



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

APRIL

2008

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting
is Wednesday, April 9th @ 7:00 pm.

A Peak at Technical Diving with Dale

This month's guest speaker is our own Dale Purchase. As many of you know Dale is a transplant from the Saginaw, Michigan area. While living in Michigan Dale took up scuba diving and became interested in the wrecks of the Great Lakes. If you aren't aware there are several thousand wrecks in the Lakes. Dale has been instrumental in determining the location of several of these ships. He has also identified the wreckage of ships at other wreck sites.

Dale will be discussing with the club some of the aspects of technical diving. Dive equipment from dry suit to exotic breathing gas blends will be discussed as well as some of the research that is involved locating and identifying shipwrecks.

Bill Allen

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DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

Paul Cotton: Lobster Gear
Diane Bryant: Coffee Mug
Jeri L. Curley: MicroNet Fast Drying Towel

50/50

\$364.50
5 Cards Left

It looks like someone at the April meeting will win the big jackpot. Maybe it'll be you!!!



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Safety. Flying after diving.

When we fly, we go into a lower pressure, most airlines maintain a cabin pressure of 8,000-10,000 feet so we need a long surface interval before flying. DAN now recommends an interval of 11 -12 hours for a single no deco dive and 17 hours or more for multiple dives or multiple days of diving. Deeper dives or deco dives require 20-24 hours before flying. When traveling in an unpressurized aircraft wait 24 hours after diving before flying.

Dive safe.

Dale Purchase

Safety Officer

Let's Go Diving



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



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Payments



Now that our dive schedule is picking up I will be handling more payments. Some tips to help you, help me make it easier for all of us. I will normally send out the invoices for club dives about a week in advance. Normally, I will send it by e-mail. You can then send a check in to the Club address (it is on the invoice and in the newsletter) or pay by credit/debit card if you wish. However, if you chose a credit/debit card you will need to e-mail me telling me and I will then send the special invoice for that form of payment. If you know now that you normally want to use a debit/credit card tell me now and I will skip the first invoice and send you the special invoice for credit/debit card payment. I am working on combining the two different forms, but not there yet. If you have the special credit/debit form and decide to send a check that is fine, just mail it in.

Because of the compressed schedule it will help if you e-mail me and dive coordinator when you have mailed the check. We will accept your work the check is in the mail unless that becomes a problem.

It is best if you use Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com to e-mail me as that will avoid my SPAM filter which will "catch" your e-mail if you are not in my address book! Any questions don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail (best) or phone 321-508-5449. LET'S GO DIVING!

BOB CARMICHAEL

Treasurer

LET'S PLAN A DIVE, WE NEED YOUR HELP

Hi fellow divers. Dive season is on us and we have started the year off with a splash. In late March we had terrific Night Dives and we (at the time of publication) have our Inaugural "Kick the month off right Dive" for April 5th. This is planned to become a staple of club diving this year. We have scheduled slots for the first Saturday of every month with Little Deeper through the end on the dive season. We also have our Shark Tooth Dive scheduled for the weekend of August 23rd, information to be presented at this month's meeting.

Now this is where we need your help.

We want this to be one of the best years of diving in the history of our club. To do this we want to know where do you want to dive. At this month's meeting we will have a list for suggested upcoming dives. We will have three categories, Dive Sites (Tenneco Towers, Wreck of the Bentwood, etc.) Dive Charters (Conch Republic, Blue Tang, etc.) and Locations (Boynton Beach, Deerfield Beach, etc.).

Of course if you fill in one slot with all three items that makes it pretty simple to pick a location, site and charter. All elements of the suggested dives will be considered before arranging a Club Dive but please think about it and give us your input. Of course, if you'd like to be the one to coordinate a trip, please feel free to take the reigns.

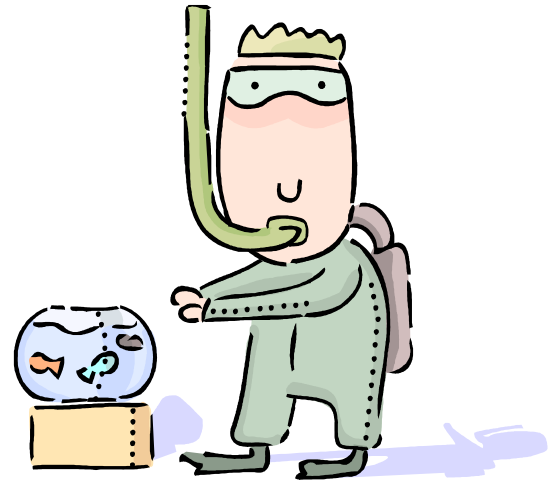
Remember, as always...

Work Sucks, I'm going diving.

See ya,

Tom Croonquist

Dive Coordinator



Tell Us Your Secret

We would love to help celebrate your diving milestones. Did you just make your 100th dive? 500th? 1000th? Did you just complete Advanced Open Water? Are you going to dive with us on your birthday? Let us know! We love a good celebration. Help us keep the party going!!

Send us your milestones at:

jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 3/12/08 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Tuesday, 3/25/2008 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
First Saturday of the Month Dive with Little Deeper	Saturday, 5/3/08	\$58	Tom Croonquist	tjcroonquist@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. NON-MEMBERS ADD \$5.

(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

It's Time to Pay Dues

Our club dues are now **PAST DUE**. That's right. Dues are payable by March 1 of each year. The dues are a necessary and vital part of the funds that allow the club to continue operating. They pay for the meeting facility that we rent each month. They help cover the cost of refreshments, pay for the annual club picnic and, my personal favorite, the annual ice-cream social. I implore all of you have not yet paid to do so not run the risk of a lapsed membership where you won't be able to vote. Especially important because you may want me out of office.

Just as a reminder, the dues are only **\$25/year single membership and \$35/year for a family membership**. If you want a printed newsletter there is a \$5 fee for printing, shipping. It's really a bargain when you stop and think about it. You get a lot for a that small annual amount.

One last item. Some have still not filled out a new membership form and liability release. We also need those. I have plenty of forms for you and they are also available at the club web site, **downunderdiveclub.com**. If you aren't sure if yours is on file see me at the meeting or give me a call at home. I have been working hard to get all of these things into the computer and current and think that I will be able to answer your questions.

I am looking forward to another great of diving with our club and it's members.

Bill Allen

Membership Chairman

TOMS' DIVE BLOG

Well March started strong for diving. If you remember my blog from last month March 1st and 2nd were my last two days in Honduras, diving in Roatan. So what happened in March? It started off with an Artic Blast and winds up to 25 knots. The winds stayed true to March coming in like a lion but we did have some great dives. The water is remaining on the cold side of things but I trust they will be nice and warm soon enough.

I hope you enjoy, and as always remember...

Work sucks, I'm going diving.

See ya,

Tom Croonquist

Dive Coordinator

When: March 8, 2008

Where: Southern end of Central East Coast of the Great State of Florida

What: Shore fact finding mission

Charter: Capt. Mikes Truck

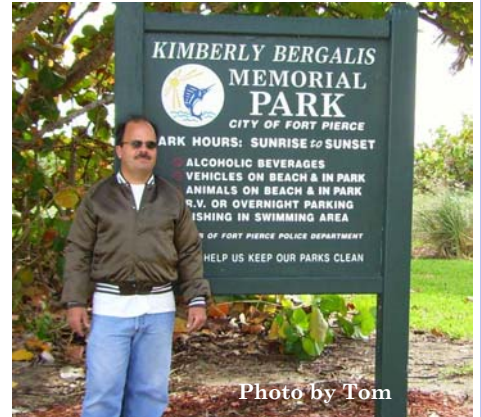
Who: Capt. Mike Walsh

Weather Conditions: Cold front down into the 60's with a strong wind up to 25 knots

Seas: Per NOAA up to 10 feet at a 6 second interval, that's why we didn't dive

Viz: N/A

Water Temp: Low 70's per NOAA



Scenario: On a cold Saturday morning with the weather blown out for diving, I joined Capt. Mike Walsh on shore dive fact finding mission.

With Capt. Mike at the wheel of his 4 wheel drive truck, we left his home port in Palm Bay about 9am on a Cold Saturday morning. After a quick trip down I-95, we found ourselves at our first port of call, Kimberly Bergalis Memorial Park. This park is on A-1-A just South of the Ft. Pierce Inlet. After stepping out of the vessel which ferried us, we were able to view both the Intercoastal and Atlantic from the same spot. Looking West we could see white caps and a white foam on top of the water. Looking East, into the Atlantic, we saw aqua green and blue glass water off shore and a washing machine past the reefs. Here, we met Justin, a Life Guard for the County and also a diver. This young man proved to be the most informative person we met all day, although everyone was nice and helped to the best of their ability. A diver knows what a diver is looking for. We then made the rounds of Pepper Park, Round Island, The Boiler and then The Tracking

Station. We gathered a lot of information to plan plenty of Shore / Surf Dives this summer. In short they all have a fall back of our trusty old faithful "Blue Heron". On the way out of Vero we stopped by Deep Six Dive Shop and chatted for a while. Seems like a nice, friendly store.

When: March 16, 2008

Where: DeLeon Springs for Dive Training **NOT**. We settled for Alexander Springs for diving with no training

What: Weren't you reading, Dive Training

Who: Al, David and Michelle

Weather Conditions: Overcast and calm in the early morning, turning sunny and windy in the late morning and early afternoon. Air temp about 85 degrees.

Seas: N/A, we were in a Spring, weren't you reading?

Viz: 100 feet unless the bottom got stirred up in the shallows and then it went to maybe 2 feet or less

Water Temp: 76 degrees

Scenario: A day of Open Water and Navigation Training that turns into a great exploration. 6:30am (aka 06:30) on a

Sunday morning and it is still dark outside due to Daylight Savings Time or lack there of. I always get the two confused but hey it's staying light until 7:30pm (aka 19:30). Gotta like that. And there I am off again on a Tangent, wild ride to no where that is related to this story except for the amazing, self amused (and man that is a good thing) mind of Arthur, oops I mean the author. And people wonder why I never finish my stories, and why they run on and on, and how I can drive for 4 hours just talking... well anyway...



It is 06:30 and Michelle has already made it to my house and AI pulls up in his truck with Trusty David riding shotgun. We have the truck fully loaded and on the road to DeLeon Springs by 06:39 for a day of Dive Training. David is there to assist AI and to work on his Dive Master, Michelle an Open Water Student who is very enthused to be getting into the water and me, working on my Navigation Specialty Skills. We make it the State park shortly after 08:00 and are notified by a special select and mechanically inclined voice "You Have Arrived". I am thinking to myself "I am hearing voices beyond our realm of knowing". I am thinking "this is a sign, I am destined for greatness", and I am hearing voices, after a life of working diligently to become "someone". I smile ear to ear, knowing I am on the verge of greatness. I can't hold back my excitement I announce to the group of my extrasensory encounter to find out it was only the audio of

AI's GPS Navigation System letting us know we were at the park. Sigh...

After several minutes of standing in line to fill out the forms for dive admission into the Spring, we were denied access. We were the fifth group of divers and DeLeon Springs only allows four groups of divers in at any given time. Fair enough, rules are rules. We fall back on plan B and head to Juniper Spring in the Ocala National Forest. Lack of GPS sites being loaded into the Navigation System (and maybe something having to do with the actual name being Alexander and not Juniper ... silly extrasensory perception on my part...) made GPS Navigation not possible but the good old local knowledge of back roads got us there. Thanks to help with some road signs. On arrival we soon figured we would not be able to get our dive training in due to circumstances beyond our control. So the day turned into a simple day of easy exploration of diving and snorkeling. Many jokes were told, laughs roared and snickered, slaps on the backs, high fives and friendly smiles passed, a cavern explored and techniques traded between friends. Followed by a great lunch at the Ale House on US 92 in Daytona and a nice nap on the ride home. Me, not AI got the nap. Thank goodness because AI was driving.

Moral of this story, fun is where you and your friends end up. Thanks AI, David and Michelle. I had a great day of relaxation. Just what I needed.

When: March 29, 2008
Where: Blue Heron Bridge Dive
What: Shore dive
Charter: N/A
Who: Tom Butler, Jeri, Michael Wheat, Bob Carmichael, Dale Purchase and Bill Allen.
Weather Conditions: Warm with a slight wind
Seas: Calm
Viz: 40 feet
Water Temp: 76 degrees

Scenario: A relaxed shore dive to get us all prep'd for the upcoming night dives later today.



Photo by Tom Croonquist

The crew from DUDC that had signed up the night dives with Little Deeper all gathered together for a relaxed dive before our dark adventures. High Tide was at little after 2pm, giving us a good solid opportunity to get together and get wet before a night dives. We were joined by Bill Allen who couldn't make the night dives but joined us for the bridge. As always this was a nice relaxed dive, water as little a the chilly side but a good prep for the night's action. After our first of three dives for the day, we convened at the Tiki Bar for something to eat before boarding the Little Deeper.

(Continued from page 6)

When: March 29, 2008

Where: West Palm Beach, Riviera Marina

What: Night Dives

Charter: Little Deeper

Who: Tom Butler, Jeri, Michael Wheat, Bob Carmichael and Dale Purchase

Weather Conditions: Moderate winds on the seas, 10 knots or so with a cool air temp

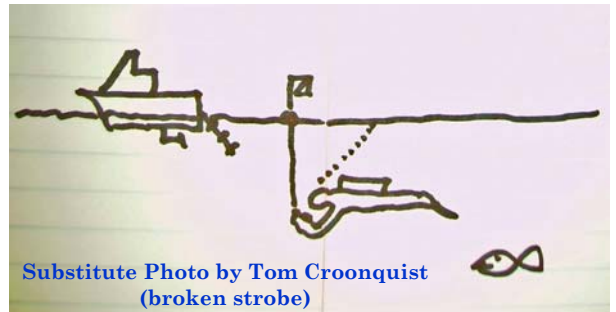
Seas: 2 foot

Viz: 40 feet

Water Temp: 72 degrees

Scenario: A twilight dive followed by a night dive.

What a great March evening for night diving. After a filling lunch at the Tiki bar, we were ready set and go for an excursion with the Little Deeper. We were scheduled to be at the docks at 5:30 for a 6pm departure. After a day of running charters, the boat was a little behind schedule. We all know this part of the drill, and no reason to get upset. If we can't be on "Island Time" we can be on Diving Time. We were briefed, geared up and the boat was set to go by 6:30. The Captain fired up the engines to find a little technical trouble with the Starboard Diesel. Anybody who has ever owned a boat or has been around them much knows the drill and a commercial boat is no exception. Now here is the thing, the Captain and crew had the motor running lickety split but they never got upset as I have seen so many Captains do. They took it all in stride, opened a hatch, kept great spirits, watched over the safety of the passengers and were up and running without missing a beat. On the way to the first site, the Captain announced that the motor was still running rough and the ride would be a little longer than normal. Here is another



thing, if he didn't say a word no one would have ever known. A Captain being forthcoming and honest, can we ask for more than that. Oh wait we can. For our Dive Master, we had out very own and accomplished Ms. Debi Buck. Thanks for the great dives Debi although I missed you in the trenches...

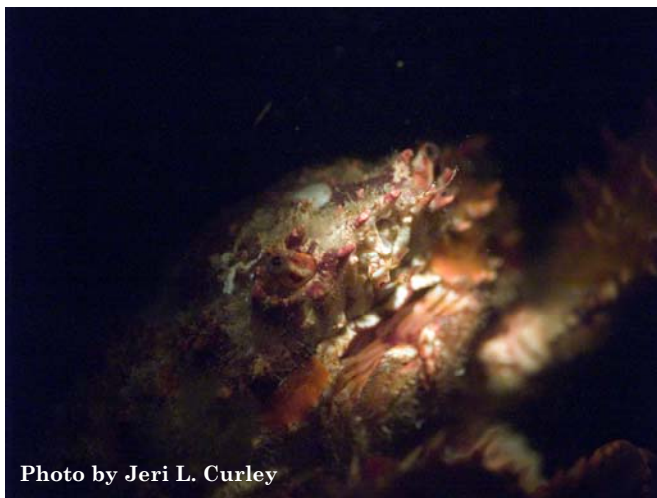


Photo by Jeri L. Curley

We made our first site for a twilight dive, The Flower Gardens. Always a good dive, especially for a twilight dive. Although we had a moderately strong current it wasn't anything that could not be negotiated. We had decent viz of about 40 feet that shortly turned to the length of the beam of your torch. Shortly after dark settled in and as we watched the change in sea life, the King Spider Crabs came out. It seemed as if they came out of every nook and cranny, these basketball sized crabs were everywhere. This also being the last weekend of Lobster Season I was on a hunt. I did see several bugs, big bugs in some deep holes. Only to tease me as I tried to pluck them out they moved back into what seemed like bottomless holes.

Our next dive, The Trenches, was great. The moderately strong current, that was laughing at us as it switched from South to North to South again was nominal inside the trenches. On the drop we found a Loggerhead that seemed all too happy to toy with us, showing us how easy the current was to navigate in when you're built for it. We hit bottom and literally fell right into the Trench, at least most of us... Inside the trench was abundant life from Loggerheads to shrimp. Another great dive.

What made this dive even better, we were in celebration on Michael Wheat's Birthday. It was 18th celebration of his 21st Birthday (yep, he turned 39). Happy Birthday Michael.

At the end of this dive, after being picked up by the boat and returning to the dock in record time. The Captain fixed his Starboard problem and showed us why this boat is considered on the fastest around. After unloading the boat, bidding adios to the boat it was 11:30 heading to midnight. A quick dinner and ride home and then I was going to bed at the time I normally get up.

End of Toms' Dive Blog

Hope you enjoyed

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 7:00 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 :	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com	
Vice President:	John Dockendorf	jdockendorf@downunderdiveclub.com	
Treasurer	Bob Carmichael	bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com	
Secretary:	Jeri L. Curley	jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com	
Membership:	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com	
Safety Officer:	Dale Purchase	dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com	
Dive Coordinator:	Tom Croonquist	tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com	