

August 2022



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 16th at 6:00 p.m.

This will be a hybrid with the Shelby Dill

Will share her Experience with Skin Bends



Shelby Dill is from Colorado Springs, Colorado. She studied Counseling Psychology, MS at Troy State University and received her BA at University of Maryland & Europe in Management Studies. Shelby was an Education Services Officer a United States Coast Guard.

Shelby Dill has been a diver for 40 years, has over 1000 dives, and is trained to the

PADI Divemaster level. She has dove all over the world including Okinawa, Hawaii, Mexico, Belize, Roatan, Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Florida and Texas.

She is will be talking about her experience with skin bends, including hospitalization and hyperbaric chamber treatments, in Cozumel, Mexico in October of last year.

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Tom Burns,
Stanley Fontento,
Beverly Kolonko,
Mike Peters, Ja Van
Pruett, Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Bob Sanders



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



Lunarfins Board Meetings
are held each month
(except December) at 6:30 PM.

Will be ZOOM only

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



Dive Into the Gulf: An Exposition!



Membership

**2022 Membership dues are
Now being accepted.**

Membership runs from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st 2023

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/>



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Aug. 16th — General Meeting — Shelby Dill — Skin Bends

Aug. 19th & 20th — Dive Into the Gulf: An Exposition!

Aug. 27th 11:30AM — Lunarfins Brunch at Las Brisa Mexican Grill

Sept. 20th — General Meeting — Georgia Neblett — Amos Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) Tours

Sept. TBA — Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Oct. 18th — General Meeting — Amanda Terry — Texas Sealife Center

Oct. TBA-

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

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Cindy Reuland
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Deana Coale
Treasurer	John Gorman
Social Director	Brion Saathoff

APPOINTED

Training information	Bill Jones
Trip information	PJ Campagna/ Deana Coale
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Tom Burns	Website

Do you have
any ideas for
event or

Topics for
Speakers for
2022?

Please share
them with
any of our
officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes

August 2022

Summer fun!

We had a great July presentation from JC Andrews on Socorro! Thank you from a great member for sharing his experiences. Its fun to learn about new places to explore and how to get there.

At our August meeting we will have a great topic to learn about diving safety with Shelby Dill speaking on skin bends! This is good to learn about so join us in August.

We are planning to meet for brunch in August so join us at a different time and place. We would like to hear about your dive trips this Summer!

If you are new to diving, let us know and we can set you up with some dive training and trip ideas. We are here to be a diving resource for you. We have experienced divers in our club, our greatest asset is our people.

We are looking for people to help with the club so let us know if you want to volunteer. It makes a fun experience to have new people and new ideas.

Come out and join us and bring a friend!

Cindy Reuland

2022-2023 President



Thank you

Our speakers for July meeting was JC Andrews. JC gave an excellent report on his trip to Socorro. **If you missed there presentation, I am so sorry for you. We have put Socorro on our bucket list.**

We met at Spring Creek Barbeque on Gulf Freeway, same place we will meet in August. Please let a member of the Lunarfin's Board of Directors on what you thought of the location.



A new place — Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu

<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com>

August 16th, 6:00pm

Come at 6pm—and order, 6:30—announcements & social

Speaker start at 7:00 pm

2710 Gulf Fwy S., League City TX 77573

Up Coming Events



Lunarfins Get-to-gether Brunch at La Brisa

Saturday August 27— 11:30am – ???

La Brisa Mexican Bar & Grill

501 N. Westley Dr., League City

"La Brisas is always good!"

Please Contact– Kim Murphy to RSVP - kamurph5717@gmail.com



First Dive in the Gulf

By Stanley Fontento

I have no pictures to show nor can I create an image of the unbelievable beauty that I experienced this past weekend. I'm so thankful I was able to travel with my friend JC to Corpus Christi to dive three different decommissioned oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. I met up with 5 other divers, one being the captain and owner of the boat and headed out of Corpus at 6:00am. This was one of the roughest boat rides I have been on in years. Swell after swell, we head out at a snail's pace to the ant hill rig. I had buckets of water thrown into my face for a few hours as the captain of our boat tried to set a world record on how far he could launch his boat into the air off the swells. Three of us were in the front of the boat being tossed as we headed out to dive. As the sun broke through, I could see the color of the water change from black to dark blue to the most beautiful azure blue I have ever seen!!!! The color of blue I saw is my favorite color! I was in disbelief I was going to be diving in this incredibly beautiful water. Swell after swell, I was in awe! I look to my right and see a very small flying fish launches out of the water and fly over the water away from our boat.

I looked at the captain and he said "that's a flying fish." I remembered seeing these fish when I took a cruise years ago. These little fish were very small, but I enjoyed them very much. Along the way, I kept looking at the swells and kept asking myself, is it safe to dive in these conditions? I asked JC if people dive in these conditions. Without hesitation, yes. Ooooooook..... I'll go with it.

We had to stop several times to take a dip and, well, take care of business. Most of us dove off the boat and went for a swim. I was in disbelief. I was so happy and mesmerized by the color of the water. I could not get over this. I was going to be diving in the beautiful water, seeing amazing things, where I could get swept away by a strong current. I am very excited about this! Visibility was going to be 100ft plus.

After a 3-hour boat ride you could see a yellow buoy off in the distance. This was real! I'm about to go on my third deep gulf dive! (65-130ft). This was awesome to watch the captain and deck hand tie off to the buoy. I'm not sure how far this buoy would stand out of the water on a calm day, but the swells would engulf it time after time. I looked over the edge and could see the metal stands from the old rig 20 feet below the surface. This was awesome!!!!!! They lassoed the buoy and we got our gear together and rolled off the edge of the boat and into the water. Once in the water, I gave the ok sign and then waited for the other guys to get in. We descended to the rig to enjoy what the rig has to offer! Because this was my first rig dive, I just followed my friend down to the lower part of the rig within our diving limits. It was amazing to be down 130 ft for a few minutes (max time at that depth is about 5 minutes). We slowly ascended looking at all the life that is around the rig. The coral species were beautiful. The pipes were covered with life! The tiny fish, the massive Queen angelfish blew my mind away! I was mesmerized by what I saw. There was a slight current that was constant but not bad. I have heard stories of strong currents coming through and divers having to fight to stay in place or ascend to get out of it. It was hard for me to wrap my mind around this. It was awesome to experience this dive. I took a moment to observe the barracuda swimming effortlessly, with subtle movements as they stayed stationary swimming into the current. I have never seen coral in the wild. I have no idea what species was growing, but it was nice to see the yellow coral polyps everywhere. The pipes were covered with life!!! Coral, hydroids, tons of spiny oysters, damsel fish, wrasses, schools of fish, and tons of other life thrives on these rigs.

I hovered around the 45-foot depth for most of the dive. I went from one side of the rig and drifted to the other. I was enjoying the dive. Water temperature was 84F and very comfortable. My dive was 55 minutes. Incredible!

We went to the next the next rig, or what's left of it, that was very close to the first. There was no buoy to tie the boat off to so our captain dove down about 20 feet with a big hook and tied us off to the structure.

After a one-hour surface interval the four of us went off the side of the boat and went for the rig below! This rig was very interesting and one I enjoyed the most!

In the middle of the structure down 107ft were a cluster of pipes that had been cut off. There was some air bubbling up from a couple of the pipes. I did not stay down that long due to time limitation, but I did dive around checking things out. From 107ft, I made my way slowly back to 41 ft and hung out there for a while. There was a slight current moving through the rig. This was very interesting because the current shifted several times and pushed me a little to the left and then right. This was nothing strong but very fascinating to experience. I took time to look at the schools of fish swimming around the rig.

There was a school of greville jack fish that were so beautiful to watch. There was a big open area at around 60ft where the fish were swimming. I went back down about 10 feet to be where the fish were. Here I am, a speck in the gulf, weightless, mesmerized, hovering in blue waters, watching the fish swim all around. Incredible! What an opportunity to be here. I took time to enjoy what creatures were present. I enjoyed this area for a little time and then went back up to 43ft. Because I was at a shallower depth, I was able to stay at this depth for the remainder of the dive until I was done. After a 5-minute safety stop around 15ft, I made my way to the boat.

This second dive was 48 minutes long and I still had 1113psi in my tank. This was a great dive. By this time I was getting tired. The sun was beating down on us. I was starting to get a head ache but did not want to pass on a third dive.

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This second dive was 48 minutes long and I still had 1113psi in my tank. This was a great dive. By this time I was getting tired. The sun was beating down on us. I was starting to get a head ache but did not want to pass on a third dive. Our captain had coordinates to another rig but had never been to it. We decided to try and find it. Well, we did! Whoever decommissioned this rig cut the pipes at a depth of 118ft. Wow, this was a deep dive for sure! After another surface interval we got back in our gear and went back in. Justin was the first to get in and headed down to the rig. I checked my gear to make sure everything was secure before going over the edge of the boat. When I got in the water, I looked down to see where Justin was and noticed my weight pouch came out of my bed and spiraled down to the depths of the gulf. This pissed me off. I checked my gear but obviously did not have the weight pouch locked in. I was flustered! This was a costly mistake. All I could think was: this just cost me \$100.00....

I looked at the captain and said I dropped a weight pouch. He asked me how much I had. I said 7 lbs. he put a 5lb weight in my pocket so I could dive. He looked at me and said: don't go down if you don't feel like it. I told him I will be ok. Being highly bummed, I made my way down with my friend Wayne to the rig. We did not go deeper than 116. I looked at my computer and only had 5 minutes to play around at that depth before going in to deco. This means I would have to make several stops on my way to the surface to off gas the nitrogen builds up in my system. This could cause me to get decompression sickness if I didn't make stops..... on to the story....

This area was much larger than the other two rigs. Wayne, Justin and I dove around one part and then noticed another section about 50 ft away. This was so cool to see but I could not stay down any longer. I had to make my way up because 1 of my computers said I was in deco while the other two weren't. This was frustrating because I wanted to play a little longer. Oh well, this was a short dive for me. The total dive time was 28 minutes. My friends saw some small sharks on the way up. I didn't see any.

This last dive was frustrating on a couple of levels. However, I will be checking my weight pouches better now!!!! Well, I did it! I overcame some reservations about deep diving. I was able to relax and have fun! The water, coral, oysters, sponges, fish, and rig structures were very interesting and beautiful! The ride back to the dock was fast because we were riding the swells back to the boat ramp. As we got closer to the shore the water turned from the deep beautiful blue to and emerald green!!! Does this get any better!!!! Amazing!!!! We arrived safely that afternoon and very tired!

Going on a dive like this was on my bucket list. I feel it's important for me to experience dives like this so I will be a more knowledgeable and better/ safer diver.

When I got certified last year, I had to overcome many fears of drowning. My mind played games on me and still does. What if this happens, what if my regulator fails and I'm down 100ft? Because of this, I have taken several specialties to help me be a safer and more confident diver. Most of the dives I do are in lakes where visibility is usually terrible. Sometimes it is 12 feet and other times it's down to 1 foot. Having 100ft visibility on these dives was beyond incredible!!!!

I cannot wait to do this again!

I have hoped of doing dives like this again. I also want to go to the Flower Garden Banks in the gulf one day.

I hope you enjoyed my journal!

About our Members

Congratulations!

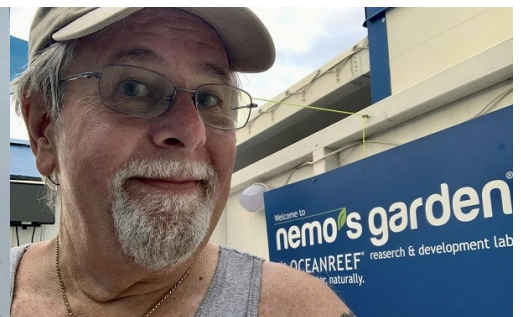
Tom Reuland



The NASA/Contractor team is nearing completion of the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (xEMU) space suit project, soon to be taken over by commercial space suit services companies. The team had the opportunity to be photographed with the assembled suit in June 2022. I worked mostly on the Exploration Informatics (xINFO) Subsystem, some of which is seen around the helmet, (four Lights and a Camera).

Welcome home!

Paul Cater Deaton



So, we're safely back from a week in Italy, via France and the Netherlands. The greatest joy in my life has always been watching my daughter discover fascinating people, places and cultures.

They adored a side trip for a few days in Florence and Pisa with Mum and Dad while GrandMon and I stayed in Noli so that I could film a return to the fascinating [Nemo's Garden](#). I'll be producing a documentary and news feature on new developments there, as well as composing a magazine article.

About our Members, (Continued)

congratulations!



Paul Cater Deaton had the pleasure to film a segment for [Houston Life](#) on the 60th birthday of the great Roger "Rocket" Clemens! Birthday. And working with the delightful Melanie Camp was the candle on the cake.

Paul's words "He's a really good guy, too, and a very gracious host. Most people don't know about a lot of the things he and his foundation do."



Bob Sanders

Worked a week at Kennedy Space Center and was there for SpaceX launch. What a thrill. That was something that I always wanted to see in person.

Mike Peters's — Wanted to Share

Sunken jewels, buried treasure uncovered in the Bahamas from iconic — 17th century Spanish shipwreck

By Angelica Stabile, Fox News



Allen Exploration retrieved priceless artifacts from Maravillas treasure ship — museum will showcase the discoveries

Talk about a find.

A treasure trove of jewels, medallions and historic artifacts has been uncovered in the Bahamas that date back to the legendary 17th century Maravillas shipwreck — and the public can now get a look at it.

Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas (Our Lady of Wonders), a two-deck [Spanish galleon](#), sank on Jan. 4, 1656, off the Little Bahama Bank in the northern Bahamas on a trip to Seville from Cuba.

It had been carrying numerous treasures of both royal tax and private property. The 891-ton ship went down after colliding with its fleet flagship. It struck a reef 30 minutes later — and ultimately sank.

The remains of the vessel were scattered for several miles across the ocean, with no significant portion of the ship left behind.

For more than 360 years, archeologists and adventurers have attempted to locate the debris that was lost in the wreckage.

And while much of the treasure — an estimated 3.5 million pieces, out of eight — was salvaged between 1656 and the early 1990s, modern-day technology tools such as high-resolution magnetometers, enhanced GPS and metal detecting have allowed Allen Exploration to bring to the surface riches beyond the imagination.

In an interview with Fox News Digital, Allen Exploration founder Carl Allen said that he and his team began pulling up precious artifacts in July 2020 near Walker's Cay. High-tech tools, plus the official permission they received from the Bahamian government to search the Northern Bahamas area — known to be a wreckage hotspot — have made for “quite amazing” discoveries, the entrepreneur said.

“We’ve recovered thousands of artifacts,” he said. “Cannons, anchors, emeralds and amethysts ... We’re up to about 3,000 silver coins and 25 gold coins,” he said.



Allen Exploration used high-tech tools to locate and pull the riches out of the water. Allen Exploration

The water in the area only reaches up to 50 feet deep, while the sand can bury treasures down to 20 feet, he revealed.

Yet that didn't stop Allen from proving his doubters wrong and discovering treasures that took his breath away. “When I pulled up the first valuable item, I lost my breath,” he said. “I couldn't breathe.” “I've been thinking about this my whole life.”

The fascinating finds also include Spanish olive jars, Chinese porcelain and iron rigging, according to an AllenX press release.

The team also discovered a silver sword handle belonging to the soldier Don Martin de Aranda y Gusmán; the item helped the teams identify these treasures as belonging to the sunken Maravillas. Four pendants worn by members of the sacred Order of Santiago, a religious band of knights active in Spanish maritime trade, were also recovered. The Order of Santiago garners the same cross overlaying a large, oval Columbian emerald. Three gold chains were r



AllenX considered the Order of Santiago jewels to be the “star” finds thus far. One golden pendant with the Cross of Santiago was designed in the shape of a scallop shell. It's reinforced by what appears to be an Indian bezoar stone — a famous European stone known for its healing properties. Another golden pendant retrieved, including an 887-gram gold filigree chain made up of 80 circular links and decorated with four-lobed rosette motifs, most likely crafted in the Philippines, the group said.

Although the worth of these artifacts most likely add up to the millions of dollars, the items are priceless, said Bill Springer, Allen Exploration spokesperson.

The finding of the Maravillas reflects an “amazing leap” in technology. Allen Exploration

For more information go to: <https://nypost.com/2022/08/08/bahamas-treasure-found-in-iconic-17th-century-spanish-shipwreck/>

Flower Garden's News

2022 Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest

May 27, 2022 through September 5, 2022 (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend)

Welcome all photographers, regardless of skill level or experience, to participate in the 2022 *Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest*. We will be accepting submissions in the following categories:

Sanctuary Views: Share your photos of beautiful sunsets or scenic shots of your favorite National marine sanctuary.

Sanctuary Life: Send us your best photos of sanctuary inhabitants like fish, birds, marine mammals, and other amazing ocean creatures.

Sanctuary Recreation: Enter your best images of people responsibly enjoying national marine sanctuaries, whether they're boating, kayaking, diving, swimming, conducting research, or just hanging out on the beach. Photos should be taken following CDC and local guidance.

Sanctuaries at Home: Show us how you're connecting to your National Marine Sanctuary System from home! Submissions to this category can include photos of stewardship activities from your home or neighborhood, or sanctuary-related artwork (paintings, drawings, etc.).

For more information visit: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photo-contest.html?>

Events You Might Be Interested In



As one of our community members in years past you are aware that Moody Gardens typically holds a World Oceans Day annual event and after a 2-year hiatus, we are now making it a Gulf of Mexico wide standalone event,

Dive Into the Gulf: An Exposition!

This exciting event scheduled in August, they are will be the intersection of the dive, science, education, art, and conservation communities. This is a daylong event with vendors, speakers, prizes, and followed with a sustainable seafood dinner for the conversations to keep going about the Gulf of Mexico and what role diving plays. They will also be offering aquarium tours and a try diving opportunity as well. Below is the website where we will be adding information as it comes available. This is also where you, your business, and/or affiliated dive shop can register as a vendor, if interested, and see the details. There is also the opportunity to become a sponsor.

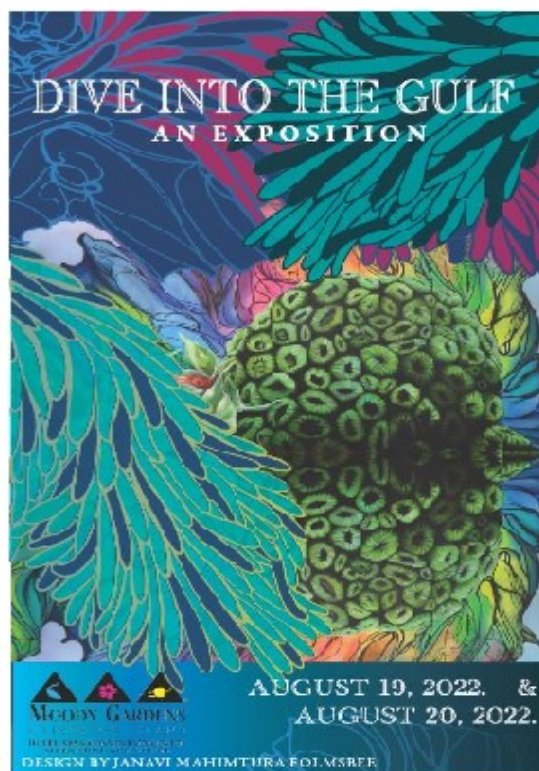
With Moody Gardens' community members like yourselves, and also as active divers on the Gulf Coast, I wanted to pass along the info for the event. **On the next page you will see the attendee schedule,** artwork for the event, and information for sponsorship if you are looking for other opportunities to be involved. It would be great to be able to have you all as part of this first event open to the Gulf states and beyond.

posted at <https://www.moodygardens.com/dive-expo/>

Up Coming Events

DIVE INTO THE GULF

- **Friday: August 19th:**
 - 2 - 8p: Welcome Party at Palm Beach!
 - Entry \$20; included in hotel package
- **Saturday: August 20th:**
 - 7a: Breakfast Buffet at Café in the Park (not included)
 - 9-11a: Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tours for Hotel Package Guests
 - 9-10a
 - 10-11
 - 36 spots each tour; pickup 15 minutes prior in the hotel lobby
 - Included in hotel package, guests get choice of one time slot on either day
 - 10a to 5p: Dive Into the Gulf: An Exposition!
 - \$15 ticket for entry, includes raffle ticket and Aquarium entry
 - Hourly speakers with topics of underwater science and conservation, technical diving, marine art, diving safety, and underwater photography
 - Vendor hall that circles the speaker stage
 - Try Scuba 11 to 3 at the Moody Gardens Indoor Pool
 - 4:30 - 5p: Raffle
 - 7 - 10p: Currents in the Gulf
 - Sustainable Seafood Dinner, Cash Bar, Silent Auction, Speaker
 - Included in hotel package
- **Sunday: August 21st:**
 - 7a – 7p: Dive Charter through Texas Scuba Adventures (external booking)
 - First come first serve
 - 9-11a: Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tours for Hotel Package Guests
 - 9-10a
 - 10-11
 - 36 spots each tour; pickup 15 minutes prior in the hotel lobby
 - Included in hotel package, guests get choice of one time slot on either day



Hotel Package: Welcome Party at Palm Beach tickets for two, Gulf Coast Dive Expo tickets for two, Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tour (guests select which time), Currents in the Gulf tickets for two

This event is fundraising for the Moody Gardens Conservation Fund

Landing page: <https://www.moodygardens.com/dive-expo/>

Fling Charters

726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX

979-233-4445



Fling Charters 2022 Trips:

Aug. 15-17 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Aug. 18-21 — 4-Day Mass Coral Spawn Excursion—**SOLD OUT**

Aug. 22-24 — MTW (3-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Aug. 25-26 — Th-F (2-day) Oil Platform Excursion

Sept. 6-8 — MTW (3-Day) Blackwater Diving

Sept. 10-11 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 12-14 — MTW (3-Day) Lionfish Invitational Cruise #2

Sept 15-16 — Th-F (2-day) Lionfish Hunt

Sept. 17-18 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 19-21 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Sept. 22-23 — Th-F (2-day) Lionfish Hunt

Sept. 24-25 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Sept. 29-30 — Th-F (2-day) Oil Platform Excursion

Oct. 1-2 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 8-9 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip

Oct. 10-12 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip

Here's the new web page: TexasCaribbean.com

You should have been there!!

Brion Saathoff, Brion's nephew (Bill Saathoff), Kim Murphy, Mike Peters, John Garman, Gloria McGlothlin, Ja Van Pruett, PeeWee Dwire, PeeWee's grandson—Adrian Sampson and his girlfriend Erin Harty, (Friends of Ja Van and PeeWee's — Beverly & Richard Kolonko and Gale Smith).

Photo's by Tom Burns, John Garman, Beverly Kolonko, and Ja Van Pruett

Below is what you missed out on.



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 we have members from all across the board.



Lunarfins

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281-851-5206

webeditor@lunarfins.com

Facebook:

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

Website:

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

TGCC

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

TPWD reefs:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/



You should have been there!!



**Happy Birthday! to
anyone that has
a birthday this month!
May your day be wonderful!**

Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casco Rd – Freeport TX

captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml



Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

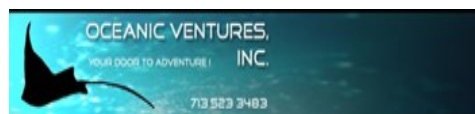
www.divetrip.com



Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX

oceanicventures.com



REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL

reef.org/trips



Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

txdivecenter.com/



Gigglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

gigglinmarlin.com



Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX

maximum-scuba.com



Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX

otadiving.com



Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX

sportdivers.com



Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX

texasscubaadventures.com