



# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

MARCH 2006

SINCE 1984

## MARCH'S DUDC MONTHLY MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH @ 7:30 P.M.

Come to the meeting and cast your votes for the Board of Directors

## AND THE NOMINEES ARE . . .

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

Remaining on in their 'Member at Large' positions:

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

### Dive Quiz

Question of the month comes from the SSI U/W Navigator course:

The hardest thing about learning to use a compass is?

- a. Deciding what king to buy.
- b. Learning how to wear it.
- c. Knowing all the parts.
- d. Learning to trust it.

*Answer on page 5*

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### Board of Directors

<b>President &amp; DUDC Newsletter Editor:</b>	Debi Buck
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Kelly Uhland
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ed Given
<b>Secretary:</b>	Laurel LeFavor
<b>Membership:</b>	Marty Munnich
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Al Audet
<b>Dive Coordinator:</b>	Michael Wheat
<b>Members At Large:</b>	
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Shannon Anderson
<b>Concession Master:</b>	Tom Butler



# EVE D Fwou!' Bdujwz D bnf oeb's!

Event		Time	Member's Cost		Coordinator Phone # / E-mail
			Tier 1	Tier 2	
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 3/8/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free		Martin 253-4713 <a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Jupiter Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 3/18/2006 @ 9am	TBD		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, 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 Lagoon House		Wednesday, 4/12/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free		Martin 253-4713 <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	TBD		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 Lagoon House		Wednesday, 5/10/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free		Martin 253-4713 <a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@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 4TH PURA VIDA/WPB DIVE TRIP REPORT

**Location:** West Palm Beach, Florida  
**Charter Boat:** Pura Vida Divers  
**Date:** March 4, 2006

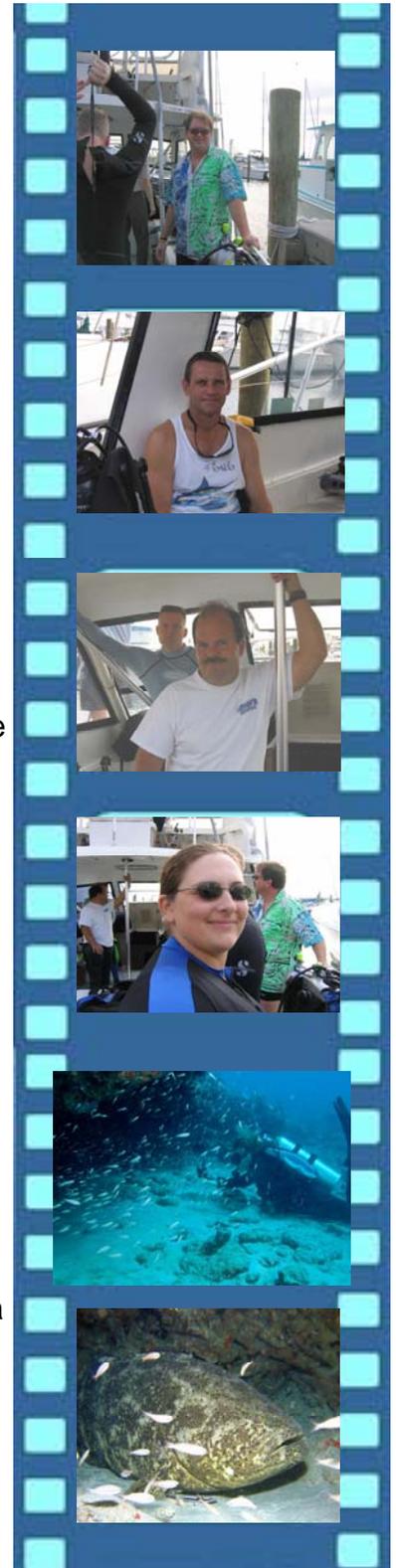
As you all know, the first couple months of the year the seas are unpredictable. The marine forecast was for 2 feet or less, but were 2-3 feet with an occasional 4'. Still not too bad, though there were a couple people on the boat that might disagree (no names will be mentioned). Even the weather was pretty nice, with mostly sunny skies.

There were only 5 of us on this trip willing to brave the "winter" conditions: Russell Bremmer, John Whitehead, Michael Walsh, Jessica Buck and myself.

The first dive site of the day was Lopadas, the "back side of Breaker's Reef." This site offers a little deeper profile than the front side with depths around 70 feet. There are fairly dramatic ledges on this side which hide a large variety of marine life. Visibility was 60-70 feet -- some of the best I've seen so far this year. Water temperature was 70 degrees (yes, I can already hear some of you groaning - it wasn't that bad, really). Yes, it was a little cooler than I prefer, but this was a fabulous dive. There was a 6ft free swimming green moray that passed right under several divers; a nice size nurse shark (that refused to pose for a picture); a hawksbill turtle and a 5-6ft ~ 200lb grouper (who kindly DID pose for several pictures), and that is in addition to all the "normal" reef fish.

Our second dive of the day was 2nd Window, one of my favorite Breaker's Reef site just because it is such a pretty dive site with nice ledges and colorful coral. Again, great visibility (no, the water did not warm up) and lots of marine life. There was another green moray eel and a small loggerhead turtle. There was a lot of juvenile reef fish everywhere. Those who made the leap to "Turtle Mound" reported seeing a nice size nurse shark as well.

It was a great day to be in the water despite the cooler water temps. The visibility and the amount marine life (and, of course, the great company) made this a great start to the DUDC's 2006 diving season.



*D. Buck*

## ***EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE***

The ocean is beginning to warm up, and we've already had our first dive of the year. Now is a very good time to look at your equipment and make sure it's serviced and ready for this year. Since I've started working on equipment, I've noticed a couple of common problems.

One piece of equipment that is rarely serviced is the BCD. What can go wrong with a BCD? Recently, a BCD came in to be serviced. When we filled it up to check it out, it wouldn't hold any air. Why? Salt crystals had formed inside the BCD and they got caught in one of the dumps. One of the salt crystals was 1/8" X 1/4" X 1/8". There were so many salt crystals in the bladder; we could actually feel them through the bladder. How did that happen? The BCD was not adequately cleaned after diving in the ocean. In order to properly clean the BCD, you need to flush the bladder out after every dive. To do this, unscrew one of the shoulder dumps and fill it with water. If you have a ScubaPro BCD, you'll have to buy a "special" tool. Once you're done flushing it out, it's recommended to hook your air source and blow air through your low pressure inflator or Air-2 to dry it out. Also, the low pressure inflator needs to be serviced annually. A leaking or sticking low pressure inflator can cause you to abort a dive.

Another piece of equipment that is rarely serviced is the tank valve. Corrosion can cause the outer o-ring to wear prematurely, and water will eventually leak past the o-ring. Once this happens, it's just a matter of time before your valve starts leaking. An annual service of the tank valve will significantly reduce the probability of a valve leak.

Now is the perfect time to get your equipment serviced, because once we start diving, we hate bringing our equipment into the shop to get serviced.

*A. Audet*

## **February's Prize Winners**

### **Door Prize Winners:**

**Keith Caldwell** - BC Cleaner

**John Kull** - Dry box

**Bob Senton** — Safety Sausage

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

### **50/50 Winner(s):**

**\$3— Riley Audet**  
**\$2 – Charlie Almeda Nickel**  
**\$1 – Bill Allen**

**NO JACKPOT WINNER—  
\$\$ ROLLS OVER TO  
March!!! The Jackpot is up  
to \$135 !!**



# Congratulations!!!!

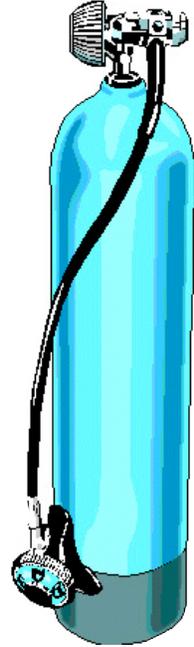
## New Certifications)

3! Shannon Anderson - EFR with AED

3! Laurel LeFavor - EFR with AED

3! Tim Dempsey - Rescue Diver

3! Al Audet - EFR Instructor Trainer



*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.*

### Answer to Dive Quiz:

Answer: d

The biggest mistake divers make during their Advanced Open Water Navigation dive is not trusting their compass.

## ***IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!***

Time to renew your DUDC Membership. Membership runs from March 1st to the last day of February. If you haven't joined within the last three months, you need to renew your membership. Please take the time to fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and either mail it in or bring it to the next meeting.

**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. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Certification Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone/Pager/Fax (Optional):  
\_\_\_\_\_

PO Box 360105  
Melbourne, Florida 32936-0105  
[www.downunderdiveclub.com](http://www.downunderdiveclub.com)

