



Boardsailing is difficult, but an older Delray Beach man (top sequence) gives it a try anyway. For others (bottom) it is smooth sailing.

Photos by Al Steele

ng sport in America

erous boardsailing
vide instruction. The
y, Miami Beach, has
to join its club and \$8
ee lessons.

ed at 4655 N. Ocean
gives lessons at the
A 30-minute lesson
\$15. Rental without
otels in Fort Lauder-

dale, Miami Beach and Miami also rent boards and give lessons.

After mastering the basics, many boardsailors move on to racing. Slalom courses offer head-to-head dashes, tacking and jibing between buoys. There is also distance racing, freestyle competition, wave riding and jumping. The possibilities seem endless for boardsailing, a sport that can be enjoyed wherever there's wind and water. 

Linda Robertson is the sports editor of *The Daily Tar Heel*.

cean depths

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through the snorkle,
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comes from the fins—
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"Edelebeck said. "It's
olina mountains. Take
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to come out from the

tar coral or a sparkling
of a staghorn forma-
dive.

"Just do a jackknife dive," Edelebeck explained. "Bring your arms and feet together, lower your head, raise your knees and feet and the weight of your body plus kicking with your fins will drive you down. It's very easy once you're in the water."

There are a few precautions to take while snorkeling. All divers stick to a "buddy system" and stay within sight of their partner. The white and red diver's flag must be displayed on the boat or on a buoy. A good practice is to wear cotton gloves or avoid touching anything you are unsure of. Most corals are harmless, but the bright orange fire coral causes a burning sensation and skin redness for several hours after it is touched. Sharks are a rarity on Pennekamp's reefs. Smaller barracudas hover about the reefs, but they are just curious observers. Unless predators are unduly irritated, they will not attack humans.

Dive shops in Miami and Key Largo go on trips throughout the day and rent equipment. Mask, fins and snorkle can usually be rented for \$2 each and the boat fee for a half-day trip commonly runs \$15.

At the park itself, prices are somewhat cheaper. Snorkeling tours run at 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. everyday. The \$14 fee includes equipment and safety vest. The park also offers a day of snorkeling from aboard a 32-foot trimaran sailboat for \$28. On the trips, rangers and instructors give brief lessons to novices.

Pennekamp is also blessed with excellent visibility, warm water and calm seas.

"We've had a very mild winter and the water temperature has not dipped much below 75 degrees," Edelebeck said. "By March it should be in the low 80s."

Vacationing students can expect ideal conditions for an undersea excursion a little out of the ordinary compared to the usual Spring Break routine. 

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