

USA Dive Lines

Volume 30 Number 2

www.underseas.org

February, 2002

February 7th, Meeting

February Program: Bioluminescence

Dr. Edith Widder, a world renowned expert on BIOLUMINESCENCE, will speak, show video and slides of marine critters that make cold light. She and her husband will eat supper with us. I have invited biologists from FAU and Nova to attend. Join us for what an acquaintance with the South Florida Reef Research Team, in WPB, calls a world class presentation.

Ray McAllister, VP of Programs

Sea Secrets



The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science is running a "Sea Secrets" series of programs. Each program starts at 6:30, with a reception at 5:30 including drinks and appetizers. The auditorium is small, so plan to get there early in order to get a seat. They are located at 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway in Miami.

The next three presentations are:

February 20, 2002

Mass Extinctions, Biodiversity, and the Future of the Planet by Peter Douglas Ward, professor Earth and space sciences, University of Washington

March 20, 2002

Myths and Realities of the Giant Squid by Clyde Roper, zoologist, department of invertebrate zoology at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

April 24, 2002

Around the World in a Thousand Days by Reid Stowe, sailor and adventurer

The web site is at:

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/info/events.html>

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UnderSea Adventurers website:

www.underseas.org

DAN website:

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

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	bartonmg@bellsouth.net	

President's Waves

What a great club this is! I have received so much support in my first month as president, and I thank all of you. Everyone seems to like the new meeting place so we will stay there for a while. About 40 members joined together for dinner before the January meeting. We found it very convenient to be able to eat at the restaurant where the meeting was held. We also noticed a lot of extra time for socializing before the meeting began at 8pm.

We are so privileged to have Dr. McAllister as our VP in charge of Programs. Members showed strong interest in last month's presentation on pharmaceuticals from the marine environment by asking Dr. Kerr many questions. Don't miss our February speaker, Dr. Widder, who will enlighten us on the topic of bioluminescence. Because our guest will be traveling a significant distance, we will present her first, just as we did last month's speaker. The business meeting will follow and then more socializing..

About business: your Board of Directors is working very hard to make this club even better. Robert Shearer, Past President from 1992 to 1996, will be presenting a change to the Club Rules which will help the Board be more responsive to the needs of its members. Also, we are trying to work within a balanced budget by converting the newsletter delivery to e-mail since postage rates are increasing in June. It is available now and once Matt is satisfied with the format he will switch to e-mail for all who have it available.. If you do not list your e-mail address in the membership directory for privacy reasons, please give it to Matt at newsletter@underseas.org and he will keep it confidential. If you just have not gotten around to sending that information to our database coordinator, please let Patrice Marker know ASAP at patmarker@aol.com or 954-577-7919 and she will include your e-mail address in her records. Once you get used to the on-line newsletter, we think you will enjoy it even more with color photos and web links to online material.



Check out the local dive schedule planned by our new VP, Linda Grist. For those of you who are hardy, she has planned dives each month. Please show her your support by participating. That's what wet suits are for, and I know many of you have jumped into cool waters to see manatees. New club members contribute so much to our activities so let's encourage Linda by participating.

See you at the meeting. If you can't join us for dinner, come for Happy Hour 6pm to 8pm and do what we do best — **socialize.**

Kathi McCutcheon
president@underseas.org
USA President for 2002

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, BRAZIL



We are in the final planning stages for the trip to Brazil and eight USAers will be spending 7 days on the Island of Fernando de Noronha diving, hiking and touring. Next we will be heading into the Amazon to stay at Ariau Towers spending 4 days jungle trekking, piranha fishing, alligator spotting and visiting a native village by canoe. Then most of us will continue to Rio de Janeiro for three more days of enjoying Brazilian culture and beaches. The total price of the two week trip with all the extensions is less than \$3000.

Date: March 22 - 31, 2002, departs Friday evening
Side trips to Rio de Janeiro, or the Amazon are available at reasonable rates

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
- Local taxes of \$11/day and dive tax \$5/day.

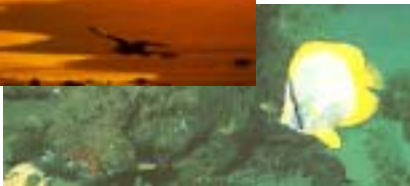
Not included:

- Lunches, dinners, port and visa charges.
- Add 2 tank dive: \$50

Price: Basic one week trip, double occupancy
Diver: **\$2050** approx Non-diver: **\$1700** approx

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

Trip Leader: Steve McCutcheon, kathianandsteve@aol.com (954) 432-1960.



M/V CARIBBEAN EXPLORER LIVE-A-BOARD: SABA/ST.KITTS - JULY 20,2002-JULY 27,2002 WAITING LIST ONLY!!!

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.

Price: \$1,425.00. Does NOT include Airfare. The boat holds 16 divers.

www.explorerverventures.com
or www.divesaba.com

Ronnie Farr 954-783-1667, 305-774-7690 X307,
305-774-7699 (fax), ronfarr@bellsouth.net (mail)



COSTA RICA - NOVEMBER 23-30 TAKE A THIRST FOR PARADISE

SPOTS OPEN!

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.

Package includes:

Airfare:	From Miami to Costa Rica
Tours to:	Canopy Tree tour Arenal Volcano 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
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.



LOCAL DIVING with Linda G

January 12 dawned clear, not a cloud in the sky, no wind.....we just knew we'd have great diving off the Starfish Enterprise. Five hardy souls joined me at the marina, Jerry G., Mike S., Bernie M., Pam O., and Phil B., and we boarded the Starfish along with 10 others and headed for open water. First stop dropped 13 divers on the new artificial reef - M/V Castor - sunk on December 14th off Boynton Beach; the other three divers had a fun dive on the Boynton Ledges (water temp was 74 degrees). . The Castor's a great wreck (258 feet long), sitting upright at 110 feet, deck at 90 feet, and you'll hit the superstructure at about 70 feet. It's a clean wreck - you can still see the colors and read the gauges in the wheelhouse; several barracuda have already taken up residence! This wreck can only get better as the corals start growing and more fish take up residence. Our second dive on the reef, Seagates, gave some of us (those who were paying attention!) a close up look at a Goliath Grouper! Large schools of fish - angels, yellowtails - were all over, along with a couple lobsters.

Unfortunately, I had to cancel the January 20th dive - as I only had one sign-up. This brings me to a not too pleasant topic...sign-up and cost of diving. As you know, inflation has been doing nothing but up going up for quite a number of years....so goes the cost of diving. I have been contacting dive charters all up/down the coast (Palm Beach and Broward counties) - and they're all about the same \$40-\$45 dollars (includes taxes and tip). The only way to get lower rates, is to book a 35 passenger boat and FILL IT! Now I'm optimistic that I can arrange some good dive trips, and will get the best price I can, but I'm pessimistic that I could ever get 35 of you on one trip! So I'm going to set up dives, hope you'll join in, sign up and pay up at least one week prior to the dive. If you pay for a dive, I'll expect you at the dock; if you don't show up, I won't be able to refund your money as they'll be charging us for the spot. If I don't have your money a week prior to the dive, I'll turn your slot back in. Last minute reservations will only be taken if the charter captain can accommodate you. With this in mind, below is the dive schedule for the next few months:

Feb 9 (Sat AM) - SunStar Aquatic Services on the Diversity, Deerfield Beach; \$40; 10 spots; dock time 7:30 AM; meet for lunch after dive at Yucatan Mexican Restaurant on US 1

Mar 2 (Sat AM) - Paradise Charters on Easy Goin' Lauderdale (includes tanks - air only); \$40; 6 spots; dock time 8:30 AM

Apr 13 (Sat AM) - South Florida Diving on Coral Princess, Pompano Beach; \$40; 20 spots; dock time 8:30 AM

May 11 (Sat AM) - South Florida Diving on Coral Princess, Pompano Beach; doing their Aqua Zoo dive; \$40; 20 spots; dock time 8:30 AM

May 25 (Sat AM) ** - IDIVE on Starfish Enterprise, Lantana; \$40; 16 spots; dock time 7:30 AM

(**) Join up with a group from my Ohio dive club - The Buckeye Divers - who are coming down over Memorial Day weekend to enjoy some Palm Beach County diving.

I'll try - if you want - to schedule some type of social activity after each dive - if only to meet at a nearby restaurant for lunch. Ronnie Farr has offered to have a pool party after a dive (once the

weather warms up!) For the February dive on the Diversity, which is out of Deerfield, let's do lunch at the Yucatan Mexican Restaurant, on US 1 just south of Hillsboro Road (we used to have before meeting dinners at their place across from the Chamber of Commerce - they've moved).

Now to RAFT-UP!!! Since I don't know everyone in the club, I have no idea who owns a boat....so it will be difficult for me to plan a raft-up for this summer. If you do own a boat, would you let me know so I can make a list. Then in a couple of months, I'll contact you to schedule a raft-up.

If you'd like to lead a dive (because I won't always be able to go), please let me know. If you have a favorite dive site...let me know when you reserve your spot and we'll try to accommodate your requests.

Linda Grist
VP Local Diving
(561) 369-1286
ljg247@hotmail.com



Drop The Belt!!

Under what circumstances should a diver consider dropping her weight belt?

Definitely drop the belt of a SURFACED diver who is panicky or feeling significant discomfort.

Personally, I would also consider dropping my own belt if: I had been waiting on the surface for an unusually long period of time - say, 20-30 minutes; and the seas were choppy; and the boat was not in sight.

I would save the belt and drop the individual weights. My buddy and I could use the empty belts to help us keep together. I would do it *before I became fatigued*.

What the heck, 10-20 bucks! Less than the cost of a dinner! Why take a chance - If in doubt, drop the weights!

Sean Horin
Safety Coordinator



"DON'T EAT THE HARD BIT ON ITS BACK,
THEY MAKE YOU FART!"

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.



DRY TORTUGAS: SEPT. 26-30, 2002

WAITING LIST ONLY

Due to GREAT Success, we are going again. You only have to take Friday and Monday off from work. Please



come and join myself and 10



other divers. The boat is the "MV Playmate" a luxury 60-foot yacht USCG inspected boat is docked at Stock Island in Key West. Not included: Towels, sodas, and alcoholic beverages. Bring ribbon to identify your catch. Price \$990.00 and \$1,090.00 for Nitrox, tip included in both prices.

Contact Ronnie Farr 954-783-1667,305-774-7690 X307,305-774-7699 (fax), ronfarr@bellsouth.net

Updated Caribbean Reef ID Books Now Available

Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach have just published updated versions of their three reference books we all use so much. The enlarged 3rd edition of "Reef Fish Identification" has grown by 20 percent including the addition of more than 100 exciting new fish species. The scientifically updated text now boasts 825 classic marine life photographs of 600 common and rare reef fish species that inhabit the waters of Florida, the Caribbean, Bahamas and now Brazil!

"Reef Creature Identification" is now 30 percent larger. The 2nd edition includes 220 new photos of beautiful shells, outrageously camouflaged crabs, a superb collection of exquisite nudibranchs and the most outrageous octopus ever discovered in the Caribbean! And the new 2nd edition of "Reef Coral Identification" contains 530 classic photographs of living specimens and the most current scientific classifications to help identify virtually every species of stony coral, gorgonian, fire coral and black coral inhabiting the tropical western Atlantic. It also includes a comprehensive photo-essay of coral diseases and predation, a photo gallery on coral reproduction, and an appendix with descriptions and photos of 100 species of marine plants.

All three can be ordered from their web site at www.fishid.com, or through Sea Challengers (www.seachallengers.com).

Linda Ianello

The Story of the Gil Blas

As part of the continuing history of the Hillsboro Lighthouse area, an interesting shipwreck, that set back the development of Broward County by about 50 years is in the surf zone about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile N of Hillsboro Inlet. She is the Gil Blas, a Spanish brig, wrecked in 1835, during a severe hurricane. Loaded with sugar and cigars, she was headed north from Havana when the hurricane drove her into shallow water. The captain deployed his anchors and kept her from being broken up on the beach, but she was well and truly grounded.

While William Cooley, a salvor, was removing the cargo, the Seminole Indians attacked his settlement and killed the women and children left behind. Most of the menfolk were with Cooley on the Gil Blas. Had they been home, would the massacre have occurred? In any case Cooley and the survivors sailed to the Key Biscayne lighthouse and then to Indian Key, in the Florida Keys where they took refuge. Other settlers at Little River and Miami River joined them and some of the latter ran all the way without any household goods, according to Raymond, (1984).

It would be more than 50 years before the settlers returned to Broward County in numbers equal to the population before the massacre, setting back settlement of this part of S Florida by a half century or so.

The Marine Archaeological Council worked this wreck under a permit from the State until quite recently. If interested, contact them at the Lighthouse Dive Center, 942-1100.

Ray McAllister

UNDERSEA ADVENTURES ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET MARCH 16, 2002

Avian Restaurant At the Ramada Inn
1401 S. Federal Highway
Deerfield Beach



SPRING FLING IS A GREEN THING

6:30-7:30 Social Hour (Cash Bar)

7:30-11:30 Dinner/Awards/Dancing

DINNER CHOICES

½ Rotisserie Chicken with Vegetables

Pan Seared Grouper with lemon, caper, wine sauce

\$30 per person

Mail your **RSVP** by **March 8**

with dinner choices and check made out to USA to:

Mary A. LePage

3735 Oaks Clubhouse Drive

Pompano Beach, FL 33069-3603

954/917-3082

muskymama@mediaone.net



Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____

Dinner Choice: _____ Rotisserie Chicken
_____ Pan Seared Grouper

**Celebrate 
St. Patty's Day
With Us!**

Membership News and Notes

Welcome to our new applicants:

Kurt Kohler

Charles Petrozella

Pamela O'Rourke

Michael Sauer

L. Philip Burch

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

Dues be due be doo!

As ever-spiraling costs increase, we are trying to keep dues as low as possible.

The dues are \$30 per person.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO:

Karen Goodman, Membership Coordinator
58 Lake Arbor Drive
Palm Springs, FL 33461
(561)963-4173



2002 Overseas Dive Trips Payment Schedule

Please mail Payments to Linda Ianniello, 359 Cottonwood Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33487

DESTINATIONS	DATE	Paid	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Brazil-Fernando-De-Noronha	3/22-3/31	558	276							2050
Brazil, Non-Diver	3/22-3/31	472	234							1750
Caribbean Explorer + your own air !	7/20-7/27	365	265	265	265	265				1425
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/Nx	9/27-9/30	244	141	141	141	141	141	141		1090
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/air	9/27-9/30	228	127	127	127	127	127	127		990
Costa Rica	11/23-11/30	275	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	1500

Your paid in balance, as of the January meeting, 1/3, should match at least the "Paid" column. If not you are delinquent and could lose your spot.

Newsletters via eMail

We are now formally moving forward with a new newsletter format - eMail. Any and all feedback on format or difficulties will be taken into account by the new Newsletter Editor / Webmaster.

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

All requests for subscribing or unsubscribing to the eMail recipient list should be sent to newsletter@underseas.org

Matthew Barton
webmaster@underseas.org

Calendar

Feb 7, Thu.	6:00pm Dinner, 7:30 Social, 8:00 Meeting <i>Bioluminescence</i>
Program:	
Feb 14, Thu.	Board Meeting at Ray McAllister's
Feb 20, Wed.	Newsletter Deadline
March 8,9,10	Little Manatee River, Camping and Canoeing
March 16	USA Awards Banquet Spring Fling is a Green Thing!
March 22-31	Fernando de Noronha, Brazil

Matthew Barton
6114 Woodbury Road
Boca Raton, FL 33433

FIRST CLASS

