



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News



September 2000

Underwater Search and Recovery at Our September Meeting!

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, September 12th. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and drinks.

Our speaker is Deputy Sheriff Sam Bean of the Orange County Sheriff's Office (OSCO) Marine Unit, Underwater Search and Recovery Team. He will be speaking about the OCSO Underwater Search and Recovery and Team Equipment.



After Deputy Bean's presentation, those present can go outside and see the OCSO Dive Trailer on display.

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.



Deputy Bean has 20 years in law enforcement, 15 of which have been with OCSO (of which 11 have been with the Marine Unit and Dive Team). He is one of three OCSO Dive Team Leaders. Deputy Bean is a PADI-Certified Assistant Instructor, has been diving for over 12 years, and has logged over 500 dives.



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.

★ Sheriff's Line - Do not cross ★ Sheriff's Line - Do not cross ★

Message from Our President

Dear Fellow Divers,

Over 23 members and 3 guests attended Phil Hampton's slide presentation which beautifully depicted diving off Little Cayman. As usual, the barbecued food at Johnny Rivers' was delicious and the libations exceptional. Phil provided many useful underwater photography tips throughout his lecture. One tip that I will try to keep in mind is to angle the flash of the strobe away from center-on to the lens to avoid floating debris reflecting your flash back onto your film and clouding your picture. Thanks, Phil!

This month the **CLUB** welcomes Deputy Sheriff Sam Bean of the Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Marine Unit, Underwater Search and Recovery Team. Deputy Bean will give us an overview of the activities and responsibilities of the OCSO Underwater Search and Recovery Team. Come join us for this presentation that promises to be truly fascinating.

Due to the fact our meeting will be reconvened outside of the restaurant to view the OCSO Dive Trailer after the presentation, our first scheduled **Post-Meeting Clinic** has been **re-scheduled** until

after the October meeting. For those persons interested in attending, we are planning on a 15- to 20-minute review of the understanding and correct use of the standard dive tables. This refresher is a must for those of us who only rarely do it deep . . .

Nine **CLUB** members attended a 2-hour class on the care and feeding of the **MDC's** Nikonos underwater camera on Friday, August 11th. The class was taught by our own Mike McCleskey, Camera Guru Emeritus. The class was fun and enjoyable and taught proper use and handling techniques. Remember: any member who wishes to check out **CLUB** underwater photography equipment must have currently attended this course.

The **CLUB** needs your active participation and support for the Annual **MDC** Photo Contest in November 2000. Not only do we need you taking those spectacular photos, but Marie Frank and Jim Streeter, who have graciously volunteered to lead this activity, need volunteers on the Photo Committee to assist collecting contest prizes, mounting photos for display, and other sundry activities. Please contact Karen or Jim to volunteer a few worthwhile hours in support of our annual Photo

See 'Bob's Words' on page 8

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
Treasurer Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2377	Equipment Chairperson Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969
Director at Large Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969	Membership Chairperson Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2377
Board of Directors Bob Knauer	(407) 306-8097	Merchandise Chairperson Karen Streeter	(407) 351-1514
Board of Directors Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075	Safety Chairperson Gwen Rolape	(407) 306-1801
Board of Directors George McGuire	(407) 677-4242	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290

Join Us at Wet'n Wild on Saturday, September 30th for the Martin Dive Club's Annual Picnic!



The Fun Starts at 10:00 AM
& Goes Until 6:00 PM!

Tubes, Towels, & Locker Rentals
Available at Additional Cost

Located on International Drive!



Adults \$20
Children (3 to 9) \$15

Club Members and Immediate Family Only;
Call (407) 356-2377 for Non-Members
Cost

Payment must be received by September
27th

Includes: Admission; Unlimited Soft
Drinks from 11:00AM to 4:00 PM; & a
Lunch Coupon good for a Hamburger or
Hot Dog or Pizza with Chips, Dessert,
and Soft Drink.



For Payment or More Info Contact:

Jim Streeter: (407) 356-2377

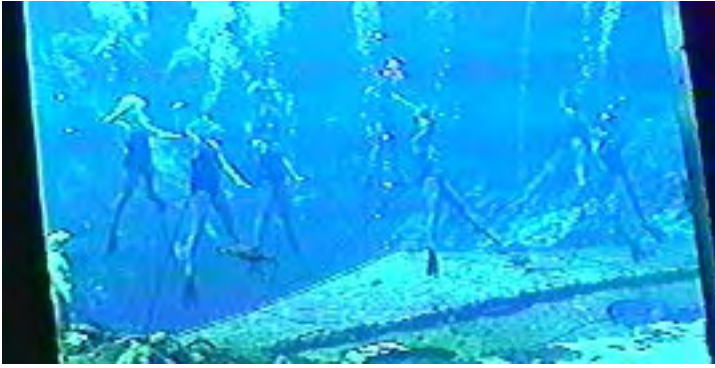
(Sand Lake Rd.) MP-006

or

Bob Grapentine: (407) 306-6914

(East Side) MP-857

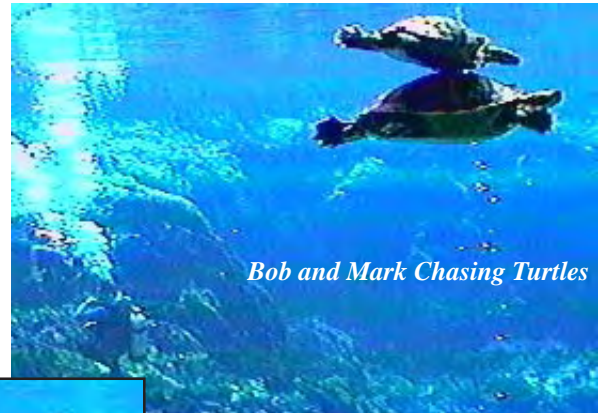
MDC in Weeki Wachee Springs



Florida's oldest attraction has a new spin! Weeki Wachee Springs is famous for its legendary mermaid show, but is now open for diving. You too can experience 300+ feet of visibility on a 55-foot deep "stage" of crystalline spring water. That's exactly what eight thrill seekers from the **CLUB** experienced in early August.

Mark's Turtle Imitation

In between dives, we joined the tourist hordes and were treated to two mermaid shows: Mermaids of Yesteryear and The Little Mermaid. Before you giggle over the concept of a water ballet with sixty-year-old aqua ballerinas, remember that their buoyancy control is PERFECT!!! Perfect with no weights, no tanks, no BCs, and no feet! Try THAT on your next dive!



Bob and Mark Chasing Turtles

Bob and Mark 'On Stage'



President and mermaid hunter Bob Grapentine was closely watched by First Lady Sheila as I escorted his highness around the Weeki Wachee stage area. During the first of two dives, Sheila shot some good footage with the **CLUB's** video camera from the underwater amphitheater. I tried my hand at some underwater shots during the second dive. We were joined by **CLUB** members Jeff Thomason and Jeff Jr., as well as four additional member wanabees, referred by our own Ralph and Gwen Rolape.



Jeff Thomason, Jr.

The park has other goodies to offer, like a river cruise, animal shows, gift shops, petting zoo, and a water park. Of course our primary interest was with Neptune Divers, who operate a dive shop right at the park. We received a group discount of \$35 per diver, with \$12 for two tank rentals. Service is top notch, as a divemaster oversees all the entries and exits. They also offer intro scuba experiences for anyone interested in their first REAL thrill. Vendors were also on hand to show their wares. Bob got the chance to try out a brand new BC, just after renting one at the shop!

A good time was had by all, and the 74-degree water felt great after suiting up in 90+ degree air. Maybe we'll get some more adventurers next time!

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



At our August meeting, member Phil Hampton gave an interesting and educational presenta-

tion 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's been diving for 32 years and has logged over 1900 dives.

He and Grace stayed at Little Cayman Beach Resort on the southern shore of one of the best dive destinations in the Caribbean. Phil shared his slides and his insight on photography and the Cayman experience. He showed some great shots of famous Bloody Bay Wall, strawberry sponges, turtles, and the dive operation.



Little Cayman is the smallest of the three Cayman Islands. It has a grass air strip and didn't have general electricity until 5 years ago. The Little Cayman Beach Resort has clean rooms and good food, and the dive operation has 42-foot Newton dive boats. They saw turtles (on every dive), grouper, a rare (and tiny) pipehorse (a seahorse relative), toadfish, and something unusual, a sunken ex-Russian destroyer off Cayman Brac.

Phil gave us many photographic tips, both creative and practical. He uses Fujichrome Sensia slide film. He always uses the first (usually throw-away) frame to shoot a handwritten sign with his return address, the event being photographed, and the roll number.

Before the general membership meeting, the officers met to discuss several 'official' things: activity committee revitalization



and trip planning, **CLUB** calendar (membership, trip, and dues) realignment, **undercurrent** monthly magazine distribution and availability, and moving the 'outside' web site to a new domain name.



After the officers did their thing, the members' meeting got underway. We introduced some new members: John Hansen, Bob Hoeft, and Shelly and Dean Hayes. Our Treasurer, Jim Streeter, gave the financials (bottom line - over \$1,500 in the bank). The Photo Contest entry cut-off date is October 10th. Bob Grapentine will be sending out a survey to determine the members' preferences and interests. We'll be updating the **CLUB's** bylaws and the diver liability waiver for **CLUB** activities. Several people described recent dive trips: Mark DuBiel's Weeki Wachee spring dive (see page 4), Ron Mann did two dives on the wreck of the Bibb with Lady Cyana Divers (good operation), and Mike McCleskey got a few 'bugs' off Ft. Lauderdale during the 'mini' season. Then our President introduced Phil and Little Cayman.

Last, but certainly not least, we had our famous door prize event. Our thanks to the various prize donors, and remember to mention the **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** when visiting our local dive merchants.

Winner	Prize	Donor
Michael Craun	Key Ring w/O-Rings	Divers Outlet
Grace Hampton	Disposable Camera	Divers Outlet
Karen Streeter	Save-a-Dive Kit	Divers Outlet
Linnea Knauer	Tank Banger	Divers Outlet
Dean Hayes	Light Stick	Divers Outlet
Tim Cole	Light Stick	Divers Outlet

And for our newly established tradition, the **MDC** Monthly Raffle, Joanne Rowley won a fish-shaped wine rack (with two bottles in it!).

A gator tale

LANTIRN's [a program at Lockheed Martin] George Roberts had plenty to tell his coworkers after his mid-July trip to Ocala Operations to work on vibration test equipment. Although the work he performed was relatively routine, his after-hours recreation led to an experience Roberts will remember for life.

A snorkeling enthusiast with much experience in Florida waterways, Roberts decided to snorkel down the river run at Silver River State Park. Along the way, he spotted a huge alligator he says was twice his size in length and girth. Since the gator appeared to be sleeping on the shore, Roberts planned to quietly slip by him.

Unfortunately the gator awoke, entered the water, and disappeared from Robert's watchful eye. The next thing he knew, he was staring into the gator's mouth. (The gator had sneaked behind him to make the surprise attack.)

The gator struck, but fortunately, caught Roberts' swim fin at just the right angle to fill its mouth with plastic rather than flesh. "He tasted much more of the fin than me, and after a few seconds he



let go of my foot," said Roberts, who sustained a relatively small bite wound on his right foot.

Once free, Roberts made it to shore and to medical attention, happy that he is back at work to tell his gator tale. In the above photo, Roberts, right, recounts the event for Dean Kowal and Fred Baum. The only damage to his flipper was some scrapes and a small "V"-shaped puncture in the heel.

Roberts' story was written up as front-page news in the Ocala Star Banner two days later. To read the story, see below.

From the Ocala Star Banner Web Site

Gator Tail

Snorkeler recovering from encounter with large alligator on Silver River

JOE CALLAHAN

Starbanner.com Callahan@starbanner.com

SILVER SPRINGS The alligator lay still in the shade on the bank of the Silver River around 7 p.m. on Wednesday night, about 75 feet upstream from where George Roberts snorkeled in 70-degree water.

Roberts turned and watched as the gator, which he estimates was between 12 and 14 feet long, rose to its feet, and slid into the water. Roberts saw no sign of the animal but didn't panic.

Surely, he was far enough away.



PHOTO BY BRUCE ACKERMAN/STARBANNER

The Orlando man went back to snorkeling. Roberts headed around a bend and looked back again.

He wasn't far enough away.

The gator was right behind him. The top of its head stuck out of the water, about a yard from Roberts' feet.

"That's when he began making the loudest, most awful hissing noise you would ever hear," Roberts said Thursday. "Then he lunged and clamped down around my flipper, catching part of my heel. I just began kicking as hard as I could with my other foot."

See 'Gator Tale' on page 7

Roberts said he kicked the gator in the head with the free foot for about 10 seconds. Finally, the gator let go and quickly disappeared under the water's surface, leaving a frightened Roberts searching for the quickest way to land.

"I guess he didn't like the taste of plastic," said Roberts, referring to his flipper. "I quickly swam to the side and got out. My foot was bleeding, so I walked along the edge and got back to my car."

Roberts drove himself to Munroe Regional Medical Center, where emergency room doctors examined four gashes near his heel. Roberts hasn't received stitches yet, because doctors want to flush the wound thoroughly for several days to prevent infection.

Roberts, who works at Lockheed Martin in Orlando, was asked to work out of the Silver Springs Shores location for a few days. He was staying at the Hilton and decided to go snorkeling on the Silver River after work, as he's done many other times.

The mechanical engineer said he was shocked to find such an aggressive alligator in the Silver River.

Don McMillen, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission investigations supervisor, said it was the first reported alligator attack on the Silver River in at least 20 years.

"It's very rare," said McMillen, adding that authorities went to the area of the attack and found an eight-foot alligator, which seemed to get much closer to humans than most gators in the area. "We did not find a 12-footer."

McMillen said area residents and visitors need to follow specific rules when it comes to encounters with alligators. The main rule is to never swim in rivers, lakes, or streams in the morning or evening.

"That's an alligator's prime feeding times," McMillen said.

The investigator also said that people should never feed an alligator (or any wild animal for that matter) because it will make them get used to people. He also recommends swimming in designated areas only.

"People need to realize there are lots of gators in state waters and they should be very cautious," he said.



... from e-mail, Submitted by Wendy McCleskey

In response to Mike McCleskey's e-mail note to Rodale's Scuba Diving magazine:

Subject: Creative counting in July 2000 issue

It was with great anticipation that I flipped to the "Scuba's 10 New Rules" article in your July 2000 issue. Rules number one, two, three, four . . . good stuff, no major surprises . . . on through rules five, six, seven . . . very interesting, this is good stuff. Hey, wait . . . What happened to rules eight, nine and ten??? Surely you guys just left off the "continued on page???" note on the bottom. So, I carefully flip all the pages, looking for the continuation, until I get to the very back and pause at the article "10 Tips for Diving In Surge." This is interesting . . . step one, two, three . . . Here we go again! What happened to steps four through ten??? I don't know if someone is running off with some of your numbers or if your NITROX mix is off. But, don't worry, I checked to verify that you do, in fact, still have five budget BCs, seven neoprene skins, five signaling devices, and fourteen dive deals as touted on your cover . . .

Mike McCleskey

Rodale's Scuba Diving responded:

Hello Mike:

Boy, oh boy, did we hear about this gaffe! In "10 New Rules of Scuba," the points in the sidebar "Works in Progress" (page 62) make up the last three rules. I apologize for our creative counting. We should have numbered these rules in the sidebar as we have received a lot of mail from readers who thought their issue was missing the page with the rest of the rules. Finding the 10 tips in "Diving in Surge" is, truthfully, more difficult to defend. If you count each tip, there are 10 - the 4 in the box under "When Surge Is Strongest," 1 under "Back Off," 2 under "Don't Fight It," and 2 under "Timing Is Everything." You've pointed out a weakness in our design of these articles. We should probably clearly number the tips with either numerals or arrows.

Thanks for your patience with this group of English majors who use their fingers to count. And lastly, thanks for subscribing. We are very grateful for your support.

Patricia Wuest
Associate Editor
Rodale's Scuba Diving

Camera Chairperson

MDC Camera Course a Success

On Friday, August 11th, nine **MDC** members and friends met to hold the somewhat annual occurrence of the “Care and Feeding of the Nikonos Camera Course.” The evening included the viewing of a new videotape on underwater photography that the **CLUB** now owns, and lots of hands-on playing with our Nikonos V camera system. The goal of the course was mainly to teach proper techniques for loading, handling, care, and cleaning to optimize the camera’s use and minimize the risk of damage. Something as small and seemingly insignificant as one grain of sand or one strand of hair can cause a leak that can ruin the camera.

One of the **CLUB**’s Ikelite Aquashot cameras was also demonstrated. Plusses and minuses of the two cameras were discussed at length - the Aquashot’s simplicity versus the Nikonos’ high-quality results. Attendance at this course is mandatory prior to use of the Nikonos camera system.

If you have any interest in using any of the **CLUB**’s underwater photography or video equipment, contact me, the Camera Guy at (407) 273-6655.

Mike McCleskey

‘Bob’s Words’ from page 2

Contest. Thanks! Note: All photo entries must be received by October 10th. Look for more Photo Contest details in the next newsletter.

Please remember when you are out making dive gear purchases to mention you are a member of the **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** and show your membership card to the dive shop management. Your support in this way helps ensure ongoing discounts to **MDC** being offered at local dive shops and provides additional incentive to the local dive shops to support both our monthly door prize activities and the annual Photo Contest prizes. Thank you for your ongoing support!

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at Johnny Rivers’ on the 12th!

Bob Grapentine



Member News

killer club web site

Check this one out www.neadc.org - it is the New England Aquarium Dive Club. What a site!

Wendy McCleskey

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have just had such an excellent experience with service at a local dive shop that I feel compelled to write in so that other members are aware.

To try to make a long story as short as possible, I was having problems with my Zeagle brand integrated octopus/power inflator free-flowing. I took it to a local shop (which will remain nameless) that I knew was a Zeagle dealer and authorized repair facility. The first attempt resulted in me picking it up untouched and unrepaired, beyond the promised “done” date because I needed it for a dive. After many apologies from the owner, I brought it back in to try again. The next day I received a call asking me to bring in my regulator because they could not find a power inflator hose that matched

the quick disconnect fitting on my BC. That was it. I picked it up, never to trust any repair to THAT shop.

After some brief Internet research, I discovered that Northwest Divers was also a Zeagle dealer. I brought my BC in, was greeted warmly and told that the repair would be done in less than a week, for \$20 plus parts. The repair was, in fact, finished as promised, the equipment worked perfectly, and only cost a total of \$35. This was such a pleasant surprise after what I had gone through before that I had to share my happiness.

Based on this experience, I highly recommend Northwest Divers for this type of service, and I would like to publicly thank them for their professionalism and friendliness.

Mike McCleskey

Safety Chariperson

Safety Stops

There's More to It than "3 to 5 at 15." Tips and Techniques for Hanging Out at the Local Bar

Safety stops work. Research confirms their ability to reduce the likelihood of decompression sickness. Indeed, the precautionary stop at 15 feet for 3 to 5 minutes is considered one of the most important safety advances of the past 10 years.

Every diver should be as committed to stops as they are to other essentials of dive safety, from equipment maintenance to skills acquisition. And rest assured, performing a safety stop effectively requires both skills and knowledge:

DO

- Strictly follow the routine outlined in the divemaster's dive briefing, including the use of hang bar, hang line, or hand tanks.
- Remain aware of those around you, especially divers below you. Remember that your fins extend well beyond your feet.
- Position yourself so you don't interfere with other divers or their equipment.
- If you explore a shallow reef or wreck as part of your safety stop, do so in a relaxed way, expending as little effort as possible.
- Always remain in the offgassing range, 10 to 30 feet.
- Before ascending, check full-circle for propeller movement or noise and remain clear of the boarding ladder until it is your turn.

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.

DON'T

- Don't depend on the line or bar to keep you vertically stationary, you should be neutrally buoyant.
- Don't hold onto a bouncing line or bar, which could cause sudden depth changes.
- Don't confuse no-decompression limits with safety stops. Perform your stop regardless of having ample no-compression time at that depth.
- Don't limit yourself to 3 to 5 minutes. The deeper and longer the dive, the longer your safety stop should be – up to 10 to 15 minutes, air or gas supply permitting.

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from Rodale's Scuba Diver, April 2000

Small Bites

From: Watts, Dean
To: Paskert, William
Subject: LM (sic) Dive Club

Bill,

Read the newsletter for 8/7/00 concerning the dive club, made me recall a little quote, thought your group might like.

"When the eel in the reef
takes your heel in his teeth
That's a Moray!"

Dean Watts

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).

Member News

Trip Report: Dry Tortugas

For those **CLUB** members interested in diving in the Dry Tortugas, or going on a spearfishing trip, here's just the setup. Jeff Johnson, Bob Austin and I had a great time (eight of us total) on a live aboard that sleeps eleven called the 'Playmate.' All the info on where they go, what they do, and cost (along with pictures of recent dive trips) can be found at

<http://www.seaclub.com>

The boat has an excellent chef! All meals were provided, unlimited diving based on time limits and



the skipper would take you anywhere you wanted to go and drop anchor. The only thing you need to bring is about \$50 for a crew tip, your beverages and yourself. Parking in the Marina is safe and secure. So, check the site out. I was impressed enough I might sponsor a trip again later in the year on the boat. On a scale of 1 to 10 I would give the trip and boat a 9. The only bad thing about the boat was it was too chilly inside, even in the summer.

Bob Knauer



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP 6

4021 Seabridge Drive

Orlando FL 32839

Upcoming Events

September 12 - Meeting: Orange County Sheriff's Rescue

September 17 - Baracudas Dive Trip, Islamorada

September 23 - Baracudas Dive Trip, Key Largo

September 28 - Picnic: Wet 'n Wild - Jim Streeter

October 10 - Meeting: to be announced - Karen Streeter

October 27-29 - Trip, Fantasy Fest - Mike McCleskey