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Scuba Emporium

16336 S 104th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 226-1614

1983 Why I did Drift Diver Specialty?

For the past few years we had been running a lot of trips to Cozumel and other parts of the world where we were finding currents even Lake Michigan. People just had no idea how to dive a current and use the water to their advantage. IT was time for a course to show divers how to enter and exit in a current, how to use a surface float properly and to keep with the group. When I first introduced this course in Cozumel, I sure had a lot of the locals disagree with me. They just want a boat to follow bubbles, and let diver come up wherever. Today you see a lot better run operations over the islands. We had to show divers how to make the dive safe, come up in a safe way, and still to be able to make a safety stop, while drifting with the group. So the plan was to develop the course and to be teaching it while locals watched. As we started having more groups come up close to the boats, everyone saw the advantage of the program. It became an easy one to sell in most cases. My hardest place for selling this course, believe it or not, is in Lake Michigan. You see most divers do not realize how strong the currents can be out there. I have been divers during a swimming deco stop draft hundreds of yards past the boat. I have been in some very strong currents on the lake. Today we encourage divers to be wreck-certified and drift diver-certified. Not all do it until the day they are introduced to the currents. I always suggest that on any boat dive you carry a surface marker buoy. This way if you are doing a safety stop and drifting, the boat will always know where you are. Sorry I did not think of that specialty, but it sure is a good one.

E mail me at Patrick@scubaemporium.com