

Wreck Divers Training For Cave Diving

Several years ago my phone rang with a caller from Canada who told me he and two friends wanted to take a cave diver class. The call came in November, when it was very cold in Canada and the buddy team "needed" to dive. He went on to tell me that he and his team were very keen for wreck diving, and had limited interest in cave diving. He also went on to tell me one of his mentors encouraged them to take a cave class because it would make them better wreck divers, he was skeptical about the entire thing.

We set dates for his team to travel down to High Springs for their cave training. These guys were advanced wreck penetration divers, dry suits, trimix and long decompressions were no stranger to this team. They arrived, we trained and trained and after about 20 dives they became certified as Full Cave Divers through the NSS-CDS and the IANTD.

They fell in love with our caves and cave diving – I showed them Ginnie, Devils' Eye/Ear, Manatee, Madison, Peacock, and Little River, all the usual suspects.

For the next two years they forgot about wreck diving and every chance they had they would do the 20+ hour drive from Canada to High Springs.

They installed a second gasoline/saddle tank onto the van they always came in and subsequently only made one stop on the way down. These guys even switched drivers while they were underway so as to not delay. Condom catheters and gallon milk jugs played a big role in their ability to not stop too.

The bottom line is this cave diving gig is as addicting as crack to many divers.