



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News

May 2003



May Meeting

Brian Moseley, Nautilus Divers, "Nitrox, Its Benefits and Myths"

Please join us for an entertaining and educational evening at our May 13th meeting. Brian Moseley of Nautilus Divers will tell us all about "Nitrox, Its Benefits and Myths." Nautilus Divers is located in Winter Springs at the corner of Red Bug Lake Road and Tuskawilla Road.



depths I am always greeted by a spectacular site no matter how many times I do it. Sharing this underwater world that not many people ever get to see is what keeps me energized and pumped up about diving and teaching."

Brian will talk to us about Nitrox, about the benefits and hazards associated with it, and about the myths and common misconceptions. He will bring a few props and tools to demonstrate.

Brian started diving in 1985 in Hawaii and had about 50 dives there when he was a kid. It left such an impression on him that he still remembers tiny details about a lot of the sites there, and it's always fun to talk to divers who have visited the same sites.

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 "50/50" raffle.

Brian has been teaching for almost 3 years, and loves every bit of it. He has certified well over 500 students and he can remember almost all of them. He became an Instructor Trainer about a year ago and says it was very rewarding to teach a basic diver during his advancement all the way to instructor. He has taught three people from diver to instructor and will do two more in June.



Brian has run a retail dive shop for more than 3 years and loves interacting with new people and talking about the last dive with new and old dive buddies. He says, "Diving is my time away from reality. No matter what is going on in my life, when my head dips under the water and I descend into the



We meet at the Big Apple Buffet, which is located at 198 S. Semoran Blvd (SR 436) in Orlando [phone (407) 382-7220]. The price is \$9.49 for the regular buffet (including sushi) and \$11.99 if you want crab legs, clams, and oysters. There are tons of things on the buffet - Mongolian barbecue, Oriental, fried chicken, and Italian, along with salads and dessert!



Take control of this club!
Elections will be held at the May meeting.
Please see the article on page 2.

President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers!!

Our speaker for the April meeting couldn't come because he had a better offer! John Durham, a charter member of the KSC Barracudas, and his wife, Kay, had a last-minute chance to take a Panama Canal cruise to Costa Rica, Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta, and many other places. In his stead, Phil Hampton spoke about the beautiful video that John produced of one of his dive trips to the Turks and Caicos.

This month, we have Brian Moseley, from Nautilus Scuba, who will talk about Nitrox.

Check out the flyers for upcoming trips in this newsletter. Please sign up!!

We'll be electing officers at the May meeting, so we need your vote. Also, membership dues were due April 1st. I hope you remembered to renew. Please renew with Ralph Rolape, our Treasurer.

See you there!!!

Marie Frank

Member News

Congratulations to Torey McCleskey our newest diver! He received his junior PADI certification at age 10 from Barbara Shurman at Devil's Den.

Director at Large

May Is Election Time!

Join us at our May 13th meeting for the annual **CLUB** election of Officers. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. For those members who cannot attend, e-mail your nomination and/or vote to bob.grapentine@lmco.com before Sunday, May 11th. Three positions on the **MDC** Board of Directors will also be filled.

Your active participation is needed through this election process to ensure you are represented! All **MDC** Officers and Board members are encouraged to continue their excellent service!

The **MDC** Bylaws call for nine standing committee chairpersons. These positions are normally filled by member volunteers after the election of Officers. For those members who may be thinking of running for office or one of the Chair positions, plenty of help is always available. **MDC** also has instructions on-hand for each staff position. The member sitting next to you can provide assistance as they were probably in one or another of these staff positions previously.

Running for **MDC** office will give you the opportunity to make a good **CLUB** great! The May Election meeting is one of the most important meetings of the year. Please join us!

Bob Grapentine

Your Officers and Committee Leads

| | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| President Marie Frank | (407) 356-8256 | Committees | |
| Vice President Gwen Rolape | (407) 306-1801 | Activity Mike McCleskey | (407) 273-6655 |
| Secretary Joanne Rowley | (407) 977-3346 | Meeting Marie Frank | (407) 356-8256 |
| Treasurer Ralph Rolape | (407) 306-7075 | Camera Mike McCleskey | (407) 273-6655 |
| Director at Large Bob Grapentine | (407) 306-6914 | Equipment Don Russ | (407) 356-1064 |
| Board of Directors | | Membership Ralph Rolape | (407) 306-7075 |
| Dean Hayes | (407) 306-3288 | Merchandise Shelly Hayes | (407) 275-6365 |
| Ron Mann | (407) 356-2135 | Safety Gwen Rolape | (407) 306-1801 |
| Jim Streeter | (407) 356-2337 | Communications Bill Paskert | (407) 356-2290 |

2003

MDC Activity Schedule

| Date | Event | Contact | Cost |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| Feb 28-Mar 1 Fri - Sat | Manatees at Crystal River - Get up close with these endangered gentle giants, 1 night in hotel, half day snorkel boat charter, breakfast | Mike McCleskey, 407-808-6453 mmccleskey@cfl.rr.com | \$80 |
| Mar 15 Sat | SCUBA Refresher Course - NAUI certified, 1/2 day classroom, 1/2 day pool, brush up on your diving skills, equipment included; get ready for the dive season and earn \$10 in MDC bucks to be used toward 2003 membership or a MDC trip | Gwen Sandlin-Rolape, 407-380-5021 gwen.sandlin-rolape@lmco.com | \$75 |
| Mar 29 Sat | First Aid & CPR - Training includes First Aid book, CPR book, & respiration barrier, prepare yourself for emergencies, includes \$10 in MDC bucks to be used toward 2003 membership or a 2003 MDC trip | Gwen Sandlin-Rolape, 407-380-5021 gwen.sandlin-rolape@lmco.com | \$35 |
| Apr 11 - 13 Fri - Sun | Key Largo - Ocean Point Suites, 2 br with kitchen, 2 days of 2-tank dives with Conch Republic Divers, Spiegel Grove on Saturday | Ronald Mann, 407-699-9797, ronald.b.mann@lmco.com | \$190 |
| Apr 25 - 27 Fri - Sun | Camping at Alexander Springs - Located in Ocala National Forest, tent camping Friday and Saturday nights, cookout Saturday night, diving optional at \$2 per person per day | Ralph Rolape, 407-380-5021 ralph.e.rolape@lmco.com | \$45 per camp- site |
| May 16 - 18 Fri - Sun | Ocean Fest - 2 nights in Tropic Ranch resort, breakfasts, dinner Saturday night, 1 day admission to Ocean Fest, unlimited shore diving | Bill Paskert, 407-678-5311 wpaskert@cfl.rr.com | \$105 |
| Jun 7 Sat | Jupiter - Day trip with Jupiter Dive Charters on Florida's southeast coast, 2-tank trip, rinse bins, & close parking | George McGuire, 407-677-4242 geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net | \$47 |
| Jun 7 Sat | Boynton Beach - KSC Barracudas | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$47 |
| Jun 8 Sun | Boynton Beach - KSC Barracudas | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$47 |
| Jun 19 - 22 Thu - Sun | Dry Tortugas Liveaboard - Ultimate Getaway Diving Charters 100 ft Super Cruiser, air conditioned, Florida's most remote dive destination, departs from Ft Myers, 2 1/2 days diving, all meals, snacks, up to 10 dives per day, nitrox available | Gwen Sandlin-Rolape 407-380-5021 gwen.sandlin-rolape@lmco.com | \$550 |
| Jun 29 - Jul 5 Sun - Sat | Freeport Grand Bahamas - Xanadu Underseas Adventures, 6 nights, 5 days, r/t air from West Palm Beach, 2-tank dive daily, shark & night dives available | Marie Frank, 352-242-1102 marie.s.frank@lmco.com | \$715 |
| Jul 16 - 20 Wed - Sun | Isla Mia Liveaboard - KSC Barracudas | Jeri Dufresne, 321-637-1329 jeridufresne@aol.com | \$525 |
| Jul 18 - 20 Fri - Sun | Venice Beach - Dive from the shore for fossilized shark teeth, 2 nights in hotel, breakfast Saturday, picnic lunch on the beach on Saturday | Jim Streeter, 407-356-2377 jimmy.c.streeter@lmco.com | \$65 |
| Jul 26 - 27 Sat - Sun | Riviera Beach - KSC Barracudas - Rampage | Phil Stasik, 321-455-2221 stasik@dfi.rr.com | \$110 |
| Jul 30 Wed | Boynton Beach - KSC Barracudas | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$50 |
| Aug 1 Fri | Jupiter - Day trip with Jupiter Dive Charters on Florida's southeast coast, 2-tank trip, rinse bins, & close parking; NOTE - this is a FRIDAY trip | George McGuire, 407-677-4242 geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net | \$47 |
| Aug 6 Wed | Stuart Lobster Dive - KSC Barracudas - Dive Hut | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$54 |
| Aug 9 Sat | Riviera Beach Lobster Dive - KSC Barracudas - Pura Vida Divers | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$48 |
| Aug 16 - 17 Sat - Sun | Riviera Beach - KSC Barracudas - Rampage | Phil Stasik, 321-455-2221 stasik@dfi.rr.com | \$110 |
| Aug 15 - 17 Fri - Sun | Loe Key - 2 nights at Parmer's Place Resort, breakfast, 2 days 2-tank dives with Underseas Inc, tanks included | Marie Frank, 352-242-1102 marie.s.frank@lmco.com | \$190 |
| Aug 30-Sep 6 Sat - Sat | Curacao - Labor Day week, Rated as some of the best shore diving in the Caribbean, Habitat Curacao dive resort, r/t air from Miami, airport transfers, kitchens in rooms, breakfast daily, 2-tank boat dives daily, unlimited shore diving | Grace Hampton, 407-737-8999 gracphil@palmnet.net | \$1,250 |
| Sep 13 Sat | Stuart Lobster Dive - KSC Barracudas - Dive Hut | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$48 |
| Sep 27-Oct 4 Sat - Sat | Bonaire - KSC Barracudas | Max Farley, 321-452-1435 maxfarley@earthlink.net | \$1,050 |
| Oct 11 Sat | Jupiter - Day trip with Jupiter Dive Charters on Florida's southeast coast, 2-tank trip, rinse bins, & close parking | George McGuire, 407-677-4242 geopatmcghsd@earthlink.net | \$47 |
| Oct 11 - 12 Sat - Sun | Boynton Beach Drift Dive - KSC Barracudas | John Lawlor, 321-459-3374 johnlawlor@cfl.rr.com | \$50 |
| Oct 24 - 26 Fri - Sun | Fantasy Fest - Experience Key West's wildest Halloween celebration, 2 nights at Sugar Loaf Lodge Resort, Saturday night Twilight Fantasy Parade, no diving | Mike McCleskey, 407-808-6453 mmccleskey@cfl.rr.com | |

MARTIN DIVE CLUB

Ultimate Getaway to the Dry Tortugas

June 19 - 22, 2003



3 days, 3 nights aboard the Ultimate Getaway!

*\$550 includes: 2 1/2 days of diving on the **Ultimate Getaway Diving Charters***

100-foot, air conditioned Super Cruiser

Explore Florida's most remote dive destination

Departs from Ft Myers, includes all meals and snacks

Up to 10 dives per day, Nitrox available



Thursday, 7:00 pm - Overnight cruise to the remote, pristine waters of the Dry Tortugas

Friday: First dive before or after breakfast, 7 - 10 sites per day, between 40 - 80 feet

Saturday: The same, plus a visit to Fort Jefferson National Monument

Sunday: The "Baja California", a 214-foot WW II transport torpedoed by a German submarine, and an Air Force relay tower, then home port between 4:00-5:00 pm

Limit 10 people

\$200 deposit due by May 13th

*For more information, call Gwen Sandlin-Rolape: (407) 380-5021, home;
(407) 306-1801, work; or email at gwen.sandlin-rolape@lmco.com*

Ultimate Getaway Dive Charters - <http://ultimategetaway.net/index.html>

MARTIN DIVE CLUB Hurry, there's only
4 spots left!
Freeport, Grand Bahamas

June 29 - July 5, 2003

*6 nights, 5 days with
Xanadu Underseas Adventures*

\$715 includes:

*Tanks and weights, 5 days of diving
(2 tank dives),*

*Freshwater swimming pool, white sand
beach, gift shop on premises,
3 tennis courts, watersports on site, casino,
Airfare from and to
Palm Beach International.*

*Not included: Bahamian departure
tax (\$20), meals, airport transfers,
specialty dives (shark or night), bar charges*



Limit 12 divers

\$200 deposit due by May 13th

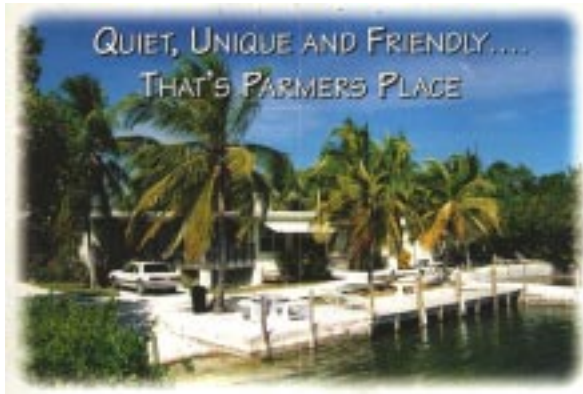
*For more information, call Marie Frank; work (407) 356-8256, or home (352) 242-1102, or
email at marie.s.frank@lmco.com*

Martin Dive Club

Looe Key Dive Trip

August 15 - 17, 2003

*Dive Saturday (wreck dive) and Sunday morning
with Underseas, Inc.*



*Two-night stay at Farmers Place at Little Torch Key with
Complimentary Continental Breakfast of Fresh Breads,
Muffins, Fresh Fruit, Coffee, and Tea*

\$190 diver or snorkeler, tanks included

Room for 10 divers only

Deposit \$50 due July 11

Call Marie Frank (407) 356-8256



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

Habitat Curaçao

August 30 - September 6, 2003

Extend your dive season and join us for a trip to Curacao below the hurricane zone.

It's rated by **Undercurrent** magazine as some of the best shore diving in the Caribbean, Habitat Curacao dive resort.

Grace Hampton is coordinating this trip over Labor Day weekend

Created from the ground up with the diver in mind, Habitat Curacao has every facility for today's demanding dive traveler. But you don't need to be a scuba diver to enjoy quiet ambiance and dramatic landscapes, or relax the the pool in this sunny oasis. Located in the quiet countryside of the Southwest coast, the resort is set apart from the hustle and bustle of Willemstad yet only a 25 minute ride away via one of three complimentary shuttle trips each day.

The resort is bright, airy, spacious, and has breathtaking views from every room. Ocean's Restaurant and Bar continues the tradition of coupling delicious food with stunning vistas. "Diving Freedom" means tanks are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The dive shop offers instruction on all levels, two 2-tank boat dives daily, complete photo facilities, and a full line of equipment rental, sales, and service.



Round-trip air Miami-Curacao, airport transfers in Curacao, studio apartment for two, breakfast, three complimentary shuttle trips to and from town each day.

Daily boat trip with two tank dives, unlimited shore diving, equipment lockers located on the dock

Limit 12 divers

Less than \$1250 per person depending on number of bookings

\$200 deposit due before June 10th

Make check payable to Grace Hampton

For more information, call Grace at (407) 737-8999

e-mail: gracphil@palmnet.net

snail mail: 2330 Treymore Drive

Orlando FL 32825

or see Grace at the next MDC meeting



Diving at Tavernier, Key Largo

This year's trip was even more successful than last year's with 16 participants. The dive operator is even still in business! Those on last year's trip to Tavernier will remember that our dive operation that year, the Sea Ravens, kept its commitment to our **CLUB's** trip as their last piece of business before shutting down. On a similar note, I heard that Lady Cyana Divers (whom we've used on previous trips) did not survive the decrease in travel to the Keys since September 11th and closed down last month.



*Sue Rauckmann, Mike Mayercik,
John Hansen, Ron Mann, Dean Hayes,
and Shaun Coolican*

Photo by George McGuire

For our trip, however, Tavernier in the Florida Keys continues to prove that it has something for everyone when it comes to water sports and scuba diving. The Conch Republic Divers operation (www.conchrepublicdivers.com) was able to arrange an Advanced PADI class for one **MDC** member and additional optional trips to meet the desires of everyone: Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Sunday pre-dawn, and Sunday afternoon, plus snorkeling.



*Yellowline
Arrow Crab*

Photo by George McGuire

May 2003

We visited the 540-foot Speigel Grove on Saturday afternoon, with a shallow second dive at Molasses Reef. The Speigel Grove is the newest addition to the artificial reef system of the Upper Keys. When finally put in place last year, she landed on her side. This creates a 50- to 60-foot deep by 100-foot long dive area on the port side of the control bridge. For those who want to exceed the 110-foot Nitrox limits, the bow's starboard side is resting on the sand at 130 feet. The 90- to 110-foot level has views of power-wrenches, the water tank, gantry crane, control room, and much more to see than one has bottom time.

I need to thank Mary of Conch Republic Divers for her suggestion to stop at Molasses on the way back. There we saw an outstanding collection of marine life from the very small to the very large (see photos). The arrow crab (digital picture by George McGuire) was the size of a finger nail. The lobster (my Aquashot picture) was the size of my 20-pound border terrier. I know that things in the water appear larger and closer, but when I saw that he was roughly the length of my forearm I decided to just take some pictures and did not tease him like I normally do with "no-take-zone" lobsters.



Molasses Goliath Inverted-Brat

Photo by Ron Mann

The most unusual dive started at 5 a.m. Sunday. Seven of us bravely arrived at the dive shop in virtual darkness to motor out in a star-filled pre-dawn dive. We chased lobsters, shrimp, and rays



Orange Cup Coral on the 'Duane'

Photo by George McGuire



Sleeping Rainbow Parrotfish

Photo by George McGuire

has one of the highest concentrations of fish to be seen anywhere in the Keys, or Florida for that matter. This spot has a scenic swim-thorough (for fish, not divers), large coral heads (including elk-horn), sharks, eels, and a variety of juveniles to test a fish identification card.

around with our flashlights, verified that parrotfish and grouper do sleep with their eyes open; and then, as the sun began to rise, saw a dramatic ten-fold increase in marine life as it awakened. It was also much easier to find the boat than during a sunset dive. The red-tip sea goddess picture was from that pre-dawn dive (good eyes, George).



Red-tip Sea Goddess Nudibranch

Photo by George McGuire



Ron Mann Flashing

Photo by Dean Hayes

The accommodations at the Ocean Point suites (www.oceanpointesuites.com) were a cut above the usual Keys resort, but I need to apologize again for trading the extra person in each condo to make up for the peak-season surcharge that was not planned for when this trip price was set.

Ronald Mann

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.

Turks and Caicos, Creatures of the Sea

At our April meeting, we saw a great video by John Durham, a charter member of the KSC Barracudas since its inception in 1964 and an experienced underwater videographer.

John served as an instructor for many years when the Barracudas offered certification courses and is responsible for introducing hundreds of new divers to our sport. He is an award-winning underwater photographer who in more recent years has traded in his still camera for underwater video. He has presented some of his beautiful video work to MDC in the past. John regularly judges the Barracuda's photo contest, and we are fortunate that he was happy to judge our 2002 Photo Contest, as well.

Here is John's description of his video:

"The video was made about 6 years ago off the islands of Providenciales and Grand Turk in the Bahamas. We were on a horrible boat called Ocean Outback and the horrors of that boat could be the

subject for another whole meeting. Captain Bill's boat was very slow and beat up, but I must say he took us to some fantastic dive sites. Only one time were we in deep water, 95 feet, and that was to see a large Elephant Ear sponge, the largest that has ever been found (to his knowledge). It was about 10 feet across. Near the sponge was an old ship's anchor and chain - probably hundreds of years old.

There was plenty of time in shallow water to get a good look at the sea life, and I chose to take close ups of small creatures often overlooked by divers. They are there, you just have to look close and take time to see them. I use an old Sony TR-81 Hi-8 camera with an attached magnifying lens in an Amfibico housing. This equipment is outdated many times over, but it works for me.

Yellowhead Jaw Fish make excellent subjects for close ups because they stay in one place, in their hole. The trick is to get them to come out of their hole. I solved this problem, as you will see in the video. Garden Eels fell for the same trick. Banded Coral Shrimp make good close-up subjects, as well as Brittle Star Fish, but I think a cleaning station is the most fascinating of all. Here you can see the interaction of the animals as they are living their lives in the sea."



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

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------|---|
| May 13 | Meeting: Nitrox, Brian Moseley |
| May 16-18 | Ocean Festival Trip: Bill & Joanne |
| June 7 | Jupiter Trip: George McGuire |
| June 10 | Meeting: Don Paschal, Extasea |
| June 19-22 | Dry Tortugas Trip: The Rolapes |