Lunarscope

July 2024

Lunarins Scuba C

Dan Tirtowidjojon

July 16th — Our meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Beryl

Hurricane Beryl was a Category 1 which acted more like a 2 or 3 in some area. It did that much damage.

Dear Members & Friends,

We, (Lunarfins Board of Directors) cancelled our general meeting to allow our members to get their lives back together, we didn't want anyone to drive at night due to so many traffic and streetlights being down. We love you so much. So, part of this newsletter is dedicated to <u>YOU</u>.

"How our Lunarfins members survived"

(See Pages 11—22)

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

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>Sept. 11</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, contact any board member to get on the agenda.

Inside this issue

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- 6 Congratulations!—Brion Saathoff
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- 8 AOM (Continued) Dennis Deavenport– Trip
- 9,10 AOM (Continued) Pete & Annette Hasbrook trip
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- 26,27 You should have been there! June General Meeting
- 28 Dive Shops

Frances Boutin, Keith Brant, Tom Burns, Karen Clark. Deanna Coale, Paul Cater Deaton, Dennis Deavenport, Paul Cater Deaton, John Garman, Mei Hwa Ferguson. Annette & Pete Hasbrook, Norman & Pete Hunter, Jessica Lee. Julianne & Kirk Leissner, Andy Lewis, Mike Peters, Ja Van Pruett, Cindy Reuland, Brion Saathoff, Bob Sanders, Cathy Strahan, Dan Tirtowidjojo, Fred Toole, 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

<u>"The renewal form and dues</u> 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 fiANelds</u>
<u>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/



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

July 16th. — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo

All of his trips—CANCELLED DUE TO BERYL

July 28th. — Mom Alone Mexican Restaurant @ 1pm (p. 22)

Aug. 20th. — General Meeting Lily Douglas— Video Game in Scuba Diving

Sept. 17th — General Meeting — Robert Iching Yin "Still Diving "

Oct. 15th — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo - All of his trips

Nov. 19th. — General Meeting — Jim Ritterhoff

— Marine conservation deployments FORCE BLUE

Dec. 1st. — Annual Christmas Party — Opus Grill— 5 pm (p.25)

ELECTED OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Ja Van Pruett
Do you have
Secretary
Frances Boutin
Treasurer
Cathy Straham
Social Director
Mike Peters
Topics for

Ja Van Pruett

Tom Burns

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

Website

Please share
them with
any of our
officers.

Speakers for

2024?

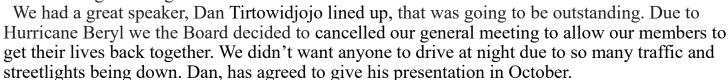
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Lunarfins President's Notes

Dear Lunarfins,

Looks like we are starting the storm season early, I hope everyone is ok and did not suffer any major damage.

For me it was fairly minimal and (I feel blessed) it did gift me a lot of firewood from the neighbors big trees.



On August 20th, one of our members Lily Douglas will have a great presentation for us talking about video games and scuba. at South Shore Grille.

Heads up for those like myself that have been diving for years with an open water certification. A lot of the dive operators are starting to require a minimum of an Advanced open water certification, this came up when I was taking care of all the paperwork for the Philippines trip.

There're two solutions:

- 1. Ask before you book the trip and then decide what you want to do.
- 2. Get your advanced and don't worry about it.

I have done many dives over the years on an open water with no questions asked.

(100ft, night dives, cenotes, etc.) I told myself I'm good I've done everything that an advanced does, WRONG,

I actually learned quite a bit and received input on areas where I can improve.

Also I recommend a nitrox cert as a lot of divers are using that gas more often than not, It puts everyone on the same timeline during the dive.

And last but not least at minimum a DAN diver first aid course, especially if you're prone to diving places with just you and your buddy.

Our sport is risky, but it is also a very rewarding one and the more you know the greater the rewards.

see y'all on the August 20th, Good luck with the cleanup. Fins up

Best Regards, Brion Saathoff 2024-2025 President!





Happy Birthday! to

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

May <u>your day be wonderful!</u>







Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

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

August 20th., 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

Lunarfins'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 Lunarfins make some money.

Your friendly Board of Directors

NOAA NEWS

<u>Special Funding Opportunity: Abandoned and Derelict Vessel</u> Removal <u>Grant Program</u>

NOAA's Marine Debris program would like to announce a new funding opportunity that is **open through August 12**. With funding from the NOAA Marine Debris Program provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, <u>BoatUS Foundation</u> is now accepting applications under the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Grant Program. The program will award up to \$7.5 million for projects between \$50,000-\$1 million to support removal of abandoned and derelict vessels throughout coastal and marine areas nationwide.

Read the full post on NOAA's Marine Debris Blog

About our Members

Prayers are Needed

Peggy Widaman

Peggy lives in Ft. Worth, and she use to come down every year for our Christmas party, her brother was Randy Widaman, he passed in 2021. There is a reef named after him. We need prayers for Peggy, in late December, she was at ER when she called, they told her she needed to see an oncologist right away. Well, it's took 3 months to get her started on Chemo. Peggy had a mass in her Colon, and they have to reduce it before surgery. Peggy was in the hospital for 2 week having surgery and has been back in the hospital several times since then. Now the doctors are taken her off of Chemo and given her time to enjoy the rest of her life. We are planning a trip to New Orleans, originally we were going to visit some of my family, plans changed.





This was taken in 2011 when Karen won this award.

Karen Clark

I am 70 ½ and have had a wonderful full life! Got certified as a diver around 1967, dove the Galveston offshore rigs frequently, Stetson Bank and the Flower Gardens usually in our 30 ft sailboat FREENEASY. Made around 10 offshore races to Vera Cruz and Isla Maheras and took our time cruising back. Raced FREENEASY many times in Galveston Bay, had many Lunarfins parties on the old Redfish Island. Needless to say, I was out in the sun a lot. So, I am very lucky to only have cancer surface now.

Some of you may recall when we were supposed to have a Lunarfins party on the Texas City dike recently. The morning activities ran late closing the dike to us. Our party moved to a nearby park. Those there may remember I keep disappearing to our van. I felt terrible. At 5PM I got a call saying my 3rd neck biopsy showed cancer. Monday when I was able to call doctor office was told could not schedule surgery for

3 weeks. Said NOT acceptable in too much pain. The surgeon called me 5pm Tuesday and told me to come 8AM and he would work me in. Feel sorry for those scheduled as he spent much time with me which made it a very late day. When the surgeon came back for a 3rd time as cancer tests showed still present took more out but said he had to stop as my right side at high risk for paralysis. 30 minutes later I could barely lift my right leg and arm. Asked if it would improve and he said probably not. Well while he was attending to other patients for the next 2 hours, I prayed to everyone dead and lots of friends. Worked. My right arm cannot be lifted much past the shoulder, but I can live with that. The surgeon got me as a patient in MD Anderson where I have chemo for a year. Hopefully the last one this Dec.

Since then, I have had around 6 skin cancers removed by a local surgeon with one to go. Hopefully no more will appear. George went in with me for many of my surgeon visits and he noted suspicious places on George's body for cancer. Since then, he has had several removed. George is ecstatic after a recent nose surgery which on the 3rd attempt to get all cancer had an explosion of blood. Very messy but now George can BREATHE easily.

Congratulations!!

Brion Saathoff



About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton



As production stills go, this one's pretty damn cool. Happy Independence Day from the Texas Space Coast.

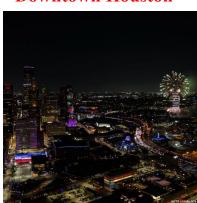




Paul Cater Deaton

Present situation: <u>NASA's Johnson Space Center</u> is dedicating a building to Dorothy Vaughan, human computer and one of the "hidden figures" of the space program. This is a big day.

Happy 4th of July— Downtown Houston



Frankfurt, Germany.

Justin Wallace









Dennis Deavenport

Trip to Colorado







Pete and Annette Hasbrook

<u>Alam Batu - Beach Bungalow Resort</u>



Pete and Annette Hasbrook

Pete Hasbrook is with **Janeen Milne** and **Bonnie Dornom** at **Peninsula Bay Resort**, **Nusa Dua**, **Bali**. So why are we in Bali? Because it's Janeen Milne Dornom's birthday!!!

My ELHS '81 and '82 friends may remember that Janeen was our Australian Rotary exchange student for the second half of my senior year and the first half of Anne Hasbrook Smith's senior year. We have stayed in touch and Janeen and Dave invited US to come celebrate in Bali with some of their close friends. We've had a blast.





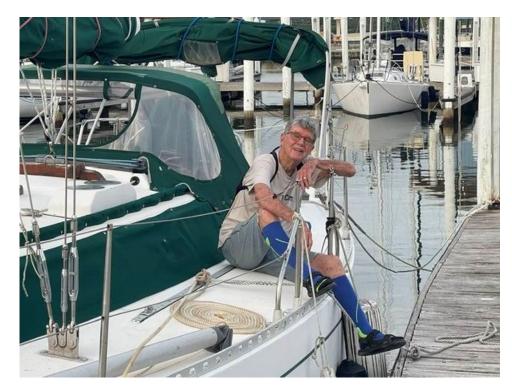








Our members getting ready for Beryl



Fred & Louise Toole

Yesterday afternoon (9-6-2024). We are ship shape and awaiting Beryl.



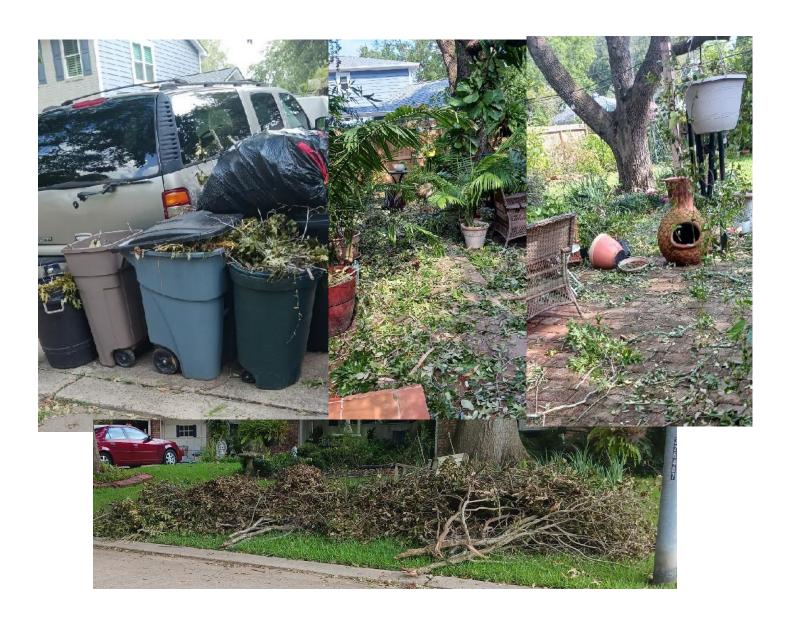
Hurricane BERYL





Page 1

Frances JH Boutin & Eric Bergman — "It was horrible. I thought the trees might fall here like 4 down 2 doors from us and all over the neighborhood. Glad you're safe and glad God saw us through this terrible hurricane Beryl."



Page 2

Tom Burns — "I didn't really have any damage at my house, just a big mess. I have the front yard and roof. Cleaned up but not the backyard yet. My electricity went out around 5AM that morning and came back on just before 1 AM he next morning."



Keith E. Brandt — "We should be in the clear, but lots of yard cleanup to do when the water recedes."

Denna Coale — "Day 3 in the books and with just a little over 1,300 plates served today, cases of water distributed, pet food, and baby diapers/wipes handed out we are absolutely exhausted! Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers, and for your generous donations we are able to continue another day. We will start serving food again tomorrow at 12pm until 7pm at the Oyster Creek Community Volunteer Fire Department. God bless each and every one of you for helping us get the word out to reach more people in need. God is moving



mountains and reaching His people in the face of devastation. We are just the servants".

Page 3

Dennis Deavenport — "We got off very lightly. Sure, we had lots of small limbs blown off out trees and plenty of leaf litter on the ground, but our new fence shook off the wind and our new roof shingles stayed where they belonged. Like most, we gathered caught off guard and didn't bring in the lawn furniture which got tossed around and had to be fixed a bit the

next day. Two shrubs got pushed over. One was tossed out the other repositioned. We lost power and internet for about 36-40 hours but it was never really very hot. We listened to a mystery book waiting. The yard crew came and did a good job of cleaning up and bagging everything. We have one medium sized limb blown onto our roof and we need to get the tree people out to remove it. I drove around days ago. We were about the least damaged property I saw.



Paul Cater Deaton — "We made it through just fine down here."



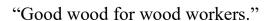
Page 4

Mei Hwa Ferguson — "Here is a picture of my downed fence. My neighbor's tree always damages my house and yard when there's a bad storm. This time I'm really grateful that only my fence was damaged. I can't repair the fence until all the debris is moved."



John Gorman — "Cedar tree in front yard."











Page 4

Norman & Pete Hunter — " It's almost 8 am, raining hard, wind blowing. Trees swaying, not flooding on our street. Electric going off and on. No dental appointment! After 9 things look worse outside. Plants and chairs over on patio. Limb off big tree out front. Small items blowing around. Ok!"

Kirk Leissner — "This is our house at about noon today. The water was higher than during the last storm. Now to answer the question that is on everyone's mind, the downstairs bar is safe. There was no damage. Some of deck railing blew away, and we are staying in Hitchcock for now. No power at either place."



Page 5

M-V Fling by Texas Caribbean Charters -

"The Fling is doing great after Beryl. Our office, not so much.... But we intend to run our Friday and Sunday departures as planned!

There's no phone or Internet at the office, so don't be there calling. Send us email if you need something. Info at Texas Caribbean dot com."



<u>Michael Peters</u>— "It is frightening to realize the power of 90 mph wind gusts Exerted by just a category one hurricane. A mini-tornado created by the wind gusts Ripped the 4 inch cops down from my 40 year old live oak trees., In my backyard. The same mini tornadoes ripped down apartment walls & flattened carports & cars in a apartment complex eight blocks from my house!!!

Louise & Fred Toole — "Hurricane Beryl has past. We are fine. Lots of rain and wind all night. Power out at 1:15 am. Generator working! Lots of yard work and a little damage and trees down. But house did not sustain damage. Nor our truck that was out front, Have done some cleanup. Crossed paths with a cotton mouth snake and decided to quit working on our cleanup. Some neighbors have house damage from trees falling. Power will most likely be out for days. This was a Cat 1 but were on the dirty side. Louise Toole Thanks everyone. The worst being the houses crushed by trees. Centerpoint is working hard in our neighborhood."

<u>Cathy Strahan</u>— "I am fine. I think the wind topped out at about 80 MPH by my house. I have a little creek running behind my house. It turned into a raging river yesterday, that was incredible! In all the 22 years I have been in this house I had never seen it like that before! My fence went down but that's the worst of it for me!

Yep! When something like this happens we get help from all over! We get a lot of volunteers from the neighboring states. The Cajun Navy even came this time. We still had a lot of electricians from out of state working in the power lines that were taken out during last months tornado, they were enlisted to help too!

Page 6

Jessica Lee — "My house is fine, but we we've been helping my family out this past week.

I look forward to seeing you all soon!





Bob Sanders --





Page 7

Ja Van Pruett & PeeWee Dwire — Listen to the winds ripping the siding off the house while it was shaking the whole house was way too scary. Next time I will pick up my 4 kitties and go anywhere safe.









The only tree in front yard, now will have to come down.

Page 8

Dan Tirtowidjojo — was our July speaker — https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?

tab=rm&ogbl#search/dan_tirto%40yahoo.com/KtbxLwhCFZSmHccMSJFsknGqWqtDhxLffL?



Many thanks to all of the linemen that gave our members power



How Our Lunariin's members Survived Let's Celebrate

You are invited to join your Lunarfins friends for an after hurricane social lunch at

" MOM ALONE MEXICAN RESTURANT",

on July 28, 2024 @ 1:00 pm

Moma's is located at 1111 Nasa Parkway, Webster, 77598.

Located just northwest of El Camino Real. We will be in the private party room.

See you there — friends!!!





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: ACW	, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 7709
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.

This year we had six (6) exceptional applicants. Two representing HUPS, one from CHUM, and three from Lunarfins. Their credentials included such things as being a certified diver; having grades and extract circular histories of such caliber that their college provides some financial support; having unique linguistic skills; strong technical majors; to demonstrating both athletic and academic excellence.

TGCC's 2024 Scholarship application stated that "The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2024". However, once the review was underway the Council decided all applicants warranted support from the dive community. Each will receive a \$500 award. This was based upon:

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The	strength	of their	annlice	atione
1110	SUCHEUL	OI LIICH	annince	auons.

☐ The outstanding credentials of the new college freshman applicants.

☐ Our desire to support promising students

☐ Our desire to support our member clubs; their members, children and grandchildren.

The selection of our scholarship award recipients; and the review of their accomplishments, hopes and dreams is a highpoint in this Diving Council's year. Our scholarship awards are an investment in our community's future.

The following awards were made and will be sent to their respective schools: Recipient Amount Club Club Member School

Tamra Saam	\$500	CHUM	Tamra Sam	University of Houston (Downtown)
Charles Moran	\$500	HUPS	Russell Ramsey	University of the South (Sewanee)
Zoe Haws	\$500	HUPS	Joe Haws	St. Mary's University
Kimberly Sanders	\$500	Lunarfins	Bob & Christine Sanders	Occidental College
Elizabeth Gorman	\$500	Lunarfins	John Gorman, Jr.	Cornell University
William Kochan	\$500	Lunarfins	Mike & Mary Smith	University of Arkansas

TGCC personally thank each of you, and your clubs, for the support you've given the Council and its Memorial College Scholarship program.

2024 NASA Lunarfins Christmas Party

December 1, 2024

5:00PM, Second Floor



OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

1510 Marina Bay Drive, Building 124 Clear Lake Shores, Texas 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 White Elephant Gift I need a good head count by November 28th.

Please RSVP: Ja Van Pruett, text or email

281-229-8631 or caladyfish@yahoo.com

http://www.opusoceangrille.com/

Go check out the menu and pictures.

You should have

peen at June General Meeting! It was a ZOOM Meeting



Michelle Johnston
Sanctuary Superintendent, Acting
Research Coordinator



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/



You should have peen at June General Meeting Page 2



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 Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX texasscubaadventures.com





