

## **Ron Aiello Procures Prestigious Platinum Pro 5000 Card for Scuba Instruction**

*Aiello joins the ranks of celebrated divers who have earned this award, including famed marine biologists Jacques Cousteau, Eugenie Clark, and Sylvia Earle, and the "World's Greatest Treasure Hunter" Mel Fisher.*

December 12, 2012 (FPRC) -- Athens, GA – Ron Aiello of Dolphin Dive Center in Athens, GA was awarded the venerated Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor Card by Scuba School International (SSI) at a special ceremony during the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) trade show last month in Las Vegas. Aiello was one of only 32 professional dive instructors worldwide to earn the designation this year.

Platinum Pro 5000 is the calling card of the world's most elite water explorers. Since 1993, the list of cardholders is a "who's who" of diving, containing the world's most prominent dive leaders. The Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor card cannot be purchased. Qualified individuals must apply for the award and be recommended by two previously recognized Platinum Pros.

Aiello worked hard for over a decade to meet the Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor requirements. He successfully accumulated 5000 points, earning points every time he dove, certified a student, or trained a certified diver in one of the ten specialty courses he is qualified to teach.

Aiello has logged in over 4800 dives in a career that first took root in his childhood. He was just 14 years old when a salvage diver named Dan Wilson taught him to dive. At the time, Aiello was inspired by Lloyd Bridges who played Mike Nelson, the scuba diving hero from the popular TV series "Sea Hunt" that aired from 1958 to 1961. Aiello has since dived his way up the scuba ranks in experience and recognition. He joined Dolphin Dive Center's team shortly after becoming a certified scuba instructor ten years ago.

"I love teaching diving and I cherish my relationship with Dolphin Dive Center," says Aiello. "My ultimate goal is to do my part to make safe divers throughout the diving community and help train those individuals to love and appreciate this awesome sport, as well as teach them to understand God's awesome creation and do their part to protect it."

Dolphin Dive Center owner Tim Bridgham and several DDC employees were in attendance at the DEMA Show awards ceremony in Las Vegas to cheer Aiello on as he accepted the Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor Card.

About Ron Aiello:

Aiello has taught scuba diving for over ten years. In addition to teaching the SSI Open Water Certification Class, he is qualified to teach more than ten specialty courses. An avid cave diver, Aiello is also a National Association for Cave Divers (NACD) cave diving instructor. Prior to becoming a scuba instructor, Aiello served on the NACD Board of Directors as a non-instructor Director for over 12 years. He and his wife live in Jefferson, GA.

About Dolphin Dive Center:

Dolphin Dive Center is a full-service dive shop in Athens, GA. Established in 1999, DDC features seven instructors and fourteen dive masters who have certified over 1000 scuba divers, combined. In addition to offering basic certification classes and continued education specialty courses, DDC specializes in dive equipment sales, service and rental, group travel, and tanning.

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