



The Mouthpiece



July 2007 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY DIVE SCHEDULE

- JULY 7 PM** Conch Wall (ADVANCED) \$50
See page 2 for details.
- JULY 7 NIGHT** Tavernier (NIGHT DIVE) \$50
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 We'll teach you how to night Dive!
- JULY 14 PM** Pompano
Perhaps a wreck or perhaps some reefs. All good diving. Maybe even some large sea turtles or a shark or two.
- JULY 22 PM** N. Key Largo
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.
- JULY 28 AM** Biscayne Nat'l Park & BBQ BBQ \$10
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', vies 30-60'. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

August Dive Schedule

- Aug 4 PM** Miami Wreck
Lot's of wrecks to see. Come with us and experience diving in our own back yard.
- Aug 12 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.
- Aug 18 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.
- Aug 18 Night** Ft Lauderdale
Had fun during the day? Double your fun and see it at night. We'll even give you a class on how to do it.
- Aug 25 PM** Spiegel Grove (ADVANCED)
The Biggest Wreck around here. You have to see it to believe it. It takes a lot more than one or two dives to really see it. Join us for a great adventure.

ADA divers descend on the unspoiled reefs and mountains of Dominica By Connie Crowther

The shafts of light crossed and gleamed, heightening the red, orange, yellow, and purple colors of the deep wall reef. Caught in the divers' shafts of light were lacy basket starfish, twirling crinoids, lively lobsters and anemones in many colors. Myriad other sea creatures heightened the divers' excitement as they plunged 50 feet over the vibrant wall into the dark abyss.

Members of the Active Divers Association were doing a rare night wall dive off the lush, unspoiled central Caribbean island of Dominica when they witnessed this colorful tableau. This memorable dive was just one of a dozen or more our group did during its weeklong sojourn to the island, June 1-8. Some buddy pairs spent most of their waking hours under water, either on the morning two-tank dives or diving in the clear waters just off the Castle Comfort Hotel.

We could not get enough of the gorgeous, pristine reefs and walls, underwater pinnacles, swim-throughs and the veritable checklist of sea life. The island's volcanic origins came to life as we dived a unique site called Champagne, where bubbles rose from the hot vents below the seafloor. The five ADA underwater photographers on the trip had a heyday, taking thousands of shots.

Lon and Maria Von Lintel had the sighting of the week, though, when they spotted a big manta ray skittering over the wall when they were the first to enter the water from the dive boat off the picturesque village of Soufriere.

We also couldn't get enough of the wild mountain rides up 45-degree inclines (Eddie Lim lost all the change out of his pockets as we lurched up one heart-stopping section of the road), the market trips to nearby Roseau, the fresh seafood, vegetables and fruits, and the native breakfasts with fish and johnny cake.

We spent one afternoon whale watching and caught sight of 4-5 big sperm whales that live year-round in the deep waters around Dominica. We hiked to Titou Gorge, one of the Dominican locations where the two latest *Pirates of the Caribbean* films were made, and to Trafalgar Falls. We got wet on both forays, swimming into the gorge to a waterfall and relaxing in the mineral hot springs at the foot of the falls.

Other divers on the trip were Lee Wood, divemaster and trip leader, Sharon Baron, Nansy MacKenzie, Camilo Romano, Carol Kelley, Dafne Martinez, Tom Obermeier, Carol Schurtz, Chuck Porter, Mike Matthews and Connie Crowther.



Sharon Barron



Maria Von Little

ADA PRESENTED EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE COURSE MAY 20

Accidents can happen. You never know when or where. You might witness a serious auto collision. You might be on the scene of a beach drowning. You might even need to assist a diver in distress.

Every person who is physically able to help another should be ready to offer some form of first aid. Thanks to ADA member and EFR instructor, Frank Young, 11 more ADA members have the skill and training to help if called upon. You should feel safer than ever on future ADA dives knowing that at least a few of the divers on the boat have probably been recently trained or refreshed as Emergency First Responders.

The course consisted of three hours of hands-on practical training and a written test to determine cognitive learning. The new CPR procedures were demonstrated and practiced repeatedly until techniques were perfected. Thanks to our friends at the Florida Keys Dive Center we even had access to additional CPR manikins and to Automated External Defibrillator trainers. These amazing machines, found in airports, fire stations, and many other public places, are totally automated and talk you through each step in their set-up and use. Before taking this course, I would have been very reluctant to attempt to use one. Now, I would not hesitate.

I highly recommend everyone, even children, take this course. Frank plans to offer another, even more comprehensive CPR/First Aid/Oxygen Administration course on September 8th. Watch the newsletter for details.

Lon Von Lintel



PROUDLY WEAR YOUR ADA T-SHIRT!!!

You will earn 5 raffle tickets by wearing your ADA t-shirt at all ADA dive briefings. We want to see a sea of RED ! This a great way to tell everyone you are a member of the Biggest, Baddest, Boldest, Bravest, Bestists, bunch of divers on the face of the earth!! Everyone will ask, "Who are these red wonders?" It is also a good way to recruit new members and earn 20, that's right TWENTY RAFFLE TICKETS FOR THE BIG Free Drawing in October

ADA BULLETIN !

Disabled Divers Program Kickoff !

A leading national organization assisting disabled divers, Diveheart, needs volunteers to help in providing instruction to several disabled divers. Diveheart provides a special liability insurance for registered volunteers.

Pool instruction will be June 23-25 with Atlantis Dive Center, Key Largo.
Open water dives will be June 26-30.

This will be a great orientation for the similar **ADA** project later this summer.
Please contact **ADA member Connie Crowther** at 305 445 5545
or connie_crowther@msn.com

Thanks
Lon



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."

Send your photos, taken any time any where, to Nic. We will post, space permitting. See newsletter for instructions on how to send.

Post Dive BBQS

Cost \$10.00 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 \$10 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!

Keys Travel Delays 15-30 minutes.

Due to a large construction project on US 1, between Homestead and Key Largo, travel times to all sites in the Keys will be longer than usual. Plan to depart home earlier to avoid arriving late. Remember, divers must attend the briefing to be eligible to dive. Arriving late stresses everyone and detracts from your dive experience and enjoyment.



ADA FREE RAFFLE 2007

Prizes to be awarded:

First prize- one dive 5 pac for 2008

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.

5 ticket for proudly wearing ADA T-shirt.

5 tickets for winning the mini-raftles.

10 tickets for being the BBQ chef.

20 TICKETS, THAT IS RIGHT, TWENTY FOR SIGNING UP A NEW MEMBER!!!



ADA DIVE PACS 2007

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

Single purchase two tank local dives \$39

5 pacs-5 local two tank dives for \$165

Prices are for boat tickets only.

You may purchase a pac and later decide which dives you wish to reserve.

Specialty dives are at higher prices, will be announced.

**ALL DIVE PACS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE,
NON-TRANSFERABLE AND MUST BE USED IN 2007**



Photo Gallery

To see a great new gallery created by Nic Boyd and Chris Wood, go to www.activedivers.org and click on gallery.

Photos by Amaury Cruz, Dan Baeza, Nick Boyd, and others.

Send your photos, taken any time any where, to Nic. We will post, space permitting. See newsletter for instructions on how to send.

Good job guys!!



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.

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.

1.

HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

1. Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.
2. Call Lon (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave a message on the 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 report. See important weather information in this and every issue)
5. 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
7. Itemize dates of dives in the left hand corner of your check.
8. REMEMBER! That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.

ADA CHECK-IN TIMES !!!

Ours are different than the dive operators.
When making dive reservations or during the all important
WEATHER CHECK.
Inquire about the **ADA CHECK-IN TIME.** Please arrive on
time, or better yet, a bit earlier and chat with new friends and
old buddies.

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July 2007

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