



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Jim Rittenhoff

November 19th

“One team. One flight”

The Presentation is called “One team. One flight.” And it is the (20-30 min) story of FORCE BLUE — the only nonprofit organization in the world that retrains and redeploys Special Operations veterans and military-trained combat divers to work alongside scientists and environmentalists on marine conservation missions.

Jim Ritterhoff, Executive Director, Co-Founder team, Working as a professional writer for over 25 years, Jim has penned and directed award-winning advertising campaigns, screenplays, teleplays and documentaries. As Founder and Creative Director of NYC-based advertising and content production company Chowder, Inc., Jim wrote and produced the theatrically released feature film, *Cayman Went* and the children’s book, *Tuke the Specialist Turtle*. An avid SCUBA diver and lifelong environmentalist, Jim previously served on the Board of Directors of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) and was recently named “2019 Sea Hero of the Year” by Scuba Diving Magazine and the Seiko Watch Corporation for his work with FORCE BLUE.

Established as a 501c3 nonprofit organization in 2016, FORCE BLUE seeks to address two seemingly unrelated problems — the rapidly declining health of our planet’s marine resources and the difficulty returning combat veterans have in adjusting to civilian life — through one, mission-focused program.

By uniting the community of Special Operations veterans with the world of marine science and conservation, FORCE BLUE has created a transpartisan model of caring, cooperation and positive change with the power to restore lives and restore the planet.

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

[pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGTOpWL1hTdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGTOpWL1hTdz09) ID: 836 7464

2772 Passcode: 076802

Inside this issue

- 2 Events Calendar, Club Officers
- 3 Presidents Notes
- 4 Meeting Place/Raffle
- 5 Prayers Are Needed
- 6 Welcome— Guest
- 7 Congratulations—Paul Cater Deaton
- 8 About Our Members — Dennis Deavenport
- 9 AOM (Continued) — Julianne & Kirk Leissner
- 10 AOM — Peggy Widaman & Ja Van Pruett
- 11 AOM — Pete Hasbrook
- 12 AOM — Justin Wallace
- 13 Mike Peters—Spanish Shipwreck Article
- 14 Mike Peters—A Giant Basilosaurid whale
- 15,16 Cathy Strahan—Belize Trip Article
- 17 BSA Sea Scout Eagle 1503 Article
- 18 **2024 Christmas Party**
- 19 (ACWAF)
- 20,21 You should have been there! General Meeting
- 22 You should have been there! Beach Party
- 23 Dive Shops

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



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.



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



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

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/>



Nov. 17th — Get-to-gather - Katie's Seafood 4 pm

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

Nov. 25th.  —

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

Dec. 25th — Merry Christmas



Jan. 1st  —



ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Brion Saathoff
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Frances Boutin
Treasurer	Cathy Strahan
Social Director	Mike Peters

APPOINTED

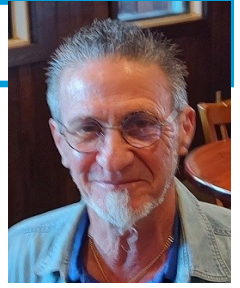
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Jessica Lee
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Jessica Lee
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Website	Tom Burns

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2025?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes



Hello Lunarfins,

Happy Thanksgiving, I hope all is well with everyone. Well, the holiday season is upon us lots of events, parties, and family time. I especially enjoy family time. Please join us for an evening with Jim Ritterhoff, he will do a presentation "One Team. One fight." FORCE BLUE the only nonprofit organization in the world that retrains and redeploys Special Operations veterans and military-trained combat divers to work alongside scientists and environmentalists on marine conservation missions. Working as a professional writer for over 25 years, Jim has penned and directed award-winning advertising campaigns, screenplays, teleplays and documentaries. He presented this video at the HUFF last year. It will be very entertaining. that's on Tuesday November 19th at 6pm, Jim, starts at 7pm. It will be a ZOOM program.

I want to welcome Francisco J. Hernandez as our guest. Thank you, Tom Reuland, for introducing him to our club.

It's that time of the year to select a Lunarfin's Member of the Year. If you would like to nominate someone, send a letter by snail mail to the Lunarfin's mailbox or e-mail one of the board members and we will then on the ballot for the vote at the Christmas party on December the first. Please join us, the details are in the newsletter, it's always a good time and good food. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RSVP BY NOVEMBER 20TH so the restaurant can be properly prepared for us.

On Sunday, November 17th, at 4 p.m., we will be at **Katie's Seafood House** in Galveston for the Lunarfin's Get-To-Gether. We hope to see you. Please RSVP to Mike Peters so we can have a headcount. I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday. Many of us will be doing a lot of road time, so to quote the Sergeant on Hill Street Blues, "be safe out there."

*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>

November 19th., 6:00 pm

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

Speakers start at 7:00 pm —will be a ZOOM presentation

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. 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 Lunarfins make some money.

Your friendly Board of Directors



**Lunarfins Get-to-gather
Katie's Seafood
Nov. 17th. 4:00 pm**

2000 Wharf Rd
Galveston, TX 77550

**Please RSVP — Mike Peters (we need 15 members)
@281-481-9091**



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. See more on P. 10.



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.

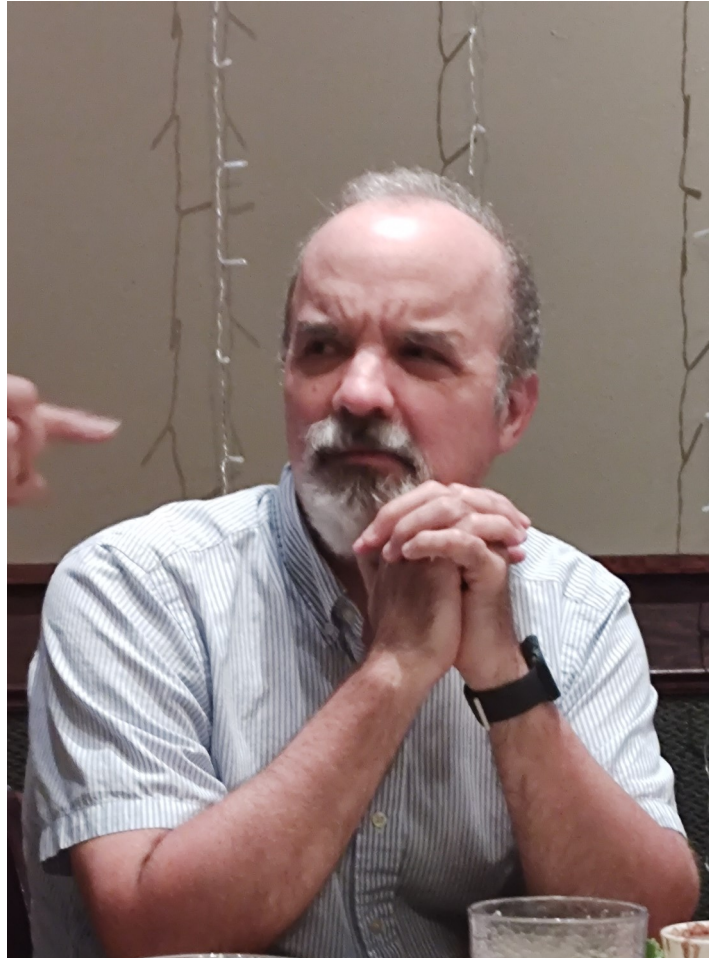
Some of you may recall when we were supposed to have a Lunarfin party on the Texas City last year. The following Monday morning the doctors did a 3rd neck biopsy showed cancer. They suggested surgery in 3 weeks. She said NOT acceptable in too much pain. The surgeon called me 5pm Tuesday and told me to 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.

Meet our Guest



Francisco J. Hernandez

APU subsystems support

After a **10-year** run at NASA, Hernández left the government agency in January 2011 to serve as executive director for Strategic Operations at aerospace company MEI Technologies Inc.

**Thank you Tom Rueland for bring your friend to enjoy our presentation
on Raja Ampat**

About our Members Congratulations!!

Paul Cater Deaton



October 20, 2024—Misfits Ball was absolutely epic! Monica looked fabulous! It was a space theme so I didn't even have to wear a costume...



Winners—Best Overall—

501st Legion

So Saturday was pretty grueling, but most gratifying. First, a bunch of us entertained and spread some Star Wars love at [Wings Over Houston Airshow](#). After that, most of us sprinted from Ellington Field down to Galveston to appear in the first annual **Mystical Parade of Boo**. <https://www.facebook.com/PaulCaterDeaton>



Say hello to my highest ranking challenge coin, acquired earlier this evening when I had the honor of interviewing Rear Admiral Wayne Baze about Galveston Navy Week. He is now the proud owner of the coveted Mardi Gras "Laissez les bon troupers rouler" coin.

About our Members (Continued)

Dennis Deavenport



A couple more pics from my recent trip to the Philippines. Thanks to [Carl](#) and [Dennis](#) for final processing. I would go back in a heartbeat!

October 20, 2024—Today before Dennis Deavenport brother, Steele's, celebration of life ceremony in Boulder, we were greeted at dawn with a soft blanket of fog. It's burning off slowly which will be good for us since it will be partly outside. He was as good a brother and person as you could want. He's missed by all of us but remembered fondly. Life was richer with him in it. He lived well.



Morning from our patio. Bear mountain is faced with the sandstone Flatirons characteristic of the foothills close to Boulder. Today we walk up to them to spread my brother's ashes. Couldn't choose a better day for it.

About our Members (Continued)

Julia and Kirk Leissner



Kirk and Julia celebrating Kirk's 68th birthday with their kids.

Cassandra, Dustin Keithley and Breezy



Christopher Leissner & Savi Webb

About our Members (Continued)

Ja Van Pruett & Peggy Widaman

Ja Van drove up to Fort Worth to spend sometime with Peggy. The trip up was interesting took the back route thru West Columbia. Spent over an hour in West Columbia waiting for them to clear a traffic accident. Then when I got into Fort Worth, just about to get off the highway. A truck had a load of construction supplies and a wheel barrel flew out of the truck and it was full of dried concrete. How I miss it from landing on my car as it did land in my lane. At that very time, Peggy, was calling me wanting to know why I wasn't there yet. Finally I got there without any more issues. We spent many hours trying to catch up times we had in the past. I was blessed to meet some of her best friends.



Susan Black



Beth Conway



Pat Schussler



Christen Scott—
Randy Widaman's
daughter



Peggy
Widaman

About our Members (Continued)

Pete Hasbrook



For you photographers and you who love photos of Earth from ISS. Fun interview of astronaut Matt Dominick in the ISS Cupola. First ever interview conducted in the Cupola. (Why did that take so long??). Matt just returned to Earth on SpaceX earlier this month. 17 minutes

Watch the First-Ever Astronaut Interview from the ISS Cupola

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

HOUSTON TIDELANDERS CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

SUGAR LAND

December 7, 2024 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Fishers of Men Lutheran Church
2011 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land TX



NORTHWEST HOUSTON

December 14, 2024 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring Cypress Rd, Houston TX



Houston
Tidelanders
Chorus

*A wonderful way for your group to share special holiday time together
enjoying classic and new Christmas songs in a cappella four part harmony*

Tidelanders Vision:
Harmony
Across Houston

You'd better watch out... 'cause the Tidelanders are comin' to town!
Buy tickets to our shows now to make sure you're on Santa's "Nice" list.
Tickets are \$22.13 each (\$20 plus fees). Get tickets via the QR code in the image or
via www.HoustonTidelanders.org.
Don't miss it, 'cause we'd have a Blue Christmas without you!

About our Members (Continued)

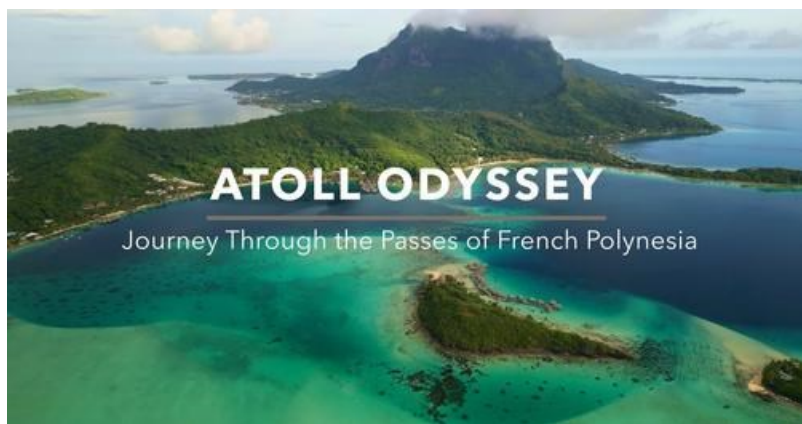
Justin Wallace

October 9, 2024—

[Tetamanu, French Polynesia.](#)



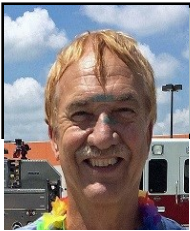
October 10—Fins up if would night dive
with 100



Join me on an unforgettable Atoll Odyssey through the mesmerizing waters of French Polynesia. Together, we will explore the incredible scuba diving “passes” on the world-renowned atolls of Rangiroa and Fakarava.

Considered by many to be one of the best diving locations on the planet, Rangiroa (meaning “vast sky” in the Tuamotuan language) is nothing short of a natural aquarium. Ranked by Jacques Cousteau as one of the most beautiful and diverse dive sites in the world, Rangiroa offers an unparalleled experience beneath the waves—thanks for the tip Jacques!

The journey continues in Fakarava, home to the legendary Great Wall of Sharks. This pristine ecosystem, part of a UNESCO biosphere reserve, offers a rare glimpse into the richness of marine life that few places on Earth can match!



300-year-old glass onion bottles discovered on Atlantic Ocean floor from Spanish shipwreck — *Sent in by Mike Peters*

[Greta Cross](#)
USA TODAY

Glass bottles over 300 years old have been retrieved from the depths of the [Atlantic Ocean](#).

Divers discovered two well-preserved onion glass bottles from a [shipwreck](#) in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Indian River County in Florida in 2021 and 2022. While the exact ship has yet to be identified, the vessel was a part of the 1715 Treasure Fleet, Mark Ard, Florida Department of State director of external affairs, told USA TODAY.

Between the 16th and 18th centuries, Spanish Plate Fleets traveled back and forth from Spain to the Americas, transporting treasures from the New World. The 1715 Treasure Fleet was one in particular that did not make the return home. In July 1715, 11 Spanish fleet ships were destroyed in a hurricane off the Florida coast, according to the [National Park Service](#). The ships were full of "silver, gold, gemstones, tobacco, exotic spices and indigo."

For about 200 years, the ships remained untouched in the Atlantic Ocean. Today, however, they are protected as part of the Florida Underwater Archaeological Preserves.

The recently discovered onion glass bottles represent a rare collection of well-preserved artifacts from the fleet.



"These bottles are very fragile, and for them to survive the destruction of the ship and then being submerged under water for (more than) 300 years where they were subject to tidal forces is incredible," Ard said.

Though the bottles were empty upon recovery, Ard said they likely contained an alcoholic spirit. The thin-glass bottles were probably made in England, Ard added, as the Spanish did not make their own glass.

"Onion bottles are free blown using a pontil," Ard said. "Each one is unique, so there is variation in size, shape and weight." A pontil, or punty, is an iron rod used to hold glass during the glass-making process. Upon discovery, the bottles were covered in sand, shells and other aquatic organizations, in addition to "delamination," which is when flakes of glass began to separate from the surface.

To preserve the bottles, archeologists slowly cleaned and dried each one. They were then consolidated with Paraloid B-72, an acrylic resin that is typically used in glass and ceramic conservation. Several coats of this resin were used to stabilize the glass flakes coming off the bottles. The resin also gives the bottles a shiny appearance.

The Florida Division of Historic Resources and Bureau of Archaeological Research has seven nearly intact artifacts from the 1715 Treasure Fleet in its collection.

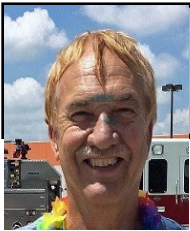
As a part of this collection, the new onion glass bottles are available for loan through the Florida Division of Historic Resources and Bureau of Archaeological Research Artifact Loan Program. The bottles may be loaned to qualifying institutions globally.

In Florida, different sets of onion glass bottles are on display at History Miami Museum, the Pensacola Museum of History and McLarty Treasure Museum in Sebastian, Ard said.

At least two movies have been released over the years about the 1715 Treasure Fleet:

"The Lost Treasure Fleet of 1715": 2016 documentary following modern-day treasure hunter and team searching for sunken ship (available on Amazon Prime Video)

"Fool's Gold": 2008 comedy-adventure starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey, following a team searching for the location of one of the sunken ships (available on Hulu)



Giant Fossil Whale *Perucetus* Did Not Exceed Body Mass of Today's Blue Whales — *Sent in by Mike Peters*

Mar. 4, 2024 by [News Staff](#)

Paleontologists from the University of California, Davis, and Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History estimate that *Perucetus colossus*, a giant basilosaurid whale from the Eocene of Peru, weighed 60-70 tons assuming a length 17 m.

Perucetus colossus lived approximately 39 million years ago (Eocene period) in what is now Peru.

First described in 2023, this species was a type of [basilosaurid](#), a family of extinct cetaceans that lived during the Eocene and are known from all continents, including Antarctica.

"*Perucetus colossus*' bones are unusually dense," said University of California, Davis Professor Ryosuke Motani and Smithsonian Institution's Dr. Nicholas Pyenson.

"Mammal bones usually have a solid exterior and are spongy or hollow in the center. Some animals have more of the center filled in with solid bone, making them dense and heavy."

"In aquatic animals, heavy bones can offset buoyancy from body fat and blubber, allowing the animal to maintain neutral buoyancy in water or — in the case of the hippopotamus — to walk on river beds."

"The fossil whale bones have both extensive in-filling and extra growth of bone on the outside as well, a condition called pachyostosis also seen in some modern aquatic mammals, such as manatees."

In 2023, paleontologists estimated a body mass for *Perucetus colossus* of 180 metric tons (ranging from 85 to 340 metric tons).

This would make *Perucetus colossus* as heavy as, or heavier than the biggest blue whales known, even though it is considerably shorter at 17 m long compared to a blue whale at about 30 m.

"These estimates would make *Perucetus colossus* impossibly dense," Professor Motani said.

"It would have been a job for the whale to stay at the surface, or even to leave the sea bottom — it would have required continuous swimming against the gravity to do anything in the water."

The authors reexamined the assumptions used to make those estimates.

"The first problem is that the original study used the fossil bones to estimate the weight of the skeleton, then extrapolated to the weight of the entire animal, assuming that the skeletal and non-skeletal mass would scale at the same rate with increasing body size," they said. It took over a year to excavate.

"But measurements of other animals show this is not the case."

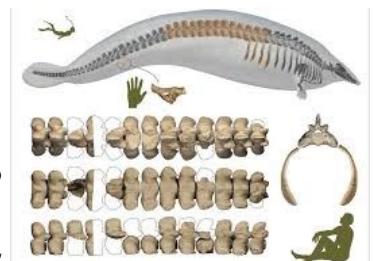
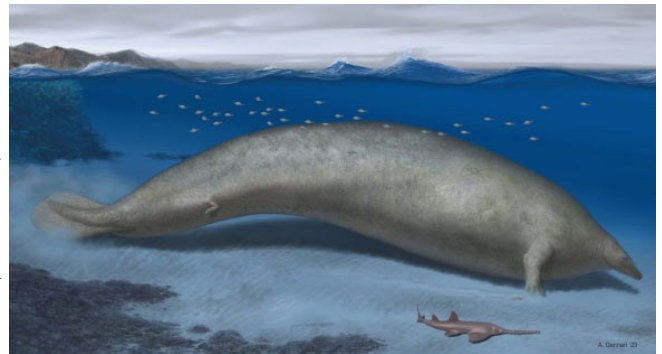
"The original estimates also overestimated how much overall body mass increases as a result of pachyostosis."

"But evidence from manatees shows that their bodies are relatively light relative to their skeletal mass."

Professor Motani and Dr. Pyenson estimate that the 17-m long *Perucetus colossus* weighed in at 60 to 70 tons, considerably less than the known weights of blue whales.

An individual of *Perucetus colossus* that grew to 20 m could weigh over 110 tons, still well short of the largest blue whales at 270 tons.

"The new weight allows the whale to come to the surface and stay there while breathing and recovering from a dive, like most whales do," Professor Motani said.





Diving in Belize and the importance of not "Pushing the Limits"

— *Written by Cathy Strahan*

We were looking forward to staying on Turneffe Atoll which was an hour and ½ boat ride from the airport. They had a shuttle bus pick us up from the airport, we stopped at a grocery store for snacks and alcohol, once you are on the resort property you can't buy any snacks and are pretty much at the mercy of what they have. They then took us to a restaurant for something to eat, we did have to buy our own meal. After we were done, they took us to the boat for the ride to the Atoll where the resort is. The food was delicious at the resort, and they served it plated every day, every meal.



The resort was really nice, and the staff did all they could to make us comfortable. There is a big barrier reef that runs along the atolls out there and most of the dive sites were only a 5–10-minute boat ride to get out to them. Getting to the boat a bit early in the morning really helped to set up the gear in advance. The boat crew and DM's on the boat changed all our gear in the morning and after the dives. I checked mine every anyway and it was a good thing, the first dive out they had my hoses criss-crossed across the back of my BC and my first stage on backwards.



We went to the Blue Hole, there was an additional charge of \$240. It was an hour away from our resort but to be there was phenomenal! You can see the reefs all around it, so cool. They have you dive air rather than Nitrox since it is a deep dive, I went to 135 for less than a minute, long enough to capture some photos of the stalagmites and stalactites that are down at that depth before starting my ascent. I was careful about my depth and time as I did not want to go into deco. One of our divers did something stupid however and had to be airlifted off Turneffe and flown in a low flying plane to San Pedro to that decompression chamber. He told another in our party that he was "Going to push the limits" while in the Blue Hole! He did not use or have a dive watch, a depth gauge or computer of any sort! The resort had rented him a ScubaPro Luna Dive Computer but he claimed he did not know how to program it, so he did not use it, and in fact did not even bring it to one of the deepest dive spots there is and paid the price. I went to 135 and I saw him at 145 or possibly at 150, 10-15' directly below me. One of our DM's had to go get him, and physically pull him up so he could start his ascent. He was very subdued on the boat ride back to the resort which took 1 ½ hours. That night at dinner he said he didn't feel good, the next morning the DM that had to retrieve him from the blue hole said he was not getting on the boat if that diver was allowed to go. He stayed in his room and in bed all that day and when we had completed our last dive of the day he came and joined us for beer and snacks in the pool. He told us that he had been sick in bed and had been throwing up most of the day, thought he had gotten a stomach virus from drinking a glass or water after brushing his teeth the night before.



While we were getting ready to go have dinner some of the divers were out on their balconies getting things dried out or collecting dive gear to bring inside. The woman who had the room right next to his room was putting stuff out to dry when he showed up at his balcony door yelled "help" once and collapsed onto the patio floor. She was thankfully a dive instructor and knows CPR and first aid, she jumped over the balcony wall (which was about 4 feet high) so she could render aid. She had her phone and started calling anyone who was responding to get help to say that the diver from the day before had just collapsed in his room. The hotel staff was there quickly with the heart paddles and other dive related emergency equipment that they said is always kept at the hotel. There were several instructors on the premises and when they got the diver to finally start talking and breathing on his own, he said he couldn't breathe and his chest hurt! They had to call in the plane from San Pedro to take him to the Deco Chamber, the plane could not fly at any high altitude for fear of making the divers conditions worse.

They got him to the hospital and evacuated him, while looking at the X rays they said they could barely see his lungs because of all the air bubbles in his chest. They immediately placed him in the chamber for 5 hours.



Diving in Belize and the importance of not "Pushing the Limits"

— *Written by Cathy Strahan (Continued)*

additional chamber sessions and would not be expected to be flying home with the rest of us. The hospital had contacted DAN since the diver did have a dive policy, but it was discussed as to whether or not they would cover the costs due to the diver not having any depth gauge, computer or dive logs to reference.

We finished out the rest of our dive week without any further issues, but we all felt bad for the diver that had decided to push the limits, go beyond the scope of his understanding for safe dive practices even though he had been boasting at the restaurant before catching the boat to the island that he was a Certified Rescue Diver.

I had never experienced a diver in full blown deco before, so this was a eye opening experience to make sure you always had a dive watch or computer you know how to operate, you know and understand about depth guides and protocols. I love my sea life and am always finding some new miracle to see when I am down below, but this was a real reminder that however beautiful it maybe it can also be deadly and will kill you or can have some very serious consequences for getting reckless.

The diver called one of those of them in our group as we were getting ready for our flight home and told them he is never going to dive again. It's a shame that he decided to do something foolish and try to beat out mother nature against all odds.

The water temp was between 85-88 degrees at depth and about 78-82 at the Hole. There were all the typical reef fish and creatures, saw some rays, trumpet fish, sea horses, eels, tarpons and all the other reef dwellers. The coral is still in pretty good shape and not too bleached out from the warm water, they must get enough of the oceans currents to help keep the corals healthy. I was in Roatan last year and I was personally underwhelmed by the lack of sea life and the bleached corals. There were several in our party that were hunting lionfish, we had a stringer of about 10 of them at one point where the blacktip reef sharks started circling, they were still nonaggressive even with them smelling our catch, I think at one time we had 5 of them swimming around us. The hotel Cooked up the lionfish and we had a seafood supper one day with them, someone had brought in a lobster, a barracuda and they also made us some conch. The chef at the resort was a great cook and all his meals were delicious. They told us a cool story about a small almost nonexistent island called dead man's island.

Stay safe out there so we all live to dive another day!

Cathy



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.



Join us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/groups/scubadivingship

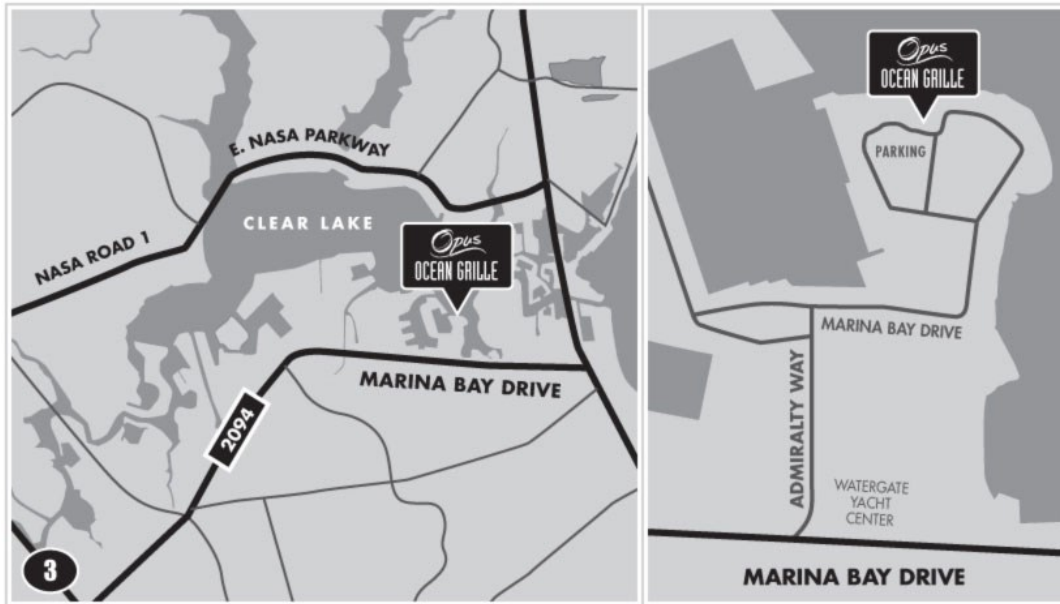


2024 NASA Lunarfins Christmas Party



December 1, 2024

5:00 P M, 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.



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: _____

You should have been at our General Meeting Oct. 15th, 2024

Coral Triangle

Philippines
Brunei
Malaysia
Singapore
Indonesia
Timor-Leste
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands

Raja Ampat

Why Raja Ampat Is the Best Place for Diving

- **Unrivaled Biodiversity**
Home to over 75 percent of known coral species and 1,500 different fish species, making every dive a unique encounter with an astounding variety of marine life.
- **Pristine Coral Reefs**
It is the richest coral reef ecosystems on the planet. The reefs are extraordinarily healthy with mesmerizing spectacle of colors and life.
- **Exceptional Visibility**
Excellent underwater visibility year-round due to its pristine condition and location.
- **Conservation Efforts**
The local communities and authorities have joined forces to preserve the region's natural wonders, ensuring that this diving paradise continues to thrive for future generations.
- **Numerous Diving Spots**
Wide array & unique of diving spots. Sites like **Cape Kri**, with its record-breaking fish count. **The Blue Magic** and **Magic Mountain** are renowned for their majestic oceanic manta rays. **The Mioskon** is frequented for its reef sharks and wobbegongs, **Melissa's Garden** with vibrant table corals and the elusive Epaulette Shark.

Raja Ampat

Day 1: Mon, 18 Feb, Sorong
Board on Blue Manta
Dive 1 in Manta
Cruise to Misool
Day 2: Tue, 19 Feb, Misool
Dive 2 in Living Color, Daram
Dive 3 in Andam, Daram
Dive 4 in Juliet, Yilet
Dive 5 in P. Yilet, Yilet
Day 3: Wed, 20 Feb, Misool
Dive 6 in Kinderscope Ridge, Pelee
Dive 7 in Middle Rock, Pelee
Dive 8 in Pelee's Playground, Pelee
Dive 9 in Kappool, Pelee
Day 4: Thu, 21 Feb, Misool
Dive 10 in Neptune's Terrace, Wayi
Dive 11 in 4 Kings, Wayi
Dive 12 in Overhang, Wayi
Dive 13 in Wayi Wall, Wayi
Day 5: Fri, 22 Feb, Misool
Dive 14 in Magic Mt., Wankarilet
Dive 15 in Gus Ridge, Wankarilet
Dive 16 in Boo Window, Boo
Dive 17 in Boo East, Boo
Day 6: Sat, 23 Feb, Misool
Dive 18 in The Blue
Dive 19 in Two Three
Dive 20 in Faros Caves
Day 7: Sun, 24 Feb, Playmeno
Dive 21 in Manta Channel
Dive 22 in Melissa's Garden
Dive 23 in Batu Ratus
Day 8: Mon, 25 Feb, Vangallo
Dive 24 in Citrus Ridge
Dive 25 in Mangrove
Dive 26 in Mayhem
Dive 27 in Pretty Shallow
Day 9: Tue, 26 Feb, Dampier Strait
Dive 28 in Manta Sandy
Dive 29 in Sawandak
Dive 30 in Cow Zoo
Day 10: Wed, 27 Feb, Dampier Strait
Dive 31 in Chicken Reef
Dive 32 in Moolien Inlet, Freer
Day 11: Thu, 28 Feb, Sorong
Dismount Blue Manta in Sorong

Leaf Scoop (yellow) of 4

**You should have
been at our
General Meeting Oct. 15th, 2024**



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

Lunarfins Get-Together Sept. 13th



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

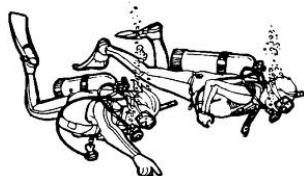
reef.org/trips



Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

txdivecenter.com/



Giggin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

gigginmarlin.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