



The Mouthpiece



October 2011 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FREE RAFFLE, FREE BBQ, FREE DIVE !!

SATURDAY OCT 22

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 15.

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).

October

- 10-2 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.
- 10-8 Sat pm N. Key Largo \$49
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, cudas.
- 10-15 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.
- 10-23 Sun pm Eagle Wreck (*Advanced*) \$49
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.
- 10-29 Sat pm Ft Lauderdale (*Advanced*) \$49
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. See advanced criterion this issue.

November

- 11-6 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'.
- 11-13 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.
- 11-20 Sun pm Speigal Grove (*Advanced*) \$49 BBQ \$10
Come explore our local big one. Lots to see and plenty of challenges. See advanced criterion this issue.

Shark Weekend! Biscayne National Underwater Park, Sept 18, 2011

By Carol Cox

Eleven ADA members were treated to a spectacular day at Biscayne National Underwater Park, although it was a bit ominous to begin with since it poured rain from the Convoy Point channel to Cesar's Creek but once on the outside, the skies parted and we enjoyed bright sunshine for the remainder of the day. We headed south to Ball Buoy Reef and dove what the locals call Virginia Reef for the first dive. The viz was pretty good, minimal surge and nice, warm 85 degree water. I have been diving on this reef since about 1992 and this is the best condition I have ever seen it. The corals and plant life have grown immensely, indicators of good, clean water. Some of us took the right side swim through to what I have always referred to as 'the out back' reef where we spotted a six foot nurse shark under a ledge, among other creatures. Heading back to the reef where the boat was moored, we came across the 'I' beam which has been laying on the bottom for years. I hardly recognized it since it has so much growth on it. This 'I' beam used to be a marker that was blown over and has laid on the bottom every since. A turtle was also seen on the reef, as well as many Christmas tree worms, a flamingo tongue and the same nurse shark again, this time in a cave under the boat. The 'Boca Chita' dive boat was moved a short distance to another ball to what was called 'Scott's Reef', named after one of the dive shop managers during the 90's. This reef also had many swim throughs, caves and crevasses. We saw a Caribbean reef shark dart through the water and following it into a swim through, we found it resting on the bottom. It didn't move when we peered in at it, both from the side and the front....which is highly unusual for a Caribbean reef shark. This is the same cave where I saw a Caribbean reef shark and a nurse shark about fifteen years ago. I slowly maneuvered between the two sharks and lay between them taking photos. The dive master saw me between the two sharks so I was known as 'Sleeping With Sharks' ever since. Anyway, we had another great dive with grouper sightings, a turtle and to my surprise, healthy elkhorn corals, pillar coral and lush plant life along with schools of jacks, juvenile barracuda and yellowtails. The reef looks very healthily and hopefully it will stay that way. After the dives, we had a nice Bar B Que with Lon and myself doing chef duties. Everyone enjoyed the day with ADA.

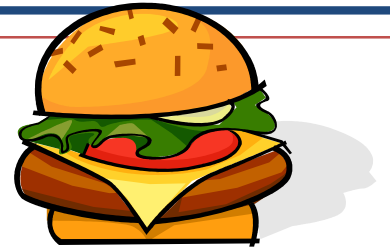


Sept 25 ADA dive at Atlantis Dive Center, Key Largo

By Carol Cox

It was a dark and stormy day.....at least, it started out that way but the sun did peep through on the way out to our dive sites. Nine brave ADA divers decided that wind nor rain would stop us from getting wet. We stopped at the Christ statue but the boat captain felt that 5 foot seas would be a bit much so we headed over to Minnow Caves. The viz wasn't that great and there was some surge but it was still an interesting dive. It may have been raining on the surface but beneath, it was strangely eerie, dark and quiet. Many of the sea creatures must have thought it was night time because they were out and about even though it was mid afternoon. We saw a Spanish lobster sticking itself out of a coral head, schools of juvenile barracuda, Queen Angels, and on one occasion, blue tangs feeding on a moon jelly. The moon jellies were still abundant but not as much as in previous weeks. We moved on to Horse Shoe reef for the second dive and again, creatures were out and about including crabs (pinching Dr Dan's finger!), tons of angel fish, more barracuda, a turtle and a green moray eel, who had his body flattened out in a hole to keep from being moved about by the surge. The boat was rockin and a rollin but we still had two great dives. Sometimes, the bad weather above makes for good diving below.





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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ADA

David Goldberg

Alejandro Acosta

Fernan Stratta

Patricia Widener

Mark Lewis

Rosemary Wood

Maria Zarceno

Enrique Gonzalez

Michael Wasson

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.

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

October 2011

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