



APRIL  
2006

# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

SINCE 1984

## April's DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, April 12th @ 7:30 p.m.

The presentation this month is "Shipwreck Salvage, Moving the Treasure Coast North" given by Professor Tom Funk, an archeologist and Brevard County history teacher. Professor Funk and some other ocean explorers found several artifacts last August from a shipwreck about a half-mile off Melbourne Beach. This should be a great presentation, so be sure to be at the meeting early to get the best seats.

Next month, our presenter will be Dr. Jon Shenker from FIT to talk about his adventure from last year's FIT summer program in Australia.

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## Congratulations to the DUDC's New Board of Directors!!!!

Please welcome our new Board of Directors:

<b>President:</b> Michael Wheat	<b>Safety Officer:</b> Al Audet
<b>Vice President:</b> Bob Carmichael	<b>Dive Coordinator:</b> Russell Bremmer
<b>Secretary:</b> Laurel LeFavor	<b>Membership Coordinator:</b> Bill Allen
<b>Treasurer:</b> Ed Given	

# Want to go Diving????

Check out the Club Calendar — we have some great dives coming

### Board of Directors

**President :** Michael Wheat  
**Vice-President:** Bob Carmichael  
**Treasurer:** Ed Given  
**Secretary:** Laurel LeFavor  
**Membership:** Bill Allen  
**Safety Officer:** Al Audet  
**Dive Coordinator:** Russell Bremmer

### MEMBERS AT LARGE:

**Newsletter Editor:** Debi Buck  
**Webmaster:** Shannon Anderson  
**Concession Master:** Tom Butler

### Dive Quiz by Al

According to Navy tables, a diver's "bottom time" is measured from:

- the start of the descent to the beginning of the direct ascent to the surface at a rate of 30 ft/min.
- beginning of the dive to the end of the dive.
- the total time you spend on the bottom.
- when you reach the bottom to the time you begin your direct ascent.
- I still have air in my tank, so who cares about bottom time?

Answer on page 5



# DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost		Coordinator Phone # / E-mail
			Tier 1	Tier 2	
West Palm Beach Dive Pura Vida Divers	Average depths 60-85 ft	Saturday, 4/8/2006 @ 8a.m.	\$45.50 + tanks (\$5 air /\$10 nitrox)		Debi (321)728-7243  <a href="mailto:Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com">Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River La- goon House		Wednesday, 4/12/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free		Bill Allen  <a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Jupiter Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 4/22/2006 @ 9am	\$45.00 + tanks		Michael 727-1028  <a href="mailto:Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com">Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
West Palm Beach Dive Pura Vida Divers	Average depths 60-85 ft	Saturday, 5/6/2006 @ 8a.m.	\$45.50 + tanks (\$5 air /\$10 nitrox)		Debi (321)728-7243  <a href="mailto:Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com">Dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River La- goon House		Wednesday, 5/10/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free		Bill Allen  <a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Annual Spring Picnic		Saturday, May 13th	BYOB + side dishes		Bob Carmichael
Jupiter Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 4/22/2006 @ 9am	\$45.00 + tanks		Michael 727-1028  <a href="mailto:Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com">Mwheat@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.**

*(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)*

You can pay for your Club dives, membership fees and merchandise with your credit card. For more details, talk to the dive coordinator or call Ed Given at 255-5587.



# March 18th Jupiter Dive Trip Report

**Location:** Jupiter, Florida  
**Charter Boat:** Jupiter Dive Charters  
**Date:** March 18, 2006



Boy, did we kick off the first Jupiter club dive of the year in style. Seas were flat, visibility was 90+ on the first dive, and the weather was gorgeous outside. And it just got better underwater! First of all we had a GREAT turnout (especially considering water temp was still in the 70's). In the picture from left to right we have: **Laurel LeFavor (birthday girl), Shannon Anderson, Bob Senton, Hank Green, Tim Dempsey, Jeri Curley, Rick Halcomb, Monica Russell, Matt Russell, your fearless dive coordinator, and back from diving the Cenotes in Mexico, Dale Purchase.**

**Dive 1:** The first dive of the day was the perennial favorite; **Captain Mike's**. The site is just north of Area 51 and has a very similar profile. Ninety feet to the sand and the ledge has about 20-25 feet of relief in many places. This site is ALWAYS known for seeing sharks. But I have never seen them as thick as I saw them that day. **I lost track at 25 sightings.** At one point we ran into a school of Black Tip and Lemons that easily numbered 15+. They were sitting on top of the ledge and headed south. It was hard to get too many good pictures as they were not sticking around for long. But for the people that found them – it was a GREAT experience. The ledge was also crawling with nurse sharks all up and down the entire run. One nice thing about nurse sharks, they do a better job posing for pictures 😊



Of course we saw the obligatory eels and Jew fish. It was also simply one of the best days for visibility I have ever had in Jupiter (or anywhere for that matter). As soon as you hit the ocean you could easily see fish swimming on the ocean floor 90 feet down.



We had several people in the group lobstering, but I didn't hear of anyone having any luck. Matter of fact, I didn't see very many lobster on the entire dive. Jupiter Dive Center does this site a lot and it is probably pretty well picked over by now. I say enjoy the dive and go to Wal-Mart and buy a lobster 😊 Here are a couple more pictures from the dive. The first one is part of a pair of Jew Fish I found laying out in the sand off the ledge. Scary part is this was the SMALL one. The other swam away as I approached. Probably saw the camera and got camera shy 😊 The second picture was some sort of clams I found hiding on the ledge. That is part of what made the dive so incredible; while there were lots of big critters to look at – if you took your time there was plenty of the small stuff to check out.

**Dive 2:** After a nice surface interval, we all geared up and got ready to check out a site called "**The Grotto**". Of course some of us got in a little bit of a hurry and decided to do the dive and take the boat down with them. I won't name names, but let's just say his wife; who has a fondness for cowboy hats, got a good chuckle at her beloved. Luckily she caught her hubby's mistake before we decided to walk to the back of the boat. See, that one extra dive that your wife has on you makes ALL the difference 😊 Note

*(Continued on page 5)*

## President's Message

Welcome to another exciting year for the Down Under Dive Club. One of the things we are going to try out this year is a new article for the newsletter called the "President's Message"; which you are reading now. My goal for this space is to share with you all the great works your board members are doing on behalf of the club. I am very excited about the board that has been assembled this year. We have people with years of experience on the board from prior terms and new board members who are full of energy and already bringing great new ideas to the table.

One important thing I would like to say is that this board really appreciates all the hard work and effort that has been contributed by our predecessors. Our job is MUCH easier this year due to their dedication and contributions. This allows us to concentrate on continuing their example and looking for ways to evolve and grow the club where it makes sense.

The first thing this year's board tackled was to establish an annual budget. The last few years we have been eating away our clubs cash reserves due to higher operating cost. Before having to consider having to raise membership dues, we have reviewed our operating budget and made cuts were possible. I believe we now have a budget that will allow us to cover all anticipated expenditures and start working towards rebuilding our cash reserves. But as a result you will start seeing some scaling back in some areas. For example, no more shrimp and lobster at our general meetings. We are also cutting back on door prizes and reviewing our dive coordinator policies. But food and door prizes will still be provided at our meetings.

Our first club event of the year is also rapidly approaching. We are planning on May 13<sup>th</sup> as the date for our annual club picnic. Bob Carmichael is already scouting location options and plans for food and games. Look for an announcement on location and time in this newsletter. In the past, this has been a very successful event and fun had by all. One of my favorite things about the picnic is the family atmosphere. At club meetings and dive trips, the tone is about diving. Which is great, but the picnic allows us an opportunity to get to know each other a little bit better. So bring the family and come have a GREAT TIME!

See you down under,  
Michael

## Programs & Speakers

In my opinion one thing that makes our dive club interesting is the diverse set of divers we have in the Club. I want to use that diversity to help set-up programs for our meetings that will enrich us individually and collectively. I ask each member to keep their eyes open for potential programs. They may see a program through their work that could be interesting; they might read of one in the newspaper or see a flyer in the neighborhood; they could hear about something on the radio or see it on TV; maybe a neighbor or friend tells you about an interesting presentation they heard or saw. I have used each of these sources in the past to get programs for the Club so I am speaking from actual experience, not a idealistic idea.

Each of our members has the same possibilities for finding interesting programs. While we all enjoy specific programs about diving, we do not have to limit ourselves exclusively to diving. Concern for the environment is a common theme among divers and is a legitimate program subject. Other water sports are also a common interest and potential program. Local and state political issues affecting the water and access we need may also be potential issues, but rest assured I will approach any such issues very carefully and get board approval and support before setting up such a program; nonetheless there are some issues we might want to become more familiar with as the fall elections draw nearer. At any rate, by now you should get the message – watch out for potential programs. When you have one send the info to me and I will take it from there. I need at least a phone number or organization/individual name to start the process. And, since I am not bucking for promotion with this issue, I will be glad to give you all the credit, you deserve it. My contact info follows. I check my e-mail frequently so that is the preferred way to send me the info, but call me if that is better for you.

e-mail: [mms74@earthlink.net](mailto:mms74@earthlink.net)  
phone: 321-508-5449

*B. Carmichael*

(Continued from page 3)

where the bungee cord is in the picture.



Grotto “normally” starts off as your typical 70 foot ledge in Jupiter. Lots of structure and plenty of eels, turtles, and sharks to keep you busy. At about 20 minutes it breaks in two and a shallower branch heads west and the deeper branch heads east. I say normally because we got a pretty bad drop on this site. Once we made it to the bottom, there was no sign of the ledge, so we started kicking east for a few minutes, but no luck, so we headed west until we finally made it. It took a good 10 minutes to get back on track; in part due to the fact that we were also probably a little too far south. We didn’t find the branch until almost 35 minutes and ran out of allowed bottom time before we got to the really good section. The end of this dive is INCREDIBLE when you make it. It was still a VERY enjoyable dive – we saw tons of nurse sharks, Moray eels, and several turtles. Even found one little Hawksbill turtle just munching on the coral.



**Post Dive:** After we got back to the dock, we unloaded and headed to our usual “post decompression chamber” for happy hour. This is always one of the best parts of our club trips – a chance to sit down and talk to friends about the dive we just did and what we each saw. This day was also a little extra special because unbeknownst to her, we were celebrating Laurel’s birthday which had been a few days earlier. So from all of us to you

Laurel, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! And don’t be too hard on your son when he thinks you are older than you really are ☺ I’m sure Shannon didn’t put him up to it or anything.



The next dive in Jupiter is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and is already starting to fill up. If you are interested in joining us, drop me a note at [mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com). Price for the trip is \$45 and we always have a GREAT time. If you haven’t tried diving in Jupiter yet – do yourself a favor and come check it out. It has some of the BEST diving in Florida!

Till next time – see you down under!  
Michael

### Answer to Dive Quiz:

**Answer: a.** “Bottom time” is measured from the start of the descent to the beginning of the direct ascent to the surface at a rate of 30 ft/min.

# Diving on Air

Have you ever been down on a 60+ foot dive, you're breathing a 36% oxygen mixture, you've been down for 45+ minutes, and you see an air diver right along side of you? What's wrong with this picture? It happens often, and it happened to one of our club members two dive trips in a row. This is a very risky situation for the air diver.

Now, I will throw a curve ball into the mix. Just because a tank does not have a NITROX band on it, it doesn't mean it's an air tank. If you get your tanks filled at an air station that is not filling tanks using the partial pressure method (i.e. membrane or stick), you don't have to have the NITROX band on the tank.

All the NITROX divers know how much more bottom time they get using NITROX. A 61 foot dive using regular (20.9% O<sup>2</sup>) using the PADI tables, you're allowed only 40 minutes of bottom time. When diving a 32% O<sup>2</sup> mixture, your bottom time increases to 60 minutes. With a 36% O<sup>2</sup> mixture, your bottom time increases to 75 minutes. So, diving with NITROX has a definite advantage.

I hope the air divers who were keeping up with the NITROX divers were at least diving with a computer, because if they were on tables, they definitely had a decompression requirement.

The NITROX certification is an easy one to get. The PADI version requires two dives, and the SSI version does not require any dives. So, if you don't have the NITROX certification, talk to your instructor.

*A. Audet*

## Mark Your Calendar – Club Picnic!!!!

The Board has approved the annual Club Picnic for Saturday, 13 May at Futch Park. We have a pavilion reserved at the park which is on the beach just north of Indialantic. There is play ground area for kids and the beach for all!

You may remember our speaker in Jan talking about the beach re-nourishment program and one section was exempted from the pumped in sand because of some endangered marine life living in the hard bottom. This is that section of beach. There may be some snorkeling opportunities there, but it will depend on the surf and weather conditions.

The Club will provide the soft drinks (including water) and the entrée (hamburgers & hot dogs) and attendees will be asked to bring a favorite dish to share with others. The request is for a salad, desert or side dish and there will be sign up sheets at the next two meetings where you can indicate what you would like to contribute.

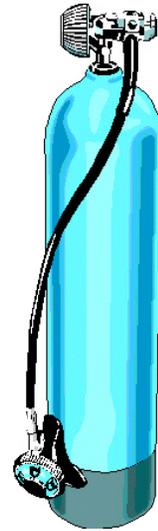
The best part of the picnics is the opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow club members and get pumped up about the next dive, the last dive or some other dive. This is a family event and all family members are welcome whether they dive or not!

*B. Carmichael*



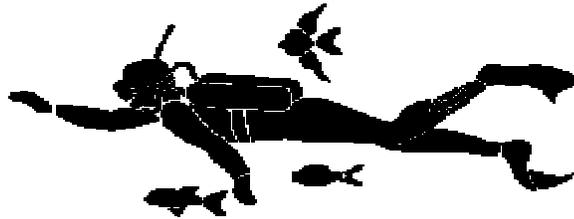
# Congratulations!!!!

## New Certifications)



**Tim Dempsey - U/W Navigator**

*Have a recent certification?? Let us know by sending an e-mail to [dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com) and I'll put it in the newsletter.*



### March's Prize Winners

#### Door Prize Winners:

**Jeanne Purchase - DUDC T-shirt**

**Marcia Barnes - 10% discount on Club dive**

**Bill Shepard — 15% discount on Club dive**

*Door prizes are given away at each club meeting. Come to the meeting and sign-in to win.*

#### 50/50

**The Jackpot is up to \$135 !!  
Come to the April Club Meeting and have a chance to win some cash!!!**

# Time to Go Diving!!!!



It's springtime and it's time to get back into the water. Water temperatures are on the rise and the diving conditions are becoming more consistent. Why not sign up for a DUDC club dive to get your 2006 diving season started?

Next DUDC dives:           **April 8th** — West Palm Beach  
                                      **April 22nd** — Jupiter

**Check out the club calendar for more details!!!!**

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