



MARTIN DIVE CLUB News



August 2002

August Meeting

Diving for Dinner, Mark Eubank on Catching Lobster

Come learn how to enjoy a safe and legal lobster season at our August 13th meeting. Mark Eubank, sales associate for Divers Direct Outlet, will be speaking to us on 'Diving for Dinner.' His presentation will cover lobster biology, government rules and regulations (including a few quirky ones), techniques for catching, appropriate equipment, and maybe a few recipes! He'll be displaying some of the tools of the trade: catch bag, snare, tickle stick, gage, etc.

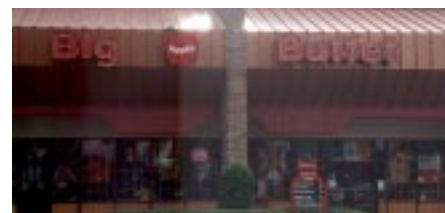


Mark has well over 1000 dives since he received his initial SCUBA certification in 1985, and he is a retired PADI Master Instructor. His diving experience started in the South West, coming out of his hometown of Santa Fe, New Mexico. He received a bachelor's degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of Texas, Austin, and has dove extensively along the Pacific coast, in the Sea of Cortez, and in the Rocky Mountains. He has been associated with Divers Direct Outlet for 5 years. Currently, he keeps his boat, a 28-foot Grady White, at Port Canaveral and concentrates on diving the thousands of wrecks in this area.



We'll be gathering and mingling at around 6:30 p.m., with the evening's presentation beginning at 7:00 p.m. Afterwards at about 7:30, we hold our "formal" meeting covering CLUB business and member trip reports, followed by door prizes and our fantastic raffle.

We meet 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. 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!



President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!!

In July, we had a great 'Show and Tell' meeting. We socialized and watched some videos from Little Cayman, Walker's Cay, and a manatee trip. We talked about our upcoming Bimini trip; Mike, Wendy, and Torey McCleskey's trip to Bonaire; and also the McGuire's and Knauer's experiences on another dive club's trip to Roatan.

This month, we will be running a trip to Biscayne National Park with 15 other fellow **MDC** divers. I will give the full report at our next meeting. This month's meeting subject will be Diving for Dinner. We will have a speaker from Diver's Direct who will be talking about the laws and regulations for lobstering.

Hope to see each of you at the **MDC** meeting on August 13th at Big Apple Buffet.

See you there!!!

Marie Frank

Welcome to Orlando!

The **MARTIN DIVE CLUB** is excited to have long time members, Grace and Phil Hampton, in our city instead of borrowing them from Merritt Island. Our gain is the Barracudas' loss, but Grace and Phil still plan to attend both meetings. Now that they are local, we can hit them up for lots of committee duties!



Ok, all you fish ID experts, What's this?

New Diver Seeking Gear

Wanted:

Small woman's BC
Regulator

Laurie Mickey, 6-3839

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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Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2337	Publicity Chairperson Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290

Big Times in Bimini

June 30 - July 6



The MDC Gang and Their Dive Crew

We left from Ft. Lauderdale Executive Airport in a 16 seater to the small island of South Bimini at one of Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures - Scuba Bimini Dive Center. It rained the first day, and I crossed my fingers that it wouldn't stay that way. As I expected when it rains a lot like in Florida, the mosquitoes were in abundance. Most of us were prepared with our bug spray. It started clearing the next day and by Wednesday the sun came out again.

The island was very small and didn't really have much to do, but we were there to dive. We did find that the island is home to Bimini Biological Field Station (Shark Lab), a research facility conducting extensive studies on shark behavior. A few stayed behind and didn't do an afternoon dive and trekked to the Shark Lab. We even saw a sign 1/2 mile down on the road with "Fountain of Youth," sought for in 1513 by Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon. Too bad we were drinking bottled water all the time. Do showers count?

Our manager, Percy, and our waitress, Phillipa, were always very helpful and friendly to us during our entire stay. Our dives were always calm. We were able to dive Tuna Alley, Kinks, Moray Alley, Hawksbill Reef, and many more.

Our crew, Jay and Alan, were always very friendly and helpful with our dive equipment. Yes, I have been spoiled on my Cayman trip, and now



South Bimini Yacht Club

Bimini. It was very nice going to the end of the boat and having them bring our equipment to us. When we came back from a dive, before we got back onto the boat we would slip off our BC and tank and they would bring it up for us and change our tanks out. I loved it!! We had three dives a day plus one night dive. I even got to do a night dive on Victory Reef when we happened to be moored next to the Nekton Rorqual, the live-aboard I will be going on in September with ScubaRadio. It is an awesome boat. Most of us got a total of 16 dives in. We saw lots of spotted eels, moray eels, rock fish, trigger fish, hogfish and even a few nurse sharks. We even did a wreck dive called 'Bimini Barge,' sunk about 15 years ago.

**Let's
go
diving**



Photo Credits: Cheryl Pizon



The 'Girls' on a shopping spree!

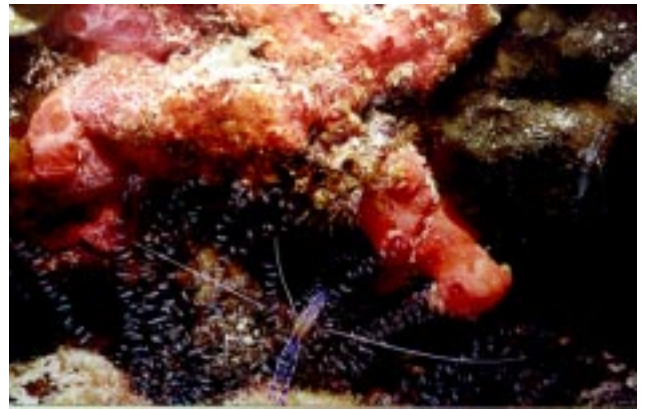
we got in the water, we found we were in a 4- to 5-knot current. Fortunately, Cheryl cancelled the dive and had us come back up. It was not the greatest experience. We saw a lot of sand. I don't think we made the reef. On the same boat trip, we also dove the Road to Atlantis made famous by the Discovery Channel. It was a very shallow dive 10 to 15 feet, but we found some blocks on the sea floor. Was it the Road to Atlantis? At least we can say we did it!

We had a great trip thanks to our **MDC** members: Kristin Bouchard, Tim Cole, Curtis Diffenderfer, Linda and Bob Iacovazzi, and Randi and Chris Mosher, and Cheryl and Rich Pizon.

Our return trip had a small mishap involving a smaller plane (only nine seats). One of our crew would be left out. So a passenger from the other



Whose blankets are you stealing now, Marie?



Spiral anemone and two cleaner shrimp

plane came on board our plane. One of our couples, Randy and Chris, went on the other plane. Other than that, the people at Bimini were very accommodating and made our stay enjoyable.

I'm ready to go back and do more diving at Bimini soon,

Marie Frank



A bunch of smiling faces!

How to Make a Long Surface Swim

That speck on the horizon can't be the dive boat, can it? Now what?

Step 1: Look Again

Make sure that far-off boat is yours. It's not the only boat on the ocean, and small surface waves can hide one that's very big and very close. Do a careful 360-degree search before you swim off in the wrong direction. If the bad news is confirmed:



Step 2: Evaluate the Current

Have you really been swimming long enough and hard enough to go this far, or has a current been responsible? If you're very close to shore, you may be able to gauge the current by watching to see if you move. If you're in shallow water, you may be able to look below to see which way soft corals are leaning to determine direction and strength of the current.

Step 3: Take Aim

If the boat is lying to an anchor, aim at a point ahead of the boat near the anchor, since the boat may swing around it. Look for a buoy at the end of a current line; it may be much closer. In planning your course, remember that a straight line may not be the shortest course. For example, currents are weaker near the shoreline, so it may be easier to hug the shore of a bay than to cut across the headlands. Take a compass bearing to your target. Every so often, recheck your course.



Step 4: Dive

You'll fin much more efficiently below the surface than on it, where part of your fin stroke is lost. Also,

you'll be safer from boat traffic. If you have enough air and the bottom is close, go to it. There is less current at the bottom, and you can navigate better using both your compass and the bottom. If you're out of air and must stay on the surface, roll onto your back. This keeps the most powerful part of your kick in the water. Look for a landmark behind you to navigate by, or hold your compass on your stomach.



Step 5: Streamline

If you're towing a game bag or a brass porthole, now may be the time to say goodbye to it. Take off your snorkel and stow it. Fine-tune your buoyancy so your legs are in the slipstream of your torso. Keep your arms at your sides. If you're kicking on your back on the surface, keep your head back, your butt up and your back straight.

Step 6: Pace Yourself

Don't kick as hard as you can. Instead, try for a steady but strong stroke you can maintain for a distance. Don't panic and don't sprint.

Step 7: Know When To Say When

If you're not making much progress, if you're getting exhausted and you're clearly not going to make it back to the boat, use your surface signaling gear. Sound your horn or whistle, wave your sausage or a fin, flash your mirror. In the worst case, as when the boat pulls up its anchor and takes off without you, go to the shore and consider getting out of the water.

Gwen Rolape

Information for this article was obtained from the following:
<http://www.scubadiving.com/training/DLAP/july99.shtml>

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.

Flotsam & Jetsam

Flow It, Show It, Long as God Can Grow It: Manatees have a sixth sense that works through a network of sensory body hairs unlike anything identified in mammals before. Roger Reep (University of Florida in Gainesville) says that the hairs, which detect slight pressure changes, probably explain how manatees can navigate in dark waters and wait for incoming tides before swimming upstream. A manatee's three thousand or so hair follicles are each connected to as many as fifty nerves. A typical human arm hair is only connected to about five. (New Scientist, 23 March 2002)

Member Notes

A Good Turn

I recently had a very good experience with Hal Watts' Mr. Scuba on East Colonial. They are the only Orlando supplier of Force Fins and had ordered me a set of inserts for my new fins that I won from the **MDC** Photo Contest last year. When Scott found out the inserts would not arrive in time, he loaned me his personal pair for a week in Bonaire. By the time we returned, mine were ready for pick-up and the next dive trip. Thanks, Scott, for the above-and-beyond service!

Wendy McCleskey



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP-200 ESC

609 Heron Bay Drive

Orlando FL 32825

(407) 306-5020

Upcoming Events

August 13 **Meeting**: Diving for Dinner, Mark Eubank

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

September 10 **Meeting**: Florida Hospital Hyperbaric Chamber, Mark Walters

September 7 - 14 **Dive Trip**: Nekton Rorqual, Marie Frank