

# The Surface Times

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## The Road Ahead

Scott Williams, PADI Master Scuba Diver / PADI Dive Master

Divemaster. You've heard this before. You've probably met and even made a dive with one. Perhaps you most remember one from your Open Water class? The person who was hurriedly setting up equipment, checking configurations, offering friendly advice and guidance while the Instructor was busy with someone else. Maybe it was on a boat dive in a blue water destination? There was one or more of the boat crew who helped you setup and get in the water, and who was there to guide you and lead the dive if you were unfamiliar with the site. There was always one in the group just drifting along, watching everyone else, and sometimes pointing out interesting things so you wouldn't miss it.

Who was this "Divemaster" and what is a "Divemaster"? Starting with this article, the first of six to come, we will lift the veil and tell you exactly who a Divemaster is, and better yet, how to become one yourself! Make no mistake though, it is not an easy road to travel and at times will be more challenging than you probably expected. Are you interested? If so, read on.....

You've completed Rescue Diver, you're current with CPR/First Aid (EFR satisfies this), and you have at least 20 logged dives to get started, hopefully more. So far, your focus has been on "me". Advanced Open Water and any Specialties you've taken have been focused on your diving experience. Your focus has been on the recreational aspect of diving and how you can enrich your experience. Rescue gave you a taste of helping others, but really it's been all about you. Notice how many times I use "you", "your", and "me"? That's because with Divemaster, it's time for a paradigm shift. It's not about you anymore. Until now, you have been the diving consumer. Starting with Divemaster, you become the diving provider.

Continued page 2

## **We B Trippin'**

This month fifteen of us went to East End, Grand Cayman for a long weekend and dove, dove, dove, dove. It was delightful weather and pleasant company.

The condos, Compass Point, we stayed in were very nicely appointed and right on the beach. It was an easy stroll down to the dock in the mornings and back at lunch. The dive boat had a shower on board to rinse between dives, a camera table, and lots of space for the divers to dance around. The ladders on the transom made for easy on and offs.

As soon as I get back from Galapagos, I will get photos up on the web site.



<b>Inside this Issue</b>	
The Road Ahead Cont.	<b>2</b>
Creature Feature	<b>2</b>
Specialty of the Month	<b>2</b>
Wall of Honor	<b>3</b>
Word from our Sponsors	<b>4</b>
Neat Products	<b>4</b>
Training Specials	<b>4</b>
Travel	<b>5</b>
Can You Top This?	<b>6</b>





PADI Divemaster is the first step into the ranks of the diving professional. It's a BIG one. Your focus is no longer on yourself, but on the divers you will be supervising and leading. Your goal now is to make *their* diving experience an excellent one. Occasionally this comes at the sacrifice of your own personal experience. They will look to you for leadership and guidance. They will *count* on you for this. Divers under your guidance will look to you as the ranking professional diver in the group, and as someone they can come to with any problem or question, or just advice in general. You will have the solution for them. It is hard work and the only "glory" is in a job well done. You have to want to do this. You have to want to provide service at a level of excellence you would expect to be provided and hopefully, have been provided so far.

What does a PADI Divemaster do? We've already talked about leading divers and providing the service and support necessary to ensure the divers have a great time, but what else? Specifically, a Divemaster can: conduct Scuba Review, Discover Local Diving, PADI Skin Diver, Discover Scuba Diving, and if qualified, teach Emergency First Response. A PADI Divemaster also assists an Instructor with classes as a Certified Assistant. They can supervise students while the Instructor is focusing on an individual, they can lead underwater tours, and can work on skill development with students after the Instructor has introduced the skill. The Divemaster is also an intermediary between the students and Instructor. Some students can be anxious about asking questions of the Instructor because they don't want to appear 'stupid'. This is where the Divemaster is most valuable as they are perceived by the students as "one of them" and someone they can go to with anything. The Divemaster is always there, always watching, ready to lend a hand and help out. Instructors appreciate their Divemasters and always buy them lunch/dinner. Okay, so that last part isn't always true but it's nice when it happens! ;-)

So, that's a little information on just who a PADI Divemaster is and what they do. There's much more to the story, and in the coming months we'll take it deeper and get granular about what it takes to become a Divemaster, how to succeed and talk about each step along the path.

Next month: *The Journey Begins.*

## Creature Feature

From last month:

**Juvenile Pork Fish**



**Cherubfish**

are 1.5—2 inches long, found mostly in small groups, near the bottom at depths below 60 feet. They are extremely shy and dart into holes when approached.

Although it does not resemble the five typically shaped angelfish, the physical feature that places them in the family is a single, elongated spine extending from the lower edge of its gill covers.



Any ideas on this one? I'll give you a hint. Juvenile angelfish, but which one?



## Specialty of the Month

**October: Dry Suit Diver**

Wanna stay warm and toasty on a dive? Then stay out of the water. What? Stay out of the water? Yes! Unlike a wetsuit, a dry suit seals you off from the outside water. In the PADI Dry Suit Diver Specialty course, you'll learn how to use a dry suit. And that keeps you warm! Even in very cold water.

**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.



## Scuba Education Wall of Honor

### Open Water

Michael Hejl, January  
 Cory Hejl, January  
 Melanie 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  
 Caty 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

### 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

### Rescue

Evelyn Cannon, July  
 Melanie Wimberly, July  
 Tom VanKleef, July  
 Greg Baviera, July

### 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.,  
 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  
 Bob Snow, PPB, EAN  
 Stacy McCrary, PPB, FID, Adv Fishwatching, Boat  
 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

### Master Scuba Diver

Alan Bredon, June  
 Scott Williams, July in Coz

### EFR Instructor

Danny Bouska, Tim Landers, Mike Manila, Angela Garrett

### Specialty Instructor

Angela Garrett, Drift, Computer, Deep, Wreck, Boat, Equipment, Night, Digital UW Photo, MultiLevel, 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 Shaylor

### IDC Staff Instructor

Mike Manila, September



## A Word from Our Sponsors

### Aqualung SOS

An EXCLUSIVE product!. This unique design is integrated with your buoyancy compensator. The Surface Observation Signal (SOS) significantly increases your surface visibility in case of separation from your boat or your buddy.

- One-way check valve keeps SOS inflated when BC air is released
- Attaches directly to the right rear BC relief valve opening.
- Easily inflates using standard BC pneumatics
- Diver-controlled 'rip cord' deploys the signal device
- Fully inflated device extends well above the water

### Atomic Aquatics SS1

A safe second is just as important if not more so than your primary. Rarely used, but when needed, it has to perform flawlessly. Buying a cheap second stage for your 'octopus' can be a false economy if it can't deliver enough air at depth or becomes unserviceable through disuse or neglect.

The quality of your safe second should be equal to your primary. Combining 2 products into one reduces overall bulk and streamlines your regulator configuration.

Picture on right is Atomic's limited edition Blue SS1.



## Neat Products

The first true surface and sub-surface signaling device. **DiveAlert Plus** enables divers at the mere touch of a button to generate a loud blast of sound on the surface that can be heard up to a mile away! Or, by switching the diverter valve for subsurface signaling the diver can now signal for his dive buddy's attention underwater!



### Doc's Proplugs

When fitted properly, they help divers equalize and reduce 'ear squeeze'. They also help prevent outer ear and inner ear infection, vertigo and thermal reaction.

Proplugs prevent swimmers ear, and ear pain by blocking water from entering the ears up to 20 ft.

## Divers Alert Network

### Membership

DAN is the only organization I am aware of that is actively pursuing medical dive research. They provide assistance to all divers (regardless of membership status) through 800 phone numbers and will accept collect calls from anywhere in the world. This alone

is worth our support with membership fees of \$29 per year. The included subscription to Alert Diver is just a bonus.

### Dive Insurance

This is the best option for Medical Dive Accident Coverage that I have reviewed. There are three plans from \$25 to \$70 per year covering

not only medical coverage for a dive accident but extra transportation, extra accommodation, lost diving equipment and much more.

I cannot stress enough how valuable it is to have this coverage. Check the details from our web site by clicking here

[DAN Dive Insurance](#)



## Trips for 2007 and More

### Cozumel

**Dec 21-24**

Diver            \$1052  
 Non Diver       \$922

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

### General Info

Most of the time in Cozumel we stay at either Park Royal or Hotel Cozumel. They are both nice for different reasons. Usually the hotel is all inclusive which means that food and drinks (including alcohol) are included in the price.

The trip price also includes round trip airfare, transportation to and from the airport, 2 dives on Saturday and 2 on Sunday. Most trips the group opts to add dives so many times we do 3 dives on Friday, 3 or 4 dives on Saturday and the 2 dives on Sunday.

### Belize

September 13-20, 2008

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

\$2295-\$2495 + airfare

### Palau

January 04-11, 2009

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

\$2895 + airfare

## Training Specials

### **Learn to Dive Package**

*A whale of a deal, tell your friends.*  
 Group Class Tuition, Student Materials, Personal Gear (Mask, Snorkel, Fins, Boots, Bag) chosen from a wide variety of options, and a shorty wet suit. Upgrades are available should you desire.  
 \$749

### **Master Scuba Diver Pkg**

Pick any five specialties from the list of 34 offered by We B Divin'. Let us know what schedule is convenient for you. Before you know it, you will qualify for MSD. Don't forget you need to be Rescue Certified and have 50 dives. (Books extra.) \$425

### **WBD Season Pass**

Take any or all of the 38 PADI/DAN specialties offered at We B Divin' in a 12 month period. Up to 3 crew packs included. Get your PADI Master Scuba Diver and your DAN Diving Emergency Specialist.  
 \$699 — **Unbelievable!**

## Divers Alert Network

### **DAN Travel Insurance**

This is Dan's newest product. I am sure that I have not reviewed every Trip Cancellation and Interruption policy available out there on the market, but this one is very competitive in benefits as well as cost. Also, of course, when we

use this product we are supporting DAN which is always a plus.

Travel insurance is good for those who want to plan a trip but have pending concerns like the health of a loved one. It is very valuable when planning a BIG trip like Galapagos. Many times trips like this

must be planned far in the future and we simply cannot know what life will put on our plate in the interim. So this type of insurance protects us from a total loss.

Check the details from our web site by clicking here  
**DAN Dive Insurance**



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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.



## Can You Top This?

One of the most common issues for Open Water students is having their mask off underwater. This student, Llonda Bins-Lohman surprised and amazed not only the staff and her husband but the entire class.

The first day of pool training she was having repeated problems with an old style 'slap strap' on her mask that would not stay properly adjusted while learning different skills in the pool. That evening she examined it and thought she had it fixed. Sunday in the pool the strap again refused to stay properly adjusted.

While kneeling in shallow water she removed her mask and proceeded to make repairs to the strap. The other students including her husband had finished the round of skills and stood up (as they were in shallow water). She did not notice this as she focused on the repair. The instructor was hovering close by in case of a problem but allowing her to proceed. When finished with her

repair, she put her mask back on, cleared it and stood up. She, very early in her training had taken to heart the backbone of training: What goes wrong under water can be fixed under water. Her instructor was as proud as a new papa!

