



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News

July 2002



Member Show and Tell at the Big Apple Buffet in July!

Our July 9th meeting will feature an evening of "Show & Tell" of dive trip videos and photos by **CLUB** members, along with our (relatively) NEW meeting location.

The evening's presentation will be about recent trips that **CLUB** members have enjoyed. We'll have a video on the joint KSC Barracudas and **MDC** adventure in Little Cayman and hopefully coverage of Marie Frank's **MDC** trip to Bimini. We may also have something from the McCleskeys or Hamptons, fresh from Bonaire.

We'll be meeting at the Big Apple Buffet, which is located at 198 S. Semoran Blvd (SR 436) in Orlando [phone (407) 382-7220]. It's just north of SR 408 (the East-West Expressway) on the west side of SR 436, behind the Sonic Burger drive-in restaurant (see map). It's in the old Holiday House location in the Royal Oak Village Plaza shopping center. The price is \$9.49 for the regular buffet (including sushi) and \$11.99 if you want crab legs, clams, and oysters. We will have a server for beverages, and they have a full bar. There are tons of things on the buffet - Mongolian barbecue, Oriental, fried chicken, and Italian, along with salads and dessert!



We'll be gathering and mingling at 6:30, then will get into the trip reports and covering **CLUB** business at about 7:00 or so.



President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!!

In May, we had the opportunity to enjoy a very informative presentation on wreck diving and instruction by Bill Shreve, who manages Northwest Divers of Orlando.

We had a great turnout at our new meeting location, the Big Apple Buffet!

This past month, **MDC** went to Venice Beach to find some shark teeth with Jim and Karen Streeter. We heard at our meeting last month that they had great (better) visibility. 20 feet!!!

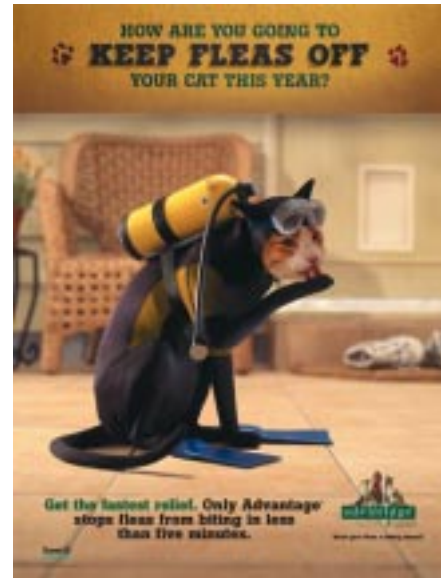
This month, I'm running a trip with nine other **MDC** divers to Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures - Bimini. In the near future, I will be running trips to Biscayne National Park (August 17-18) and on the Nekton Rorqual live-aboard to the Bahamas (September). Mike McCleskey will be doing our annual trek to Fantasy Fest in Key West, October 25-27. There are many outstanding diving opportunities available to you through the **CLUB**. Please sign up and get your deposits in!!!!

Hope to see each of you at the **MDC** meeting on July 9th at Big Apple Buffet.

See you there!!!

Marie Frank

SCUBA Cat!?



You may have seen this advertising poster at your favorite veterinarian's office. The company has a whole website with the picture, the commercial (movie file), how they made it, etc. It's pretty funny.

Picture - <http://www.nofleas.com/content/files/catposter.pdf>

Site and how picture was made - <http://www.nofleas.com/Commercials-Posters.asp>

Movie - <http://www.nofleas.com/content/files/wetsuit.mov>

Wendy McCleskey

Your Officers and Staff

President Marie Frank	(407) 356-8256	Activity Chairperson Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Vice President Gwen Rolape	(407) 306-1801	Meeting Chairperson Shawn Coolican	(407) 356-6926
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Director at Large Bob Grapentine	(407) 306-6914	Membership Chairperson Ralph Rolape	(407) 306-7075
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Ron Mann	(407) 356-2135	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290
Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2337		

Biscayne National Park Dive Trip

August 17 - 18, 2002



Dive in the afternoon on the 17th and in the morning on the 18th. Dive with the sole concessionaire for Biscayne National Park (Divers Unlimited) with the only commercial boat at that site. The only true wall dive in the continental U.S.

Stay at the Hampton Inn on US 1 in Florida City. Continental breakfast served in the morning. Biscayne National Park is located 20 miles south of Miami.

Saturday 1:30 p.m. departure; 2-tank, 2-location boat dive

Sunday 8:30 a.m. departure; 2-tank, 2-location boat dive

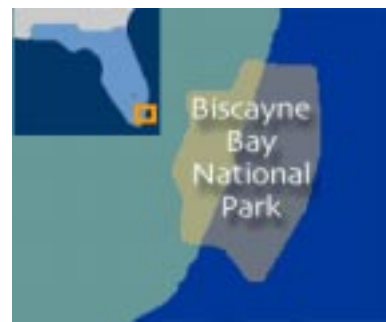
1st dive - "Wall Dive" (advanced divers only!)

2nd dive - Shallow (25 feet)

\$150 per diver or snorkeler

Tanks and weights included

Deposit \$50, due July 9th



Call Marie Frank (407) 356-8256 daytime or (352) 242-1102 evenings

Divers Unlimited - www.diversunlimited.com

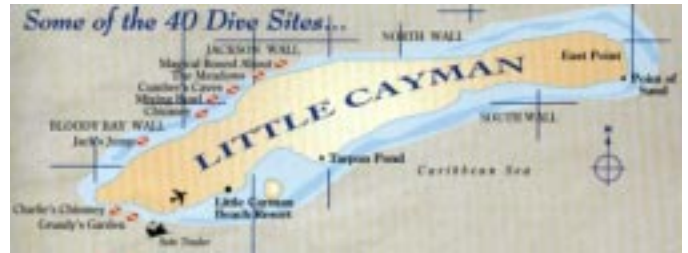
Biscayne National Park - classic.mountainzone.com/nationalparks/bisc/

Little Cayman, May 25 - June 1, 2002

KSC Barracudas and MDC

All 19 members of the trip arrived at Miami Airport on time and ready to go. The assorted KSC Barracudas and Martin Dive Club members cleared security and ventured forth on a week of fun. After a year of planning, we were pumped!

Spirits stayed high as flights and connections were on time and all went smoothly throughout the day. Hotel check-in, dive shop registration, and dinner were completed by the time we fell into our beds to rest up for that first dive the next morning. A nice touch was a sign over the registration desk in the hotel lobby that welcomed the KSC Barracudas, and a long table in the dining room was reserved for our group.



It was soon discovered that Ruth Ganter and Terry Keeney had a refrigerator in their room, which made them popular with all of us. The next revelation was that beer was MUCH cheaper by the case. Terry and Ruth were instantly supplied with several cases and lots of friends who spent the week traipsing through their room at all hours to get to the refrigerator. Joan Stuart brought along a cold, so missed diving the first day. She also missed our camaraderie as we shunned her and her bottle of Lysol. She was able to dive the next day and the rest of us did not develop 'prevent-clearingitis'.

The weather cooperated with us during the week. There was some rain, but it came mostly during the night. Dive sites were chosen with calm seas, although the ride through the cut was as exciting as riding a roller coaster most days. Visibility was generally between 60 and 80 feet with a few 100+ foot dives. And the usual Little Cayman sea creatures came by to see and be seen. We saw turtles, a shark, sting rays, a tiny sea horse, a pod of





dolphin, and the usual reef fish such as triggers, angels, snappers, and grouper. We found few eels, but there were several Eagle Rays that hung around and got close up and personal.

Our boat? The Cayman FantaSea was comfortable and efficient. The crew, Ron and Mau, cheerfully lugged our gear, repaired equipment, and in general made sure we had a successful week of diving. **MDC** member, Torey McCleskey (age 9) was adopted as part of the crew whenever he was on board and on the last day was presented with a staff shirt by the manager of the dive shop. We could not have hand-picked a better boat crew.

The Space Shuttle launch may have been delayed in Florida, but the engineers and rocket scientists from the KSC Barracudas built a beautiful model of the Shuttle with external tanks ready for liftoff. Our last day after staff meetings, solving

problems, and correcting glitches by engineers and technicians, we left our model in a place of honor at the resort.

But all good things come to an end. The week flew by and it was soon time to reverse our steps and return to our real lives. For the most part, the return trip was as uneventful as the trip down.

Thanks to all the members of a great group consisting of **MDC** members Marie Frank; Chuck Brown; Mike, Wendy, and Torey McCleskey; and KSC Barracuda members Phil and Grace Hampton, Ruth Ganter, Terri Keeney, Steve Bussey, Dick and Nancy Schealer, Bob and Nancy Sieck, John and Coralee Kull, Tim Cubbedge, Joan Stuart, and Dave Johnson.

And Grace is busy fantasizing next year's trip.

Grace Hampton

Trip Coordinator



Shuttle Model



Scuba Light

Weird things happen when light, water and the human eye collide.

It takes but a single, eye-opening moment to realize the human eye was not designed for use below the surface of the water. Thankfully, masks are available for divers to right the wrong that Mother Nature bestowed upon us terrestrial creatures. By placing a pane of glass between our eyes and the water, we create an air space that allows the eyes to focus. Problem solved, right? Well, not exactly.

Refraction: A Slight Bending of the Truth

Light waves that enter your eye through the mask have been altered in a manner that isn't readily apparent. Like sound, light moves through substances at various speeds depending on the density of those substances and a host of other factors. For example, sound travels faster through water than through air, which confounds our ability to perceive it when we are under water.

Light waves, on the other hand, move more slowly through water than through air. As a result, when light passes from one density to another (from air to water), the light waves are actually bent. This bending of light is known as refraction, and a classic example is the leaning straw (or snorkel, for our purposes) in a partially filled glass of water (see the illustration). The refraction (bending) of the light makes the snorkel appear to be broken at the point where the water and air meet.

Talk About Distortion

In order for light to enter a diver's eyes, it must pass through a minimum of three mediums - water, the mask's pane, then the air space in front of the eyes. Because the three materials all have different densities, the waves are bent according to the differences between the interfacing surfaces. The result is that magnification occurs, much as would occur when looking through a telescope.

In relatively clear water, objects appear to be either closer or larger by approximately 25 percent, or by a ratio of 4:3. The way in which the mind interprets the image is what determines whether it looks larger or closer. An object that appears to be only 12 feet away is actually more like 16 feet distant, or is markedly smaller than it appears.



Because light waves move more slowly through water than through air, the waves are actually bent as they pass from one medium to another. The result is that objects can appear distorted, like this snorkel in a rinse bucket.

The Havoc of Waves

The refraction of light is affected by yet another factor that also prevents a diver from seeing light in its true sense. A transparent object that has any curvature to its surface causes light waves to be bent in a predictable fashion. Think of mirrors that are used to create altered views, such as the passenger side rearview mirror on an automobile. By curving a piece of glass or water outward like the back of a spoon, we can cause the light to be focused or concentrated into a smaller image than normal. A magnifying glass is an example of how the sun's light can be concentrated into a tiny, powerful beam. Conversely, if we form the transparent object into a shape similar to the interior of a bowl, we disperse or spread the light out into a pattern that is larger than normal.

Now, think about the times when you have observed a still body of clear water. A common adage is "as smooth as glass," and that is an accurate statement provided the piece of glass is flat. Any disturbance in the water creates waves, and each wave has both a trough and a crest. These crests and troughs become efficient lenses that physically concentrate and disperse the light that enters the water. This explains the dancing light ripples that occur on flat bottoms of relatively shallow water. The bright areas are the concentrated areas of light and the shadows are light that has been scattered or dispersed.

See Light, on page 7

A Few Moments of Reflection

Things get darker: Sunlight striking water seldom strikes perpendicular to the surface of the water. Consequently, a varying amount of angle usually occurs throughout the day. This angle of light causes much of the light to be reflected off the water's surface. Light reflects off the water's surface in greater amounts as the angle of light that strikes the surface flattens. Even calm water creates a measurable degree of reflection, which effectively limits the amount of light that filters through the depths.

What's a Diver to Do?

- * Remember that dives around noontime will allow the natural angle of the overhead sun to increase the amount of light that reaches deeper water.
- * Use a dive light to illuminate the sights and brighten your bottom time.
- * Dive on a regular basis to facilitate the ability to adjust mentally for the refraction that occurs.

Visual Gadgets

Our desire to see clearly under water is as old as diving itself. Fifty years ago, divers wore pince-nez glasses inside their masks while diving. These worked, but were displaced, and not easily replaced, while diving. There were also problems with distortion and fogging.

Finally, in 1966, Dacor introduced the Vedo mask, the first designed to hold prescription lenses. The latest trends in underwater vision enhancement include:

De-magnifying lenses. One company offers these lenses for photographers and spearfishers. It eliminates the magnifying effect of the water and allows the diver to see things their actual size and more effectively judge distances and sizes. Available from HydraOptix, www.hydrooptix.com.

Tinted lenses. Truth or trick? We all learned in open-water class that water filters out color and that

without a source of artificial light, objects at depth appear blue or brown.

In 1990, Charles Duffy developed the SeaVision Color Correcting Filter System, a tinted lens that restores the lost colors at depth, so that you can see the reef as it truly is, without a dive light. The company also claims that the mask will not turn everything in the first 25 feet, where the color spectrum is still present, orange. A host of companies now offer color-correcting drop-in and custom prescription mask lenses.

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from the following:

<http://www.scubadiving.com/training/science/scubalight/>



Spiegel Grove Update



Bubbly Break

Tourism Treasure. Jim Lupino, vice chairman of the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce, shatters a bottle of champagne Wednesday against the Keys' newest future coral reef -- the retired Navy ship Spiegel Grove. The ship was scuttled to be a reef and tourist lure, but capsized before it went down and needed salvage work to sink it and stop it from leaking fluid.

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>.

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.

Bill Shreve and a New Location in June

At our June meeting, we introduced our new leadership for 2002 - 2003! They're listed on the roster on page 2. We're also starting off with a new meeting location, the Big Apple Buffet, which is located at 198 S. Semoran Blvd (SR 436) in Orlando [phone (407) 382-7220]. Everyone seemed pleased with the new arrangements, but if you have any comments about the evening, please contact our Meeting Chairperson, Shawn Coolican at (407) 356-6926. He'd also appreciate suggestions about future speakers.

The evening's presentation was about wreck diving and instruction by Bill Shreve, who manages Northwest Divers of Orlando. Formerly, he owned SCUBA III in Altamonte Springs. Bill's a Master Instructor with PADI, Dive Control Specialist Instructor with SSI, and course designer with the Handicapped SCUBA Association. He has certified over 1100 divers in his career. Bill showed us a great video introduced by no other than diver and actor, Gene Hackman.

He gave us many tips and observations about diving around and in wrecks:

- Be very aware not to stir up sediment; it can blind a diver.



- Penetrating a wreck requires much the same skills as cave diving.
- Whether you're diving an historic or contemporary wreck or artificial reef, take into consideration: safety, depth, temperature, visibility, and skill levels.
- An important aspect of wreck diving is researching the history of the vessel and how it became a dive site.
- Bring backups for everything: air supply, lights, knife or cutting tool (kept accessible).
- When preparing to dive, plan with your buddy, assess your personal readiness, check your equipment, swim into the current.
- If you become disoriented because of low visibility due to stirred-up sediment, stay still. It will settle. Stay calm.
- If you get entangled, don't struggle, get your cutting tool. Stay calm.
- Penetration of a wreck should be done only after training.

After Bill's presentation, we talked about some recent trips (Ocean Fest in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Venice shark tooth diving, and Little Cayman) and the upcoming one (Bimini). We greeted some new members: Christine Bouchard, Nick and Joshua Hayes, and Mark and Audry Troilo. And to top of the evening, Joanne Rowley won the 50:50 raffle: \$35!



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

Upcoming Events

July 9 **Meeting:** Member Show & Tell **NEW LOCATION**

August 13 **Meeting:** TBD

August 17 - 18 **Dive Trip:** Biscayne National Park, Marie Frank