



EDA
جمعية الإمارات للغوص
Emirates Diving Association

EDITION 4 Vol. I
MARCH 2005

DIVERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS



**GO PRO! OPENING
DOORS YOU ONLY
IMAGINED**



CELEBRATING THE 10th ANNIVERSARY

Of The EDA Commitment to Marine Conservation



Plus! EDA Abu Dhabi Diving Committee, EDA & AMCAI International Workshop, Tips for Divers and more...

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THE DIVING VILLAGE



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DIVERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Please note that EDA's newsletter, "Divers for the Environment" includes articles written by individuals whose opinions, whilst valid, may or may not represent that of EDA. It is hoped that the newsletter can become a platform for individuals to voice their opinion on marine and diving related issues. You are welcome to submit an article for the next edition of "Divers for the Environment" released in June 2005. Send all articles/comments to Head Office edadiver@emirates.net.ae

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDA COMMITMENT TO MARINE CONSERVATION



As a nation of seafarers and pearl divers, we are historically and socially indebted to our seas. Our timeless heritage and traditions as people dependent on fisheries and sea borne trade have contributed enormously towards our regional prosperity and development.

From the earliest times, our part diving history allowed us to develop an intimate relationship with our natural world. Many of our seafarers, divers and fishermen had the instinctive ability to read every wave, to hear the wind and to feel the forces of nature. In today's world, instinct has largely been replaced by academics. The old ways make way for the new and our quest for prosperity makes way for a desire to further knowledge and understanding. As more and more scientists and divers explore the boundaries of our coastline, the information they unveil will become paramount to our government's efforts towards ensuring the survival of the seas.

When the EDA was founded in 1995, one of the main objectives was to help understand that our waters have been revealed to be rich and special. Divers are generally very aware of the fragility of the oceans, and we want to encourage the diving community to use their knowledge in helping others understand the needs of our marine world. The simplest way this can be achieved is through passing on acquired knowledge to others. In this issue, we appeal to all divers to take part in writing this newsletter. Ours is an appeal to all the diving communities throughout the UAE and all the seas of Arabia to join in and support this publication. The EDA is fully committed to creating a harmonious and healthy diving environment so that future generations will continue to enjoy the same marine life and experiences that we have. Over time, we shall be developing many ways for divers and non divers to participate with us in events, expeditions and research. To the retailers of the dive industry we say, thank you for supporting the EDA.

The EDA is a non-profit organization consisting of a handful of volunteers sharing a common goal, a love for the sea. We have set our goals with the best intentions in mind. Nevertheless we have understood the controversy surrounding an environmental subject and are willing to listen and share thoughts. Therefore, we call on those concerned individuals; organizations and agencies with a similar or common interest to come forward, suggest, share a thought or even lend a hand. We need your help and you can definitely make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Faraj Butti Al Mukhairbi

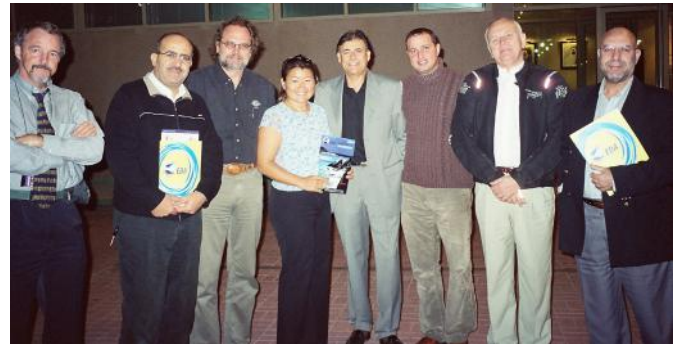
President of the EDA

"For most of our history, man has had to fight nature to survive. In this century man has learnt that in order to survive, he must protect it."

Jacques Yves Cousteau/ 1910-1997

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FORMATION OF THE EDA ABU DHABI DIVING COMMITTEE

It is our pleasure to announce the formation of the Emirates Diving Association Abu Dhabi Diving Committee. Active EDA members from Abu Dhabi met on 30th January 2005 to form a diving committee. The EDA founding members represent both dive clubs and dive retail of Abu Dhabi and include the following: Mr. Rashid Al Hassan (ADCO Dive Club), Mr. Hazim Chalabi (ADCO Dive Club), Mr. Vance Stevens (Petroleum Institute), Mr. Richard Wilding (Chairman of ADSAC Club), Mr. Maher Al Wazir (GASCO Dive Club), Mr. Ayman Wahbah (ADMA Dive Club), Mr. Peter Mainka (PADI Assistant Instructor), Mrs. Kathleen Russell (Al Masood Marine and Engineering) and Mr. Firas Kabra (Gulf Marine Sports). During the meeting, the founding members elected Mrs. Kathleen Russell as the Abu Dhabi Diving committee coordinator and Hazim Chalabi as the deputy coordinator.



Founding Members EDA Abu Dhabi Committee

EDA Board of Directors accepted the formation of the EDA Abu Dhabi Diving Committee to support promoting the activities of EDA in Abu Dhabi and the UAE.

Kind regards,

Kathleen Russell

EDA Abu Dhabi Committee Coordinator
Business Development Coordinator
Al Masood Marine and Engineering



Caroline Walsh with EDA Team



Caroline Walsh

EDA & AMCAI INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AT PDC

Caroline Walsh was a guest speaker at the Pavillion Dive Center doing a workshop on adaptive techniques for divers with physical disabilities.

The workshop was held by Caroline Walsh of AMCAI (Access to Marine Conservation for All Internationals). It was an introduction to who AMCAI is, the work they do and how they work to enable all people regardless of physical ability to access marine conservation activities.

The workshop demonstrated the range of marine conservation activities that AMCAI is involved with and gave us some insight. The event took place at the dive centre on Saturday the 5th of February between 15h00 and 18h00. A good number of interested divers showed up to the event where they had the chance to meet and learn from AMCAI International Team and had the pleasure in meeting Caroline Walsh.

The workshop was organized by Emirates Diving Association & Pavillion Dive Center - PDC and coordinated by Ernst Van Der Poll from PDC.

<http://www.amca-international.org/>

DUBAI GLOBAL YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL GATHERING

CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDA COMMITMENT TO MARINE CONSERVATION

By Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi, West Asia Coordinator, UNEP YouthXchange Project, Director of Environment Dept., Emirates Diving Association



THE 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED THE SECOND GLOBAL YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL GATHERING

The Emirates Diving Association (EDA) in association with the Naturalization & Residency Administration - Dubai Immigration and in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme - The Regional Office of West Asia (UNEP - ROWA), organized a six day global environmental gathering on occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the EDA commitment to marine conservation, it was the Second Global Youth Environmental Gathering from 29/1/2005 - 3/2/2005.

THE AIM OF THE GATHERING WAS TO:

- Introduce EDA's environmental activities in the regional and international level
- Encourage environmental tourism
- Spread awareness on global environmental issues
- Unite youth of the world for cultural understanding

THE GATHERING:

- An International Retreat based in Dubai
- Works with a network of organisations world wide
- Facilitate Youth Exchange
- Partnership with international organizations such as UNEP and local organizations all over the world

THE GATHERING TIME & AGENDA:

- During Dubai Shopping Festival 2005
- 29/1/2005 - 3/2/2005

GATHERING LOCATION:

- Knowledge Village - Dubai (Block 1)

GATHERING IN NUMBERS:

- Countries: 26
- 50 participants

AGENDA:

Saturday 29/1/2005

Half Day Opening at the Knowledge Village, Block #1 @ 9:00 am + DSF 2005 events visit.

Sunday 30/1/2005

Traditional Pearl Diving Trip, Pearl Diving Project is one of EDA's main projects to promote diving culture in the UAE.

Outdoor Sea event where certified divers are allowed to dive with EDA's team and the non divers to enjoy the culture and tradition of pearl diving, in the Arabian Gulf.

Monday 31/1/2005

Reef Monitoring Project visit on the East Coast of the UAE, certified divers are allowed to dive and the non divers can snorkel to see the coral reefs of the east coast of the UAE, Indian Ocean.

Tuesday 1/2/2005

Visit Arabia's Wildlife Centre in Sharjah. Plus Gala Dinner hosted by Dubai Immigration.

Wednesday 2/2/2005

Desert Safari and dinner in the desert.



DAY 2



DAY 3

REGIONS & COUNTRIES:

1. North America: USA, Canada
2. Latin America & the Caribbean: Brazil, Argentina
3. Africa: Kenya, Egypt, Madagascar
4. Europe: Croatia, Denmark, Austria, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Bosnia, UK, Switzerland, Germany
5. Asia Pacific: Kazakhstan, Australia, Turkey, Pakistan
6. West Asia: UAE, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan
7. United Nations Environment Programme
8. United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office of West Asia

SOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

1. UNEPTUNZA Youth Advisory Council
2. United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP
3. United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP, Regional Office of West Asia (UNEP - ROWA)
4. World Wide Fund for nature - Turkey
5. Clean Up the World Pty Ltd - Australia
6. Centre for Environment & Development for Arab Region and Europe - Egypt
7. Access for Marine Conservation for All International - UK
8. Jordan Press Agency - Petra



DAY 4



DAY 5



DAY 1 EDA talks to Jordan Press Agency



DAY 1 UNEP and EDA

GO PRO!

OPENING DOORS YOU ONLY IMAGINED

By Phil O'Shea

As a PADI Professional, you do things others only dream of. Whether you work in a local dive center, at a resort, or on a live aboard dive boat, the adventure of a lifetime is yours for the taking.

IMAGINE A JOB, where you actually look forward to heading off to work in the morning. Lead a life that others fantasize about. Sailing into incredible sunsets could be a regular occurrence and not just chance, especially if you work in a tropical dive destination. The commute to work could be as easy as a ten minute boat ride. Work now becomes an adventure in itself. While experiencing new cultures and lifestyles, you'll be surrounded by people who are always happy. When you are taking people diving all day, every day, everyone is happy. It's not all fun and games in paradise, but the rewards are worth the efforts.

IF YOU SET YOUR SIGHTS close to home and aspire to work at a local dive centre, you teach people how to dive and guide trips to exotic destinations. There is a sense of pride sharing something that you are passionate about. You help others enrich their own lives by experiencing the adventure of diving.

WORLDWIDE, more people learn to dive using the PADI System of diver education than any other recreational scuba programme. One reason for its popularity is PADI's use of the most modern instructional methods, digital materials and dynamic flow, which allow student divers to learn quickly and effectively. The PADI System is student centred, allowing divers to progress at their own pace. Because no one can learn everything about diving in one course, the system encourages divers to take continuing education programmes that enhance participation, enjoyment and safety.

PADI PROS are the most sought after dive leaders on the planet. At any given time, there are more positions available for PADI dive leaders than there are professionals to fill them. With more than 4,200 PADI Dive Centres and Resorts worldwide, the world is your playground.

PADI INSTRUCTORS and the PADI System of diver education are the benchmark by which all other Instructors and certification agencies are measured.



DIVEMASTER - THE FIRST STEP

Begin your dive career - take the first step and become a PADI Divemaster. You're eligible to start your PADI Divemaster training after you complete the PADI Rescue Diver Course. Working closely with a PADI Instructor, you'll expand your dive knowledge and hone your skills to the professional level. The most fulfilling part of the course is learning to supervise dive activities while assisting with diver training.

Divers look to you for leadership and your confidence grows with every assist you make.

PADI Divemasters are qualified to supervise and assist with both training and non training dive activities. Dive centres and resorts around the world employ PADI Divemasters to assist with dive classes and guide underwater tours. PADI Divemasters may conduct the PADI Discover Local Diving experience and Scuba Review programme for certified divers. They may also conduct the PADI Discover Snorkeling experience, PADI Skin Diver course, Discover Scuba Diving in confined water and now become an Emergency First Response or Care For Children Instructor.

PADI INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

PADI's Instructor Development Course (IDC) redefines the standard for Instructor Training. Coupled with PADI's state-of-the-art educational materials, the PADI IDC allows you to learn quickly and effectively. It's the most comprehensive diver training programme in the industry.

The IDC is the heart of PADI Instructor Training. During the course, you'll apply your diving knowledge and skills while learning to use the PADI System of Diver Education in the classroom and in the water.

RELAX WHILE YOU LEARN

The PADI IDC has been redesigned, making learning easier through instructional system design and cutting edge media. The new IDC, with its modern educational principles and manageable, positive learning structure is more effective and more efficient. The IDC is split up into two sections, The Assistant Instructor Course (AI), and The Open Water Scuba Instructor program (OWSI). This lets the programme fit into your busy schedule by allowing you to split up the course into two blocks of time or take a part time approach if time really is an issue.

The tropical and peaceful surroundings of the Jumeirah Beach Hotel allow for some much needed distraction. Never has an Instructor Development Course be so luxurious. Soak up some of our atmosphere while you learn.

THE PADI ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR

The PADI Assistant Instructor Course is the first section of the IDC and can be completed in as little as three days. During the course, you gain additional teaching experience while continuing to learn the PADI System of diver education. PADI's AI course adds to your abilities as a dive professional, while giving you the necessary tools to finish the IDC in the OWSI program.

PADI AI's conduct academic and pool presentations and evaluate PADI Open Water Course surface skills (under direct supervision of a PADI Instructor). AI's also teach some PADI Specialty Courses, conduct PADI Discover Scuba Diving experiences, PADI Seal Team Aqua-Missions and may also teach the Emergency First Response Course.



PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor Programme

PADI OPEN WATER INSTRUCTOR

The remainder of the IDC, the PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor programme, is the final development step in your quest to become a PADI Instructor. During the IDC, you learn to manage and adapt the PADI System of diver education to individual student needs. Comprehensive training supported by a wide variety of PADI educational materials, earn PADI Instructors respect from both students and peers.

The PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor rating sets you apart from the crowd, PADI Instructors may conduct the entire range of PADI programs from Discover Scuba through to Divemaster.

If you want to live an extraordinary life, you're in the right place.

Imagine smiles spreading across your students faces as their heads rise above the surface of the water. Now they share your passion for diving.



PADI IDC

**IMAGINE A JOB WHERE
YOU ACTUALLY LOOK
FORWARD TO HEADING
OFF TO WORK IN THE
MORNING**



Your journey is over. Now you are a PADI Instructor.

Contact the Pavilion Dive Centre for more details of forthcoming PADI Professional Courses.

Emergency First Response Instructor & DAN Courses on Request

Next Assistant Instructor Course on Request on 19th May 2005

Next Instructor Development Course on 19th to 28th May 2005

Instructor Examination on 29th May 2005



RESPONSIBLE WRECK DIVING CONSIDERATIONS

Shipwrecks offer adventure and are often included among the best dive sites in the world. Divers must be responsible when exploring these submerged sites, looking after themselves, the environment and the cultural heritage. It's important to adhere to special considerations:

1. RESPECT THE HERITAGE AND LOSS

Wrecks of military vessels or aircraft are often the last resting place of men and women who gave their lives while serving their nation. Treat these war graves with respect and honor to commemorate the lives sacrificed for their country. Protect underwater graves as you would any burial ground or memorial.

2. RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Low impact dive techniques are essential in preserving fragile wreck sites. It's important to fine-tune your buoyancy and streamline your equipment to avoid disturbing or damaging the artificial reef habitat during your dive. Use care to avoid touching the wreck with your hands, knees or fins. Whenever possible, use a mooring line instead of tying or anchoring on sites in a manner that may cause disturbance. Remember, many wrecks are habitats for entire ecosystems.

3. RESPECT OTHERS

Resist the temptation to remove anything from wreck sites. Taking souvenirs for yourself often limits interest and enjoyment for future divers. Wrecks are not renewable resources; important archeological evidence can be lost if an object is removed. As divers, we are merely visitors to these sites. As such, we are responsible for leaving the wrecks as we found them. Take photos rather than souvenirs, so that wrecks remain intact for future generations.



Photos by Jason Sockett on Zainab



4. RESPECT YOUR LIMITATIONS

Wrecks have claimed the lives of inadequately prepared divers. Exploring wrecks requires experience and supplemental skill training such as the PADI Wreck Diver Specialty course. This is especially true with regard to entering intact shipwrecks. Training for other overhead environments, such as caverns or caves, does not qualify you to enter wrecks. Know your personal limitations and dive ability. If necessary, seek additional training with a qualified instructor prior to wreck diving activities.

5. RESPECT THE LAW

Know and obey all local laws and regulations when wreck diving, such as diver access, restricted areas, fish and game laws and collecting and reporting underwater finds. In many instances, these laws exist for your safety and protection.

6. RESPECT SAFETY

Many military vessels laid to rest at sea still contain hazardous materials such as oil, firearms, heavy containers and munitions. In most cases, transporting these materials or bringing them ashore is far more dangerous than leaving them alone. For your safety and the safety of others, do not recover or interfere with dangerous materials.

7. RESPECT THE HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

Shipwrecks hold clues to our maritime past. Therefore, it's important not to disturb these submerged historical sites. As a diver, if you find an object or wreck that may be of historical importance, leave it where it lies, mark its position and seek advice from the local government authority who looks after historical and archeological finds.

Courtesy of Project A.W.A.R.E

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT ?



Kent from Al Boom Diving

Three Palm Islands, one World, buildings touching the skies and resorts like no where else. Dubai is the travel destination of this Century and the number of visitors and expat workers arriving in Dubai each year is set to increase manyfold.

Amongst all these visitors and new residents, there will be divers, who would like to see what our waters have to offer; as well as a large number of people who would like to learn to dive.

Surely, for anyone involved in the diving industry, this is all good news, but one can't help thinking about what impact such development will have on our precious dive sites and the environment. More divers, more operators, more boats and more diving staff. Images of the Red Sea and The Great Barrier Reef springs to mind; scores of dive boats queuing up to drop off their divers and snorkelers walking across the reef, picking up any loose object they come across or breaking bits of the reef.

Perhaps now is the time for all dive professionals and dive operators to join forces and agree on measures to enable us to deal with the increasing number of divers without damaging the environment. Or should I say, without afflicting too much damage to the environment, because it will be unrealistic to think that mass tourism will not have some form of impact on the local environment.

A forum of operators and professionals could discuss and agree on guidelines and procedures for issues such as mooring/anchoring and navigating at the dive sites, reef conservation, infrastructure, diver safety, decompression chambers, emergency plans etc. Basically, work out a set of standards that all operators and divers would have to follow.

Also, such a forum could be the voice when dealing with issues involving local Government, developers, Coast Guard, emergency services etc.

Finally, it could also be useful in promoting not only diving as a sport, but as a sport that can be exercised with respect for the marine environment.

Since most operators are already members of EDA, perhaps such a forum could be established under the umbrella of EDA?

I would like to invite all operators and dive professionals involved in the local diving industry to join in this initiative and voice your opinion. You can either contact the undersigned on **abdiving@emirates.net.ae** or EDA on **diving@emiratesdiving.com**



Written by Kent Madsen
PADI MSDT 474781

THE AIR WE BREATHE...

(A discussion on breathing air for sport diving by Stevie MacLeod, Scuba Dubai Workshop Manager)



Photo by John Liddiard

How often do divers hear the words “goggles”, “flippers” and “oxygen tanks” in films, magazines and from interested friends who want to talk about diving but are not divers themselves?

Any trained diver knows that the correct words are “masks”, “fins” and “cylinders”. However it is surprising how many people still think that divers breathe oxygen. Underwater we breathe air. Let's look at how it gets from the atmosphere into our diving cylinders.

First, let's ask a few basic questions. Why not dive with oxygen?

Oxygen gives us life, without it we would die. We all know this. What many non divers do not know is that if divers breathed pure oxygen below 6 metres (20 feet) then the oxygen becomes poisonous. It can cause convulsions similar to an epileptic fit and can easily lead to drowning. Pure oxygen is also a severe fire hazard as most things will burn in its presence. This causes problems for scuba diving cylinders, the cylinder valves and regulators.

So why do divers' use air?

Air contains ample oxygen to sustain life (20.9%). Our bodies function well on air, and, as it is mainly made up of nitrogen, it is not a fire hazard.

A question often asked by new divers (and those who resent paying for an air fill) is ‘Why does it cost me money to fill my diving cylinder? Air is every where and is free surely?’

My answer is that whilst air is free, the process of compressing, drying and cleaning that the air must go through to get into the scuba diving cylinder is not.

Breathing air compressors are expensive specialised pieces of equipment used to fill our diving cylinders to high pressure. They also use chemical filters and special oils which must be replaced often to maintain air quality. Compressors have pistons and cylinders a bit like a car engine, but unlike a car all the cylinders are connected. Each piston and cylinder is a smaller size than the one before. As air passes from one cylinder to the next it is compressed to a progressively higher pressure. Each squeeze by a piston produces heat (remember Boyles Law in Physics) and so there are cooling coils to cool the air between each compression. As the air cools in the cooling coil it becomes less able to carry water so the humidity drops out and is caught in water traps and drained away, drying the air (this is why diver's air is so dry). After the final compression, which can take the pressure up to as much as 414 bar / 6000 psi, the air passes into a chemical filter which cleans the air removing impurities such as water, oil, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, smells and tastes. The chemicals in the filter dictate what impurities are removed. For example a compressor powered by a petrol or diesel engine would require a filter which would remove carbon monoxide. An electrically powered compressor would be less likely to have problems from exhaust fumes. After passing through the chemical filter the air leaves the compressor and is delivered into the diving cylinders through a filling hose.

What chemicals in the filters do what?

Normally the first chemical the compressed air will pass through is molecular sieve 13x. This removes carbon dioxide and moisture. The air then moves through a bed of activated carbon which removes oil and odour. Beds of molecular sieve and activated carbon may be repeated to give greater cleaning of the air. Extra chemicals may be added like

soda lime for carbon dioxide removal, silica gel for water removal and hopcalite for carbon monoxide removal. The chemicals used are dependent on what contaminants are present in the air to be filtered. In the past it was possible to repack compressor filters with chemical media. Today however most compressor manufacturers use factory-packed filters as this gives a greater control over the quality of the air produced.

How long does a compressor filter last?

The compressor manufacturer states how long a filter will produce high quality air in their machine. This is related to the amount of air the compressor processes in a minute. If a large compressor and a small compressor use the same size filter then the large compressor filter will have to be changed sooner. What often goes unnoticed is that the life time of the filter is usually listed in relation to the environment where the compressor was made, e.g. Germany, Britain and America. When a compressor is used in a warm country like the UAE, the high temperatures and high humidity can cut a filter's effective life by up to 60%. In the summer here a filter cartridge with a working life of 50 running hours may need to be replaced after only 20 running hours due to the Middle East's extreme conditions. Heavy air conditioning of the compressor room can make the compressor run cooler, smoother and give a better filter use with only a 25% - 30% reduction in life in the summer months.

What is good air quality?

High pressure breathing air is required to meet specific quality standards. These standards are set by national governing bodies such as The British Standards Institute, The European Committee For Standardisation and The American Compressed Gas Association. Most sport diving companies are members of associations such as PADI, NAUI etc and have to show that their air quality has been tested periodically (usually every quarter) and meets the air quality standard required. PADI International Ltd Bristol UK administers PADI for the UAE and the Arabian Gulf, as well as a large part of the rest of the world. They normally accept air certification to British Standard BS4001 for diving air.

BS4001 AIR PURITY STANDARD

Contaminant	Maximum Allowable
Water Vapour	500 mg/m ³ *
Oil Vapour	1 mg/m ³ *
Carbon Monoxide	10 ppm**
Carbon Dioxide	500 ppm**
Odour	None

* mg/m³ = milligrams per cubic metre

** ppm = parts per million

How do I know if my air is not good?

Unfortunately if a compressor is not operated correctly or is not in good mechanical condition, bad air fills can result. Bad air can taste or smell oily, it may give headaches or nausea, and in severe cases could cause vomiting and unconsciousness.

The easiest way to detect contaminated air is by simply smelling or tasting the air in the cylinder. Before a dive, open the cylinder valve slightly and see if any unusual odours can be smelt. Attach the regulator and take a few deep breathes from it to detect any unusual tastes. Always trust your senses and do not continue to dive with your cylinder if you smell or taste anything unusual from the cylinder or regulator.

The most common cause of bad air is oil and water vapour that have not been separated out efficiently and remain in the air that is pumped into your cylinder. The smell and taste of oil is easily identifiable in a contaminated air fill.

Although most cases of contaminated air fills can be readily detected by smell or taste alone, there are odourless and tasteless contaminants that can pass the usual sense detectors of the average diver. Carbon monoxide is an odourless and tasteless contaminant that is difficult to detect before physical symptoms manifest. Carbon monoxide normally enters a compressor from the exhaust of a petrol engine (likely to be the power source used to run the compressor), or from vehicle exhaust fumes. The first thing the divers know about it is a tightening of the forehead, a pounding headache around the temples and, in very severe cases, a bright red colour around the finger nails and lips. These physical symptoms are compounded when the contaminated air is breathed under pressure.

If you feel that your air is not correct then you should stop breathing it as soon as it is safely possible and breathe fresh air. If you have not yet entered the water you should not dive with that air cylinder as

the effects of contaminated air get much worse with depth. If you are already underwater you should abort the dive and ascend safely to the surface where you can breathe fresh air. The simple rule is 'if you are not happy with your air, do not dive with it'.

If you receive a bad air fill inform the compressor operator as soon as possible and allow them to breathe the air you believe is bad. Any decent air supplier will be happy that you informed them of a possible problem so that they can check it out and rectify the issue.

Happy diving, breathe well and enjoy!



Stevie MacLeod

Workshop Manager

Scuba Dubai

Block C, Trade Centre Apartments

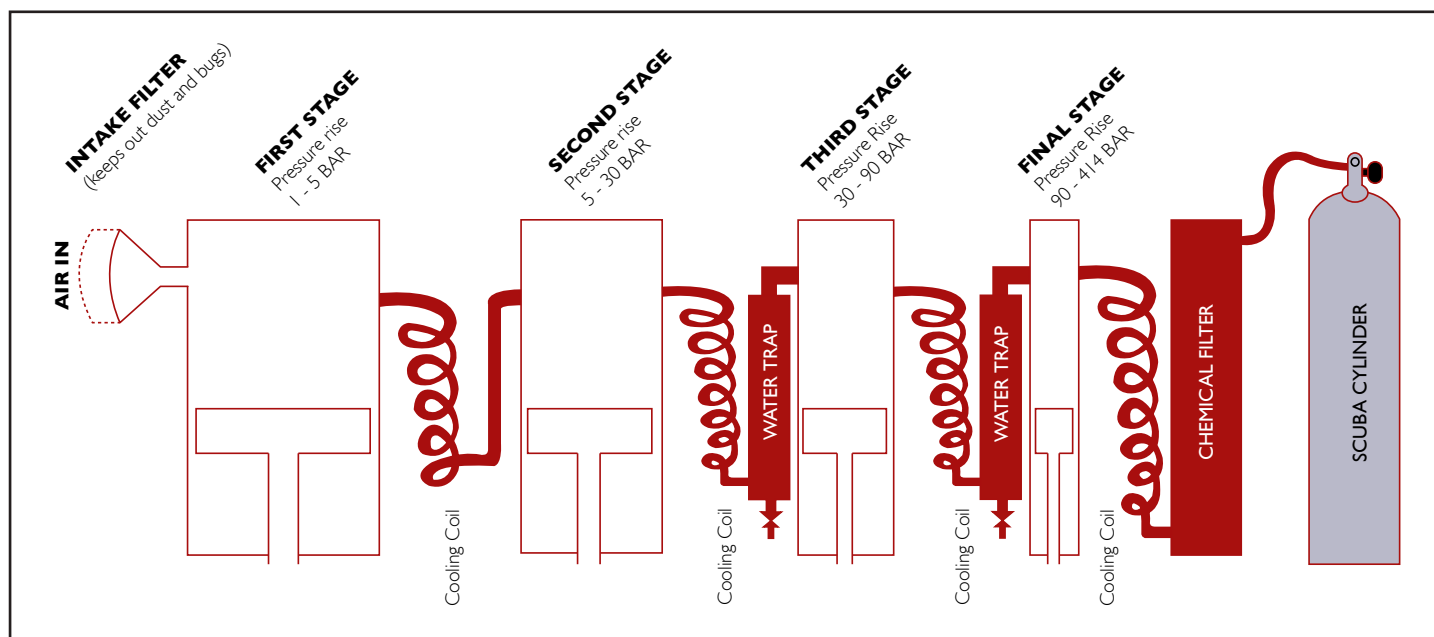
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Tel: 04 3317433

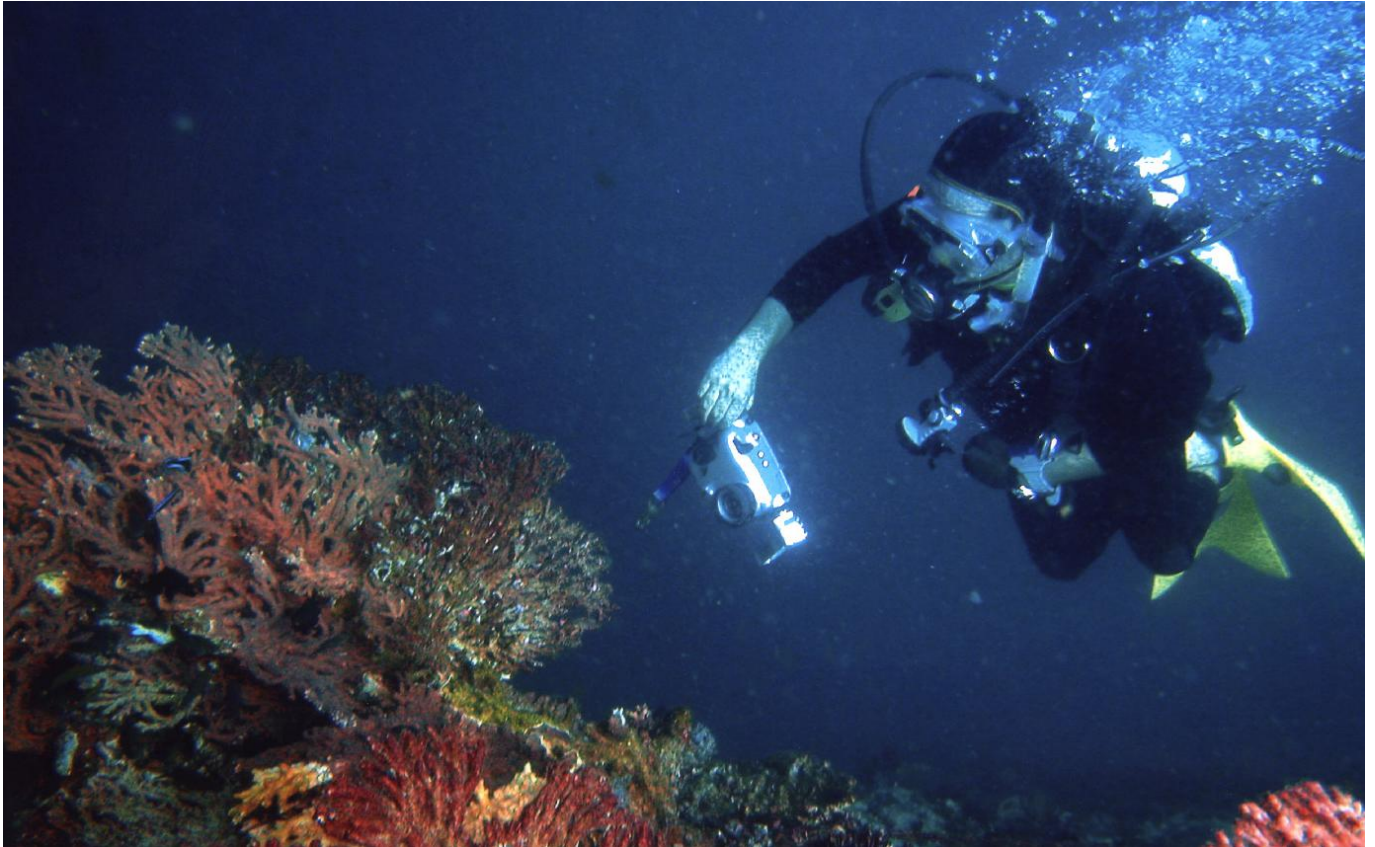
Email: info@scubadubai.com



Diving Compressor



TIPS FOR DIVERS



1. Dive carefully in fragile aquatic ecosystems such as coral reefs. Many aquatic organisms are fragile and are harmed by the bump of a tank, knee or camera, a swipe of a fin or even the touch of a hand. By being careful you can prevent devastating and long-lasting damage to magnificent dive sites.
2. Be aware of your body and equipment placement when diving. Keep your gauges and alternate air source secured so they don't drag over the reef or bottom. Control your buoyancy, taking care not to touch fragile organisms with your body or equipment.
3. Keep your dive skills sharp with continuing education. Before heading to the reefs, seek bottom time with a certified professional in a pool or other environment that won't be damaged. Or refresh your skills and knowledge with a PADI Scuba Review, PADI Advanced Open Water Diver course or Project AWARE Speciality course.
4. Consider how your interactions effect aquatic life. Resist the temptation to touch, handle, feed and even hitch rides on certain aquatic life. Your actions may cause stress to the animal, interrupt feeding and mating behaviour or provoke aggressive behaviour in normally non aggressive species.
5. Understand and respect underwater life. Using them as toys or food for other animals can leave a trail of destruction, disrupt local ecosystems and rob other divers of experiencing these creatures. Consider enrolling in a Project AWARE Underwater Naturalist Speciality course to understand sustainable interactions.
6. Resist the urge to collect souvenirs. Dive sites can be depleted of their resources and beauty in a short time. If you want to return from dives with souvenirs, consider underwater photography.
7. If you hunt and/or gather game, obey all fish and game laws. Local laws are designed to ensure the reproduction and survival of these animals. As an underwater hunter, understand your effect on the environment and respect the rights of other divers in the area who are not hunting.
8. Report environmental disturbances or destruction of your dive sites. As a diver, you are in a unique position to monitor the health of local waterways. Report these observations to responsible authorities in your country.
9. Be a role model for other divers in diving and non diving interaction with the environment. As a diver, you see the underwater results of carelessness and neglect. Set a good example in your own interactions and other divers and non divers will follow suit.
10. Get involved in local environmental activities and issues. You affect your corner of the planet. There are plenty of opportunities to show your support of a clean aquatic environment, including participating in local beach and underwater cleanups, attending public hearings that impact local water resources and supporting environmental legislative issues.

Courtesy of Project A.W.A.R.E

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEMBER TALKS



Monthly Member Talks is a discussion series on topics that EDA believes will be of interest to its members. Led by individuals who are experts in their respective fields, the talks aim to provide members the opportunity to gain knowledge whilst interacting with each other and the speaker.

MARCH TALKS



By Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi, West Asia Coordinator; UNEP UNESCO YouthXchange Project, Director of Environment Dept., Emirates Diving Association. Ibrahim will be giving the presentation: "Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the EDA Commitment to Marine Conservation" and will facilitate a discussion about "The Future of Diving in the UAE".

Date: Wednesday, 2nd March 2005

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Dusit Dubai Hotel, Al Wasl Ballroom, located on Sheikh Zayed Road (next to interchange one).

The event will be interesting and light refreshments will be available. Please contact Ms. Erna (EDA Secretary) on 04-3939390 to reserve your place for the talk or you can email us on:

diving@emiratesdiving.com and/or **projects@emiratesdiving.com**

EDA'S PEARL DIVE TRIP (EDA - AD Committee and Members)

Date: Thursday, 3rd March 2005 **Venue:** EDA's Dhow

EAST COAST RMP VISIT

Majid Al Futtaim Investments LLC staff visit to the RMP on the East Coast

Date: Thursday, 10th March 2005

SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



Working with Schools Campaign - Monthly basis (involves Environmental Awareness, Diving and Heritage info. etc...)

REEF MONITORING

Reef Monitoring Committee (RMC) - Monthly Basis

MOORING BUOY PROJECT

Deployment of Mooring Buoy Project - Based on RMC surveys and dive site necessity

EDA'S MAGAZINE - Quarterly Basis

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGNS - Yearly



Chairperson Mr Faraj Butti Al Muhairbi

Vice Chairperson Mr Essa Al Ghurair

The Secretary General Mr Jamal Bu Hannad

Financial Director Mr. Khalfan Khalfan Al Mohiari

Head of the Technical Committee Mr. Omar Al Huraiz

Head of the Scientific Committee Mr. Mohd Al Salfa

Technical Adviser Mr. Ahmed bin Byat

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Director of Environment & Research Department

Ibrahim Al Zu'bi

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Research and Marine Biology Department

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Diving Department

Mohammad Bitar

PADI Divemaster, Project Coordinator

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Graphic Designer

Ally Landes

MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve, protect and restore the U.A.E. marine resources by understanding and promoting the marine environment and promote environmental diving.

LEGISLATION

Emirates Diving Association (EDA) was established by a Federal Decree, No. (23) for the year 1995 article No. (21) on 23/02/1995 and chose Dubai as its base. The Decree stipulates the following responsibilities for EDA.

- To Legislate and regulate all diving activities in the UAE.
- Ensure environmentally respectful diving practices in all EDA members.
- Promote and support the diving industry within the UAE by coordinating the efforts of the diving community.
- Promote diving safety in the commercial and recreational diving fields through standardization of practices.
- Promote and preserve historical aspects of diving within the gulf region and enhance environmental education to diving and non diving communities through EDA activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Heritage & Diving Village

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Email: edadiver@emirates.net.ae, projects@emiratesdiving.com

Website: <http://emiratesdiving.com/>

EDA MEMBER'S VOICE

By Sarah Naarden, EDA member - Dubai, Interior architect

**VOLUNTEERS ADVOCATE
THEIR OWN SPONSORSHIP TO
TAKE PART OF A CHALLENGE.
THE PROGRAMME OFFERS
A SENSE OF SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY IN TOURISM.**



Sarah Naarden

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND DESIGN

Through activities including Coral Monitoring, Pearl Diving and Turtle Tagging to name just a few, EDA members can taste what the UAE has to offer as naturally occurring sustainable tourism. The term Eco tourism is too loosely used today and even seems to incorporate artificially created safari parks in the desert with a collection of rare and endangered species still to be built in Dubai.

Unlike other associations in Dubai often formed as profession related, EDA provides opportunities to meet divers from diverse backgrounds and nationalities and brings together people who love to see and protect beautiful things in an environment they care about.

A great asset to the EDA community is that it comprises of a diverse range of professions, including diplomats, doctors, architects, computers and media, heads of local and multinational Companies. It is evident in The Clean up the Arabia campaigns that this community of busy high ranking professionals are willing to get their hands dirty donating time and effort to activities considered not so glamorous. It feels deserved to relax by the pool surrounded by mountains in the Le Meridian Al Aqah Hotel after a hard days work diving and collecting rubbish, which is killing marine life at an alarming rate.

In times of Natural disasters like the recent Tsunami in South East Asia, one thinks how international communities can give more than just money. Most volunteer aids can offer their services in medicine, food/water programmes and construction. A Dubai community group called Expat Mums is rebuilding an orphanage in Sri Lanka. Would it then be appropriate that a diving community from the UAE volunteer to participate in Clean Ups and marine life assessments for Tsunami hit dive areas?

These dive areas also have a wealth of building materials like bathtubs, toilets, steel, bricks, all found under the sea that can still be re-used. Used in conjunction with a volunteer house rebuilding programme, such efforts combine a fruitful and rewarding contribution to making a difference in this world.

'Haus Proud' was a proposal put forward at the Global Youth Environment Dubai 2005 conference organized by EDA. It addresses the need to provide flat packed kit homes for local communities and adapted to suit different environmental and cultural needs in Tsunami and other areas where communities are left homeless through natural disasters. The proposal involved volunteers, preferably from a construction background, building kit homes as prototypes that would be adapted to the needs of the users through on site workshops. At the same time other activities such as Beach Clean Ups and Dive Clean Ups could take place through the course of 10 days in the attempt to create safe beaches, waters and salvage recycled building materials. In a concept similar to Gulf for Good, volunteers advocate their own sponsorship to take part of a challenge, like climbing to the base camp of Nepal. This programme also offers a sense of social responsibility in tourism.

A name, place and date is to be confirmed of this programme and I invite the EDA community to make comments and express if any interests arise in taking action with such an event on the following e-mail address: sarnaar@hotmail.com