

# The Surface Times

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## Stop and Smell the Roses

By Karen Bostic, MSDT, Photos by Angela Garrett, MSDT

Over the years of being a dive master, assistant instructor and now instructor, I cannot tell you how many times I've told open water students to "slow down". "There's no reason to swim fast". "You see so much more when you take your time". "Your air consumption will improve if you aren't in such a hurry". Little did I know that I too needed to SLOW DOWN. On numerous trips to tropical locations for diving, I thought I did a pretty good job of taking time to observe life on the reef. I found out differently on a recent trip to Cozumel.

The purpose of the trip was to complete training dives with Judy that were needed in order for me to get certified for several Instructor Specialties. These dives included Fish ID, Advanced Fish ID, Coral ID and Creature ID. It was a lot of fun reviewing my fish and coral books before the dives so I would have better luck at identifying the different fish and creatures that Judy pointed out. However, the most fun was during two dives when she had us looking for juvenile fish and identifying symbiotic relationships we saw on the reef.



more time than I usually do staying in one place, moving very little, waiting on what might pop out of the reef. I saw numerous juveniles on that dive, including a beautiful juvenile rock beauty. What's so fascinating about the juveniles is that they don't look at all like the adult fish. They might have

On the juvenile fish dive, it took a lot of focus and determination to locate juvenile fish. They are often times not only small, but more skittish than the adult fish and they like to hide in nooks and crannies on the reef. I spent much



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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**.

\$749 — 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.

\$725

#### 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.

Same gear package included. \$660 Plus \$120 eLearning enrollment.

### Stop and Smell the Roses

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much brighter coloring, not even be in the same color palate as an adult and have spots when an adult has stripes.

On the "symbiotic relationship" dive we were to locate fish/ creatures that depend on each other in order to live their lives. The best example of this that most people are aware of is the clown fish found in the south Pacific that lives among the sea anemones. The clown fish has a resistance to the deadly toxin of the anemone and uses the anemone as protec-



tion. In Cozumel you can spot symbiotic relationships in cleaning stations where larger fish have bacteria removed from their mouths by smaller fish, remora stuck to sharks and rays, and hermit crabs inside shells.



Both of these dives that are so memorable required me to slow down and actually "see" what it was I was looking at. I didn't realize how much I was missing by quickly looking at the reef and then moving on to the next coral head, hoping to see something big. I've always known slowing down makes for a more enjoyable dive, but I never realized just how much more enjoyable it would be to REALLY slow down.

My advice now above and under the water is "stop and smell the roses". It will be worth your time.



## The Other Side of Diving – Spear Fishing

By Rebecca Shannon, OWSI

We always teach our students not to touch the aquatic life. There is an exception however, that is when you spear fish.

I have owned a spear gun for a few years but never had the opportunity to use it until a few weeks ago. Since my husband did not own a spear gun, we purchased one for him before the trip. We bought the same gun I had, a 38 Special by JBL.

A friend of ours from high school, Larry, had been asking us to go spear fishing with him for a while. For me, it was the perfect opportunity to learn it. Larry had been spear fishing for about 16 years so he knew all of the ins and outs. We were going to meet him in one of the few lakes that allow spear fishing for game fish, Lake Ouachita in Arkansas. I figured I would “get the hang of it” in a lake instead of having to learn in the ocean. Besides that, I had gone to Lake Ouachita many times when I was a kid and absolutely loved it!

We left for Arkansas very early Sunday morning with the hope that we would be out on the lake by noon. We arrived, right on time. We met Larry at the boat dock and loaded all of our SCUBA equipment onto his boat. It did not take long for us to appreciate the fact that he had a Bimini top on his boat as it was a very hot sunny day. As he was motoring us over to our first dive site, he was busy telling us about all of the best places to spear fish in the lake. He emphasized that the best places had some type of structure, like underwater trees or brush or some structures that people had put in the water intentionally.

We finally arrived at the first site. He helped us assemble our spear guns and showed us how to fire them. The bands on my gun were so tight, I couldn't pull them back even with gloves on so I had to resort to being a 'diva' and let them load the gun for me. Then, we assembled our gear and threw it over board so we could gear up in the water. The visibility was only about 6 feet so we had to stay on each other's heels so we would not lose sight of the person in front of us. The first thing that happened

was my husband got separated from us. When I went back up, he was swimming toward the boat and told us to go ahead. I followed Larry around and stayed close to the bottom waiting for the fish to come. It wasn't long before the first bass darted out in front of me. I fired...and to my amazement I got him...right through the eye! Of course that wasn't the ideal spot to aim for (Larry told us it was the gills), but I had my first fish! I put him on the stringer I had attached to my BC. Larry probably already had a bunch of fish on his stringer by this point. This guy is a fish-killing machine! I shot another bass and some blue gill. The next fish I shot, I was right on target and shot him through the gills. The next one I shot through the stomach. The last one was brutal. I shot him in the tail and cut him in half!

As you can imagine, I was pretty full of myself. My first time spear fishing and I hit all of the fish I shot at. Ok, the bass were barely legal (bass have to be at least 13 inches to be legal), but they were trophy's to me! Larry cleaned all of our



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## Travel 2011

### Cozumel

|                   |                             |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>July 01-04</b> | <b>\$907<sub>DVR</sub></b>  | <b>\$832<sub>NDVR</sub></b> |
| <b>Aug 05-08</b>  | <b>\$896<sub>DVR</sub></b>  | <b>\$692<sub>NDVR</sub></b> |
| <b>Oct 14-17</b>  | <b>\$902<sub>DVR</sub></b>  | <b>\$698<sub>NDVR</sub></b> |
| <b>Oct 14-21</b>  | <b>\$1231<sub>DVR</sub></b> | <b>\$853<sub>NDVR</sub></b> |

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

### Truk

**November 27 — December 04**

\$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**

### Curacao

2 Spots Left

**July 23-30**                      **\$1199<sub>DVR</sub>**

Lions Dive, Breakfast,  
Free entrance to the Curacao Sea Aquarium,  
6 Days 2-Tank boat dives,  
Unlimited beach diving 24 hrs per day

<http://www.curacao.com/>



## The Other Side of Diving – Spear Fishing

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fish and we took them to a restaurant on the lake. The restaurant will cook the fish that you bring in, as long as they are cleaned, and provide all of the hush puppies, french fries and cole slaw that you can eat. We had way more fish than we could eat and it was all delicious! I would like to say it was because of my fish, but they barely were enough for a snack after they were cleaned.



Day two came of our trip. I kept saying “today is the day I get the BIG fish...BIG FISH!!! Larry just laughed. He said that most people don’t even get one on their first trip. We finally arrived at our first site for the day. My husband had decided to stay in the boat and let us do the fishing. The visibility at this spot was really bad...three feet at best. We finally decided to abort the dive and go to a spot with better visibility.

I did manage to spear a few fish

The next site we went to was much better. Not only was the visibility much better, but the site itself was a very interesting dive site. It was along a cliff. It was probably 100’ at the bottom of the cliff. We concentrated on the structures at the top of the cliff. By the time we had been there fifteen minutes, Larry had another stringer full of fish. He had catfish, striped bass and walleye. After I shot

and missed twice, it was already time for us to leave.

I had a great time and can’t wait until my next spear fishing adventure. Maybe I’ll even try blue water the next time!



## Congratulations to our newest Seal Team Member!

Rebekah Gossett recently completed the five scuba missions required to be on the Seal Team. Seal Team is for kids who are not old enough to get certified in the Open Water Course and want to get started in scuba. They learn the basics that are taught in the Open Water Course and complete the Seal Team missions in the pool. After becoming a Seal Team member they can continue their scuba experience with additional AquaMissions which are similar to the Adventure Dives for Certified Divers. If you are looking for your 8 and 9 year olds to get a flavor for scuba, the



next Seal Team course is in July. The five missions will be completed over three Saturday afternoons - July 16, 23, and 30. Rebekah is looking for others who would be interested in the additional specialty AquaMissions, so she can continue her scuba experience. For a glimpse, check out the video from her Seal Team experience on the We B Divin' website ([www.we-b-divin.com](http://www.we-b-divin.com))



## A Word From Our Sponsors



Dive into underwater videography with this incredibly compact and simple to use package. The Compact Video housing is high quality, built to last, and backed by Ikelite's long-standing reputation for excellence. A full line of accessories allows you to really get creative with your underwater video. Power on/off, video recording start/stop, zoom and still image shooting are accessible through the housing. Easy open latch and drop in camera loading make set-up a breeze. Depth rated to 200ft (60m).

### Camera Features.

Underwater video couldn't be LESS intimidating than with this super-simple and **waterproof** HD video camera. Snorkel or shoot between dives with complete confidence as this little pocket cam is rated to 10ft (3m) independent of the housing.

Image stabilization and an 5mp digital still mode really set this camcorder apart from other cameras of its kind. The GC-WP10A accepts SD, SDHC and SDXC memory cards so there's virtually no limit to the amount of video and still images that can be recorded without downloading to a computer.

**Housing Only—\$260, Housing & Camera Package—\$460, Deluxe Package w/ Travel Bag—\$760 *Best Value***



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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.



## 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](#)