

Hello fellow divers !

Dive season has been in full swing and we have been swamped with divers out havin' fun ! The Gulf has been good again lately with great viz and the fish reports are also very good. There are a lot of hogs out there this year and the sizes are very good. Lobsters are running real good and everyone has come back from the Keys with good catch reports. I will now get you caught up on the latest !

## MINI SEASON

We just returned from mini season and this year we decided to rent our own boats and not go commercial. Well did it pay off ! The first part of the day was looking into the shallows right off shore. We got only one and it was lookin' kind of grim. Then we decided to head out a bit towards the deeper reefs. On the way out we stopped over a sandy spot with hard rock below and Bingo ! It was not a very big area but very nice and sandy with small to large coral heads. We were only in 11' of water. Plenty of schools of fish all over the place and rays and nurse sharks. It was a wonderland of fish and creatures ! We bagged about 23 bugs the first day and everyone did real well. I myself came upon a very nice bug that I bagged and it weighed in at 4.4 lbs ! It was a monsta ! I thought maybe one of the biggest for mini season until I read a guy got a 6.6lb bug in north Key Largo ! Wow ! Let me tell you they put up one hell of a fight and you have to hold on real good ! This bug was too big for me to put into the bag so I had to bring him right back to the boat. He looked like Lobsterzilla compared to the other bugs ! I will have the shell in the shop for you to see when I get it dried out. Needless to say the first night we had a very nice lobster feast ! Nothing like fresh lobsters right out of the water ! Yum !

Our next venture will be next week from the 14th to the 16th. \$379.00 for the 3 day 2 night trip and \$444.00 for the 3 night trip. This saves having to leave at 5 AM on Friday morning. If we get enough divers we can rent our own boat again. We are out for the whole day and get more bottom time and better reefs then if we did 2 days on a commercial boat. And only a few divers hunting bugs rather than 30 ! So call the shop if you are interested. We are heading back to our great spots ! And I lost one bug to be at least 3 lbs ! Come hunt bugs with SSS ! We know bugs !

## LOBSTER GEAR

**We still have in stock plenty of lobster gear. If you need snares or tickle sticks, nets or bags we have them. If you are heading out for bugs remember that you need a lobster gauge with you in the water and bugs must be measured in the water ! If you bring up a short and boat it and get caught it is big bucks fine ! So don't make the mistake and not have the proper gear in the water. Season reports are good from Key Largo to Key West. Regular open season started today August 6th and goes until March 31st. Plenty of time to hit the water during the warm water months and get your catch !**

## SCALLOPS

The initial reports for scallops has not been good. With all the rain water in the Gulf the little critters have run deep ! Reports were that they were in 12' of water and not easy to find. But they should come in soon. Season is very short so don't delay in going out for them. I just got a report from Homosassa that they are getting their limits with no problem. Also Steinhatchy has been loaded as usual. So plenty to be had. Go get em ! I have not scheduled our trip out yet but will be very soon. Just too busy at the shop to get a trip up. Season last year was very slow and now this year all the divers are back and with a vengeance !

# SCUBA CLASSES

Our classes have been totally full since the first of June and it has been non stop ! So much that we have been working classes day and night and weekends to try and keep up with it all. With the long winter we had we are now more than making up for it. It looks as though we will go way into September with our training this year. We have our competition on the run ! With our all inclusive prices on Open Water and our Specialty classes they are now trying to compete with us in all inclusive prices. But they are way higher then us and of course cannot compete with our quality of training. SSI still is the best quality of training and at a great price for all courses ! And we are still the only shop that I know of that can boast a 100% safety record ! If you need a family member to do Open Water or you may need a Specialty course, call the shop to get more info and prices.

# LUXFER STOPPING PRODUCTION

Luxfer has stopped production of their 63 cubic foot tanks, 33000 neutral buoyant tanks and pony tanks, With the slow economy everyone is cutting back and so are they. They are just making the 80's as far as I know for now. I am sure they will get back into full swing when the economy picks up. We are still getting the 3300 neutral buoyant tanks from Catalina. They are a high quality manufactured tank and very impressive. I was not very fond of the Catalina tanks since the forging on the 80's was not the best with lots of folds in the neck of the tanks. And the paint would come off very quickly on them. But the 3300 brushed is a bright aluminum with no paint to come off. And we pump those babies up to 3500 PSI giving you up to 15 minutes more bottom time and without the 6 lbs buoyancy when the tank is down to 1200 PSI like the standard 80's. Come by to check them out ! Price is only \$204.00 compared to steel tanks at double the price !

In stock I still have 2 Cel Tec 60 cu' neutral buoyant tanks that have an operating pressure of 3300 PSI. Cost on these compact 60's is just \$188.00. They are brushed aluminum also. This is a great tank for those who get great bottom time or for the ladies seeking a lighter tank with good bottom time. Or for those with back problems who need a lighter tank. Stop by to check out these impressive tanks.

# TUSA BUY OUT

I made a buy on a close out on Tusa TRi EX fins. I have about 15 pairs of these fins and they are selling for only \$50.00 a pair. Half price from retail. Stop on by and snatch up a pair before they are gone ! They will go quickly. I have all sizes and all colors. I also have a few pairs of the Xpert Zoom Tusa fins at \$99.00

# COVER YOUR SKIN !

Yes divers it is that time of year for jelly fish ! And of course fire coral burns or coral scrapes. The water is nice and toasty right now but don't take a chance on getting cut or stung. We have great heavy duty skins in stock for only \$74.95 and 1 MM Akona wetsuits for only \$119.00 for the smaller sizes and \$129.00 for the larger sizes. These high quality skins and suits will last you for years and best of all protect you from getting stung or scraped. Stop by and pick one up before the nasty jellies come in ! Last year they were really bad !

# DIVERS TIPS

Diver have been coming in and reporting losing dives due to not checking out their gear before going out divin' for the first time of the year. Divers I have haunted you on this and gear servicing is so important. Losing dives is costly, but losing a life is worse ! Don't take chances on not having your gear serviced. Hoses can rot out during off season and the salt left in your gear can damage it to the point that is make it unsafe ! Bring in your gear and allow a few days for us to get it done. We are very busy right now and a one day turn a round is not possible most of the time. Hydros are a 2-3 day turn a round. With lobster season in we have a ton of tanks coming in. So allow enough time to get the tanks serviced. A lot of divers don't think it is necessary to check out the bcd. Well hello out there ! Can we say life support systems ? Valves go bad, OP valves go bad and so do the purges. One sticky inflator valve can give you a run a way ascent and that could lead to a decompression accident. Or worse ! So get that gear checked out !

Now not only the gear but how about yourself? You have been sitting on the couch all winter and now you decide to go out and dive ! Well I thing you better get in a little shape ! Divin' is a heavy exercise sport that you work at for hours at a time. So get yourself out there, jog, get on your bike or start walking around the block for a while. Get in the pool to get reacclimated with your gear and skills or come into the shop and schedule a refresher. Be safe and be in shape and have a good safe dive season.

Ok divers I think I have you up to date on the latest. Any questions call me or e-mail me at the shop. There are so many more things we are trying to get to but just have not had the time. I am still getting up the spear fishing club and another cruise and dive to the Caribbean. Along with a scalloping trip. I have also been working on a trip to Keys West to dive the Vandenberg again. So look forward to many more exciting trips from SSS !

*Remember if you are not out divin' or havin' fun, don't blame  
Sunny Seas !*

*W E B E D i V i N'*

**727-849-2478 out of the area 866-945-3483**