



The Mouthpiece



September 2012 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FREE RAFFLE, FREE BBQ, FREE DIVE !!

SATURDAY OCT 13

Who- ADA members and family

Where- John Lloyd State Park

1.5 miles north of Sheridan St. on A1A, Dania, Fl. The Pelican pavilion.

When- Beach dive at 8 am, raffle and bbq at noon.

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN RAFFLE PRIZES.

MUST RSVP TO WIN PRIZES

Call Lon, 305 251 4975 deadline Oct 10.

More info-

For beach diving, bring all your own gear and a dive flag if you have one. The reef is about 100 yds. off shore. The pavilion has covered shelter, very nice bathroom, showers, and changing room. We will have the bbq and raffle rain or shine, unless a hurricane threatens.

BBQ will include burgers, dogs, chicken, extras and all drinks.

A small fee is charged to enter the park, free parking. Non-ADA members and non-family members may attend but will be asked to contribute \$10, and are not eligible for the free raffle. They may also dive, but are not part of the ADA dive group.

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 or call [305 421 4356](tel:3054214356).

ADA Divers Savor “Pura Vida” in Costa Rica

By Rachel Davis

An enchanting land of rainforests, volcanoes, lush tropical vegetation lies just a short 2-1/2 hour flight from Miami. Here we find “pura vida” – where life is pure and unspoiled like the locals’ attitude toward a simpler life far from the chains of civilization. Seven lucky travelers experienced the beautiful eco-tourism mecca of Costa Rica’s North Pacific Coast during our annual ADA international dive trip.

Five ADA divers made the journey to Costa Rica – Dan Baeza, Daryl Johnson, Jay Abbazzia, Rachel Davis and Roger Bach, along with Rachel’s husband John and Roger’s girlfriend Joanie. The journey was smooth and easy and we all appreciated the quick non-stop flight that whisked us across the Gulf of Mexico and over the verdant mountains into Liberia airport. Unlike our excursion last year, thankfully there were no flight cancellations, delays or cramped busses lurching along steep winding roads. There was just a friendly driver and guide to greet us for a short one-hour ride in a comfortable bus to our little paradise for five days.

Playa del Flamingo is a beautiful seaside resort town in Guanacaste province, on the North Pacific coast. Central America enjoys a constant year round temperature of 85 degrees, so the resort had no doors or windows. Only an open air voluminous lobby leading out to a huge swimming pool complete with submerged barstools beside the swim-up bar.

Now as luxurious and relaxing as the wonderful Flamingo Beach resort was, some might just be content to spend all of their days relaxing by the pool. But not ADA divers. We were there to dive after all, so every morning like clockwork, our dive guide Roberto would faithfully pick us up at 7:30 in his silver Toyota pickup for the two minute trip to the dive shop and beach where our dive boat was waiting. However, being that there were five of us and only four seats inside the pick-up, there was always an interesting question of who would get to ride in the pick-up bed. PS: It wasn’t me!

Once at the dive shop, we followed a narrow path through the hotel to an oceanfront lawn, home to many fat and comfortable iguanas. Along the path we were instructed to place our shoes in the designated milk crate where we would board the “banger” a small wooden boat that would take us and our gear out to the Aqua Dream II where we would begin our day of diving.

Our divemasters were strapping young lads fresh from Liverpool and Birmingham, England who referred to the small boat as the “beng-uh” perhaps because its size and shape was reminiscent of English breakfast sausages. And boarding the “banger” was no small feat. We had to wait until the waves were just right and make a run for it while the coxswain held it in a steady grip, sling in the gear, and lunge for the middle rung before the next wave would come in and try and take the small boat out to sea with all of us and all of our gear along for the ride.

The sea water on the north pacific coast of Costa Rica resembles South Florida in only one aspect – it was a balmy 83 degrees. But that’s where the similarity ends. The water is in constant motion, and is a dark and murky gray. We traveled out to the Catalina “islands” which are basically volcanic rock outcroppings that rise straight up out of the sea with fanciful names like “sombbrero” and “cupcake” depending on their shape. But beneath the volcanic cupcakes lies a 360 degree wall dive with sloping sides all around. This makes for interesting zig zag currents near the top produced by the unending surge that constantly sends seawater splashing high above the rocks. Each cupcake is also adorned with craggy rocks, scraggly trees filled with large birds, and the occasional organ pipe cactus that seems to grow up straight out of the rocks. While the viz will never match that of home, the marine life was abundant and we saw many creatures that are never seen in Florida waters such as sea snakes, fluorescent orange starfish and zebra eels. Octopi would appear in broad daylight amid countless starfish as schools of spotted eagle rays soared overhead. From the boat we observed pods of dolphins swimming alongside us, and were even treated to a show of turtle mating! Dr. Dan commented that all the fish resembled a relative of those we know and love back home. And after one dive Daryl was heard to comment that the site was “lousy with starfish.” Not exactly my idea of lousy...

But the most fun game of all we would play would be to overturn the volcanic rocks to release clouds of yellow-green algae which the schools of exotic-looking angel fish were apparently craving. By the hundreds they would stream in a mad frenzy to feed on the fresh algae and sea creatures from underneath the rocks. Beware the diver who gets too close to the frenzy or he might find little fishies nipping at his ears thinking it’s a delicious morsel to sample from the upturned rocks.

Back at the Flamingo Beach resort we found terrific restaurants within walking distance in the village. Unlike many Caribbean islands where a trip outside the secured grounds could potentially be life threatening, Costa Rica is very safe and the people are warm and genuine. All the meals out were excellent and the breakfast served at the hotel every morning was outstanding. These moments were purely magical.

(con’t on page 3)



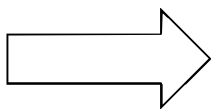
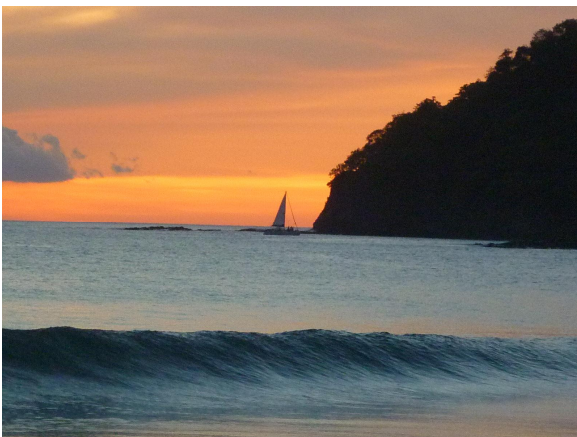
(continued from page 4)

Just steps from the back side of the resort was the Pacific Ocean which had unusual waves. Unlike California which has consistent large waves and Florida which usually has no waves, the water would start out as flat calm as Florida, then at predictable 5-10 second intervals one single enormous 6-10 foot wave would build out at sea and come crashing into the shore with violent force. Then the sea would immediately go back to being calm as glass. Of course the trick here is to run out as fast as possible during the short calm spell to get behind the breaking waves and ride the swells before they would break. This would be fun for awhile until we ended up in that one unlucky spot and get pounded by the surf. When the evening came this beach was the perfect locale to watch the most dramatic red orange sunsets over the

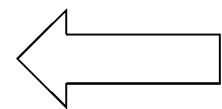
Costa Rica is perhaps even better known for its topside adventures and of course we had to take advantage. The first adventure consisted of zip lining through the lush tropical jungle, complete with rappelling. The second action packed day took us to a nearby volcano where the only way to the top was on horseback. After the horseback ride we wound around a jungle trail to a very narrow suspension foot bridge with cable railings spanning a 500 foot gorge and waterfall below. It looked like something out of a James Bond movie, thankfully sans the knives and bad guys! Well, almost. As we were carefully making our way across of course at least one person in the group who shall remain nameless came bounding down the bridge with heavy footfalls, shaking it with all their might. Nothing like making a precarious adventure that much more interesting. Not to worry, though. Dr. Dan assured us that the structural integrity of the bridge was very sound and that it could still effectively span the gorge and support our collective weight with half as many cables. Let me not try that on my next visit.

After the horseback ride back down the mountain, our journey continued to a volcanic steam pit with narrow wooden paths where we could view the boiling mud, hot ground and sulfuric steam pits, complete with hell fire and brimstone. The path ended at a volcanic mud pit where the brave ones among us scooped our hands into the volcanic mud and spread it over our entire bodies, then rinsed off at a shower made from clay statues demonstrating the sizeable assets of the local natives. We then had three Jacuzzi tubs to choose from: warm, hot and hotter.

But all great adventures must come to an end, leaving us looking forward to the next one on the schedule. On the way to the airport Dan and Daryl divulged the proposed location of the 2013 ADA International dive trip which will be taking place the first week of August, so everyone can start making plans now. Utila? You betcha!



ADA INTERNATIONAL TRIP
UTILA, HONDURAS.
Tentative date July 18-22, 2013



July 28 North Key Largo Dive

By Carol Cox

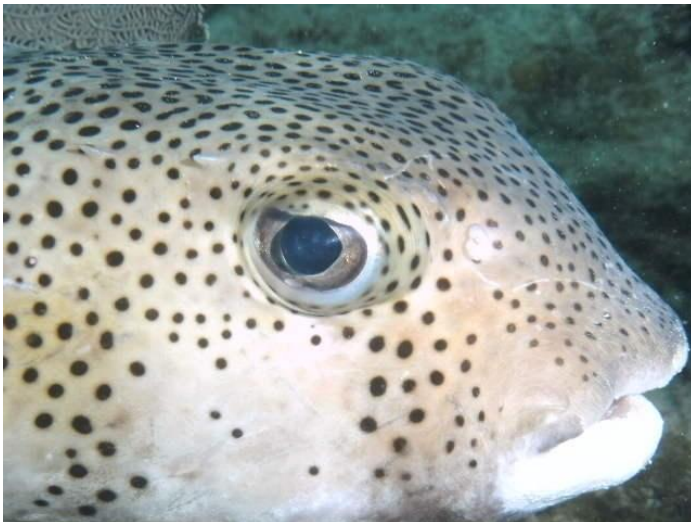
The weather was perfect, the seas were calm and a group of eager ADA divers returned to the North Dry Rocks area with Capt. Slate's Atlantis Dive Center. We visited the Christ of the Abyss statue and Minnow Caves, just as we did last month but this time, there were thousands if not millions of silversides in a huge 'bait ball' in and around the caves, along with a host of hungry grouper. Swimming into the middle of the minnows, it was difficult to tell which way was up (other than watching your bubbles) because the ball of fish was so dense! The grouper and other fish darted in and out of the fish mass, while copper sweepers occupied the darker areas of the caves. It was a truly amazing experience. Unfortunately, the batteries in my camera strobe died during the dive but there was enough ambient sunlight to take a few photos. As if the dives weren't good enough, thanks to Rachel Davis for a wonderful Bar B Que afterwards. I had such a great time that I went off and left my dive gear bag sitting on the dock and had to hastily return the Key Largo the next morning to claim it. Thanks to Gene, our divemaster, who saw it and stored it in his truck overnight since everything was already locked up when he left. My panic was replaced by tears of joy when my bag was returned to me by the helpful Atlantis crew. They really do look after their customers! Thanks Gene, Bryan and Captain Slate for saving my day (and a couple thousand dollars worth of gear!).



Aug 4 Islamorada

By Carol Cox

A group of ADA divers were again blessed with fabulously sunny weather in Islamorada at Keys Dive. We headed out to a shallow reef called Rocky Top that was absolutely gorgeous. With the sun's rays magnifying the brilliant colors of the reef, we found quite a few southern sting rays, puffer fish, spiny urchins, schools of yellowtails, porkfish and every other type of fish you can think of. We then moved a short distance to another equally colorful reef called Morada where we again saw southern sting rays, puffers, flamingo tongues and reportedly nurse shark, octopus and an eel. It was yet another reason why belonging to ADA is such a rewarding diving experience.



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.

October

- 7 Sun pm Hollywood (*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.
- 13 Sat am John Lloyd State Park Free BBQ
See page 1 for more information
- 14 Sun pm BNP \$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'.
- 20 Sat pm Spiegel Grove (*Advanced*) \$49 BBQ \$10
Come explore our local big one. Lots to see and plenty of challenges. See advanced criterion this issue.
- 28 Sun pm Ft. Lauderdale \$49
Lot's of great sites to explore. Bring your camera and be prepared to be amazed.

November

- 3 Sat pm Duanne Wreck (*Advanced*) \$49
- 11 Sun pm Boynton (*Advanced*) \$49

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



September

Joy Dequine

Mia Sohn

Carol Cox

Josh Kaufman

Wielert Nancy

Louis Bumb

Roger Smalling

Adeel Jamal

Mara Suarez-LeGault

Josefina Hansen

Gabriel Kaufman

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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NEWSLETTER
September 2012

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