



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News

April 2000



Come to Our April Meeting!

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, April 11th. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 with socializing and drinks. You can either come early and order from the menu or partake of the buffet. This time around, we'll definitely be able to see some video of what we missed on Captain Mike's Manatee trips.

We'll be kicking of this year's diving season with discussions of the upcoming adventures.

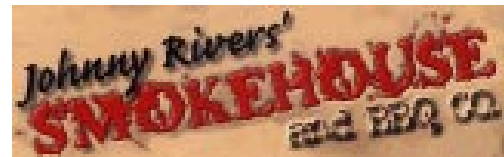
At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a dinner buffet for the crew for \$10 per person, including tax and tip. It will be stocked with some of our favorites: pulled pork, smoked BBQ chicken wings, bread (for sandwiches), cole slaw, and baked beans. Your drink orders will be handled separately, please pay as you go. Drinks are at happy hour prices until 7 pm. Drink specials are:

Well drinks - \$1.25

Margaritas - \$2

Drink specials all night

Draft beer (Bud and Bud Light) - \$1.



The Smokehouse is located at 5370 W. Colonial Drive just east of Kirkman Road on the south side of the street. Telephone: (407) 293-5803.



Dues Are Due!

Yes **Dive Club** members, it's that time of year again. The yearly membership dues are upon us all again. This year we have a slight increase to take care of inflation and other expenses: \$20 per person due on April 1, 2000. Please remit your payment as soon as possible. You can either pay at the next meeting on April 11th or you can mail it by that date to me, your Treasurer, at 4021 Seabridge Drive, Orlando FL 32839. Don't forget to add \$5.00 if you get your newsletter by way of the US Postal Service. Thanks and hope to see you at the next meeting. A \$10 late fee will be charged those missing the deadline.

Jim Streefer

MARTIN DIVE CLUB 'News'

Message from Our President

Hey Gang!

After a month's reprieve from newsletter articles, I still find myself speechless. I know that may be hard to imagine, so how about a few anecdotes from my recent divemaster training? There are actually some lessons to be learned by all of us, so stick with me.

The first anecdote concerns moving the wreck of the Eagle. One of my first DIT (Divemaster In Training) jobs was to secure Lady Cyana's large dive boat to the underwater buoy tied to the wreck. The job consisted of jumping 10 feet from the bow to the water with a heavy nylon line, then freediving 15 feet to secure the boat to the mooring. It was sunny with 1- to 2-foot seas, but I was so nervous I thought I was in the North Atlantic. After attaching the clip, I headed for the surface for a relieving breath of fresh air . . . until the line tightened around my ankle. I was only a few feet underwater; I could see the serenity of the clouds and the boat, but panic set in quickly. Adrenaline and some furious kicking seemed to persevere over rational thought and problem solving. I lost a fin and some pride, but I'm sure that I moved the wreck about 10 feet! 20-20 hindsight reminds me of that life-saving strategy we were all taught in

Open Water class: STOP - BREATHE – THINK – BREATHE – ACT. Not applicable to freediving you say? I may have saved my fin and my pride if I'd only used 3 of 5! Anyway, the moral is to remember the basics and don't take any diving task for granted.

The second anecdote has taught me to keep an eye on teen divers! For the second time in 2 months, I've observed teen brothers that seem to break more diving rules than they follow. The most recent pair was diving on the Eagle, which had unexplainably moved. The divemaster was guiding the mother-and-sons team during a moderate current, so he advised them to stay close to the structure. One son chose his own path and ended up being rescued from the current by the divemaster. Being low on air due to excessive swimming, the team ascended early. So short was the air supply that the divemaster positioned the boys for sharing air from the fuller tank. Brother number two turned his back and resisted!?!? It was about this time that mom lost her weights and passed the safety stop. All four surfaced from a 100 ft dive without 3 minutes at 15 feet. The boat entry was ugly too. Improper use of the tag line created even more

[See 'Moved?' on page 5](#)

Your Officers and Staff

President Mark DuBiel	356-5969	Meeting Chairperson Open	
Vice President Open		Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey	273-6655
Secretary Karen Streeter	351-1514	Equipment Chairperson David Henderson	695-0875
Treasurer Jim Streeter	356-2377	Membership Chairperson Jim Streeter	356-2377
Board of Directors Marie Frank	356-8256	Merchandise Chairperson Marie Frank	356-8256
Board of Directors Bob Grapentine	306-6914	Safety Chairperson Sina DuBiel	356-1823
Board of Directors George McGuire	356-4284	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	356-2290
Activity Chairperson David Henderson	695-0875		

Manatee Recap

The weekend of February 3rd - 5th held many, many exciting manatee encounters for MDC. Two different groups hit the water either on Friday or Saturday morning in the brisk 72 degree springs of Crystal River. Both outings included interaction with literally dozens of the gentle giants! Everyone got their fill of sightings, pettings, and memories to last a lifetime.

Morning Dawns over King Bay, Crystal River



After a breakfast of pastries, muffins, and bloody marys, Friday morning's crew left on a comfortable pontoon boat and immediately headed to the Three Sisters spring area. The clear, sandy bottom of the basin was covered completely with manatees! After enjoying the creatures and the beautiful Florida scenery, the boat headed to the main spring, King's Spring. Here we ran across several more friendly manatees, including one who spent his time flossing his teeth on the boat's anchor line. After finally retreating from the chilly water, all on board were treated to Safety Chairperson, Sina DuBiel's strip tease act while she struggled to warm up in some dry clothes.



Safety Chairperson, Sina DuBiel



The next wave of manateers experienced a very similar day on Saturday morning, with one exception being that we had to split the group into two different flat-bottomed aluminum jon-boats. Again, at Three Sisters we were treated to a large group of friendly manatees. Both Marie Frank and Gwen Rolape seemed to have

private pet manatees who hung around them all morning. This group of snorkelers decided that their desire for a warm shower outweighed their desire to see the King's Spring area and we headed for home. Linnea Knauer kept commenting about feeling "perky" and it had to do with the water temperature, not how much coffee she had to drink.

Once we all thawed out, we agreed that it was one of the most successful manatee outings ever sponsored by MDC, and we all felt fortunate to have the opportunity to experience firsthand these wonderful, endangered creatures.

Captain Mike

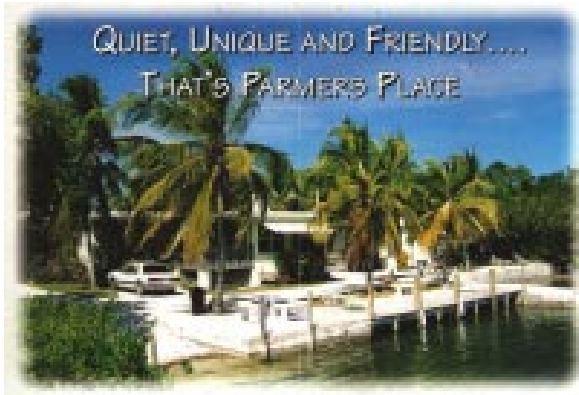


Floss, anyone?

Looe Key Dive Trip

May 12 - 14, 2000

*Dive Saturday (wreck dive) and Sunday morning
with Underseas, Inc.*



*Two-night stay at Farmers Place at Little Torch Key with
Complimentary Continental Breakfast of Fresh Breads,
Muffins, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, and Tea*

\$150 diver or snorkeler, tanks included

Room for 10 divers only

Deposit \$50 due April 7

Call Marie Frank (407) 356-8256



Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Tour

Have you ever passed the signs for the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute on your way down I-95 and wondered what was there? The Barracudas have invited us to join them on a field trip to tour the Institute. We will meet there at 10:30 am on Saturday, April 22nd, for a special tour of the exhibits including demonstrations of marine research projects, a tour of the aquaculture division where we can see and touch live creatures, a video overview of Harbor Branch, a bus tour of the wetlands, and the Marine Education and Conference Center where you can climb inside full-scale models of manned submersibles. If the research vessel is in port, we can also tour it. The tour will be approximately 90 minutes, followed by lunch at Pineapple's Restaurant. The tour is \$8 per person and lunch is at your own expense (the menu is varied and reasonable). There is an optional 90-minute Cajun Boat Tour that gives some history of the Indian River, an ecology discussion, and possible dolphin and manatee sightings. The boat tour is \$15 per person, or \$20 for both tours.

They have an excellent web site at www.hboi.edu if you would like more information and directions. If you would like to attend this event, please send payment to me at 8683 Renova Court, Orlando FL 32825, by April 8th, so I can give a count and money to the Barracudas.

Wendy McCleskey

'Moved?' from page 2

stress at the ladder. One of the boys did use the tag line, but lost contact while removing his fins, forcing another rescue by the divemaster. Despite the problems, the divemaster tactfully counseled the mom by reviewing the events and explaining alternative behaviors. None of them were allowed to dive the next site, due to blowing the safety stop. Lesson learned: Be extra prepared when diving with the invincible!

See you at Johnny's on April 11th!

Mark DuBiel

Thinking Ahead to Fantasy Fest

As is our tradition, **MDC** will once again take in the wilds of Key West for their rowdy Halloween street festival known worldwide as Fantasy Fest. This is a party trip, but diving is available if you are up for it. We will once again be staying at the Sugar Loaf Lodge, and participating in the Saturday night parade. Capt Mike is fresh back from Mardi Gras in New Orleans and is revved up to make this Fantasy Fest trip the most festive ever.

Several slots are already reserved, and this trip usually sells out. So, to hold your reservation, send a check for \$30 per person to me at 8683 Renova Court, Orlando FL 32825.

Captain Mike McCleskey



Club Cameras

As the warmer water of dive season approaches, the excitement level of all divers begins to rise. We think more about where and when we will be diving and what we might see. If you are an underwater photographer, you might pull out some photos of past dive trips. What?? You don't have photos of past trips? Well, you need to think about using some of the nice underwater camera systems that are available to you as a member of the **CLUB**.

MDC owns one underwater 8mm video camera system, one Nikonos professional quality 35mm camera system with an assortment of lenses and accessories, and two point-and-shoot style Ikelite Aquashot underwater APS camera systems including external strobes and close-up kits. There is a camera to fit almost anyone's needs, and enough experience around to teach you the basics of how to use the equipment.

As this article is being written, three of our four camera systems are out on dive trips! To get one reserved for yourself, or to find out more, call me, the Camera Guy, at (407) 657-3370 or (407) 273-6655.

Captain Mike McCleskey

Safety Chairperson

Tips on Avoiding Marine Animal Injuries

Have you ever been diving or snorkeling and suddenly wondered if you were coming in contact with anything that could actually hurt you (besides the occasional fear of a shark bite)? You might have seen a fish you couldn't quite identify, or maybe you realized your first aid skills were a little rusty. Either way, here are a few helpful tips:

- **Practice perfect buoyancy control.** By staying off the bottom and avoiding accidental brushes of your hands, arms and legs on coral and other animals, you can easily reduce the most common cause of aquatic injury for divers.
- **Be aware of your surroundings when you dive.** Develop a sense of where you are in the water column. If you're busy looking at marine life or taking pictures, it's important to know where the reef and bottom are located. Watch the placement of your hands.
- **Be careful in jellyfish inhabited areas.** Avoid holding onto the ascent and descent line without gloves. Jellyfish and other stinging critters may get caught in the line.
- **Shuffle your feet and wear thick-soled boots or fins** when entering the water in sandy or muddy bottoms.
- **Avoid carrying speared fish** when diving in areas known to be populated by sharks.
- **Streamline your body** and equipment for maximum efficiency in the water to avoid fatigue. Tired divers are more likely to accidentally touch hazardous marine life.
- **Plan your dive** and know what hazardous marine life risks are present. (*Does that sound familiar?* — August 1999 Newsletter)
- **Wear appropriate exposure protection**, including gloves (if allowed) and boots. Thin dive skins help minimize the risk of accidental contact of the skin with hazardous marine life. (*Where have I heard that before?* — February 2000 Newsletter)
- **Be passive in your interactions with marine life.** Avoid feeding and petting animals or engaging in any other activities that may lead to accidental injury. (*YOU know who you are!*)
- **When taking photos underwater, avoid using the**

reef for stabilizing yourself.

- **Avoid picking up shells.** Some hazardous marine animals live in or on shells.
- **Eat only cooked fish** and avoid fish that are known to be potentially poisonous.
- **Pack a first aid kit for divers.** Make sure that the components are appropriate for the area of the world where you are diving, and check to ensure that they have not expired.
- **Learn how to provide first aid to scuba diving injuries** including those caused by hazardous marine life. All scuba divers should learn CPR, first aid, and oxygen first aid skills (*Wow! Is there an echo in the room?* — February 12th CPR class).

If that isn't enough information, then hit your local dive shop for a wide variety of books that cover hazardous marine life. In the meantime, may all your dives be safe.

Information for this article was obtained from the January-February 2000 issue of *Alert Diver*.

Sina DuBiel



From the Internet

Top 10 Reasons Why Leprechauns Aren't Good Divers (written by the readers of Scuba Diving Online)

- 10) Other divers keep putting them in their goodie bags.
- 9) If your air tank was bigger than you, you wouldn't be a good diver either.
- 8) Leprechauns inhale Guinness Stout instead of air and mistake the anchor for a big shilling.
- 7) Still haven't developed a BC with enough lift to compensate for the pot of gold.
- 6) While suffering from nitrogen narcosis, they eat yellow starfish and claim that they are magically delicious.
- 5) Who says we aren't good divers?
- 4) They are "snack size" for most sharks.
- 3) They keep chasing after Rainbow Trout trying to fill their little pots.
- 2) Pointy ears create too much drag in the water (applies to Vulcans too).
- 1) Leprechauns aren't good divers? Every time I go to 130 feet on air I see them all over the place—they must be good divers!

Email from Joanne Rowley

Newsgroups: rec.scuba

Subject: Scuba Diving is Safer than . . .

I found a recent article which uses accident stats from scuba diving and compares it to the statistical accident rate of other sports. The information is quite informative and amusing. Read on:

The Sport of Scuba Diving is:

55 times safer than	football
52 times safer than	baseball
47 times safer than	basketball
38 times safer than	hang gliding
24 times safer than	parachuting
23 times safer than	soccer
9 times safer than	volleyball
5 times safer than	water skiing
4 times safer than	snowmobiling
4 times safer than	racquetball
3 times safer than	tennis
2 times safer than	swimming
Equally as hazardous as	bowling

Okay - I understand that you can argue statistics, but GENERALLY SPEAKING, the accident rate for participation in any one of the sports above is higher than that of scuba.

(oh yea - reading this is harder on your eyes than diving)

Editor's Note: Ok, I know this has been knocking around the Internet for a few years, but it's interesting anyway.

Check Out the Online Version of the MDC News

For all of you with Internet connections, we publish this newsletter on the World Wide Web. You can view it if you have an Internet connection and a current Web browser. See it on our **CLUB** home page at:

<http://www.netwide.net/users/mccleske/mdchome.html>

or behind the Lockheed Martin firewall at:

<http://wwwmis.orl.lmco.com:2424/mdc/mdchome.html>

Bookmark this site for current **MDC** and general SCUBA news.

Member News



The happy couple . . . it's official

Congratulations to MDC Members Candi Dunlap and John Keys for Tying the Knot!

The wedding was held on March 22nd at the Winter Park Farmer's Market. The ceremony was only interrupted once by a passing train, which added to the whole effect. John was kidnapped by a few friends and forced to attend Mardi Gras in New Orleans for the world's largest bachelor party a few weeks earlier. Join the officers of **MDC** in wishing Candi and John many long years of happy marriage!!



Just two of the 100,000 new friends that John met at his bachelor party



The groom-to-be enjoying himself at Mardi Gras

Editors Corner

Thanks for all your help. You've been great at getting articles to me by the 15th of the month. Please get them to me in one of the following ways:

- Call me at 356-2290 and sneaker-net your text and graphics on disk to me at MP 031
- E-mail at work: william.paskert@lmco.com or at home: wpaskert@cfl.rr.com
- Fax - work: 356-4632; home: 678-5311 (please call before sending).

New Dolphin Film at the Orlando Science Center

Macgillivray Freeman Films, producers of the acclaimed large-format film Everest, premiered its latest offering, *Dolphins*, in March. *Dolphins* is now showing at the Orlando Science Center (OSC). From the dazzling coral reefs of the Bahamas to the wind-swept seas of Patagonia, *Dolphins* takes audiences on an underwater adventure with inquisitive Atlantic Spotted Dolphins, acrobatic Dusky Dolphins and the familiar Bottle-nose Dolphin. The film features music from Grammy-winning artist Sting.

Dolphins follows Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski and her colleagues on an expedition to learn more about the dolphins and their fascinating world. "People want to know more about how dolphins communicate," said director Greg MacGillivray. "I wanted to make a film that offered insight into these intelligent marine mammals that



revealed the wonder of their habitat, the ocean and our need to preserve it."

Come join your fellow **MDC** members for a special evening, Saturday, April 15th, at 7 pm. We'll meet at the ticket counter on the second floor for this fascinating, 50-minute movie. Tickets are \$4 per adult or child.

Afterwards, we'll be eating at Chapters Bookshop and Cafe. Chapters is located at 717 W. Smith St, just off Edgewater Drive in College Park, (407) 246-1546. They have a varied and interesting menu, serving many vegetarian dishes, ostrich(!), and beer and wine.

If you would like to attend this event, please call me at (407) 273-6655, by April 13th so I can let the OSC and Chapters know how many are coming.

Wendy McCleskey



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP 60
2924 Crystal Creek Blvd
Orlando FL 32837

Upcoming Events

- April 11 - Meeting
- April 15 - *Dolphins* IMAX film, Orlando Science Center
- May 9 - Meeting
- May 12-14 - Dive Trip, Looe Key & Palmers Place
- June 9-11 - Dive Trip, OceanFest, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
- June 13 - Meeting