



Diver's Log

The Newsletter of the Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club

Atlanta, Georgia

June 2009 Volume 35, Issue 6

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Meeting 7:00 PM

Tonya Shearer, *Marine Biologist*

Research Scientist II

Georgia Institute of Technology

AMEGEN Consulting, LLC

President and Chief Scientist

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www.atlantareefdwellers.org](http://www.atlantareefdwellers.org)

AAUS-Certified Scientific Diver Program

**ARDSC Shirts
See page 3
for Details**



For those that do not already know me, I am a Marine Biologist currently working on projects in Florida, Gulf of Mexico, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef and Fiji. My field research often requires the use of several SCUBA divers specially trained and certified as Scientific Divers. To that end, I have developed a Scientific Diving Training program designed to teach recreational divers underwater methods used for research while emphasizing diver safety, proper diving technique and excellent buoyancy control.

My goal is to build a team of qualified, AAUS-certified Scientific Divers that would be able to accompany me in the field. In addition, I hope to create opportunities for our Scientific Divers to work in the field with other scientists. As you can see from our photos, we dive all over the world for this work.

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September Keys Trip: September 17-20 Make you Plans to Attend!

Calendar of Events
ARDSC 2009

June 09

Tonya Shearer Scientific Diver

Meeting 9th 7:00 PM

July 09

The Reef House Dive Trip July 18th-25th

Roatan, Honduras

August 09

Meeting 14th 7:00 PM

Bruce Carlson– Georgia Aquarium

Fish of the Pacific

NOAA

Meeting 11th 7:00 PM

September 09

GDOT Bridge Inspectors

Meeting 8th 7:00 PM

Special Keys Trip Key Largo– Stig

Sept 17-20 Make your Plans!

October 09

Meeting 13th 7:00 PM

November 09

DEMA 4th-7th Orlando, Fl

Meeting 10th 7:00 PM

December 09

Christmas Party

No Meeting

+++++

You can now use PayPal for payment of dues or any payment to the club. Just Go to our website and click on the Paypal button.



Rick McCully Makes 450th Scuba Dive

During the recent dive trip to the Florida Keys with the **Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club** the last weekend of May, Rick McCully completed his 450th logged scuba dive on Elbow Reef SE of Key Largo. Rick was first certified in 1975 in the Cayman Islands and is certified as a PADI Divemaster and Master Scuba Diver. Rick has made dives on the east and west coasts of the U.S., all over Florida, the Bahamas, Caribbean, Spain and Ireland.

Congratulations Rick!!!

ARDSC Tee Shirts Deal!

These are not just any old T-Shirt... The shirts are ash gray– and have a full color ARDSC emblem on the back and the club name on front left (pocket area).

The Shirts run true to size– we have LG, XLG and XXL sizes.

Shirts are available for \$9.00 each plus postage (\$3.00Each) if you want them mailed.

See or email Club Treasurer

Reef House Resort July 18th—July 25th– Roatan, Honduras

Be sure and check out the new website!!!!

www.ReefHouseResort.com

Special #1

\$1499 per person/based on double occupancy
ROUNDTRIP Airfare on Delta from Atlanta

Accommodations

three full meals each day

three boat dives each day

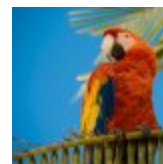
one night dive each week

unlimited shore diving

one night dive each week

transfers to and from the resort

All taxes



Special # 2

Total cost of the package is \$5600 or \$1399 per person if shared among four divers- (4divers in SAME ROOM!!!)

ROUNDTRIP Airfare on Delta from Atlanta

Accommodations

three full meals each day

three boat dives each day

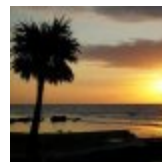
one night dive each week

unlimited shore diving

one night dive each week

transfers to and from the resort

all taxes



NOT INCLUDED- ALOCHOL DRINKS & TIPS

These specials are available for the week of July 18th return on July 25th.

These prices are for members of ATLANTA REEF DWELLERS SCUBA CLUB AND OR INVITEED GUEST!.

Please do not try and book until you have been added by me on the list.

Once your name is on the list- you can call the travel agent to make arrangements.

www.ReefHouseResort.com

RSVP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE- david@wan2dive.com or president@atlantareefdwellers.org

Continued from page 1

So, what is a Scientific Diver? Scientific divers use SCUBA as a tool to conduct their work underwater. Diving must become second nature in order to accomplish all of the tasks required during a research dive. A Scientific Diver must be able to control buoyancy, monitor gas consumption, preplan emergency strategies, maintain good buddymanship, navigate underwater, take measurements, record data, find and sample specimens, deploy equipment, not lose equipment, fight currents, effectively communicate with other divers and problem solve all in one dive.

This Scientific Diver Program will train you to do all of this. Upon the completion of the program, you will have the skills necessary to be qualified to become certified as a Scientific Diver. The program is rigorous, but a lot of fun. Soon, I will post details of our Scientific Diver Program

The first 20-hour course of the 6-course program is tentatively scheduled for June. It will be held one night a week for 5 weeks. Each class will be 4 hours and will include both classroom work and diving.

For those of you that always wanted to be a Marine Biologist – here is your chance. Let me know if you are interested in beginning the Scientific Diver Program and I will let you know when I have confirmed dates.

Our Scientific Diver Program is new and is in response to the need for AAUS-certified scientific divers for various research and private institutions. For example, I am currently in need of ~6 certified scientific divers for a trip in May (my funding will pay for all of the costs associated with this 10-day research cruise); however, we are having a hard time finding enough certified divers in the area. The Georgia Aquarium has been providing some scientific divers for past trips, but they can only release a few members of their staff to work in the field.

AAUS (American Academy of Underwater Scientists) has been around for many years but they do not provide a specific training course to certify scientific divers. Based on my 15 years of scientific diving, I have developed a rigorous program that will prepare recreational divers for AAUS-certification so they can assist research teams in the field (quite often all expenses are paid for the trips). I have sent scientific divers to the Florida Keys and South Florida, the Bahamas and Fiji in recent years, preparing a trip to the Flower Garden Banks in May and am anticipating several more trips in the future. I also have several colleagues that are constantly looking for diving assistance as well.

So far I have about 30 recreational divers in Atlanta, Florida and South Carolina interested in the Scientific Diver Program and plan on offering the first of six 20-hour courses in Atlanta in June. We will probably travel to South Carolina later in the summer to offer course I there. Below I have attached some info I posted on our Scientific Diver Facebook group page and I have attached my cv with my scientific qualifications.

The following are a few people I work with for our scientific diving projects. They have either accompanied me on research trips or helped organize scientific divers for my trips.

Jeff Reid, Georgia Aquarium, Inc.

Mauritius Bell, Georgia Aquarium, Inc

Nadia Lombardero, ANAMAR Environmental (Florida),

Sara Edge, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (Florida)

Gary Collins, Environmental Protection Agency



VANDENBERG SUCCESSFULLY SINKS

MAY 27, 2009 10:22AM

KEY WEST, Fla. – At approximately 10:22 a.m., demolition experts pushed a button that ignited cutting charges strategically positioned in bilge areas below the Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg's waterline.

The ship sank at approximately 10:24 a.m. Wednesday, successfully concluding a 13-year-project to convert the decommissioned military missile-tracking ship into a new artificial reef off Key West.

She sank to a water depth of 140 feet about seven miles south of Key West in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The 523-foot Vandenberg is so large that her upper superstructure lies only 40 feet below the surface of the ocean.

The ship is the second largest vessel in the world ever purposely sunk to become an artificial reef. Her sinking also completes the Florida Keys Shipwreck Trek – a series of intentionally foundered vessels that begins off Key Largo with the Spiegel Grove and ends with the Vandenberg.

Seventy percent of the \$8.6 million project's funding resources and some 75,000 man-hours were required to rid the vessel of contaminants, with the work executed in two Norfolk, Va., shipyards.

The Vandenberg first saw duty as a U.S. Army troop transport named the General Harry Taylor. She became the Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg in 1963 and tracked the U.S. space program's launches off Cape Canaveral. The Vandenberg also served in the Pacific monitoring U.S. defense missile test launches and eavesdropping on Russian missile launches during the Cold War. Port Canaveral, Fla., was the Vandenberg's last active duty home port beginning in 1976.

She was formally retired in 1983 and was transferred to the James River Naval Reserve Fleet. But, according to Patrick J. Utecht, who managed the ship's electronic systems, a team of six technicians would visit Vandenberg every six months to power up all shipboard electronics and make any necessary repairs. Despite the state of readiness, the ship was never used again and in 1993, was formally struck from the naval register and transferred to the Maritime Administration.

The ship received its most public exposure when cast as a Russian science ship in "Virus," a 1999 motion picture starring Jamie Lee Curtis, William Baldwin and Donald Sutherland.

Great You -Tube video on line: <http://www.bigshipwrecks.com>

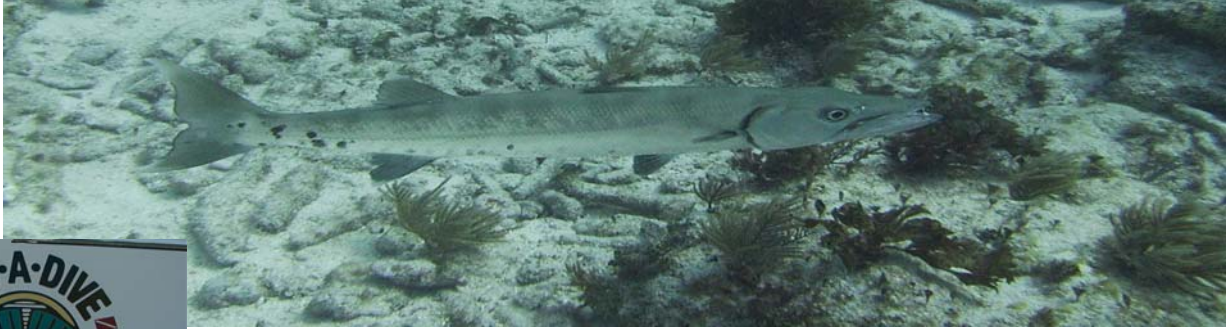


Photo: Wayne Austin



It's A Dive – Key Largo

by Rick McCully



We flew nonstop into Miami on American and picked up a rental van and headed down to luscious Key Largo Thursday May 21st for what would prove to be one of the best organized dive excursions I've ever been on. David, Donna & Trent Scarborough had shipped all of their dive gear in advance, while Wayne Austin and I hassled with ours.

We arrived in Key Largo in time for dinner after checking in to the Marina Del Mar Resort.

Little Robert from "It's a Dive" skippered our 6 pac boat we had all to ourselves Friday morning for a dive on the Benwood Wreck – max depth 35' with water temps at 81 degrees. Once back on board we delayed additional dives until the afternoon because of an approaching storm and simply ran in to the marina, had lunch, and returned next to Molasses Reef that afternoon on the Pinacles and Spanish Anchor portions of the reef. Despite the storm that had passed through earlier visibility were an amazing 70'. We had a gourmet dinner that night at the fabulous Fish House Restaurant.

Saturday the 23rd we made 3 separate dives off the 6 pac dive boat on different portions of the Elbow – north, south, and the City of Washington wreck. Again, we had tremendous visibility over 70+ feet, with abundant fish life and warm waters averaging 81 degrees. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see that the 3rd and final dive of the day was a milestone for me.

Again, our thanks to David and Donna for organizing all of the arrangements so well, including visits to American Airlines posh Admirals Clubs at each end of this great trip!



Join ScubaBoard and well over 100,000 divers discussing scuba diving topics from equipment to dive travel. Read dive articles where you can learn about the latest news, deep & wreck diving, new diver and advanced training. You can also find a dive buddy using our comprehensive search and map integration called the Buddy Matrix! Visit our underwater photo galleries with more than 80,000 images. Register for our monthly newsletter and more, much more, and it's all free!

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Support your Local Dive Shop!!

Who we are...

The Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club is Atlanta's oldest independent dive club, and is not associated with any dive shop or certifying agency. We exist only to serve our membership!

What we do...

Our monthly meetings consist of informative lectures, equipment demonstrations, slide and video shows, and an opportunity to meet and chat with other divers. All levels of experience are represented, from crusty veterans to those not yet certified!

Our members participate in dive trips or social events almost every month. With diving as close as Lake Lanier, to as far away as Australia, our members have been there! The club is good for finding dive buddies, going on dive trips, learning more about our sport, or organizing your own dive getaway.

Everyone's welcome...

Please browse our pages and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to [drop us an email](#) or come visit us at one of our [meetings](#) or [events](#). We look forward to meeting you and we thank you for stopping by...and remember...Dive Safe!

Mission Statement:

The Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club is an independent organization and is not affiliated with any other dive-related organization. The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- 1) Encourage the exchange of ideas for the mutual benefit of all divers.
- 2) Promote marine interest and activity for members and the general public.
- 3) Develop participation in a healthful hobby and sport; and,
- 4) Encourage the development and improvement of the techniques, skills, equipment and safety measures used in skin and scuba diving. and the general public.

Atlanta Reef Dwellers

Scuba Club

Mailing Address:

5492 Twin Oak Drive

Douglasville, Georgia 30135 USA

E-mail: info@atlantareefdwellers.org

<http://www.atlantareefdwellers.org>

Year 2009 Officers

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David N Scarborough

president@atlantareefdwellers.org

Vice President

Rick McCully

vicepresident@atlantareefdwellers.org

Secretary

Diane Johnson

Wanda Rodriguez

secretary@atlantareefdwellers.org

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Richard Blackburn

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David N Scarborough— Asst

editor@atlantareefdwellers.org



Annual club membership dues are \$30 for a single membership and \$50 for a family membership to a single address.

To receive a membership application form, please contact the club secretary, visit our website or check this newsletter. Membership period runs from Jan 1 to December 31.

Any questions please contact any club officer.

Diver's Log is published monthly by the Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club. No material may be used or reprinted without express written permission. For inclusion in the Diver's Log, material must be received at least 1 week prior to the club's next meeting date in order to be included in that month's publication.

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CUSTOM MIRROR DIVE FLAG LICENSE PLATES

Custom mirrored acrylic license plates. We have a nice selection to choose from email us and we will email back a flier to look at, or you can email us with an idea of your own, if we think we can do it we would be glad to put it on a plate for you. These are great gifts too!

Email: ginger@laserautotags.com

Phone: 352-564-0794

ScubaNews

March 2009

Your Source for Diving News 

We would like to Thank *ScubaNews* for adding *ARDSC* to it's roster of shops and places you can find in its magazines! They will be providing copies of each months magazines for us to give to our members. Please take a copy they are full of stories and articles. They are in the entrance near the "Diver's Log".

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Richard Blackburn: richard@atltechdivers.com

Bill Dunn: bill@atltechdivers.com

Mark Pergrem: mark@atltechdivers.com

Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club– Membership Application

Date: _____ **New Application Renewal Individual (\$30/yr) Family (\$50/yr)**

Primary Applicant: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

If this is a family membership application, please list all other family members included in this membership:

(If necessary, please use reverse side to list additional applicants.)

Spouse (if applicable): _____ Email Address: _____

Other: _____ Email Address: _____

Other: _____ Email Address: _____

Release of Liability:

The undersigned, as a condition of membership in the Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club, acknowledges their understanding that skin and scuba diving involve exceptional risks, which the applicant voluntarily assumes. The undersigned assumes all responsibility for their own safety, including the responsibility for good diving practices, properly maintained equipment, and all other diving-related decisions. The undersigned hereby releases the Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club, all its members and its officers from any and all responsibility in connection with any recreational activities, including, but not limited to, skin and scuba diving activities participated in by the undersigned.

Signatures:

Primary: _____ Date: _____

Spouse: _____ Date: _____

Other: _____ Date: _____

Other: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Notification Information (Optional)

Contact: _____

Day Phone _____ Night Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail this application, along with payment, to:

Atlanta Reef Dwellers Scuba Club

Mailing Address:

5492 Twin Oak Drive

Douglasville, Georgia 30135 USA

Website: <http://www.atlantareefdwellers.org>