



The Mouthpiece



May 2003 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Win A Free Bahamas Dive Trip

That's Right, ADA is awarding a free trip to Walkers Cay to the lucky winner of a special raffle! This raffle will be only for the divers who sign up for the trip. Only 15 divers will be allowed to sign up so your chances will be one in 15, a bit better than the lotto. The drawing will take place during the trip and ADA will, on the spot, refund the trip costs to the winner.

Dates—Aug. 29th to Sept. 1, 2003

Package includes: RT Airfare, Hotel (Double occupancy), Diving (10 dives if time permits), Breakfast and dinner daily, Shark Rodeo. (not included— departure taxes, tips, lunch)

Package Cost \$649 (the winners refund)

Call Lon for a reservation, (305-251-4975) then, within four (4) days, send a non-refundable deposit of \$100 payable to ADA

Details:

Depart Ft. Lauderdale airport aboard Chalks sea plane—flight time 1 hr.

Arrive and dive 1st day (if time permits)

Three dives per day on days 2 and 3, including Shark Rodeo and at least one night dive.

Dive on day 4, if time permits. The plane cabin will be pressurized to sea level so there is no concern for diving then flying.

For more detail call Lon or go on line to walkerscay.com.

Cancellation Policy— If another ADA diver fills your space, all monies less a change fee, will be refunded. If your space is not filled, the balance, less the deposit, will be refunded with a 60 day notice. Less than 60 days notice, No Refunds!

SO MUCH TO SEA BELOW

Encircling Walker's Cay is a barrier reef teeming with fish and remarkable formations. We know them so well that we refer to them by names such as "Flower Garden," "Spiral Cavern Reef," "White Hole" and "Shark Canyon Arena." All Walker's Cay dive packages include the world-famous "Shark Rodeo." Voted "One of the world's ten best animal experiences" by *"Skin Diver"* magazine and the world's number one "Big Animal" dive by *Rodale's' Scuba Diving* magazine, this dive has been featured on Discovery Channel's "Shark Week" numerous times. It is also part of our Educational Program. (I liked this picture last month so I thought I'd run it again)



May-June Dive Schedule



May

Sun. May, 4 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

Sat. May, 10 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 morays, schooling tropicals, unusual pillar corals.

Sat. May, 17 AM Biscayne Park (inc tanks)

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'.

Sat. May, 24 PM Tenneco Towers (**Advanced**)

Choice of more than 40 wrecks. Some unlike anywhere else: Jet airliner, M-60 Tanks, Tankers, Freighters, Tugs, Barges. Most are intact with penetration possible. Average depth 90', visibility 40-50'. Expect currents and dramatic profiles, many fish. **See advanced criterion this issue.**

June

Sun. June, 1 PM S. Key Largo

Sites include: Molasses, Spanish Anchor, Hole-in-wall, French, Pickles. Average depth 35-40', average visibility 50-70', expect currents and high voltage action. High profile corals.

Sun. June, 8 AM Biscayne National Park (**Advanced**)

Sites - The Wall, Anniversary, Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Cuda Ledge, Ball Buoy, Doc DeMilly. Expect currents, usually we drift dive the deep reefs. Depths 70-110', average visibility 40-80'. Only one commercial dive boat allowed in area. **See advanced criterion this issue.**

Sat. June 14 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.

Sat. June, 21 PM Lauderdale (**Advanced**)

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. See advanced criterion this issue. **See advanced criteria this issue.**

Sun. June, 29 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

REEF SWEEP AND BEACH CLEANUP

June 14, 2003

Ocean Watch is having it's 15th annual cleanup day. All types of volunteers needed- divers, non divers, kids. For more info go to info@oceanwatch.org or call (954) 467-1366. ADA Conservation Committee.

Chair Jerry Kosakowski has first hand info, and can be reached at (954)



THE BIG STUFF IS COMING!!!

If you noticed the free raffle info in the last newsletters, you may have been curious about the "big stuff". Well here is the start-

1. \$200.00 gift certificate from **Biscayne National Park**, thanks **Tom**
2. Two free dive trips, tanks and weights (value of \$120.00) from **Atlantis Dive Center**, thanks **Capt. Slate <awarded 3-30-03>**
3. Two free dive trips, tanks, and weights (value of \$120.00) from **Lady Cyana Divers**, thanks **Gloria**.
4. Two free dive trips, tanks, and weights (\$128.00 value) from **Florida Keys Dive Center**, thanks **Tom**
5. \$200.00 gift certificate from **Southeast Oceanic Services**, thanks **Mike**
6. Scuba Pro depth/pressure console, a \$200 value from **Austins Dive Center**, thanks **Tom**
7. \$100.00 Gift Certificate for **Divers Den**, Thanks **Ray**
8. Brunch for 4, a \$100.00 value, Thanks **Anna. <awarded 3/30/03>**

MUCH MORE TO COME!!!!!!!!!!

Remember this is all FREE and the only way to get tickets is to EARN them.

Dive Packages for 2003!

Members may now take advantage of NEW DIVE PACS and freeze 2002 prices for this year! Look at these savings

10 packs—10 dives for only \$290 Save up To \$60

5 packs—5 dives for only \$150 Save up to \$25

You may use these packs for any local dive except Biscayne National Park. They are non-refundable unless you purchase insurance or if we cancel the trip. This offer may be withdrawn at any time without notice. To simplify your booking and our accounting procedures

ALL NON DIVE PACK DIVES FOR 2003 ARE \$35.00

INCLUDING BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK!

May Photo Contest



Nick Boyd Moray with Cleaner fish Florida Keys
Oly. E20N Digital



Sharon Baron Closeup at Blue Heron Bridge in Palm County - night dive
Nikonis V Closeup Lense

The Winner

Runner-up

ADA Photography Contest

We have implemented an ongoing photography contest in 2003. Winners are announced in each MOUTHPIECE and a link provided so the images can be viewed online. Winners will win raffle tickets (see related article) to be used at the annual meeting. In addition, a Yearly Grand Prize Winner will be announced and recognized. Judging will be done ultimately by someone with professional experience yet does not participate in picture submission.

The Rules:

1. Pictures will be limited to South Florida Waters or ADA sponsored dives.
2. Pictures will be limited to two per month per diver.
3. The only editing allowed is overall color balance and sharpening. Please do not otherwise edit (including, but not limited to, crop, clone, fix, paint, saturate, cut, paste, move, or any other little button on there) out or in ANYTHING that is not part of the original image (such as backscatter, ugly fish, ugly divers, etc.). We contemplate that the judge will take into consideration the images potential with cropping.

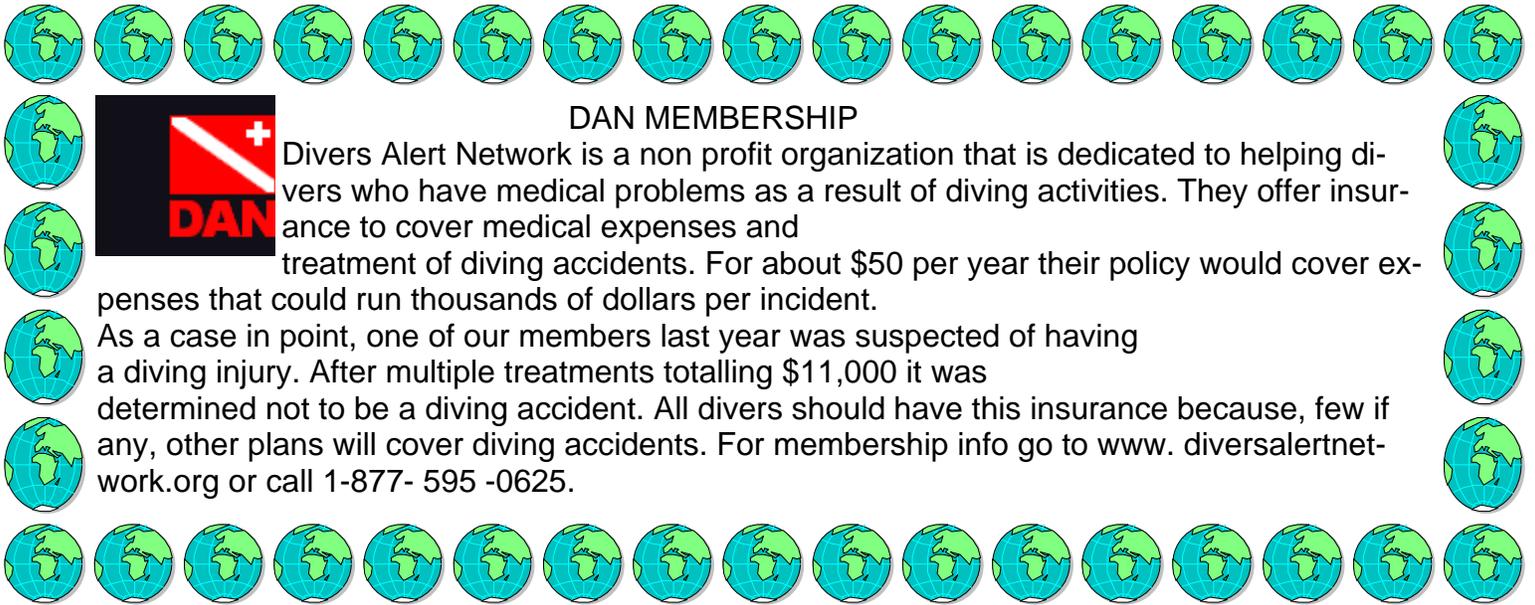
The General Info:

1. There will be two initial categories: 1) Cameras with External Strobes and Manual Settings, & 2) "Point and Shoot" (Those without manual settings and/or external strobes).
2. Photographers can provide prints, slides or digital images. Entrees can only be returned if a Stamped, Self-addressed envelope is provided.
3. envelope is provided.
4. Prints or slides will be scanned. Send your prints, slides, or digital images on CD to:

J. Nicholas Boyd
One South Ocean Blvd.
Ste. 204
Boca Raton. Fl 33432

Or e-mail them to: nboyd9989@attbi.com. (re-size them to 800x600 and as uncompressed as your camera will allow).

4. If you email your pics, follow up with a confirmation e-mail to ensure they got there. Large e-mails sometimes get "lost in the mail".
5. Include/provide your name, camera, category (if it's not obvious) lighting, location, description, etc.
6. We will expand to a Master category for three time winners.
7. Email (above) or call (561-416-2099) Nick Boyd with questions.



DAN MEMBERSHIP



Divers Alert Network is a non profit organization that is dedicated to helping divers who have medical problems as a result of diving activities. They offer insurance to cover medical expenses and treatment of diving accidents. For about \$50 per year their policy would cover expenses that could run thousands of dollars per incident.

As a case in point, one of our members last year was suspected of having a diving injury. After multiple treatments totalling \$11,000 it was determined not to be a diving accident. All divers should have this insurance because, few if any, other plans will cover diving accidents. For membership info go to [www. diversalertnet-work.org](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org) or call 1-877- 595 -0625.

2003 AWARDS BRUNCH and FREE RAFFLE March 30, 2003

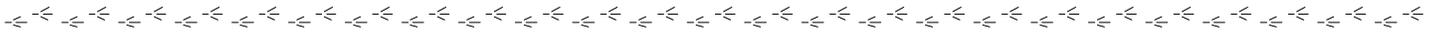
It was a hearty and hungry crowd that descended upon the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant just before high noon. Once inside it became clear that the problem of the day was how to choose from the teeming tables of towering tempting treats. Careful planning was going to be required for this "battle of the bulge". But one "soldier" was later overheard lamenting " My plan didn't work! I ate too much of x and now no room for y."

Later, our MC Jim Kiernan, started the program ball rolling as we all paused and unbuckled our belts a notch. Awards were presented to our many volunteers of 2002. Then the divers of the year were announced. The diver making the most local dives with ADA last year was Sharon Baron, winner of "Diver of the Year, Local". The diver making the most ADA dives on a live-aboard was Nic Boyd, winner of "Diver of the Year, Live-aboard". Julio Raimindez was awarded for his leadership on kayak trips last year.

Next up: our first free raffle of the year. Lee Turcotte won a US flag which we hope he will fly proudly, Sharon Baron won a Champagne Brunch for two, as did Sheila Solen. Many others won hats and T-shirts from the Ocean Watch Foundation and the big winner was Rebecca Sanchez, a trip for two from Atlantis Dive Center. We thank all our generous donors. Finally, an interesting and educational presentation from Ocean Watch concluded the day.

Judging from the smiles as our members waddled into the sunset, it was a very satisfying day indeed. Just a JOKE! It is widely accepted as fact that ALL our members are slim-trim diving Divas and Divos. (male equivalent)

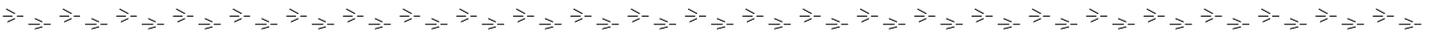
A special thanks to Pat Hackett our Social Committee co-chair, and Jerry Kosokowski, our Conservation Committee chair.



Are Divers Hurting Reefs?

Dozens of articles over the years have pointed out how careless divers harm the reefs, mainly by touching, grabbing, bumping and kicking them. However, Jean-Michel Cousteau was quoted in the Wall Street Journal (Sterba 1993) as saying that diver damage, while serious, is "insignificant" compared with other harmful factors such as soil runoff, chemical dumping, over fishing and boat anchoring.

Unfortunately many divers do hurt reefs. While this is both tragic and preventable, other human (and non-diving) activities hurt them far more.



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ADA RULES & REGULATIONS

All Members Must be familiar with the following

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

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

ADA GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTED DIVING

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

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 MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY 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

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.



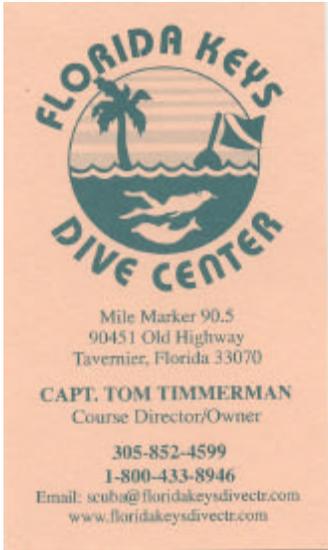
HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

1. Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.
2. (Call Lon at (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave requests on his answering machine, the trip may be full.
3. 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.
4. 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)
5. * 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
6. Itemize dates of dives on bottom-left corner of check.
7. Do not pay for persons other than spouses or other family members. Include their names on check.
8. REMEMBER: That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.



LUXFER OFFERS \$50 FOR OLD TANKS

For scuba tanks made between 1972 and 1987 they will give a credit towards a new tank.
Call 1 800 764 0366 or your local dive shop for more info.



Do Fish Sleep?

For anyone who has ever done a night dive, the answer is apparent - many fish do sleep. During the day these fish keep their distance (unless we feed them), but at night some fish just over in water, seemingly oblivious to the diver. They appear to be in a state of suspended animation, i.e., asleep; you can even pet them, sometimes. Fish have no eyelids, so their eyes are always open even though they don't "see" while asleep.

Other sea creatures sleep during the day and come out only at night (some species of octopus, for example, although they are not fishes). Finally, some fishes, notably some species of shark, appear not to sleep at all.

IN ANY STRESSFUL SITUATION:

**STOP
BREATHE
THINK
ACT**



THE Mouthpiece
ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
April 2003



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