

Under Sea Adventurers

# Dive Lines

*It's always an adventure*

Volume 30 Number 1

[www.underseas.org](http://www.underseas.org)

January, 2002

*January 3rd, Meeting*

## January Program: *Medicines from the Sea*

Our original program for November rescheduled for this January. Dr. Russell Kerr from Florida Atlantic University, a Professor of Chemistry, will speak on "Medicines that Owe their Existence to Marine Plants and Animals." This interesting area of research is being pushed as man exterminates species with extremely valuable potential before they can be tested.

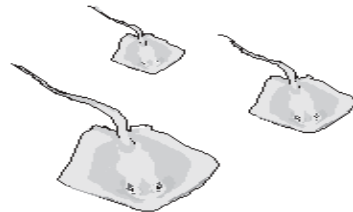
Some of you will remember the great excitement over shark liver as a potential cancer cure. Wasn't so, but there are thousands of other fauna and flora not yet tested. Dr. Kerr will illustrate his talk with a Power Point projected slide show. He will be having supper with us.

*Ray McAllister, VP of Programs*



## NEW MEETING LOCATION

We are MOVING! Our meeting in January will be at the **Avian Restaurant, 1401 S. Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach**, in front of the Ramada Inn. This is four blocks south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street on the West side.



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## UnderSea Adventurers website:

[www.underseas.org](http://www.underseas.org)

## DAN website:

[www.diversalertnetwork.org](http://www.diversalertnetwork.org)

### Meetings:

First Thursday of each month at

#### Avian Restaurant

1401 S.Federal Highway

Deerfield Beach, FL

Dinner: 6:00 PM, Early Bird until 6:00PM

Social: 7:30 PM, Happy Hour 6-8PM

Meeting: 8:00 PM

### Come Join Us!

At the Avian Restaurant, four blocks  
South of 10th St. on the West side, in  
front of the Ramada Inn.

## USA Hall of Fame

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

### Board of Directors: Officers

President .....	Kathi McCutcheon	954-432-1960
	<a href="mailto:kathianandsteve@aol.com">kathianandsteve@aol.com</a>	
VP of Programs .....	Ray McAllister	.... 954-426-0808
	<a href="mailto:dinodivr@bellsouth.net">dinodivr@bellsouth.net</a>	
VP of OS Diving .....	Nils Jacobsen	.... 954-783-1667
	<a href="mailto:TGM349@email.mot.com">TGM349@email.mot.com</a>	
VP of Social Events .....	Mary LePage	.... 954-917-3082
	<a href="mailto:muskymama@mediaone.net">muskymama@mediaone.net</a>	
VP of Local Diving .....	Linda Grist	..... 561-369-1286
	<a href="mailto:LJG247@hotmail.com">LJG247@hotmail.com</a>	
Secretary .....	Linda Caldwell	... 561-391-0080
	<a href="mailto:lindalou34@juno.com">lindalou34@juno.com</a>	
Treasurer .....	Judy Townsend	.. 561-391-4364
	<a href="mailto:judytowns@aol.com">judytowns@aol.com</a>	

### Board of Directors: Appointees

Audio Coordinator .....	Jim Guld	..... 954-484-7443
	<a href="mailto:Jim@jimandchris.com">Jim@jimandchris.com</a>	
Hospitality Coordinator ....	Dianne Johnston	954-781-9439
	<a href="mailto:djohnston323@yahoo.com">djohnston323@yahoo.com</a>	
Membership Coordinator	Karen Goodman	561-963-4173
	<a href="mailto:kgoodman49@worldnet.att.net">kgoodman49@worldnet.att.net</a>	
Membership Database ....	Patrice Marker	.... 954-577-7919
	<a href="mailto:patmarker@aol.com">patmarker@aol.com</a>	
Mini-Trip Coordinator .....	Ronnie Farr	..... 954-783-1667
	<a href="mailto:rfarr@bellsouth.net">rfarr@bellsouth.net</a>	
OS Dive Accountant .....	Linda Ianniello	.... 561-999-9820
	<a href="mailto:Lindai@us.ibm.com">Lindai@us.ibm.com</a>	
Photographer .....	Carol Schurtz	..... 954-746-5578
	<a href="mailto:madnurse@aol.com">madnurse@aol.com</a>	
Promotions Coordinator ..	Theresa Shaner	. 561-493-0600
	<a href="mailto:tshaner@aol.com">tshaner@aol.com</a>	
Safety Coordinator .....	Robert Horin	..... 954-418-0620
	<a href="mailto:rhoin@bellsouth.net">rhoin@bellsouth.net</a>	
Scrapbook/Awards .....	Chary Lynn	..... 561-330-7490
	<a href="mailto:CSEAFLOWER@aol.com">CSEAFLOWER@aol.com</a>	
WebMaster/Newsletter ....	Matt Barton	..... 561-338-9846
	<a href="mailto:bartonmg@bellsouth.net">bartonmg@bellsouth.net</a>	

# President's Waves

## NEW YEAR, NEW PRESIDENT, NEW MEETING PLACE

For those of you new to our club, let me introduce myself. My name is Kathi McCutcheon and I have held various Board positions for nine years since joining USA in 1985. As your new President, I hope to continue with many fine traditions and lead us in some new directions.

The first change is a wonderful new meeting location which I think you will all enjoy. I have arranged to start meeting in January at the Avian Restaurant, 1401 S. Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach, in front of the Ramada Inn. This is four blocks south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street on the West side. Join us around 6 pm for dinner if you chose. Prices are very reasonable, Early Bird Specials until 6 pm, Happy Hour from 6 to 8. The new meeting room adjoins the bar and is very attractive and comfortable. It is carpeted, has a dance floor, padded chairs and booths along the sides. The acoustics should be much better than they were at the Chamber of Commerce.

We don't have a swearing in ceremony, but these are the President's commitments as I see them:

- Preside at meetings
- Coordinate club activities
- Take care of business and keep the club running smoothly

- Represent the club to the community
- Serve the general membership and welcome suggestions

Our club was formed in 1971 to allow members to travel together and benefit from group discounts. This is what makes us different from many other clubs. I am proud to see our members are fully participating in the 2002 dive program. I was not sure members would travel after September 11, but I should have known we are adventurers. Of course we will plan trips with airport safety in mind, and avoid trouble spots. Isn't it wonderful that we have the serenity of our underwater world in these troubled times?

Come on out January 3<sup>rd</sup> to see our speaker, Russell Kerr, tell us about pharmaceuticals from underwater critters.

### DON'T FORGET THE NEW LOCATION!

*Kathi McCutcheon*  
*Your UnderSeas Adventurers President for 2002*



# FERNANDO DE NORONHA, BRAZIL

## MAYBE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE FIRST TRIP OF 2002

Fernando de Noronha is a mountainous island archipelago located 215 miles east of Brazil and just a few degrees below the equator. Almost 70% of it is a National Marine Park more restrictive than the Galapagos Islands. Be among only 420 visitors allowed on the island, but do not bring a knife or gloves as they are forbidden.

The main island is 6.2 miles long, 2.2 miles wide and makes up 91% of the 21 island chain. It is located 2 time zones east of us on an enormous volcanic formation 2,480 feet below the surface. The average temperature is 77 degrees and varies only 7.4 degrees. Humidity is 81.5%. Water temperature is around 80 degrees with visibility usually around 100 feet.

You will be diving in volcanic topography like the Galapagos with rocky outcrops, ledges and caverns, but in warm water. The world's largest school of spinner dolphins is located in the Bay of Dolphins and we may encounter them on our dives. The island is the breeding grounds for gray reef sharks and sometimes 20 to 30 of the very curious juveniles will check out the divers. Besides sharks and dolphins the islands are breeding grounds for hawksbill and green sea turtles and

many species of birds. The fish life is quite prolific as there are only 8 fishermen left on the island. When they quit fishing it will be forbidden.

There are no hotels on the island so we will be staying in quaint pousadas... bed and breakfast guest houses. There are many hiking opportunities to old forts, prison ruins and isolated beaches. One deep dive is offered to a 150-foot Brazilian destroyer which is totally intact at 180 feet.

**Date:** March 22 - 31, 2002  
departs Miami Friday evening

**Includes:**  
Airfare

7 nights accommodation on island  
with breakfast.

Transfers, 6 days diving 2 tanks a day

Boat tour in Dolphin Bay  
and 2 buggy tours around the island  
plus local taxes of \$11/day  
and dive tax of \$5/day.

**Not included:**  
Lunches, dinners, port and visa charges.

Add 2 tank dive: \$50

Side trips to Rio de Janeiro, or the Amazon are available at reasonable rates

**Price:**  
Basic one week trip, double occupancy

Diver: \$2050 approx  
Non-diver: \$1750 approx

**Trip Leader:** Steve McCutcheon (954)  
432-1960.

*Cont'ed pg. 5*

# Local Diving 2002

T hanks for the opportunity (challenge) to be the USA VP of Local Diving. As a relative newcomer to South Florida (just since August 1999), I have enjoyed the Atlantic's warm waters while exploring the reef system off the Palm Beach/Broward County shores. I've also experienced other Florida diving on trips to Key Largo, Marathon Key, Key West, Panama City, Venice (got some great shark's teeth and fossils) and Crystal River (snorkeling with the manatees is awesome!). This is quite a change from diving the wrecks in the Great Lakes (Huron, Erie & Superior); Georgian Bay, Canada; Fire Island, NY; and North Carolina's Outerbanks. While cold water wreck diving is fun, I'm really beginning to love the local reefs with their varied critters and colors. I certainly don't miss my full quarter inch wetsuit!

S ince coming to South Florida I've had some great dives with Craig, on the Starfish Enterprise - mostly USA dives scheduled by Tommy (thanks Tommy!). I've also been diving with the Rene on SS Minnow, on Jim Abernathy's shark dive, on the Loggerhead II with The Scuba Club, Connie & Mindy on Pelican II, and on the Aquanaut.

W ith my limited exposure to dive boat operators in South Florida - I'm going to

start the year by asking for your help. Please take a minute to give me a call (561 369-1286) or send an email (LJG247@HOTMAIL.COM) to answer the following questions:

1 - How often would you like local dives scheduled (one/two/three) each month?

2 - Would it be better to set a recurring schedule for local dives; such as the second and fourth Saturdays of every month? If so, your preference please.

3 - Would anyone be interested in dives on Sundays versus Saturdays?

4 - Any other dive boats/operators that you like - give me their names/phone number/location and I'll give them a call.

5 - Any specific dive sites you'd like to visit - reef or wrecks?

6 - What's your interest in night diving?

7 - Would you like an official 'lunch after diving' activity organized, location would be announced along with the dive information?

8 - Any other suggestions on how I can make local diving work for you...would be most welcome. It's YOUR CLUB, so let me know what YOU want to do.

*Cont'ed pg. 10*

*Brazil - continued from pg. 4*

**Participants:** Gwen Bissell, Linda Caldwell, Carroll Frederick, Chary Lynn, Kathi McCutcheon, and Sean Horin

Most USAers have also signed up for the Amazon jungle extension to Ariau Towers

for 4 days and 3 nights **all inclusive package** with jungle trekking, visiting native villages, Piranha fishing and boat tours. The price is around \$675 depending on airfare.

*Steve McCutcheon*

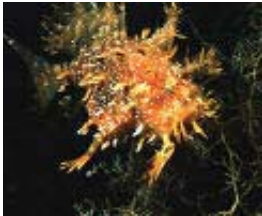
# M/V CARIBBEAN EXPLORER

## LIVE-A-BOARD: SABA/ST.KITTS

### JULY 20,2002-JULY 27,2002

#### ***ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT!!!***

Explorer Ventures Ltd. has been pioneering liveaboard diving in the Eastern Caribbean since 1987. To offer the most enjoyable vacation possible, each trip aboard the Caribbean Explorer is run with special attention to detail, providing the most professional and personalized service. The Caribbean Explorer places the area's



most spectacular dive sites just a step away. Up to "5" dives daily are offered from the spacious deck equipped with



*Photo by Michael Lawrence*

individual gear bins, camera tables, charging stations, camera and gear rinse tanks and freshwater showers. Days are spent diving, sunning, reading from the extensive diving library, viewing the day's photo and video efforts, or exploring the

islands just minutes away.

The Caribbean Explorer departs Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> from St. Maarten on week-long expeditions to the Marine Parks of Saba and St. Kitts. The Explorer accommodates 16 passengers comfortably in 8 double cabins, all of which have private sinks and vanities.

The weather in the Eastern Caribbean is remarkably consistent year-round. The temperatures will be in the 90's with constant sea breezes. The water temperature will be in the high 80's about 85 degrees. There is normally little appre-



ciable current at the sites and visibility is generally between 75 and 150 feet. The Eastern Caribbean is an intriguing area offering a blend of Dutch, British, French and native cultures on some of the prettiest islands of the Caribbean. Above water are rain forests covering ancient volcanoes with names such as Mt. Misery and Mt. Scenery, jutting up to 4,000 feet above the sea; the 300 year old Brimstone Hill Fortress overlooking multitudes of shipwrecks and artifacts

therefrom up to 300 years old; quaint villages, batik and Saba lace shops and much, much more. The topography below



mirrors the abrupt and spectacular islands, providing all depths of shoals, walls, offshore pinnacles, overhanging reefs, tunnels and a profusion of marine life.

#### Package includes:

7 nights / 8 days aboard the M/V Caribbean Explorer

3 meals daily, plus between-dive snacks

5 dives daily and 3 to 4 night dives

Use of tanks, weights and belts

All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages

Port and Immigrations Fees

Marine Park diving fees

Island land tour-Saba (optional) You can stay on the boat and dive

Island land tour-St. Kitts (optional) You can stay on the boat and dive

Tip for the Boat

#### Package Does Not Include:

Airfare

Friday evening Dinner

Rental instructions and retail charges

Trip Cancellations Insurance

St.Maarten departure tax (US\$20)

Price: \$1,425.00. Does NOT include Airfare  
The boat holds 16 divers. If we fill the boat, the price will be several dollars less.



#### Contact:

Ronnie Farr

954-783-1667

305-774-7690 X307

305-774-7699 (fax)

ronfarr@bellsouth.net (email)

[www.explorervertures.com](http://www.explorervertures.com) or

[www.divesaba.com](http://www.divesaba.com) (Please cruise their website)



# COSTA RICA - NOVEMBER 23-30

## TAKE A THIRST FOR PARADISE

It's no coincidence that Costa Rica means Rich Coast in Spanish. Mother Nature has endowed the country with a virtual treasure trove of beaches, each one of which has its own special charms. Those coastal jewels range from sheltered coves where a crescent of white sand separates the verdure of the rainforest from the ocean's aquamarine waters, to long beaches washed by frothy surf and lined with lanky coconut palms. In Costa Rica, tropical nature has reached its greatest expression. Located in the tropical latitudes, between the giant biological influences of North and South America and bordered by two oceans, mountainous Costa Rica enjoys an immense diversity of climates and environmental regions.

Active volcanoes vividly remind visitors of the awesome power contained in the earth's thin mantle. With Costa Rica's vast natural resources and established reputation as an outstanding eco-tourism destination, it might seem that sport diving is but an afterthought or add-on attraction. Not so. While less than a decade ago its underwater assets were virtually unknown. Today Costa Rica's marine world is become recognized as one of its major assets and a world-class diving attraction. Costa Rica's primary underwater assets are original and potentially very different from other diving experiences. Compared to other Central American countries with established reputations in warm-water diving, Costa Rica's primary dives areas are located off the Pacific coast of the country.

You will find an astounding parade of marine life of every form, including a variety of schooling fish, the size of the schools, an outstanding variety of solitary fish and a wide selection of invertebrates; all as a result of the abundant plankton that thrive in these waters nearly year-round.

You will dive the Catalina Islands were schools of Pacific cow-nosed rays swarm in the thousands. It is the rich, plankton-filled waters of the Eastern Pacific that produces the exceptional marine life common to the area.

You will also dive Bat Islands where you will see Bull Sharks, giant Manta Rays, Eagle Rays and large schools of four or five different species of fish simultaneously.

The Arenal Volcano, together with the surrounding tropical rain forest, provides a breathtaking setting unparalleled in the world. In the middle of all this, natural splendor, Tabacon Resort offers you a warm and beautiful heaven, where you can enjoy an unforgettable relaxing experience. The minerals waters, running at a soothing temperature of 102F, flow through exotic tropical gardens, forming cascades and pools.

Rafting on Costa Rica's wild and scenic rivers is perhaps the single most popular adventure sport in the country.

**Package includes:**

**Airfare:**

From Miami to Costa Rica

**Tours to:**

Canopy Tree tour  
Arenal Volcano

*Cont'ed pg. 9*

# LOCAL DIVING - Dive Report

It was 5:30 AM and still dark as I strained to listen for any evidence of wind or gusts. I got up and put on my clothes .. fortunately I didn't hear any obvious gusts ... no limbs falling off of trees. As I got in my truck and headed for the pavilion to check out the seas, there was a slight touch of melancholy knowing that this was the last time I would be doing this as Local Diving VP. The seas were a little choppy but definitely doable. Still I wondered how many would not show.

I was also just a little worried about those freaking Romulans! For those of you who are unaware, there was a rumor going around that I was to be "abducted" by the Romulans on this, the last official USA dive of the year.

Dolphins, not Romulans, were the treat of the day!! A pod of 10 to 12 dolphins accompanied us out to the first dive site. Their bodies shimmered with brilliant colors as they swam playfully just ahead of the bow. I was mesmerized by their powerful beauty and thankful for yet another local diving memory.

With the help of my spotters Mary, Cindy and Andrea, I was able to catch a few bugs. Also saw a spotted eagle ray and got to pet a friendly turtle. The sun was shining bright and the water temp was 78 degrees .. I didn't use my drysuit and I was comfortable. We went to the Dune Deck for lunch afterwards and pigged out.

The divers who participated were Mary H, Kay C, Cindy P, Andrea S, Bruce A, Mike S, THY and last but not least, Jerry & Linda Grist your new Local Diving VP. My heartfelt thanks to all who have supported Local Diving over the years. I will continue to help Linda where and when I can. I will still be sending out diving announcements so I hope to see you on a local dive in the new year! A Pot Luck Movie Nite is in the works so I will keep ya' posted.

I would like to send a special thanks to all of the board members with whom I have served and say that it has been an honor.

Tommy Younger ><> ..... (:)  
THYou777@juno.com 561.338.7687

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## *Costa Rica - continued from pg. 9*

Hot springs  
White Water Rafting

### Hotel:

3 Nights stay at Hotel Arinal  
Resort  
4 Nights stay at Hotel El Ocotal  
Resort

### Diving:

3 days diving, 2 dives a day at Bat  
and Catalina Islands

### Price:

\$1,500.00 (for all of this)

Please Browse the web sites for more  
information:

[www.Octoalresort.com](http://www.Octoalresort.com)  
([www.Tabacon.com](http://www.Tabacon.com))

Contact Greg Galland and reserve your  
spot today.

954-525-1275

Please keep in mind that this price is  
an estimate, due to airline fares.

# Camping & Canoeing

Little Manatee River - Wimauma, FL

March 8, 9, 10, 2002

We will camp on Friday and Saturday night at Little Manatee River State Park. The Park is located four miles south of Sun City, off highway 301 on Lightfoot Road. Which is 15 miles South of Tampa. Map and directions will be handed out at a later date. Saturday we will be picked up and dropped off on the river and canoe for 10 miles. The river begins in a swamp area east of Fort Lonesome in southeastern Hillsborough County. The river flows about 40 miles before emptying into Tampa Bay. The river's channel is generally well-defined and steep, sandy banks are observed throughout its length. 6.5 Miles of Hiking Trail meanders through the Park. There is also a bike trail, for those of you wishing to bring your bike. AND, there is also horseback riding, but you have to bring your own horse (no kidding). Nature study and bird



watching is prolific throughout all areas of the park, with rare endangered species. Bring all camping equipment for sleeping and eating. Bring all your own food and drinks. Since we will be camping in the park both Friday and Saturday, bring what you wish. We have sites without electricity, but have inside showers and toilets. If you want to join us with your camper, let me know and I will make the arrangement. The cost for electric will be extra. Plan on having dinner at the camp site Saturday night with everyone. Bring food for lunch on the river Saturday. Cost for two nights camping and two in a canoe is \$25.00. Electric will cost an extra \$6.00. Call Ronnie Farr @ 954-783-1667 to reserve your reservations.



*Local Diving - continued from pg. 5*

I've talked with Craig to schedule two dives on the Starfish Enterprise in January. Craig advised that as of January 1, he will no longer be accepting payments the day of a USA Club dive, he'll bill the Club for the number of spots reserved. Once you've made your reservation with me, you'll need to send your money to either Judy Townsend or me. Reservations must be made 10 days before a scheduled dive, and payment is the only way to hold your spot.

**We must receive payment No Later Than Wednesday before the scheduled dive.**

The dates for the dives are January 12 (Saturday) and January 20 (Sunday)...be at the boat by 7:30 am. For those interested in going to lunch immediately following the dive, let's plan on meeting at the Boynton Ale House, corner of Gateway and Congress on January 12. On January 20, let's do lunch at Ellie's

*Cont'ed pg. 11*

Local Diving - continued from pg. 10

Diner, on US 1 (from the Enterprise, head south on US 1, Ellie's will be on your right, just after leaving Boynton Beach). Cost for these trips is \$37 per diver.

Looking forward to your input and hope to see you on a dive boat real soon.

Linda Grist  
Local Diving VP



# Membership News and Notes

Mail all changes to:

Karen Goodman  
Membership and  
Database Coordinator

561-963-4173

email: kgoodman49@worldnet.att.net

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## 2002 DUES DUE ONLY \$30! SUCH A DEAL!

It's THAT time of the year again. Dues are always due in January. You can pay at the membership meeting or mail your dues to:

Karen Goodman  
58 Lake Arbor Drive  
Palm Springs, FL 33461.

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## 2002 Overseas Dive Program Payment Schedule

Please mail Payments to Linda Ianniello

DESTINATIONS	DATE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Brazil-Fernando-De-Noronha	3/22-3/31	279	276							2050
Brazil, Non-Diver	3/22-3/31	236	234							1750
Caribbean Explorer + your own air !	7/20-7/27	265	265	265	265	265				1325
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/Nx	9/27-9/30	144	141	141	141	141	141	141		990
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/air	9/27-9/30	128	127	127	127	127	127	127		890
Costa Rica	11/23-11/30	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	1400

# Newsletters via eMail

We are experimenting with a new newsletter format - eMail. It might take a bit to get the bugs out. Any and all feedback on format or difficulties will be taken into account by the new Newsletter Editor / Webmaster.

We are trying to convert from print to eMail in order to cut costs on the ever rising postal rates as well as printing costs.

All requests for subscribing or unsubscribing to the eMail recipient list should be sent to [newsletter@underseas.org](mailto:newsletter@underseas.org)

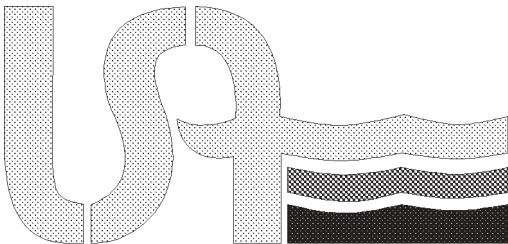
*Matthew Barton*  
*webmaster@underseas.org*

# Calendar

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Jan 3, Thu.  | 6:00 Dinner,<br>7:30 Social,<br>8:00 Meeting<br>Program: <i>Medicines From the Sea</i> |
| Jan 10, Thu. | Board Meeting at TBA   |
| Jan 12, Sat. | Local Diving, 8.00am dept.<br>Starfish Enterprise, Lantana                             |
| Jan 20, Sun. | Local Diving, 8:00am dept.<br>Starfish Enterprise, Lantana                             |

Matthew Barton  
6114 Woodbury Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33433

## FIRST CLASS



Under Sea Adventurers