

sired. Broken boats are the norm; delays in diving; slow tank fills with seemingly dangerous overfills. The crew was helpful and made an attempt at safety — although some of the practices did not seem that safe. On the admin side — the price always changed, nothing was done in writing, no timely feedback when setting up the trip; and no definite answer in getting details before arriving.

## CROATIA

**Shark Diving Center, September 2006, David Schwab (schwabd@bunt.com), APO, AE.** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 20 to 30 Meters. Water: 12 to 17 C. Second time with this dive operation. Shark Dive Center was supportive of what our group wanted to do and responsive to our needs. Fully equipped shop. We brought our own equipment, to include cylinders, but were able to use the shop's for day trip w/two dives. Shop also arranged lunch on board — quite tasty! And plenty of food for little \$. Nitrox available for 2 Euros/cylinder (about \$2.60/tank). Divemaster briefed all Nitrox divers and oversaw checking of %. Safety-conscious. Dive boat was a tour boat, but it worked for our 20 divers. Lots of cover on deck, plenty of room, easy to get back on board. Center has other dive boats, too. Dived on three wrecks each at about 40 meters; plus two walls. Diagrams of each dive are on the website. Dive operation located in Medulin, near Pula, Croatia. This is a tourist area so there is plenty to do. Good food, sightseeing, transportation. Roman Coliseum in Pula isn't as grand as the one in Rome, but worth a visit. Medulin/Pula is in NW Croatia, just across the Adriatic Sea from Venice. English, German and

Italian spoken here. There's an airport in Pula.

## SPAIN

**Happy Divers, Atalya Park Hotel, April 2006, Nancy Aberg (codycreek@sisqtel.net), Greenview, CA.** Experience: 250 dives. Vis: 6 inches to 5 feet. Water: 58 to 61 F, calm and flat, no currents. Divemaster, Sven, was really helpful and handled all problems without hesitation. He was a great instructor for the large classes they hold at that dive shop in a pool. If I had known of the poor visibility I never would have gone! Also, most dives are shore entry, or swim out to the site, then dive down. That is a big turn off for me as I have a back problem which I told them about beforehand. They alluded to using a boat ... only one dive that week used a boat. And Saturday, as there were 12 people who had signed up to dive, Peter, the owner of the shop, took 6 divers out first, dropped them off without a divemaster, left, and went back to get the other 6 divers and a trainee divemaster to be dropped off while he took the first group back to shore. If there aren't laws against this, there should be. None of those divers had ever dove there before and most were inexperienced divers — not a time to be without a divemaster or a boat in extremely low visibility!

## UNITED STATES

### Iowa

**Lake Okoboji, August 2006, Larry Sensenig (sensenig@morningside.edu), Sioux City, IA.** Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 15 to 20 Feet. Water: