

January 2023



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17th at 6:00

**Debbie & Jim Mensay on Africa
at Spring Creek Barbeque**

On Wednesday, January 17, please join Jim and Debbie Mensay as they share with us their passion for photography. We are going to be in for a treat, as they take us to a few places that they were able to visit in spite of the covid shutdowns in 2020 and 2021. Whether they are bushwhacking their way through the jungles of Rwanda in search of the illustrious mountain gorillas or diving the depths of the oceans around the world, Jim & Debbie Mensay seem to always be hearing the call of the wild. They were among the very few visitors that ventured to Alaska during the summer of 2020 to see whales in Juneau and bears in Lake Clark. At one camp in Kenya, they were the only guests during their stay in March of 2021, and were able to spend quality time alone with leopards, lions, cheetahs and serval cats. They will share their photos and stories from these adventures, and throw in some of their underwater shots as well.

As scuba divers since 1989, they have logged over 1,100 dives with about 550 hours underwater, and most of the time have been buddied up with some kind of camera rig. Their underwater photography has garnered them the yearly Photographer of the Year award in the competition for the HUPS Intermediate category and they now compete along with other accomplished photographers in the Advanced category at HUPS. Some of their images have also been on display on the rotunda walls of the Aquarium at Moody Gardens along with images from other Hupster's, as part of an annual exhibit.

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Deana Coale,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Stanley Fontento,
Norma Hunter,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Justin Wallace



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



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Monday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **March 13th**, if you want to attend contact Cindy Reuland at <cphilistine@sbcglobal.net> before at 6:30 PM.



Will be a ZOOM Meeting only

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



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Membership

**2023 Membership dues are
Now being accepted.**

Membership runs from April 1st,
2023 to March 31st 2024

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/>



Jan. 8th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — ZOOM

**Jan. 15th — Movie — 'Avatar: The Way of Water' 3:35
pm** 20915 Gulf Fwy, Webster, TX 77598

**Jan. 17th — General Meeting — Debbie & James Mensay—
Africa**

**Feb. 11th — La Brisa Brunch—12:30 pm-501 N. Westley Dr.
League City —RSVP — we need a head count**

**Feb. 21st — General Meeting — Dennis Davenport & Tom Collier
Philippines**

Mar. 13th — Lunarfins Board Meeting —ZOOM—6 pm

**Mar. 21st — Celebration of 60th Anniversary & Elections of
Officers**

**Apr. 18th — Dennis Deavenport & Justin Wallace — "Anilao
Follies"**

ELECTED OFFICERS

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

APPOINTED

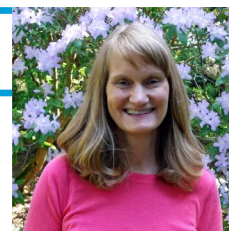
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Bill Jones
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Deana Coale
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Website	Tom Burns

**Do you have
any ideas for
event or**

**Topics for
Speakers for
2023?**

**Please share
them with
any of our
officers.**

Lunarfin's President's Notes



January 2023

Happy New Year Lunarfins!

We had a spectacular Holiday party in December thanks to JaVan Pruett and Brion Saathoff's efforts and all the people who came. Thank you! At the party, Dennis Deavenport was voted to be the Lunarfin of the year for his dedication to the club this past year! Thank you, Dennis, for being an advisor and running our hybrid meetings! It takes the efforts of many to run this club and we appreciate all the volunteers. Dennis will officially receive the honors at the Texas Gulf Coast Counsel banquet January 28th. Come out to support TGCC and Lunarfins! It is a great opportunity to meet people in other dive clubs in Houston.

For the New Year, JaVan and Brion have new events planned. So check it out. This year will be our 60th anniversary. We received our beautiful new shirts at the holiday party. We are missing checks for shirts and pickups. If you haven't paid yet, please send it to the PO Box or bring it to the meeting this month.

Our speakers for this month are Debbie and Jim Mensay and they will be telling us tales about travel to Africa! I was so inspired last time they spoke 3 years ago that I will be on that vary safari while you are at the meeting. I will bring back many fun photos to share. In the meantime, you will also get inspired and enjoy this presentation.

We kicked off our history project for the 60th anniversary video. We are gathering names of people who want to be interviewed or tell stories along with photos. Please let me and Dennis Deavenport know if you are interested in participating or helping. It will be a memorable video for Lunarfins to enjoy for years. Be a part of Lunarfins history!

We look forward to seeing you in January and throughout this special year!

Cindy Reuland

2022-2023 President



Notes From the Lunarfins Board of Directors:

- We discussed going in partnership with HUPS buying a **ZOOM Account** where we will share access instead of relying on Martin Daniels. Martin has been so very generous to let us use his account now for 2 years. **Please come to the meeting to vote.**
- **Discussion on Trips—** **Please come to the meeting to put in your opinion** or request as to where you as a member wants to go, how much you want to spend, do you want a land based or a live-aboard and when you would like to go. We will have information at the meeting on trips that have been suggested. We will need your input so that our trip coordinators can get started on plans.



Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu

<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com>

January 17th, 6:00pm

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

Speakers start at 7:00 pm

2710 Gulf Fwy S., League City TX 77573

About one of our Members

Pete Hunter - Is a long time member of Lunarfin's, he has been ill for over a year with Cancer. He has decided that he will no longer be diving. He has some dive items he no longer needs so his wife Norma Hunter has listed items.

For Sale— If your interested message Norman Hunter on FB or Please contact Norma Hunter <nahpwh@yahoo.com> Intergraded BCD atmos-Aeris, dive skin large, cress sub- regulator set sx2, 80 cc tank, full 3/m -2 dive suit bare, shorty 3m dive suit Henderson, Henderson Vest xl, Aqualung Lg fins, Oceanic med fins, 3 good masks - more, complete sea life camera package 12.

Everything we can expect from 'Avatar: The Way of Water,' the long-awaited sequel to the hit 2009 movie.

The sequel takes place over a decade after the events of the first "Avatar."



- [Lunarfilms will see this on January 15th, 2023.](#)
- [3:35 pm 3D XD](#) 20915 Gulf Fwy, Webster, TX 77598 (you can buy your tickets online).

Director James Cameron has been discussing a sequel to "Avatar" ever since the original film opened in 2009 and became the highest-grossing movie of all time ("Avengers: Endgame" took the title in 2019).

The powerful sci-fi movie is set on a far-away moon called Pandora and follows human Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) as he befriends the natives (called the Na'vi) by using a genetically engineered Na'vi body.

Now, the sequel picks up over a decade later and will focus on Sully, his lover Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), and their new family.

Along with Worthington and Saldana returning for the sequel, we'll also see Giovanni Ribisi, who was the lead corporate administrator of the human-mining project on Pandora in the first movie.

Two actors whose characters died in the first movie will also be returning. Sigourney Weaver, who played Dr. Grace Augustine, is coming back, but not playing the same character. Stephen Lang, who played the villain Colonel Miles Quaritch, is also getting a second chance.

But there are also newcomers. Kate Winslet will be teaming up with Cameron for the first time since she starred in his other major blockbuster hit, 1997's "Titanic."

Winslet is set to play a free diver named Ronal, one of the Na'vi who inhabits the waters of Pandora called Metkayina.

Cliff Curtis ("Blow," "Training Day," "Whale Rider") will play Tonowari, the leader of the Metkayina.

Edie Falco and Michelle Yeoh have been cast for live-action roles. And Vin Diesel said in a 2019 Instagram post that he will also be joining the cast. However, there are no details yet on who he will play.

As the title suggests, we're going to see more of what goes on below the surface of Pandora in the sequel.



To pull off these scenes, a massive 900,000-gallon performance-capture tank was built in New Zealand for the sequels.

Like the first movie, the technology used to make "Avatar: The Way of Water" is groundbreaking.

Along with filming underwater, Cameron and the special effects team at Wētā FX developed a motion-capture underwater system to capture the performances.

The equipment has never been used before this movie and took a year-and-a-half to develop. And, like the first movie, Cameron plans to push the boundaries of 3D to present "the most immersive 3D available," he said at 2022 CinemaCon via a video message.

"We're pushing those limits even further, with 3D with high dynamic range, with high frame rate, higher resolution, and a much greater reality in our visual effects," he said.

Flower Garden's News

Marine Sanctuary Explorer App

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

A free mobile app is now helping sanctuary users explore the 3,800 square miles of water surrounding the Florida Keys. **Marine Sanctuary Explorer** was funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation with content created by the site's MOVE team, describing the more than 50 marine zones located within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Easy-to-read guidelines communicate activities allowable in each managed area. Featuring GPS-enabled technology in both Apple and Android formats, the app alerts users when they are approaching managed zones.

TGCC News

TGCC's 2023 Clubs Award Luncheon Information:

- o **Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft)**
- o **Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023**
- o **Social -11:00 AM Lunch - 11:45 AM**
- o **Ticket price is \$25. (see Ja Van for tickets)**
- o **Event will be catered by Todd Rushing.**

TGCC has elected it officers for 2023 & 2024:

President – Frank Burek

1st Vice President – Pee Wee Dwire

2nd Vice President – Open.

Treasurer – Mark Leiserowitz

Secretary – Ja Van Pruett

TGCC has appointed additional officers to certain positions for 2023 & 2024:

Donations/Scholarship Chairman – Frank Burek

Historian – Frank Burek

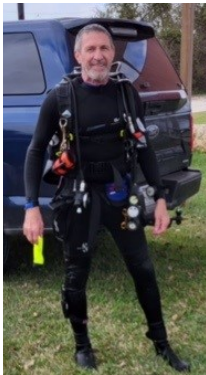
Webmaster – Tom Burns

Club Development – Frank Burek

About our Members

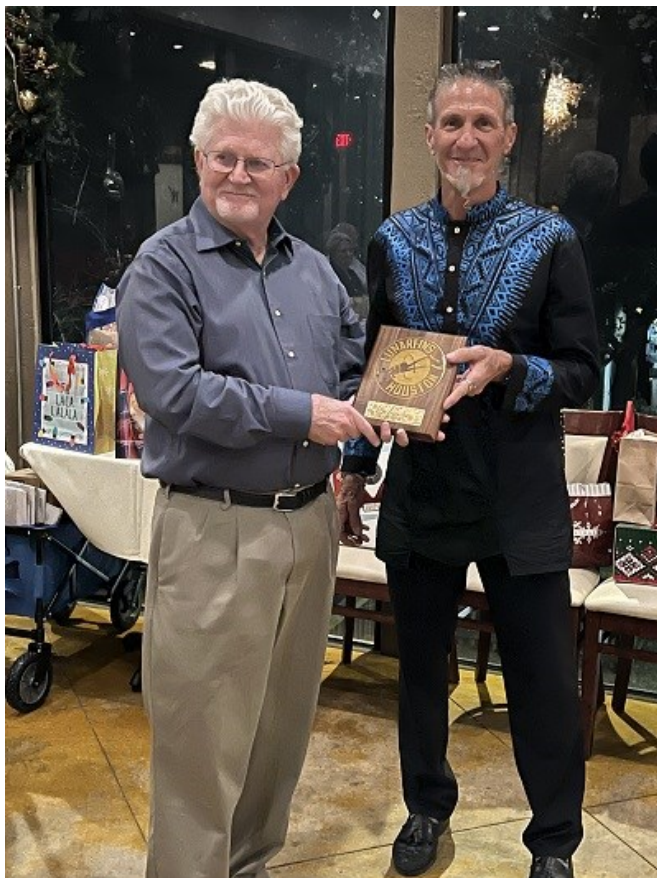
congratulations!!

Brion Saathoff



Passed all of his tests to become a
Diver in the Tanks at Moody Gardens.

congratulations!!



DIVER OF THE YEAR

DENNIS DEAVENPORT

About our Members, (Continued)

congratulations!! Paul Cater Deaton

We are so lucky to have so many talented members in our club. You can see a lot of my work on the Screen page at PaulCaterDeaton.com.



Paul Cater Deaton was interviewed by Debra Duncan

“Okay, so this was random. I was watching [Great Day Houston](#) on Jan 3rd in the morning as I often do, and was shocked to see a repeat of the first time I was on the show! Deborah Duncan is such a great interviewer. I always look forward to being her guest.”

“Sea Hunt” premiered on this day in 1958. A year later, a six-year-old little cowboy was at home at his family’s ranch in Crosby, Texas, watching a particular episode. He didn’t know it at the time, but what happened that day would change his life forever.



About our Members, (Continued)

Congratulations!!

**to our newest Lunarphins member,
Justin Wallace**

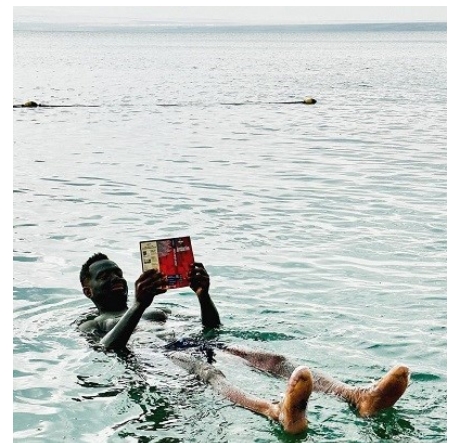
**One of the winners of — 2022 Get Into Your Sanctuary
Photo Contest**



Justin Wallace at Wadi Rum Desert.

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hg4t2123ciiu5ch9h1c78m · Al 'Aqabah,
Jordan ·

**Justin Wallace at Dead Sea (Jordan) - The
Lowest Point On Earth. Spa Day**



Happy Belated Birthday, Justin

About our Members, (Continued)

Houston PetSet is at Angel of Hope Animal Rescue.

Our Secretary Deana Coale drives this bus twice a month to Minnesota, rain or shine. "Our transport yesterday left Houston with sunny skies and 77°... And this is what they arrived to in Anoka, Minnesota Jan. 8th. Good luck, Texas pets! Wear a warm coat when you go out for walks.



Stanley Fontento and JC Andrews did a fun shallow dive at Mammoth Lake in Lake Jackson, Tx. They were diving the edge of the lake where visibility was 6 or so feet. The water had a bit of silt suspended so it was not very clear. (It usually isn't.)

Stanley didn't want to stay home all day so he decided to get wet. Minimum water temp was 61. I was comfortable in my semi dry wetsuit. My dive buddy however, was cold in his 5 mil wetsuit. Good times!!!!



These are some of the pictures Stanley took while diving Mammoth Lake and Comal River.



Christmas gift from Mom and Dad.
Season pass.



Fling Charters

726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX

979-233-4445



World-Class, Blue-Water Diving, Right here in Texas

Texas may not be the first place you think about when choosing a blue-water dive destination. After all, the beach water in Galveston is, well, underwhelming at best. But 100 miles of the coast of Texas, far from the influences of the muddy rivers and urban run-off, we have coral reefs, soaking up sunlight in BLUE water!

For 30+ years, divers have kept a secret about the Flower Garden Banks, and for that whole time, the M-V Fling has been carrying divers out to the reefs to marvel at the life, both big and small. It was sport divers who first sought to protect the reefs from damage. First, they installed moorings that protected the reefs from damage from anchoring boats there. Then, those divers lobbied to have the reefs federally protected through the National Marine Sanctuary system. The protection was eventually granted, and since then, the government has funded the moorings and other protections there.

Today, the M-V Fling carries divers to visit some of the healthiest coral reefs anywhere in the world, an oasis of biodiversity and layers of communities. The ocean bottom there is pressed upwards by geological formations called salt domes. At the West and East Banks, the bottom reaches high enough that enough light reaches the reefs, and the water is just warm enough for corals to form colonies and spread across the tops of the domes. Imagine a coral landscape that stretches in every direction, as far as you can see in 80+ feet of visibility! That's what you'll see there. At Stetson Bank, the water is just a fraction too cool for complete coral coverage, though some corals do thrive there too. Instead, what makes Stetson so special is the lack of coral heads. At the coral banks, countless animals hide under the reef cap, out of the sight of divers. At Stetson bank, there are far fewer hiding places, but similar variety and numbers of critters. You'll find far more animals out in the open at Stetson.

The M-V Fling offers a variety of itineraries. The main schedule is based around weekends, and we offer Sat-Sun trips (departing Friday evening) that visit all the banks and feature seven dives. New for 2023, we have a long-weekend (departing Thursday evening). It adds four dives to the weekend trip, but one of those dives is the coveted NIGHT DIVE at Stetson Bank, ranked by many regulars as the best dive we offer. And if you fall in love with Stetson Bank, we have some trips that focus on that featured site too.

The crown jewel of Flower Garden Banks diving happens after the full moon in August (and sometimes again in September), when corals, in perfect synchrony all mate together. Shortly after dark, they will release their gametes into the ocean currents in a powerful, once a year, effort to spread their kind to other places in the world. This is truly a bucket list dive and the itinerary is spread over four days, mostly spent at the coral reefs. Night after night, different corals "go off." But that's not all. Coral Spawning attracts other animals to the area, and inspires still others to get on with their mating too. Ruby brittle stars (one of those hidden under the reef caps normally) will come out on top of the coral heads, and the females will "dance," standing on their "tippy toes" to release their eggs. This is one of the greatest treats to watch. Absolute beauty dancing on top of the coral heads.

What will you see at the Flower Garden Banks?

Each bank is unique, and they attract different animals (remember that corals are animals too). While we obviously can't guarantee that any particular animals will show up on every trip, we do know that there are residents at each site we visit.

West Flower Garden Bank

The West Bank is famous for its status as a Manta nursery. Manta rays patrol the area, often circling the boat during dives and surface intervals. If you come out with us, remember that you CAN go snorkeling on your surface interval, so you can commune with the mantas between dives too. The big message here is this: LOOK UP during your dives at the West Bank. You'll find the manta rays overhead when they show up.

East Flower Garden Bank

The East Bank is home to big, clean sand patches, and the sea turtles love it there!

Stetson Bank

It's very hard to narrow down a list of special features at Stetson Bank. The big sharks patrolling over the deep water drop off is probably the most common treat there. But the giant lobsters are also very popular. The stars are always out, hidden in the striated rocks. And all manner of small life covers the rocky outcrops. If you're very skilled, you might even see an octopus hidden in the rubble.

Oil Platforms

On each trip we try to visit at least one deep-water oil platform. These "vertical reefs" stand in 300+ feet of inky blue water. Some divers tell us they want to skip the rig dive. They complain it's "exploitative," not natural, not alive. I like to give these divers a little nudge to get them in the water, because I know it will change their mind! Oil platforms may very well be exploitative, but they are very much alive! The legs are completely covered in growth, cover in LIFE of every variety. Worms. Clams. Corals. Little fish. Huge fish. Sport fish. "Aquarium" fish. Sharks! More sharks! Those reluctant divers very often come back and tell me it was the best dive of the trip! I just smile and shamelessly tell them, "I told ya!"

New Beginning

You may have heard that the Fling was sold in May, 2022. The new owner is determined to keep the Fling operating on the same route, bringing divers to the Flower Garden Banks and nearby sites. He is also determined to make incremental improvements to the operation by upgrading the onboard systems and experiences. You may also have heard that in the late Summer of 2022, the boat suffered two engine failures within a week. This cancelled the rest of the season, and as of this writing, we're still working to complete repairs. We expect to be up and running in time for the start of the spring dive season (17 Feb).

But the engine work is not the only upgrade that we have ongoing. Our dive compressors are also being upgraded to provide better fill-station service. We upgraded the food service in 2022 and will continue to improve on that in 2023. The Fling received a new fire detection system over the winter break. The new system protects all compartments, and if one compartment alarms, all the others will alarm too, so everybody onboard will know to prepare for an emergency response. Our critical charging station is also getting fire protection features to limit the spread of fire there. In January, our crew will complete important training in firefighting, CPR, and other emergency response. We're excited that we have an EMT-P and an RN on our full-time crew.

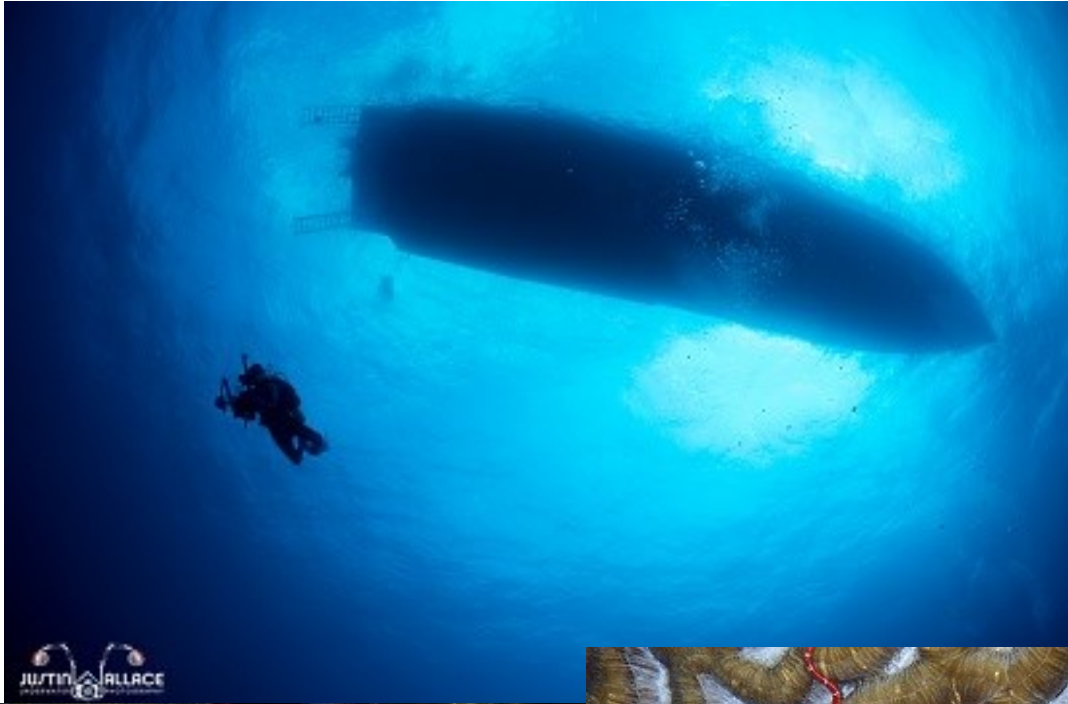
And we're working to make the operation more robust by provisioning spares and replacements. The last many weeks, shut-down and idle, were a painful reminder that we need ready-to-work replacements for critical gear. This very week, we have acquired a spare engine that we will have rebuilt and stored for ready-use. We have on our shelves spare cylinder heads, spare blowers, coolers, coolant pumps, etc. Similarly, we bought a spare Mako (dive compressor) so that we can quickly "swing" in a ready-to-work compressor. We're installing new potable water pumps in parallel arrangement, so that if one fails, we can immediately switch to the other and keep working (diving!). If all this sounds overwhelming, it certainly can be. The Fling has many moving parts!

In 2023, we're giving divers the ability to book online. Our retail partners are still available to help with rental gear and fee-free booking too. Our goal is to make it as convenient as possible for divers to make it out to these special coral reefs, surrounded by deep, blue water. It's the best diving in Texas, so get yourself booked early so you get the trip and the bunk you want!

TexasCaribbean.com

(Remember, it's 1 R and 2 Bs. But if you get it backwards, we made that point to our web page too!)

Now this is what you could see when you diving in the Gulf of Mexico



The Texas Gulf Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC or Council) 2023 Report

By Frank Burek

Founded in 1963 to protect the right of divers to pursue their sport, the TGCC is celebrating its 61st year of service to the diving public. The TGCC is a membership of clubs and individuals whose overall objectives are to share their diving experiences, improve themselves and grow their community.



Memberships in the TGCC is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals from Texas and surrounding States.

TGCC's Purpose and Objectives:

To defend and advance the legal rights and privileges of all divers through appropriate State and Federal legislation.

To encourage, and promote cooperation and water safety among all divers, member and non-member clubs.

To monitor and keep its clubs abreast with respect to Federal, State and Local proposed or enacted rules, regulations and actions that affect them and their members.

To encourage and facilitate communication among its various member clubs.

To promote education in the dive community.

To support higher education for members of the dive community.

To provide recognition for outstanding contributors to the dive community.

To foster environmental awareness in the dive community.

To promote safe skin and Scuba diving.

To enable the individual dive clubs to participate jointly in the dive and local communities.

TGCC's web-site (www.tgccdiving.org) is available to individual members and clubs to inform members of community activities, as well as of news of interest from around the world.

TGCC has several award and recognition programs available to members. Those include our (1) Neptune Award (for community educational participation and leadership), (2) Member-of-the-Year based on contributions to the diving community, and (3) Lifetime Achievement Award (based upon leadership and extensive involvement with the diving community).

The TGCC Memorial College Scholarship Program (MCS) which is conducted annually and available to members of TGCC Member clubs, their children and grandchildren. Awards are based upon merit; the value and number of MCS awards are based upon the Council's budget. This award is given in memory of significant members of our community who have passed on - Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, John Ringrose, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman and Dick Zingula.

The TGCC is presently determining the feasibility and support of the diving community, for the creation of a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Its purpose is to provide the diving public with a tool to support the educational advancement of divers; support our families; and impact science, research and environmental conditions in areas where we pursue our passion for diving.

The TGCC Clubs Annual Awards Luncheon – Annually the TGCC member clubs join together to celebrate another year of dive club service to the dive community. We review the events of the past year; the plans for the current year; and present award the current service and outstanding performance awards to key members of each club. Significant activities that effect our community are also covered - including the TGCC scholarship program and the Houston Underwater Film Festival.



Mike Peter's — Shared article

The Port Mansfield Cut and the treasure discovered there

Dredging work unearthed a Spanish ship that had been buried for four centuries.



Padre Island is the longest barrier island in the world, measuring 113 miles from Corpus Christi to near Brownsville. Up until the late 1950s, you could drive the entire length of the island in less than half a day with a decent four-wheel drive vehicle. That option was blocked in 1957 when the Port Mansfield Cut was dredged. It gave the new port created at Red Fish Landing a convenient waterway into the Gulf of Mexico. The channel had been a dream of the Laguna Madre-locked locals for decades.

October 20, 1957, at 4 a.m. was the incredible moment that the giant dredger dug out the last sand dune and cut the island in two. This formally created North Padre and South Padre Islands.

Bill Rapp, a Port Mansfield resident, was there for that moment and was elated that he was. He wrote: “You often dream of things and they come to pass, but for some reason you aren’t there at the precise moment. BUT I WAS THERE when the Dredge Miami took the final cut out of the old Padre and the waters of the Laguna Madre went rushing into the Gulf of Mexico.”

The Port Mansfield Channel was about nine miles long overall, running seven miles through the bay, and it cut through two miles of island mud flats and dunes to reach the sea. In fact, that was the common promotional mantra for the project heard frequently in Willacy County in the many years they lobbied Congress for the cut: “Give Port Mansfield access to the sea.”

A lone boat with an outboard motor was the first to pass through the channel after the dredge opened the way. But this was just the first phase. The channel needed to be widened considerably, and this is when things got much more interesting as a discovery was made that changed much more than the island landscape.

In the dredging that continued one bright sunny afternoon, the mud and clay being sucked from the channel and spewed onto the banks suddenly brightened as silver coins began sparkling in the sunlight. Hundreds of ancient Spanish coins were being harvested from the bottom of the canal. The dredge had crushed an old Spanish Galleon, the classic sailing ship, buried there for four centuries. Work was stopped for a while and the coins collected.

Ensuing investigations revealed a story more dramatic than the dredging of the channel. The ship that was discovered there was the Santa Maria de Yciar, one of four ill-fated ships carrying treasure that had set sail together from Vera Cruz, Mexico, in late April of 1544 on the way back to Spain. The king had ordered that the ships were to bring back 100,000 coins of gold and silver from Mexico for the Spanish treasury, but being a man who was wise with money, he ordered that his funds be diversified. Each ship would carry 25,000 coins so the risk was spread across all the vessels. The ships also carried some 300 passengers: priests, women and children, some soldiers and businessmen returning with fortunes of their own from New Spain, as Mexico was called then. Estimates are that the ships carried the equivalent of about \$80 million in today’s purchasing power.

A late spring tropical storm blew them off course, and the relentless winds pushed three of the ships across the entire Gulf, where they were crushed on the sandbars of Padre Island. Their hulls were pried open and their treasures spilled out onto the sandy bottom. In the centuries ahead Padre would be known as the “graveyard of the gulf” because of its location as the backstop of storms. The fourth ship limped into Havana but was so damaged it could not return to Spain.

The passengers were marooned and decided that they would walk to Tampico, where there was a known Spanish outpost. They mistakenly guessed that they could walk there in three days – but it was actually 300 miles of trudging across dunes and swollen rivers and coastal marshes with no food and little drinkable water. They were mostly picked off and killed by Native Americans, and only one badly wounded friar made it to Tampico to tell the tale. Another passenger, after crossing the Rio Grande, decided to return to the ships, and he was saved when the Spanish salvage ships came for the treasure.



Mike Peter's — Shared article —(Continued)

The three wrecked ships – the Esteban, the Espíritu Santo and the Santa Maria de Yciar – all sat undiscovered for four centuries. The Esteban and Espiritu Santo were both found years later a few miles north of the Mansfield cut. Treasure hunters descended on them and had collected quite a fortune when the State of Texas took action and forced them to cease and desist operations and turn over their plunder to the state. But Texas had no law to protect its antiquities, so the Legislature quickly passed the State Antiquities Code in 1969. The state and the recovery company fought it out in court for years, and finally Texas paid them \$313,000 for their efforts and then placed the coins, anchors, canons and other artifacts from the wrecks in the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, where you can still see them today.

You can visit the Port Mansfield Cut by boat or car. Launch your boat in Port Mansfield and enjoy following the dream made real out to the sea. Or, drive to South Padre and take State Park Road 100 North to Beach Access 6. Get on the beach and head north for 30 miles and you'll be at the cut (four-wheel drive recommended). It's beautiful there, with great fishing, and a marvelous place for a picnic on the granite boulders of the jetties.

And if you're wondering if coins can still be found, Ron Mills, the executive director of Port Mansfield, told me that "within the past two years the channel was dredged to the deepest depths ever, at 23 feet between the jetties and 17 feet throughout the entire channel. During those operations there were no reported discoveries of new coins or other artifacts that may have pertained to the shipwrecks."

Sorry, treasure hunters.

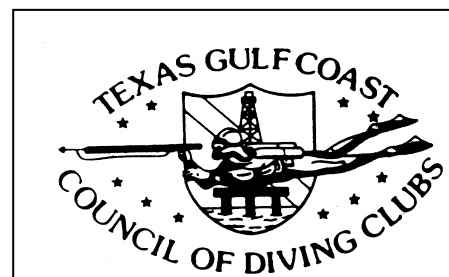
For more info: <https://www.wrecksite.eu/wreck.aspx?193691>
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=118043>



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

2023 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, John Ringrose, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman and Dick Zingula)



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2023. This scholarship is given in memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, John Ringrose, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman and Dick Zingula; deceased members of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society and Linda Petty. The purpose of this award is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

Eligibility Rules:

1. Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2023, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2023.
2. The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2023.
3. Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2023**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 6, 2023.
4. Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

Scholarship General Guidelines:

1. Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.
2. Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.
3. TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.
4. A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.
5. Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.
6. TGCC is offering this scholarship as a reward to TGCC members, TGCC member and associate clubs or the children of these members to thank them for supporting TGCC's efforts in promoting safe sport diving. The committee will take into consideration the applicant or applicant's parents involvement in TGCC and member clubs and/or the diving community in general throughout the year.

Applications should be e-mailed to the TGCC Donations Committee Chairman:

jfburek@consolidated.net

2023 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, John Ringrose, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman and Dick Zingula)



Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

High School: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Name of college to be attended in 2023: _____

(Please enclose a copy of the acceptance letter, or current college transcript):

Comments and information about the applicant's grades and academic performance:

Comments and information about the applicant's sports and/or other extracurricular achievements:

**Description of why the applicant feels he/she should be selected for this scholarship.
(Use a separate page)**

TGCC Affiliation (member of TGCC or TGCC member club)

Applicant Parent Grandparent (please circle one)

Affiliate First Name (s): _____ Last Name: _____

Affiliate Clubs (TGCC, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarfans, etc.): _____

Number of Years as member of the above-named club(s): _____

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

You should have been there!!



The Lunarfin's 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.



Lunarfin's

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281-851-5206

webeditor@lunarfin's.com

Facebook:

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

Website:

<https://www.lunarfin's.com/>

TGCC

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

TPWD reefs:

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



You should have been there!!

Lunarfin's Annual Christmas Party at Opus Grill



This was a awesome Party the largest onery. Maybe next year all of our members will come. How great would that be!

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