



FEBRUARY
2007

DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

SINCE 1984

February's DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, February 14th @ 7:30 p.m.

Our speaker for the Feb meeting at the Indian River Lagoon House is one of our own! Jeri Curley will discuss underwater photography. We all have enjoyed over the years her great shots and now she will share some of her expertise with us all. She will talk about techniques to get interesting shots, tips on "posing" the subject, and various compositional tricks.

This will be an interesting and underwater oriented program that is suitable for all ages and skill levels. Don't miss it!!



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Visitors Welcome!!!

Our monthly meetings are held every month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the

**Indian River Lagoon
House
3275 Dixie HWY. NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905**



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 2/14/2007 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	info@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board of Director's Meeting		2/27/2007 @ 7 p.m.	Free		Contact any board member for more information
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 3/14/2007 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	info@downunderdiveclub.com
Jupiter Club Dive		Saturday, 3/24/2007 @ 9 am	\$50 pp + tanks	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.
(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)

Self Rescue

When you dive in water deeper than about 60 feet, you need to be ready for self-rescue. If you have an air emergency, your buddy may not always be within arm's reach. And when you need air – **YOU NEED IT NOW!**

An alternate air source is never a bad idea. You can carry a spare air which will get you to your buddy or up to the surface from a limited depth. Another option would be to use a pony bottle; which has a much greater air supply. Pony bottles come in several sizes from about 10 c/ft to 40 c/ft. Choose your tank based on your type of diving. If you dive deep or go inside wrecks, then take a larger tank. Extra tanks add a little extra work when you get ready to dive, but they could save you in an out of air emergency.

Dale Purchase

Safety Officer

President's Message – January 2007

Our February meeting falls on an inauspicious day – Valentines! But who says our club meetings can't be a hot date :-). To tempt our love birds to the meeting, we are bringing out our very own Jeri Curly to talk about underwater photography. One of the many things I noticed in 2006 on dive boats is that more and more people are showing up with cameras. I remember when I first started diving; it was an oddity to see someone taking an expensive piece of equipment underwater. Now it is not that uncommon to see a fourth of the divers on board tugging around a camera. But taking a camera under water and taking pictures is one thing. But getting **GOOD** pictures is another. Wednesday's meeting will be all about how to take that GREAT shot and to see some of Jeri's better efforts. So whether or not you are an underwater shutter bug or just someone who enjoys underwater photography, I hope you can make it out! Just remember to bring an extra box of chocolates for Jeri!

Our February meeting is also the time for our annual elections for next year's board of directors. We will be accepting nominations from the floor. Elections will be held in March.

As we are approaching the end of the fiscal calendar year for the club, it is also time to start thinking about renewals for next year. There are going to be a couple of small differences with the process this year. First of all, your renewal notice will include three items. The package will include your invoice for the yearly membership along with our newly RE-DESIGNED membership application and liability forms. To be honest, over the years everyone's application and liability forms have become so disburbed that we no longer have many of them. This gives us a chance to refresh out membership database and also ensure that we have everyone's Liability Form on file. For new members, we will have the forms available at the meetings and also on the club web site.

As part of the renewal process we are also going to start accepting payment via credit card for these fees. Normally, we pass along the transaction cost for credit card charges. But for people who renew by April 30th, we will waive the fee.

The decision last year to move the club newsletter to an electronic version only has been VERY successful. But a few people have expressed a desire to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. So going forward next year we will be adding the option to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. There will be a \$5 charge for this option.

Also, make sure you check out the new re-designed web site www.downunderdiveclub.com. Let us know what you think! It will be growing rapidly over the next several months as we add more features and benefits!

See you down under!

Michael Wheat

michael@downunderdiveclub.com

FROM THE TREASURER'S CORNER:

Hard to believe it's already 2007 and we are kicking off another year of great diving and good friends. Spring is just around the corner, bringing warmer water and membership renewal time. Michael will be announcing a special incentive for early renewal at the February meeting. Please contact me at flscubagal@yahoo.com if you would like to receive a Paypal invoice to pay your dues via credit card/Paypal. Also, I would appreciate it if you could email me if you mail a check to our PO Box, as we do not check it daily.

Dive Safe, Dive Often
Rochelle Hood
Treasurer

New Club Website – Up and Running!

If you have been to the club website recently (www.downunderdiveclub.com) you have noticed that we have completely rebuilt it from the ground up. The new site brings lots of new benefits and opportunities for our current and prospective members.

Benefits:

- 1 We strived to create a richer user experience through additional features, functionality, and presentation.
- 2 The new site is now more focused on local happenings within our club and community.
- 3 The new site can also be maintained by anyone who wants to be the webmaster. We have greatly reduced the complexity of administration. This allows more people to contribute to the site.
- 4 The new site also allows for easier growth and changes when needed. This will allow us to be more flexible to the needs of the membership.

We are still in the birthing process for the site, so please be patient will be work out the kinks and finish adding features. One new feature that I am VERY excited about is the new Photo Gallery. We are opening the Gallery up to ALL members so they can upload and share THEIR photos. Also, make sure you check out the Forums. That is a GREAT place to find dive buddies and/or list your diving interest.

As for the electronic newsletter distribution. Many of you may be receiving it for the first time with this issue. We have consolidated both of our membership databases along with the user list from the old site. For now, you do not have to be registered on the web site to receive the newsletter. But this will change in the near future. So please take a moment to stop by the web site (www.downunderdiveclub.com) and sign up for your FREE account.

If you run into any issues on the web site or have any suggestion, just let me know!

Michael Wheat — michael@downunderdiveclub.com

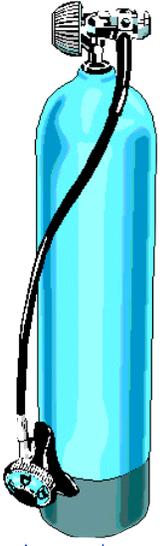


Congratulations!!!!

New Certification(s)

- ★ RC Ma-son — Open Water
- ★ Heather Barnes Jr — Advanced Open Water
- ★ Kathleen Audet — PADI Nitrox
- ★ Kathleen Audet — PADI Master Scuba Diver
- ★ Kathleen Audet — SSI Master Diver
- ★ David Slonim — Equipment Specialist

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



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 7:30 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

Board of Directors

President :	Michael Wheat	mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com 727-1028
Vice-President:	Bob Carmichael	bcarmi-
Treasurer:	Rochelle Hood	rhood@downunderdiveclub.com
Secretary:	Laurel LeFavor	laurel@downunderdiveclub.com
Membership:	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
Safety Officer:	Dale Purchase	
Dive Coordinator:	Russell Bremmer	rbremmer@downunderdiveclub.com

MEMBERS AT

Newsletter Editor:	Debi Buck	dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com
Concession Master:	Tom Butler	tbutler@downunderdiveclub.com