



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News



August 2000

Phil Hampton's Little Cayman Slide Show at Our August Meeting!

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, August 8th. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and drinks.

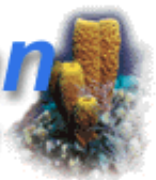
This month we have the honor of a presentation by Phil Hampton on his trip to Little Cayman earlier this year. Phil's a long-time **CLUB** member, seasoned diver, and accomplished underwater photographer, as anyone who's competed against him in our Annual Photo Contest knows. He and Grace stayed at Little Cayman Beach Resort on the southern shore of one of the best dive destinations in the Caribbean. Phil will share his slides and his insight on photography and the Cayman experience. He'll show some great shots of famous Bloody Bay Wall, strawberry sponges, turtles, and the dive operation.

At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a 'Gospel Feast' dinner for our crew for \$10 per person, including tax and tip. You will be served a platter of some of our favorites: spare rib, pulled pig, 1/4 chicken, bread, 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.

Little Cayman
Beach Resort
CAYMAN ISLANDS



Little Cayman
The World's Best Diving



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.



Message from Our President

Greetings Fellow Divers!

The July meeting got the **CLUB** off to a super start! We had almost thirty in attendance and five of those are prospective members. Many good ideas and suggestions were elicited from the floor, which we will try to incorporate this year.

This month we have Phil Hampton as our featured speaker who will present a slide presentation of his recent trip to the Little Cayman Beach Resort in the Cayman Islands. Phil is a master underwater photographer and a certified open water diver with 1900 dives and over 32 years of experience under his weight belt. His commentary and personal observations into the world of underwater photography should give us all insights to take home with us and apply to future dives. Remember, the Annual Club Photo Contest will take place in November, which is right around the corner!

As a result of a general consensus of those present, as soon as feasible we will institute 15-to 20-minute POST monthly meeting clinics for those persons interested. Some possible topics: refreshers on the use of dive tables, a mini-refresher on CPR, a mini-intro to the **CLUB** oxygen kit, and specific aspects of improving our underwater photography skills. The plan will be for a session to be for a specified period, but being after the general membership meeting will allow timing to be adjusted in relation to the interest shown.

Your Board of Directors and Officers are working hard to meet one of my stated goals of having monthly speakers, presentations, and future **CLUB** dive trips for the upcoming year laid out by September's meeting. This is a tough challenge and we are all working to meet it. Should you have any ideas concerning a possible dive site or trip, or have the desire to initiate and plan such a trip, please contact Mike McCleskey, our Activity Chairperson, soon! For those of you who may be interested in planning a future **CLUB** dive trip, Mike will also be giving a dive trip training session later this year which covers the "Do's and Don'ts" of items requiring close scrutiny, and planning for contingencies.

At this month's general membership meeting, it is my desire to distribute **CLUB Preference Surveys** to each member. Those members not present will have their *Survey* mailed to them. These *Surveys* should be completed after the monthly meeting and returned anonymously for compilation. It is the intent of the *Surveys* to solicit from you, the active membership, where you want this **CLUB** to go in the future and how to make it better in present. I urge each of you to take the few minutes necessary, complete the *Survey* to include your thoughts, and return it to the **CLUB**! I thank you for your participation in advance!

Looking forward to seeing you at Johnny Rivers' on the 8th!

Bob Grapentine

Your Officers and Staff

President Bob Grapentine	(407) 306-6914	Activity Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Vice President Marie Frank	(407) 356-8256	Meeting Chairperson Karen Streeter	(407) 351-1514
Secretary Joanne Rowley	(407) 977-3346	Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
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Director at Large Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969	Membership Chairperson Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2377
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Board of Directors George McGuire	(407) 677-4242	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290

Safety Chariperson

Diving In Currents

Diving in currents is easily one of the most enjoyable - but can be one of the most dangerous dives that a diver encounters. It is a low-energy, high-speed trip that allows you to see much more of the rapidly passing reef. The flip side of this is that you miss a lot of small life, and the hazards of loss of control and any efforts to work against the currents are high-energy and stress producing. Recognizing that a problem exists is the first thing a diver has to face.

Each diver can detect signs of current, such as:

- 1). Fast moving surface water
- 2). Which way the boat is facing (depending on which is the stronger, the current or the wind)
- 3). Movement of floating material on the water or in the water
- 4). Movement of divers away from the boat rapidly on entry
- 5). Bubbles moving away from a diver at an angle underwater
- 6). If the plant life underwater is lying down.

The dive group should have a clear understanding of entering and exiting the water in conditions of current. Divers should try to let the current work for them by initiating dives into the current on the first part of the dive and planning the return with the current. Float lines are essential for an orderly entry for the divers to hold position for descent and ascent, otherwise divers will be strung out too far

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.

apart for a safe dive. Entries should be timed so that there will be no stragglers and the descent be made under control. Exits are also planned so that the float line can be used to pull against the current rather than having to swim against it.

Surface floats are another technique used in diving in currents. A line attached to a float and to a diver gives two advantages; the dive group is marked for the boat operator and any tired or nervous divers can hang onto the line and rest.

Strong currents can rip away a mask or snorkel when turning sideways or looking up. Snorkels do better stored in the BC or under a leg strap underwater so as to reduce drag on the mask. Place a little extra tension on mask straps if strong currents are expected.

The contour of the ocean bottom will change currents, often dramatically. A diver can adjust his speed by moving to the bottom, slowing behind coral heads and out croppings or holding on to permanent objects, all the time presenting the smallest frontal surface area to the current. Getting close to the bottom and using your finger or dive knife to stabilize you is usually all you need to hold your position.

As the diver moves through the water column, the diver encounters resistance. As a diver works against the current along the bottom, a good indication of the amount of work being performed is by monitoring the respiratory rate. "Bottom crawling" is a technique that may have to be used when the swimming exertion level rises. This is easily done in rocky areas but can be a real challenge in sandy bottoms-where a good dive knife comes in handy as an anchor.

See 'Gwen's Column' on page 4

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 (407) 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: (407) 356-4632; home: (407) 678-5311 (please call before sending).

Camera Chairperson

MDC Nikonos Course

Join the **MDC** Camera Committee for our somewhat periodic “Care and Feeding of the Nikonos V Camera” course, Friday, August 11th. Attendance at this course is mandatory prior to use of the **CLUB**'s Nikonos camera system. This will be an excellent follow-on to the wonderful underwater photos from **CLUB** member Phil Hampton at our August 8th meeting.

The Nikonos V system is the de facto standard of serious underwater photographers and many professional photographers. We are fortunate to have ready access to such expensive and quality equipment through membership in **MDC**. The course will cover the basic mechanics of how to load, operate, clean, and care for the camera. Basic tips on how to maximize the opportunity for “keeper” shots will be covered, but the instructor (me) makes no claims to any level of expertise in the art of underwater photography.

Give me a call for further information or to sign up.

Mike McCleskey

Camera Guy
407-808-MIKE

'Gwen's Column' from page 3

If conditions exist so that exertion levels continue to rise, it's better to surface, inflate, and wait. Here is where a safety sausage comes in handy. This inflatable, long, red plastic tube juts above the water 6-7 feet and can be easily seen as much as a half a mile or more. Shining a flashlight in the bottom of the sausage at night provides a long red light that can be seen at a great distance.

Dive safely and enjoy the ride!

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from the following websites:

<http://www.gulftel.com/~scubadoc/divcurr.htm>

<http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/home.htm>



MARTIN DIVE CLUB
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Orlando FL 32839

Upcoming Events

- August 5 - Dive Trip, Weeki Wachee - Mark DuBiel
- August 8 - Meeting: Phil Hampton on Little Cayman
- August 11 - Nikonos Camera Training
- August 12-13 - KSC Barracudas Trip, West Palm Beach
Rampage - Phil Stasik (321) 455-2221
- September 12 - Meeting