



Tales from the Deep Blue

Jan., 2003

A Brand New Year

The holidays have come and gone and the Abyss Dive Center was filled with divers celebrating 2003. We all had it right, underwater during the day and extended festivities at one of the numerous hangouts at night. It was nice to see old friends and share some dive time with many new ones. Even with overstuffed bellies and lots of holiday cheer, the boats were full with keen divers and the sea life out to greet these underwater explorers.

It must be said that Playa Del Carmen has never experienced such a lively holiday season. Local merchants, visitors and travelers all enjoyed the hustle and bustle of parties, laughter and lots of dive chatter. The Abyss BBQ's are back every Saturday night and are a great place to share dive and vacation stories. These weekly events are a great introduction for new divers who are assimilating themselves into the dive community and seasoned divers to share their experiences and knowledge. Dave goes each Saturday to pick out the fresh fish himself and if we are lucky he may get some arrachera, marinated steak that is a Mexican delicacy. Add some guacamole, vegetables. Tortilla chips and hot salsa and everyone is happy.

So what's new for 2003? The Abyss Center



has been working hard the past few months to enhance our dive services. New equipment will be introduced in late January, instructors continue to upgrade their diving credentials so additional courses can be offered, more hotels are being added to our list of stay and play packages (they love our divers) and dive events continue to be our focus.

As our plans unfold, we will let you know how to become more involved, both as a fun diver and a dive student. In addition to these enhanced services, Playa del Carmen has been declared the Number One vacation spot for 2003. There are more activities to participate in and new



ones opening up each month. (yes, there are other activities than diving) and the town continues

to provide personal and vacation adventures for our visitors. But some things never change. Our morning entertainment still resides at Java Joe's coffee emporium, the Blue Parrot has great Sunday afternoon entertainment and 5th Avenue is still the focus of nightly dinners and hangouts. Like previous years, visitors are guaranteed a great vacation in our small but exotic community.

So think about a quick or extended dive getaway to see what is going on, visit with the Abyss staff and get a taste of the Caribbean. We are still here and look forward to your next visit. Feliz Ano and Happy New Year to all of our friends.



Diego Lugo aka Epstein

Diego is a long standing fixture here at the Abyss Dive Center and is most famous for his cenote tours of Chac Mool, Taj Mahal, Dos Ojos and the beloved Angelita. He is constantly accused of being Dave's brother but it will be declared now that there is no blood relation between these two. Friends, yes, but of the same family, not a chance. Diego was born in Mexico City and emigrated to Playa Del Carmen under the duress of his father. Truly he did not want to come here. He arrived as a non-diver and has matured into a SSI/Padi instructor and cave diver. He sees his dad once a year...we are still not sure if his dad was trying to get rid of him or if through fatherly insight knew that diving was Diego's forte. We think it was fatherly insight and will agree that diving is his forte. Or at least that is our story and we are sticking to it!



The Abyss Dive Shop and Training Centre

Calle 12 and the Beach
Playa Del Carmen, QR. Mexico
www.abysssdiveshop.com
info@abysssdiveshop.com