



The Wet Zone

South Florida Divers, Inc. Hollywood, Florida
December 2001

General Meetings

First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM
GUESTS WELCOME!

DECEMBER 5 MEETING

Howard Johnson's Hotel, Hollywood Beach
Penthouse Suite
A1A between Sheridan Street and
Hollywood Boulevard

PROGRAM:

2002 Executive Board Elections
Social Night

Free Tank Raffle for voting members!

It's time to vote for next year's SFDI executive board! We already have several nominations for the e-board positions, but additional nominations are welcome and encouraged, especially from our newer members! To encourage participation we will give each paid-up club member who stays until the voting is completed a free raffle ticket for a new SCUBA tank. You must be present to win but we're also having a social night, so you'll want to stay and mingle with your friends. Here is the current list of nominations:

- President: Jeff Guzowski
- VP of Membership: Joe Smariga
- Membership Assistant: Cathy Olson
- VP of Calendar: Dave Wills
- Calendar Assistant: Susan Judah
- VP Of Programs: OPEN
- Secretary: Donna Eades
- Treasurer: Adrian Soler
- Treasurer Assistant: Michele Burzese
- Newsletter Editor: Debby Auchter
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Pat Lamicella
- Two Members-at-Large: OPEN
- Greeter: Julie Taylor



Happy Holidays from
www.sfdi.com



Masthead photo of Spanish Dancer by Susan Judah

From your President

It's Toys for Tots Time!



Happy Holidays to everyone! It seems that November had more diving days than many of our summer months. Let's hope our warm water stays with us for most of the winter like it did two years ago when we had 76° - 78° water until the end of January.

On Shoot-em-Up night at Big Al's, we had eight club members testing their marksmanship abilities. Also planned for this month are Uncle Funny's night Thursday, November 29, and a Hollywood Beach bike ride on Saturday, December 1, in lieu of the charter dive that was cancelled for that day. If you are interested in the bike ride, call Jane McArthur.

The Christmas tree sinking is planned for Saturday, December 15, on Lady Go Diver. You will need to bring \$35 to book your spot on the boat at the December's meeting. Elections and a social night will be held at the December meeting along with two special raffles.

I would like to thank all E-board, club, and new members for their help in making the 2001 club year a great year. There are a lot of new plans for 2002. A couple of hot items on our agenda next year are getting our website a new makeover, and trying to get our club event hotline working. We will keep you posted.

Don't forget our Holiday Party will be held Saturday, December 8 at I.T. Parker Center in Dania Beach. Make sure you bring your covered dish, unwrapped toy, appetite, and your dancing shoes. Setups are from 6-8 pm and dinner starts at 8 pm, and the party ends at midnight. Hope to see you all there.

Happy Holidays!

~ Ski

Time to renew your membership!

Your club membership expires December 31, but you can renew early at the December meeting and beat January's long lines. Dues are still only \$45 per individual, \$15 for each additional family member. Please make sure you have your C-card and proof of diving insurance with you when you renew.



December 2001



Sun
Mon
Tue
Wed
Thu
Fri
Sat

Christmas Tree Worm photos by Sandra Soler

<p>Nov 25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YO-YO You're On Your Own</p>	<p>Nov 26</p>	<p>Nov 27</p>	<p>Nov 28</p>	<p>Nov 29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social Night @ Uncle Funny's</p>	<p>Nov 30</p>	<p>1 Beach Biking and Lunch</p>
<p>2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YO-YO</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL ELECTION</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Holiday Party</p>
<p>9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R & R</p>	<p>10 Hanukkah</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E-Board Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social Night @ Uncle Funny's</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Christmas Tree Sinking</p>
<p>16 Private Boat Dive</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Alternate Tree Sinking Day</p>
<p>23 YO-YO</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Christmas</p>	<p>26 Kwanzaa</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Wine Tasting</p>
<p>30 R & R</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve</p>	<p>January 1, 2002!</p>	<p>Jan 2 General Meeting</p>	<p>Jan 3</p>	<p>Jan 4</p>	<p>Jan 5 To Be Announced</p>

- ◆ **November 29, 8 PM:** Uncle Funny's Comedy Club, 9160 State Road 84, Jeff Guzowski.
- ◆ **December 1, 10 AM:** Hollywood Beach biking and lunch on the Broadwalk, meet and park for free at Ann Kolb Nature Center on the South side of Sheridan Street just west of the Intra-coastal. Jane McArthur.
- ◆ **December 5, 7:30 PM:** General Meeting: Elections for 2002 Executive Board and Social Night, HoJo's. **FREE tank raffle ticket for all paid members who stay until the voting is over!**
- ◆ **December 8, 6 PM setup, 7 PM happy hour, 8 PM dinner:** SFDI Annual Holiday Party and Toys for Tots, I.T. Parker Community Center, Dania Beach. Join your friends for a night of holiday dining, open bar, and dancing! \$5 for each member and \$5 for first guest, \$10 for each additional guest. Please bring a covered dish, sign up for what to bring at the December meeting or call Michele Burzese to see what's needed. Remember to bring an **unwrapped toy** for the kids at Women in Distress! We need volunteers to show up at 6 PM to help set up.
- ◆ **December 10, 7:30 PM:** Executive Board Meeting, Computers For Business, 2843 Pembroke Road. Members welcome!
- ◆ **December 13, 8 PM:** Uncle Funny's Comedy Club, 9160 State Road 84, Jeff Guzowski.
- ◆ **December 15, 8 AM:** Annual Christmas Tree Sinking on Lady Go Diver Charter Boat, Ancient Mariner wreck and a reef, \$35 (includes tip), docked at The Cove in Deerfield Beach. Joe Smariga. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll try again on December 22..
- ◆ **December 16, 8:30 AM:** Private Boat Dive, John U. Lloyd State Park, Dave Wills.
- ◆ **December 29, 7:30 PM:** Wine Tasting at Susan Judah's. Bring a bottle of wine and an appetizer.
- ◆ **January 2, 2002, 7:30 PM:** General Meeting: **Unwanted Gift Exchange and Social Night.** Your trash could be someone else's treasure! Bring a gift you received and don't want...**wrapped**, please....and we'll have a lot of laughs swapping them! HoJo's.



Christmas Tree Sinking

The Wrecks We Dive The Ancient Mariner

~ By Jeff Guzowski

~Nemesis photo courtesy dixiediver.com

~Tree photo courtesy of Jon Black

If you've never participated in South Florida Divers' annual ritual of the underwater Christmas tree sinking, you simply must join us on December 15 as we sink the 2001 holiday party tree on the Ancient Mariner wreck.

The Nemesis, a 165-foot Coast Guard cutter, was launched in 1934 during WWII. The Nemesis did Coast Guard duties around Florida looking for enemy submarines and was stationed in St. Petersburg as a search and rescue cutter until 1964, when she was decommissioned. Having been sold at auction, she found her way to Fort Lauderdale, in 1979, and the Nemesis was renamed Livingston Landing, where she was turned into a restaurant on the South New River.



The restaurant failed financially, and the ship sunk at the dock in 1981. She was sold for only a dollar and was renamed the Ancient Mariner. It reopened in 1982 and was successful until 1986, when an employee unknowingly infected with Hepatitis A, who was preparing salads, infected over 100 people with the disease. This was the largest outbreak of Hepatitis in Florida history.

Needless to say, the Hepatitis outbreak doomed the ship. Sold in 1986, and reopened from 1987 to late 1989 as Chapman's River Raw Bar, Anchorage Seafood House, Dockside 501 and Cutters, the ship could never shake the hepatitis reputation.

Their loss was our club's gain. South Florida Divers and Grady Marine bought the Ancient Mariner for sinking as an artificial reef. Our club turned out in mass force (as they always do) to help prepare the ship for sinking. Sunk in June 1991 off Deerfield Beach, she now sits in 70 feet of water on a sandy bottom. The highest point is the wheel house at 40 feet.

The Christmas tree sinking dive will be on the charter boat Lady Go Diver out of Sands Ma-

rina and will cost \$35, which includes the tip. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll try again December 22. Please join us for our annual ritual and add some unique memories to your logbook!



1998 Christmas Tree Sinking

From the Logbook

Memories of a "soggy meal"

~ By Debby Auchter

~ Photo by Jackie Bell

I always enjoy Ski's Wreck of the Month column. This month's article brought back special memories. Former e-board member Steve d'Oliveira and I used to work for a local newspaper, and with people from other newspapers and radio and TV stations, we put on an annual comedy show called "Yellow Feathers" to parody local news and politics. My favorite role each year was to be the anchorwoman in "I Missed It News" and read stories while funny slides were projected behind me.

As he was writing scripts for the 1991 show, Steve had the zany idea to spoof a restaurant review of the "world's first underwater restaurant." Says Steve, "I was lucky enough to have such good friends that when I said to them, 'Hey, let's take photos of an underwater restaurant scene on the Ancient Mariner,' they didn't look at me like I was totally nuts. Instead, they didn't bat an eye and said, 'OK.'"

News photographer Jackie Bell would take photos of Donna Harland, Steve and me in an underwater dining scene, and of Steve as "Snapper Cousteau," typing a restaurant review underwater. After much planning we set

off one nice September day on the *Ragamuffin*, loaded with all of the accoutrements of a fine restaurant...chairs, table, tablecloth, place settings, glassware, and menus. We also took a typewriter for "Snapper Cousteau" to type his "review." With the help of safety divers Wayne Harland and neighbor Lou, we got everything into place with much effort.

When we were ready for the first scene, we removed all our gear except our masks. Steve wanted us mask-free too, but I had not had LASIK surgery yet and feared losing my contacts. Steve chose to do the second scene of him "typing" the review mask-free and had a little mucous problem. Here is the account of the dive, unedited, from my logbook:

Fun but stressful! Devo (d'Oliveira), Donna and I were a bit too buoyant on 1st (shot) and I had to hook my feet under their chairs to stay down! It was lots of fun "taking their orders" and "pouring coffee." Jackie got some great shots. Lou cut his hand moving props and needed 16 stitches. Second shot was great, the typewriter was a heavy mother and we had to leave it behind. Devo had a big booger but couldn't see our hand signals (to wipe it off for the photo); Donna ended up wiping it off (yuck!) Jackie got great shots of that, too. I did my safety stop clutching a table and a blackboard—thank God there wasn't much current!

How did Snapper Cousteau review the underwater restaurant? "The fish was fresh, but the rolls were soggy, the salad was limp, and the wine was watered down."



Debby Auchter takes Donna Harland's order as Steve d'Oliveira looks on.

Divine Diving Destination



Seashells in Seychelles

~Story and photography by Susan Judah

Susie saw seashells in Seychelles, along with a myriad of other sea life. The allure of diving in Seychelles was an adventure that I had only dreamed of until a few weeks ago. My dream became a reality when three SFDI members, Annie Baugh, Cheryl Jones and I, boarded the Indian Ocean Explorer for a week of diving on October 1-8.



For those of you who are geographically challenged, the Republic of Seychelles is comprised of approximately 115 islands located in the Indian Ocean. It is east of Africa and northeast of Madagascar, four degrees south of the equator. Believe me when I tell you it is a very long way from home.

Many of the islands are comprised of granitic rocks which is where we did our diving. Unfortunately, as in many other places in the world, the effects of El Nino are very noticeable. The rock formations were interesting, though, and provided lots of nooks and crannies for

the various sea life to hide. On almost every dive we saw an octopus or two, and eagle rays. There were lots of beautiful fish and invertebrates. The curious batfish followed us around as if they were expecting a free handout of something edible. Sorry guys!



On our way to a shark dive we found ourselves under attack! No, not by the sharks but by thousands of Mantis shrimp. There were thousands of them and some of them were jumping in the dive boat. This was definitely a unique experience. But, back to the shark dive at a site called South Marianne. Oh, what an adventure! The site is a natural habitat for reef sharks. We found places to hide among the rocks and then just watched the show. There were between 20 and 30 small (4-5 foot) gray reef sharks. Also on this dive is the creaking rock. The surge causes one of the large rock formations to make an

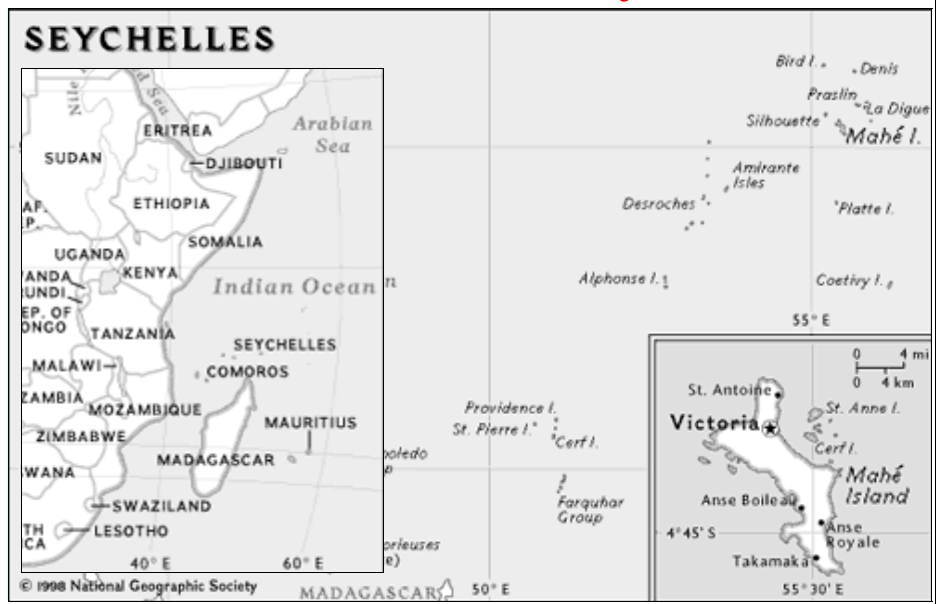
eerie creaking noise. It sounds like something right out of the haunted mansion at Disney World. We enjoyed this dive so much that we went back and did it again and found it to be equally fascinating the second time around.



But all good things come to an end and much too soon the week was over. We cruised back into Mahe only to learn that the U.S. was bombing Afghanistan. Back to reality! The trip was over and I know I will never forget this wonderful experience. Would I do it again? Probably not. Was it worth all the money and long travel distance? ABSOLUTELY!



Send YOUR stories and photos to Missangelfish@hotmail.com



REEF BRIEFS



Brittle Stars: Ancient Engineers

-By Jeff Guzowski

-Photo courtesy www.Seapix.com

Brittle stars, members of the humble starfish family, are thousands of years old and found all over the world. They are usually found under rocks or in tight crevices. Recently the brittle star has found its way into computer and telecommunication technologies of the 21st century engineering circles.

Lucent Technology's Bell Labs has discovered that the brittle star's entire body is covered with light collecting lenses, each perfectly shaped and about half as wide as a human hair. These thousands of lenses work together as one big eye,



like fiber optic cables do. Every lens collects light, which gives the creature a slightly distorted image of its current surroundings and also what time of day it is. When in bright daylight, the brittle star will darken like a pair of sunglasses.

The computer and telecommunication fields are trying to reproduce these perfect micro lenses. Until now, these perfect shaped image qualities were only dreams in the industry, the fine qualities put our 21st century fiber optics to shame and here they have been around for thousands of years.

Spiegel Grove Update

-From www.Spiegelgrove.com

BAD NEWS! The cleanup of the ship is well underway, but the company doing the job has discovered 32 tanks of contaminated fuel which were never listed in the official survey of the vessel.



The job is now going to cost at least \$250,000 more than the original contracted price. The Key Largo Artificial Reef Committee is working hard to procure the funds so that the project can be completed, but there will be a delay. Hopefully, everything will work out and we should have the ship in Key Largo sometime this coming spring.



Divemeister's Brewing Company

-by Debby Auchter

-Photos by Dave Wills

Your newsletter usually contains reports of diving destinations, but member Gerry Cowen recently ran an event that was so much fun that we asked him to run it on a regular basis! On November 16 the happy group of divemeisters met at Brewmasters South in Pembroke Pines. After reviewing the extensive beer



cookbook, we decided upon six varieties to brew and share. Tom of Brewmasters helped us assemble our ingredients, and we began the long process of measuring, grinding, pouring, stirring, and laughing our heads off while we sampled other brews. We go back



December 7 to bottle our potions. Watch your calendar for the next time Gerry runs this...if you like beer you won't want to miss the fun!



Book review

A Fascination for Fish: Adventures of an Underwater Pioneer

Here's a new book with a slant on the underwater world like no other: the adventures of a marine biologist in search of critters to populate the tanks of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Marine World of the Pacific, and other scientific displays. The author, David Powell, began his collecting career when at five years old, after going fishing for the first time, he brought home a fish he caught and slept with it under his pillow. His career culminated by serving as curator of the Monterey Bay Aquarium for nearly 20 years.

When Powell started diving, he used long johns to keep warm. He made his first underwater light from a used sealed beam automobile headlight connected to a surface battery for power. No depth gauge; no BC; no submersible pressure gauge. Powell describes how public aquariums set up displays, collect the animals, bring them home, and how they keep them alive and display them. Yet the best part is his description of the many journeys he takes to dive and collect fish, up and down the coast of California and Mexico, hunting the Coelacanth in Africa, searching for flashlight fish with John McCosker, and joining Sylvia Earle in a critter search. Indeed a delightful read.

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

Remember when flying was safe and diving was dangerous?

If you're planning a dive trip, you need first-hand safety information. The U.S. State Department has travel warnings and advisories for countries worldwide at www.travel.state.gov. For an alternative look at safety issues, check the British government website www.fco.gov.uk and click on "Traveling Overseas." The U.S. Department of Transportation has recorded information for special travel advisories concerning security threats at various destinations: 800-221-0673. The

Federal Aviation Administration gives basic advice to travelers on ticketing, overbooking, safety issues and airport security at www.faa.gov--click on "Traveler Briefing." Pinkerton, the corporate security firm, provides some information on terrorism and crime as it affects business, but can be of interest to travelers: <http://pgis.pinkertons.com>. Kroll Associates, another business security firm, sometimes posts comments and analysis of travel security issues. Go to www.krollassociates.com and click on "Kroll Forum" or "What's New."

2001 Executive Board

President: Jeff Guzowski
Past President: John Kansman
VP of Membership: Joe Smariga
Membership Assistant: Sandra Soler 95
VP of Calendar: Dave Wills
Calendar Assistant: Michele Burzese
VP Of Programs: Cathy Olson
Secretary: Donna Eades
Treasurer: Adrian Soler
Treasurer Assistant: Julie Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Debby Auchter
Sergeant-At-Arms: Rebecca Cooper
Members-at-Large: Pat Lamicella
 Seth Gersten
Greeter: Position vacant, nominations sought
E-mail Coordinator: Jane McArthur
Club Store: Melissa Ames
Webmaster: Bruce Rosenthal



Michele Burzese
Ed Coffin
Mary Crofoot Cross
Beth Hirschfeld
Tom Jones

Marcae' Carolan
Rebecca Cooper
Estela Diaz
"Howie" Howay
Carol Sirotto

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS!

Classified advertising is FREE for SFDI members!
 E-mail or call Debby

Custom Aquarium: Moving, must sell. Custom designed cabinet, 125-gallon reef tank with extra storage space. Doubles as a room divider and small bar! Reef and fish can be viewed from both sides. Live rock, all critters included. We paid over \$5,000 without the critters, and would be happy to get \$2,000 and someone to move it. Best offer. Call Rebecca or Frank.



Remember to give our Divers Alert Network sponsorship number at the time you renew. We receive points toward the purchase of raffle prizes. The number is 16529.



South Florida Divers Inc.
P. O. Box 222091
Hollywood, Florida 33022-2091



Vote
E-Board Elections
December 5!

