

October 2023



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Raja Ampat of Indonesia — PJ Campagna

October 17th

& Oosp! Why did do that? — Brion Saathoff

Our presentation this month is an Award winning video
on saving Leatherback Turtles of Indonesia



PJ Campagna, a life-long resident of the Texas Gulf Coast, began scuba diving in 1991, and taking wildlife photos in 1994. With the transition to digital cameras, P J began honing her skills in underwater photography and videography. Capturing the beauty of the underwater world takes her to tropical, remote locations with her Dive-Buddy and Husband, Shon. They focus on underwater as well as topside vistas. They have a strong commitment to the Clear Lake area as well as the Galveston community, volunteering at the Moody Gardens Aquarium, as divers in the Caribbean exhibit feeding the fish, cleaning the tank, and assisting the marine biologists.

They have also volunteered for the Save Our Leatherbacks Operation (SOLO) a nonprofit dedicated to saving Leatherback Sea Turtles, the oldest and largest turtle species left on Earth. They travel to isolated areas around the world, working to save the ocean and all its endangered creatures. We hope you enjoy your virtual dive with me at the Lunarfins meeting this month!!

[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



Inside this issue

- 2 Events Calendar, Club Officers
- 3 Presidents Notes
- 4 New Member's
- 5 Meeting Place & Lunarfins Oct Social
- 6 About Our Members
- 7 The Ultimate Fling Course Special
- 8 Brion Saathoff Article
- 9,10 The SAC Report-Andy Lewis & Texas A&M News
- 11 Mike Peters Article- The "La Trinite" shipwreck
- 12 FREE—Refresher class
- 13 Diving with Jessica Lee
- 14 Lunarfins Christmas Party
- 15 Mike Peters Corner & New Dive Gear
- 16 Diving with Jessica Lee-March, 2024
- 17 (ACWAF)
- 18 TGCC Scholarship Info.
- 19,20 You Should Have Been There
- 21 Dive Shops

JC Andrews,
Frank Burek,
PJ Campagna,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Lily Douglas,
Stanley Fontenot,
Jessica Lee,
Andy Lewis,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Brion Saathoff



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 **Nov. 2nd** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at <brionsaathoff@icloud.com> before 7:00 PM. on day of meeting to get the zoom access code.

It 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

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.

Membership Application

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



Oct. 17th — General Meeting — Members — Tell your Oops! Moments and Raja Ampot-PJ Campagna

Oct. 28th — Social — Dinner with the group -Villa Capri

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

Nov. 19th — Iceland “Rainforest Holiday”—details next month

Dec. 3rd. — Lunarfins Christmas Party— Opus Grill 5pm



ELECTED OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Social Director

Brion Saathoff
Ja Van Pruett
Christi Dawson
John Gorman
Mike Peters

APPOINTED

Media Manager
Training information
Trip information

Dennis Deavenport
Jessica Lee
PJ Campagna

TGCC Representative
Advisor
Advisor
Advisor
Newsletter
Website

Jessica Lee
Tom Burns
Dennis Deavenport
PeeWee Dwire
Mike Peters
Ja Van Pruett
Tom Burns

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2024?

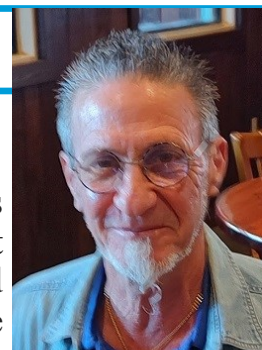
Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes

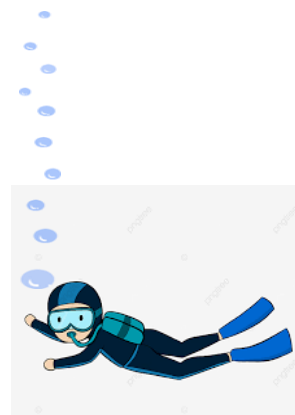
Happy Halloween to all the Lunarfin's family,

It was an awesome turn out at the meeting last month, we had a lot of guests and new members. I think everyone likes the venue at South Shore Grille, but it looks like we are on the verge of our growing the room, which is a good thing in a way because it means that folks are enjoying the meetings and the comradery. If anyone has any ideas for a larger place to meet, please let me or JaVan know, and we will be happy to check it out. Cindy is doing a great job with the ad in the roundup at JSC as we are getting some young and talented people in Lunarfin's to keep the tradition of our social club going with our goals of promoting scuba and marine conservation. Thank you to everyone for all the effort that is put into keeping this wonderful scuba club going. I would love to know that she will be around for another sixty years. PJ has a nice surprise for us for next week's meeting on Raj Ampat (which is on my bucket list) please come join us. I want to apologize for the confusion with the beach party, when I checked for scheduling the Texas City website said the triathlon would be over at 10:00 am, when I got there at 8:00am the officer told me the road was closed and would not be open till twelve or two so naturally I went into panic mode and started searching for an alternative. About four hundred yards from the entrance there is a park with suitable amenities and a pier, a nice nature trail and a clean restroom so I called JaVan and asked her to put out an email to everyone and call the people that had already sent an RSVP. (another good reason to rsvp) it all tuned out well everyone had a good time. Jess still has one male spot left for the October trip and is hosting a buoyancy and refresher clinic at Mammoth on 10/22, I was going to jump at that one till I realized that I will be in the water at Moody that day. If you plan on attending the Christmas party at Opus on December 3, we must have an accurate head count for the restaurant, so an RSVP is very important, it is not required to bring a gift. but if you want to participate in the white elephant, you will need one. No gag gifts please. If you have not been there, it's a nice venue with good food and good fun. If I don't see you, this month have a safe and happy Halloween.

Best Regards,
Brion Saathoff
2023-2024 President!



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



Welcome to Our Newest Members



Lili Douglas

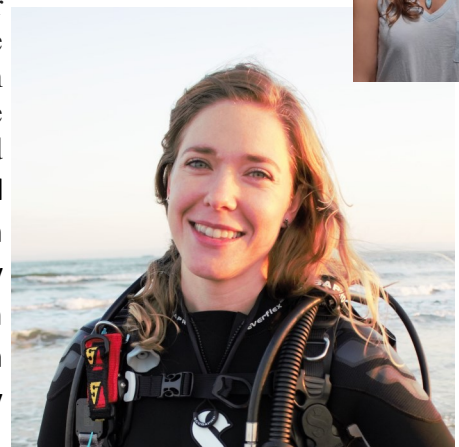
I am a brand-new diver! I received my PADI open water certification last year and greatly enjoyed it. I am planning to do my advanced open water cert later this fall, and am currently looking for used gear, including a dive computer, small women's BCD, and wetsuit. I love the feeling of "flying" underwater and feeling more like an aquatic animal than a person. It's so unique. Many of my coworkers enjoy diving in their spare time. I work as an Industrial Designer at JSC

building designs and mockups for rovers and the Gateway space station, and this year I had the privilege of building a series of underwater mockups for astronauts to conduct logistics training on the sea floor. It was a fascinating process, both learning how to build for undersea applications and coordinating with the dive and test team at the test site.

I saw that there are spotlights on vacations that different members have gone on. I will be in Singapore next week! I probably won't be able to dive, as my partner around does not have his dive cert (yet), but I am hoping to dive in southeast Asia at some point. My partner's father dived for many years and knows the good places Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand.

Jessica Lee — Our Training Officer

My name is Jessica Lee, but you can call me Jess. I fell in love with diving when I got certified in 2003 and have been hooked ever since. I went to college at A&M Galveston for Marine Biology and got my AAUS Scientific diving cert. while there. After college I moved to League City and worked as the lab manager for the Fisheries Ecology Lab where I got to study all different types of fish in the Gulf, Caribbean, Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean. I've had the opportunity to conduct scientific diving in the gulf with TAMUG and NOAA. I currently own and operate *Diving with Jess*: an eco-focused dive training and travel company. I love sharing the ocean world with my students and helping them become safe, confident divers locally and at dive destinations around the world. I am an instructor through PADI, NAUI, and DAN and offer private and group courses. When I'm not teaching or leading dive trips, I enjoy spending time with my family, friends, and pup- preferably at the beach!





Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

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

Oct. 17th, 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

Lunarfins October 28th Social



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



Oct. 28th—5 p.m.

Frenchies's Villa Capri

3713 Nasa Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586

We've had dinner here and had a great time.

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

About our Members

JC Andrews & Stanley Fontenot

If you want to get in the water and not be out there on your own, then get in touch with one of these guys. JC Andrews or Stanley Fontenot. They are out diving every weekend, Saturday, and Sunday. Way to go guys. These are some of the comments that they put on Facebook.

Stanley Fontenot—“Had an awesome time at mammoth Lake diving. Two dives today. Each dive was one and a half hours. Good times! With **JC Andrews**.” “Had two awesome dives at Mammoth Lake with my friend **JC Andrews**!!!!!! I had a blast cleaning structures of algae in the Lake!”

JC Andrews—“A lot of fun. We cleaned off a lot of stuff at the east end including the satellite dish at mammoth.” “Fun day **Lake Longhorn** with **Stanley Fontenot** we had decent vis at the bottom 5 to 8 feet. Went all the way to the island and had a run of fun. Found a cheap snorkel face mask and a smb.” “Great day of diving at **Mammoth Lake Texas** with Sport Divers of Houston. Two great 83-minute dives. Didn't find the mask that was or any treasure but **Stanley Fontenot** found a weight pouch and rehomed a turtle and to the lake.”



Paul Cater Deaton

Paul Cater Deaton— Everyone knows that George Lucas based the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon on that of the venerable B-29 Superfortress. Naturally, I had to work a bit of sorcery to create a scene of me leaving Cloud City.





THE ULTIMATE FLING COURSE SPECIAL

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

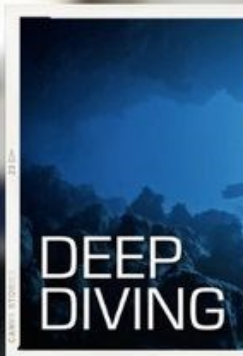
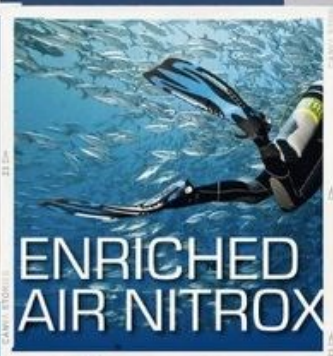
Deep - \$50 (\$180 Savings)
2 Course Bundle - \$199 (\$100
Savings)
4 Course Bundle - \$349 (\$250
Savings)

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!

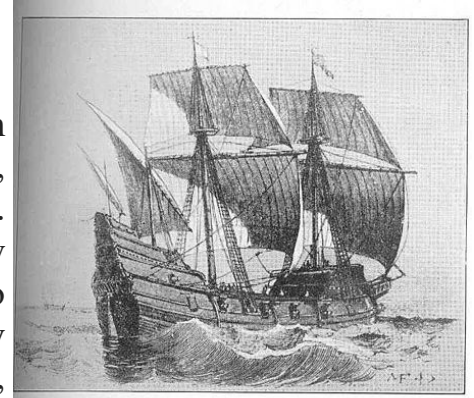
We are especially pleased to offer DEEP certification at a DEEP discount for new divers. What better place to complete your DEEP cert than the deep, BLUE, crystal clear waters of the Gulf of Mexico!

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.



Brion Saathoff

A few weeks ago, I was watching a program about a Spanish Galleon that had left Havana Cuba sometime around the 1500's, it was overloaded with gold, silver and goods destined for Spain. it ran aground on a shallow reef away from dry land with a crew of 500. the captain ordered his men to split the ships timbers to make rafts so they could make their way to the shore, as they were splitting the timbers the waters started filling with sharks, for three days the sharks congregated but did not bother them, keep in mind that most of the sailors were in the shallow water working as there wasn't any dry land around the ship. Some time on day three the sharks went into a frenzy and when it was over more than half the crew didn't survive. The researchers wanted to try to understand what attracted the sharks in the first place, so they recorded themselves splitting wood onshore and then went to the same location of the original wreck. There were not any sharks in the area when they arrived, they put the speaker in the water and played the recording of the splitting wood, soon tiger, lemon and other species started congregating in the area one of the researchers put on a HECS wetsuit and got in the water with the sharks. (HECS technology is basically a flexible faraday cage, it is made with an interwoven mesh of carbon fiber. It suppresses the electrical energy that our bodies put out, so it tends to make you less detectable to animals that use electro reception hunters and photographers use it on land to get closer to the animals.) The sharks seemed totally oblivious to his presence, after a while he started jerking around and flailing his arms and they took notice, so he stopped moving and they continued about their business. Next, he went top side and started splashing again they took notice, he stopped and submerged and again they calmed down. The next day they came back and held an empty plastic water bottle under the water and crunched it, again here came the sharks. Next, they went to another location where they could not see any sharks and crunched an empty water bottle above the water and once again the sharks came. What their theory is that the splitting wood and crunching bottles sound like crunching bones, so the sharks come to investigate. Unfortunately, I had to leave for a dive shift at Moody Gardens in the middle of the program, so I did not get to find out what their theory was as to what triggered the attack on the sailors, I have searched repeatedly for the program on story tv and cannot find it. But I wanted to share the crunching theory and the HECS technology with you. I did find in my search that people that fish for sharks will use the water bottle technique to attract them. And the HECS wetsuit might help to get closer to some of one's subjects for photography.



CARAQUE du XV^e siècle. (Dessin de MORIL-FATIO.)



News from the FGBNMS SAC-Andy Lewis

The FGBNMS SAC met on September 20th. The following is a brief outline of the topics covered:

Meeting's sanctuary Acting Superintendent was Dr. Michelle Johnston. At this time a replacement for G. P. Schmahl has not been named.

A study of coral disease at the FGBNMS was given by Dr. Adrienne Correa. So far sampling at various times and various locations has only given indications of various diseases. At this time the results are inconclusive.

James Sinclair, is retiring from BESS (Government agency) and from the SAC. He has been a member since day 1. He is also responsible for some of the BESS funding for research on the FGBNMS.

The retired FGBNMS Superintendent's (GP Schmahl) wife has passed away after a fight with cancer, it was announced that they have "Adopted a Whale" in Ginny Schmahl's honor.

The FGBNMS Volunteer of the Year for 2023 was Dr. Adrienne Correa for her 2022 to 2023 disease response efforts. Adrienne was at Rice University; she is now at USC Berkley.

Partnerships of the FGBNMS and others was covered:

- Texas Parks and Wildlife and MOA for Lionfish and moorings.

- Moody Gardens – for Coral Rescue

- NOAA ships Nancy Foster and TJ for research

- Weather Service

- MV Fling staff

The recent spotting in the Gulf of the Rice Whale, a highly endangered species.

A new project has been undertaken to "Re-analyze old Data with New data analysis tools". This is an attempt to improve the consistency of old photo station data on the FGBNMS.

The status of several reports that the FGBNMS staff and others have been involved with were covered:

- Condition Report (A document used to brief Congress and others about the sanctuary)

 - Expert Review completed

 - Edits underway for invited review will begin on October 4th.

- Climate Vulnerability Assessment

 - All reviews and edits completed

 - Document now at HQ for copy editing.

A new Data Buoy, called "Bob" has been installed. The last one came out of service several years ago.

R/V Manta Report:

- On June 1st, they partnered with Moody Gardens and TAMUG and did a USCG Helicopter Evacuation test.

At this time the vessel is in for major, unexpected repairs:

- Breakers

- Compressor

- AC

- A-frame

- Skiff replacement

- Skiff davit motor

FGBNMS SAC-Andy Lewis- (Continued)

Lionfish Invitational s:

June 2023:

93 removals in 2 days.

WFGB not visited

24 from the EFGB

69 from Stetson

Largest was 16.8 inches

56% removal rate

July 2023:

157 removals in 3 days.

92 from the WFGB

63 from the EFGB

2 from Stetson

Largest was 16.8 inches

75 removal rate.

Cruise Ship Industry – A discussion is underway to determine how the increase in cruise ship traffic would impact the FGBNMS. A discussion also centered around the SAC preparing a letter, to be sent through the FGBNMS Superintendent, the Regional Director and to the ONMS Director about taking a position on this issue.

Texas A & M News

Texas A&M-Galveston Returns Rare Sea Turtle To Gulf Of Mexico

The green and white flag of Wales is not a typical sight on Galveston's beaches, yet one waved proudly in the sea breeze Tuesday as residents of the small nation in the southern United Kingdom said goodbye to an unlikely visitor.

For Tally, a rare [Kemp's ridley sea turtle](#) who washed up on Wales' Talacre beach in 2021, the festivities marked the end of a harrowing transcontinental voyage — almost 10,000 miles round-trip — as scientists from Texas A&M University at Galveston helped release the 6-to-7-year-old turtle back into her native habitat.

"It's been an international effort," said Dr. Christopher Marshall, a professor in the [Department of Marine Biology](#) and director of the [Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research](#), which oversaw Tally's tagging and release. "We're honored to be part of this group."

Native to the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Kemp's ridleys are the smallest and most critically endangered species of sea turtle on Earth. So when Tally turned up on a frigid beach halfway around the world, fighting for her life, the discovery made [international headlines](#). It took nearly two years of work by scientists and conservation groups to restore Tally to good health and bring her back to the Gulf.





Mike Peters Corner — “La Trinite” Found in 33 ft. of water

More than 450 years ago, a three-masted ship sank in a hurricane off the coast of Florida, taking with it France's hopes of colonizing the peninsula.

Since the wreckage of "La Trinite" was discovered in 2016, it has been at the center of an epic legal battle between an American treasure hunter and the French government, with Paris recently claiming a decisive victory — or so officials hope.

A 24-page judgment, delivered on September 29 by US Magistrate Judge Allen Winsor in Tallahassee, delved into the distant and largely forgotten era of "French Florida," when a colony was established there by French Huguenots in the mid-16th century.

The colony's short existence, and Florida's longtime history under Spanish rule, may have been the direct result of the sinking of La Trinite and the squadron of ships commanded by Captain Jean Ribault, sent by Admiral Gaspard de Coligny, leader of the French Protestant group.

The wreck of “La Trinite” lies at a depth of less than 33 feet, a stone's throw from a beach on Cape Canaveral. It was discovered in 2016 by a private underwater research company, Global Marine Exploration (GME), led by American Robert Pritchett.

GME posted images of the ship's bronze cannons and other items on Facebook at the time of the discovery, noting that "the historical and archaeological significance of these artifacts cannot be overstated."

When the iconic shipwreck was found, University of North Florida archaeologist Robert "Buzz" Thunen reportedly declared: "This is Christmas, Thanksgiving and New Year all rolled into one. And the Fourth of July."

La Trinite is a "sunken military craft," judge rules

Among the objects identified underwater are three bronze cannons decorated with a traditional French fleur-de-lis symbol, as well as a prized marble column bearing the coat of arms of the Kingdom of France,

In addition to the three bronze cannons -- which are each worth more than \$1 million -- GME's divers also found 19 iron cannons, 12 anchors and other objects, Pritchett told Live Science in August 2016.

For seven years, GME and Pritchett have been waging a legal battle over who can claim the wreck, which likely contains other riches.

Standing in the way of GME is the Sunken Military Craft Act (SMCA), a law signed by then-president George W. Bush in 2004 which recognizes the sovereignty of a country over its former warships.

In June 2018, a federal court ruled that La Trinite was indeed Captain Ribault's flagship, and thus a French naval vessel.

But GME then argued that the ship, when it sank, had been carrying goods and settlers to the New World and was not engaged in a military conflict. France and Spain were not even at war at the time, the company argued.

However, French authorities, through their American lawyer Jim Goold, offered evidence that the ship was still considered a military vessel at the time.

"A lot of people, a very excellent team did research in the (French) Bibliotheque Nationale where there are a spectacular collection of records from the 16th century," Goold told AFP.

The library's "records show everything that was on La Trinite, that it was a Navy ship, that it had every specific details about the cannons and the gunpowder," he said.

The ship was also engaged in conflict as part of an ongoing dispute between French Protestants and the Catholic Crown of Spain, Goold said.

He explained that upon leaving Fort Caroline -- the French colony in Florida where the U.S. city of Jacksonville now lies -- Ribault "informed the French commander of the fort that he was going to attack the Spanish."

Goold convinced the court. "France has presented sufficient uncontested evidence to establish La Trinite sank while on military noncommercial service, meaning La Trinite is a 'sunken military craft,'" Judge Winsor ruled.

According to NOAA, a devastating storm wrecked the four largest French galleons and resulted in the massacre of the shipwrecked survivors. The Spanish then founded the first and oldest city in America, St. Augustine, in 1565.

We know from historic documents, including cargo manifests and eyewitness accounts, that Ribault's flagship La Trinite and the other three wrecked ships were fully loaded with supplies and never had a chance to discharge their cargos," NOAA said.

"Single most historically important shipwreck in North America"

As a last resort, GME argued that France had benefited unduly from the U.S. company's work to locate, photograph and search the wreck. But Winsor shot that claim down, finding that France could not be held responsible for services it had not ordered.

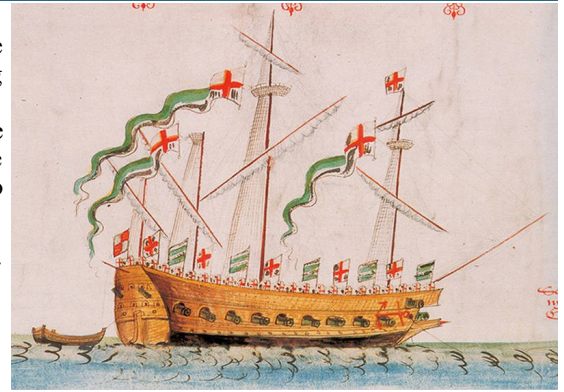
"This decision is a relief, and we hope that this legal saga will now stop, so that we can concentrate on the preservation of these elements of cultural heritage," Florence Hermite, a legal attache at the French embassy, told AFP.

Will the world now finally be able to focus in on what La Trinite holds? Goold certainly hopes so.

"I think it is quite appropriate to say that this is the single most historically important shipwreck in North America," said the lawyer, whose work for Spain in 2012 led to the reclaiming of \$500 million worth of treasures found in a Spanish galleon shipwreck.

"When Captain Ribault arrived, France had commanding military strength in Florida -- more ships, more soldiers, more cannons than the Spanish," he said.

"But the loss of La Trinite and the hundreds of French soldiers and sailors and colonists resulted in the King of France deciding to focus on Canada instead." If there had not been this hurricane, who knows?" he wondered, positing that maybe even "Washington would be the capital of New France."





Hey everyone!

I am hosting a FREE pre-trip refresher for everyone who is going on my October Grand Cayman trip to dust off those cobwebs before diving this spooky season. This will be a great time to try out your gear and get your buoyancy dialed in. Not going on the trip? No worries! You are invited too! Everyone is welcome to the FREE refresher and Buoyancy Clinic!

I will be at Mammoth Lake from 10am-4pm on Sunday 10/22 at the front NASA Dock.

Please email divingwithjess@gmail.com to sign up for a time slot.

You will be responsible for your lake entrance fee, tank, and equipment. Equipment and tanks are available to rent through Mammoth Lake Texas. Please reserve ahead of time.

Feeling the FOMO because you missed signing up for the Grand Cayman trip Oct 28-Nov 4, 2023? I have 1 spot left for a solo male traveler. I am also hosting a trip to Cayman Brac for Spring Break March 9-16, 2024!

Happy Diving!



Diving with Jess

Guided group trip to Grand Cayman

Oct 28—Nov 4, 2023

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 en suite 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

*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!

I MALE Spot Left

Jessica Lee

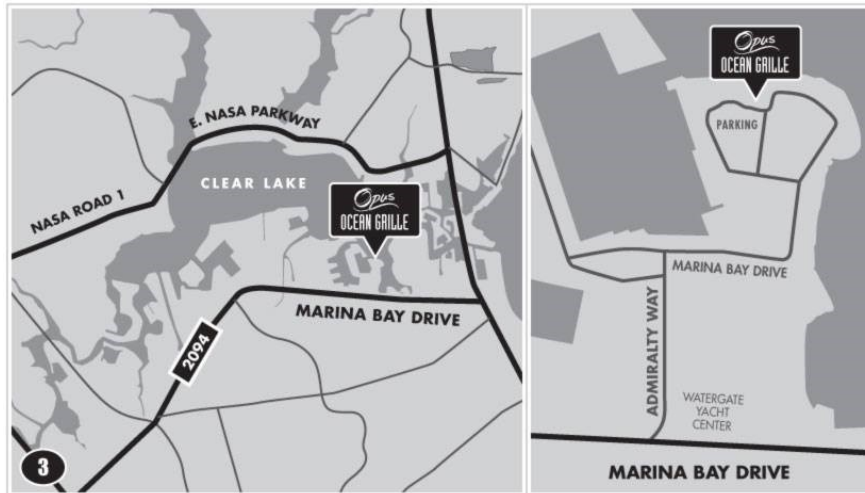
Owner, [Diving with Jess](https://www.divingwithjess.com)

PADI~NAUI~DAN Dive Instructor

2023 NASA Lunarfins Christmas Party

OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

Dec. 3 @ 5:00 PM



1510 Marina Bay Drive, Building 124

Clear Lake Shore, TX 77565

Opus Ocean Grille offers a variety of your favorite fresh seafood dishes; from oysters on the half shell, Alaskan King Crab, Chilean Sea Bass and much more!

Located within the Watergate Yachting Center in Clear Lake Shores, our waterfront dining experience makes for a perfect evening out with friends and family.

Each person should bring a gift [**\$25.00-\$30.00**] (something **you** would like to receive) for Gift Exchange if you plan participate.

Plus, we will have Door prizes!

I need a good head count by November 18th.

Dress— Dressy or Sunday clothes

Please RSVP: Kim Murphy, text or email

kamurph5717@gmail.com

or Ja Van @ caladyfish@gmail.com

<http://www.opusoceangrille.com/>



Mike Peters Corner — Ghost Pipefish



The Ghost Pipefish have always interested me. The ornate ghost pipefish harlequin ghost pipefish, *Solenostomus paradoxus*, is a false pipefish of the family Solenostomidae. The species name comes from the Greek paradoxos, referring to this fish's unusual external features.

The difference between a pipefish and a ghost pipefish. In many respects, they are similar to the pipefishes, but can be distinguished by the presence of pelvic fins, a prominent, spiny, dorsal fin, and star-shaped plates on the skin. Unlike true pipefish, female ghost pipefishes use their enlarged pelvic fins to brood their eggs until they hatch. Ghost Pipefish feed on minute crustaceans and other plankton, which are sucked up through their tube like snouts. They are of a group of small, rare marine fishes characterized by long snouts and enlarged fins that belong to the family Solenostomidae (order Gasterosteiformes). Ghost pipefishes inhabit the Indian and western Pacific oceans and reach lengths of 7.5 to 17 cm (about 3 to 7 inches).

The reproduction of a ghost pipefish is unlike the true pipefish, in which the male broods the young, it is the female ghost pipefish that broods the eggs within large fused pelvic fins located under the body. Most species have a relatively long period spent floating around in the ocean as plankton, reaching almost adult length before they finally settle onto the reef. This means that they have a wide geographic range since they can travel long distances after they are born. They are generally found living in pairs with the smaller, skinnier of the two male and the large individual, with bigger fins, the female. They range in size from 10-15 cm

Mike Peters — New Dive Gear



Offering great versatility, this dive light gives users the option of a 4,200 lumen, 120 degree flood beam for video and photography, and a narrow 1,300 lumen, 10 degree spot beam for general dive use. The flood light has four power levels and will run for 90 minutes at full brightness. The light also features blue and red light modes. The light includes a ball adapter, Goodman glove and a dry bag. Visit <https://bigbluedivelights.com/video>



Stream2Sea Sea Clearly Mask Prep Kit

“Sea” Clearly with this EcoConscious Mask Scrub & Defog made with only the safest ingredients for our planet. Stream2Sea Mask Scrub & Defog is everything you need to prep and condition new mask lenses and to recondition older ones!

From the only mineral sunscreen and body care company on the planet that has tested and proven they do not harm humans, fish and coral larvae.



The Ino Pro diving mask is ideal for smaller faces with its one-window design, a wide field of view, and low volume. The compact mask also offers a deluxe lens experience with UV 420 Lens Treatment, Anti-reflective Lens, CrystalView Optical Glass, and Freedom Film to prevent mask fogging. https://tusa.com/us-en/TUSA/Masks/Ino_Pro_Mask



Family Fun Scuba Spring Break

Included:

- 7 night beachview stay at Cayman Brac Beach Resort March 9-16, 2024. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- 5 2-tank am boat dives, 5 1-tank pm dives (15 total), complimentary use of dive computer
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Welcome rum punch and Manager's cocktail reception, 3 complementary drinks
- Resort fees, taxes, and gratuities (except dive staff gratuities)

Add ons:

- Nitrox
- Drink Package -\$200
- Night dive
- Courses: Fish ID, Nitrox, Advanced

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare to Cayman Brac
- Dive staff gratuities
- Insurance: Dive and Travel
- Rental equipment

Pricing:

- Double Occupancy Diver: \$2,465
- Single Occupancy Diver: \$3,332
- Quad Occupancy Diver: \$2,136
- Non-Diver: subtract \$400

Book Now

divingwithjess@gmail.com | 979.236.9430 | @divingwithjess

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!!

Beach Party Sept. 30, 2023



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

P.O. Box 57514
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.tgccdive.org/>

TPWD reefs:

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



You should have been there!!

General Meeting Sept. 17, 2023



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

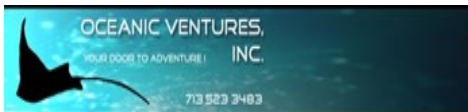
www.divetrip.com



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