



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

DECEMBER
2006

SINCE 1984

December's DUDC Monthly Meeting & Annual Christmas Party is Wednesday, November 13th @ 7:30 p.m.

The Club meeting this month will be the annual Christmas Party! The Club is providing a variety of meats – smoked turkey, a hand crafted Brisket, and a ham! Drinks will be available as normal and Club members are invited to bring a side dish to share. A number of members signed up to do so at the last meeting, but if you didn't sign up and want to contribute please do so. Any questions about this call or e-mail me at contact info below.

Also we will have the Christmas riot referred to as a Chinese auction! It is always a fun event. Each participant needs to bring a wrapped gift for the event. Anything in the \$15-\$20 range, preferably but not mandatory dive oriented! All participants will receive a numbered ticket and when the ticket number is drawn they will have the benefit of selecting a unopened gift from those brought by other participants OR choosing one of the gifts already selected and opened! In that case the person who relinquishes a gift gets to choose a gift, either an unopened one or one previously opened.

We will have the normal drawing for the growing 50/50 pot. You might be the winner this month. Buy your tickets!

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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


Have a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!!!



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House & Annual Christmas Party		Wednesday, 12/13/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	info@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.)

Dive Quiz by AL:

Quiz:

Some skills that a diver should over learn are:

- A) Proper weight & Alternate air source breathing.
- B) Proper dressing techniques
- C) Equipment Assembly
- D) Equipment cleaning and maintenance

Answer on page 4

Come Join the Adventure!!!

Come join the Down Under Dive Club for our annual club getaway.

This year we are headed to Bonaire, which has been voted the #1 shore dive destination in the world the last 12 years running and was voted the #4 overall dive destination this year. On average, Bonaire's visibility exceeds 100 feet and the average water temperature is 80 degrees. The reefs begin close to the shore, usually a short 30 foot swim or less, making Bonaire world renowned for its ease of shore diving. Extremely calm seas making getting in and out of the ocean very easy. Bonaire's waters offer something special for every diver. Novice divers will appreciate the calm waters, reefs that run parallel to shore, and minimal currents. An abundance of marine life living along the shallow drop-off area of the reef slope allows for maximum bottom time, while giving new divers an opportunity to develop a level of comfort and confidence in their newly learned skills while allowing the advanced diver to continue to explore even wider ranges of opportunities (i.e., deeper sites, wrecks, etc).

We will be staying at Buddy Dive Resort, known for their very nice and casual atmosphere, personable staff, spacious accommodations and a dive operation that has it all: comfortable boats, complete rental and retail center, exceptional staff, and a unique "Drive Thru" with a two-lane air/nitrox fill station. We have reserved several two bedroom apartments. Each condo is assigned a truck rental so we can take advantage of the 60 dive sites; accessible from the shore line of Bonaire, or tour the island.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- **8 day/ 7 nights** accommodations
- **UNLIMITED** shore diving
- 7 day Truck Rental (*1 per apartment*)
- 6 boat dives
- Full breakfast everyone morning



EXTRA's for DUDC:

- **FREE** Upgrade to **Nitrox** (\$99 value)
- **FREE** Upgrade to **UNLIMITED** Boat Trips
- **50% discount** at resort restaurants (max \$75)



AIRFARE:

- **Roundtrip** air from Miami to Bonaire is **available** for ***\$500**. Price is subject to change due to airline taxes and fuel surcharges.



Cost:
\$799.⁰⁰

For more information or to sign up, contact

Michael Wheat at
mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com.



Emergency Weight Belt Ditching

One skill that is no longer practiced in most Open Water training classes is the emergency weight belt ditch. The skill is briefly discussed during the open water class, but the brief discussion probably goes in one ear and out the other during the open water class. Yes, the student is tested on it during both the knowledge review and the final exam, but they are only putting it in the correct sequence (last ditch effort) of emergency actions.

Knowing how to ditch your weights at depth is really a matter of life and death. If you read the DAN analysis of SCUBA diving accidents, you'll notice when they found the body, the diver still had their weights. Why didn't they dump their weights? Is it because of lack of training? We don't know, and we can only speculate.

Those of us who were certified in the early 1980's or before actually practiced dumping our weight belts from 30 feet. What a ride to the surface! We also learned several valuable lessons from this exercise.

Proper gear placement. The last item we put on was the weight belt. Why? If you have to dump your weights in an emergency, you do not want it to catch on anything. We were always able to tell who put on their weight belt before their BCD, because when they dumped their weight belt, it got caught in their crotch strap. Most of us don't wear a crotch strap any more, but the divers who dive with a back plate and wing or with a horse collar BCD do have crotch straps. The knife placement was on the inside of the leg, so your knife doesn't catch the weight belt when you release it.

If you do have to dump your weights, make sure pull the weights away from you before you drop them. This will avoid entanglement in your gear which includes straps, hooks, hoses, gauges, consoles, etc. This applies for both weight belts and weigh pockets.

The ride up. Throughout your training, you're taught to never hold your breath. It's extremely important to exhale all the way up. Don't worry, you won't run out of air. You'll be amazed how long you can exhale while ascending from depth. You can also slow your ascent by leaning back and flaring out. Yes! You will be ascending much faster than 60 feet per minute.

Dumping your weights is a skill; therefore, you want to practice the skill before you need to do it for real. A great place to practice is in a pool. Pull your weight belt off or dump your weight pockets. Practice using the release mechanism. During an emergency is not the time to practice a life saving skill.

A. Audet

Answer to Dive Quiz:

Answer: A

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	mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com
Vice-President:	Bob Carmichael	bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com
Treasurer:	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com
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