



The Mouthpiece



March 2004 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLET-

AWARDS LUNCHEON 2004

March 28, Sunday

- Who? All ADA Members, Family, Friends
- What? Awards, Lunch, & FREE RAFFLE !!! Win free dive trips, services from local dive shops. Hundreds of \$\$\$\$\$!
- Where? Gator Den, US Coast Guard Station,
100 MacArthur Causeway
Miami Beach, Fl 305-986-9170
- When? 11 am—1 pm, March 28th
- Why? Meet the gang, new friends, old friends, win free stuff \$\$\$ enjoy the water front view of the Marina
- Menu: Spaghetti & Meatballs, Caori Veggies, garlic rolls, apple pie, coffee, tea, soda
- Reservations: Call Pat at 305-387-0015. Fee \$19.00.
Deadline March 20th.
Mail check payable to ADA to:
Lon von Lintel
15305 SW 104 Ave. Miami, Fl 33157
- Directions: Going East on 395, turn right at light before bridge to Miami Beach. Look for USGC

FIRST DIVE OF 2004!

Dive season is finally here. The waters are warming up, the cold fronts are about finished, the seas are calmer, and we want to get wet.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 18

see April schedule this issue.

DIVE PACS FOR 2004

ALL NON PAC DIVES \$35

Five Pac	\$150	Save \$ 25
Ten Pac	\$290	Save \$ 60
Fifteen Pac	\$405	Save \$120
Unlimited season pass		\$550

Pacs must be used in 2004.

!!! ADA COZUMEL EXPEDITION 2004 !!!

* Direct flight Miami to Cozumel

- * June 6–10, 5 days four nights
- * two am dives, one pm dive, total 9 dives
- * optional dolphin encounter
- * \$ 200 deposit refundable until April 10
- * \$ 895 package includes :
 - direct RT jet flights
 - hotel, doubles, 3 meals daily, taxes
 - 9 dives, tanks, weights
 - Cozumel airport transfers
 - * 15 divers Max
- * call Lon 305 251 4975 for res. and more info.
- * not included tips and dolphin encounter.

Note—All details are tentative as of Feb. 1, final arrangements will be published in the April newsletter. And remember, if for any reason the final details are not to your liking,

April & May Dive Schedule !!!

- April 18 Sun pm N. Key Largo
Sites may include: The Christ of the Abyss, the Elbow, N. Dry Rocks, N. N. Dry Rocks, Grecian Rocks, Carysfort, Shark Reef. Average depth 30', usually no current. Average visibility is 30–50' with many tropicals, moreys, cudas
- April 24 Sat pm Tavernier
Sites may include: Conch Reef, Davis Ledge, Hens & Chickens, Little Conch, Capt. Tom's Ledge, 40' Ledge, Fish Trap, Horseshoe. Average depth 30', average visibility 40–60', many moreys, schooling tropicals, unusual pillar corals.
- May 2 Sun pm Ft. Lauderdale
Double your pleasure with the best of both worlds! A reef followed by a wreck. A plethora of flora and fauna, just waiting to be explored.
- May 8 Sat pm N. Key Largo (Barbeque \$7.00)
Sites may include: The Christ of the Abyss, the Elbow, N. Dry Rocks, N. N. Dry Rocks, Grecian Rocks, Carysfort, Shark Reef. Average depth 30', usually no current. Average visibility is 30–50' with many tropicals, moreys, cudas.
- May 16 Sun pm Duane (*Advanced Divers*)
Our favorite Coast Guard Cutter, upright in over 100 feet of blue water. It DOES count even when you don't touch bottom! OUR LIMIT 100 feet! **See advanced criterion this issue.**
- May 22 Sun pm Islamorada
Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30–40', visibility 40–50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks.
- May 29 Sat am Biscayne National Park

2004 Dive Schedule

April

April 2 – 6 Camping/
Spring Diving
April 18 N. Key Largo
April 24 Tavernier

May

May 2 Ft. Lauderdale
May 8* N. Key Largo
May 16 Duanne Wreck
May 29 Bis. Nat. Park

June

June 6 Speigal Grove
June 6–12 Cozumel
June 12* Tavernier
June 13 Bis. Nat. Park
June 19 Hollywood
June 26 Looe Key

July

July 3* Bis. Nat. Park
July 11 Speigal Grove
July 17 Tavernier
July 18 Tavernier
July 24 N. Key Largo
July 24 N. Key Largo—

August

Aug. 1* Bis. Nat. Park
Aug. 7 Hollywood
Aug. 15 Tavernier
Aug. 21 N. Key Largo

September

Sept. 5 Bis. Nat. Park
Sept. 11* Tavernier
Sept. 19 N. Key Largo
Sept. 26 Speigal Grove

October

Oct. 3 Islamorada
Oct. 9* Bis. Nat. Park
Oct. 17 Bis. Nat. Park
Oct. 23 Pompano

November

Nov. 7 Boca Raton
Nov. 14 West Palm
Nov. 21 Hollywood
Nov. 28 Eagle Wreck

Sherwood, Genesis BCDs Being Recalled Released Feb. 5, 2004

A condition has recently been identified that may exist in recently manufactured Sherwood Scuba and Genesis Scuba Buoyancy Compensators (BCDs) that requires immediate attention. The power inflator on certain model BCDs could, in rare instances, provide continuous inflation and expose the diver to potential injury if appropriate measures are not taken to operate the exhaust valve to control ascent.

AFFECTED BUOYANCY COMPENSATORS: Power Inflator Valves within the specified serial number range having either a black or gray colored power inflator button. The updated power inflator valve assembly will have a blue colored button. Buoyancy compensator power inflators with a blue colored power inflator button are not affected by this notice.

Sherwood Scuba BCDs: *Silhouette, Magnum, Avid, Luna, and Freedom models purchased after July 1, 2003 with a serial number between 90010001 and 90350167.*

Genesis Scuba BCDs: *Cayman, Cobra, Athena, and Phantom models purchased after July 1, 2003 with a serial number between 90010001 and 90350167.*

SERIAL NUMBER LOCATION: See information label on the BCD entitled "Important Notice." Label may be inside or behind the BCD pocket. If you have a Sherwood or Genesis BCD which is affected, please return it into your authorized dealer for a free power inflator valve replacement.

For more information, visit <http://sherwoodscuba.com> or <http://genesisscuba.com> or call toll-free 1-800-

ATTENTION ADA VOLUNTEERS 2003

In another effort to thank our volunteers, the Board of Directors has approved free space in our newsletter for any volunteer for 2003 who has a business or other endeavor which may benefit from exposure to our members. If your name is among those listed in the Nov. newsletter you are eligible for free ad space. Just send in your business card to our editor, Steve, (his address found on the back page) and he will place your ad, free of charge, in each issue for 2004.

Thank you volunteers.

Welcome new board members **Sharon Baron & Dafny Martinez!!!!**

We **CONGRADULATE** you and hope you will find serving our members a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Thank you for your volunteerism!

Thank you retiring board members **Maria Zarceno, Pat Hackett, and Enrique Gonzalez.** Your time and talents have enabled ADA to provide many services to our members.

Thank you !

Get well soon Jim.

Our membership chair is recovering from a hit and run accident in which he was seriously injured. He is making slow progress, and we wish him a speedy recovery.



Spring Dives and Camping April 2–6



ADA will travel to the Gainesville area for tent camping and springs dives. Members must bring all camping, cooking, and dive gear. (dive gear rentals available on site)

These are advanced dives, must have 100 logged dives, and some sites require Cavern Certification. Call Lon for more info.

The ADA conservation committee is considering becoming involved in the buoy monitoring/maintenance program in Broward and Miami–Dade counties. We are requesting our members to assist in this endeavor. This assistance includes making dives on the buoys and performing maintenance work. Oh yes that four letter word. Of course there will also be the required paper work to be filled out with the program. If any of you are interested please contact me at (954)–680–1642 or you may write me at 10471 SW 51 St., Cooper City, FL 33328. I will need to know the level of your involvement that can be committed to this project so I can inform Ocean Watch (group overseeing the project) of what resources our group can commit to this endeavor. I am sure you will receive some personal satisfaction from this project along with making some new friends and sharing new experiences.

Jerry Kosakowski

Needle in a Haystack

by Roy D. Wasson

It was my last dive of the 2003 ADA season: the Spiegel Grove in North Key Largo, on a Sunday late in November. I dove the wreck with my Nikonos V with strobe attached, looking for subjects to try taking pictures with my new “old style” 15 mm lens. That is the wide-angle lens that Jim Church in his book on underwater photography calls the “undisputed ‘King of the Hill’ for many underwater photographers.” Used ones regularly sell, sight unseen, on eBay for more than \$1,000.

At the end of the dive, I ascended toward the stern of the dive boat when a surging swell pushed me and the dangling ladder closer to each other. I felt the camera lanyard tug my neck as the body of the Nikonos caught briefly in a piece of line near the ladder. I freed the camera and climbed aboard, exhausted. The crew put my camera into a fresh water bath without comment.

The dive boat’s engines roared to life; we left the mooring and started the cruise back to the dock. I said something about my camera and someone looked at me grimly. “Bad news about your camera,” he said. Pulling the orange Nikonos body from the bucket, I could see that my precious new lens was gone. Lost in the depths like the Spiegel Grove itself.

The next day I took the Nikonos to Mike’s Underwater Camera Repair to ask Mike Mesgleski to take care of the damage from the salt water it took in when the lens became detached. I told Mike the story of my heartbreaking loss. He commiserated with me and promised to help me find a replacement.

Mike called me the next day with an incredible tale. A dive-master from a different shop in Key Largo called Mike that day and said: “I got your name from someone who said you could tell me what something is that I found diving today; it looks like a fisheye lens.”

The caller didn’t flinch when Mike commented coolly: “Oh, you must have been diving on the Spiegel Grove.” The caller didn’t say: “How did you know that?” Instead he confirmed that he saw the speck on the armor plating of the wreck at a depth of 130 feet, thought at first it was a dive computer, and then saw that it was part of a camera.

Mike told the caller that the lens was probably a 15mm for a Nikonos, and asked him to bring it in for Mike to check it out. The caller said something like: “It probably is too corroded to be salvaged, don’t you think?”

“It couldn’t be that corroded,” Mike commented, “It’s only been in the water since Sunday.” The caller again did not blink an eye; did **not** ask with amazement: “How the Hell do you know how long it’s been in the water?”

Mike explained to the caller that I had lost the lens and was offering a reward. A true “needle in the haystack” had been found by someone who was not even looking for it. I got my lens back for a fraction of its cost; the finder made a few bucks for his trouble; and Mike came to my camera’s rescue (again). We are ready for the next dive season!

Did You Know ?

To help protect our coral reefs, Florida law prohibits dropping an anchor onto living corals. As further protection, a mooring buoy system was installed so that boaters can moor on reefs without using an anchor and avoiding violating the law or damaging the reef.

The fragile coral polyps die when touched, stepped on, or anchored on. Corals are very slow growing in our waters – only 1/5 inch per year for hard coral (such as brain coral) and 1 inch annually for soft coral

Post Dive BBQS

Cost \$7.00 includes-

Grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, chips and fixins. Soda & Beer.

While divers are tending their gear, our chef of the day will be preparing a feast fit for a King/Queen or at least for hungry divers. We invite all divers on the above dates to join us for good outdoor food and telling tall fish tales. Please send \$7 along with the dive fees, you may make one check for both.

DIVE AND EAT FREE

That's right, on our BBQ days you can earn a free dive and free eats. It's easy, just volunteer to be the chef of the day and you go for free.

Here's how it works -

You buy the food and bring to the dive, after which you and the Safety Officer will prepare and serve. The supplies and menu list will be faxed to you a few days prior with an exact list of needed items. Then you submit a receipt and your expenses will be reimbursed. Call Lon for more info and sign up!

Join us on June 12, 2004 for the 16th Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup!

Coral reefs are some of the most valuable and spectacular places on earth, and they are in crisis. Too often the beautiful, ecologically sensitive reefs off the south Florida's east coast are the victim of careless boating and recreational use as well as on-going pollution. These delicate reefs benefit from the clean-up efforts of the Annual Reef Sweep and Beach Clean-Up sponsored by Ocean Watch Foundation. Since its inception in 1989, this ocean cleanup has hauled in more than 18 tons of harmful garbage, collected by more than 5400 volunteers.

Already a South Florida tradition, local charter boats, private boaters and beach walkers will sweep our beaches and coral reefs clean from harmful garbage and debris. We are expecting over 700 beach lovers and coastal residents to pitch-in to preserve the natural beauty of the shores and reefs along Broward and Palm Beach Counties on Saturday, June 12, 2004.

Charter dive boats will go out from various South Florida locations, with volunteer **divers** on board, searching for trash that endangers our delicate reefs. **Beach divers** are invited to participate from the shore at Anglin's Pier in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea and Fisherman's Wharf in Pompano Beach. **Private boaters** will be able to drop off garbage at Lauderdale Marina on S.E. 15th Street in Fort Lauderdale and Alsdorf Park on 14th Street in Pompano Beach.

Public beach cleanup efforts by **beach walkers** will start at 9:00 am and continue through 12 noon at six locations: the Deerfield Beach Pier at Hillsboro Blvd; Fisherman's Wharf north of Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach; Anglin's Pier at Commercial Boulevard in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea; South Beach Park (across from Bahia Mar) in Ft. Lauderdale; Dania Pier at Dania Beach Blvd, and the North Beach Park at Sheridan Street in Hollywood.

All participants are invited to the **Reef Sweep Party** later that day where OSCAR's will be awarded to the people who collect the most garbage, rope and monofilament. This lively party includes food, drinks, live entertainment, door prizes, raffles and door prizes.

ADA RULES & REGULATIONS

All Members Must be familiar with the following

FOR ALL ADVANCED DIVES (DEPTHS OVER 60') ADA DIVERS MUST:

- Be current (dive activity within the previous 3 months).
- Have the approval of an ADA Safety Officer.
- Have a minimum of 25 logged dives.
- Carry an alternate air source (octopus), time keeping device and depth gauge.
- Have previous ADA diving experience.
- All members must dive with at least a 72 cubic foot tank.

ADA GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTED DIVING

- Members using dive computers may extend their time underwater ten-(10) minutes beyond the time allowed by the tables.
- Computer assisted dives must be well within the NO DECOMPRESSION LIMITS.
- Members should understand and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- If a computer diver is buddyed with a diver using the tables, both must follow the tables.
- If a buddy-team is using unlike computers, both must follow the more conservative computer.
- If, in a buddy-team, either computer fails, both divers must terminate the dive.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY OFFICERS' COMMITTEE

All members are reminded to read the "Rules & Guidelines for Diving Activities" you received with your membership package. Number 16 states, "All divers must be present for the pre-dive briefing". If the diver is not present for the entire briefing, diving privileges may be revoked for that dive. Please plan to arrive on time – or better yet – a bit early. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation.
Julio, Dan, Robert, Lee and Lon

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

FOR LOCAL DIVE TRIPS

Because of our contractual agreements with our service agents – dive shops and boat captains, we must notify them – usually seven days in advance – of the final number of spaces we are paying for. Thus, if our members cancel less than seven days in advance, we regret that *NO REFUND OR CREDIT* can be given, unless trip cancellation insurance has been purchased at the time of the dive trip payment (see next news article!)

ADA TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

The Board of Directors has approved a unique concept in local diving: *NO FAULT INSURANCE!!*

For an additional \$5.00, per person, per local dive trip, members can eliminate the worry of losing their dive fees because of an unforeseen change of plans.

If, for any reason you are unable to attend a local dive for which you are scheduled and have paid the insurance, ADA will credit your dive fee to another date. *The \$5.00 insurance is non-transferable and non-refundable!*

When you make a reservation, ask for dive trip cancellation insurance. The Board has elected to continue the insurance offer for this year.

NOTE: It may be discontinued at any time without prior written notice.

Please call Lon with your questions and comments.

IMPORTANT WEATHER INFORMATION

Before departing for the dive site, confirm weather condition with Lon or the designated Safety Officer. It is the responsibility of the member to call; we cannot call you due to the large number of divers involved. For morning dives, call between 6 and 10 p.m. the night before the dive. For afternoon dives, call between 9 and 10 a.m. the morning of the dive.

HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.

(Call Lon at (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave requests on his answering machine, the trip may be full.

We will hold your reservation for four (4) days from the date you call. If we do not receive payment within four days, your space may be given to other members. If you wish to confirm receipt, call Lon.

Ask for details about the trip when you call. Otherwise, details will be given when you call for a weather check. (See "Important Weather Information" this and every issue)

* Make your check payable to ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION, not to any individual, and mail to:

Lon Von Lintel, 15305 SW 104 Ave., Miami, FL 33157

Itemize dates of dives on bottom-left corner of check.

Do not pay for persons other than spouses or other family members. Include their names on check.

REMEMBER: That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.

COPY Experts

Carlos Paz

Tel: 305-513-8421 7809 N.W. 57th Street
Fax: 305-513-8422 Miami, FL 33166
E-mail: huicho_1@bellsouth.net

Mouse Calls

Steve Herz
13441 S.W. 108th St. Cir. N.
Miami, Fl. 33186

Phone: 305-752-3755
Fax: 305-752-3533
Email: Sbar369886@msn.com
Cell: 305-606-6331

Computer Repairs
Upgrades
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Professional and Certified repair
done quickly in the comfort of your
Home or Workplace.

2004 ADA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SINGLES ONLY DIVES
NEW MEMBERS DIVES
KAYAK TRIPS
CANOE TRIPS
COZUMEL EXPEDITION
DOUBLE WALL DIVES
BBQs and PICNICS
AWARDS BRUNCH
LOOE KEY WEEKEND
SOMBRERO KEY DIVES
NIGHT DIVES
3 TANK DIVES
TWILIGHT DIVES
CAMPING/CAVERN DIVES

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2004

Jim Keirnan, our membership chair, will be sending out renewal notices for those who expired Dec. 2003. You should receive it a few days after this newsletter. If you don't, call Jim, his number is here on the back page.

Dive Season is almost here!!

Don't wait until it's too late. Remember to get all your equipment tested by your authorized dealers so you can be ready to go. Also remember to get yourself in "Diving Shape". Don't wait till the week

THE Mouthpiece ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March 2004



Dive Trips/Return Address:
Lon Von Lintel (305) 251-4975
15305 SW 104th Ave., Miami, FL 33157

Membership:
Jim Kiernan (954) 227-8885
3200 Coral Springs Dr., Apt 104
Coral Springs FL 33065
Membership@activedivers.org

Conservation:
Jerry Kosakowski (954) 680-1642

Social:
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