



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News

July 2001



Coral Reefs - The Vanishing Rainbow

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, July 10th, to hear Joanne Rowley and Bill Paskert present a slide show about coral reefs. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and happy hour.

Joanne will lead us through "Coral Reefs - The Vanishing Rainbow" a slide show created by Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), in cooperation with The Ocean Futures Foundation, that is distributed free of charge to divers, teachers, conservation organizations, and anyone who would like to educate the public about the value and importance of the coral reef ecosystem. The slide show runs approximately 30 minutes and is appropriate for a wide variety of audiences.

CORAL is a member-supported, non-profit organization, dedicated to keeping coral reefs alive around the world. CORAL helps keep coral reefs alive by:



- Supporting local coral reef conservation
- Using the power of coral reef tourism to protect coral reefs
- Educating people about coral reefs.



Coral reefs are an extraordinary gift that we can pass on to future generations and, by working together, we can keep coral reefs alive. Please go to their web site at <http://www.coralreefalliance.org/>.

With 93 striking images, this show provides a wealth of information, including what coral reefs are, why they are important, what threats they face, and what people can do to help keep them alive. The presentation will raise your awareness and help you make a positive difference for the future of coral reefs!



At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a 'Gospel Feast' dinner for \$10 per person, including tax and tip. It is a platter of some of their favorites: spare rib, pulled pig, 1/4 chicken, bread, cole slaw, and baked beans. You can also order from the regular menu. Your drink orders will be handled separately; please pay your server accordingly.



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!

Last month we had Greg Holt, diver and radio announcer extraordinaire, of the ScubaRadio syndicated radio show address us. Greg shared with us many of his adventures as well as taped excerpts from the show. Door prizes were again generously provided by ScubaRadio.

This month the **CLUB** is pleased to announce a slide presentation by the Coral Reef Alliance entitled "The Vanishing Rainbow." The Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of coral reefs and education. This slides will be presented by Joanne Rowley and Bill Paskert. Joanne has been a member of the Coral Reef Alliance for several years.

In August, the **CLUB** is planning on hosting an outreach speaker. Specifically, Larry Collins of the NASA Solid Rocket Booster Recovery Dive Team. By 'outreach' I mean holding our regular August monthly meeting at the Lockheed Martin ISC Auditorium and inviting other dive clubs and divers from around Central Florida to attend and enjoy the presentation. This way other clubs get to know our **CLUB** and we get better known in our own Central Florida community. As the invitation goes out, the we can also include local dive shops that will also become more aware of our presence.

At the last **MDC** meeting a new slate of officers was elected for the new membership year. I was re-elected as your President, Marie Frank was re-elected

as your Vice President, and Joanne Rowley was re-elected as your Secretary. Ralph Rolape was elected as your new Treasurer. I look forward to working with Ralph in this capacity as well as the rest of your officers as we move forward into the planning phase for dives and activities in this new membership year!

Since our last meeting, the **CLUB** has been on a Shark Tooth Hunt and Dive at Venice Beach led by Jim and Karen Streeter. A dive trip to Bonaire is being led by Grace Hampton, a member of our sister club, the KSC Barracudas. Arriving just in time for the meeting will be Marie Frank, just back from leading a trip to Key Biscayne. I am looking forward to hearing their trip reports at the July meeting!

Coming up in the next few months are a number of outstanding **MDC** dive trips at exceptional values. Chuck Brown leads a dive trip to Boynton Beach July 21st through July 22nd. Gwen and Ralph Rolape are leading the dive trip to Key Largo from August 2nd through August 5th. The KSC Barracudas are sponsoring a one-day Boynton Lobster Dive on August 10th. Marie Frank leads a dive trip to Cozumel from August 30th through September 6th. And do not forget the annual **CLUB** road trip to Fantasy Fest in Key West with Mike McCleskey from October 26th through October 28th! Additional details concerning these and other **MDC** -sponsored dive trips are located in this newsletter!

I look forward to seeing you at the July 10th Meeting at Johnny Rivers!

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 TBD	
Secretary Joanne Rowley	(407) 977-3346	Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Treasurer Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075	Equipment Chairperson Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969
Director at Large Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969	Membership Chairperson Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075
Board of Directors		Merchandise Chairperson TBD	
Dean Hayes	(407) 306-3288	Safety Chairperson Gwen Rolape	(407) 306-1801
Ron Mann	(407) 356-2135	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290
Paul Phillips	(407) 297-5731		

Shark! (Teeth) Diving in Venice

The weekend of June 22nd & 23rd didn't quite live up to the hopes of 13 **MDC** members and friends who traveled to the southwest corner of the state to dive for shark teeth. As Lady Luck would have it, for the first time in months, Venice Beach received rain - lots of rain! . . . and lightning . . . and wind!

Saturday morning began not as planned with breakfast around the pool, but instead with all 13 divers huddled in Jim and Karen Streeter's hotel room for donuts, coffee, and the Weather Channel. Everyone admired and played with the new full-face masks that Jim and Karen Streeter had recently purchased. Since we chose not to believe the television, the group bravely struck out for the beach site planned for the morning dive.



Venice Beach is well known for the abundance of fossilized shark teeth to be found in the murky waters just off shore. No one seems to quite understand the cause of this phenomenon, but it is widely accepted, and beachcombers and divers alike flock here to search for fossil treasure.

Much to everyone's dismay, it was also raining and stormy at the beach, only a couple of miles from the hotel where it was raining and the TV that told us it would be raining (we are an optimistic bunch). No one,

however, seemed very surprised that out of all the divers gathered, Chuck Brown and Mike McCleskey decided they had driven this far to dive and a little liquid sunshine was not going to change their plans. Both were underwater for over an hour and both came back with over half their air supply and a fist full of shark teeth! Mike and Chuck didn't learn until they returned that while they were underwater a high intensity squall loaded with lightning strikes sent the rest of the group scurrying back to their cars and/or their hotel rooms. Our Safety Chairperson, Gwen Rolape, promised to go of and research the proper procedures and safeguards for surviving a thunderstorm while underwater.

In a continued effort to see that no portion of the weekend went as planned, trip leaders Jim and Karen Streeter decided that instead of our picnic on the beach, we would all go out to the barbecue restaurant that was going to cater

our lunch. While there, Ralph Rolape surprised Gwen with a birthday cake and a rousing group serenade to celebrate her 21st birthday . . . again.



No dive trip is a bust as long as there are stories to tell afterward. The weekend did not turn out as planned, but it will be remembered by all who participated.

Biscayne National Park

July 7-8

Biscayne National Park,

Only commercial boat, only true wall dive in the continental U.S.

Ramada Limited on US 1 (Florida City)

\$115 per diver

Marie Frank

(407) 356-8256



Boynton Beach

July 21-22

Splashdown Divers -

www.splashdowndivers.com

Cost: \$140 per diver

Contact: Chuck Brown

[charles.d.brown @lmco.com](mailto:charles.d.brown@lmco.com)

(407) 356-8038 (W)

(407) 856-0026 (H)



Martin Dive Club

AMORAY DIVE RESORT IN KEY LARGO

August 2nd through 5th!



3 Nights Lodging

6 Reef Dives (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; two dives each trip)

Weights and Tanks Included

Saturday Night Cook-out

We will be diving with Amy Slate's Dive Resort between Mile Markers 104 and 105

Website: www.amoray.com

When: August 2, 3, 4, and 5th

Where: Key Largo

Cost: \$270 per diver (price based on double occupancy)

Deposit: \$135 by June 22nd

Balance: Due by July 12th

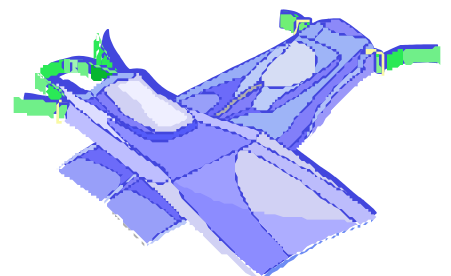
Contact: Gwen or Ralph Rolape

GwenFXSTD@cfl.rr.com

RalphFXDWG@cfl.rr.com

(407) 380-5021 (Home)

(407) 306-7075 (Work)



Greg Holt at June 12th Meeting

Greg 'The Divemaster' Holt told us all about ScubaRadio and current dive-related topics at our June meeting.



Greg is a very informative and entertaining speaker. He shared with us not only his experiences in diving, but his insights into current legislative activities and political initiatives that may affect OUR diving in and around Central Florida!

ScubaRadio is the world's first radio show devoted to diving. The show's presentation is light hearted and entertaining to encourage nondivers to join-in.

ScubaRadio covers all aspects of diving, including the best dive sites, dive gear, live-aboards, shark diving, and much more. Each week, Greg speaks with interesting people known throughout the dive industry, such as Jean-Michel Cousteau or Captain Slate, a Key Largo-based character who has a knack for feeding fish with his face! You'll also hear the "DAN Good Safety Tip" brought you by Divers Alert Network.

Greg leans on a wealth of information provided by guests, sponsors, and callers to instruct and

entertain ScubaRadio listeners. Plus ScubaRadio gives away more stuff than just about any other show on the radio . . . from CD-ROMs and dive gear to free scuba lessons and exotic dive vacations!

Greg's show is aired live each Saturday at 3 p.m. in Orlando on WFLA 540 AM. The live show (and archives of old shows) can also be heard on their web site at www.scubaradio.com.

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

Winner	Prize
Susan Rauckman	T-shirt
Joanne Rowley	DAN dive log
Bill Paskert	"Pressure" cologne
Mark DuBiel	"Pressure" deodorant
Sheila Grapentine	DAN medical guide
Torey McCleskey	PADI key chain



In addition, nearly everyone's name was picked to receive a pack of Wipe Away Pain - Fire Ant Sting.

In the Monthly Raffle, Chuck Brown won a beautiful framed picture of two manatees, which was donated by Scott Richards of Black Oak Studio, who's offering **CLUB** members a 30% discount



Safety Chairperson

Boat Traffic - Now What?

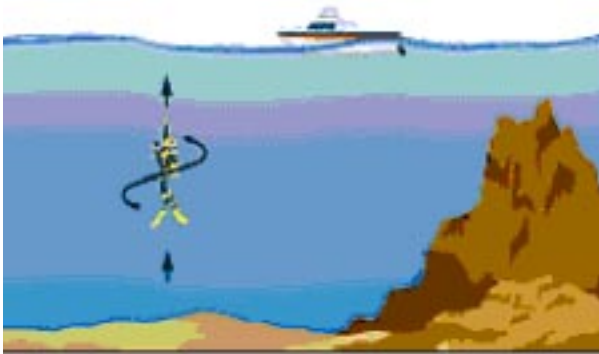
-by John Francis

Your safety stop at 15 feet is accompanied by the scream of boat engines? Here's how to surface without being sliced and diced.

Step 1: Don't panic

Discounting submarines and super tankers, you're safe at 15 feet. Listen for a while to the engine and propeller noises, and wait for a relatively quiet time. Good news: Noises carry farther under water, so you can hear them from farther away. Bad news: You can't tell which direction they're coming from. If the noise is getting louder, the boat is approaching; if it's fading, the boat is leaving. If there is the anchor chain of another boat, the edge of a kelp bed or shallow water nearby, go there to surface. Otherwise, when the coast seems relatively clear:

Step 2: Kick up



Empty your BC and ascend against slightly negative buoyancy by kicking. Stay negative in case you have to make a quick dive. Because of the refraction of light in water, you can't see much of the surface, but rotate as you go so you can look in all directions and see the earliest sign of danger. Have your compass in your hand, ready to take a bearing.

Step 3: Take a bearing

When you break the surface, do a quick 360-degree scan. If all seems safe for a few minutes, take a bearing to the dive boat (or your shore exit), set the bezel of the compass and return to a safe

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depth - 15 feet or more. Navigate by compass to your exit, surfacing as close to it as possible. Never swim across an area submerged at less than 10 feet, even if you see no boats. One may appear at any moment. Sometimes you'll see a safe but circuitous surface route. You might follow a chain of anchored boats or the edge of a kelp bed, for example.

If You Have To: Crash Dive!



If you surface to see a boat heading toward you, do a head-first surface dive. Pull up with your arms while tucking your legs and curling forward, then throw your legs as high in the air as possible so their weight drives you down. Kick down as soon as your fins are under water. The boat operator may see your fins and veer away. If he doesn't, you'd rather he hit your legs than your head.

Prevention:

Whenever possible, follow a line or the bottom contour to the surface. Do not surface at the stern of a vessel, even the one you are diving from - rather, surface at the anchor line or nearby.

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from the following: <http://www.scubadiving.com/training/DLAP/mar00.shtml>

“Ocean Oasis” at the Orlando Science Center

If you missed the **CLUB** trip to see the IMAX film “Ocean Oasis,” be sure to go and see it before it leaves the Orlando Science Center. It was excellent.



We had a fun group of 18 for dinner and 23 for the movie. Dinner at Chapters Bookshop & Cafe was excellent as usual. After the movie, most of the group headed up to the observatory to take a look out of their many telescopes and see a presentation. Mostly we saw clouds, but we did get to look across town into an osprey nest. The rest of the group toured the exhibits and were impressed by the diversity of the Science Center's programs and presentations.

Wendy McCleskey



MDC Connections

We have a 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!

Check out this newsletter 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>

End-of-Season Dive Trip, Jupiter, October 6th

There is some really fine diving off Jupiter and it is so close that we can drive there, dive, and return to Orlando, all in the same day!



The **CLUB** plans to charter a boat from Jupiter Dive Charters for a 3-tank diving experience (www.jupiterdivecharters.com). We will dive five (count 'em, five) wrecks and do a drift dive along the ledge.

Where: Jupiter

When: October 6, 2001

Cost: \$75 per diver

Deposit: \$40, due August 15

Contact: George McGuire

Geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net

(407) 677-4242

Jupiter Dive Charters Inc.

& The Dive Boat

"Temptation"

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; or at home: wpaskert@cfl.rr.com
- Fax (please call before sending) at work: (407) 356-7337; or at home: (407) 678-5311.

MARTIN DIVE CLUB

2001 Dive Schedule

Date	Location	Contact*	Cost
Jun 30 - Jul 7 (Sat-Sat)	Bonaire	Grace Hampton**	\$1145/pp
Jul 7-8 (Sat-Sun)	Key Biscayne	Marie Frank	\$115/pp
Jul 21-22 (Sat-Sun)	Boynton Beach	Chuck Brown	\$140/pp
Aug 2-5 (Th-F-Sat-Sun)	Key Largo	Gwen & Ralph Rolape	\$250/pp
Aug 11 (Sat)	Boynton Lobster Dive	John Lawlor**	\$60/pp
Aug 30 - Sep 6 (Th-Th)	Cozumel (from Orlando)	Marie Frank	\$995/pp
Oct 6 (Sat)	Jupiter Beach	George McGuire	\$75/pp
Oct 26-28 (F-Sat-Sun)	Fantasy Fest, Key West	Mike McCleskey	\$155/pp

* Questions? Call Mike McCleskey, our Activity Chairperson, (407) 273-6655

** KSC Barracudas trip

From Undercurrent, June 2001

Flotsam & Jetsam

99 bottles of beer on the bottom:

After a delivery truck carrying 24,000 bottles of beer plunged in to a river north of Sydney, Australia, in April, there was no shortage of volunteers to help salvage the cargo. Several donned scuba gear and one man reportedly claimed 400 bottles. Although police considered it a theft, an officer said, "I doubt whether in these circumstances we'll be chasing people for convictions."



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP-827

609 Heron Bay Drive

Orlando FL 32825

(407) 306-5020

Upcoming Events

July 10 - Meeting: Coral Reef Alliance Presentation

July 7-8 Trip: Biscayne National Park

July 21-22 Trip: Boynton Beach, Splashdown Divers

August 2-5 Trip: Key Largo, Amoray Resort

August 14 - Meeting: Larry Collins, Solid Rocket Booster Recovery

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MARTIN DIVE CLUB 'News'