# LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB

# News

## October 2009

### October Meeting

# Sinking of the USNS Vandenburg - Tracy Grubbs

Come to our next monthly meeting, Tuesday, October 13th, at 6:30 PM, to hear Tracy Grubbs tell (and show) us all about his experiences as a member of the crew that sank the USNS Vandenberg, the world's second largest artificial reef! He and the crew sank the 522-foot long former missile tracking ship in 140 feet of water about 7 miles off Key West. Tracy is an instructor at Spruce Creek Scuba in Port Orange, Florida, with many years of experience in all aspects of scuba diving. Here's a bit about Tracy, in his own words:

> "I started diving in 1982 and never stopped. I believe that the beauty of the ocean should be seen by all, and I became an Instructor in 1996 to share it. I currently teach for SSI, SDI, TDI, PSA, DAN, and NACD. I teach from basic recreational through technical tri-mix instructor and full cave."

> "My main goals are safety and preservation of the habitats that we go to and spend time in. Currently, I serve on the Board of Directors of NACD and am part of the IUCRR team, the "International Underwater Cave Rescue Recovery" team."

> "I have traveled worldwide - from setting up resorts in Egypt to taking private groups to the Caribbean and Micronesia to do photography. I have been on several archeology digs, and now it's sinking ships into history. "Vandenberg" was one of the most incredible projects I have been on. To be there for the sinking was amazing, but to be part of it was spectacular."

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

The meeting will be at Joe's Crab Shack, which is located at 4601 South Semoran Boulevard (SR 436) 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 Dive Enthusiasts,

The ***Club*** Photo Contest is in full swing with submissions deadline set for October 13th. Art has been hard at work, and turned August's presentation into a slideshow on our Website. It takes a minute or so to load, but it covers the guidelines, and reviews the competition in simple terms. The link is on the main page above our meeting information. Please support his enormous efforts for the ***Club*** and submit your photos. We hope to create a calendar from the winning results, in addition to the prizes each winner receives.

It is with regret that I move on to less joyous news. Both Cherie and I have had some major changes in our personal circumstances and feel that we are unable to continue as President and Vice President this year. As you all know, balancing all the different facets of our lives becomes a challenge, and the ***Club*** needs an active Board of Directors along with an active membership. The Activity Chair remains unfilled along with the Meeting Chair and Safety and Training. No members have come forward to help plan dives or assist in the above roles, and we feel we must also step back to concentrate on family, work, and studies.

The ***Club*** is what you make of it. Please volunteer a few hours a month to plan a dive, help run one of the vacant Board or Chair positions, and support Art in his photo competition.

*Stuart Gibson*

## Secretary's Column

In order to fill the vacancies resulting from Stuart's and Cherie's resignations and to fill several Committee Chair vacancies, the available members of the Board of Directors met after the September 8th general meeting. All present at the regular meeting were asked to participate in the ensuing decision process.

The quorum of the Board made the following appointments for the Board of Directors, subject to a vote by the general membership, which was anticipated to be held at the October 13th General Membership meeting:

President - Al Wileden

Vice President - Mike McCleskey

Secretary - Nancy Wileden

See 'Board', page 3

## Your Club Leadership

| | |
|---|---|
| President | |
| **Stuart Gibson** | 352-978-4191 |
| Vice President | |
| **Cherie Jarvis** | 407-760-0906 |
| Secretary | |
| **Bill Paskert** | 407-356-2290 |
| Treasurer | |
| **Claudia DeYoung** | 407-697-6654 |
| Director at Large | |
| **Jim Kennedy** | **352-874-3305** |
| Board of Directors | |
| **Mike McCleskey** | 407-808-6453 |
| **George McGuire** | 407-677-4242 |
| **Darrell Seale** | 817-308-9764 |

| **Committee Chairs** | |
|---|---|
| Activity | |
| **Jim Kennedy** | 352-874-3305 |
| Camera | |
| **Art Beaulieu** | 407-701-3331 |
| Communications | |
| **Bill Paskert** | 407-356-2290 |
| Equipment | |
| **Bill Paskert** | 407-356-2290 |
| Meeting | |
| **Wendy McCleskey** | 407-273-6655 |
| Membership | |
| **Claudia DeYoung** | 407-697-6654 |
| Merchandise | |
| **Al Wileden** | 407-971-8525 |
| Safety and Training | |
| **Darrell Seale** | 817-308-9764 |
| Webmaster | |
| **Stuart Gibson** | 352-978-4191 |

# *Lockheed Martin Dive Club* 2009 Activity Schedule

| Date | Event | Contact | Partic-ipants | Deposit Amount | Cut-off Date | Total Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct 30 - Nov 1 | Fantasy Fest | Mike McCleskey 407-808-6453 | 20 | $100 | Sep 15 | $220 |
| Nov 21 - 22 | Aquarium Tour – Mote Marine Aquarium in Sarasota and Florida Aquarium in Tampa | Bill Paskert 407-356-2290 | open | $40 | Oct 21 | $80 |
| Dec 6 | Holiday Party | Cherie Jarvis 407-760-0906 | 40 | $0 | Nov 29 | $25 est |

* The KSC Barracudas is our sister club. We can participate in their activities on par with their members and they in ours. For more information on dive trips by the KSC Barracudas, please see their website: http://www.mindspring.com/~cudas/home.html

**Board, from page 2**

Treasurer - Claudia DeYoung

Director at Large - Jim Kennedy

Director - George McGuire

Director - Bill Paskert

Director - Darrell Seale.

In addition, the Board quorum worked with volunteers to fill the following Committee Chair positions:

Activity - Jim Kennedy

Meeting - Wendy McCleskey

Safety and Training - Darrell Seale.

The appointments by the Board of Directors will be presented to the members at the October 13th General Membership meeting for ratification in accordance with the ***Club***'s Bylaws.

The attendees at the September 8th meeting were:

**Board of Directors:**

Bill Paskert - Secretary

Claudia DeYoung - Treasurer

Mike McCleskey - Director

Darrell Seale - Director

**Members:**

Al Wileden

Nancy Wileden

Jim Kennedy

Patsy Kennedy.

Your faithful Secretary (but not for long),

*Bill Paskert*

# 2009 Photo Contest - Art Beaulieu

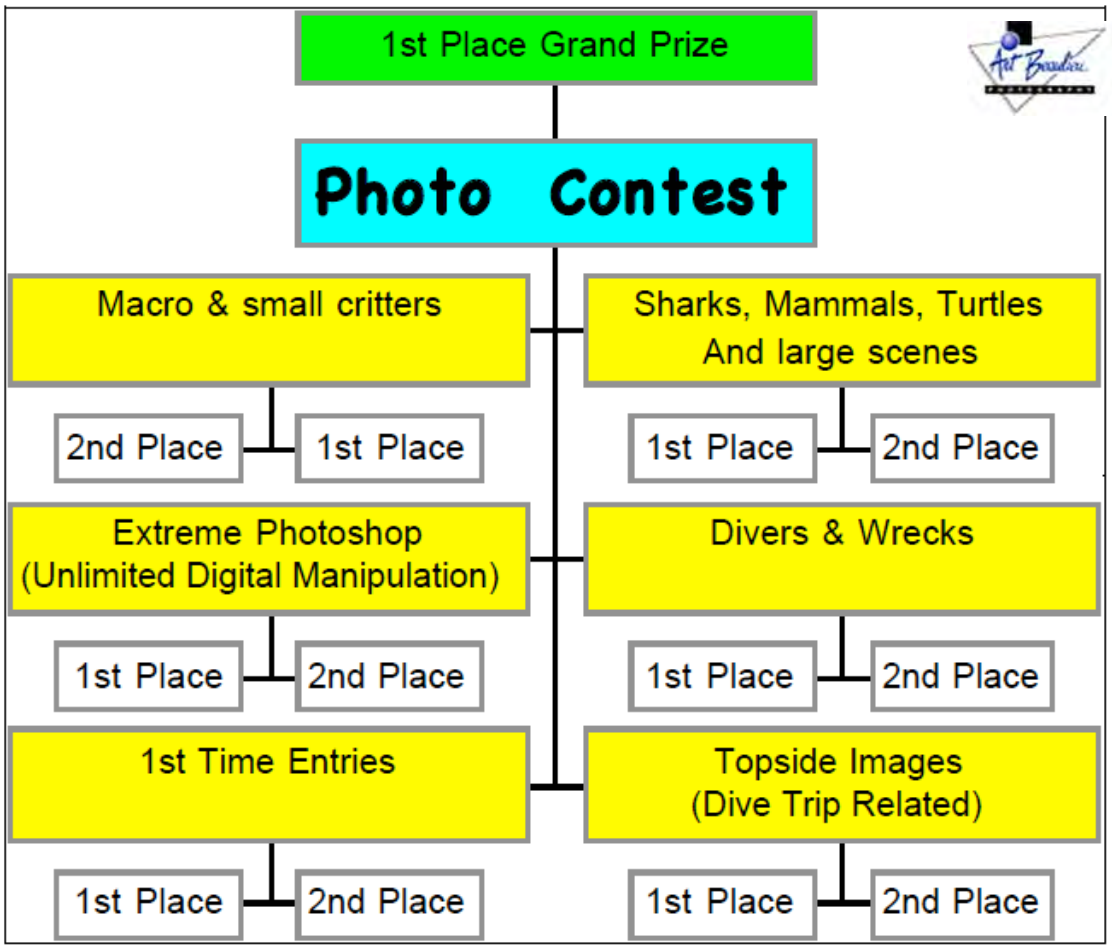
"Take your best shots" with you when you cometo our October 13th meeting, next Tuesday. That's your last chance to turn them in to ***Club*** member and professional photographer Art Beaulieu for our 2009 Photo Contest.

Art has organized a great process for members to select their entries best suited to the contest categories and have them evaluated by a panel of distinguished photo judges.

## Photo Contest Rules

* Total of SIX entries per person
* All photos must be taken between October 1, 2008, and October 13, 2009
* Entry deadline is the October meeting
* See Categories shown separately
* Digital images may only be:
  - Color corrected
  - Adjusted for lightness or darkness
  - Minor clean up of back scatter
  - Cropped
  - EXCEPTION: Extreme Photoshop Category: anything goes
* Format submissions: (rop approximately to 6.5 x 10 in. at 300 dots per inch (dpi)
* Submit images in JPEG format
* Submit to Art Beaulieu on CD
* Mail to
  - Art Beaulieu
  - 1735 Wind Harbor Road
  - Orlando FL 32809
* All submissions will be shown at our November Meeting
* Prizes will be awarded at our November Meeting.

Come join the contest. Check out the diving photos you've taken recently, pick out the best, and submit them to Art. Yours could be winners like these.



# Mote Marine and Florida Aquariums

## Tampa Bay

### November 21 - 22, 2009

*From its humble beginnings in tiny shed in a small Florida town, Mote Marine Laboratory has expanded to include a 10.5-acre campus in Sarasota, Flarida, with field stations and public exhibits in Key West and field stations in Summerland Key and Charlotte Harbor. From the original focus on sharks, Mote research has expanded to include seven major areas of concentration, organized into seven research centers.*

MOTE MARINE LABORATORY

*The Florida Aquarium, dedicated to public entertainment, education and conservation, astounds visitors with the beauty and fragility of our ecosystem. The facility is home to over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals from 1,340 species from Florida and all over the world. Opening in March 1995, the Aquarium has provided cultural enrichment experiences to nearly 6 million visitors, including 250,000 school students and teachers.*

THE FLORIDA AQUARIUM

*Mote Aquarium in Sarasota on Saturday and Florida Aquarium in Tampa on Sunday, one night in Eckerd College Lodge in St. Petersberg*

*Cost: $80; deposit $40 due October 21; rates are based on double occupancy.*

*Contact: Bill Paskert 407-678-5311,*
wpaskert@cfl.rr.com

# Torey's Eagle Project - Reef Balls

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of my Reef Balls project over the past few weeks! It turned out to be a great success, and the Reef Balls were delivered to Larry Begg's Reef Innovations (a subset of the Reef Ball Foundation) plant in Sarasota on Saturday, September 27th. Severa; Club members came out to help with the pours; and lots of fun was had by all, aided by bountiful amounts of local beer at the Orlando Brewing Company, who hosted the project!

18 Club members donated a total of $825; my goal was $950. My total raised was $1965, and we exceeded my fund-raising goal by almost $1000!

A special thanks to everyone who donated their time and money. I am so grateful I had this good community to get help from and that I could rely on.

Thanks all!

*Torey McCleskey*

# Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort

## Key Largo, July 1-5

We had a great time in Key Largo for the Fourth at Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Center! Jim & Patsy, Marie, Sue, Mike, Terry & Chuck, Tom & Robin, Sharon & Lauren, and I followed the pattern of diving and socializing that the ***Club*** followed back in May, when Marie ran a trip. In fact, 9 of the 18 folks that went on Marie's trip repeated the fun on my trip.

Turks, from page 9

encountered on about half the dives. There were queen, grey, rock beauty, and French angelfish; large puffers; and goliath grouper; tiger and Nassau groupers; ocean and queen triggerfish; durgeons; garden eels; and green and spotted morays.

We encountered a green moray on French Cay that was over 7 feet long. One of the more unusual sightings was three coronetfish swimming together. They ranged from 18 inches to 3 feet long. Only a couple of guests saw eagle rays, but we saw a lot of grey rays.

What astonished most of us at first was the sighting of lionfish. Three years ago, lionfish were unknown this far south in the Caribbean. We saw multiple lionfish on every dive near Provo and West Caicos and about a third of the dives in French Cay. The fish were about 12 inches long, have no fear of divers, and are easily approached and photographed. When divers got too close, the lionfish face the reef and present their spines. Studies are in progress, but no conclusions have been reached as to how to rid the waters of the lionfish, so this invasive species continues to proliferate. Dinner conversation often centered on each of us thinking up creative ways to eliminate lionfish from the area.

Visibility was disappointing. Prior to our arrival, there had been 3 weeks of storms, with lots of strong wind and rain. That resulted in lots of sediment in the water. We had almost perfect weather

but the visibility on the reef ranged from 50 to 70 feet. On a number of dives on West Caicos, the wind and current direction was such that the boat was parallel to the reef. It required use of a compass to find the reef wall and again to find the boat on our return. Once we were on the reef the visibility improved.

Chuck and Terry did an exceptional job of putting together the reef fish identifying contest with a children's theme of fables, nursery rhymes, and stories, the "'09 Turks & Caicos Children's Fantasy Fish I.D. Contest".

## September Meeting

# Turks and Caicos Islands - Chuck Brown and Terry Keeney

At our September meeting, ***Club*** member Chuck Brown and Terry Keeney described their most recent trip to the Turks and Caicos. Chuck is the still photographer, and Terry is the videographer. Together they make beautiful underwater music videos!

Here's a summary of their story . . .

### Turks & Caicos on the Explorer Adventure II

A small group of eight friends, members of the KSC Barracudas Skin and SCUBA Diving Club and the ***Lockheed Martin Dive Club***, arrived in Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands in late May 2009. Phil and Grace Hampton, John and Melinda Tribe, Bob Sieck, Richard Schealer, Chuck Brown, and Terry Keeney were ready to see how the reefs had survived two tropical storms that had hit the islands hard last year.

The Explorer Adventure II live-aboard accommodates 20 guests. In addition to the eight of us, there were three others on board, for a total of eleven passengers. The crew of five took very good care of us during the week. There was always a member of the crew in the water when we were diving, and they were helpful in pointing out creatures we may not have seen.

The vessel's itinerary starts with a day and a half at Provo's Northwest Point, three days at West Caicos, followed by a day and a half at French Cay before returning to the Caicos Marina.

The reef damage from the 2008 tropical storms Ike and Hanna seemed minimal. There were some barrel sponges lying in the bottom in the 40-foot depth sector of the reef. Some coral heads had also been toppled, but the most significant aspect was the sand that had been transported from the shallows to the reef, and a small increase in algae.

We saw sharks on almost every dive, some of which made close passes by the divers, offering great chose-up photo opportunities. Turtles were

See 'Turks', 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.

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-93
- E-mail at work: william.paskert@lmco.com; or at home: wpaskert@cfl.rr.com

# We Can't Stop The Lionfish Invasion

***but having them for dinner might slow it down***

This frilly finned marauder is making its way along the East Coast downward into the Caribbean, multiplying feverishly and eating everything in sight. It's aggressive, poisonous, and has no natural predators. It's been sighted as far north as Massachusetts and as far south as Belize. Scientists and government agencies are trying to figure out how to stop it, but no one has found a way. The best solution we have has been offered up by a dive shop owner and a seafood middleman: turn the lionfish into the next culinary trend.

## Why the Lionfish Is Fish Non Grata

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the lionfish was first introduced to the Atlantic/Caribbean region in 1992, when Hurricane Andrew shattered a private aquarium, spilling six of them into Miami's Biscayne Bay. Floating sacs of eggs rode the currents north and south, spreading the fish from Massachussetts to Belize.

Like other invasive species, lionfish lack predators in their new environment, meaning they grow bigger than before – researchers have measured Caribbean lionfish of up to 18.5 inches, compared to a maximum of 14.5 in their natural environments of the eastern Pacific and Indian Oceans. They breed more often. Every time it spawns, a lionfish can produce 20,000 to 30,000 eggs, which have a relatively high survival rate. Since the first Atlantic sighting in 2000, the lionfish population is now in the millions. Lad Akins, director of special projects for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), collected 20 lionfish during a one-week study in the Bahamas in February 2007. Nine months later at the same site, he collected 216.

***LOCKHEED MARTIN DIVE CLUB***
MP-93
1249 Sunflower Trail
Orlando FL 32828
(407) 306-5020
www.martindiveclub.org

## Upcoming Events

| | |
|---|---|
| October 13 | **Meeting:** Sinking of the Vandenberg - Tracy Grubbs |
| Oct 30-Nov 1 | **Trip:** Fantasy Fest - Mike McCleskey |
| November 4-7 | DEMA: Orange County Convention Center |
| November 10 | **Meeting:** Photo Contest Results - Art Beaulieu |
| Nov 21-22 | **Trip:** Tampa Bay Acquarium Tour - Bill Paskert |