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# The Mouthpiece

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July 2011 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## ADA kayak adventurers tour new ground

We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day! ADA divers and guests tried a change of pace and kayaked to Lignum Vitae Key on Sunday, June 12. The water was so clear, in shallow areas you could see the bottom. Wading herons fished for lunch, a lone wood stork guarded its beach, an osprey soared over the kayakers. A light cloud cover kept us cool.

On Lignum Vitae Key, we toured the Matheson House, built in about 1919, now a museum. After the short break, we re-launched and kayaked around the Key and then into the mangroves. Thousands of fry swam under and around the boats and we wondered what other creatures were being sheltered by the rich vegetation.

The dense prop roots surrounded us and although it was beautiful, we had to turn around; we could go no further. We found a more navigable channel and after about three 1/2 hours, returned to Robbie's where we freshened up and shared a gourmet lunch on the beach.

Visitors were thrilled with feeding the many huge tarpon. Crabs and tiny hermit crabs shared in the feast. A dog frolicked in the water, chasing the tarpon.

A perfect day.

Helen Colby





Hawks Bill  
Turtle  
Carol Cox



## Prepare for Hurricane Season

It's dive season, and whether you live on the shore or are traveling to a dive destination, weather considerations should be on your radar and part of your risk management planning. The East Pacific hurricane season began May 15, while the Atlantic hurricane season starts June 1 and continues until November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting an above average hurricane season this year. Forecasts indicate the potential for 12 to 18 named storms generating winds of 39 miles per hour or more. According to NOAA, the seasonal average is approximately 11 named storms in the six month season. The 2011 season predictions also suggest that three to six of these storms could turn into major hurricanes with winds in excess of 111 miles per hour.

The best way to handle a major storm is to be prepared. As the 2011 hurricane season begins, take an assessment of your home, travel plans and your emergency response measures to ensure you are prepared for storms of any size. Have a response plan outlined and ready to be enforced at a moment's notice. If you already have an established plan, review it and make sure it is still the most effective way to stay safe. Whether you have a plan or need to create one, there are several areas to consider.

If you live in a hurricane prone zone, pack a bag with important essentials. It is wise to do this prior to any type of emergency so if you need to evacuate, you can do so quickly and with everything you need. Guidelines typically recommend having enough provisions to support you and your family for approximately three to seven days. Some important items to include are a waterproof case with copies of important documents, such as insurance forms, medical records, social security cards and emergency numbers. You'll also want to pack basic survival supplies such as a first aid kit, fresh water supplies (1 gallon of water for each person per day), blankets and clothing. If you already have a kit, inspect the supplies like you would with any first aid kit. Replace any damaged or used materials, and update any outdated or expired documents.

### ADOPT A SHARK

The RJ Dunlap Marine Conservation program at the U of M Rosenstiel School has developed a shark tagging technique to study bull sharks, tiger sharks, and hammerheads sharks, all by satellite. Shark populations in S. Florida have been on the decline. The Dunlap program hopes to find out why.

You can help.

For a tax deductible \$2000, you can purchase a satellite tag, name your shark, and track it's movements in real time via Google.

For more info go to [www.rjd.miami.edu](http://www.rjd.miami.edu) or call [305 421 4356](tel:3054214356).

## July

- 7-2 Sat. am BNP \$59  
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'.
- 7-10 Sun. pm W. Palm (Advanced) \$49  
Drift Dive in swift currents, giant turtles, grouper, schooling fish and outstanding color. Depth 80-100', visibility 40' -100'. Many wreck/reef sites to choose. See advanced criterion this issue.
- 7- 17 Sun. pm Islamorada \$49  
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.
- 7-23 Sat. pm Tenneco wreck (Advanced) \$49  
Scheduled site - Tenneco Towers. 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 4050'. Expect currents and dramatic profiles, many fish. See advanced criterion this issue.
- 7-30 Sat pm N. Key Largo \$49 BBQ \$10, chef wanted  
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, and cudas.
- 7-30 Sat nite, N. Key Largo \$49  
For those who have never done a night dive, this is a great way to experience a unique new adventure. The night dive will be only 20 to 30 ft on a popular reef with lots of night critters. We'll even teach you how.

## August

- 8-6 Sat pm Duanne (Advanced) \$49  
Our favorite Coast Guard Cutter, upright in over 100 feet of blue water. It DOES count even when you don't touch bottom! OUR LIMIT 100 feet! See advanced criterion this issue.
- 8-14 Sun am BNP \$59  
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'.
- 8-20 Sat pm Islamorada \$49  
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.
- 8-27 Sat pm Miami Reef \$49  
What a nice way to dive. Local Boat, local reefs, local fish. Great way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

You may also pay online via PayPal .

### HOW TO SAVE OUR PLANET, BIT BY BIT

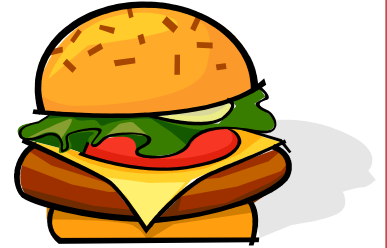
#### THE THREE R's OF BEING GREEN

- Reduce- consumption of electricity, gas, water, non-renewable resources, waste.
  - Reuse- plastic bags, boxes, paper, bottles, cans, containers and donate items.
  - Recycle- plastics of all types, paper, cardboard, glass, metals, if you can't reuse them.
- You can do these each day, every day.

## 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.

## ADA KEEPING DIVE COSTS DOWN

1. We do not plan to raise our local dive prices this year.
- 2 We are offering free beach dives this year in the metro area. No need to drive long distances to dives.
3. Our prices are still the lowest in town.

For Now, all ADA dives in 2011 will remain \$49. **Boat Ticket only!** Except the BNP dives which are \$59.

These prices may be changed without notice.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ADA



Juan Carvajal

Dorothy Olive

Rodney Bedgio

Helen Masin

Geoffrey Cheney

Patricia Hackett

Lisa Carstarphen

## ADA RULES & REGULATIONS

### 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

### 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 budded 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

### 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.

## 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 insur-

### 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:  
**Jerry Kosakowski , 8221 N.W. 8th Pl. Plantation, FL 33324** You may also pay online via PayPal on the "Dive Schedule" page.

Are you on Facebook? Join the ADA page here:

<http://www.facebook.com/ActiveDivers>

We can post your photos and share dive stories!

Send your pics and info to Helen at:

[adahcmiami@aol.com](mailto:adahcmiami@aol.com)



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NEWSLETTER

*July 2011*

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