



# MARTIN DIVE CLUB

## News



January 2000

## Brush Up on Your Skills with PADI's Angie Parker

Use This Chilly Time of Year to Be Better Prepared  
for the Next Diving Season at Our January 9th Meeting

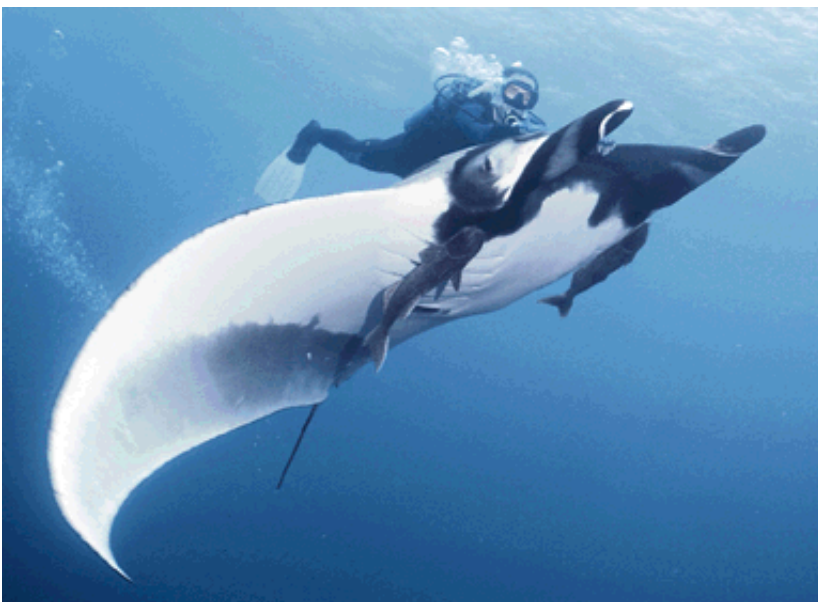
Angie Parker is the Manager of the PADI Diving Society and an active PADI Instructor who lives and teaches in Orlando. The Diving Society is a national dive club jointly sponsored by PADI Americas and World Publications. The Society currently has over 200,000 members and is headquartered in Winter Park.

Angie was previously with Divers Outlet in Orlando, Sea World of Florida in the Aquarium department, and is an alumna of University of Central Florida.

Angie will be speaking about everyone's old favorite, the much neglected but still needed "Dive Tables. She will also have information about the Diving Society and their official publication, *Sport Diver* magazine.

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, January 9th. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and drinks.

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 your server accordingly. Drinks are at happy hour prices until 7 pm.



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.

# President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones! I hope that the New Year brings each of you much health, happiness, and prosperity!

This 'new' year promises much in the way of plentiful dive trips and exciting activities for our **CLUB**. More information will be coming as details are firmed up.

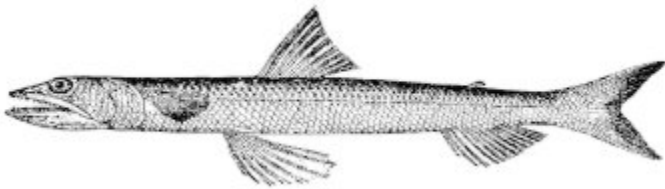
Our speaker on December 14<sup>th</sup>, Gary Adkison, was spectacular. Those of you who missed his presentation on the behaviors of Great White and Bull sharks of the Bahamas missed a truly enjoyable and educational evening. Those divers who were present may have a little better idea of how to react (or not!) upon their next shark 'encounter.' The **MDC** is looking into scheduling a dive trip this year to Walker's Cay in the Bahamas, which Gary calls home.

The **CLUB** Holiday Party was an outstanding success! The party, held at Lee's Lakeside, was beautifully decorated and the food absolutely delicious. The gift exchange (as can be seen by accompanying photos) was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all. Marie Frank has, again, done a wonderful job in making this event come together.

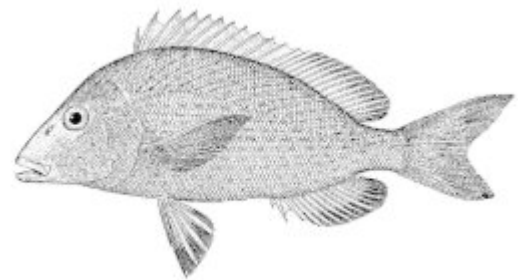
On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Angie Parker, a PADI certified Diving Instructor and affiliated with *Sport Diver* magazine, will be our featured speaker. Angie will help us all get a needed 'refresher' on Dive Tables and their proper use.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> at Johnny Rivers!

*Bob Grapentine*



*Inshore Lizardfish*



*Pigfish*

## Your Officers and Staff

President <b>Bob Grapentine</b>	(407) 306-6914	Activity Chairperson <b>Mike McCleskey</b>	(407) 273-6655
Vice President <b>Marie Frank</b>	(407) 356-8256	Meeting Chairperson <b>Karen Streeter</b>	(407) 351-1514
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# Shark Whisperers

## or "How to Communicate with a Man-Eater"



In December, over 40 members and guests heard world-renowned shark investigator Gary Adkison's exciting and informative experiences during observations with thousands of sharks in hundreds of open-ocean dives. He discussed some myths about sharks and some new behavioral facts learned in working with Bull and Great White sharks. The **CLUB** arranged to use the Lockheed Martin Information Systems Center Auditorium to house the larger-than-normal crowd on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.

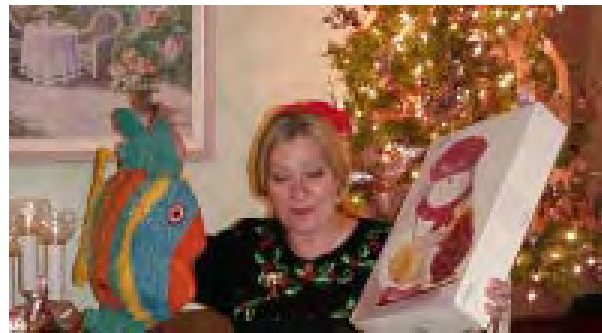
Gary told the audience about his research emphasis on studying the behavior patterns of various kinds of sharks, and often debunked 'myths' perpetrated by 'experts' that had never been in the water with their subjects. One of his techniques is to compare the behavioral 'language' of the sharks that frequent his area of the Bahamas to that of Great White sharks. He told us of his recent studies of the coast of South Africa with multiple Great Whites, which are being documented by a European production company for original broadcast in Czechoslovakia. He showed excerpts of the video that portrayed incredible behaviors and incidents of man-and-shark interaction. The most riveting was a sequence in which a Great White accidentally penetrated a divers safety cage occupied by two terrified souls who managed to avoid the shark's panicked thrashing jaws and finally escape the cage. Subsequently, the shark was helped to back out of the bars it was entangled in.

Adkison left us with many images and ideas and a better understanding of the critical role sharks play in the global environment. He gave us some tips to use to avoid close encounters with large sharks in uncontrolled situations: 1) Wear colorful gear to distinguish you from typical prey; 2) Stay calm - sharks can sense your heart beat; 3) Don't flee - that's what prey do; 4) Move towards the shark - prey move away; and 5) Stay vertical - all prey are part of the horizontal world the shark is familiar with.

Gary is Secretary of the Swiss Shark Foundation that conducts numerous research studies and produces the quarterly on-line "Shark Info" newsletter in six languages. His tireless efforts for protection of the species have helped establish five preserves in the Bahamas, with 42 more in the works. He has over 10,000 dives in his 36 years of diving, over 3000 of those with sharks.

Members of the **CLUB** met Gary this past September on a dive trip to his island to experience a "Shark Rodeo." Gary is the Dive, Fishing, & Marina Operations Manager at Walkers Cay Hotel & Marina on Walkers Cay, Abaco Islands, Bahamas.

# Our Holiday Party Was a Big Hit, As Always - Thanks Marie



*See 'Party' on page 5*



*Bob G and Michael and holiday cheer*



*Shelly gets a good one*



*Shelly and Dean*



*Michael C sees stars*



*The Goodies*



*Wendy and Mike*

*Guess Who?*





*Let the gift exchange begin!*



*Gwen and the Big Mouth Bass*



*Rosie - How did she pick all the best presents?*



*Sheila says, "What am I bid?!"*



*It's a what?*



*That's why they call it a gift exchange?!*



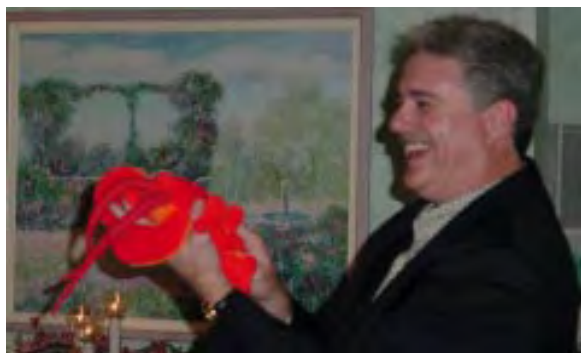
Wendy opens 'Darn cute, but deadly' Biting Shark!



Bob K taming another wild creature of the deep



Jim B and Marie trade the fish so many times it gets sea sick



Lobster Guy Dean

Editor's Note: Wendy just opened the fearsome New Biting Shark. I bought this gift at Kissimmee Pro Dive and couldn't stop laughing when I read the copy on the box. As an editor, I get a kick out of bungled translations, and this package had some of the best I've seen! The following lines are printed on the various facets of the box and were the only instructions for the gift, which is a game that requires players to tempt fate by pushing down on the shark's teeth one-by-one until it gets mad and chomps down on a finger with a frightful animated noise (sometimes). I hope you enjoy this as much as I did; please read all the way down:

FACING FRONT: New Biting Shark  
BACK: (in star) Exciting  
TOP: Challenge It  
crazy lovely exciting amusing fascinating  
FRONT: (picture touching shark tooth)  
Sounding (in star)  
Shark (in star)  
Left END: Come on and play with your Family, Friends or Classmates  
This small very nice looking shark loves to bite your fingers.  
This in an ideal game to play with your family and your friends.  
Ce petit requin, sous ses airs inoffensifs, adore mordre les doigts!!  
RIGHT END: (dialog bubble) Whenever a player touches the "thriky" tooth, the shark will close his jaws and you'll hear its various sounds.  
(dialog bubble) Open widely the jaws of you shark until you can hear a "clicking" sound. Press firmly on any teeth of the lower jaws of you shark with your forefinger.  
BACK: Play this game with one player, two players or several players. You could set the person who press the "tricky" tooth as the 'winner' or 'looser' of the game. It will be your cherishment with its amusing & crazy sound.  
Attention:  
o Don't press the skull of the shark directly. Please assemble it according to the illustration if the skull is come off, then you can play repeatedly.  
o Before you play it, you should open the battery covering of the back of your shark, and put 'AA' battery into it (3.0V).  
o Adults exchange the batteries is more suitable.  
o You can play it in varied kinds of parties, KTV, pastime and in anywhere. It's fitting in all occasion and will be your good partner in your tour.  
o The product is designed according to the safe request. Upon 3 years old children & adult are suitable.



The Plant-Fish (Fish-Plant?) finally finds a home

# Dealing with Entanglements

*Caught in an awkward entanglement? It happens under water, too. When it does, here's how to deal with it.*

### Step 1: Be Prepared

Carry two knives, mounted far apart—say, on your calf and your chest—so you can always reach a knife no matter what part of you is entangled. Keep them sharp. Mount them so you can reach at least one knife, preferably both, with either hand. One knife should be a small one with a sharp tip that can get into tight spots. A serrated edge is most effective on large ropes like lobster pot lines and thick clumps of kelp and seaweed. Shears or line cutters work best on monofilament. Next, streamline your gear. Mount your leg knife on the inside of your leg. Carry your snorkel in a knife pocket or a BC pocket, or leave it ashore. Mount your first stage with the swivel down (if yours has one). Clip instruments close to your body. Don't use gate hooks (where the hook swings open against a spring) as they can hook line and seaweed. Tape down the ends of your fin straps and mask straps. Don't take unnecessary gear.



### Step 2: Be Aware

As you swim, pay attention to your progress through the water. Starting to slow down? Maybe you're dragging something. Too often, divers don't pay attention to their own motion (or lack of it) through the water, and keep finning until they are well and truly hooked. Notice the problem early, however, and it will be easier to deal with.



### Step 3: Be Cool

If you do get caught, don't try to kick free; you'll only make things worse. Don't twist your body around to see what has caught you; you'll only wrap it around you. Instead, move as little as possible. Signal your buddy for help and let him deal with the fishing line, kelp, whatever, while you remain motionless. No buddy? Feel carefully with your hands until you locate the problem. Above all, don't panic and start struggling. If you can't reach the entanglement, you'll have to take off your gear. (That's why you practiced this in training.) Remember, don't take the regulator out of your mouth, and don't interrupt your breathing. Keep an eye on your depth gauge.



### Step 4: Be Free

Don't immediately reach for your knife. Seaweed and kelp can usually be broken with your hands. Lines can often be lifted free. If a knife is called for, you will probably need both hands—one to hold the stuff tight and one to cut it. (That's a good reason for carrying shears.) Remember: saw big lines and cut or snip the tiny stuff. To cut monofilament, make a loop in one hand and snap the loop with the knife. Don't cut toward your free hand if you can avoid it. And don't nick your hoses.



*Gwen Rolape*

Information for this article was obtained from:  
<http://www.scubadiving.com/training/DLAP/septoct97.shtml>



*Cheryl gets a fish*



*One happy President*



*Maybe this is why Jim doesn't wear ties often!?*



*Bless you my child . . .*



*Ron gets yet another fishy gift*



*Another of the great presents this year*

### 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.martindiveclub.org>

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.

### Let's Talk

Reminding our members of a new service: We have an **MDC** telephone voicemail account. Got a question about the **CLUB**? Want to let us know that you'll be attending a **CLUB** meeting? Just call (407) 306-5020 and leave a message!

### Editor's 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](mailto:william.paskert@lmco.com); or at home: [wpaskert@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wpaskert@cfl.rr.com)
- Fax (please call before sending) at work: (407) 356-4632; or at home: (407) 678-5311.

## Activities Chairperson

### Activities Schedule Shaping Up

A first meeting has been held to begin firming up the **CLUB's** activities for the coming dive season. About 12 interested members showed up and prepared a tentative schedule. Wow!

Are we going to have a great diving year! Watch for favorites such as Manatee Snorkel trips, Florida Keys trips, and West Palm area trips. There will also be numerous international trips including such incredible destinations as Bonaire, Little Cayman Island, and The Bahamas.

As firm dates and prices are determined, we will make you aware of these details. Until then, you should be thinking about what diving you would like to do this year, because many of these trips will fill to capacity and the last divers to get their deposits in will be staying home.

*Mike McCleskey*



## MDC to Snorkel with the Manatees February 16 - 18

To kick off the New Year, **MDC** will be hosting our annual trek to dip into the chilly waters of Crystal River, Florida, and experience firsthand the world of our magnificent manatees.

People literally come from all over the world for this opportunity, and we are very fortunate that we live within a 2-hour drive. The trip will include one night's hotel stay (double occupancy), breakfast on the dock, and a half day on the water on our own pontoon boat. The cost is \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members.

There are two dates to choose from - either Thursday night and Friday, Feb. 16-17 (an off Friday for the LockMart folks), or Friday night and Saturday, Feb. 17-18. Space is limited due to availability of boats and Coast Guard regulations.

To hold your spot, get payment to your faithful captain and guide, Mike McCleskey at 1814 Billingshurst Court, Orlando FL 32825. If you have any questions, Capt Mike can be reached at (407) 273-6655 or (407) 808-6453.



### **MARTIN DIVE CLUB**

MP-006  
4021 Seabridge Drive  
Orlando FL 32839  
(407) 306-5020

### Upcoming Events

January 9 - Meeting, "Dive Tables, etc." - Angie Parker

February 13 - Meeting

February 16-17, 17-18 - Manatee Trip