



# MARTIN DIVE CLUB

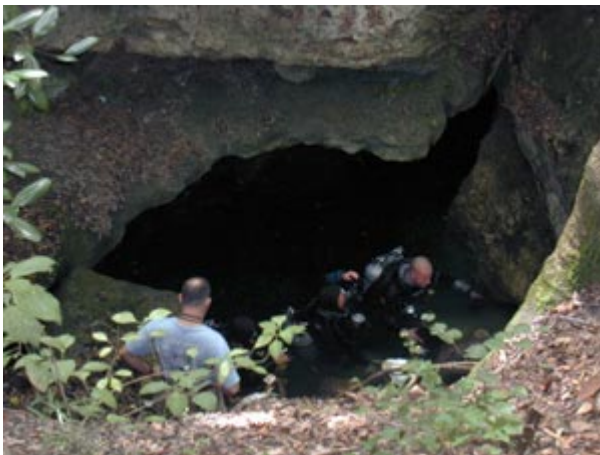
## News

September 2001



## Wekiva River Project at September Meeting

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, September 11th, to hear Terrence Tysall tell us about his organization's work on the Wekiva River Project. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and happy hour.



*Divers enter in Apopka Spring during filming for the PBS television special*



*Divers prepare to enter Wekiva's secondary vent to take biological samples*

The Wekiva River Project is an ongoing venture of science, filmmaking, environmental cleanup, and exploration involving the Cambrian Foundation, the Wekiva Springs State Park (Florida), the Wekiva Springs Geopark, University of Central Florida, and The City of Apopka, Florida. The goals were initially almost exclusively exploratory, but by the end of the first dive, they had become decidedly more scientific in nature. The project promises to be a large-scale, multiple-year endeavour with an untold amount of exploration potential. The project has already been featured in the PBS television special 'Wekiva: Legacy or Loss.'

Terrence is the founder and head of the Cambrian Foundation, which is dedicated to Research, Education, Preservation, and Exploration of the Aquatic Realm.

**MARTIN DIVE CLUB** 'News'

At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a 'Gospel Feast' dinner for \$10 per person, including tax and tip. It is a platter of some of their favorites: spare rib, pulled pig, 1/4 chicken, bread, cole slaw, and baked beans. You may also order from the regular menu. Your drink orders will be handled separately; please pay your server accordingly.



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.



**Photo Contest Deadline at  
October Meeting, See page 8**

## President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!

This past month we had the opportunity to enjoy an interesting and exciting presentation about the NASA Solid Rocket Booster Recovery Program. Larry Collins and Manuel DeLeon of the United Space Alliance organization made an outstanding presentation and are a superb team.

Many thanks to you both! I would also like to thank our **CLUB**-sponsor, Lockheed Martin, for the use of the beautiful Information System Complex auditorium for this meeting.

This month we welcome Terrence Tysall of the Cambrian Foundation who will be speaking on the Wekiva Project, an ongoing venture of science, filmmaking, environmental cleanup, and exploration.

REMEMBER! The Annual **MDC** Photo Contest is rapidly approaching! Be sure to be reviewing your underwater and dive-related photographs for possible entries! Photo entries need to be submitted by the cut-off date of October 9th for judging by an independent judge. Look for **Photo Contest Rules** elsewhere in this newsletter.

Since our last meeting, the **CLUB** has had the opportunity to dive Cozumel from August 30th through September 6th with Marie Frank in the lead. I am looking forward to hearing the details about this trip at the September meeting!

**MDC** has several trips remaining this dive season. George McGuire leads a wreck and drift diving trip to Jupiter Beach on October 6th. Do not forget about the annual **MDC** road trip to Fantasy Fest in Key West with "Captain Mike" McCleskey from October 26th through October 28th! You can find additional details concerning these **MDC**-sponsored dive trips in this newsletter!

And remember, our not-to-be-missed Holiday Party is just around the corner in early December.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on September 11th Meeting at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse.

*Bob Grapentine*

## Your Officers and Staff

President <b>Bob Grapentine</b>	(407) 306-6914	Activity Chairperson <b>Mike McCleskey</b>	(407) 273-6655
Vice President <b>Marie Frank</b>	(407) 356-8256	Meeting Chairperson <b>Paul Phillips</b>	(407) 297-5731
Secretary <b>Joanne Rowley</b>	(407) 977-3346	Camera Chairperson <b>Mike McCleskey</b>	(407) 273-6655
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Director at Large <b>Mark DuBiel</b>	(407) 356-5969	Membership Chairperson <b>Ralph Rolape</b>	(407) 306-7075
Board of Directors <b>Dean Hayes</b>	(407) 306-3288	Merchandise Chairperson <b>TBD</b>	
<b>Ron Mann</b>	(407) 356-2135	Safety Chairperson <b>Gwen Rolape</b>	(407) 306-1801
<b>Paul Phillips</b>	(407) 297-5731	Publicity Chairperson <b>Bill Paskert</b>	(407) 356-2290

## End-of-Season Dive Trip Jupiter on October 6th

There is some really fine diving off Jupiter and it is so close that we can drive there, dive, and return to Orlando, all in the same day!



The **CLUB** has chartered a boat from Jupiter Dive Charters for a 3-tank diving experience ([www.jupiterdivecharters.com](http://www.jupiterdivecharters.com)). We will dive five (count 'em, five) wrecks and do a drift dive along the ledge. The \$75 cost covers the boat, tip to the boat crew, and lunch. We will be departing from Jupiter Dive Charters' dock (in Jupiter) at 9:00 a.m.

The cost of the trip does not include tanks or equipment. Tanks and equipment are available for rent from Jupiter Dive Charters. The cost of the trip does not include overnight accommodations. Discounted rates are available at area motels. If you have questions, contact George McGuire at [Geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net](mailto:Geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net) or (407) 677-4242.

The time for deposits is here. There are only four spaces left. The first four people to send me their \$40/diver deposits will get to go with us. Please send your checks made payable to me at the following address:

George McGuire  
9811 Lake Georgia Dr.  
Orlando FL 32817

Please include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address with your check.

**Jupiter Dive Charters Inc.**  
& The Dive Boat  
"Temptation"

## Fantasy Fest 2001

The dates for this year's **MDC** Fantasy Fest trip are October 26 - 28. 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 \$155 includes two nights at beautiful Sugar Loaf Lodge and an invitation to the exclusive **MDC** Bloody Mary Morning-After Carpet Golf championship.

The stars are to be aligned for frivolity Friday through Sunday, Oct. 19-28, as Key West gets an early jump on Halloween with the island city's annual Fantasy Fest celebration.

Themed "Secrets of the Zodiac Revealed," the 10-day extravaganza features outrageous masquerade balls, costume competitions, street fairs and a constellation of other events climaxing with a lavish grand parade.

Thousands of costumed revelers are expected to gather in Key West as the island city goes beyond the Milky Way to the astrological world, the spectacle of space and the mythologies of gods and planets. Whether star-crossed or cross-dressers, participants are encouraged to choose their sign and create out-of-this-world costumes and floats befitting a party as big as the cosmos.

*Capt Mike*



# Key Largo Dive Trip - August 2001



*Photo by Gwen Rolape*

A total of seventeen people, eleven divers and six snorkelers, were brave enough to drive south through the outer bands of Tropical Storm Barry on Thursday, August 2nd, to Amy Slate's Dive Resort located in Key Largo, Florida (Mile Marker 105.5).



*Photo by Gwen Rolape*

Sea conditions on Friday were not the best (4+ foot waves and worsening); therefore several members opted for some R&R (and shopping) while the fearless few braved the elements and dove the French Reef.



*Photo by Gwen Rolape*

Seas were still settling from the storm (visibility 20 to 30 feet) as the skies were clearing through the afternoon.

With *Hobos* Restaurant within walking distance, several divers decided to check out the fresh seafood menu for lunch.



*Photo by Chuck Brown*



*Photo by Chuck Brown*



*Photo by Chuck Brown*

As sea conditions improved, more divers joined in for the Saturday morning's trip to Elbow Reef. The South Shore of this reef was brimming with tropical fish. We were able to visually capture a few "nice" size lobsters that escaped the recent Sportsman Season Lobster event. On the second dive, **MDC** explored the "City of Washington" wreck. Several large groupers and "one nice spotted eel" were obviously checking us out!

After a good dive, most of the divers ventured into a local Mexican Restaurant (best in the Keys!) to sample their Margaritas! With no room left in our stomachs, it was "siesta" time!

The clouds broke late Saturday afternoon to allow for one great cookout and sunset! The cookout began around "whenever" and finished with a campfire (for the mosquitoes) into the night. Marinated hamburgers and dogs for the kids with potato salad and baked beans with - of course - Key Lime pie for desert.



*Photo by Chuck Brown*

Sunday morning, our divers were treated with a "three stopper." The first stop was the US Coast Guard *Duane* for those divers with advanced certification and willing to challenge the currents. Visibility was 50 feet with numerous barracuda effortlessly guarding this awesome structure.



*Photo by Chuck Brown*

The second and third stops were at French Reef where the visibility was 45 feet. We dove near the "minnow cave" where juvenile fish collect by the hundreds or thousands to avoid the larger species in the food chain. Along the way to this cave, there were arcs of coral that allowed for some great pictorial sites! Sighting of nurse sharks, eels, lobsters, stone crabs, cleaner shrimp, groupers, etc. were reported during this trip.



*Photos by Gwen Rolape*

*Gwen and Ralph Rolape*

# Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Booster Retrieval Diving at August Meeting

## “How Do They Do That?”

At our August 14th meeting, Larry Collins and Manuel (Manny) De Leon told us how their crew retrieve the Space Shuttle’s solid rocket boosters off Cape Canaveral. Larry gave us a view into a job he says is like being on vacation. He really loves it.



*Manny, Larry, and Bob*

Larry is the senior diving supervisor for the post-flight directorate of the United Space Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing. He has been diving for over 27 years and an instructor for 22 years. After becoming a training director for the National Association for Cave Diving in 1982, Larry has been a technical instructor for 20 years. As dive supervisor of the retrieval group for 14 years, he has been lead diver on over 100 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 Diver Medical Technician for 15 years.



Manny De Leon is lead engineer in the Solid Rocket Booster Post Flight Engineering group. He has been diving with the retrieval organization for 18 years.

To make Space Shuttle launches as economical as possible, the reuse of flight hardware is crucial. Unlike rocket boosters previously used in the space program, the Space Shuttle’s solid rocket booster (SRB) casings and associated flight hardware are recovered at sea. The expended boosters are disassembled, refurbished, and reloaded with solid propellant for reuse.



The two retrieval ships that perform the SRB recovery, the *Liberty Star* and *Freedom Star*, are unique vessels specifically designed and constructed for this task. The ships are 176 feet in length, 37 feet in width, and draw about 12 feet of water. Each ship is propelled by two main engines and two thrusters. The stern thruster is a water jet system that allows the ship to move in any direction without the use of propellers. This system was installed to protect the endangered manatee population that inhabits regions of the Banana River where the ships are based. The system also allows divers to work near the ship during operations at a greatly reduced risk of injury.

The SRBs, fully loaded with propellant, weigh about 1.4 million pounds each. They stand 149.2 feet tall, and have a diameter of 12 feet. The boosters in use today are the largest solid propellant motors ever developed for space flight and the first to be used on a manned space vehicle.

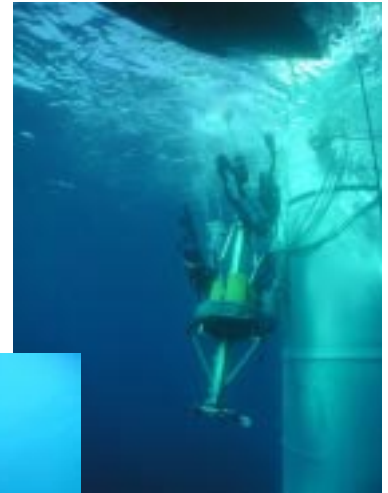
At approximately 2 minutes after the Space Shuttle lifts off from the launch pad, the twin SRBs have expended their fuel. The boosters separate from the orbiter and its external tank at an altitude of approximately 30.3 statute miles. After separation, momentum propels the SRBs for another 70 seconds to an altitude of 44.5 statute miles before they begin their long tumble back to Earth.

At an altitude of 1.3 miles, the three main parachutes deploy and quickly slow the booster's speed from 230 miles per hour to a speed of 51 miles per hour. At about 7 minutes after liftoff, the boosters impact the Atlantic Ocean. The splashdown area is a box of 7 by 10 statute miles located about 140 nautical miles downrange from the launch pad.

The retrieval ships are on station at the time of splashdown, at 9 to 12 statute miles from the impact area. The ships retrieve one booster each, and they accommodate either the left or the right booster.



After the three chutes are recovered, attention turns to the SRB. The dive team prepares for booster recovery. Two inflatable boats, with eight retrieval divers aboard, are deployed. The job of the first dive team is to install a Diver-Operated Plug (DOP) in the submerged nozzle of the booster. The DOP is 22 feet in length and weighs 1,100 pounds. It is neutrally buoyant and is easily guided to the aft skirt at a depth of about 110 feet by the divers. Once the DOP is inserted into the booster nozzle and the nozzle is sealed, an air hose is attached.



*DOP Installation*



Air is pumped from the ship through the DOP and into the booster, displacing water within the casing. As the process continues, the booster rises in the water until it becomes top-heavy. It falls horizontally, like a log in the water. Then the booster is towed behind the ship to the port.

The ships enter Port Canaveral, where the booster is changed from the stern tow position to a position alongside the ship, the hip-tow position, to allow greater control. The ships then pass through a drawbridge and Canaveral Locks, and transit the Banana River to NASA's Hangar AF.

## Camera Chairperson

# Photo Contest Deadline at October Meeting

Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, will mark the deadline for entries into **MDC's** annual photo contest. See the box at right for rules and categories.

This is one of the biggest and potentially most lucrative events of our **CLUB** year. Last year we handed out hundreds of dollars worth of prizes graciously donated by our supporters; and everyone who entered won something! As you can see, there are categories for everyone from the experienced underwater photographers, to above water photos, to casual snapshots, to first time entries.

So dust off those photo albums and pick your entries!! Bring them along to the meeting or contact me at (407) 808-6453 to make other arrangements prior to the cut-off date.

This year, entrants will have an opportunity to have their pictures appear in a new **CLUB** tradition, our inaugural **MDC** Calendar!

Results will be presented and prizes awarded at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Mike McCleskey*

Camera Guy



## Contest Rules

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

Separate Print and Slide Categories:

1a & 1b Underwater, normal or wide angle

2a & 2b Underwater, close-up and macro

Combined Print and Slide Categories:

3 Underwater, fixed-focus (Ikelite AquaShot or similar)

4 Most unusual, unique subject matter

5 First-time entry

6 Above water, dive-related

7 Most likely to embarrass

8 Most interesting, having absolutely nothing to do with diving (the photo must include a **CLUB** member).

**Entries must be submitted no later than the **CLUB** meeting on October 9th.**

### 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, 2000, by the contestant. Photos in categories 1 through 5 must be taken while snorkeling or scuba diving.

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.

### Format Limitations:

- Photos must be no larger than 5 by 7 inches (except for panoramic), unmatted and unframed.
- Photos may be cropped, but may not be digitally enhanced.

## Safety Chairperson

# Sharing Air

## When's the last time you practiced this life-saving skill?

### Step 1: Rehearsal

Air sharing begins before you get wet. Your alternate air source should be mounted in full view on your chest with a quick-release clip. In particular, an octopus regulator shouldn't be left dangling where it can free-flow, be damaged, or pick up debris. Because air sources, their placement, and mounting systems vary, as do hand signals, you and your buddy should rehearse your entire air sharing procedure before each dive.

### Step 2: Take Control

If your buddy signals "out of air, let's share," you should take control of the situation. Pass an air source immediately, as you rehearsed it - before anxiety takes over. Panic in this situation can be dangerous. Be sure your buddy takes the regulator correctly; if not it may leak, free flow, or hit the mask. Which air source you pass to your buddy depends on your equipment configuration. If you have a Spare Air that detaches easily, pass it. If you have an octopus on a long hose, pass that. If you have an alternate inflation regulator, pass your primary and switch to your back-up.

### Step 3: Link Up

Establish physical contact. Link right arms so you each grab the other's BC or shoulder strap, leaving your left hand free for the BC inflator and instrument console. Look into your buddy's eyes to determine the level of stress and get the OK sign before ascending.

#### 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 this newsletter on our **CLUB** home page at: <http://www.martindiveclub.org> or behind the Lockheed Martin firewall at: <http://wwwmis.orl.lmco.com:2424/mdc/mdchome.html>

### Step 4: Ascend Normally

You (the donor) should initiate the ascent and establish the ascent rate. That rate depends on your depth and air supply, but don't let the excitement of the situation rush you into an over-rapid ascent. Both of you should stay together even if your buddy has an independent air source (like your Spare Air). Don't forget your safety stop at 15 feet if your air supply permits.

### Last Resort: Buddy Breathe

If you don't have an alternate air source and you are too deep for an independent emergency ascent, the two of you will have to "buddy breathe" from one regulator. When your buddy signals for air, pass your regulator for two breaths. You each take two breaths on each pass. Don't hold your breath! Both of you should keep a hand on the regulator or hose near the purge button. You should face each other and make eye and physical contact. Buddy breathing is difficult to do if you haven't practiced it thoroughly, and should be attempted only as a last resort. It also should not be necessary with properly equipped divers.

*Gwen Rolape*

Information for this article was obtained from:  
<http://www.scubadiving.com/training/DLAP/apr98.shtml>



### For Sale

**Wet Suits.** New, unopened. One woman's (purple and black, extra large, long sleeve, Shorty), price new \$130, now \$65; and one man's (black, extra large, Farmer John and Shorty) price new \$130 each, now \$130 for both.

*Bob Grapentine*

(407) 306-6914

#### 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](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) 356-7337; or at home: (407) 678-5311.

# MARTIN DIVE CLUB

## 2001 Dive Schedule

Date	Location	Contact*	Cost
Oct 6 (Sat)	Jupiter Beach	George McGuire	\$75/pp
Oct 26-28 (F-Sat-Sun)	Fantasy Fest, Key West	Mike McCleskey	\$155/pp

\* Questions? Call Mike McCleskey, our Activity Chairperson, (407) 273-6655

### CORAL Joins the Big League

On July 1, 2001 an exciting global partnership was launched among the world's leading coral reef conservationists.

The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) was formally signed into action on July 1, 2001. ICRAN is designed to "halt and reverse the decline of the health of the world's coral reefs." ICRAN's plan encompasses a coordinated approach by scientists and conservation organizations, which is based on three main components: assessment and monitoring; regional and local community manage-

ment of pre-selected coral reef regions that will serve as demonstration sites; and a coral reef communications and public awareness campaign. CORAL (Coral Reef Alliance) has been selected to lead this communications arm of ICRAN.

The ICRAN project, planned for four years, has received initial funding from the United Nations Foundation. CORAL is pleased and honored to be part of this impressive partnership, and is already gearing up to launch the ICRAN web site this coming September, which can be accessed through CORAL's home page at [www.coral.org](http://www.coral.org).



**MARTIN DIVE CLUB**  
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609 Heron Bay Drive  
Orlando FL 32825  
(407) 306-5020

### Upcoming Events

- September 11 **Meeting**: Terrence Tysall, Wekiva River Project
- October 6 **Trip**: Jupiter Wreck Dives, George McGuire
- October 9 **Meeting**: Bonaire Slide Show, Phil Hampton
- October 26-28 **Trip**: Fantasy Fest, Mike McCleskey
- November 13 **Meeting**: Photo Contest Results
- December ? **Holiday Party**: Marie Frank