

Lunarscope

February 2023



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 21st at 6:00

**Dennis Deavenport
at Spring Creek Barbeque**

In 2016, HUPS traveled to Yap and Palau to dive the legendary waters perched above the deepest oceanic trenches on the planet. Yap, known mostly for its manta encounters offers much more for divers staying at Manta Ray Bay Hotel. Every morning and afternoon, the boats would leave full of excited HUPS divers looking to experience the almost endless variety of fish, critters, and colorful landscapes. The mantas were as advertised and we spent several dives watching them fly in front, above, and behind us as we hunkered down with our cameras at the viewing stations. At other dive sites, sharks and infinite drop-offs greeted us. Many reefs at the south end of the island were high profile with swim throughs, magic mushrooms, and heat stopping thermoclines. Topside, the island offered artifacts dating from WWII and island culture dating back hundreds of years. Many trips took us through canals chiseled through the island by turn-of-last-century German engineers and peaceful mangrove swamps. It was a paradise for divers and photographers. Half of the show centers on this part of the trip.

After Yap, we flew on south to Palau where we immediately boarded boats at Sam's Tours for a Kayak tour through the world-famous rock islands poking out of the lagoon. It was a crazy time with some extracurricular activities spicing up our morning exercise. Later that day we boarded the Palau Aggressor for another 7 days of diving. Palau was always one of the places that was awe inspiring to me. It offers perhaps the most diverse diving in the world complete with drop-offs, wrecks, shark infested corners in the current, calm lagoons, passes through the reef, blue holes, caves, and (of course) Jellyfish Lake.

(Continued on Page 4)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwT0pWL1hTd09>

Meeting ID: 836 7464 2772

Passcode: 076802

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Frank Burek,
Tom Burns,
JP Campagna,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
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.



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/>



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Feb. 21st — General Meeting — Dennis Davenport — Philippines

Mar. 13th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — ZOOM — 6:30 pm

Mar. 18th — St. Patrick's Day Luncheon — Pier 6 — 12:30 pm

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

**Apr. 18th — General Meeting — Andy Lewis — The Texas
Caribbean and Fish ID**

Apr. 29th & 30th — Houston Underwater Film Festival

May 8th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — ZOOM — 6:30 pm

**May 16th — General Meeting — Robert Gardiner — Deep Zone
Aquatic Center**

**June 20th — General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport & Justin
Wallace — "Anilao Follies"**

July 9th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — ZOOM — 6:30 pm

**July 18th — General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport & Henry
Ragdale**

ELECTED OFFICERS

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

APPOINTED

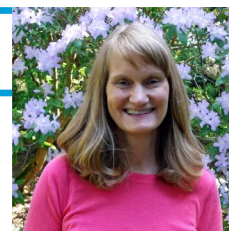
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Bill Jones
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Deana Coale
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Website	Tom Burns

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

**Topics for
Speakers for
2023?**

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

Lunarfins President's Notes



February 2023

Welcome!

This month we have more exciting events to share with you! Our speakers are Dennis Deavenport and Tom Collier on the Philippines which is a location we are considering for a Lunarfins trip. So come and learn about it and be inspired to join us. At the TGCC banquet in January, I presented the award for Lunarfin of the year to Dennis for his contributions to the club. We are thankful for your always willing to lend us a hand along with all the other volunteer work you do for HUPS. Dennis has managed our hybrid meetings and is an advisor to the board among other tasks. We had a great turnout for the banquet, and it was great to visit with other clubs in the area and support them.

Thank you Mensay's for the great presentation on your travel experiences in Africa and diving! I was not able to be there but know that it was fantastic and was able to see you again at the TGCC banquet. Tom and I were in Botswana and Zimbabwe seeing fantastic wildlife and taking great pictures. I include a few in the newsletter and hope to share a video with Dennis's help this year. We were so inspired by your presentation 2 years ago that we followed your advice and took the opportunity to travel to Africa! It was an extraordinary experience.

Now is the time to start thinking about being an officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Director), Adviser, Training officer, TGCC representative or being on a committee such as trip coordinator for the April 1st start of the new year. This is an exciting 60th Anniversary year for Lunarfins. We will be voting at the March meeting so it is a good time to consider being part of the board to lead and participate in this club. Let an officer know of your interest so we can nominate you and have a slate ready for March.

We will see you at the next meeting in February!

Cindy Reuland

2022-2023 President



Notes From the Lunarfins Board of Directors:

- We want to thank our members that were at the last meeting that voted on our partnership with HUPS to buy a **ZOOM Account** where we will share access instead of relying on Martin Daniels.
- Also, we would like for our members to know that we try to give them opportunities to come out and enjoy an event outside of our meetings. We try hard to build a fun activity to bring all of members together.
- We want you to get involved, the more you do the more fun it is for everyone.
- If, you would like to suggest an activity please speak up, we would like to hear from you.



Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu

<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com>

February 21st, 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

Continued from Page 1

It is impossible to experience all of Palau in 7 short days. It's just too massive. What we did see did not disappoint. Again, as in Yap, the proliferation of colorful fish, massive schools of grouper and jacks, turtles, sharks, crustacea, coral, and cephalopods greeted us on almost every dive.

Twenty years before in 1996, a small group of us went to Palau on the Sun Dancer. Those 20 years have not diminished the scenery and the memories from that trip are part of the show. Part of the allure of Palau is their interesting history and the island's relationship with Yap. For centuries, the Yapese people would make trips to quarry quartzite 'money' from the islands of Palau. These massive circular rocks litter the landscape in Yap and the stories about them form the basis for their value. All of this and much more is detailed in my show. It isn't just an underwater presentation. It covers much of the history and traditions that make these Micronesian islands special. It's a long show but everything that needs to be said is said and shown in the film. I enjoyed putting it together and am very thankful for all of the people that contributed stills and video clips to make it better. **Come and experience the magic. I don't think you will be disappointed.**



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.

Lionfish Invitational Applications Available

As an alternative to Lionfish derbies, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary hosts the Lionfish Invitational. This multi-day event is a science-based research expedition in which 11 dive teams work to remove as many lionfish as possible, while also recording helpful data on lionfish activity and sightings. In addition, a science team of 8 divers conducts surveys to determine what species, quantities, and sizes of fish are present at each designated site before and after the removals.

We have scheduled two trips this year:

June 11-14, 2023

July 23-26, 2023

[Applications are now available](#) and are **due by March 1, 2023**.

To make these Lionfish Invitational trips happen, the sanctuary partners with Lionfish Invitational, Inc., with support from Moody Gardens and Texas State Aquarium through the Aquarium-Sanctuary Partnership for America's Keystone Wildlife, and Texas Caribbean Charters.



[Bright Bank](#) is named after Tom Bright, who studied the Flower Garden Banks and surrounding areas throughout the 1970s and 1980s ("person of interest" in top photo). Bright Bank became part of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in 2021.

New Report to Congress Highlights Exciting Deep-Sea Coral and Sponge Discoveries

The deep sea is the largest habitat on Earth, and the least well known. NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program has significantly improved its understanding of deep-sea coral communities. The [2022 Deep-Sea Coral Report to Congress](#) (PDF, 18 pages), showcases new accomplishments and scientific discoveries and summarizes exciting activities from 2020 and 2021.

About our Members



Pete Hasbrook

When Pete is not out diving since his recent retirement, he sings with The Houston Tidelanders is an all-male chorus, singing a cappella in the 4-part barbershop harmony's.

houstontidelanders.org

congratulations!!



DIVER OF THE YEAR

DENNIS DEAVENPORT

About our Members, (Continued)

congratulations!!

Paul Cater Deaton



Happy Mardi Gras Parade



Paul Cater Deaton, on Thursday February 17 had the privilege of being a celebrity judge for the “Just Desserts” competition in support of the Girl Scouts. Chefs from all over Houston created interpretations based on Girl Scout cookies and they were amazing! This is Soleil, my GSA co-judge who joined me onstage with all the other judges. I was proud to work with this charming young lady.

About our Members, (Continued)

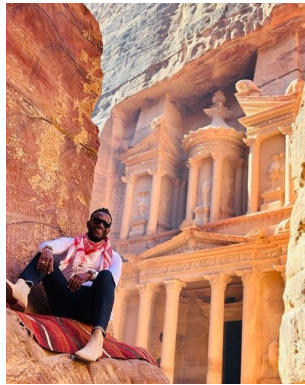
Congratulations!!

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

Where is he??



Aqaba, Jordan



Petra, Ma`An, Jordan.



The Pyramids - Cairo, Egypt.



Cozumel, Mexico



Cozumel, Mexico



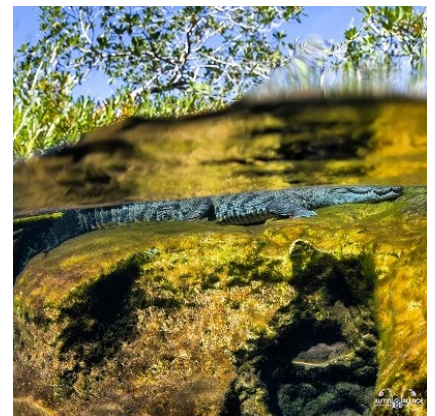
Cozumel, Mexico



Cozumel, Mexico



Los Islotes, La Paz.



Playa del Carmen, Mexico

About our Members, (Continued)

Tom and Cindy were in Botswana and Zimbabwe seeing fantastic wildlife and taking great pictures. They were so inspired by the Mensay's presentation 2 years ago that we followed their advice and took the opportunity to travel to Africa!

It was an extraordinary experience.



Fling Charters

726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX

979-233-4445



SPRING * IS * HERE !!!

Ok, ok, Spring is not quite here. On this cold and wet and dreary day here in Texas, you might find yourself dreaming of Spring though. And by dreaming, we mean thinking of scuba diving!

Our March 16 Spring Break Getaway is three days of diving, and our most popular itinerary. Why?

- Because Mantas at the West Bank
 - Because Turtles at the East Bank
 - Because spectacular rig diving (ranked in the top three dive sites by our divers)
 - Because SHARKy sharks!!!
 - ♦ Because more sharky sharks!
- Because the amazing night dive at Stetson (also ranked in the top three sites)



A new paint job to signal a rebuild is in the house
Two engines go in the Fling on Monday! Then new more paint. A few upgrades, then carpet, some diving!!!

You've heard the tag line "Eat, Dive, Sleep"? That's how it is on the Fling!

- ♦ Wake up and have continental breakfast, go dive!
- ♦ Return and have hot breakfast, catch a nap (optional), go dive!
- ♦ Return and have lunch, catch a nap, go dive!
- ♦ Return to snacks, cheese and crackers, catch a nap, go dive!
- ♦ Return for dinner, skip this nap (you might not get up for the night dive), go dive!
- ♦ Return to Brownies and Blue Bell, then go sleep it all off!
- ♦ You know what the most important thing is about the Spring Break trip? It's filling up fast, and you might miss out if you don't jump in soon!

Book Now: <https://fling-diving.com/Spring-Break>

Captain Kunz & The Shrimp Diva - Galveston Monthly

<https://www.galvestonmonthly.com>



Last year Lunarfin's did a Dolphin Tour, thanks to **Tom Burns** suggestion. The tour guide on the boat talked about the **Captain Kunz & The Shrimp Diva**. They were out in the bay doing what they do best, Shrimping. A very good friend shared this story to me and now I am sharing you.

Pink hat, manicured nails, fabulous lashes, and make-up? No, it is not a Junior League meeting, it is the way the Shrimp Diva climbs onboard her father-in-law's shrimp boat for work.

The fashion-conscious deckhand works beside her husband's father who docks his boat at Pier 19. Captain Jerome Thomas "Pops" Kunz, the oldest working shrimper in Galveston, and his daughter-in-law Nicole "Nikki" Lee Johnson-Kunz may seem to be an odd pair - but rarely have two people worked better together.

"I'll be 88 in April, and I started shrimping with my Dad when I was 10," Pops shares. "He bought a little old boat out of the yacht basin, added a mast made of wood, and made a shrimp boat out of it. We started fishing on the beachfront with an 800-foot seine and did everything by hand. We didn't have a winch or cables back then."

His father's business soon grew, and Kunz quit school to help him full time. "We got a dollar-per-hundred that we sold at the bait camp on 61st Street," Pops continues. "Then we bought another camp called Duke's Place and ran that until (Hurricane) Carla tore it up. We had a couple of boats, and I ran one of them for years. My two brothers both worked over there, too. One of them bought himself a shrimp boat after returning from World War II, and the other brother worked at the bait camp."

Kunz reminisces about his family, never missing a beat while sorting his morning catch. Seagulls cry overhead and stout pelicans crowd the deck of his boat St. Vincent, waiting for their chance at fish that the pair discards from their bins. He speaks with great affection about his wife Carol Ann, known by friends as "Honey Ma," who he lost 11 years ago.

"When I met her, she was 16 and I was 18. She was volunteering at the hospital reading to kids. She could read like anything," he says proudly. The couple had ten children during their 56-year marriage: six boys and four girls. "I had twelve people to feed. The only way I knew how to do it was to work. I shrimped seven days a week from sunrise until dark, and then dredged for oysters during the winter."

Nikki interjects, "We started doing Monday night family dinner after his wife passed away." The family feels it is important to see each other more often than only during holiday gatherings, and they often have 10 to 20 people the dinner table.

"And many aspirin are needed," she laughs. "He has a very loud family - a lot of commotion and kids running around. It's quality time."

Captain Kunz & The Shrimp Diva - Galveston Monthly (Continued)

If the Captain looks familiar, he starred in two national commercials for Joe's Crab Shack. Nikki laughs, telling the story of how the actor they originally flew down from New York did not seem authentic enough for the production crew.

"They called Pops to do it. They made him put slickers on and he told them that 'wasn't how you do it.' He ended up wearing his own gear."

Kunz says part of what he likes best about being a shrimper is that "it's kind of like a gamble. You never know what you're going to pick up when you put the net out. Some days you think you know everything about fishing and some days you wonder if you know anything."

He chuckles, "As many years as I've done it, I still get a kick out of it. I thought I was going to retire about two years ago. But then I stayed at home one day, and I was ready to get back on board the next. As long as I can do it, I'll do it."

"He's the hardest worker I know, and the person I respect most in life. The little guy with the iron fist," Nikki shares, tearing up when talking about him.

"I've got too much to do to die now," Pops adds. "It's been a great life. I'm still here to talk about it so it ain't too bad."

The Captain still enjoys eating shrimp, even after working around them every day for decades. More often than not, he eats them at local restaurants rather than cooking them himself. "I live by myself, so once I get home I don't feel like cleaning shrimp. I think fried is my favorite, but I'll eat them in gumbo or any kind of way."

The pilothouse of the St. Vincent displays two licenses - one for bait shrimp and one for bay shrimp. He explains that shrimping off Galveston was once extremely competitive, but things have changed.

"Nowadays the state is buying licenses back, and they don't issue more. So, there's hardly any boats left now. There were solid boats here at one time," Pops says, waving his arm to the docks behind Katie's Seafood.

"Nowadays the state is buying licenses back, and they don't issue more. So, there's hardly any boats left now. There were solid boats here at one time," Pops says, waving his arm to the docks behind Katie's Seafood.

"They'd be six-deep at each dock. The state's bought over 5,000 licenses back already. Every year we buy a bait license and a bay license and the state offers to buy them back. I keep both of mine."

Nikki joined her father-in-law on board about two and a half years ago. "On the weekends, my youngest son Jason (Nikki's husband) would go out with me because he didn't want me going out by myself anymore," the octogenarian says.

"Then Nikki started going with me during the week. She turned out to be a very good deck hand. She's quick and has plenty of strength - way more than I do." Prior to that time, she had no experience fishing or shrimping. "I spent the last 27 years in property management," Nikki explains.

"We were at Monday night dinner and I noticed he had a leg wound from a rope that wasn't healing. I told my husband that I could go on the boat with Pops during the week and be a warm body."

"For the first year, I was in his way the entire time. Once we were on the boat and working, he didn't have time to train me or show me how to do things," Nikki says about her father-in-law, who was accustomed to working by himself.

"Now I work the wench, throw out the net, pull the net in, and I've had injuries from a stingray, and third degree burns on both hands," she says with a sense of pride.

The Captain interjects with a smile that "she makes more money with me than her other job paid." Nikki responds, "Absolutely! I'm not complaining. Some people say I'm high maintenance, but I pay for my stuff. I wear makeup on the boat to protect my skin, because that sun, wind, and saltwater are rough on skin."

"But I'll tell you," Nikki clarifies, "I didn't know that we did shrimping in the wintertime when I started doing this! A month or two ago it was 35 degrees. We didn't have a heater (he has never had one on board) and we couldn't feel our faces or fingertips." Luckily, the Captain's grandchildren bought a portable heater for him as a Christmas gift.

[Captain Kunz & The Shrimp Diva - Galveston Monthly \(Continued\)](#)

The longtime shrimper justifies going out during cold weather, explaining it as an opportunity. “Sometimes the shrimp get pretty thick during the winter because the Gulf water stays warm and they stay here.” Nikki confirms, “He will shrimp every day of the year.”

Though they won’t take the St. Vincent out in thick fog, rain rarely dissuades them. “We’ve got slickers to wear,” the Captain says casually.

Nikki nods, adding, “If we do, he pays me a little bit extra so I can get my lashes done the next day. That rain can do some damage!”

When asked if he believes it is bad luck to have a woman on board, the shrimper gives a dismissive wave of the hand saying, “I’m not superstitious at all. And she always washes it down. I tell her it’ll just get dirty again tomorrow, but she cleans it off anyway.”

Recently, the shrimping duo attracted the attention of Kelsey Harlan, owner of a local production company, resulting in an unscripted reality series that will begin streaming online this month. The idea for a reality show was not pitched to major networks, because those involved wanted to ensure the integrity of the show.

“With Kelsey filming, we just do our thing. It is how it is,” says Nikki. “I would not want [Pops] out here with his reputation in Galveston to affect him negatively in any way. That’s why we trust Kelsey. Life on the shrimp boat is never dull, so we don’t need to add any drama.”

The partnership will keep going, whether or not the series does. “Our day ends by the time most people are having coffee at about 9 o’clock, and that’s a great thing,” smiles Nikki.

“We have a good time don’t we baby doll?” the Captain asks Nikki. “And we get along great.” The Shrimp Diva Instagram account can be found at @shrimp_diva, and the series can be viewed at www.cinalyst.com beginning at the end of April.

To learn more:

<https://www.khou.com/article/features/texas-shrimp-diva-joins-shrimping-business/285-ae0f64eb-969e-4b76-9f30-0c04ff8ed987>

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

[Hatchling Hustle - Galveston, TX](#)

April 15, 2023

The goal of this event is to raise awareness of the beginning of sea turtle nesting season.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Galveston/HatchlingHustle>

SOURCE: Turtle Island Restoration Network

[Funding for Place-based Education in the Gulf of Mexico Region](#)

K-8th Grade

The Gulf Research Program is offering up to \$2 million to support place-based educational activities in the Gulf of Mexico region. Full details can be found on the Gulf Research Program [website](#). Applicants must request at least \$75,000 for projects, commensurate with the scope of work, that are up to 30 months in duration.

Submit your applications by March 29, 2023 5:00pm ET.

SOURCE: GOMA



Tom Burns's Article

I went on a cruise on the Ruby Princess out of Galveston a couple of weeks ago and here is a story about it and some pictures for the Lunarscope if you want to use them.

Last month I took advantage of a great deal from Princess Cruises on a 7-day cruise on Ruby Princess out of Galveston. Ruby Princess is an older ship built in 2008 but refurbished in 2015. She is 115,000 gross tons, 951 feet long and can accommodate up to 3080 guests. Princess ships are more geared to older adults. They don't have kid stuff like water parks and the music is from the 60's through 80's. There is always something going on and even the sea days go by quickly. One of my favorite activities was afternoon tea with biscuits" (small cookies) and scones on the sea days. Of course, there is always something good to snack on during the day and great meals in the evening. Following dinner there were song and dance shows a couple of nights and comedians on other nights.



The first two days of the cruise were sea days as we crossed the Gulf of Mexico. Royal Caribbean's Allure of the Seas, which also sails from Galveston, accompanied us off our starboard side for most of the day Saturday. I took a great sunset picture that included Allure of the Seas. I didn't know it at the time but our own Kim Murphy was on board her.

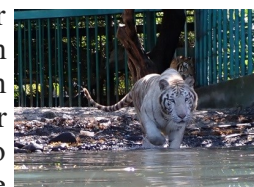
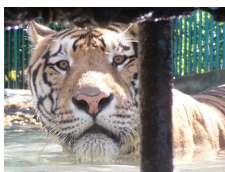
The cruise first stopped at Costa Maya, a small port just north of the Mexican town of Mahahual. It is probably closer to Belize than it is to Cozumel. There is a tram to the town but there is a compound at the pier with shops, a pool, a couple of restaurants and bars. I had been to the town before and the snorkeling wasn't that great so I just stayed at the port. I enjoyed a rum drink in a fresh coconut while watching the four "fliers" reenact an ancient ritual where four men descend from a tall pole. They have ropes tied to their ankles and as the platform at the top of the pole spins, the ropes unwind and lower the flyers.



The following day we stopped at Roatan, the largest of the Bay Islands of Honduras. It was a beautiful clear sunny day and we could see the outlines of the mountains on mainland Honduras. There are two cruise ports on Roatan and we docked at Mahogany Bay which is just east of the airport. There is a nice beach club right there at the port but I had booked an excursion to a small island called Big French Key. It is only a short distance west of CoCo View resort and I saw one of their dive boats pass by while there. We could not snorkel from the beach at Big French Key but the excursion included snorkeling from a boat. The snorkeling only lasted 45 minutes to an hour which went by way too quickly. There was a lot of healthy coral and lots of little fish but not too many big fish. I suppose they were down in deeper water.



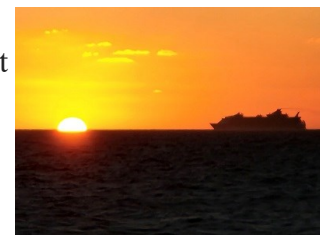
On the way back from snorkeling our guide pointed out an enclosure for tigers at a tiger rescue center that shared the island with the beach club. It was just around the corner from the beach club and I knew it would be an easy swim. So, when we got back to the beach club, I put my snorkeling gear back on and went to visit the tigers. Their enclosure extended out over the water so that the tigers had a place to swim. One of the tigers, a white one, was curious about me (or maybe hungry) and would jump in the water to get an eye-to-eye view of me. There were iron bars spaced maybe four inches apart and the tiger would stick its nose through them.



The last stop was Cozumel. I had already had too much fun in the sun on Roatan, so I just mostly stayed around the pier (Puerto Maya). I did venture across the street to see if I could find some better prices but I was surprised that they were the same or higher than in the pier area. I quickly got tired of being harassed by all the vendors and left.

We had fantastic weather for most of the cruise. The last day was overcast but that was OK because most of us had too much sun by then.

More cruise ships are coming to Galveston this fall and next winter so there will be more options than ever. So, let's plan a Lunar fins cruise (and / or a club trip to Roatan).





Mike Peter's

Our Lunarfins Dive Club has been at the forefront of conducting zoom education over the web, just as the Flower Gardens Marine Sanctuary has also started to conduct educational webinars. All members should be proud of the progress that Lunarfins Dive Club has made, and using the technology of the web to promote education of All the public regarding our underwater world. We as members wish to thank those skilled club members who have used their internet skills that make it possible for our club to utilize zoom broadcast to reach out and bring education on marine diving to the public over the internet.

Shipwreck of 500-Year-Old Floating Castle

Shipwreck of 500-Year-Old Floating Castle Found to Contain 'Thrilling Haul'



The Danish warship “Gribshunden” sank to the bottom of the Baltic Sea in 1495. “The wreck was rediscovered by sport scuba-divers in the 1960s and 1970s. This was a 500-year-old shipwreck that was 115-feet long of a medieval European king's personal "floating castle". Then Maritime archaeological started excavations.

They found a "thrilling" haul of exceptionally well-preserved plant materials—including exotic spices originating from the far corners of the world.

Some of the artifacts had been rarely or never been seen before in an archaeological context.

It has been said that this is the most thrilling haul of spices from a shipwreck because of its age, quality of the plant remains—exotic, expensive spices—and the remarkable state of preservation.

“This article was so interesting, be sure to continue reading the article in Newsweek. <https://www.newsweek.com/shipwreck-500-year-old-floating-castle-gribshunden-found-thrilling-haul->



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

you should have been there!!

Everything we can expect from 'Avatar: The Way of Water,'



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

- Lunarfins saw this wonderfull movie on January 15th, 2023.
- IF you were not with us, sorry you missed it.

Awesome movie! I will be seeing it again before I buy it.



PJ Campagna

& Shon Corrier

Brion Saathoff

Mike Peters

Beverly & Richard Kolonko

PeeWee Dwire

Ja Van Pruett

Caribbean Christmas—Iceland

Back Row left to right—

PeeWee Dwire, Dennis Deavenport,
Brion Saathoff, Kim Murphy,

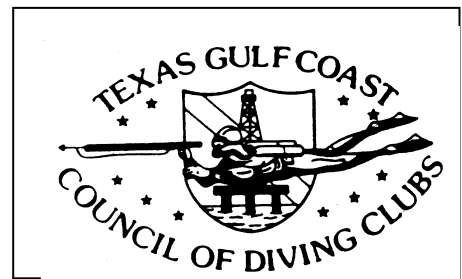
Richard Kolonko,

Front Row —JaVan Pruett,
Beverly Kolonko, Gail Smith



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

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).

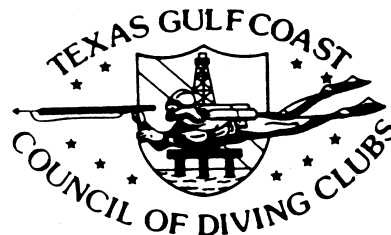
The TGCC Memorial College Scholarship Program (MCS) which is conducted annually and available to members of TGCC Member clubs, their children and grandchildren. Awards are based upon merit; the value and number of MCS awards are based upon the Council's budget. This award is given in memory of significant 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.

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!!



**This was the first TGCC Banquet I
have missed in over 21 years.**

**Sorry I missed this one, sure
looked like fun.**

Ja Van

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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Webster TX 77598-7514

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!!

Luncheon on February 15, 2023



**Happy
Faces!
We
hope to
See
more of**

you at our next Event.

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

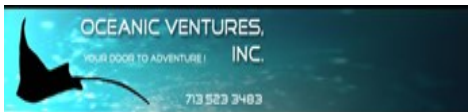
www.divetrip.com



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