



Scuba Emporium

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Why I wrote a Dry Suit Course?

A year after I wrote the Ice Diver program I was at Devils Lake in Baraboo, Wisconsin. It was back in 1977, I believe. We had completed the Ice dive training and all went back to the hotel, and sky lodge. It was here I began to think, and this normally gets me in trouble.

I work hard to get these people excited about coming to Devils Lake for a weekend of playing and diving. I spent a lot of time in the pool with them, and then to get them ready for the weekend. We would wrap up the dives at around 2 PM and head back to the rooms. We met in the bar to complete the dive logs and socialize a bit. Later while sitting at the bar I saw our customers on the slopes spending a lot of money. I began to think, how can I earn some of that? **Well I had it!** I wrote an outline for using Dry Suits and made it a requirement that every one diving with the suit had to be in or have taken a Dry Suit specialty from me.

You can't imagine how well this worked. I had people taking the Dry Suit specialty course all year so they could go on the ice dives, as well as enjoy the sport a few extra months. It was funny; I wrote it to help winter sales. I never realized how it would help and did help my store all year. Our diving season now was twelve months and I was one of the first stores out in the spring and last to stop in the fall. Had I had known that I would have written the darn thing in 1974.

Today this still holds true. If you want to train with SCUBA EMPORIUM in late March and April or in the late fall, you are asked to dive dry. Dry suit diving is truly a way to enjoy cold water diving. Even if we have new divers out doing certification dives I have learned they stay in diving longer if they were warm at the beginning. Dry suits also allow us to do deeper dives longer, and come back to the boat sorta (home made word) warm. I have learned that is better than kinda (another home made word) cold.

Today I love diving as much as I did as a child, but staying warm has given me a greater appreciation of the recreation of cold water diving. So don't just dive locally for the summer months and shallow waters. Come on and join us for the different seasons and become a truly seasoned diver.

Stay warm and stay safe - Dive Dry,

Patrick