



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

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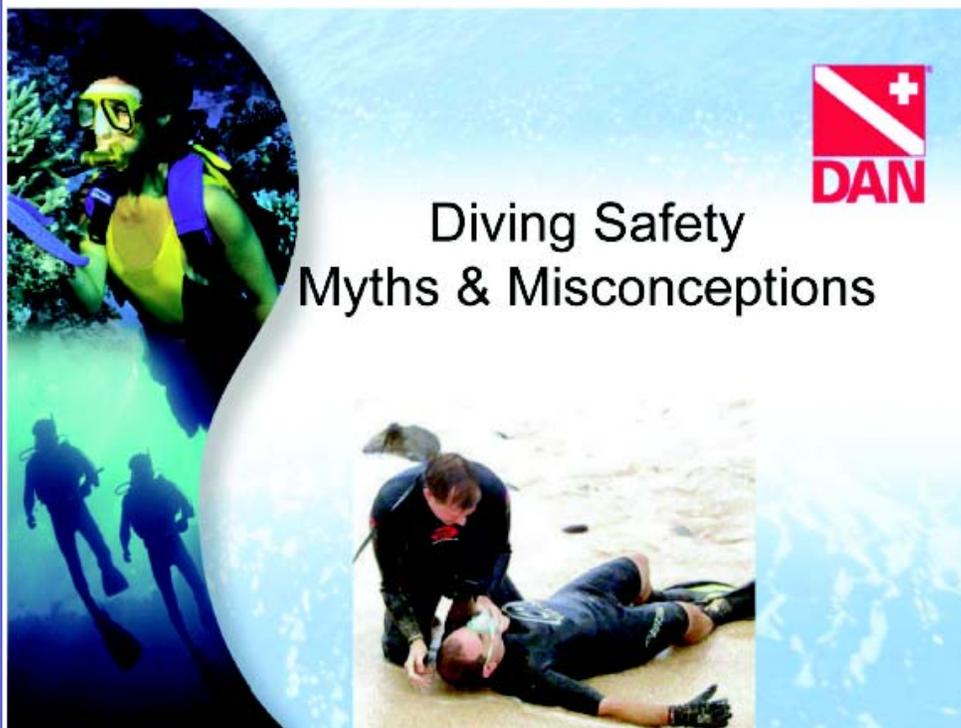
2009

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, May 13th @ 7:00 pm.

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Diving Safety Myths & Misconceptions



This seminar is presented by well-known diving author and educator Dr. Alex Brylske. Over his 30+ year tenure in the industry Alex has become the most widely published author in diving, having written more than 200 feature articles as well as some of the most popular and significant books on diving theory and practice. Alex is a DAN training consultant and is presenting this and other seminars for Florida-based dive centers on a by-request basis.



WINNERS:

Tom Trembley — Log Book

Bob Jensen — Dry Box

Mike Walsh — Whistle & Sink the Stink





DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 5/13/09 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday 6/22/09 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
Blue Heron Bridge	5/16/09 @ 2:03 pm (in the water by 1:20 pm)	Free		jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Dive Center	6/13/09 @ 9 am			dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com
Miami Wrecks Weekend	June 27-28, 2009		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. NON-MEMBERS ADD \$5.

(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)

Blue Heron Bridge Dive

I watched the NOAA forecast all week, hoping that our first Club Dive of the year wouldn't get blown out. The forecast was all over the place. I switched over to the beach cams. Flat Seas. Hmm. Do I trust NOAA who had been wrong all week and cancel the dive or do I hope that they are wrong and risk driving to West Palm for nothing. I looked at the tide chart for Blue Heron Bridge. Eureka! If the boat doesn't go out, we can still dive!!

As it turned out the waves were 5 foot plus. Narcosis was still planning to go out. After a quick huddle, the group decided

that the conditions were not safe. We moved on to plan B, the bridge. It was a good decision and apparently everyone had the same idea. The parking lot was full. Every other boat had canceled dives for that day. Visibility at the bridge was the best I've seen all year. I caught a mantis shrimp hiding in an old fluorescent bulb.

Thanks Narcosis for understanding our dilemma. Not many dive boats would have been so supportive. They've earned my loyalty and I hope yours as well. The next time you have the urge to go diving, remember Narcosis.

If we don't support our local dive charters and dive shops, they may not be there when we need them!



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Jeri L. Curley

President's Message



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

“I have a problem, you need to solve it”

Back to the headline after these brief notes.

Our May meeting was a great success thanks in no small part to the fascinating presentation on Closed Circuit Rebreathers. Great job by Jim Flynn and Anthony Tedeschi of JND/Dixie Divers in Palm Bay. It looks more and more like the future of rebreathers is now. Thanks Jim and Anthony.

Our picnic was a big hit. We had about 30 of you show up at Futch Park/Paradise Beach. Hot dogs, brats and hamburgers were served along with a great potato salad made by none other than Bob Carmichael, who also did the baked beans. My sweet tooth says thank you to all who brought desserts. It was a great time supported by really terrific weather and of course the best company one could hope for. Thanks to all for attending. I think we'll just have to do this again next year.

And now to the headline. I get emails. Not a lot but a few each month. I do read them. I will continue to read them until such time as it becomes impractical. In a couple of the recent emails was a line similar to this, “Last year we didn't do much diving, I hope Dale can get us back on track.” Read it again. Please, read that quote again! It provokes some thought doesn't it. What is really being said here? Do you think you can insert the headline for this month's note between the quotation marks? Yep, you sure can. “I have a problem, you need to solve it.” So, my point here is that if you have a problem, you solve it. The board can assist in the solution and we are willing to do that. But we do need your help. If you think we need more dives let us know. Give us your suggestions where, when and with whom to dive. We will continue to make plans and put out the sign up sheet but if you want more let us know. So when you have problem identify the issue and give us some suggestions on what you think would be a good resolution.

And think about this, we have a two week cancellation policy. Doesn't it make sense that if we are going to put together a club dive that it needs to have a lead time that is greater than two weeks. We also need to be able to get the dive posted and the sign up sheet out at least one meeting prior to the scheduled dive. So, yes, it does need to go through the board to be a club dive. This is what needs to be done so the dive becomes available to all the club members in a fashion that is as consistent and as equitable as we can possibly make it. Does this mean that you shouldn't dive with your friends from the club. No Way. Just that if it hasn't been offered to the club membership as a whole it's not a club dive. And when the club meets once a month and the board meets once a month it does involve some plan ahead time.

Right now our night dive with Jupiter Dive Center has 18 members signed on. I can't begin to tell how thrilled I am at that level of participation. Jeri's dive with Narcosis has 6 divers already and hopefully more will sign up. Michael and Bob Carmichael will be scheduling dives as will Dale. You see, this thing is a team effort. We will all be pitching in. And we welcome your input and any help you can give us.

Only two of us on this board are retired. The rest are business owners, employees, family members, and otherwise time constrained. And since most of our members fall into these same general categories you should have no trouble understanding the balancing act that most board members are required to perform here. We are here because we want this club to be a success. It needs the participation of each of you. An organization like this is driven from the base of the pyramid, not the pointy part. So, let us know what you want. Help us with that and we will do what we can to make it happen.

We have more great speakers being scheduled. More dives in the mill. So don't just sit there. Come and join us and get wet. It's all great fun, and who knows, maybe the next dive will be the one when we see that elusive whale shark.

And finally as we all know, “works sucks, let's go diving” means I'm likely to schedule a few mid-week dives. So pay attention, it might happen on a day when you really need not to work. And the boat leaves a hour later on weekdays. No getting up at oh-dark thirty to make the run to Jupiter or West Palm Beach. Life is good!

So, don't just sit there. Talk to us. Let us know what you want. We will try and help make it happen. It is your club. Help us make it a good one.

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 in-fact. 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 un-





derwater 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!



KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS

by Terry Peterman, Safety Officer

Know your Limitations. I bet you have heard that somewhere before, but your safety not to mention your pleasure in diving are dependent on it. The Dive Club's purpose is presenting diving opportunities to the membership and to act as a facilitator to organize the opportunity for a diving experience. It is the responsibility of the member to make sure their knowledge and experience are up to the requirements of the dive. No one knows your limitations better than you do and when in doubt err on the side of safety. If you are interested in a dive but unsure of the demands of the dive, your best resource is the dive operator. Contact the dive facility personnel and find out what the conditions are likely to be like and what is the worst condition you can expect. Dive conditions can vary greatly at a particular location, For example, any dive in West Palm Bch could have anywhere from > 100 ft visibility, no current and calm water to < 10 ft visibility and 3 knots of current and 6 ft seas. You need to make sure your prepared to deal with not only the ideal conditions, but the worst conditions as well. Find out what the dive operators policy is on how bad it has to be before they will cancel a trip and their refund policy. We all want to progress in our abilities, but progression should be done in small steps. If you know a dive may challenge your abilities, arrange to buddy up with a more experienced diver that can help you out. That is one of the advantages of belonging to a dive club, take the time at the meetings to get to know and make friends with others in the club and learn from the experiences of others. We want you to have a safe and enjoyable diving experience. Not a horror story to pass on, but the responsibility for it is ultimately yours. We have an ambitious dive schedule planned for this year, some of the dives are going to require advanced skills , so pick and choose the dives your comfortable with and dive safely. Contact your local Dive Shop about advancing your education with more advanced dive classes. Be safe and let's go diving.

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



YOUR AD HERE!

Board of Directors

President :	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
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