



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News



October Meeting

Tim Cates

Aquaculture in Puerto Rico

Come and join us at our October meeting to hear and see a presentation by Tim Cates about his diving in Puerto Rico and his aquaculture (lobster ranching?!) business there.

Tim is the CEO and Business and Marketing Manager of Boriquen Aquaculture Inc., capitalizing on his business background



including a B.S. degree in Management. Interestingly, he was an engineering program manager for Lockheed and Raytheon Defense Contracting on missile systems. He has owned and managed three separate businesses prior to Boriquen Aquaculture. Tim served 12 years active duty in the Navy as P-3C flight engineer. He is a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine Captain for 100 ton ships. He is a PADI certified rescue diver, who's been diving since 1976. Tim has lived in Puerto Rico for 3 years as owner operator of Casa Verde resort (www.enrincon.com). Tim's favorite thing to do . . . Make Things Happen!

Boriquen Aquaculture is located in Rincon, Puerto Rico. It provides top-notch aquaculture product operations and services, with great customer support. It is strategically located, ensuring maximum growth with a minimum ecological footprint. Situated next to the Mona Passage where the Atlantic and Caribbean meet, it enjoys perfect year-round water temperatures with essential cur-

rents that provide excellent water quality. From a logistics standpoint, Puerto Rico is central to the four quadrants of the earth, a convenient location for shipping anywhere in the world. And if you need training for your divers from open water to dive master including Nitrox, Tim can do that, too.



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'll meet at the Big Apple Buffet, which is located at 198 S. Semoran Blvd (SR 436) in Orlando [phone (407) 382-7220]. It's just north of SR 408 (the East-West Expressway) on the west side of SR 436, behind the Sonic Burger drive-in restaurant. The price is \$8.99 for the regular buffet (including sushi) and \$11.49 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!



Don't forget:

The October meeting is the deadline for submitting entries to the Annual Photo Contest

Activity Guy Update

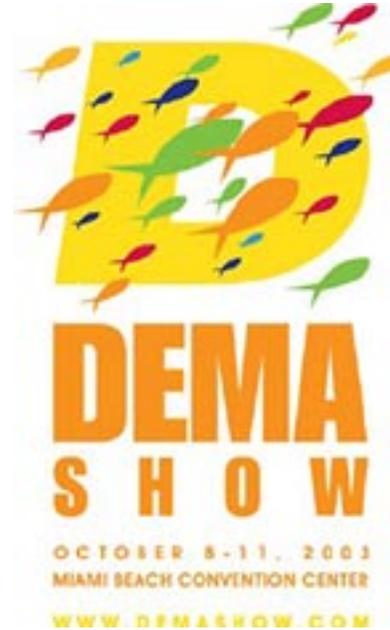
During the weekend of October 10th - 12th, I will be attending the DEMA Trade Show. DEMA is the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association, which puts on the largest professional SCUBA trade show in the industry. There will be workshops, talks, demonstrations, and a huge expo floor full of almost every gear manufacturer, travel retailer, dive resort, and dive operation destination, along with some things that aren't even very closely related to diving. You can check it out at <http://www.dema.org> and <http://www.demashow.com>.

As your ever diligent Activities Guy, I will be scoping out potential activities for our next year of diving fun. Often, resorts will be offering special rates during the show, so I may even be making some reservations.

Why am I telling you this?? Because I need your input!! Where would you like to go diving? What would you like me to look out for? What questions or concerns can I take to any appropriate "industry" big shots?

If you have an opinion, I want to hear from you soon. Please call me at (407) 808-6453, or drop me an email at mike.mccleskey@e-components.com. Thanks, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike McCleskey



Your Officers and Staff

<p>President Gwen Sandlin-Rolape (407) 306-1801</p> <p>Vice President Al Wileden (407) 356-8954</p> <p>Secretary Shelly Hayes (407) 275-6365</p> <p>Treasurer Ralph Rolape (407) 306-7075</p> <p>Director at Large Marie Frank (407) 356-8256</p> <p>Board of Directors</p> <p>Dean Hayes (407) 306-3288</p> <p>Ron Mann (407) 356-2135</p> <p>Jim Streeter (407) 356-2337</p>	<p>Committees</p> <p>Activity Mike McCleskey (407) 273-6655</p> <p>Camera Mike McCleskey (407) 273-6655</p> <p>Communications Bill Paskert (407) 356-2290</p> <p>Equipment Don Russ (407) 356-1064</p> <p>Meetings Open</p> <p>Membership Ralph Rolape (407) 306-7075</p> <p>Merchandise Marie Frank (407) 356-8256</p> <p>Photo Contest George McGuire (407) 677-4242</p> <p>Safety and Training Warren Musacchia (407) 306-2773</p> <p>Webmaster Dean Hayes (407) 306-3288</p>
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2003 Photo Contest



The **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** announces its annual Photo Contest with lots of opportunities to show off your favorite pictures.

Contest Categories:

Underwater pictures, prints

- 1A - Normal or wide angle
- 2A - Close-up or macro
- 3 Fixed focus camera only
- 4 Unusual subject or behavior (something not seen on most dives)
- 5 First time entrant

Underwater pictures, slides

- 1B - Normal or wide angle
- 2B - Close-up or macro

Above water pictures, prints only

- 6 Dive related
- 7 Likely to embarrass (subject must be a **MDC** member and have given his or her permission to enter the picture)
- 8 Interesting, any subject

Contest Rules

Pictures must be submitted to the contest chairman no later than the October 2003 meeting.

The picture must have been taken by the person entering it.

The entrant must be a **MDC** member.

The picture must have been taken since the October 2002 meeting and not entered in the 2002 **MDC** Photo Contest.

You can enter a maximum of two pictures per category.

Underwater pictures must have been taken un-

derwater in open water; no aquarium or zoo pictures in the underwater categories. Aquarium and zoo pictures can be entered in the above-water categories.

Prints must be submitted unmounted, without any indication of the entrant's identity on the front.

Slides will be submitted with prints for the judging.

Maximum print size is 5 by 7 inches; or, for panoramic pictures, 5 inches by the panoramic dimension.

Appropriate photos only; winners will be published on the **MDC** Internet web site.

Judging

The judging will be by the **MDC** members present at the November meeting.

If there is only one entrant in a category, that person wins by default.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners.

Submittal

Pictures can be mailed to contest chairman, George McGuire, at: 9811 Lake Georgia Drive, Orlando FL 32817. Be sure to mark the entry category on the back of each picture.

September Meeting: Leslie Koontz Presented the Handicapped Scuba Association

At our September meeting, we had Leslie Koontz of Northwest Divers tell us all about the Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA). She showed us a fascinating video of the enjoyment and fulfillment that handicapped divers get from their underwater experiences.

Founded in 1981, the HSA has dedicated itself to improving the physical and social well being of people with disabilities through the sport of SCUBA diving, and in doing so has become the worldwide leading authority in this field. Made up of over 3000 underwater educators, SCUBA divers with disabilities, and supporting members located in over 45 countries, the HSA is dedicated to assuring that people with disabilities are given the same opportunity to receive quality training, certification, and dive adventures as the able-bodied population.

Leslie Koontz began her diving career in 1983, attaining Instructor status in 1987. In the past 20 years, she has certified hundreds of divers, enhanced her knowledge and skills through additional training and continued involvement in the dive industry, and achieved many professional milestones. In addition to being an HSA Course Director, Leslie is an SSI Instructor Trainer and Certifier, a DAN Instructor Trainer, a PADI Master Instructor, and a CPR/First Aid Instructor. She has a Bachelor's degree in Education, an extensive corporate and academic training background, and is an Adjunct Professor with Webster University. Leslie has been with HSA since 1996 and teaches over 30 SCUBA and related courses.



Leslie gave us many insights into the world of 'handicapped' divers.

- Diving is an 'equalizer' for the handicapped person; the water supports their bodies and allows them to 'fly'
- They benefit by the knowledge of specially certified dive buddies that facilitate their access



and share the thrill of their independence in the underwater world.

- Blind divers enjoy the underwater world because
 - They experience the above-water world without sight
 - They have mental images of what they are experiencing
 - They dive with sighted buddies and have a system of underwater communication.

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
Dean Hayes	Cap
Don Morrison	Floating fish can
George McGuire	Luggage lock
Bill Paskert	Hose clip.

ZIGGY



Welcome to Hurricane Season!!!

We may be past the peak of the hurricane season, any day now you're going to turn on the TV and see a weatherman pointing to some radar blob out in the Gulf of Mexico and making two basic meteorological points:

- (1) There is no need to panic
- (2) We could all be killed.

Yes, hurricane season is an exciting time to be in Florida. If you're new to the area, you're probably wondering what you need to do to prepare for the possibility that we'll get hit by "the big one." Based on our experiences, we recommend that you follow this simple three-step hurricane preparedness plan:

- STEP 1. Buy enough food and bottled water to last your family for at least three days
- STEP 2. Put these supplies into your car
- STEP 3. Drive to Nebraska and remain there until Halloween.

Unfortunately, statistics show that most people will not follow this sensible plan. Most people will foolishly stay here in Florida. We'll start with one of the most important hurricane preparedness items:

HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE:

If you own a home, you must have hurricane insurance. Fortunately, this insurance is cheap and easy to get, as long as your home meets two basic requirements:

- (1) It is reasonably well-built, and
- (2) It is located in Nebraska.

Unfortunately, if your home is located in Florida, or any other area that might actually be hit by a hurricane, most insurance companies would prefer not to sell you hurricane insurance, because then they might be required to pay YOU money, and that is certainly not why they got into the insurance business in the first place. So you'll have to scrounge around for an insurance company, which will charge you an annual premium roughly equal to the replacement value of your house. At any moment, this company can drop you like used dental floss. Since Hurricane George, I have had an estimated 27 different home-insurance companies. This week, I'm covered by the Bob and Big Stan Insurance Company, under a policy which states that, in addition to my premium, Bob and Big Stan are entitled, on demand, to my kidneys.



Photo of Major Storm from Tanker at Sea

SHUTTERS:

Your house should have hurricane shutters on all the windows, all the doors, and -- if it's a major hurricane -- all the toilets. There are several types of shutters, with advantages and disadvantages:

- Plywood shutters: The advantage is that, because you make them yourself, they're cheap. The disadvantage is that, because you make them yourself, they will fall off.
- Sheet-metal shutters: The advantage is that these work well, once you get them all up. The disadvantage is that once you get them all up, your hands will be useless bleeding stumps, and it will be December.
- Roll-down shutters: The advantages are that they're very easy to use, and will definitely protect your house. The disadvantage is that you will have to sell your house to pay for them.
- Hurricane-proof windows: These are the newest wrinkle in hurricane protection: They look like ordinary windows, but they can withstand hurricane winds! You can be sure of this, because the salesman says so. He lives in Nebraska.
- Hurricane Proofing Your Property: As the hurricane approaches, check your yard for movable objects like barbecue grills, planters, patio furniture, visiting relatives, etc.. You should, as a precaution, throw these items into your swimming pool (if you don't have a swimming pool, you should have one built immediately). Otherwise, the hurricane winds will turn these objects into deadly missiles.

EVACUATION ROUTE:

If you live in a low-lying area, you should have an evacuation route planned out. (To determine whether you live in a low-lying area, look at your

See 'Hurricane', page 7

Florida Aquarium Dive Opportunity

A program at the Florida Aquarium allows divers to share some space and get an up-close look at these fascinating creatures.

By GERRY VOLGENAU
DETROIT FREE PRESS

TAMPA - When they showed up recently at the Florida Aquarium, Jerry Lubig's wife, Renee, stepped up to an official and grinned, announcing: "I am the beneficiary."

Jerry Lubig, a certified diver and a former Detroit fire-fighter, had signed up to spend half an hour with 10 of the aquarium's razor-toothed sharks. "My kids think I'm crazy," he said.

In truth, his children have a very good sense of Lubig's adventurous spirit. That's why they gave him the shark dive as a birthday present. In previous years, they've arranged for him to go skydiving and soar in a glider.

The aquarium's new "Dive with Sharks" program is billed as one of only three in the country. At the Florida Aquarium, there is no barrier between the diver and the sharks, and they come close enough for a fingers-to-fin encounter, although that is not advised.

Lubig listened carefully as the dive safety officer, Casey Coy, 32, ticked off the sharks he'd soon be joining: "Blacktip reef sharks, tasseled wobbegong, nurse sharks, sand tiger sharks, zebra sharks and, oh yes, a 200-pound green sea turtle." Lubig said he was excited but not nervous. He's been diving since 1976, starting in the Great Lakes. He said he had seen sharks at a distance, but never up close. Only two divers go in at a time, each with a dive master. The other diver on this day is Linda Schaich of Bradenton, who wanted to get some experience for her job as a guide at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, a research and learning center that focuses on southwest Florida marine life. Schaich was a practiced diver, but she was nervous enough to say that the last time she saw a shark "My breathing was not in control. I was blowing a lot of bubbles."



Shark Dive in Florida Aquarium

Dive master Shannon Cornwell, as part of the orientation program, said they had little to fear from the sharks. "No sharks eat humans," she said, and most are not the eating machines that many people think. An 8-foot shark, she said, might eat a small handful of reef fish in a week. If they attack humans, it's usually a case of mistaken identity. They might think the human is a fish or other animal that is in trouble or can't see well in murky water. Forget about Jaws and sharks stalking people. Attacks typically involve a bite, followed by the shark's sudden discovery that there's been a mistake, after which it lets go. Of course, a bite can be lethal.

Many of the sharks in the wild are nearing endangered-list status, aquarium staffers say. They are being over-fished. Many are caught in nets set for other fish and killed in the process, and many are taken just for their fins, which are used to make shark fin soup, an Asian delicacy.

For their shark encounter, Lubig and Schaich were first lowered into the tank in a shark cage. When they felt comfortable, the two got out, swam to the bottom, and stayed there. Their friends and family could see everything from outside an immense glass wall on the tank. The divers are not allowed to touch the sharks, for fear of provoking an attack. Because the divers created little commotion, the sharks often swam within inches of them, paying as little attention to Lubig and Schaich as goldfish in a bowl pay to tiny plastic divers put in for decoration. After 30 minutes, the divers emerged ecstatic. "It was so cool," Lubig said.

"My adrenaline is still pumping," Schaich said. "I've never seen a nurse shark that big."

See 'Aquarium', page 7

"I was surprised," Lubig said. "It's a real thrill to have a wild animal like that come so close. What was hard was not reaching out and touching them. I can't wait to see what my kids will give me for my next birthday."

IF YOU GO

Florida Aquarium is in downtown Tampa. Its "Dive with Sharks" program is at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. Participants must be at least 15 years old and a certified scuba diver. Divers go two at a time, each paired with a dive master. The sessions last 90 minutes and include a one-hour orientation and 30 minutes in the shark tank. Cost is \$100, which includes aquarium admission, a behind-the-scenes tour, a T-shirt and a photograph. The aquarium also offers "Swim with Fishes" at 11:30a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. No scuba certification is required, and children as young as age 6 may participate. Only four people, who swim with a dive master, are allowed at a time. Participants swim on the 500,000-gallon Coral Reefs Gallery tank's surface with scuba-like tanks for half an hour. Cost: \$75. Reservations are required. For details, call 813-367-4005 or see flaquarium.org.

Closer to home, you can dive into **Epcot's Living Seas Aquarium**, which has a variety of fish, turtles, and two Goliath Groupers. There are two programs per day, with up to 12 divers per group, each for 40 minutes. Cost: \$140, does not require of include admission to Epcot. Details: 407-939-8687.

SeaWorld Orlando's Sharks Dive Deep Program is for participants, certified or not, age 10 and older. Participants in a shark cage are submerged with more than 50 sharks and thousands of schooling fish. Cost: \$150 for certified divers and \$125 for snorkelers, plus park admission. Details: 1-800-406-2244.

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>.

driver's license; if it says "Florida," you live in a low-lying area.) The purpose of having an evacuation route is to avoid being trapped in your home when a major storm hits. Instead, you will be trapped in a gigantic traffic jam several miles from your home, along with two hundred thousand other evacuees. So, as a bonus, you will not be lonely.

HURRICANE SUPPLIES:

If you don't evacuate, you will need a mess of supplies. Do not buy them now! Florida tradition requires that you wait until the last possible minute, then go to the supermarket and get into vicious fights with strangers over who gets the last can of SPAM. In addition to food and water, you will need the following supplies:

- 23 flashlights
- At least \$167 worth of batteries that turn out, when the power goes off, to be the wrong size for the flashlights.
- Bleach. (No, I don't know what the bleach is for. NOBODY knows what the bleach is for, but it's traditional, so GET some!)
- A 55-gallon drum of underarm deodorant.
- A big knife that you can strap to your leg. (This will be useless in a hurricane, but it looks cool.)
- A large quantity of raw chicken, to placate the alligators. (Ask anybody who went through Camille. After the hurricane, there WILL be irate alligators.)
- \$35,000 in cash or diamonds so that, after the hurricane passes, you can buy a generator from a man with no discernible teeth.
- Of course these are just basic precautions. As the hurricane draws near, it is vitally important that you keep abreast of the situation by turning on your television and watching TV reporters in rain slickers stand right next to the ocean and tell you over and over how vitally important it is for everybody to stay away from the ocean.

Good luck, and remember: It's great living in Paradise!

e-mail forwarded by Wendy McCleskey

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.

Safety and Training Chair

Are You a Responsible Diver?

- * Be aware, check your air.
- * When in doubt, just get out.
- * Let's respect it, not collect it.
- * Diving safety is no accident.
- * The best regulator on the market is common sense.
- * Never dive deeper than the depth of your experience.
- * Diving education doesn't end with certification.
- * Just because you are certified, doesn't mean you are qualified.
- * A diver in poor health may be moments away from no health.
- * Be a reef lover, always hover.
- * Only fools stretch the rules.
- * Coral reefs hate standing ovations.
- * Living reefs are dying not to be touched.
- * Don't blow it, have your tank checked out once a year.

Warren Musacchia



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Fantasy Fest Update

The time for "Daze of Futures Past," the celebration of the 25th anniversary of Fantasy Fest, is now within just a few weeks. The trip has shaped up nicely, with a couple of particular challenges I need your help with.

We need one single guy and one single gal to round out rooming arrangements. The cost is \$160 per person, double occupancy, and includes all the fun that you can possibly pack into a single weekend.

So, if you're single (at least for the weekend) give Capt Mike a call at (407) 808-6453.

Mike McCleskey

Upcoming Events

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|---------------|--|
| October 14 | Meeting: Aquaculture - Tim Cates |
| October 24-26 | Fantasy Fest: Mike McCleskey |
| November 11 | Meeting: Photo Contest - George McGuire |