enjoy this experience at no cost at all.

**FIRST!**

### Looking for a place to hold a Birthday Party?

Look no further, we can accommodate you and your children's friends! Kids' Discover Scuba Birthday Party, bring your friends and Dive in our pool!

Scheduling parties now, for up to 8 children between the ages of 10 and 15. Cost includes pizza, soda, and discover scuba diving. Goodie bags available for an additional cost.

### Also available:

Discover Bubblemaker party for up to 6 children between the ages of 8 and 10.

Discover snorkeling party for up to 8 children, age 8 and up.

Swimming parties for up to 10 children (all ages - Must be potty-trained).

**PADI Underwater Photographer Class** - Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm - 5:00pm (or 2 hours on Sat. and two hours on Sun.) \$125.00

**FIRST!**

**Trade-In Sundays!** Bring in your old gear any Sunday and trade it in for new gear! You show us what you want to get rid of and we'll quote you a price and if you accept our quote, we'll credit your account with that amount which will be good toward any purchase!

**FIRST!**

**ALL NEW!!! Lecture Series** We will begin a new program that highlights divers from in and around the Ohio area speaking about topics ranging from gear configuration to "the bends" to specialty diving situations. Our first session will be held Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The topic will be *Gear Configuration for the new diver to the technical diver*. The presenter will be **Mark Thomas**. So come in to just watch and listen or bring your gear and configure or reconfigure with Mark. We will be serving Pizza and beverages and may even get together afterwards at a local "watering hole" for a few drinks and dive stories!

## Dive Trips

**Grand Cayman, Cobalt Coast and Dive Tech** - 4 nights/3 days from January 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for

\$1020/pp (Diver) and from February 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for \$1095/pp (Diver.) Includes accommodation, tax, airport transfers, all meals daily, 1 day 2-tank boat dive and unlimited shore diving. Average airfare from Columbus during January 2007 is \$650/pp and during February 2007 is \$800/pp.

OR...same trip from January 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with 3 days of 2-tank boat dives and unlimited shore diving for \$1195/pp (Diver) and \$940/pp (non-diver) and from February 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 for \$1270/pp (Diver) and 1015/pp (non-diver) also includes accommodation, tax, airport transfers, all meals daily.

**Bonaire, Divi Flamingo** - March 24<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, \$1355pp plus airfare.

**St. Lucia, Anse-Chastanet** - March 31<sup>st</sup> - April 7<sup>th</sup>, \$1850pp plus airfare.

**Figi, Bequ Lagoon Resort** - April 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, \$2999pp includes round trip airfare from LAX.

**Wakatobi** - June 5<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, \$4999pp includes round trip airfare from LAX.

**Africa, Sardine Run/Cycle Safari** - June 10<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, \$5499pp includes internal African flights.

**St. Lawrence River** with Joe McCurry, August 2007 More info soon to come!

**Australia Live-Aboard** - November 13<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, Costs beginning at \$4815pp (price varies depending on rooms) includes airfare from LAX, SpoilSport Live-Aboards.

**Bonaire with Rick & Michelle Thomas** - June 9<sup>th</sup> thru June 16<sup>th</sup> 2007, Buddy Dive Resort! Buddy's Drive & Dive Package includes:

- 8 days - 7 nights in a fully equipped apartment
- 7 days rental vehicle (double cabin pick-up truck or van)
- 6 days of unlimited air fills plus 6 boat dives
- American style breakfast buffet daily
- Welcome Drink
- Manager's Rum Punch Party
- Airport transfers
- All Government Taxes

6 per. in a three-bdrm apartment	\$ 733 pp
5 per. in a three-bdrm apartment	\$ 805 pp
4 per. in a two-bdrm apartment	\$ 808 pp
3 per. in a two-bdrm apartment	\$ 952 pp
2 per. in a one-bdrm apartment	\$ 1002 pp
1 per. in a one-bdrm apartment	\$ 1630 pp
1 per. in a Studio	\$ 1480 pp
2 per. in a Studio	\$ 927 pp
1 per. in a Hotel room	\$ 1300 pp
2 per. in a Hotel room	\$ 837 pp

Prices listed are estimations and are as close to actual cost as possible. There may be a slight change as the trip draws near but not much of a difference. Estimated airfare normally ranges between \$600.00 & \$900.00 pp. For more info on Buddy Dive Resort visit: <http://www.buddydive.com/index.html>

**Learn Here, Check Out There...**Do your classroom and pool sessions here and your open water dives in Grand Cayman (or wherever your heart desires) and save 15%. PADI Open Water Certification fee with Aqua Immersion is great but if you book a trip with your training the cost is even better, call today for more details.

*Stay tuned...more to come! Contact us for more details or to book your own dive trip today with our on site travel agent specializing in Scuba diving vacations - Caribbean Dive Tours/Worldwide Travel. Also, book your next Aggressor Fleet trip with us and save \$\$\$!*

**FIRST!**

**ASK ABOUT OUR IN HOUSE FINANCING!!!  
AN INDUSTRY FIRST IN THE CENTRAL OHIO  
AREA!!!**

## Service

- Air, nitrox and trimix fills
- Cylinder visual inspections, valve repair, eddy current, oxygen cleaning, tumbling and hydrostatic testing
- Rental gear
- BCD and regulator repair & service (all brands)

## January Specials (valid from 01/01/07 through 01/31/07)

The featured specialty course for January is Underwater Photography, so come in and check out the discounted prices on our cameras this month!

- receive 10% off any disposable camera
- 25% off Intova Digital cameras
- OR 25% off PADI's Underwater Photographer manual
- OR get a white balance slate free.

## February Specials (valid from 2/1/07 through 2/28/07)

The featured specialty for February will be Enriched Air Diver. Sign up and pay for the course and receive the tables free (\$17.00 value!)

## Classes

- 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 & 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
- Master Scuba Diver Trainer

**Training agencies utilized:** PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors,) TDI (Technical Diving International,) SDI (Scuba Diving International,) ERDI (Emergency Response Diving International,)

**\* Scuba classes are currently on an “as needed/requested” basis; look for our new class schedule with the February newsletter.**

**You may have noticed the word, “FIRST!” throughout this month’s newsletter, Aqua**

**Immersion is the FIRST! in Central Ohio to introduce many new concepts and ideas.**

**Stay tuned as we will be continually releasing these new innovations establishing us as the leader of Dive Centers in Central Ohio. We may be copied, but never duplicated, as they say!**

## M.A.S.T. News

*(MAST, the Maritime Archaeological Survey Team, Inc. is a nonprofit avocational group dedicated to documentation, scientific study and education pertaining to underwater archaeological resources.)*

**Preserving Great Lakes History One Shipwreck at a Time!**

### Winter and Spring MAST Workshops

#### 2007 Calendar of Events:

**January 27, 2007.** 10 am - 2pm, cost - (TBD). Inland Seas Maritime Museum. DAN O2 provider.

**February 24, 2007** (tentative). 10 am, Inland Seas Maritime Museum. MAST membership meeting and continuing education program.

**March 9-11** ScubaFest and the Friday Casino Night benefit for MAST.

**April 21-22, 2007**, Vermilion, OH. Nautical Archaeology Workshop and MAST annual dinner.

**April 21** - MAST annual meeting and banquet (speaker TBA).

**May 19-20**, Whitestar Quarry. Training dives to complete the MAST Nautical Archaeology workshop.

*All Dates are tentative to change*

For more info regarding MAST, visit: [www.ohiomast.org](http://www.ohiomast.org)

#### Aqua Immersion

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Toll Free (877) DIV-AQUA

Web Site coming soon!!!  
[www.aquaimmersion.com](http://www.aquaimmersion.com)  
Currently under construction

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