

*It's always an adventure*

# USA Dive Lines

Volume 30 Number 9

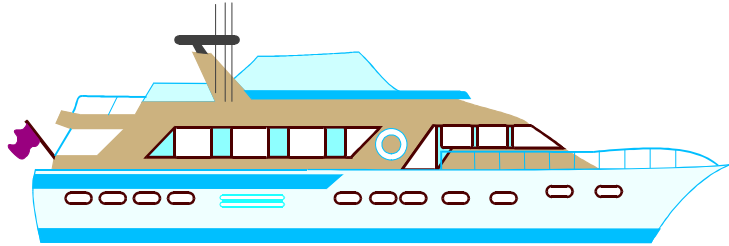
[www.underseas.org](http://www.underseas.org)

September 2002

September Program

## Under the Boat

*by Anne DuPont  
(President of USA Dive Club  
1984-1987)*



This past winter my husband and I spent 5 months on our boat in the Exumas in the southern Bahamas. We were anchored in a hurricane hole on Stocking Island, a small barrier island located between Elizabeth Harbor and Exuma Sound. It didn't take me long to empty the tanks I had on board exploring the area for underwater photo opportunities and - by orders of Captain Blye - use my tanks to clean the bottom of the boat. Getting our tanks filled required taking them to another island, so I resorted to trying to photograph on snorkel.

Since I used a Nikonos V with one strobe, I thought, "how hard can this be?" I soon discovered a new set of "challenges" trying to photograph on snorkel. Oh, the frustrations and joy of underwater photography!

Under the boat there was eel-grass with small outcroppings of coral and sponges in powder-fine sand and the usual combination of invertebrates and reef fish. My favorites to photograph were Spotted Sea Hares and the Mangrove upside-down jellyfish.

Being in one location for several months gave me the opportunity to find and photograph the same subject with different lenses. It was rewarding to observe the diverse sea life under and around the boat and be able to go back several times a week and watch the changes. At the September meeting, I will share with you some of my photos from the Bahamas.

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## UnderSea Adventurers website:

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

## DAN website:

[www.diversalernetnetwork.org](http://www.diversalernetnetwork.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
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	cseaflower@aol.com	
WebMaster/Newsletter ....	Matt Barton .....	561-338-9846
	bartonmg@bellsouth.net	

# President's Waves

Listen up all you creatures of habit! Starting in January we are changing the time of the General meeting. The new time will be 7:30pm NOT 8:00 o'clock as has been tradition for 30 years. Those of us who arrive early for dinner find that we are finished in plenty of time to start the meeting by 7:30. We will try it this way for a couple of months and see if we like finishing earlier and if there is enough time for socializing, signing-up for dives and purchasing club merchandise. I will remind you every month about the time change.

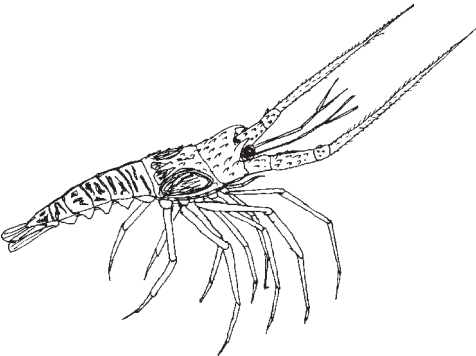
USA policy requires that all members and guests be respectful of and sensitive to the fragile reef systems and their inhabitants. Lobster season is here again, so let's make sure we are taking bugs legally while also respecting the environment. Licenses are now available on-line at [marinefisheries.org](http://marinefisheries.org) and by dialing Toll Free, 1-888-347-4356.



Here are a few important things to remember when you're out on the water.

- o A recreational saltwater license and a crawfish stamp are both needed.
- o The bag limit is 6 per person per day -OR- 24 per vessel, whichever is greater.
- o Possession and use of a measuring device is required at all times.
- o All lobster must be measured in the water and released unharmed if undersized.
- o Lobsters in your bag in the water are considered in your possession and must be legal-sized.
- o All lobster must remain in whole condition while at sea. Tails can only be separated on land.
- o Carapace length must be greater than 3 inches determined by starting at the forward edge of the carapace between the rostral horns and proceeding along the middle to the rear edge of the carapace.
- o Harvest of egg-bearing females is prohibited.
- o Regular lobster season is August 6<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Florida Resident Saltwater Fishing Licenses cost \$13.50 for one year plus \$2.00 for the Crawfish Permit. A five year License is \$61.50. Lifetime Licenses are now available based on age at time of purchase and do not require additional crawfish permits. Age 0 to 4 costs \$126.50, 5 to 12 = \$226.50, 13 or older costs \$301.50. And for all you Dinosaur Divers, a license is not needed if you are a resident, 65 years of age or older. A no-cost license under this rule may be obtained from any tax collector's office. Go get'em!



*Kathi McCutcheon  
USA President for 2002*

# Photos from Anne Dupont's "Under the Boat"

## "Side by Side"

I found these two Spotted Sea Hares (*Aplysia dactylomela*) feeding on algae under the boat. As a member of the subclass Opisthobranchia, sea hares are related to nudibranchs and sea slugs. When disturbed, they can discharge a harmless purple ink in defense. Photograph taken with a Nikonos V, one SB-105 strobe, 28mm lens and close-up kit on Kodak Elitechrome 100 film in the Exumas, Bahamas.



## "UPSIDEDOWN"

The Mangrove Upsidedown Jelly (*Cassiopea xamachana*) gets part of its nutrition from the algae found in its tentacles. These jellies sit on the bottom in shallow water "upside down", exposing their tentacles to the sunlight, allowing the algae to photo-synthesize its food. I found this specimen "under the boat" in the Exumas, Bahamas. Photographed with a Nikonos V, 35mm lens, 1:3 extension tube and a single SB-105 strobe.

# BONAIRE

## Buddy Dive Resort, June 21-28, 2003

Where can you enjoy daily boat dives combined with unlimited shore dives? With your fellow USA'ers in Bonaire this coming June 2003, that's where.



Join us for a week of spectacular diving and activities at Buddy Dive Resort, a PADI 5-Star resort, complete with two bedroom / two bath ocean view condos with full kitchen, breakfast daily, a Toyota double-cab pickup per quad for island exploring, and drive-thru tank fill facilities.

Bonaire is well-known for its shore dives, having fringing reefs within 30 feet of the shore, and visibility in the 100+ foot range, with a comfortable 80F water temperature. The Bonaire Marine Park surrounding the island boasts of more than 80 listed dive sites.

Divers will enjoy searching for any of the 364 species of fish that reside in the local reefs. According to REEF, Bonaire has the highest recorded fish species diversity in the Caribbean. Bonaire is also known as the macro capital of the Caribbean, a delight for underwater photography and videography. Daily boat trips are made to the nearby island of Klein Bonaire, a short 10 minute boat ride away. Guided night dives are also available.

For the non-diver, other activities include:

- snorkeling
- cave exploration
- kayaking
- sport fishing
- mountain biking
- windsurfing
- just good ol' rest and relaxation



Your package includes:

- 7 nights stay
- 11 two tank boat dives over 6 days of diving
- unlimited shore diving
- full breakfast daily
- Toyota double-cab pickup per quad
- airfare plus tips

Price: \$1422 diver, \$1108 non-diver

Be sure to visit their website at

<http://www.buddydive.com>  
<http://www.searchbonaire.com>  
<http://www.bonairewebcams.com>

Trip Leader: Matthew Barton  
(561) 338-9846, [bartonmg@bellsouth.net](mailto:bartonmg@bellsouth.net)



# GRENADA AND THE GRENADINES

## LIVE ABOARD AND LAND BASED

**August 2 - 12, 2003**

Fly to Grenada-Board the "MV Sea Hawk" for a **8 day / 7 night** upmarket live aboard experience, a normal Saturday to Saturday boat schedule. Per USA'er Greg Galland, "The Sea Hawk is the best live aboard that I have ever been on". This 87' newly remodeled vessel has 6 double cabins each furnished with both a single and double bed, private head and shower, and full A/C. The diving should be very good with both wrecks/reefs and, hopefully lots of large critters. Manta's seem to be very common. Water temperature in the mid 80's. Normal vis is 60-120 feet.

I talked to the owner, the website will be updated soon with a full itinerary for the trip. Until then the reefs are healthy, no bleaching! A few dives have currents. Often you can dive down the wall or stay



on top of a more shallow reef. The boat will go North towards St. Vincent, this is the details I got (Remember this is a Dane and A German exchanging information about mostly French geographical names):

Ronde Island, (Isle de Rond'e), Coral Garden, Carriacou, Frigat island, Rose Rock, Mayreau Garden,

Snake channel, Canouan Island, Mystique island, and back.

As of January 2003, the Sea Hawk will operate as part of the **Peter Hughes' Fleet**.

The Sea Hawk is conveniently docked at the resort where we will spend the 3 day land portion of the trip. We'll have 3 full days to relax and snorkel on the beaches of this beautiful resort. Grenada is a good sized island (12 miles wide by 22 miles long) – containing large areas of rain forest, waterfalls, etc. We have tours scheduled for each of the 3 land days:

Day #1 – Full day island tour

Day # 2 – Half day hike in the rain forest

Day #3 – A 2/3 hour tour of the markets and gardens of St. George, the capital city

The package includes:

- Round trip air fare from Miami
- **8 days / 7 nights**  
on the MV Sea Hawk
- All meals/beverages
- 5 dives/day, tanks + weights
- 3 nights at the  
Rendezvous beach Resort
- Full breakfast
- Transportation to and from  
the airport

An upgrade to a larger room that feature a queen rather than 2 single beds is available. Nitrox is offered at an extra charge.



For further information:

[www.rendezvousresort.com](http://www.rendezvousresort.com)

[www.seahawkcharters.net](http://www.seahawkcharters.net)

Estimated price:

- Round trip air fare and live aboard \$2195
- Add on 3 day land package \$ 450

*Nils Jacobsen, VP of Overseas Diving*  
954-783-1667 or 954-723-4598 at work

# BIMINI-LIVE-A-BOARD

## Paradise Charters – Easy Goin’ July 17-20, Summer 2003



Trip is \$715 + Bahamas taxes \$55, total of \$770.  
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 Goin'. 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, 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 home Sunday evening. Check out Rodale Scuba Diving magazine for June 2002: A+ Rating! The price for this trip is \$770.00 per person/double occupancy. Included: meals, snacks, taxes and tip.

There is an option to this trip if we all agree: add one extra day, start Wednesday night, add an extra 5 dives and the ability to go further south for \$195, including tips

### Departs:

Thursday, July 17,  
7:00pm (Bahia Mar area)

### Returns:

Sunday, July 20

### Package Includes:

- 3 nights on M/V Easy Goin' (double occupancy)
- 3 days diving (12 dives)
- Tanks & weights included
- All meals, snacks, soft drinks
- Beer or wine with dinner



Website: <http://www.paradisecharters.com>

### PLEASE SIGN-UP EARLY

*Trip Leader*

*Nils Jacobsen: 954-783-1667 or 954-723-4598 at work*



# DRY TORTUGAS

## SEPT. 25-SEPT 29, 2003

### SPEARFISHING - LOBSTERING

Please come and join myself and 10 other divers. The boat is the "MV Playmate" a luxury 60-foot yacht USCG inspected. The boat offers central air-conditioning, satellite TV, VCR, stereo, four separate staterooms, shower facilities inside and out, spacious sun deck, two below deck electric air compressors, DNAX NITROX, fresh water maker, lots of shade, easy water access and most importantly, personal attention. Owned and operated by Bob and Kimberly for over 12 years. The boat is docked at Stock Island in Key West.



We board the boat after 6:00pm on Thursday, September 25. They leave the dock on Friday 26 at 5:00am and start diving around 9:00am. We dive all day Friday, Saturday, Sunday and 3 dives on Monday. We will average "6" dives a day. We'll return on Monday 29 around 3:30pm. Please feel free to bring your own sodas, beer, wine, or liquor.

#### Price includes:

- All meals, snacks, iced tea or lemonade,
- Live aboard accommodations,
- Dive tanks (aluminum 80's 3000PSI),  
air fills, weights and belts.

#### Not included:

- Towels, sodas, and alcoholic beverages.

Also bring a large appetite. I have heard that Kim is a gourmet cook. They offer food items such as, Caesar Salad, Coquilles St. Jacques, Jamaican Jerk Chicken, Bahamian Conch Salad, Lobster Tails, Grilled Grouper Sandwiches, Steak, Onions and Cheese Strudel, and Beef Stroganoff. This is just a sample of the great food you will enjoy. Not to mention the fantastic desserts.

All of this for \$990 including Tip. Nitrox users \$1090 including tip. (Please note that this is still 2002 prices, we will not get the final price until September). The boat only holds a total of "11".

See their Website at: <http://www.diveplaymate.com>

*Trip Leader*

*Nils Jacobsen 954-783-1667 or 954-723-4598 at work*



# LOCAL DIVING with Linda G



Hot & sunny, 2-3 foot waves of crystal blue water greeted us Saturday, August 17, as Ann S, Bonnie C, Steve M, Pam O, Phil B, Greg G, Bob J, Jerry G & I sailed out the Hillsboro Inlet aboard the Aqua View! Our first dive, on the reef Lost Ledges, was fantastic! Water was 83 degrees and so clear you could see the coral growing (and the lobsters hiding) on reef through the glass bottom viewing area of the Aqua View! Visibility was over 80 ft! Steve and Ann teamed up to corral some lobsters; Bob & Greg got some too! Our second dive was on the Sunkist Reef...just as full of life and clear as our first dive. In addition to seeing (and catching) lobster, we saw yellow spotted rays, spotted moray, green moray and a barnacle coated turtle.

September 14th is our next local dive - aboard the Ibis in Dania Beach. We'll be diving the Tenneco Towers. Be at the boat at 7:30 a.m., it departs at 8:00 a.m. sharp! Cost is \$45 (includes tip & snack).

October 19th we have a morning charter aboard the Starfish Enterprise in Lantana. Be at the dock at 7:30 a.m., departs at 8:00 a.m.; cost is \$40 (includes tip & snack).



## SPIEGEL GROVE DIVE

I've only had three members respond to my email regarding a weekend of diving in the Keys. Twenty people signed the "interested in a trip" sheet at the August meeting. If I don't get an avalanche of mail by September 6th, I'll be in telephone contact with those three individuals to work out the details for



the five of us to go diving. **If you're interested**, get in touch with me No Later Than September 6th.

send checks payable to **USA** to:

*Linda Grist*  
5557 Boynton Place  
Boynton Beach, FL 33437  
(561) 369-1286



# USA Overseas Dive Program 2003

The August program was dedicated to cover 2003 overseas program. We have created a program based on what you told us, the overseas dive committee, what you wanted: Live-Aboard with/without land, a land-based trip with 2 daily dives, a lobster trip and a short local trip. The trip leaders introduced the trips at the August meeting. If you missed it see the Newsletter or the website or see the trip leaders at next months meeting. Some of you have already signed up, and paid your deposits. Thank you for the prompt response. Several members have called an announced an intent to sign up. Please remember that you do not get a priority position on the list until you pay your sign-up deposit.

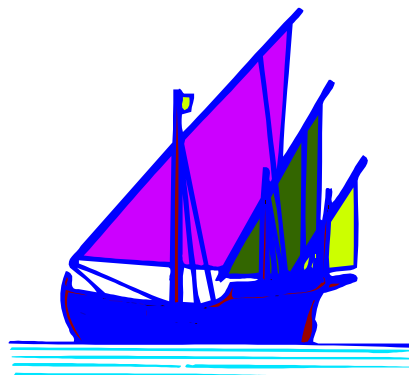
We have in recent years moved the signup period up with several months. One reason is necessity: Very often you need to be out there more than a year in advance to ensure room on a popular Live-Aboard. Another reason is convenience: If we pick a popular land destination and sell out early we might be able to add more spots if we just try early enough. And also if we fail to fill a trip we need to know early so we can mitigate any cost impact to the club, by canceling early. I hope you all understand and appreciate the necessity of these steps.

Let us break the mold and wipe out the image of the "last minute club" and sign up early!

**Last minute news:** I talked to the owners of Seahawk. The boat will become part of the Peter Hughes Fleet in Jan 2003, see details in the trip description ...

Bonaire, Land- based: 6/21-28  
 Bimini, Easy Goin': 7/17-7/20  
 Seahawk/Grenada: 8/2-12 (or 8/2-9)  
 Dry Tortugas: 9/25-9/29

*VP Overseas Diving  
 Nils Jacobsen*



## 2003 Overseas Dive Trips Payment Schedule

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

2003 DESTINATIONS	DATE	Dep	Sep	Oct	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
<b>Bonaire, Buddy Resort</b>	6/21-6/28	100	189	189	189	189	189	189	188	1422
<b>Bonaire, Non-diver</b>	6/21-6/28	100	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	1108
<b>Bimini, Paradise Charters</b>	7/17-7/20	100	112	112	112	112	111	111		770
<b>Seahawk/Grenada</b>	8/2-8/12	100	366	364	364	364	364	364	364	2650
<b>Seahawk/Diving only</b>	8/2-8/9	100	300	300	300	300	300	300	295	2195
<b>Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/Nx</b>	9/25-9/29	100	144	141	141	141	141	141	141	1090
<b>Dry Tortugas-Playmate w/air</b>	9/25-9/29	100	128	127	127	127	127	127	127	990

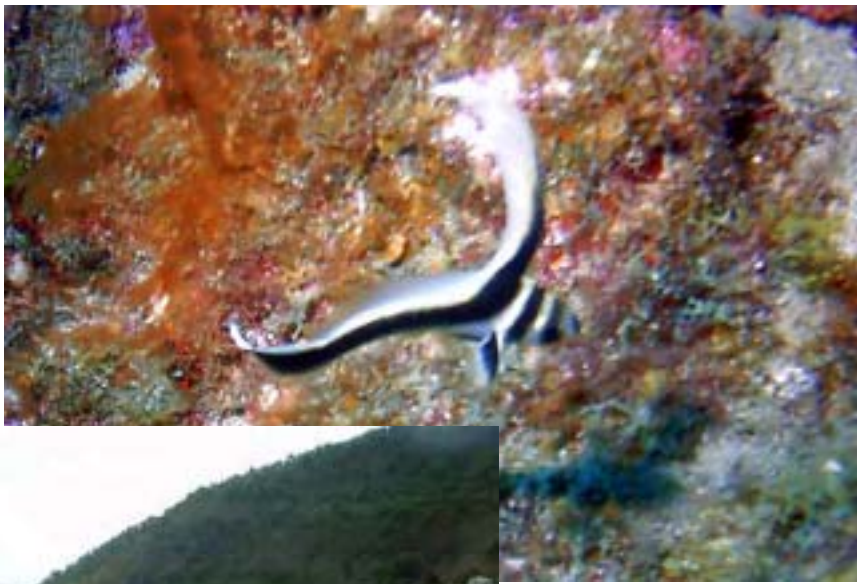
Please make your September payment at the meeting or mail it to Linda no later than 9/5

# Caribbean Explorer Trip Review

"16" USA club members left Miami on July 20<sup>th</sup> and ventured to St. Maarten where we boarded the live-a-board M/V Caribbean Explorer. While we were sleeping the boat traveled to Saba. When we woke up on Sunday morning we were all surprised to see a very large rock wall right next to us. It was a beautiful sight and there were goats climbing this wall that looked like it was straight up and down. We all were amazed that these goats were able to travel on the small mountain and we could not figure out how they got there. Off to diving. For the next 6 days we dove around the islands of Saba, Statia and St Kitts. We even had land tours on the islands of Statia, Saba and St. Kitts. The history of the islands was impressive. All three guides were very knowledgeable and proud of their islands as well as entertaining. The diving was not as good as it usually is. We hit some windy weather so there was some current at the top. But the deep walls were close to diving the Caymans. The pinnacle dive was full of sponges and colors. The last day of diving was absolutely gorgeous. I have since talked with one of the divers that were on the boat a week after us. He said that the seas were flat and there were no currents except for one day and it was slight. The crew was one of the best we have ever had. The cook, from England tried to please each one of us with our special requests. I would say most of us, gained some weight on this trip. This was a trip to remember and different from our usual live-a-boards. We left the boat feeling like we left our friends.

*Ronnie Farr*





# USA Logo Wear

Be the Life of the Party! Wear your USA shirt at the next gathering. Polo shirts with the USA logo stitched on the front are only \$24.00. USA T-shirts are a mere \$7.00. Sew-on patches are \$1.00. Shipping for our out-of-town members should be about \$1.50.

Contact Theresa Shaner for ordering information:

Theresa Shaner  
tshaner@aol.com



Matthew Barton  
6114 Woodbury Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33433

FIRST  
CLASS

eMail  
Delivery

# Calendar

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sept. 5th, Thurs  | 6:00pm Dinner @ Avian<br>7:00pm Social<br>7:30pm Meeting        |
| <b>Program:</b>   | <b>Under the Boat</b>   |
| Sept. 12th, Thurs | 7pm, Board Meeting  |
| Sept. 14th, Sat   | 7:30am Local Dive<br>Tenneco Towers on<br>the Ibis, Dania Beach |
| Sept. 25th, Wed   | Newsletter Deadline   |

## USA Membership Directories

The new 2002 Membership Directories are now out -but- we will not be eMailing them. They will be available for pick-up at the September and October meetings -or- you can request one to be sent via post by emailing your address to our webmaster@underseas.org

