



# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

MAY

2008

SINCE 1984

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

### **So, I Have My Open Water Certification. What Next?**

This month's featured speaker is Schott Beckham. Schott is the owner of Sea Level Scuba on Wickham Road in Melbourne and has been diving since 1976. He has logged over 4300 dives. He is a dive instructor with the Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI), Scuba Schools International (SSI), Scuba Diving International (SDI), and Technical Diving International (TDI). The topic of discussion will be the value of continuing dive training and education. What courses and agencies are best suited to the individual and his/her goals underwater. We will look at such topics as choice of instructors, reasons and needs for additional instruction, access to education, logical course sequencing and assessing one's personal diving limitations. The program should prove to be most interesting for the diver and those interested in entering the underwater world.

*Bill Allen*

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

Ken Daub: Dive Decal  
 Mike Walsh: Sea Turtle License Plate  
 Bob Jensen: Snappy Coil  
 Bob Senten: Wrist Slate  
 Dave Sisson: TSA Luggage Lock

#### **50/50 Big Winner**

**\$433+++**

**Michael Wheat**

**Congratulations**



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

#### **SAFETY:** Symptoms you should not ignore after diving:

DAN advises divers to look for symptoms after diving. If you have any of these symptoms, D.A.N. advises that you call them at 1-919-684DAN.

1. Numbness, tingling, sometimes along with pain.
2. Balance problems
3. Respiratory difficulties, shortness of breath or chest pains.

If you have any of these problems after diving, call DAN early. Get oxygen treatment but still call for help. For more information, read May/ June Alert Diver.

**Dive safe.**

*Dale Purchase*  
Safety Officer



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

## It's Time to Pay Dues

Our club dues are now **PAST DUE**. That's right. Dues are payable by March 1 of each year. The dues are a necessary and vital part of the funds that allow the club to continue operating. They pay for the meeting facility that we rent each month. They help cover the cost of refreshments, pay for the annual club picnic and, my personal favorite, the annual ice-cream social. I implore all of you have not yet paid to do so not run the risk of a lapsed membership where you won't be able to vote. Especially important because you may want me out of office.

Just as a reminder, the dues are only **\$25/year single membership and \$35/year for a family membership**. If you want a printed newsletter there is a \$5 fee for printing, shipping. It's really a bargain when you stop and think about it. You get a lot for a that small annual amount.

One last item. Some have still not filled out a new membership form and liability release. We also need those. I have plenty of forms for you and they are also available at the club web site, **[downunderdiveclub.com](http://downunderdiveclub.com)**. If you aren't sure if yours is on file see me at the meeting or give me a call at home. I have been working hard to get all of these things into the computer and current and think that I will be able to answer your questions.

I am looking forward to another great of diving with our club and it's members.

*Bill Allen*

Membership Chairman

## Payments

Now that our dive schedule is picking up I will be handling more payments. Some tips to help you, help me make it easier for all of us. I will normally send out the invoices for club dives about a week in advance. Normally, I will send it by e-mail. You can then send a check in to the Club address (it is on the invoice and in the newsletter) or pay by credit/debit card if you wish. However, if you chose a credit/debit card you will need to e-mail me telling me and I will then send the special invoice for that form of payment. If you know now that you normally want to use a debit/credit card tell me now and I will skip the first invoice and send you the special invoice for credit/debit card payment. I am working on combining the two different forms, but not there yet. If you have the special credit/debit form and decide to send a check that is fine, just mail it in.



Because of the compressed schedule it will help if you e-mail me and dive coordinator when you have mailed the check. We will accept your work the check is in the mail unless that becomes a problem.

It is best if you use [Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com) to e-mail me as that will avoid my SPAM filter which will "catch" your e-mail if you are not in my address book! Any questions don't hesitate to contact me by e-mail (best) or phone 321-508-5449. LET'S GO DIVING!

**BOB CARMICHAEL**

Treasurer



# DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 5/14/08 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:ballen@downunderdiveclub.com">ballen@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday, 5/26/2008 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
First Saturday of the Month Dive with Little Deeper	Saturday, 5/3/08	\$58	Tom Croonquist	<a href="mailto:tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com">tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Three Tank Dive with Emerald Charters out of Tequesta, Florida	Sunday, 5/18/08	\$72 with lunch	Rochelle Hood	<a href="mailto:rhood@downunderdiveclub.com">rhood@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:

**Michael Wheat** completed IANTD  
Technical Diver Certification

**Sandy Cook** made her 100th Dive

**Rochelle Hood** celebrated her @\*th Birthday

## **TOMS' DIVE BLOG**

Another month closer to summer and what did we do? I hope the answer is Dive, Dive and Dive throughout the month April. Although the saying goes April showers bring May brides, or is something to do with May flowers and June brides? We didn't have much precipitation out at my homestead in Canaveral Groves, which is good because the mower still needs work and that give me a chance to Dive. April 2008 saw a few cold fronts and almost record lows with the temperature of the ocean bouncing around from 71 to 78 degrees, literally a day apart, having what some are calling an upwelling, lets hope not.

Well me and some good friends stayed busy checking out viz and temps so here is what we found out.

I hope you enjoy, and as always remember...

Work sucks, I'm going diving.

See ya,

Tom C.

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**When:** April 5, 2008

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

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

**Charter:** Little Deeper

**Who:** Jeri, Deveney, Sandy, Mike Walsh, Keith, Tuyet and Rochelle

**Weather Conditions:** Strong winds, but sunny and warm

**Seas:** 3 to 5 feet with a few 6 footers

**Viz:** 40 feet

**Water Temp:** 75 degrees

**Scenario:** Morning dives, two reefs

This was our Inaugural "Kick the Month off right" dive trip and we had a very good start to a new and promising tradition. The weather wasn't cooperating with the seas making the trip a little bumpy but the Capt. and Crew definitely did what was in their powers to make up for it. With large waves and small craft advisories the boat had decided to go out Saturday morning. This is fine keeping in mind that boat of this size does not fall into the small craft category. The seas were fairly rough and not for the novice diver but the trip proved to most to be worth it.

First Stop "South Double Ledges." This was my first time on this reef and with one look you can see how it got its' name. Making a quick descent to keep from missing our mark in the strong to moderate current scattered our group a little bit. The current wasn't quite ripping but it was pushing 3 to 4 knots which can give you a work out.

To ease the sea sickness during our Surface Interval the Captain took the boat into the Intracoastal. This proved to be a great idea; although there was a little chop in the inlet it wasn't as bad as the ocean and made switching gear a lot easier.

Second Dive "Midreef." This was also my first time on this reef and again with a fast descent our group did get sprawled apart a little bit. Still with the current moving out at a fairly quick speed it was time for some excitement. Sandy's tank strap gave way on the descent putting me in Rescue Mode and yes she is okay. It was very much the experience assisting putting the tank strap back in place and securing it down in such a current. It was not the easiest thing I had ever done having her clinched on to the bottom while I grasped her and her tank against the current, we may have looked like two turtles in June if you didn't know what was going on. I did make several wrong moves and about got washed away. After a few minutes of fighting we were on our way to enjoy the rest of the dive.

Both of these dives were full of life, eels, turtles, fish with lobsters in almost every nook and cranny. Guess they know the season is over for now.

Post party the Brass Ring.

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Photo by Tom Croonquist



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



**When:** April 20, 2008

**Where:** Jupiter

**What:** 3 Tanker with Lunch

**Charter:** Jupiter Dive Center, Republic VII

**Who:** Jeri, Sandy and Laurie on vacation from NYC

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

**Seas:** Flat

**Viz:** 60 feet

**Water Temp:** 71 degrees

**Scenario:** With our friend Laurie on vacation from NYC it was a dive fest and I was able to join in on the last day.

Diving with JDC, (Jupiter Dive Center) on this day gave me an experience, several of them, I haven't had before. With this being a 3 Tanker and seas flat, clean and clear we were on Island time. The Captain trolling a lure or two on the way out to the first site and landing several Bonitas throughout the course of the day.

Dive One "Hole in the Wall". This was my first time ever doing this dive and from what I was told we couldn't have had a better day for it. Light current and flat seas made our gathering at the mouth of the swim through an ease. At depths pushing 140 feet "Hole in the Wall" is not for the beginner and at such depths we usually don't see much sea life but with the amount of people that appeared to be Narc'd on this dive there was some wildlife going on. The lack of fish was made up by the sharks that checked us out during our safety stopped. Buzzed by one or two Bull Sharks it made an interesting end to a quick dive. Yep, this is a quick dive, going to the depth to dive the hole doesn't give you much bottom time. And with special congratulations to Sandy for this particular dive being her 100<sup>th</sup> dive. Way to go Sandy, hope to be there for the 200<sup>th</sup> dive. **(NOTE: This was not a club sponsored dive since the depth exceeded recreational limits. Technical and Deep Dives require special training and additional safety equipment.)**

Dive Two, "Capt. Mikes Reef" This trip was full of new experiences and this reef was one. Not being versed in diving the Jupiter area almost every dive is a new site for me. This reef was again a new experience, a low stress dive after The Hole this was a great site full of life and color. The water stayed cold and clear as several clouds rolled over during our bottom time, made evident by the changing shades on the reef only to be enhanced by the moderate relief and soft corals that are abundant on top. With a maximum depth that I hit of 90 feet, following running 24% mix at The Hole my bottom time was limited to only 45 minutes, but well spent.

Lunch time, on the boat. A fairly good non-gourmet box lunch was provided. We had plenty of interval before our next dive but it seemed as if everyone was getting chilled to the bone. The sunny day with a calm breeze and smooth seas was seeming on the verge of being bitterly cold with my core temp dropping. Although I had shed out of the top of my wetsuit the core temp was on the way down. Note to self, bring warmer shirts.

Dive Three, "The Tunnels" again a new experienced proved to be another great dive. The site lived up to its name with many swim throughs and great relief. This site was another spectacular dive. With a depth of 75 feet and still cold water this was a quick 50 minutes dive. Still with my core dropping I did hate to see the day end and it was perfect timing to a perfect day because on the ride back to the docks the winds picked up and the seas began to blow out. All three dives proved to be great and abundant with new adventures and sea life. We saw a great variety of all kinds of sharks, Bulls, Reefs, Nurse and I am pretty sure I even spotted a Lemon, also seen were several Goliath Groupers and one diver reported seeing a Hammerhead.

Post party, the Crab House.



Photo by Tom Croonquist

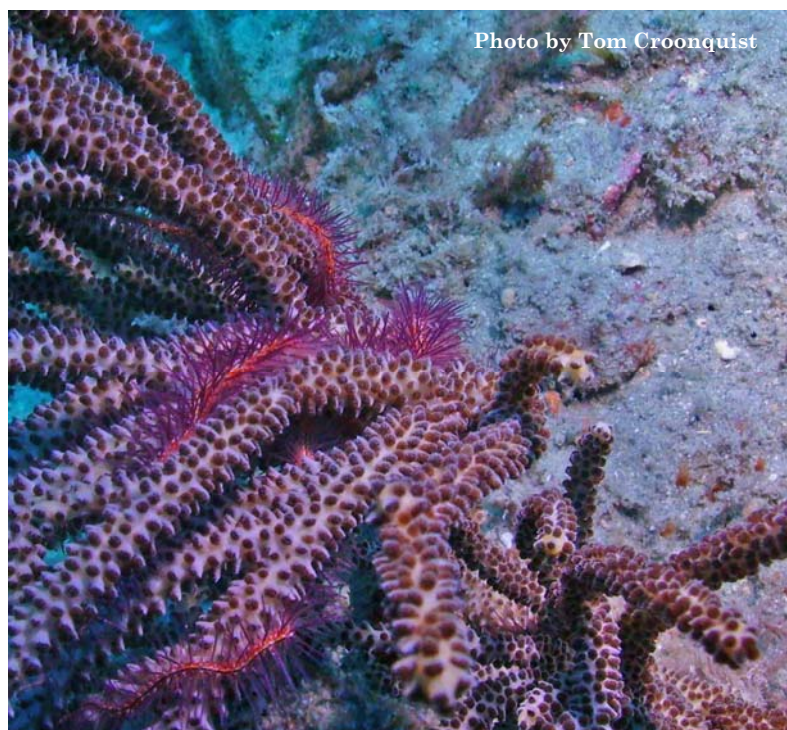


Photo by Tom Croonquist

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Photo by Tom Croonquist

**When:** April 27, 2008

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

**What:** An unexpected Sunday Dive Trip

**Charter:** Little Deeper

**Who:** Debi, Jeri, Sandy and Chris

**Weather Conditions:** Sunny with a light to moderate wind

**Seas:** 2 to 3 feet calming to 1 to 2 feet.

**Viz:** 80 feet plus

**Water Temp:** 76 degrees

**Scenario:** Being invited to join in on an unexpected Sunday dive

It's Saturday night and I am driving home from a BBQ with some new friends, mostly divers. I check my cell which I make a intentional habit of leaving in my car. As I am checking my messages I am bewildered to get one from our own Debi. It simply says call me, which I do to go directly to her

voicemail, I leave a message, playing phone tag. I make another call to my Dive Buddy Bobbi to sure up some plans for Sunday only to get beeped in on. Bobbi being the buddy she is lets me go and this starts it all. About a half of dozen phone calls later and several emails that night I find myself at home packing for an unexpected dive trip for Sunday. Life is good.

The next morning I find myself on the dock at a lazy 9:30 for a 10am departure. I had been invited to join the Little Deeper for Crew Appreciation Day, although not a member of the crew these people always make me feel like one of the family.

An absolutely glorious day with seas a little bit on the rough side we head South out of the inlet to reach Flower Gardens with the seas laying down. The first of our two dives of the day proved to be one of the two best dives of the month. Warm water, light seas, viz pushing beyond 80 feet and warm water. It was great. I did the Flower Gardens with a span of 55 minutes bottom time, bailing out just as the other divers found several squid. A diver was reportedly inked by one (of the squid, not diver).

Dive two, on the "The Trench" and the play grounds of "Dive-a-Ramma". Warm water, great viz and the best drop I had ever had on "The Trench". The drop could not have been better. After a swim through "The Trench" we were on our drift through "Dive-a-ramma". With once again abundant sea life, light current and an unexpected dive trip all I need was a good meal to end the perfect day, which were able to mustard up. No pun intended...

Carpooling down with Chris we ended the day, drinking a few beverages on the Intracoastal just soaking up the salt air and the good vibes of life, and talking to new friends found that evening.

Thanks to Capt. Dave and Lynn and Debi for a fantastic unexpected dive trip.

Post party, local Shrimp Boil at Carlin Park.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

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

Hope you enjoyed

In closing I'd like to just say I am a fortunate and lucky soul to be surrounded by great adventures, boats and crews the only thing to top these things are the quality of friends I get to share these times with. It is adventures and friends like those that have spawned out of Down Under Dive Club that let me live life to the fullest. The post dive parties always prove to be another great experience with tales to be told and maybe... made up.





Photo by Jeri L. Curley

## *Love is in the Water*

I recently went diving out of Riviera Beach Marina and encountered these two Scrawled Cowfish “dancing” through the water. I verified with Dr. Shenker with FIT that they were most probably “courting.” The funny thing is that the next week I encountered a lone “blue” cowfish. As I approached, he turned back to brown. I guess I wasn’t his type.

—Jeri L. Curley

## **From the President's Corner:**

The water is starting to warm and the boats are filling up again. It's exciting to see many of our members back in the water after the winter weather. I am also very excited about our new board and the opportunities that lie ahead for the club. The board brings a great combination of experience and new ideas. As a Board we represent YOU, our members. Please continue to share your ideas, stories and input. You can also contribute to the club by volunteering to lead a dive, inviting a guest or helping out a club event.

I was recently sharing the story of my decision to move to Florida after growing up in Nebraska. When I came to Melbourne on a temporary assignment, I tried to experience all things Florida in my short time I was scheduled to be here. When I made the move permanent, I strived to keep the spirit of never taking the wonders of Florida for granted. Diving as often as I can, seeing new sites and meeting new friends. I am grateful that being a member of a dive club helps me to continue to expand my diving horizons and my enjoyment of the area we live in. We are so fortunate to have a magnificent diversity of diving in our area...springs, wrecks, hunting, photography, drift, treasure and so much more. The same holds true for our club - we have a wealth of knowledge, skill levels and diving experiences to share and learn from each other.

Looking forward to SEAing you Down Under.

Dive safe, dive often.

*Rochelle Hood*



# 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	<a href="mailto:rhood@downunderdiveclub.com">rhood@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Vice President:</b>	John Dockendorf	<a href="mailto:jdockendorf@downunderdiveclub.com">jdockendorf@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bob Carmichael	<a href="mailto:bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com">bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jeri L. Curley	<a href="mailto:jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com">jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Membership:</b>	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:ballen@downunderdiveclub.com">ballen@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Dale Purchase	<a href="mailto:dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com">dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	
<b>Dive Coordinator:</b>	Tom Croonquist	<a href="mailto:tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com">tjcroonquist@downunderdiveclub.com</a>	