

Aug 2, 2008

The Picasso Spear Fishing Tournament
Narragansett Pier, RI



Upon discovering this year's planned trip to Hatteras, NC to dive on sunken WWII submarines and other underwater catastrophes was out due to our son's wedding, I cruised the net and discovered the 2008 Picasso (breath hold) Spear Fishing Tournament in Narragansett Pier, RI.

For a modest \$45 entry fee, one had hopes of winning something valuable from over \$4,000 in Picasso dive equipment, a

Spanish dive gear manufacturer, ranging from spear guns and wet suits to DVDs. Not having done this in nearly 30 years, possessing only an aging fiberglass pole spear and an irreparably defunct pneumatic spear gun, of course I had no hope of winning anything except a booby prize. I called my old dive buddy, who lives in nearby Massachusetts, to see if he was available to be my boatman, and my son to see if he had time for a quasi bachelor's party with a couple of old geezers going diving. With all systems go, including my wife who wanted to tag along, I pasted a Sea Nag sticker on my boat console, loaded up my Zodiac and Toyota with dive equipment and camping gear, and set off for Rhode island.



What a show. While the big guns headed out to Block Island where the monster fish evidently abounded, my *compadres* and I explored the underwater environs of Point Judith. We saw schools of Tautog, a great tasting chowder fish (26" Tautog at

left), which was destroyed by a kamikaze striped bass that came out of nowhere and literally exploded among them right in front of us, obliterating the school and making our entire trip worth the effort.

The second best part of the trip was the afternoon weigh-in concluding the tournament.



5.2lb. flounder/fluke

The largest fish recorded was a 44lb. striped bass, speared by a septuagenarian who clearly is still on top of his game, since he shot not one but two 40+lb. stripers on tournament day!

At least 8 large stripers were caught with the average weight totaling 32 lbs. The overall winner was determined by the largest number of species caught, in this case, seven *different* species of fish. After reaching maximum size limits; e.g. 20lb. for stripers, there was no point advantage for fish that exceeded upper limits in size. I have never seen anything like it.



Contestant with 32-35 lb striper and 8lb Tautog

Fortunately, the fish do not go to waste. All are consumed in barbecues or sold to fish markets and restaurants. Unfortunately, I didn't get a taste of any of the stripers, but I did walk away with a booby prize: a Picasso video entitled, *Pepe Viña, Northern Spain Sea Storm, famous hunters* (series). Better luck next time!

☺ *Rob Robison* *Columbus Sea Nags*

Thank you Rob for the great story from your spear fishing adventure. For submitting his story, Rob will receive a gift certificate from Aqua Immersion. If you have a story you would like to share we would love to read it, and if printed in the newsletter you too will receive an Aqua Immersion gift card.

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Travel Info

Turks & Caicos – February 13th – 17th, 2009 - \$1100pp.
Limited spots available.

Grand Cayman – March 21st – 28th, 2009 - \$1838pp. Call today to reserve your spot for Spring Break 2009

Future trips... Grand Cayman, Key Largo, Turks and Caicos, Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon - 2009, Crystal River, New Jersey, North Carolina, Belize.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2008

October 4 - End of Season Sale

October 23 - Dive Club Meeting

October 31 - Happy Halloween

Aqua Immersion's Aquanauts Dive Club Meeting Report

Our next dive club meeting will be on Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Winking Lizard - Bethel Road location. If you have not attended one of our meetings, we invite you to do so. We have a great time - Good Food, Good Drinks and Good Friends. The dive club has there own website so we invite you to send over your club pictures or trip pictures and we will add them to the site. The website address is <http://aiaquanauts.angelfire.com>

2008 Dive Club Calendar - All meetings are 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

Store News...

PADI Specialty of the Month – Night Diver – receive 10% off any light when you sign up and pay for any class.

We welcome Joe Whalen as our service tech in training.

HELP WANTED - We are looking for Instructors who want to stay busy. Not an Instructor yet - sign up for the IDC and come talk with Joe. We are also accepting applications for retail sales - experience preferred. Swim Instructors needed. Call today to talk with Melissa or stop by the store.

Ohio Quarry Reports -

Circleville Twin Quarries - Temperature was 60. The fresh water jellyfish are gone. <http://www.twinquarries.com>

Portage Quarry and Recreation Club - Surface temp: Low 60's, Visibility: 35 feet. <http://www.portagequarry.com>

Lakeview Park - Lakeview's temperatures are in the 60's. Vis is 10-20feet. <http://www.lakeviewrvpark.net.com>

Gilboa Quarry - Temp is 61 at the surface and 43 at the bottom. 40 ft. visibility. <http://www.divegilboa.com>

Whitestar Quarry - Water temperature was in the mid 60's on the surface 47 bottom temp and visibility @ 20ffw is 45 - 55ft.- <http://www.whitestarquarry.com>

TUESDAY NIGHT DIVES @ CIRCLEVILLE -

Join Jeff and the rest of the guys at Circleville on Tuesday nights for the Tuesday Night Dives. First group goes in around 5:00pm and the second group enters the water at 6:00pm. If you need a buddy or directions just ask. Most of the divers are now wearing drysuits. Don't own a drysuit - we have the best price in town on drysuits - so come in and buy one today. Financing available.

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 & 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)

Service

- Air, nitrox, trimix, argon and oxygen fills
Nitrox fills are only \$14.00 (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 including drysuits
- Our service technicians are trained to service all lines of gear.

Dive Season has begun – have you had your gear serviced yet.

2008 Class Schedule

DISCOVER SCUBA

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

OCTOBER 5, 15, 19

NOVEMBER 1, 14, 25

ALSO AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE (CLASSROOM/POOL SCHEDULE)

OCTOBER 2008

CLASS # OWT081001 OCTOBER 1, 6, 8 & 13 6:00PM- 9:00PM

CLASS #OWQS081004 OCTOBER 4 & 5 10:00AM-4:00PM

CLASS #OW081009 OCTOBER 9, 16, 20, 27 6:00PM-9:00PM

CLASS #OWQS081011 OCTOBER 11 & 12 10:00AM-4:00PM

CLASS # OWT081014 OCTOBER 14,15,21,& 22 6:00PM- 9:00PM

CLASS #OWQS081018 OCTOBER 18 & 19 10:00AM-4:00PM

CLASS #OWQS081025 OCTOBER 25 & 26 10:00AM-4:00PM

NOVEMBER 2008

CLASS # OWT081103 NOVEMBER 3, 4, 10 & 11 6:00PM- 9:00PM

CLASS #OW081105 NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26 6:00PM-9:00PM

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS WE SCHEDULE OPEN WATER CLASSES ACCORDING TO YOUR SCHEDULE. JUST CALL WHEN YOU NEED A CLASS.

OPEN WATER DIVER COURSE (OPEN WATER DIVE SCHEDULE)

OCTOBER 2008

DIVES 1 & 2 OCTOBER 4, 11, 18, 25 CIRCLEVILLE @ 9:00AM

DIVES 3 & 4 OCTOBER 5, 12, 19, 26 CIRCLEVILLE @ 9:00AM

NOVEMBER 2008

DIVES 1& 2 NOVEMBER 1 CIRCLEVILLE @ 9:00AM

DIVES 3 & 4 NOVEMBER 2 CIRCLEVILLE @ 9:00AM

ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER COURSES

OCTOBER 2008

CLASS #AOW081004 OCTOBER 4 & 5 LOCATION TBD 9:00AM

CLASS #AOW081018 OCTOBER 18 & 19 LOCATION TBD 9:00AM

NOVEMBER 2008

CLASS #AOW081101 NOVEMBER 1 & 2 LOCATION TBD 9:00AM

RESCUE DIVER COURSES

OCTOBER 2008

CLASS #RD081010 OCTOBER 10 LECTURE 6:00-9:00PM

OCTOBER 11 DIVES 10AM - 3PM

CLASS #RD081024 OCTOBER 24 LECTURE 6:00-9:00PM

OCTOBER 26 DIVES 10AM - 3PM

NOVEMBER 2008

CLASS #RD081107 NOVEMBER 7 LECTURE 6:00-9:00PM

NOVEMBER 8 DIVES 10AM-3PM

SPECIALTY DIVER COURSES

OCTOBER 2008

CLASS #WD081003 Wreck Diver, October 3, 6pm

CLASS #ND081007 Night Diver, October 7, 6pm

CLASS #WD081017 Wreck Diver, October 17, 6pm

CLASS #GB081019 TDI Gas Blending, October 19, 1pm

CLASS #ND081022 Night Diver, October 22, 6pm

CLASS #EA081029 Enriched Air, October 29, 6pm

NOVEMBER 2008

CLASS #EA0811101 Enriched Air, November 1, 11am

CLASS #DS081102 Drysuit, November 2, 10am

CLASS #O2081108 O2 Cleaning, November 8, 11am

CLASS #CPR081109, CPR, November 9, 1pm

CLASS #EA0811111 Enriched Air, November 11, 6pm

CLASS #GB081115 TDI Gas Blending, November 15, 11am

CLASS #DO2081116 O2, November 16, 1pm

CLASS#AGB081115 TDI Adv Gas Blending, November 15, 11am

CLASS #ES081123 Equip Spec, November 23, 1pm

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

DISCOVER REBREATHERS

Our Discover Rebreather class can accommodate your schedule. Limited space available so call today to schedule your spot.

ARTHRITIS FITNESS**OCTOBER 2008**

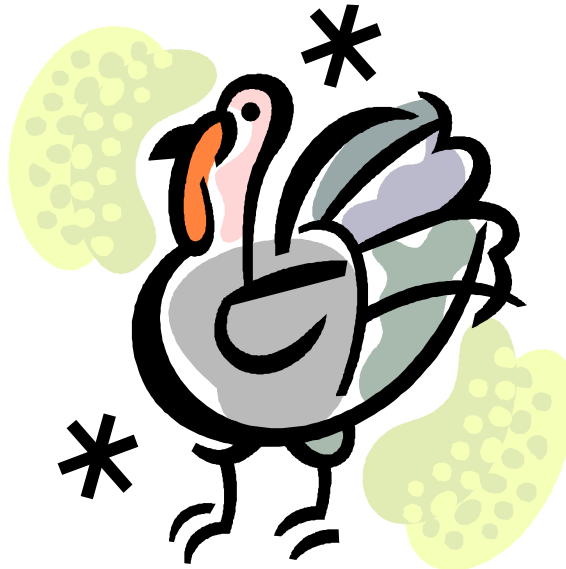
OCTOBER 1, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 20, 24, 27, 28

NOVEMBER 2008

NOVEMBER 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28

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 information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER.....

PADI SPECIALTY OF THE MONTH – UNDERWATER NAVIGATION free navigation wheel with paid class

NOVEMBER 20 – DIVE CLUB MEETING

David Doubilet Performance

NOVEMBER 27 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 28 – AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE

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)

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

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