

And this goes as work!

This is, apparently, somebody's idea of work. Randy Kraft, who runs Bismarck's Scuba One, leaves today for Jamaica-Jamaica, a sandy-beached, blue-watered resort on Runaway Bay, Jamaica.

For 10 days, Kraft and Shelly Gunsch will pose as everyday tourists at the 214-acre "all-inclusive" resort on the beach. Normally, the price tag for a couple staying 10 days runs more than \$4,000. Kraft and Gunsch will pay nothing.

For a single price, Jamaica-Jamaica's guests get the basics — rooms, meals, drinks — and the extras: sailing, horseback riding, golfing, biking, donkey riding, tennis.

And scuba diving.

That's why the resort's management called Kraft. Posing as a tourist, Kraft will dive every morning, taking note of what the resort's scuba staff is doing wrong. And what it's doing right. When he's done, he'll present a report to the resort.

It's not particularly tough work. "I get up in the morning and dive," he said. "And then do whatever." This won't be his first assignment. In December, he evaluated Hedonism II, a resort owned by the same company. — PETER SALTER

May 24, 2001

Underwater adventure thrives in Mandan

Young business leaders speak out

BY BONNIE JONES

In the last decade, more North Dakotans are enjoying exploration of the beautiful world beneath the surface of rivers, lakes and oceans. One business is now offering area students the opportunity to become professional diving instructors.

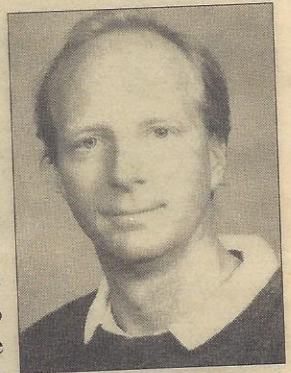
Randy Kraft, owner of Scuba One, is a native of Bismarck and a graduate of Bismarck High School. While earning a degree in finance and business administration at Moorhead State University, Kraft took his first scuba diving class. During spring break, while vacationing in the Bahamas, he became passionate about the sport.

After graduation in 1980, Kraft worked in Minneapolis and pursued his love for scuba diving recreationally. He decided to enroll in a 10-week instructor's course in California, after which he was made director of water sports for several major hotels and nine weekly cruise ships in Jamaica.

In 1987, Kraft returned home to Bismarck and began teaching scuba at the YMCA, while continuing to visit the Caribbean each year. After working out of a small shop in north Bismarck for nine years, he moved his business in 1996 to Mandan near Marina Bay, where he enjoys better visibility.

"I like the idea of being able to travel and set my own hours," said Kraft, "but to succeed at this business, you can't just love the hobby of scuba diving. You have to love the idea of the business."

Kraft feels his new location in the path of traffic to and from the waterpark will bring more business his way. In the near future, he will continue to expand his in Mandan by offering more trips through the website.



RANDY KRAFT
SCUBA ONE



Volunteers gathered following a hard day's work at Coastal Cleanup in Riverdale recently.

Scuba One and Riverdale Ambulance participate in Coastal Cleanup

By MARY J. SEIDEL

Scuba One, based in Bismarck, along with Riverdale Ambulance, co-sponsored a 'Coastal Cleanup' on September 5. The area targeted was the face of the Garrison Dam—picking up litter which was in the grass and the rocks.

"This is our second year cleaning at the face of the dam," stated Randy Kraft—owner/master instructor of Scuba One of Bismarck. "I am happy to see the number of volunteers we have here today—considering the weather. This is an international program, organized by the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC). It is the world's largest cleanup of beaches, oceans and waterways."

The fifteen volunteers were from Minot, Bismarck, Gladstone and Riverdale. They joined citizens worldwide who picked up millions of pounds of debris from more than

4,500 beaches, lakeshores, river banks and even underwater sites. This year's cleanup involved volunteers in 54 U.S. states and territories and more than 80 countries.

Since its inception, the Coastal Cleanup, which began in 1987, has grown. Last year, nearly 160,000 volunteers cleaned up more than three million pounds of trash at over 3,000 sites, covering close to 7,000 miles of coastline.

"International Coastal Cleanup is important because 'human hands and a human face lie behind each piece of garbage that enters the marine environment,'" Kraft said. "The responsibility for this world-wide problem does not belong solely to shipping companies, fishing fleets and governments, because ultimately someone has thrown that trash overboard, into the street, down the toilet or into the storm drain. People are the problem, but

through the International Coastal Cleanup, people are also the solution. The next time you are thinking of throwing something into the environment—stop and think of the mess it creates and the many volunteers who participate in cleanup."

Kraft went on to say, "this volunteer group picked up about 35 bags of trash," "and permission from the Sakakawea State Park, allowed us to put the trash in their dumpsters, for which we are thankful."

If anyone is interested in helping with the worthwhile project, they can contact Kraft at Scuba One—their toll free number is 1-800-454-DIVE (3483).

Pic 1&2—before the cleanup—volunteers

Pic 3&4—after cleanup with trash in bags in front of group of volunteers from Riverdale, Minot, Bismarck and Gladstone.