

# DUGGAN DIVING FEBRUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER

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## INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO DIVERS:

Congress is creating legislature to stop shark finning. Here is the site for the petition: [Tell Congress: Ban Shark Finning](#)

You can view this petition at: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/tell-a-friend/3110302>

Found out an interesting bit of information about ticket use when you cancel. I thought that the ticket could be exchanged up to one year from cancelled flight date. That was wrong. It is one year from ticket purchase date. If you cancel a flight make sure you check when you purchased the ticket so you do not lose the chance to exchange it for a fee.

Scubapro's special sale that gave a free Aladin Prime computer when you purchased a BCD with Air 2 and a regulator ended 31 Dec 08. In anticipation of demand we purchased a large number of them. We still have a few left and we will honor that special in the store until those are gone. Once they are gone the Aladin Prime Computer will be back up to \$458.

We now have the new Scubapro catalogs in the shop.

## TRAVEL

I just returned from a trip to the Raja Ampat area of Indonesia. The trip did not start off very well as after a long flight from the US to Bali (we stayed two nights at the Santika which was great as always) we had to fly to Ambron via Udong. Paid all kinds of overweight charges on every leg of trip from Bali. Arrived in Ambron and boat was not ready, they were not too exact on problem but said it would be ready that night. We took

a long ride in small vans to a resort ( ) and hung around. They fed us (food fair at best) and we waited here until about 8 PM. They then told us they would not have the boat ready so took us to hotel for night. Small but clean, no other amenities other than a/c. Went to breakfast at small restaurant next door and then back to resort. Boat still not ready so they took us on two dives. Reef OK but nothing spectacular on first dive. Next dive; muck dive was great. Flambouyant cuttlefish, two rhinopias, two blue ribbon eels together and many more creatures. Back to hotel for second night as boat still not ready. Same thing next morning and waited most of day for boat. Finally got on late in afternoon. The MY Seahorse is the typical boat for this part of the world. Rooms were OK, but camera room somewhat small and short of charging stations. The next day the diving was OK but again not great. The second day out we got in the Misool area and the diving improved dramatically. Lots of pygmy seahorses and other creatures. The next day even better with lots of manta rays. Visibility at times was less than great and the night muck dives were too silty. The reef dives revealed numerous epelate sharks and wobbegong sharks. The Raja Ampat area is superb but I have seen diving as good in other parts of Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. I think too many people come here expecting too much and get disappointed. I would definitely return, but not through Ambron or on the Seahorse. Peter Hughes has a new boat in the area called the Paradise Dancer. It is the largest and most luxurious live-aboard dive boat I have ever seen. It is only a few hundred more than the Seahorse but offers a great deal more in size, amenities, food and camera room. It does 12 day trips out of Sarong. You fly to Singapore then on to Manado. From there you fly to Sarong. On the way back you can drive from Manado to one of the Lembah Straits resorts like Kasawari. Lembah is the best muck diving on the world and you frequently see mimic octopus, wonderpuss, lue ringed octopus and every other exotic creature you can name. I stayed overnight in Singapore on the way back but was still a long 38 hours to home. Plan on setting up a trip there in 2011 on the Paradise Dancer. The Paradise dancer is pretty pricey (about \$400 a day). You can get great diving at Wakatobi for less and a week in Lembah (best exotic creature dive in the world) followed by a week at Bukanan in the coast off of Northern Sulawesi (great coral reef diving) for about the same amount. Will look at both itineraries.

#### PANAMA CITY FLORIDA (17-21 May, 2-6 Aug, 11-15 Oct 2009)

These are trips that offer six dives on the shallow wrecks of Panama City. The trip includes four nights in a motel (dbl), three days of two tank boat diving, going away dinner at Capt. Anderson's. Tanks are also included with air fills. Nitrox is extra. The cost is \$618.50 for a diver and \$314.00 for a non-diver on the May trip and \$595.00 for a diver and \$280 for a non-diver on the Aug and oct trips. We had the meals dropped except for the going away dinner at Capt. Anderson's as it is easier to get our own and keeps the price down.

The Wreck diver and other specialties are available on the trip at a reduced cost. Wreck is \$100 for PADI (non-penetration) and \$150 for penetration certification from NAUI (you need a reel (not a finger spool) for the penetration course).

We will try to follow each trip with an optional day of diving on the Oriskany Aircraft Carrier in Pensacola. These will be recreational dives on the island above the deck at a max depth of 130 feet. These dives are not included in the above fees and cost

approximately \$150 for a two tank dive. Sign up at the shop or call for additional information. Fuel fees are also now in effect . About \$5 a diver per day.

**DUMAGUETTE RESORT IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS. JUNE 12 TO 19** (days at resort; will depart from states two days early). Set your flight to arrive in Manila on 11 June.

Here is the information on a dive trip to some of the most fantastic diving in the world. This is a fabulous resort with one of the best dive sites (The Pier) that I have ever seen. We will be going there in June (a max of 10 divers) if you are interested. I need a \$500 deposit asap to firm it up. Everyone is getting their own air round trip to Manila from the US. I have the in country air.

### **7 night Dumaguete**

\$1730/person

- airfare from Manila to Dumaguete
- 1 night at luxury Manila hotel
- 7 nights at Atlantis Dumaguete in a deluxe room
- 3 meals /day
- 6 days of diving – up to 4 dives/day (2 day trips to Apo Island)
- airport/hotel transfers going and returning in Manila & Dumaguete.
- hotel taxes

NOT included:

- Meals and beverages not specified
- \$3/person/day park fees in Dumaguete
- NITROX

This is great diving and the best value for your money I can think of. The trip is all inclusive and includes room (dbl) diving and meals. Soda and alcohol are extra. Nitrox is also extra. Those that went last year loved it and several of us are returning. I am going directly from Dumaguete to Truk Lagoon, but an extended Stay at Dumaguete can be arrange if desired.

**SEVEN OR FOURTEEN DAY TRIP TO TRUK LAGOON – BEST WRECK DIVING IN THE WORLD** - 20 to 28 June or 20 June to 3 July 2009. This trip will be for both technical and recreational divers. The technical divers will have the additional cost of helium and oxygen. I am hoping to take two days and search for the Japanese Destroyer that slid off the reef in 1944 and has never been located.

**13 night Truk Stop:** (7 day trip is \$1795)

\$2255/person

- 13 nights at Truk Stop in a deluxe room
- 12 days of 2 tank boat diving with Truk Stop
- airport/hotel transfers and hotel taxes

NOT included:

- Meals and beverages
- \$30/person dive permit fee
- Tech diving fees (helium & oxygen if Tech diving)
- NITROX
- \$20/person Truk departure tax
- Day room in Guam
- Room in Hawaii if desired

Cost also include:

Airport transfers on Chuuk

6 or 12 nights at Truk Stop Hotel

5 or 11 days of two tank boat dives (additional dives available for extra fee (TriMix divers will be limited to two dives a day while using trimix).

Airport/hotel transfers in Guam

Taxes except for departure tax

Not included:

Departure tax, Tips, Meals (reasonable at hotel), Nitrox, Oxygen and Helium

NEED YOUR DEPOSIT OF \$1000 NOW AND FINALPAYMENY 1 APRIL IF YOU ARE GOING ON THIS TRIP.

Final Payment due 1 APR 2009

IF YOU WANT TO COMBINE THESE TRIPS SUCH AS ONE WEEK DUMAGUETTE AND ONE WEEK OR TWO WEEKS TRUK, CALL.

COZUMEL 13-20 JULY 09: This is a one week trip with five days of two tank guided boat dives and unlimited shore diving. Seven nights (dbl occupancy) at the Village Tan Kah Hotel (near the Casa Del Mar). Cost is \$595 per person and includes taxes.

Not Included:

Round trip air fare (about \$400 on Continental and cheaper on the charters. Also look into Viva air from Austin as they sometimes have a shuttle from San Antonio).

Cozumel Marine Park Fee (about \$3 per diving day)

Hyperbaric Chamber Insurance (DAN covers it)

Ground transfers (you can get these at airport)

WAKATOBI. October 2009 .Three days in Bali followed by ten days at the resort. Rebreathers can be supported there. Fantastic diving and excellent resort. I am looking at doing a flip flop for myself and 11 others. We could spend a week at

the resort and then do the outer islands on the Pelagian for a week. I can take 11 people on the boat. Everyone gets their own air to Bali and back. Cost for the resort is :

	Garden Bungalow	Beach Bungalow	Select Bungalow	Wakatobi Villa
7 Day	\$2510	\$2810	\$3140	\$3460
10 Day	\$3490	\$3910	\$4350	\$4820

Above prices do not include the round trip air on their private charter which costs \$465.

Prices include: meals, rooms as above double, diving (pretty unlimited), transfer from airfield to resort by van and then boat.

PELAGIAN Live-Aboard Costs:

	Standard	Deluxe	Superlux	Master
7 Day	\$2540	\$2790	\$2940	\$3190
10 Day	\$3540	\$3890	\$4090	\$4490

Not included;

Indonesian Visa (about \$25 at airport)

Nitrox (must be paid at the resort or on boat)

Oxygen and scrubber if using your rebreather

Alcohol or soft drinks

Tips if super service and you want to, no pressure.

Round trip air to Bali from the US

Hotel in Bali (I will check on prices for the Santika)

Tours in Bali (great and reasonable)

FOR FULL DETAILS ABOUT ROOMS ETC. GO TO [WWW.WAKATOBI.COM](http://WWW.WAKATOBI.COM)

If interested I need a \$700 deposit asap.

KEY LARGO FLORIDA July 12- 15 July 2009 I will send a deposit when I have 10 interested. The cost is approximately \$600 for three days of diving It includes accommodations (dbl) Two tank morning dives (one on the Spiegel Grove and one on the Duane weather permitting), one night dive. Tanks and weights are included. Spirit air flies into Fort Lauderdale round trip for under \$200. We may have to adjust the trip days by one day to accommodate their schedule. We will split rental vehicles. Cal the shop with your \$200 deposit which is fully refundable if we do not book the trip due to lack of interest.

Final payment if booked will be 5 May 09.

BONAIRE OCT 17-24 2009. 16 PEOPLE ONLY.

Bonaire has again been rated the best diving destination in the Caribbean, best shore diving, best marine life, best reef conditions, best visibility, and the best value for the dollar for the seventh straight year.

Here are the prices for your Bonaire group for October 17-24, 2009!

Need a \$600 per person deposit ASAP. Final payment due 15 Aug 09.

\$1579 per person includes:

\*\*Round trip air from SanAntonio to Bonaire

\*\*7 nights @ Sanddollar w/4 in a 2 bedroom/2bath fully equipped condo with full kitchen

\*\*6 days of 1 tank boat dives

\*\*6 days of unlimited shore diving

\*\*Free unlimited nitrox

\*\*Double cabin pick up truck w/ac for the stay

\*\*taxes (except on truck ---those are paid on island)

Air schedule:

DL4372 17OCT San Antonio to Atlanta 530A 845A

DL 313 17OCT Atlanta to Bonaire 935A 143P

DL 312 24OCT Bonaire to Atlanta 245P 701P

DL4391 24OCT Atlanta to San Antonio 945P 1114P

Delta flights can give you Continental miles as long as they are sky team members.

DIVE THE WONDERFUL WATERS OF RAJA AHMPAT (THE TOP DIVING DESTINATION IN THE WORLD). PRECEDE IT WITH A WEEK IN THE LEMBAH STAITs AT KISAWARI RESORT.

First 12 days on the Luxurious Paradise Dancer followed by 5 days at

The Kasawari Resort, a new fantastic place on the Lembah Straits. The Dancer goes from Sarong to the Raja Ampat area of Indonesia. This is rated the best dive location in the world.

Lembah is the best macro photography and exotic creature area in the world.

You can do the 12 or the five day trip or both.

We can also do Bali on the way back if desired.

Very expensive trip. \$4200 for the 12 days on Paradise Dancer alone.

Waiting for full costs.

Also pricing out a land trip at Lembah and Bunakan. One week at upscale Kisawari in Lembah plus one week at Santika Resort at Bunaken is \$2985 per person dbl. Kisawari is three dives a day and all meals (nitrox and extra dives additional).

3 dives a day at Santika (lunches not included here).

Air cost from Houston to Singapore and then to Manado on Singapore airlines (super airline) is \$995 plus taxes.

No firm date yet but looking at this winter (their summer) around Jan 2010 or next summer (their winter) around July 2010.

Need a \$500 deposit for this trip. Suggest your selected time to go.

DIVE TRIP ON THE SPIRIT OF NIUGINI LUXURY BOAT from Talawi Resort in Milne Bay. Oct -Nov 2010. This is a fantastic boat at a fantastic location.

Boat will depart Tawali Resort in Milne Bay New Guinea and cruise the outlying islands seldom dove by anyone else. The boat holds 16 People in double rooms with ensuite bath. Cost for main deck rooms is \$2760. For lower deck is \$2560.

There is also a \$199 fuel charge added on to each type of room. We will most likely fly from LAX to Nadi, Fiji on Air Pacific and then on to Port Moresby and Talawi on Air Niugini. Too early for prices yet. A \$200 deposit holds your place on this adventurous trip. I have been on the boat before and it was great. I am planning to offer an additional week at Walindi Resort or Kimbe Bay if people interested. Originally considered Tufi but when I checked it out the boat rides were too long each day to get in more than two dives.

#### POTENTIAL TRIPS:

I have tentatively scheduled several trips. I need to know exactly who wants to go and is willing to make a deposit before I send in several thousand of non-refundable deposits to them.

One week at Lembah followed by Bunakan in Northern Sulawesi.

FIJI BEGA LAGOON AND OPTIONAL DIVING WITH WHALES ON TONGA.

You can do either week or both of them. I am looking at a trip in August 2010. I

need 10 people to make it go. The Fiji trip with air out of LAX to include room (dbl), meals, diving and transfers is \$2860. The Tonga trip with air from Fiji would probably add about \$1200. The Tonga trip itself would be about \$3100. If interested let me know. If I get 10 I will set it up. This is your chance to dive with humpbacks and maybe sperm whales.

Beqa Lagoon Resort [www.begalagoonresort.com](http://www.begalagoonresort.com)

\$2599 PLUS \$305 FUEL SURCHARGES = \$2904 per person includes:

\*\*Round trip air from Los Angeles to Nadi, Fiji

\*\*7 nights at Beqa Lagoon Resort w/2 per Bure

\*\*All meals daily

\*\*5 days of 2 tank boat dives

\*\*Unlimited shore diving

\*\*Unlimited use of kayaks

\*\*Transfers to and from airport/resort

\*\*Taxes

If interested in any of these trips let me know. If I have ten we can make it go at group rates.

TRAVEL TIPS Use a small portable scale to ensure you are not overweight. It is a lot better to weight the bags at your hotel or on the boat rather than shift gear from bag to bag while impatient travelers wait their turn at the ticket counter. We have the small ballazar scales at the shop.

Carry as much as can fit in the overhead on US airlines. The heavy stuff can save you money on a trip.

Always carry your regulator, computer and mask with you as they are the few items you need to dive comfortably.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO TIPS. Use an external strobe for best pictures. It does not matter if you are using a synched strobe or a slave; they will both offer more light with less back scatter. The optical fiber that SeaLife and Sea& Sea use guarantee a firing each time and account for the pre-flash digital cameras have. Remember, even the best of stobes is only good for a short distance, especially in the daylight. 6-8 feet is max, with the shorter being the best. When using video do not zoom while recording. Zoom in on standby and then focus before recording. The more zoom the less light and color you will get.

TRAINING Feb/ Mar 2009

Open Water Course Start Dates: Feb 16—Mar 2, 16, and 30

Advanced Open Water Course:

Rescue Course Start Date:

Nitrox Classes:NAUI/PADI/TDI/ These classes cost \$100 plus training package. There are evening and weekend classes. Classes last 3-4 hours.

Evening classes: 6:00 PM at store on

Weekend Classes: 10 AM at store

TECHNICAL NITROX/DECOMPRESSION Start Date: Feb 19 at store.

RECREATIONAL TRIMIX (Helitrox) Mar 31 at 6 PM at store. \$200 plus gas.

TRIMIX Course Start Date: Course in progress. Next Course late spring 2009.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL DIVING (doubles/Din regs/lift bags and reels supplied) \$250 Feb 17 at store at 6 PM at store

Introduction to Rebreathers; Learn and dive semi-closed and fully closed circuit rebreathers. Cost is \$300 with rebreathers, and materials supplied. The course will include classroom, practical application such as packing scubbers and assembly of units as well as diving the unit in a controlled environment. On demand.

REBREATHER Course on Draeger Dolphin (rebreather supplied) \$500. This fully certifies you to dive the Draeger Dolphin or Atlantis (the main unit available for rental worldwide) and is a good preparation if you plan on going on to closed circuit rebreathers. As requested

DRY SUIT Course: As requested. \$150 if you have your own dry suit. Free if you buy the suit from us.

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY Course (35 mm shark Camera in housing included) starting as requested at 6 PM at store. \$150.

NAUI FIRST AID /CPR Course as requested (\$60 plus book). If you want the full certification to include oxygen provider, blood borne pathogens, AED and Marine Life treatment, the course cost is \$180 plus book.

ARE YOU A PHOTOGRAPHER? DO YOU FIND YOURSELF TRAILING BEHIND WHILE YOU TAKE PICTURES? DO YOU HAVE 100 DIVES LOGGED? ARE YOUR BUOYANCY AND DIVING SKILLS GOOD? IF SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO BECOME A CERTIFIED SOLO DIVER. THIS COURSE TEACHES YOU HOW TO SAFELY DIVE ON YOUR OWN. COST IS \$250 PLUS BOOK AND REQUIRES TWO OPEN WATER DIVES. IF QUALIFIED AND INTERESTED CALL THE SHOP.

#### EQUIPMENT:

Scubapro has a new regulator coming out. The first stages are the MK 25 and MK 17 polished to a high gloss. The second stages are the new A700. Quite a regulator. Scubapro calls it their crowned jewel as everything they know has gone into this one.

Oceanic has made some changes to its regulator.

We just received some pink Scubapro Twin Jet Fins. These and all other Twin Jet Fins are 25% off.

We also have one Uwatec Terra computer(the same as the Sol but without transmitting capability) for sale for 25% off.

EQUIPMENT TEST: Still playing with SeaLife still camera. Should have more time now that my camcorder has been flooded and died.

#### NAUI/PADI/SDI/TDI/SSI NEWS:

NAUI, like many other agencies is looking closer at on-line learning.

Nothing selected yet.

PADI is extending its e learning to their Advanced and Enriched Air Courses.

#### BOOK /VIDEO REVIEW:

SDI's Solo Diver training manual has been well constructed and is informative. Excellent manual for the course and leads to more technical programs.

TECHNICAL CORNER: There is a new technical agency called: Universal Diving Team (UDT). I have received an invite but have decided to pass.

DIVERS CERTIFIED IN JANUARY:

NAUI SCUBA DIVER (Tom Carnes Instructor)

Danica Alcaraz

Gab Alcaraz

Tony Alcaraz

Barrett Blaker

Melanie Swan

Erick Young

Brian Mullett

PADI OPEN WATER (Jerry Lucas Instructor)

Tammy DeShazo

Jessica DeShazo

Travis DeShazo

Walt Nichols

Buck Rogers

Deanna Perez

NAUI Eanx John Duggan Instructor)

Ashley Blaker

REFRESHER COURSE (Mike Craig DM)

Ashley Blaker

Marcos Barrientos

Introduction To Technical Diving

Technical EANx Diving

Decompression Techniques (John Duggan Instructor)

Eric Barrow

Scott Myers

Tri-Mix Diver (John Duggan Instructor)

Jerry Lucas

Danny Phillips

RECENTLY I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING RENTAL POLICY AND PRICES. THIS IS READILY AVAILABLE IN OUR AOW, NITROX BROCHURE BUT MANY HAVE NOT SEEN THIS. THIS IS THE INFORMATION IN THE BROCHURE AND CLARIFICATION OF OUR POSITION REGARDING RENTAL.

Rental rates are on a 24 hour clock. If equipment is needed earlier or kept longer, additional rental will be charged\*. No additional will be charged if return is prevented due to shop closure on holidays.

Rental is usually by item. There are two exceptions:

1. Thursday night and Sunday morning shop river dives.
2. Balmorhea dives\*.

There is a special rental fee of \$35 for number 1. above. This fee includes BCD, Regulator, wetsuit, weights and weightbelt. It does not include mask, fins, snorkel, boots, lights or computers. These are extra. Computers are never loaned except for the open water course dives. We will give a 10% discount when renting these items for shop sponsored river dives.

\*Items rented for a weekend Balmorhea trip will incur a two day rental fee with the following exception. Tanks will be rented for the weekend at a one day fee. You can pick the equipment needed on Friday and return it Monday and still only pay a two day fee.

The rental fees are:

Fins -\$7    Mask & Snorkel -\$5    Boots -\$5    Regulator - \$15  
BCD - \$15    Wet suits Full -\$16    Shortys-\$10    Tank (air)-\$10  
Tank Nitrox-\$15    Weights and weightbelt -\$4    Hoods -\$6  
Primary Light -\$8    Secondary lights -\$4 (no batteries included)  
Gloves -\$5    Compass -\$5    Dive computers \$25    Reels-\$5  
Lift bags \$5 to \$100    Dive flag & float -\$5    Sausage -\$5  
Double tanks \$35 (this is with air; other mixes extra)  
Stage bottle (\$15 with nitrox, \$40 with oxygen)  
Stage regulator (\$15 normal, \$25 oxygen clean)  
Digital depth gauge -\$10