



West Florida Dive Club

www.WestFloridaDiveClub.Com

February 2009 Newsletter

Spring is right around the corner! As I write this Newsletter I can hear the birds calling and the smell of the salt air is beckoning me to the water. I'm a bit less anxious for the warmer water than most as I love the extended visibility that the colder water offers and the lack of Jellies! But I have to tell you that I'm more than ready to hang up my heavy wetsuit and move back to my .5mm. Most people aren't diving a lot this time of year so this is a great time to think about getting those annual inspections completed on your dive gear and checking your Hydro and VIP dates on your tanks. Don't forget our next meeting is going to be March 3rd at 6:30PM at the Quality Inn in Gulf Breeze.

So what have I missed?

The big news in my book is that we are finally taking memberships. The cost of membership will be \$35.00 for Individuals and \$45 for Families. We previewed the Free T-Shirts that we will offer with membership and I have to say they look awesome! They have the logo large on the back and a pair of divers over an oval dive flag on the front pocket! Huge thanks go out to Carlos at Bay Breeze Dive shop with all that he continues to do with the club and his help in printing the T-Shirts!

Although it was not a club event most of the people that went on the Manatee trip and Crystal River Drift Dive on January 31st were members of the club so I feel inclined to mention it here. We had a great time, and if you haven't snorkeled with the Manatees I have to tell you that you are missing out. We had over 20 people go on the trip and I can't say enough about Watersports Charters and Baybreeze Dive Center and Especially Craig Brice who put the trip together. We all walked away saying we couldn't wait to go again!

Our last meeting we went over Underwater Photography and we had several members bring camera gear and pictures! I thought it was a great time! And I hope everyone got a lot out of the meeting. So get out there with those cameras and share those pictures on Scubaboard so we can see what you've been up to!

What's coming up?

We have a special guest speaker for our March meeting; Robert Turpin is Manager of the Marine Resources Div. of Escambia County and will share about the current and upcoming Escambia County Reefing projects and how we can be involved as individuals and as a club. This should be a great meeting and a great opportunity to learn what is happening in our waters. The diving and fishing industry in this area would be next to nothing if it weren't for the efforts of people like Robert Turpin who are active in the placement of reefs in our waters. Without the artificial reef projects our dives would be very, very limited since most of our area is just sand bottom. So come meet and learn what we can do to keep the areas artificial reef projects moving forward. I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,
Barry Shively
West Florida Dive Club, President