



# The Wet Zone

South Florida Divers, Inc. Hollywood, Florida  
September 2001

## General Meetings

First Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM

**GUESTS WELCOME!**

### SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING

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

#### PROGRAM:

Laura Parke

**Spearfisher and Treasure Hunter**

Laura Parke is a SCUBA Technician and a manufacturer's representative for Omer spear guns and Garrett underwater metal detectors (rated to 200 feet of seawater). She will give a demo on spearfishing techniques and an overview of the guns and other equipment. You won't want to miss her interesting presentation! Bring your friends...see you there!



**July Beach Dive/Barbecue**

#### Lots of Fall Fun!

Check your calendar on page two for all of the underwater AND topside fun your club has in store for you! There are two more of the popular beach dive/picnics planned, our annual Seafood Festival, Labor Day weekend in the Bahamas, Columbus Day at Elliott Key, and much, much more. Come to the September meeting and sign up for some...or for all!



Masthead and BBQ photos courtesy Sandra Soler

## From your President Ready for your next trip?



Our annual August trek to the Florida Keys was to Looe Key instead of Islamorada. I heard it was a great weekend and everyone had a good time. Saturday's weather was picture perfect with seas 1 foot or less, very little current, and great visibility. The first dive was on the wreck of the Adolphus Busch, August wreck of the month. The A. Busch was just recently sunk and has very little growth, but was still a great dive. On the second and third dives, fish life was abundant, from snook to a rather large goliath grouper (jewfish). Thanks to Adrian Soler for coordinating this trip and all the members who made this event a success.

Saturday, September 15 is our Seafood fest at the Lauderdale Isle Yacht Club. To make sure you have something to bring for dinner, that morning there will be a private boat dive run by Joe Smariga. The seafood fest will start at 5 pm, and don't forget to bring your catch, along with a covered dish.

We are currently looking at the Bahamas, Cayman Brac, Cozumel, and a one week live aboard on the Nekton Pilot. If you have any suggestions or have been to a resort at any of these locations, please see me.

Dive safely,

~ Ski

## Help your club and make new friends!

At the September 5 meeting, we will hold an election for the position of Greeter. This is a voting position on your dive club's Executive Board, and it's really fun because you get to meet all of the new and prospective members! You need only be able to arrive at General Meetings on time and have a friendly and welcoming personality. Feel free to contact any e-board member, listed on the back page of the newsletter, to make your nomination. Yes, you may nominate yourself! New members are welcome to run, and what better way to meet new dive buddies?



Byte into our website

[www.sfdi.com](http://www.sfdi.com)



# September 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Calendar photography courtesy of Julie Taylor

August 26  South Florida Fishing School	August 27	August 28	August 29  General Meeting 7:30 @ HoJo's	August 30	August 31	1 
					Bimini Weekend: Captains' Choice	
2 	3 Labor Day 	4	5	6	7	8  TBA
Bimini Weekend: Captains' Choice						
9  Beach Dive and BBQ Fishing School	10 E-Board Meeting @ CBI, 7:30 PM MEMBERS WELCOME!	11	12	13  Uncle Funny's Social Night	14	15 Private Boat Dive  SEAFOOD FEST!
16  Ocean Watch Fish Count	17  Rosh Hashanah	18	19	20	21	22 Beach Dive and BBQ 
23  South Florida Fishing School	24	25	26  Yom Kippur	27	28	29 Private Boat Dive 
30  T B A	October 1	October 2	October 3  General Meeting 7:30 @ HoJo's	October 4	October 5 	October 6 
					Columbus Day Regatta: Captains' Choice	

- ◆ **August 26, 2-5 PM:** South Florida Fishing School, Secret Woods Nature Center, 954-791-1030. \$15. This week: Offshore trolling, cast fishing, color changes, weed lines, debris, and birds.
- ◆ **August 31-September 3:** Bimini Weekend, Captains' Choice, Joe Smariga.
- ◆ **September 3:** Labor Day
- ◆ **September 5:** General Meeting, 7:30 PM, HoJo's.
- ◆ **September 9, 8 AM:** Beach Dive/BBQ, John U. Lloyd State Park. 1.6 miles after the gate, go over bridge and turn right into Parking Lot 2. Go east to beach and look for divers and BBQ's. Bring your own gear and food. Sandra Soler.
- ◆ **September 9, 2-5 PM:** South Florida Fishing School, Secret Woods Nature Center, 954-791-1030. \$25 includes take-home rigs. This week: Knot-and-rig-tying session.
- ◆ **September 13, 8 PM:** Uncle Funny's Comedy Club, Jeff Guzowski.
- ◆ **September 15, 8:30 AM:** Private Boat Dive for Seafood Festival, John U. Lloyd State Park, Joe Smariga.
- ◆ **September 15, 5 pm:** Annual SFDI Seafood Festival, Lauderdale Isles Yacht Club. \$5 each for members and first guest, \$10 each additional guest. Beverages are provided; bring your catch for the BBQ and don't forget to bring a dish to share!
- ◆ **September 15, 9 am:** Coastal Cleanup, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, See page 3 for details. Sandra Soler.
- ◆ **September 16, 9 am:** Ocean Watch Fish Count, \$30 for class and dive, boat TBA. Not an SFDI event, call 954-467-1366.
- ◆ **September 22, 3 PM dive, 5 PM BBQ:** Beach Dive/BBQ, 1/2 mile south of Dania Beach Pier next to Beach Grill, Bring your own gear and food. Jane McArthur.
- ◆ **September 23, 2-5 PM:** South Florida Fishing School, Secret Woods Nature Center, 954-791-1030. \$15. This week: Casting and net-throwing practice on the New River.
- ◆ **September 29, 8:30 AM:** Private Boat Dive, John U. Lloyd State Park, Dave Wills.
- ◆ **October 5-7:** Columbus Day Regatta @ Elliott Key, Captains' Choice, Joe Smariga.

# Trips and Treks



## Club Trip Report Kokomo Kool

-By Adrian Soler  
-Photography by Sandra Soler

On August 17, thirty of South Florida Divers' veteran and rookie members traveled to the Florida Keys where they cleared their minds of life's daily stress and enjoyed a relaxing weekend with fellow club members socializing and diving at Looe Key. The reef lived up to its reputation for unarguably being one of Florida's most beautiful protected reef areas, and the weekend proved that SFDI trips continue to be the ideal activity for those who want to share their passion for the underwater world with fellow divers.



The club chartered the "Kokomo Kat," a 45-foot wide-open dive boat moored directly behind the hotel, which proved to be more than comfortable. The group realized they were in-store for the red-carpet treatment when they arrived and found the crew loading all of their tanks for the three-tank dive for them.



The wreck of The Adolphus Busch turned out to be a great way to start the day's activities.

Reports of large goliath groupers on the stern lit up divers' faces like the lighting of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center, as well as the wreck's deep cargo hulls and large swim-throughs, which were a treat for both novice and experienced divers.

Diving the reefs was the highlight of the trip. The moment divers entered the water, schools of yellow-tailed snappers and sergeant majors served as official greeters to the underwater utopia. Several divers reported encountering different species of sharks, large groupers and an assortment of colorful tropicals that could be compared to the Living Seas in Orlando, Florida. Freshly cooked hot dogs were provided for divers as they returned from their dives, which was the perfect snack to energize the group for more fun on the reefs. After the dives and during the smooth ride back, divers swapped stories of the sights they had seen and of future plans to explore the seas.



Back at the hotel, appetizers and cocktails awaited the group around the pool, which gave everyone an opportunity to cool off in the pool and socialize with the group before dinner. That night the group enjoyed dinner and live entertainment playing typical Key West tunes. Groups of club members were seen around the pool sharing stories until closing time after midnight.

All in all, it was a great trip! An incredible environment, great diving, and chance for new friendships to be formed with South Florida



Divers' finest dive enthusiasts! For those who didn't have an opportunity to join the group – definitely make it a point not to miss the next weekend getaway!



## Ocean Watch needs clean-up volunteers

-By Sandra Soler

The Annual International Coastal Cleanup, sponsored by the Center for Marine Conservation, takes place on Saturday, September 15. Every year thousands of volunteers come together across the nation to participate in this event. This amazing amount of effort ensures that our ocean environment is a cleaner and safer place for people and wildlife.

The Ocean Watch Foundation needs volunteers in and on the water. If you can spare the time between 9 AM and noon, please meet at Anglin's Pier at Commercial Boulevard and the beach. Bring all your dive gear including gloves, wire cutters if possible, and catch bag. Non-diving volunteers are needed to collect trash on the beach and help the divers to bring the trash on land (with surface floats, canoes, buckets, etc.). This is a great way to do something for the environment and future health of our oceans, so that we and our children can keep on enjoying it in the future.

For more information, please come to the next SFDI meeting, call Sandra Soler.



## Book review: A lady tougher than swords!

-by Debby Auchter

You probably read the book or saw the movie The Perfect Storm about the tragic disappearance of the swordfishing boat *Andrea Gail*. If so, you remember Linda Greenlaw, captain of the sister ship *Hannah Boden*. Greenlaw is not only the only female swordfish captain but is also considered to be "one of the best captains, period, on the East Coast." When I heard that she wrote her own book, The Hungry Ocean, I checked out a copy @your library. I must admit that I had a preconceived, stereotypical notion that a female commercial fishing captain would not only be "butch" but would probably be a poor writer.

I was dead wrong on both counts. Captain Greenlaw has a degree in English and she yearns for a husband and family, but since the age of twelve she has been unable to ignore the siren song of the sea. This riveting book tells of a "typical" 30-day fishing trip with all of its challenges: a mixed bag of personalities, rival fishing boats, hard-nosed boat owners, finances, and, of course, the "one that got away." This book will make you laugh and make you cry, but you won't let you put it down. If you ever have the luck to meet her, you better watch what you call her! Her response: "I am a woman. I am a fisherman... I am not a fisherwoman, fisherlady, or fishergirl. If anything else, I am a thirty-seven-year-old tomboy. It's a word I have never outgrown."





# SFDI Divers' Diaries

## King Kong's Blow Hole

### Part IV: Conclusion

-By Glenn Orihood

John is my buddy and we yell, "Fire in the hole!" as we leave the security of *Recycled* and drift down into the depths. John, with his 35mm and I with my Hi-8 video in its secure housing. Down to the rim and a few standard shots of the fishes and sponges and the other colorful characteristics of the shallow rim and then...over the edge! Into the depths! What will they hold? Well, we soon found out! It's cottony, it's gelatinous, it sticks to everything and it's drifting along at 40'. Where does it start? Where does it end? Why? It's endless in the Kong's Hole. Sometimes I can hardly see my dive partner. I try to capture the feeling on tape. It's really bizarre! What does it mean? Are the Chick Charneys really in control? Will we ever know? It's the dive adventure of a lifetime!

John and I slowly settle to a greater depth - escaping the drifting, enveloping strands, only to discover another phenomenon. It's truly the work of the Chick Charneys. At about 50', it was a milky white apparition. Well...not really. It was a halocline. No one had alerted us to this phenomenon. Yes, a freshwater/salt water boundary layer. Only a few feet thick, but a definite wall. Oh, nice and warm on top - say 85 degrees F. and skins warm, but if you stick your arm through it as you hover weightless and you experience a 15 degree differential. It was cold. It was milky. It was 3' to 4' thick. You couldn't see anything. You felt myopic until you penetrated through the boundary layer.

Is this the Kong's protection or the Chick Charneys in yet another of their control innovations? Am I a Ph.D. in Psychology or just a diver? I can't answer and so we penetrated the boundary layer. Gosh, it was cold and we were only in our dive skins. But we dropped to 80' and the bottom. As soon as we exited the halocline, the visibility opened up to 100' instead of the blurry 10-15' above. It's all on tape as I left the camcorder on record as we eased through the milky aberration.

The bottom was nondescript with boulders and fragments from the limestone dome. We posed for pictures sitting on these benches like tourists at the Grand Canyon and then discovered the source of the fresh water. It was at the far end at a flow rate never ending - constant and cold.

The source was a shaft, small, maybe 20'-30' in diameter at the west end and black! Black as far down as you could see. John and I descended with his BIG underwater light and I with my twin video lights. We went down, slowly down, flashing our lights below, to the sides, all around, getting colder and colder, but could see no bottom, even with those humongous lights, until at 140'-150' I aborted. Seven hundred and fifty pounds left and all that bottom time (I'm well into the yellow zone on my computer) and I know that I would never discover all the secrets of this wondrous King Kong's Hole on this dive. Intuitively I knew that more than one dive would be required - maybe several, who knows? So, with this locked away in my mind and satiated beyond expectations, I slowly started to ascend, followed by my partner. Satiated? Satisfied? Completely! The dive thrill of a lifetime. A diver's dive.

PS We'll come back There is still more to be known about the Kong's Hole.

PPS The Chick Charneys be damned. You had your chance. We'll find out the rest of the secrets, thank you.

*Editor's note: Thanks for sharing your dive story with us, Glenn! Members: You are encouraged to submit your diving tales, tall or small, for the NEXT issue of The Wet Zone!*

## July Beach Dive/Barbecue



-Photographs courtesy Sandra Soler

## Destination Review

### Columbus Isle Resort

-By Julie Taylor

Joe Smariga and I went on a lovely vacation to Club Med's Columbus Isle Resort in San Salvador, Bahamas for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week. We anticipated having a wonderful time....and it was all of that!!!

We took a 1½ hour charter flight from Miami (yeah, Miami sucks, but it's better than doing Bahamasair via Nassau). After identifying our bags we were whisked through customs and then loaded aboard vans for a 5 minute drive to Club Med. We were greeted by enthusiastic "GO's" (Genteel Organizers) with a big round of clapping and a welcome drink. After a brief orientation, we were shown to our room. We are now "GM's" (Genteel Members).

Buffet lunch was still being served and we enjoyed the bountiful buffet (3 rooms full) along with unlimited beer and wine. We checked into the "Sea Center" where for \$250 you get six 2-tank morning dives and a 1-tank night dive.

The diving was wonderful...ALL wall diving starting at approx 40-50 feet and dropping off to 200+ feet. There were a lot of hammerheads sighted by other GM's; we did see reef sharks, black tips, nurse, and one "possible" hammerhead. We also saw turtle, a spotted eagle ray, sting rays and BIGGG grouper...so friendly you could pet them under the chin. On the night dive we saw the BIGGEST Green Moray either of us has ever seen. It was...I swear...7-8 feet long and two feet in diameter!!!!

The food was great...three-room buffet with wine and beer for lunch and dinner included. You can also make reservations for a sit down dinner at one of the alternate restaurants. After diving and lunch you can go skiing, windsurfing, kayaking, sailing, or bike riding. You can hang on the beach, play basketball, table tennis, or real tennis, or read that book you've been meaning to read foreeevvvvveerrrr. We had SUCH a great time...we think that this would be a great future "Club group destination!"

## Happy September Birthday to:

- Pete Bartels
- John Chinners
- Loren Harlan
- Cathy Olsen
- John Van Atta
- Jon Black
- Kyle Crawford
- James McLeod
- Barbara Rudzik
- Joe Yonkof



# REEF BRIEFS



## MPA Campaign Tossed Back

In the July, 2001 issue of The Wet Zone, your editor reported on one of the three public workshops held by the Ocean Watch Foundation to discuss proposed MPA's or "Marine Protected Areas" in Broward County. Several club members attended at least one of the three meetings and witnessed the passion with which people on both sides of the issue discussed their case.

According to the July 28 Sun-Sentinel, the fishing ban was "tossed back." Reporter David Fleshler wrote that the plan's backers are forming a new group to produce a less controversial series of conservation proposals, which they hope could win the support of the fishing groups that had bitterly opposed the proposal to ban fishing.

The Ocean Watch Foundation released a statement that read, "Any prior notions of boundaries and activities allowed within the marine protected areas have been discarded and we will start at the drawing board by taking into consideration the comments and concerns of all stakeholders."

Mike Leech, president of the International Game Fish Association in Dania Beach, is a strong opponent of the plans. "It's a political process, and there are a lot more people concerned about losing their right to fish than there are scientists and environmentalists."

To take effect, the proposal would require a vote by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. But the commission would not consider it without an endorsement by the Broward County Commission. And county officials have said that their support would require the support of the fishing community, which turned out heavily against it.

Steve Somerville, the county's director of planning and environmental services, said that the public reaction showed that there wasn't support in the fishing community. "On an issue like this, where there are strong passions on both sides, it's really important to develop a consensus," he said. "Apparently there was a lot of common ground on issues that didn't pertain to the MPA -- water quality, shoreline restoration."

Bill Roe, vice president of Ocean Watch, said the new plan is to form a group that would include everyone -- commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, environmentalists, dive tour operators and anyone else inter-

ested in improving the health of the waters off Broward County. They could look at water pollution, reef damage from freighters, wetland destruction, habitat conservation and other issues, Roe said. "It became clear that there were a lot of concerns about the ocean, and that restricting fishing was just one of them," he said. "If we can get people to come to the table and work out suggestions, we're better off than before. The general consensus is anything is better than nothing."

The new group will be headed by Adriaan Holt, president of the Lighthouse Point Saltwater Sportsmen's Association, and Kim Aniston, former project manager for the Florida Keys office of the Ocean Conservancy. It is an unusual team. Holt had bitterly opposed the marine protected area plan. Aniston had worked to create the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, a 151-square-mile marine protected area intended to preserve coral reefs 70 miles off Key West. "We're going to bring folks together," she said. "If you think the problem is pollution, beach renourishment, overfishing -- let's get all the concerns out."

Holt said fishermen strongly support ocean conservation, but not without sufficient scientific backing. "We're all conscious that we need to conserve," he said. "We do not go out and kill for the sake of killing. We need to conserve for our children. In our club, we release every billfish that we catch." But he said that fishing bans are far too severe a move without scientific evidence. "I have major problems with site selection without any scientific input," he said.

## SFDI Gets Involved in Ships-to-Reefs Campaign

It seems that the U.S. Navy has a little problem: what to do with about 400 mothballed ships rusting away in storage shipyards. The Secretary of the Navy recently released a study by RAND, a non-partisan public policy research group that studied ship disposal options for the Navy. The best option: **Reefing!** That's jargon for sinking ships for recreational purposes. Most impressive are the proven benefits to marine life, commercial and sport fishing, and, of course, recreational diving. Imagine the tremendous impact a Navy ship as an artificial reef would have on the South Florida diving community!

So how do we get a ship in our back yard? We've got to **do something**. Although U.S. Congress has mandated that the aging ships be disposed of, the method of doing so is still being decided. If you wish to help inaugurate a new era of diving in North America, you've got to **make your voice and your opinion heard** by writing to your U.S. Senators and Representative. It's easy, we've already written your letter and we collected about 150 at the August meeting. If you did not sign your letters at the August meeting, please see Michelle Burzese or Pat Lamicella at the September meeting. If you cannot attend the September meeting, log on to [scubadiving.com/feature/shipstoreefs](http://scubadiving.com/feature/shipstoreefs) and follow the instructions. See the web review on page 6 for more information on the RAND study. I can't wait to put our first dive to our very own Navy ship artificial reef on the club calendar!

Julie and the Taylor-Tones at the Jazz Brunch?



# WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

## Wouldn't you LOVE to dive on a Navy ship?

~ By Debby Auchter

RAND, a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis, recently studied ship disposal for the U.S. Navy. The study is available for free at [www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1377](http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR1377). Please see the related article on page 5 of this newsletter, then get involved in your club's efforts! RAND identified four choices, three of them bad: **Long-Term Storage:** Not only is it costly (\$50 million a year), you've still got ships to deal with at some point. **Overseas Scrapping:** Not only is it costly (\$170 million

over five years), but political and economic uncertainty, as well as a regulatory block against exporting PCBs, make this a non-starter. **Domestic Scrapping:** By far the most costly (up to \$1.9 billion over 20 years) not to mention uncertainties about labor costs and scrap metal prices. **The Best Option: Reefing!** That's jargon for sinking ships for recreational purposes. It's even better than cheap; it's free! Accumulated tax revenues from associated business activity are expected to equal costs by the 12th year of the program. Because of the history of successful reefing of military ships, an established process is in place, minimizing uncertainties. Read the study...and get involved!

### 2001 Executive Board

**President:** Jeff Guzowski  
**Past President:** John Kansman  
**VP of Membership:** Joe Smariga  
**Membership Assistant:** Sandra Soler  
**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



### Mini-Season Report 2001 Crustaceans and Cetaceans!

~By Julie Taylor



The waters were rough, 2-5 feet, and the visibility was poor, 15+ feet, but we were tough...we were resilient...we wanted LOBSTER!!! And we got them...four divers caught 26 lobster the first day, and seven divers caught 41 the second day. Not the limit...but a respectable catch. The nice thing was, we really had some very enjoyable dives. A baby sea turtle sleeping in a ledge, eels, huge puffer fish, a school of copper sweepers, really great ledges, and just fun, relaxing, enjoyable dives. Lots of females with eggs...and then...on our last dive...Jim Reynolds and I saw a pod of dolphin...yes, "Flipper," 12 or 15 of them...underwater and only 8 ft away...SOOOOO cool...they didn't play with us...but seeing them underwater was SOOOOO awesome!!! I think those "dolphin experience snorkel dives" are nothing...compared to the REAL THING!!!!



Look for these new members at the next meeting and wish them a warm WELCOME!

David Crawford    Kyle Crawford    Dean Schwerdt  
 Larry LePage        Mary LePage

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



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