

August 2023



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Women Divers & Hall of Fame

GAIL D. CHAPMAN

August 15

Gail Chapman, CDR, USN (ret), Ph.D., MBM, a highly published microbiologist for the Navy, entered the Navy in August 1972 training first as a Hospital Corpsman and then Laboratory Technician from 1973-1982. With a goal of becoming an officer, CDR Chapman left active duty in May 1982 to acquire her BS degree in Microbiology from San Diego State University, San Diego, CA in 1984 and her MS degree in Microbiology from the same University in 1987 while remaining in the Naval Reserves where she was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in 1984. After her commissioning in 1988 she served as clinical microbiologist at the Naval Hospital Oakland, CA. She received her Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of California, Davis, CA in 1995. Thereafter, she served as a clinical microbiologist and research scientist world-wide as well as a stint as Officer-in-Charge of the Navy's toxicology detachment at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH. From 2009 until her retirement in Jan 2016, CDR Chapman served as the Navy Liaison of Military Infectious Disease Research Program (MIDRP), assigned to US Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery providing liaison to Headquarters, US Army, Frederick, MD. She was the Portfolio manager for several drug and vaccine programs, e.g. for malaria, hantavirus and dengue. In 2004, she received a Master degree in Business Management from Colorado Technical University Online, Denver, Colorado. CDR Chapman deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan in 2012 as Senior Researcher and Site Lead for the Joint Combat Casualty Research Team. CDR Chapman has over 25 publications in the fields of disease surveillance, microbiology, vaccine development and toxicology. Dr Chapman served on the Women Divers Hall of Fame Board (WDHOF) of Directors from 2010 – 2023 and was inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2017. She served as Treasurer for WDHOF from 2019-2023 and continues to provide annual reviews for the scholarship and training grant programs. <https://www.wdhof.org/>

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdZ09)

[pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdZ09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdZ09)

Meeting ID: 836 7464 2772

Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings
are held every other month on the 2nd
Monday of the Month. Our next meet will be
on **Sept. 11th**, if you want to attend contact
Brion Saathoff at <brionsaathoff@icloud.com>
before at 7:00 PM.

Will be a ZOOM Meeting only



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Frank Burek,
Candace Campanelli,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Pete Hasbrook,
Stanley Fontenot,
Mike Peters,
Bob Sanders,
Brion Saathoff



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



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Membership runs **Member-ship**

2024 Membership dues are
Now being accepted from
April 1st, 2023 to March 31st
2024

“The renewal form and dues payment is required as soon as possible prior to April 1.

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.



Aug. 15th — General Meeting — Gail Chapman — Women Divers

Aug. 19th —Lunarfans Get Together — Topwater Grill, 5 pm

P. 5 815 Avenue O, San Leon, TX 77539 , **RSVP– Mike Peters, Please**

Sept. 11th — Lunarfans Board Meeting — ZOOM — 7:00 pm

Sept. 19th — General Meeting — Treasure of the Caribbean

Sept. 23rd — Beach Party — Texas City Dike — 10 am P16

Oct. 17th — General Meeting — Members — Tell your Oops! Moment

Oct. Social — TBA

Nov. 21st. — General Meeting — Paul Cater Deaton — TBA

Nov. Social — TBA

Dec. 3rd. — Lunarfans Christmas Party— Opus Grill

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Brion Saathoff
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Christi Dawson
Treasurer	John Gorman
Social Director	Mike Peters

APPOINTED

Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Bill Jones
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Open
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 2024?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfins President's Notes

Hello, My Lunarfins family,

I hope everyone had an exciting and adventurous summer, I know I was blessed with checking off a bucket list trip. (Cuba). Now it's time to look at a Late summer or early fall MV Fling trip to the flower gardens. We have a great guest on August the 15th, Gail D Chapman PhD. she is a Microbiologist and 2017 Women Divers Hall of Fame Inductee please join us at the South Shore Grille to welcome her. We had a great time at Las Brisa with good food and great friends. Our next gathering will be at the Top Water grill on August 19. At 5 pm it's a big place with plenty of room. If you're interested, I will be at the Railean Distillery before then visiting with Kelly and her friendly staff at 341 5th street San Leon.

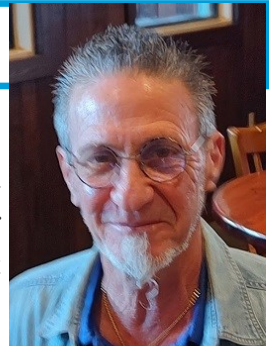
Don't forget The Bay Area Divers. Scuba poker at Mammoth Lake. On August 26 from 10:30am to 2:30pm all the proceeds benefit the waves program for wounded warriors.

September 23 is the first day of autumn so I thought it would be a great day for the annual beach party at the Texas City Dike. We had a really great turnout last year. I was thinking fajitas sausages and bratwurst so earmark in your calendars and come out and join us. TTFN.

For us old folks --TTFN is an initialism for "ta ta for now"

Have a great summer
Keep those fins up and your gear wet.

Best Regards,
Brion Saathoff
2023-2024 President!



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

We enjoyed beautiful weather touring all these scenic sites of Europe. I have included some pictures from our trip for you to enjoy.





South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

<https://soshoregrille.com/league-city-south-shore-grille-food-menu>

Aug 15th, 6:00pm

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

Speakers start at 7:00 pm

2800 Marina Bay Dr. League City TX 77573

Lunarfin's August Social



**Come for an
early dinner and
enjoy other
members**



August 19, 2023

5 pm at Top Water Grill

815 Avenue O, San Leon, Texas 77539

**We had lunch here before Covid and had a great time,
looking forward to another great time.**

Please contact Mike Peters at MGPetershome@comcast.net or Kim Murphy at kamurphy5717@gmail.com



THE ULTIMATE FLING COURSE SPECIAL

Sign up for select Fling dates and
get astronomical savings on SSI
courses!

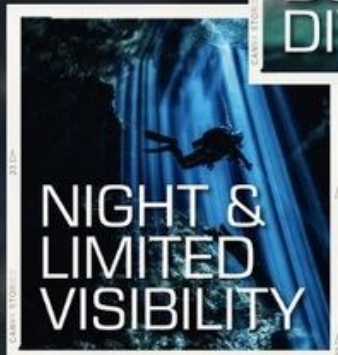
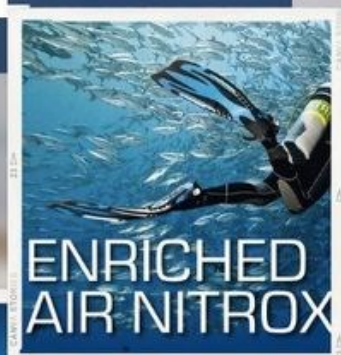
Deep - \$50 (\$180 Savings)
2 Course Bundle - \$199 (\$100
Savings)
4 Course Bundle - \$349 (\$250
Savings)

Courses Available:

- Boat
- Computer Diving
- Deep
- DPV
- Enriched Air
- Night

Dates Available:

July 16 - 19	Sun - Wed	11 Dives
Sept. 1 - 3	Fri - Sun	11 Dives
Oct. 5 - 8	Thur - Sun	11 Dives
Oct. 27 - 29	Fri - Sun	7 Dives



SIGN UP NOW!

HIGHTIDESCUBA.COM/SHOP/TRAVEL
(817) 483-0376

Our retail partners at High Tide Scuba have rolled out a special deal for Fling divers who want to get in some continuing education!

If you're a new diver, there's no better way to get out to the Flower Garden reefs than to come with a dive instructor who can lead you through the training and the reefs!

We are especially pleased to offer DEEP certification at a DEEP discount for new divers. What better place to complete your DEEP cert than the deep, BLUE, crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico!

Check out the course offerings and give [High Tide Scuba](#) a call. They will get you started on the academic parts and book you on the Fling trip too! You'll save a lot with their special pricing, but they will also save you the 6% online booking fees.

Pending Events



Sept 1-3

<https://www.hightidescuba.com/.../Sept-1---3-Ultimate...>

Oct 5-8

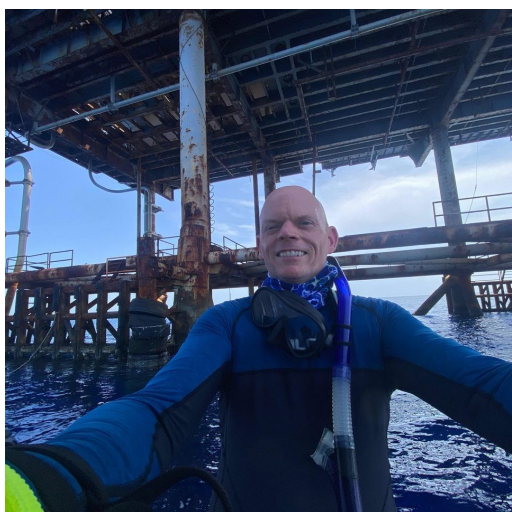
<https://www.hightidescuba.com/.../Oct-5--8-Ultimate-Fling...>

Oct 27-29

<https://www.hightidescuba.com/.../Oct-27--29-Ultimate...>

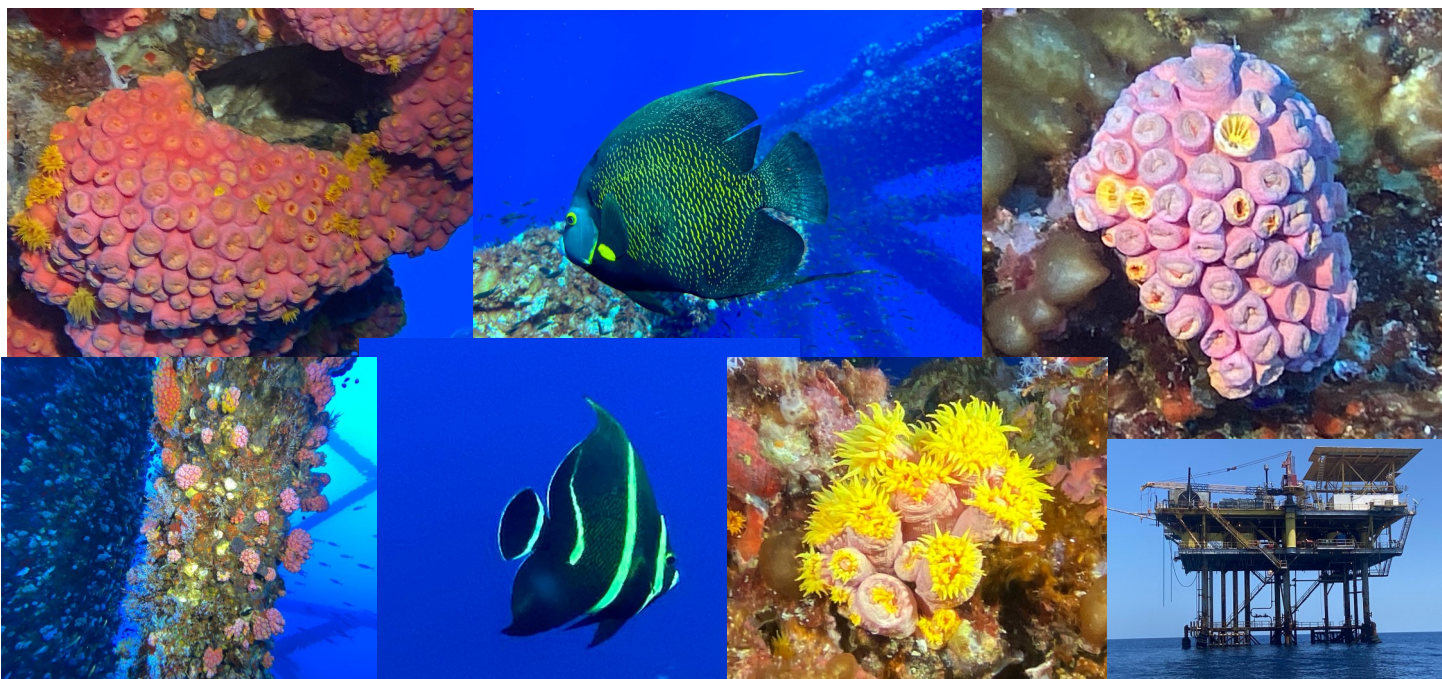
About our Members

Stanley Fontenot



I went on two awesome rig dives out in the gulf on July 29th!!!! Thank you, Craig and Jack with Texas Scuba Adventures, for an amazing trip! I had a blast! There was a brief moment when I was zoned observing the crazy fish activity. It was incredible! There was a very slight current that pushed me away (not down) from the area I was watching. At one point looked down and saw this vast blue expanse that I was over. I caught my breath and thought "I'm going down". I stopped my brain and embraced the moment. I was hovering in about 200 ft of water! It's crazy to think that if I went down 45 more feet, I run the rust going into convulsions due to oxygen toxicity. I won't go into science, but I was diving on an air mixture that has 32% oxygen. This gas mixture has a max depth where it can safely be used. It's around 109ft. Some charts give you a 111ft depth.

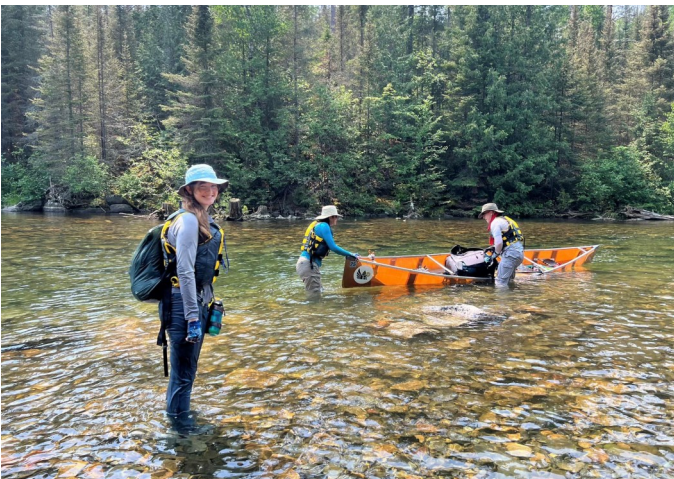
What an incredible thought!!!! I had so much fun, and I was thankful I was able to dive and capture the moment with photos.



About our Members (Continued)

Christine Thai Sanders is with Bob Sanders at Boundary

The Sanders -- Just got back from Kimi's Northern Tier Scouts BSA trip June 25 - July 3 to The Boundary Waters. 35 Lakes, 47 portages, 83 miles in the remote backcountry. Amazing trip



About our Members (Continued)

Stanley Fontenot and JC Andrewes

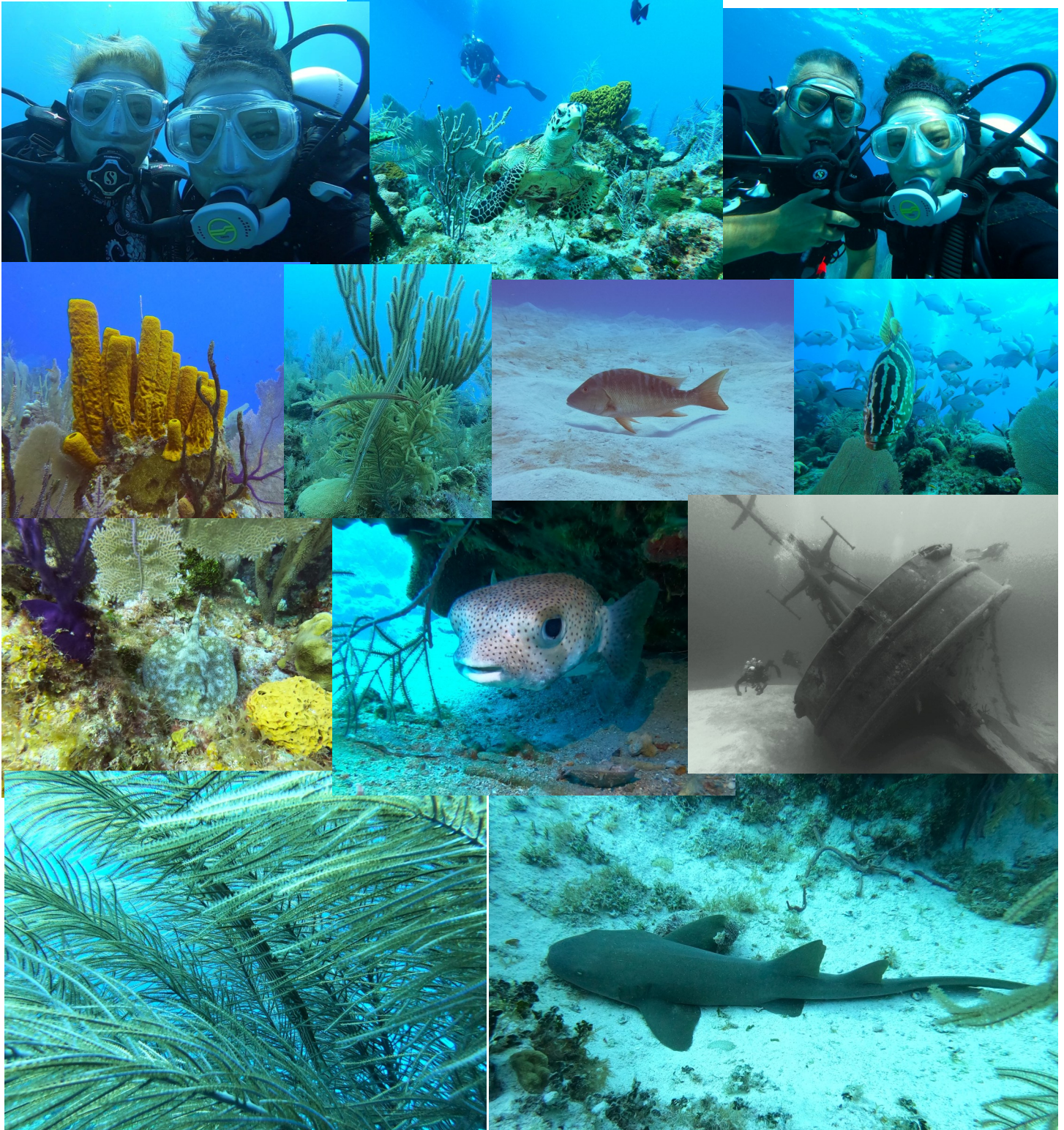
This small lake in Utopia Texas was interestingly fun!!! The haze on the bottom of the lake is a layer of suspended silt. The turtle was not harmed in the taking of her picture. I got to geek out over some aquatic carnivorous plants. The little yellow flowers in the last few pictures are a species of utricularia.

We tried to dive Lake Medina but that sucker is almost dried up. It's down to 4.7 percent capacity. Wow! We talked with some locals about the lake. Many local places are out of business.



About our Members (Continued)

Candace, Bert and Joe Campanelli were in Grand Cayman recently.



So Glad you guys had a great trip and so glad you are all home.

About our Members (Continued)

Paul Cater Deaton

It was an interesting weekend. Friday, evening, July 28th brought another remarkable performance of “Star Wars - A New Hope” by the [Houston Symphony](#), while the film was screened above them. The Academy Award winning score by Maestro John Williams is intricate and elegant enough just to hear it, but actually watching it unfold brings it to stratospheric levels.

Then, on Saturday, I flew to Dallas to be part of [Alejandro Cabrera](#)’s “In the Lone Star Wars State” documentary. They had built a cantina set and we were transported to a galaxy far away. The black and white photo is included as a throwback to 1977, when the first film was made.



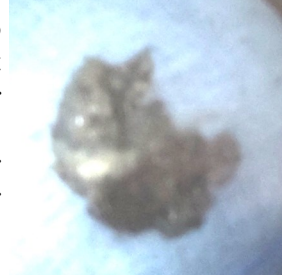
I never get tired of visiting [Space Center Houston](#). We have a membership, which allows me to go whenever I am in Nassau Bay and have enough time between film shoots.



About our Members (Continued)

Ja Van Pruett, your V. President and editor

For those of you who may or may not have known, I had surgery on the 28th of July to remove what the Dr. Angela Adkins though was a small screw that was lodged in my left sinus cavity that had gotten infected. It turned out to be a bone fragment that was left over from surgery following a car accident in 1976. I am doing better than I thought I would. Dr. Adkins rebuilt the left side of the nose, no more infection and I may have fewer migraines. I do not have any bruises and I can breathe so much better. Thank you all for your prayers.



TEXAS NEWS

Texas paleontologists discovered fossils of 30-foot prehistoric marine lizard mid-summer of last year.

The mosasaur was a top marine predator 80 million years ago.

By [Ariana Garcia](#) Updated Dec 22, 2022 5:55 a.m.



A file photo of a mosasaur jawbone. Paleontologists from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science recently discovered the fossils of a mosasaur in North Texas.

Paleontologists from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas unearthed the fossils of a mosasaur, a 30-foot marine lizard that existed around 80 million years ago, according to a report from the [Dallas Morning News](#).

Starting in mid-July, scientists excavated parts of the mosasaur's skull, lower jawbones and several vertebrae from its spine near the fossil-rich North Sulphur River in North Texas. Stephen Kruse, an amateur enthusiast, told the Dallas Morning News that he first came across a piece of the creature's spine as he hiked near the river.

"When I turned this corner, he was just sitting there, coming right out of the wall," Kruse said.

It's not the first-time mosasaur bones have been discovered near the North Sulphur River. Ron Tykoski, the Perot Museum's director of paleontology and curator of vertebrae paleontology, told the Morning News that during the mosasaur's time, most of Central Texas was underwater.

The mosasaur, which Tykoski described as the great white shark or killer whale of prehistoric times, was a top marine predator that fed on turtles, sharks, and even other mosasaurs. "Imagine a 30-foot swimming point-nosed Komodo dragon with flippers and a forked tail," Tykoski told the Morning News.

In order to remove the fossilized bones from the creek bed's claylike rock, Tykoski and his team used picks and shovels, as well as finer tools like probes and paintbrushes to remove remaining pieces of rock. They also shot glue made of plastic and acetone into the bone cracks to prevent the fossils from breaking apart. The entire process took about six days, the Morning News reported.

To read the entire story which is very interesting go to:

[Fossils of 30-foot prehistoric marine lizard unearthed by Perot paleontologists \(dallasnews.com\)](https://dallasnews.com)



Highly endangered Gulf of Mexico Rice's whale found swimming in Galveston

Less than 100 individual Rice's whales remain in existence, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

By Ariana Garcia Updated July 26, 2023 6:12 p.m.

A rare Rice whale was spotted swimming near Galveston

A whale on the [brink of extinction](#) was recently spotted [swimming near the Texas coast](#) this week. Capt. Brandon Overton, owner of Cbandit Charters in Texas City, was fishing for billfish with Nate Ressler, owner of Southbound Fishing Team, when they sighted an [extremely rare](#) Gulf of Mexico Rice's whale about 100 miles [south of Galveston](#) at 12 p.m. on Monday.



The pair were fishing in about 500-foot-deep water at the time, preparing to move to their next [fishing spot](#) when they caught a "once-in-a-lifetime" glimpse of the whale. "At first I thought it was a [huge turtle](#) due to the fact that we sometimes see some really big ones out there," Ressler said. "As soon as we got close, I saw water spout from its blow hole and knew we had found a whale."

Overton said he was taking a nap when he heard Ressler yelling to him about the whale. "I definitely thought I misheard him," he said. "However, sure enough there was one about 100 yards from our starboard bow."

A rare Rice's whale was spotted swimming near Galveston on Monday.

The whale appeared skittish, moving further away from the boat every time the fishermen would move closer for photos. Overton said there was no chance of running over the whale in the open sea, though the whale was wary. "Every time we would move within about 100 yards, he would dive again," Overton said. "We decided to leave him be after about 5 minutes. It was an awesome and rare sight I will never forget." Photos and video of the whale shared by Overton depict its dorsal fin peaking out of the water briefly before disappearing among the waves.



In an emailed statement, Lisa Belskis—a spokesperson for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)—wrote that while the agency cannot confirm the species of the whale based on Overton's videos, scientists do suspect the sea creature may have been an endangered Rice's whale based on its appearance, behavior, and reported location. A species of baleen whale endemic to the northern Gulf of Mexico, Rice's whales are one of the most endangered in the world, with less than 100 individuals remaining throughout the Gulf of Mexico, according to a 2016 comprehensive Endangered Species Act review. They are named after renowned cetologist Dale Rice, who first scientifically recognized the species.

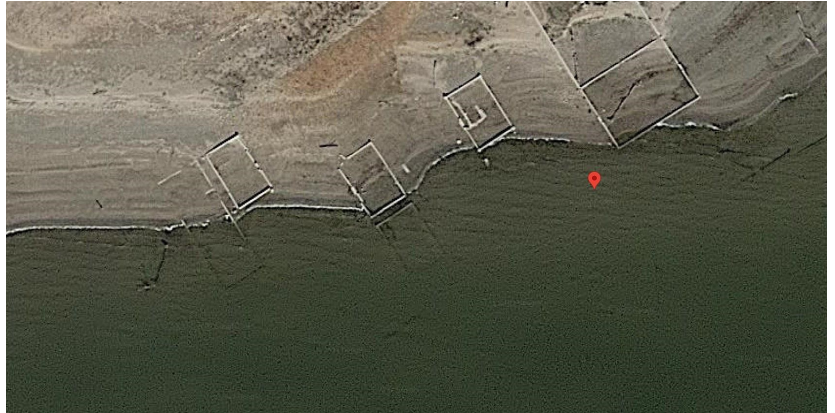
"NOAA Fisheries' most recent abundance estimate from 2017-2018 surveys in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico is approximately 50 individual Rice's whales," Belskis wrote. "Most of Rice's whale observations have occurred in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico in a region offshore of Florida between the Panhandle and Tampa Bay in waters between 100 and 400 meters depth."

Measuring up to 41 feet long and weighing up to 60,000 pounds, Rice's whales have three prominent ridges in front of their blowhole and sleek bodies with slender and pointed pectoral fins. They are uniformly dark gray on top, but the color of their [bellies can range from pale to pink](#). Their heads make up about one quarter of their entire body and they have a broad and pointed tale with a strongly hooked dorsal fin located about two-thirds of the way back on its body.

In 2017, a visual sighting of a Rice's whale was confirmed off the coast of Texas in 225-meter water depth, Belskis wrote. "Rice's whale calls have also been detected using acoustic recording devices off the coast and the central Gulf," she added. Its greatest threats are energy exploration and development, oil spills and spill response, vessel strikes, ocean noise, ocean debris, aquaculture, and entanglement in fishing gear.

NOAA encourages boaters, anglers and others to report all suspected sighting of Rice's whales by calling 1-877-WHALE-HELP. "This information is valuable for helping us to learn more about this endangered species," Belskis wrote. "NOAA urges members of the public to observe marine animals from a safe and respectful distance, and do not approach or touch them."

The story of Towash, Texas–Diving Site–Ghost town



Texas has numerous ghost towns that are ripe for exploring -- just remember to do your research before you do. Some of those places could have actually been bought and become private property. If you're not careful, you could be charged with trespassing. Having said that, there is one abandoned Texas town where access to it is not that easy. Why? Because its at the bottom of a lake.

The story of Towash, Texas

Towash, Texas began around 1854. Folks started moving to the area to work at a wheat and corn mill there. The mill was run by two brothers, Simpson Cash and James Harrison Dyer. The brothers got permission to build a dam on the Brazos river so the flow of water could be directed to run the mill.

The mill brought in settlers to work but also became a place for social gatherings. This was due to the amount of people that would use the mill. The wait times for use could be up to two days so those people would socialize to pass the time. The mill was also used during the Civil War to have wool carded to weave clothes and blankets.

This little town thrived because of the Dyer brother's mill. A post office was established along with a church, a few stores, a blacksmith, a cotton gin and more.

What happened to the town?

In short, the railroad. In the 1880's, the railroad was built in Whitney, about 25 miles from Towash. Throughout the following years, residents moved from Towash into Whitney. The deserted town stood until 1951 when the Whitney Dam was built. The dam created Lake Whitney which engulfed Towash.

Several of Towash's buildings still remain at the bottom of Lake Whitney about 110 feet down according to many scuba divers. When lake levels are low, you can see some of the town's foundations. You can also see some of the ghost town's foundations if you put in the coordinates 31.922234,-97.343275 in Google Maps and scroll in real close.

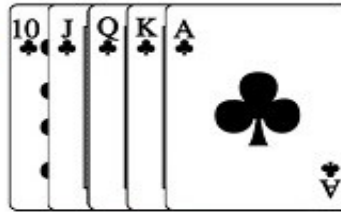
There are several parks and a state park around Lake Whitney now. It could be a fun road trip to check out the lake and maybe throw in a scuba diving adventure while you're there. It would certainly make for some cool pictures or video.

Read More: [You Can Only Get to This Old Texas Town By Going Underwater](https://1130thetiger.com/ixp/156/p/texas-town-underwater/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral) |
[https://1130thetiger.com/ixp/156/p/texas-town-underwater/?](https://1130thetiger.com/ixp/156/p/texas-town-underwater/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral)
[utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral](https://1130thetiger.com/ixp/156/p/texas-town-underwater/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral)

Up Coming Events

Bay Area Divers Sanctioned Scuba Poker Fundraiser

Bay Area Divers Scuba Poker Fundraiser



- Diving
- Games
- Prizes
- Food

Benefitting the W.A.V.E.S. Program

August 26, 2023

10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Mammoth Lake, Lake Jackson, TX

Entry Fee* \$15.00

\$5.00 for B.A.D. members

*Park Admission not included

All contest entry fees and contributions will be donated to WAVES



Visit bayareadivers.org
for more information



Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Sept. 23rd @ 10:00AM

Hello everyone! Just a quick note to let everyone know about the Beach Party. It will be Saturday, Lunarfin's is supplying water & drinks. Don't forget to bring your chairs, umbrellas & lunch

Look for the Lunarfin's Flag





Diving with Jess

Guided group trip to Grand Cayman

Come “Dive, Chill, and Dream” with us on the beautiful island of Grand Cayman. I have hand-selected Grand Cayman’s newest bespoke dive resort, Ocean Cabanas, and their dive team at Living the Dream Divers for this guided dive trip.

We will be staying in stunning oceanfront cabanas. Each cabana is a 2 bedroom, 2 bath with a shared living area, kitchen, lanai, and dive gear drying racks. Each room is a king suite with a private ensuite bathroom. Accommodations are based on double occupancy per room, and there is an additional single occupancy rate available.

Living the Dream Divers specializes in small groups on big boats.

They have the best designed boats and the friendliest staff, taking valet diving to the next level! They will be taking us to the best dive sites on the island, including the USS Kittiwake wreck and Stingray city*.

Boat dives include tanks, weights, towels, freshwater shower, and gear storage. You can also use their complementary dive computer, mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit if needed. Regulators and BCDs are available for rent. We will also have access to unlimited shore diving near the resort.

Included

- • 7 night stay in a beautiful Oceanfront 2 bedroom/ 2 bath cabana (double occupancy per room) with kitchen, living space, and lanai
- • 4 days of 2 tank boat dives, valet dive service, trip to Stingray City and the Kittiwake wreck*
- • Unlimited shore diving near the resort
- • Roundtrip airport and dive boat transfers
- • Welcome Rum Punch Party
- • Local Taxes/Resort Fees

Not included

- • Roundtrip airfare to Grand Cayman
- • Meals
- • Gratuities
- • Insurance: dive and travel

Optional Add-ons

- • Nitrox for boat dives- \$112
- • Guided night shore dive- \$100
- • Rental car
- • Rental gear
- • Bioluminescence Bay Tour
- • Courses: Fish ID, Nitrox, Advanced

Pricing

- • Double Occupancy Diver: \$1,895.88 pp (base)
- • Non-Diver: subtract \$379 pp from base
- • Single Occupancy: add \$889.88 pp to base

Payments

- • \$500 non-refundable deposit due to reserve spot (applied to balance)
- • 50% payment due by July 27, 2023
- • 100% payment due by August 28, 2023

***All dives are weather dependent**

Sign up or reach out for more information by emailing Jess at divingwithjess@gmail.com or calling at 979.236.9430!

Jessica Lee
Owner, [Diving with Jess](https://divingwithjess.com)
PADI~NAUI~DAN Dive Instructor

News from the Flower Gardens

2023 Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest

Calling all photographers, regardless of skill level or experience, select your best photos to participate in the 2023 *Get Into Your Sanctuary Photo Contest*. We will be accepting submissions in the following categories:

Sanctuary Views
Sanctuary Life
Sanctuary Recreation
Sanctuaries at Home
Sanctuaries Around the World

The newest category, Sanctuaries Around the World, should provide lots of opportunities for divers to submit photos. But, don't forget to take some in Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary too!

For full details, please visit the [photo contest webpage](#).

Submit your photos **until Monday, September 4, 2023**.

SOURCE: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

How Digital Photography Enhances Fish ID

Dr. Christy Pattengill-Semmens, REEF Co-Executive Director of Science and Engagement, recently attended the 2023 Citizen Science Association Conference to share information about the Volunteer Fish Survey Project (VFSP). The semi-annual conference brings together a wide variety of practitioners, volunteers, academics, educators, and more, to share ideas and insights, and to forge stronger relationships and practices across the field.

Christy presented a poster that explored how modern digital photography has not only enriched dives underwater, but has also drastically improved efforts in citizen science, most notably fish identification.

[See Poster & learn more: https://www.reef.org/news/enews/making-it-count-july-2023/reef-attends-citizen-science-association-conference?utm_medium=email&utm_source=GovDelivery](https://www.reef.org/news/enews/making-it-count-july-2023/reef-attends-citizen-science-association-conference?utm_medium=email&utm_source=GovDelivery)

REEF Florida Keys Lionfish Derby & Festival

September 7-10, 2023

The event includes two days to collect as many invasive lionfish as possible, followed by a family-friendly lionfish festival hosted at the picturesque Postcard Inn Beach Resort & Marina in Islamorada. The festival is open to the public and features lionfish tastings, drink specials, educational demonstrations, games, interactive booths from environmental vendors, live music, and more. Visit www.REEF.org/derby for all the details.

Teams of two to four people may register to compete in the derby. Be sure to sign up soon to take advantage of the early bird rate of \$75 per team, available until August 10. Registration is available online [here](#). You can also stay up to date on derby info and connect with other teams by joining the [REEF Invasive Lionfish Facebook Group](#).

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors, including Ocean Conservancy, Ocean Reef Conservation Association, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, TRIAD, Mesara Foundation, Sharkey's Pub & Galley Restaurant, and Postcard Inn Beach Resort & Marina, with advertising support from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. Thank you to all sponsors for your support of REEF Invasive Species Program!

American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2023 Supporter Registration

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWAF) is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America. This 2023 payment is made to the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) to support the incorporation and nonprofit application process of a new 501(c)(3) organization. 2023 Registration also indicates your current intent to support this new organization for the foreseeable future.

Our Purpose: This nonprofit corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purpose within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal revenue Code. Its charity awards and function are intended to:

- Encourage and promote education in the watersport community
- Encourage or increase safety
- Support the conversation and appreciation of marine biological resources, the marine and coastal environments
- Perform 501(c)(3) public nonprofit actions that support the watersport communities and the environments that they utilize.
- The work of the corporation shall not be for profit. No dividend, compensating or part of the income of the corporation is to be distributed to its directions or officers. The corporation shall not attempt to influence, or participate in, or intervene in any political campaign.

To join as an individual (must be a certified scuba diver, or a member of a dive club) - fill out the application. Please print legibly as e-mail addresses will be utilized to keep supporters abreast with the charity’s status and your name as identified below, used in any future donation reporting required to confirm your support of ACWAF. Once officially formed, it is anticipated that the annual Supporter Fee for the new organization will be \$20.

☐ \$15

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.

**You should have
been there!!**

**July's Social Early Dinner on
Saturday, July 22 at Las Braisa**



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!!

The Best of Henry - And Much More

East Meets West

July General Meeting — July 20, 6:30 p.m.



If, you missed this meeting you missed a wonderful presentation Henry's pictures were awesome.

About our Members (Continued)



Candace Campanelli is with Randy Shoemaker and Natalie Holley at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.



at Cafe De Monde In New Orleans.

A trip to New Orleans isn't complete without beignets and coffee at Cafe Du Monde in Jackson Square .

Say a prayer for me Monday I am having my gall bladder removed.



Somebody painted this rock to look like a shark. Sent in by Louise Toole



My good friend Pete Hasbrook is performing with Ringside Quartet at an upcoming show. They are the guest quartet at the East Texas Men of Harmony a cappella performance "It's a Good Day" on August 12th, 2-4 pm.

If any of you live near or around Tyler, TX, this post is for you!



Pete Hasbrook

Our best view of the eruption was on the drive to Keflavik



Pete Hasbrook

Bye bye Iceland— in Keflavík, Iceland

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

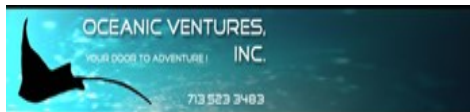
www.divetrip.com



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