



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

OCTOBER 2010

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting *Wednesday, October 13th @ 7 pm*

Speaker for the October Meeting:
J i m C o r d y

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Door Prize Winners | 1 |
| Calendar | 2 |
| Blue Heron Bridge | 2 |
| President's Address | 3 |
| O ₂ Toxicity | 4 |
| Diver Down Rules | 4 |
| Goliath Grouper Hunted? | 5 |
| About Our Club & For Sale | 6 |



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Our guest speaker for the October 13, 2010 meeting will be Jim Cordy. Jim is the President of the Astronaut Trail Shell Club in Satellite Beach. He has been an avid shell collector for the last 45 years and has a personal collection of over 10,000 shells. Of the shells in his collection none have been purchased. He has either found them or traded for them with other collectors locally and around the world. He has authored many articles on shells and shell collecting and has found two new species in the Bahamas that are named for him. He is currently working to refurbish the shell collection at the Brevard Museum in Cocoa and has been named the curator of the Museum. So come and join Jim for fascinating look at the world of shells and collecting them. And keep in mind, the only group of animals on the planet more numerous than shell is, you guessed it, insects.

**10 WINNERS
IN SEPTEMBER**

Door Prizes:

- Mike Ziemacki, Neoprene Doo Rag
- John Rolli, Blue Lion Tamer (Donated by Randy Jordan)
- John Dockendorf, Odor Away Wetsuit Cleaner
- Dale Purchase, Dive Slate

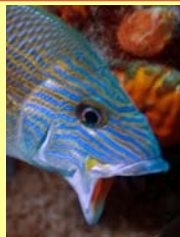


Guests: Kelly Perryman, Mike Ziemacki, George Kenney, Marianne Stadel

New Members: Kelly Perryman and Don Walker

50/50 Raffle: Randy Jordon (donated the money back to the club! THANKS!!!)





DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

| Event | Time | Member's Cost | Coordinator Phone # / E-mail | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--|
| DUDC Meeting Lagoon House, Palm Bay | Wednesday, 10/13/10 @ 7 p.m. | Free | Bill Allen | ballen@downunderdiveclub.com |
| DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD | Monday 10/25/10 @ 6:30 p.m. | Free | | Contact any Board Member to Attend |
| Blue Heron Bridge | Saturday, 10/2 in water by 3:30 pm | FREE | Jeri Curley | jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Blue Heron Bridge | Saturday, 10/23 in water by 8:30 am | FREE | Jeri Curley | jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Keys Wreck Trek | Nov. 4—7, 2010 | \$360 | Michael Wheat | SOLD OUT |
| Looe Key Music Festival | July 9-10, 2011 | \$315 | TJ McKeown | tjmcqn@yahoo.com |

Cancellation Policy for Club Sponsored Dives: Deposits will be refunded with **2 weeks notice** of the scheduled event or with a paid replacement diver. 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.)

We Support Our Local Dive Shops:

Sea Level Scuba

4155 Dow Rd Suite U
Melbourne, FL. 32934
(321)255-1825



HATT'S DIVING HEADQUARTERS

SINCE 1954

Hatt's Diving Headquarters, Inc.

2006 South Front Street
Melbourne, Florida 32901
(321) 723-5932

JND Scuba Center

4651 Babcock Street NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905
(321) 723-8888



The Down Under Dive Club has a web site (www.downunderdiveclub.com). The web sight reports the latest news about upcoming dive trips, meetings, and general diving news. After free registration, users may also receive the newsletter mailed to them or participate in the forums. The forums would be a good way to arrange a small diving trip outside of formal club channels.

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



**BLUE HERON
BRIDGE DIVE
7 OCTOBER**

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Special thanks to Randy Jordan for coming to our September meeting and telling us about the lionfish issue. His "Lion Tamer" is likely to become very popular among Florida divers who want to take some control of the invasive species. (To order one for yourself go to: www.liontamerusa.com) The account of the spawning Goliath Grouper was equally fascinating. So thanks, Randy, for taking the time to come speak and visit with us. We enjoyed it! Special Thanks for donating your 50/50 winnings to the Club. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THAT!

Last month I mentioned that the club was a great source for dive buddies. That diving during the week instead of on the weekends had some advantages over just weekend diving. Now, I know I'm right about that but how come it happens that I haven't been able to get out and dive for the last month. Sometimes schedules and weather just don't jive. And that is what has happened to me. When I could go, seas were 5 to 7 feet and when I couldn't they were, of-course, 3 or less. Sometimes there is just no winning. But that doesn't mean I won't keep trying. Nor should you. Things are getting a little interesting in the tropics and that can always put a damper on things but we still like to dive.

We have a great trip to the Keys on tap for November 4 - 7. We will be doing a combination of wrecks and reefs. Price is \$360, and that is a bargain by any standard. So sign up before all the slots are filled. We have only a total of 12 available and they are filling quickly. Come and join us, the Keys are always a fun trip.

And now I have to make an admission. I have become a camera person. That's bears some significance to persons I have talked to in the past about what I call camera etiquette. What is that, you might be asking yourself. Well, it's not crashing in over someone to get a picture just because you have a camera. It is not letting your dive light dangle free and in all directions when taking photos at night. It always tends to inadvertently shine itself into one or two divers eyes. It's really just being courteous while taking photos. I hope beyond all reason to not become one of those camera people who thinks that getting a shot is more important than normal diving courtesy. And I insist that if anybody sees me being discourteous, rude or thoughtless of others while taking pictures that you pull me aside and let me know. I am learning how to take video underwater and how to process and edit it after I'm done. I would like to develop some degree of competency in both but not at the expense of diving in cooperation with all the other divers in the water.

There is no picture or video that is worth putting another diving at risk, or temporarily blinding them on a night dive. There is no photo or video that allows me to crash into someone to get the picture. There is just no photo or video that is worth annoying another human being. I want to take good video but more than that I want to always be an aware and good dive buddy. A diver that others don't mind being with in the water. A diver whose priority is the safety and well being of those in the water with him. I have a lot to learn, but in the process I am not allowed to forget the basics.

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



What I have learned over the past few dives is that the camera people are taking this approach to their diving seriously. That they, now we, are more aware of the divers around us and not just the picture that is being missed. Another picture will come along. Another opportunity to get that great photo or video segment. Unless it is the last dive I am ever going to make there will always be another opportunity for me (us) to get a video or photo. Even if it is my last dive I don't want it to be a dive that says I don't care about the other divers in the water with me. I'll just have to live without that piece of video.

— *Bill Allen, President*

My, what big teeth you have!



Photo by Terry Peterman

OXYGEN TOXICITY AND DIVING

By Terry Peterman

Thanks to Micro Technology making it possible to put elaborate computers on our wrists, we are able to dive with varying concentrations of Nitrox and not have to worry about whether our dive profile maintains a partial pressure of oxygen below 1.6 atmospheres for 45 minutes or less. But it's important to remember that diving with enriched air does add an additional concern besides nitrogen narcosis and decompression sickness to diving. As with the aforementioned; exertion, health and other factors can vary the point at which oxygen toxicity becomes a problem. Although death from O₂ toxicity itself is unlikely, the lack of ability to maintain a patent airway during convulsions almost certainly means you would drown. The Central Nervous System is primarily affected in the acute phase. Predictable results will follow if oxygen limits are exceeded. You can use the acronym VEN-TID to help remember the CNS O₂ toxicity symptoms.

- * **Vision:** any disturbance including "tunnel vision," etc.
- * **Ears:** any changes in normal hearing function
- * **Nausea:** severity may vary and be intermittent
- * **Twitching:** classically manifest in facial muscles
- * **Irritability:** personality shifts, anxiety, confusion, etc.
- * **Dizziness:** vertigo, disorientation



When diving on Nitrox you should be mindful of these symptoms and surface immediately if you notice any of these occurring during your dive. Nitrox once considered to be a new fad is now highly engrained into diving. Let's not forget the hazard it adds. See you at the Anchor.

Chapter 27 of the 2003 Florida Statutes:

Any vessel other than a law enforcement or rescue vessel that approaches within 100 feet of a divers-down flag on a river, inlet, or navigation channel, or within 300 feet of a divers-down flag on waters other than a river, inlet, or navigation channel, must proceed no faster than is necessary to maintain headway and steerage. Additionally, divers must remain within these specified distances of the flag when they are diving.

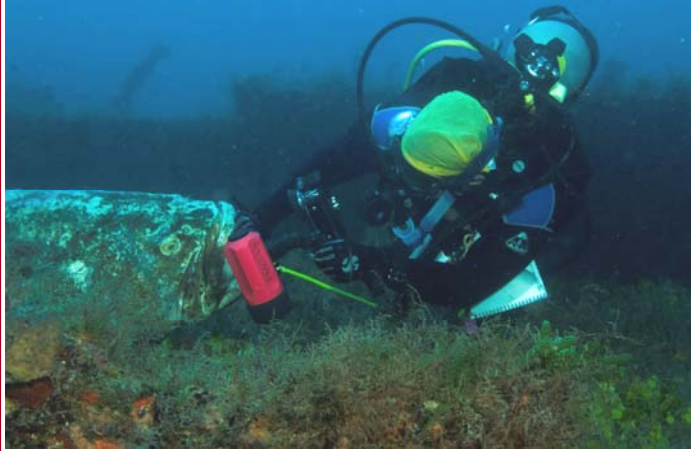


Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Dr. Sarah Frias-Torres examines a speared Goliath Grouper on Zion Train off of Jupiter, Florida

Goliath Grouper Hunted?

Those of us who dive Jupiter have always been fascinated by the abundance of Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) and by their colossal size. Some are VW Bugs with fins! We chuckle as our dive buddies jump after being “thumped” (an audible boom produced when the fish manipulates his swim bladder). But what do you truly know about these behemoths? We have all witnessed for ourselves that they are the largest grouper in the Atlantic (second largest in the world). We know that they are a protected species. But did you know that in the late 1980’s they were considered commercially extinct. In 1990, a US fishing ban was placed on Goliath Grouper, in federal and state waters of Florida, the Gulf states, southeast Atlantic, and US. Caribbean. Killing or

possession of Goliath Grouper carries a \$1,500 penalty per fish, with the possibility of additional penalties depending on fishing gear used or attempts to transfer, purchase or trade the fish (You can read litigation and penalty schedules in this web site from the NOAA office of law enforcement: <http://www.gc.noaa.gov/docs.html> Go to the link "civil penalty schedules" and click "southeast region.") Goliath Grouper are still commercially fished in waters outside the US if they can be found. It is believed that they have been eradicated in the waters off west Africa.

Those of us who have dove *Hole in the Wall* can attest to the spawning aggregations. Did you know that it is believed that Goliath Groupers are protogynous hermaphrodites (individuals maturing as females and some becoming males as they grow in size)? Gametes are released into the water column for fertilization and the current disperses the eggs. Somehow the juveniles make their way to Mangrove marshes and spend five to six years maturing before heading out to sea. Growth during their juvenile phase is fast (an estimated 6 inches per year). As they mature, this growth rate slows and slows and slows. Like most fish, Goliath Grouper never stop growing in size. They just grow at slower rates the more mature they become.

Current research (stomach content analysis and isotope analyses) has determined that Goliath Grouper feed on invertebrates—mostly shrimp and crabs. They also feed upon lobster, gastropods (marine snails) and poisonous or venom-spined slow moving fish—pufferfish, stingrays, etc. As a testimony to our industrial age and our slow response to cleaning up or reducing pollutants, Goliath Grouper accumulate toxic chemicals in their tissues very quickly in areas closest to human impact (mangrove marshes along the intercoastal, for example). Methyl mercury, a key toxin found in Goliath Grouper, has neurological and cardiovascular effects on humans—loss of memory, cognitive behavior, coordination, etc. In addition to these pollutants, the poisons and toxins naturally occurring in their prey species accumulate in their tissues—a process referred to as bioaccumulation. The long and the short of it, the Goliath Grouper we interact with on our dives are not safe to eat.

Though we interact with Goliath Grouper on nearly every dive out of Jupiter, we do not know how many remain in Florida waters. We rarely see them on *Breakers* out of Riviera Beach, for example. We simply do not know enough about the biology and ecology of this species. You can help. Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) [<http://www.teamorca.org>] is currently conducting research on the Goliath Grouper aggregation and ask for diver input. There is a questionnaire on their website that will assist them during this research. You can also take the Goliath Grouper Myth quiz to find out your Goliath Grouper IQ.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

SAVE OUR REEF.

SAVE OUR FUTURE.

—Jeri L. Curley, MS

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.

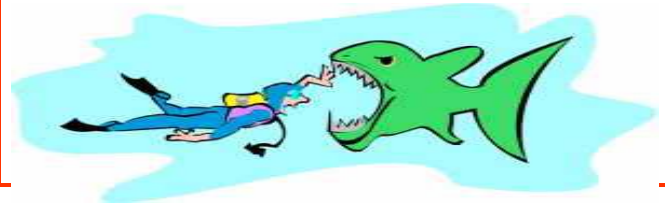
PHOTOS FOR SALE: Help support a starving diver/artist. Jeri Curley has her dive photos for sale. You can purchase them at the monthly club meetings or at Sea Level Scuba.

2011 Calendars

I'll be printing off my 2011 Calendar with my best dive photos. If you want a copy, the cost of printing has gone up. They are now \$20 per calendar. Shoot me an email if you want a copy and I'll make sure I bring enough with me to the club meeting. —Jeri L. Curley
jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com

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



Board of Directors

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|--|
| President : | Bill Allen | ballen@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Vice President: | Jeri L. Curley | jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Treasurer | Kyle Frinkley | Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Secretary: | Vicki Spang | |
| Membership: | Henry Schoepp | |
| Safety Officer: | Terry Peterman | tpeterman@downunderdiveclub.com |
| Dive Coordinator: | | |

