



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

MAY

2009

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, June 10th @ 7:00 pm.

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Gaylin Gates presents Free Diving

The presentation will be about the current "state of the art" of free diving; including the various free diving disciplines such as constant balance, variable balance, unlimited free immersion, etc and a brief overview of current records etc. Mr. Gates will talk about the current training methodology, safety protocols, free diving physiology and even invite the group to practice a couple of techniques during the presentation.

Mr. Gates free diving career began in 2007 when he signed up for a free diving class with Performance free diving. After only one classroom session and one pool session, his static breath hold increased from about a minute and a half to over 5 minutes and depth went from about 20-30 feet to over 60 feet. That was day one of a four day class!

Mr. Gates is a relative late-comer to free diving. But his diving career began in 1985 and he later became a PADI instructor in 1993. For most of the past 16 years he has worked at Deep Six Dive and Watersports as an Open Water Scuba Instructor, IDC Staff Instructor, repair tech and store manager in Jensen Beach and Stuart. He is currently an instructor at the Deep Six location in Vero Beach. Besides PADI, he teaches courses for DAN, PSI and TDI. He also works as a dive guide and instructor in the Bahamas and St Croix.

"BLOW THE DUST OFF THAT REGULATOR"

Spring is in the air, summer is just around the corner and once again we have thoughts of diving like there is no tomorrow. To ensure yourself of a tomorrow, don't forget to get your annual checkups and maintenance on your Dive Gear. Don't wait till two days before your dive to find out that the regulator you were planning on using needs repair. As a rule of thumb a certified technician should service your regulator annually. Remember this is life support equipment. There are various rubber parts and seats that need to be replaced routinely to keep your regulator working properly. All the rubber products need to be inspected for cracking and replaced before they break. This includes the hoses and mouthpiece of your BC, the straps on your mask and fins, and the O rings in your tanks valves. Check Your tanks to make sure your Visual Inspection has not expired and your Hydro date is within 5 years. Check that save a dive kit and replace the items you have robbed from it last season. Avoid the Lobster Season rush and do it now. The shops are swamped with work for the 3 weeks prior to lobster season. Well maintained equipment will ensure you a pleasant and safe diving experience. Be safe and Happy Diving.



Terry Peterman
Safety Officer





DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 6/10/09 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday 6/29/09 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
Jupiter Dive Center	6/13/09 @ 9 am	\$58	Dale Purchase	dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com
Miami Wrecks Weekend	June 27-28, 2009	\$120 not including accommodations	Michael Wheat	michael@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Dive Center	7/12/09 @ 9 am	\$58	Dale Purchase	dpurchase@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.)

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Loggerhead Turtle

Excerpts from my Dive Log

A blanket of blue serenity engulfs me as I drift by shades of orange, red, green and yellow. Schools of wary fish move with a single purpose as I glide among them. They make way as I pass, moving as though one mind controlled their actions. I try to become one of the crowd but I have no gills so I must inhale through the mouth piece hooked to the tank on my back. I exhale and they move away.

I don't belong but I feel at home here.

I flick my fins, shift my body and alter my course. Out of the corner of my eye, I see movement. A spotted moray opens and closes his mouth to force water through his gills. I move into position. I glimpse the sharp, white teeth before his mouth shuts closed. Then open. Closed. Open. Closed. I time my shot and the strobe ignites. Time, captured on a memory card.

I glance around and I'm alone. No surprise. I swim to catch my buddy and I'm nearly run down by a turtle. Behind him, a group of excited wranglers herd an expressive sea turtle toward me. The turtle's grace and effortless movement against a fair current is always amazing. I watch the bubbles stream from my fellow divers as they struggle to get one last glimpse, one last photo of a turtle butt. What's around the next corner?

Every dive is different and Every dive is Great!

Jeri L. Curley

Sharptailed Eel

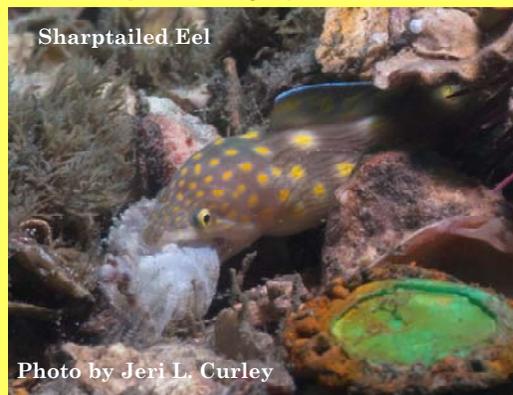


Photo by Jeri L. Curley

President's Message



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Another interesting and informative guest joined us on May 9. Dr. Alex Brylskie of Divers Alert Network gave a presentation on "Myths and Misconceptions" as it relates to the issue of diving safety. His presentation provided a historic perspective on the early recognition of "the bends" to today's more scientifically based knowledge of the subject. So, thank you Dr. Brylskie, we appreciate your going to the effort and expending your time to give us this program. Lots of questions were asked and I think for many of us some issues clarified.

Good news. We are back to diving again. Dives were put out and folks signed up. It's really that simple. And it's what the Down Under Dive Club is all about. Diving! We had 18 that joined us on the night and 3 more that wanted to but the boat was loaded. I really think that if the Republic IV had not been getting a new engine installed that we would have had two boats going out and more divers as well. I've done some interesting math here. In minutes my dive time were 43 and 50 minutes on the night dives. Let's assume that most of us made dives of similar times, then be a little more conservative and call it 90 minutes dive time per diver. Remember those 18 divers, that comes up to 27 hours of dive time, give or take a few minutes. That's pretty remarkable. Jeri had a dive to the Blue Heron Bridge. There were 5 divers there. That dive frequently generates an hour and a half bottom time so there is another 7 1/2 hours bottom time. Not too bad. The underwater world is still there. It is as beautiful and mysterious as ever. So, come and dive with us. It's a lot of fun.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

We have more dives scheduled. With any luck at all the weather won't blow us out. I know some of our members are getting together over the Memorial Day weekend to dive and that is terrific.

More time underwater is what we are all about. Club dives are an informal and friendly way to dive with people you know and trust. Diving with club members on non-club is just as fun. And it all gets started because as individuals we take the time talk to each other, see what dives are being run and when there isn't one, call other members to make a dive. The club dives and the social networking provided by the club environment are what makes us an organization that is worth supporting. And on behalf of the club board I thank you for that continued support.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

These dives should just be the beginning of our dive season. So get your gear all tuned up and ready to go. See you all at the June 10 meeting.

Bill Allen

Miami Wreck Weekend – June 27-28



A blast from the past!!!! Are you looking to do something different? Want to try some dives that maybe you have never done before or some old haunts that you have not seen in a while? Or are you just like me and looking for an excuse to get wet ;-) Boy, does the club have something for you. This is a trip the club use to run a long time ago and with all the GREAT diving in Miami, we really need to start running it again. So now is your chance. Sign up early to ensure that you get one of the slots. We have two dive trips planned over the weekend – Saturday afternoon and Sunday Morning. Will we be diving w/ RJ Diving Ventures. For those of you that have dove w/ Capt. Mike before, I am sure you will agree... BEST BOAT IN FLORIDA!!!! The boat is a 46 feet long custom built Newton. Almost the exact same boat we dove in Little Cayman. She is fast, comfortable, and set up for DIVERS! And the captain and crew are always a pleasure to dive with.

On Saturday afternoon, we will be diving one of the most famous wrecks in Miami – “The Tortuga”. She is a 165 foot steel ship that was sunk in April 1995. The difference between this wreck and others is that this particular ship was purchased by a movie company to be sunk on purpose for the movie Fair Game starring Cindy Crawford and William Baldwin. In the climactic scene at the end of the movie, the entire detonation and sinking of the Tortuga was documented as the characters portrayed by the two stars narrowly escape from the ship with their lives. And best of all, she is nearly completely in-tact. Lots of swim throughs and tons of life on her.

The wreck is a classic one, sitting completely upright in 100 feet of water. One of its distinctive features is the twin props which are totally intact making a great photographic opportunity. While the ship can be explored in 80 feet of water, this is considered an Advanced Dive. Please make sure you have the appropriate experience and certifications before you sign up. The second dive of the afternoon will be a reef.

Then on Sunday morning we are heading over to a wreck called the “Belcher Barge”. This 195-ft steel barge was sunk near Key Biscayne in November 1985 when four explosions opened its corners. The barge turned over on its way to the bottom. Experienced divers can swim inside the entire length, passing through the holes that were cut in the bulkheads; a flash light and safety reel is recommended. The *Belzona One, Two & Three* are close by and form a wreck trek. Ghostly spotted eagle rays and a large stingray are often resident. The depth on this dive is 60 feet. Which should give us plenty of bottom time to explore all the wrecks.

For our last dive of the weekend, we will be doing a new site. One that I bet most of us have not dove before... Or any other site like it I bet... The “Neptune Memorial Reef”. Yes, an underwater cemetery! From the people I have talked too that have dove it, I hear it is a unique experience and actually an AWESOME dive. It is a re-creation of the legendary Lost City and will be the largest man-made reef of its type in the world. Covering over 16 acres of ocean floor, The Neptune Memorial Reef will offer room for more than 125,000 remains, and become a "living city" that will act as a sanctuary for marine life to converge and thrive. The site is only 40 feet deep and already has a lot of architecture to explore.

The price for the dives will be \$120 (includes both trips). Nitrox and air rentals will be available if needed. As for lodging on Saturday night, we will have a location identified as we get closer. But it will be an optional part of the package. Captain Mike is recommending the Best Western. It runs about 100 per room. So plan on about another 50 dollars unless you want to make your own arrangements (i.e., have hotel points you can use). But I always tell people, it is more fun to stay with the group. We always have a group activity during the evening.

For more information or to sign-up, contact Michael Wheat.
michael@downunderdiveclub.com or 321-543-7758

See ya down under!



FULL MOON NIGHT DIVE WITH JDC MAY 9, 2009

We were on the boat off gassing (doing our surface interval) following our twilight dive. A dark orange disk was rising from the dark eastern horizon. It was the full moon welcoming us to our night dive. It was really a special sight and it reminded me of a blood moon though this was not the result of a lunar eclipse. It just looked that way.

We had entered the water at 7:39PM for the first of two scheduled dives. This twilight dive was on a reef that is always a good choice, Loggerhead reef. This is a reef with good elevation and lots of nooks and crannies, kinda like diving a giant Thomas' English muffin. We usually expect to see things like turtles, green eels, spotted eels, goliath grouper and a large variety of reef fish. We were not disappointed. I think most of us saw all of these critters. I know I did. And the reef was just plain busy as the night creatures began to emerge and the day critters began to look for cover. Dale Purchase once again got a goliath grouper to "thump" at him. Way to go Dale. Keep those fish on their toes, so to speak.



Then after an hour and eight minute surface interval and watching the moon rise we reentered Neptune's realm. So this time we descended through what seemed like a sea of ink to a reef called Scarface. Another great Jupiter reef. And again we were graced by the presence of goliath grouper, and one of the nicest looking hogfish I have ever seen. Probably could have fed a family of four. My mouth is still watering. But I had no spear gun and Michael just shot it with his ever present camera. We met up with a pretty nice sized nurse shark, I am thinking in the 7 to 8 foot range who posed patiently while Michael tried to blind it with his strobe. If you can't kill it you might as well blind 'em eh Michael! Anyway, we saw many other critters. And since lobster season is over it only makes sense that bugs would be plentiful. I saw several that

would feed a large family out and about, no doubt enjoying the full moon just like us. It just isn't fair. But, they'll still be around next year and will likely produce lots of offspring.

Another thing that Jupiter is noted for is turtles. And we saw plenty of them on both dives. I saw one hawksbill that was missing its right rear leg. I am guessing it wasn't a big deal to him (her) as it was just munching on sponge. Then there was Volkswagen Beetle that was disguised as a loggerhead turtle. It was really the biggest I think I've seen.

So, how were the dives you might ask. They were great. The boat and crew were excellent and made sure everything happened according to plan. It was a great night of diving with friends from the Down Under Dive Club. I hope that you all enjoyed it as much as I did. And there were a lot of us on the dive, but not to many to mention and say thank you to for making a great event of the dives. So, here goes, thanks to Michael Wheat, Dale Purchase, John Dockendorf, Tom Croonquist, Jeri Curley, Dave Sisson, Brian Reynolds, Darlene Archer, Ken Daub, Anthony Luminoso, Joe Hale, Kyle Frinkley, Michael Workman, Tom Butler, Mike Stork, Kaniska Perera, and Craig Capion. You made this dive a terrific and fun event. It was great spending time with all of you. Oh yeah, the double stuff Oreos made their return. And they were good.

Bil I Al I en



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 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



ITEMS FOR SALE OR TRADE: If you have any items you wish to sell or trade, send an email with a brief description to jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com.

PHOTOS FOR SALE: Help support a starving diver/artist. Jeri Curley has her dive photos for sale. You can purchase them at the monthly club meetings or at Sea Level Scuba.

COMPLETE SCUBA GEAR FOR WOMAN

Size Medium, Used 103 Dives, Well Maintained
\$500

MaryKay Chable 321-544-2729

Two Tanks Hydro-tested March 2003, Visual September 2006; Body Glove size medium, excellent condition, Cold water wet suite used 5 times size M; Black and Blue Dive Skin For Summer; Two Hoods, Weights and weight belt; Tusa Vest – excellent condition; American Divers regulator complete gear and hoses – Serviced September 2006; Boots size medium 9 – 10, Pink Fins; Pink Gloves, Knife, Dive Watch Free Style Predator; Dry Bag, Pink Dive Bag; Orange Inflatable Emergency Sausage / Whistle

USED DIVE GEAR AT SEA LEVEL

Used Classic Plus w/ Air2 - 1 year old, excellent shape, comes with warranty \$500
Used Mk25 X650 - 1 year old, excellent shape, comes with warranty \$400
Used rental bcd - 2 years old, good shape, rebuilt inflator \$199
Used Ladies Med Everflex 3mm 1 piece wetsuit \$149

Women's O'Neill 3/2 mm full wetsuit, size 12; gently used; excellent condition. \$30.

Judy Hesselbacher 321-676-3326. If no answer, please leave a message or send email to jhesselb@comcast.net



Board of Directors

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