



The Mouthpiece



August 20 13 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

REEF Fest -

August 8th - 11th, 2013, Key Largo, FL

REEF Fest: 20 Years of Marine Conservation Success



Come celebrate 20 years of the REEF Volunteer Survey Project. REEF Fest in Key Largo this August will feature four days of diving, learning, and parties. Over 150 REEF members have already registered. It's going to be a great celebration.

In the summer of 1993, a group of pioneering volunteers conducted the first REEF fish surveys. Twenty years later, the Volunteer Survey Project and other REEF initiatives are leading the way as innovative and effective marine conservation programs.

In addition to daily diving and workshops, we have added options for snorkeling and kayaking!

ADA'S Conservation Projects "Words to Live By" Contest

by Roy D. Wasson, Conservation Projects Director

Although all of us are interested in conserving our natural resources and many of our members work on conservation projects from time-to-time, 2013 marks the inauguration of a formal conservation projects program for the ADA. As director of that effort I am looking into projects including collection of abandoned crab traps, installation of mooring buoys on sensitive wrecks, Lionfish rodeos, and others. ADA needs your help in identifying worthwhile and realistic conservation projects we can pursue both individually and as a club. This is your chance to help in that effort and to earn free dives in the process, in the ADA's "Words to Live By" Contest.

If you have ideas for slogans or phrases that remind us of the need to conserve our natural resources, and/or promote good habits to live by, send me those ideas by email to roy@wassonandassociates.com I will submit those entries anonymously to our contest judge, and each month the best entry will win a free dive trip.

Entries of course can, but do not need to be diving-related, and can deal with subjects including, but not limited to, clean energy, air pollution, littering, healthy eating, littering, and so forth. I look forward to your creativity and ideas.

ADA International Dive Trip to Utila: Welcome to Dive Camp!

By Rachel Davis

On a warm sunny July day nine brave ADA divers made their way to the jungles of Honduras to the remote island of Utila. Under the skillful leadership of experienced ADA trip leaders and seasoned world travelers Dan Baeza and Daryl Johnson, we braved the primitive remoteness, 100 foot wall dives, relentless deer flies, and awesome diving. The ADA troopers on this journey were Jay Abbazia, Roger Bach, Allen Bennett, Helen Colby, Evelyn Roisman, and the “honeymooners” John and Rachel Davis.

The first plane ride from Miami to San Pedro Sula in Honduras was thankfully uneventful. Then we were transferred to a very small 19-passenger de Havilland Twin Otter propeller plane – anyone remember Indiana Jones? The small plane flew over the verdant jungle mountains to the island destination nearing the dirt landing strip on our home for the next seven days. On our final approach to the tiny airstrip suddenly the mountains didn't seem so far away. We descended quickly through the tree tops in the wind barely clearing the hills on our way down which was the first of two near crash landings on this trip – more about that later. Then thankfully the small aircraft came to rest abruptly in the dirt. We got out, unloaded our bags, then were whisked down pothole-filled dirt roads to the Deep Blue Utila dive shop in the center of town.

Main street Utila is not very wide, and no sidewalks. Rather, bicycles, three-wheeled taxis, motor scooters, ATVs and pedestrians all compete for space on the narrow strip of road. There is barely room for two vehicles to pass, and all must make way for pedestrians, the makeshift game of dominoes that erupts on the side of the road, mothers carrying small children, and a smattering of European 20-something dive bums looking permanently blissed-out.

Then came the first of many rides on the Wall Nut, the industrial-strength dive boat that would be our chariot to adventure for the week. Skillfully piloted by native-Utilan Swin, the nine of us and all of our luggage made it across the bay to the Deep Blue resort, which is not accessible by road. We finally made it. Welcome to Dive Camp!

Remember those long adventure filled weeks spent at summer camp as a kid? Spending a week at Deep Blue Resort in Utila hearkened me back to those fun times! Long sunny days miles from any civilization filled with adventurous outdoor activities (in this case diving). Letters home written on our iPads, all meals served in the same mess hall, sleeping in wooden cabins with few amenities, fighting the hearty bugs at every turn. So bloodthirsty were the deer flies and no see ums that bug spray was as much of a necessity as the strongest sunscreen, a needed defense against the relentless equatorial tropical sun. Days consisted of diving and little else which is perfect for ADA members. That and watching the iguanas sun, the crabs scurry along the sand and the hummingbirds constantly feed while being lulled into blissful oblivion by the oceanfront view from our private hammock. The resort was beautiful, tranquil and peaceful. The staff was led by 77-year old Shirley, a distinguished Englishwoman who gives new meaning to multitasking and protestant work ethic. She was the front desk staff, concierge, dining room waitress, bartender, cashier and night watchman all rolled into one tireless package.

And the dive crew on the boat was nothing short of amazing. They changed over our tanks, rinsed our gear, lead every dive, showed us the best dive sites. The wall diving is spectacular with sheer drop offs that descended hundreds of feet into the abyss. Then halfway through each dive we would ascend up to the shiny sunlit reef above resplendent with beautiful stands of staghorn and elkhorn coral, lettuce leaf coral which is only found in Central America, and plentiful marine life for our 15-minute horizontal safety stop. The only thing missing about the diving was the elusive whale sharks, which hadn't been spotted in the area for over a month before our arrival. They must not have known that ADA was coming, or they surely would have made an appearance.

All in all we did 17 dives in the week including two night dives, in which we saw our only turtle. The routine was wonderful: eat, dive, eat, dive some more, eat again, hang out and visit or read emails, and sleep. After a full day of diving (and eating) we happily fell into bed exhausted at 9pm every night fully enjoying 8-9 hours of sleep at night, a luxury we can ill afford in our uber-busy lives at home. Well, those of us who still have to work for a living anyway.

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Heading back to Miami the adventure continued. On this leg the propeller plane was smooth and uneventful, as was the jet from Honduras, until we encountered the remnants of Tropical Storm Chantal as we attempted to land in Miami. Thunderstorms and wind shear made for a very turbulent ride, and the second landing attempt was aborted when the plane started shaking violently mere feet above the runway. Seems unexpected wind shear blew the plane off course moments before landing, and the next thing we knew we were hurtling back into the turbulent grey skies at full throttle. After a few more terrifying moments in the thunderstorms above Miami the pilot wisely and skillfully diverted the ill-fated flight across the state to Ft. Meyers, where blue skies and sunshine awaited us, and the passengers applauded enthusiastically for the captain when we finally landed safely. I personally expressed a blessing of gratitude to him for saving our lives upon leaving the aircraft. But here's where the fun really begins. After an hour on the ground, an hour stuck in the departure lounge, and a half-hour wait to get through customs, we were greeted by a two and one-half hour bus ride back to Miami. So we arrived back to MIA at 2am from the flight that was supposed to get us back at 6pm the day before. Nonetheless we were home safely, tired, happy and grateful to have survived the bugs, the 100 foot wall diving, and eventful journey home. Although Evelyn said she is going to miss not having to lather up with bug spray to get out of her room.

PS: Next year rumor has it that we will be going to Fiji which Lon says is in his top 10 best diving of all time. So start dreaming and saving now and make plans to join in the fun next summer.



ROY WASSON

NEW ADA DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Roy is passionate about saving our corals. He has attended both our coral restoration programs this past few years. His background is a good fit for this position.

He is founder of the Renewable Energy Fund, a lawyer specializing in Appellate Practice, founding president of the Antique Motorcycle Club of America, has a BA in broadcasting and is an Advanced Open Water diver since 1978. With all these activities on his plate, he still wants to make a difference for our u/w world.



BUT HE NEEDS YOUR HELP !

If you want to join Roy and make a difference, give back something to promote conservation, and want to be part of something bigger, call Roy [305 372 5220](tel:3053725220)

Change of Address or E-Mail

Are you getting your Active Divers Association eNews, our eMail newsletter of current activities? Are you receiving your print version of the monthly Active Divers Association Newsletter? If the answer to any of these questions is "no", the solution is as close as your computer or phone. Please email or call our membership chair Dan at:

Dr. Daniel M. Baeza, PhD, PE
Active Divers Association
Membership Chairman
Phone: [954-260-8225](tel:9542608225)
Email: dmbaeza@bellsouth.net

Are you getting multiples copies of the eNews or print version Newsletter? Help us correct our database and reduce waste by sending corrections to Dan at the contact information above.

ADA T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Just call Lon, and order size, (s-xx large) he will bring your shirt to the next event/dive you attend.

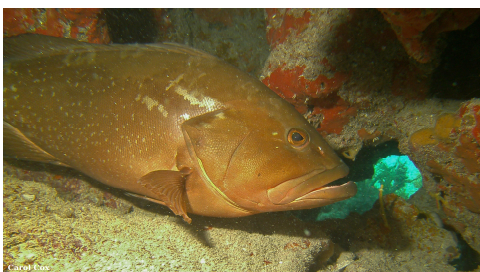
All sizes \$10

[305 251 4975](tel:3052514975)

June 29 Atlantis Dive - Minnows!

By Carol Cox

It was a bit bouncy on the boat but the sun was shining and ADA had 9 members diving on North Dry Rocks and Horseshoe Reef, other wise known as Minnow Caves. The viz was adequate on the first dive as we did the spur and groove of North Dry Rocks. A short boat ride over to Minnow Caves for the second dive proved to be the hit of the day....thousands upon thousands of minnows were in and around the caves, along with several large grouper and jacks waiting for a minnow meal. Several ADA members swam through the largest cave and watched a spotted grouper hovering inside along the wall. Several other divers on the boat said they saw two dolphin near the boat on the first dive as well. Another great day of diving with ADA!



August Dive Schedule

Aug.4, Sun, pm, Miami reef \$49
What a great place to dive. Reefs galore. Get out the cameras and send the newsletter editor some pics.

Aug.10 Sat. pm Duanne wreck (*Advanced*) \$49 BBQ \$10 need chef, dive free
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.

Aug.18, Sun. pm N. BNP shallow reef, \$49
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'.

Aug. 24 Sat., pm Tavernier \$49
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.

Aug.24 Sat. NIGHT Tavernier \$49
What a great way to see the reef! The reefs take on a whole new perspective at night. Never done a Night Dive? Come on, we'll teach you! Bring a flashlight and let's go diving.

Aug.31 Sat. Spigal Grove (*Advanced*) \$49 bbq \$10, need chef, dive free
Come explore our local big one. Lots to see and plenty of challenges. See advanced criterion this issue.

September

Sept. 8 Sun. pm Islamorada reef \$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.

Sept.14 Sat, pm Ft. Laud. reef \$49
Lot's of great sites to explore. Bring your camera and be prepared to be amazed.

Sept.21 Sat, pm Miami wreck (*Advanced*) \$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.

Sept.29 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.



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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 2013 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 Mancina

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.



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:

activediversassoc@gmail.com



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ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
August 2013

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