



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Dan Tirtowidjojo

October 15th

“Diving in Raja Ampat”

I am a member of Brazosport Underwater Club since I start diving back in 2005. Currently I am a Rescue Diver with 1712 log dives. All of the dives are recreational dives in Australia, Bahamas, Caribbean, California, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Florida, Indonesia, Maldives, North Carolina, Oman, Palau, Philippines, Tanzania, Texas, Thailand & UAE.

I started recording my dive trips since 2018 into my YouTube channel; **Dan Tirto**

My favorite diving destination is Raja Ampat. I have been there ten times since 2010. I would like to present some of the reasons why it is my favorite diving destinations and show some of my trip videos of Raja Ampat.



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

[pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGt0pWL1hTdz09](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 **Nov. 14** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at <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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- 22 Dive Shops

Karen Clark,
Dennis Deavenport,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Cathy Strahan,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Brion Saathoff,
Justin Wallace,
Peggy Widaman



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)

Oct. 12th. — Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest! (CANCELLED)

Oct. 15th — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojo— “Diving in Raja Ampat”

Oct. 13 — Get-to-gather Tookie's Seafood

Nov. 19th. — General Meeting — Jim Ritterhoff — Marine conservation deployments FORCE BLUE

Nov. TBA — Get-to-at Katie's Seafood

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

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Brion Saathoff
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Frances Boutin
Treasurer	Cathy Strahan
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

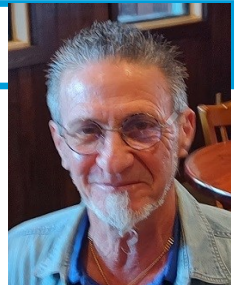
Topics for Speakers for 2024?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunar fins President's Notes

Hello Lunar fins,

Well, we got lucky and dodged a double header, my thoughts and prayers go out to our dear family and friends in Louisiana. I called Texas City and they said the dyke is reopened and will be taking visitors this weekend so, the beach party is still on, I will be there early on Saturday and am looking forward to spending the day with everyone, this is an annual event for the club, sort of a thank you to everyone for helping to keep Lunar fins going and growing, we will be providing sausages, dogs and burgers if you want to bring a side dish its fine. I want to welcome Michelle and James Robert Stoffel, Amanda Smith, Trish Ross, and Mike Callaway to the family. If there is anything we can help you with, please let us know. Speaking of growing, one of my worries has been that we would eventually outgrow South Shore grille, I really like the venue the food is good the staff is awesome, and they have worked with us in every way to make it a great meeting place but as I tell my grandchildren, nothing lasts forever. If anyone has any ideas for a larger venue, please let me know and I will check it out. it must be able to be closed off from the rest of the facility for noise and foot traffic so as not to interrupt with the presentation and have wi-fi.



We have a very special guest this month, Robert Yin I first saw him in his video submission at the Houston Underwater Film Festival this past April which won an award, in the film he says that his only wish for his next birthday is to still be diving, it looks like his wish came true he turned 97 after the film festival and he is still diving.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for October the twelfth, our sister club, Bay Area Divers are having an underwater pumpkin carving contest at Mammoth Lake. It is a sanctioned event by the Texas Gulf Council of Clubs. Everyone is welcome, there will be food, gear consignment Tables and a raffle. It's always fun when the clubs get together for these events, I will be there helping set up so come hang out with us. I will post more details on the face book page as I get them. If you have any ideas for an event or any input that you think would be helpful let me know, I am always open for suggestions.

May you have many happy wet days in the years to come.

*Best regards,
Fins up (please)
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>

October 15th., 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. We have enjoyed receiving prints 16" x 20" prints that have been donated by Dennis Deavenport. They are mounted on foam board or Gator Board and ready to frame. Thank you Dennis is donating lots of his photo's. Cathy Strahan has also donated several gifts.

Each month will be a great item and you never know till you come and see what you can pick from what we are offering. Bring a few extra dollars to the meeting to help Lunarfin's make some money.

About our Members

Prayers are Needed

Peggy Widaman

Peggy lives in Ft. Worth, and comes down every year for our Christmas party. Her brother was Randy Widaman, he passed away in 2021. There is a reef named after him. We need prayers for Peggy, on December 22, 2023 she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer, it took 3 months to get her started on Chemo. Then her doctor took her off Chemo and they wanted her to go into Hospice. Peggy, she would not take that sitting down, she got an appointment with M.D. Anderson in the Woodlands and her new doctor put her back on a lower dose of chemo that she started taking the in Ft. Worth, on 16th of September, she now has been taken off Chemo. Peggy will be here in Houston to have the doctors go over the results of the Chemo, Her Cancer has spread, so please continue praying for her. We are hoping she will be joining us for our Christmas party once again.



Karen Clark



I am 70 ½ and have had a wonderful full life! Got certified as a diver around 1967, dove the Galveston offshore rig. 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 Lunarfin 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 Lunarfin party on the Texas City last year. The following Monday morning the doctors did a 3rd neck biopsy showed cancer. They suggested surgery in 3 weeks. She 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.

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.

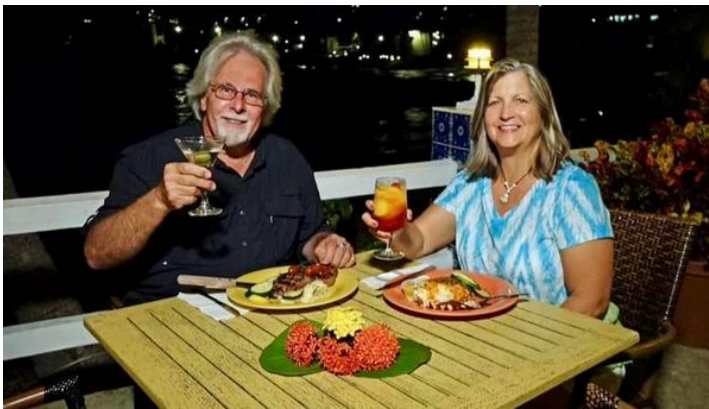
I should start coming back to Lunarfin meetings/events after chemo maybe sooner if reactions lesson.

About our Members Congratulations!!

Paul Cater Deaton

September 15, 2024

So, one of my favorite musical collaborators has joined me in prize package stardom on **Wheel of Fortune**. I'm on it (with my beloved [Monica](#)) for [Bolongo Bay Beach Resort](#) and [Brent Bennett](#) is on for Margaritaville St. Thomas.



This young man was creating in the background as I was interviewing one of the organizers of the Galveston Sandcastle Festival (which opens in 45 minutes) and I mentioned having been acquainted about half my life ago with Sandy Feet and the Amazing Walter of "Sons of the Beach" fame on South Padre Island. Turns out that Sandy Feet is his Aunt Lucinda.

In honor of this stroll down memory lane, let's recite the Sons of the Beach motto. All together now..."I promise to have fun, help others have fun, and unlitte."



About our Members (Continued)

Dennis Deavenport



Diving Dumaguete at Atlantis Resort. Part of a group called the Atlantis ImageMakers



Last night at Atlantis Dumaguete Resort. We went, we saw, we photographed and videoed everything we saw, and somehow survived a bunch of 80 minute dives. That's another story.

About our Members (Continued)

Paul Cater Deaton

This young man was creating in the background as I was interviewing one of the organizers of the Galveston Sandcastle Festival (which opens in 45 minutes) and I mentioned having been acquainted about half my life ago with Sandy Feet and the Amazing Walter of “Sons of the Beach” fame on South Padre Island. Turns out that Sandy Feet is his Aunt Lucinda.

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“I promise to have fun, help others have fun, and unlitter.”



Paul Cater Deaton & Kris Kristofferson

He jokingly called himself a wetback from Brownsville.

Kris Kristofferson was one of the funniest, most genuine people I ever worked with. The man was cool personified. On the set, he had a kind word and a smile for everyone, whether production assistant or star. He was revered, rightly, as a sage, a mentor, and a damn fine songwriter.

Brief though it was, appearing in this scene with him and our old buddy Rip Torn was a highlight of my life. Go well, Kris, and thank you.



Congratulations!!

Cindy Reuland

Today’s office! Baby Katelyn!

Soaking up every minute holding precious Katelyn. A blessing from God to Kristen and Andrew! Brings back memories of being a first time mom to Kristen. So happy for the new parents. Love you all and happy to share in it with all family past and present.

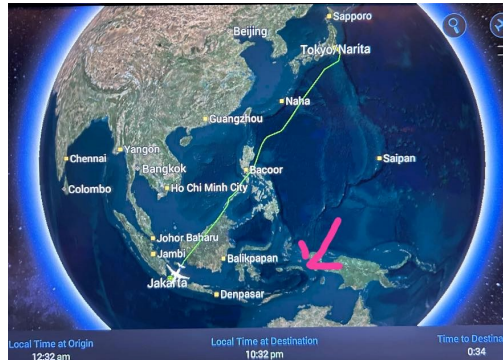


About our Members (Continued)

Anne and Pete Hasbrook

Pete Hasbrook is at Bush Intercontinental Airport Houston - International Terminal.

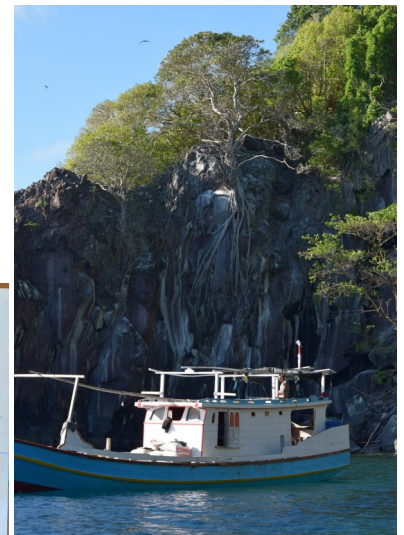
When Ridlon and Carin Kiphart text and say “Heyyyyyy ... any chance you’re free for dinner tomorrow? We have a layover.”, well you say “Of course!” and you make it happen! What a treat. We had a great afternoon. And we will see them again next week for diving in Indonesia.



Gunungapi Island, Indonesia "Sea Snake island" in the Bandu Sea.
A bird nesting island.

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/1386177335/videos/pcb.10234237105374168/884596126510808)

www.facebook.com/1386177335/videos/pcb.10234237105374168/884596126510808



Our 1st island for diving. There were beautiful fish and corals.

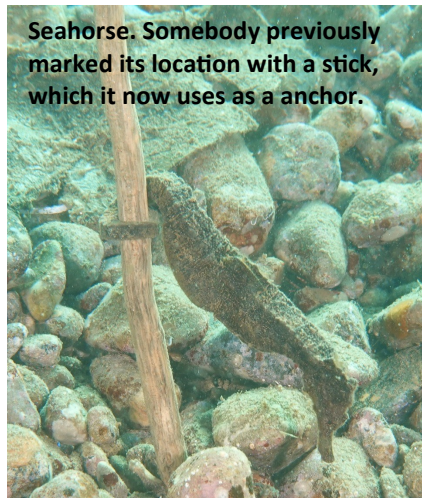
Days 1 and 2 in the Banda Sea. As remote as anyone can be with spectacular diving.

About our Members (Continued)

Anne and Pete Hasbrook

ALL PHOTOS and CAPTIONING are by ANNETTE!!

Hi from the Banda Sea in Indonesia. Finally posting some photos. Sorry for the delay, and thanks to many of you for the nagging . These are from our first day - Annette's birthday - through third day. These are all from "muck diving", where you're prowling muck and trash to look for very unique and/or really small and hard to spot.



About our Members (Continued)

Justin Wallace

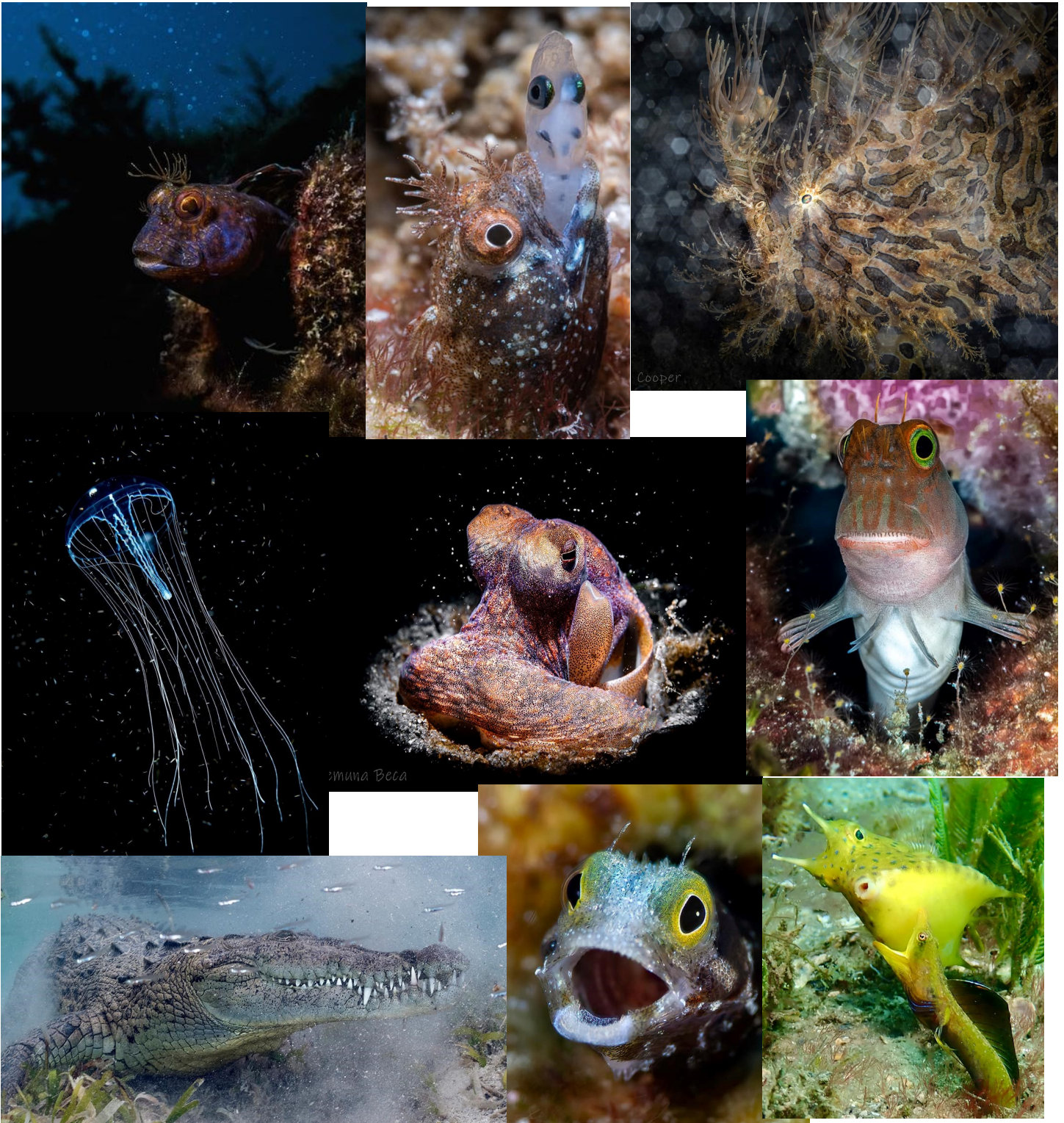
Is in Jupiter, FL — September 2, 2024



About our Members (Continued)

Justin Wallace

Is in Jupiter, FL — September 2, 2024





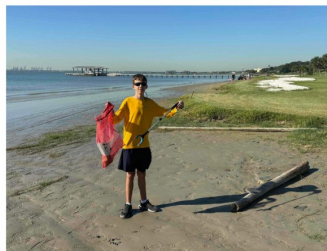
Brion Saathoff —

Open Enrollment For BSA SEA SCOUT SHIP EAGLE 1503



www.scubadivingship.com

Sea Scouts BSA is adventure in, on, around, and under the water. Chartered by Sport Divers of Houston, SSS Eagle 1503 is a co-ed scouting unit for youth ages 14-20. Youth that are 13 and have completed the 8th grade are also eligible to join. Sea Scouts enjoy a range of maritime and aquatic focused activities such as scuba diving, sailing, and rowing sports like kayaking and canoeing. Sea Scouts develop teamwork and leadership skills through opportunities to learn and master seamanship and scuba diving. A greater set of core values and ethics to live by are instilled through volunteering and participating in service projects, such as beach cleanup, cleaning attractions at Mammoth Lake, food drives, and toy drives. Ship meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 4-6pm at Sport Divers of Houston. For more information, email our Skipper, Kevin Reams, at kgreams@gmail.com or our Ship Committee Chair, Thomas Fitzgerald, at ship1503@scubadivingship.com.



Red Robin® will give
20% OF FOOD SALES* BACK TO
BSA SEA SCOUT SHIP EAGLE 1503

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS
18830 Gulf Freeway, Friendswood, TX 77546
October 24, 2024*

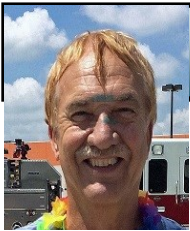
If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

1. Short your order or order redrobin.com and select the restaurant above.
2. In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (Go-Go-Go)" and click on that item.
3. Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
4. Add your meal items and check out.
5. Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find the location to view hours. Qualifying donation of eligible sale items is \$100.00 or more. Excludes sales from catering or event orders. All party orders for 10 or more people. Includes gift cards, food, and beverages. Other valid tips are distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.

Red Robin

We invite you to join us at Red Robin on 10/24/24 for Spirit Night. Red Robin will donate 20% of food sales to our ship. Just mention BSA \$\$\$ Ship 1503 when you order in person or online for pickup.



Pirate shipwreck discovered in the depths of the Mediterranean

by [Dario Radley](#) [August 5, 2024](#)

Sent in by Mike Peters

A long-kept secret has finally emerged from the depths of the Mediterranean Sea, revealing a centuries-old shipwreck linked to the notorious Barbary corsairs.

The vessel, measuring approximately 13.7 meters (45 feet) in length, was discovered in 2005 by the Florida-based company Odyssey Marine Exploration (OME) at a depth of about 823 meters (2,700 feet) in international waters between Morocco and Spain. Despite the significant find, the discovery was kept under wraps until recently, when it was featured in the summer 2024 issue of [Wreckwatch magazine](#).



The ship, manned by Barbary corsairs, Muslim pirates, and privateers who operated from the coast of North Africa, was a significant threat to European maritime activities in the post-medieval era. The corsairs were notorious for their ruthless attacks on European ships and coastal settlements, often taking captives to ransom for hefty fees. The newly discovered wreck has been linked to Algiers, the capital of Algeria, which was once a bustling hub for Barbary piracy.

Greg Stemm, director of Seascope Artifact Exhibits Inc. and former chairman of Odyssey told [Newsweek](#): “The threat of Algiers’ corsairs was an everyday terror for the West. The shipwreck found in deep waters is a precious echo of one of the western Mediterranean’s great maritime horrors.”

Sean Kingsley, editor-in-chief of Wreckwatch magazine, elaborated on the prominence of Algiers in piracy. “Less famous than the pirates of the Caribbean, the corsair capital of Algiers turned to piracy far earlier and was a much bigger business. From 1525 to 1830, an entire city of 60,000 ‘rogues and renegadoes’ lived by the sword,” Kingsley said. He further explained that Barbary pirates raided as far north as southern England, enslaving captives and demanding ransoms, which made piracy a daily hazard for Western traders.



The shipwreck’s discovery was a serendipitous byproduct of Odyssey’s search for the HMS Sussex, an English flagship lost in 1694. While using the advanced remotely operated vehicle Zeus from their 250-foot research ship Odyssey Explorer, the team stumbled upon the corsair vessel. Over the years, Odyssey Marine has uncovered over 300 shipwrecks, but this find stands out due to its direct connection to Algiers, marking the first such discovery.

The preservation of the wreck is exceptional, with the lower third of the hull surviving undisturbed by divers or fishing trawlers. However, the upper parts were likely destroyed by shipworms, a common issue in the Mediterranean. The ship’s heavy armament, including muskets, four large cannons, and 10 swivel guns, was a defining feature that confirmed its pirate origins. “Two defining characteristics of pirate ships are heavy weapons and cosmopolitan cultural contents—assembled from the many prizes taken,” Kingsley noted.

Artifacts such as pottery and glassware found at the site have provided clues about the ship’s origin and date. The pottery closely parallels 18th-century ceramics excavated from Martyrs’ Square in Algiers, and the glass bottles date from 1740-1760, suggesting the ship sank around 1760.

“Most of the pottery has exact parallels in the 18th-century ceramics excavated during rescue work in Martyrs’ Square in Algiers,” Kingsley explained. “The Ottoman bowls on the wreck stopped being made in Turkey around 1755. The tightest dating comes from the glass bottles that were blown, at latest, 1740-1760. So the ship can’t postdate 1760.”

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: _____

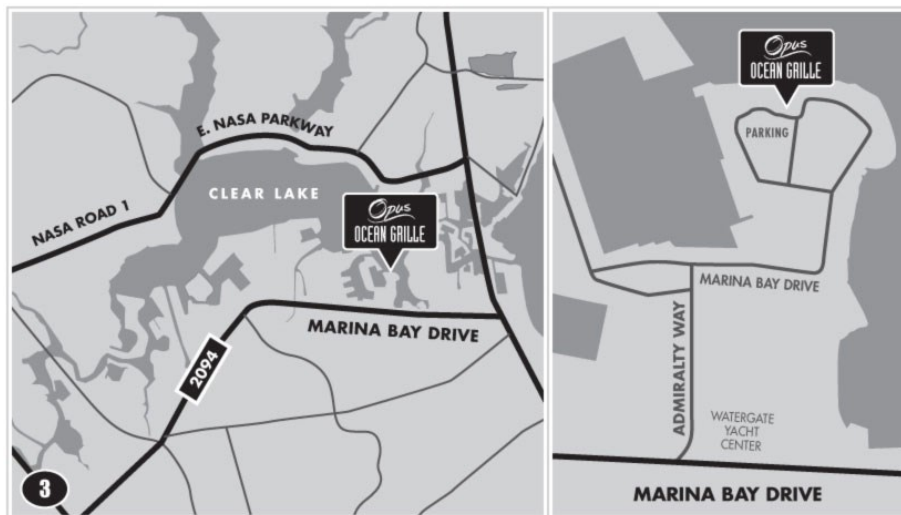
E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2024 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 been at our General Meeting Sept. 17th, 2024



Dan Tirtowidjojo— “Diving in Raja Ampat” is October 15th

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

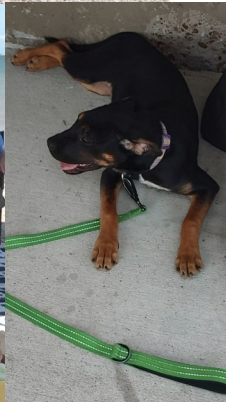
<https://www.tgccdiving.org/>

TPWD reefs:

https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/



You should have been at our Beach Party Sept. 14th



Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casko Rd – Freeport TX

captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml



Giggin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

gigginmarlin.com

Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

www.divetrip.com



Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX

maximum-scuba.com

Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX

oceanicventures.com



Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX

otadiving.com

REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL

reef.org/trips



Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX

sportdivers.com

Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

txdivecenter.com/



Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX

texasscubaadventures.com

