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# *Scuba Emporium*

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## *1985 - Why I Did Gourmet Diver?*

A food critic I am not, but a food lover, well yep that is me. We were looking for ways to keep us all diving, but not just in the Midwest. So I thought, how will we get people to take a three or four day trip to the Keys or even Boston. What I did was developed a program that included two days of diving in Boston, or where ever. If it were a Boston trip, we would go out and get lobster and scallops and bring them back to the hotel. We would teach people not only how to collect the dinner, but also clean it and cook it in a few different ways. We also did a wine paring. The course and trip was always a lot of fun and we promoted it all you can eat based on all you can catch. One time we had very few lobsters, so I had to go to the market and wheel and deal to pay for them. Now that trip costs me a lot, but one must do what one must do to make sure the trip is a success. The last course I taught was a few years ago in Florida. We filled a parking lot up with grills and had so much food, that we ate the next few days like kings. The Gourmet Diver Specialty is a course that will make your average weekend turn into a great weekend. Nothing is better than a fresh catch you make and then enjoying the catch on the beach with friends and good wine.

As a store owner and PADI Course Director, I only do well when people are diving for fun and classes. One of my goals is to always develop programs for the immediate need where safety is concerned, like when I wrote Boat Diver. The other concern is what can I do to offer fun classes and keep people taking classes and interest them but keep a steady cash flow coming through the dive center. I want to always offer classes that have meaning and are practical for the diver. Sometimes I need to be very creative to make that happen, but I always love teaching and, of course, getting out the diving. I was teaching this course in the Gulf of Mexico one time, chasing scallops. What a fun time I had! Scallops look just like Shell Gas Station logo, but to move through the water, they must open and close their shell real fast. You should have seen me chasing these guys all over the bay. Nothing like the ones in Boston for taste, well hell they were scallops so they also tasted fantastic and I caught them, which makes it even better.

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