



February 2004

Down Under Dive Club

What a great way to start the year!

DUDC's Open House was a complete success, with 60+ people attending. Both Dr. Paul W. Buza and Dr. Michael Ott gave a very informative presentation on dive safety which concluded with a tour of the Hyperbaric Chamber facilities .

Door Prize Winners: Dave Fitch, Fred Birch, Jack Audet and Scott Nelson. Laurel LeFavor was the winner of our raffle and left the meeting with a gift certificate for a free 2 tank charter with air tanks with Pura Vida Divers in WPB.

Special Thanks to Pura Vida Divers who so generously donated a 2 tank charter with air for our raffle.



Mark your Calendars

February's DUDC Meeting promises to be quite interesting. Our guest speaker this month is Dr. Jonathan Shenker whose presentations have always been both informative and enjoyable.

For those of you not familiar with Dr. Shenker, he is an Associate Professor at Florida Institute of Technology and one of his major research efforts is on the use of artificial reefs by fish populations. This project involves extensive scuba surveys using visual and video monitoring of a series of massive artificial reefs deployed in 70 feet of water 10 miles off the Florida coast. Dr. Shenker also runs the summer field program in Australia on the marine and terrestrial ecosystems of that region of the world. Dr. Shenker will be talking about the trip he took FL Tech students on to Australia, and update us on the status of the SISA artificial reefs.

February is also the month that officer nominations are made for DUDC Board of Directors. If you are interested in volunteering for a position or want to nominate an officer, this is your chance.

The raffle prize this month is an Akona Dry Duffle (22" x 12.5") with a retail value of \$70.00.



Dive Quiz by Phil

Question. When a diver hyperventilates excessively before a breath-hold dive and loses consciousness as a result, blackout is most likely to occur when the diver:

- A. Descends
- B. Is on the bottom
- C. Ascends
- D. Is apprehensive

(Answer on page 4)

Board of Directors

President:	Jeri Curley	733-0812
Vice-President:	Bob Carmichael	723-7640
Treasurer:	Ed Given	255-5587
Secretary:	Sandy Mepham	
Membership:	Marty Munnich	253-4713
Safety Officer:	Phil Kellner	242-7031
Dive Coordinator:	Debi Buck	728-7243
DUDC Editor:	Debi Buck	728-7243
Members At Large:		
Webmaster:	Gary Buck	728-7243
Concession Master:	Tom Butler	

DUDC FEBRUARY DIVE & EVENT CALENDAR

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION	COST
West Palm Beach Dive	Saturday, 2/14/2004 @ 8:30 a.m.	Pura Vida Divers	\$45.50 + tanks

Tanks Available at Charter:
Air & Nitrox

Cost for tanks
Air: \$5 Nitrox \$8

Celebrate your love of diving!!! Come join us for a dive into the beautiful waters off West Palm Beach with Pura Vida Divers. Pura Vida ("pure life") offers a freshwater shower, shampoo, conditioner, sunblock, towels, fresh seasonal fruit, a variety of snacks, and refreshments including soda and bottled water. The dive boat is equipped with 2 Christmas tree ladders and a wide platform for easy entry/exit. This is a great operation with a great crew. The boat only holds 12 divers and fills up fast, so sign up early. **ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT!!** Contact Debi or Gary to reserve your spot (321) 728-7243 or d-buck@cfl.rr.com

DUDC Club Meeting	2/11/04 @ 7:30 p.m.	Hyperbaric Chamber Melbourne 1698 West Hibiscus Boulevard,	Free
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Don't forget our monthly club meeting. This month our speaker is. Dr. Jonathan Shenker from the Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. Shenker's presentations are always both informative and enjoyable. This month's raffle is an Akona Dry Duffle bag (22" x 12.5") valued at \$70. Bring your friends!

Spring Diving Weekend	Saturday & Sunday 2/28 & 2/29	Ginnie Springs/ Troy Springs	\$75.00
		Cost for tanks Air: TBD Nitrox TBD	

Enjoy a full day of diving in the crystal clear waters of Ginnie Springs on Saturday, February 28th. Stay overnight in a hotel and dive Sunday in Troy Springs. For more information, please contact Michael Wheat @ 727-1028 mwheat@cfl.rr.com

DUDC Board of Director's Meeting	2/24/03 @ 7 p.m.	Rooney's 2641 Palm Bay Rd NE Palm Bay, FL 32905	Free
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Board Meetings are open to all! Contact Jeri @ 733-0812 for more info.

Cancellation Policy: Deposits will be refunded only with 2-week notice of the scheduled event, or a paid replacement diver. Exceptions can be made in the event of a death in the family or illness and with board approval. Money and deposits are refunded when dives are canceled by the Charter or DUDC.

ALL DIVES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE DIVE. You are not signed up for a dive until you have paid in full for the day trips or a deposit for the weekend trips.

If you are interested in running a dive, please contact Debi at 728-7243 for more information.

(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)

Divers not belonging to DUDC add \$5



Due to Scheduling difficulties a surcharge will be added to anyone signing up within 3 days of a dive. Similarly, a discount will be given to anyone signing up one month or greater in advance of a dive. Discounts and surcharges will vary with each dive. Check with the dive coordinator.

Best Dive of the Year (Not)

This was try #2 for a number of us to dive the Rankin out of Stewart. The first time was weathered out, but we go some good dives in right out of the inlet. This time we all waited in anticipation for the Best Dive of the Year on 7 Jan. (In this treatise, consider Best and First interchangeable!). However, as the day drew nearer the weather forecast grew more menacing and one by one the multitude of divers originally interested dwindled to three!! So on the dedicated day for the expedition south we rendezvoused at 0700 at the Waffle House at Malabar Rd and I-95 prepared to undertake the required trials and tribulations that would lead to an adventurous dive on the Rankin and the successful culmination of our "Rankin Adventure".

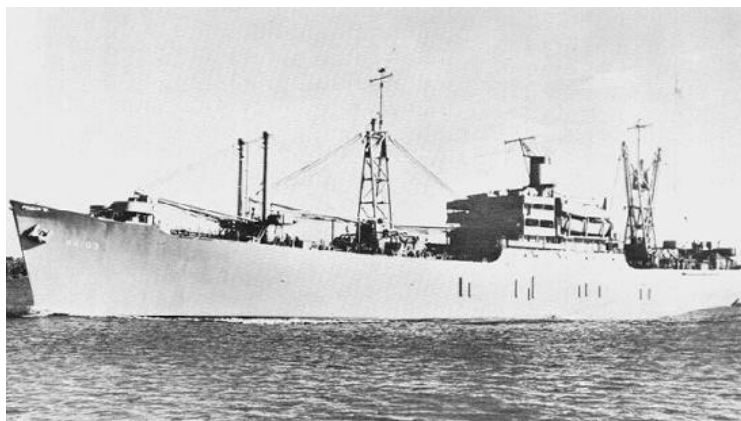
Phil Kellner, Tom Butler and I rejoiced in the drive south (trying to avoid seeing the foreboding dark clouds in front of us) as we recalled great diving adventures of the past and grandiose plans for future dives!! Traffic was light and our spirits were high! We arrived at Jupiter Dive Center (JDC), still with a blind eye to the gathering cumulus clouds and the message they were sending us. Well, the dive master quickly brought us back to earth under the dark clouds and advised us the Rankin was a no-go for that day; seas were 2-4 feet and building!! But, we could slip out the inlet and do a couple of close in dives before it got too, too bad! There were several other divers interested in that so we jumped at the opportunity to get wet and proceeded to load our gear and head out! Well we got wet about half way out the inlet when a large ocean roller came over the bow of the Republic IV dive boat! Not quite what we meant we said we wanted to get wet!! Nonetheless, we continued into the building seas and reached Scarface Reef in short order. The 2-4 ft seas had built into 4-6 ft by now, but we wanted to dive!!!

We made it in with little trouble, viz was not bad at about 25-30 feet. Water temp was an acceptable 75 degrees and while there was a strong surge at the reef (65-80 feet) it was manageable and not too disruptive. First off we saw a 3-4 ft turtle heading for the surface, he returned our wave and continued on. Next we encountered the reef's namesake, Scarface, the Green Moray eel, who stuck his large head out of this tunnel and let us examine his scar, but did not hang out long enough to tell us any of his myriad adventures involved in developing the scar. We continued along the reef seeing various types of reef citizens, all were doing well.

Eventually, the time to rise came and we headed to the surface. Seas were now approximately 60-80 feet or so it looked to me from sea level! Unfortunately, we always seemed to be in the trough and not on the wave where we could see anything!! We inflated our sausages, but in the strong wind they did not stick up very high! However after about 15 minutes the dive boat came into view and positioned itself for a convenient boarding by our team!

We were glad for the Christmas tree ladder that made boarding relatively easy, but still not a piece of cake! Once on board we rested in the covered cabin before beginning to remove our gear. Seas continued to build it seemed as we sat our surface interval! Soon the wave caps seemed to be smashing into the lowering clouds; nonetheless several hearty souls decided to go for one more dive. We, the faithful DUDC, team decided to exercise good judgment and sit this one out. After returning to dock we unloaded our gear and headed home with the Best Dive of the Year over with and knowing that the next one could only be better!!

Bob Carmichael



Our First Dive of 2004

January 10, 2004



We decided to take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather and go diving. Unfortunately, right after we scheduled the trip the weather changed a storm blew through bringing colder weather and high waves. Luckily, by the time the day of the dive rolled around, it was much calmer, though still a little chilly.

After a quick sign in at Pura Vida's shop, Gary, Jessica and I headed to Phil Foster Park and boarded the *Sirena*, anxious to get our first dive of the year started. The seas were virtually flat as we headed toward's Paul's Reef. Visibility was about 40'-50' with very little current. This site was teeming with all of the usual tropicals along with 2 lemon sharks, several spotted moray eels and lobsters. All in all a great dive. By the time we had surfaced from our dive, the topside conditions had changed. Seas increased to 2' - 3' and the temperature had dropped almost 15 degrees. Luckily, we had brought a thermos of hot chocolate with us. Unfortunately, somebody left the coats in the car (*oops*), which left anxious to get back in the water where it was warmer.

Our second dive was at Moray Alley . This is always a nice dive and this time wasn't any different. We saw a loggerhead turtle and more spotted moray eels in addition to the abundant tropicals. When we surfaced from this dive, we were told that captain and crew had spotted a hammerhead on the surface just after we descended. Overall it was great dive trip and a good way to start the new year.



D. Buck

Upcoming Dives

Saturday, February 14th, 2004 at 8:30 am:

Celebrate your love of diving on Valentine's Day !!! Come join us for a dive into the beautiful waters off West Palm Beach with Pura Vida Divers. There are **only a few spots left** on the boat, so don't delay! Cost is \$45.50 + tanks. Contact Debi or Gary Buck to reserve your spot (321) 728-7243 or d-buck@cfl.rr.com

Saturday & Sunday, February 28th & 29th:

Spring Diving Weekend. Enjoy a full day of diving in the crystal clear waters of Ginnie Springs on Saturday, February 28th. Stay overnight in a hotel Saturday night and dive Sunday in Troy Springs. Cost is \$75.00 For more information, please contact Michael Wheat @ 727-1028 mwheat@cfl.rr.com

January's Prize Winners

Door Prize Winners:

Dave Fitch - Equipment Protectant
Fred Birch - Safe Sea with Sunblock
Jack Audet - Line Holder
Scott Nelson - Sting Away

Raffle Winner:

Laurel LeFavor won a 2 tank charter with air tanks with Pura Vida Divers in WPB

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

Answer to Dive Quiz . . .

Answer. C (Ascends).

Excessive hyperventilation reduces body carbon dioxide to such a low level that a person loses consciousness before breathing stimulus occurs. Increased oxygen partial pressure at depth aids an experienced breath-hold diver. The oxygen partial pressure decreases rapidly during ascent. The low oxygen level causes unconsciousness, or 'shallow water blackout'. Avoid hyperventilating more than three or four breaths prior to a breath-hold dive.

Diving Fun

ANGELFISH
 BARRACUDA
 BUBBLES
 CORAL
 DEEP
 DIVE
 FLAT
 GROUPE
 LOBSTER
 MORAY
 NARCOSIS
 NITROX
 OCTOPUS
 REEFS
 SCUBA
 SHARKS
 TURTLES
 VISIBILITY
 WHALESHARK
 WRECKS



A A W P X E T Z S W W X H V O C C H C E
 G D X H M O H G H A W B V E B X H S O Y
 H P U O H D R A R X E A N V Y F M I R T
 G T R C P N L T E V I D J C M E S F A L
 H A U N A E Y T I L I B I S I V G L L M
 Y C Q R S R E Y J N N K K M H R S E H R
 M L V H T O R D Q Q G R E A O X K G N N
 B X A K O L C A T H A U W U E S C N U Y
 O R W V Y U E Y B H U R P Z I B E A U E
 K S C U B A F S S N H E E S H E R R Z I
 A N R P L D K W J E R I O E N M W R D F
 K L Q H O G L R G Y N C X P F Q F O U X
 A Q N G R X O F Y R R A U S C S T T S V
 P I S V R C B P W A S U P O T C O S S Y
 L J X D V W S U N T K L W I L R L D Z P
 J K U D Y K T Y N A N S D W U D N D A R
 O F P W H G E A G L T M T A S Y S H O R
 W D P D W E R M U F J K T C E E D M Y J
 I W Y A U J C C H Y J K X T L Z C M I M
 B U B B L E S M Y N C C B N K S X C S X



WANTED:

Do you have something you're looking to buy, sell, trade or give away drop me a line, at d-buck@cfl.rr.com and we can put it in the newsletter for you.

Want to receive the newsletter by email? Send an e-mail and ask to be put on the list.

Divers Wanted **(No Experience Necessary)**

Down Under Dive Club (DUDC) is looking for enthusiastic divers who wish to participate in the exploration of our Underwater World. By joining our club you will not only be kept informed of upcoming chances to further your diving skills and experience, but also be eligible for discount prices on dives.

You will also get a subscription to our monthly newsletter.

For more information call Martin Munnich at 253-4713

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
<http://www.diveclubs.com/dudc>

Down Under Dive Club
IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME AGAIN!

Attention all Members! Unless you joined the club within the last three months (or you receive a complimentary copy of the newsletter - "C" above your name on the mailing label), then your membership is due to expire at the end of February. The renewal fees are \$25 for a single or \$35 for a family membership. Please complete the following form, detach it, and include a check made out to Down Under Dive Club at:

Down Under Dive Club
PO Box 360105
Melbourne, Florida 32936-0105

Dues can also be paid at the next club meeting! If you have any questions, please call the Membership Director, Marty Munnich at 253-4713.

DUDC Membership Renewal Application

Name: _____

Family Members Name(s) (If renewing a family membership): _____

Membership Type (Check One): SINGLE (\$25. 00) _____ FAMILY (\$35. 00) _____

Highest Certification Level(s): _____

Current Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone/Pager/Fax (Optional): _____

E-mail (Optional): _____

Emergency Contact (Name/Phone): _____

Down Under Dive Club

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downunder@diveclubs.com

