

Downloading Phoenix

How to enhance your logbook

More than 10 years ago, I started diving with an EDGE dive computer. Like everyone else at the time, I lost my data now and again while changing the batteries, but it wasn't a real problem if I did it after the last dive of the day. Even though it was heavy, I liked it. It had a great graphic display and gave me all the information I needed.

During a dive trip last summer, the battery lead wires came apart while I was changing the batteries. In a fit of I'm-tired-of-messing-with-these-damn-9-volt-batteries, I threw it to my dive buddy and said, "It's yours."

When the next dive trip rolled around, I asked for it back (after he had had it fixed, of course). Why? When I went to pack a computer, what I reached for was a Phoenix. The EDGE, with the same algorithms, would be the best backup computer. Why was I reaching for a Phoenix when it uses the same 9-volt batteries that never seem to last as long as my dive trips? I don't even like air-integrated computers, because if they go belly up, as they often do, you don't have the most important piece of information — how much air is left.

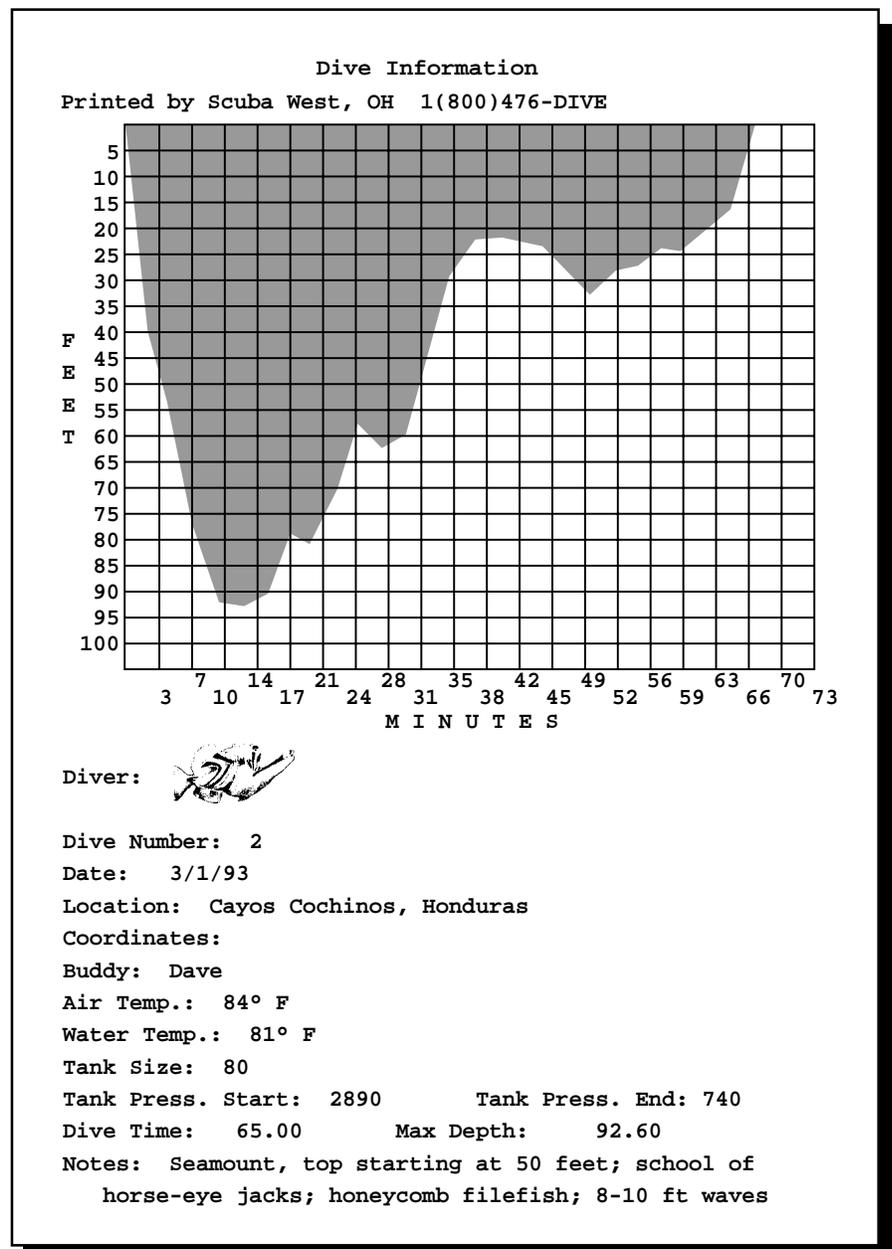
One reason I was going to dive the Phoenix was that an ad in one of the dive pubs had caught my eye. "Attention Delphi and Phoenix owners. Your Delphi and Phoenix computers were designed to display your last three dives and bottom times. But did you

know that your computer has a 35-hour memory? The Dive Profiler not only records maximum depth and maximum bottom time, but it also displays a detailed record of each dive (including descent and ascent speeds, safety stops, and

decompression stops). Scientists need your diving information to study hyperbaric medicine. This is also an excellent way of verifying your logged entries with a visual graph display mapping your actual dive."

The idea of seeing my dives as graphs sounded interesting. It would make a great logbook. Cool! Excessive, but definitely cool. And scientists need the information. Maybe this makes it a tax deduction.

So while everyone else is diving compact computers that



fit into their consoles and have battery lives that are measured in years instead of days, I was back to lugging the brick (EDGE) and its air-integrated buddy the Phoenix. The truth is, now it's the Phoenix's display that I like. It gives me what I want to know in that clear, easy-to-read format, and I've even grown to appreciate its air-remaining time feature. Why don't they redesign the EDGE/Phoenix with the same old display, but with new batteries and less weight?

Upon returning from my last trip, I rushed off my Phoenix to Scuba West. I got it back along with graphs of 27 dives (35 hours). It was cool. The charts

told a lot about each dive. A readout from Sipadan shows a night dive. Everything I ever wanted to see was on this wall between 20 feet and the surface. Other dives would show when I lost the boat and had to surface to get directions. Some showed where I had stretched the rules, others a picture-perfect profile going deep, then gradually working back up during the dive. It's somewhat like watching a video after the game to see where you went wrong and where you can improve.

Scuba West of Cleveland, Ohio, offers the service for a startup fee of \$35 plus shipping and handling, with future

downloads for \$20 plus shipping and handling. If you send a photocopy of your logbook, they will include your info in the readout. Call Joseph Suchy at 800-476-3483.

The Orca factory will also download your Phoenix. They charge a straight \$35, which includes standard UPS shipping back to you. However, you have to fill in your own logbook entries on location, date, temperature, and so forth. Orca can also tell you if there's a dealer with a downloader near you; call 703-478-0333. Or, if you want, you can buy your own downloader with a PC interface for around \$400.



An Accountant's Comparison

Wave Dancer in Belize vs. *Bay Islands Aggressor*

During January/February 1994, this In Depth subscriber spent a week on the Wave Dancer in Belize, then flew down to Roatan, Honduras, to spend the following week on the Bay Islands Aggressor. How do they compare? Here's a blow-by-blow comparison.

Cabins: The sleeping accommodations on the *Wave Dancer* are the best. Every cabin has a private head and shower; cabins on the lower deck have a double lower bunk and a single upper; the deluxe cabins on the dive-deck level are similar, but have windows. The two master suites (cabins 1 and 2) on the dive-deck level are set up with a queen-sized bed. All cabins have ample room for storage and are air conditioned. There are robes provided in each

cabin, and the towels and linens are changed frequently.

The *Aggressor* has eight cabins, seven with a double lower bunk and a single upper bunk like the *Wave Dancer*, and one a "quad," with four bunks. The cabins, all air conditioned, are located one deck below the main/dive deck, with no windows or portholes. Each cabin has a mirror and a washstand, but there are only two shared head/shower facilities (plus one head for wet divers up on the main/dive deck). To reach the cabins, you must walk through the dining/salon area. Storage space is quite tight, but adequate for experienced live-aboard divers. (I've heard of plans to reconfigure the *Aggressor's* eight cabins into six

or seven larger cabins with toilets and showers as on the *Wave Dancer*.) The room towels could be changed more frequently, but there are always plenty of dry towels for wet divers or for use on the sun deck. Score: 10/8 in favor of the *Wave Dancer*.

Food: Both ships provide ample, well-prepared meals and snacks, but there are some real differences. All meals on the *Aggressor* are served buffet style. An early-bird continental breakfast is set out around 5:30 or 6:00 a.m., and later (around seven) there is a full breakfast — eggs, sausages, pancakes, bacon, French toast, etc. The *Wave Dancer* brings early coffee to your room (!) upon request, and the regular breakfast is at a