



The Mouthpiece

May 2003 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



April-May Dive Schedule

Sat. 4-26 PM North 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, morays, cudas.

Sun. 5-4 PM Islamorada

Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infiante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30-40', visibility 40-50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks

Sat. 5-10 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. 5-17 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. 5-24 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.**

All Dives \$35.00

New for 2003!

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

<i>10 packs—10 dives for only \$290</i>	<i>Save up To \$60</i>
<i>5 packs—5 dives for only \$150</i>	<i>Save up to \$25</i>

You may use these pacs 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 This offer may be withdrawn at any time without notice.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!

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.



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Biscayne
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AT BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK

Member's Article Page



Looe Key

By Roy D. Wasson

In the 25 years that I have been diving, My favorite Florida dive trip has been on Looe Key, off Big Pine Key in the lower Keys. While most of our members surely know about Looe Key, maybe there are newly-certified folks or recent transplants to Florida who don't. I will mention a few words about the reef.

Looe Key is not a Key at all, but a "groove and spur" coral reef with living heads rising so tall from the sandy bottom (depths in the 20's to low 30' range) that they almost break the surface at low tide. The reef was named after the British sailing frigate, HMS Looe, which broke up on the coral heads in 1744. Part of the wreckage ca still be seen in the water of remarkable clarity. The tall coral heads are separated like the fingers on a hand, with clean sandy bottom between, permitting comfortable viewing of the whole height of each finger of living rock.

The marine life always has been abundant and colorful on Looe Key, with everything from tiny tropicals and bright yellowtails to parrotfish, barracuda (with bodies like telephone poles), large lobster darting under rocks, and delicate multi-colored corals. (I'll save my personal 'cuda story for next time.) There used to be great spear fishing and lobstering there until Looe Key was made a marine sanctuary in 1981.

One attraction of the reef is the smaller crowds of divers than in Pennykamp or even Key West, due to the relative remoteness of Big Pine from the population centers of the Keys. While there are a few shops running trips to Looe Key now, often the dive boat that your trip uses will be the only one on the reef, and you will have this paradise largely to yourself.

I started diving Looe Key in 1978, when I lived 1,000 miles away in Kentucky. My friend, Paul Glass, ran the only dive shop in Lexington, and ran several trips a year to multiple stops in Florida, from the fresh water sinks and springs of North Florida to the lower Keys. I got to tag along with Paul to help check out the new class of divers getting their Open Water Certifications and enjoying the best diving in the state.

I liked Florida so much, I moved here in 1981. Since then, I have enjoyed diving in exotic locations including the lava tubes of Hawaii, the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, the Virgin Islands, and more. But some of the best diving in the world is practically in our backyard: the Keys. And the best diving, in my opinion, is in Looe Key. The Big Pine Chamber of Commerce still puts on the "Underwater Music Festival" each July.

(ed. Note: Contents of this article have been edited for content. Thanks Roy, look forward to diving with you soon)



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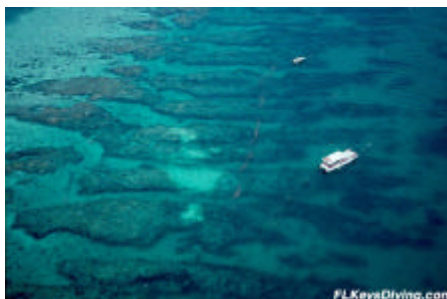


Divers Den

12614 N. Kendall Drive
Miami, Florida 33186

Phone: (305) 595-2010
Fax: (305) 271-4641
Email: DiversDen@mindspring.com

Ray Lang
President



ADA 2003 DIVE SCHEDULE

June	July	August
6-1 South Key Largo	7-5 Biscayne Park 7-12 Spiegel Grove	8-2 Biscayne Park 8-10 Tenneco Towers
6-8 Biscayne Park	7-13 Tenneco Towers	8-16 Spiegel Grove
6-14 Islamorada	7-19 Tavernier	8-16 North Key Largo
6-21 Lauderdale	7-19 Tavernier night	night
6-29 Tavernier	7-27 Islamorada	8-23 Islamorada 8-31 Biscayne Park
Sept	October	November
9-7 Tavernier	10-4 Islamorada	11-2 Boca Raton
9-14 Dania Beach	10-11 Biscayne Park	11-9 Eagle Wreck
9-20 Biscayne Park	10-12 Miami	11-16 Palm Beach
9-28 Hollywood	10-19 Duanne Wreck	11-23 Dania Beach
	10-26 Lauderdale	11-30 North Key Largo

ADA Photography Contest—New for Thee in 2003

We are implementing an ongoing photography contest in 2003. Winners will be 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. 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.

Our Second WINNING entries!! You have until the 5th of each month to get your entries in, so take those cameras out and go Diving! To view these outstanding photo's in color, visit our website:
www.activedivers.org.



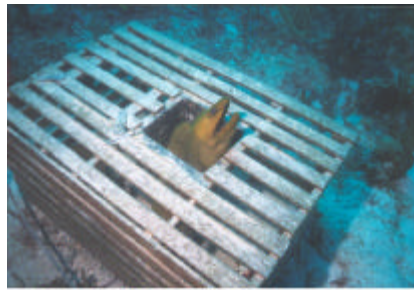
Anonymous "Fighting Wrasses" Florida Keys
 N-80, 105mm Twin Strobes Kodak Film

Winner



Anonymous "Hog Fish" Florida Keys
 N-80, 105mm Twin Strobes

2nd Place



Carol Cox "Green Money waiting lobster trap" (Anacapa Nat'l Park)
 SeaKiss MX11 w/ V980 Strobe

Honorable Mention

Mouse Calls

Steve Herz
 13441 S.W. 168th St. Cir. N.
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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.



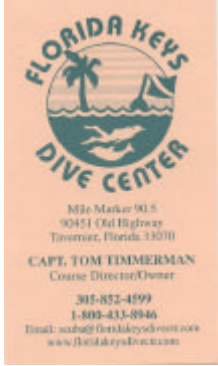
HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

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.



SPIEGAL GROVE AS A TRAINING SITE

The 510 foot ship is being used as a training site for police and fire department divers learning to rescue people trapped in overturned ships and ferries. Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department instructor Max Walchuk helped recover bodies from the Senegalese ferry that sank in Sept., killing more than 1800. Most of the dead were inside the wreck, 75 feet deep. Walchuk received a medal of valor from the Senegalese government for his efforts. He invited Senegal's defense attaché' to view the wreck from Capt. Slates glass bottom boat. Slate demonstrated the use of specialized dive gear for underwater rescues. Walchuk has volunteered to train Senegalese divers how to respond to possible future disasters.

Inside this month's issue you'll find:

- ? The 2003 Dive Schedule
- ? Our First Photography Contest Winners
- ? Win a Free Trip to Walkers Cay
- ? More Raffle Info including some of the "Big Stuff"

THE Mouthpiece
ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
April 2003



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

Membership:
Jim Kiernan
3200 Coral Springs Dr., Apt 104
Coral Springs FL 33065
Membership@activedivers.org

Conservation:
Jerry Kosakowski (954) 680-1642

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

Newsletter:
Steve Herz (305) 752-3755
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