



Let us introduce... Ickabod

Now don't tell Carlos the dog but we have a new mascot for the dive center for the month of October. On October 18 at the Saturday BBQ, the official Abyss Halloween pumpkin was named by Phinneas. Since then Ickabod has been representing the dive center throughout the Mayan Riviera making guest appearances in Tulum, Cancun and Playa Del Carmen. He's doing the promotion for our Halloween pumpkin carving contest held here on October 31. Look for the party pictures and contest winners on the website the first week of November. If you can get a quick weekend



flight come and join us for a costume dive, pumpkin carving contest, dip tank apple bobbing and the evening festivities at The Rana Cansada.

Should I? Or Shouldn't I?

This is the question we get the most on the internet. Should I buy my own equipment or should I not. We have one answer to this and it YES. The analogy we use to show the importance of owning your own equipment is would you run a marathon in rented running shoes, would you go for a mountain bike ride on a rented bicycle? Would you use rented golf clubs? Most people answer no and we feel the same about rental scuba if you dive more than three dives per year. Having your own scuba equipment makes the dive that much more predictable and enjoyable.

But as with all sports, owning equipment requires some attention and maintenance. Here at the Abyss we take pride in our scuba equipment and make sure it is serviced frequently. Mitch is truly the repair king when it comes to fixing and cleaning regulators. His attention to detail and his knowledge of a wide range of regulators is beyond what I have seen within the area.



People also seem to think that scuba equipment is not obtainable in Mexico. We are here to let you know that we can get **Sherwood, Seaquest, Technisub, Aqualung, Scubapro and Seacub** equipment with some warning. Why not do a price comparison and see for your self that it can be less expensive here than at home. Email us and let us know exactly what you would like and we would be happy to do a price and product check for you. This will save you from lugging the equipment here, all you have to do is carry it home. Easy.

For those who dive only once or twice a year, rental equipment is a great option. Before diving with an operation, check out the equipment. When deciding on who to dive with on your next vacation one of your questions should be about equipment. Find out if the dive shop understands their equipment and can tell you when it was purchased. When you are doing your buddy check, check all equipment thoroughly to ensure it is functioning properly. Use rental gear as a n opportunity to try different types of equipment so you can decide which brand or model of BCD and regular you like best. This strategy will assist in the right purchase when it is time to invest in your equipment



What is new In Playa Del Carmen?

Most of you are starting to plan your next winter getaway for 2004 so we thought we would let you in on the latest additions to Playa Del Carmen. Our town is still small but new restaurants are popping up to provide you with more choices. Here are some of the new kids on the block in paradise:

El Oasis: Kick ass shrimp tacos and seafood soup

Sharky and the Jaime's Beer Bucket: Cold beer, fun atmosphere and great tunes

Glass Bar: Imported Italian wine, crystal wine glasses, need we say more?

El Olivo: Spanish Tapas Bar and Restaurant

John Gray's Kitchen: An old Playa favorite is now a new Puerto Morelos secret. Seared Tuna with an Asian coleslaw anyone?



Abyss Dive Center and Training facility

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