

# THE JUNE 04 BULLETIN

## FSDA OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT: DAVE SHELTON** 727- 847-5479  
**VICE PRES: JOHN MOLDT** 727-536-1457  
**SECRETARY: LISA TATRO** 813-854-3630  
**TREASURER: KEN SMITH** 727-522-8276

## COMMITTEES

**WCC CHAIR:** TOM MORRIS 727-787-5569  
**WCC CO-CHAIR:** JOHN SCHMIDT 727-937-7822  
**LEGISLATIVE:** PAUL KERR 727-528-1404  
**LEGISLATIVE:** DENNIS O'HERN 727-391-3969  
**PHOTOGRAPHY:** LISA TATRO 813-854-3630  
**FREE DIVING:** DAVE SHELTON 727-847-5479

## DIRECTORS

SEA BUNNIES	LISA TATRO	813-854-3630
CLEARWATER SEA SALTS	JOHN MOLDT	727-536-1457
SUNCOAST REEF ROWDIES	RUTH KISCO	727-391-4446
SUNCOAST SEALS	SKIP LONG	727-736-8179
SUNSHINE FINS	ADRIANNE BUTLER	727-934-8572
ST PETE UNDERWATER	BILL HARDMAN	727- 560-0757
TAMPA BAY SPEARFISHING	KEVEN SCHRIVER	727-392-5649



### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The main topic of interest at this time of the year is the “Southern Open State Championship Tournament”. Which is fondly referred to as “The Derby”. We have a few changes from last year. First of all is the new location. “Catches Seafood Restaurant” has been selected to host this years event. It is located on the North side of the Pithlachascotte River. The Hwy #19 bridge over the river is the best landmark. It’s located between The cities of New Port Richey and Port Richey. The restaurant people have been great to work with and things are shaping up to become the perfect environment for a State Championship Tournament.

The dates of the event have been moved up to June 19 to June 26 for the photography portion and June 25-26-27 for spearfishing. The change was made to take advantage of warmer water and avoid the hurricane season.

The efforts put forth by John Schmidt and Tom Morris have been spectacular The “Derby” could not occur without their endless contributions. Lisa Tatro has put forth equal effort as the chairperson for the photography portion of the event. A new set of rules and the addition of a digital camera division will insure a strong and competitive tournament.

Please support all of our sponsors. Their names and logos are listed in the Bulletin and this web site. Be sure to thank them for their continued support.

I look forward to seeing everyone at “The 2004 Southern Open”. Good luck & good diving!!!

Dave

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for visiting the FSDA web site. Be aware that the Tournament information, such as rules, wavers, and registration is on the TOURNAMENT page of the site. The schedule of events is on the CALENDAR page. Return to the HOME PAGE and click on any of the buttons to access them. Visit the site on a regular basis to check for special announcements and changes.



## SUNCOAST REEF ROWDIES

**MEGALODONS!** Hunting for the Giant White Shark 20 million-year-old fossil teeth has become a yearly activity with the Rowdies. Wading the cold Peace River near Wachulla in March or diving in the Gulf off Venice or even St. Pete in April and May, you will find Rowdies bringing up treasures. Lori Smith found a perfect 4- $\frac{1}{4}$  inch Meg (that translates to ~10 foot of shark per inch of tooth – think of that size!) It had an unusual pink colored coating on it that apple cider removed nicely. Ed Zuranski's perfect Meg is a little over three inches with serrations sharp enough to cut you. Unfortunately my largest Meg at 4- $\frac{1}{4}$  inch is only three-quarters there. Interestingly though, were the handfuls of small teeth that Bobbie Jo Roe and Ed found in the Peace River that we were told may have been from newborn Megs. You don't usually think of the babies – would you call the teeth their "milk teeth?" © Many of you have seen Ruth and Steve Kisco's Meg teeth necklaces found last year – well their luck continues and Steve dove for another perfect four inch, shiny-clean one just laying on top of the reef.

Lucky Lori also found a large portion of a mammoth tooth that you can clearly see the plates but it had no chewing surface– not quite as big as the one Ed and Bob found a while back. She also found a fossil snake vertebra and a tiny perfect complete fossil toe bone identified as from an ancient bird. Pat and Eileen and others discovered teeth from the ancient horse, camel, deer and alligator. Pat is the only one of our group to ever find a perfect arrowhead point a few years ago, though. Fossiling can really bring the excitement of a treasure hunt to our activities.

The Rowdies went to Thailand last March – thanks to Lynn Willis' slides. Wow, great landscapes, beautiful colored tile on the temples – great pictures Lynn! Lynn is from the Tackle Shack Dive club. In April we had Martha Collins, a speaker on the National Environmental Trust - "COOL" – Conserving Our Ocean Legacy. She was encouraging us to keep our legislators aware of diver's needs. Go to [www.oceanlegacy.org/](http://www.oceanlegacy.org/) for more information. Thanks to Bob Bourke for his presentation on DIR (Doing It Right) a very comprehensive review. He has been active in cave diving and other trips and is a SSI Instructor now. DIR was developed by the Global Underwater Explorers during the Wakulla Springs Project. We will be practicing our skills on gas management, teams, preparedness and situational awareness sometime in the near future.

Congratulations to Steve and Ruth in their Spearboard success. They also just returned from an attempt to go to the Bahamas. Unfortunately the Weather Gods did not cooperate so they will have to try again some other time. The real sailors are their three dogs though – they were glad to find that out! A good time was had by all. By the way, Bobbie Jo Roe is now living in Anchorage, Alaska. She is planning on being there six months and coming back here six months of the year. Yes, she took her dry suit!

Next we will be turning to our other love – underwater photography - Look out Southern Open! All we need now is a boat, film, camera with no leaks, good subjects and a lot of luck! (We don't ask for much.) Our next meeting on July 7th brings election of officers, our annual raffle drawing and slides from the Galapagos. If you can't be there mail in your vote – that way you will be able to win the drawing.

Let's get wet!  
Sonia



### **SUMMER WITH THE SEABUNNIES!**

The Annual Seabunnie Banquet was held at the Cove Cay Golf & Country Club on March 20<sup>th</sup>. We had a “cruise” theme and everyone looked great in their best island get-away attire. Many awards were presented and new 2004 officers installed. We always have a fun time at our banquets!

Our ladies have been diving! Mary Taylor just got back from Grand Cayman. The underwater scenery was more beautiful than she expected. Lot's of swim-throughs, pinnacles, big colorful coral and sponges, and lots of fish. She fed the stingrays at "Sting Ray City". Their bodies are remarkably soft and smooth. The Morays came out for lunch too. But she kept her distance from a big one that tried to follow her around. Mary took lots of photos, which we are all waiting to see!

Rita started her dive season in Viti Levu a/k/a Fiji's “Big Island.” Contrary to what you might think, Fiji is not built up. She was expecting something like Waikiki Beach Hawaii, but actually, there are miles of undeveloped land between resorts on Fiji's coral coast. The locals still live in small villages run by a “chief.” And you could stroll the beach for half a day before you would run into another person. Diving is just as laid back. The day starts off by getting picked up at the resort by the dive shop manager and a nice 20-minute drive down the coast to the boat. The boat is just a little skiff that you just push out from the beach, motor up, and within 200ft, thru the breaker, you are at the wall. Diving was just Rita and John, and the divemaster. Just roll over and you see the wall – 100+’ visibility. The walls were beautiful, covered with hard and soft corals, nudibranchs, Moorish idols, clownfish, scorpionfish, blue traveli, regal angels, clown triggerfish, giant clams and a “brown-suede” shark. One wall, named “Snow White” was covered with white soft corals, it felt like swimming over snow-covered bushes. After a leisurely drift dive, you just surface when you feel like it, and the little boat picks you back up. The surface interval is “high tea” on the beach. The boat brings you back, and you sit at a table set up on the beach and enjoy tea and biscuits. After an hour or so, you suit up and dive again. Life is tough!

More diving is planned for our group. Deb H has set up our east coast trip, this time to Jupiter, on July 17-18. The price is good and we may still have a few spots left. Jupiter is excellent diving because the ledges are very defined – often a 20’ drop from top of the reef down to the sand. And there are always turtles on every dive! So mark your calendars, dust off your underwater camera, call Deb and sign up for the dive!

In preparation for a great dive season, Betty T showed our group how to best collect and clean seashells. She brought her marvelous collection in and told us how to find these exquisite creatures. With her great tips, we can clean shells and have a wonderful collection ourselves. Don't forget ladies, shell collection is another competition too for our Seabunnies!

We know Patty B is getting ready for diving. First, she retires from the Fire Dept (and did you see that big article about her in the newspaper??). Then she goes out and buys a yacht! After some refurbishing, she and Lowell have big plans for the 50 footer – they’re planning trips to the middle grounds, Tortugas, and the Keys. Sounds like an ideal retirement!

Some of our folks are having “big” birthdays this summer! To start off, Adrienne threw a fabulous Murder Mystery Birthday Bash on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The scene was the film set from “Gilligan’s Island” and we all played a part. We had the full cast of characters, Gilligan, Maryanne, Ginger, the Skipper, Mr. & Mrs. Howell, and the Professor. Of course, all their understudies, and the set designers, make-up artists, producers, the chairman of the board, wives, tribesmen and tourists. Sure enough, the Hooters Girls came too, and Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne even made an appearance. We were all having a good time, and next thing you know, someone screams – and the director is dead!! We all wanted to kill him - he was either stealing money, or blackmailing someone, or having an affair with someone’s wife, or just being a louse! He deserved to get axed; now we just had to figure out who did it! We spent the rest of the evening trying to piece the clues together. Sure enough – it wasn’t the butler who killed the director – it was the cook!! The party was a real hit! Happy Birthday Adrienne!

More fabulous birthday bashes are planned. Patty’s husband Lowell is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Eileen is July 10<sup>th</sup>. This is going to be a really fun summer!

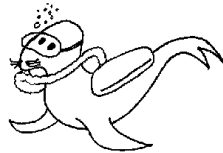
Competition is going strong on the Bunnie Board. Below are the results to-date:

**Grouper:** Eileen Morris - 7 lbs, Lisa Tatro - 7.9 lbs, Mary Taylor - 21.5 lbs

**Hogfish:** Eileen Morris - 3 lbs, Mary Taylor - 15 lbs

**Snapper:** Mary Taylor - 10.5 lbs

**Sheepshead / Triggerfish/ Flounder:** Lisa Tatro - 2.3 lb Sheepshead, Lisa Schmidt - 2.9 lb Sheepshead



## **SUNCOAST SEALS**

The Seals welcome new members Giampaolo “GP” Marchi and Lance Boutcher to the club. We now have thirty one members. Paul Hermes and Bret Wally were guests at the last meeting. Dave Shelton and Tom Morris continue to be very active in planning and implementing the FSDA and WCC activities. The Seals support them with a high level of participation in the events. They are also enthusiastic supporters of the “Fishing Rights Alliance” (FRA) which promotes reasonable and effective fisheries management policies.

As we hit the halfway mark for 2004, most of us have had an opportunity get some dives in and to make some new friends. The first WCC Shoot held in Tarpon Springs was a huge success with awesome food prepared and served by Kim McPherson. We'll soon see if the other hosting clubs can match Kim's culinary efforts. Top honors went to Sammy Carlino for leading the pack and representing the Sun Coast Seals.

Our very own Suncoast Seal, Scott McPherson, pulled off yet another successful Spearboard Open. The second annual Spearboard Open boasted over 215 entries and a prize table in excess of \$25,000 with shooters coming from as far away as South Carolina and Louisiana. The Seals are excited about our chances to finish with top honors in the WCC series. Keep safety first and always keep an eye out for your buddy!



**Submitted: Bill Hardman**

### **Gear Up For the 2004 St. Pete Open**

**Dates:** We will once again put on the St. Pete Open at the former Tierra Verde Resort and the Mirage Waterfront.

**August 20, 21 & 22, 2004.**

**Rain Date is the following weekend.**

**Rooms:** If you have not signed up to get on the waiting list for a room at the Tierra Verde Resort for the tournament, please call Bill Hardman at (727) 344-3483. Room availability will be tight so please sign up soon if you are interested.

### **Whats New With The 2004 Open!**

1. **Register in Advance and Get a Special Edition Tournament T-Shirt.** After seven years of the same entry fee, we finally raised the entry fee – only by \$5. Register by August 7 and you can get our limited Tournament shirt (a \$20 value).
2. **Freediver Division.** We will be offering trophies for First through Third for the top three *Freedive Only* participants in this years St. Pete Open.
3. **Tierra Verde Resort is re-vamped.** The restaurant and banquet rooms are now under new ownership and Francine Fabrizio, the Event Director of the Mirage Waterfront has showed us most of the 2.5 million dollars worth of renovations. We have a cleaner cooler location and she promised plenty of staff for food and drinks on every day of the St. Pete Open 2004. **See Ya at The Open!**

### **New SPUCS**

The St. Pete Underwater Club has voted in three new members and we want to welcome these fellow shooters aboard.

- **Scott Hooker**
- **Scott Weber**
- **Isaac Lathrop**

### **Congrats – Spearboard Open Volunteers**

The SPUCs want to congratulate all the Spearboard Open organizers for putting on such a good tournament. We realize there is always some who complains or moans and groans. Believe me we know!!! However, the VOLUNTEERS for this tournament truly did a great job putting together a top notch tourney. GOOD JOB GUYS!

### **The FRA is fighting For Your Spearfishing Rights**

The Fishing Rights Alliance is doing it's best to support your fishing and spearfishing rights. In fact, they are now pushing to have a limited harvest of Goliath Groupers. These are the kind of important issues that the FRA is trying to support for you! To find out more or to help support the FRA contact their website at [www.thefra.org](http://www.thefra.org) or call Dennis O'Hern at (727) 692-6902.



## SUNSHINE FINS

The Fins are hanging out, with several of us wooses waiting for diving season. We remember the days when we dove all year around...oh, well. We had our annual Xmas party at Basta's, one of our favorite Italian restaurants. We also like to have football parties. Funny how, as we get older, we do more parties.

Fins Jim Hitch and Mike Yagmin are diving all the time – you go, guys! We have dive trips planned to Jupiter and Key Largo in July and August, respectively. Fins Spencer Workinger is planning the Jupiter trip and Ron Komosinski is planning the Key Largo trip.

We decided to change our meetings to once a month, so now we meet the first Tuesday of the month at Kissin Cuzzins on 34st Street South. We are also discussing ways to bring in new members. Feel free to come visit.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Ghost of Gary Wood



## OCEAN PALS™ AT FT. LAUDERDALE 2004

Winning Florida Ocean Pals posters, proudly boasting nine National and fifteen Regional prize ribbons were displayed at the Ocean Festival Dive and Adventure Sports Expo 2004. FSDA's Sonia and Ken Smith arrived in Ft. Lauderdale Beach Friday afternoon 5/14/04. The car was mounded up with the posters, a huge box of prizes, display boards, fans, ladder, tools, computer program and all the supplies but the kitchen sink. There we were: lift that panel, pound it in, where's the staple gun?, is this straight?, artfully arranging, a little more to the left, more stapling, -is the FSDA table cover centered?, someone turn on the fans *PLEASE*; WHEW, we got it up. Ed Grubicy, photographer and Lucille & Ed Smith, the New York Ocean Pals director, represented BTS (Beneath The Sea – Ocean Pals' parent organization) and also took turns to help man the booth. Special thanks go to Neal Watson Productions for donating the booth!

Again this year, we invited show-going students to have fun adding their special, talented marine life drawings to the mural paper lying across the table. Certificates of participation were presented to each of them. But the most fun for them was when they had their name drawn for the raffle of the mask, fins and snorkels donated to Ocean Pals by the MARES company. (I got my exercise running up to the front of the show tents to use the microphone to announce the winners!)



What excitement when two of our first place National/District winners came to our booth. Jack Reedy, 10<sup>th</sup> grade from Oklawaha, who had been selected for the national grand prize of a trip to the Caiman Islands, and Shannon Matthews, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Plantation winner of the first place national \$200 savings bond arrived on Sunday. I believe sending the new computer generated postcard reminders of the poster display at the Ocean Festival were the deciding factor for them to come to the show. I'll do that again next year – maybe we will have even more winners come. Notice in Shannon's picture, she is wearing her T-shirt with her poster picture transfer on it - a special prize I sent to the first place district winners this year. Even with all the computer problems we had this year some of the special projects did work out.



The show continues to hold it's own in battling the Weather Gods. This year it was high wind and rip tides to put the monkey wrench in diving activities for the show. Thankfully, we were spared the heavy rain of past years. Being flexible though, Neal had some alternate programs to save the day and keep show-goers busy and entertained. Join us next year to see Florida's biggest dive show!

**Sonia & Ken Smith, Director South East Region  
Ocean Pals Poster Contest  
Sponsor: FSDA**