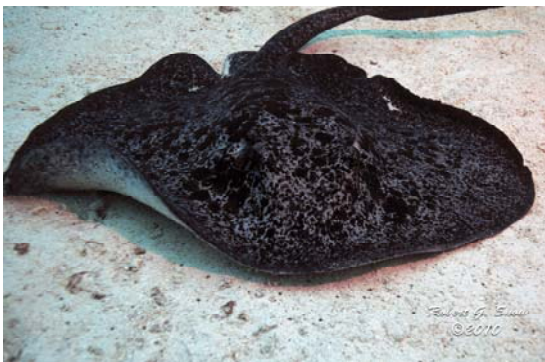


The Surface Times

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Coco's Island, Adventure Diving At Its Finest

By Scott Perrin, OWSI



The recent trip to Coco's Island was an adventurous experience, from the nearly two hour bus ride with Rudy, the non stop talking machine, to the hundreds of white tip sharks we watched hunting on a night dive. Not to mention the very scenic hike up to a beautiful waterfall on the island.

The island was surprisingly bug and snake free. We were actually allowed to swim in the pool of cool (ok cold) fresh water and

to stand under the waterfall. No lawyers on the island I guess? Anyway that was the next to the last day we were there, so before that ... there was a lot of let's say adventure diving.

Most of the dive sites were a 20 – 30 minute ponga ride away from the boat and around 100 feet deep. Now I must say that in itself was adventurous, a small inflatable boat on literally the open ocean. Yes we could see the island but understand this is a small island no more than



15 square miles and 300 miles from anywhere and half way between Columbia (drug suppliers to the world) and the United States. So imagine this, 12 people in an inflatable boat, 10 divers plus a driver and a dive master, so 12 people 2 standing the rest of us sitting on the port and starboard edges (really on the edge!) in what seemed like 10 foot swells at times, on our way to a buoy tied to a rock 100 feet or so deep, hundreds of yards

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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

You Shoulda Been There

Polar Bear



Scott Perrin represented We B Divin' and Divers Anonymous at the annual Polar Bear Dive New Year's Day at Clear Springs Scuba Park in Terrell, Texas. Hands down, he won the "Beary Longest Dive" award with a 74 minute dive in 47°F water. He was wearing his brand new White's Fusion Dry Suit and was toasty warm. By the way, it is the same dry suit he wore for his Instructor Exam just a few weeks ago. Cold water should not prevent you from enjoying diving. Don't turn into a couch potato just because it is not hot outside!

Creature Feature



SHARK, yeah what ever, a three year old knows this is a shark; any diver knows this is a hammer head shark. Why in the world does their head look like this? Hammerhead sharks have acquired their name because of the distinct shape of their head. It is flat, laterally extended and resembles a hammer; a cephalofoil.

Their eyes are located at the end of the lateral part of the head. These wide-set eyes improve their ability to see and locate their prey in the murky waters of the sea.

They use a specialized sensory organ referred to as the ampullae of Lorenzini, to detect the electrical field generated around their prey's body. This organ is so sensitive that it allows them to locate stingrays, their favorite food, buried at the bottom of sea.

Their life span is recorded to be 25 years; they can vary from 3 feet to 20 feet. The great hammerhead shark is the largest among the hammerheads and can be as big as 20 feet in the length. A matured great hammerhead shark can weigh 1000 pounds.

Their attack on a swimmer or diver may be because of a mistake on their part, in wrongly identifying man as a seal, their natural prey in the wild.



Adventure Diving At Its Finest

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away from the island,... getting excited yet?

Just wait I'm not done. They would clip the ponga to the buoy and then pull our rigs up on the *EDGE* of the boat and hold it for us to don, mind you in a boat tied to a buoy in high seas, amazing that they never dropped *even one* in the ocean. Now the fun begins, syncing computers, donning and adjusting gear, and Buddy checking... just didn't happen realistically. Oh yeah, please don't tell my course director (~:tee hee hee:~).

With almost military precision we back rolled off the boat, one at a time of course. It was imperative that we descend as quickly as possible, preferably without surfacing to signal 'OK' and kick like gangbusters to catch the "safety" line. If you missed it there was no way you'd find the bottom where every-

one else was going. I mean, taken away in the current in a hurry, kind of brings home the importance of surface signaling devices, huh.

By the way, did I mention we all had GPS sending units attached to our BCDs? In case we got lost, they could at least try to find us. Which they were pretty good at. If you missed the line they could, of course, see you because the water is very clear, and would almost immediately come after you. That is, if one was smart enough to surface instead of try to find the group (Duh!!). Even when some weren't, the ponga driver was right on top of us (Uh, I mean them) and picked "them" up. When one made it to the line, and to the bottom there was always beautiful things to see. Hammerheads, octopus, lobster, eagle rays, even a whale



shark. There were also beautiful reef creatures and volcanic structures that were stunningly beautiful, so geometrically perfect one might think the Egyptians had built them!

The boat and the crew were wonderful as well, rarely did anyone want for anything. There was a short crossing from Costa Rica to the island of little more than 36 hours which was shortened for some by taking shots of Dramamine and sleeping the whole way! LOL Consequently, they missed out on great stories of dive trips and travel excursions to exotic places all over the world, including learning new card games and general fellowship of divers shared beyond cultural and language differences. All together we had a wonderful experience and are looking forward to sharing those experiences with you all, so please come by and see us to hear all about it!





Travel 2010 – 2011

Cozumel

May 27-30 \$972_{DVR} \$768_{NDVR}

July 01-04 \$907_{DVR} \$832_{NDVR}

Ladies Only! Aug 05-08 \$896_{DVR} \$842_{NDVR}

All taxes / fees included, Hotel Cozumel, 3 days 2 Tank boat dives, transportation to / from hotel / airport, round trip airfare

Grand Cayman

May 28—June 01 \$699_{DVR}

All taxes/fees included, Compass Point Resort, 3 days 2 Tank boat dives, rental car for each four people, airfare not inc

Curacao

July 23-30 \$TBD_{DVR}

Habitat Resort, Unlimited beach diving 24 hrs per day

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



Misconception: Diving is a Summer Sport

By Tim Landers, MSDT

While it's true that diving in warm water is much more comfortable, that doesn't mean it's just a summer sport. Here are some things to consider.

First of all, rent a dry suit and go diving locally. I was at Clear Springs Scuba Park (CSSP) for an open water student's checkout dives in mid-December. The student, our divemaster Finn, and I dove in dry suits and had a great time. It was a bright sunny day and the water temp was in the high 40's. The visibility was probably the best I've seen all year – exceeding 20 feet. There were fewer people to work around, better spots available and when we got done we were all dry and headed to Whataburger to talk about scuba and other topics. This is a also great time to take the Dry Suit Diver specialty to learn the techniques of dry suit diving.

Second of all, go some place warm. Winter is a great time to go to Cozumel and other warm water destinations as they are generally "off season" and less expensive. Remember, when it's winter here, its summer in the southern hemisphere and it's almost always warm in the tropic zone. Hawaii doesn't have warm and cold seasons – it has wet and dry seasons. Use the cold temperature here to go somewhere you normally wouldn't go during our standard dive season.

Thirdly, this can be a great time to just work in the pool via a scuba review, just on your own, new gear orientation, or diving with a non-diving friend while they do a discover scuba. What better way to get a new dive buddy!

Finally, use the winter months to do training with classes that don't require open water checkouts. Emergency First Responder, Enriched Air Diver (Nitrox), Equipment Specialist, and Project Aware don't require any open water dives. Digital Underwater Photography requires two checkout dives but one of them (and honestly the most important) is done in the pool. None of the Divers Alert Network (DAN) specialties require checkouts so cold weather can be a great time to focus on these classes. Programs include Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries, First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life Injuries, Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for Scuba Diving, Advanced Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries (these four specialties are all included in the Diving Emergency Management Provider Program or DEMP), First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life Injuries, On-site Neurological Assessment for Divers, Basic Life Support for Dive Professionals. While these don't teach specific diving skills, they do prepare you to be a 'Better Buddy' as many of our greatest diving sites are remote, using the term very seriously. Just because a class isn't on the schedule doesn't mean you can't call or email and request it - we take care of our customers.

Don't let cold weather postpone your diving or your diving education.



A Word from Our Sponsors

ADVANTAGES OF DIVING THE FUSION DRYSUIT



Streamlined: The streamlining outer layer of the Fusion works in conjunction with the inner drycore to create a unique hydrodynamic effect by reducing frictional drag and turbulence. This creation of laminar flow over your body results in a faster more agile diving suit requiring less energy.

High Mobility: The Fusion two layer system offers mobility never before achieved in a wetsuit or traditional drysuit. The high stretch outer skin contours

fits the loose fitting inner dry core to the curves of your body allowing unrestricted movement.

Durability: The double layer construction exceeds the durability of current single layer shell type dry suits. Only premium grade dry zippers, latex seals, and materials are used in the construction resulting in a hard wearing long lasting suit.



Huge Temperature Range: The DryCORE Technology provides a dry barrier against the elements. Match your thermal undergarment to the conditions just like traditional dry suits, layering up or down. The Fusion has you covered from ice diving to the tropics!

Tropical Diving: 82°F
Grand Cayman

Ice Diving: 32°F
New Foundland

Buoyancy Control: The outer Stretch Skin places an even external pressure over the inner surface of the DryCORE making dry suit buoyancy control a snap. Providing the exhaust valve is set correctly, this external pressure will assist the diver maintaining the perfect amount air volume within the suit.

Versatility in the Outer Skin: Want to do some warmer water tropical diving? No problem just Velcro on the lycra outer skin for the utmost in flexibility. How about cold water? Install the outer Hybrid Tech skin for higher abrasion resistance and added thermal protection.

Less Weight: Less air in the suit requires 10% less weight on your belt!

Warmer: The constant pressure of the outer Stretch Skin regulates the air layer within the DryCORE eliminating hot and cold spots, while at the same time reducing your body energy output to keep warm.

We B Divin'

The Ultimate Dive Shop!

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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.

We're on the web!
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](#)