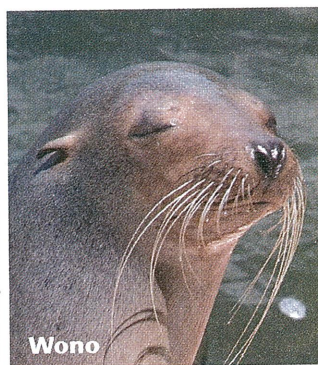


Dolphin Experience IN KEY LARGO

By Matt Johnston, aka the "Aquaman"



Fiji



Wono

Animal images courtesy Island Dolphin Care Center

Recently my dive team, my family and I spent time with the dolphins at Island Dolphin Care in Key Largo. I enjoyed meeting and spending time with Deena and Joe and their staff.

I was lowered down into the water and my dive team and I visited with six dolphins. It was cool having the dolphins come and check us out. I sat on a platform with my legs in the water; my sister was doing activities with Fiji, the dolphin. It was fun hanging out

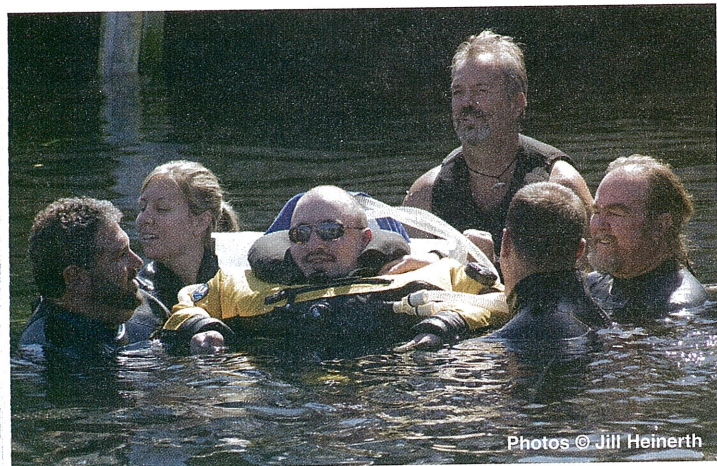
with Fiji, and I also enjoyed meeting and spending time with Wono, one of their sea lions. I liked her acrobatics, especially her flips. I'll never forget having my hand kissed by her and Fiji. It was exhilarating being in the water with the dol-

phins. All of the animals at this facility are awesome. We all enjoyed our day at Island Dolphin Care, and I will forever be grateful.

What they do there is truly a wonderful thing. The happiness and joy reflected on the faces of all the children and adults is a testament to everything they have accomplished here. These dolphins are angels in disguise!

The therapy that Island Dolphin Care provides to kids with disabilities and special needs is something I would have liked to have had as a child. This place is set up for the physically challenged, so they can get into the water with the dolphins and interact with them. It also enables them to open up. It's an awesome place with great people.

To learn more about Island Dolphin Care Center, check out their website--you'll be glad you did: www.islanddolphincare.org/index.htm



Photos © Jill Heinerth