

PADI Dive
Training Team
&
Dive Travel Club

Dive'n Times

SJ Scuba

1601 S. 40th
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507
816-233-8344

e-mail ernie@sjscuba.com
jastuart@ponyexpress.net



Fall 2000 Volume 14

2000 Class Schedule

October 14-15 Open Water C/O Table Rock Lake
October 27-28-29 Weekend Class YMCA
December 1-2-9 Weekend Class YMCA

SJ Scuba's 2001 Schedule is now available at www.sjscuba.com

New PADI Instructors and IDC Staff Instructors

SJS's PADI Course Director Ernie Miller recently completed an Instructor Development Course (IDC) in Independence for Skin N Scuba. Both Candidates earned the PADI Assistant Instructor rating after completing the Course. Congratulations to Randy Clark and Tim Watkins. Tim passed his Instructor Examination (IE) in Cancun and is now a PADI OWSI. Way to go Tim! Congratulations to Rick Knight with Skin N Scuba and SJS's Instructor, John Stuart, on completing their IDC Staff Instructor course. Next step for these two, PADI Master Instructor.

Future IDC Courses

PADI Course Director Ernie Miller has scheduled three new Instructor Development Courses. October 2000 and May 2001 for Scuba Sports in Branson, Missouri and February 2001 for SJ Scuba in St. Joseph Missouri. 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. Contact CD Ernie Miller at 816-233-8344 or email ernie@sjscuba.com

"Saturday Only Weekend Class"

Want to become a PADI Open Water Scuba Diver, but don't have time for the 6-week course! Like the weekend format but Sundays are out! SJS's next weekend course may be just what you have been waiting for! Class will meet on Friday night December 1st from 6:30 PM to 10:00PM, Saturday December 2nd from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Saturday December 9th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Students must sign up and pick up their class room materials by November 27th. Both the traditional video/book (\$225.00) and new interactive CD ROM (\$245.00) programs will be offered. Call 813-233-8344 or email ernie@sjscuba.com

Atchison YMCA Free Discover Scuba

Join the Atchison Kansas YMCA and SJS for a Free Scuba Experience at the Atchison YMCA Wednesday October 18th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For additional information call the Atchison YMCA at 913-367-4948, SJS at 816-233-8344 email ernie@sjscuba.com.

Grand Cayman August 4th to 11th, 2001

"Waiting List Only"

Our package includes round trip air from KCI, six 2-tank dives, one night dive, three meals a day, taxes, and airport transfers based on double occupancy. Estimated cost is \$1750.00 per diver/non-diver. The optional afternoon dive and snorkel trips can be purchased a la carte. Non-Refundable Deposit of \$100.00 per person. Additional deposit of \$250.00 due December 1st, 2000 & February 1st 2001. Final Payment May 1st, 2001. Space is limited to 20 divers/non-divers.

10-Day Florida Bus Trip

"June 6th to 16th, 2002"

It's been discussed, talked about and kicked around. Now it is official. SJ Scuba is planning a Florida Bus trip in 2002.

THIS WILL NOT BE A "DIVE ONLY VACATION"

Final arrangements are still being worked out. However, current plans have us departing from St. Joseph Thursday evening June 6th, stopping in Kansas City for any passengers and continuing on to Orlando Florida for our first planned stop. Possible activities in Orlando include Sea World, Epcot Center, Universal Studios and Disney World. On Sunday we depart for Key Largo area, with a stop along the way at Kennedy Space Center. On Monday, a morning 2-tank dive for the divers, followed by an afternoon of sight-seeing, snorkeling and shopping. On Tuesday we head for Key West, where we will spend the day and evening, with an optional afternoon dive available. Wednesday morning it's back to Key Largo for another 2-tank dive. Thursday and Friday will be spent in the central Florida and Crystal River area, departing for Panama City for a Saturday morning 2-tank dive with an afternoon of sight-seeing and shopping before heading for home Saturday night for a late arrival Sunday evening.

Heartland Motor Coach is providing the transportation, a luxury 60 passenger Motor Coach with big screen TV & VCR, rest rooms, spacious sleeping chairs and plenty of room. The bus and driver will remain with the group for the entire 10 days. This trip will be limited to 30 persons maximum. Included is transportation, lodging, 1-day pass to either Sea World, Epcot Center, Universal Studios or Disney World, admission to the Space Center and five 2-tank dive packages for the divers. Additional activities are planned for non-divers, including shopping tours, site-seeing and fun-in-the-sun.

A deposit of \$100.00 per person is required to reserve a spot. All deposits are fully refundable in the event the trip is canceled. Trip minimum is 20 persons. Estimated cost per diver is \$1500.00, non-diver \$1250.00. Can't make the full 10 days! Arrangements can be made for you to fly down and join the group on Sunday, returning Saturday morning. Call 816-233-8344 or email ernie@sjscuba.com

Branson's new PADI Store

SJ Scuba and Scuba Sports, located in Branson, Missouri, has teamed up to provide our students the opportunity to complete their Open Water training any day of the week during summer months. If you can not make one of our certification weekends, SJ Scuba will arrange for an Instructor from Scuba Sports to complete the Open Water Certification dives. The cost is \$110.00, which includes BCD, Regulator, Tank, Weights & Wet Suit. Students must provide their own Mask, Fins and Snorkel. Email ernie@sjscuba.com for more information. Scuba Sports is located on Highway 248 approximately 1.5 miles west of US 65. From Springfield, exit on Highway 248 in north Branson and go west approximately 1.5 miles. Look for the Dive Flag on the right side of 248 Highway. Be sure to stop in and stay high to Jeff and Louis the next time you are visiting Branson.

Fun Dive Weekend 2000

Four area Dive Centers and SJS teamed up to make this years "Fun Dive Weekend" the best yet. The underwater Poker Run was the all around favorite again, with a pot of \$50.00 going to the winners. Saturday activities included the Scavenger Hunt and cookout. Over 130 divers took part in the activities. A special thanks to the staff and owners of the Table Rock Inn for hosting our cookout Saturday night and a very special thanks to the Dive Centers for all the great prizes they donated. Outstanding food and great weather made this weekend one of our best Fun Dive Weekends to date. Thanks again from SJS and Crew!!

Dominica Thanksgiving 2001

For a limited time additional space is available.

SJS is going to Dominica over Thanksgiving 2001 from 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. 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.

Cozumel Mexico April 21st to 28th, 2001

Plaza Las Gloris Hotel

Join Scuba Adventures in Cozumel Mexico for 7-fun filled days of diving and fun in sun. Their package includes Superior room accommodations, five 2-tank boat dives, hotel taxes, transfers and air from KCI. Diving provided by Aqua Safari. Estimated cost per person \$1395.00, based on double occupancy. A nonrefundable deposit of \$250.00 per person is required to sign up. Call Scott, Mike or Dave at 816-455-1492 today to reserve you spot.

Underwater Signing Class

Attention Divemasters, Assistant Instructors and Instructors. SJS is planning a Underwater Signing class sometime during October or November. Laurieanne Ashinazy with Sea Signs will be coming to St. Joseph to teach the class. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ernie Miller at 816-233-8344 or email to ernie@sjscuba.com

Private Scuba Classes Available

SJS does offer private and semiprivate classes. Your pool or ours. Contact SJS at 816-233-8344 or email ernie@sjscuba.com

Is all Diver Training the same?

As a PADI Course Director teaching all levels of PADI diver training, from the Bubblemaker program for 8-9 year old children to PADI's Instructor Development and Instructor Speciality Courses for new instructors, I believe PADI's system of diver education is a one-of-a-kind total instructional system. No other certification agency can even come close! Interactive CD ROM's, video's, text and workbooks makes self-directed home study fun, easy and efficient. Students study when and where they are most prepared and ready to learn. When all of the components are utilized, class room time is minimal, shifting the primary focus of diver training to skill development and practice during the Pool and Open Water sessions. After all, this is where learning to dive really takes place.

But is all diver training really the same? PADI Standards certainly do require all PADI Instructors teach their courses to the same standards and performance requirements. PADI divers are by far the best trained, most informed and well educated of any divers I see diving today. They not only seek out training as a means of becoming certified to purchase equipment and other diving related experiences, but also seek out further training for the additional experience and knowledge.

However, is just meeting the standards and performance requirements really enough today? Perhaps not! The best of today's professional diving instructors integrate into their courses a deep and profound respect for the underwater world. They bring to life in their classrooms actual diving experiences. They know and understand the most important skills an entry level student will ever master are buoyancy and proper weighting. Yet, some instructors still give only minimal attention to these skills, thinking students will develop them as they gain experience. Learning to dive is truly an exciting and awesome experience. It should be educationally sound, instill respect for the aquatic world and produce qualified divers as well.

The next time you seek out an instructor for a course, look for an instructor who is as excited about teaching the course as you are about taking it. Look for an instructor who not only teaches you the basics of how to dive, but also takes the time to help you gain the knowledge and experience necessary to interact with and respect our delicate underwater aquatic environment. Your PADI Dive Centers and 5-Star IDC centers are excellent sources for dive instruction. They have a staff of highly trained and qualified affiliated instructors. When looking, it's ok to ask questions. Instructors expect it. Look for the instructor who offers courses beyond Open Water, Advance or Rescue and continues with their own training. *Ernie Miller CD25403*

Royal Ambassador Travel Agency

www.travelsj.com

Royal Ambassador Travel is located at 501 S. 36th Street, suite 102 in St. Joseph, Missouri. They specialize in good old fashion friendly customer service. They can provide airline ticketing, hotel bookings, cruises, car rentals, dive packages, personalized vacations, honeymoon planning and many other related services. Give Darlene or Alisha a call at (816)232-9040 or (800)235-7646 and mention you are a Scuba diver. No service charges, no planning fees and no hassle with Ambassador Travel. As a member of Vacation.com, they can match or better the price you get elsewhere.