



MARTIN DIVE CLUB News



March 2002

Come Hear Kirk Brown on Equipment Checkout at the March Meeting!

Come join your **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** friends at Johnny Rivers' Smokehouse restaurant on Tuesday, March 12th, to hear Kirk Brown of *Sport Diver* magazine talk to us about checking out your dive equipment. As usual, the gathering will kick off at 6:30 pm with socializing and happy hour.



Kirk Brown is the managing editor of *Sport Diver* magazine, which was founded in 1994 right here in Central Florida. He has been diving for more than 20 years and has traveled to locations around the world in his capacity as a dive journalist. Don't think I'm jealous, but he dives each year at dive resorts throughout the Caribbean and the California coast and he claims it's a 'job.' Before joining *Sport Diver*, he pursued the more mundane world of newspaper journalism.



At 7 pm, Johnny's will be serving a 'Gospel Feast' dinner for \$10 per person. It's a platter of some of their favorites: spare rib, pulled pig, 1/4 chicken, bread, cole slaw, and baked beans. You can also order from the regular menu.



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.

Little Cayman Beach Resort Trip

I'm a diver short and a day late. Anyone interested in great diving?

NEEDED: A few good divers to complete a Little Cayman trip from May 25 to June 1.

We will be staying at the Little Cayman Beach Resort. The resort is American Plan so the price includes three meals a day, three boat dives a day, air fare out of Miami International Airport, and tips to everyone except the dive crew. This is a luxurious place, and the diving is top notch.

We need two couples and a single female to book by March 20. So just do it.

The price is \$1825 if we complete the group, and \$1900 if we are short.

Call Grace or Phil Hampton at (321) 453-1344, e-mail gracphil@palmnet.net, or send \$100 deposit to Hamptons, 1840 Crawford Ave, Merritt Island FL 32953.

President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!

February got off to a great start with Jason Nix from the Orlando ExtaSea Dive Centre speaking on "Dive Safety - for Ourselves and Those We Dive With." Jason put on a great presentation!

On March 12th, Kirk Brown, the managing editor of *Sport Diver* magazine, will be our featured speaker. Kirk will help us all get a needed 're-fresher' on checking out our dive equipment at this early point in the dive season.

Since our last meeting, the **CLUB** has had the opportunity to dive with the Crystal River manatees on February 15th with "Captain Mike" in the lead. I am looking forward to hearing the details about this trip and Captain Mike's "brew" at the March meeting!

There are numerous outstanding diving opportunities available to you through the **CLUB**. Please take the time to review the Dive Trip Schedule located in this newsletter. Also, please note some dives require a deposit to hold your reservation.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the **MDC** meeting on March 12th at Johnny Rivers!

Bob Grapentine

February Meeting on Dive Safety

Jason Nix spoke to us on dive safety at our February meeting. He has been diving since 1988 and teaching SCUBA since May 2000. Jason achieved Master SCUBA Diver Trainer in May 2001. He has been diving with ExtaSea Dive Center since 1996, has been employed as an instructor since January 2001, and currently is Lead Dive Instructor.



Jason specializes in classes such as: Medic First-Aid, Night Diver, Wreck, Deep, Navigation, Enriched Air, Underwater Naturalist, Search and Recovery, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Drift Diver, Boat Diver, Multi-Level Diver, and Equipment Specialty. He has been a nationally certified emergency medical technician (EMT) for the past 6 years and is currently enrolled in classes at Valencia Community College to start Paramedic training in the fall of 2002. He is originally from Indiana and has lived all over the country. His diving experience includes being a resort instructor in the Turks and Caicos.



Your Officers and Staff

President Bob Grapentine	(407) 306-6914	Activity Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Vice President Marie Frank	(407) 356-8256	Meeting Chairperson Shawn Coolican	(407) 356-6926
Secretary Joanne Rowley	(407) 977-3346	Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Treasurer Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075	Equipment Chairperson Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969
Director at Large Mark DuBiel	(407) 356-5969	Membership Chairperson Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075
Board of Directors Dean Hayes	(407) 306-3288	Merchandise Chairperson Shelly Hayes	(407) 275-6365
Ron Mann	(407) 356-2135	Safety Chairperson Gwen Rolape	(407) 306-1801
Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2337	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290

Camping and Diving at Devil's Den, March 15 through 17



On a cold winter morning you can see steam coming off the still surface of the water, like smoke rising from the chimney. Thus, the early settlers gave it the name 'Devil's Den.' Crystal clear water, year round 72 degree temperatures, ancient rock formations with stalactites, fossil beds, and much more. Devil's Den is truly a natural wonder. For more information, go to: www.devilsden.com/index.htm

When: March 15 through 17
Where: Devil's Den – Williston, Florida
Plan: Camp Friday & Saturday night (Cabins available). Cookout provided Saturday night
Dive: Saturday all day (other days arranged separately)
Reservation: Need to sign up ASAP for cabin rental
Cost: Two nights stay with one day of diving
Tent camping & diving \$45.00
Cabin & diving (double occupancy) \$120
Tank rental not included
Contact: Ralph Rolape
Phone: Home (407) 380-5021; Work: (407) 306-7075
E-mail: ralph.e.rolape@lmco.com

Florida Keys – Islamorada April 12 - 14

*We are staying at the wonderful Lookout Lodge in Islamorada (MM 88). All units have kitchenettes, cable TV, and phones with voice mail. Some units have two bedrooms while others have one. Rates are based on double occupancy. **MDC** will supply breakfast.*



Lookout Lodge

Diving is done aboard Sea Raven. Plan to dive the Eagle wreck. Now that hurricane Georges broke it in two, it will be a different dive. The Eagle rests in 110 feet of water, so advanced certification is desirable but not required. Tanks and weights are included.

MARTIN DIVE CLUB 'News'



Sea Raven

Date: April 12 - 14
Where: Islamorada FL
Cost: \$250
Deposit: \$50 due by March 12
Contact: Ron Mann
(407) 699-9797 (H)
(407) 356-2135 (W)

For more information about Lookout Lodge or Sea Raven point your browser to <http://www.searavendiver.com/>

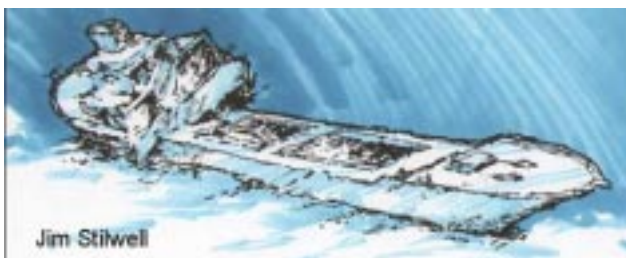
Pompano Beach Dive, 27-28 July 2002



Seahorse

Dive the Ft. Lauderdale area! Two coral reefs run parallel to the shore at depths of 40 and 60 feet. These reefs lie about a mile off shore. Ship wrecks lie between and beyond the reefs. Inhabitants include just about every fish and critter in Paul Humann's series of books. We will be diving with Seahorse Dive Boat (<http://www.diveseahorse.com/index.html>). Seahorse's Captain Mike's favorite reef dives are Crab Cove and the Sanctuary north of the Hillsboro Inlet and Anglin Reef, Mike's Twin Ledges, and the Pompano Drop Off south of the inlet. Captain Mike's favorite wreck dives are the Ancient Mariner (72 ft), the Mercedes (97 ft), the Captain Dan (110 ft), and the Rodeo 25 (130 ft).

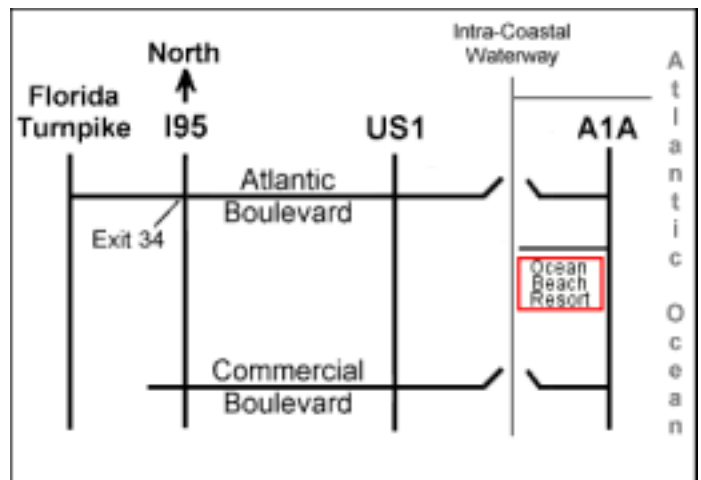
The weekend will cost no more than \$200/diver, double occupancy, including taxes and boat crew tips. The price will drop somewhat if at least 11 people sign up. (If at least 18 people sign up we will be able to charter the boat for our exclusive use.) There can also be a price reduction if there are more than two people in a hotel room. The non-diver charge is \$85 for their accommodations (double occupancy) plus whatever the boat charges for them to ride along. If we have enough divers to charter the boat, non-divers will be able to ride along free on a space-available basis.



Questions? Contact George McGuire, (407) 677-4242, or email at geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net.

The Seahorse Dive Boat operates from the Ocean Beach Resort (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Pompano Beach, which could hardly be more convenient. The Resort straddles A1A, one part of it is on the Atlantic Ocean and the other on the Intracoastal Waterway.

We plan to do a 2-tank dive on Saturday afternoon, 27 July (boat leaves at 2:00 p.m.). That evening we will also do a 1-tank night dive (6:00 p.m.). The next morning we will do another 2-tank dive (9:00 a.m.).



CLUB Trips, 2002

Date	Location & Description	Cost	Deposit; Due	Contact
Feb 14 - 15 (Th - F)	Manatees - Crystal River Snorkeling - Includes one night in hotel, breakfast, boat charter	\$65 pp		Mike McCleskey (407) 273-6655 mikemcc@netwide.net
Mar 15 - 17 (F - Su)	Devil's Den Springs Campout and Dive (tanks not included) 2 nights	Tent \$45 pp; Cabin \$120 pp; double occ	\$25; Mar 8	Ralph & Gwen Rolape (407) 380-5021
Apr 12 - 14 (F - Su)	Islamorada - 2 nights at Lookout Lodge, 2 days of 2-tank diving, tanks included	\$250 pp; double occ	\$50; Mar 12	Ron Mann (407) 699-9797
May 17 - 19 (F - Su)	Ocean Fest & Ft. Lauderdale - the best shore diving in continental US & biggest SCUBA trade show in Florida	\$100 pp; double occ	\$50; Apr 15	Bill Paskert (407) 678-5311 wpaskert@cfl.rr.com
May 25 - Jun 01 (Sa - Sa)	Little Cayman Beach Resort (w/Barracudas*) - Includes air from Miami, 3 dives/day, all meals	\$1830 pp; double occ	\$100; Jan 15	Grace Hampton (321) 453-1344 gracephil@palmnet.net
Jun 7 - 9 (F - Su)	Venice Beach (2 nights) - Shore dive to find fossilized shark teeth	\$75 pp; double occ		Jim Streeter (407) 351-1514
Jun 8 - 9* (Sa - Su)	West Palm Beach	\$110	\$50; May 21	Phil Stasik (321) 455-2221 stasik@cfl.rr.com
Jun 26 - 29* (W - Sa)	West Palm Beach Live-aboard	\$500	\$100; Apr 16	John Lawlor (321) 459-3374
Jun 30 - Jul 6 (Su - Sa)	Bimini - 7 days at Neal Watson's Scuba Bimini Dive Resort, Includes air from Ft Lauderdale, all diving	\$755 pp; double occ	\$200; Apr 15	Marie Frank (352) 242-1102
Jul 7 - 14* (Su - Su)	Cozumel	\$1100	\$200; Mar 19	Beth Shaffer (321) 453-6522
Jul 17 - 21* (W - Su)	Isla Mia Live-aboard - Mantinilla Shoals	\$500	\$50; Feb 19	Jeri Dufresne (321) 637-1329 JeriDufresne@aol.com
Jul 24 - 25* (W - Th)	West Palm Beach Lobster Dive	\$160	\$50; Jun 18	John Lawlor (321) 459-3374
Jul 27 - 28 (Sa - Su)	Pompano Beach - Seahorse dive boat & Ocean Beach Resort on A1A; two 2-tank dives (Sat & Su) & 1-tank night dive	\$200 pp; double occ (nondiver \$85)		George McGuire (407) 677-4242 geopatmchgsd@earthlink.net
Aug 10 - 11* (Sa - Su)	Boynton Beach Lobster Dive	\$135	\$50; Jul 16	John Lawlor (321) 459-3374
Aug 16 - 18 (F - Su)	Key Biscayne	\$150 pp; double occ		Marie Frank (352) 242-1102
Aug 24 - 25* (Sa - Su)	West Palm Beach	\$110	\$50; Jul 16	Phil Stasik (321) 455-2221 stasik@cfl.rr.com
Sep 7 - 14 (Sa - Sa)	Nekton Rorqual Live-aboard (w/ScubaRadio) Cay Sal Banks (out of Ft. Lauderdale) - All diving & meals; >\$100 in special surprises!	\$1445 pp	\$400; immed	Marie Frank (352) 242-1102
Sep 28 - Oct 5* (Sa - Sa)	Bonaire	\$1050	\$150; Jun 1	Max Farley (321) 452-1435, MaxFarley@earthlink.net
Oct 25 - 27 (F - Su)	Fantasy Fest, Key West - 2 nights at Sugar Loaf Lodge, festivities in Key West, no diving included	\$160 pp; double occ		Mike McCleskey (407) 273-6655 mikemcc@netwide.net
MDC unless marked with *KSC Barracudas				

MDC Visits the Manatees

The 2002 **MDC** dive season is officially open, and if our first outing is any indication it will be a banner year!

On Friday, February 19th, the beautiful rising sun found 11 **MDC** members and family huddled around a picnic table on the shores of Kings Bay, preparing for a day on the water with (hopefully) manatees. Every year the **CLUB** ventures to Crystal River in the cooler months to experience the endangered West Indian manatee. The manatees congregate where the constant 72 degree water flows from the many springs in Kings Bay when the temperature of the waters of the Gulf of Mexico drop. Being warm-blooded mammals, they cannot survive in water much colder than 68 to 70 degrees.



Photo by Dean Hayes

Of course, the manatees are not the only ones who fall into that warm-blooded mammal category, so the intrepid explorers from **MDC** break out their wetsuits (which always seem to shrink over the holiday season) and hope for a warm, sunny day. Our trips with the manatees involve only snorkeling since the noise of the exhaust bubbles from SCUBA seem to frighten them. That, plus the fact that if we are not diving, Capt. Mike can bring along his own special anti-freeze for all the adult participants to share.

Before we even finished breakfast, honorary First Mate Torey McCleskey spotted a group of manatees right off the dock, setting the stage for a day filled with more manatees than we have prob-



Torey McCleskey with Big Guy

ably ever seen in a single day in the past. As the rented pontoon boat left the dock under Capt. Mike's command, we sighted several manatees on our way to the first stop, Three Sisters. This is a beautifully scenic spot with three main springs (the sisters) emptying out through a small creek into a sandy-bottomed area. There must have been 20 manatees snoozing, cruising, and playing around here; and were they ever glad to see us! Each member of our crew got to swim with, pet, and photograph their fill of huge, medium, and even baby manatees. Everyone who had remembered to put film in their camera (oops, sorry Marie, I wasn't going to mention that) came back with great memories to share with their friends.



Photo by Nick Hayes



Photo by Torey McCleskey



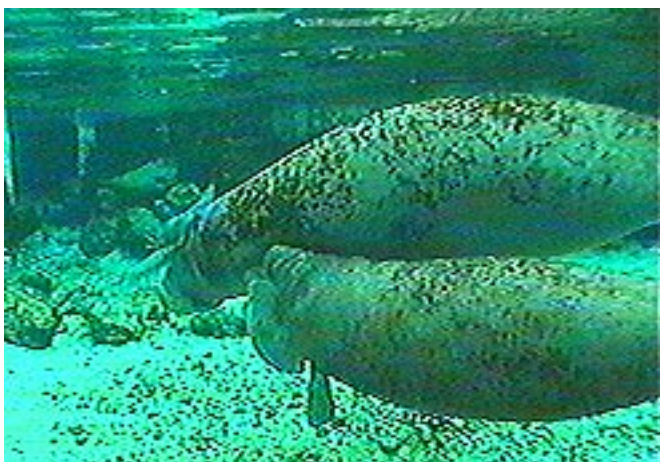
Photo by Marie Frank

After shoving off from Three Sisters, we made a brief stop at an area known as Gator Hole, much to the distress of one Wendy Farley and her two daughters. Once everyone else managed to convince them that we had never actually seen an alligator anywhere near here, we got into the water again to visit with five or six frolicking manatees. Soon though we found the visibility disappointing, so we decided to move on to Kings Spring. Along the way, we stopped to watch a manatee who had a radio tracking device attached to its tail, which we had read about but never witnessed.

At Kings Spring, we were again greeted by lots of friendly manatees, several of which decided to try out our anchor line as dental floss. There was one brief scare when the teenage sons of Shelly and Dean Hayes, Nick and Josh, tried to mutiny, but Capt. Mike managed to throw them both overboard (yes, Mike got wet too).

Overall, it was a beautifully sunny day with plenty of memorable manatee encounters and lots of meaningful camaraderie with fellow **MDC** members!

Yes, Marie, we're glad you went back during the next week!



Dumb Things Divers Do, Part 2

Unlike dive guides, you don't do it every day, yet you still must deal with the highly specialized skills and gear that make diving a challenge. The result is predictable: sometimes all divers, even dive magazine editors, do dumb things. Here are some of them. (Dumb Things 1 - 11 were published in the February issue of the *News*.)

12. Using too much or too little weight.

Happens especially when cold-water divers travel to warmer climes and vice-versa. Under-weighted divers have to fight to get down and stay there. Over-weighted divers must kick to keep from sinking. Instead: Keep accurate logs of the weight you use when diving in different environments and type of exposure suit worn. Take into account personal weight gain or loss since your last trip. Use the first dive of your vacation to perform a neutral buoyancy check - find the minimum amount of weight you require to perform a safety stop at 15 feet with 500 psi in your tank and no air in your BC.



13. Putting too much air or too little air in your BC while on the surface.

Too much air can restrict your breathing and increase drag. Too little air causes you to expend energy to stay afloat. Both scenarios add to anxiety. Instead: Weight yourself properly (see above) and you should not need to fill your BC more than one-half full to keep your head above water without kicking. If you dive with lots of gear, wear a BC with enough lift capacity so that it can keep you and your gear afloat at approximately half full.



14. Waiting until pain is felt before equalizing.

By then it's too late. You must rise to relieve the discomfort and reinitiate your descent. Instead: Start equalizing on the surface and continue often, before any squeeze is felt. For many divers, equalizing is easier during a feet-first descent.

15. Not following your dive operator's instructions.

Each dive boat crew has developed its own system of getting divers in the water and down on the site safely and efficiently. Some aspects of that system may seem arbitrary or overbearing to you, but they aren't. Each instruction is part of a system that is appropriate for the boat's specific features and the dive environment. When you forget instructions about using a lead line to get to the anchor line for a descent, or ignore a dive guide's parameters for depth, time and direction, you're not just being a rube. You're compromising the efficiency and safety of the entire operation, crew and other guests. Instead: Listen up and take pride in knowing that good divers follow directions. Dumb divers try to do their own thing to excess.

16. Using poorly functioning gear.

There's no excuse for a leaky BC with sticky valves, a clogged reg that delivers air like a soda straw or a computer that flashes BAT! BAT! BAT! Instead: Don't endanger yourself or other divers with minimally functioning gear. Well-maintained equipment shows respect for others and for diving. Remember that your regulator can degrade in performance merely by sitting idle on the closet shelf. Have it serviced regularly.



17. Using too much air.

Nothing brands you as a newbie faster than having to surface before everyone else because you ran low on air. The key culprits: using your arms, trying to move too fast or too much in a liquid environment, not being properly weighted (and fighting to stay down or finning to stay up), and not breathing properly. Instead: Slow down. Float and glide. Swim as little as possible. Weight yourself for neutral buoyancy. And most importantly, alter your breathing pattern to: inhale - pause - exhale - inhale - pause - exhale. Make the exhale long and deliberate.

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>.



18. Using the BC excessively.

Constantly over-compensating with your BC - putting too much air in and taking too much out - can turn diving into an underwater thrill ride, with your ears buying the ticket. Instead: Weight yourself for neutral buoyancy, use your inflate/deflate to make small adjustments and give them time to take effect. The delayed action of changes to your BC means you must anticipate the need to add or release air in order to stay ahead of the buoyancy curve.

More "Dumb Things Divers Do" next month . . .

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from the following:

<http://www.scubadiving.com/training/instruction/dumb.shtml>



Classifieds

Woman's two-piece wetsuit (small). Worn twice and hood never used. Contact: Jo Anne Lewandowski (352) 687-5435; (352) 873-4121 evenings.

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.

Underwater Camera Course

On Tuesday, March 26th, Camera Chairperson Mike McCleskey will be hosting our annual "Care and Feeding of the **MDC** Underwater Cameras" course. Completion of this course is required if you want to use the **CLUB**'s Nikonos V camera system and recommended for anyone who wants to feel more comfortable with underwater photography in general. All the equipment will be available for hands-on practice in its operation, assembly, and cleaning. For more details or to reserve your spot, contact Mike at (407) 273-6655 or mikemcc@netwide.net.



MARTIN DIVE CLUB
MP-200 ESC
609 Heron Bay Drive
Orlando FL 32825
(407) 306-5020

Upcoming Events

- March 12 **Meeting**: Equipment Checkout
- March 15-17 **Campout and Dive Trip**: Devil's Den, Florida, Gwen and Ralph Rolape
- March 26 **Training**: Camera Course, Mike McCleskey
- April 9 **Meeting**: Underwater Photography 'How-To'
- April 12-14 **Dive Trip**: Islamorada, Ron Mann
- May 14 **Meeting**: **CLUB** Elections Plus
- May 17-19 **Dive Trip**: Ocean Fest & Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Bill Paskert

From the Orlando Sentinel

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2002

Fatherless shark stumps zoo

OMAHA, Neb. – A bonnethead shark was recently born at the Henry Doorly Zoo, but something seems to have been missing from the process – a male shark. The shark was born in a tank that contained only females, leaving zoo officials scratching their heads as to how one of them became pregnant. "If we solve this mystery, it's going to make one of the most interesting scientific papers in a long time," zoo director Lee Simmons said. The offspring died within five hours of birth. Veterinarians conducted DNA tests on all the bonnethead sharks Thursday, but results may not be known for weeks.

