



# LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB

## News

October 2005



### October Meeting

## Dr. Linda Walters, UCF Professor of Biology, "Killer Algae in Florida's Marine Environment"

Come to our October 11th meeting and hear Dr. Linda Walters of the University of Central Florida's Biology Department tell us of her adventures with Killer Algae (*Caulerpa*) in the Florida Keys. This feathery green alga may seem innocent enough at first glance, but to biologists - and residents of the Mediterranean, Australian, or Southern Californian coasts - the plant is known as "killer algae."

This was the scenario that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea. In the 1980s an invasive aquarium strain was accidentally released (probably from the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco), and now, 20 years later, the coastal ecosystems of Monaco, France, Italy, Spain, Tunisia, and Croatia have all been negatively impacted.. "The Mediterranean will never come back from this *Caulerpa* invasion. No corals, no sea grasses, no fish, no shrimp - they lost it all . . .," said Dr. Walters.



UCF Student works with *Caulerpa* underwater

seeks out new ways to deal with outbreaks of it. She also helps devise an education and outreach strategy to prevent potential invasions of Florida's waters and identifies likely invasion hot spots.

In 2000 and 2001 *Caulerpa taxifolia* outbreaks erupted just north of San Diego, California and in southern Australia. "They used chlorine in California to eradicate the invasive *Caulerpa*. The chlorine killed the fish," explains Dr. Walters. "It killed everything in that area." In New South Wales, Australia, the *Caulerpa* containment strategy was even more severe. "They used copper-sulfate in

See 'Killer', page 4

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.



The meeting will be at Joe's Crab Shack, which is located at 4601 South Semoran Boulevard in Orlando [phone (407) 658-9299]. It's south of SR 408 (the East-West Expressway) on the east side of SR 436, between Pershing and Gatlin.

## President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers,

Been down lately? I hope that you have. In between the storms, we have had some nice weather to dive the reefs off the Florida Atlantic coast. Nancy and I got out to dive West Palm recently and enjoyed the dives even though the 'vis' was not Bonaire or Little Cayman. We were on a "bug run." A "bug run" is a dive where about seven divers on the boat are looking for Florida lobsters and are 100% dedicated to getting all that the seas have to offer. Sandy's Sunday is a small dive outfit out of West Palm that is a break off from Jim Abernathy's dive operation. Nice boat and crew, and one that is worth checking out when in the West Palm area. Anyway, the contest was guys against the gals, and the gals won hands down. All told there were about 28 or so "bugs" caught on the dive. Nancy and I just did some sight seeing, but the hunt looked very interesting and the result at the cleaning station looked very tasty.

Last month we had a very informative presentation from our own George McGuire on Palau and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. Both sites looked inviting, but Palau caught my attention as a nice

destination for experiencing one of life's beauties: that of the ocean and its varied and wonderful inhabitants. Outside of the time spent getting there, it looks like a very exciting dive site. Thanks to George for his presentation to the **CLUB**. Keep diving those exotic destinations, George, and we'll be back for more.

This month we welcome Dr. Linda Walters from the University of Central Florida Marine Biology Department. Dr. Walters has done extensive research in the Florida Keys and other Florida waters, and we are looking forward to her presentation on some of that research. Please come out and hear the presentation as summarized on the front page of this newsletter. We will be gathering at 6:30 pm at Joe's Crab Shack, so come out and enjoy some good food, good conversation, and an informative presentation.

Don't forget that the October meeting is the deadline for getting your photos in for the Annual Photo Contest. This year's judging will be by the editorial staff at *Sport Diver* magazine, and we are looking forward to getting some award winning shots and pixels.

Until next time, see you "down under."

*Al Wileden*

## Your Officers and Staff

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# 2005 LMDC Photo Contest

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

## Contest Categories

- 1A - Underwater, normal or wide angle - film prints or digital images
- 1B - Underwater, normal or wide angle - 35 mm slides
- 2A - Underwater, close-up or macro - film prints or digital images
- 2B - Underwater, close-up or macro - 35 mm slides
- 3 - Underwater, fixed-focus camera only - film prints or 35 mm slides
- 4 - Underwater, unusual subject or behavior - film prints, 35 mm slides, or digital images (something not seen on most dives)
- 5 - Underwater, first time entrant - film prints, 35 mm slides, or digital images
- 6 - Above water, dive related - film prints, 35 mm slides, or digital images
- 7 - 'Unlimited, anything goes' - digital images, fully edited and manipulated digitally.

## Contest Rules

- \* Photos must be submitted to the contest chairman no later than the October 2005 meeting.
- \* The photo must have been taken by the person entering it.
- \* The entrant must be a **LMDC** member.
- \* All photos taken between our October 2004 and October 2005 meetings are eligible for submission.
- \* Maximum of two entries per category.
- \* Maximum of six entries total across all categories.
- \* Underwater photos must have been taken underwater and in open water; no aquarium or zoo photos in the underwater categories.
- \* Aquarium and zoo photos can be entered in the above-water categories.

- \* All entries should be submitted in an envelope with photographer's name, category, and any title or description on the envelope. Entrant's names should not appear on the actual entry!
  - o Film prints must be submitted unmounted, and unframed. Maximum print size is 5 by 7 inches, and entrant is encouraged to submit prints at maximum size.
  - o 35 mm slides must be submitted without any indication of the entrant's identity on the front or back. (No names, please.)
  - o Digital images must be submitted on CD-R disk as '.jpg' files. Images may be enhanced through sharpening the focus and adjusting the brightness. Other enhancements such as cloning (moving picture elements from their original location and/or adding and deleting picture elements) or cleaning (de-speckling) are not allowed, with the exception of the "Unlimited" category where any and all editing is allowed and encouraged.
- \* Categories with less than three submissions will be eliminated and the photographer will be given an opportunity to re-enter the photos in another category or submit others.
- \* All photos must be appropriate and tasteful to all ages. Subject appropriateness will be determined by the Photo Contest committee.
- \* Winners will be published on the **LMDC** Internet web site.
- \* The photo committee reserves the right to move entries into another category if deemed appropriate.

## Judging

The judging will be by the editorial staff of Sport Diver magazine.

## Prizes

Prizes may be awarded to first-, second-, and third-place winners based upon availability of prizes.

## Submittal

Entries can be brought to the **CLUB** October meeting or mailed to the contest chairman:

Mike McCleskey  
1814 Billingshurst Court  
Orlando FL 32825  
(407) 273-6655 (H)  
(407) 808-6453 (W)

## Killer, from page 1

Australia,” says Dr. Walters, “which is even nastier than chlorine. We don’t want to ever have to do that in Florida.” California and Australia used chlorine and copper-sulfate which killed everything in the area. They went to such extreme efforts because of the algae’s terrible effects and its resilience to other forms of removal.



Dr. Walters received her undergraduate degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, spending her junior year in the marine science program at the University College of North Wales in Bangor, Wales. After graduation from Bates, she completed both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Her research focused on various aspects of why sessile invertebrate communities (barnacles, sponges, bryozoans, etc.) look the way they do (i.e., Is it due to larval settlement patterns, competition, predation, water flow, etc.?). She is now on the Biology faculty at the University of Central Florida, and teaches introductory biology to freshman majors and a suite of upper-division marine biology classes. Her research involves understanding the demise of oyster reefs in the Indian River Lagoon, exploration behaviors of invertebrate larvae when competent to settle, and exotic species invasions.



October 2005

## Safety and Training

### Etiquette for Boatdivers

by Louise Trewavas

*[Editor's note: untranslated from a British dive magazine.]*

Never mind, worse things happen at sea! That’s a phrase some people use to reassure themselves when everything appears to be going tits up [Editor’s note: a British vulgarism]. So if you are going to sea, it’s probably best to observe a few niceties or you might find out what those worse things actually are. A bit of boat etiquette might mean the difference between a top dive experience and being forced to walk the plank with all your dive gear.

#### ARRIVE ON TIME:

Boat skippers invented the saying “Time and tide wait for no man.” If you saunter up to the departure point later than expected, you’re likely to find the boat gone.

If you are on a club dive, you are going to make yourself hideously unpopular with the dive marshal, and with the other divers who have been waiting on the RIB [rubberized inflatable boat] in their drysuits.

The departure time has been lovingly calculated around when slack [tide] would occur, and how long it will take to get everybody out to the site and ready to dive. Your dive is now likely to be spent clinging to the wreck, trying to stop the mask being ripped off your face by the tide.

The plans for everyone to come back up the sho-pline will have to be abandoned, unless everybody fancies doing human flag impersonations. You’ll have to bag off and drift while the boat-handler tries to keep track of everybody. And all because you couldn’t haul yourself out of bed on time!

#### HELP OUT OR DROP OUT:

Sauntering on board, snaffling the best position for yourself and your kit, then watching with amusement while everybody else loads the O2 set, shotline, toolkit, flares, and so on is considered very bad form.

Diving is a team sport, and that includes helping to load and unload the boat. If you don’t help your fellow-divers, you’re likely to find no one there to give you a helping hand when you’re struggling to get back on board after your dive, or that while everybody else gets a hot mug of tea, the skipper has mysteriously overlooked you.

One of my favourite dive buddies, John Barry, has superb boat etiquette and is always mega-helpful, sometimes above and beyond the call of duty.

See ‘Etiquette’, page 5

LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB ‘News’

We've been standing waist-deep in the water holding the branch RIB, and now we have to haul ourselves on board, not the easiest or most dignified of tasks. Don't worry, says John, I'll stick my knee out and you can use that as a step. Fantastic! Except that it's either a smidge deeper than anticipated or I'm a tad heavier than expected, and when I stand on his knee he completely disappears beneath the water...

### THERE'S ONLY ONE CAPTAIN:

Being out in a small boat on a big sea is not the time to start holding democratic debates about what to do. If the boat captain asks you to do something, do it. Right away.

There's usually a very good reason for his request. An invitation to move further up the RIB is designed to get a more even distribution of weight and stop it from flipping over as you accelerate away - good fun for onlookers but embarrassing for those on board; and you'll have lost all your dive gear.

A request to move out of the way of that bit of chain is actually an invitation to avoid doing a re-enactment of Holly Hunter in *The Piano*: being dragged overboard and plummeting to the depths attached to a heavy object.

Skippers who make their livelihood by taking divers out usually know more than you do about locating wrecks and diveable sea conditions. So even if you have just completed your diver cox'n [?] qualification or your charts and navigation speciality, trying to tell the skipper how to handle the boat is unlikely to endear you to him. You could end up being asked to go and retrieve the anchor. By free-diving.

### LISTEN TO THE BRIEFING:

Each boat has its own system for stowing kit and where you place items that need to be kept dry (car keys, mobile phone, collection of Chanel lipsticks, etc). Do pay attention or risk the wrath of the skipper and your fellow-divers.

If the boat has a cabin, it is not a good idea to drag your wet dive kit in there to dry it off. If it has a toilet, pay attention to how to use it and ask if unsure. Blocking it by using half a copy of the Sun will make everybody very unhappy, especially if it is the only loo available on a six-hour round trip.

Getting separated from your boat at the surface is a major diving hazard, so listen carefully to what the captain tells you about surfacing procedures. Don't cause grief by suddenly deciding to go for a prolonged solo drift when the rest of your party is staying on the wreck and using the shotline to surface.

If the skipper or marshal asks everybody to use a delayed SMB [?], don't wait until you're on the seabed before discovering that you've left your reel on the boat.

If you have a passion for doing really long dives or loads of deco, it's good manners to check out your dive plan with the skipper or marshal first, or you might surface to the sound of rescue helicopters performing a search pattern overhead, and end up explaining yourself to less-than-amused Coast Guard.

### GETTING OFF AND ON:

My number one concern on a boat is usually: How do I get off? Closely followed by: How do I get back on? Diving off a RIB is as easy as falling off a log, but getting back aboard means de-kitting in the water and passing your kit up to someone. So tell whoever is helping you about the idiosyncrasies of your kit - e.g.: "Be careful, my weightbelt is very heavy" - before handing it over. Or that your torch is still clipped on, before they attempt to haul both you and your kit aboard by your torch strap.

Hardboats are a different kettle of fish, and most skippers will tell you what's required. Entry can be anything from: "Stand on that platform and take a giant stride off when you hear my signal" to: "Cock one leg over that rail, wait till we're in position and then fall over sideways."

Getting back on board can be equally farcical. Dive ladders seem to have been designed by sadists with a warped sense of humour. Particularly critical is the moment when you reach the top, exhausted, and then have to transfer yourself safely back on board. So do check in advance on what you're going to grab hold of. Launching yourself fully kitted at the skipper is to be discouraged.

Falling off the ladder has an etiquette of its own:

- 1) Keep your reg in your mouth unless you're fond of the taste of seawater.
- 2) Try to fall away from the ladder so you don't get tangled or caught.
- 3) Falling on top of someone else is generally regarded as their problem for being daft enough to hang around underneath the ladder, but avoid wherever possible.
- 4) A hearty scream for the benefit of your fellow-divers, who are likely to be awarding points for dramatic interpretation, is considered de rigeur. Helium in your mix and extra large twinsets that make a huge splash can earn you top scores in the memorable dive cock-ups league.

If, like me, you love a bit of pampering, book a boat with a hydraulic lift on the back. Graham Knott's Wey Chieftain II operating out of Weymouth is worth booking just for the pleasure of using the lift. Or dive somewhere with at least four burly boat crew to grab you fully kitted out of the water, strip your equipment off, and deposit you neatly into a sun-lounger, cocktail in hand . . . dream on!

### THROWING UP:

Boats, sea, waves . . . I can see some of you turning green at the very thought. If you do have to throw up, there are polite and not-so-polite ways to do it.

The courteous method is to deploy yourself downwind of your fellow-divers, lean over the side, and empty your guts neatly and silently into the sea. Unfortunately, when you're feeling like death, manners tend to be the first thing to disappear. Vomiting on the deck, on other people's kit, and on other divers is bad form. Chucking up on the skipper is unforgivable, and you are likely to find the boat booked when you plan your next dive trip.

On a similar note, a few moans and a bit of gagging is understandable but full-blooded retching, excessive swearing, and death-threats against your buddy for encouraging you to come along are a definite no-no. Likewise your offers to sell your kit for a fiver to the first bidder should be politely disregarded by other divers present.

If they are well-behaved, they will be offering you water, clean tissues, and calm words. Holding a buddy's hair away from her face during throwing up will earn you extra goodie points. Laughing, pointing, and swaying backwards and forwards in unison is just plain naughty.

### CANCELLING THE DIVE:

If you cannot make a dive that you've booked, it is polite to phone and let the dive organiser know. It's likely that you will lose your deposit, and you may end up getting charged for the dive anyway, but informing in advance means they might be able fill your place. Imagine a boatload of people waiting on the slipway and cursing your name, in the mistaken belief that you are still coming.

If you think conditions are too rough to dive, don't just turn 'round and head for home, consult the skipper. He might have listened to the forecast and know it's about to ease off, or that once you get 'round a particular bit of coastline it will be sheltered.

If he thinks it's OK but you decide to cancel anyway, you will be expected to pay. If he agrees that the conditions are undiveable, and calls off the dive, you shouldn't be charged. Not that skippers are mean, but you might need to call his bluff by loading your kit and looking as if you're up for it before some will finally break down and admit that not even Atila the Hun with gills could safely dive in a 10m swell.

### BIG THANKS:

If you have had a good dive, it is probably because the person in charge of the diving took the time and effort to plan it well and provide you with the appropriate information and instructions. So don't just grab your kit and leg it off to the pub. Make sure everything is paid up, all the kit is unloaded, and everything is sorted before you leave.

A big thanks costs nothing, and will endear you to the sternest boat-handler or the rufy-tuftiest of skippers.

A big snog [?] is not advisable unless you're on familiar territory - but that's a completely different article...!

Appeared in the British magazine, DIVER, June 2000

*Warren Musacchia*



### Note from the Camera Guy . . .

As you probably saw in the last edition of this fine newsletter, our **CLUB** is now the proud owner of a brand new Sealife DC500, 5.0 megapixel underwater digital camera and strobe set, which is fresh back from diving in the Galapagos Islands with out VP, Barbara Shurman. Now that Barbara has spoiled the camera, it is itching to go diving again, so give me a call (407-808-6453) or an email ([mike.mccleskey@e-components.com](mailto:mike.mccleskey@e-components.com)) and we'll make arrangements to get the new camera in your hands to record your own diving adventures. And don't forget that we have numerous options for recording your dive adventures on film also!

One thing I neglected to mention last month, is a big "Thank You" to the staff of Castaway Scuba Adventures (formerly Northwest Divers), who worked hard to get us the camera set for the right price and on the right schedule. Please help me thank Castaway by dropping by their store and checking out what they have to offer. You can also visit them on the web at: <http://www.castawayscuba.com/>

*Mike McCleskey*

## From Our September Meeting

# Australia and Palau with George McGuire



At our September 13th meeting, our well-traveled member, George McGuire, told and showed us about one of his greatest dive adventure trips. There's a link to the travel pictures he's posted on the Web at the end of this article. Check them out; they're beautiful! I couldn't re-tell the story here, so I'll just use George's words:

"Australia. Palau. Two places high on most divers dream lists. In late May and early June I went to both.



"25 hours after leaving my home, I walked into the hotel in Cairns, Australia, that would be the base for several days of diving on the Great Barrier Reef. At that point, the Reef is a 2-hour boat ride from port. It was coming on winter in Australia, which meant sea and diving conditions that were very similar to south Florida in the winter - rough seas, cold water, and limited visibility. There were lots of different creatures to discover as well as many that looked like ours with different paint jobs. Diving wasn't the only thing to do there. There was also the rainforest to explore and a balloon to ride over the high country behind the coastal mountains.



"The plane from Cairns took us to Guam, the 'Atlanta of the western Pacific', for the connecting flight to Palau. The 12-hour layover provided an opportunity to explore the island. I had been there several times before, but had only seen the inside of air terminals, military and civilian. Did you know that in the days of the Spanish galleons a tiny harbor in Guam was the only place they stopped during

See 'George', page 8

### LMDC 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: [www.martindiveclub.org](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-093
- 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) 356-4694; or at home: (407) 678-5311.



long voyage between Manila and Acapulco? I didn't. I discovered that piece of trivia while driving around the island.

"Palau is a fantastic place. A bunch of islands scattered over a 75-mile stretch of ocean. It's home to about 10,000 people, but it is its own country. One that is closely connected to the US; almost everyone speaks English, they use the US dollar as their currency, and the US Postal Service runs the

postal service. Diving conditions were heavenly - warm smooth water, unlimited visibility, massive walls, and huge swim-throughs."

You can see George's photos by going to his sites on the Web:

Australia: <http://octoeight.smugmug.com/gallery/644419>

Palau: <http://octoeight.smugmug.com/gallery/645035>

In other **CLUB** business, Mike McCleskey talked about our upcoming Photo Contest and reminded the members about our great underwater photo equipment for rent. We also welcomed a new member, Anthony Pipia, and several visitors.

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

Winner	Prize
Anthony Pipia	Dive mug
George McGuire	Luggage tag.



### LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB

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1814 Billingshurst Court  
Orlando FL 32825  
(407) 306-5020  
[www.martindiveclub.org](http://www.martindiveclub.org)

### Upcoming Events

- Oct 11 **Meeting:** Dr. Linda Walters, UCF Biology Department
- Oct 28-30 **Fantasy Fest Trip:** Mike McCleskey
- Nov 8 **Meeting:** Photo Contest Results
- Dec ? **Holiday Brunch**