



# LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB

## News

November 2005



### November Meeting

## The Night for the Photo Contest Is upon Us!

Come see the 'best of our best' photographers at our November 8th meeting. We will see who shot what and hear the results of the judging.

Fifteen **CLUB** members submitted 78 photos in nine different categories for your viewing pleasure. Several new members tested the water with 'first-time entries.'

This year the judging was done by the editorial staff of *Sport Diver* magazine (<http://www.sportdiver.com/>). They just completed their own annual photo contest, with the results published in the September 2005 issue.

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 just like *Sport Diver*. Come see these great photos and what the judges had to say about them for yourself.



One of last year's first prize winners

We also have some exciting and valuable prizes to hand out to the lucky winners. We will be awarding dive trips, equipment, meals, calendars, coupons . . . WOW!!

Mark your calendar and plan to come out to see the beautiful photos and congratulate the talented winners on Tuesday, the 8th.

*Mike McCleskey*

Camera Chairman

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.

## President's Column

Hello Fellow Divers,

There is still time to get in some quality bottom time before the autumn temperatures come in. The seas have been rough recently, but the visibility has been fairly good considering the amount of storms we have had bouncing around. Water temp was a pleasant 83 degrees a few weeks ago and there was an abundance of marine life to observe in their natural habitat. I hope that you get a chance to get out and enjoy the great diving we have here in Florida.

Last month we had a very exciting presentation from Dr. Linda Walters, who is with the Biology department at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Walters shared with us a very enthusiastic presentation about Killer Algae, which has recently been found in Florida waters. While it looks innocent enough, these algae can take over an area, and eradication is very difficult. I think we all enjoyed the presentation and will think twice before dumping any of our aquarium water and contents into the Atlantic.

At our October meeting, we also took entries for the Annual Photo Contest, and several members gave Captain Mike their award winning photos or pixels. This year the contest is being judged by members of the editorial staff with *Sport Diver* magazine.

Wendy is planning our annual Holiday Party and gift exchange. Come to the meeting this month and hear details about it. Every year seems better than the last, and the gift exchange is something that everyone likes to have fun with. There's usually a lot of "trading" before the final swap is made. Please join us for a great time, excellent food, and some good cheer.

Our November meeting will feature the results of the Photo Contest, and you'll want to come out and congratulate the winners. Are you one? I hope so. We will be gathering at Joe's Crab shack around 6:30 pm, so please join us and enjoy the company of your fellow divers.

Until next time, see you "down under."

*Al Wileden*

## Your Officers and Staff

President <b>Al Wileden</b> (407) 356-8954	<b>Committees</b>
Vice President <b>Barbara Shurman</b> (407) 380-2962	Activity <b>Mike McCleskey</b> (407) 273-6655
Secretary <b>Nancy Wileden</b> (407) 971-8525	Camera <b>Mike McCleskey</b> (407) 273-6655
Treasurer <b>Wendy McCleskey</b> (407) 273-6655	Communications <b>Bill Paskert</b> (407) 356-2290
Director at Large <b>Gwen Rolape</b> (407) 306-1801	Equipment <b>Don Russ</b> (407) 356-1064
Board of Directors	Meetings <b>Open</b>
<b>Phil Carter</b> (407) 306-7081	Membership <b>Wendy McCleskey</b> (407) 273-6655
<b>Jim Kennedy</b> (352) 874-3305	Merchandise <b>Patsy Kennedy</b> (352) 243-2425
<b>Bill Paskert</b> (407) 356-2290	Safety and Training <b>Warren Musacchia</b> (407) 306-2773
	Webmaster <b>Dean Hayes</b> (407) 275-6365



# HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 4, 2005

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us at Dubsdread Country Club for  
Brunch. Menu items will include:

Eggs Benedict

Fiesta Eggs

Bacon/Sausage/Ham

Biscuits & Gravy

French Toast

Grilled Vegetables

Fresh Fruit

Scones/Bagels

Scalloped Potatoes

Tortellini Alfredo

Plus, Cash Bar for \$3 Mimosas or Bloody Marys.

R.S.V.P. by sending your check for \$20 to:

Wendy McCleskey, 1814 Billingshurst Ct., Orlando 32825.

The Club will subsidize the first 40 members to sign up. After that, it will be \$28/member. Guests are welcome at \$28.

Our infamous \$10 Fishy Gift Exchange will be the highlight of the morning as usual. Please bring a fun, ocean oriented, wrapped gift to exchange.

Questions? Call Wendy at 407-273-6655

## Safety and Training

# Abandoned Divers, What to do, How to Prevent

### The Boat

- \* Check out the boat and boat captain before diving
  - Ask questions about rescue action plans
  - Ask about the history of the motor
  - Ask about the credentials of the crew
  - Ask about the system for counting heads (Names!).
- \* Find out if the boat has a functioning radio
  - Request to see and hear it function
  - Ask who they call for assistance.
- \* Be alert to location of the nearest land

### The Dive

- \* If a drift dive, listen carefully for instructions, stay with the group
- \* Check for current, tide, and wind conditions; imagine yourself out of sight of the boat
- \* Always start your dive by swimming up-current after orienting yourself
- \* Develop navigational skills. See <http://www.scubadiving.com/training/instruction/navigation/>

### Equipment Possibly Helpful

- \* Inflatable Sausage
- \* Reflector
- \* Whistle or other noise maker
- \* Slate
- \* Line

### Hazards of Being Left Behind

- \* Dehydration and thirst
- \* Hypothermia
- \* Severe sunburn and immersion injury
- \* Marine animal injury
- \* Drowning

### Things to Do

- \* Inflate BC
- \* Drop weights, preserving belt
- \* Inflate sausage

- \* Flash reflector (Someone might see it, even though you can't see them)
- \* Blow whistle
- \* Write time, approximate location and speed of current on your slate
- \* If you swim, swim diagonally with the current toward any known dry land
- \* Stay with others involved. Use a tie up method using empty weight belt or other straps. This gives a larger target for searchers.
- \* Remember that there will be rescue attempts and searchers.

### 'Seven Steps to Survival'

Survival at sea depends on the recognition that you are in danger of losing your life. There are commonly described "seven steps" to survival that may make a difference in the outcome of some rather terrible situations. Even an accident fairly close inshore in cold water can quickly lead to hypothermia and drowning. The seven steps to survival are: recognition, inventory, shelter, water, food, signals, and play. Of course, flotation is a prerequisite for any survival after only a short time in the water. Other factors come into play, the most important of which is unmeasurable, "the will to live".

The seven steps to survival include recognizing that you are in peril and realizing that what you are wearing constitutes a form of shelter. Use signals in the form of mirrors, flares, colored objects, or waving arms, suits, or objects about to attract attention. Finally, "play" comes into action as you have memories, fantasies, prayer, tell jokes, and get rid of your anger.

From: Dive Medicine Online

*Warren Musacchia*



**Another of last year's Photo Contest  
first prize winners**

LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB 'News'

## From Our October Meeting

### Dr. Linda Walters, UCF Professor of Biology, "Killer Algae in Florida's Marine Environment"

At our October 11th meeting, Dr. Linda Walters of the University of Central Florida's Biology Department told us of her adventures with Killer Algae (*Caulerpa*) in the Florida Keys. This feathery green alga may seem innocent enough at first glance, but to biologists - and residents of the Mediterranean, Australian, or Southern Californian coasts - the plant is known as "killer algae."

This was the scenario that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea. In the 1980s, an invasive aquarium strain was accidentally released (probably from the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco), and now, 20 years later, the coastal ecosystems of Monaco, France,

Italy, Spain, Tunisia, and Croatia have all been negatively impacted. It was a very fast growing species and had taken over and destroyed reefs around Spain before the problem was recognized "The Mediterranean will never come back from this *Caulerpa* invasion. No corals, no sea grasses, no fish, no shrimp - they lost it all . . .," said Dr. Walters.



*UCF Student works with  
Caulerpa underwater*

The algae is difficult to control for several reasons: even the tiniest piece can take root on a reef; fish don't like the taste and will spit it out, which increases the small pieces floating around; and new strains of the algae take less time to grow and take over the earlier strains. It's interesting that DNA tests can trace all the current samples to the original algae released accidentally.

Dr. Walters reviewed the different species such as Cuban tree frogs and Brazilian pepper bushes that have been introduced into Florida's environment and the impact they have had.



Dr. Walters, with support from the National Sea Grant, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, examines *Caulerpa taxifolia*'s life cycle and biological controls of it, and seeks out new ways to deal with outbreaks of it. She also helps devise an education and outreach strategy to prevent potential invasions of Florida's waters and identifies likely invasion hot spots.

In 2000 and 2001, *Caulerpa taxifolia* outbreaks erupted just north of San Diego, California, and in southern Australia. "They used chlorine in California to eradicate the invasive *Caulerpa*. The chlorine killed the fish," explains Dr. Walters. "It killed

See 'Killer', page 8

#### LMDC 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](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-093
- E-mail at work: [william.paskert@lmco.com](mailto:william.paskert@lmco.com); or at home: [wpaskert@cfl.rr.com](mailto:wpaskert@cfl.rr.com)
- Fax (please call before sending) at work: (407) 356-4694; or at home: (407) 678-5311.

everything in that area.” In New South Wales, Australia, the Caulerpa containment strategy was even more severe. “They used copper-sulfate in Australia,” says Dr. Walters, “which is even nastier than chlorine. We don’t want to ever have to do that in Florida.” California and Australia used chlorine and copper-sulfate which killed everything in the area. They went to such extreme efforts because of the algae’s terrible effects and its resilience to other forms of removal.



Dr. Walters received her undergraduate degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, spending her junior year in the marine science program at the University College of North Wales in Bangor, Wales. After graduation from Bates, she completed both her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Her research focused on various aspects of why sessile invertebrate communities (barnacles, sponges, bryozoans, etc.) look the way they do (i.e., Is it due to larval settlement patterns, competition, predation, water flow, etc.?). She is now on the Biology faculty at the University of Central Florida, and teaches introductory biology to freshman majors and a suite of upper-division marine biology classes. Her research involves understanding the demise of oyster reefs in the Indian River Lagoon, exploration behaviors of invertebrate larvae when competent to settle, and exotic species invasions.



## LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB

MP-200 ESC

1814 Billingshurst Court

Orlando FL 32825

(407) 306-5020

[www.martindiveclub.org](http://www.martindiveclub.org)

## Upcoming Events

- Nov 8 **Meeting:** Photo Contest Results
- Dec 4 **Holiday Party:** Wendy McCleskey
- Dec 9-11 **Fantasy Fest Trip:** Mike McCleskey (re-scheduled due to Hurricane Wilma)
- Jan 10 **Special Meeting:** Activities Calendar Planning