

# The Surface Times

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## Coco's Island Dive Trip By Judy Kay, Course Director



Last dive of the trip; always an adrenaline filled experience. Last chance to see the best stuff! We boarded the panga and started shuffling around to get in front of our tank, find our fins, and get our gloves, fins, and mask on. It was a short ride to the dive site, La Manuelita, this time and comparatively smooth water. As soon as we arrived at the dive site there was a bustle of activity as the crew began pulling our tanks/BCDs up onto the edge of the panga so we could get into them and get ourselves all snapped up for the back roll.

John, the diver right across from me called the dive leader over to examine his first stage because his primary was uncomfortable in his mouth. Letus, the instructor, removed the first stage from John's tank then twisted and turned it until he got the hoses straightened out and in the proper positions. OK, we are all ready. Here we go, one at a time on a side, back rolling in with no air in our BCDs so we can go straight down.

In no time at all I was hovering at 90 feet watching seven eagle rays hunt across the sandy bottom. Suddenly, rather than seeing eagle rays I am staring straight into John's face watching him make a slashing motion across his throat! My first thought was, geeze John you need to work on your air management skills — we can't be more than a minute or two into the dive. Of course, auto pilot kicks in and I hand him my



primary. Then we just hang there for a bit while my hard drive 'red light' blinks, I just can't make sense of this. I notice this funny look go across John's face and he slowly reaches up, grasps my second stage in his mouth and very reluctantly offers it back to me. This rouses me out of my deep thought and reminds me that I need to place my alternate in my mouth so I can breathe too. LOL



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## Training Specials

### WBD Season Pass

Take any or all of the 38 PADI/DAN specialties offered at We B Divin' in a 12 month period. Crewpacks not included.

Get your **PADI Master Scuba Diver** and your **DAN Diving Emergency Specialist**.

\$699 — **Unbelievable!**

### 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.

\$695

### eLearning

Don't have time to spend in classroom but want to get certified?

Sign up for on-line learning. Do all of the classroom on your time at your location on your PC. Then spend 8-12 hours with us in the pool and 4 dives in open water.

Package price \$720

## Knowing Your Dive Buddy

By Rebecca Shannon OWSI

You can ask almost anyone who dives and they will tell you that dives are more enjoyable when you have someone with which to share them. As an instructor, I also know that there is "safety in numbers" as the saying goes. By this I mean if a situation ever should arise when you need someone's assistance, your dive buddy will be there to help you.

Your dive buddy also provides other assistance to you as well such as gearing up and helping you check out your equipment before you take the plunge (BWRAF). However, there are other aspects of having a buddy that we sometimes fail to consider.

Most of the time, your dive buddy will be someone you know well like your spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend, friend or your

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## Creature Feature

### Also from Coco's Island

The first fellow here is a Trumpet fish. You have probably seen a lot of these in the Caribbean. They have a long, thin body with a trumpet-like mouth. The most common color is brown to reddish brown, but they can be blue-gray with a purplish head or bright yellow. They are able to pale or darken. They position their bodies to blend with the background, often drifting vertical, head down, paralleling stalks of sea rods or hovering just above larger fish for camouflage

The second fellow is a Cornet fish. They have a long, thin body with a long tail filament. They are brownish gray to greenish brown with blue dashes and spots. Their snout and mouth are shaped like a cornet. They swim over shallow beds of sea grass and near patches of reef.



The main differences are in the slimness of the body and the shape of the mouth and tail. Looking at the two pictures they are distinct. However, divers frequently call both a Trumpet fish.



## Knowing Your Dive Buddy

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child. In this case, your buddy will probably know you well. Sometimes, however, your buddy is someone you just met on the dive boat. Whatever the case is, you should never hesitate to let your buddy know what you feel comfortable doing and what you don't feel comfortable doing. If your buddy wants to make a dive to 130' and you do not feel comfortable making that deep of a dive, you should let your buddy know regardless of what your reason is. Maybe you do not feel like you have enough experience or you don't like the conditions, or you feel you will have a problem with air consumption. Whatever the case is, let him/her know. If he is a good buddy, he should respect your wishes. You should NEVER let anyone pressure you into doing something you don't feel comfortable doing!

If you have a dive buddy who is perhaps a little reckless with their dive habits, you should try to guide them. You can do this without being insulting by making a casual suggestion or just by leading through example. This is what we dive professionals refer to as "role model behavior". Perhaps they haven't been diving for a while and they just forgot some of the safe diving practices. This is also why we stress taking a SCUBA review if it has been a while since the diver has been on a dive.

You need to also be aware of your buddy's actions. If they are showing signs of stress or nervousness, ask them if there is a problem. Usually, it is a good idea to do this where other people can't hear because you don't want to embarrass them. Sometimes there might be a physical reason for their distress. Maybe they have an upset stomach or a bad headache. Whatever the reason might be for their stress, you should carefully consider if maybe they should abort the dive if you are unable to resolve what is causing them stress.

Even if it is a dive site that both you and your buddy are familiar with, you should always discuss your dive plan. This is not only to determine where you plan to go and to what depths but also to review what you should do in a "low on air" situation, etc. You should also discuss what you should do if you get separated from your dive buddy.

It is never a bad idea to hang around the dive master from the boat. If you have never made a dive in this dive site before, this can make you feel more comfortable. Besides that, the dive masters know where to find all of the cool creatures!



## Congratulations Are In Order !



Scott

Scott Perrin is a new **Open Water Scuba Instructor!**

Starting in late September through October Scott worked long and hard to perfect demonstration skills, learn to make teaching presentations, and become so comfortable with physics that he can calculate the displacement of a cruise ship in his sleep. Like anybody cares, right!

During the weekend of December 04 / 05, 2010, Scott underwent a two day examination by PADI Instructor Examiner who was sent here to test fifteen instructor candidates from all over this area.

The result, Scott is due a handshake and a hearty congratulations. Please come by to meet and hug him.



## Travel 2010 – 2011

### Cozumel

December 22 — 25

Double occupancy accommodations at Hotel Cozumel.  
Round trip transportation to and from airport. Three  
days of two tank dives. \$588

Diving provided by We B Divin' Cozumel includes  
snacks, drinks and lunch on the boat. Towel service,  
fresh water shower & gear stowage provided on board.

### Truk

November 27 — December 04, 2011

\$3280 plus airfare, double occ  
Est airfare DFW to Tkk is \$1800  
( unless you have miles (-; )

**1 night in a hotel in Chuk, est \$75**



## Coco's Island Dive Trip

(Continued from page 1)

Then I start thinking about what happened on the boat with his hoses. I slowly turn him to his left and start turning the knob on his tank valve. It is barely open! I crank and crank until it is fully open. Turning him back to face me I reach for his gauges and see his pressure gauge is registering 3000 psi. I show it to him, but it does not entice him to give my primary back. So, I look for his unused primary and put it in my mouth. Taking several breathes off of it I point to the air coming out the exhaust valve to show him it is working. Now I offer it up as a trade to get mine back. He studies it for a second then trades back, whirls around and whips off to take photos of the hammerheads that have now joined the eagle rays in the sand!



John's video camera was running during the event, unfortunately pointed at the ground, so we know the whole thing only took about 80 seconds; it sure seemed like a day and a half. LOL Later he told me that he did not notice any problem until about 60 feet when his regulator got harder and harder to breath. By the time he got to me he was getting no air at all. With his tank just barely cracked open his first stage could not overcome the ambient pressure to provide him air as he exceeded three atmospheres heading for the bottom and some great photos.

To John's credit he remained perfectly calm during the event, safely continued his dive after everything was corrected, and got some great photos. It only goes to prove what I tell every open water student; 'As long as you have air, you can fix everything else underwater.'

This brings home the need for buddy checks before every dive and for taking personal responsibility for your own safety. Sometimes, like this trip, it is much more difficult to complete a buddy check and we begin to get complacent after hundreds of uneventful dives. Thank goodness both John and I had engrained in our sub conscious good dive practices that kicked-in automatically in a time of stress.





## A Word from Our Sponsors

### Simply Brilliant

### Easy to See Simple to Use Brilliant OLED Display

The Cobalt Diving computer is the first of a new generation of computers that are easy to use, intuitive and easy to read. The menu driven display is self-explanatory at every level and can be mastered in just a few minutes. This simplicity is in contrast to its powerful capabilities and the many advanced user functions available to those who wish to use them.



- Brilliant full color OLED display provides the high contrast, sharpness and brightness that can be viewed at almost any angle
- Built in Lithium ion battery provides 40-60 hours of dive time and several years of service before needing replacement. Battery can be quickly recharged with the AC charger or slow charged by plugging into the USB port of any PC.
- High pressure quick disconnect comes standard
- On-board 3D digital compass
- Menu navigation
- Powerful dive planner allows pre-dive planning of almost any dive, including repetitive and multiple days
- The dive logbook will store up to 600 hours of detailed dive profiles in memory
- Leak proof magnetic buttons
- Air and Nitrox to 99% O<sub>2</sub>
- Preprogram up to 3 gas mixes
- Gas switch underwater
- Customizable user options
- Automatic altitude adjustment
- Maximum operating depth 330' (100 meters)  
Recreational RGBM (Reduced Gradient Bubble Model) created exclusively for Atomic Aquatics

**We B Divin'**

*The Ultimate Dive Shop!*

8451 Boulevard 26  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

817-605-8833, voice and fax  
E-mail: [editor@we-b-divin.com](mailto:editor@we-b-divin.com)

## 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.

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.we-b-divin.com](http://www.we-b-divin.com)**

## 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 Truk Lagoon. 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](#)**

## 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 \$35 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](#)**