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other like skin diving partners are supposed to do.

I swam along, fighting against the weight from my belt, thinking that I was probably using a lot of air because I was working so hard. I was so busy taking pictures that it never occurred to me to check my air tanks, and so I was really unprepared when I suddenly realized I was having a little trouble breathing. I looked around for David and couldn't see him, so I went to work on my breathing valve, thinking that it was shut too tightly. To my surprise, it was all the way open, and then the truth hit me. I looked at my air gauge, and it read zero!

DAVID TO THE RESCUE

Well, I flipped out. I was thirty feet down, which is a long long way, and it was impossible to inhale any more. I flailed around for a second in panic, and then David materialized at my side. I signaled to him that I couldn't breathe, and he took my arm and we started up.

We couldn't swim too fast, because you can get hurt very badly coming up too quickly, and that was the longest



DAVID SHOWS OFF HIS new tee shirt from the shop where we rented our diving gear—Skin Diving Hawaii. It was located in Lahaina, which was once a whaling port of Maui.

thirty feet I've ever travelled! By the time I got to the top, my lungs were bursting, and I grabbed the biggest gulp of air I've ever had in my life, but my troubles weren't over, because my weight belt and the camera and my other equipment immediately pulled me under again! David went down with me and helped me get my weight belt off-it dropped slowly to the ocean floor below. I got my tank off and handed it to David, and somehow got back to the boat. It was only while I was lying on the floor of the boat, breathing long, shuddering breaths, that I realized I didn't have the camera anymore! David and Neil looked for it for the rest of the afternoon, but it couldn't be found.

I had put on the wrong weight belt, a belt intended for a man about twice my weight, and I had used up all my air trying to drag it along. If it hadn't been for David...well, I don't like to think about it!

I can't believe that I've run out of space and I'm only part-way through our second day in Hawaii! Well, I'll be teling you more about the most exciting vacation of both David's and my life right here next month! Plus more exclusive photographs! The May issue of Tiger Beat is on sale April 13th. See you then!



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