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# UNDERWATER WORLD

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
1:00 - 9:00  
Saturday 10:00 - 6:00

November, 2009

## The Holidays Are Coming! And Our Holiday Sale is December 5th!

Although we are starting our Holiday pricing right now. On December 5th, come on by and we will sweeten the pie with a number of other specials. We will also have some eggnog, cookies and vino. And of course, once the staff gets a few glasses of wine in them, the deals get better. So come by and see us. Also, look below and you will see that we have been busy negotiating some great deals for you.

### Free Mask, Fins, Snorkel When you purchase a Scubapro Reg, BC & Computer

You Can Save Up To \$682.00 Off The Retail Price.

**You Can Even Get Your Money Back  
For The Mask, Fins, And Snorkel You  
Have Already Purchased From Us.  
Look Below For Details.**

Quantities Limited

### \$150.00 Suunto Rebate Instant Rebate Nothing To Send In

Plus Another 10% Off The Suggested Retail!

**When You Buy Any  
Cobra, D4, D6, D9 Or Computer  
Up To A \$375.00 Saving  
Choose A Cobra 2 & Save Another  
\$25.00**

Offer Expires December 31, 2009

### \$\$\$\$ Get Your Free Mask, Fins, & Snorkel Here \$\$\$\$

Scubapro has always been a great innovator in the dive equipment business. They have some really forward thinking engineers. Now their marketing people are getting on the band wagon as well. They have come to us with a program that will allow us to deduct the cost of your purchase of Scubapro mask, fins and snorkel, for the price of a Scubapro regulator, BC, and computer. Unfortunately the program ended on October 15th. However, we purchased 14 of these sets of equipment so we could offer you the deal into the Holidays. You can choose from any Scubapro equipment we have in stock. So it can be their best mask, fins, & snorkel and we will still deduct that price from your package. Or just purchase the package and choose your Scubapro mask, fins, and snorkel at no charge. If you already purchased your mask, fins & snorkel from us, we will rebate you the difference. We don't want you to miss out on this great opportunity. There are no forms to fill out and nothing to mail in. We will just deduct it from your package price. There is one catch, though. We were only able to purchase the 14 packages this way. When they are gone, they're gone. They won't sell out in a week (we wish!), but they won't last until Christmas. Come see us now. We can even do a lay-away for you.

## Travel

Dolphins everywhere!!! We had just spent two dives playing with the sea lions and as we reboarded the boat, our divemaster said that he had a surprise for us. We quickly headed off to the east instead of north, back to port. We realized that they had gotten word of *something* from one of their other boats. The ocean was just dead flat - one of those rare days. But in the distance we could see some kind of disturbance on the surface. It was a huge area, the size of a football field. As we drew closer, I could see through my telephoto lens that it was a massive school of dolphins, probably well in excess of 500. As we drove our boat into the school, they rode our bow wave, surfed our wake side by side and leaped out of the water beside us. Cameras and videos clicked away with yells to "look this way" or "look that way." They were all around us. Then looking a little into the distance we could see 2 whales to the west and a couple more to the south. Decisions. Decisions. We decided to stay with the dolphins. It was fantastic - one of the neatest things I have ever seen. How can you get to experience this kind of thing? It is simple. Be there. The more you are there (out on the ocean), the more likely you are to run into these phenomena. They are wild animals. We can increase your chance by picking the right operation and the right time of year, but you need to be there.

### Weekend In The Bahamas

One of our really popular trips has been our 4 - 5 day trips to the Bahamas. We are hoping to run a trip to Freeport or Nassau in March, but at the moment, the airfare prices are still pretty high. As with the weather, we know airfare can change every day. So we are keeping an eye on it and looking for a deal for you. What we need to know is who would be interested, so when we find a deal we can contact you immediately. We are not asking for a commitment. We are looking for who may be interested. If this is something that works for you, just send Nancy a note at nhf56@aol.com. We will contact you when we find the right deal.

### Blackbeard Cruise -- March 6 - 12

One of the best deals in Caribbean diving is a cruise aboard one of the Blackbeard yachts. These 75-foot sailboats cruise the Bahamas and offer up to 5 dives a day. This Spring Break trip also includes all your meals and drinks with the exception of one meal that we do onshore to give the chef the night off. There is nowhere that you can get a guided trip that is pretty much all-inclusive for only \$850 plus airfare. And if your budget allows we can even arrange for you to spend an extra 2 nights on land in the Bahamas. Let us know immediately if you are interested.

### Little Cayman -- April 4 - 11

If you asked me what my favorite dive locations in the Caribbean are, the answer would be Little Cayman or Bonaire (see below). I will be leading a group to Little Cayman once again this Spring. With great dives along Bloody Bay Wall and a trip over to the sunken Russian destroyer off Cayman Brac, you will be thrilled with the diving. And you will get plenty of it. We will be doing 3 boat dives daily (two on our last dive day). And the trip also includes 3 meals a day. I always tell everyone to wear loose clothes. The food is excellent. And to top the whole thing off, we got some great airfare, direct Philadelphia to Grand Cayman. We are only holding 10 tickets and 4 are already spoken for, so if you are

interested, give us a call immediately. Incidentally, our departure date is Easter Sunday. The price is only \$2325 for everything but divemaster tips and alcohol.

### Bonaire -- April 24 - May 1

If you have not yet done Bonaire, then it is time. This is one of the best places in the Caribbean to dive, especially for beginners. But if you are an experienced diver, you will still find plenty of dives to excite you. There are walls, a good wreck, some challenging beach dives, and if you are into photography, there are seahorses, frogfish, plenty of eels, decorator crabs, and more. If you are not an underwater photographer, check out our Underwater Photography course below. The trip includes your airfare, condo, breakfast, diving, a rental car per condo, breakfast, unlimited nitrox, a \$75 food credit and more. Call or go to our website for details. Cost is \$1780.

### Another Girls Only Weekend

I know that it is hard for us guys to believe, but our recent girls only trip was a rousing success and, believe it or not, they want to do another one without us. What are we doing wrong? Anyway, ladies, Barb is looking at late May, hopefully to Barbados. Right now we can find some good deals but they extend only until late April. We are trying to extend that. Unfortunately, we need the newsletter to go to print. So if you are interested, contact Barb at Divingbabe@aol.com or call us and we will get you the details as soon as we have them. Don't miss your opportunity. It is obviously a great trip. (I wouldn't know.)

### Truk, Palau, & Yap

History, underwater. Sunken ships, planes, tanks, & trucks. Swim along passageways that Japanese sailors were fighting from as the ships were sunk from beneath their feet. Truk was a major supply and repair depot for the Japanese during WWII. It was attacked by a massive US Naval fleet in what was known as Operation Hailstone in April, 1944. The fleet even included the USS New Jersey in its first combat action. In 48 hours, US Navy aircraft sunk over 50 Japanese ships in the lagoon. They also destroyed most of the Japanese land facilities. Our forces then bypassed the lagoon without invading as they continued their march towards the Japanese homeland. Not only will you have the opportunity to dive these incredible wrecks and experience history undisturbed, you will find the wrecks covered in beautiful soft corals and inhabited by schools of colorful fish. Scientifically, it is a great laboratory to see how coral grows. We know the exact date of the sinkings, so we can determine how long it takes these corals to grow on an empty surface. From here we head to Palau. I consider Palau to be one of the prettiest places in the world, both above and below the surface. Palau is made up of about 200 individual islands, some only a couple of dozen yards across. The bases of these islands are cut away by the movement of the ocean and since they are topped with jungle, they look like giant green-topped mushrooms. Underwater, it is fabulous as well. One of the dives, Blue Corner is considered one of the best dives in the world. It is one of my favorite dives. Palau was also the site of some major WWII battles, think Peleliu, and you will see some evidence of this but it is the beauty of Palau we are there to see. Finally, it is on to Yap, famous for its giant manta rays. We will dive a site known as Mil Channel where schools of giant mantas, some up to 13-feet across, come into a cleaning station. They will hover right in front

of us patiently waiting for the young fish to come out from the reef to clean the parasites and dead skin from their bodies. They will sit there just feet from you. It gets your heart racing. We are setting up the trip so you can do all or just part of it. Call me if you are interested or e-mail me at [uw@aol.com](mailto:uw@uw@aol.com) for details.

### **Bonaire -- July 31 - August 7**

If you read the piece above about Bonaire, you know my feelings about it. Bonaire is also the site of our annual "Family" trip. We call it that because so many families choose to go even though you do not need to go with your family. There are many singles that go as well. But with it happening during the summer vacation, it is a great opportunity to take your family on a vacation that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Condos offer the opportunity to keep some food and drinks in the fridge and keep the cost down. And with other families there, it gives your kids others to interact with as well as other parents to swap child care duties so you can go diving or out to a romantic dinner. The trip includes everything in our April trip above and more. The cost is \$1780. Contact us for details.

### **Philippines -- March 5th - 19th**

Jeff and Ada (see Buddy Teams) have just recently returned from the Philippines on a scouting trip. They were thrilled with what they found and are planning a group trip in early 2011, so it gives you some time to save. This will be a great trip with incredible diving. Seahorses, ghost pipefish, flamboyant cuttlefish and more. You can do up to 4 dives or more a day. It includes airfare, lodging, meals, diving, internet access and unlimited shore diving. And there are plenty of other things to do nearby. The cost of the trip is \$4626 which is a great deal for a trip of this length and distance. For more information, check our website or contact Jeff at [jashtgac@aol.com](mailto:jashtgac@aol.com).

### **In The Future**

We are also working on future trips to Cozumel, October 30, 2010, to the Red Sea and Africa, and more.

### **Courses**

Even though we are well into Fall, that does not mean the diving activity is drying up, so to speak. It is a great time to consider Scuba lessons as a holiday gift. Our regular repertoire of classes are starting again just after the first of the year. We will have classes from Quakertown to Abington, from Ambler to Northeast Philadelphia. That will get your buddies certified in time for the next diving season or even a late winter dive trip (see above). Gift cards are available for any of our courses. Check our website for dates and times or give us a call.

### **Advanced Course**

Build confidence. Increase your skill level. Although our local Advanced Courses are over for the season, we often conduct these courses in conjunction with our trips. So if you are considering one of our trips consider an Advanced Course as well. If you cannot make one of our trips, keep an eye on our website for local dates starting again in May.

### **Underwater Photography -- December 5 & 6**

Some people find it hard to take a course during weekday evenings so we have decided to run one on a weekend. This course will run on Saturday December 6th from 4 to 8 pm and then Sunday morn-

ing from 10 am to 2 pm. Capture those photos that show your friends why you are a scuba diver. It is easy with today's digital cameras. You know immediately whether you have the photo or not and if it is any good. If not, adjust and take it again. It has made underwater photography available to everyone. The cost is \$125 and you don't even need to have a camera. However, if you would like your own, look above. And if you think you can get it cheaper on the internet, you will see our prices are just as good and you have a live person (me) to guide you with your purchase.



### **Equipment Specialist Course -- December 10 & 17**

It's Life support equipment. Do you ever wonder how it works? Well, no one can guide you through that better than Tim. He is the most knowledgeable technician in the area. He will teach you not only how it works, but show you what you can fix in the field. (Some things really do need to come into the shop for repairs.) You will go through regulators, bcs, suit repairs, and computers. If you haven't purchased your own equipment yet, it will even give you insight into what to look for. It is \$110 and two nights long.

### **Nitrox Diver**

Remember that Nitrox is not for deep diving. It is used to extend our dive times in the 60 - 130 foot range or to create a greater safety margin in those same depths. We do offer these courses monthly. And we can offer one to fit your schedule for 2 or more divers. It is usually held over 2 nights but as above we can do it in a one weekend day format. Watch our website or call us if you need some specific dates.

### **Upcoming Courses**

Obviously some of our course need to be done in openwater, so dates re dependant on access to Dutch Springs which closes for the winter. As such, some of our courses are in the planning for the Spring, which really isn't that far away.

Advanced Course -- May 13 & 14

Scuba Camp -- June 21 - 25 and August 23 - 27

Rescue Diver -- June 12 & 13

Master Diver -- June 17

Divemaster/Assistant Instructor -- April 12

Scuba Instructor -- June 1

### **Great Dry Suit Deal - Save \$770.00**

We are part of a special dry suit deal offered by DUI, the premier dry suit manufacturer. If you purchase a DUI Stock dry suit, we will, at no charge, upgrade you to a "Select" Suit. That gives you the choice of extended sizes, boot changes, and choice of colors. You also get a free Sport package, including a hood, pocket and CF-200 kneepads, and best of all, you get free Actionwear professional drysuit underwear. This adds up to a huge \$770.00 savings. Buy it before the holidays and we will throw in a dry suit course at no charge. Now it is \$900 in savings.

## Buddy Teams

Now here is an announcement that I haven't had the pleasure of making in our newsletter yet. On Friday, November 6, one of our instructors, Ada Staal, Jeff Smith's wife became a U.S. citizen. Ada was born in the Netherlands and came to the U.S. in 1996 for grad school. She then returned to take a post doc position at the University of Mass before taking a job in Pennington, NJ as a senior researcher in Type II Diabetes research. We all extend our congratulations to her and welcome her to our American family. Looking ahead. It is now less than 90 days until my son, Jeff returns from deployment with the Pennsylvania National Guard in Iraq. He has been working with air operations which includes med evac, force protection, troop movement and resupply. Although not a pilot for the Guard, he does often volunteer to fly on some air missions. I am looking forward to a good night's sleep upon his return. Jeff's best friend, Greg Kuleba, who was running patrols with the National Guard Stryker Brigade returned a few weeks ago, I am sure to the immense relief of his parents. We are very proud of these incredible young men and women who are out there serving our country.

## Lose Some Weight

No, this is not about a New Year's resolution. This is about beating the airlines at their baggage games. Have you ever weighed your empty wheeled gear bag? Well, you may be shocked to find out that it makes up 30% of the weight of your luggage. Really. Now, one way to get rid of some of that weight is to give up wheels on your bag, but we don't want to do that. A better way is to look at some of the new lighter bags available. And even look at some of the new lighter equipment to go along with it. My dive bag typically tips the scales close to the 50 pound maximum. I just put together and weighed a set of equipment packed in one of the new light-weight wheeled dive bags and with mask, fins, snorkel, reg, bc, boots, a 3mm jumpsuit (not shorty) and dive computer. And the whole thing weighed less than 27 pounds. That is almost half the weight of my bag. You can still add enough clothes for a week in the islands (unless you are Nancy) and be packing one bag, less than 50 pounds. You'll even find yourself using your new dive bag for all your trips, not just dive trips. And look below and you will see that we have some great deals on these new bags.

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## Holiday Bag & BC Sale

**Ends December 31st**

**Save 25% or More**

## Win Free Stuff In Our Holiday Drawing

Don't miss this great sale. It will be the biggest one of the year. We have select BCs available for 25, 30, or even 35% off. We have dive bags that we purchased just for this sale. We will have them at prices that you will not find even on the internet. These are not closeouts, but brand-new bags from a couple of major manufacturers. Lightweight bags that are great for travelling. We also have a deal on Suunto computers that will save you \$175 off the list price of Cobra, Cobra 3 or D-series computers. And if you would like a Cobra 2, we have a few of those left and can save you \$200 off the list price. The Cobra 2, is Nitrox compatible, pc-downloadable and has a digital compass. We have some great super stretch wetsuits for 35% off in select sizes and colors. And to make your shopping even more fun, we have free 2010 calendars for every customer (while supplies last, but we bought a bunch) and we will enter you in our Holiday drawing. For each purchase you make between now and December 23rd (my birthday) we will give you an entry into the contest. On the morning of the 24th, we will draw the winners and give you a call. We will be giving away a 2010 Season Pass to Dutch Springs, a Deep See wet suit, a SeaQuest dive bag, and more. Make sure to use Underwater World for your Holiday shopping.



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