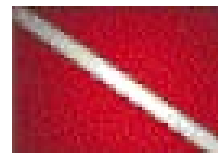




MARTIN DIVE CLUB



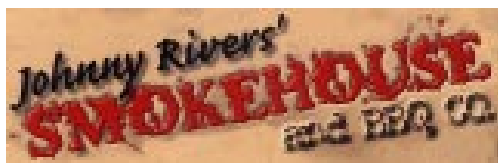
News

May 2000

Come to Our May Meeting!

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, May 9th. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 with socializing and drinks. You can either come early and order from the menu or partake of the buffet.

We'll be kicking of this year's diving season with discussions of the upcoming adventures.



At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a dinner buffet for the crew for \$10 per person, including tax and tip. It will be stocked with some of our favorites: pulled pork, smoked BBQ chicken wings, bread (for sandwiches), cole slaw, and baked beans. Your drink orders will be handled separately, please pay as you go. Drinks are at happy hour prices until 7 pm. Drink specials are:

- Well drinks - \$1.25
- Margaritas - \$2
- Drink specials all night
- Draft beer (Bud and Bud Light) - \$1.

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.

SCUBA on the 'net

In putting together some of the articles for this edition of the NEWS, I spent some time surfing the Internet for information and images and was reminded of the metaphor of the fire hose - that is that tapping into the data on the Internet is like sipping from a fire hose . . . There's just too much to swallow!

I used a great search engine with the unlikely name of *Google* [www.google.com] to find information on 'houndfish' and was served over a hundred links, many of which were quite helpful in my search and others that led me into other, interesting areas of things marine, maritime, or SCUBA related.

Some that I ran across include:

Florida Scuba News [www.scubanews.com] that includes its current issue



Fish Watching in the Maldives, A snorkelers guide [www.popweb.com/maldiver/] with great color illustrations of about 140 different species of fish

HMCS Yukon [www.hmcs-yukon.org/] that describes the upcoming sinking of a 366-foot decommissioned Canadian destroyer near San Diego



DAN [www.diversalertnetwork.org/], the organization that was started in 1980 to provide emergency hotline to injured divers

scuba, scuba. [www.scubasuperpower.com/] that describes itself as the definitive website for scuba divers around the world and includes a wide range of scuba information including diver's home pages, humor, etc., even personals.

Bill Paskert

Message from Our President

Fellow Bubblers!

Let the diving begin! This month kicks off our first dive trip of the year, with Marie Frank's expedition to Looe Key. With our busy summer season within reach, everyone will need to keep an eye on the schedule. Don't get left behind, and be sure to book early.

Speaking of booking early... Oceanfest plans are in full bloom! For those folk who may not have received my e-mail, rooms at the Clarion are going for \$70 per room per night! We got this great deal through the help of Greg the Divemaster at ScubaRadio. Be sure to contact me as soon as possible to reserve your place!

Speaking of ScubaRadio... Did anybody hear the shark report on Saturday, April 22nd? Our own member-at-large and ScubaRadio correspondent, Mike Frank, shared his recent experiences on the air with Greg from his recent trip to the Bahamas. I was invited along to participate, but I was speechless. Imagine that! Since the cat got my tongue, I was assigned the position of chatmaster, monitoring ScubaRadio's Internet chat room while Greg ran the show. I was quite overwhelmed at how smoothly the show ran with all the techno-gadgetry, phone

coordination, advertisements, etc. The whole production was a show in itself, and I'd recommend the experience to all **CLUB** members.

Speaking of all **CLUB** members . . . Greg the Divemaster extends his official invitation to anyone in the **CLUB** who may be interested in observing the broadcast. Contact Mike Frank or myself if you are up for a field trip. ALSO . . . Greg has asked us for our support during Oceanfest. He's willing to trade show passes for some manual labor at the ScubaRadio booth. Now's your chance to be a celebrity! Mike and I will be there, and we hope you will too!

Speaking of unrelated topics . . . I wanted everyone to know that I've done some recruiting recently, with the hope of getting some new members. I gave a short presentation to one of Michael Craun's open water diving classes and showed some video of our trips. This might be a good way to revitalize our ranks and fill our coffers, and I'd like the **CLUB** to consider a consistent recruiting program. It also helps the new divers to stay active. Did you know that 80 percent of new divers basically quit within 1 year? I think the **CLUB** is a much better alternative!

See you at Johnny's on the 9th!

Mark DuBiel

Your Officers and Staff

President Mark DuBiel	356-5969	Meeting Chairperson Open	
Vice President Open		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		

Harbor Branch

Dive Club Field Trip

Thanks to the KSC Barracudas for inviting us on their outing to the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI)! What a fun day we made of it. Our 90-minute basic tour turned into a 2 1/2 hour extravaganza thanks to the Barracudas coordinator, Beth Turlington, and our fantastic Tour Guide, Frank.

We all decided Frank has the perfect life, Tour Guide at Harbor Branch part of the year, and Tour Guide at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute the rest of the year. It doesn't get more interesting than that!



Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

Harbor Branch is located off U.S. Hwy 1 in Ft. Pierce. It takes about 2 hours from Orlando, but is right on the way to or from Miami via I-95. They have a nice, air conditioned, 30-person bus that we smushed onto with all 36 of us. Hey, we're divers, we're used to being smushed on boats, right? HBOI is one of the top three institutes of its kind in the nation. They helped on the Challenger Recovery team and are known worldwide for their biomedical and marine science research.

During the tour we visited several different sites and labs and watched an interesting video in their auditorium that gave us some background on HBOI.

Then we checked out a deep-water submersible, the Johnson Sea-Link, certified for depths of 3000 feet, that they were overhauling and some of the many metal sculptures that were on the property. The institute was founded by Seward Johnson (of Johnson & Johnson) and Edwin Link, inventor of the Link trainer, the forerunner to all of today's simulation trainers. We were lucky that all three of the research ships were in port, preparing for their



R/V Seward Johnson, 204-foot Oceanographic Research Vessel

next adventures. The institute employs 300+ people and sits on 500 acres of land complete with many large office and lab buildings, numerous greenhouses with experiments, a full aquaculture facility, and some REALLY nice houses that have been donated and relocated from beachfront property around Florida. They use the houses for visiting dignitaries and as dormitories.

In the Aquaculture Center, we saw an area with the types of fish and sea creatures they are breeding, including clown fish for commercial saltwater aquariums, giant flounder, shrimp, grouper, and some very hungry, excitable hybrid bass. Part of the Aquaculture Center is devoted to re-training the net fisherman to cultivate and harvest clams since many people were put out of work by the net ban on fishing. We saw clams that started as little as a piece of sand, all the way up to full grown.



Due to our special status, Frank got us into the high-bay where they were overhauling two of the deep diving submersibles. They have all sorts of

See 'Oh Boy, HBOI' on page 4

lights, cameras, grabbers, and a lazy susan container to put their collected sea creatures in. Most of us said, “no thanks” to being cooped up in one of those for more than a couple of hours!



*Johnson-Sea-Link, Manned Submersible
Rated to 3,000-foot Depths*

Of course the favorite part of the whole place, for some of us, was the incredible gift shop. If I had known it was there, we would have paid (no pun intended) a visit much sooner! It consisted of several rooms full of clothing, jewelry, games, puzzles, decorations, paper goods, books, you name it. If it was ocean related, it was there. We stocked up on birthday and Christmas presents, along with killer gifts for the upcoming **Martin Dive Club** Holiday Gift Exchange!

Next time you are on your way South, or have an open Saturday, check out the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at www.hboi.org.

Wendy McCleskey



Upcoming Events

DATE	ACTIVITY	COST	CONTACT	PHONE	NOTES
12-May-00	Looe Key	\$150	Marie Frank	(407) 356-8256	Three day trip to the FL Keys.
09-Jun-00	Oceanfest	\$140	Mark DuBiel	(407) 370-0467	3 days, 2 nights in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
01-Aug-00	Nekton Pilot	Waiting List	Grace Hampton	(407) 453-1344	Liveaboard cruise sponsored by KSC Barracudas
15-Sep-00	Islamorada	??	Mark DuBiel	(407) 370-0467	3 days, 2 nights at Oceanpointe Condos
27-Oct-00	Fantasy Fest	\$140	Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655	Adults only. No diving.
14-Nov-00	Photo Contest	none	Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655	Best meeting of the year!
10-Dec-00	Christmas Party	??	Marie Frank	(407) 356-8256	Best party of the year!
OTHER ACTIVITIES					
13-May-00	Bonaire	\$1,200	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	1 week trip, see Michael's flyer
01-Jun-00	Bonaire	?	Don Paschal	(407) 290-5200	1 week trip with Extasea
12-Jun-00	West Palm Beach	\$65	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	Monday 3 tank dive, < 60 ft
15-Jun-00	Honduras	\$775	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	1 week trip, see Michael's flyer
00-Jul-00	Key West/Tortugas	\$500	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	Long weekend, with flight to KW
00-Aug-00	U352, N. Carolina	\$250	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	Long weekend, driving
01-Sep-00	Grand Cayman	\$745	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	Labor Day weekend
10-Nov-00	Australia	\$5,800	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	3 week trip, see Michael's flyer
CLASSES					
??	O2 Administration	\$25 deposit	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	
??	Advanced Scuba	\$145+dives	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	
??	Wreck Specialty	\$75+dives	Michael Craun	(407) 859-2173	

Joanne Rowley and Bill Paskert in DAN Magazine

LET'S JUST GET WET!

A DAN Member Gives A Firsthand Account of A Cardiac Near-Catastrophe



BY JOHN ALLEN

Do you know any divers who can't take the time to go over the safety rules before they get wet? Well, I was that way, too — no time for that. I've heard it all a thousand times before: "I've been diving for 'X' number of years, and I never needed to use any of THOSE rules." Let me tell you what happened to me on a "run-of-the-mill" dive.

On November 11, 1998, a small group of divers and swimmers left St. Cloud, Fla., and headed to Fort Pierce for a beach dive at Pepper Park. We had planned to do a wreck dive on the *Urca De Lima*, a ship built in 1715, but which now rests at a depth of 15 -20 feet / 5 - 6 meters, about 200 yards offshore. We had to walk about 100 yards up the beach to get to the dive site. We — five divers and my wife, Margo — carried all our equipment to the dive site. We took some time to talk about what to do in case we were to have an emergency. I put my cell phone on the blanket.

We put on dive equipment. Margo was going to stay on the beach as our back-up. We walked down to the water and started in, playing around in the water, having a good time.

About 100 feet offshore I called to my dive buddy, Mark, and told him that I needed help getting to shore. I could not breathe! I had no idea what was happening to me.

Florida divers prepare to make a shore entry. (Brett Forbes Photo)

Alert Diver ■ The Magazine of Divers Alert Network

44 March/April 2000

*[Editor's Note: I just couldn't resist including this in the newsletter.
Also Note: Although that's Joanne and myself in the photo, the story is not about us!]*

Safety Chairperson

Snorkeling can be hazardous to your health!

I've written (I use that term very "loosely") all year long about what a scuba diver should do, plan for, wear, and even what hazards to avoid while in the water. Not once have I mentioned that snorkeling can be just as hazardous. Please make note of the recent article I found in our local newspaper:



AIRBORNE FISH'S BILL STABS SNORKELER

MARATHON – A 17-year-old girl is recovering from a near-deadly neck wound inflicted by an airborne houndfish while she was snorkeling in the Florida Keys.

Stephanie Mittler of Tampa was near Big Pine Key Sunday in chest-deep water when the fish flew out of the water and its needle-like bill struck her in the neck.

Two pieces of the fish's bill punctured the teen's throat and broke off. A four-inch piece came within millimeters of her carotid artery, said her mother, Laura Mittler.

The girl, who was on spring break with her sister and a friend, was rushed to Fisherman's Hospital in Marathon where she underwent emergency surgery.

After surgery, she was breathing with the help of a respirator but was resting comfortably.

Hospital spokeswoman Susan Poland said Tuesday that she will be hospitalized for several more days.

"It was very serious," Poland said. "It could have been deadly. Their bills are so sharp and narrow, it's like a little knife."

Houndfish are related to needlefish and average three to six pounds. The only other documented case of a houndfish stabbing was in North Carolina, where a surfer was struck in the calf.

"It was her first time snorkeling, and I dare to say it will probably be her last," Laura Mittler said.

"For a freak accident, she was very lucky – it could have been deadly."

Poland said the girl has asked the hospital laboratory to save the pieces of the broken bill. She wants to frame them as a souvenir.

What they don't mention is whether or not the fish survived. Aside from that, I can honestly tell you that I will no longer spend any snorkeling time with my head bobbing above the water, it will be spent, head down, looking for angel fish, queen triggers, or sharks! Be safe out there, you never know what may hit you . . .

Information for this article was obtained from the *Orlando Sentinel*, April 19, 2000.

Sina DuBiel

Editor's Note: I really got into this story, so here are some other tidbits on the dreaded houndfish.

[From the Orlando Sentinel Online](#)

Girl almost killed when fish stabs her neck

Published in The Orlando Sentinel on April 19, 2000

BIG PINE KEY — A 17-year-old Tampa girl was almost killed when she was stabbed in the neck by a needle-nosed houndfish while she snorkeled about 100 yards offshore.

Stephanie Mittler was recovering Tuesday after emergency surgery to close her wounds and remove two pieces of the fish's serrated bill, including one that came within a millimeter of her carotid artery.

She, her sister, Jennifer, and a friend were snorkeling Sunday. Stephanie, who was snorkeling for the first time, was standing in chest-high water when the fish jumped from the ocean and struck her in the neck.

Jennifer and the friend surfaced and found Stephanie bleeding profusely. Thinking she had been attacked by a shark, the girls pushed Stephanie onto their pontoon boat and hurried her to shore. She was taken to Fisherman's Hospital for treatment.

"Blood was just gushing from my neck," Stephanie said from her hospital bed, her voice weak and raspy. "It was pretty scary."

Houndfish are related to needlefish, average between three and six pounds and are feared by

[See 'Pain in the Neck' on page 7](#)

'Pain in the Neck' from page 6

fishermen because they can leap from the water and inflict stab wounds when startled.

Laura Mittler, Stephanie's mother, said it is "ironic" her daughter was injured by a fish.

"She hates seafood and she hates fish," Mrs. Mittler said. "I told her the fish gods have gotten back at her for hating them so much."

AP-ES-04-19-00 0551EDT

Posted Apr 19 2000 7:36AM

From FDA Fish List: Market Names of Fish

The list was developed by the Food and Drug Administration, in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The list is maintained and will be updated as necessary by the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Seafood.

Market Name Houndfish
Scientific Name Tylosurus Crocodilus
Common Name Houndfish
Vernacular Guardfish, Garfish,
Crocodile Needlefish

From Saltwater Game Fish Records for South Carolina

Common Name (AFS) Houndfish
Weight 9 pounds, 4 ounces
[What a monster, see picture of 5 pound, 4 ounce houndfish at right]
Port, Year Murrells Inlet, 1974
Angler, Hometown W. Kirby, Pittsburg, Pa.



Dogfish

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.

From Striker.com, the Striped Bass home page on the Internet

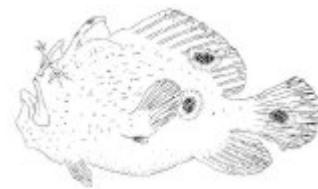
This is 9-year old Chris Nelligan with his wild catch while surf fishing at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey, on August 21, 1998.

He was using a 7-foot light rod, Penn 4300 reel with 10-pound test line, casting a black needle fish.

Thanks to Bill at the New Dolphin Bait and Tackle in Seaside Park and further research, it was confirmed a 46 inch 5 pound, 4 ounce Houndfish.

When a 4-foot boy catches a 4-foot fish it's a day he'll never forget.

Thanks for the photo, Dad.



Frogfish

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: wpaskert@cfl.rr.com
- Fax - work: 356-4632; home: 678-5311 (please call before sending).

Flotsam & Jetsam

EXPENSIVE TRIP: The Florida diver who feigned his death while diving for lobster off Key West on August 8, 1998, has been ordered to repay \$55,000 to rescue crews that searched for him in vain. Kerry Stephen Scheele was in the midst of a divorce and had taken out a \$1 million life insurance policy that named his girlfriend as beneficiary when he staged his death. He admitted that after entering the water on August 8 he swam to shore, ditched his dive gear in the mangroves, and hitchhiked to his girlfriend's house in Wisconsin. Authorities arrested him after he allegedly talked his girlfriend into filing a claim on the policy.

EQUIPMENT TIP: DIVE LIGHT Thanks to reader Tom Daly for a tip that can save divers a few bucks. He reports that he's located an identical light to the 3 "C": cell Pelican dive light, catalog #2000C, and its replacement bulbs (which retail for \$36.95 and \$13.95, respectively, at his local dive shop) at - who would have thunk it - Home Depot. He reports that it's being marketed there as the Hubbellite Flashlight 3003-C at half the cost. Home Depot sells the Hubbellite for \$18.95 and its replacement bulb for \$8.97, which as Daly notes, is "quite a cost savings." We thank him for divulging a secret he says he's "been saving for fear that if it got out, the price would go up."



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP 60
2924 Crystal Creek Blvd
Orlando FL 32837

Upcoming Events

- May 9 - Meeting
- May 12-14 - Dive Trip, Looe Key & Palmers Place
- June 9-11 - Dive Trip, OceanFest, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
- June 13 - Meeting
- July 11 - Meeting