



# Your Diving Connection

### Coming in Next

#### Quarter's Newsletter:

- New Diving Information from around the U.S.
- Class schedules.
- Updates on upcoming trips and new class offerings.

### Remember

If you can't find information in this newsletter about a dive class, or information about a dive trip or destination, please check with the shop.

## Reflections On Our First Year

It is coming up to the end of our first year of owning the dive shop. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to welcome us during our transition. We have enjoyed meeting so many from the area, and we hope that everyone is enjoying seeing the changes we have made. It has been challenging as we learn all of the work it takes to run a successful dive shop.

We have been able to bring Nitrox to the shop, as well as having the compressor at the shop and the one at France Park rebuilt. Owner Dave Gass is doing all equipment repair and maintenance on equipment from

manufacturers for lines we carry in the shop.

We wouldn't be able to offer all of the classes, or the variety, without our staff. We are very pleased that so many people are helping us to show students what we all enjoy so much about the aquatic world.

We look forward to being able to serve our local dive community in the coming years. Please continue to bring in your ideas and suggestions for dive destinations and classes to the shop when you come in to visit.



The store as it looks today. Look for even more changes in the future.

We still have plans for changes and new opportunities for the shop, so continue to stop in periodically and see if you can notice the changes.

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We would like to welcome Kimi Gooden. She is our new office manager and you can meet her most days at the shop. Kimi brings with her a great deal of retail experience and we look forward to showing her the diving industry. Kimi is also taking over some of the accounting responsibilities for Linda Gass who is staying busy lately "easing pain and suffering" in her

## Shop Updates

nursing job.

**Through July 31, you can purchase any Aqualung regulator and receive a free octopus—the term for those of us that have been diving for awhile—or alternate second stage (to use the proper term). It really is free, no strings attached!**

Class schedules are very fluid during the busy,

warm diving season. We have scheduled classes through August, so please check at the shop for any classes that are set after the printing of this newsletter.

**Look for our booth this year at the Howard County 4-H Fair, at the Cass County 4-H Fair, and at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair...**

## Staff Introductions

Our divemasters are integral in the success of our programs. We would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to achieve their divemaster ranking. Because of these people, we are able to continue the diving at France Park along with all of the classes that we offer throughout the year.

### Sandi Chapman

Sandi began diving in 1997.



After deciding that she wanted to encourage others to dive and

to show that there is year-around diving even in Indiana, Sandi earned her divemaster certification in July 2000. Currently, Sandi is enjoying exploring underwater caves and is thrilled to share all that she has learned about this interesting part of the scuba sport.

### Gil Topliff

Gil became a divemaster



in 1997 while continuing to develop his diving skills.

Being able to see what is under the water is what brought Gil to diving in 1995. Gil feels

that the true enjoyment of diving comes from the camaraderie and friendships that he has been able to develop with other divers he has met. He has been fortunate to be able to pursue diving, meet many interesting people, and develop and sustain life-long relationships.

### Steve Jackson

Steve has been interested in diving since seeing Sea Hunt on TV, he would never miss an episode. When Steve became a firefighter for the city of Marion, they offered to train and pay for classes so that he could be a member of the dive team. Obtaining his divemaster certification has allowed Steve to help run the city's dive team, as well as helping other people learn to dive. He has earned certifications from several dive agencies to advance his diving into the more technical side of diving, but still enjoys doing reef and wreck dives in the recreational area of diving.

### Matt Spane

Earning his divemaster certification in 2005, Matt Spane has been able to reach one of his personal goals to learn all of the skills required to reach this

professional level. He wanted to become a divemaster because he enjoys working with new divers and with those with more experience. Coming from a long line of family who have enjoyed scuba diving caused Matt to want to see what everyone else was talking about at family gatherings. Matt is interested in several areas of diving, including wrecks, DPV's, search and recovery, ice diving and using a full face mask. Matt enjoys getting to see and meet divers when he works at the shop in Kokomo and when he is working check-in at France Park. Make sure to tell him "hi" next time you see him.



### Diving Den Staff:

#### Instructors

Dave Gass  
Jeff Smith  
Bill Menges  
Marcy McCoy  
Tim Stahl  
Sheila Price

#### Assistant Instructor

Jim Miller

#### Divemasters

Sandi Chapman  
Steve Jackson  
Doug McCoy  
Matt Spane  
Gil Topliff  
Brian Turner

#### Store Staff

Kimi Gooden  
Roger Mitchell  
Linda Gass

**Please check our website often. We will post dive trips on there as soon as we have them.**

[www.divingden.com](http://www.divingden.com)

**Please note that France Park will not be open for diving until 1pm on July 22 due to the annual triathlon.**

## Latest France Park Information

France Park has been open since mid-April. The diving has been excellent so far this year. The visibility is better than we have seen in several years. Visibility ranged from 20 to 30 feet during May. There have been lots of paddlefish sightings so far this year.

As in the past, you will need to sign a release for each day you dive at the

quarry. The sign-in area will remain down by the air station. The cost is \$10 per day again this year.

The compressor at the park was completely rebuilt last fall and the entire storage and fill system has been replaced.

The beach is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There is a snack bar



at the beach, but it is only open when the beach is open.

Both space shuttles are still around, and it is quite challenging to find them since they move to new locations almost magically nearly every day.



# Class Schedule

<b>Open Water</b>	July 5,6,10,12 Wed, Thur, tues, Thur	July 11,13,18,20 Tues, Thur	August 1,3,8,10 Tues, Thur	August 14,16,21,23 Mon, Wed	August 14,15,16,17,18 Mornings	
<b>Open Water—Weekends</b>	July 8,9	July 22,23	July 29,20 Women’s Only	August 12,13	August 26,27	
<b>DAN Specialties</b>	Oxygen Provider July 19	Oxygen Provider August 2	Advanced Oxygen Provider August 9	Hazardous Marine Life August 15	Neuro August 22	
<b>Advanced Classes</b>	Nitrox July 7	Advanced Open Water July 8,9	Emergency First Response (CPR) July 15	Rescue July 25,27,29	Nitrox July 26	Advanced Open Water—Women Only July 29,30
	Nitrox August 7	Emergency First Response (CPR) August 12	Nitrox August 24	Rescue August 29,31, Sept 2		
<b>Evening Dives France Park 6:30-7 Check- in</b>	July 12	July 26	August 9	August 23		

## Congratulations to All!

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students who have taken classes with us. We have enjoyed meeting everyone and working with all of you to become better scuba divers. Part of the enjoyment of teaching is to see how much your students enjoy discovering and learning about the underwater environment.

We offer a wide variety of classes that would fit in with just about anyone’s area of interest. There are classes that don’t require diving time (such as learning about diving with Nitrox and equipment specialist) and classes that can help you feel much more confident with your diving skills (like navigation and buoyancy control).



Please let us know what you are interest in learning and we can help you to feel confident and more informed about the underwater environment.

## PADI Specialties of the Month—3rd Quarter 2006

PADI offers special deals with a different specialty certification each month of the year. With this certification, and your PADI Diving Society membership, you are eligible for a free gift from PADI.

For the month of July, the specialty is Deep Diver. This is a great opportunity to learn the safety procedures

for diving at depth with the supervision and help of an instructor.

August’s specialty is Wreck Diver. As more and more ships are developed into artificial reefs, the wreck diver specialty will help you to enjoy these new dives sites to the fullest potential.

The specialty in September is National Geographic Diver. This is an amazing way to learn all about the conservation, identification, and observation of the aquatic world.

Please stop by the shop to sign up for any, or all, of these specialties.





## Diving Den

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## PADI 5 Star facility

The latest intentional artificial reef is the USS Oriskany, sunk May 17, 2006 off of Pensacola, Florida. The Oriskany is an aircraft carrier. For more information, go to [www.ussoriskanyonline.com](http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com)

Check out our booth at several local county fairs. We will be at the Howard County, Cass County, and Tippecanoe County fairs. See you there!

There is a sale on Aqualung Regulators through July 31st. Stop by the shop to find that you can purchase an Aqualung regulator and receive a free Alternate regulator! That's an Octopus regulator for all of you older divers.

The world's largest marine preserve was created on 6/15/06. The northwestern Hawaiian Islands area is the US's 75th national monument, and is larger than Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

**Remember to check at the shop, or on our website, for additional classes or trips. Sometimes an opportunity arises quickly for a class or trip and we won't know in time to have all information in the newsletters.**

There are several marine preserves in the Great Lakes. These are excellent opportunities for fantastic, although somewhat cold, wreck diving close to home.