



FROM THE PRESIDENT

The excitement is just beginning. The warm water is here and the diving season will be officially opened on April 5th (6:00 pm) with a grand “Kickoff Party” at the Ballyhoo Bar & Grill in Tarpon Springs. It has a tropical “Under the stars” atmosphere. If you dive that day the cooks can prepare your fresh catch. You and your guests will be impressed with their special flavoring techniques.

The State Freediving Spearfishing Championship follows on April 12. It’s a highly popular affair. All of the information is included in this publication. Get your teams together! The FSDA is allowed to send three teams to the Nationals this year.

Tom Morris and John Schmidt have the new Web Site (FSDA-WCC.COM) up and running. Be sure to look it up. It has all of the tournament information including schedules, rules, wavers etc. It’s easy to “download” any of the documents that you might need. The FSDA has increased the budget in order to provide a site that will be interesting and kept current. Be sure to go to it for the latest information on any event.

Thanks to Chairpersons Tom Morris and John Schmidt for developing a new format for the three WCC Tournaments. It is designed to promote increased participation. Get your members involved!

It will be a busy year and I invite all of you in the FSDA to join in the excitement. I also invite any and all of you to join us at the FSDA meetings. We would like to hear your views. The meetings are held at “Foxy O’Tools” in Largo. It’s located on Ulmerton Rd at the first stop light east of Starkey Rd. They are scheduled for 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of every month.

FSDA-WCC “KICK-OFF PARTY”

BALLYHOO BAR & GRILL APRIL 5TH 6:00 PM

Ballyhoo’s “Back Porch Bar” area has a tropical, open sky environment. It’s an exciting place to celebrate the start of the 2003 diving season. Everyone had a grand time there for the Southern Open Derby in November. It’s an excellent environment for visiting with old and new friends.

The Ballyhoo Bar & Grill is located across the street (East) of the Pappas Restaurant in Tarpon Springs. The “Back Porch Bar” area will be open and the cooks ready at 6:00 PM. Be sure to bring guests. If you have been diving that day, they will cook your fresh catch.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

FSDA 2003 membership dues (\$15) are due as of 1/1/03. Clubs and individual members are to mail their dues to: Treasurer, PO Box 823, Largo FL, 33779-0823

DATES TO REMEMBER

WCC Kickoff Party	April 5
FSDA Freedive Champ – Bayport	4/12
FSDA Freedive Champ Rain date	4/19
WCC Dive #1 Ft Desoto – SPUCS	4/26
WCC Dive #1 Rain date	5/17
WCC Dive #2 Belleair – Bunnies Tridents	5/31
WCC Dive #2 Raindate	6/7
WCC Dive #3 Pasco – Seals	7/12
WCC Dive #3 Rain date	7/26
St Pete Open Tierra Verde	8/15, 16, 17
Southern Open Derby	9/12, 13, 14
Shutter Open Derby- Rain Date	9/19 ,20, 21
WCC Awards Banquet	12/5



SEA BUNNIES- Gearing Up for More !!

Thanks to Art for writing our last article – between selling one house and buying another and moving, I had my hands full! And a housewarming party will follow soon! But as always – the Seabunnies have been very busy! Many ladies participated in the WCC tournaments and the Southern Open. I hear the water was rough, but the fish and photos were great!

A few spirited ladies, Lisa T, Mary B and Adrienne, braved the wild world of Key West during Fantasy Fest! Their stories are great – and don’t forget to ask to see the pictures!

In November, Lisa T put together a special meeting held at Our Ocean Dreams Dive Shop, 2566-A McMullen Booth Road. We saw a slide show of their last scuba trip to Thailand and Papua New Guinea. The show was so exciting, Rita immediately signed up for the March live-aboard and Deb H is planning to go in 2004. There is some spectacular diving over there!!

Betty T hosted the Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange/Toys for Tots. Our Seabunnies bought lots of toys and clothes for needy children this year, and we enjoyed good conversation and cookie sharing throughout the evening.

Even though the water has been cold here, our Seabunnies have been diving! Patty B went diving and stone crab hunting. She saw tons of fish in 30 feet of water - no big ones, but sooo much activity!

There were lots of crabs, but they missed most of them. Leslie was diving was over New Years in Blue Springs with the manatees. The temperature outside was about 42’ - but it was a beautiful dive. The manatees were everywhere and curious and timid all at once. That was her second time in a cavern - there seem to be some definite pluses diving the springs - the clean up is easy and no sea sickness to worry about!

(Bunnies: cont)

We all know Michele has been diving all winter long. The gulf water can be down to 54 degrees, and she'll still be out there!

Rita dove Cozumel and the "Devil's Throat" – a deep tight dive through the reef walls. Cozumel still has fabulous diving, regardless of how popular it has become. Just make sure you don't book yourself on a cattle boat!!

Deb H dove in the British Virgin Islands, while there doing a bareboat sail charter. Used a "rendezvous" dive company that will pickup or drop off divers at specified sites, right along side your boat! The diving was cool for skins (but the Alaskan couples didn't think it was cold!!!). Dove around Great Dog Cay. The marine life was healthy but still not quite as lush or as many fish and critters as off our East coast in the Gulf Stream. It was an enjoyable time.

On land, Small Craft Warnings (Connie & Patty) did Dunedin's Art Harvest and they have been accepted into the Gasparilla Art Festival in March 2003. The day afterwards, they will travel to Las Vegas to take a bead-making class with one of the industries best!

Most notably – The Clearwater Seabunnies are celebrating their 30th year as a Club! What a fantastic achievement!! Our "Diamond" theme Bunny Banquet will be March 15th at the Carlouel Yacht Club in Clearwater Beach. This will be a "star" studded event. We will also turn over the reigns to the new officers, and thank the 2002 team. Let's celebrate another great year and many more !!

Many thanks for Debbie P for hosting the Annual Judging Party, January 18th.

Here are the 2002 Judging Party Winners:

Shells Best Collection

- 1st Mary Taylor
- 2nd Paula Twaits
- 3rd Adrienne Butler

Best Shell

- 1st Mary Taylor Junania
- 2nd Pat Fredette American Thorny Oyster
- 3rd Adrienne Butler Lace Murex

Artifacts Man-made

Tie 1st Patti Bacun Anchor

- 1st Mary Taylor Spike

Artifacts Natural

- 1st Pat Fredette Fossils

Photography

Topside

- 1st Rita Fitzpatrick Pacific Sunset
- 2nd Mary Bergin Pelicans
- 3rd Pauls Twaits sunset, matted
- 4th Pat Fredette Rowboat
- 5th Mary Taylor Sunset on dock

Standard/Wide-Angle Prints

- 1st Lisa Tatro Fish
- 2nd Lisa Schmidt Stingray
- 3rd Pat Fredette Trumpet Fish
- 4th Mary Bergin Stingray

5th Vicky Jensen Diver in coral

Fixed Focus

- 1st Mary Taylor Squid
- 2nd Rita Fitzpatrick Loggerhead turtle
- 3rd Pat Fredette Diver/background
- 4th Lisa Schmidt Manatee at surface
- 5th Michelle Jarrell arrowcrab on rock

Macro

- 1st Adrienne Butler Crab
- 2nd Lisa Tatro Batfish
- 3rd Lisa Schmidt Sea start
- 4th Pat Fredette Shell

Standard Slides

- 1st Lisa Tatro
- 2nd Pat Fredette

Macro Slides

- 1st Lisa Tatro
- 2nd Pat Fredette

Food -

Main Entree

- 1st Patti Bacun Scallop Mushroom Feticcini
- 2nd Mary Bergin Tuna Tataki

Dessert

- 1st Lisa Tatro Tres Leches
- Tie for 2nd Lisa Boing Chocolate Steamed Pudding,
and Betty Tucker Brickle



SUNCOAST SEALS

Along with his other achievements Dave Shelton did an outstanding job in procuring the annual trophies. They were sheet steel fish replicas which were created by a special hand torch heating process. The colors produced were outstanding. They were awarded at the banquet as follows:

Dave Shelton : Tank Diving - Local Hog

Free Diving: Grouper – Sheepshead –Amberjack- Cobia
– Lobster- Barracuda – Freediver of the year

Mike Cave : Tank Diving – Local Snapper – lobster -
Barracuda

Freediving: Hog

Bill Harshman: - Tank Diving– local grouper

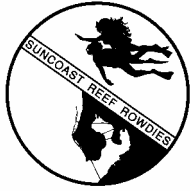
Armando Swarez Tank diving – Unlimited Grouper
Free Diving: Snapper

Chris Hudgens: Tank Diving – Unlimited Hog –
Unlimited Snapper – Amberjack - Scuba Diver Of The
Year

Martin Reisen : Tank Diving – Sheep head
Boat Captain of the year

Chuck Saussy: Presidents Award – Sportsmanship
Award

Skip Long & Art Pearson – Very Special "Frogman of
the Year" Awards



Only Jon Lynn didn't wimp out! Pat Fredette, Eileen Miller, Lori & Sonia Smith had traveled to Ginnie Springs Friday, Feb.28th to do our annual dive. We had kept a wary eye on the skies especially as we packed up in the rain down here. We woke Sat AM in High Springs to the sound of more rain and soon lost our enthusiasm to go diving. After a leisurely breakfast where some local people described the hail that fell that AM, we females decided that when all else fails – go shopping! Ed Zauranski and friends arrived later and decided to try kayaking the Santa Fe. But Jon had the faith and about 11AM got into the water. Can you imagine Ginny with only 3 divers in the cavern???? He had a marvelous dive!

We females didn't just go shopping though, we also trekked around in the O'Leno State Park Saturday – a lot of history – ghost town – and a very nicely developed park. Ed, Ramona, Lori and I decided to spend Sunday kayaking the beautiful, clear Ichetucknee River. A nice end to a rainy weekend.

Yo, Ho, Ho, and a bottle of water! The gnarly bunch of Rowdies making like pirates found not one but two treasure caches March 8th. We had to unravel the clues for our navigator, Jon Lynn to use with his GPS and mate Sheralyn on the compass to lead the group down in the dark, alligator infested swamps of Sawgrass Lake Park to find the "X" on the map. We had to decode the cryptic message leading us to the last treasure trove, but we found it! If your group or your family would like to do some land lubber activities contact Jon. It is called a Geo Cache and they are found all over the country.

Yelling & screaming marked the super bowl party at Pat Fredette's. Darn, I missed the winning numbers by one (as usual)! What a great time, the pot luck was delicious, fantastic game and good friends – thanks Pat.

Boy, did that hot chocolate taste good on the boat after diving with the manatee! 10 of us enjoyed diving and it wasn't that cold in the water – it's just when you come up on the boat you feel the January cold. You can still swim back to the "Three Sisters" - we had been told it was closed to people. Thanks for driving the pontoon, Ed. Glad to have you along Ramona & Rachael.

The huge screen of the IMAX theater was quite a treat Jan 12th. Nice to see several of you from other clubs there for the "Coral Reef Adventure". What an inspiration!

The holidays are long gone but we did enjoy the party last December. Congratulations go to Steve Kisco who we awarded with our Bunny Louser Trophy for best contributing diver. Highlighting the awards ceremony

was the great trophies Pat Fredette purchased. The food was terrific and we had great fun with our "Chinese" gift exchanges.

You will find the Rowdies out searching for fossils March 22nd. Our favorite guide has found a new site yielding great fossils, we are told. March 28,29 & 30 is the biggest Dive and Travel show in the US – the Beneath The Sea show in New York. Ken and I are planning on flying up there.

We may go on the Rainbow River clean up in April and we plan on diving for shark teeth in Venice in May – keep in touch for more information.

Ed has really updated our web site – take a look at our pictures and keep up with our plans for the year at: <http://home.1.gte.net/bgedz>.

Welcome to our three new members: Jim & Karen Thobe and Mike Brown.

WOW! It feels like summer already!
Sonia



Submitted: Bill Hardman

SPUC Superbowl Party & Feast Was A Blast! – Go Bucs!

What a game. The only thing better than the Bucs winning the World Title in such convincing form, was sharing the experience with so many family and friends – who all love diving. We had some cool Buc's spirit costumes. The Winners in the Adult Division were *Lisa Schmidt* and her good dive buddy, *Mary Bergin*. These two lovely ladies not only dressed the part, but they yelled and hollered just like the best of Buc's fans.

The Rug Rats division was won by *Cole & Morgan Hardman*. *Cole & Morgan* had a few Raiders on their spearshafts and they also had a few more loser Raiders strung on their stringers.

A few special thanks are in order. First off, *G.R. Tarr* gave up a ticket to the big game in San Diego to stay in St. Pete and cook all the fish with his "Red Team" buddy, *Ritchie Zacker*. *Steve Shelton & his wife*, did a good job running the game boards. *Vicky DeLaCruz* and *Michelle Taylor* showed up early and stayed late doing anything and everything. These two SPUC wives always support our club and their husbands. We really appreciate all you do! *Leon, Leon, Leon Vasquez* the audio and video master came through and set up the big 15' t.v. and cool sounds. Mr. "Concealed Wiring" and his electronics buddy worked hard for days before and after to ensure that everyone had a great view of the game. We never knew that.
(SPUCs cont:

Chris Gardinal was a party designer, but he is. Good job with the decorations, Chris. The Chefs laid out a perfect feast. *Rich Taylor, Jason DeLaCruz, Denny O'Hern, Paul Kerr and Matt Joswig* pitched in and kept busy cooking while everyone else ate, ate and ate more. *Paul Renner* helped us line up all the food and he arranged a lot of Special thanks to *Diane Gardinal* and *Angie Hardman*. What did they do? They squirted everyone with water, during the whole game. Two pain in the __ tts. Good thing we tolerate our fun loving SPUC wives. Hey *Scott Gross*, the bouncer, the door man, the greeter the, Walmart host, good job Scott. How could we not thank *Mr. Sam "The T-shirt Man" Jones* and his wife? They are always peddling our tournament shirts and we really appreciate your hard work.

I hope I haven't left out anyone who not only volunteered, but the ones who really went the extra mile to help our club. It was also great to see some members of the other clubs. *Lisa Tatro* from the Bunnies and some of the Seals showed up. We hope you had a good time and please bring yourself and some of your club buddies to our Superbowl party next year....GO BUC'S....

What's Going On?

We voted in two new members in recent months. Congratulations to these two new SPUC's: *Geoff Apthorp* and *Jerry Guerra*.

Hey *Gary Sanchez* got his boat back. Not even lightning from above can keep the "Diamond Deal" from putting her freedivers on fish.

Denny O'Hern kicked off the sale of his new Loran/GPS software "Offshore Hunter". He has worked hard to produce the ultimate hot spot software. We hope *Denny* has a lot of success with his new diver's product.

Some of the die hard breath-hold spearos ventured to Louisiana for some Wahoo diving. The story on this is submitted by *Jerry Guerra*:

On the afternoon of January 30th the crew left from all over the nation and globe, only to meet in Louisiana. Myself (*Jerry Guerra*) *G.R. Tarr, Scott Cambell, Sasa Bratic, Guy Nesbit, and Roberto Reyes* all planned the trip to spearfish L.A.'s famous midnight lump and oil rigs. After meeting at the airport in New Orleans, we all piled into a huge van and left for Venice (of course we stopped at hooters for some eye candy but we were wrong NOTHING BUT MUD DUCKS!)

We arrived early the next morning. We loaded the boat and headed out the Mississippi River to go shoot tuna and wahoo. We arrived at the first spot to see crystal blue water. In the rush to get dressed, *G.R.* shoots and lands a wahoo. *G.R.* dives again and shoots another having killed two before all the divers are in the water, so we continue to dive. Then *Guy* shoots and lands a trophy wahoo of 82lbs that is all the fish killed

for day one but on the 2nd spot all of the divers get to swim with several huge manta rays. On day two, we head to the lump to shoot more fish. *Roberto* shoots a nice wahoo in the 70lbs class. *Scott* also shoots a nice wahoo in the 70lbs class and I shot and landed my first wahoo but he is one of the smaller ones of the trip at 44lbs. It is near the end of the day, and I ask the guys on the boat if *Sasa* has killed a wahoo yet (it was his 4th trip with no fish) and the the answer is a dull no. About a minute later *Sasa* yells in panic fish on! Then look for my buoy as the fish has disappeared with all of his gear then reappearing far behind the boat we go to pick up the buoy and *Guy* dives down to put a 2nd arrow in the fish and they bring up the massive wahoo that weighs in at 88lbs! what a perfect fish to end the day with!

Jerry Guerra

Gear Up For the 2003 St. Pete Open

Dates: We will once again put on the St. Pete Open at Tierra Verde Resort

August 15, 16 & 17, 2003

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.

Special Thanks

Special SPUC thank you, to *Art Pearson* for his great work on getting these FSDA bulletins out and for producing such an important communication tool. Special SPUC thank you, to SPUC member *John Schmidt* and *Seal Tom Morris* for working together, across club lines, to reform and revitalize the WCC Spear tournaments.

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!!!

SUNSHINE FINS

"Salty" was overwhelmed with preparing for a wedding and honeymoon. When the "love bug" bites it's hard to concentrate. He assures us that he will be back on schedule with a lot of details for the June publication. Stand by for a lot of romantic stuff from Hawaii.