



DOWN UNDER DIVE CLUB

JANUARY 2010

SINCE 1984

DUDC Monthly Meeting

is Wednesday, January 13th @ 7:00 pm.

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Speaker for January

Hannah Medd is a marine biologist currently living in south Florida.

Growing up between a horse farm in Maryland and a beach house in Florida, her love of the ocean emerged as a main focus when she earned dual degrees in Marine Biology and Ecology from Florida Tech in Melbourne, Florida. She recently returned from living in South Africa for 4 years and earning a Master's degree in Zoology from the Marine Biology Research Institute at the University of Cape Town. All of Hannah's free time was spent at sea with white sharks, either tagging/observing them for governmental and PhD projects or as an onboard scientist for a commercial cage diving company, promoting education and conservation among the clients. Her free time was also spent catching shy sharks for research or cruising with the cow sharks off the Cape peninsula and the whale sharks of Mozambique. Being immersed in such a 'sharky' community solidified her commitment to research and their conservation. Hannah joined Shark Savers in January of 2008 and has given talks on shark biology and conservation throughout Florida at groups such as the local chapters of the Sierra Club and the International Game Fishing Association. Now Hannah is focusing on developing a PhD project focusing on the Caribbean sharks in the Bahamas.

The presentation focuses on changing people's perception of sharks from the demon in the sea by demonstrating that they are a fascinating diverse group of animals that deserve an image makeover. The talk covers an introduction into what makes a shark a shark and how those traits make them susceptible to overfishing. Historically, sharks were considered a low priority, even a pest, by fishermen and fishery managers. Emerging evidence suggests that the effects of overfishing may be depleting local and global shark populations because of management neglect and unsustainable fishing practices, like long lining and a profitable market for

Cayman Trip Payment

Bob Carmichael

For those folks signed up for the trip to Little Cayman, remember there is another payment due at the end of Jan 2010. The nominal amount is \$500 per person but that can vary depending on individual schedule. You can pay at the meeting on 13 Jan 10 or mail a check to the Club address on your invoice. The address is DUDC, Inc, PO Box 360105, Melbourne FL 32936. If you have a question about the dive trip contact Michael Wheat; if you have a question about the payment schedule or your payment contact me at Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com or 321-508-5449.

Club Dues are Due Soon!

Pay now and avoid the rush!

Bob Carmichael

Club dues will be due shortly and you are welcome to avoid the rush and pay now. It will reduce the workload and expense of generating and mailing the invoices next month and would be appreciated. Dues are \$25 for individual and \$35 for family. You can pay at the meeting on 13 Jan 2010 or mail a check made out to DUDC, Inc to the club address at PO Box 360105, Melbourne FL 32936. Any questions, contact me at Treasurer@downunderdiveclub.com or 321-508-5449.



DUDC Event & Activity Calendar

Event	Time	Member's Cost	Coordinator Phone # / E-mail	
DUDC Meeting Indian River Lagoon House	Wednesday, 1/13/10 @ 7:00 p.m.	Free	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
DUDC Board Meeting **Meeting place TBD	Monday 1/25/10 @ 6:30 p.m.	Free		Contact any Board Member to Attend
Little Cayman	6/26/10 to 7/3/10		Michael Wheat	mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com
Blue Heron Bridge	TBD	Free	Jeri Curley	jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com
Crystal River Manatee Snorkel	2/20/10 @ 8am	\$25 deposit	Jeri Curley	jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com

Cancellation Policy for Club Sponsored Dives: Deposits will be refunded with **2 weeks notice** of the scheduled event or with a paid replacement diver. Refunds of money paid after the 2 week cancellation period is subject to **board approval**. All requests for refunds after this period **MUST** be made in writing. Money and deposits are refunded when dives are cancelled by the Charter or DUDC.

ALL DIVES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE DIVE. NON-MEMBERS ADD \$5.

(This calendar is tentative and subject to change.)

MANATEES

Trichechus manatus latirostrus

Are manatees the mermaids sailors spied on those long, lonely nights at sea? Though these creatures are gentle and appear to crave human contact, I find it difficult to perceive a voyage that long or lonely! Manatees are slow moving, gentle and friendly mammals. This is their allure to tourists—both the scientific community and public at large. This has also resulted in numerous boat related Manatee deaths and injury. The lucky ones come away with only prop scars or missing limbs. Manatees are now protected under federal law by the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which make it illegal to harass, hunt, capture or kill any marine mammal. Manatees are also protected by the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978. It also illegal to knowingly discard monofilament line or nets into waters of Florida. Fines can reach into 5 digits. Being a mammal, Manatees must come to the surface to breathe, they give live birth to off spring and they have hair. They eat 10 to 15% of their body



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

weight per day and an adult can weigh from 1000 to 3000 pounds. That's a lot of sea grass!!! Manatees travel, on average 40 to 50 miles a day during the warm months of the year. In the winter, they travel to the warm waters of the spring fed Crystal River and to areas kept warm by power plants. I was fortunate enough to make the trek to Crystal River to snorkel with the manatees and was awestruck by their potential power and their characteristic gentle nature. These areas are carefully supervised during the winter and areas are cordoned off to allow sanctuary from human visitors. I'm planning to make the trek again and I'm looking for a few good friends to join me.

—Jeri L. Curley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a terrific time we had at the Christmas party. There was plenty of good food and drink and a good time to be had by all. I think that I had six gifts that got taken in the gift exchange. Good part about that is that I then got to revisit the gift table or just take one from somebody else. It was a blast and I had more fun this year than in any previous year. That is quite something to say. But each of you made this the best Christmas party in memory. Each and every one of you contributed to a really good time. This was the party that won't be forgotten any time soon. Thank you all so much.

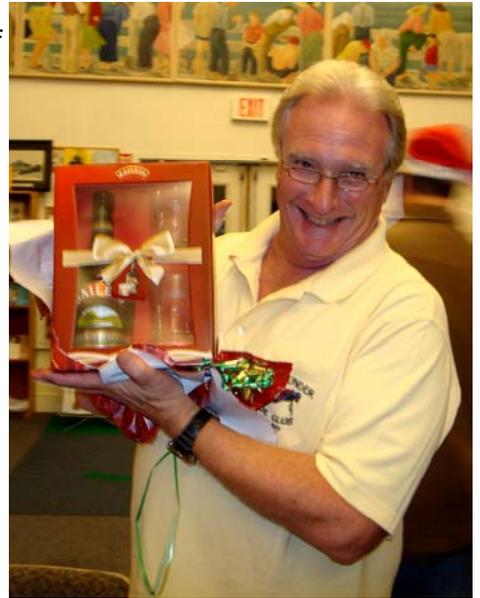
And here we are in year 2010. So, Happy New Year to everyone. We overcame some obstacles in 2009. As Jeri said, broken bones, a truly crummy economy, by-pass surgery, and cancer treatment (and that's just the stuff we know about). Through it all we remained involved with our club and each other. The friendships that we have developed here have helped us with these trials. Just one more benefit of being a member of a great club like this one.

We are back to diving too. We scheduled more trips this year and with any luck at all even more next year. Members have used the club as a basis for finding dive buddies. A great benefit of being a part of the group.

And let's not forget all the new members we have had join this year. This is new life blood that will help keep the club a strong and vibrant organization. So if I was remiss and did not say "Welcome" earlier, I do so now. Your importance to the club cannot be overstated. New faces and new ideas. What a great combination.

So, the Down Under Dive Club will continue to thrive. We have held together through some difficult times. We have kept diving and we have brought in new members. All-in-all, not a bad year this 2009.

And finally it is going to be time to elect club officers for fiscal year 2010. Because of the changes in the February the club members voted to move nominations to the January meeting. We will be nominating people for the following offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Dive Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, and Safety Officer. We have plenty of capable people to serve in all of these positions. The vote will be taken at the March meeting. Our next meeting is January 13th at 7:00PM, Lagoon House. See you there.



Bill Allen, President



Diving After Donating Blood

By Terry Peterman



Those of us who have donated blood have probably wondered if this could somehow make us more susceptible to Decompression Sickness. There seems to be very little research in this area, DAN Recommends waiting for 24 hours after donating before diving. However, Dr. Donald Hickey in his 1984 edition of "Undersea Biomedical Research" recommends waiting 48 to 72 hours after donating blood before diving. These recommendations are made based on an issue we do know effects DCS, Dehydration. It normally takes 48 to 72 hours to replace the fluids lost in donating blood. However it can take as long as a couple weeks. My recommendation would be to plan your dive no sooner than 48 hours after donating and being sure to hydrate yourself with sports drinks to replace the fluids lost during the donation process.

See you at the Anchor!

BACK IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Well, I am happy to be back in Sunny Florida. Though I'm a little disappointed at the temperature. As I traveled back from Virginia, I kept looking at the outside temperature indicator, expecting it to rise significantly when I hit the Florida border. Well, I suppose if we ask for too many miracles, we won't get the one's we really need.

For the first time in 7 years, I saw and actually walked in snow.

Photo by Jeri L. Curley



My dogs were confused at first and had to take the lead of my parent's new puppy before they would venture onto the white stuff. My white cat was camouflaged perfectly and could have stayed hidden until the snow melted but he decided that he definitely did not like the cold. Who could blame him! We've after all chosen to live in a state with two seasons—hot and not so hot.



Photo by Jeri L. Curley

I am looking forward to this new year with new opportunities on the horizon. As a wise man once said (okay maybe more than once): "Work sucks, Let's go diving!"

—Jeri L. Curley

Lemon Sharks in Jupiter

Lemon Sharks (*Negaprion brevirostris*) are named for their yellow/brown to olive gray coloration. They are found mainly along tropical and subtropical coastlines of the Atlantic and around Pacific islands. These 10-13 foot sharks are viviparous—giving birth to live young. They are stocky sharks with two dorsal fins of similar size. This allows for easy identification for those of us who dare to go in search of these large “menacing” creatures.



These sharks are hunted commercially and recreationally and are in danger of being hunted to extinction. They are extremely quick learners. It is thought that their intelligence is equal to that of marine mammals.

Every year they aggregate in Jupiter, Florida during their mating season—January to April. Though to my chagrin, most are gone by the time the water becomes “not so frigid.” They were first officially reported in January of 2001, though there have been sightings earlier. It is believed that the aggregation of females allows for a concentrated release of male enticing pheromones. This lures the males to the waiting females. For those lucky enough to see the aggregation, it is an awesome sight. Shark upon shark upon shark “sitting” on the bottom, waiting. If you get the opportunity to dive Jupiter during this time, jump at it. You will not regret it.

—Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Jeri L. Curley



Photo by Bill Shepherd

About the Down Under Dive Club

The Down Under Dive Club is located in Melbourne on the sunny east central coast of Florida. Formed in 1984 by a group of enthusiastic divers, DUDC currently has about 100 members. Our mission is to promote safe, organized dive events, provide a social setting comfortable to everyone, and encourage environmental responsibility among the diving community. Our past dives covered the Atlantic ocean, from Georgia to Bonaire. We organize all types of dives: drift dives, wreck dives, shore dives, live-aboards, spring dives, and even shark dives! Our members include a diverse group of divers. There are men, women and kids, ages from 11 to 65+ with all certification levels from new Open Water divers to Instructors.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Indian River Lagoon House, Located just south of University Blvd. on US1 in Melbourne. Door prizes are awarded each month and we book a fascinating assortment of guest speakers. We invite everyone interested in SCUBA diving to stop by for some stimulating conversation, meet our group, and have some fun! If you have any questions, you can E-mail us at info@downunderdiveclub.com



ITEMS FOR SALE OR TRADE: If you have any items you wish to sell or trade, send an email with a brief description to jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com.

PHOTOS FOR SALE: Help support a starving diver/artist. Jeri Curley has her dive photos for sale. You can purchase them at the monthly club meetings or at Sea Level Scuba.

COMPLETE SCUBA GEAR FOR WOMAN

Size Medium, Used 103 Dives, Well Maintained
\$500

MaryKay Chable 321-544-2729

Two Tanks Hydro-tested March 2003, Visual September 2006; Body Glove size medium, excellent condition, Cold water wet suite used 5 times size M; Black and Blue Dive Skin For Summer; Two Hoods, Weights and weight belt; Tusa Vest – excellent condition; American Divers regulator complete gear and hoses – Serviced September 2006; Boots size medium 9 – 10, Pink Fins; Pink Gloves, Knife, Dive Watch Free Style Predator; Dry Bag, Pink Dive Bag; Orange Inflatable Emergency Sausage / Whistle

USED DIVE GEAR AT SEA LEVEL

Used Classic Plus w/ Air2 - 1 year old, excellent shape, comes with warranty \$500
Used Mk25 X650 - 1 year old, excellent shape, comes with warranty \$400
Used rental bcd - 2 years old, good shape, rebuilt inflator \$199
Used Ladies Med Everflex 3mm 1 piece wetsuit \$149

Women's O'Neill 3/2 mm full wetsuit, size 12; gently used; excellent condition. \$30. Judy Hesselbacher 321-676-3326. If no answer, please leave a message or send email to jhesselb@comcast.net



Board of Directors

President :	Bill Allen	ballen@downunderdiveclub.com
Vice President:	Michael Wheat	mwheat@downunderdiveclub.com
Treasurer	Bob Carmichael	bcarmichael@downunderdiveclub.com
Secretary:	Jeri L. Curley	jcurley@downunderdiveclub.com
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Dive Coordinator:	Dale Purchase	dpurchase@downunderdiveclub.com

