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Learn to Scuba Dive!

Check Out Our Brand New Web Site!!

www.underseaadventures.net

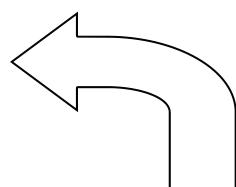
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Get your calendars out - here's our

Dive Dates

June 5	Scuba Diver Class Begins
June 10	Anniversary Sale and Scuba Swap
June 13	Advanced Scuba Diver Class
June 15	Nitrox Class
June 24-25	Advanced/Nitrox/Fun Dives
June 21-24	Underwater Digital Photography Class
June 21-24	Truth Aquatics Channel Island Live Aboard
July 8-9	Scuba Diver Openwater Checkouts
July 3	Scuba Diver Class Begins
July 11	Advanced Scuba Diver Class
July 13	Nitrox Class
July 15	LuJac's Quest Boat Dives
July 15-16	Advanced/Nitrox/Fun Dives
July 29-30	Scuba Diver Checkout Dives
August 2	Scuba Diver Class Begins
August 15	Advanced Scuba Diver Class
August 17	Nitrox Class
August 19	LuJac's Quest Boat Dives
August 19-20	Advanced/Nitrox/Fun Dives
August 28-29	Scuba Diver Checkout Dives



David is Back Teaching Classes

After taking a year and a half off, David has returned to Instruct Scuba classes at UnderSea Adventures. He is hitting it hard, scheduling Advanced and Nitrox classes every month, along with a boat dive trip in the San Juans monthly. Sign up for a class and go diving with David! At least stop by the Anniversary Sale on June 10 and see him.

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Undersea Adventures

WaterLog

Spring 2006

ANNIVERSARY SALE

It is time for our annual anniversary sale, with more great savings for you! The date has been changed because we are going to be in the Channel Islands during the time that we are normally have our yearly sale. But don't fret, you will still get the chance to save \$\$\$!

The date of the sale will now be Saturday, June 10, 2006., two weeks earlier than normal!

So make sure to mark it on your calendars now, we don't want to miss seeing you there.

There is no better time to get great prices on new gear, buy used gear, talk to the factory reps, or sign up for trips. Plus you can win free scuba stuff in our hourly prize drawings, or maybe you will even win one of the grand prizes! Not to mention the FREE hotdogs and Pepsi products. Yep, Free Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Slice, and most importantly, MT DEW!

SEE YOU THERE!

See the insert for some of the deals we are putting together for this year's Sale!

Channel Islands Live Aboard

Yes, we are at it again! We have so much fun on our trips to the Channel Islands that we just had to schedule another one. This year we will be diving the blue waters of California from June 21 to 24. If you have gone with us on previous trips you know that you need to go again, and if you haven't been with us-then you NEED to come see why we keep going back. And you will agree that this is one fun week. See Page 2 for Trip Details!

Underwater Digital Photography Specialty Class

Its quite a mouthful to say, but it is the best way to learn how to *properly* use that digital underwater camera you have, or wish you had. Cameras can be rented for this class on a first come, first serve basis. You will receive hands on training with a rep from Sea & Sea, and be able to check out your photos right after a dive. Didn't get the perfect picture? Then the instructor will give you some pointers and you can jump back in and take some more! This class is 4 days long and as many pictures and dives that you want to make. See page 2 Channel Islands for more information.

ADVANCED SCUBA DIVER

The Advanced class is the most fun class we offer. It is a great way for a new diver to gain valuable experience, or for a veteran diver to get back into diving. With the certification you are able to do more dives at the places you go. Some locations *require* the Advanced Cert to even get in the water! See Dive Dates

Fathers day is just around the corner!

Father's Day is coming up on June 18! And this year you can blow your brother's and sister's out of the competition! Why not get your dad the gift of underwater adventures! No present can compare to the freedom that Scuba diving can give your dad.

Either sign him up for the basic scuba diving class, or get him a gift certificate and he can come in and choose the month that he wants to take his class.

Is dad already a diver? Well, no worries. Undersea Adventures offers classes all the way up to instructor! Or better yet-take him on a trip to the Channel Islands from June 21 to 24! What better way to get to know your dad then out on a boat and diving in the wonderful waters of California together.

Come in today and get your dad the present of a lifetime. And this year you WILL be the favorite kid!

(Or call us at 509-735-0735 for more information)





Channel Islands Again?

UnderSea Adventures is going on another trip to the Channel Islands. We will again be diving from the Conception, which has been completely rebuilt. Dive dates will be June 21-24. The trip will be to the northern channel islands. You will have as many dives as you can handle in four days (unlimited air fills), plus 3 meals a day, hot and cold beverages, snacks, fresh fruit, cookies and candy. You will have your own private bunk, complete with curtains, a pillow and blanket and a reading light. After the dives you can take a hot shower either above or below decks.

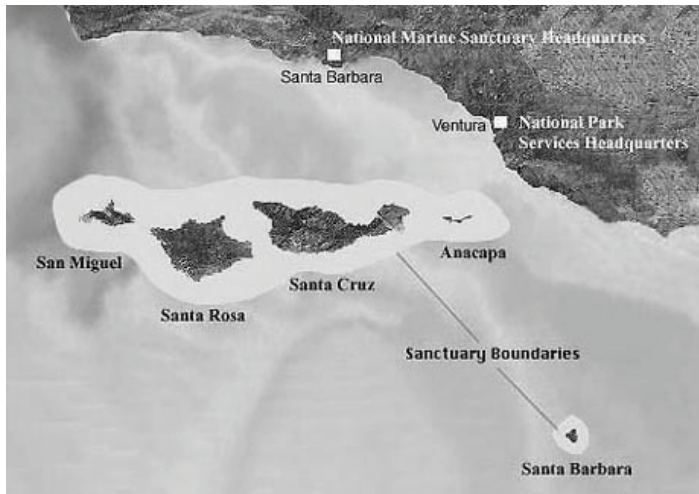
Plus, at no extra cost, a Rep from Sea & Sea will be teaching us everything there is to know about digital underwater photography. There will be daily topside sessions like Macro, Wide Angle, Care and Maintenance, Downloading, and much more. Right after learning some new techniques from the pro, you can jump right in and try them out in the beautiful Channel Island waters. This trip is an excellent opportunity for both newbie digital camera users and seasoned photographers.

Not only will this trip be educational, fun and exciting, upon finishing your course you will receive your specialty diploma and card!

Also, Gene will be transporting all your gear and luggage to the docks in Santa Barbara so that you won't have to hassle with lugging your bags around the airport or risk losing your luggage.

The cost is \$750 per person

\$300.00 non-refundable deposit saves you a spot. If you do not have a camera system you can rent one for the trip for \$100.00. All camera rentals are first come, first serve basis, so sign up and reserve one ASAP. Flights from Pasco to Santa Barbara run about \$325.00, but will probably go up as the dates come closer. Price of \$750 per person does not include gear rental or crew gratuity. You will need to bring a tank and weights or rent them there. Call 735-0735 or email info@underseadventures.net for more information.



Atomic Ducks Support your local Dive Club and become a member. The Atomic Ducks are always planning fun and exciting events. Have an exciting dive in mind? Join the club and voice your opinion. You can meet interesting and fun local divers. Visit their site at www.atomicducks.org. Here is a little taste of some of the activities they have going on. David gave a quick presentation on dive flags at the May 16 meeting at Round Table Pizza in Pasco:

DIVE FLAGS: A Crash Course By David Brun

Discharged from the U.S. Navy on August 16, 1949 Denzel James Dockery began his newly acquired trade of Diving with a home built "SCUBA" rig manufactured from a plan published in an issue of the "Popular Mechanics" magazine. After serving a period of apprentice with his new

equipment and now newly wed to Ruth Evelyn Carlson, it became painfully apparent that the "Baker" flag he had used in the Navy was not recognized by civilian marine operators. The "Baker" flag is a solid red DANGER flag displayed by Navy personal when there were divers at work nearby. "Doc", as he was nick named, was using the flag as he had in the Navy, but no one was honoring its presents. Together he and Ruth fabricated a "Red" flag with a white stripe running across its middle. This flag showed the same pattern when viewed from either side. The Dockerys soon discovered that their flag was a copy of a National Flag used by Austria. After much research the White Stripe was quickly moved to Run from the upper left corner to the lower right corner. The flag was a little more difficult for Ruth to sew but was a true original "DIVER DOWN FLAG". It did not represent any country or organization that they could find. **The "Divers Flag" was born.** US Divers and Skin Diver Magazine help get it accepted across the US.

Around the world, the International Code Flag "A" (Alpha) was the norm. Another dive flag is the International Code Flag "P" (Papa), or the diver recall flag. So what do they mean?

The **Alpha flag** (at least 1 meter high, 3.3 ft) MUST be displayed on any vessel that is engaged in diving activities. This flag does not really pertain to the divers in the water, but signals other boats that the vessel has diving operations underway and cannot maneuver. Boats are required by state law to stay 200 feet away from a vessel flying the alpha flag. This law covers any vessel, not just 50 foot dive boats. If you paddle out in a kayak to dive, you are required to fly an alpha flag, and one that is 1 meter high!

The **US DIVE FLAG** is not recognized "officially" internationally, although all divers know what it is. The dive flag means that there are divers in the water and to stay 150 feet away. The coast guard does not officially recognize the dive flag. They are only concerned with the vessel flying the appropriate navigational flags. However, local sheriff departments may require the use of the dive flag at all times when a diver is underwater.



Austrian National Flag



Navy Number 7 Flag



Navy "A" (Alpha) Flag

(continued on next page)



Nitrox, Nitrox, Nitrox.....

Want to extend your bottom time, lessen your surface interval, and maximize every dive? Become an Enriched Air Nitrox diver!

We can't seem to tell you enough about our nitrox classes. But it is because we are SO excited to be giving you a chance to have longer, more fun filled dives, and then feel GREAT after you get out of the water. No more needing a nap after a dive!

You will learn how to choose the proper blend of Nitrox for your dive profile, determine maximum depth limits for your Nitrox mixture, analyze your breathing mixture, and plan and safely execute each dive. Your instructor will teach you about the physiology of oxygen and nitrogen; advantages, disadvantages, and risks of nitrox; oxygen toxicity; hazards and precautions of handling oxygen; the concept of Equivalent Air Depth; use of EANx with standard Air Dive Tables; common gas mixing procedures; and more.

After your exam, you can qualify for the Nitrox recognition card, or go ahead and complete two dives to receive your Nitrox Diver certification card. And, we can integrate your Nitrox course into your Scuba Diver, Advanced, or Master Diver course!

Don't be the one on the beach looking at your dive tables while everyone else is having the time of their lives—



We have Nitrox classes scheduled throughout the summer! See Dive Dates.



Be sure to get any gear that needs service in to the dive shop. Gene is by himself for the time being and turnaround time will be a little long while the new person is training. Repairs are still being done in a reasonable timeframe, and there isn't a backlog waiting, but make sure that you give us enough time to get your service or repair completed before you are scheduled to dive. Thanks.

Congratulations To Our Graduates!

Scuba Diver

Chris White
Kellie White
Robert Vasquez

Nitrox

Brandon White
Mike Stephens
Mike Cummings
Ben Messinger
Dave Allen



DIVE FLAGS, cont.

Benton County is one of these. They can give you a ticket if you fail to use a dive flag, even if you are not diving from a boat.

As far as boats are concerned, it is best to always fly both the alpha flag, and the dive flag just to make everybody happy.

The **Recall Flag** is the International Flag Code "P", a blue rectangular flag with a white smaller rectangle in the middle. This means that the vessel needs everybody back on board FAST because the vessel needs to get under way. An instance where this might be used is if another diver was injured and had to be taken back to shore quickly, and the rest of the divers are still underwater. An obvious flaw in this is that the divers are underwater, and will not be able to see the flag. So the practical approach, and what most boat operators do, is either have a high tech underwater signal, or bang on the boats ladder.



Recall Flag

So how do you fly a dive flag if you aren't diving from a boat?

There are several different flag designs that enable you to tow them behind you on the surface while you dive. The most common, but not necessarily the best, is the fiberglass flag pole with a weighted bottom and a float attached to the pole. This type of flag float tends to remain upright while you tow it, but in much current it can lay down on its side. Also, it has happened that the flag has come off the pole during a dive. So always make sure that you have your clips hooked on correctly.

Another method is an inner tube with a flag pole attached to the side of it. This design has the best visibility and has incredible stability. However, it is the most cumbersome to transport, get in the water and tow around.

There are also inflatable "buoys" that are painted with not only dive flags, but writing on them warning ignorant people of what they are. They also have small dive flags attached to the top of them. This type is small and lightweight, easily visible, and fairly easy to tow. They also tell "stupid (ignorant)" people what they are.

Towing Your Flag.

You should take caution when towing your dive flag. If you are at shallow flat bottomed lake, you can just use a line that is a few feet longer than the depth of the water and go. But if you are in the river, where you may be at 10 feet or 75 feet during the same dive, you need an easy way to manage your line. Entanglements are VERY easy to get into, especially in the river where the current is pushing you along. If you let out too much line, it can get caught in the rocks, cables, rebar, washer, etc, that litter the river bottom.

Economy approach:

Get yourself a board to wrap your line around. Cut out some valleys on either end to let the rope wrap in. Also, make a hole through it that you can hang on to. Make sure that you have enough line on the spool to reach the surface plus 5 or 10 feet. Plan for the deepest possible scenario. If you dive the river, bring 85 feet of line. As you descend, let out just enough line so that it isn't taught. (Keep in mind that you will not be able to see your flag float. It will do you no good if it is 10 feet under water.) Never let a bunch loose line drift along around you. As you ascend, wrap the excess line back onto the spool. This technique allows fool proof 15 foot safety stops.

"Tech" approach:

Much like the economy approach, except you go out and buy a 200 dollar shiny stainless steel reel. Make sure it something "techy" on it, and also that it has lots of shiny clips. Ok, seriously, you can get a decent reel for 30 bucks, with 80-150 feet of line on it. The more you pay, the better and easier they are to use. On the high end reels you can adjust the amount of tension it takes to pull out line, lock the reel by simply releasing a button, have the line reel tidily back in, etc. The concept is still the same. Don't let a lot of slack line hang around.

A buddy team only needs one flag, and a group of divers can use one as long as they stay within about 100 feet of the person towing the flag.

If you are towing your kayak behind you, it acts as your flag buoy and you use the same technique.

NEVER TIE YOUR FLAG LINE TO YOURSELF OR YOUR BUDDY!!! You need to be able to drop it if it becomes entangled.

It has happened that boaters have stolen dive flags while the divers were under, and once they pulled the diver up to their boat because they didn't know what a dive flag was. So be careful out there diving, especially here in the Columbia River.

Even while diving towing a dive flag in the river, I NEVER surface in water any deeper than 4 feet.

Happy Diving!!

