



MARTIN DIVE CLUB News



February 2003

February Meeting

SeaWorld Penguin Encounter

Come hear about some of SeaWorld's most lovable animals at our February 11th meeting. Barbara Shurman, Senior Aviculturist with 21 years at SeaWorld and open water dive instructor, will tell us all about penguins at our next meeting.

Barbara always wanted to study and work with birds, and now she has the "perfect job." After stints with the Montgomery, Alabama, zoo and the US Dept of Agriculture in Miami, she was impressed with SeaWorld staff members' professional and personal involvement with some Argentine Ruddy Ducks they were importing. Vacationing in Central Florida, she submitted her resume, and the rest is history. She started in the Birds and Mammals department and was there at the founding of the Bird department.



Barbara Shurman weighing a King Penguin chick while its parents look on

Barbara moved right in when the Penguin Encounter was opened in 1987 and has been caring for the critters ever since. As a testament to her dedication to her 200+ charges, her duties include feeding them and maintaining their environment; no mean feat since it means diving in water maintained at 48°F with the air temperature at 30°F!!! She will bring some penguin food and some artifacts to show us, along with a slide presentation.

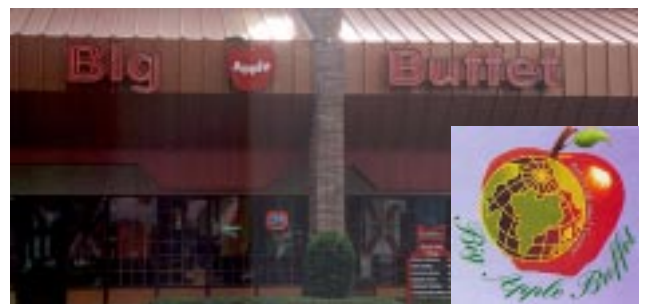
Barbara will also tell us a little about the Dive with Sharks program at Sea World. Guests can experience the excitement and wonder of sharks up

close in the park's newest, most daring animal interaction program, Sharks Deep Dive. Located at the Shark Encounter attraction, this



awe-inspiring underwater experience immerses guests into the fascinating realm of these perfect predators. Participants dive in an authentic shark cage that traverses a 125-foot long underwater habitat teeming with an array of more than 50 sharks, including sand tigers, sand bars, Atlantic and Pacific black tips, nurse, sawfish and hundreds of tropical fish.

We'll be gathering and mingling at around 6:30 p.m., with the evening's presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. Afterwards at about 7:30, we hold our "formal" meeting covering **CLUB** business and member trip reports, followed by door prizes and our fantastic "50-50" raffle.



We meet at the Big Apple Buffet, which is located at 198 S. Semoran Blvd (SR 436) in Orlando [phone (407) 382-7220]. The price is \$9.49 for the regular buffet (including sushi) and \$11.99 if you want crab legs, clams, and oysters. There are tons of things on the buffet - Mongolian barbecue, Oriental, fried chicken, and Italian, along with salads and dessert!

President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!!

For our December meeting, we had our Annual Holiday Party at Dubsdread (see the pictures in this newsletter). We had a great time with the usual exchange of gifts that were being passed back and forth. The food and atmosphere were excellent.

In January, few of us got together at Mike and Wendy McCleskey's house and planned this year's



*Rainbow nudibranch on red bubble coral;
Fiji*

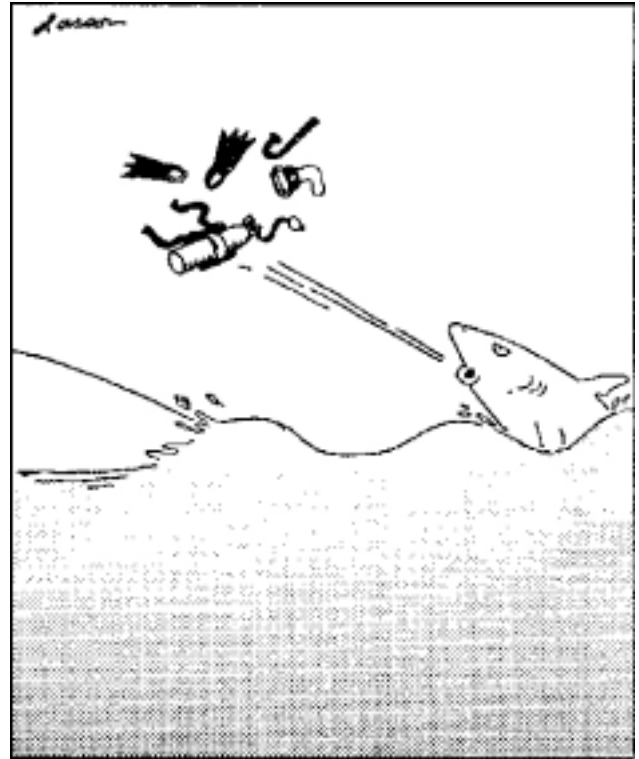
Photographer: Chuck Savall
Coral Reef Photobank

MDC dive schedule. We will pass out our activity schedule at our next meeting.

February's **CLUB** meeting will feature a great speaker from Sea World, Barbara Shurman. Who could resist those cute, cuddly penguins.

See you there!!!

Marie Frank



Your Officers and Staff

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International Coral Reef Information Network

What is ICRIN?

The International Coral Reef Information Network (ICRIN) is a communications and information project of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). ICRIN was originally identified as a need to support coral reef conservation by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). ICRIN serves to provide:

- General coral reef information
- Tools and resources
- A central coral reef communications and network hub.

By providing these resources, our goal is to support and amplify local, regional and global efforts to protect coral reefs.

Quick Tip for visitors: If you want to learn about coral reefs and how you can help, check out our Coral Reef Information page. If you are already involved in coral reef conservation and science, check out the Tools and Resources page.

What is ICRAN?

The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) is a global partnership among coral reef conservation groups and scientists, working together to halt and reverse the decline in the health of the world's coral reefs. Awarded initial funding from the United Nations Foundation, ICRAN was launched in June 2001.



Turtle; Hawaii

Photographer: Steve Turek
Coral Reef Photobank



Brown, black, and white balloonfish (Didon holcanthus); Cayman Islands

Photographer: Chuck Savall
Coral Reef Photobank

What is ICRI?

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is an informal network of governments and international agencies working with scientific and conservation institutions. ICRI aims to improve coral reef management practices, increase political support for coral reef protection, and share information on the health of coral reef ecosystems. ICRI created a Call to Action which eventually led to the creation of ICRAN.



New Coral Reef Education Library!

In the Library you will find descriptions of brochures, books, videos and other items suitable for coral reef awareness and education efforts. Each entry contains contact information on how to obtain the publication listed and a review section where users can share their experiences using the publications. Some publications are available for download directly from this site.

Coral Reef Photobank [<http://www.coralreef.org/resources/photobank.html>]

The Coral Reef Photobank provides hundreds of photographs of coral reefs and many of their amazing inhabitants. These images can be downloaded on a royalty-free basis at no cost for non-commercial use. If you need further assistance photobank@coralreef.org.

View the Photobank Galleries: Asia, Australia, Caribbean, Central America, Middle East, Pacific, and USA.

Our Holiday Party, a HIT (and a Miss . . .) !

In closing out the 2002 dive year, the **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** gathered for our annual Holiday Party. This year it was held at Dubsdread on West Par Street. The guests included: Kristin Bouchard and Ted Cawfield, Tim Cole and guest, Bob and Sheila Grapentine, Phil and Grace Hampton, Dean and Shelley Hayes, Jim and Patsy Kennedy, Ron and Joanne Mann, Mike and Wendy McCleskey, George and Pat McGuire, Rich and Cheryl Pizon, Bill Paskert and Joanne Rowley, Carol Ventrella, Jim and Karen Streeter, Al and Nancy Wileden, and Mike Gracey and myself. We were, though, missing one couple we had expected to see. We gave Ralph and Gwen a call at home (after the party began) and found out they were so busy renovating their house, they completely forgot about the party. We missed them.

We started with a variety of appetizers and then we went into salad and right into our buffet of fresh vegetables and our entrees of chicken marsala and roast beef. Dinner was topped with a fabulous dessert table (see photo).

This year there were a lot of great FISH gifts. Every time a new gift was opened, everybody in the group had their eye on it. Gifts were going back and forth across the room. A majority of us got the gift we wanted. At the end of the night, we finally called the last number and ended the holiday party with a bang. But while people were leaving the party, I noticed people were still gift exchanging.



Holiday Spirit runneth over



Some beautiful desserts



We missed Gwen & Ralph



Kristin Bouchard & Ted Cawfield, Tim Cole & Guest, Mike Gracey & Marie Frank



Phil & Grace Hampton, Wendy & Mike McCleskey



Karen & Jim Streeter, Dean & Shelly Hayes, Joanne & Ron Mann (mostly)



Carol Ventrella, Joanne Rowley, Pat & George McGuire, Sheila & Bob Grapentine



Patsy & Jim Kennedy, Cheryl & Rich Pizon, Al & Nancy Wileden



A good time was had by all . . .



Nancy & Al



Mike & Marie



Bob & Sheila



Patsy's got a keeper!



Joanne & Ron (got him this time)



Ron makes a steal . . .

Tale of the gator



Would you believe it's a hat?



Gator on Gator



But mama gator took him home!



Mike and fish



George and more fish

Protecting Photographic Film while Travelling

from the Transportation Security Administration Web Site

WARNING: Equipment used for screening checked baggage will damage your undeveloped film. You should remove all undeveloped film from your checked baggage and place it in your carry-on baggage. At the passenger security checkpoint, you should remove the following types of film from your carry-on baggage and ask for a hand inspection:

- Film with an ASA/ISO 800 or higher
- Highly sensitive X-ray or scientific films
- Film of any speed which is subjected to X-ray surveillance more than 5 times (the effect of X-ray screening is cumulative)
- Film that is or will be underexposed
- Film that you intend to "push process"
- Sheet film
- Large format film
- Medical film
- Scientific film
- Motion picture film
- Professional grade film.

You may request a hand-inspection of any undeveloped film. The X-ray machine at the passenger security checkpoint will not affect undeveloped film under ASA/ISO 800. However, multiple X-ray inspections (more than 5 times) of the same roll of undeveloped film may cause damage. The machines used to screen your checked baggage or carry-on

baggage will not affect digital camera images or film that has already been processed, slides, photo compact discs, or picture discs.

Other Precautions

- If you plan to request a hand inspection of your film, you should consider carrying your film in clear canisters, or taking the film out of solid-colored canisters and putting it into clear plastic bags, to expedite the screening process.
- If you are going to be traveling through multiple X-ray examinations with the same rolls of undeveloped film, you may want to request a hand-inspection of your film. However, non-U.S. airports may not honor this request.
- If you plan to hand-carry undeveloped film on an airplane at an international airport, contact the airport security office at that airport to request a manual inspection.
- Consider having your exposed film processed locally before passing through airport security on your return trip.
- We recommend that you do not place your film in lead-lined bags since the lead bag will have to be hand-inspected. If you have concerns about the impact of the X-ray machine on your undeveloped film, you can request a hand inspection.
- You may still consider bringing a lead-lined bag if you are traveling through airports in other countries as their policies may vary. Check with your airline or travel agent for more information on foreign airports.

Mike McCleskey
Camera Guy

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 all the great dive information on our **CLUB** home page at: <http://www.martindiveclub.org>.

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) 356-4694; or at home: (407) 678-5311.

Coral Friendly Guidelines

from the Coral Reef Alliance

Extensively researched and endorsed by leading partners in conservation, these guidelines embrace the most commonly accepted "best practices" around the world. They give essential advice on how to protect coral reefs while enjoying activities on and around them.

As coral reefs face an increasingly uncertain future, divers, snorkelers and other coral reef visitors are becoming some of the strongest and most effective advocates for coral reef conservation.

These simple leaflets are designed to improve your coral reef expertise and give you general guidance on activities around coral reefs, but please also look out for and follow local rules and regulations.

The guidelines are also meant for coral parks practitioners. Whether you are a park manager, dive operator, or part of the local community - these are

for you to use and adapt as outreach and education materials. Help spread the word:

Download free Coral Friendly Guidelines today!
Go to: <http://www.coralreefalliance.org/parks/guidelines.html>. Click on the links there to download Adobe PDF versions of the guidelines.

- Coral Friendly Diving - Co-endorsed by Project AWARE Foundation.



- Coral Friendly Snorkeling - Co-endorsed by Project AWARE Foundation.



- Turtle Watching - Co-endorsed by WIDECAST.



- Underwater Cleanup - Co-endorsed by The Ocean Conservancy.



MARTIN DIVE CLUB
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(407) 306-5020

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 11 | Meeting: Barbara Shurman, SeaWorld Penguin Encounter |
| February 28 | Manatee Trip: Mike McCleskey |
| March 11 | Meeting: Artificial Reef Consultant |
| April 8 | Meeting: TBD |