



The Mouthpiece



August 2012 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL NORTH BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK CHARTER

Aug. 12, Sunday afternoon. \$49

We will be departing from Virginia Key, near the Rusty Pelican, for locations not usually dived by Miami dive boats. Aquatic Explorers new 42 ft. Newton is fast and comfortable. Sites may include Brewster, Star, Ledbury, and Fowey reefs. Parking near boat dock.

We have only 12 spaces reserved, so first come, first served. Call Lon 305 251 4975.

Summertime Diving!

By Carol Cox

A group of eager Active Divers Association members enjoyed the bright sunshine, warm temperatures and water smooth as glass on June 30 at Atlantis Dive Center in Key Largo. We had the boat practically to ourselves so there was plenty of room to move around. The first dive was at the Christ of the Abyss statue and although the visibility wasn't as great as it could be, the water is getting warmer by the day. We had a great dive of just over an hour with plenty of fish seen. The second dive was at Minnow Caves and while several divers saw the minnows, I must have been at the wrong cave since I didn't see any. There's always next time.

The crew on the Coral Princess I were friendly and attentive as usual and we all once again had a great time.

Thanks, Capt. Slate!

Speaking of Capt. Slate, he has opened a new tech diving center on the overseas highway called Capt. Slate's Expedition Dive center for all you teckies and rebreather fans out there. Give him a visit. (<http://expeditiondivegear.com>)

Blue Tangs



Trumpet Fish



Scorpion Fish



ADA dives at Florida Keys Dive Center on July 14, 2012

By Carol Cox

Even though the seas were said to be 3-4 feet, that didn't discourage a group of ADA divers from enjoying 2 afternoon dives on Molasses Reef and a night dive at Davis Ledge. The first dive on Molasses Reef had some current but nothing that we couldn't hold our own against. The viz was pretty good considering the surface swells and surge. I had forgotten to bring my cameras much to my displeasure so in desperation, I bought a plastic housed film camera at the dive shop. Better than nothing (I thought).

The second dive on Molasses Reef was in the same vicinity as the first but the viz was probably better there than going to another site. Several divers found a nurse shark holed up in a crevasse and two very large snook also gave us a good photo op. After a dinner break at the dock, we headed out to Davis Ledge for the night dive. The water had calmed down a bit and it was a good night for diving. We saw squid, a large hawksbill turtle and free swimming eels and lobsters but the piece de resistance was a huge turtle (estimated at about 500 lbs) up under Davis Ledge. His head was larger than a basketball. He finally had enough of everyone hanging around and turned to swim away, pushing past us and disappearing into the darkness. Truly amazing. I also saw a large lionfish up under the ledge but alas, no photos since I had not inserted the film into the camera correctly after the first two dives. At least the memories are there.



MYSTERY SOLVED !

On July 30th, 2011, a group of ADA night divers was underwater near the Elbow, Key Largo. Several witnessed a spectacular light show.

Unidentified organisms, translucent tubular cells, with a orange ball, attached to one another to form a long chain, were pulsing and flashing orange light. No one could offer a clue to their names. I have since seen a documentary on Nat. Geo. that identified them as Salps, a planktonic tunicate. They live in all oceans and are especially numerous in the Antarctic waters.

Our next night dive is 8-25. Join us, could we see them again?

HAPPY DIVING!

This your newsletter ! Send your articles and pics for publication to

Newsletter@activedivers.org.

August

- 4 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.
- 12 Sun. pm New! North BNP \$49
Sites include Brewster reef, Star reef, Ledbury reef, Fowey Light. Depth 20-40 ft. vis 40-60 Not often dived, special charter with Aquatic Explorers.
- 19 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.
- 25 Sat pm Eagle Wreck (*Advanced*) and nite \$49 each
The EAGLE, named for its donor, The Eagle Tire Company, is a huge freighter, lying on it's side in about 115' of water. Two green morays call it home, as do tarpon and barracudas. We call it a great dive! See advanced criterion this issue. The nite dive is not advanced.

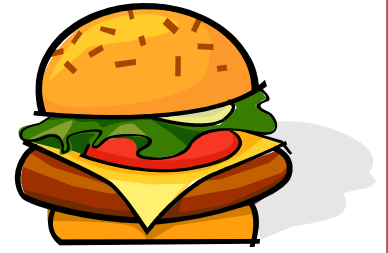
September

- 2 Sun pm Pompano \$49
What a great place to dive. Reefs galore. Get out the cameras and send the newsletter editor some pics.
- 8 Sat pm N. Pennekamp \$49 bbq \$10
Divers from around the world visit John Pennekamp State Park to explore the spectacular living reefs of the Florida Keys and experience diving amidst the area's extraordinary wildlife.
- 16 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.
- 23 Sun pm Miami wreck adv. \$49
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.
- 29 Sat S. Key Largo \$49
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.

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 2012 will remain \$49. **Boat Ticket only!**

These prices may be changed without notice.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ADA



AUGUST

Daniel Cheney

Lisa Doran

Chris Wood

Antonio Mancia

Luis Barrera

Irene Besser

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, 298 NW 83 Lane Coral Springs FL 33071-7439 You may also pay online via PayPal on the "Dive Schedule" page.



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