

## SCUBA DIVING

# Chevy Chase dive school teaches locals to take a plunge

Hidden in Chevy Chase is the SPE Dive School, the only institution that offers private scuba instruction in Maryland. For over thirty years, SPE (Scuba Professional Education) has been run by Mike Parker, Director and Master Instructor.

The dive school is unique because it emphasizes training would-be divers as opposed to primarily focusing on sales. "Diving is unique," Mike says, "because it's not only an adventure sport, it's a way to escape into another world."

Rene Salo of Friendship Heights in Chevy Chase took the class six years ago. Now, she dives three to four times a year and hopes to become an instructor herself. She describes diving as "flying under the water," and says the best part about the sport is it's noncompetitive and stress-free nature. Rene joined Mike and some classmates on the end-of-class Cayman Islands trip, where an open-water dive completed her schooling.



*The open water dive completes a diving student's certification.*