

PADI Dive  
Training Team  
&  
Dive Travel Club

# Dive'n Times

## SJ Scuba



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Spring 2000 Volume 12

### 2000 Class Schedule

February 24 7:45 PM	Free Discover Scuba	YMCA
March 2nd 6:30 PM	6-Week Open Water Class	YMCA
March 24-25-26	Weekend Class	YMCA
April 20th 6:30 PM	6-Week Open Water Class	YMCA
April 28-29-30	Weekend Class	YMCA
June 3-4	Open Water C/O Table Rock Lake	
June 16-17-18	Weekend Class	YMCA
July 15-16	Advanced Open Water Table Rock	
August 12-13	Rescue Diver & MFA Course	
August 19-20	Fun Dive Weekend Table Rock	
September 7th 7:45 PM	Free Discover Scuba	YMCA
September 14th 6:30 PM	6-Week Open Water Class	YMCA
October 14-15	Open Water C/O Table Rock Lake	

### Kids Rock!!

PADI just announced "10 year olds can now become Scuba Divers" under their new program for kids. Last year PADI introduced the Bubblemaker program and SJS was one of the first in our area to try it. It was an instant hit, but four years was just to long for them to wait to become certified. Well that just changed! Effective immediately, kids 10 to 12 years of age can become a certified Scuba Diver or Jr. Open Water Divers. They must be accompanied by their parents or a PADI dive professional when diving in Open Water and are limited to a depth of 40 feet. 8 to 9 years will continue to take part as Bubblemakers. With these changes diving is truly a family activity.

### Three Training Dives for Open Water Students

Open Water Students can now make up to three training dives in a single day. This change by PADI gives the student and instructor the flexibility to customize the Open Water Training dives. Students may complete Dives 1-2-3 on Saturday and Dive 4 on Sunday or Dives 1 on Saturday and Dives 2-3-4 on Sunday.

### Scuba Swap Meet April 1st!!!

SJS will host a Scuba Swap Meet April 1st from 10:00 AM to 6:00PM. It's the first, and may be the last. Check in your items between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. We will have new and used scuba equipment for sale or trade, including some of SJS's extra class equipment. BCD's, Regulators, Mask, Fins, Wet Suits and much more. Location is 501 S. 36th Street, Suite 101, east side of the street.

## WEEKEND CLASS SCHEDULE

**March 24-25-26**

**April 28-29-30**

**June 16-17-18**

### Dominica Thanksgiving 2001

SJS is going to Dominica for Thanksgiving 2001. November 17th-24th. Dominica, known as the 'Water Island', is often called the Caribbean's ultimate Eco-Destination. They are famous for Whale Watching, Diving, and Hiking. Dive Dominica will be our host for this trip. Our package includes Breakfast and Dinner daily, Two-Tank boat dives per day with unlimited shore diving at the Resort, Airport transfers and a night dive. Rooms are air-conditioned with televisions. The underwater volcanos and active hot springs provide a very unique environment to explore. With their 48 foot dive boat, and professional dive service, Dive Dominica's staff will certainly help make this trip unique, outstanding and interesting.

### Land Activities

Hiking is a must. The rugged landscape features the highest mountains of any island in the Caribbean. The island's tropical rain forest is home to waterfalls, hot springs, rivers and lakes. Mountain bikes are available for rent as well.

Castaways Beach Hotel is ideally located on the central west coast with easy access to the many great dives sites and spectacular land attractions. They offer free to our group Ocean Kayaking. Sail Boat Rentals and Land Tours are available as well.

Estimated cost \$1950.00 per diver. Non-Refundable Deposit of \$100.00 per person. Additional deposit of \$250.00 due January 1st, 2001 and June 1st 2001. Final Payment September 1st, 2001. Space is limited to 24 divers/non-divers.

### Weekend Classes a big hit!

PADI's new Open Water Diver Course and the "Dive Now" theme has created a very high demand for weekend scuba classes. Under the new program, much of the classroom training has been shifted to home study. Students are watching the video, reading the book and filling out their knowledge reviews when and where they are most comfortable and prepared to learn, at home. Class room time has been reduced to a minimum. Students spend more time "Pool Diving" The course is fun, educational and extremely exciting. Spread the word, tell your friends, the secrete is out, becoming a PADI Diver no longer requires long classroom sessions or listening to the instructor talk and talk and talk. SJS's weekend and 6-week entry level Open Water Courses are all inclusive, including Mask, Fins, Snorkel, Scuba Equipment, Books and all paper work. For more information about our courses, visit our web site at [www.sjscuba.com](http://www.sjscuba.com) or call 816-233-8344. Let the fun begin with your PADI Open Water Course. Children 8 to 9 years may take part as Bubblemakers and receive credit towards Jr. Open Water at age 10. The next weekend class is scheduled for March 24-25-26. Please sign up by March 10th. SJS

## **Blackbird Caye Resort, Belize April 8th-15th, 2000**

For the land lovers, SJS has booked 16 spots at Blackbird Caye Resort on Turneffe Reed Atoll in Belize. The resort sets on a private island within the second largest barrier reef in the world. With Dive Sites less than 10 minutes from the resort, the boat returns to the resort between each dive. Package includes round trip air from KCI, transfers, three meals daily, lodging with air-conditioning, and three boat dives per day. Sailing, windsurfing, kayaks and canoes are available at the resort. Estimated cost \$1750.00. Deposit \$100.00 at sign up, with an additional \$500.00 due by October 1st 1999. All deposits nonrefundable. See our web site for additional information.

### **Travel Services now Available**

Royal Ambassador Travel and SJ Scuba have teamed up to provide dive travel services, including airline ticketing, hotel bookings, cruises, car rentals, dive packages, personalized vacations and many other related services. Give Darlene a call at (816)232-9040 and mention SJ Scuba. SJS has been booking our trips with Royal Ambassador Travel for several years.

Stop by and visit their new location at 501 S. 36th Street, suite 102. Watch for further announcements and information on SJS's web site at [sjscuba.com](http://sjscuba.com) under "Travel Services".

### **Web Site**

Need information about a dive destination, questions about resorts, dive operators or airline connections, just email [travel@sjscuba.com](mailto:travel@sjscuba.com) with your question.

### **Instructor Development Course (IDC) starts February 25th, 2000**

SJS's PADI Course Director, Ernie Miller, will start a Instructor Development Course (IDC) in conjunction with Scuba Adventures PADI 5-Star IDC Center. The course includes dive theory development, academic teaching presentations, confined water teaching presentations, and open water training. Upon completion, candidates will earn the PADI Assistant Instructor (AI) rating and be qualified to set for a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI) examination (IE) conducted by PADI. Duties of the PADI AI include teaching academic sessions, teaching limited confined water skills and surface skill evaluation during Open Water training. AI's may also independently teach Snorkeling, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Discover Scuba, Medic First Aid Equipment Speciality, and the new Bubblemaker program. AI's are one of the most valuable assets of a Dive Training Team. OWSI's are authorized to teach Open Water and Jr. Open Water, Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver, Divemaster, and Peak Performance Buoyancy.

#### ***Scheduled IDC's***

Scuba Adventures February 25th  
Skin N Scuba March 3rd

### ***WEEKEND CLASS March 24-25-26 (YMCA)***

Introduce a friend or family member to the fascinating under world of Scuba Diving. Weekend classes are fun, exciting and require only one weekend to complete. Sign up must be completed at least one (1) week prior to class start date. Please sign up early by contacting St. Joe Scuba at 233-8344 (*email [ernie@sjcuba.com](mailto:ernie@sjcuba.com)*) as class size will be limited to 8 students maximum. Cost \$225.00 and includes all class materials and scuba equipment.

## **Do you know the name of everyone you dive with?**

We don't mean Bob or Becky or Bill or Bonnie...we mean Fairy Basslet and Blue Hamlet and Rock Beauty and Spotfin Butterfly. How well do you know the fish you dive with? Would your dives be more enjoyable if you could name the most of the fish? With a little knowledge and some practice, every diver can learn many of the names and some of the more interesting habits of the fish you dive with on your next trip. Interested? Project AWARE and REEF (Reef Environmental and Education Foundation) have teamed up to offer a new PADI specialty course, *AWARE Fish ID*. The course is a fun way to learn the most common fish sighted on the reefs of Florida, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas. It is great way to supercharge your next diving vacation. The course is made up of a two-hour class room session and two open water dives. The AWARE Fish ID course is being offered to everyone going on a SJ Scuba trip. A companion course also available is the PADI Underwater Naturalist specialty course. Contact instructors Ernie Miller or John Stuart if you are interested.

### **More about REEF...**

The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), founded in 1990, is a grass-roots, not-profit, organization of amateur divers who regularly conduct fish surveys during their dives. The organization was founded by Paul Humann, the photographer and author of the Reef Fish ID books most divers are familiar with, and is similar to the Audubon Society's amateur bird watching program.

If you enjoyed what you learned in the AWARE Fish ID course you may want to be a REEF fish watcher. Membership is free and being a fish watcher is easy and fun. Using a special slate you mark the fish you see during the dive. After the dive you record your sightings on an easy-to-use report form and return it to REEF headquarters. The thrill of discovering a rare or unusual fish is an added bonus. As a member of REEF, I have completed more than 30 surveys. During a recent trip to the Florida Keys, I spotted a fish that I have never seen before. Its appearance was somewhere between an Atlantic spadefish and a gray angelfish. Inquiring about it at the dive shop I found out that it was Pacific batfish. They are an exotic species that do not belong in the Caribbean, but two of them had been hanging around the reef for several years. Two days later diving in the same area I spotted three of the batfish and took their picture. Upon returning home I sent the picture to REEF for formal identification. Little did I anticipate the stir the pictures would cause. It appears that REEF had known about two of the batfish since 1994 but I was the first person to document three. This means they are reproducing, or coming in from somewhere. REEF contacted the National Marine Sanctuary manager where the reef is located and they are currently developing a big plan to go out and remove them. The New England Aquarium has gotten involved and agreed to take them after they are collected. NOAA's Exotic species program is also involved. They are even using my photos in the press release.

If you would like to join REEF or get more information please contact me or visit REEF's website at [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org).

*By John Stuart PADI OWSI*