

Del Mar, CA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 70 to 100 Feet. Water: 79 to 81 F, calm. On par with the best diving I've had — healthy reefs, lots of big and small fish, crab, lobster, stingrays and spotted eagle rays, turtles. Others saw sharks, I didn't. Sunny with light breezes during the day, wind picked up at night to 20 knots or so. Boat ride smooth and steady. Crew was friendly, competent, and hard working. Dive operations well run and we got all the diving in we could want. Slide shows in the evening well done. Food well done, good variety. Condition of boat unsatisfactory. Lower deck state-rooms "rained" condensation every night and often during the day — poor design they need to fix with some ventilation (there is no fresh air in cabins. When I got to my room, found it stinking of mold and mildew, framed photo on wall colored and stained with active growth, water streaks down the wall from condensation trails, area around exhaust for room's a/c black with mold/mildew, a/c intake dusty and dirty; moisture absorbent bag in room full and growing mold/mildew. Throughout boat's lower deck, interior carpet worn, filthy, and stained with grease/oil. Several times could not get into cabin after dinner when sewage system blocked and the crew had to access piping to run roto-rooter by lifting carpet and underlying deck plates in hallway. Exterior deck carpeting badly worn and frayed. Presented tripping hazard to passengers at head of aft sun deck stairs and on dive deck

where edges lifting up caught diver's flippers every day. Apparently cost of importing new carpet through Belize high, but cost of a lawsuit will be higher.

Sun Dancer, August 2002, Judy Flagg, Wallingford, CT. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 82 to 86 F, calm. 2nd cruise in Belize for the *Sun Dancer*. Peter and Alice Hughes were on the boat that week. The boat was spotless and the room we were assigned was spacious by live aboard standards. The salon where they served all meals, was large and air conditioned. The food could not be better, Janis can really cook! The dive staff was excellent. At each new site we were given a great briefing. The dive deck was spacious and getting into the water was an easy giant stride. The diving itself beautiful. We saw lots of lush coral and tropical fish. There were large groupers and turtles on every dive. We saw several spotted eagle rays and one person saw and photographed a hammerhead shark. (Ph: 800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391; fax 305-669-9475; e-mail dancer@peterhughes.com; website www.peterhughes.com)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Aggressor IV, December 2001, David S. Johnson, Wildomar, CA. Vis: 80-120 ft. Water: 80 F. Dives logged: 132. Overall performance of crew was great. Weather could have been better but good none the less. (Ph: 800-348-2628 or 985-385-2628; fax 985-384-0817; e-mail info@aggressor.com; website www.aggressor.com)

Aggressor IV, February 2002, Toni Anderson, Plano, TX. Vis: 80-100 ft. Water: 80 F. Dives accrued: 136. Dive restrictions enforced: above 130 ft. 8 divers on a boat, can accommodate 18, so uncrowded. Crew attentive but not intrusive. Visibility good, coral in great condition. Sea wasps on night dives. Unable to make Little Cayman or Cayman Brac due to weather. Most dives made on sites typically done by shore-based operations. Captain and crew excellent.

Aggressor IV, April 2002, Robert Karlin & Dana Fisher, Houston, TX. Vis: 15-40 ft. Water: 80-82 F. Dives logged: 1500+. Dive restrictions enforced: 110' max. Due to high winds (30+ mph) all diving was done off West side of Grand Cayman. One trip around for Stingray City was only variation. Although there are permanent moorings, there are too many, too close together. On several occasions boats with large groups (25+) attached to adjacent buoy making area over crowded. The reefs are in miserable condition due to over diving. As for the boat, rarely was any crew member on the deck to assist with cameras or gear at the end of dives. Little attention paid to those guests not taking classes onboard.

Aggressor, June 2002, Alex Slocum, Bow, NH. Vis: 60-200 ft. Water: 85 F. Dives logged: ~100 in last three years. Awesome crew, excellent boat, but upstairs (dive deck) restroom was awful. We did Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Babylon was not that great. Other sites much better. A most excellent trip we will

favorably remember for a lifetime! The "kids week" made it all the more fun.

Aggressor, June 2002, John Shumate (dive@ixpres.com) Rockford, IL. Experience: 501-1000 dives. We hadn't been on an *Aggressor* since 1996, and my wife was delighted with the head and shower in our cabin. The sign-in board has been replaced by the dive deck crew getting depth and bottom time on your dive. Perhaps because our group was mostly DMs and Instructors with thousands of dives, the charming and efficient crew kept the restrictions easy enough to allow us to have a good time, and we in turn didn't abuse their trust. The substitute chef, Leigh, had mastered all of the offerings and was always there with a fresh baked treat between dives. If we decided to skip the night dive, beer was on tap and high value Chilean wine varietals were available with dinner. I really enjoyed this trip and got lots of pleasing pics. Excellent facilities for photographers with a battery charging station under the camera table, tv/vcrs in the cabins, and a large screen TV.

Aggressor, July 2002, Bob Losey (rflosey@inficad.com) Chandler, AZ. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 75 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 83 F, calm. A recently updated boat. Savio was a good cook but not great. Typical *Aggressor* buffet. We had steak one evening on the top deck. Captain Kurt was not the normal captain, but did a great job as did the rest of the crew. The diving by Caribbean standards was typical. As much diving as the

Caymans gets it was in pretty good shape. Turtles, stingrays and a couple of sharks and then the usual assortment of fish and lots of coral. My favorite site was 'Keith Tibbets Wreck' though recently sunk. Bloody Bay was nice. Let them know you want to make the crossing (weather permitting) to Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Everything there is in much better shape than in Grand Cayman. We dove mostly five dives a day. Air fills were 3000-3200 and if they were not, just tell one of the crew and he would top it off. Our stateroom was cleaned daily and had a TV/VCR. Camera Table was for cameras only. But toward the end of the week the crew was putting drinks on the camera table. When I would ask — Want to see a new camera and point to a cup they would promptly remove it.

Little Cayman Diver II, December 2001, Mary L. Long,
(gregmary14@msn.com) Denver,
CO. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 75 Feet. Water: 78 to 82 F, calm surge. Bob and Ricky de Gouveia, new owners, are trying to make a previously mediocre operation into an outstanding operation. The present boat needs much work. The air conditioning was hit or miss and we ran out of water. The dock at Cayman Brac is pitiful. Food was plentiful. Roberta went out of her way to please everyone. We ran out of beer and soft drinks in the middle of the week. Dive deck staff was attentive and went out of their way to get everyone ready. We had to wait for a guest, who was slow

and needy. Edson, the deck hand paid attention to every detail getting the group ready for the dive. He pulled some of us back, the other dive master got us lost. We had to go as a group. The dive deck is not made for large groups and camera equipment. The staff should be commended for all their patients and efforts. They enforced dive restrictions. Captain Tom has the people skills of rabid pit bull in heat. He criticized and ridiculed staff in front of guests. He was constantly criticizing Edson and Roberta for mistakes Tom did. Traci tried to keep the peace. The worst was when Tom was screaming at Roberta about how she was cooking Christmas dinner. He told the same bad stories repeatedly. He criticized guests and former owners. On the other hand, he did move to calmer areas when the seas were rough and was able to fix everything that broke. Other than Tom, the staff did a great job. This is one of the best places to have a live-a-board boat. It would have been nice to dive our own profiles, which the boat is known for. The sea life is recovering from the last hurricane in November. Turtles were everywhere and there was an occasional shark. Due to choppy conditions, we did dives that aren't done that often, Soto Trader(a good night dive). When the weather got better, we returned to Bloody Bay Wall. The best diving was the Gazebo,(the Arch), Jackson's Reef. The tank for underwater photography was never changed or half full. **(Ph: 800-544-2722 or 305-247-8415; e-mail info@bracdiver.com; website www.bracdiver.com)**