



# 'DILLO DIVER

GOIN' DOWN SINCE 1984



Volume 22, Issue 12

[www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)

December 2005



Walter Davis

## New Members

None

## THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Lynette	Rogers	12/4
Cathy	McCreedy	12/5
Gary	Baker	12/9
Simon	Leicester	12/9
Marilyn	Lester	12/11
John	Howard	12/12
Lynn	Partain	12/16
Glenn	Ellis	12/21
Elizabeth	McNair	12/23
Gael	Murdoch	12/25
Steve	Murdoch	12/28

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## St. Croix – The Forgotten Virgin

By Steve & Kathleen Knuettel

St. Croix offers great scuba diving, healthy corals, beautiful reef fish, outstanding top side activities, good restaurants, excellent shopping, and beer drinking pigs. We did reef dives, drift dives and night dives. We saw an amazing variety of reef fish including angels, barracuda, burrfish, balloonfish, porcupines, butterflys, cowfish, drums, filefish, flounders, hamlets, sand divers, scorpionfish, soldierfish, soapfish, trunkfish, wrasses, bass, basslets, chromis, chubs, conneys, damsels, goats, surgeonfish, hinds, graysbys, grunts, hogfish, jacks, jawfish, parrots, puffers, sergeant majors, snappers, tangs, surgeons, and trumpets.

The thing we found unique about the fish was the quantity of certain species. Black bar soldier fish swam in huge schools across the reefs during the day showing no fear of divers or predators. We saw numerous scorpion fish, sand divers, trunkfish, flounders, shy hamlets, long snout butterflys, greater soapfish and spotted drums on nearly every dive. The normally shy reef fish showed little fear of divers and were often quite curious.

The reef creatures were just as plentiful including eels, anemones, crabs, crinoids, lobsters, shrimp, octopus, cucumbers, urchins, snails, squid, stingrays, tunicates, and turtles. One turtle in particular was covered with barnacles and showed no fear of divers often swimming close up to divers and following them around in his territory. He was nicknamed Barnacle Bob.

The underwater scenery was beautiful and very healthy as well. We saw beautiful examples of corals and sponges. The sponge varieties included tube, rope, volcano, barrel, ball, elephant ears, and vase sponges. The coral varieties included cactus, rods, fans, plumes, whips, cups, disks, elkhorn, staghorn, finger, flower, plate, sheet, brain, star and pillar. The topography of many of the sites was also magical with pinnacles, ledges and swim throughs.

In summary, the diving was great with the only disappointment being the relative scarcity of larger fish and pelagics. We dove with Anchor Dive Center, and they were excellent and are highly recommended.

There is plenty to keep you entertained top side too. There are two main towns on the island, Christiansted in the north center of the island and Frederiksted on the west end of the island. Christiansted has a beautiful harbor and a boardwalk bustling with restaurants and shops. Visit the government buildings and the fort in Christiansted. Recommended restaurants and bars along the boardwalk include Rumrunners, Stixx (which offers hilarious crab racing), Fort Chris-

(Continued on page 2)

**2005 Scubadillo Christmas Party Details**  
**See Page 3**



## A Word From Your President



Jeff Colvin — 2005  
SCUBADILLO President

Well, Thanksgiving has past and I hope everyone had a good holiday. Unfortunately, I spent my holiday in bed with the flu. I've heard that you can't get the flu from a dead flu virus shot; however, I got my shot only 3 days prior to getting sick. Coincidence? Our Christmas party is just around the corner, my last event as your President. Our 2006 officers will be taking over the reins beginning in January, and I'm going to go sit down and take a rest. For my final installment of "A Word From Your President", I just wanted to say some thanks and reflect on my three years in office over the last four.

I remember losing my first bid for President in 2001, to Tom Muscle, a man who became a good friend and advisor to me. I actually felt very relieved after the vote, as I did not truly feel confident about handling the office at that time. The next year I became President and soon realized how much work I had to do. I have always felt that the Scubadillo Dive Club was special because of its members, not its leaders. I made my first year's goal that of giving the club back to its members by spreading responsibilities and control equally among the officers and board. It was very important to me to make sure that all officer and board decisions concerning our club were made with the very best interests of the club in mind, always keeping an open ear to our members.

In my second term, my goals turned toward seeing the Scubadillo Dive Club

run more like a business. I believed it was important to always be accountable to our members for all monies collected and spent, and to keep within our proposed yearly budget. I wanted all equipment owned by the club to be consistently inventoried and recorded by our club Secretary. I wanted back ups for all web site passwords, the bank account, our P.O. Box, once again, shared control. I wanted the Dillos to become financially sound, and stay that way. I wanted to make improvements in our club bylaws, and create a system of checks and balances for everything that we do as officers and as a club. I was very blessed to be surrounded by a wonderful group of officers and board members, as they were instrumental in helping me to achieve these goals.

With my good friend Phil Ray as our President in 2004, the momentum of our growth continued. This year, it has been as if the club has been running on autopilot. The year has run so smoothly, once again due to the fact that I was blessed with such fantastic support. It has always been my goal to keep an equal balance between the social and the diving aspects of our club. I've tried to keep interesting speakers every month as well as fun and food provided local dives to keep our diving skills up to par while waiting for our next blue water trip.. Our membership has been provided with continued diver education from Advanced Training, Nitrox certification, O2, and First Aid classes, all at discount rates. I must thank Mike Dunst of "Emerald Sea Divers" and Larry Dague of "Scuba Toys" for this training and more. What can I say about FUN? We had so much fun that many have said that our social events were what drew them to our

group.

Finally, I wish to give some much deserved thanks to some very special people. First and foremost, my partner, and club mother, Laura Greig. She was like a second wife as she nagged me in just the right direction. This club is very lucky to have this wonderful person. She kept me straight with her guidance, and was always there for me. I also could not have had two more special Vice Presidents and best friends, as I had in Sonny Gaither and Steve Partain. I love them both as brothers. Sonny kept our web site "First Class", and Steve made sure that every detail of what we did this year was looked at and considered. If something needed to be handled, he took care of it. When it came to my Directors of Club Affairs, I had the two "Super Stars" in Annette Evans and Mona Valentine. Our financial stability must be credited to them. There are certainly others like June Hallman, who kept my promise to the club in there being a newsletter out each and every month I served as President. I love you June. To thank everyone else would fill up the newsletter, so I'll just say a Big Thanks to all of the rest of you. I would like to give very personal Thank You to all of our members that have supported me during these three terms, but it is time for me to step aside and turn over the keys as they say. I'm looking forward to 2006, and to the new leadership of a club I have loved dearly since 1993. I'm Jeff Colvin, and it has truly been my privilege to serve as your President.

tian Brew Pub, and The Mix Lounge. There are plenty of shops in Christiansted for those vital souvenirs including tax & duty free jewelry.

Driving east from Christiansted, the road point in United States Territory. The scenic way to Point Udall, there are several beaches, including especially Duggan's Reef Restaurant. From National Park. The park is the largest marine acres (only 176 acres of land). Taking the Udall, you pass by the only casino in the U. S. sino.

Driving west from Christiansted, the road route, you pass through the "rain forest" area and the Mt. Pellier Hut and Domino Club which is famous for its beer drinking pigs. Along the southern route, you pass by The Cruzan Rum Factory, The Whim Plantation Museum and The St. George Village Botanical Gardens – all tourist stops that should not be missed. Frederiksted is a quaint little town with a brand new huge pier for cruise ships. The entire waterfront area of Frederiksted was under construction, but enough of it was completed to show that it is going to be beautiful and offer stiff competition to the shops, bars and restaurants of Christiansted and its boardwalk. We did a night dive at the old pier in Frederiksted providing us pictures of octopus, scorpionfish, sea horses and colorful coral polyps.

Would we return to St. Croix? Absolutely!



ends at Point Udall. Point Udall is the easternmost view from the point should not be missed. On the restaurants, condos and resorts that are worth visiting Duggan's, you get a fantastic view of Buck Island reserve park in the United States covering 19,000 southern route back to Christiansted from Point Virgin Islands, the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino.

eventually emerges in Frederiksted. Along the northern route, you pass through the "rain forest" area and the Mt. Pellier Hut and Domino Club which is famous for its beer drinking pigs. Along the southern route, you pass by The Cruzan Rum Factory, The Whim Plantation Museum and The St. George Village Botanical Gardens – all tourist stops that should not be missed. Frederiksted is a quaint little town with a brand new huge pier for cruise ships. The entire waterfront area of Frederiksted was under construction, but enough of it was completed to show that it is going to be beautiful and offer stiff competition to the shops, bars and restaurants of Christiansted and its boardwalk. We did a night dive at the old pier in Frederiksted providing us pictures of octopus, scorpionfish, sea horses and colorful coral polyps.

## New Year's Eve Party!

It's time for the Annual Scubadillo New Year's Eve Party at Laura & Michael Greig's house in Plano, TX. You can come and go or come and stay the night. Please bring a dish for the party fare and your personal choice of liquid libation. A swimsuit would also be in order as the hot tub will be plenty hot for whatever the weather happens to be on New Year's Eve!

Saturday, December 31st, 2005  
Laura & Michael Greig's House  
2308 Indigo Drive, Plano, TX  
Contact [laura@greig.com](mailto:laura@greig.com) 972-612-2429

## Dillo 2005 Christmas Party! Saturday, December 3rd, 2005

Mark your calendars for December 3rd, 2005 for the Dillo 2005 Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party will be held at the Springpark Sports & Community Center, 3330 Springpark Way, Garland, TX, 6:30 to midnight.

Price includes: complete dinner, buffet style, prepared by the same caterer as last year! Musical entertainment by Kenny & the Kasuals! Silent Auction, Door Prizes.

IMPORTANT: Bring Your OWN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES & MIXERS!!! Attire: Holiday Festive.

Prices: Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$25; After December 1st and at the door: \$30. We need volunteers for the party so please contact Mona Valentine at [monakval@hotmail.com](mailto:monakval@hotmail.com) to sign up!

## SCUBADILLO Dive Club Christmas Party Menu By Kulinary Werks

Spanish Caesar Salad with Black Olives, Shaved Parmesan,  
Garlic Croutons & Chipotle Dressing

Marinated Tomato & Feta Salad with Orzo Pasta  
and Cumin Cilantro Vinaigrette

Roasted Black Pepper and Cherry Porkloin with Balsalmic Reduction

Maple & Jalapeno Seared Chicken Breast with Apple Bordelaise

Roasted Sweet & Red Potatoes

Seasonal Vegetable Medley

Assorted Holiday Pastries

**2005 SCUBADILLO OFFICERS**

President ..... Jeff Colvin  
Vice President ..... Steve Partain  
Treasurer ..... Laura Greig  
Secretary ..... Stacey Burton Ellis  
Sgt. At Arms ..... Steve Sadler  
Dir. Of Club Affairs ..... Mona Valentine  
Newsletter Editor..... June Hallman

**2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

All above officers, plus  
Phil Ray  
Sonny Gaither  
Gael Murdoch  
Kim Penny  
Annette Evans  
Barney Thibodeaux

**Future Speakers:** Throughout the year, we will be bringing you more speakers to talk about great dive sites, underwater photography, manufacturers' reps to show us the latest innovations in dive equipment and much more! Don't miss a meeting!

**Next Meeting:**

**When:** Thurs, December 1st, 2005 7:30 p.m. (Social Hour 6:30)

**Where:** Midway Point Restaurant,

NW corner of Harvest Hill & Midway

**Speaker:** Elections

**Upcoming Events**

**What:** Scubadillo Christmas Party

**When:** December 3rd, 2005

**Where:** Springpark Sports and Community Center.

Great Menu PLUS Kenny and the Kasuals! See

Website & page 3 for details. [www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)

**What:** New Year's Eve Party At the Greig's

**When:** Saturday, December 31rd, 2005

**Where:** Mike & Laura Greig's House! See Page 3 Inside!

2308 Indigo, Plano, TX 972-612-2429

Contact [Laura@greig.com](mailto:Laura@greig.com) if you have questions.



**SCUBADILLO Dive Club**  
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**[www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)**