



SDI Announces Extensive Seminar Lineup for DEMA Show 2026

Four Days of Education, Industry Insight, Innovation, and Conversation Coming to New Orleans

Scuba Diving International (SDI) is bringing a full schedule of seminars, panel discussions, professional updates, and interactive sessions to [DEMA Show 2026](#), November 3–6 in New Orleans.

Throughout the four-day event, dive professionals are invited to join SDI in Room 286 for conversations covering some of the most important topics shaping the future of the dive industry, including diver safety, training standards, emerging technology, business growth, conservation, public safety diving, rebreather development, freediving, leadership, and professional development. Attendees can also connect with the SDI team throughout the show at [Booth N-1651](#).

“DEMA gives our industry an opportunity to come together, exchange ideas, challenge ourselves, and learn from one another,” said Brian Carney, President & CEO of International Training. “We want these seminars to create conversations that continue long after the show ends. Whether someone is an instructor, facility owner, Course Director, technical diver, public safety professional, or simply looking at where the industry is heading next, there is something here for them.”

[DEMA 2026 - Seminar Schedule](#)

A Seminar Program Built Around the Issues Shaping Diving

The 2026 program begins Tuesday, November 3, with Jesse Iacono presenting an SDI Technology Update: What's New, What's Next, exploring the technologies changing the way divers learn, instructors teach, and dive businesses operate.

The day continues with Thomas Powell and a panel of ERDI experts examining public safety diving operations in ERDI: Ghosts, Gear, and Gas, followed by Alex Brylske and Stephanie Miele presenting SDI's Conservation Commitment: Real Action, Real Impact. The conservation session will explore initiatives involving Reef Smart, Clear Currents, and the Ocean Explorer Program while giving dive professionals practical ways to become more involved.

Later sessions will tackle the future of dive training standards with Brian Carney, real-world dive center strategies with Jesse Iacono and dive facility owners, and an interactive PFI Breath-Hold Challenge led by Chris Bustad.

Training, Technology, Rebreathers, Leadership, and Business

Wednesday, November 4, opens with Cris Merz and Jesse Iacono hosting a Rise & Shine: The Dealer Breakfast, providing current and prospective SDI facilities an informal opportunity to connect with the SDI team and other members of the diving community.

The day's program includes an extensive SDI member update from Amanda Baker, followed by Mark Powell's From Bulky to Brilliant: 20 Years of CCR Evolution, examining two decades of closed-circuit rebreather development and where the technology may go next.

Powell will also present We Care About Training: Raising the Bar, a session focused on practical ways instructors can improve how they teach, communicate, evaluate, and develop divers.

Stephanie Miele will lead Women Changing Diving: Leading the Next Wave, bringing together women from across the industry for a discussion about leadership, opportunity, challenges, and the future of diving.

The afternoon continues with Jonathan Bird, creator of Jonathan Bird's Blue World, discussing the program's history and its new partnership with SDI; Ed Kelleher and Kevin Pang exploring strategies for promoting local diving; and a dedicated Course Director and Instructor Trainer update with Amanda Baker, Mark Powell, and Thomas Powell.

Putting Safety at the Center of the Conversation

Safety takes center stage Thursday, November 5.

Sean Harrison and Brian Shreve will introduce Turning Incidents Into Insight: The Quarterly Report, discussing SDI's new approach to examining diving accidents and incidents and using those lessons to identify risk before future incidents occur.

That discussion leads into This Is Us: An Open Conversation on Safety, featuring Brian Carney and Sean Harrison in an unscripted conversation about standards, safety, industry responsibility, and the future of diver training.

Harrison will also present Safe Dive Boat Ops, addressing practical procedures surrounding diver counts, loading, emergency drills, crew communication, and the often-overlooked risks associated with dive boat operations.

The day's program also includes another SDI Technology Update, Member Update, and a Women Divers Hall of Fame panel led by Stephanie Miele, featuring accomplished women representing a range of diving disciplines and careers.

Thinking About Joining SDI?

The seminar program concludes Friday, November 6, with Switching Sides: The SDI Crossover Session, presented by Amanda Baker, Mark Powell, and Thomas Powell.

Designed for dive professionals considering a move to SDI, the session provides a straightforward look at the crossover process, what professionals can expect, and the resources available to them as part of the SDI community.

Join the Conversation in New Orleans

From practical business strategies and instructor development to emerging technology, safety, conservation, rebreathers, public safety diving, freediving, and the future of industry standards, SDI's DEMA 2026 seminar program is designed to provide professionals with ideas they can take directly back to their students, staff, facilities, and diving communities.

DEMA Show 2026

November 3–6, 2026

New Orleans, Louisiana

SDI Booth: N-1651

Seminars: Room 286

Attendees are encouraged to review the complete [seminar schedule](#) and register for the sessions they want to attend.

[DEMA 2026 - Seminar Schedule](#)