

Lunarscope



November 2011



Lunarfins Newsletter- www.lunarfins.com

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Next meeting: Wed November 9

Lunarfins, a non-profit club that promotes the sport of scuba diving, is hosting its monthly meeting Wednesday November 9.

For our program this month, Jim Mensay, Dennis Davenport, Tom Collier, and Alicia Grimes, members of HUPS, Houston Underwater Photographic Society, will be the speakers. Each have a special part in the slide show and discussion of their recent trip to Bali, Indonesia. The presentation will include extensive underwater and topside photos. So come early Nov 9 at 6:30pm at 5000 NASA PKW to socialize, then sit back for a wonderful presentation and don't forget to bring a guest.

General Meeting Information

When: Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Come early for social hour at 6:30 p.m. Join us afterward at Mario's in Seabrook for food, drink and camaraderie.

Where: Clear Lake Park, 5000 NASA PKY on the South (lake) side of NASA Parkway. Contact Mike Manering at 281.483.2618 for information

Lunarfins Board Meetings are held the last Tuesday in each month. If you have an issue to bring before the board, contact any board member to get on the agenda.

Events Calendar

November 9	Lunarfin Meeting
November 13	Lunarfin Breakfast
December 3	Fns Christmas Party

Christmas Party

Mark your calendar. Our Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, Once again, Dorothy and Gary Rasco have offered to host the event at the home. A flyer with more details, including directions to the Rasco's house in the Clear Lake area, will follow later, but here's what you might want to know now: The club will furnish a turkey, ham, wine, beer, and sodas. You are asked to bring a dish to share. We'll have sign-up sheet at the Nov. meeting so we'll have an idea of how many to plan for. You should bring a dish to share. To continue the tradition, we will do the white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped gift with no name on it and valued at no more than \$20. The gift can be something you have at home or something that you've purchased. We've been doing a White Elephant gift exchange for the past several years and it has been a hoot. Start looking for yours now. We recommend that it be "tropical" or diving related. One gift per person would be good, but if you want to bring one per couple that's OK too. The gifts will be placed under the tree to be exchanged and hopefully "fought" over. Just plan to be there to help us celebrate the holiday.

Lunarfin of the year

We will, of course, be selecting our Diver-of-the-Year at the holiday party in December. We have had so much participation this year, it will be hard to narrow it down to just one member, so be sure to be at the party to get your vote in.

Lunarfin Breakfast

Dorothy Rasco

A breakfast for Lunarfin is scheduled on Sunday 9:30, November 13. A room is reserved at La Brisa at 4001 Hwy 146, Bacliff, (just south of Kemah). This is the menu - All you can eat breakfast buffet, it includes Orange juice, milk and coffee. Made to order eggs on the buffet - you can have Mexican or American eggs. Also, bacon, sausage, egg taco's, tamales, and all of the fix'ins. A reminder will be sent a few days in advance.

REMINDER - THERE WILL BE NO NEWS-LETTER OR MEETING IN DECEMBER SINCE WE HAVE THE HOLIDAY PARTY. A SEPARATE FLYER WILL BE SENT IN DECEMBER WITH SPECIFIC DETAILS AND A MAP FOR THE PARTY

Editor Needed for Newsletter!!

Lunarscope needs a new editor. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Gary Rasco at 281-280-0718 or grasco@earthlink.net

Dive Trips

Ann Faget
COZUMEL- VACATION

2011

COZUMEL DIVE TRIP

December 2 – December 7, 2011

Dive with Martin

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

2 tank boat dives/day, 4 day package

\$235, includes free video and

equipment if needed

Hotel: Casa del Mar

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

\$59/nt standard, \$79/nt ocean view,
single or double; Breakfast \$5/day

Contact

dive@casadelmarcozumel.com for
reservations, mention Ann Faget group

Air Fare: CO was \$400 on 8/30/11

DIY Air and Hotel, Ann Faget will
coordinate the diving

Contact Ann Faget

annfaget@sbcglobal.net



DIVE WITH PAUL HERRING AT DEEP BLUE RESORT, UTILA

Think about joining Paul on an all inclusive dive trip to Deep Blue Resort, Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras. March 10 thru March 17, 2012. It is small, tranquil resort set in natural settings. It is family owned by Steve Fox and his mother, Shirley...both reside on premise. This is a resort for divers, owned by a long time diver. Paul personally knows the owners, boat captain, and crew.....they are superb!

Paul has been diving with Steve since 2003, before the resort was finished. It is truly a delightful place to dive! Also, at this time of year, there is a possibility of swimming with whale sharks. I think this trip will sell out early. See flyer on page 4 for more details.



Utila

March 10-17 2012

Group Leader: **Paul Herring**

Whale Shark Season!

Deep Blue Resort

All Inclusive



\$2950
\$2835
\$3415

(est) Dbl Diver
(est) Dbl ND
(est) Single Diver

7 nights, 8 days
5 days of 3 tank boat
dives, with unlimited
shore diving

Includes est. airfare from IAH
Plus Taxes and Fees

Nitrox is Available, but NOT included.



\$250 non-refundable deposit required to reserve space.
Final payment due **December, 9, 2011**. Rates are subject
to change without notice until payments are posted.

For additional information contact
Paul Herring: **281-556-5613** or email
cudabait@sbcglobal.net

Trips and Training

Mediterranean Cruise Dusty Manning

A travel agent who put together Dusty Manning's Panama Canal cruise last year is working on a 12-night Mediterranean Venice Cruise request for May 2012. A few of Dusty's friends have been on some of the cruises out of Barcelona and agree this one sounds great. Total package pricing hasn't been obtained because it would appear best to wait until she knows if there is any interest in this cruise.

This cruise will be primarily sightseeing and is very well priced. The cruise is \$1,471.80 per person, double occupancy and includes taxes and gratuities. Generally, the inside cabins are the least expensive, spacious, and if reserved early, there is a good chance of getting one. The ship is beautiful with several restaurants, formal evenings, if you care to attend, fantastic entertainment, and more activities than you can possibly get on land in twelve days. Airfare is separate and can be reserved either through the agent or individually.

You may want to research information on this ship, Serenade of the Seas, and Ports-of-Call before you decide. Barcelona is especially beautiful. And of course, old Rome.

Contact Dusty at
dusty.manning@aecom.com or
spookyhollow70@sbcglobal.net or
713/466-0187 if you want more
information.

BILL JONES 11th ANNUAL COZUMEL- VACATION 2012

Staying at the fabulous
Hotel Cozumel & Resort

Aug 6, 5 Days, 4 Nights approx. \$899
or

Aug 6, 8 Days, 7 Nights approx \$1099

Group Package Price Includes:

**Air Fare, Ground Transportation, Hotel
Accommodations**

ALL YOU CAN EAT AND DRINK

Including Soft Drinks, Beer, Wine,
Cocktails, Mixed Drinks, Umbrella
Drinks, Specialty Drinks, Shots, and
High Balls

All Taxes, Exit Fees, and Gratuities
DIVING AVAILABLE BUT NOT INCLUDED
Email Mr.Bill.Jones@comcast.net for
details

Tickets go on sale in January, 2012
Tickets will sell-out 10-14 weeks before
travel date

Training

Classes are offered by Lunarfin
member instructors
Next Scuba Class will begin:

The next Open Water SCUBA Diver
(Beginner Class) is scheduled for
April 6, 2012 in the NASA/Clear Lake
Area.

Email Mr.Bill.Jones@comcast.net

Texas Reef

Submitted by Aurin Tesoro

Grant awarded for Texas artificial reefs. Future generations of marine life — not to mention recreational fishermen and scuba divers — will benefit from a \$240,000 grant awarded to a Texas A&M University at [Galveston](#) researcher to expand an artificial reef system off the Texas coast.

[Tim Dellapenna](#), associate professor of marine science and oceanography, received the grant from [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#) to expand and enhance the Vancouver Reef, located about 10 miles from Freeport. Once finished, the reef system will provide new living areas for a variety of marine organisms and create a new playground for divers to explore its multitude of underwater nooks and crannies.

The reef bears the name of the Liberty Ship George Vancouver, which was used during World War II to transport supplies to troops in Europe and Africa, including aiding soldiers in the famous battle of El Alamein. It later traveled to ports in Australia and New Zealand before being decommissioned, and in 1976, it was intentionally sunk off Freeport to form a reef system.

Dellapenna says the plans are for the Vancouver Reef system to expand from its current 40 acres to 160 acres using large concrete blocks placed near the ship to form a more useful and productive reef system.

“It will allow for more marine organisms to live in the reef system,” he explains, “and it will also provide excellent shelter for fish in the area.”

“One of the first things we have to do is to map the seabed there using side scan sonar, and we will also perform a nautical survey of the area, which is required for all reef systems.”

Once that work is finished, workers will know exactly where to arrange the concrete blocks, which weigh from three to 12 tons each.

Dellapenna says the Vancouver lies in fairly shallow waters, “from 40 to 60 feet which is ideal for divers,” he notes. “The water there is much clearer than the water further up the coast, so it will be a very nice reef complex and dive site once it is finished, which should be August 2012.”

“Reef systems always make an underwater area better,” he adds. “They help marine life thrive and greatly help fishery habitats, plus they provide new recreational benefits for thousands of Texas marine enthusiasts.”

The Texas legislature passed the [Artificial Reef Act](#) of 1989 to develop a network of artificial reefs off the Texas coast. To date, 26 artificial reef sites have been established to benefit marine environments.