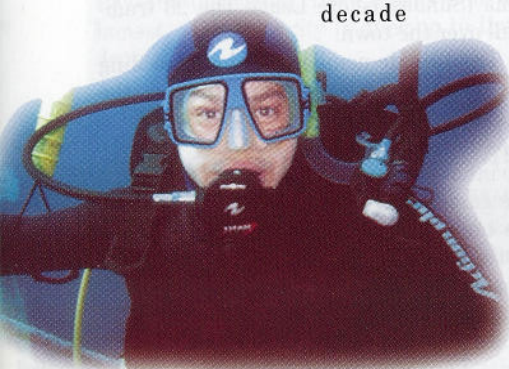
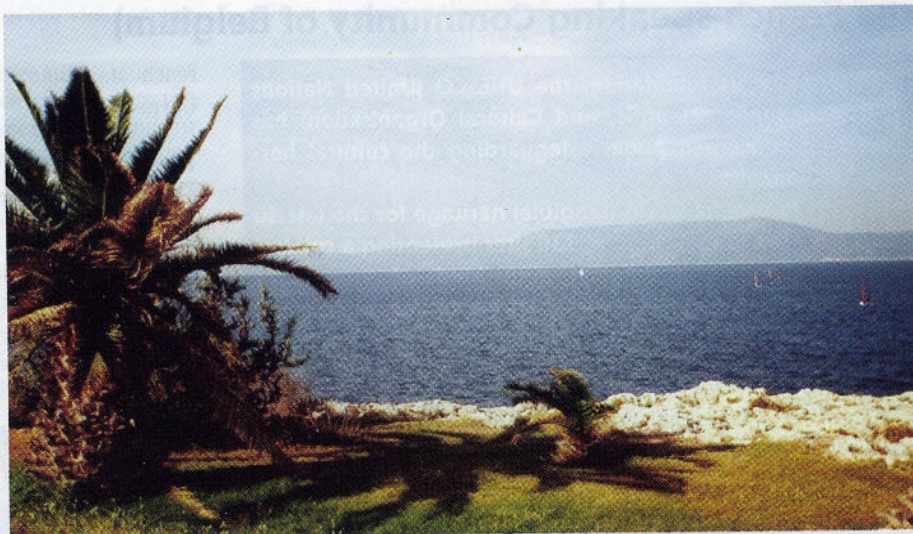




Scuba diving in the winter? It may sound bone chilling but if you take the plunge in Turkey you are in for a very pleasant surprise. Just ask members of the SHAPE Sub Aqua Club (SSAC). Dan Haslip, Chico Lamond, Louise Linderoth, Jose Ramon Garcia Viejo, and Angelo Leone all headed to the city of Izmir recently for eight days of diving, fun, and sun. The group of die-hard divers arrived in Izmir on a bright and warm November day. Izmir is Turkey's third largest city and a major port and commercial centre. Approximately three million people live in the picturesque city that is renowned for its scuba diving adventures. "I have been diving for about a decade



and this trip rates among my best," said SSAC Diving Officer Dan Haslip. "We completed nine dives during our stay including a wreck dive, a night dive, and one focused on aquatic life photography. It was really wonderful." The trip was also very affordable. Each SSAC member paid just €299 for airfare, food, and lodging. Diving fees were an additional expense, but Haslip said these



costs were also very reasonable. "We worked hard to find a great deal for our members and we succeeded. We stayed in a five-star hotel, enjoyed buffet meals, sightseeing, shopping, and most important great diving," Haslip said.



During their diving adventures, the group saw a variety of aquatic life including conger and moray eels, barracuda, starfish, grouper, and parrotfish. Most days were warm, approximately 25 degrees Celsius, but the group did encounter a couple of rainy days in Izmir. But SSAC members took it in stride. They spent the two gray days visiting local ruins, sightseeing, and shopping. "The whole shopping experience in Izmir was quite interesting," Haslip said with a smile. "I enjoyed the haggling and walked away with some really good deals." More than twenty SSAC members will

soon be enjoying another good deal. The group leaves in late March for a scuba diving adventure in Egypt and more trips are being planned for later in the spring. "Right now we are talking about travelling to Spain or Croatia, but it really depends on the deal we get. We are always looking for the best trip at the best price," Haslip said. "The most important thing is the diving. I guess you could call it a healthy addiction."

The SHAPE Sub Aqua Club has more than 80 members and offers scuba diving courses at reduced cost to SHAPE community members. For more information on SSAC classes or upcoming trips, contact the SSAC at shapesubaquacub@hotmail.com.



Are you a Bridge player?

The SHAPE Officers' Bridge Club (SOBC) meets in the Officers' Club on Tuesdays, from 0930 to 1200 hours. Partners are arranged at this session.

Duplicate bridge is played from 1930 to 2200 hours. Come along even if you do not have a partner. We can arrange one for you.

The SOBC plays bridge in a friendly-relaxed atmosphere.

Membership is international and the standard of play varies from the beginner to the more proficient!

Please contact the SOBC Secretary Diana Robertson if you need more information on 065/22.01.09 or email di.robertson@skynet.be.

