



April
2007

Down Under Dive Club

Since 1984

April's DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, April 11th @ 7:30 p.m.

Program for our 11 April meeting will be about the recovery at sea of the Shuttle's Solid Rocket Boosters (SRB). It is an interesting program with lots of good photos of the operation recovering the SRB's. Considering the size and the unpredictable weather this is not a easy task and you will see some gripping film footage. The presenter will be Mr Manual DeLeon and an associate.



Mr DeLeon is the Senior Engineer for SRB Retrieval, Disassembly, and Refurbishment Operations at Kennedy Space Center. He has been involved in the SRB recovery since 1986. He is a 1984 graduate of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and has been working in the Space program ever since. Furthermore he was the individual that presented this program to the Club about 5-6 years ago and most that saw it agree it is one of the best programs the Club has ever had.



He said there have been some changes in their methods and procedures since then and he will mention those in the program. This is a MUST SEE program.



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Visitors Welcome!!!

Our monthly meetings are held every month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the

**Indian River Lagoon
House
3275 Dixie HWY. NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905**



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
Blue Heron Bridge Dive		Saturday, 4/7/2007 @ 11:39am	Free	Tom Croonquist	tcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 4/11/2007 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting		Tuesday, 4.24/2007 @ 7 pm			michael@downunderdiveclub.com
Pompano Club Dive		Saturday, 4/28/2007 @ 9 am	\$45 pp + tanks	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 5/9/2007 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Club Picnic		Saturday, 5/12/2007 at 10am	Free	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Club Dive		Saturday, 5/19/2007 @ 9 am	\$50 pp + tanks	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting		Tuesday, 5/22/2007 @ 7 pm			michael@downunderdiveclub.com

Cancellation Policy for Club Sponsored Dives: Deposits will be refunded with **2 weeks notice** of the scheduled event or with a paid replacement divers. Refunds of money paid after the 2 week cancellation period is subject to **board approval**. All requests for refunds after this period **MUST** be made in writing. Money and deposits are refunded when dives are cancelled by the Charter or DUDC.

ALL DIVES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE DIVE.
(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)

Note from the Treasurer

All invoices for annual club dues were mailed early April. If you have not paid your dues and have NOT received an invoice for them either by e-mail or snail mail please contact Bob Carmichael at Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com or 321-508-5449.

President's Message – April 2007

Welcome to another exciting year for the Down Under Dive Club. With all the success and enjoyment we had last year, this year is shaping up to be even BETTER. The 2007 board had our first meeting already and I can already tell that we have a great group of directors. Everyone is energized and ready to work to make this a GREAT year for the membership.

We are well into the planning of the annual DUDC club picnic which is going to be held Saturday May 12 at Futch Park (same place as last year – just a different pavilion). Rochelle has already begun the planning and coordination of activities. Tom Croonquist is already at work at adding more diversity to our club dives and has scheduled a club dive at the Blue Heron Bridge on April 7th. Bob Carmichael is busy preparing a budget for the year and working on our financial records. Everyone should be receiving statements here shortly (if not by the time you read this).

Debi and I are also working together to see if we can come up with some ways to improve an already GREAT newsletter. We would like to start adding more content to the publication and make it more useful to all of our club members.

As always, if you have any suggestions, request, or comments, please let one of us know. We are here to serve you!

See you down under!

Michael Wheat

michael@downunderdiveclub.com

Wreck Diving – The Safe Way

By Dale Purchase

Three divers were lost on the Spiegel Grove in March 2007. The accident report points to a number of mistakes made by the dive team that led to the death of three divers:

1. They did not have a plan to penetrate the wreck.
2. They did not have an air usage plan.
3. They did not run a line.
4. They were not familiar with the interior plan of the ship.
5. They kicked up silt and lost visibility.

If you plan to penetrate a wreck, start out slowly with a short trip in and out. Run a guide line if you plan to leave sight of the exit. Plan your gas usage in thirds – one third in, one third out, and one third for reserve. Look behind you for silt. If you start kicking up the bottom, turn around and come out. If possible, learn about the area you plan to penetrate.

Safe Diving!
Dale

**March 24th 2007— Jupiter
First Club Dive of the year—or was it???**
By Michael Wheat

Well, our first club dive of the year was supposed to be on March 24th. We had a good turnout for the dive, but mother-nature decided she had different plans for the weekend. We started watching the forecast on Wednesday evening and it was already looking bad. By Friday things had not gotten any better – matter of fact they continued to worsen. The weather men (i.e., guessing specialist) were calling for 15-20 knots winds out of the east and 4-6 foot seas. So we decided to play it safe and cancelled the dive. As a dive coordinator this is always the worst. I hate disappointing people when I have to cancel, but it is better to play it safe and to wait to dive a better day. It would have been UGLY out there – above and below the water!

Although we did have one diver in the group that has been diving recently. Here is a picture of Tom Mephram taking the world's largest GIANT STRIDE ENTRY!!!! Can you say future club dive!



Time for DUDC's Annual Club Picnic !!!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual member and guest dive club picnic. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, 05/12/07 from 10am to 4pm** at Howard E. Futch Memorial Park at Paradise Beach (2301 N. Hwy A1A – between the Melbourne and Eau Gallie Causeways, right on the ocean, just across from Ichabod's Bar & Restaurant). The club will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, beverages and lawn games. Please bring a side dish and join in the fun. We will have a sign up sheet for side dishes at the club meeting. Invite a friend and share an afternoon of sun, fun and great diving stories.

Lost in the city of Atlantis - Underwater Burial



By Kerry Sanders

Diving enthusiast and NBC Correspondent

Updated: 11:20 a.m. ET Feb 28, 2007

45 FEET DOWN, OFF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA— I never thought I'd get a dateline like this. Here, I am almost alone in what will someday be a huge memorial garden. At first I thought it was a little creepy: scuba diving

where the cremated remains of thousands will someday be permanently cemented into place.

But down here, with the clear blue-green waters, the curious tropical fish, and these lion statues and sculptured columns, it's all rather peaceful and inviting. I guess that's the point, and I'd say the dreamers who came up with this achieved their goal. The art down here is all new so it's only beginning to take on that crusted-over look scuba divers are used to seeing. Barnacles are just now attaching themselves to the columns (the ones in the water for the last month).

As a long-time scuba diver, this caught my interest because as divers know, more often than not, getting to dive sites can be the chore. Not the case here. It's only 3.2 miles north-east of the light house on Key Biscayne, Fla. On a fast speed boat from Virginia Key, you are here in less than 30 minutes. Interestingly, it took the planners and artists over three years to convince the various governmental agencies that building this made environmental sense. There was NOAA, DER, DERM and a half dozen other federal, state and local government agencies with letters identifying their authority that each had to oversee this project. Every one gave it's blessing, in part, because the bottom here is sand. There is no coral. No rocks. Just sand. The greatest depth is 150 feet. The shallowest: where I am now — 45 feet.

I'm not sure this is where I want to be "buried," but that may be because like so many of us, I don't want to think of such things right now. My mother wants her ashes, along with my fathers, to be placed in the Peruvian Andes, not far from where she grew up. So who am I to say this underwater garden is any weirder?

For now, I would rather look at the bronze lion. It's all rather unusual— and of course after diving coral heads, wrecks, and the like, it's something new. I guess for the moment, I am in the lost city of Atlantis. My air is running low, so I am going to surface.

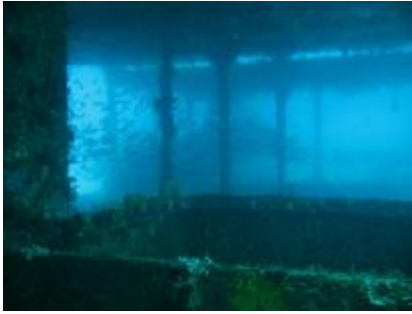
This might well be a two tank day!

HOME PAGE: <http://www.atlantismemorialreef.com/home.htm>

UPCOMING TRIP!!!!

April 28th— Pompano, FL

by Michael Wheat



For the first time in a LONG time we are heading to Pompano for a club dive. Bob Carmichael and Dale Purchase introduced me to diving Pompano two years ago and I have been hooked ever since. I just love diving wrecks and Pompano has some of the best around. One HUGE advantage this area has over places like the Keys is the diversity of depth of the wrecks. For example, one my favorites; and the one we will be diving on the 28th, is called the "Tracy". She is the north end of a series of wrecks that lie in 70-80 foot of water. It is known as the Jay Scutti wreck trek; which is actually a series of 5 wrecks which "can" be seen all in one dive.

The one downside to diving Pompano is that it is a longer drive then Jupiter/WPB. It is a two to two and a half hour drive (depends if you drive like Dale or Tom... hehehehe). So this is definitely a trip to try and car pool on.

We already sold out our initial allotment of slots for the trip, but I have requested a few more. So if you are interested, please let me know ASAP. If you wait until the last minute to sign up, I will not be able to get you on the boat. Cost for the trip is \$45 per person. Tanks are \$11 for air and \$16 for Nitrox each.

Here are just a few pictures from the last dive I dove these wrecks. I only wish my photo's did the site justice.



About the Down Under Dive Club

The Down Under Dive Club is located in Melbourne on the sunny east central coast of Florida. Formed in 1984 by a group of enthusiastic divers, DUDC currently has about 100 members. Our mission is to promote safe, organized dive events, provide a social setting comfortable to everyone, and encourage environmental responsibility among the diving community. Our past dives have covered the Atlantic ocean, from Georgia to Bonaire. We organize all types of dives: drift dives, wreck dives, shore dives, live-aboards, spring dives, and even shark dives! Our members include a diverse group of divers. There are men, women and kids, ages from 11 to 65+ with all certification levels from new Open Water divers to Instructors.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Indian River Lagoon House, Located just south of University Blvd. on US1 in Melbourne. Door prizes are awarded each month and we book a fascinating assortment of guest speakers. We invite everyone interested in SCUBA diving to stop by for some stimulating conversation, meet our group, and have some fun! If you have any questions, you can E-mail us at info@downunderdiveclub.com

Board of Directors

President :	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com	727-1028
Vice-President:	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com	
Treasurer:	Bob Carmichael	bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com	
Secretary:	John Dockendorf	jdockendorf@downunderdiveclub.com	
Membership:	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com	
Safety Officer:	Dale Purchase	dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com	
Dive Coordinator:	Tom Croonquist	tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com	
MEMBERS AT LARGE:			
Newsletter Editor:	Debi Buck	dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com	
Web Master	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com	