

# The Surface Times

Volume 1 Issue 4  
 November 2007



We B Trippin'

## Galapagos

This trip was planned and anticipated for close to two years. We all expected to see large animals but I for one had no concept of the variety and numbers of large animals we would enjoy the company of underwater!

There were literally hundreds of Hammerhead sharks and Galapagos sharks. It was not possible to count the sharks in your view at one time (and I don't mean because I ran out of fingers). They ranged in size from four feet to twelve feet and were cruising past us at a leisurely pace. No matter which direction you looked you saw nothing but sharks and more sharks.



A total of twenty-six whale sharks were sighted during the trip. If you have never seen one, they are the size of an eighteen wheeler! It is very hard to get the entire animal in a photo. Sometimes you would see just one, sometimes you would see several. Sometimes they were just below the surface, sometimes they were much deeper.



Have you ever been underwater with a sea lion? They are playful, curious, acrobatic dive buddies. One of them was fascinated with dive fins and went from diver to diver nipping at their fins. Others just darted all around us pirouetting in front of your eyes.

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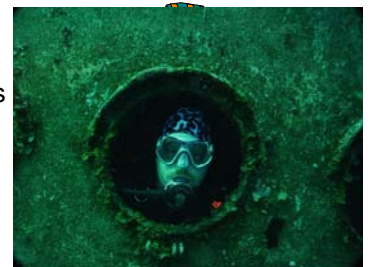
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## The Journey Begins

Scott Williams, PADI Divemaster, Master Scuba Diver  
 Part II

Last month we discussed who a Divemaster is and what a Divemaster does. This month's article will focus on how to get started, what you'll need for the course and how to start mapping your progress. I'll even suggest a sequence for you to follow to logically progress through the course and get the most from it. Divemaster is not a "gimmie". You have to earn this one and prove you are a Dive Professional. Ready? Let's get to it then.....

The decision has been made and you're going to go for it. Awesome! Welcome to the  
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Author, Scott Williams  
 Check his staff page for an interesting bio.



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There were so many pelagics, it was easy to overlook the smaller animals. For example, the Guinea Fowl puffer which has two fazes as shown here. Angela was lucky enough to find one that was in transition shown in the middle.

Those of you have taken the Advanced Fishwatching specialty are familiar with juvenile and intermediate angelfish and how different they look from the adults. The lowest photo on the page is a juvenile King Angelfish. Like the Queen Angel found in the Caribbean Sea, the King Angel found in Pacific waters has a crown on his head and flashy colors.

We have all seen Dolphins before, but how divers many have been luck enough to see one underwater? How about red lipped bat fish, sunfish, cornet fish, marine iguanas, and penguins?

Of course, all of the pelagics are seen around the Wolf and Darwin islands which is a fifteen hour crossing from where we boarded the live aboard. All of the diving locations are in cooler water (59F to 67F) than we typically vacation in but you are quite comfortable if you are dressed properly. The diving is done from pongas (skiffs), not from the mother ship and some of the ponga rides were quite trying. It is definitely adventure diving, but not by any means outside the reach of recreational divers.

We stayed aboard the Eco Explorer I operated by Explorer Ventures and were treated like royalty. The food was nourishing and hot, the rooms were spacious and comfortable.

In other words a dive trip to Galapagos brings a lot to the table and should be on your 'hafta do before I die' list.



## Creature Feature

From last month:

**Juvenile French Angel**, with a rounded tail and yellow margin that forms an oval.

This youngster grows into the beautiful adult shown at right. Once in a great while you will see an intermediate stage which is just what it sounds like, a stage between the two. In the adult, notice the bright golden rims on the body scales.



These are distinctive of the French Angelfish. Try remembering Paris as the city of lights and associating the golden scale rims with the lights.



Hint: Another juvenile angelfish, obviously. Pay close attention to the differences with the juvenile French Angel.



## Specialty of the Month

**November: Equipment Specialist**

Want to know about how your dive gear works? This course familiarizes you with the operation and maintenance of your gear. The more you know about how your gear works, the more comfortable you are with it, the more performance you get from it and the better you can care for it.

**December: Project Aware**

The underwater world needs heroes who champion the causes of the world's most fragile and important aquatic ecosystems. This course teaches about some of the most pressing problems facing these vulnerable environments and everyday actions you can take to help conserve them. You learn how to make a difference.

**January: Digital UW Photography**

You learn to use the PADI SEA method, which takes full advantage of digital technology. The result is good UW photos faster than you may imagine. You learn how to take good photos and how to share them with your friends via email or printing, optimizing your work with your computer, storage and more.



## Scuba Education Wall of Honor

### Open Water

Michael Hejl, January  
 Cory Hejl, January  
 Mel Wimberly, January, Saba  
 Chris Price, February in Coz  
 Robert Price, February in Coz  
 Ana Carlin, February in Coz  
 Van Johnson, February in Coz  
 Coleen Johnson, February, Coz  
 Carly Johnson, February, Coz  
 Carl Foster, February  
 Lark Koontz, March  
 Kim De Decker-Alloy, March  
 Steve Phillips, March  
 Jeremy Lybrand, April  
 Roy Vick, April  
 Paul Johnson, April  
 Travis Johnson, April  
 Bobby Collard, April  
 Tonya Mauldin, April  
 Lindsey Mauldin, April  
 Chris Mauldin, April  
 Michelene McCool, April  
 Mary Chipman, April  
 David Hall, April  
 Mary Hodges, April  
 Peter Garrison, April  
 Chad Lytle, April  
 Eric Petty, May  
 Alex Federick, May  
 James Jardine, May  
 Karen Foreman, May  
 Randy Scott, May  
 Randel Cassel, June  
 Katherine Johnston, June  
 Burton Johnston, June  
 Moriah Sherman, June  
 Rod Hunter, June  
 Krystle Ball, June  
 Les York, June  
 Sabrina York, June  
 Shelley Moore, June  
 Kevin Manila, June  
 Kellie Tiner, June in Coz  
 Michelle Baviera, July  
 Nick Hagen, July  
 Chris Lohman, July  
 Llonda Bins-Lohman, July  
 Cindy Yarborough, July  
 Laurie Bargsley, July  
 Greg Bargsley, July

Ian Bargsley, July  
 Natalia DeLawter, July  
 Samuel Petty, July  
 Garrett Davis, July  
 Michael Abasi, August  
 Gregory Bowman, August  
 Lorna Windsor, August  
 June Windsor, August  
 Michael Kalusha, August  
 Kevin Kalusha, August  
 Austin McCrary, August, Bahamas  
 Stacy McCrary, August, Bahamas  
 Justin McCrary, August, Bahamas  
 John Bitzer, August  
 Gavin Clason, August  
 Robert Gill, September  
 Michelle Moss, September  
 Jody Moss, September  
 Krista Sullivan, September  
 Sandra Velder, September  
 Camie Warren, September  
 Misty McDonald, September  
 Spencer McDonald, September  
 Regina Burns, September  
 Kevin Burns, September  
 Trisha Jordan, September  
 Katherine Canova, September  
 Cheryl Clark, September  
 Nathan Pollock, September  
 Chris Warren, September  
 Jeremy Hopkins, September  
 Jacob Walker, September  
 Laura Hemingway, October  
 Roy Haensselmann, October  
 Chris Peck, October  
 Chris Rottach, October

### Advanced OW

Melanie Wimberly, January, Saba  
 Kim DeDecker-Alloy, April, Coz  
 Greg Davis, June  
 Mary Chipman, June, Coz  
 Bobby Collard, June, Coz  
 Chani Jensen, August, Coz  
 William Jensen, August, Coz  
 Jeffrey Jensen, August, Coz  
 Shelley Moore, September  
 Peter Enschede, September

### EFR

Jennifer Luton, January  
 Evelyn Cannon, January  
 Joe Duty, January

Cody Duty, January  
 Alan Davis, January  
 Skip Nichols, January  
 Melanie Wimberly, April  
 Tom VanKleef, May  
 Scott Williams, May  
 Paul Skinner, June  
 Keith Weber, June  
 Karen Bostic, July  
 Greg Baviera, July  
 Ryan Levitz, August  
 Stacy McCrary, October

### Rescue

Evelyn Cannon, July  
 Melanie Wimberly, July  
 Tom VanKleef, July  
 Greg Baviera, July  
 Stacy McCrary, October

### Specialties

Debra Bryant, PPB  
 Michael Hull, DUP  
 Lynn Myers, EAN, DUP  
 Diane Hughes, EAN  
 Bob Myers, EAN  
 John Dechirico, EAN, O2, AED, MLI  
 Melanie Wimberly, EAN, Boat, Drift, Night, PPB, O2, AED, MLI, Wreck, Gas Blender  
 Bobby Shelton, EAN  
 Jason Mahanay, EAN  
 Kim DeDecker-Alloy, EAN  
 Greg Baviera, EAN  
 James Stanford, EAN  
 Paul Skinner, EAN, O2, AED, MLI  
 Celia Manila, EAN, PPB  
 Scott Williams, EAN, Drift, Boat, Deep, Gas Blender, Night, MLI, O2, AED, Wreck, Proj Aware, Coral Reef Cons., Equipment, PPB, Navigation, Naturalist  
 David Chipman, EAN  
 Mary Chipman, EAN  
 Renee Nipper, EAN  
 Kellie Tiner, EAN  
 Lou Anne King Jensen, S&R  
 Clark Briggs, Gas Blender  
 Thomas Powell, Gas Blender  
 Stacy McCrary, PPB, FID, Adv Fishwatching, Boat

Bob Snow, EAN, PPB  
 Kevin Manila, PPB  
 Tim Liddle, O2, AED, MLI  
 Skip Nichols, Nav, PPB, FID, Coral Reef Cons, Aware, Boat  
 Joe Duty, Nav, PPB, FID, Coral Reef Cons, Aware, Boat  
 Freddy Rosa, Equipment

### Master Scuba Diver

Alan Bredon, June  
 Scott Williams, July in Coz  
 Tom VanKleef, September

### Dive Master

Scott Williams, July  
 Jason Mahanay, September  
 Freddy Rosa, July

### OW Scuba Instructor

Paul Skinner, October

### EFR Instructor

Danny Bouska, Tim Landers, Mike Manila, Angela Garrett

### Specialty Instructor

Angela Garrett, Drift, Computer, Deep, Wreck, Boat, Equipment, Night, Digital UW Photo, Multi-Level, Gas Blender, EAN  
 Tim Landers, Drift, Computer, Deep, Boat, Equipment, Night, Gas Blender, EAN, MultiLevel, AED, MLI  
 Mike Manila, Drift, Computer, Deep, Boat, Night, MultiLevel, Gas Blender, EAN, Wreck, AED, MLI, Oxygen FA, Fish ID, Adv Fishwatching, Naturalist, Coral ID, Creature ID  
 Randy Joy, Gas Blender  
 Wes Smith, Gas Blender  
 Danny Bouska, Gas Blender

### DAN Instructor (O2, Adv O2, AED, HMLI, REMO, Neuro, BLSPro)

Randy Joy, Angela Garrett, Tim Landers, Mike Manila, Brit Shay-lor

### IDC Staff Instructor

Mike Manila, September



## A Word from Our Sponsors

### Atomic Aquatics

What will ARC technology do for you?



- Clearer, crisper vision. You will see more clearly underwater and objects in the distance will become more defined and acute
- Increased contrast and clarity

- Reduces eyestrain, glare, and prevents ghost images on the viewing area of the lens
- An absolute must for night diving, limited visibility conditions, and underwater photographers

### Henderson Hyperstretch

Finally, someone has realized that real women come in sizes larger than 14! Custom fit suits are no longer required for normal sized people. If you have needed a comfortable suit for years come in and try one of these.



## Congratulations Paul Skinner

Several months ago Paul came into the shop with his son for a scuba review prior to a Bahamas trip. The trip reinvigorated his love of diving and he enrolled in a Divemaster renewal program to become current again. The process of completing this program instilled in him a desire to share the wonders of diving with others and he began an Instructor Development Program.

Mixed in with all of this Paul traveled to Cozumel, Cayman and Galapagos to enjoy the wonders of diving and the underwater world. Shortly after the completion of his Instructor Examination, Paul is scheduled to travel to Pensacola, Florida to dive the Oriskany, aka the Mighty O, and begin his Instructor Specialty Training.

Again, **Congratulations Paul**



## Trips for 2007 and More

### Cozumel

### Palau

### Belize

January 04-11, 2009

September 13-20, 2008

Dec 21-24

Diver \$1261  
 Non Diver \$1066

Live Aboard, diving up to five dives per day. Nitrox ava.

Live Aboard, diving around Turneffe and Lighthouse atolls. Up to five dives per day beginning. Nitrox ava.

Airfare on AA, Hotel Cozumel (AI), 3 days 2 tank dives

\$2895 + airfare

\$2295-\$2495 + airfare



The Journey Begins continued from page 1

world of the Dive Professional and get ready to do what is arguably the most fun course you will take. You get out of this exactly what you put into it, so a half hearted effort will yield half hearted results and you probably won't finish. Decide right now that you are going to go for it and do the best job you can. You need to be the awesome role model student divers will look up to and will emulate. Lackadaisical attitude won't cut it anymore!

To enroll in the program you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

PADI Advanced Open Water Certification (or equivalent)  
 PADI Rescue Diver Certification (or equivalent)  
 20 Logged Dives  
 18 Years Old  
 Medical Clearance Form signed by your doctor (yes, you have to go)  
 Current CPR/First Aid (EFR covers this)

You must also be fully equipped for diving. It's expected that you own all of your own gear at this level but you can rent it from the shop if need be. Renting will get VERY expensive because you're going to do a lot of diving, so purchase your own gear if you're not already fully equipped. Besides, do you know any Dive Pro's who don't have their own gear? All the pro's I know have every piece of equipment they'll never need. We tend to accumulate things. Things are cool.

So, you've made the decision, met the prerequisites, and have all of your own gear. Let's get signed up! I'm sure by now Judy has talked to you about this and is probably steering you toward it. This is not a sales pitch, it's a compliment to your abilities. You have what it takes and are being invited in. Believe it or not, Judy doesn't offer Divemaster to everyone. Go to the shop and begin the process. You'll have some forms to fill out and you'll pay your course fee. Depending on what's offered you'll get your Divemaster Crewpack which will have your Divemaster Manual and Divemaster Video, in addition to a CD with Divemaster teachable courses from the Instructor Manual, Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving, Diving Knowledge Workbook, Divemaster Slates, and a patch all in a nice briefcase you WILL use! You should also have in your library: (buy if you don't have already)

Current course manuals for PADI Open Water, PADI Adventures in Diving, and PADI Rescue Diver.  
 The Business of Diving, The Law and the Diving Professional, Children and Diving, The Wheel, eRDP, Audible surface signaling device, and PADI Instructor Manual (not required, but very encouraged)

Buy yourself a nice folder to keep loose papers and stuff in, and keep it in your briefcase. You'll keep your checklist and projects in here. Ask Judy for a copy of the *Divemaster Candidate Information and Evaluation Form*. There is one in your file already and it's the official one to track your progress. Get your own copy so you can easily keep track of what you've done and still need to do, and keep this in that folder I told you to buy and put in your briefcase. This is your "checklist". Each time you complete something and get it signed off on your official sheet, mark it off on your personal one. Remember, it is your responsibility to get stuff signed off. The Instructors won't typically keep after you until you only have "one last thing" to sign off! ;-)

Since you're at the shop filling out forms and such, go ahead and get started! There are some things under the Prerequisites and Administration section of the checklist you can get signed off, plus it will give you a sense of "here we go". Now the ball is rolling! Don't forget to mark this stuff off of your personal checklist. You will also be assigned a mentor, a staff Instructor who will be your main guide through the process.

There are 3 main parts of the course: Knowledge Development, Skills and Stamina, and the Practical Application. While not an absolute requirement, it is best to complete the Knowledge Development and the Skills and Stamina modules before moving on to the Practical Application. You really should have your knowledge and skills polished up to a professional level before you set foot in a classroom or pool with students. You don't want to look bad or make the shop look bad by being a complete train wreck in front of students. Build a solid foundation first.

Next month we'll discuss the first of the three modules, Knowledge Development. This is the foundation you will build upon and I'll talk you through it from start to finish. I have some great suggestions about how/what to study for the exams. Exams!! Yes, but don't fear, we'll get you ready for them. **Next Month: Knowledge Development Module**



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# The Surface Times

We B Divin' is your personal resource for scuba training (PADI), equipment sales, service, and travel.


We pride ourselves on individualized training, especially for people with water related anxieties. Our rental gear includes SeaQuest weight integrated BCD's (women's and men's), computers, and regulators for state of the art training and the ultimate in safety.

Remember, enjoyment and safety are enhanced by comfort and proper fit. We will personally fit you, whether your primary interest is diving or snorkeling.

We offer both group and individual travel opportunities. Both singles and couples are welcome. Singles may ask to room share or can choose the single supplement option. Everyone is welcome - divers, snorkelers, non-divers, shoppers, etc.

**Think Outside the Bowl!**

There is much to learn, many places to go and much to see.



Come learn with us, go places with us and see with us.



## Scuba Trivia?

Thousands of years ago, people began searching underwater for food. These ancient divers explored the underwater world simply by holding their breath and swimming underwater. This simple practice has evolved into a popular pastime that is enjoyed by millions of people around the world.

'Diving bells' are heavy metal bells that were used to trap a pocket of air. Divers inside the bell used the trapped air to work while underwater. First used more than 2,000 years ago, diving bells were widely used until the 1800s.

In 1715, John Lethbridge of England invented a diving machine made of wood and leather. His 'suit' was used mainly to salvage sunken ships.

Hundreds of years ago, divers made underwater goggles out of polished tortoiseshell.

In the early 1800's Augustus Siebe of Germany invented a diving suit connected to a metal helmet. Variations of his 'hard-hat' design are still in use today.

During the 1800s many inventors, including William James, Benoit Rouquayrol, Auguste Denayrouse and Henry Fleuss, developed underwater breathing systems.

In 1943 Jacques Cousteau and Emile Gagnan of France invented the 'Aqua-Lung', one of the first successful underwater breathing devices.

What do you call an underwater prima donna?

A scuba diva!