

# Lunarscope

October 2022



# Lunarfins Scuba Club

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 p.m.**

**Amanda Terry** is the Director of Rehabilitation at the Texas Sealife Center. Where sea turtles, shorebirds and raptors are rescued, rehabilitated and released back into their native habitats. She has been the Director of Rehabilitation since the Center opened in 2012. Before that, she worked as a licensed veterinary technician on wildlife avian and exotic species. Amanda presentation will be "Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Coastal Bend" and will just mainly be an intro into what we do here at the center.



## Inside this issue

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George Clark,  
Paul Cater Deaton,  
Dennis Deavenport,  
Stanley Fontento,  
Ja Van Pruett,  
Cindy Reuland,  
Brion Saathoff,  
Louise Toole



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

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759900375?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759900375?pwd=eEcvVVlsN1FjU3NaSHZ0T1J5MnREZz09)  
[pwd=eEcvVVlsN1FjU3NaSHZ0T1J5MnREZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759900375?pwd=eEcvVVlsN1FjU3NaSHZ0T1J5MnREZz09)



**Lunarfins Board Meetings**  
are held every other each month. Our  
next meet will be in **November**.  
(except December) at 6:30 PM.

**Will be a ZOOM Meeting only**

*If you have an item to bring before the board,  
contact any board member to get on the agenda.*



## Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)



### Membership

**2022 Membership dues are  
Now being accepted.**

Membership runs from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st 2023

The renewal form is required each year in February.

*Please bring the form (below) to the next meeting or mail it in.*

*Please fill in all fields completely so that records can be verified this time around.*

*Don't forget to check your interest (s) and if you want to be included in the directory.*

#### Membership Application

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



**Oct. 18th — General Meeting — Amanda Terry — Wildlife Rehabilitation in the Coastal Bend**

**Oct. 20th —Tookie's Seafood Restaurant— RSVP-Kim Murphy**

**Nov. 15th — General Meeting — Bob Sanders — TBA**

**Dec. 11th — Lunarfins Scuba Club Christmas Party @ Opus Grill 5pm**

**Dec. 17th—Iceland—@ Moody Gardens—4:30 pm**

**Jan. TBA — Movie —'Avatar: The Way of Water'**

**Jan. 17th —General Meeting — Debbie & James Mensay—Africa**

*Folks! Please remember, the more you volunteer for leadership or to be in charge of an event. The more you enjoy your club.*

### ELECTED OFFICERS

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

### APPOINTED

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

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

**Topics for Speakers for 2023?**

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

## Lunarfins President's Notes



October, 2022

Happy Fall Lunarfins!

In September, we had a presentation by Dr. Jordan Casey on her research on coral reefs. Lunarfins donated to one of her organizations. We also had our beach party at the Texas City Dike. We had a good turnout and enjoyed the beautiful weather.

In October, we will have Amanda Terry speak on the Wildlife Rehabilitation. Another interesting topic from an organization we donated to. Come out and support her work. Join us in person to share diving stories and meet new members.

We would like to make another order of shirts and this one will have a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. If anyone can help us organize this effort, that would be super helpful. Let us know. We also need someone to help us with hybrid meeting setup and tips at meetings.

It's not too early to put on your calendar the annual Christmas party scheduled on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at Opus Ocean Grille!

Thanks for volunteering and look forward to seeing you in October. If you are new to diving, let us know and we can set you up with some dive training and trip ideas. If you have been diving, share your experience at our October meeting. Bring a friend with you.

Enjoy!

Cindy Reuland

2022-2023 President



# Thank you

Our speakers for September was Dr. Jordan Casey on her research on coral reefs. Jordan **gave an excellent report**

**If you missed there presentation, I am so sorry for you. .**

**We met at Spring Creek Barbeque on Gulf Freeway, same place we will meet in October. Please let a member of the Lunarfins Board of Directors on what you thought of the location.**



## A new place — Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu

<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com>

October 18th, 6:00pm

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

Speaker start at 7:00 pm

**2710 Gulf Fwy S., League City TX 77573**

### Up Coming Events



## **Lunarfins Get-to-gather**

Oysters on the half shell

**Happy Hour**

Oct. 20th, 3-6 pm

## **Tookie's Seafood**

1106 Bayport Blvd.

Seabrook, TX 77586

281-942-9445

Please RSVP — Kim Murphy @ [kamurph5717@gmail.com](mailto:kamurph5717@gmail.com)

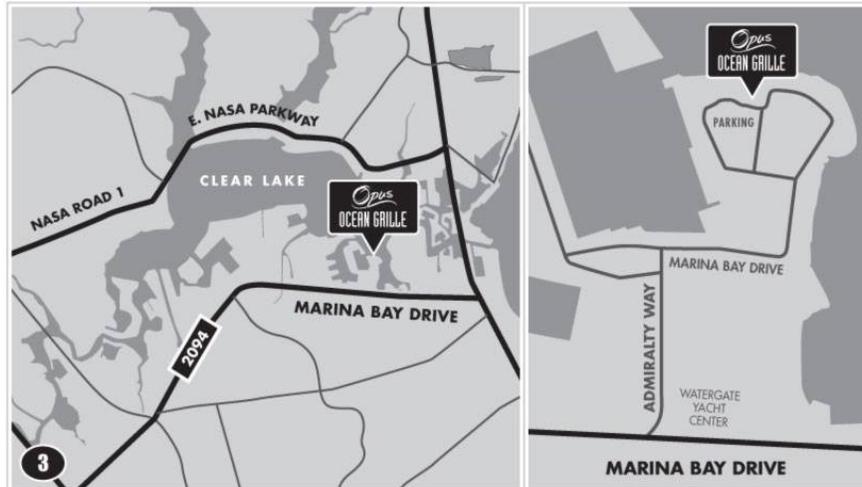


## Up Coming Events

### 2022 NASA Lunarfin's Christmas Party

OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

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 brunch or evening out with Friends and family.

Be sure to bring a gift (something you would like to receive) for Gift Exchange.

**Plus we have Door prizes!**

**I need a good head count by November 21th.**

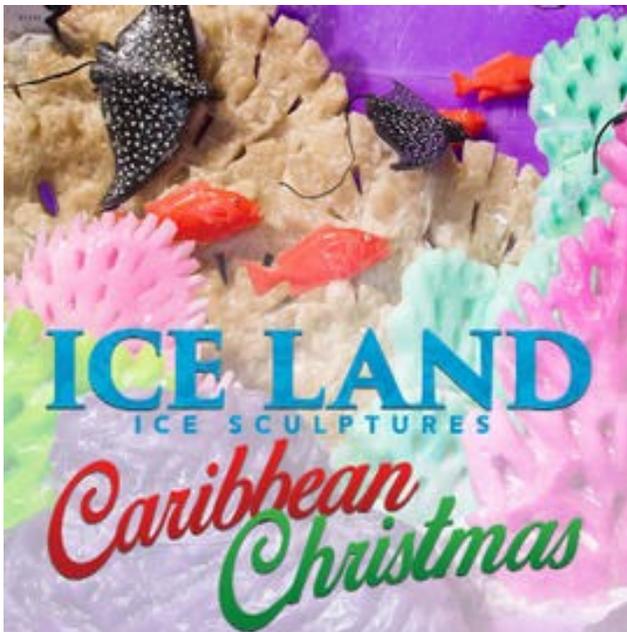
**Dress— Dressy or Sunday clothes**

**Please RSVP:** Kim Murphy, text or email

ksmutphy5717@gmail.com or caladyfish@gmail.com

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

## Events You Might Be Interested In



# Lunarfins Get-together at Moody Gardens

**December 17th —  
4:30pm**

**Guests Will Dive to the Depths of the Gulf of Mexico  
for the Holidays**

Christmas comes early this year as Moody Gardens is thrilled to announce Ice Lands' return for the 2022 holiday season. The North Pole meets the Caribbean as Moody Gardens introduces ICE LAND: Ice Sculptures, A Caribbean Christmas opening on November 18 through January 7.

An award-winning team of master ice carvers from Harbin, China will return to Moody Gardens to chart the course for the ultimate Caribbean Christmas as will carve these magnificent, towering ice sculptures out of two million pounds of ice for a spectacular aquatic adventure.

Guests will embark on a breathtaking underwater journey from the shores of Galveston Island through the Gulf of Mexico. As they explore the depths of the ocean, they will discover sunken treasure and see Christmas surprises along the way. Venture through the beautiful Flower Garden Banks for encounters with spectacular schools of colorful tropical fish, eagle rays, turtles, dolphins, Hammerhead sharks, and more on the way to their Caribbean island destination. There is even an opportunity to enjoy Shivers Ice Bar featuring festive holiday spirits inside this ultra-cool bar made completely out of ice.

Visitors will be fully immersed in the region's coolest holiday attraction featuring a variety of different scenes. It will offer a more diverse range of sculptures than ever in the 28,000 sq. ft. insulated tent structure chilled and maintained at nine degrees.

"We are very excited for Ice Land to be making its return this year," said John Zendt, Moody Gardens President and CEO, who added that this year's experience will be memorable, engaging, and distinctive for visitors and the artists who are creating it. "This attraction shows an appreciation for all of the sea life and beauty offered right here in our own backyard with a special festive Christmas focus."

As Moody Gardens transforms into Holiday in the Gardens, it has become a holiday tradition as families throughout the region are offered a very diverse range of attractions to complement ICE LAND. Festival of Lights is a mile-long walking trail decked with two million lights and filled with sound-enhanced lighted and animated displays themed to everyone's favorite holiday music and spectacular views of Galveston Bay. Guests will also enjoy an outdoor ice rink, Arctic Slide, a holiday buffet, and train rides. Guests can also enjoy holiday 3D films and the Rudolph 4D. The Moody Gardens Hotel will feature an exciting new Cirque Joyeux Dinner and Show at the Moody Gardens Hotel and the New Year's Palooza Family Celebration. Special Hotel Packages are available with the holiday attractions and events.

**For more information visit [www.moodygardens.org](http://www.moodygardens.org) or call 409-744-4673.**

# About our Members

## Congratulations!!

### Dennis Deavenport

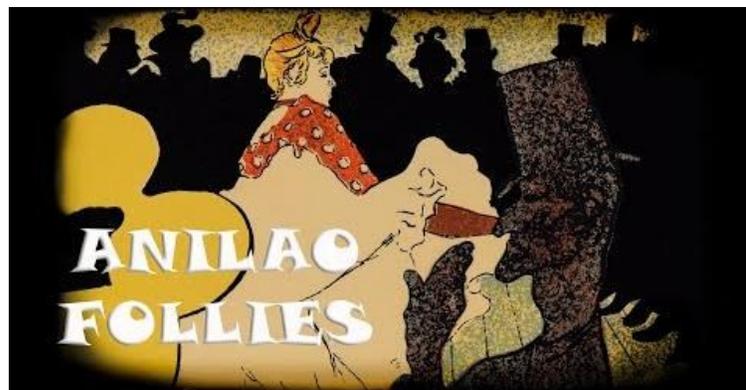
SAND DDeavenport HUFF 2022 Feature Length Film v2



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJwupyAfSRI>

Raja Ampat trip

You will have to wait till **2023** to see the Video that was put together from Betsey and Craig Beasley, David Lenderman, Martin Daniels, Justin Wallace and Dennis Deavenport trip to Anilao, Philippines, April 2022.



# About our Members, (Continued)

## Congratulations! Stanley Fontento



After several months, bookwork, classroom discussions, working with open water students, demonstrating skills, helping with a diver stress and rescue class, leading a dive, and paying lots of money, I now have received the rank of Divemaster. After I pay many many dollars for liability insurance, I will officially be able to help with classes! Hopefully I will be able to pay for the insurance soon.

However, I am excited to have made it to this point! I have very much enjoyed helping with classes up to this point! I'm looking forward to getting more involved in the near future! Dive season will be slowing down soon. Next year should be tons of fun! I'm hoping!

I want to give a huge thank you to Kevin Reams, Chuck Miracle, and Tim Loyd for helping me get to the level of Divemaster!

You three have had some part of my training! I'm looking forward to working with you guys in the next year!

### **Diving the Gulf – The Kracken and Stetson Bank**

**Being able to take pictures of the trip was the best!**



# Congratulations!

## Paul Cater Deaton



Paul Cater Deaton was acting in a fan docto on Oct.9th for the Star Wars experience in Texas was a lot of fun. Snow Troopers from the 501st Legion (Star Garrison, South Texas Squad) erected the Hoth set, complete with an Imperial probe droid and EWEB heavy repeating blaster.

Paul played a Rebel X-Wing Pilot and there were six Snow Troopers. I told them that I thought those odds were a little lopsided and that they should send out for more Snowies.

There's no business-like snow business.

## George Clark's Corner



### As possible signs of a deadly coral disease appear near Texas shores, scientists spring into action

*Emily Foxhall, Staff writer for the Houston Chronicle*  
Sent in by *George Clark*



David Sanchez, senior biologist, flips on a light to take a look at coral species in a quarantine tank at Moody Gardens Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022 in Galveston. Signs of a disease have shown up at the Flower Garden Banks marine sanctuary in the Gulf, which is home to a lot of otherwise very healthy coral.

Scientist Michelle Johnston braced for years for a moment she hoped would never come. A month ago, she got the first hint it might have happened: Divers in the Gulf of Mexico national marine sanctuary she works to protect noticed lesions on some of the coral.

The dead spots on the vulnerable coral raised alarms because they could indicate the area off the Texas coast has been infected with Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. Researchers first identified it in 2014; the disease then swiftly killed coral across the 360-mile Florida Coral Reef.

Coral worldwide already suffers from climate change. The disease in Florida, called stony coral tissue loss disease, affected almost half the stony coral species there, according to the state. More than 80 percent that got it died.

**READ MORE:** [Coral in the Gulf of Mexico are facing an extreme threat. Here's how Moody Gardens is trying to help.](#)

## Brion's Corner



Hello everybody I hope you are enjoying this cooler weather I know I am. I like to put in ocean and diving DVDs to play in the background anytime my grandchildren are visiting. I found one that Jim Carmin had left me on giant Manta rays and Micah and I watched it. It was really interesting so I thought that I would read up on Mantas and share some of the information.

### MANTA RAYS

The name manta is Portuguese or Spanish for mantle (cloak or blanket) they are also known as devilfish because of their horn shaped cephalic fins which are thought to give them an evil appearance.



Rays are basically flattened sharks and mantas are different than most rays because they are very large in size. they don't lie on the ocean floor (ocean going) Mantas have the highest brain to body mass ratio of any fish and they have the largest brain of any fish.

They have highly developed brains and are capable of long-term memory, they are able to map their environment using sight and smell. They are known to approach and interact with humans. In 2016, scientists published a study in which manta rays were shown to exhibit behavior associated with self-awareness. In a modified mirror test, the individuals engaged in contingency checking an unusual self-directed behavior.

Mantas track down Prey using visual and olfactory senses. Manta and Devil rays are the only rays that have evolved into filter feeders. As I mentioned rays are basically flattened sharks. evolutionarily sharks are a very old group that appeared in the Ocean 350 million years ago, and for a long time they were the only cartilaginous fish. During the Triassic period most sharks became extinct worldwide as the oceans became less productive with a food source. A number of million years later sharks reappeared and that is when rays also appeared. Of the rays' mantas are the most recent. They appear in the fossil record about 20 million years ago. Few fossils have been found as their cartilaginous skeletons do not preserve well, only three sedimentary beds with a manta fossil are known. One is in South Carolina and two in North Carolina. The remains of an extinct species have been found in the Chandler bridge formation of South Carolina. Mantas evolved from bottom dwelling sting rays, eventually developing more winglike pectoral fins and losing their barbs.

There are two species of Mantas:

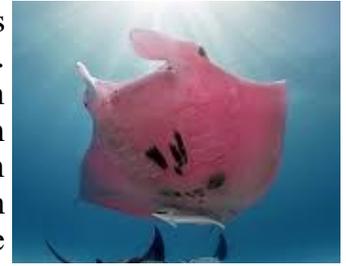
1. *M. Birostris* the larger one migrates across open oceans singly or in groups and can reach 2980 pounds and 23 feet wide their width is about 2.2 times the body length
2. *M. Alfredo* tends to be resident and coastal and reaches 18 feet wide. *M. Birostris* also has a remnant of the sting Barb in the form of a caudal spine. The mouth of most rays is on the underside of their head. On mantas the mouth is on the front for filter feeding. They normally have a Chevron coloration. They are typically dark on top with pale markings on their "shoulders". Underneath they are usually pale or white with distinctive dark markings that are as unique as fingerprints.



## Brion's Corner (Continued)



A pink manta has been observed in Australia's great barrier reef near lady Elliot Island. Researchers believe it is a genetic mutation causing erythrism (an unusual reddish pigmentation in animals) it is the only known pink manta in the world. Mantas have been known to dive to depths of 1300 feet the Chilean devil ray dives to nearly 6600 feet.



Mantas may live as long as 50 years; Female mantas appear to mature at 8 to 10 years.

The gestation period is thought to be 12 to 13 months and most mantas only have pups every two years. Mantas are found in tropical and subtropical waters in all the world's major oceans and also venture into temperate seas. The furthest they have been recorded from the equator is North Carolina and the north island of New Zealand. The greatest threat to manta rays is overfishing. Because of their long-life spans and low reproductive rate overfishing can severely reduce local populations with a little likelihood that individuals from elsewhere will replace them. Another issue is the demand for their Gill rakers has recently entered Chinese medicine and is growing popular.

In 2019 the reef manta was listed as vulnerable and in 2020 the giant Manta as endangered. In 2011 mantas became strictly protected in international waters because of their inclusion in the convention on migratory species of wild animals. Other threats or factors that may affect manta numbers are climate change, tourism, entanglements in nets and lines, pollution from oil spills and the ingestion of micro plastics. There is just so much more on the subject way too much to put in this article.

Thanks for reading it hope to see everybody at the meeting.

*Brion*

### **A note from the Vice-President/editor: Please read!**

Our Social Director, Brion Saathoff puts out a lot of events, every month. Kim Murphy, Brion Saathoff and myself rarely receive a response from members. We would like to see more people come.

So how do you RSVP to an event?

According to Cathleen Hanson, founder of the International School of Protocol, the response should be written in the same tone as the invitation and should include: your name, that you will be attending (with polite wording such as, "the kind invitation of"), the host's name, the date and time of the event.

We have events coming up where we have to give a head count. Kim Murphy is Brion Saathoff secretary and she helps Brion with all events. Contact info:

[ksmurphy5717@gmail.com](mailto:ksmurphy5717@gmail.com)

## Pending Events

### Fling Charters

726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX

979-233-4445



### **Fling Charters 2022 Trips:**

- Oct. 10-12 — MTW (3-day) Flower Gardens Excursion Trip
- Oct. 15-16 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip
- Oct. 17-21 — Arena Energy Video Cruise
- Oct. 22-23 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip
- Oct. 29-30 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Gardens Trip
- Nov. 1-2 — Texas A&M (back-up date)
- Nov. 5-6 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Garden Trip
- Nov. 12-13 — SS (2-day) Weekend Flower Garden Trip
- Nov. 19– 21 — Pre-Thanksgiving Preparation 3-day Weekend
- Nov. 25-27 — Thanksgiving Recovery 3-Day Weekend
- Dec. 2-4 — 3-Day Whooping Crane Cruise
- Dec. 10-11 Field Day Afloat
- Dec. 16-18 3-Day High Island Cruise

Here's the new web page: [TexasCaribbean.com](https://www.texascaribbean.com)

**Lots of diving coming up for 2023 — you will see in next month's newsletter!**

## We Need Your Help to Rescue our Reefs



*Sent in by George Clark*



Dear Supporters of CCA Texas,

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is seeking public input on a proposed regulation change to prohibit the harvest of oysters in Carlos Bay, Mesquite Bay and Ayres Bay (Mesquite Bay Complex). By closing the Mesquite Bay Complex to oyster harvest, ecologically sensitive and unique oyster habitat would be conserved for future generations. Additionally, the department is considering temporary closures in Galveston and San Antonio Bays to protect oyster restoration projects.

CCA Texas supports the TPWD proposal to close the Mesquite Bay Complex to oyster harvest and the temporary closures of restoration areas in Galveston and San Antonio Bays.

Your action is **CRUCIAL** to this important effort, please join CCA Texas by taking 2 minutes to submit a vital public comment in **SUPPORT** of the proposal.

### **Take Action Now.**

If you would like to learn more, please visit [RescureOurReefs.org](http://RescureOurReefs.org). Also, be on the lookout for a card in your mailbox from CCA Texas with additional information on opportunities to engage on this issue.

Your public comment of **SUPPORT** will make a **HUGE** difference. All it takes is 2 minutes of your time to help us ensure the health and conservation of our marine resources and anglers' access to them here in Texas. After you've submitted your public comment of **SUPPORT** of the proposal, please forward this to your family and friends asking them for their **SUPPORT** as well!

Thank you for all you do to ensure a vibrant and sustainable fishery for present and future generations. We are sincerely grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

Shane Bonnot, CCA Texas Advocacy Director

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/5yeP6ge2aim6FJSaUTTEoA>

# Welcome home!

Louise and Fred Toole spent some time away from home touring California.

Thank you for sharing some of your pictures.



# Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Oct. 2nd @ 12:00PM



The Lunarbins 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.



## Lunarbins

P.O. Box 57514  
Webster TX 77598-7514

281-851-5206

[webeditor@lunarbins.com](mailto:webeditor@lunarbins.com)

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/687047211312336>

### Website:

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

### TGCC

<https://www.tgccdiving.org/>

### TPWD reefs:

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial\\_reef/](https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/)



# You should have been there!!

## Haak Winery Sept. 17th



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

## Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

### Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casco Rd – Freeport TX

[captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml](http://captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml)



### Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

[www.divetrip.com](http://www.divetrip.com)



### Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX

[oceanicventures.com](http://oceanicventures.com)



### REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL

[reef.org/trips](http://reef.org/trips)



### Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

[txdivecenter.com/](http://txdivecenter.com/)



### Giggin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

[gigginmarlin.com](http://gigginmarlin.com)



### Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX

[maximum-scuba.com](http://maximum-scuba.com)



### Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX

[otadiving.com](http://otadiving.com)



### Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX

[sportdivers.com](http://sportdivers.com)



### Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX

[texasscubaadventures.com](http://texasscubaadventures.com)