





## **Scuba Monkey Dive Club – Meeting Summary**

**August 2025**

-  Scuba Monkey Dive Club – Recap since last meeting
-  Featured Topic: All about Dive Travel
  - Do's and Don'ts for diving and traveling – George Sharrard
  - Upcoming Scuba Monkey Travel opportunities – Tracey Boehnlein
-  Upcoming Activities
-  Random Pictures

### **Scuba Monkey Dive Club – Recap - Avon**

A big thank you to Jennifer Bender and Andy Ogram for coordinating the club dive in June and organizing a buoyancy and trim challenge course. Unfortunately they weren't able to connect with all of the folks who came out to Troy. Maybe we can get that challenge course re-loaded at the pool skills night for the September club meeting on 9/2.

### **Do's and Don'ts for diving and traveling – George Sharrard**

Dive trips can range from “simple” to “complex” depending mostly on how far away from home the diving is conducted and how long you spend. Local diving is on the simple end of the spectrum because you're typically using your own gear, you are likely familiar with the dive site, you can economize your time and can bring any items you want in most cases. The close proximity and familiarity brings a high level of comfort.

Eventually, you start wanting more types of dives and more diverse experience with new locations and the complexity level increases. As you begin to plan the typical 2-3 hr day trips that are further from your home base you can still bring all your own gear, however responding to issues at the dive site may mean improving your planning for the dive.

- Consider making a dive travel packing list to make sure you don't leave something behind. Being 2-3 hrs from your home base means you don't want to forget something critical.
- Think of spare gear to bring along and save-a-dive items (extra straps, o-rings, etc) to pack so that you're not scrubbing a dive due to gear issues after you drive 2-3 hrs to get to the dive site.

As you begin to travel further from home base, and for long periods, you will start planning extended domestic trips that could require use of airlines. When packing for airlines you must consider:

- Compliance with TSA and airline restrictions for both carry-on and checked baggage.
- Typical max size is 22" x 14" x 9" for carry-on's. Invest in a compliant bag you can use and know it's compliant.
- Consider weight of checked bags carefully and decide what you MUST bring vs. what you can rent at the dive location.
- You cannot take dive knives in carry-on.
- You should consider carry-on for high value and sensitive items. It is recommended you carry-on dive computers since airline baggage holds are not pressurized and this could effect a dive computer.

- Consider what sort of batteries you may have for dive torches. Most airlines will prohibit certain batteries in checked baggage.

At some point the idea of international dive travel will capture your attention meaning it's a given you will be traveling via airlines. All of the above considerations apply but international travel brings a few additional things to consider.

- Do you need electrical adaptors for recharging lights, cameras or computers?
- Does the destination, or even pass-through international stops, require a Visa in addition to passport?
- What medical supplies do you need to bring along that may not be available in an international locale?

In summary, dive travel is a fantastic way to continue your scuba journey if your level of planning corresponds to the level of complexity of the trip.

### **Upcoming Scuba Monkey Travel opportunities – Tracey Boehnlein**

The shop is offering two fantastic opportunities for international travel in 2026 with discounts for early sign-up!

1. **Cozumel Mexico – 5/23/2026 - 5/3/2026.** This trip is an all-inclusive dive vacation (although non-divers are welcome too) to one of the best dive locations in the world. The trip is priced at \$1,795 per diver based on dual room occupancy. Additional charges for single occupancy may apply. The trip includes:

- 7 Night Stay, with 5 days of 2 tank boat dives.
- All meals & drinks (even alcohol)
- Unlimited shore diving
- Equipment storage
- Welcome sunset cocktail
- Farewell dinner
- Hotel taxes & resort fees
- Airport / hotel transfers

These are the items not included in the base price:

- Airfare to Cozumel (call for assistance if you have questions about other traveler's arrangements)
- Single occupancy reservations
- Taxis and transport around the island
- Park Fee \$5 per/day for the national park use
- Gratuities for Divemasters / Boat crew, waiters and chambermaids

2. **Roatan Honduras – 10/10/2026 – 10/17/2026.** This trip is an all-inclusive dive vacation to one of the best resorts in Honduras. The property features pristine white sand beaches, world class snorkeling and scuba diving, two freshwater pools, spa services, Pirates Kids Club ages 4 to 12 and night entertainment. The trip is priced at \$2,495 per diver based on dual room occupancy. Additional charges for single occupancy may apply. The trip includes:

- Airfare – Roundtrip from Jacksonville, FL

- 7 Night Stay, with 5 days of 3 tank boat dives.
- 3 meals/day & drinks (even alcohol)
- 1 Additional Night Dive
- Shuttle service to and from airport
- Free WI-FI in room and restaurants
- Concierge and Guest services for tours and activities outside the hotel
- Pool, beach, chairs and towels.

These are the items not included in the base price:

- Single occupancy reservations
- Taxis and transport around the island
- Gratuities for Divemasters / Boat crew, waiters and chambermaids

### **Scuba Monkey Dive Club – Upcoming events – Avon**

- August Club Dive – Royal Springs Sunday 8/17 @ 9:30 am
- September Club Meeting – 9/2 @ 6:00 pm – Practice night in the pool.
- FIJI PRE-TRIP MEETING/DIVE – 9/14 @ 10:00 am – Manatee Springs.
- October Club Meeting – 10/7 @ 6:00 pm – Virtual and in the shop – Aquarium Divers for Coral Society featured speakers.
- November Club Meeting – 11/4 @ 6:00 pm – Underwater Photography.
- December Club Meeting – Stay tuned for a holiday announcement.

### **Random club pics**





