

Dave Gordon is one of Scotland's most experienced instructors and has been a part of Aberdeen Watersports since 1992. Dave has been diving for 20 years and in that time has built up a vast amount of knowledge and he is now technical editor for ScubaWorld magazine. In his time away from the Dive Centre he is a firefighter with Grampian brigade, and when he's not doing that he loves to sail his boat or do a spot of fishing.



■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● Well - I first tried diving in a quarry in the north east of Scotland when I was 17 years old wearing my Dad's "borrowed" scuba gear (unbeknown to my parents). These quarry dives continued for a wee while until I realised that you get out of diving what you put into it and so I embarked on some qualifications so that I could take on some more difficult dives that I was by then craving.

■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?

● Professionally speaking I am an instructor who teaches a broad range of students at all stages of their diving lives. I must admit to getting immense pleasure from initial open water courses as the enthusiasm you see among students is great. Personally speaking I would class myself as an 'all round' diver, as I am equally at home in the darkest depths discovering new wrecks as I am in just 2 metres of water in the River Dee videoing salmon (on one occasion I was surrounded by what must have been 50,000 salmon - it was like swimming through a tube of fish - amazing!).

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● This is so easy for me to answer - it has to be my Inspiration Vision as it allows me to continue being an 'all round' diver with the minimum of effort. I can use the same equipment for my deep dives as I do with my shallow ones. It is like the joiner's toolbox of the scuba world.

■ DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?

● When I am on holiday my wife Janine takes that honour. However, back in the UK my two buddies are Duncan and Stuart as there are no rules when diving with them. We are all on trimix and so we can go wherever we want and don't have to take things too seriously. It is great for me as an instructor to be able to get out on dives where I can really let my hair down, and relax and diving with Duncan and Stuart means I can do just that.

■ FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

● For this I have three answers. The Maldives due to the large variety of marine life; any new Scottish wreck because each is unique and you never know what you are going to see and the River Dee for its salmon, otters and clear, warm water. If pushed for an outright favourite though - I would have to betray the homeland and say that the Maldives win, this is

mainly because diving there you see things you could only dream of over here and the diving itself is just so easy. It really is a pleasure to dive over there.

■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● I think I just answered that! The Maldives really are spectacular with mantas, sharks, an abundance of marine life, great weather, clear waters and whenever you are there you are on holiday so things generally seem better. I would liken the Maldives to the Red Sea 15 years ago - we have to hope that it doesn't become quite so popular and its charm will remain.

■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● Seeing things that you can't see on land - and if you did they would be like monsters - is a real driving force for me.

■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY?

● I enjoyed 50+ dives with the late Rob Palmer who was a great leader and visionary in the technical diving world (author of the book *Technical Diving*). Some of my best dives were with Rob in the depths of Loch Ness and I would love to relive those moments.

■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?

● Not original I know but I really would like to go to the Galapagos Islands to see the whale sharks in particular. I would be equally keen to see the land life; I better get there while I still can.

■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

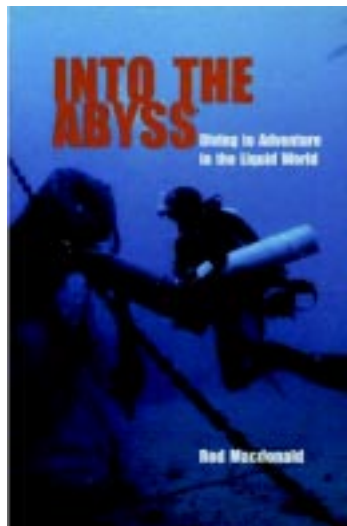
● *Into the Abyss* by Rod MacDonald as it is written about diving in the north east of Scotland (my patch), it is funny and I am in it! I was Rod's instructor once upon a time and he saw fit to include me in some of his tales.

■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● Competitiveness. Diving ought to be relaxed, easy and enjoyable - the moment people start being competitive they make it stressful, difficult and dangerous.

■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?

● A whole series of unique experiences wrapped into one - weightlessness, marine life you would normally only see on TV or in books and wrecks acting as artificial reefs (quite different to how they appear above the surface).



Rod's book, in which Dave makes a special guest appearance