

USA Dive Lines

It's always an adventure

Volume 30 Number 3

www.underseas.org

March 2002

March 7th, Meeting

Powering South Florida from the Gulf Stream



Our speaker is Dr. Rick Driscoll, from SeaTech (FAU Ocean Engineering). Dr. Driscoll has a project to capture some of the enormous energy of the Gulf Stream, 1000 times the volume of the Mississippi River in flood, flowing 2500 to 3000 ft deep at a speed of 3 to 6 knots. His project is financed by a man who has made his fortune from wind farms in California.

The technology is totally new and will be illustrated. When will we be using electricity from the Gulf Stream?



Ray McAllister, VP of Programs

2003 Overseas Trips Meeting

Tuesday March 26th

Yes, it's that time again. In order to plan ahead for next year, we need to get our deposits together and book our trips early, which means a Trip Planning Committee. All members are welcome. Bring along your best sales pitch for your favorite dive destination, or perhaps a wish for someplace you haven't been diving yet.

The meeting will be at Ronnie and Nils, 7pm. We usually order out for food.

Nils Jacobsen

VP Overseas Diving

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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

Board of Directors: Officers

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	cseaflower@aol.com	
WebMaster/Newsletter	Matt Barton	561-338-9846
	bartonmg@bellsouth.net	

President's Waves

Our club's first overseas dive trip leaves Miami March 22nd. I am so excited to be going out of the country on another adventure. It is time to consider what to bring (not much) and how to pack. I have it down to a science by now. A few tricks I have found help keep my stuff safe. I put heavy duty name tags on both ends of each piece of luggage and a copy of my passport and address inside each bag. I start laying out clothes and accessories, and then I decide what suitcase fits them. On long trips like this which involve transfers to small airplanes, weight is a big consideration. I weigh things and weed out the unnecessary stuff until it works. Even without regulators and gauges, my basic dive gear (BC, fins, wetsuit, spare regulator and Save-A-Dive Kit) weighs 35lbs. How can this be? This time I am not sure if I will be able to hand carry my regulator as I have always done since there is a 10lb. single carryon limit. Will it pass through security? Might the screeners think there is some sinister application for all these gauges? And forget the knife so nicely attached to my gauge console! These adventures are so much fun when traveling with fellow club members.

Your dive committee works diligently to plan and execute great trips at low prices. Nils hopes to start the group meetings March 26th to plan for the 2003 season. If you want to have input in the program, try to attend the meetings. In addition to complicated trips like Brazil which are somewhat expensive, Nils is offering short trips to the Bahamas for small groups. These are always fun and a great way to make friends. I urge new members to try those first.

Thanks to Ray McAllister, our wonderful VP of Programs, for the amazing guest speakers in January and February. Dr. Rick Driscoll will be speaking at the March meeting. The topic will be "Powering South Florida from the Gulfstream." Doesn't that sound intriguing?

Thanks to Larry LePage for accepting the position of AV coordinator. After 4 years, Jim Guld was ready to turn the job over to another member and we are so lucky that Larry quickly volunteered. Great job, Jim and best wishes to Larry.

We will convert to all e-mail for the May newsletter. Simply call or e-mail Matt Barton at newsletter@underseas.org and he will convert your copy from print to e-mail. The copy has beautiful color pictures, and wait until you see the club logo in red, white and blue. Matt sends out these newsletters as Blind Copies so others do not see your address. This will save the club a lot of money on printing and mailing. I like to print out my copy in color and save it with my other newsletters. The print is larger and easier to read than the old newsletter format.

Don't forget to sign up for the Awards Banquet. Time is running out for reservations. Call Mary LePage (954)917-3082 **ASAP**.

Join us at the Avian Restaurant prior to the meeting. This is another way to get to know us or visit with old friends. See you March 7th.

Kathi McCutcheon
USA President for 2002



CLUB RULES Changes



We have become aware and are concerned that the Under Sea Adventurers lost over \$5,000 over the last two years and we need to act to assure our continued viability. Your new board is working hard to get our expenses under control with changes like moving the meeting room to our new location (which will save over \$1,000 this year) and working to distribute our newsletter via e-mail (newsletter printing and distribution cost about \$3,200 last year).

Another fundamental change that we may need to consider is to increase the cost of dues.

Our dues were last changed twelve years ago when they were raised from \$20 to \$30 per year. While we would love to continue to have THE BEST CLUB in the area for THE LEAST COST to members, we recognize that we need to increase the dues in the future, if necessary, to assure our continued success.

The amount of the dues has been a part of the CLUB RULES, which can only be changed by a vote of the membership.

Your board has agreed to present changes to the club for approval at the March general meeting. These changes will allow the board to change the amount of the initiation fee and the dues as they see necessary, and also to correct a typo that was included in the RULES as were last approved back in 1990.

The proposed changes are underlined below:

Change ARTICLE I: GUESTS, Section 2 to read:

*Guests may participate in club functions provided there is space available. Priority will be given members, spouses or dates, **and then** immediate family members, at the discretion of the function coordinator.*

To change ARTICLE II: APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, Section 3, to read:

*Initiation Fee shall be **established by the Board of Directors**.*

To change ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP DUES, Section 1, to read:

*Annual dues shall be **established by the Board of Directors** and will be payable on January 1st of each year.*

If these changes are approved at the March meeting,
then Article VII: ACCEPTANCE will be changed to read:

*The Club Rules are adopted this **7th day of March, 2002**, by the Under Sea Adventurers, Inc. and shall be binding on all members and shall govern until amended. All previous Club Rules are null and void.*

You received a copy of the CURRENT RULES in your new member package or you can see them at our web site at <http://www.underseas.org/info.html>. If you want a copy of the complete text of the PROPOSED RULES, contact me at robert.shearer@juno.com, and I will e-mail it to you.

*Thanks,
Robert Shearer*

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 X-307
305-774-7699 (fax)
ronfarr@bellsouth.net



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

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 23-30,2002 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.

BIMINI-LIVE-A-BOARD

Paradise Charters

Summer 2002



IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!!!!

July 11-14

Trip is \$660 + Bahamas taxes \$55, total of \$715. Cheaper if we get a full boat of 7 divers.

We plan to go to Bimini one or more times in the summer. This trip only holds 6-7 divers. It is on a 62' Foot boat called "Easy Going". The boat is equipped with the latest in navigational, communications, and safety equipment. It also has a full galley where delicious meals and snacks are prepared, two guest heads, and a comfortable dining area where you can kick back and enjoy your meals. And when it's time for bed you'll sleep comfortably in air-conditioned quarters (double occupancy accommodations). For your enjoyment they also offer satellite TV, VCR, and stereo, or for the more energetic guests-an Ocean Kayak. The boat leaves on Thursday night and travels to Bimini/Cat Cay area. We dive all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, arriving Sunday evening. The price for this trip is \$660.00 per person/double occupancy. All meals snacks included, and tips.

Departs: Thursday, July 11, 7:00pm (Bahia Mar area)

Returns: Sunday, July 14

Package Includes:

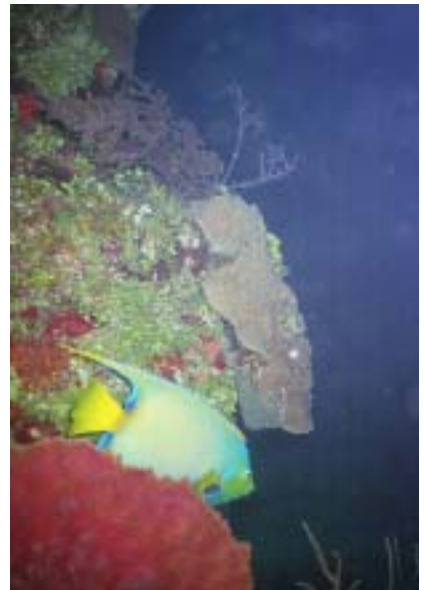
- 3 nights on M/V Easy Goin (double occupancy)
- 3 days diving
- Tanks & weights included
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks
- And beer or wine with dinner
- Port charges \$55.00

PLEASE SIGN-UP EARLY.

Browse their website at: <http://www.paradisecharters.com/>

Call Nils Jacobsen: 954-783-1667 (home)
or 954-723-4598 (work)

Nils Jacobsen
VP Overseas Diving.



LOCAL DIVING with Linda G



The sun was hiding behind a layer of clouds, but that didn't dampen our spirits...Sean Horin, Mary Heller, Mike Sauer and I met at "The Diversity" raring to go. Once loaded, we headed down the Intercoastal to the Boca Inlet, then south to the first drop site. Although overcast, water temp was 76 degrees, seas only 2-3' but some big rollers hit now and then. Water was exceptionally clear and blue - so visibility was great and not much of a current. Reef was full of critters - coral was vibrant and colorful. Sean, Mary, Mike and I had two enjoyable dives, followed by a leisurely lunch at the Olympic Flame Diner there in Deerfield Beach.

As I announced at the meeting, the March 2 dive on the "Easy Goin'" has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict with Peg Schwalen and Chuck Petrozella of Paradise Charters. I know many of you don't dive this time of year, but believe it or not, it was hard to find an open date with someone in March - but I finally succeeded. The next dive will be Saturday morning, March 16, on the "Starfish Enterprise" - dock time is 7:30 am., cost \$40 (includes tax and tip). If the majority wishes, we'll have Craig take us to the "M/V Castor" - recently sunk as part of the artificial reef program south of the Boynton Inlet. Give me a call or send me a check to reserve your spot.

Linda Grist
VP Local Diving

send checks payable to **USA** to:

Linda Grist
5557 Boynton Place
Boynton Beach, FL 33437

Trivia from the Old Navy

Back in the days when every sailing ship had to have a cannon for protection, cannons of the times required round iron cannonballs. The Captain or Master wanted to store the cannonballs such that they could be of instant use when needed, yet not roll around on the gun deck.

The solution was to stack them up in a square-based pyramid next to the cannon. The top level of the stack had one ball, the next level down had four, the next had nine, the next had sixteen, and so on. Four levels would provide a stack of 30 cannonballs. The only real problem was how to keep the bottom level from sliding out from under the weight of the higher levels.

To do this, they devised a small brass plate called a "brass monkey", with one rounded indentation for each cannonball in the bottom layer. Brass was used because the cannonballs wouldn't rust to the brass monkey, but would rust and stick to an iron one. When the temperature falls, brass contracts in size faster than iron. As it got cold on the gun decks, the indentations in the brass monkey would get smaller than the iron cannonballs they were holding. If the temperature got cold enough, the bottom layer would pop out of the now smaller indentations, spilling the entire pyramid over the deck.

Thus it was, quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

from the US Naval Academy Class of '55 Listserv

Spiny Oysters

How does a spiny oyster (*Spondylus americanus*) build its long curved spines? And for that matter, the same question might be asked for many other similarly ornamented shells. Well, Tucker says there are shell secreting cells in the mantle of the spiny oyster (which is really a kind of scallop). When the animal decides to enlarge its home, these cells deposit a layer of calcium carbonate around the edge of the shell and make it bigger. Periodically it sticks a finger of mantle and shell secreting cells up into the water for two or three inches and starts to make new shell around this fleshy protuberance. As it deposits carbonate, the fleshy part slowly withdraws into the shell leaving a long beautiful spine behind.

I was glad to know this because I've wondered about it ever since I found my first spiny oyster in about 120 feet of water off SE Florida. He also said there is only one species of *Spondylus* locally. When it grows on a reef, the spines are usually poorly developed and the shell is more massive. Perhaps reef critters bump the fleshy spikes and they withdraw without completing the spines. On the sand and rubble flats in deeper water, the "spinys" grow long beautiful spines that make them worth \$25 or more to the collectors and touristas.

Very often one finds the spiny oysters growing on a small fragment of shell or coral in the deep water. They commonly are coated with an encrusting sponge, which is quite distinctive. I look for the sponges to find the "spinys", but only take one or two a year, so as not to rape the reef.

Ray McAllister

The WHITE WHALE Cometh!

Gather all ye old dive gear and trinkets, baubles and beads, shells and bones for the next annual USA White Whale Sale and Auction.

Caveat Emptor, E Pluribus Divum, Y'vanna Hagggleabit?

Coming in May...



Safety Devices: Knives vs. Scissors.

The safety related reason for a diver to carry a sharp instrument is to cut. Specifically, to cut your way out of an entanglement. I would submit that it is far easier, faster, and less stressful to cut through entangling lines with a scissors rather than a knife blade. Sure, carry a knife to bang on your tank, pry, or simply because it looks cool. But, as a safety device, think scissors!

I carry a surgical or "EMT Shears". They are robust, rust resistant, maintain sharp edges, and are "Glove friendly". They are available at any medical supply store or, at most dive shops. The cost is about \$6-7 at med. stores and \$12-14 (including a sheath) at a dive store. Because there is no pointy end, a sheath is not really necessary.

Sean Horin

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 members:

Kurt Kohler

Charles Petrozella

Pamela O'Rourke

Michael Sauer

L. Philip Burch

WE WOULD MISS YOU...

If you found the dreaded **red stripe** on your mailing label, we have not received your dues for 2002. If the mail carrier was good to you, you also found an envelope inside addressed to me. Since we're sure you want to remain a member another year and join us in diving and other fun activities, please mail your check for \$30 in the enclosed envelope today. If the mailman lost your envelope, please dig one out now and send your dues to:

Karen Goodman
58 Lake Arbor Drive
Palm Springs, FL 33461

DO IT TODAY!! This is the last newsletter you will receive unless your dues are received by the next publication.

Karen Goodman
Membership Coordinator

For Sale: Boat Trailer

I have a \$2,000 boat trailer used to transport a 23 ft. Boston Whaler Outrage. Two of the four tires are brand new. Price \$600.

Contact: Bob Moon, (954) 351-7030 or
infertility@therepositoryspermbank.com

2002 Overseas Dive Trips Payment Schedule

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

DESTINATIONS	DATE	Paid	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Bimini Live-a-Board, Easy Goin	7/11-7/14		143	143	143	143	143		715
Caribbean Explorer w/o airfare	7/20-7/27	630	265	265	265				1425
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/Nx	9/27-9/30	385	141	141	141	141	141		1090
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/air	9/27-9/30	355	127	127	127	127	127		990
Costa Rica	11/23-11/30	450	175	175	175	175	175	175	1500

Your paid in balance, as of the February meeting, 2/7, should match at least the "Paid" column. If not you are delinquent and could lose your spot.

May Newsletter to be eMail Only

We are now *officially changing* to an eMail newsletter format in order to cut expenses on the ever rising postal rates and printing costs.

Newsletters can be received by making sure your eMail address is in our database, -or- they can be retrieved from our website at www.underseas.org/news

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

Matthew Barton
webmaster@underseas.org

Calendar

March 7, Thu	6:00pm Dinner, 7:30 Social, 8:00 Meeting <i>Dr. Rich Driscoll</i>
Program: March 8,9,10	Little Manatee River, Camping and Canoeing
March 14, Thu	7pm, Board Meeting at Linda Ianiello's
March 16, Sat	7:30am, Local Dive , Starfish Enterprise, Lantana
March 16, Sat	USA Awards Banquet
March 20, Wed	Newsletter Deadline
March 26, Tue	7pm, 2003 Overseas Trips Planning Meeting
March 22-31	Fernando de Noronha, Brazil

Matthew Barton
6114 Woodbury Road
Boca Raton, FL 33433

FIRST CLASS

