

Aquatic Adventures Scuba & Swim, LLC was created from a dream of sharing our love of the aquatic world with you. Our names are Mike and Tracy Wynn. We moved to Pueblo West, Colorado from Glenwood Springs, CO in May 2005, to be closer to family and to pursue our dream of one day opening a scuba dive shop. Pueblo county at that time had not had a dive shop here for a few years, so it seemed like the right time to start one.

We became scuba divers while living in Glenwood Springs, and were originally certified as NAUI divers (National Association of Underwater Instructors) by Terry Danko of Boulder, Colorado. We fell in love with diving and began to travel the world doing so every chance we got! While living in Glenwood Springs, we met Tom Bennett, dear friend and owner of Aspen Divers, a PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) Dive Center. Tom helped teach us how to become a dive center once we moved to Pueblo West. Tom did gear service for us our first couple of years in the business. Tom has since moved on to manage a very popular Mexican restaurant in Aspen. He will always be remembered and cherished for his roll in helping us start our dive business.

While on a trip to Roatan in January 2003, we decided to become Advanced Open Water Divers. All that was available was a PADI instructor, so we crossed over from NAUI divers to PADI at that time. Then we continued our PADI education with various other instructors to where we are today with Tracy having done most of her professional scuba training with A1 Scuba in Englewood, CO.

We decided to start our business small, by having a home-based business and just a scuba and swimming training facility. We built a 42 foot long by 16 foot wide swimming pool on our property and covered it with an air dome for year around use. We built a small adjacent building to the pool to use as a classroom. While getting swim lessons for our first grandson, Gage Miller, age 5 when we moved to Pueblo West, Tracy decided to train with his instructor, Pearl Krongard, to add swimming lessons to our dive center plan. After training with Pearl, Tracy went on to get her WSI from American Red Cross to teach kids swimming. We opened for business in April, 2006 and began teaching both scuba and swimming that summer.

We soon saw that there was a need for local divers to have a place to get air fills, service their gear, purchase gear and accessory items, and plan dive trips. We also discovered that Puebloans did not want to travel to Colorado Springs do have these needs met, so we decided to expand our business to suit their needs, and became a full service dive center, offering scuba training, travel, sales and service. Adding those services to our business allowed us to become a PADI Dive Center by February, 2007.

In April 2007, we met Steve Weaver from Dream Weavers (and Weavers Dive and Travel Center) of Boulder, CO., and began offering group dive travel through them. After joining a few of their group trips, we were very impressed with Steve and his staff, and our customers have been too! Through Steve, we were introduced to Jess Watson of Odyssey Divers in Northglenn, Colorado who is an equipment specialist extraordinaire! Jess is our current gear service technician and has also helped teach us about the business

of diving. Many thanks to Tom, Steve, and Jess for their help and support, along with Larry Hill, (our former PADI rep) that through his patience, understanding, and support have helped mold us into the dive center we are today.

In September 2008, we did our first annual community event with Lake Pueblo. Wanting to participate in PADI's Project A.W.A.R.E. (Aquatic World Awareness Responsibility and Education) International Cleanup Day, we formed the first annual "Lake Pueblo Land & Sea Cleanup Day" on September 28, 2008. The event was only planned 3 weeks in advance but we received a lot of community support and it was a success with participants collecting over 1100 pounds of rubbish. Please mark your calendar to participate in this important world and community cause which takes place yearly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in September. Both non-divers and divers can participate.

A lot has happened in the past few years, and we have moved a couple of times since we started. Currently (summer, 2009) during this recession, and while waiting for the indoor pool to be completed at the Pueblo West Campgrounds, (past and future location) we are presently operating again out of our home in our small building adjacent to the pool.

We would love to invite you to visit our store at 825 S. Rudio Drive in Pueblo West, Colorado, or call (719-543-DIVE) or email ([info@aadive.com](mailto:info@aadive.com)) today.

For area divers we look forward to offering you continuing dive education, dive equipment sales and service, and dive travel through group trips or individual travel.

For those of you not yet certified to dive, we look forward to training you to become certified divers so that you can explore the fascinating underwater world that few ever see!

We also hope to teach your children a love of water through swim lessons, so that they can someday dive with you!