



# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

JUNE

2008

SINCE 1984

**DUDC Monthly Meeting**  
**is Wednesday, June 11th @ 7:00 pm.**

## **Ice Cream Social & Scuba Flea Market**

Are your closets overflowing with three extra wetsuits, two extra BCs and other gear that's been upgraded? Would you like these items to find a new home, one where they are regularly getting wet? Then bring them to the June DUDC meeting, where the program for this month is all about:

- **Scuba Flea Market** – Buying and selling of Scuba Diving related items
- **Ice Cream Social** – Consuming lots of Ice Cream and toppings... while negotiating your best deal or telling tales of your most unforgettable diving experience
- **Underwater Images** – Seeing some of the best still and video underwater images, produced and shown by club members (bring on DVD/CD, memory stick or prints)

**Caution:** Avoid placing gear on or near any displays in the facility, especially the display table. This will keep us from doing facility damage.

John Dockendorf

### One of DAN's Diving Tips

From DAN's Diving Medicine Articles ([www.diversalertnetwork.org](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org))

Diving, like life itself, is an experience best shared. You are responsible for your own dive experience.

Self-reliance is a skill your safety depends upon, topside or underwater. While divers are trained to use the buddy system to improve safety and reduce risk, you should be able to make informed decisions about your safety during any dive, without relying on someone else to think for you. Following a dive leader or your buddy into an environment, condition or depth that you are not trained for, not comfortable in or is outside your experience is an invitation to disaster. Being self-reliant means knowing your limits — and those of your equipment.

- Take care of your equipment. Keep it properly serviced and maintained.
- Check it out. Always use a checklist when packing equipment for a dive outing. If you get to the dive site and are missing an essential piece of equipment, consider renting or buying a similar model.
- Suit yourself. You need to wear all of the required equipment for the type of dive you're making.
- Stop, Breathe, Think, Act. If you're experiencing a problem underwater remember this: if you're still breathing, you have some time to deal with the problem. Bolting for the surface is dangerous.
- Pause and refresh yourself. If you haven't been diving for awhile (six months or longer), attend a refresher course.
- Learn to say NO. "A 'good' diver is not the person with the most gear, or the one who dives the deepest," says DAN Medic Eric Schinazi. "It's the one who can make a mature decision that they should not make a dive."
- An ancillary maxim is that good buddies respect this decision.

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## **DOOR PRIZE** **WINNERS:**

Ken Daub: Wet Suit Hangar  
 Mike Walsh: Travel Mug  
 Bob Jensen: Scuba Grease  
 Sandy Mephram: Brass Clip  
 Debra Young: TSA Luggage Lock  
 Deveney Lonergan-Stenger: Finger Reel



# DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 6/11/08 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:ballen@downunderdiveclub.com">ballen@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	TBD due to Little Caymen	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
First Saturday of the Month Dive with Little Deeper	Saturday, 6/7/08	\$58	Tom Croonquist	<a href="mailto:tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com">tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
First Saturday of the Month Dive with Little Deeper	Saturday, 7/5/08	\$58	Tom Croonquist	<a href="mailto:tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com">tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Shark Tooth Dive Venice Beach	Saturday, 8/23/08	\$80 with Air Tanks Not including hotel accommodations	Tom Croonquist	<a href="mailto:tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com">tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com</a>

**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.)*

## Congratulations to the Following for Their Achievements & Mile Stones:

**John Dockendorf** won Harris Corp. Photo Contest

**Rick Halcomb** made his 200th Dive

**Jeri Carley** celebrated her @\*th Birthday

## Emerald 3 Tanker on 05-18-08

An eager group of 11 divers arrived at the dock in beautiful Tequesta, FL to embark on a 3 tank trip out of the Jupiter Inlet. For many of us, it was old home week in getting a chance to see Randy Jordan again. Randy is the owner/operator of the Emerald Dive Charter which is now docked in Tequesta at the newly renovated Jupiter Pointe Marina. Randy has entered into an arrangement with Scuba Works dive shop (co-located in the same marina) to compliment his services.

Our first stop was to see the wrecks known as the Jupiter Wreck Trek (or Esso Bonaire and Miss Jenny or several other names). Three wrecks in a row connected by the carefully placed rebar Randy has put in the sand to help divers with navigation and to ensure everyone has a chance to enjoy all 3 wrecks. We saw some very active Amber Jacks, plenty of fish life, a Goliath Grouper and dinner (a horned oyster Randy salvaged from the wreck). Next we journeyed south of the inlet to Area 51. Once again photographers and drift divers alike got to enjoy good conditions and plenty of sea life. Jupiter seems to always deliver the diver's checklist (eels, rays, sharks, turtles and tropicals).



Photo by Jeri Curley



Photo by Rochelle Hood

We enjoyed a nice lunch on the boat, a little Bob Marley and Jimmy Buffet and shared stories from our first two dives before suiting up for our last drop. The mighty Emerald traveled back north to the Tunnels. The Tunnels is known for its swim through, Goliath Groupers and if you work your air consumption and Nitrox mix just right you can make it to a spot on the reef often referred to as the donut. It's a hole with a little ledge where sharks like to take a rest underneath and provides great viewing opportunity. What a special treat on this dive. We encountered a small reef shark rest below the cutout in the reef. Randy gently hovered over the shark, while all the photographers lined up on the opposite side. As Randy started to softly stroke the shark's back he remained resting. Then, he stroked his nose while Michael shot video. I had heard this is a method to get sharks to sleep and only seen it in the Bahamas. What a treat! Thanks to Jeri and Michael for capturing the experience in photos and on video. You can see the video on Randy's web site: <http://www.emeraldcharters.com>.

Of course one of my favorite parts of the dive is the post dive adventure. Most of the group ventured over to what I refer to as good "dive" Mexican Style to tip back some Margaritas (they go down very smooth after a hot day at sea), share our stories and enjoy some appetizers. It's so nice to have a group to travel with back to Melbourne, especially with a fully tummy, after 3 tanks and a late Sunday afternoon.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a beautiful few weeks it has been in the ocean. It's like Mother Nature has opened her arms and said it's summer, jump in the BIG pool is open. As we prepare for our June meeting and Ice Cream social I wanted to reflect on the social aspect and *value* of our club. This weekend I had a great opportunity to reflect on why people join dive clubs. I belong to 4, so I'm truly a fan. Each one delivers something different for my diving interests, but they all have one element in common...the People! The club provides an organized way to meet new people, find divers with common (or different) interests and skills and a chance to write your name on a sign up sheet and know you'll be on the boat with diving friends. For me, I find great *value* in knowing that someone has done all of the work to schedule dates, times, check out charters, negotiate rates, buy out spots and work on coordination and all I have to do is sign and Pay Pal the funds. I enjoy the convenience and genuinely appreciate the efforts our club members put forth to set up enjoyable dives for our group. It says a lot for the commitment and consistency of our club that we are often able to buy out the boat and have it to ourselves (I call it private boat diving on a really big boat). As you enjoy lots of toppings, candy sprinkles and the dive stories and photos of other members during our social, I hope you'll take a moment to reflect on what being in a dive club means to you. Thanks for being a member of our club and for being one of the reasons we jump in the BIG pool together.

Dive safe, dive often.

**Rochelle Hood**

President



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

# **TOMS' DIVE BLOG**

Here it is, come and gone May, 2008, along with Memorial Day and the official kick off of summer.

I hope everyone has found themselves in the water diving their hearts out. Me, I am stuck in Spring Cleaning Mode (unfortunately I am still working on the Spring of 1998). I spent most of May at a four letter word (work). And trust me it sucks, I would much rather be diving. That reminds me... "Work Sucks, I'm going diving". If not at work I have been working around the house and in the yard. I only did 3 dives in May. What, only 3 dives??? Yep, only 3 dives, with water up to the low 80's and I only did three (3) dives? What gives???? Man oh man, I tell you, it is work and it sucks... wait didn't I already go there? So we have a short blog this month and there would be a fourth dive in the blog but limited parking at Phil Foster Park kept me out of the water. More below...

On a very serious note, with Memorial Day just passed, High School and College Graduations, and the drought that is upon us has us looking at a "Fire Storm of '08" take time to remember and be thankful for all of our Blessings. With raising gas and food prices, economy looking "not so good" sometimes it is hard to remember how lucky we are. With the recent Firestorms, not only in Palm Bay but in Cocoa, North Brevard and all through Central Florida we have a lot to give thanks for. Give thanks for the Firefighters that risked their lives to save homes, give thanks for our family, for our Veterans and why we celebrate Memorial Day, give thanks for great viz and for sucky viz because without sucky viz we forget what great viz is. We all are lucky to be a member of a club where we can congregate at swap stories of diving and Sponge Spawns, and Hammerheads and juvenile Drum fish, and cleaning stations and about upcoming and past dives. We are the dive club. It is us, all of us, which keeps this club alive. We may not always agree with each other but are lucky enough to have each other around not to agree with each other. Being the Dive Coordinator for the second year now I have found one thing for sure. You can't please everybody. There is a flip side, we do use charters that may decide to go out in seas that we (as individual divers) are not qualified to dive. A day of 4 foot seas with 10 foot viz may be way too much for one diver but also may be a great day for another diver. Remember to always dive within your limits for seas and circumstance.

Below is my blog for May 2008, I hope you enjoy, and as always remember...

Work sucks, I'm going diving.

See ya,

Tom C.

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**When:** May 3, 2008

**Where:** West Palm Beach, Riviera Marina

**What:** Our Second "Kick the Month Right" dive trip

**Charter:** Little Deeper

**Who:** Jeri, Fiona, Dianne and Frank

**Weather Conditions:** Strong winds out of the Southeast, chilly, cloudy with scattered showers turning sunny and warm with the wind subsiding

**Seas:** 2 to 4 feet with a few 5 footers thrown in.

**Viz:** 60 feet

**Water Temp:** 75 degrees

**Scenario:** Morning dives, two reefs

This was our Second "Kick the Month off right" dive trip and we had a very good start to a new and promising tradition. All in all it was a great day and ended up a lot better than what I it started off being. Seas lied down and weather turned perfect.

Well with an early start for a Saturday, (got to be there early), we were all at the docks on time, 7:30am. Yeah Ladies and Gentlemen, that's right all of us, even me...

When we arrived at 7:20 with my carpool partner Jeri (aka First Mate "Jeri Arggggggggg" from the Manatee trip to Crys-



Photo by Tom Croonquist

tal River) Dianne and Fiona were already at the picnic table signing in, me and Jeri pulled in and started unloading gear and Frank arrived with all his gear in tow in one bag (the benefit of renting tanks). By the time the trunk was empty, Frank and Jeri were signed in then I was the one with the wait while an Instructor and Students (3 Canadians and a one from the Netherlands) signed in. The boat was loaded and after the Safety Briefing we were on way out of the Inlet. With Seas 4 to 6 feet with an occasional 8 footer, and heavy chop. Yeah there was some tension by the experienced divers but the students were "Primed To Go". Soon we were on our way and motoring out of the Inlet on our way to Paul's Reef. By the time we got there the seas had laid down to 2 to 4, with plenty of 5 footers and the occasional 6 footer. Now for the details of each dive.



Photo by Tom Croonquist

Paul's Reef: DM Debi (yes our own DUDC Debi) and Jeri (remember aka First Mate "Jeri Arggggggggg") were first off the boat, next the students and then after a quick "circle around" Dianne, Fiona, Frank and oh yeah me. With a perfect drop our group was on the way to the bottom to join up with Debi and Jeri. A great dive, plenty of sights to see and I lost the group. I got wrapped in one of my mock photo shoots (me and my garbage on the sea floor, like a shiny object on the topside). Well after 40 minutes of down time and then another 10 trying to find the group I blew my sausage. Yep I unclipped my DAN approved SM (Surface Marker aka "safety sausage") clipped on my finger reel and blew my sausage. A great dive and after spending several minutes swimming across the white sands of South Florida and seeing some cool sights I was up and doing a safety stop to be promptly picked up by the boat.



Photo by Jeri Curley

Next Dive:

The Trench and the play grounds of Dive-a-ramma: Warm water, great viz and the second best drop I had ever had on "The Trench" (the best drop ever was last month with Capt. Dave). After a double swim through "The Trench", with me staying on the top ledges, we were on our drift dive through "Dive-a-ramma". With once again abundant sea

life, light current all I need was a good meal to end the perfect day,

Post party: The Tiki Bar right there at the marina.

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**When:** May 24, 2008

**Where:** Fort Lauderdale

**What:** Surf Dive – Dawn Patrol

**Charter:** N/A

**Who:** Sandy Cook

**Weather Conditions:** Calm, sunny and warm

**Seas:** Flat

**Viz:** 40 feet

**Water Temp:** 81 degrees

**Scenario:** Surf dive – Dawn Patrol, great way to start the day.



Photo by Tom Croonquist

It is 3am Saturday morning and my first alarm goes off. A quick trip to the pot, to turn the coffee on (what were you thinking?) and then a hit of the snooze button and I find myself up at 3:15am. Drinking a cup of "Joe" and being so happy I packed the car the night before, I am on the road at 4am. I pull into Jupiter at get to Sandys' house



at 5:30am. We pack up her gear, I use the pot (bathroom, what were you thinking?), and we are on the road. We are parked and have pumped the parking meter full of quarters by 7am. Arriving at this time we are lucky to find ourselves a few parking spots away from the beach access and a block away from a convenience store. After a quick trip to the store, taking our time suiting up and getting into the water it is 08:01 as we descend on the first reef after our swim out from shore. With flat, warm and clear water we are on the first reef. After a 10 minute “look around” we are kicking out to reef number two. A quick 67 cycle of kicks we are on the second reef. We spend another 70 minutes or so on this reef, hitting a max depth of 18 feet, before heading in. Yep, we are 80 minutes now. We spend a leisure 21 minutes kicking back in, hitting my first three (3) digit dive, in terms of time. Yep, 101 minutes down at a max depth of 18 feet with all kinds of sights.

All in all this has to be one of the best Surf Dives around. I love it. I did this dive with an Aum. 80cf, on the low side (starting PSI 2800 lbs.) and finished with slightly over 500 PSI with 101 minutes of down time... all I needed was a Pabst and it wouldn't have gotten any better.

Out of the water and heading to Blue Heron I checked my voicemail and had messages from dive buddies who I have planned to meet at Blue Heron, describing the lack of parking. Gotta love friends who call to tell you to haul butt and get there so you can park. I passed the messages on to my Co-pilot (Sandy) and we agree we are on Island time and are in no rush. Well after the traffic detours along Blue Heron Blvd. and other obstacles we found ourselves arriving at 11:40am for an 11:43 High Tide with zero parking. Sucking it up and trying not to wine too much (or would that be whine?) I dropped Sandy off to dive while I searched for a mythological parking space. She joined friends in the order of Jeri, Al, Chris, Sandy and Tom (not to be confused with Tom and Sandy...) I know it gets so hard just keeping up and some people accuse me of drifting in my writing and run on sentences... I think to myself “run on” sentences? What are they thinking of? Not only that but have seen the new Iron Man Movie? It is great! The special effects are... ummmm sorry about that. Where was I? Oh yes, Sandy was off to dive and I am, 5 maybe 10, minutes behind her, not. I never found that all elusive parking space. I missed the dive, “Damn it Jim” as Bones says to Kirk....



As I sit here and re-read this, I realize I did not miss a dive. I gained a dive, in Lauderdale, with a great friend. For that I am thankful. Give thanks for what we have.

Post party: The Brass Ring, “hic”...

## **END OF TOMS' DIVE BLOG**

Hope you enjoyed

In closing this month I'd like to say, when you think about a club think about how you can help build it, not tear it down. Remember you joined for a reason, be thankful for the friends we have made and will continue to make. Take all things into consideration, give thanks for what we have been given, strive for more, but do not destroy anything or anyone in the wake of our kick cycle.

Work sucks but it pays the bills and I am fortunate enough to actually be in a job I love. I just hate the work part of it.

## My Memorial Weekend of Diving



Guitarfish  
Photo by Jeri L. Curley

My weekend began on Friday with a trip to Boynton Beach. Chris Peskar and I drove down for the inaugural voyage of Loggerhead's spacious 24 passenger dive boat. With only 5 divers (the two of us, John from Jupiter, Barry from Boston and Dana from New York), we had plenty of space to move around. Captain John steered the boat out through the narrow, walled inlet, where we found flat seas and a southbound current. We dove sites called Tongue Ledge and Boynton Caves. As we dropped to the ledge on the first dive, we discovered white "snow" covering everything. Apparently, the fish had had one enormous pillow fight! NOT! The sponges were spawning. Sperm and eggs are released into the water by the sponges. Fertilization occurs in the water column. (Note: not all sponges reproduce in this manner) The fish were out in droves, eating the newly formed larvae floating in the water. As we started

to ascend on the last dive, a giant Loggerhead Turtle turned his head to watch us as the current carried us up and away. We waved goodbye, wishing we could stop and play some more.

Famished from the dives, we lunched at the Two Georges' Restaurant. The food was excellent and the company great. Chris and I decided to spend the night and dive Blue Heron Bridge the next day. We had hoped to meet up with one of our working class, dive buddies, but apparently work was too strenuous. We called up a couple of our Jupiter dive buddies, Bill and Beverly. (Incidentally, we met them in Roatan, Honduras) They and John met us at Northlake's Dockside Grill where we enjoyed gourmet food and more excellent company.

At the crack of dawn, I realized that Chris was awake when I heard her making a phone call to our buddies Tom C. and Sandy Cook. They were on their way to Lauderdale by the Sea for a dawn beach dive. We harassed them for a while, then moseyed out the door. With plenty of time before High Tide, we drove up to Diver's Direct to find that they didn't open until 10 am. We backtracked to Force-E and browsed and drooled over dive gear. We walked the beach at a park on Singer Island and gathered sea shells. There were surprisingly few people at the beach that early. We found a prime parking spot at Phil Foster Park before the crowds rolled in. The tide was low and we walked the beach picking up trash along the way. I found a silver coin—well partly silver with the bust of Washington on one side. Okay, there is no silver in the quarter anymore, but it was silver-like.

We ran into Al Audet and his student, Kathryn Cyphers; then John from Jupiter showed up. We geared up and decided to jump in a little early. The current was still a little strong so we headed for the pier. Five squid were "floating" in the water above my head. My camera apparently did not register them as solid objects and refused to focus on them. I looked down to focus on some object of similar distance and hoped I could get the photo. As I looked back up, they were gone. By this time the current had slacked a little and we headed for the bridge. We watched a sharp-tailed eel hunting, I got inked by a little octopus, watched mating Dragonets and we were all mesmerized by a Searobin crawling along the bottom. It was another great dive at the bridge.



Searobin  
Photo by Jeri L. Curley

We had run into Tom & Sandy Mephram underwater during our dive, but we had yet to see Tom C. and Sandy Cook. As we rinsed ourselves, Sandy C. walked up behind us. The park had apparently become very crowded while we were diving. They couldn't find a parking spot. Tom had dropped her off with her gear and decided to take a sanity break from the nasty park patrons. We cleaned up and headed to—where else—the Brass Ring. Surprisingly, we didn't have a long wait for a table. In fact, we started off at one table and moved to the large table in the back. Tom C. immediately noticed a poster had been taken down—A BLANK SPOT ON THE WALL. In 5 inch high letters, Tom C. signed his name. It was a GREAT WEEKEND of DIVING!!!

—Jeri L. Curley

# 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](mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com)

## Board of Directors

<b>President :</b>	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Dockendorf	jdockendorf@downunderdiveclub.com
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