

We spent the week of May 17-24, 2008 at CocoView Resort in Roatan. This trip was essentially a repeat of our 2005 trip except that we had a direct flight from Atlanta to Roatan on Delta which went without a hitch both ways. We also stayed in a bungalow instead of a cabana this time – the breeze was much stronger at the bungalow, which was nice, but the interior seemed more in need of updating – the bungalows are showing their age. Check out our 2005 trip report for more details on the resort, dive op, etc. at <http://darrendawsonfamily.com/scubareports.htm>

We enjoyed the company of a great group of divers during this trip – mostly people in their 40s to 60s with laid back attitudes, so it was very relaxing and enjoyable on the dive boats and in the dining area. If anyone who was there that week is reading this – hello to Leo, Mike, Charlie & Kelly, Dustin & Nancy, Russ & Robin – we really enjoyed getting to know you!

We dove on the blue boat with Jesse and Rueben and they were both great – they took good care of us all week. We did morning and afternoon boat dives and the morning drop-off dives, and we did 4 night dives from shore. Some of our favorite sites of the week were: Valley of the Kings, Menagerie, Mary's Place, John's Spot, 40 Foot Point, and Carib Point.

For photography, I took my DSLR camera underwater for the first time. I used my Canon D40 in an Ikelite housing with dual Inon Z240 strobes. I used 2 lenses: Canon EF-S 60mm macro and Canon EF-S 10-22mm. I was extremely pleased with the results. You can download the slideshow (long and large – about 12 minutes and 65MB in size) from the scuba shows page on our website (<http://darrendawsonfamily.com/newscubashows.htm>) or view photos at http://www.pbase.com/kimdawson/roatan_2008. I ordered all my UW camera gear from Backscatter and they were great with making recommendations and then walking me through questions I had regarding the set-up – I highly recommend them.

We will return to CocoView again in the next few years. The diving is exceptional and among our favorite places in the Caribbean. The only real negative is the size of the resort – not a problem this time, but you can find yourself there with 65-70 divers that you're not crazy about (like we experienced in 2005).