



Down Under Dive Club

July
2007

Since 1984

**NEW MEETING TIME!!!!
MONTHLY CLUB MEETINGS
NOW START AT 7 P.M.!!!!**

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**Join us for our Annual Ice
Cream Social
at the July 11th Monthly
Club Meeting!!!!**

There will be lots of ice cream and toppings for everyone. There will also be a presentation about the DUDC's June 2007 fabulous trip to Bonaire!!!! Don't miss this meeting and bring your appetite!!!

Visitors Welcome!!!

Our monthly meetings are held every month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 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	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 7/11/2007 @ 7:00 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	info@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Club Dive		Saturday, 7/21/2007 @ 9 am	\$50 pp + tanks	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting		Tuesday, 7/24/2007 @ 7 pm			info@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 8/8/2007 @ 7:00 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	info@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Club Dive		Saturday, 8/18/2007 @ 9 am	\$50 pp + tanks	Michael Wheat	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.)

SAFETY ARTICLE by DALE

If you haven't used your dive gear in the last two months or more you should check it over.

- Check all hoses for cracks. Don't forget to look under the hose protector.
- Blow up your B.C. and look for leaks.
- Look at your fin straps for cracks, or broken buckles.
- Check your tanks for hydro and V.I.P. dates.
- When you get into the water have your buddy look over your gear for leaks.

Safe Diving!!

Dale

President's Message – July 2007

NEW START TIME FOR ALL GENERAL MEETINGS!!!!

As I mentioned in last month's article, during our June meeting, we discussed and voted on moving the start time of our general meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00pm! To be honest, I was expecting a little more debate on the subject, but with a nearly unanimous vote; the motion was passed by the membership. I think the kind people at the Marine Resource Council will also enjoy the change. This will help them get home a little earlier also.

So remember... Starting in JULY with our Ice Cream Social, the meetings NOW start at 7:00 pm!!!!

Don't forget, July is our annual Ice Cream Social. As usual, we do not have a guest speaker for the evening. It is a night of sharing dive stories and chowing down on some ice cream. Personally, this is one of my favorite meetings of the year. Ice Cream, beer, friends, and scuba talk... man... makes for a GREAT evening.

We will also be talking about the just completed Bonaire trip. Everyone had a GREAT time; although, I had to fly home early on some family business. But let's just say that the diving was EXCELLENT. Most dives were in the 100+ visibility range and I found the sea life MUCH more diverse than last year. As much fun as the trip was last year... this year was even better!!!!

I have nearly completed the 2008 dive vacation planning. I plan on making a formal announcement during the July meeting. But, I will give you a hint to hold you over until then. We are going to a very small island (less than 100 people live there) and it has the absolute best wall diving in the world.

Speaking of 2008.... I have to admit... I am tempted to make another return trip to Bonaire next year. If this is something you are interested in.... just let me know. I don't want to take away from the BIG trip, but if there is enough interest, maybe we can run BOTH next year. Give me your thoughts!

I hope to see everyone on the 11th of July! Come hungry and with good stories!!!!

See you down under!

Michael Wheat

michael@downunderdiveclub.com

I'm too sexy for my skin!

Location: Pompano
Date: June 9th, 2007
By Michael Wheat



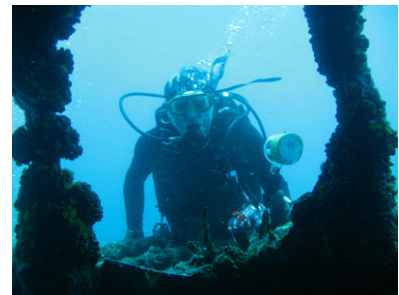
We had a FULL crew for the trip and the weather really cooperated with us. Heading out for the day were Dale Purchase, Rochelle Hood, Steve and Faun Leachman, Ken Daub, Bob Jensen, Marty Munnich, Mike Walsh, Jeri Curley, Rick Halcomb, John Dockendorf, Deveney Loneragan-Stenger, and Amy Morusiewicz. We all especially enjoyed Steve Leachman showing us how sexy divers can be in scuba gear (pictured left). Love the beanie buddy!!!!

The seas were calm for the day with nothing over 2 feet. Visibility really varied during both dives, but for the most part was good. Water temp finally broke 80 for the season. It seemed like it was hovering in the 78-79 degree range for MONTHS!!!!



The first dive of the day was the Captain Dan. Originally named the Hollyhock, this 175 foot long ex-USCG buoy tender, renamed mission ship "Good News" and again later renamed the "Captain Dan" was sunk as an artificial reef on February 20, 1990. She lies in 110 feet of water in a North/South direction. The Captain Dan lies in an upright position and is easily penetrated. The wheelhouse is 70 feet below the surface and her deck is at 90 feet below the surface. Personally, I find her one of the prettier wrecks to dive in Florida. With all the hard and soft coral growing on her, she really reminds me of the Duane in Key Largo.

South of West Palm Beach, dive charters do not put dive masters in the with you. The only time they get wet is when they need to tie off to a wreck or retrieve an anchor line. So once we arrived at the wreck, the tain dropped a hook on the ship and the DM swam down and tied it off. the DM got back on the boat, she gave us a short conditions briefing. cally, visibility was in the 60 foot range and a moderate current. That us all excited because this wreck can have a wicked current on it from to time. Now mind you, there was a couple on the boat from Finland the wife was doing her first ocean dive. She and her husband where of the first off the boat. I was near the back and once I hit the water, they were still hanging onto the line at about 20 feet. I waited a few seconds to see if they could resolve any issues they were having, but when it became apparent they were not planning on moving, I just figured I would drop off the line and descend a short distance until I could get in front of them. THE DM SAID IT WAS A MODERATE CURRENT!!!! Well, after kicking like crazy for about a minute, I looked up and saw that I was basically in the same place as when I had let go of the rope.... Bite me... that was NOT a moderate current :-). I finally made my way down the line, but several hundred pounds lighter in the tank due to the failed effort.



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The dive itself was AWESOME! Lots of great swim thru's and port holes to look out. The ship was also teeming with Barracuda just waiting for something flashy to grab their attention! At just short of 200 feet, the ship is a good size for a single dive. Even at 90 feet you have time to explore the wreck from bow to stern.

After about 40 minutes, most of us were on the line heading back to the surface. It was actually pretty cool doing a safety stop in a forest of bubbles. It felt like there were 100 people down on the ship hitting their purge values. It was VERY surreal!

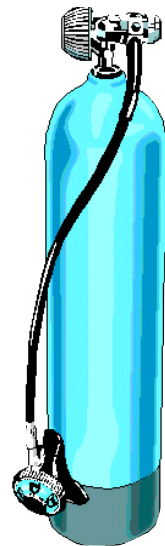
For our second dive we did a nice shallow ledge called Sunkist. It was a pretty typical reef with nothing really out of the ordinary to see. So we all just relaxed and enjoy the drift.

After getting back to the dock we all headed over for a nice dinner at Big Louie's and talked about our future adventures.

Michael



Congratulations!!!!
**New
Certification(s)**



Bobbi Spielman/Bojerski - PADI Enriched Air Diver

Have a recent certification?? Let us know by sending an e-mail to dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com and I'll put it in the newsletter.

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. 727-1028
Vice President:	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com
Treasurer	Bob Carmichael	bcarmi-
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Concession Mas-	Tom Butler	tbutler@downunderdiveclub.com