

# ADVENTURE SCUBA



# DIVE LOG

Volume 9, No. 2  
406-259-7363

2101 Grand Avenue, Suite 1  
adventurescuba@divemontana.com

Billings MT 59102  
WWW.DIVEMONTANA.COM

## Tips for Today's Travelers

Dive travel is supposed to be an adventure- exploring a world that many other people just wonder about. For some, the adventure begins at the airport. This kind of adventure is not the kind that you are going to want to share with your friends back at the office.

Many "adventures" can be avoided or at least minimized with a little planning, insuring that the diving adventures are the highlight of your trip. In this article, we will discuss some basic items and give you the resources to insure that the strongest memories of your dive vacation will be the cool fish you saw, not the hassle with the ticket agent at the airport.

### Traveling with Dive Gear

Checking in at the airport can be a real hassle even with the best planning. Minimizing the hassle starts long before you set foot in the airport. Start by planning what gear you will take. Airlines and TSA (Transportation Security Administration) frequently change the rules regarding luggage. Currently the rule is 50 lbs per checked bag, 2 bags per person. If you've picked up your dive bag lately, you can probably figure out that it's really easy to get tagged with an oversized bag fee. To loose weight in your bag- go to your local dive shop. Something as simple as your choice of BCD can make a big difference on the scale. Manufactures are coming out with "Travel BC's" making it easier to find a light weight option without giving up comfort and functionality.



At this time you can carry on or check regulators, BCD's, mask, fins and snorkels. Knives and tools must be in your checked luggage. For the safety of security officers and to protect the rest of your gear, wrap any sharp objects securely. Rules have recently been changed regarding items that can be carried on. You should check the TSA website for the most current rules. (<http://www.tsa.gov>)

### Insuring Your Investment

There are hundreds of circumstances that could cause you to cancel your trip, or return home early. Unexpected events, such as illness or a death of an immediate family member can change your plans, causing you to lose the money invested in your trip, cut your trip short, and pay a ticket change fee for your early

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## Who's With ME?

Imagine exploring the underwater world with your best friends, hovering near a tropical reef, hanging with a pod of dolphins above a wreck. But wait! How can your friends go with you if they don't dive?

### Pass along a \$50 rebate to Your Friends



Share the ultimate adventure by turning your friends into dive buddies. If they sign up for the PADI Open Water course and purchase a mask, snorkel and fins through Adventure Scuba, they can get up to a \$50 rebate for PADI. All you need to do is give your friends a rebate card available from

Adventure Scuba or you can order them on line from [www.divemontana.com](http://www.divemontana.com).

But friendship is all about the give and take, which means you can earn cool cash and travel rewards when your friends become divers. How?

### Get a Coupon for up to a \$150 Rebate

1. Give out \$50 rebate cards to your friends.
2. Get two (or more) friends to sign up for a PADI Open Water Diver course and buy their mask, fins and snorkel from Adventure Scuba.

Once two or more friends mail in the card along with a proof of purchase you get a coupon that can be redeemed for up to a \$150 rebate when you sign up for your next PADI course and buy a regulator, BCD or computer.

Need some help getting your friends fired up? Stop into Adventure Scuba and ask for a free "Go Dive" DVD to show your friends how much fun they'll have exploring the underwater world with you.

Who knew that diving with friends could be so rewarding! Ask your friends "Who's With ME?" and turn them into dive buddies today.

\*For complete rules and regulations of the promotion, visit <http://www.padi.com/padi/en/promo/godive/default.aspx>

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return. Travel insurance can't prevent these events from happening, but it can certainly take the some of the sting out of it. Trip insurance can be purchased with your dive trip package or may be a benefit in the dive accident plans that we will discuss shortly. The cost is usually based on the cost of your trip, but is very affordable.

Dive accident plans like the ones offered through DAN (Diver Alert Network) and through PADI are supplementary policies with the basic purpose of helping to manage medical emergencies that may not be covered by your regular health insurance. While most dive accidents aren't serious, even a minor injury can be expensive. Many standard medical policies exclude diving-related accidents, particularly recompression chamber treatments, which could leave you with a huge expense. Both the DAN and PADI programs offer a variety of levels of protection. By comparing the carefully, you will be able to choose a plan that fits you and your family's needs. Adventure Scuba has brochures for both providers available at the shop or links to the providers' websites are available on the Adventure Scuba website at [www.divemontana.com](http://www.divemontana.com).

### Equipment Coverage

I can speak from experience when I tell you about the green feeling you get when you look through a camera view finder and see it flash, then go black. Water and electronics don't mix- especially salt water. Flooded equipment is a fact of life- we take precautions, but sometimes the dive gods just want to make life interesting. Insuring your cameras and dive computers can make that green feeling pass sooner. Your homeowners policy may cover the loss, but there are specific policies available to cover flooding, etc. DAN sponsors a plan that will cover water damage as well as stolen equipment and accidental damage. This link is also available on our website.



### Passport Rules

In bygone days, we were able to travel to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean with nothing more than proof of citizenship- a driver's license and birth certificate. Those days are gone. As of January 1, 2007, if you are going to those countries by air or sea, you will now be required to have a US Passport. The good news is that you will find that traveling with a passport is much more convenient- less paperwork to carry and it's good for 10 years.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to a passport acceptance facility with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license. In Billings, you can apply for your passport at the main post office, located at 841 S. 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Passport applications take about 6 weeks to process- so don't procrastinate!

As you can see, a little planning ahead of time can help you deal with some of the unexpected adventures in dive travel. Now brush up on those dive skills, get the gear tuned up and your ready for a trip of a lifetime that your co-workers will get tired of hearing about!

Take the Master Diver Challenge!

## NITROX- IT'S A GAS!

What's yellow and green and becoming more common on divers backs? You guessed it- it's a scuba tank with the label indicating that it contains NITROX. Diving with Nitrox has many advantages and is PADI's most popular specialty.

Nitrox, or enriched air, is air that has been "enriched" with oxygen so that it is more than 21% oxygen (normal air). To indicate the blend, the diving community uses the abbreviation EANx followed by the oxygen content percent. For recreational diving the percent will be from 22% to 40%.



Although divers have many different reasons for using Nitrox, a primary application is to extend the no decompression limits beyond normal air no decompression limits. This becomes really handy on a week long dive trip where by mid point in the trip, your dive computer is showing that you have reached the nitrogen loading limits while you still have air in your tank. Kind of a bummer to have to get back on the boat with air to burn. By even using a single tank of nitrox during the week, you can reduce your nitrogen loading and gain back your bottom time.

The PADI Enriched Air Specialty is your ticket to be able to join the growing number of divers that are enjoying the benefits of enriched air. Your enriched air course will train you to safely use nitrox on your next dive and also counts toward your Master Diver Certification. Call Dave or Mandy today to schedule your Enriched Air course- you'll be surprised how easy it is learn to dive Nitrox- it truly is a GAS!

## Explore Roatan!

**Join us for an underwater adventure as we explore Roatan!** Located just off the Honduras coastline, Roatan has some of the greatest diversity of coral, sponge and invertebrate species in the Caribbean.

A typical day is breakfast, dive, relax on the beach, dive, lunch, relax on the beach and dive some more. Beats the heck out of my typical day!

We've put together a great package- 5 days of 3 boat dives, a night dive and unlimited shore diving! From the dive gazebo on the resort's dock you are a giant stride away from a wreck, a plane and a wall.

This trip is selling out fast! Travel dates are 2/17- 24, 2007. Contact Carolyn for complete details and to reserve your space.

# DIVE PLANNER

Adventure Scuba 406-259-7363

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	Open Water Class & Pool	Other Classes	Store/Club Events
October	October 5, 7 & 8 October 13, 14 & 15 Oct. 17, 19, 24, 25 & 26 Oct. 27, 28 & 29 (NWC)	Open Water Check Out Dives TBA	High Country Divers Club October 11, 6 pm YMCA Haunted Pool Oct 31
November	Nov. 17, 18 & 19 Nov. 14, 15, 16, 21 & 22	Open Water Check Out Dives Nov. 17, 18 & 19 Logan UT w/ Sports Cove	High Country Divers Club Meeting Nov. 18 Year End Party & Turkey Fry!
December	Dec. 5, 7, 12, 13 & 14 Dec. 8, 9. & 10	Open Water Check Out Dives TBA	Adventure Scuba Holiday Open House December 2
January 2007	Jan. 2, 4, 9, & 11 Jan. 12, 13 & 14 Jan. 9, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 & Feb 1 (RMC)	Open Water Check Out Dives Jan. 27 & 28- Logan UT	High Country Divers Club Meeting Jan 10, 2007 6PM
February	Feb. 2, 3 & 4 Feb. 6, 8, 13, 14 & 15	Open Water Check Out Dives Roatan, 2/17-24 Advanced & Specialties Roatan, 2/17-24	High Country Divers Club Meeting Feb 14, 6pm Roatan Trip Feb 17- 24
March	March 2, 3 & 4 March 20, 22, 27, 28 & 29	Open Water Check Out Dives TBA	High Country Divers Club Meeting March 14 Discover Scuba Pool MORE Show Mar. 16, 17 & 18

This schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates & times. Schedules can also be found online at [www.divemontana.com](http://www.divemontana.com)



**Contact Information:**

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