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Submit "Cover Photo" material to the Newsletter Editor Suzan Meldonian, 561-394-6391 or e-mail: newsletter@sfups.org Please include a short paragraph about the photo, including camera information and location. DEADLINE IS THE 25th!
Can you believe it is October already?? Holy smokes, where’d the time go?

For those of you who missed the Nite dive at the Blue Heron Bridge, well... let’s just say the visibility was gin clear- a pleasant surprise. We will continue to offer these until the weather gets cold. Keep an eye on your emails.

Diving the Bridge is an experience. It’s a good place for the macro hunter who enjoys finding critters to photograph. At first its not much to look at, but it is a muck dive... you have to stop and observe, and before you know it, you will see amazing animals. Yes true, they can be the animals you see all around Florida, but then you just never know what you will see next. Did you know that the inlet to the Blue Heron Bridge is one of the closest points to the Gulf Stream Current? That current is what makes this place so special. The other thing that is so nice, is that because it is shallow, you can actually spend time with your subject, trying to get that special shot... or better still, work on improving your craft, by taking your time.

Happy Halloween!
In 1959, I moved from Great Neck Long Island to Pompano Beach with my family. My Dad and I had a great love of boating, first on Long Island Sound; then, the waters off Pompano Beach & the Keys. We always had a boat and I was intrigued with snorkeling and fishing. The Florida waters were beautiful and the reefs pristine in the day; tons of fish, “big” fish, and lobsters were everywhere. The Keys, well that was like going to another country.

In 1960, I purchased used scuba gear. A double hose regulator, 72” steel tank with pack, and a weight belt. Gauges… no gauges or computers back then. You basically stayed down until you ran out of air, pulled the J-valve and started to ascended. Was it dangerous; absolutely, but what an adventure. All through middle school and high school, I kept up with my love of the ocean. In the mid-sixties, I was off to FSU to study biology. I got caught up in college life which kept me away from the ocean.

After graduation, I moved back to Pompano Beach, met my wife Beverly, bought my own boat and started fishing and snorkeling, but very little diving. Certification was required by then to purchase air and my old gear, well, way out-of-date.

In the ’80s, a friend reintroduced me to diving; single hose regulator, BC, gauges and certification. I was hooked! In 1987, we were off to Cozumel. My first real overseas dive trip. It was amazing! Day dives, night dives, had to figure out how to capture it all on film. My first camera, a 35mm Sea& Sea point & shoot, provided a ton of fun and the ability to share my adventures with friends and family, but the quality wasn’t quite there yet. Both the equipment and my underwater photographic abilities needed improvement.

In 2002, I met Guy Harvey during a charity fishing tournament in Boca Raton. I showed him a video of a trip I had just taken to Belize. Guy was fascinated with the schooling Cubera snappers & whale sharks. He told me that if I ever wanted to go back to count on him.

We were off to Belize the following spring and have traveled together many times since. It has been a true-to-life fantasy adventure. We’ve been to Cocos Island, Galapagos Islands, Silver Banks, Grand Cayman, Guadalupe Islands, and the Bahamas. I have had such a wonderful opportunity to increase my knowledge of equipment and to improve my skills as well. My first digital camera was an Olympus 4 mega pixel. I took it to the Galapagos Islands for the first time; then, I graduated to an Olympus 350. Now I’m shooting with a Canon G10 in a Fixed housing.

I have a passion for underwater photography and hope to continue to improve my skills here in the club. - Bill
Tonight’s presentation will be a journey into the world of sharks. It will include highlights of my diving adventures with sharks over the past 6 years. My first experience with “shark diving” was on the Gulfstream Eagle live aboard out of Palm Beach in the late ’90s. The crew always included a dive to feed the sharks off West End. Back in those days, sharks were considered a threat to divers and the thought of jumping in the water with sharks feeding sounded like quite the adventure. The dive was electrifying. We had sharks coming from everywhere within inches of us. They were not at all interested in the divers, just the food. I had my trusty 35 mm Sea and Sea and got some snapshots, but nothing great. However, I was hooked on sharks and their majesty and beauty.

My shark diving began to escalate after meeting Guy Harvey. Guy wanted to film sharks for his TV series and to educate the public about shark behavior and the need for conservation. Sharks have a great deal to fear from humans. Compared to the 10-15 people killed by sharks each year; over 100 million sharks perish at the hands of humans annually and many populations may face extinction. Sharks are killed for many reasons, including fear; food, sport, and ‘machismo’, but the great majority perish due to simple greed. Many shark products have commercial value, including: the flesh; the skin for high-quality leather; teeth and jaws for ornaments; liver oil for cosmetics, medicines, vitamin A, and skin-care products; and cartilage for false cancer ‘cures’. However, the product that drives the market are the fins. After drying, collagen fibers are extracted from them, cleaned, and processed to make ‘shark fin soup’. In spite of the fact that these fibers have little flavor or nutritional value, the soup is considered a delicacy, and may sell in the Orient for more than $100 a bowl.

Why should we be concerned about this situation? After all, wouldn’t the ocean be much safer without sharks? The answer is no. The chance of being attacked by a shark is already less than the chance of being struck by lightning. The real dangers for people in the water are drowning, exposure, and being struck by a boat. In the USA, for example, drowning incidents outnumber shark attacks by 1,000 to 1. Without sharks, the whole experience of being in a natural ocean wilderness would be immeasurably reduced. It would be like being on the Serengeti with no lions or cheetahs. In losing the opportunity to view these magnificent and superbly-adapted predators in the wild, we are also losing part of our spiritual connection with nature.

In tonight’s presentation we will view images from the Galapagos Islands, to the Bahamas. I hope you enjoy my “World of Sharks.”
A General vote will take place at the November meeting for the 2010 Board of Directors Elections.

Anyone who is interested in participating on the 2010 Board of Directors must contact Sharon Baron no later than October 23rd, 2009 at baronmedical@gmail.com

The positions we have coming available are:

**Audio Visual** handles collecting of the intra-club contest submissions and displays them at the club meetings on the projector... provides copies to Newsletter.

**Membership** takes care of collecting applications, annual dues, bringing in new members and introducing them to our club, functions. Also keeps track of member’s dive insurance information.

**Secretary** maintains the Board meeting minutes, coordinates the Holiday party... and records winners of the intra-club contests.

Our Board of Directors keeps us running smooth bringing us wonderful speakers and keep us informed about our world of underwater photography.

This magnificent sunset was taken by Susan Mears at the dock by the Little Deeper, before our club night dive at the Blue Heron Bridge. She shot this with her 60 macro lens! ... In the housing !! Now there’s a challenge.
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST September:
CHALLENGERS: Beneath the Sun

OCTOBER
M - Haunted Castles
C - Ghoulies

NOVEMBER
M - Fall Colors
C - Lionfish
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST September:

MASTERS: Reflections

1st Place: Shen Collazo

2nd Place: Steve Kovacs

3rd Place: Linda Ianniello

4th Place: Kim Cook

5th Place: Mike Schmale
PHOTO CONTESTS

Oct 9 Deadline  Sea 2009 International Underwater Photo Competition
hosted by the Northern California Underwater Photographic Society.
http://www.ncups.org/sea.html

Oct 31  Just Dive 2009 Photo Contest
  NAUI is now accepting photo entries from photographers of all ages, skill levels  http://www.naui.org/

Oct 15 Epson Red Sea  http://www.sandiskredsea.com
  The Best 5 Images
  The Best Color Print
  The best Wrecks of the world
  The best Humoristic Image

THE CLASSIFIED’S

FOR SALE:
EOS 10D body- $140.00.
EOS 3 body with battery grip- $120.00.
Elan 7 body with battery grip and Ikelite u/w housing, no port- $120.00.
Nikonos 20mm lens with viewfinder- $100.00.
Canon 500mm f4.5 lens, broken collar, part no longer available new. Lens can be used on a bean bag.- $500.00.
Spyder calibration device for CRT monitors, not for LCD monitors- $25.00.
Mike Ewanus  954-322-6629  mikeewanus@aol.com

FOR SALE:
Canon XT (300D) Digital Rebel (body only), Ikelite housing with built-in electronic controls, 6-inch dome port for wide angle and flat port for 18-55 or 60 mm macro lenses, charger, two batteries and owner’s manual. Both camera and housing are in perfect working condition. The camera has a scratch on the top. . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,000 firm. Contact Amaury Cruz - amaurycruz@yahoo.com

FOR SALE:
Epson 2200 Photo Printer . . . . . . . . . . . . $150.00  OBO
Prints up to 13” wide. Uses 7 separate color ink cartridges plus separate switchable photo black and matte black depending on paper type. Maximum paper size is 13” x 44”. Includes printer, USB cable, extra set of inks, variety of sample papers. Contact Susan Mears - photofish@mindspring.com  954-778-8188
GOL! THE TASTE OF BRAZIL, one of the most celebrated Brazilian steakhouses in South Florida, has truly raised the bar with its top notch rodizio. GOL offers fifteen different cuts of meat, grilled shrimp and salmon brought to your table on skewers and carved by traditionally-dressed gaúcho waiters.

Annual Holiday Party

Ready for something Different??

This year’s Holiday venue will be in Delray Beach.

We are gathering on SUNDAY this year at:

Gol Taste of Brazil
411 East Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, Florida 33483
561-272-6565

When: Sunday 12-13-09
Time:  5:00pm
Price : $44.00/person
Cash Bar

Salad bar much different than what we are used to.
10 various cuts of meat
Brazilian Flan for dessert

Website for the restaurant
http://www.golthetasteofbrazil.com/
Parting Shot Photo by Fletcher Forbes

Fletcher Forbes is the SFUPS Featured Photographer for October 2009

Visit the NEW www.sfups.org to see the galleries

So... have you updated your Gallery?

Your on-line gallery comes with your paid membership. Take Advantage!

JOIN SFUPS

South Florida Underwater Photography Society MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SFUPS is a Non-Profit Organization promoting interest in Underwater Photography. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (January- November) at 7:30 p.m. at the El Palacio Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn- Pro Player), 21485 N.W. 27th Avenue, Miami

Annual Dues are $35.00 (individual), $45.00 (family) and $20.00 for “Out of Area” non-participating members. Dues are payable each January. After June 1st, dues are prorated to 1/2 of the above rates for new members only.

A Membership form must be filled out, signed and returned along with payment, a copy of your C-card and dive insurance. Make checks payable to SFUPS and send to: 359 Cottonwood Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33487.

Membership forms can be found on our website at www.sfups.org and will also be available at the meetings.