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# Random Scatterings

## *News from on line and on letters*

World Class photographer Paul Humann, the founder of REEF, called to issue a warning about flying to **Roatan**: FLY NONSTOP from the states. On his way to Roatan, he was to board Isleña Airlines in La Ceiba. The small plane was overloaded, he said, with one more passenger than seats and stuffed with dive gear. He thought it was unsafe and asked to be put on the next plane. "Senor, that will be several days because we are booked." He stayed on, but says never again.

Eavesdropping on the bartender at the Monteleone Bar during the New Orleans **DEMA** convention: "These damn divers order the weirdest drinks. Why, we're in the dead of winter — temperature last night was 38 — and all they want are Margaritas and Mai Tais with umbrellas in them." . . . Gladys Howard, gourmet chef and proprietor of **Little Cayman's Pirate's Point**, remembered what Ben wrote about her when he edited *Undercurrent*. At the *In Depth* booth, she said, "Tell him to come down when I'm not there; our meals are so good he won't know the difference." Years ago, readers reported that when she wasn't on the premises meals fell apart. "No more," she said, "I've trained my staff well." . . .

A recent newsletter from **Club Peace & Plenty, Exuma, Bahamas**, mentions that a "mother ship and eight pod boats" will begin operations out of Elizabeth Harbor this May. Is this the **Cehili** that shut down operations in Indonesia? That's my guess; I've heard rumors of the boat resurfacing in the Bahamas.

Bigger is not always better. In our January article on **Grand Cayman**, Ben Davison commented that, while **Fisheye's** diving operation was well regarded by photographers, it was

getting too big. Martin J. Sutton, CEO of Fisheye, e-mailed us that he agreed and was doing something about it. "I also felt we were starting to get a little top heavy, so this year actually downsized to just three boats so that we could continue to offer the small-operation feel to our clients that they have come to expect." . . . Cayman Islands government officials denied a report aired on the Feb. 28 edition of the television show *Hard Copy* that **O.J. Simpson** had purchased a house on Grand Cayman. The interesting part is that the house named by the TV show would be worth about \$500,000 — according to the local real estate association, somewhat modest by Cayman standards. Beachfront condominiums along the Seven Mile Beach area start at a cool \$1 million. . . . **Treasure Island Divers** is no longer at Treasure Island; they've moved over to the **Dive Inn**. Don't worry, they didn't change the name of the dive boat; it remains the *Twitty Diver*. Still, not everyone is happy with the new operation. When their divemaster announced that everyone should be back on the boat with 700 psi, a crusty-looking diver in a torn wetsuit was overheard saying "What if I just leave the f@#!\*^ tank on the boat?"

Walking into a dive shop in **Mazatlán**, on Mexico's Pacific side, I asked, "How's the diving?" When the proprietor inquired, "Have you been diving anywhere else?" I said yes. "Then it is not good."

"**Time To Go**" fares on Air New Zealand are \$898 round-trip from Los Angeles to Sydney, Australia, and \$798 to Auckland, New Zealand. Up to seven different stopovers can be added (Tahiti, Fiji, Hawaii, Western Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, and New Zealand) for \$125 per layover.

*In Depth* is the consumer newsletter for sport divers that reviews scuba destinations and equipment. We accept no advertising. Subscriptions are \$60 a year (addresses in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, add \$15; other foreign addresses, add \$30).

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