



Scuba Emporium

16336 S 104th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60467
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Why I did Boat Diver?

Boat Diver

This program was a funny one and well worth it.

Back in the 70's, we were doing a lot of diving on Lake Michigan, a lot from shore and more from boats. I have owned a boat since I was 16, so diving on the big lake from a boat is not new to me. I have always and still enjoy every dive on Lake Michigan. Most people cannot believe how clear it is and when we put them on a 200 foot in tacked wreck they go nuts. So as we approached the 80s more people were diving and many were kind to invite me on their boats to go diving. Well turns out they needed me. You see they did not know how to set their boats up for diving and they had no idea where to go. So I was out teaching a lot on my days off, that made little to no sense to me. I also saw a lot of problems and would hate to hear someone we trained got hurt because they did not know any better.

Boat diving is a lot of fun and easy when done properly, but you need to know how to do it correctly and be safe. I saw people diving from boats with only two people on the boat. So what do you think would happen if the line broke? Of course that has happened and boats end up crashing on the rocks, and the divers have a nice long swim back to shore. There is a lot of safety needed to set up and dive from a boat as well as proper flag use and radio use.

The laws for dive flags vary and today are better for us all. Back then the blue and white ALFA flag was to be flown from the boat where the divers were off of, and the red and white was to be pulled by the dive teams. Today we can use the red and white on the boat as well as every two divers need to pull their own flag or stay within a hundred feet of the boat. Seeing that is hard to do I always had my people pull there flags. Today I still think every dive team needs their own flag. If they have to come up far from the boat at least they have protection.

We needed to teach boat owners proper ways to set an anchor and not tie into the wood on the wreck. They also needed to learn the proper scope for their anchor. I had many ways to teach the diver recall as well. This was something no one was thinking about. What was odd was how many people had a marine radio and had no idea how to work it. I had a person hold the mike key down ask a question and could not understand why no one replied. We later taught them PTT operations.



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Divers were starting to put weights on the system and still tossing them in the water to dress in the water. Well back in the 60's and 70's that worked, we wore the weights. I am not agreeing with this way of dressing. As we started diving with integrated weights on would toss the equipment in the water and watch it sink. A few times I went down as far as sixty feet to recover equipment. I also heard of equipment lost from the toss.

So writing the outline was a great way to teach people how to dive safely as well as now I was getting paid for my service. Anytime some one would ask for my advice I would suggest they take the course. Now this was a nice thing, they paid e to dive from their boats and then fed me. Life was good.

Question any idea of where the term Port and Starboard came from?

How about a son of a gun?

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