



MARTIN DIVE CLUB



News

September 1999

Business and Pleasure at September Meeting

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends Tuesday, September 14th, at Jose's Mexican Restaurant in the Mercado Center and socialize with your fellow divers. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 with drinks and chips and salsa. You can order snacks or dinner from the menu. A short business meeting will start at 7:00. Bring your photo albums to show off your trips. We'll have the photos from the recent Lauderdale-by-the-Sea trip, and maybe someone will bring their Fantasy Fest collections to entertain us.



We Chilled Out on the Beach at Lauderdale-by-the-Sea



Our **CLUB** sent a group of dedicated divers to tackle the beaches of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea - Chuck Brown; Dave, Maxine, and Craig Henderson; Phil, Jill, Matthew, and Rachel Henry; Ron and Joanne Mann; Mike, Wendy, and Torey McCleskey; Rick and Terri Wilkinson; and Joanne Rowley and myself. We were determined to succeed in this tough task. We planned on at least two dives each on Saturday and Sunday, with a night dive on Saturday.

LBTS is a quaint little town in the shadow of the big city, with its own fishing pier at the town center a half block from our hotel. The Sand Dollar Resort was great – comfortable and relaxed with

[See 'Lauderdale-Dive' on page 3](#)

Message from Our President

Fellow bubblers,

With all the **CLUB's** activities in full bloom, it's time to look toward the future. There are two hot topics that we need to address, and both will be discussed at our next meeting.

The first topic concerns our financial status. With nearly one hundred members, the **CLUB** is capable of more income and more activities. We will be brainstorming at our next meeting for ways to spend a proposed dues increase. We need EVERYONE's input, folks! If you can't attend this important discussion, please e-mail your thoughts on the proposed increase and possible expenditures to me at mark.w.dubiel@lmco.com.

The second topic concerns the Diver's Alert Network and an upcoming fund-raiser and auction sponsored by the Blue Dolphin Dive Club. This event, dubbed the Road Kill Roast, is a great way for the **CLUB** to get involved in a large charity event. We can help the Blue Dolphins take this event to a new level with our participation and contributions. So get ready to dust off your old dive stuff for auction at the Road Kill Roast in November. Bring your appetite, too, as the barbecue always offers a bit of spice to the comedy!

See you at Jose's on Sept. 14th

Mark DuBiel

MARTIN DIVE CLUB Christmas Party

Sunday, December 5, 1999, 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Buffet at Lee's Lakeside

The Always Exciting Gift Exchange

Call Marie at x6-8256, more information coming....



Marie Frank

Your Officers and Staff

President Mark DuBiel	356-5969	Meeting Chairperson Wendy McCleskey	273-6655
Vice President Mike Witt	356-3293	Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey	273-6655
Secretary Karen Streeter	351-1514	Equipment Chairperson David Henderson	695-0875
Treasurer Jim Streeter	356-2377	Membership Chairperson Jim Streeter	356-2377
Board of Directors Marie Frank	356-8256	Merchandise Chairperson Marie Frank	356-8256
Board of Directors Bob Grapentine	306-6914	Safety Chairperson Sina DuBiel	356-1823
Board of Directors George McGuire	356-4284	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	356-2290
Activity Chairperson David Henderson	695-0875		



Yes, that's Ron out there awaiting his buddy for the first dive on a quiet Sunday morning.

ocean views and kitchenettes in most rooms, and deck chairs on a nice green lawn up to the seawall.

Saturday morning started with breakfast on the lawn, a short dive briefing, and a 'rush' to gear up and dive. We geared up on the lawn at the back of the hotel, and walked less than 30 yards to the surf.

The first reef line is about 60 to 70 yards out in about 12 feet of water. The second is about 150 yards and 15 feet deep. There was a little wave surge Saturday but almost none Sunday.

Drifting out in groups of two to four divers, the 'two-morning-dive' plan quickly went away in favor of random selection. Some folks dove-dove-dove and some ate, slept, goofed, and visited.

We used the hotel's grill for Saturday night's cookout of burgers and hotdogs and everyone just hung out on the back lawn for the evening. Chuck was the only one with enough energy for a night dive, but we watched the light stick bobbing on his flag from the seawall and could tell he was having fun.

Sunday morning dawned with very calm seas and we enjoyed the rest of the muffins and rolls while thinking about diving again. Fewer of us dove on Sunday, but several snorkeled the first reef line and got to see a pair of rare Coronet fish. Dedicated 'bug' catcher that he is, Captain Mike even pulled off a surprise by bringing in a keeper – it often happens when you least expect it.

Bill Paskert



Mike got a serious case of 'dry mouth' during those long, long shallow beach dives.

Captain Mike's dive buddy.



SRB Retrieval Diving at August Meeting

“So *That’s* How They Do That?”

We dined and learned at the August 10th **CLUB** meeting at Jose’s Mexican Restaurant. Larry Collins told us how he and his crew retrieve the Space Shuttle’s solid rocket boosters (SRBs) off Cape Canaveral. During his presentation, Larry gave us a view into a job he says is like being on vacation. He really loves it.

Before introducing Larry, President Mark DuBiel welcomed Sam and Lisa Knapp to the meeting and mentioned that we are going back to monthly **CLUB** meetings.

Larry Collins is the senior diving supervisor for the post-flight directorate of United Space Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. He has been diving for over 25 years and an instructor for 20 years. After becoming a training director for the National Association for Cave Diving 1982, Larry has been a technical instructor for 18 years.

As dive supervisor of the retrieval group for 12 years, he has been lead diver on 91 shuttle missions. He also serves as a search and recovery diver for five counties and the state of Florida Park Service and has been a DMT for 13 years.

Larry said a typical mission lasts 3 to 4 days involving 16 to 18 part-time specialist divers (welders, engineers, etc.) in addition to his full-time diver team who are also emergency medical



technicians and diver medics. He said the specialized recovery ships are well suited for the mission and the accommodations and meals are great, but the shallow draft makes them really tough on your stomach in bad weather.

When ‘on station’ about 140 miles from the Kennedy Space Center, the crew

members’ activities vary from pulling up 100-pound yellowfin tuna to hugging the rails in 15- to 20-foot seas for a week, especially in the winter. In whatever weather, they make the 24-hour journey out to wait for the SRBs.

Details of the recovery ships, SRBs, and the launch and reentry process were covered in last month’s edition of the ‘*News*’ so here are some highlights from Larry’s presentation. Larry showed a video of a recovery in calm weather. It was interesting that the expended SRB floats vertically with about 40 feet above the waterline. That means that the divers must maneuver the 22-foot long, 1,100-pound Diver Operated Plug down to and into the rocket nozzle at about 100 feet below the surface. As air is pumped into the empty rocket engine and water is displaced, the SRB rises in the water and flops over on its side, allowing the towlines to be attached.

Larry entertained us with some amazing facts and anecdotes:

- The SRBs were designed to be recovered because they are each worth \$80 million empty, and therefore are shipped off to Utah for refurbishment and refilling.



- Originally, SRB retrieval was to be done by expensive submersible robots, but the missile designers didn't tell the submersible designers about changes that made the two incompatible.
- The retrieval teams have recovered the SRBs of every Shuttle launch except STS 4 and the Challenger loss.
- The two SRBs have splashed down as close to each other as 200 yards and as far apart as 3 miles.
- The three 200-foot diameter parachutes are also recycled, involving inspection, repair, and repacking in a huge building at the Kennedy Space Center.

Larry showed a video of the launch, taken by a camera attached to the top of the rocket booster. The view was spectacular; it showed the curve of the earth and a puff of smoke where the launch had taken place. You could even catch a glimpse of the other SRB tumbling along near the SRB with the camera. As the SRB rose up and then turned downward, you could see the parachutes deploy that make it descend to earth and then into the ocean. Everyone enjoyed the video and had lots of questions for Larry.

After Larry finished his presentation, we had another great Mexican dinner, followed by a short business session. Topics of discussion were:

- The storage unit is now empty and most of the stuff is in a locker that has been acquired at the

Lockheed Martin Sand Lake Road plant. Contact Mark DuBiel, Chuck Brown, Marie Frank, or Bill Paskert for access.

- Chuck Brown led a great dive trip to Islamorada in July (see post card from Lou Nichols on the back page).
- Upcoming dive trips to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Cozumel.
- Camera Guy, Mike McCleskey, announced that we now have a new SB 105 flash for our Nikonos camera, and we will soon have our second AquaShot camera housing upgraded to the 3e configuration (much easier to use).

At our next meeting, we will continue to discuss a dues increase and additional activities.

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

Winner	Prize	Donor
Wendy McCleskey	Lock	Performance Diver
Bob Austin	Hat	Performance Diver
Karen Streeter	Loop Swivel	Performance Diver
Bob Grapentine	Mouse Pad	Performance Diver
Jason Tepes	Hose Protectors	Performance Diver
Larry Collins	Red Hat	Divers Outlet
George McGuire	Red Hat	Divers Outlet
Phil Henry	Red Hat	Divers Outlet

Merchandise Chairman

Sale On MDC Merchandise!!!

T-shirts, pink Reg. \$12, Now \$8

Sizes available: Medium, Large

Tank-tops Reg. \$10, Now \$6

Sizes available: Medium, Large

Fanny paks Reg. \$10, Now \$6

Marie Frank

356-8256

For Sale:

Bright Weight tank weights. Harness and four 3.3 lb weights. Gets weight out of weight belt, better for trim. Rodales rated them 4 stars (out of 5). I like them, but they do not work well with my BC (has flap that wraps tank). Asking \$40 or will trade for weight belt and ???.

Call or see Phil Henry, x6-7374, 251-1194 evenings, or henry@worldnet.att.net.

Fantasy Fest 1999

The dates for this year's **MDC** Fantasy Fest trip are October 29 - 31. This is Key West's annual Halloween street festival. Our trip includes no diving, but guarantees many photo opportunities and stories to tell the folks back home. The trip is for adults only; there are many behaviors seen on the streets that are not kid-friendly, some of it by our own members and officers (you know who you are!). The cost of \$130



includes two nights at beautiful Sugar Loaf Lodge and an invitation to the exclusive **MDC** Bloody Mary Morning-After Carpet Golf championship.

This year's Fantasy Fest theme is "Warp Time" as in Time Warp, as in Time Travel, as in Back to the Future, as in . . . whatever you can come up with.

Don't miss out on this one! To secure your spot, send a \$30 per person deposit to Mike McCleskey, 8683 Renova Court, Orlando FL 32825. If you have questions, call me at (407) 273-6655.

Capt Mike



MDC Annual Photo Contest

Our annual **MDC** Photo Contest will conclude with awards to be presented at our November meeting. Last year, winning members walked away with great new dive gear, travel prizes, clothing, and more. It is not too late to get out and take some pictures for your entries.

See the rules below and note that there are plenty of opportunities for EVERYONE to win! Call Capt Mike, Camera Guy, at 273-6655 to bor-

row one of the **CLUB**'s cameras or to submit an entry.

The deadline for photo entries will be Tuesday, October 12th. Watch for a later mailer with more details of available prizes and judging information.



Rules

All contestants must be **CLUB** members in good standing as of the date of entry. Winners will be announced at the November 9th **CLUB** meeting. Photos may be entered in the following categories:

Separate Print and Slide Categories:

- Underwater, normal or wide angle
- Underwater, close-up and macro

Combined Print and Slide Categories:

- Underwater, fixed focus (Ikelite AquaShot or similar)
- Most unusual, unique subject matter.
- First-time entry
- Above water, dive related
- Most likely to embarrass
- Most interesting, having absolutely nothing to do with diving (the photo must include a **CLUB** member).

Entries must be submitted no later than the October CLUB meeting on the 12th.

Fine Print

A photo may be entered in only one category. Each contestant is limited to two photos per category, six photos for the contest. Any category with a single contestant will be eliminated. Photos must have been shot since September 30, 1998, by the contestant.

Format Limitations:

- Photos must be no larger than 5 by 7 inches, unmatted and unframed.
- The contestant's name must not appear on the picture or slide.
- Photos may have titles.
- Photos will be returned the night of the awards.
- The decision of the judges is final.

Member News

Editor's Note: Following is a series of e-mail messages relating to Mike McCleskey's experiences during the opening of lobster season and how he manages to balance work and pleasure.

e-mail from Captain Mike McCleskey

First message from Mike: Early morning of the first day of the lobster season

2:00 AM - Couldn't have asked for a more beautiful night here in Ft Lauderdale. Full moon, calm seas. My buddy's boat is having trouble with one outboard . . . had to take a leisurely ride out on one engine (is this a problem?). Found the spot, anchored, hit the water about 10 'til midnight.

Can you say "Current a la Cozumel?" Holy cow, hold on tight!! I burned 1000 psi just getting to the bottom. Did the belly crawl across the bottom. Fifty-foot dive, I only got 30 minutes out of my tank, we were working so hard.

I got two lobsters (one a slipper, one spiny) . . . total of six lobsters among the four divers on the boat.

Time for a quick shower to take off the salt . . . hit the sack, then at it again in the a.m. . . . meeting the guys at the dock at 6:45. I have four tanks to burn tomorrow (today? . . . Wednesday).

Yeah . . . I hate my job . . . NOT!!!!

Second message from Mike: Evening of the first day

More whining about how tough my job is . . .

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.netwide.net/users/mccleske/mdchome.html>

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.

I met a boatload of very important customers (all design engineers at one of our biggest customers in Ft Lauderdale) at 6:45 this morning. This is after not getting into bed until 3:00 a.m. since I had to go out on the local sales manager's boat to give lobstering lessons last night (whine, whine).

Picture the rest of the day . . . clear, almost cloudless sky . . . maximum of 1-foot seas . . . Light breeze blowing . . . three dives . . . four nurse sharks . . . a school of 30 BIG barracudas . . . two sting rays . . . seven scorpion fish . . . garbage-can-lid-sized angelfish . . . countless tropicals . . . four divers in the water, AND . . . 50, yes FIFTY, lobsters in the live-well, 19 of which I boated myself! We could have done better, but we were chased off the water by a nasty lightning-filled squall at about 2:30.

OK . . . so who's feeling sorry for me?????

Third Message: Next day forwarded by Wendy McCleskey

Good response from John Keys...

To: Mike

From: John Keys

Subject: Re: lobster update

As you pause to look at the sunset and feel the balmy breeze with the liquid butter dripping slowly down your chin, you reach for that frosty mug of ice-cold beer. With the orally orgasmic taste of fresh lobster still on your tongue, you recall the buddy you abandoned in Orlando in his neurotically hopeless, boring job, and you smile knowing he's back there arm and middle finger held high yelling at you to POUND SAND!

Editors 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 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: wpasker9@idt.net
- Fax - work: 356-4632; home: 678-5311 (please call before sending).



A great review of Chuck Brown's trip to Islamorada in July



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

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2924 Crystal Creek Blvd
Orlando FL 32837

Upcoming Events

- September 4-11 - Dive Trip: Scuba Club Cozumel, [Sold Out](#)
- September 14 - Meeting: Social (Get to Know Your Fellow Divers)
- October 2-9 - Dive Trip: Scuba Club Cozumel, [Sold Out](#)
- October 12 - Meeting: Trip Slide Show
- October 29-31 - Non-Dive (Party) Trip: Fantasy Fest, [Filling Fast](#)
- November 9 - Meeting: Photo Contest
- December 5 - "Not a Meeting": [Holiday Party](#)