



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

News

November 2004



November Meeting

Annual Photo Contest Results

The night for the photo contest is upon us!

Come see the 'best of our best' photographers at our November 9th meeting. Cheryl Pizon, our Photo Contest committee leader, will show us who shot what and announce the results of the judging.

Twenty members submitted 94 photos for your viewing pleasure. Several new members tested the water with 'first-time entries.'

This year the judging was done by the famous Stephen Frink (www.stephenfrink.com). Stephen Frink is the world's most widely published underwater photographer. With a career spanning over two decades, his photos have appeared in a wide variety of dive journals and magazines world-wide, and he has provided stunning imagery for hundreds of promotional campaigns.

Our members' photos are really good. You're going to be surprised at just how good. Some of them could be on the covers of, or in, magazines. Come see for yourself.

Mark your calendar and plan to come out to see the beautiful photos and congratulate the talented winners on Tuesday, the 9th.



Stephen Frink . . . at work

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.



The meeting will be at Joe's Crab Shack, which is located at 4601 South Semoran Boulevard in Orlando [phone (407) 658-9299]. It's south of SR 408 (the East-West Expressway) on the east side of SR 436, between Pershing and Gatlin.



Stephen Frink . . . on location

President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers,

It's that time of year when the thought of a nice warm water dive may be dwindling but there are still some opportunities to get in a few remaining dives before the "winds of winter" whip in.

The October meeting was very well attended, and Fran Grenda gave an informative presentation on the Florida Aquarium and the programs they offer. The aquarium might be a fun dive to try this winter season and come face to face with the creatures in the Shark Encounter. Several opportunities are also available for volunteers. Contact myself or one of the Board members if you missed the meeting and would like information.

The November meeting will be devoted to the annual Photo Contest, and entries will be judged by Stephen Frink. As most of you know, Stephen is one of the world's most frequently published underwater photographers, with editorial work appearing in Scuba Diving magazine. Steven, Photography Director for the publication, writes a monthly column on underwater photo trends and techniques. His work has been published in several periodicals including Time, Newsweek, and National Geographic, to name a few.

The website [underwaterstockphotos.com](http://www.underwaterstockphotos.com) has a comprehensive grouping of his photos as well as other world-class underwater and marine photographers and is well worth a "surf" to the site:

<http://www.underwaterstockphotos.com>.

Stephen has a shop at Mile Marker 102.5 in Key Largo so if you're ever in the area, stop in and take a look around. I am sure everyone will enjoy viewing the photos that he has judged and seeing what life looks like through the underwater camera lens. Remember, things look larger underwater. Is that true as seen through the camera lens? What do you think?

Is the Cozumel trip over yet?

Please join us for the annual Holiday Party at Dubsdread Country Club. Mark December 5th on your calendar, and see Wendy for a spot. Remember, the first 30 members to sign up get a \$20 per person price.

In January, in lieu of our general membership meeting, we'll get together to plan our activities for 2005. Please come help us select next year's dive destinations. Your ideas and participation are needed.

Until next time, see you "down under."

Al Wileden

Your Officers and Staff

President Al Wileden	(407) 356-8954	Committees	
Vice President Barbara Shurman	(407) 380-2962	Activity Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Secretary Nancy Wileden	(407) 971-8525	Camera Mike McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
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Board of Directors		Meetings Open	
Jim Kennedy	(352) 243-2425	Membership Wendy McCleskey	(407) 273-6655
Bill Paskert	(407) 356-2290	Merchandise Patsy Kennedy	(352) 243-2425
Jim Streeter	(407) 356-2337	Photo Contest Cheryl Pizon	(407) 671-4870
		Safety and Training Warren Musacchia	(407) 306-2773
		Webmaster Dean Hayes	(407) 275-6365



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

Holiday Party

Sunday, December 5, 2004

Brunch - 10:30 AM



Join us for a wonderful brunch at the Dubsdread Country Club and participate in our infamous fish-related gift exchange. The brunch will include Eggs Benedict, Omelet Station, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Grilled Vegetables, Fresh Fruit, Rolls, and Dessert. Mimosas and Bloody Marys will be available at a cash bar for \$2.

*The first 30 **CLUB** members who send in their check will pay \$20 for the party. Non-member guests and anyone after the first 30 members will pay \$35.*

We only have 4 spaces left!

Our gift exchange is one of the best in town! Buy a new item that is fish- or ocean-related and worth \$10. Wrap up one for you, and one for your guest, and set them under the tree.

World Watersports and other local dive shops usually have some great ideas. Old Time Pottery has all kinds of fishy things from candles to coffee mugs.

Bring a check to the November 9th meeting. Or you can mail it to:



*Wendy McCleskey
1814 Billingshurst Court
Orlando FL 32825-8437*

Questions? Call Wendy at (407) 273-6655



LITTLE CAYMAN BEACH RESORT

MAY 28 - JUNE 4, 2005

Plan ahead for this excellent trip run by the **Martin Dive Club** and KSC Barracudas.

The trip will include RT airfare from Ft. Lauderdale, (same-day connection in Grand Cayman to Little Cayman), three gourmet meals per day, 17 boat dives per week on Newton boats, round trip transfers, and taxes.

Many of us will be making our second, third, or fourth trip to this resort so you know it's a good one!

LITTLE CAYMAN BEACH RESORT HAS GOOD NEWS

Most of the fury of recent hurricanes missed Little Cayman island. The Little Cayman Beach Resort had some damage to the dock, one boat, and a few rooms but will be repaired and running smoothly within 4 to 6 weeks. This means that the trip of **MDC** and KSC Cudas on May 28 through June 4, 2005 will be on track. And our trip is 'Before Hurricane Season 2005.'

The other good news is there has been an additional discount so the trip looks like it will go for \$1850 per diver, and non-divers will get an additional discount. Be aware that 21 of 33 slots are sold. We are looking for a single male to round things out. Twelve unsold slots will be subject to cancellation by Jan. 2005 unless we have your deposit of \$125 by then.

So you divers that did not book or had to cancel the Cozumel trip, step on up and get some diving in while the weather is good. If you have a non-diver spouse or travel companion, the Little Cayman Beach Resort is a great place to relax on a tropical island without a bit of hassle: 3 great meals a day, a workout room and library, a pool and hot tub, a sandy beach in sun and/or shade, a great gift shop, bikes to use. And all this within walking distance of a small town, iguanas, and birding.

For your convenience we have two experienced trip coordinators working to make things go easy and smooth for you. The flight will be out of Ft. Lauderdale with a same-day connection out of Grand Cayman.

Contact either:

Grace Hampton (407) 737-8999
gracphil@palmnet.net

2330 Treymore Drive, Orlando FL 32825

Or

Wendy McCleskey (407) 273-6655
wendy@maid4u.net

1814 Billingshurst Court, Orlando FL 32825

For more information on the resort, check out:

www.littlecayman.com



Hurricane Relief Appeal from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution

HARBOR BRANCH

Oceanographic Institution, Inc.

Shirley A. Pomponi, Ph.D.
Acting Managing Director
5600 US. 1 NORTH
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA 34946

(772) 465-2400, Ext. 449
FAX (772) 465-7156
E-MAIL: pomponic@hboi.edu

October 1, 2004

Dear Friends:

As many of you already know, Harbor Branch suffered serious damage from direct hits by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne. However, I am pleased to report that as of Monday, Oct. 4, we are back up and running in a limited capacity. All of our divisions will be able to continue operations during what will be a long and difficult recovery phase, but many scientists will be working in temporary workspaces. We do not have an accurate estimate, but total damages are likely to be in the range of \$30 to \$40 million.

Our Marine Sciences building, which houses coral, bioluminescence, deep-sea biology, fish, and other research programs, was one of the hardest hit. Several roof sections were blown away leading to major water damage. We now have to determine if it will make more sense to repair the building, which is over 30 years old, or rebuild.

Also hit hard by both storms was our Johnson Education Center, which lost several large windows and roof sections. As an unfortunate result, most on-campus educational programs are now on hold, although courses taught in conjunction with FAU and IRCC are continuing without interruption.

The heaviest new damage from Jeanne was to the Link Building, which houses administrative offices, much of our drug discovery program, and the Environmental Laboratory commercial subsidiary. Much of the roof was damaged, allowing in substantial water. However, the biomedical sample collection and critical data remain safe in our hurricane-proof (and now twice-tested) bunker.

Many aquaculture greenhouses, the maintenance building, the high-bay warehouse, and housing for students in the aquaculture training program also suffered major damage, among other buildings. Our dolphin and whale critical care pool facility was also destroyed; meaning that, for now, we will not be able to do any marine mammal rehabilitation.

We have already made remarkable progress, but the rebuilding process will be a long and difficult one that will push us to the limit emotionally, intellectually, and financially. We are working with state and national legislators as well as our insurance company and FEMA to secure necessary funds. However, it is now clear we will need additional support as we complete our recovery. So, we are asking friends and supporters like you to help us in our efforts by contributing to a newly established Hurricane Relief Fund. An envelope is included with this letter, and you can also make online donations at www.hboi.edu/stormsupport or call Suzanne Leffew at 772-465-2400 ext. 204.

Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Pomponi, Ph.D.
Acting Managing Director

A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (3), qualifying for tax-deductible contributions under Internal Revenue Code Section 170(c).

Medical Advice from Phil and Grace

My doctor suggested Flonase (prescription) and Claritin (or Wal-tin, its over-the-counter generic) for Grace after she had experienced a reverse block. I checked with DAN, and they had no objections to these medications.

This year I have had 106 dives, all using both Flonase and Wal-tin with no adverse effects. The GREAT effect is that after years of hold-your-nose descents, I can now put my head down and swim straight down!

Grace doesn't like using both, so after the first three days she uses only Wal-tin.

Here's an article on clearing congestion from the August issue of *Scuba Diving* magazine.

Phil Hampton

Rodale's Scuba Diving, August 2004

Your Body

Allergies

Nasal and sinus congestion brought on by allergies can deep-six a dive faster than a hurricane because it makes it impossible to equalize the pressure in your ears. And if you can't clear your ears, you can't dive.

The bottom line: Sudafed decongestant is the drug du jour of sniffling divers, but don't just pop these pills without some caution, warns Dr. Hearn. "It can accelerate your heart rate and make you anxious, and it shouldn't be used by people with high blood pressure." Afrin 12 Hour nasal spray is a better choice for short trips. Also, newer-generation antihistamines like Claritin are a better choice for divers with allergies. If you suffer from a chronically clogged head, prescription nasal sprays like Flonase work wonders and don't put you at risk for drowsiness, rebound congestion or reverse block, as do many shorter-acting over-the-counter antihistamines or decongestants. Just be aware that you need to use Flonase well in advance of your trip for it to be effective.

November 2004

Florida Aquarium at Our October Meeting!

Love Florida? Here's a way to show it!

On Tuesday, October 12th, we heard all about the Florida Aquarium from Fran Grenda, a member of the staff and volunteer diver with the Aquarium since 1998. She also told us about the DIVE! programs at the Aquarium.



Florida Aquarium in Tampa

Fran and her husband have been diving for over 20 years since getting their certifications in the military. He's from Chicago and has over 1200 dives. She's from Miami and has over 700 dives. Since retiring, they have volunteered and worked part time at the Aquarium. Fran explained their 'Dive with the Sharks' program and the volunteer opportunities at the Aquarium.

The Florida Aquarium serves as a significant example of Florida's commitment to preserving native landscapes, ecosystems, historical and archaeological sites, and ethnic and cultural traditions representative of the diverse geography and cultural life unique to our state. Opened in March 1995, the 152,000 sq-ft aquarium tells Florida's unique water story as it follows a drop of water from its underground source to the open sea. It houses over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals both native to Florida and from all over the globe. It has provided cultural enrichment experiences to over 3.5 million residents and visitors, including 250,000 school students and teachers.

See "Aquarium", on page 7



Aquarium visitors now can experience Florida's spectacular wildlife in its natural setting. The Florida Aquarium is offering DolphinQuest eco-tours aboard a 64-foot, 49-passenger catamaran, officially named Bay Spirit. The Aquarium takes its guests out to the Bay to see these incredible animals. Tampa Bay is home to over 400 bottlenose dolphins. It is also one of the best places in Florida to view birds and an abundance of native fish. And all of this wildlife thrives in a working, deepwater port, in close proximity to one of the fastest growing population centers in the United States.



Dive with the Sharks gives people the opportunity to SCUBA dive with shark species from around the world in the incredible Shark Bay exhibit. They provide the sharks and all required gear for this experience of a lifetime. This experience puts divers up close and personal with the ocean's top predator on every dive. The *Dive with the Sharks* program is designed to dispel the commonly held myth that sharks are man-eaters and to convey a strong conservation message to guests. Essentially, this is an extension of their very successful and popular dive show "Sharks! From Fear to Fascination!"

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: www.martindiveclub.org.

Jumbo squid is captured in unfamiliar waters

SITKA, Alaska - A large Humboldt squid caught offshore from Sitka is among numerous sightings of a species seen for the first time in waters of the Far North, and the first of the species recovered from British Columbia waters. The 5-foot *Dosidicus gigas*, or jumbo flying squid, was shipped this week to California to be kept for research at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Eric Hochberg, curator of the Santa Barbara museum, said the species is usually found off Baja California and farther south.

The farthest north the species has been reported until this year was off the coast of Oregon in 1997, said James A. Cosgrove, manager of natural history at the Royal British Columbia Museum. Before that year, the farthest north it was seen was near San Francisco, he said. Until this summer, there have been no other sightings in the north, Cosgrove said. "It's unprecedented," he said. "It speaks of a fundamental change in the ocean along the coast."

The Associated Press
Oct. 15, 2004



Greg Cowling, a deckhand on the F/V Commander, holds up a jumbo flying squid caught in the ocean near Sitka, Alaska, in September. Until this year, the species had never been found so far north, and scientists wonder whether this year's squid sightings hint at a fundamental change in the ocean ecosystem.

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.

Fantasy Fest 'Flash' Report

All hands are safely accounted for after many **MDC** members and friends undertook the annual pilgrimage to Key West for Fantasy Fest 2004. As always, there are many incriminating stories, pho-

tos, and memories. Once again, our **MDC** crew led the parade down Duval Street for the Saturday night Twilight Fantasy Parade. Stay tuned for the next newsletter for full coverage, or show up at the November meeting and get the news firsthand.

Capt. Mike



MARTIN DIVE CLUB

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Upcoming Events

- Nov 9 **Meeting:** Annual Photo Contest, Cheryl Pizon
- Dec 5 **Holiday Party:** Brunch & Gifts
- Jan 11 **Meeting:** 2005 Activity Planning