

CURRENTS

Quarterly Leadership Journal for Scuba Educators International
January 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the winter issue of *CURRENTS*. I am Dan Marelli, the assistant Editor and I am standing in this month for Janet Klemm, our Editor. Janet will resume her duties for the next edition. *CURRENTS* is a quarterly news journal for SEI Diving, and will be published on the website in January, April, July, and October. You will receive an email when the new edition is on line. The SEI Diving CEO, Tom Leaird, will also produce an email newsletter each month with more time critical information. Editorial deadlines for *CURRENTS* are one month prior to publication, but we will make every effort to publish materials that we receive prior to final editing.

CURRENTS is your publication, and submission to *CURRENTS* counts towards continuing education, so we encourage participation in this newsletter. Articles or information can be sent to dan.marelli@seidiving.org. We prefer Word for articles so that we can format it into In Design, but we can also accept pdf and In Design files. Pictures and figures should be referred to in the text and attached separately with proper labeling. All pictures should be resized to a resolution of no more than 300 dpi using IrfanView or another photo sizing tool. Please scan all files and pictures for viruses before sending.

Change

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus addressed change when he said "You cannot step twice into the same river; for other waters are continually flowing in." The same can said of dive sites, even those visited many times. Change can be scary, but the change to SEI Diving I expect will be a very positive one. Although as SEI Diving leaders, we will be familiar with our mission, philosophy, and standards. In addition, our certification procedures are similar and will improve as our use of modern technology is phased in. As a new organization we expect issues to crop up, but the overall focus is on the positive and the future for SEI Diving is very bright.

We are now undoubtedly the most leader-influenced scuba agency in the US. We encourage leadership to contribute to the production of new materials and revisions of existing materials and standards. Those who produce materials that reap a financial return will enjoy the benefit of that return. And although we will rely on some volunteer assistance from our leaders, we remain committed to the philosophy that our instructors should make a profit when they teach scuba. In addition, the Board of Directors of SEI Diving has pledged to follow through on any commitments we make, so the changes at SEI Diving will be refreshing ones.

As Program Development Director for SEI Diving I look forward to meeting and working with as many of you as I can in the future, and to collaborating with you in developing courses and materials. I also look forward to the growth that I know will come from SEI Diving with such a talented pool of leaders and diving professionals. I challenge each of you to commit to moving SEI Diving forward in 2009.



I also challenge our Instructor Trainers to work with me to develop more Instructors, Instructor Trainers, and Course Directors in 2009. The curricula for Course Director are nearly complete and should be rolled out by late March of 2009.

How to Use Currents

As I mentioned in the welcome, *Currents* is your publication. Use it to present articles of interest to other leaders, announce upcoming training or leadership institutes, or announce travel opportunities. Submitted articles can involve any topic related to diving education, science, the environment, technology, etc. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to improve the SEI Diving program.

Certification Procedures

Certification procedures are very similar to procedures you have used in the past. We have separated the leadership courses from non-leadership courses. At this time you can either request the proper form from the SEI Diving office (info@seidiving.org) or soon will be able to download it from the SEI Diving website (www.seidiving.org). Eventually both forms will be completed and submitted electronically on the website, which will streamline the certification process and the time required to receive certification cards and certificates. All non-leadership certification fees are now \$15. Lost certification cards are \$15 wholesale and \$30 retail. An SEI Diving instructor can replace a YSCUBA certification card with an SEI Diving certification card if they can verify the certification of the student with the primary instructor.

Leadership certification fees can be found on the new leadership certification form which is a separate form from the diver certification form.

Insurance

As always, instructors must demonstrate proof of insurance when joining SEI Diving, crossing over to SEI Diving, or renewing. The master policy is held by Willis North America, but we also accept Witherspoon and Associates insurance and others. All insurance policies must list SEI Diving or Scuba Educators International, 1623 W. Jackson Street, Muncie, IN 47303 as an additional insured. Instructors in countries outside of the US must follow procedures required by laws in your country. If you have questions please address them to us at info@seidiving.org.

Opportunities to serve as Regional Coordinators or Board Members

SEI Diving is a wholly owned subsidiary of Scuba Acquisitions, Inc. of Muncie, IN. It is a not-for-profit corporation. Permanent Board Members include the CEO, Tom Leaird, Board Member at Large Ken Nemeth (ken.nemeth@seidiving.org), and Course Development Director and Vice Chair Dan Marelli. Two members of the SEI Diving leadership shall serve two-year terms as elected Board members. All current SEI Diving leaders shall participate in the election. Notice of the election, names of candidates, and the vote itself will be conducted on the SEI Diving website. Persons interested in serving as a Board member should contact one of the permanent Board members.

The CEO of SEI Diving will also appoint Regional Coordinators to assist in communication and organization of SEI Diving in the field. Coordinators may not be strictly organized by region but



how they can best serve the organization. Now that SEI Diving is truly international in scope, leaders who have interest and expertise in international markets are needed along with those who can help out domestically. Contact Tom Leaird for an application to become a Regional Coordinator.

Anniversary

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the nation's oldest USA nation-wide leadership certification institute. It would be appropriate to our legacy to remember and celebrate this event. Suggestions have been made that we could hold a national convention over a long weekend in early June in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. This convention would be informative, providing opportunity for continuing education, as well as social and even recreational in nature. If you have any interest in attending such a meeting, please contact us at the headquarters (info@seidiving.org).

Training Opportunities

Divemaster Courses:
Muncie, Indiana, starting February 28, 2009

Assistant Instructor Courses:
Muncie, Indiana, March 28-29, 2009

Instructor and Crossover Institutes:
Muncie, Indiana, May 14 to 17, 2009

Ice Diver/Instructor
Muncie, Indiana, the weekend of January 31 and February 1, 2009

Note: Please let us know your training future events so they can be publicized here.

News & Events

Dennis Graver to use SEI Diving tables in revised Scuba Diving

Scuba Diving by Dennis Graver is the required text for all courses from Open Water Diver to Advanced Plus Diver. This book, published by Human Kinetics, is in revision and the fourth edition will be released in 2009. The author has decided to use the SEI Diving air diving tables in the text, as well as place a quote from SEI Diving CEO Tom Leaird on the back cover. This honor is well deserved for the leader in knowledge-based diving education in the US. Tom is negotiating with Human Kinetics for bulk discounts, which will allow you to order from SEI Diving and provide an opportunity to add profit to your course materials.

Diver Rescue and Accident Management

The SEI Diving rescue course has been named Diver Rescue and Accident Management. The new manual is in draft and we are obtaining printing estimates. The DRAM Instructor Guide is also in draft and is expected to be finished very soon.

Upcoming meetings and events

DEMA. DEMA will return to the Orlando Convention Center in October of 2009. SEI Diving will have a presence in a high-traffic location and we will take advantage of this opportunity to show off our new materials and publications. If you are interested in assisting us at DEMA contact the headquarters at info@seidiving.org.

New Materials

SEI Diving Tables. Diving tables revised as a result of the US Navy revision of the dive tables are available from the SEI Diving office. Standard sized air tables are 6 X 7 inches and printed on durable vinyl. We can also supply you with standard sized tables for EAN 32 and 36 Nitrox, and we have Divemaster-sized Air Diving tables (11" X 14") that are perfect for demonstrating in classroom or conducting dive debriefings at open water sites. The larger tables are also useful for use with vision-challenged students.

All available materials will soon be listed on the website.

Contact Us

Contact the *Currents* Editors at dan.marelli@seidiving.org or call 850-443-2177.

SEI Diving Contact List

General questions, scuba certifications, replacement of lost cards, and leadership renewals

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Currents is the official publication of Scuba Educators International.

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