



# The Wet Zone

South Florida Divers, Inc. Hollywood, Florida  
January 2002

## General Meetings

First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM

**GUESTS WELCOME!**

## JANUARY 2 MEETING

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

### PROGRAM:

**Trash to Treasure:  
Gift Swap and Social Night**

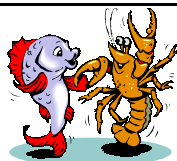
Our January meeting is so close to the holidays that we decided to have a social night and to do something silly instead of trying to get someone for a program. This will be a fun night to relax and catch up with friends.



Regardless of what December holiday you celebrated, admit it, you likely received a gift that made you say "oh, you shouldn't have"...and you really MEANT that they SHOULD-N'T HAVE! But as we all know, one person's trash is another

person's treasure. Bring along something you got and don't want...a belt, a sweater, a fruitcake, cologne, a Billy Bass, just one too many candles or Mikasa bowls...anything goes except live pets. Please wrap it to add to the "suspense." When you bring in your "gift" you'll receive a raffle ticket and we will "raffle" off the gifts. Once we're done you can swap them and trade them all you want. We're hoping for an evening of hilarity...and your editor is hoping to permanently dispose of an "objet d'art."

Let's all WELCOME  
our newest member  
**Ted Weiss!**

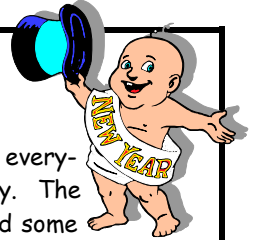


Make a resolution to surf into

**www.sfdi.com**

From your President

**Next Year's Already Here!**



Happy New Year to all! I would like to thank everyone who made it to our annual Holiday party. The covered dishes and desserts were great, and some were even gone before dinner started. Congratulations to all the winners of our party raffle. The big winner was Susan Judah, who won the tank. Runners up were Joe Smariga for the dolphin statue, Allen Ryant for the dive bag, and Susan Judah also won the dive sausage.

Thanks to all the people who came early to set up and decorate, stayed late to clean up, bartended, brought an unwrapped toy for our Toys for Tots, brought a covered dish, and most of all came to make our Holiday party a lot of fun.

The toys were donated to the Women in Distress again this year, and they were overwhelmed with our generosity.

Our annual Christmas tree dive was held on Saturday, December 15. The tree was set on the United Caribbean wreck instead of the Ancient Mariner. The seas had a mild chop, but nothing like last year's rollers. Thanks to John Kansman for preparing the tree for the sinking and to Dave Wills, Jon Black, Adrian Soler and Fred Miller for the tough job of getting the tree on the wreck.

Our December election added three new members to our E-board: Linda Meyers, Susan Judah, and Steve Anderson. Congratulations to all the E-board members for 2002. We also had two big raffle winners in our December meeting. The club raffle winner was Jane McArthur who won an EPIRB. Jim Reynolds won the tank from the free raffle the club ran for all the club members who stayed to the end of the meeting.

For 2001, I would like to take this time to thank the E-board members for doing a great job, and to all the members who took time to run trips, calendar activities, volunteered to help at the parties and everybody who participated in the events. Without all of you, we would not be the club we are.

~ Ski

**Your dues are due**

Your club membership expires December 31, so please renew at the January meeting. Dues are still only \$45 per individual, \$15 for each additional family member. Please have your C-card and proof of diving insurance with you when you renew.

**2002 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION  
RESULTS ON LAST PAGE**



# January 2002



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Eel photo by Sandra Soler</i>			<i>Neck Crab photo by Julie Taylor</i>			
<b>Dec 30</b> <b>YO-YO</b> You're On Your Own 	<b>Dec 31</b> New Year's Eve 	<b>1</b> Welcome to 2002! 	<b>2</b> General Meeting Social Night/ Gift Swap 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> To Be Announced 
<b>6</b> Jazz Brunch Las Olas Riverfront 	<b>7</b> E-Board Meeting  <b>MEMBERS            WELCOME!</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Billiards Night at T-Bird's 
<b>13</b> <b>YO-YO</b> 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Social Night @ Uncle Funny's 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Shark Valley Bicycling Trip 
<b>20</b> Sunset Fishing Dania Pier 	<b>21</b> Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>YO-YO</b> 
<b>27</b> Private Boat Dive 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> 	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b> Winemaking Night @ Brewmasters South 	<b>Feb 2</b> IMAX & Dinner 

- ♦ **January 2, 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.
- ♦ **January 6, 11 AM: Jazz Brunch @ Las Olas Riverfront,** meet at Main Stage across from the IMAX. Susan Judah.
- ♦ **January 7, 7:30 PM: Executive Board Meeting,** Computers For Business, 2843 Pembroke Road. Members welcome!
- ♦ **January 12, 6 PM: Billiards @ T-Bird's,** 1343 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Dave Wills.
- ♦ **January 17, 8 PM: Uncle Funny's Comedy Club,** 9160 State Road 84, Jeff Guzowski.
- ♦ **January 19, 10 AM: Shark Valley Bicycle Trip,** 15 miles through the River of Grass, bring your lunch, plenty of water, and a camera. See [www.florida-outdoors.com/9tramroad.htm](http://www.florida-outdoors.com/9tramroad.htm) for more information. Jane McArthur.
- ♦ **January 20, 5 PM: Sunset Fishin' @ Dania Beach Pier,** free parking with \$3 fishing fee, Debby Auchter.
- ♦ **January 27, 8:30 AM: Private Boat Dive,** John U. Lloyd State Park, Dave Wills.
- ♦ **January 29-30, 6:30 PM: CPR/First Aid Class,** @ Computers For Business, 2843 Pembroke Road. Earn PADI's Medic First Aid certification for only \$65. Payment in FULL due at January meeting. Donna Eades.
- ♦ **February 1, 6 PM: Wine Making at Brewmasters South,** 9948 Pines Boulevard. If this is only half as much fun as the beer brewing night it will be a blast. Susan Judah.
- ♦ **February 2, evening, time TBA: IMAX film and dinner @ Las Olas Riverfront.** Film and time TBA depending on IMAX schedule. Jane McArthur.
- ♦ **February 2-3: Broward Shell Club Annual Show,** more information at [www.browardshellclub.org](http://www.browardshellclub.org)
- ♦ **February 3: Super Bowl Sunday**
- ♦ **February 6: General Meeting: Photographer Barry Kulick**
- ♦ **April 20: Annual Pig Roast @ Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club**

# REEF BRIEFS



## *The Wrecks We Dive* **The Jim Atria**

~ By Jeff Guzowski  
~Atria drawing courtesy DixieDiver.com

The Jim Atria was a Dutch freighter, built in 1961, originally named the Poinciana. The ship is 227 feet long and had a 34-foot beam. It transported freight throughout the North Sea and later in the 1970's between the Caribbean and Miami.

In 1982, the ship gained notoriety after she capsized and sank in the Miami River. In 1987, the ship was renamed the Jim Atria, a local land developer who, along with Broward County, purchased the disabled ship to use as an artificial reef.

On September 27, 1987, the ship was sunk a little less than a mile and a half offshore, on the ocean side of the third reef line. The ship settled on its side in 109 feet of water. Hurricane Andrew's surge pulled the ship almost 400 feet to the northeast, and now it rests in 130 feet, but standing upright.



South Florida Divers club members cleaned and prepared the ship for sinking. We cut holes in every room so there were three ways out. When the ship originally landed on it's side, the wreck

was very disorientating. Now that it's upright, it has become one of our best wreck dives. The shallowest point is in 83 feet of water. The ship's three masts extend off the 240-foot long hull, in a northwesterly direction. There is a significant amount of marine growth that now completely conceals some of the sections, which house larger game fish and schooling fish on this great wreck.

## **Prepare for a "Marathon" Trip!** ~ Story and photo by Janet Chinnners

Great news! John and Janet are working on the June Marathon dive trip. We have set aside 11 cottages for the weekend of June 7-9. We are currently negotiating for pricing on the meals and rooms but it looks like the cost will be close to the \$200 for last year's trip.

For the money, here's what you get.

- Lodging for 2 nights at Faro Blanco (Friday & Saturday)
- Snacks after the dive
- Dinner Saturday night
- Great prizes for the annual scavenger hunt.
- 2 - tank dive from the Dive shop at Hawk's Cay.

We will need a deposit of \$50 at the January Meeting, and the remainder must be paid 45 days before the trip. People have enjoyed the trip in the past and we are trying to make it another fabulous weekend. The trip will be limited to 24 people so sign up and pay a deposit to hold your place.



*Club members lounge on Sunday morning during last year's Marathon trip*

For more information. Contact John and Janet.

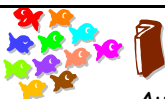
## **Be a lifesaver!**

Club secretary Donna Eades has organized a tremendous opportunity for you to learn how to save your buddy's life in an emergency. The **PADI MEDIC FIRST AID**® program covers basic training for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and emergency care. In addition, it's a medically based program covering primary care, secondary care and treatments following national consensus guidelines. This program is available for club members for only \$65. Payment in full is due at the January meeting. See the calendar page for dates, time and location.



*Joe and Julie take a dance break from their duties at the holiday party. A good time was had by all...see LIMBO photos on next page!*

Photo by Debby Auchter



## **Book review** **The Enchanted Braid**

Author Osha Gray Davidson fuses a color-drenched celebration of reefs with a fascinating natural history. Ten percent of the planet's reefs are degraded beyond recovery; another 30 percent will likely decline over the next two decades. Davidson notes coral reefs' importance as essential strands in "the enchanted braid" of our global ecosystem. Reefs, "the rainforests of the ocean," take up a fraction of the sea but host a quarter of all marine species. They also

boast the ocean's most stunning combination of beauty and abundance. Taking more poetic license than the scientists he interviews, Davidson describes the sensory feast he observed firsthand diving on the Great Barrier Reef of Australia and snorkeling during his days as a beach bum in the Florida Keys. Davidson's knack for the picturesque analogy serves him well. Describing the intricacy of their complex ecosystems, he characterizes coral reefs as "the Russian novels of the sea world, full of passion and avarice, convoluted and interweaving story lines, and colorful characters by the dozens."

# 2001 Holiday Party: How low can you go?



Pat & Michele kept us in limbo



Steve doesn't spill a drop!



Sandra didn't get to limbo very much in Switzerland



Dave's a fairly flexible fellow...



...but the finger action is what gets him through!



Jane looks like a limbo pro...



...until she chickens out at the crucial moment



Suzy shows us how she tied for first place



Nathan waits patiently to learn from "limbo master" Suzy...



...he teams up, as "it takes two to limbo"...



...and he victoriously shares first place!

2001 Christmas Tree Dive



By Sandra



By Julie



Julie



By Sandra



By Donna



By Donna



By Julie



By Julie



By Sandra



By Donna



By Sandra



By Sandra



By Julie



By Donna

Special thanks to photographers Donna Harland, Sandra Soler, and Julie Taylor

# WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

## The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL): Teeming with links!

This site is so rich in resources that you'll want to surf a while. On the web @ [www.coralreefalliance.org](http://www.coralreefalliance.org), non-profit CORAL promotes coral reef conservation around the world. The website includes worldwide breaking news about reefs and fisheries, a variety of programs including travel and volunteer opportunities, a directory of 230 coral reef groups around the globe, an amazing

copyright-free coral reef photo bank, and Professor Polyp's Classroom to teach the next generation about the importance of our natural resources. Even if you don't have time to read the numerous articles about reefs...suitable for students and teachers alike...visit the photo bank where you will be sure to find images to jazz up your desktop or your next home publishing project.



## Your Newly Elected 2002 Executive Board

**President:** Jeff Guzowski  
**Past President:** John Kansman  
**VP of Membership:** Joe Smariga  
**Membership Assistant:** Cathy Olson  
**VP of Calendar:** Dave Wills  
**Calendar Assistant:** Susan Judah  
**VP Of Programs:** Steve Anderson  
**Secretary:** Donna Eades  
**Treasurer:** Adrian Soler  
**Treasurer Assistant:** Michele Burzese  
**Newsletter Editor:** Debby Auchter  
Debby@RaptureDivers.com  
**Sergeant-At-Arms:** Pat Lamicella  
**Members-at-Large:** Sandra Soler  
Linda Myers  
**Greeter:** Julie Taylor  
**E-mail Coordinator:** Jane McArthur  
**Club Store:** Melissa Ames  
**Webmaster:** Bruce Rosenthal

## Happy Birthday to:

Larry LePage  
Tad Vaughn  
Brad Vogelbach



## FREE CLASSIFIED ADS!

Classified advertising is FREE for SFDI members!  
E-mail [Debby@RaptureDivers.com](mailto:Debby@RaptureDivers.com)

**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 Cooper.

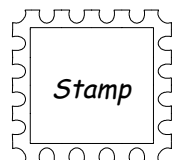


Remember to give our **Divers Alert Network** sponsorship number at the time you renew. We receive points toward the purchase of raffle prizes. The number is 16529.

**Rural Land:** Want to get away from it all...like REALLY away from it all? Rick and Debby Auchter are selling an 11+ acre building lot in Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks for only \$10,000. For more info visit [www.RaptureDivers.com](http://www.RaptureDivers.com) and scroll down to the link for the property.

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Address Label