



Reap the feast: the spoils of mud buggin'

Now it's time for lakeside relaxation: cool drinks in hand, we play ladder golf and toss a football around. There are familiar faces all around us, people we've met on random dives around Montana over the years: Hyalite, Canyon Ferry, Firehole, Flathead. Some folks drove over from Billings; some popped down from Helena. As usual, there are one or two Bozemanites whom we've known for years but never knew they scuba-dived. Dogs frolic about camp while passers-by stare in befuddlement at all the scuba gear scattered around. We raise our drinks and smile.

Steve continues the preparations. At one point we watch him empty an entire bottle of Tabasco into the bubbling cauldron. It's hard to focus when your senses are being assaulted by delectable sights and smells. We distract our grumbling bellies with potato chips and go back to ladder golf.

Finally the feast is ready. And what a feast! Hundreds of crawfish mixed with corn, potatoes, onions, and andouille sausage, spread across the table in true Cajun party style. We all load our plates and plop down under the tents, out of the blazing sun, beers in hand and mouths full of spicy crawfish. To the south, the Spanish Peaks shoot skyward; the sprawling Tobacco Roots rise to the west. And the meal is as delicious as the views. ©

For more information about crawfish hunting or other scuba diving in the Bozeman area, contact the Sports Cove in downtown Bozeman. 585-9926; scubamontana.com.

Spare Air— SUBMERSIBLE SYSTEMS

My dive buddy and I tried the Spare Air last summer in Lake Koocanusa, near Libby, and after an unfortunate lesson in thermodynamics (to wit: volume and pressure are very different things, which means you can't fill a small tank to 2,000 psi off a larger tank that only has 1,000 psi in it—duh), we found this backup/rescue-breathing device to be invaluable. It holds three cubic feet of air at 3,000 psi, mounts to your tank or BCD, and offers 57 life-saving surface breaths (that translated into about 20-25 at depth for us—more than enough to safely make it back to the surface from 100 feet). The coolest part is that you can fill this sucker right off your main tank, so there's no refilling cost. \$300; spareair.com.



—MIKE ENGLAND



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