Lunarscope

December 2023

Lunarins Scuba Club

In Person at South Shore Grille or Join Zoom Meeting

Meet your Lunarfins Training Officer- Jesscia Lee

Hi! My name is Jessica Lee, but you can call me Jess. I am honored to serve the Lunarfins club as your new Training Officer. This January I would like to get to know you all better and learn what you would like to see from your Training Officer. I will share some of my 20-year dive journey, as well as my hopes and ideas for my new role. I am looking forward to serving the divers of Lunarfins and growing our dive community.

A little about 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 (TAMUG) for Marine Biology, trained as an AAUS Scientific diver, and served as the dive club president. After college I moved to League City and worked at TAMUG 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. 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!



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pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdz09 ID: 836 7464 2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on <u>January 11th</u> if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at <<u>brionsaathoff@icloud.com</u> > before 7:00 PM. on day of meeting to get the zoom access code.

It will be a ZOOM Meeting

If you have an item to bring before the board,

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Frances Boutin, Frank Burek,
PJ Campagna, Candace
Campanelli, Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Stanley Fontenot,
Pete Hasbrook, Jessica Lee,
Andy Lewis, Ja Van Pruett,
Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff



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

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 <u>all fields completely</u> 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/



Merry Christmas Dec. 25

Dec.31st — Jan. 1st



Jan. 11th —Lunarfins Board Meeting

Jan. 16th. — General Meeting — Jessica Lee —

Future trips and training classes

Jan. 27th. — TGCC Annual Awards Banquet –11 am (get tickets from Ja Van Pruett)

Feb. 20th. — TBA

Advisor

Website

Newsletter

Feb. 23-25— 'Dive into the Gulf'— for our social

Mar. 19th. — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo

Apr. 16th. — General Meeting — Joe Campanelli

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Brion Saathoff Do you have **Vice President** Ja Van Pruett any ideas for Christi Dawson Secretary **Treasurer** John Gorman **Social Director Mike Peters**

Topics for APPOINTED Speakers for Media Manager Dennis Deavenport 2024? **Training information** Jessica Lee **Trip information** PJ Campagna Please share Jessica Lee them with **TGCC Representative** Tom Burns any of our Advisor Dennis Deavenport officers. **Advisor** PeeWee Dwire

Mike Peters

Ja Van Pruett

Tom Burns

event or

Lunarfins President's Notes

Merry Christmas to all the awesome Lunarfins family,

It's been a great year; we have had some fun events and good dinners together.

The club has grown with the help of Cindy Reuland, JaVan Pruett, and word of mouth from many of our members.

I would like to thank you all for keeping this great organization going and growing. We have many talented and interesting individuals among us, and it is all of you that makes us Great.

Congratulations to Cindy Reuland for being voted Diver of the year. She has worked hard to keep us going these past few years.

Come join me on January the 27th to present the award to Cindy at the TGCC awards banquet (all the info is in this issue on page 7), it is a good opportunity to meet new people and see old friends from our sister clubs.

We had an amazing turnout for the Christmas party, there were door prizes for everyone that attended, and the gift exchange was a lot of fun. Thank you, Bert Campanelli, for running the white elephant and thank you Julia Leissner for making sure we had plenty of photos.

Congratulations to Andy Lewis for winning the HUPS photo of the year contest.

I also want to welcome our two newest members, Dr. Francis Boutin and Kennith Erickson, we are happy to have you in our family.

Moody Gardens is hosting the Dive into the Gulf exposition February 23-25, it was a great event last year with a great line up of speakers and many vendors from the dive world. (the info is on page 20). I hope to see you there.

The artwork on the flyer is of the flower gardens by Janivi Mahimtura Folmsbee.

We have a newly appointed Superintendent for the FGBNMS Dr. Michelle Johnston, so welcome Dr. Johnston and thank you for filling the position, I know you will do great things for the Sanctuary.

Thank you all for such a great year and be safe out there, I am looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces in the new year.

Best Regards, Brion Saathoff 2023-2024 President!





Happy Birthday! to

<u>anyone</u> that has
a birthday this month!

May your day be wonderful!

Welcome to Our Newest Nembers



Dr. Frances Boutin

Kenneth Erickson

Hello Lunarfins Members,

Thank you for accepting my membership. I am excited to be a part of this renown scuba club where I may continue to gain knowledge about our magnificent underwater world. I loved growing up in Port Arthur, Texas. It was here I learned to swim in grades 3-5 at Franklin Elementary, near the Intercoastal Canal. In 5th grade, I received my Junior Life Saving Certificate. You see, my love for the water environment was in my blood at an early age. After receiving my Water Safety Instructors Certificate, I taught youngsters, 20 months up in Nederland, Texas. This was my favorite job. Then I moved to Houston as an educator. Here Scuba was a natural step to become a part of my other home, "the ocean." I thank God to be a part of His water world: one not meant for humans but given to us as a Special Privilege.

Thanks again, Frances Hailey Boutin From an early age I was fortunate to be near a water source & answered the urge & opportunities to indulge. An Aquarian trait I assume.

Living in a rather small western Oklahoma town (pop 150) within walking distance of the Red River, Flat Creek & the Slough (our deepest swimming spot around) was a thrill often a daily treat. In addition, we enjoyed popular swimming pools in nearby cities.

In college years later I joined a sailing class & enjoyed the often-powerful winds on area lakes.

After graduation I was thrilled to relocate & become a Houston area resident & soon found my way to an underwater club eager to learn & become a scuba diver.

A few years later I was & am a proud PADI Certified Diver. Thanks to my sweetheart Frances & her diving enthusiasm in Cozumel, Grand Cayman & Bonaire We have loved & enjoyed many wonderful trips, underwater & above.







Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

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

Jan. 16st., 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

Newly Appointed Sanctuary Superintendent

Rig dives are so cool, even when the NEWLY appointed Sanctuary Superintendent is featured, the accompanying photo is of a rig dive (this might be HI-389 within the Sanctuary)!

So send Michelle your best wishes in her new job and get yourself on one of the Rig trips!

Congrats to the Sanctuary for picking a solid advocate and facilitator to shepherd in the next generation of conservation at these important coral communities.



Meet our Staff!

My name is **Dr. Michelle Johnston**. I am the newly selected Sanctuary Superintendent for Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary!

I started with national marine sanctuaries as a Knauss Fellow in 2010, and transitioned to FGBNMS in 2012. I've served in a variety of science positions and developed expertise in sanctuary management, coral reef ecology, invasive species management, outreach, and community engagement. I am also a NOAA dive master with hundreds of hours of dives in the sanctuary collecting coral reef data. I look forward to accomplishing great things with the fantastic team we've built in Galveston!

https://flowergarden.noaa.gov/.../lionfishinvitational.html

[Photo credit: FGBNMS]

Up Coming Events:

Awards Banquet

January 27th, 11 am
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St.
Houston, TX 77074

Tickets? Contact Ja Van Pruett

TGCC Awards Programs

One of the purposes and objectives of TGCC, as specified in the <u>TGCC</u> <u>Constitution</u>, is to "provide recognition for outstanding contributors to the dive community". TGCC accomplishes this through its various Awards Programs, which are designed to "promote education in the dive community" and to "encourage, coordinate and promote cooperation" among divers and member clubs. The TGCC <u>1st Vice President</u> normally oversees these programs, which are defined in the <u>TGCC Bylaws</u> and its Attachments. These awards are typically presented at the annual TGCC Awards Banquet.

Members of the Year – for each club will be Recognize an individual for work done for TGCC and/or the dive community.

Neptune Award – A point based individual award based upon events/contests sanctioned by TGCC. (See <u>TGCC By-Laws – Attachment 1</u>)

Lifetime Achievement Award will be issued as well.

The social for this event will start at 11am and lunch will be served at 11:30 and the awards will follow. Be sure to come and give support to your club.

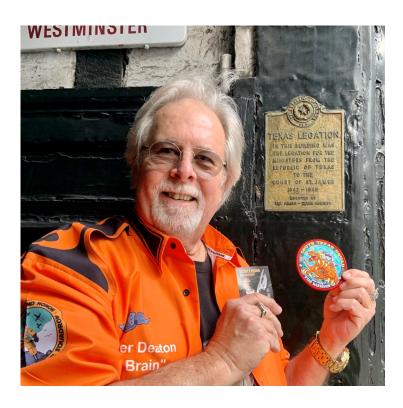


About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton







About our Members (Continued)

Andy Lewis

Best of the Year—Congratulations!





Cindy Reuland

Celebrating 25 years of the International Space Station! I was at KSC as a VIP for the STS-88 Node 1 launch (first U.S. Boeing built module!).

About our Members



Stanley Fontenot

Stanley Fontenot, Went for a quick outing to dive in the Comal River today. My friend forgot his BCD, so he practiced his snorkeling skills!!!! I took my dive gear but was mostly at the surface because the water was 4ft average. The water temp was 71 degrees. I enjoyed hanging out with the fish and turtles!!!



Went on the annual Skate to see Christmas Lights in River Oaks. I had a fun skate!

Dennis Deavenport



About our Members Continued)

Pete Hasbrook



NORTHWEST HOUSTON

December 16, 2:00 pm —3:30 pm Windwood Presbyterian Church 10555 Spring Cypress Rd. Houston, TX



Congratulations to **Space City Sound**, the 2023 Champion Chorus of congratulations to the 6 (right?) singers who are members of both the **SouthWestern District of The Barbershop Harmony Society!** Your hard work through the past year, with your week at **Harmony University** and with your several coaches, and especially your new director **Patrick McAlexander**, really showed in your great performance. And our special Space City and the Tidelanders.

Fishers of Men ing, Loving and Serving like Jesus

About our Members

PJ Campagna



I have spent this week among AMAZING women in the Women Divers Hall of Fame at the DEMA Show in New Orleans. What a special moment re-meeting Dr. Sylvia Earle ... it was a Kodak moment!!

I have some exciting news ... Last Saturday I signed a contract and now I am a licensed artist for P.A.M. Diamond Paintings. Before leaving for Belize for a week of diving off Caye Caulker, I send them 37 of my photos - most of them are underwater shots and yesterday they announced me on their Facebook group! And I will be interviewed live within the week.

Even if you haven't heard of Diamond art painting yet, I invite you to explore this craft. It is relaxing, therapeutic, and FUN to do! So far, I have made canvasses, purses, key chains, ornaments for our Christmas tree, and drink coasters. This medium truly lends itself to showcasing underwater photography as well as landscapes of beautiful remote locations.

I am including a picture of my 1st photo - it is a work in progress, as I only have the top corner left to complete, but you will get the idea.

You can now find some of my work at the website www.pamdiamondpaintings.com Please take a look and I would appreciate your comments !!

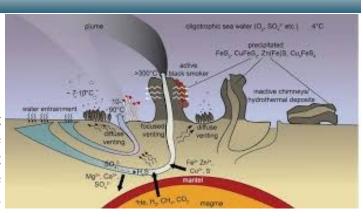


Brion Saathoff



Greetings everyone!

I was watching a documentary about hydrothermal vents and thought I might share some of it with you. Undersea volcanoes at spreading ridges and convergent plate boundaries produce hot springs known as hydrothermal vents. Scientists first discovered



them in 1977 near the Galapagos islands while exploring a Oceanic spreading ridge. They were amazed to find large numbers of organisms surrounding these vents that had never been seen before, the colonies depend upon chemical processes that result from the reaction of the cold salt water and the minerals from the hot magma associated with underwater volcanoes. they are formed by sea water percolating down into the fissures of the tectonic plates as the plates move either towards or away from each other. the cold water is heated by hot magma and reemerges to form vents. The waters can reach temperatures of 700 to 800 degrees Fahrenheit, the white smokers are not as hot, the water cannot boil because of the extreme pressure of the deep. these vents are the only places on earth where the ultimate source of energy is not sunlight but the inorganic earth itself. there two known types of vents the first one is called a black smoker. black smokers are formed from particles of iron sulfide which are black the other is the white smoker, and it contains particles of barium calcium and silicon. The columns of the black smokers can reach 18 stories tall. (180 ft) and are very delicate. (as they were trying to get a small sample off the top of a black smoker with the ROV it barely touched it and the entire thing collapsed). most vents occur at depths of approximately 7000 ft. the world's deepest known black smokers are in the Cayman trough at 3.1 miles deep. if you remember from a previous article, we found out about the Cayman crown reef and what helped keep it healthy from warming ocean temperatures was the cold waters flowing up from the deep Cayman trough. it is a general consensus that the vents create upwellings and can affect current and their directions. large colonies of vent mussels and tube worms some up to 3 foot long) can be found at the vents. Scaly foot gastropods and yeti crabs have also been found there, in 1980 the Pompeii worm was discovered living on the sides of the vent chimneys. It is one of the most heat resistant multicellular animal species on the planet, it is able to withstand temperature spikes of over 176 degrees F. and can survive in temps around 248 degrees F. there are many more interesting facts about this amazing marine environment, but it will have to wait for another day.

TTFN, Best Regards, Brion.



Hidden Shipwreck

52 cold-stunned sea turtles flown to Florida from New England for rehabilitation.



Context:

Fifty-two Kemp's ridley sea turtles are rehabbing at four facilities in Florida after a flight on a private plane from the New England Aquarium in Massachusetts. All the turtles were experiencing a condition known as cold stun from the frigid New England waters. Florida saw a record number of loggerhead turtle nests this year.

Dive Deeper:

Fifty-two endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles suffering from "cold stun" are being rehabilitated in Florida after being flown from Massachusetts.

The turtles were experiencing cold stun due to the frigid waters in New England.

Sixteen turtles were sent to Clearwater Marine Aquarium, while others were taken to Mote Marine Laboratory, The Florida Aquarium, and Loggerhead Marinelife Center.

The Clearwater facility has been providing care for these turtles since 2016, knowing that their rehabilitation plays a crucial role in the conservation of this endangered species.

Sea turtles are cold-blooded, and their circulatory systems slowdown in icy water, making it difficult for them to swim or function properly.

The turtles will continue their rehabilitation at the aquarium, where visitors can observe their progress, before being released back into their natural habitat.

Florida has seen a record number of sea turtle nests this year, surpassing previous records set in 2016 and 2017, while other states like South Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia have also reported high nest numbers.

You should have been there!!











You should have been there!!



You should have been there!!

November General Meeting

2023 NASA Lunarfins Christmas Party

OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

If you were not here, you should have been.











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.

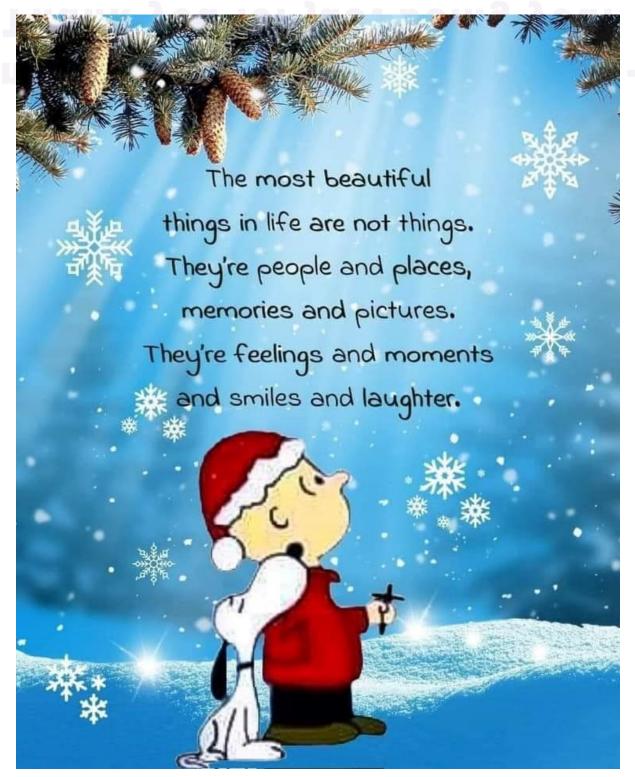
TGCC has several award and recognition programs available to members. Those include our (1) Neptune Award (for community educational participation and leadership), (2) Member-of-the-Year based on contributions to the diving community, and (3) Lifetime Achievement Award (based upon leadership and extensive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

Lunarfins Members and Friends --Thank you for just being you!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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/

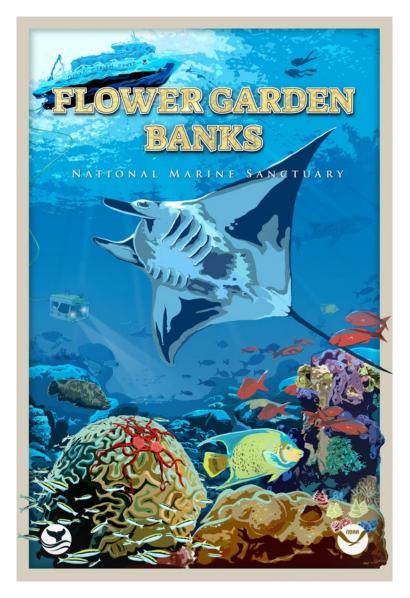
TGCC

https://www.tgccdiving.org/

TPWD reefs:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/ landwater/water/habitats/ artificial reef/





New Sanctuary Poster Released!

Check out the newest poster in the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 50th Anniversary Save Spectacular poster series. It's all about us!

While Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is best known as a dive destination because of the beautiful coral reefs perched atop East and West Flower Garden Banks, these areas only account for a tiny fraction (2%) of the entire sanctuary. The majority of sanctuary habitats lie deeper beneath the waves in an area known as the mesophotic or "twilight" zone. Scuba and remotely operated vehicle (ROV) technologies allow us to explore and learn about all of these areas.

We wanted our commemorative poster to reflect this. In this colorful, graphic art you'll find coral reef habitat and sea life featured prominently in the foreground, with deep reef features in shadow below them. Scuba divers descend from the surface while an ROV explores the depths, with its umbilical connected to our fantastic research vessel (R/V) MANTA at the surface. And, of course, a graceful manta ray, swims through the whole scene. We love it, and we know you will too!

Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters
1011 Casko 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 Adventures2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX
<u>texasscubaadventures.com</u>

