



The Mouthpiece



April 2006 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWS-

April

All non-pac dive boat tickets \$35.

April 22 Sat. 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 30 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

May 6 Sat am Biscayne National Park BBQ \$7

Sites may include: Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Ball Buoy, Far Out Reef, Cuda Ledge. Usually no currents, massive corals, small caves. The Keys "Best Kept Secret", only one commercial boat allowed in area. Depth 20-30', vis 30-60'.

BBQ after dive, see article this issue.

May 13 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 21 Sun pm Pennekamp

Divers from around the world visit John Pennykamp State Park to explore the spectacular living reefs of the Florida Keys and experience diving amidst the area's extraordinary wildlife.

May 27 Sat pm Lost City (*advanced*)

Let's Go Diving!!!!

The time has finally come to "get wet." Sew up the holes in your bathing suit, replace the cracked lens in your mask, and put some patches on the splits of your wetsuit. Be sure to get your regulators serviced and your tanks VIPed. Don't wait until the last minute to get ready. See you on the boat!

PROBLEM: LEAKY GEAR

Hear that hiss? Is it mine, or my buddies? Is it dangerous?

These are common questions on a dive boat. Here's how to find out.

1. Turn on your tank, check the pressure gauge, should be 3000. (for most tanks)
2. Turn off your tank. Do not purge the reg or press the inflator button.
3. Observe the pressure gauge. If the pressure does not change, the problem is not yours.
4. If the pressure falls quickly (from 3000 to 0 in a minute or so) you have a serious leak and should be attended to before entering the water.
5. If only a slight change is noticed in a minute or so, the leak is minor and may not affect your dive. Check your o-rings and connections.

Any leak should be checked by a professional. This information is not advice on whether or not to abort a

BNP CREDITS

ADA members who attended the July 23 dive have been offered a credit for another non-ADA dive at the park. Thanks to manager Tom Perkins, who regrets the short bottom times imposed by the Captain, you may call Lon to get your free pass.

E MAIL SPECIAL UPDATES

Sometimes last minute good deals, unique dives, and special events pop up before we can publish in the ADA newsletter. If you would like to be informed and in the loop, send me your e mail address and I will give you the latest info.

SEND YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS TO:

INFO@ACTIVEDIVERS.ORG

Thanks

Lon

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK REQUIRES SAFETY SAUSAGES

Effective June 1, 2005, all divers are required to carry safety sausages (SS) during the dive at BNP. For those not familiar with this device, it is an inflatable tube from 3' to 8' long, colored a bright red, yellow or green. Its purpose is to make divers more visible on the surface. In the case of drift dives, the diver waits on the surface to be picked up by the boat. In heavy seas, a diver far from the boat needs to be visible and the best way is a SS. Without it a diver might not be able to attract the attention of the boat. Most dive shops carry several lengths and colors of SS. . From our experience, the longer, the better. I recommend 5' or more and yellow seems to be the best color. Most have a valve on the end, which contains the air and is an advantage, but must be inflated by mouth, a possible disadvantage. Some are open on the end and can be inflated by purging the regulator in the opening, an advantage, but must be sealed by grasping with a hand,

2005 BBQ Raffle



Thank you Jack and Sharyn.

I know you put in many hours of sweat and toil. You took on the biggest job ADA has to offer— membership. You were handicapped by not having the proper tools and in spite of all you came through for us.

Thanks

Lon

Misunderstood Moray's

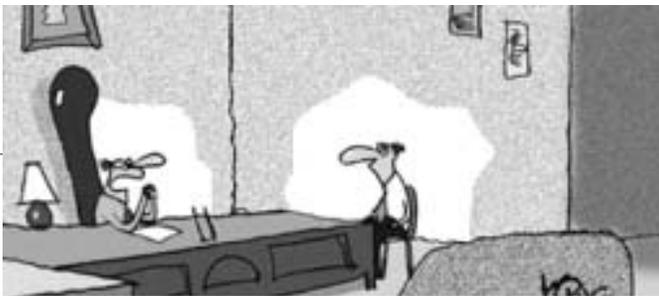


A moray eel is simply a fish trapped in a snake-like body, and there the resemblance ends. A moray does not squirm, it swims. Having just one fin, its long dorsal fin does require it to make long, slow, undulating movements, but it is swimming nevertheless. Morays do themselves no favors as far as putting divers at ease around them. In order to pass water through their gills, they open and close their mouths constantly like a snapping dog. It may appear they are interested in tasting you, when in fact they are more interested in smelling you.

A fish's sense of smell is much more sophisticated than ours, and moray eels top the list. They can smell things we can only taste. Fish give off unique pheromones that a moray uses to determine the size and type of another fish. Two nasal canals on each side of the head pass water over sensitive cells that detect the presence of a potential meal, allowing the moray eel to hunt at night.

Eels eat invertebrates, fish, and other eels. They can locate sleeping fish tucked into crevices by smell alone, one of the reasons parrotfish wrap themselves inside smell-trapping cocoons. The eel's other secret weapon is its ability to move backwards, as few fish can do this. To make reversing possible, eels have very small scales covered in mucus and do not have gill covers that would snag on objects. This explains how snake eels manage to bury themselves tail first into the sand. Garden eels, too, will disappear tail first into their holes in the blink of an eye.

In the Caribbean you can find nearly 20 different species of eels, more than half of which are moray eels. The largest is the green moray, growing up to eight feet long and as thick as your thigh. The most common types are spotted and goldentail morays, two-four feet long. So don't be afraid the next time you see a moray eel showing you his dental work, he won't bite if you don't stick your hand in his mouth.



"I'd like you to go scuba diving with me today, Smith. You'll be swimming near me with meat tide around you. That way you'll distract any sharks that may be in the area."



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!

LOST CITY COMES TO MIAMI

Soon to be built in the off-shore waters near Key Biscayne, a re-creation of the Lost City of Atlantis will be of much interest for divers and serve as an artificial reef for marine creatures. Being 900 feet in diameter, it will be visible from the air and will take 2-3 years to complete.

ADA plans to monitor it's progress with our first dive scheduled for May 27. Watch the Mouthpiece for details.

For more info go to the Jan. 20 issue of the Miami Herald.

CORALS TO BE TRANSPLANTED

The Nature Conservancy plans to take corals from a privately owned underwater nursery and relocate them to multiple sites in our area. Divers and boat captains may get involved with monitoring this project by contacting Meaghan Johnson at 305 745 8402.

Could this be an activity for ADA? If you are interested, let us know.



"You might want to make yourself comfortable. I may be down there for awhile."



"You stated you like scuba diving and hanging out with the fish. Just how much time do you spend in the water?"

ADA DIVE PACS 2006

Many of our members took advantage of the convenience and big savings of purchasing dive pacs last year. ADA is again offering dive pacs for this year.

Prices–

5 local dives for \$145 (that's \$29 per dive, a savings of \$30)
15 local dives for \$375 (that's \$25 per dive, a savings of \$150)

Advantages–

1. You write only one check
2. You mail only one check
3. You save \$\$\$

All dive pacs are non-refundable, non-transferable and must be used in 2006. Insurance may be purchased.

All single-purchase local dives are \$35, unless otherwise noted. All prices are for boat tickets only.

ADA FREE RAFFLE 2006

Prizes to be awarded:

- First prize– one dive 5 pac for 2006
- Second prizes– ten single dives
- Third prizes– your choice in the grab box until all items gone.

How to earn raffle tickets:

- 1 ticket for attending any ADA function.
- 1 ticket for proudly wearing ADA T-shirt.
- 5 tickets for winning the mini-raffles.
- 10 tickets for being the BBQ chef.

PHOTOS WANTED

Want to see your name in lights? Want to be the star of the show? Want to be rich and famous? Well....we can't promise that, but if you are a photographer we welcome your photos of your u/w adventures AND top-side shots of ADA and members at any and all ADA activities. We will publish your shots in our monthly newsletter THE MOUTHPIECE on a space available basis. "Please send electronic (one meg or less) or film (with self addressed envelope if you want them returned) pics of this year's dive/activities to:

Nic Boyd

One S. Ocean Blvd # 204

Boca Raton, Fl. 33432

or email to: nboyd@oceanlandinc.com

Include your name and names of other people, if you know them, and location."

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, 13374 SW 46 Terrace, Miami, FL 33175

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

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E-mail: huicho_1@bellsouth.net

2006 ADA PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SINGLES ONLY DIVES
NEW MEMBERS DIVES
KAYAK TRIPS
CANOE TRIPS
DOUBLE WALL DIVES
BBQs and PICNICS
AWARDS BRUNCH
NIGHT DIVES
3 TANK DIVES
TWILIGHT DIVES
Stay Tuned....More is yet to come!!!!

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Dive Trips/Return Address:
Lon Von Lintel (305) 251-4975
13374 SW 46 Terrace Miami, FL 33175

Membership:
Jim Kiernan (954) 227-8885
3522 Coral Springs Dr.
Coral Springs FL 33065
Membership@activedivers.org

Conservation:
Jerry Kosakowski (954) 680-1642

Social:
Patricia Hackett (305) 387-0015

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