

Under Sea Adventurers

Dive Lines

Volume 27 Number 7

July, 1999

July 1st Meeting

Rescue Diver

PADI will provide an excellent video on a Rescue Diver Program.

Sean Horin-VP of Programs



4th of July Party!!

Fireworks! Music!,
Barbecue! Volley Ball! - Byob,
Byof - If you miss it, you've missed it!

4pm - Sean Horin's house -
1223 Hillsboro Mile -
Hillsboro Beach- Hillsboro blvd east to A1A,
south 8/10s of a mile , on left .
call 954-418-0620
or email rhodin@bellsouth.net. - re.what
to bring parking inst. etc.

Dinner at the Pasta Cafe

UnderSea Adventurers isn't just a dive club - it's a great group of friends! To give us more time to develop those friendships we designate a local eating place to meet before the regular meetings.

See you around 6pm at:

Pasta Cafe

490 W Hillsboro Blvd
Deerfield

Just East of I95 on South side of road,
strip shopping center next to French Cleaners.

Sherry Boudreaux & Mary Field, VP Social

Inside

Phone Numbers	2
President's Waves	3
Tobago Trip	4
Remaining Overseas Trips 1999 .5-6	
Local Diving	6
Membership News and Notices	7
Calendar	8

UnderSea Adventurers

Web site:

www.gate.net/~usadiver

DAN website:

www.diversalertnetwork.org

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month at
Deerfield Bch Chamber of Commerce
1601 E. Hillsboro Blvd.
Deerfield Beach, FL
Dinner: 6:00 PM (various locations)
Social: 7:30 PM
Meeting: 8:00 PM

Come Join Us!

At the Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce, located on the North side of Hillsboro Blvd. at the 2nd traffic light East of US 1 (Federal Hwy.), across the street from the Cove Restaurant.

USA Hall of Fame

Alan Barrows	Carl Meyer
Mary May Barrows	Jerry Millspaugh
Joe DellaFera	Kathy Millspaugh
Esther Drury	Carl Nolting
Jim Dunn	Hank Paurowski
Anne Dupont	Sue Revie
Sue Fish	Gary Sharp
Chuck Goby	Robert Shearer
Gerry Greene	Marie York
Nancy Greene	Marilyn Van
Paul Guyon	Valkenburg
Kathi McCutcheon	

Board of Directors: Officers

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President's Waves

Yes, it is my most overused phrase, but nothing I can think of says it as well. If you missed it, you missed it! Sixteen of us just returned from Tobago and now we understand why Peter Hughes says it his favorite place to dive in the whole world. The lush coral, tropical fish, and other sea critters and creatures all owe their beautiful selves to the sometimes swift currents which feed them. While these currents can be intimidating and sometimes even frightful or dangerous, they are what makes Tobago diving what it is. Once you become accustomed them, you may even miss them, as you glide along the reef, watching the clouds of brine shrimp providing food for other tropicals or the thrill of seeing the world's largest brain coral. At one spot named the Aquarium, there were spaces in the coral which the dive guides referred to as Kamikaze Cuts. Here the current could be as much as 3-4 knots and reminded me of a roller coaster underwater—What a RUSH!!!

The dive masters were very impressed with us, as no one in the group asked for more than 12 lb. of lead. And, the first time we were given the 5 minute warning, we were all ready after 5 minutes, to his pleasant surprise. A testament to the level of experience and expertise of USA divers. Something I sometimes miss when I am diving with other groups.

One of the highlights of the trip had to be the Mantas which greeted us at the return of every dive. As we would approach the dock, one or two of these beautiful creatures would glide past the

boat and wave a wing tip to us. There looking for a soft touch or to give you a gentle ride if you held it loosely. I know that each of us as USAer's had pledged to look and not touch, and last year, some of us went halfway around the world to YAP just to look and were not allowed to touch. At first I was reluctant to touch and even discouraged others. But, it is just like Stingray city in Grand Cayman. These guys have grown to love and enjoy the touch of humans. As the dive guides said, When they no longer want it, they will leave, just as they have come here for it. You just cannot resist the urge to get in the water with your snorkel when one glides by and raises that wing tip out of the water and waves to you. Ask Jim Dunn who took his spare air out just to get more time in less than ten feet of water than others of us only on snorkel. This experience alone was worth the price of admission!

Also, we had the pleasure of a USA applicant along who signed up for the trip at the last minute and has volunteered to give us her perspective as one who didn't really know any of us or much about USA, except that she wanted to join and wanted to go on the trip. I think you will enjoy her article very much. And at the June 10th board meeting, Eunice Hamblin, our new member and Tobago traveler was elected to the position of Scrapbook/Awards coordinator, recently vacated by Ann Stambaugh. We will miss you Ann and Thank You, Eunice!!



Continued on page 7

Tobago Trip

First Impressions From a New Member:

First I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the trip and my overall impression was that it was well organized, had lovely accommodations and any unexpected surprises, like the food, are to be expected and fun to remember.

The beautiful dives more than made up for the food. I loved it!! The first couple I met was Hank and Sharon who are so motivated to dive with USA Divers that they drive down from Tequesta!. Their relationship was refreshing. It is not often that you see marriage partners be such good friends. Steve and Kathi were a real treat since they like to dive and hike. Kathi's not afraid to jump under a waterfall with Gary. Steve, like a boyscout, always has his backpack! Somehow he managed to have ice in that backpack and we were a long way from an ice machine.

Speaking of Gary. Now there is an interesting fellow. He got lost constantly when he wasn't diving and Ronnie, like a good trip leader, was trying to reel him in. He just found out that he was allergic to wheat products which made him an interesting student to Betty, the nutritionist, who knows everything about wheat products. Betty was the only one who really knew what we were eating. Betty could make distilled water in her room. She was a real wizard!

Carl blasted Betty for two days after she unintentionally ordered white rice for all of us. Carl is the man with a thousand stories. He is incredibly loveable in spite of the fact that he says whatever he wants, like, "what kind of a dive boat is this?" or something about women were meant to serve which would normally send me over the edge!

Nils had a lot of gadgets hanging from his dive gear and when he was out of the water, he was taking apart gadgets. Actually, I think Steve, Jim and Nils were dissecting a variety of equipment. They were the repair team. Larry and Chary reminded me of good friends and seemed very comfortable with each other. Sally and Jim are an inspiration to the entire group. It was quite obvious that they are held in high esteem and loved by their fellow divers. Larry was trying to educate me about the uniqueness of this dive club. But that was not necessary. I do not think that I have been in such a diverse group of people that showed so much kindness and consideration towards each other. It was truly a privilege to travel and meet these exceptional people. I look forward to meeting more of the same.

Eunice Hamblen, New Member

Exotic Trip: Coral Sea

Our 10 day, specially chartered, owner operated liveaboard, the Elizabeth E, will take us 250 miles from the Barrier Reef to Marion and Lihou Reefs, the most remote, virgin, and pristine of all the Coral Sea reefs. There are miles of virgin coral formations. Soft corals grow to immense size with vivid colors that encompass a rainbow of hues. Due to the absence of diving and boating activity, these remote atolls are home to a remarkable array of marine life.

After we finish diving we can look forward to four fun filled adventurous days on land.

Day 1: White water rafting on the Tully River.

Day 2 and 3: A back to nature, wilderness adventure in one of the few World Heritage status rainforests.

Day 4: We will take a four mile gondola ride over the top of a rainforest to the higher tablelands west of Cairns.

Dates: October 30 - November 16, 1998

Liveaboard trip: 10 days

Land trip: 4 days

Price for liveaboard and land: \$4950;
liveaboard only \$4450.

Includes: airfare, transfers, all diving and meals on the liveaboard, some meals on the land trips, and all gratuities.

Trip leader: Marilyn Van Valkenburg

Gary Sharp, Exotic Trip Organizer

561-750-0013

Divers that are going:

Linda Caldwell, Bonnie Cronenberg, Jim Dunn, Chuck Goby, Bob Horin, Linda Ianniello, Dianne Johnston, Nancy Karlovetz, Chary Lynn, Patrice Marker, Frank Morgan, Joanne Morgan, Carl Nolting, Dom Orlando, Hank Resch, Carol Schurtz, Gary Sharp, Sally Snodgrass, Roger Styles, Larry Townsend, Marilyn Van Valkenburg, Betty Wedman-St LouisBob Weybrecht

Belize

Those who have been on a Peter Hughes liveaboard know that he has attained his goal and as of this writing, sixteen Under Sea Adventurers will be going on one of these excursions in July. We still have four openings so if you think that you might want to do something special in this, the last summer of the century, come on and join us! Forget about Y2K and let's go diving at Tarpon Cave, just one of the dive spots that we will visit while exploring the Belizean barrier reef.

The Wave Dancer has a length of 120 ft. and has ten staterooms, each has it's own shower and head. Nitrox is available at no extra charge and if you don't have a nitrox certification, you can get it while on this trip! Just another safety option to keep those "bad" nitrogen bubbles at bay!

Depart: July 24, 1999

Return: July 31, 1999

Included: Airfare to and from Belize City
All meals and sodas, gratuities
Departure tax from U.S.

Cost: \$2095.00 price based on Twin Stateroom

Trip Leader: Tommy Younger 561-338-7687

e-mail: YHT@juno.com

The divers that are going:

Larry Townsend, Chary Lynn, Sean Horin, Peggy Haretas, Linda Ianniello, Anne Dupont, Dom Orlando, Matt Barton, Patrice Marker, Judy Townsend, Bill Snow, Nancy Hennis, Linda Caldwell, Uschi Shearer, Tommy Younger

Dry Tortugas Trip

Only one spot left! We're going to some of the best game-producing reefs in Florida - the waters surrounding the Dry Tortugas National Park, 70 miles west of Key West.

Depart (from Fort Myers):

Thursday, Aug 12, 1998, 7:00 PM.

Return: Monday, Aug 16, 1998, 4-5:00 PM.

Package includes:

4 nights & 3 + days diving

Tanks, weights, nitrox fills

All meals, beverages, snacks

Gratuities

Not included:

bedding (sheet & blanket / sleeping bag),
towels, personal items

Beer/wine — (BYOB)

Cost: \$640

Trip Leader: Robert Shearer (561) 487-7442

For a report on last year's trip, visit the USA web site: www.gate.net/~usadiver

The Divers who are going on this trip:

John Baron, Matt Barton, Joe Bonnette, Bob Cistrelli, Gail Cistrelli, Charles Collette, Ed Collette, Jim Constable, Greg DeFelice, Chuck Goby, Devon Guld, Jim Guld, Nancy Hennis, Dan Logia, Lolin Palares, Pete Sayles, Robert Shearer, Bill Watts, Kim Whaley

LOCAL DIVING

The weather has not been very cooperative of late so let's hope and pray that it will be nice for the next RAFT-UP!! It is scheduled for July 10, 1999 and we are hoping that there won't be any tropical storms or hurricanes in the area at that time!

Raft Up!! July 10

The Wednesday night quickies have resumed so give Steve Walsh a call if you would like to break up the week with a one tank dive, some friends and some pizza. We will also be putting together an occasional two tank night dive so let me know if you are interested.

Sometimes the dives that I put together are spontaneous so I use e-mail and the telephone to let people know about these dives. If you have a desire to get wet and you are not on my e-mail list, please let me know and I will make every effort to contact you about these dives.

If any of you have a favorite dive site or dive boat that you would to visit or use, let me know and we will try to accommodate you. The waters have definitely warmed up again so let's go diving!



*Tommy Younger
Local Diving VP
561-338-7687
YHT@juno.com*

Membership News

Welcome New Members:

Eunice Hamblen

Carol Himes

Nancy Luellan

Lolin Pallares

Waymeth Stowell

Welcome New Applicants

Ray Dranoff

Debbie Wolf

Marni Weiner

Roger Jones

President's Waves, continued from p.3

Also, Matt Barton has accepted and been approved by the board to be the new USA WEBMASTER. Our Thanks to Chris Van Valkenburg who was instrumental getting the site up and running. We look forward to seeing the enhancements and improvements that Matt will bring to our site. Please express your congratulations and gratitude to both Eunice and Matt at the next meeting or the next time you see them. We appreciate their dedication to helping make the club what it is.

And once again, I witnessed a high pressure hose bursting underwater. Thankfully not one of our group, but another diver on our boat. However, I did see one of our own USAer's recently gearing up for a dive and as he pulled his left fin on, his strap broke. Not another on board, but able to do a temporary repair. It could have ruined a dive. Once again I urge you to check your equipment for old or worn pieces or parts, Your life just might depend on it.

IF YOU MADE IT, YOU MADE IT!!!!

And

IF YOU MAKE IT, YOU'LL MAKE IT!!!!

Safe diving and ...

Thank you for your Support!!

*Larry Townsend,
YOUR President for 1999*

Top 10 Things You Won't Hear from a Dive

Operator when Booking a Trip:

10. "Hey, you're the first guest since..the accident".
9. "Sorry, we can't take reservations 'til last week's group is found."
8. "Our boats are Reef Diver I and Reef Diver III. Reef Diver II is our first dive for the day, located in 130 feet, five miles out."
7. "We can make you a really good deal if you know something about boat engines."
6. "Don't worry about the currents, if we don't find you I'm sure Search and Rescue will."
5. "That whale shark pictured in our brochure is the only one we've seen in 20 years of diving here."
4. "No, we don't have a shark dive, but we do feature a Portuguese man o' war encounter."
3. "Can we borrow your boat?"
2. "We have a spit technician for all your anti-fogging needs."
1. "Now, we do ask that you bring your own tropical fish."

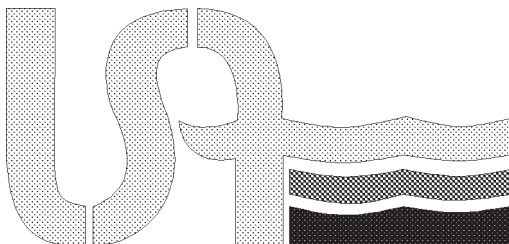
<http://www.scubadiving.com/feature/topten>

Calendar

Jul 1, Thu.	7:30 Social
Jul 4	8:00 Meeting - Rescue Party: Sean Horin's 954-418-0620
Jul 8, Thu.	7:00 Board Meeting Ray McAllister's
Jul 10	Raft Up!
Jul 24	Belize Live-aboard
Aug 7	Raft Up!
Aug 12	Dry Tortugas
Aug 28	Beach Party
Oct 30	Bob Horin's Coral Sea trip

M Van Valkenburg, #2703
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FIRST CLASS



Under Sea Adventurers

Call/Mail M. Van Valkenburg with any Directory changes.