



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

JANUARY

2009

SINCE 1984

**DUDC Monthly Meeting
is Wednesday, January 14th @ 7:00**

Inside this issue:

Door Prize Winners	1
Calendar	2
Membership Renewal	2
President's Address	3
Financially Speaking	4
Manatees	5
About Our Club	6

Keep Your New Year's Resolution

Dive into the new year with Down Under Dive Club. Keep that resolution to become an active diver. Dive with the Lemon Sharks, Snorkel with the Manatees...It's a brand new year full of promise. Help us make it the best dive year ever. We want to hear your tall tales, even the not so tall ones.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Weight System Safety

It is best not to overweight when diving. If you are wearing excess weight and you loose your belt you can make a very fast assent before you can dump your B.C. Extra weight can also lead to a problem if you loose lift in your B.C. Always be sure that you can get rid of your weight belt or integrated weights in an emergency. Make sure your weights will come free when you drop them. The Jan. / Feb 09 Alert Diver has a very good article on weight safety that I suggest every diver read.
—Dale Purchase

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

- Bob Seton: \$25 gift card to Sea Level
- Jeri Curley: \$25 gift card to Sea Level
- Tom Croonquist: \$25 gift card to Sea Level
- Dianne Bryant: Goody Bag



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 1/14/09 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday 01/26/09 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 02/11/09 @ 7 p.m.	Free	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

It's time to renew your DUDC membership for 2009. We will be using the same form for renewal as for applications. All that is required for renewal is to fill your name on an application, mark it for renewal, sign it and turn it in to any board officer. If any information has changed, ie. Email address, just complete that section with the new information. (In the case of Family memberships we do need that same process for each membership desired.) No need to redo to the *Liability Release* as it is self renewing with your membership. And of-course there is the expense of being a member of the Down Under Dive Club. That has not changed. Still \$25 for a single membership and a family membership is still \$35. A great bargain for those of us who enjoy diving and the various club events throughout the year.

If you have not used the current application and release please do so this time as we are still trying to get everything standardized. Application forms and Releases are available for download at the club website downunderdiveclub.com, or you can get one, or more if needed, from Bill Allen.

And while we realize that economy is not exactly our friend this year the club is still a great bargain. Let's join and make 2009 another great year for DUDC diving.

Bill Allen
Membership

President's Message



HAPPY 2009!!!



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

I hope Scuba Santa was very good to all of you and you have stories of new Scuba Toys received to share and show off at our January meeting. I was delighted when I opened a gift from my d-kid Cassie Kroo with a big fat gift certificate to Diver's Direct. Who knew a Jack Russell could use the mouse well enough to order an e-gift card. 🐭

As we start the new calendar year, we are also close to beginning of our new club membership year. When you start to write out your new year's goals please consider volunteering for a role in the club. Whether it's running for a Board position, leading a dive or helping out during a club event (such as our spring picnic) it's always great to have fresh ideas and get more members involved.

Wishing you great diving, good health and amazing new adventures in 2009.

Dive Safe, Dive Often!!!



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Rochelle
President

Financially Speaking

Club Treasurer-Bob Carmichael



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

As we start the new year your Board of Directors (BOD) thought it would be a good idea to give the membership an overview of the Club's financial health. Overall the Club is in good financial order, we have enough money in the bank to meet our expected expenses! Our income has slightly exceeded our expenses is the bottom line and we have a small reserve to handle unexpected expenses.

Our primary income is annual dues; however we also receive some income annually from the raffle ticket sales and some dive trips, especially the summer overseas trip. However, most of the income is returned to the members in various forms.

For instance about 60 percent of the dues collected go to the rental for our meeting place. Door prizes and snacks for regular meetings far exceed the rental expense and the donations collected at most meetings cover less than a third of those regular meeting expenses. Additionally, we have some special events, think picnics, Christmas party, and ice cream social for instance that are expenses to be covered by income.

While the BOD is looking at other ways to add value to your membership I suggest each member look at what they can contribute to make the club a better operation for us all. One way that is always needed is dive coordinators. It is not difficult to do and there is plenty of help for the first time dive coordinator and you might be eligible to dive for free! A dive coordinator is responsible for arranging the dive with a dive operator of their choice, advertizing the dive to the Club membership and signing up divers for the dive. As the dive date approaches you need to monitor the weather, assist in car pool arrangements and insure all divers have paid for the dive. Additionally, the dive coordinator needs to work with me, the Club Treasurer, to arrange for payment to the dive operator. Within some minimal constraints the dive coordinator is free to add benefits or activities to the dive trip (what about a post dive picnic or set up a bus for the trip?) To insure dives meet the minimal constraints the BOD needs to approve the dives. The main constraint is they need to be recreational dives, not tech dives! We are a recreational diving Club.

The best part of the Club dives is diving with friends. This was recently reinforced to me when I had an unexpected day available to go diving and none of my regular dive buddies were available and, as I found out that AM, none of the boats I normally used were going out. Nonetheless, I found a small boat in Riviera Beach I had never dived on that was going out and they welcomed me aboard and made me feel comfortable. However, it is not the same as diving with friends you know from Club meetings and events!!

Tom Croonquist is our Club Dive Coordinator and he will be glad to help you get started if you want to try one out. I don't want to put words in Michael's mouth, but Michael Wheat has a lot of experience in being a dive coordinator and has developed some forms that I know he would share with you if you want to set up a Club dive. There are special events that might make a good excuse or theme for a dive such as Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Easter, or the third Wed of the month! You chose it, you do it!! There is plenty of help for you if you want to help make the Club a better, more diving Club!!

To paraphrase a good friend – work sucks, let's go diving!!



MANATEES

Trichechus manatus latirostrus

Are manatees the mermaids sailors spied on those long, lonely nights at sea?

Though these creatures are gentle and appear to crave human contact, I find it difficult to perceive a voyage that long or lonely! Manatees are slow moving mammals and this has resulted in numerous boat related deaths and injury. The lucky ones come away with only prop scars or missing limbs. Manatees are now protected under federal law by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which make it illegal to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal. Manatees are also protected by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. It also illegal to knowingly discard monofilament line or nets into waters of Florida. Fines can reach into 5 digits.

Being a mammal, Manatees must come to the surface to breath, they give live birth to off spring and they have hair. They eat 10 to 15% of their body weight per day and an adult can weigh from 1000 to 3000 pounds. That's a lot of sea grass!!! Manatees travel, on average 40 to 50 miles a day during the warm months of the year. In the winter, they travel to the warm waters of the spring fed Crystal River and to areas kept warm by power plants.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Last year I was fortunate enough to make the trek to Crystal River to snorkel with the manatees. These areas are carefully supervised during the winter and areas are cordoned off to allow sanctuary from human visitors.

I'm planning to make the trek again and I'm looking for a few good friends to join me.

Jeri L. Curley, MS

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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