

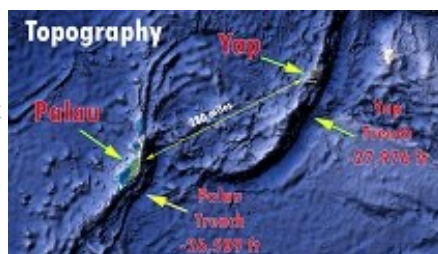


# Lunarfins Scuba Club

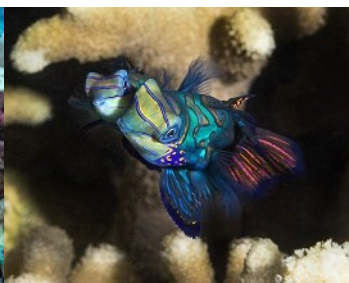
*Lunarfins, a non-profit club that promotes the sport of scuba diving.*

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 17th at 6:00 p.m.**  
**will be a LIVE in Person meeting with Dennis Deavenport**

My first exposure to Micronesia was 25 years ago when four of us went to Palau in 1996. It was a trip I had to make because of all the things I'd heard about how exciting and unusual it was to dive there. Although I was using primitive camera gear and wasn't a very experienced diver, it didn't disappoint. Surprisingly, many of my photos were actually usable and I think add interest and perspective.



Twenty years later, a group from HUPS went back to Palau but added a week diving on Yap, the Manta Playground of the Pacific. This time, I had all of my state-of-the-art digital gear and lots of friends around me to point me in the right direction. It didn't help, I still got lost once and had to spend 15 minutes finning to the distant boat. This presentation is not just about the diving which was pretty great but it also focuses on the topside beauty, the other divers, the rich history, and the culture of the Micronesian societies on Yap and Palau. Contributions from several HUPS members were used in its preparation. I'd like to think that this was a fully polished version, but I can see that it will take more work and help from others to get it to what my mind's eye envisions.



**Come at 6pm– order off menu, 6:30—7pm announcements & social. Speaker start at 7 pm.**



**Lunarfins Board Meetings**  
are held each month  
(except August & December) at 6:30 PM.  
Arrive at 6 to select your supper.  
Luka's BBQ and Steakhouse  
17052 Saturn Ln

*If you have an item to bring before the board,  
contact any board member to get on the agenda.*

### Inside this issue

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### Contributors:

Bill Jones  
Dennis Deavenport,  
Stanley Fontenot,  
Ja Van Pruett,  
Cindy Reuland,  
Brion Saathoff

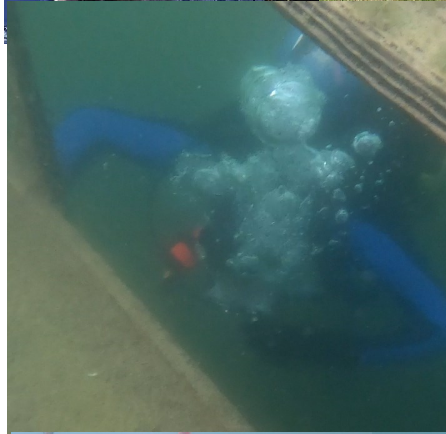


Lunarfins  
P.O. Box 57514  
Webster, TX  
77598-7514



The Lunarfins Scuba Club was organized in 1963 by a small group of divers who worked at the Manned Spacecraft Center, as Johnson Space Center (JSC) was known back then. The club grew primarily through the sponsorship of SCUBA training classes, local dive trips and social activities. Since that time, membership has broadened to include anyone interested in diving. The majority of our members are in some way affiliated with NASA but this is not a requirement for membership and members from the board.

# You should have been there!!



**Lunarfins**

P.O. Box

57514

Webster TX 77598-7514

281-851-5206

[webeditor@lunarfins.com](mailto:webeditor@lunarfins.com)

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/687047211312336>

Website:

<https://www.lunarfins.com/>

TGCC

<https://www.tgccdive.org/>

TPWD reefs:

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial\\_reef/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/)



## Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)



### Membership

**2021 Membership dues are  
Now being accepted.**

Membership runs from March  
1st to February 28th 2022

The renewal form is required  
each year in February.

*Please bring the form (below) to  
the next meeting or mail it in.*

*Please fill in all fields completely  
so that records can be verified  
this time around.*

*Don't forget to check your  
interest (s) and if you want to  
be included in the directory.*

**Membership Application**

<https://www.lunarfins.com/>



**Aug 17th— General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport — Palau and Yap**

**Aug 21st @ 2:00 PM. — Railean Rum Tour — contact Kim Murphy**

**Sept 18th @ 11:00AM—Beach Party-(EAST)— contact Kim Murphy**

**Sept 21st— Heidi Whitehouse — Texas Marine Mammal Stranding  
Network**

**Oct. 19th—General Meeting—David Lenderman—Galapagos  
Islands, Ecuador**

### **Pre-Owned Dive Gear for Sale**

**US Divers Shoe Fins Size 6 1/2-8 (40-41) Black**

Please contact Ja Van Pruett (all proceeds goes to Lunarfins)

### **In the Market For New Gear?**

**Gigglin' Marlin has offered our members a discount on equipment.** So if you are in the market for maybe a wet suit, a regulator, or a BCD, contact Louise Toole. A letter will be generated that you are a member in good standing and mailed to Gigglin' Marlin. Check out the Gigglin' Marlin web page and get more familiar with the dive shop. <https://gigglinmarlin.com>

**For those Lunarfins having SCUBA cylinders requiring hydrostatic testing,  
Western Sales & Testing is recommended. They will also do a VIP if requested.**

**They are located at 2814 East P Ave., Deer Park.**

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President       | Cindy Reuland    |
| Vice President  | Ja Van Pruett    |
| Secretary       | Courtney Scherer |
| Treasurer       | John Gorman      |
| Social Director | Brion Saathoff   |

#### APPOINTED

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Training information | Bill Jones        |
| Trip information     | OPEN              |
| TGCC Representative  | Tom Burns         |
| Advisor              | PeeWee Dwire      |
| Advisor              | Dennis Deavenport |
| Advisor              | Fred Toole        |
| Newsletter           | Ja Van Pruett     |
| Website              | Tom Burns         |

## Lunarphins President's Notes

Hi Lunarphins,

Enjoying your summer, maybe taking a long lost dive trip?! Well come to our August meeting and let's share our fun trips. We are going to try to meet in person in our own private room with likely a small group. We will be as safe as we can be and follow guidelines. After this meeting, we will evaluate the room, location and meeting in person. Unfortunately, we can no longer meet at Clear Lake Park because they charge a large fee now. So, we are going to try meeting at a restaurant which may save us some time in eating afterwards. We can eat, socialize, and learn about great places to dive. We look forward to hearing and seeing Dennis's presentation on Palau one of my favorite dive trips!

If you have suggestions for free rooms or alternate free rooms at restaurants, please visit the place and bring back a full proposal to the board and we will evaluate each. We have many suggestions and we need people to take the next step and do the research and provide it to the board.

We would like to start work on a 2022 dive trip. If anyone would like to plan a trip or have proposals for a Lunarphins trip, let us know.

We have some fun social events and diving at Mammoth Lake coming up, so please join us for an event that you are comfortable with to re-connect with Lunarphins and bring your friends! Enjoy diving safely again!

Cindy Reuland

2020-2021 President



*Happy Birthday to anyone that has a birthday this month!*

*May your day be wonderful!*

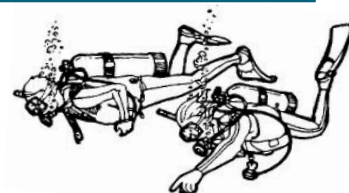


## positions still open

### Trip information

When you volunteer you become a bigger part of the club, we always want new ideas.

Folks! Please remember, the more you volunteer for leadership or to be in charge of an event. **The more you enjoy your club.**





# Thank you

## Our guest speakers for July was Leslie Whaylen Cliff

Leslie, is the Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator for the Texas Flower Gardens and she also assisted with the sanctuary expansion review process. Leslie told us where it is, why go there, how to get there, what to see. Very informative presentations. So sorry if you missed it.

### New Logo Lunarfins T-shirts

Would you like a New Logo Lunarfins T-shirt? Brion Saathoff came up with a new design and a way to make the club a little money. We have two colors and two styles, Blue or Red, a Crew or a V-Neck. We have a few left from the first order. If you would like to have one or more please contact Brion Saathoff at @ [brionsaathoff@icloud.com](mailto:brionsaathoff@icloud.com). or Ja Van Pruett @ [caladyfish@gmail.com](mailto:caladyfish@gmail.com)



### Pending Events



### Scuba Divers can now become environmentally certified through Green Fins

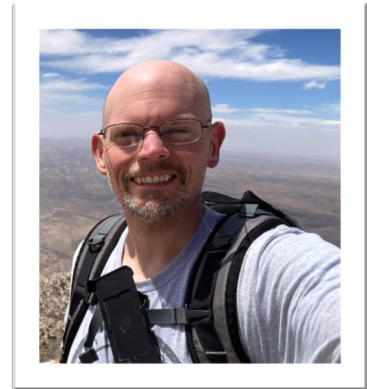
The Reef-World Foundation – the international co-ordinator of Green Fins – is pleased to announce the launch of the new Green Fins Diver e-Course. This new online course is designed to help recreational divers protect coral reefs by learning how to conduct more environmentally friendly dives.

Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) has spread throughout the Florida Reef Tract since 2014 and into many Caribbean countries and territories, but the disease has not yet affected the remote reefs of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS). However, the number of susceptible coral species we have and the high coral cover at FGBNMS suggest this location may be hit hard if the disease ever reaches the sanctuary.

**The prevention part of the plan focuses on the need to disinfect all dive gear before and after sanctuary visits, and prompt reporting of any coral disease observations. To facilitate identification of the disease, our research staff worked with MPACConnect to create a FGBNMS-specific coral disease identification poster to share with divers and dive boats frequenting the sanctuary.**

# Congratulations !!

## To our Members



It took me a couple of months, but I got it! I had to take several specials classes and have 24 dives to get this certification!



Diving the Kraken Wreck at 100+ feet, we completed our **Deep Diver Certification**.





## Events You Might Be Interested In



### *Las Haciendas Bar & Grill*

**August Meeting – August 17, 6:00pm**

**Come at 6pm– order off menu, 6:30—7pm announcements & social. Speaker start at 7 pm.**

**With Dennis Deavenport - Palau and Yap**

**1020 W Nasa Rd 1 (off I-45 by Star cinema)**

**Webster, TX 77598**



### **Distillery Tour & Tasting**

Railean Handmade Texas Rum - Railean Distillery & Buccaneer Bar Craft Spirits  
Tasting Room

**341 5th St., San Leon Texas 77539**

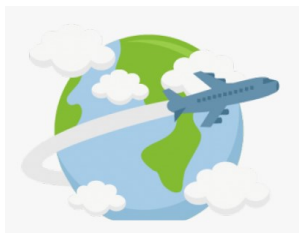
**Aug. 21, 2:00pm—  
it's a Saturday**

**RSVP** to: Kim Murphy (Brion Saathoff's Social Secretary) 979-264-1621— need a head count.

## **Beach Party— (EAST)**

**Sept 18th @ 1:00PM    Contact Kim Murphy 979-264-1621**

Hello everyone! Just **a quick note to let everybody know about the beach party. It will be Saturday, September 18 on East Beach From 1 o'clock until whenever. I will be bringing snacks, water and some drinks. Don't forget your chairs and umbrellas and if you want bring a lunch. Just look for the Lunarfins flag I hope to see you there.**



## Tips For Traveling, and More



### Ways to Save Money

**Buy a lifetime park pass.** There are 63 official national parks in the U.S., but the National Park Service oversees 423 sites, including many that are far less visited than big-name parks. A lifetime park pass (\$80.00 for those over 62) gets you into all of them.

**Fly from hubs.** A study by the Airlines Reporting Corp. last November showed that this was the day airports to consolidate planes and save costs. Fares are cheaper and stop-overs rare when you fly between hubs. It might make sense to drive to a hub.

**Set up air-travel alerts.** Besides helping you find the lowest flight fares, websites like Skyscanner, Kayak or Airfare Watchdog will notify you when destinations reopen to travelers and alert you to entry restrictions and quarantine requirements.

**Find no-cost “attractions”.** Why pay admission to see a cave, waterfall or pretty vista if there are similar ones nearby that are free? Before you get in line, check online maps or chat with a local to find a similar activity that’s off the beaten path.

**Ask locals where to eat.** Skip the hotel concierge when in search of good inexpensive restaurant meals. Just pop into a shop and ask a clerk. You’ll get a more authentic experience while saving money.

**Bottle up!** Any reusable bottle can get through a TSA check-point, as long as it is empty. Get through, fill it up at a water station, and you will save \$2 to \$4 per bottle of purchased water.

**Car Rentals.** Up to 30 percent off base rates, a free upgrade on compact to full-size class bookings when available, plus an additional driver at no cost at Avis and Budget Rent A Car.

**Regulator Servicing Tips.** After a long lay-off, you may be surprised to find your regulator, while working perfectly when you last used it, now needs servicing. That's because the valve seat of the first stage can become engraved by its valve poppet while it's not being used. However, after you have it serviced, like anything highly tuned, it may still need time for the internal O-rings to bed in and then need further readjustment of its interstage pressure setting. If you can, check your recently serviced regulator by using it in a pool or on a local dive before traveling.

For those Lunar fins having SCUBA cylinders requiring hydrostatic testing, Western Sales & Testing is recommended. They are located at 2814 East P Ave, Deer Park. They will also do a VIP if requested.



## Brion's Corner

Hello Lunar Fins,

I hope everybody is well and in good health. I was reading an article the other day about goldfish that have been released into lakes up in Minnesota and other areas of the country. An angler caught a goldfish about the size of a football in Minnesota and in Virginia they caught a 16-inch goldfish among others. It seems that in people's kindness to release these fish whenever they grow weary of them as unfortunately some people tend to do with pets. They have created an invasive species that wreaks havoc on the marine environment. Goldfish can actually live in almost any environment they can live under the eyes for up to two months with no oxygen. The problem with them is the uproot plants and sediment that lead to Alma blooms and poor water quality in lakes in Carver County Minnesota they eradicated between 30,000 and 50,000 goldfish in just one day. In Oak Grove Lake South Carolina an angler caught a 9-pound goldfish that was 15 inches long. It made me think of a pacu that I had years ago that my nephew gave me because it had outgrown his aquariums. The pacu is a cousin to the piranha he started out all right in my 75-gallon aquarium with the other big fish and as he grew which he finally reached 16 inches, you could not keep anything in the tank or any other fish, he would destroy the air stones he would chew holes in the airlines and just reap havoc. I eventually acquired him his own 75-gallon aquarium which he outgrew. I considered releasing him into the environment but with his aggressiveness and destructive nature I decided that it would not be a good thing nor an ethical thing. So, he lived out his life in my waterfall and pond in my backyard. The pacu can grow up to 3 feet long in the wild and reach 65 pounds they have found a black Pacu that has reached 42 inches and 66 pounds they live 20 to 25 years in captivity. They have a mouth and a bite pattern like a human.

Years ago, I was reading the story were some Pacu had been released into a local swimming hole and a young child had been bitten multiple times by one, someone that saw the bites later on and assumed that they were human bites and reported them to child services. they took the child away until the parents could prove where the bites came from. There is also a strain of green seaweed that is native to the Indian and Indio Pacific region *Caulerpa taxifolia* (algae) - they believe that it also came from private and public aquariums. it has been found in California Japan Australia Monaco and has spread to the Mediterranean. it replaces native plant life depriving food and habitat for native marine species. In California it was eradicated at considerable cost with toxic chemicals that they introduced into the environment. And as we all know there are others zebra mussels a brown anemone *aiptasia*, and snails etc. that make their way into other environments through ballast water bilge water and attaching themselves to hulls of ships.

And of course, we cannot leave out the famous Lionfish which seems to be the ultimate They serve predator fish. They believe this species also came from being released from people's aquariums. June 3 of this year the California Academy of sciences published a report that the lionfish have actually reached the Brazilian coast and in the past couple years they have been seen in our very own flower gardens which we were all hoping would not happen due to the isolated location. So next time you go from one body of water to another please sanitize your gear be careful that you're not carrying water in your BCD from one body of water to another. if you have a boat watch your bilge don't be so kind hearted as to feel bad for the fish and release it into the environment, see if you can find a local pet store that might take it off your hands. Don't dump your aquariums in the water. There is a very good website for tracking invasive species the USDA national invasive species info center. [Invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://Invasivespeciesinfo.gov). By the way you do not need a license to hunt Lionfish in Florida so next time you're there have fun. Everybody be safe and thanks for reading my long-winded post God Bless and stay safe.

Brion Saathoff

Social Director

## *Lunarfins! Do you remember your first dive?*



**Stanley Fontenot**—a new diver at large. Share his excitement as you read.

### Here's my journal for the last two days!

I had a blast of a weekend! Going on a boat dive was an incredible experience. There were so many firsts for me regarding diving. My friends, nephew and I went on a dive charter out of Orange Beach Alabama on Saturday! Our dive location was to be at the Lulu wreck. After 1.5 hours we reach the dive site but left the location due to fishing boats. We then went to dive a navy tug boat. Words cannot express what it was like to take a leap off the back of the boat in the gulf and pull myself down a mooring line to the tug boat. The visibility was terrible for the first 25 feet down and then opened up! Wow! I could see the boat outline at about 40 feet down. Wow! This is crazy! Divers went everywhere and I slowly went down to 111 feet and stayed there for about 15 minutes before having to make my way up. My nephew came to me, quickly, and signaled there was a shark. The shark was awesome, although I could not see it clearly. My friends went and chased it to get a better view and we're within 4 feet of the shark!!! I would have loved to do that with them!!! Hopefully there would be a next time!!!! I stayed above the boat the whole time. On our way back to the surface a huge school of spade fish (I have no idea what kind of fish they were they just look like spades with stripes), swam behind my friend JC Andrews. I was in awe!!!! Words cannot describe!!! After that a small school of large barracuda swam by us!!!! How awesome is that!!!!

After that we went to the Lulu wreck to dive it! This was another deep dive. The captain tied off to the line and we went in one at a time! I was still very Apprehensive about going down into water that I cannot see anything initially. There was a layer in the water that had suspended algae where visibility was terrible. After about 20 ft down it opened up!!! There was about 40- 50 feet of visibility. The ship was resting on its side due to a hurricane that came in the area. I swam around the tower and saw a massive Goliath grouper! This fish was much bigger than me! Amazing! I had a good dive!!! I did come up from both dives with a bloody nose! I was totally fine was told this was a common thing! It stopped when I surfaced! All good!

After the boat dives, JC and I went and did some shore dives! We first went in the water near a pier to see what was there. We surface swam out a while to the end of the dock to see what was out there. The people fishing on the pier kept yelling at us. I thought they were ticked off because we were scaring the fish off. We were not near their lines. JC told me they were yelling "danger danger". Awesome!!!! Let's see what the danger is! Apparently, there were tarpon in the area where we were. I would've loved to have seen them I think they're incredible fish. That dive was an hour long and the max depth was 17 feet! After that, I went on my first night dive and it was awesome!!!!!! What a beautiful time! We went to the ruins of a boat wreck called the Whiskey Runner. There was but a shell left! The huge school of catfish circling around us was so much fun to watch! Purple coral, crabs, Various kinds of fish, and jellyfish were seen on this night dive! This dive was only 34 minutes. I had a cheap dive light that did not last long. This dive was one of my favorites!

Sunday morning, we went out to the whiskey runner to do a morning dive. I had a very relaxing time watching sand dollars move slowly across the sand. I was in awe! I have never found a whole sand dollar ever until now! They were grayish in color and had little hair like things on the whole shell!!! I picked them up, appreciated them and put them back down! How cool! I saw a couple of sting rays and two flounders!

This dive was good but frustrating due to the jelly. I ended up getting stung on my arm and leg! No fun! I'm thankful they were not horrible stings, just very uncomfortable! My nephew got hit many times while diving. We did another night dive and dove through jelly fish alley!!!! This was nuts! When I realized the fish were everywhere, I spent the entire dive trying to dodge the jellyfish. I got hit on the back of my hand and it burned! At one point I grabbed the bell of a jelly fish. This was a mess! We did see some beautiful stingrays and small catfish along the way. After about 49 minutes of diving, we surfaced and talked about what we wanted to do. We decided to go back down and dive to the shore. As soon as I went down, I had a jellyfish's tentacles sweep across my lip and chin. This sucked! I called the dive and said I was done! I don't regret going on this night dive; however, I will wear a wetsuit if there is a next time!

What an incredible two days! I hope to do this again in the future! The deep-water dives were only 37 minutes but the others were long relaxing dives, well except for jellyfish alley!

**Divers on the trip** — JC Andrews, Thomas Elder, Janice Kay Fontenot, Sonya Riker, Jason Riker, and Jennifer Elder



# HOUSTON UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL

**Will be held April 2-3, 2022**

**at the Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH)**

HUFF aims to promote underwater film making and appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all things underwater as well as encouraging the art of underwater videography. Underwater videographers from around the world are invited to submit entries for consideration for screening.

Enter films at [filmfreeway.com/houstonunderwaterfilmfestival](http://filmfreeway.com/houstonunderwaterfilmfestival). Entries are free.

See the rules and buy \$10 HUFF 2020.virtual tickets at [hups.org/huff](http://hups.org/huff).

## These are the categories to enter:

**Novice:** For persons entering the contest who are new to underwater video and who request assistance in video post processing, HUPS members, dive shop personnel, other friends, or someone familiar with video editing can provide assistance in editing, color correction and music. Such assistance is naturally limited, and videos will be accepted based on available resources as well as the other elements of acceptance criteria stated in the Rules & Terms. Length is limited to under 2 minutes. Contact us a [huff@hups.org](mailto:huff@hups.org) for more information.

**Fixed Lens:** This category is limited to cameras without interchangeable lenses such as compacts, GoPro, SeaLife and others. Wet lenses such as macro or wide angle are acceptable. Length is under 2 minutes.

**Short Videos:** Videos that do not fit in categories 1 or 2 but are under 2 minutes in length.

**Feature Length Films:** Videos that do not fall in the first 3 categories. The length is 2 - 5 minutes.

**Made in Texas:** This category will award winners from the other 4 categories for the best films submitted by a Texans. Creator(s) must have their primary residence in Texas. To win in this category you must submit a film to one of the other 4 categories.

The HUFF Committee visited the Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH) on ton July 22, to begin planning the event. **Very modern and high-tech.**

### **Submission Procedure:**

Films must be submitted through FilmFreeway no later than January 10, 2020.

Acceptance status will be communicated no later than March 1, 2022 via email.

Entry Link: [filmfreeway.com/houstonunderwaterfilmfestival](http://filmfreeway.com/houstonunderwaterfilmfestival)

**Dates & Deadlines:** Opening Date: June 22,

Entry Deadline: January 11, 2022

Notification Date: No later than March 1, 2022

Event Dates: April 2-3, 2022

Contact Information:

Website - [hups.org](http://hups.org)

Email: [huff@hups.org](mailto:huff@hups.org)

Phone: 713-231-4052

Address: 14 Windermere Ln.,

Houston, Texas 77063 USA



## Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

### Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casco Rd – Freeport TX

[captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml](http://captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml)



### Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

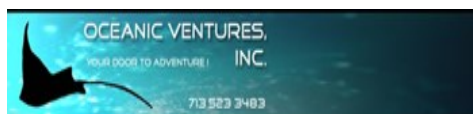
[www.divetrip.com](http://www.divetrip.com)



### Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX

[oceanicventures.com](http://oceanicventures.com)



### REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL

[reef.org/trips](http://reef.org/trips)



### Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

[txdivecenter.com/](http://txdivecenter.com/)



### Giglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

[giglinmarlin.com](http://giglinmarlin.com)



### Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX

[maximum-scuba.com](http://maximum-scuba.com)



### Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX

[otadiving.com](http://otadiving.com)



### Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX

[sportdivers.com](http://sportdivers.com)



### Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX

[texasscubaadventures.com](http://texasscubaadventures.com)