

Endangered Reefs of Florida

Speaker for April is John Lopinot, from the staff of the Palm Beach Post. He is an underwater photographer as well and will present a slide show on the "Endangered Reefs of Florida". He says it will include examples of dangers and damage to the reef probably in addition to some beautiful reef pictures. Nancy Luellen recommended him to us.

Dinner, as usual, will be at the Avian Restaurant, 1430 S Federal Highway, Deerfield Beach. Get there before 6:00 for the early bird; drink and dessert thrown in.

Ray McAllister
dinodivr@bellsouth.net, (954) 426-0808



New Club Rules

After ten years, the membership approved a change in the Club rules at the last meeting. The changes were published in last month's Dive Lines and can be seen at the web site at <http://www.underseas.org/docs/clubrule.txt>

As a part of the changes, the board will have the ability to make any future changes in the membership dues and initiation fees without getting approval from the full membership. Fortunately, with the change of meeting place, moving the distribution of the newsletter to e-mail, and some other modifications to the budget, there are no immediate plans to change the dues.

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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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President's Waves

March 16th a merry group of club members attended the annual awards banquet. Mary LePage put in many hours arranging the meal, DJ and decorations for a St. Patrick's Day theme. Thanks, Mary, the evening was great!

Every board member is a volunteer and receives a plaque at the banquet as recognition for his efforts. However, the best part of serving on our board is the friends we make. We are fortunate to have several new members to the club who are also new to the board. They bring their experience and ideas to us, and we want them to know they are very appreciated by us.

Ray McAllister will preside over the April meeting, as I will be in Brazil on the club trip to Fernando de Noronha. I am sure he will keep your attention with his quiet manner. He is bringing another excellent speaker, John Lopinot, who will discuss damage to our reefs.

See you in May!

Kathi McCutcheon, USA President for 2002



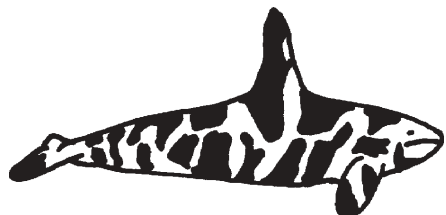
What was *THAT*?

After a diver gets familiar with the local wildlife, you may, on rare occasion, encounter something that just doesn't fit. If you really observe and remember it, you may later find it to be one of the more obscure and rare fish or creatures in Paul Humann's guides. But what if it isn't there? Some members who have travelled outside the Florida/Caribbean area may notice that it reminds them of something they have seen somewhere else in the world. They may recognize it or find it in a guide for another area. Does anyone care? Absolutely.

The same folks that have been leading efforts to capture quantitative info about what populates our local reefs are trying to document sightings of nonnative fish and critters. If you to their site <http://www.reef.org/exotic/>, you will see a great description of their function and purpose. They include some pictures nonnative fish that have been observed locally. They show some shots of a South Pacific Emperor Angel and a bat fish schooling with Atlantic Spade fish. I have repeatedly seen both of these specimens out the Hillsboro inlet within the last few months. The Reef folks are very interested in knowing if you have a similar encounter.

Take note of the species (if you know) or a detailed description of the specimen, as well as the number, size, and behavior and the location, time, and conditions of the sighting. Of course photos or video would be appreciated. You can fill out their form at <http://www.reef.org/exotic/exotic.htm> and help them keep an eye on the invasion of these intruders.

Robert Shearer



COSTA RICA - NOVEMBER 23-30,2002

TAKE A THIRST FOR PARADISE

SPOTS OPEN!

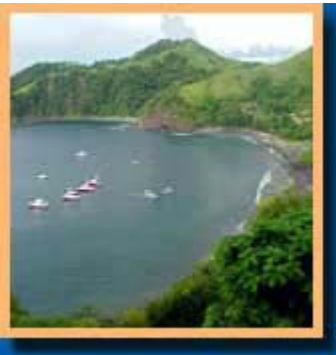
It's no coincidence that Costa Rica means Rich Coast in Spanish. Mother Nature has endowed the country with a virtual treasure trove of beaches, each one of which has its own special charms.

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 where 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
Hot springs
White Water Rafting
- Hotel:** 3 Nights stay at Hotel Arenal Resort
3 Nights stay at Hotel El Ocotal Resort
1 Night stay in San Jose
- Diving:** 2 days diving, at Bat and Catalina Islands
- Price:** \$1,625.00 (for all of this)

Please Browse the web sites for more information:

www.Ocotalresort.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.



See more pics online ...

USA Awards Banquet 2002!



L'il Manatee Trip pics



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.explorerventures.com

or www.divesaba.com

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



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.

See their website at: <http://diveplaymate.com>

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

ronfarr@bellsouth.net



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:

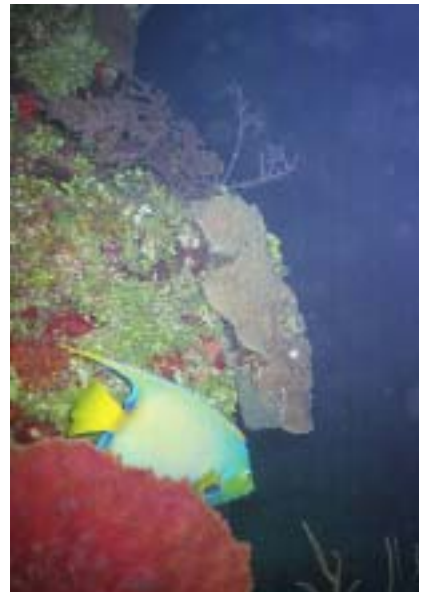
- 3 nights on M/V Easy Goin (double occupancy)
- 3 days diving
- Tanks & weights included
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks
- And beer or wine with dinner
- Port charges \$55.00

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

March 16th...woke up to a beautiful sunrise, looking forward to a great dive on a sunny, warm day. Thought we might even spot a Leprechaun or two on the way. Jerry G., Mike S., Theresa S., Sean H., Bob L., Phil B., Danny M., and I boarded the Starfish and headed for open water. First stop was on the new artificial reef - M/V Castor - sunk on December 14th off Boynton Beach. 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! For those lucky enough to be seeing it for the second time (Jerry & Phil in January), there were changes already....lots of things starting to grow in all the nooks and crannies and the resident barracudas have accepted the visiting divers. Our second dive was on a nearby reef, Captain Paul called it the "Brown House Reef", where Danny managed to snag a lobster. Several spotted eels, green moray, nurse shark and undersized lobsters were spotted....but no turtles or Leprechauns. However, there was a Leprechaun at the Spring Fling Saturday night.....who had a remarkable resemblance to Larry T.



Our next dive is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 13, with South Florida Diving on the Coral Princess, out of Pompano Beach. Dock time is 8:30 a.m., cost is \$40. Please don't wait until the last minute...book your spot now!

Linda

send checks payable to **USA** to:

Linda Grist

5557 Boynton Place

Boynton Beach, FL 33437

THANKS CAMPERS

There were 19 of us "folks" that braved the treacherous waters of the Little Manatee River. Only one canoe turned over dumping the two canoers in the water. It was a very nice river and no one had to get out and push; plenty of water. Many turtles, one alligator and several birds were spotted. At the camp sites, the wild animals kept some of us awake a night (raccoons, armadillos and dogs). Early Saturday morning we were awakened by the cry of a rather loud Sandhill Crane flying overhead. The



weather was perfect. The camp sites were large and private, surrounded by trees, and hedges. At night it got down to "55" and during the day is reached in the "80's". At night we had a nice campfire and enjoyed each others company. We did our own cooking, but sneaked food from our fellow campers. Thanks to: Sue, Jeff, Larry, Barb, Jim and another Jim, Jill, Pam & Phil, Linda & Jerry, Don & Marti, Terry & Jody, Mary & Lindy, Matt and myself.



Membership News and Notes

Meet our new applicant:

Norman Levine

The WHITE WHALE Sale and Auction!

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...

The Marine Photobank

This site represents an interface between photographers and the public. It was established as a site to which photographers can donate their marine photography for use by non-profit environmental organizations in their brochures, press releases, power point presentations, etc. With these pictures of marine beauty and destruction, environmental organizations can make their story that much clearer to a public that needs to hear it.



If you have captured any of this on film, Marine Photobank allows you to donate these images by uploading them to our national photographic database. For too long, organizations working to save the oceans, coral reefs, estuaries and other marine resources, have lacked powerful images to show the splendor and the ruin. For these non-profit organizations, the Marine Photo Bank will provide free downloading of your images and those from other skilled and dedicated marine photographers. **Through the power of photography, we can say so much more about the state of the marine realm than words alone.**

Visit their website at: <http://www.marinephotobank.org>

2002 Overseas Dive Trips Payment Schedule

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

DESTINATIONS	DATE	Paid	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Bimini, Paradise Charters	7/11/14	143	143	143	143	143			715
Caribbean Explorer + your own air!	7/20-7/27	895	265	265					1425
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/Nx	9/27-9/30	526	141	141	141	141			1090
Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/air	9/27-9/30	482	127	127	127	127			990
Costa Rica	11/23-11/30	625	175	175	175	175	175	125	1625

Your paid in balance, as of the March meeting, 3/7, 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

April 4, Thurs	6:00pm Dinner, 7:30 Social, 8:00 Meeting Program: <i>John Lopinot, "Endangered Reefs of Florida"</i>
April 11, Thurs	7pm, Board Meeting at Ronnie and Nils
April 13, Sat	8am, Local Diving Coral Princess, Pompano Beach
April 17, Wed	Newsletter Deadline

Matthew Barton
6114 Woodbury Road
Boca Raton, FL 33433

FIRST CLASS

