



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

FEBRUARY

2009

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, February 11th @ 7:00

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT CHOICES TO EDITING OVERVIEW WITH JOHN

Has the thought of taking pictures underwater overwhelmed you? Have you tried with a \$150.00 or less setup and found the results underwhelming? If so, then this topic may be of interest. Doing photography underwater has many differences and a few similarities to the above water kind.

Some of the questions to be answered include:

- ◆ Do I need an external strobe for underwater photography?
- ◆ Which equipment choices may be better than others?
- ◆ What camera settings are recommended to start with?
- ◆ What tools are available for editing?
- ◆ What do I need to do close-ups, critter pictures and wide-angle scenes?

So if the above didn't hit your need to know question, just bring it and ask! If you already have a camera or pictures you have taken underwater, bring it for the show-n-tell portion.

—*John Dockendorf*

Inside this issue:

Door Prize Winners and Safety Article	1
Calendar	2
Membership Renewal	2
President's Address	3
I didn't See A Thing!	4
Amour Under the Sea. New Raffle Information and Blue Heron Bridge!!	5
About Our Club	6

Officer Nominations at the February Meeting

Support your dive club and help make this the best dive year ever! Volunteer your time as an **Officer** or an **occasional Aide**. Shake hands with the people who served so well in 2008.

DIVE GEAR. GET READY TO DIVE.

This is the time of year to get your gear ready to dive. Check your tanks VIP and Hydro date, don't wait until dive season starts and you can't get a fill. Check out your regulator and get it serviced if needed. Look for cracked hoses, and make sure your SPG works. Do not forget that B.C. if it does not work you can get into trouble very quickly.

The little things can also help. Look at your fin and mask straps and replace if needed. Does your wet suit still fit or did it (shrink) over the winter. If it did you may need to get into shape.

Good diving **Dale**

WINNERS:

Congratulations to Bob Jensen who won the 50/50 for \$119.50

Door Prize Winners:

Craig Capion, Tom Butler, Bob Jensen, David Slonim, Gary Anderson, Bob Seton, Russell Bremmer, Frank, Ken Daub, Angie Infante



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 2/11/09 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday 02/23/09 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
DUDC Club Picnic	Saturday, April TBD	Side Dish	Bob Carmichael	bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Dive Center Night Dive	Saturday, 05/09/09 @ 6 p.m. (TBD)	\$65	Bill Allen	ballen@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.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Here it is again. That time of year when we start asking for members to pay the annual dues. All memberships expire March 1. Sorry, that's just the way it is. Our dues are still \$25 for a single membership and \$35 for a family membership. So, if you are thinking that you might be interested in diving with your friends in the club again next year this is the first step in seeing that happen. And if you know of others who are looking for a great diving experience let them know about us. Invite them to a meeting to experience our group.

And I ask myself at this time why continue to support this club. And each year I come up with pretty much the same answer. "It's really a great group of people with whom I share a common interest. DIVING". I like and trust the divers in this club. I watch divers when we are underwater and sometimes see things that I try and incorporate into my diving practices, sometimes not. I enjoy being on the dive boats and having a chance to talk with friends I've made in the club. It's just an overall good experience for me. I hope it is for you as well. If it's worth 2 or 3 bucks a month stay with us. We are planning for another great year.

And now I want to take just a minute of your time to say a special thanks to Rochelle Hood for her hard work as club president; John Dockendorf, VP; Bob Carmichael, treasurer; Jeri Curley, secretary, newsletter editor, concessionaire; Tom Croonquist, dive coordinator; Dale Purchase, safety officer; and Michael Wheat, webmaster. All of these folks have contributed their time and effort to keeping this club a terrific organization and deserve a round of applause. Thank you all so very much. With any luck at all I've made somebody blush.

Bill Allen, Membership











President's Message

While the water temps are still dropping, there's nothing better to warm you up than sharing stories with diving friends. In February, we will open up nominations for our next Board of Directors. As we get ready to close out one year and pass on the torch to a new Board, I thought it would be fun to reflect on some highlights from the past year.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

One of the many reasons I enjoy being a member of DUDC is the opportunity to continuously learn in the field of diving. Here's a highlight of our speakers and presentations from 2008-2009 membership year:

-  Divers Alert Network – Safety, insurance and diving medicine
-  Technical Diving – equipment, training and skills
-  Continuing Dive Training and Education – Agencies, specialties, benefits
-  Ice Cream Social (okay, not a speaker but lots of fun and socializing)
-  Underwater Fossils – locating and identifying fossils in Florida
-  Little Cayman – highlights of the annual international club diving adventure
-  Underwater Videography – tips, equipment and great whites up close and personal
-  Estate Planning – Advanced planning to manage risks
-  Diving Safety – dive buddy, signaling devices, dive planning and update contact#s
-  Pararescue Divers – training and skills to save lives in combat situations

Last year we continued some traditions like the annual Holiday party and Chinese gift exchange, summer Ice Cream social and our annual Keys trip. This year we've added a Spring picnic to provide a chance for warm and cold blooded divers to gather, share ideas and get excited about an active diving schedule in the summer.

When Mother Nature kicks up the seas and makes us all land locked (like this weekend), relax with a good ocean movie (The Abyss, The Deep, Highlights of your Last Diving Trip) and consider inviting a dive buddy to join you.

Dive Safe, Dive Often!!!



Rochelle

President

I didn't See A Thing!

Back on the boat after a rewarding day of diving, the first thing I hear is "There was nothing down there!" I check my camera. I've taken almost three hundred photos over the course of two dives. Were they asleep on the dives? Was their mask fogged?

They missed the mating flamingo tongues, the Chain Moray tucked into a crevice, the arrow blennies, the juvenile Rock Beauty and so much more. Even when the boat has dropped us in "no man's land," I've seen Sand Divers, Guitarfish and many other critters. How did they miss all this marine life? I remind myself, that I know where to



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

look and what to look for. More importantly, I know when I find something that is rare or unusual.

Knowing where you would expect to find marine life is key to actually seeing things on a dive. Sea Turtles munch on sponges, jellyfish, squid, sea urchins, mollusks, crustaceans and tunicates. They sleep under ledges for hours at a time. During a recent dive, a hawksbill turtle followed our group, stopping occasionally to munch on a sponge or two. Most of the time people miss turtles because they don't look on top of the ledge. That is where the majority of their food is located. A lot of times, the turtles and sharks zoom by divers because the divers are simply not looking up.

Scan the sand and the horizon for larger creatures such as sharks or goliath grouper. Carry a flashlight in order to check under the ledges. Slow down; check out the nooks and crannies. Juveniles tend to hide. So look for a pattern that doesn't belong or a movement that does not seem "natural." Juvenile filefish, for example, hide in soft coral. The trick to getting close to these guys (and most underwater critters for that matter) is to keep your movements to a bare minimum. Diver's displace a lot of water when they swim or move their hands or camera. Little guys can "feel" that motion and they WILL hide.

Most creatures, juvenile or adult, will respond to movement. Stop kicking! Most of our dives are DRIFT dives. Goliath Grouper are notorious for slipping under a ledge the second you catch a glimpse of their shadow. Sometimes they are so quick that you never see more than a shape in the distance. Slow down, control your breathing, drift toward your intended photo subject. You'll find that you get a lot closer. (FYI: the "thumping" produced by the Goliath Grouper is made by the muscular contraction of the swim bladder)

Take a specialty course in reef critter identification or buy ID books. Take the time to look up fish or invertebrates that you've seen on a dive. You'll begin to SEE more on your dives.

—Jeri L. Curley, MS Marine Biology



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

AMOUR UNDER THE SEA

(Sea Turtle Mating Season!!)



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Saturday, May 9, 2009 is a **FULL MOON**. That is a perfect excuse to get out and make a dive in the dark...maybe hug a few amorous sea turtles? Arrangements have been made with **Jupiter Dive Center** and we are going on a night dive with them. As best I can recall all of night dives with Jupiter have been excellent quality and this should be no exception. As of this time the boat is set to leave at 6:00-6:30PM but that may change as daylight saving time is in March. Even if the time changes, the dive and the moon won't!! It looks like prices are a little up from last year but with the cost of fuel that is understandable. It will be \$65 for the two tank trip. If you need to rent tanks that is \$11.00 for air and \$15.00 for Nitrox. Join us, it'll be a good time. Beer and food afterwards provided at your expense at the restaurant of your choice.

—Bill Allen



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

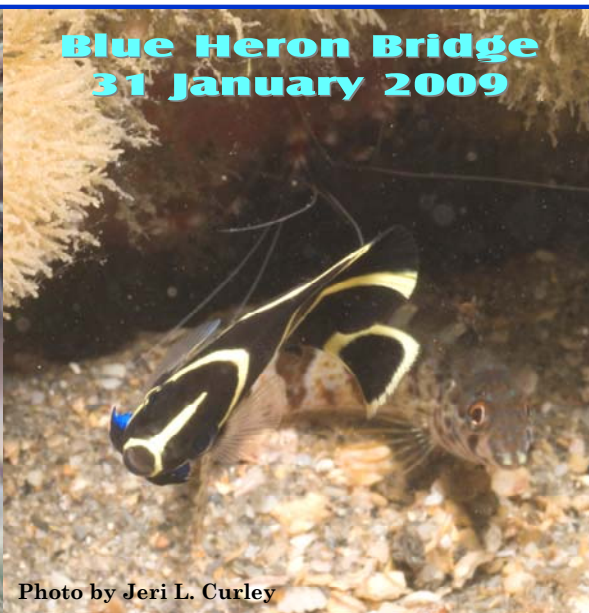


Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



We are going to be having a raffle starting with the February meeting. For a dollar a ticket you can get in on a great bargain. We will be raffling off an Underwater Kinetics Fathom Pak. This is a set of four dive lights. Included are a **UK Sunlight C-8**, a great primary dive light, **Sunlight SL-4**, can be used as a back up light or on daylight dives to find all those critters hiding in the nooks and crannies of the reef, a **Mini Q40** light, I attach mine to my mask strap and when it is on it is always pointing where I am looking, also works great for modeling light for photography, and finally a **Dive Beacon**, use this instead of a cyalume stick as a personal marker on your dives into the dark. The MSRP of this package is \$156.00. We will be selling only 200 tickets but, we will be selling all 200 tickets. So the sooner they are sold the sooner we raffle off the light package. Buy as many tickets as you want, no limit on how many you can purchase. Up to 200 that is!

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