



SEPTEMBER  
2006

# DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

SINCE 1984

## September's DUDC Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, September 13th @ 7:30 p.m.

Our speaker this month is Dr. Lee Harris from FIT. Dr. Harris specializes in ocean engineering, coastal engineering and physical oceanography. Prior to joining Florida Tech in 1980, Dr. Harris performed numerous engineering studies and designs while with the Corps of Engineers and in private industry. At Florida Tech, he teaches courses and performs research and consulting on coastal structures, ocean engineering design and physical oceanography.

Dr. Harris has an educational background in ocean, coastal and civil engineering specializing in structural and geotechnical design. He was named in Who's Who in Frontier Science and Technology and has served as a United Nations' consultant to the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Marine Affairs. He is an active member of several professional societies. Dr. Harris teaches a wide variety of classes in the fields of oceanography and ocean engineering, working closely with students both in the field and the classroom and on engineering design projects. His engineering design classes have led to student design and construction of human-powered boats and submarines, which have competed and won awards in international races and competition.

Please join us for what will be a very interesting presentation.

Dive Quiz by AL:

**When you want to get your buddy's attention at night, you should shine the light:**

- a) In his or her eyes.
- b) In your eyes.
- c) at his or her body.
- d) at your body.

*Answer on page 6*

## 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

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### Board of Directors

<b>President :</b>	Michael Wheat
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Bob Carmichael
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rochelle Hood
<b>Secretary:</b>	Laurel LeFavor
<b>Membership:</b>	Bill Allen
<b>Safety Officer:</b>	Al Audet
<b>Dive Coordinator:</b>	Russell Bremmer
<b>MEMBERS AT LARGE:</b>	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Debi Buck
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Shannon Anderson
<b>Concession Master:</b>	Tom Butler



# DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event		Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
West Palm Beach Dive Pura Vida Divers	Average depths 60-85 ft	Saturday, 9/9/2006 @ 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, 9/13/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Annual Key's Trip		Weekend of Sept 23rd	Contact Michael Wheat for details	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, 10/7/2006 @ 8a.m.	\$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, 10/11/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Jupiter 2 tank Night Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 10/21/2006 @ 6pm	Contact Michael Wheat for details	Michael 727-1028	<a href="mailto:Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com">Mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
DUDC Club Meeting Indian River Lagoon House		Wednesday, 11/8/2006 @ 7:30 p.m	Free	Bill Allen	<a href="mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com">info@downunderdiveclub.com</a>
Jupiter 2 tank Dive Jupiter Dive Center	Average depths 70-90 ft	Saturday, 11/18/2006 @ 9am	Contact Michael Wheat for details	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.)*



# DUDC's August 5th West Palm Beach Dive

**Location: West Palm Beach, Florida**

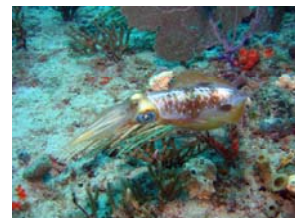
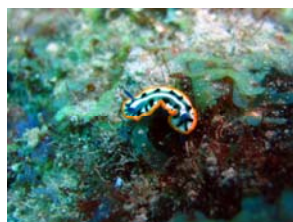
**Charter: Pura Vida Divers**

**Date: August 5, 2006**

Wow – what a great day for diving!!! With more people signed up than Pura Vida had space, the club ended up going out on both the morning and the afternoon trip. Joining me in the morning was: **Bill Allen; Bob Senton; Russell and Kaitlyn Bremmer; Judy and George Hesselbacher.** Joining me on the afternoon trip was: **Al Audet; Bob Jensen; Faun and Steve Leachman.**

It was absolutely gorgeous on the water. Sunny skies, flat seas (picked up a little in the afternoon, but it wasn't too bad – maybe two feet). Visibility in the morning was 40-50' and in the afternoon was about 35-40.

**Site #1 – Teardrop.** Almost immediately upon descending there were two squid just hanging out above the reef and posing. Usually, squid tend to be skittish and take off fairly quickly when approached, but not these two. They seemed to like the attention. A short distance away I found a beautiful little sea goddess (and I mean little – he was only about ¾ inch long). Lots of scorpionfish hanging out on the reef, along with the usual schools of grunts and other tropicals. Towards the end of the dive, I found two more sea goddesses on the reef which appeared to be busy populating the species. I'll have to admit that I was quite rude and stayed to take several pictures. I've only seen sea goddesses on dives one other occasion and I didn't have a camera at the time, so I felt compelled to get some decent shots of these beautiful creatures no matter what.



**Site #2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Window (Breakers).** Another fantastic dive with tons of fish all over the reef. There were reports of turtles, but I didn't see any on this dive. Did see a rather large grouper hiding in "the cave" right before the jump to turtle mound. Guess I must have upset him a little with the camera because he took off fairly quickly.



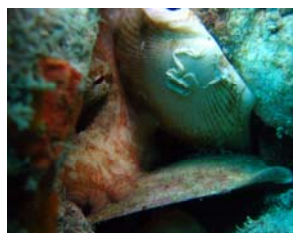
All too soon the morning was over and it was time to go back to the dock to get fresh tanks and the afternoon group.

**Site #3 – Paul's Reef.** This is my absolute favorite site, there is always a plethora of marine life and the ledge structure is amazing. Today was no different, there were fish absolutely everywhere!



**Site #4 – Dive-a-Rama.** Another great dive. Lots of marine life again and the bonus was 5 squid hanging out over the reef. This group wasn't quite as willing to have their picture taken as the two from this morning, but I managed to stalk them long enough to get a couple decent shots. Shortly afterwards, I found a little octopus hiding in a hole desperately trying to hide behind his shell collection (camera shy, I guess).

Funny how time seems to slip by when you are having a great time with great people and all too quickly, the day was at an end. As always, sometimes the difference between good dives and fabulous dives is the people you are with. Thanks to all the club members that joined today and made these dives fabulous. If you are interested in going on any of the upcoming WPB trips, please contact me at [dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com](mailto:dbuck@downunderdiveclub.com).



*D. Buck*

# Guy's Night Out Jupiter Club Night Dive

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



With kitchen passes in hand, five brave men ventured out to conquer the deep, dark, killer turtle infested seas. Joining the club on this night mission were Hank Green, Rick Halcomb, Bill Allen, Tom Butler, and myself. Our point of departure would be Jupiter Dive Center aboard the mighty Republic IV.

As Mother Nature spawned storms all afternoon, the question was if we would get more wet above or below the ocean surface. But as the 6pm departure time approached, the scuba Gods relented and the skies began to clear. Heck, even the sun was starting to peek through the clouds. To help matters, we even got a little extra time at the dock as the boat was an hour late returning from the afternoon trip. It really had been storming pretty hard that afternoon and that

delayed the trip. But this is a good thing in my opinion. I would prefer to do TWO night dives! If you do leave at 6pm, you don't even need a light on the first dive.

A little after 7pm, we loaded our gear and waved goodbye to dry land. Joining the club on this trip was – well.... NO ONE. The five of us literally had to boat to ourselves. You have to love it when the Captain comes down and asks where we are going tonight. And since they knew all of us, they were much more relaxed on bottom time limits and just let us have a good time. Basically, we got all the benefits of a private charter – but at club rates!



The sea conditions for the evening were PERFECT and it never rained a drop on us. I read about 80 degree's most of the evening and the seas were nearly dead flat. Visibility was pretty good considering all the rain. I was worried that it would really stir things up – but I would estimate it was 40-50 feet. Although, hard to tell on a night dive. But our lights had no problem penetrating the water.

Our first site of the evening was one of my favorites – Scarface. It averages 70-80 feet in depth, and has one of the more interesting ledge structures in Jupiter. It really varies in size and shape as the dive progresses. I also tend to find a lot of cut throughs here (were you can swim between the ledge). These are always great spots for finding macro life. We hit the water right before 8pm and it was already getting pretty dark. Matter of fact, by half way through the dive, IT WAS DARK. We saw the typical sea life, but also spotted lots of turtles and even a few nurse sharks. But the thing we saw the most of were Lobster. They must have known it was just days before mini season and they were taking one last stroll around. You could have easily bagged your limit in 10 minutes on this dive. They were EVERYWHERE and some of them were pretty good sized!



Now I don't know what the deal is with Rick – maybe he put turtle cologne on before the trip or just looks down right sexy to a turtle. But he about got introduced to the "mating rituals" of the turtle. One of the BIG Loggerhead turtles we found on this site decided to make a bee-line straight for his head. The only thing separating Rick and the turtle was Bill Allen, who did the smart thing and ducked for cover. With his manly like fast reflexes, Rick was just able to avoid the beast. I don't know Rick – I've never seen a Loggerhead act in this manner before! Maybe she thought you looked good in your wetsuit or she was protecting her turf. Probably best if you don't know which

For our second dive, we decided to head over to Loggerhead. If the turtles are out playing – this is the place to be. And just as predicted they were out in groves. We saw lots of Loggerheads and Hawksbills, and even my first Green Turtle.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## President's Message

Don't forget about our annual pilgrimage to the Key's this month. Time is running out to sign up. Contact Bob Carmichael to sign up. It should be another fun and exciting trip.

We have several exciting changes coming down the pike. Our new Treasure; Rochelle, is working hard to get credit card processing set up. We will be using Paypal as our processing agent. When you sign up for a club dive, we will be able to email you an invoice for the trip which will include a link to Paypal where you can pay for the trip. We are going to be rolling it out on a limited basis over the next month while we work out the kinks. But I think it is going to make payment processing MUCH better for everyone. Of course, no one will be required to use the service. We will continue to use our current processes (checks and cash). We are just building NEW options!

Speaking of payments. Keep your eyes open for our mid-year statements. Please review your statements and let us know if you have any questions. Remember, we closed everyone's account as of 5/31/2006 and carried over any existing balances to the new set of books. But we did archive the old books and can pull it up to answer any questions. If you have an outstanding balance, please coordinate with Rochelle to bring that to closure. Any mistakes are my fault, so go easy on her :-)

We also have changes coming down the pike with the web site. Our web master has resigned and while that is a hit to our infrastructure, we are going to try and turn this into a positive by going back to the basics and design something that can grow with the club and serve our needs. Shannon has served as Web Master for 4 years and we owe him a great deal of gratitude for his dedication and services. In the interim, we will continue to utilize the current site while we work to build the new site and prepare it for the organization.

See you down under,  
Michael

*(Continued from page 4)*

Once again, great sea conditions. But this time it started off pitch black! The kind of dark where you hope your batteries don't fail you. This is also another fun and different site. In Jupiter, I mainly stay along the reef line – except for THIS site. Most of the time I just stay up on top and explore. Loggerhead is one of the prettier sites in Florida!

We saw a little bit of everything on this dive. Octopus, several types of crabs, schools of Cornetfish, Balloon Fish, and lots of free swimming eels. It was so much that it was hard to get pictures of everything – especially with Tom on fire. We would find one thing to look at and while I was taking pictures, both he and Hank were off finding the next thing. I literally had a hard time keeping up with them. I would be in the middle of trying to get a good shot and I would see them shinning their lights trying to get my attention. It was like you couldn't go 50 feet without a good photo op.

You know how they tell you not to touch the marine life – I wonder if anyone tells the sea life that? First we had a Loggerhead trying to create a love connection with Rick on the first dive, then on this dive I had a Balloon Fish that was obsessed with my camera. I stopped to take its pictures and he turns and starts swimming towards me. He ends up swimming right up the housing and stroking itself against it. Not just once or twice – I had to shoe him off after awhile.

This was by far one of my favorite night dives I have ever had. Matter of fact, outside of Town Pier last month – I can not think of one better. We had a fun group from the club, basically a private boat, AWESOME weather and sea conditions, and TON'S and TON'S of sea life!

## **Marine Operations Manager (MOM)**

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida Tech is seeking a marine operations manager for its Evinrude Marine Operations Center (EMOC). EMOC is a research, education, athletics and outreach facility located at the mouth of Crane Creek on the Indian River Lagoon. The manager is expected to (1) maintain the fleet of small boats; (2) schedule and certify boat usage; (3) develop and implement an American Academy of Underwater Scientists (AAUS) approved SCUBA diving operation; (4) oversee the safety, security and maintenance of the EMOC; and (5) coordinate and supervise use of the facility by university and outside organizations. The position will report directly to the Institute for Marine Research Director.

Requirements: Knowledge of small boat operation and maintenance; certified dive instructor; a Bachelors degree and US Coast Guard license is preferred.

# ***LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE DUDC'S ANNUAL KEYS TRIP***

Cost is \$165 to include one night lodging and four dives. Nitrox is \$40 more and non-divers are \$40 only!

Divers need to be AOW and Nitrox certified diving on computers!  
Added dives on Sat AM and/or Fri AM will be available  
if demand is there!

For more information contact:

**Bob Carmichael**  
**Phone 321-723-7640**  
**Cell 321-508-5449**  
**e-mail [mms74@earthlink.net](mailto:mms74@earthlink.net)**

# Night Diving Etiquette

During a recent night diving trip, I noticed some of the divers needed to learn a little about night diving etiquette. Some of the faux pas were transparent to the offender, but some faux pas were because of a lack of etiquette.

One rule of night diving is to NEVER shine your light at another diver, especially in the eyes. We had one dive team who blinded me several times. When diving at night, your eyes adjust to the low light level. Getting hit in the eyes will blind you for several minutes.

We also had one photographer who didn't realize that whenever he released his pistol grip HID light, it would hang upside down and blind whoever was behind or beside him. That bright blue beam will blind a diver for several minutes.

Buoyancy is another problem when night diving. When diving at night, you can lose your point of reference, so it makes it more difficult to maintain your buoyancy. You also become more susceptible to vertigo. When you're night diving, pay close attention to your buoyancy, and stay off of the fragile coral.

When you're descending, pay attention to your depth, where you're going, and your fellow divers. Crashing into the reef or a fellow diver is bad etiquette.

Night diving is a lot of fun, but bad etiquette can ruin it for the other divers. Pay attention to where you're pointing your light, watch your buoyancy, and watch where you're going.

*A. Audet*

**Answer to Dive Quiz:**

**Answer: A**

# Congratulations!!!!

## New Certifications

**Faun Leachman** — AOW

**Kathleen Audet** — U/W Photo

**Kathleen Audet** — Fish Identification

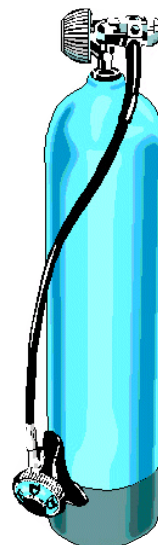
**Bill Young** — Enriched Air Nitrox

**Margie Young** — Enriched Air Nitrox

Congratulations to **Debi Buck** who reached Scuba School International's (SSI) Gold Diver award. In order to reach the Gold Diver award, Debi had to log 500 dives.

Congratulations to Debi Buck for completing her PADI Divemaster certification. After 9 grueling months of studying, swimming, and acting as a dive slave, she finally completed all the required training. She will be missed as an outstanding dive slave

*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.*



## 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](mailto:info@downunderdiveclub.com)