

The Mouthpiece

JUNE 2000

THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Nekton Pilot **Live-Aboard Bahamas Trip** *August 12-19, 2000* **WILD DOLPHIN ENCOUNTER**

Last year's Nekton Pilot trip, a huge success, was the Cay Sal route. This year it's the "Wild Dolphin Encounter". Limited to 10 ADA divers and rated as the world's #1 live-aboard, space is very limited. If you are interested in going, don't delay, call now. (Lon: 305-251-4975)

Price: \$1495 (Includes: Double stateroom, all meals, snacks while on board, non-alcoholic drinks, tanks, weights, airfills, linens, towels. Not Included - Government fees and gratuities.)

ADA Cancellation Policy:

Before April 1 -Full refund of \$300 deposit
April 1-May 1 -\$200 penalty
After May 1 -No refunds

Trip insurance is available through Nekton Pilot: 1-800-899-6753 or your travel agent.

Payment Schedule:

\$300 deposit due within 4 days of RSVP.
\$500 2nd payment due April 1, 2000.
Balance due May 1, 2000

(Note) 10% discount for divers who sailed on Nekton last year.

ONE SPACE LEFT



ADA **SHARK FEST 2000** *August 26* *Presenting* **COCO ISLAND** **SCHOOLING SHARKS** and **WESTERN AUSTRALIA** **GIANT WHALE SHARKS** plus **PAPUA NEW GUINEA** **INCREDIBLE BEAUTY**

Lon's first hand visual reports. See past newsletter for written reports.

Who - all ADA members, family, and guests.

What - cocktails, dinner, and presentation.

When - Saturday, August 26.

Cocktails (cash bar) 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, visuals 8pm

Where - Tony Roma's Restaurant, 9525 Kendall Dr., Miami, Fl. (two miles east of turnpike)

Menu - your choice of (ordered at dinner)

St Louis ribs ♦ Baby back ribs ♦ Breast of chicken
BBQ chicken ♦ Seafood selection

All served with salad, baked potato, soft drink, coffee, hot bread, butter. Desserts extra.

Cost - adults \$20, children under 12- \$10 includes taxes and tips.

RESERVATION DEADLINE-AUGUST 11

Call Lon first, then mail check (payable to ADA) to:
Lon Von Lintel
15305 sw 104 ave.
Miami, Fl. 33157

Cancellations- before Aug. 11 full refund.
Aug 11 and after, no refund.



Local Diver Profile

TOP: (Left) 4/30 New Members - Dafne Martinez & Carol Kelley.
 (Right) 4/22 (Top) Tim & Debbie DeGrazzio, New Members - Susan Leonard, Alex Piqueres, Veeta Chase.

MIDDLE: (Left) 4/30 Jim, Matt & Katie Kiernan.
 (Right) 5/7 Islamorada.

BOTTOM: (Left) 5/13 Biscayne Natl. Park.
 (Right) N. Key Largo

Photos Submitted by: Jim Kiernan &

Lon Von Lintel

AUSTRALIA AND PNG REPORT

Part 2 - Yongala

Lon Von Lintel

March 23, 1911, Cape Bowling Green, Australia- The SS Yongala steams north on her way to Townsville with cargo, mail and 121 passengers and crew. The weather bureau begins warnings of a possible cyclonic (hurricane) condition developing near Townsville. Unfortunately, the Yongala had no radio to receive the information and continued into the rapidly intensifying storm, like a lamb to slaughter. By the time the captain realized the gravity of the situation, it was too late to seek safe harbor. Hour after hour the storm savaged the helpless ship while the passengers huddled in their cabins praying that each threatening roll would be followed by the ship righting herself again. Exactly what happened that night we will never know, but the Yongala went down with all hands. Two days later the owners of the ship began Australia's most intense sea search, but to no avail. For many years the site location would remain a mystery. Finally the wreck was located 11 miles SE of Townsville.

March 29, 2000, 9:20 am - Myself, Maria, and Al descend onto the Yongala. As the image slowly comes into view, my first response is rapid blinking, in an attempt to correct my obviously distorted vision, my eyes must be playing tricks on me. But no! Straining to see more detail, I was able to convince myself it was real. Then my jaw dropped and I almost lost my regulator. The Yongala sits on a barren, flat, sandy bottom at 90 feet. Miles from any reef or vertical structure, it has become an underwater oasis for every form of marine life- from the smallest crustacean to the largest pelagics. With now almost 90 years to grow and build, the coral is layered upon layer and covers every square inch of the wreck. Hard corals, electric colored soft corals, strange 6' long wire and string corals, orange cup corals, sea plumes, harp corals, velour corals, sea rods, candelabrum corals, sea whips, octocorals, telesto corals, finger corals, tube corals, pencil corals, and many unknown to me blanket the wreck in an excess that is surreal. And with all that coral you know yer gonna find fish. Yes indeed, it seems every species in the Pacific known to man has made the wreck its home or a regular "watering hole". Sharks, rays, jack, turtles, and tuna all stop by from time to time for a quick meal. Huge grouper/jewfish are top dogs of the permanent residents, which include shoals of bait fish, split tails, most types of tropical, snapper, sea snakes, eels, lobster, clams, and a laundry list of others. We made 7 dives on the wreck and hungered for at least 7 more. With 350 feet of "Alice in Wonderland" stuff to see we discovered something new around every corner and in every nook and cranny. Since the top of the wreck is only 50 feet, we were able to make multilevel dives lasting 45-50 glorious minutes each. Even with all that bottom time, we still left with many areas unexplored. I exposed 7 rolls of film, but photography was difficult due to the swarms of small fish so dense that one couldn't shoot through to the wreck itself. My best technique was to wave my free hand to momentarily scatter the little devils and then snap a shot. But many of my shots were ruined by one of these little pests darting in front of my lens just as I fired. Oh well, I'll just have to go back and try again. **End of Part II.**

Next month Part III - PNG



Something Different Creating a State Underwater Archeological Preserve

ADA has been approached by the University of Miami, along with the State Archeological Dept., to assist the State in preserving the vessel "Half Moon".

Located off Key Biscayne, just outside Bear Cut, the wreck of the *Half Moon* lies in shallow water (10-15') on a sandy bottom. Historical research suggests that this sail-powered yacht was known as *Germania* when built in Germany in 1908 for the Count Bohlen and Halbach. The two-masted, 366-ton steel schooner-yacht was extremely fast and raced at Cowes, England and Kiel, Germany. Seized as a prize of war in 1914 while at Cowes for the annual regatta, the yacht was taken to New York and subsequently made her way to Miami where she was renamed *Half Moon* and used as a floating saloon until sunk in the early 1930s.

What the University of Miami and the State are looking for is a "few good divers" to assist in helping them take measurements, clean up or do whatever has to be done in order to get the site prepared for the presentation. The work will start on April 25 and go through the month of May, possibly June.

Anyone who is thinking they might be interested, please call Darryl Blackstone at (305) 248-4310 for information. You can also visit this website for information on the Half Moon wreck and others being preserved.

<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bar/uap/halfmoon.html>

Darryl Blackstone
Conservation Chairman



JUNE-JULY DIVE SCHEDULE



▶ ▶ ▶ **New Rates for Tank Rentals at Biscayne National Park!** ◀ ◀ ◀

JUN 4, SUN AFTERNOON S. KEY LARGO \$29.00 (BBQ \$5)

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. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

JUN 10, SAT AFTERNOON N. KEY LARGO \$29.00

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.

JUN 10, SAT NIGHT N. KEY LARGO (NIGHT) \$35.00

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.

JUN 17, SAT AFTERNOON BOCA RATON (ADVANCED) \$29.00

Giant Jew fish, stingray and eel feed. Professional guide attracts and hand feeds a variety of big animals as we watch at a safe distance. Depth 70', visibility 40-60', strong currents. **See advanced criteria this issue.**

JUN 25, SUN AFTERNOON ISLAMORADA \$29.00

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.

JUL 1, SAT MORNING MIAMI BEACH (ADVANCED) \$29.00

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.**

JUL 9, SUN AFTERNOON TAVERNIER \$29.00 (BBQ \$5)

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. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

JUL 16, SUN AFTERNOON N. KEY LARGO \$29.00

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.

JUL 22, SAT AFTERNOON S. KEY LARGO \$29.00

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.

JUL 22, SAT NIGHT S. KEY LARGO (NIGHT) \$35.00

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.

JUL 30, SUN MORNING BISCAYNE NATL PARK (ADVANCED) \$40.00 (Includes Tanks)

Due to changes in policy at Biscayne National Park, now we are able to offer the dive and two tanks for only \$40. This saves you \$5 if you paid \$29 & rented two tanks at \$8 each as before. Note, there are no discounts if you bring your own tanks, so save your back and use theirs.

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.**

Earn Free dives & BBQ

Throughout the year, ADA will offer BBQ's after selected dives. You can enjoy both for free! All you do is volunteer to be the chef of the day - we provide a list of foods, you buy & bring to the dive. After the dive, you & the ADA Safety Officer cook & serve to the hungry divers. It's not too hard, and a great way to go for free! Call Lon & sign up. (ADA will reimburse monies spent for food).

Post-Dive BBQ's Only \$5 June 4, July 9, Aug 19

Last year our BBQ's were a great success. A hot delicious meal after an exciting dive is a wonderful way to punctuate the day. Cooking will begin just after we hit (not too hard I hope) the dock, and before you have stowed your gear, your choice of grilled meats will be ready for your enjoyment. Including:

- Grilled chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs
- Soda or beer
- Potato Salad, slaw, chips & condiments

When you make your dive reservation, indicate if you plan to join us (check the dive schedule first to make sure it's a BBQ dive) & include an additional \$5 with your dive schedule reservation payment.

2000 FLORIDA KEYS ADOPT-A-REEF PROGRAM

E X P E R I E N C E D
D I V E R S N E E D E D

CLEAN UP DATES - June

June 10, Saturday
8:00 AM

- Holiday Inn Beachside Watersports, Key West
- \$30 per diver includes equipment
- Number of participants: 6 divers
- Reservations: 305-294-5937

June 25, Sunday
8:00 AM

- Holiday Isle Dive Shop, Islamorada (MM 84)
- \$30 per diver, 50% off rental equipment
- Number of participants: 12 divers and 6 snorkelers
- Reservations: 305-664-4145 or 1-800-327-7070 Ext.644
- <http://www.divetheisle.com/>

(Look for more dates in coming issues)

ADA BIRTHDAYS

JUNE	
Amber Duerr	3
Michelle Dunaj	5
Rita Nadelman	5
Sheila Solen	5
Tim Degrazio	7
Alex Piqueras	8
Marlene Potter	8
James Finocchiaro	9
Gregory Lynn	11
Jorge Cao	15
Doris Cuddebach-Jones	15
Connie Crowther	16
Pamala Smith	16
Donald Legault	19
Tony Maceo	23
Jose Rodriguez	25
Pdero Cintron	27



"Dive, Dive, Dive"
- Matt Chester

**Your view while diving from the
Nekton Pilot!**

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 buddied 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.

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

Newsletter by Email

If you've been reading your newsletters (as I'm sure every ADA member does religiously each month...grin!) then you know that ADA is now distributing our newsletter via both Regular (ie - Snail Mail) and now by E-Mail.

If you haven't already, I would like to encourage everyone who has email access, to switch your newsletter preference to email. It's easy to do, just call Jim Kiernan and he will switch you over. If you're not sure you want to relinquish your paper version just yet, you can check out what the email version looks like on our website first. Just go to the directory page and at the bottom will be links for the newsletter. You will need the Adobe Acrobat Plugin for your browser to view the newsletter, but most people have it already on their system. If you're not sure that you

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 \$29.00 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 2000.

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.

have this, just click the newsletter link to view it - if it comes up, you have the plugin. If it doesn't, just use the link on our directory page to download the plugin, it only takes a few minutes. Then go back and try the newsletter link again.

If you have any trouble setting this up you may call or email me, and I will help you out. If you have Web-TV, you will not be able to receive the newsletter by email, unfortunately.





In future issues we will be incorporating more color photographs and color graphics to enhance the new electronic format. So your newsletters will continue to improve and be more engaging and enjoyable to read!

Your Editor, Chris


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.

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

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois



JUDY B. WILLIAMS
Agent

The Financial Centre
PH IV, 9350 South Dixie Highway
Miami, FL 33156 Bus.: (305) 670-9424
Fax: (305) 670-3059


YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

BUSINESS CARD ADS

Space Available

- 5 Issues \$50
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To Place Your AD Please Contact:
Chris Wood (305) 754-6882



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NITROX CERTIFICATION "Wrap Up"

May 6, 2000, Key Largo, Fl.

Eight ADA members report to Hyperbarics International to begin class and training for Nitrox certification. All are present and accounted for and Dick Rutkowski, course director, opens with staff intros and course outline. Included were studies of history, benefits, disadvantages, physiology, O2 analyzers, operational limits, and a final exam. All passed with flying colors and can now enjoy the benefits of Nitrox diving. Nitrox may be used to extend bottom times or as an additional safety factor when used as air, which lowers the level of nitrogen in the divers blood and tissue, thus offering more protection against the bends. This is especially important for divers over the age of 40. Anyone interested in a second class later this year call Lon.



**Your view while dining on the
Nekton Pilot!**

NEW RENTAL/DIVE RATES AT BISCAYNE NATL. PARK

Due to changes in policy at Biscayne National Park, now we are able to offer the dive and two tanks for only \$40. This saves you \$5 if you paid \$29 & rented two tanks at \$8 each as before. Note, there are no discounts if you bring your own tanks, so save your back and use theirs.

Next Dive at Biscayne Natl. Park - July 30 (only \$40 w/2 tanks)

Inside this month's issue you'll find:

- **The June-July Dive Schedule**
- **The Australia and PNG Trip Report - Part II, Yongola**
- **An article on the Half Moon local wreck and it's ongoing preservation - you're invited**
- **Adopt - A - Reef cleanup dives for June**
- **The Nitrox Course "Wrap Up" - Find out how it went**
- **The Nekton Pilot Trip - One space left, pictures too!**
- **Local Diver Pics, and much more**

NOTE:

If you would like to receive club information by email, please indicate this preference and your email address on the application (or call us at any time). By doing this you will receive an enhanced newsletter, up to date club information and will be helping the club greatly to reduce our workload and expense. Your address will not be given out to anyone else! **Please see our Email Article inside for more details.**

THE Mouthpiece ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOC NEWSLETTER

June 2000 Issue

Dive Trips/Return Address:

Lon Von Lintel (305) 251-4975
15305 SW 104 Ave., Miami, FL 33157

Membership:

Jim Kiernan (954) 752-6234
1653 Cypress Pointe Dr., Coral Springs, FL 33071
nyflash@bellsouth.net

Conservation:

Robert Fox (305) 378-6733
Darryl Blackstone (305) 248-4310

Publicity:

Social:

Julio Raimundez (305) 551-7545
Patricia Hackett (305) 387-0015

Newsletter:

Chris Wood (305) 754-6882
cwood6@bellsouth.net

Website: <http://www.serve.com/ADA>

Email: ada@serve.com



THINKING ABOUT MOVING? ☎ DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET!
Call Jim at Membership (954-752-6234) *It could save your newsletter.*