



# Lunarfins Scuba Club

## “Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon” - Joe Campanelli

Joe started diving in 1977, while a junior in college in Rhode Island. Joe quickly developed a passion for diving and spent every available weekend diving shipwrecks off the coast of Jamestown and Newport, RI and collecting Lobster, Scallops and Quahogs. Engineering assignments in Connecticut, Pennsylvania and finally Houston, Texas followed, and Joe continued with his passion for diving. He earned diving certifications with NASDS, PADI, NAUI, DAN, TDI and IANTD, advancing through to Master Scuba Diver with PADI, and Trimix Technical Diver and Trimix Gas Blender with IANTD. Joe also completed a Commercial Diver Experience program through NAUI and The Ocean Corp and had the opportunity to dive with a surface-supplied Kirby Morgan Superlite helmet and a Kirby Morgan 28 band mask, plus a 60 foot “dive” in their recompression chamber. Joe has experience in a wide variety of diving environments, caves, caverns, cenotes, blue holes, rigs, wrecks, reefs, walls, diving on a wide variety of Nitrox mixtures, HeliAir and Trimix. Joe loves WW-II shipwrecks and has made 5 trips to Truk Lagoon and 3 trips to Palau to dive the Japanese shipwrecks in these two famous locations. Joe is a member of Lunarfins and HUPS and previously HUC and BAD, plus a 10-year volunteer with SeaSpace. Joe was an avid amateur photographer shooting 35mm photos with Nikonos IVA and V cameras for more than 20 years, then switched to digital and used Olympus C4000 cameras for another 10 years. Joe’s greatest memories of diving, however, are with his wonderful wife of 42 years, Bert and daughter, Candace.

Joe worked for Air Products & Chemicals, a major Industrial Gas supplier as a mechanical engineer for 35 years, retired, and then continued work as a machinery engineering consultant for another 7 years. His last project was support of installation, commissioning and reliability improvement upgrades on the liquid Oxygen and liquid Methane loading pumps for the SpaceX Starship program in Boca Chica, TX.

The presentation for April 16, 2024, is titled “Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon” and will present the history of Truk Lagoon and will show the amazing diving experience of this tropical paradise.



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?>

[pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzhVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTd09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtdMkdGdkhzhVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTd09) 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 **May 9** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at [brionsaathoff@icloud.com](mailto:brionsaathoff@icloud.com) 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, contact any board member to get on the agenda.*

### Inside this issue

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PJ Campagna,  
Joe Campanelli,  
Dennis Deavenport,  
Stanley Fontenot,  
Jessica Lee,  
Mike Peters,  
Ja Van Pruett,  
Brion Saathoff,  
Cathy Straham,  
Justin Wallace



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



## Membership

**2024 Membership dues are now being accepted** from **April 1st, 2024 to March 31st 2025**

"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 fiANelds 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/>



## Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

**Apr. 16th. — General Meeting — Joe Campanelli —**

**"Shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon"**

**May 21st.— Trish Ross — DAN Safety**

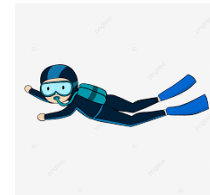
**June 18th. — Dr. Michelle Johnston — Newly**

**Appointed Sanctuary Superintendent**

**July 16th. — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo**

**Aug. 20th. — General Meeting Lily Douglas—**

**Robotics**



## ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Brion Saathoff

Vice President

Ja Van Pruett

Secretary

Frances Boutin

Treasurer

Cathy Straham

Social Director

Mike Peters

## APPOINTED

Media Manager

Dennis Deavenport

Training information

Jessica Lee

Trip information

PJ Campagna

Jessica Lee

TGCC Representative

Tom Burns

Advisor

Dennis Deavenport

Advisor

PeeWee Dwire

Advisor

Mike Peters

Newsletter

Ja Van Pruett

Website

Tom Burns

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

**Topics for Speakers for 2024?**

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

## Lunarfins President's Notes



Hello everybody, happy April,

I hope you had a great Easter I was blessed to spend it with my family at Spring Creek Park. Always make time for your family life moves quickly. every day is a new surprise and every day that we're here is a blessing.

We had a really great time at the Magic show, I would like to thank Lanny Kibbey and the other magicians for making it such a good event. They are all so very kind and willing to spend a lot of their personal time with us after the show. If you missed it you can catch it the next time we're making it an annual event.

The Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) was a great time, there were so many good films the judging was not easy. There was plenty of parking across the street in the parking garage with a security presence, if you didn't make it this year I would highly recommend going next April.

Congratulations to Candace and Bert Campanelli, they did an awesome job with their movie "Big Thrills Little Thrills" it's the first time they have competed in a Film festival. Joe Campinelli will be doing a presentation for us on Truk lagoon next Tuesday come join us. Don't forget that memberships renew in April, you can find the application and the address at the Lunarfins website. [webeditor@lunarfins.com](mailto:webeditor@lunarfins.com)

We are working on simplifying the renewal process for next year. A lot of people have asked us to look into that.

Have a great month hope to see everyone soon.

Fins up. Tiny bubbles,

*Best Regards,*  
*Brion Saathoff*  
2024-2025 President!



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





## **Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille**

**Be sure to check out their menu**

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

**April 16th., 6:00pm**

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

**Speakers start at 7:00 pm**

**2800 Marina Bay Dr. League City TX 77573**

## **Lunarfin's Raffle — Let's Make Some Money**

**Lunarfin's will be offering raffle items at meetings.** Tickets will be very reasonable and the items raffled off will be interesting and worth having. The first raffle was a 16" x 20" print donated by Dennis Deavenport. It is mounted on foam board or Gator Board and ready to frame. Dennis is donating lots of his photo's. Each month will be a great item. Bring a few extra dollars to the meeting to help Lunarfin's make some money.

Your friendly Board of Directors

## **Prayers are still needed**

This is **Peggy Widaman** with PJ at our 2023 Christmas Party. Peggy lives in Ft. Worth, and she comes in every year for our Christmas party and has been since Randy Widaman (her brother) passed away in 2021. We need prayers for Peggy, in late December, she called me from ER and they told her she needed to see an oncologist right away. Well, it's taken this long to get her started on Chemo. Peggy has a mass in her Colon, and they have to reduce it before surgery. She has finished her 3rd round of Chemo, and came down so she could help out with HUFF. She is also getting a 2nd opinion with MD Anderson on June 4th. Bless her heart she has already lost her hair.





# **Meet your new Officers 2024 -- 2025**



**Brion Saathoff — President**



**JaVan Pruett — Vice President  
& Editor of Newsletter**



**Cathy Strahan — Treasurer**



**Frances Boutin — Secretary**



**Mike Peters — Advisor &  
Social Chairman**

**Happy  
Faces!  
We hope to  
See more of  
you at our meetings**

# **Meet your new Officers 2024 -- 2025**



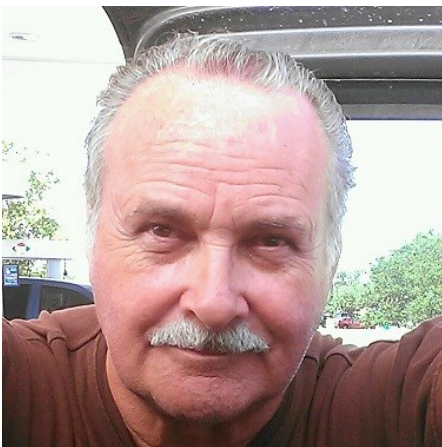
**Dennis Deavenport—  
Media Manager &  
Advisor**



**Jessica Lee—  
Training &  
Trip Information**



**PJ Campagna—  
Trip Information**



**PeeWee (Rodney)  
Dwire —  
Advisor**



**Tom Burns  
TGCC Representative  
&  
webmaster**

**Come get your  
feet wet, we can  
always use  
another Advisor**



## Brion Saathoff — Argonaut's

I was going to write an article on octopuses and reproduction characteristics, and as usual I was sidetracked by a hyperlink about Argonauts (ADHD ???).



I'm still in Cephalopods I'm just focusing on the close cousin.

Most octopuses excluding the greater and lesser pacific striped octopus follow the pattern of egg laying, senescence and death. The male goes into senescence after fertilization and the female guards the eggs without leaving the den or eating until they hatch and then dies. In some species it can take a couple of years.

The female Argonaut lives on to reproduce many times. Male Argonauts are ten percent smaller than the females. A. Argo is the largest of the species the females can reach two meters long and the males are dwarfs at just a few centimeters. The female has webbed arms that are capable of secreting calcareous egg cases. which makes it slightly resemble a nautilus (a very distant cousin) which is why it is sometimes called the paper nautilus.

The male has a pouch under the eyes that has a third arm called a hectocotylus. The arm detaches and swims to the female, (after which the male will die) it attaches to her mantle via suckers. It then autonomously wiggles into the mantle cavity where it stays until she chooses to use it. She can store multiple hectocotylus's and fertilize eggs at different times so development will be at different stages. In the same case. Unlike most octopuses, Argonauts are pelagic and live close to the surface attaching themselves to floating matter. They will also attach to jellyfish and salps which are similar to jellies but more closely related to vertebrates and colonize by forming chains which are sometimes referred to as sea grapes. The Argonauts also use the egg chamber to trap air from the surface for buoyancy, unlike the nautilus that actually creates chambers in its shell with gas in them as it grows. As the air is not trapped the female Argonaut can change her buoyancy. They have also been seen in chains of 20 to 30 of comparable to size attached to each other floating on their sides. There are only marine and estuarine species of Argonauts there are no freshwater species.

There is so much more to learn about these amazing cephalopods but fear this article is getting a bit long winded.

May your bubbles be many and often.

*Best Regards.*

*Brion*

**A baby**





# About our Members

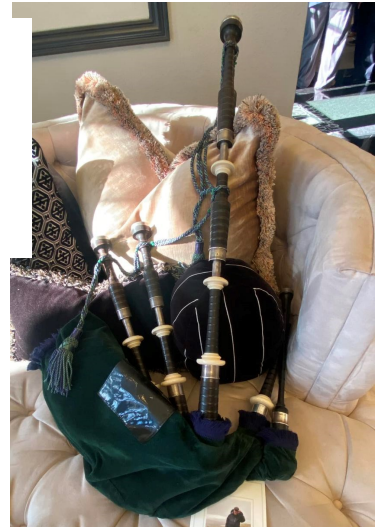
## Stanley Fontenot

10 Years Ago



One of the most epic trips with my best friend Kevin!!! Miss those days big time! **Big Bend Ranch State Park**

Getting ready to play for another memorial service for a family.  
**I'm thankful for this gift I have.**



Stanley and family at Easter without his Dad.



**Happy Belated Birthday, Stanley!**  
**May you be blessed with many more.**





# About our Members

## Justin Wallace



To see all of Justin's video's go to <https://www.facebook.com/justin.wallace.16568>



# About our Members (Continued)

## PJ Campagna



This is the first one she did. And she donated to HUFF. My "Sunrise thru the Rigging" diamond art kit, and [Theresa Raymer](#), won it. She intends to hang it in her living room!! It turned out absolutely gorgeous, and I am thrilled, I enjoyed making it, and it is a keeper for her!!

This is my second one and it was on display at HUFF as well. If you like this and want 1 for yourself, please visit the website to order. <https://www.pamdiamondpaintings.com/.../p-j-campagna-of.../>



What a WANDerful week to celebrate our 15th Anniversary. It was a magical wedding and every year reminds me that life is infinitely better with an understanding and loving partner in life. We don't eat out often because we both love to cook, and Shon is a gourmet chef .... but tonight we are going out for a romantic dinner and excellent wine to compliment the meal.



# About our Members (Continued)

## Dennis Deavenport in Japan





## About our Members (Continued)

## Dennis Deavenport in Japan (page 2)





# You should have been there!!

## HUFF WINNERS

### HUFF 2024 Winners

We are pleased to post the results from the Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) 2024. There were 7 Categories of film presentations shown in the two performances, April 6-7, 2024. Thanks to all the participants and congratulations to the winners!

#### Feature Length

**1st** Still Diving – The Cinematography of Yin, Robert Yin

**2nd** Secret Bay – Camouflage, Vincente Lea

**3rd tie**

- Beneath the Blue Heron Bridge– Justin Perkinson
- Colorful – Erkan Balk

#### Animation

**1st** Color-Blood – Anna Argiros

**2nd** Dance in the Water – Ebrahim Ashourdan

**3rd** Water – Raul Alejandro and Morales Reyes

#### Short Videos

**1st** This is Force Blue – Robert Whitney

**2nd** Diving in Triton Bay – Thummayut Wattanawongwan

**3rd** Twisting Tunnels – Tasmania – Amy Lawson

#### Protect and Respect the Oceans

**1st** Dream Corals – Luca Keller

**2nd** Above & Below – Antonia Maria Josefine Ackermans

**3rd** Mangroves of Raja Ampat – Matthias Michael Edling

#### Art House Flicks

**1st** Strangest Things – Dustin Adamson

#### 2nd Tie

- Dear Ocean – Brynne Rardin and Giovana Roskosz Reis
- Axinos – Anna Maria Kakona and Calliopi Villy Kotoula
- The Magic Triangle – Alfred Schaschi
- Aquapella – Karen Edwards

**3rd** The Great Connection, Christen Bach

#### Dance and Free Diving

**1st** Entre 2 Eaux – Caroline Ragusa and Sylvain Bes

**2nd** Dance with Diatomée – Marianne Aventurier and Alex Voyer

**3rd** Sunken Treasures of Love – Andreas Schumacher

#### Made in Texas

**1st** Big Thrills Little Thrills – Bert and Candace Campanelli

**2nd** Ouch! Don't Touch! Betsy Beasley

**3rd tie**

- The Treasure of Coco Island, Jennifr Opiela-Miksch
- An Ode to Dive Travel – Paul Cater Deaton

The vote was held anonymously in real time after the presentation of each category. Voters, text the number of their favorite movie in the category and results are compiled automatically by Digital Joy.



# **You should have been at HUFF!!**

## **Judges Top 10 Picks (alphabetical order)**

Dance in the Water – Ebrahim Ashourdan, Iran  
Dream Coral – Luca Keller, Germany  
Entre 2 Eaux – Caroline Ragusa and Sylvain Bes, France  
Gravity – Craig Beasley, USA  
Secret Bay – Camouflage, Vincente Leal, Spain  
Still Diving – Robert Yin, USA  
Strangest Things – Dustin Adamson, USA  
Strawberry Fields – Juan Francisco Rodriguez, Chile

**HUFF 2024** is now a thing of the past, but not really. The performances on Saturday and Sunday were great fun but it's not over -- especially if you missed it.

Virtual tickets are now available at [huff.hups.org](http://huff.hups.org). You can click here to get tickets to view HUFF 2024 (and all of the previous HUFF shows as well)

<http://huff.hups.org/shop>



**Online HUFF** Buy Tickets to the Online HUFF and watch anywhere.  
Available April 9, 2024.

# **You should have been there!!**

## **HUFF WINNERS**



## **HUFF — Raffle Ticket WINNERS**



## Pending Events

### Earth Day Is Every Day

Podcast Episode 3

Planet NOAA At NOAA, #EarthDay isn't just on **April 22** – it's every day. Hear from NWS Director Ken Graham and other NOAA experts on:

- How marine sanctuaries protect local ecosystems.
- What ocean acoustics tell us about marine organisms.
- What it means to build a #WeatherReadyNation.
- How we can make our planet a better place through conservation, preservation and sustainability efforts.

PLUS: Test your lighthouse trivia knowledge and hear what scientists have learned 50 years after the 1974 Super Tornado Outbreak.

[Listen now!](#) Also available on [Apple Podcasts](#).

SOURCE: NOAA Planet Stewards

### NOAA Planet Stewards Book Club

May 14, 2024 at 8 p.m. ET

Book: [\*Fen, Bog & Swamp: A Short History of Peatland Destruction and Its Role in the Climate Crisis\*](#)

A lifelong acolyte of the natural world, Annie Proulx brings her witness and research to the subject of wetlands and the vitally important role they play in preserving the environment—by storing the carbon emissions that accelerate climate change. Fens, bogs, swamps, and marine estuaries are crucial to the earth's survival, and in four illuminating parts, Proulx documents their systemic destruction in pursuit of profit.

In a vivid and revelatory journey through history, Proulx describes the fens of 16th-century England, Canada's Hudson Bay lowlands, Russia's Great Vasyugan Mire, and America's Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. She introduces the early explorers who launched the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, and writes of the diseases spawned in the wetlands—the Ague, malaria, Marsh Fever.

[Meeting Connection Info](#)

SOURCE: NOAA Planet Stewards



# American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



## 2024 Supporter Registration

The “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) was established by SCUBA divers on March 31, 2023. ACWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit charity. Staffed by non-paid volunteers, ACWA’s administrative and donation support is provided annually by members of our community.

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America. 2024 registration is \$20.

“Supporters” on record for 2023 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2024 payment of \$20 to ACWA’s treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz (contact information listed below).

New “Supporters” need to complete this form to provide ACWA with contact and IRS reporting information. To join as an individual (must be a certified scuba diver, or a member of a dive club) - fill out the application below. 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 by you or the IRS.

Dive Club \_\_\_\_\_

**or**

Certifying Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ C-Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: **ACWA, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 77092**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2024. This scholarship is given in memory of Jack Allyn, John Anderson, Soodabeh O. Babcock, Randy Gray, Mike Griggs, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, Richard Mork, John Petty, Cynthia Ann Ramsey, Jackie Reid, Mary Lou Reid, John Ringrose, Wanda Roark, Peter Schmidt, Katie Springs, Margie M. Straight, Frank Strausborger, Michael Szewczyk, Randy Widaman, Ted Wimprine, Kenneth Young and Dick Zingula; deceased members of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Rodney Dwire, Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society, Linda Petty and Russell Ramsey. The purpose of this award is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

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## Eligibility Rules:

3

Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2024, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2024.

The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2024.

Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2024**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 11, 2024.

Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

## Scholarship General Guidelines:

Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.

Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.

TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.

A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.

Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.

TGCC is offering this scholarship as a reward to TGCC members, TGCC member and associate clubs or the children of these members to thank them for supporting TGCC's efforts in promoting safe sport diving. The committee will take into consideration the applicant or applicant's parents involvement in TGCC and member clubs and/or the diving community in general.

**Applications should be e-mailed to the TGCC Donations Committee Chairman:**

jfburek@consolidated.net

# 2024 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of college to be attended in 2024: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please enclose a copy of the acceptance letter, or current college transcript):

Comments and information about the applicant's grades and academic performance:

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Comments and information about the applicant's sports and/or other extracurricular achievements:

TGCC Affiliation (member of TGCC or TGCC member club)

Applicant                  Parent                  Grandparent                  (please circle one)

Affiliate First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate Clubs (TGCC, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarfins, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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Number of Years as member of the above named club(s): \_\_\_\_\_

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_



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](mailto:webeditor@lunarfins.com)

### Facebook:

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

### Website:

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

### TGCC

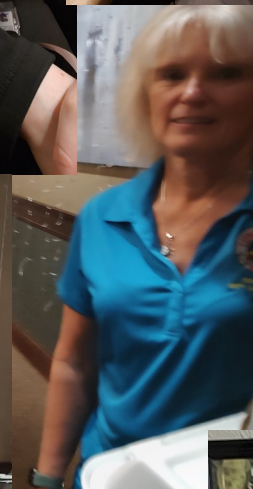
<https://www.tgccdiving.org/>

### TPWD reefs:

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



## You should have been at March General Meeting!



See the picture below, it's one of Dennis Deavenport photo's that he has given to our club as a raffle.

Come to the next meeting, we will have all kinds of neat items to raffle.



## 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

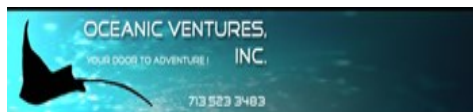
[www.divetrip.com](http://www.divetrip.com)



### 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)