



# Lunarfins Scuba Club

## March 18th. Rusting, Wrecks & Isotopes Diving the wrecks of Truk & Bikini Lagoons

By Tom Collier, Mike Greuter, Dennis Deavenport

Join us on March 17th at (Spring Greek Barbeque) for a photo journal of Dennis' and Tom's 2013 trip to Chuuk, Micronesia, home of the WWII ghost fleet of Truk Lagoon. The warm tropical waters of Truk Lagoon with its sheltering islands and reefs make it one of most accessible wreck diving locations in the world. The minimal currents within the lagoon make the wreck diving easy and perfect for u/w photography. We dove on 14 different huge WWII wrecks that were obviously losing the battle again – this time with Mother Nature. The sunken hulks are rusting away to oblivion but not before creating beautiful artificial reefs covered in beautiful soft corals and thriving fish populations. We took a ton of pictures – some of which are actually pretty good. Come see the audio/visual presentation sharing our experience with you.

The 2 nd part of the program features a historical perspective of the Atomic Tests at Bikini Atoll back in 1946. Mike Greuter traveled to the Marshall Islands to dive and photograph the deep warships that were sunk in Operation Crossroads. During the tests, two atomic bombs, Able and Baker, were used to study how much damage warships would take in a nuclear attack. See the final resting place for the mighty USS Saratoga, the Japanese battleship, Nagato, and 4 other wrecks resting on the bottom of the lagoon. Come and be prepared for an emotional roller- coaster ride that will make you laugh, wonder, and ponder the problems of living in the nuclear age. Mike will also talk to us about the equipment and procedures required to meet the challenges of diving deep wrecks.

This promises to be one of the most interesting, educational, and unique programs presented at HUPS in some time. Don't miss this one.

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

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2772 Passcode: 076802



### Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **Mar. 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,  
Paul Cater Deaton,  
Dennis Deavenport,  
Annette & Pete Hasbrook,  
Jessica Lee,  
Mike Peters,  
Ja Van Pruett,  
Brion Saathoff  
Justin Wallace



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



## Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

### Membership

**2025 Membership dues are now due.**

“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/>



**Mar. 9th — ZOOM BOD Meeting**

**Mar. 17th — St. Patrick's Day** 🍀🍀🍀

**Mar. 18th — General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport — Rusting, Wrecks & Isotopes**

**Mar. 22— Lunarfins Get-together — To be Amazed. P8**

**Apr. 5th — Lunarfins Get-together — Tookies 12pm P.5**

**Apr. 15th — General Meeting — Justin Wallace & Scott Singleton — “Extreme Pacific -Truk Wrecks & Outer Atolls of French Polynesia**

**Apr. 20th — Easter Sunday —**



**May 20th. — General Meeting — David Lenderman — Night Divin' and Ai Music Makin'**

**Jun. 17th — General Meeting — Kelly Drinnen — Fish ID**

**Jul. 15th — General Meeting — Betsy & Craig Beasley**

### ELECTED OFFICERS

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

### APPOINTED

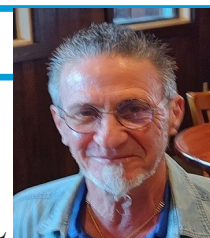
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Jessica Lee
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Jessica Lee
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Website	Tom Burns

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

**Topics for Speakers for 2025?**

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

## Lunar fins President's Notes



Hello Lunar Fins family,

Hopefully we have made it through the last cold front and the dive season is ALL ON. I am ready for some open water, I am sure we all are.

I would like to welcome our new members and returning members to the family:  
Christie Emerson, Rafe Emerson and Max Tinsley, Cherie' Zarsky and Jerrod Doss,  
Returning: JC Andrew's and Matthew Williams.

What amazing turnout at the February meeting, thank you for taking the time out of your busy life's to come participate in the camaraderie and the presentation. Thank you Jennifer Opiela Miksch for a great presentation on the Treasure of Cocos Island, that is definitely a bucket list destination. It was very interesting and informative.

Mardi Gras on the beach was a bit chilly but we had a great time, thank you Kirt Lessinger for hosting it, we are planning on doing it again next year.

Join us for the March 18 meeting at Spring Creek BBQ for Dennis Deavenport's presentation on Rusting Wrecks and Isotopes, it is always interesting and entertaining with Dennis. The details are in the newsletter.

We had 35 people at the last meeting, and it was pretty crowded. We want everyone to be comfortable so we are going to see if it will work better at Spring Creek BBQ. The meeting room is larger there.

Our social for this month is the annual magic show, the details are on page 8, get your tickets early as sometimes seating can get limited on the bus and at the theater, it is a fun event and the Magicians are close and personal.

The HUFF is coming up on April 12 and 13 it is a great way to spend time with great people in our dive community, so leave a place on your dance card.

Happy Saint Patrick's day and be safe out there.

Hope to see you soon,

Fins Up,  
Brion



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



# Welcome!, Welcome!, Welcome!

We (Lunarfans) are happy to announce that Bay Area Divers has merged with our club, as of January's 9th, 2025. You are welcome at all of our events. You will need to fill out an application to join.

Let one of the board know. We will have applications at every meeting or you can go online at our website <https://www.lunarfins.com/>

## 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. Cathy Strahan our treasurer 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 offer. Dennis Deavenport has in the past donated one of his photographs. Bring a few extra dollars to the meeting to help Lunarfins earn money for social events If you have something you would like to donate let one of the BOD members know. *Your friendly Board of Directors*

## Sea Turtles

For more than 35 years, our science-based campaigns have protected nesting beaches, stopped deadly fishing practices, and halted immediate threats to sea turtles and other marine species through hands-on conservation and effective advocacy.

Turtle Island Restoration Network is a *leading advocate* for endangered sea turtles and the oceans that sustain them.

### Why It Matters

- Sea turtles have been around since the time of the dinosaurs—about 110 million years
- The oceans contain 99% of the living space on the planet
- The ocean produces over half of the world's oxygen and absorbs 50 times more carbon dioxide than our atmosphere
- Nearly all species of sea turtle are classified as endangered
- 38 million tonnes of sea creatures are unintentionally caught in global industrial fisheries every year
- At least 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans every year, and make up 80% of all marine debris







## **Our General Meeting — Spring Creek Barbeque**

**Be sure to check out their menu**

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

**March 18th**

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

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

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

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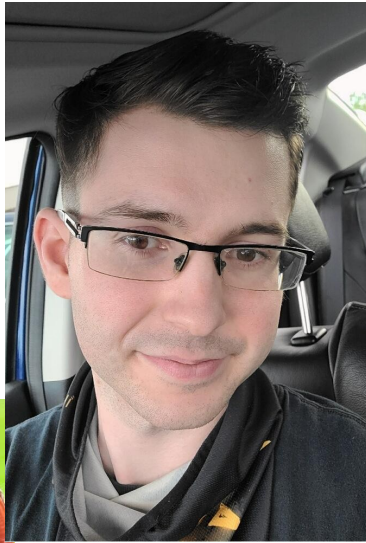
# Welcome to Our Newest Members



**Christie Emerson**



**Rafe is Christie's son**



**Rafe Emerson**



**Max Tinsley**



**Christie and Max**



**Matthews Williams**



**JC Andrews**



**Cherie` Zarsky**



**Jerrod Doss**



# ***Welcome to Our Guest***

**Dave Pickler**



**Henry Wolf**



**Achintya Bairat**

# March Get-To-Gethers

## Lunarfans Get-to-gather

### The Magic Show



**March 22nd - Saturday** This is a special event for Lunarfans with Magician friends of P J joining as guest performers ... there may be as many as 8 performers, both stage and close-up to amaze and amuse us. This is a very intimate theater with only 45 seats and a few comfy couches, so buy your tickets asap. Go to [magicshowtheater.com](http://magicshowtheater.com) and buy your tickets 1 at a time to optimize the discount code "SCUBA"

For seniors over 55, we have a Harris County bus to chauffeur us across town, pickup at St. Thomas Episcopal Church 18300 Upper Bay Rd. in Nassau Bay. You MUST RSVP for the bus to P J at [713-875-6005](tel:713-875-6005) to secure your seat on the bus. Be early 4:45 for 5 pm departure. For those who live closer to the theater than the bus ... feel free to join us for dinner at 6 ish ... show time is 8 pm.

We hope you can join us for World Class entertainment and great camaraderie !!!

**It's time for 5th Edition of the Houston Underwater Film Festival. HUFF 2025 is April 12-13, 2025 at the Match Theater complex! Tickets go on sale soon. For now, get ready for it by watching the world premier of the HUFF 2025 Trailer. — with Betsy Beasley.**





## Training Corner with Jessica Lee, Training Officer

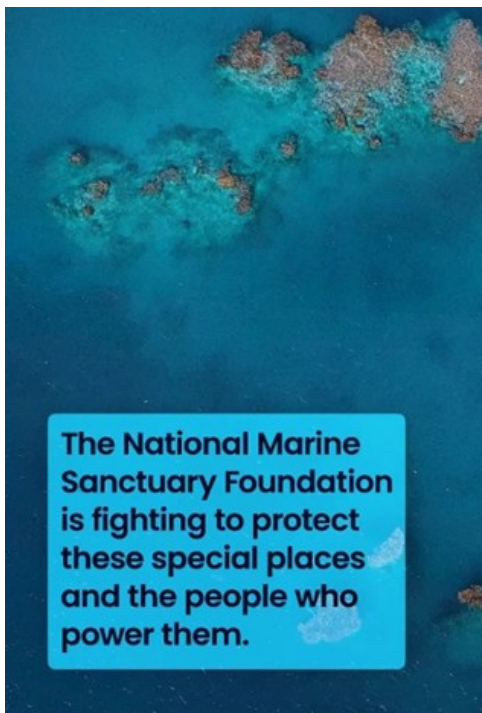
Dear Lunarfans Family!

This is my first article in the Lunarscope. I was hoping it would be a fun, educational moment. However, it is an urgent request for you to help protect something that is undoubtedly important to us all- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees.

“Without public input, America has lost NOAA marine sanctuary scientists, enforcement officers, and conservation specialists who are the backbone of our nation’s marine protections, supporting critical research, resource monitoring, and emergency response efforts. We need our national marine sanctuaries. And our treasured waters—which span more than 629,000 square miles of protected ocean, coastlines, and Great Lakes—need all hands on deck right now. **Tell elected officials that your national marine sanctuaries are essential to communities, and must be protected.**” - National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Sending a letter takes less than two minutes—and shows your lawmakers that their constituents care about NOAA and our national marine sanctuaries. **Let’s make our voices heard!**

Send your letter NOW directly to your members of Congress! [marinesanctuary.org/action](https://marinesanctuary.org/action)



*Photo credits: Ryan Tabata, Andrew Sullivan Haskins, Christian Crook, Douglas Croft, Curtis Wee, Bryan Dort, John Embesi, Matt McIntosh, Claire Fackler*

My personal thoughts: I would not be where I am today without the influence and experiences I have received from NOAA, the Flower Garden Banks NMS, and other national marine sanctuaries. NOAA’s forecasts have helped me and countless others stay safe out on the water. I have learned so much about being a scientific diver, citizen scientist, and experienced the awe of seeing healthy reef ecosystems. This has helped me become a better instructor and ocean advocate. None of this would be possible without NOAA and their hardworking staff. Most importantly- I know that this experience is not unique to me. So many of us, knowingly or unknowingly, have benefited from NOAA’s many services.

### How to Help:

**Tell elected officials that your national marine sanctuaries are essential to communities and must be protected.**

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, works alongside NOAA to support our national marine sanctuaries and helps citizens get involved. They have put together some very helpful resources on how to help your voice be heard by your members of Congress. Please take a moment to read the information below and fill out the form to send a letter to your representative.

Sending a letter takes less than two minutes—and shows your lawmakers that their constituents care about NOAA and our national marine sanctuaries. **Let's make our voices heard!**

Send your letter NOW directly to your members of Congress! [marinesanctuary.org/action](https://marinesanctuary.org/action)



### Sign Your Name: Speak Up for Marine Sanctuary Staff

2-6 Feb, 2025

Without public input, America has lost NOAA marine sanctuary scientists, enforcement officers, and conservation specialists who are the backbone of our nation's marine protections, supporting critical research, resource monitoring, and emergency response efforts. We need our national marine sanctuaries.

And our treasured waters—which span more than 629,000 square miles of protected ocean, coastlines, and Great Lakes—need all hands on deck right now. **Tell elected officials that your national marine sanctuaries are essential to communities, and must be protected.**

**To send a letter directly to your member of Congress, fill out the form to the right!**

[Share this Campaign on Facebook](#)

[Share this Campaign on X \(Twitter\)](#)

#### Tell Elected Officials: Support NOAA Marine Sanctuary Staff!

##### TAKE ACTION

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Email \*

Street Address \*

City \*

Zip/Postal Code \*

Not a US?

Mobile Number (001) 555-0123

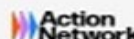
I'M INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT:

- ☐ National history and heritage in sanctuaries
- ☐ Preserving marine habitats
- ☐ Water sports and recreation
- ☐ Supporting coastal and ocean-dependent economies
- ☐ Protecting marine wildlife

##### START WRITING

☒ Opt in to receive updates from National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Sponsored by National Marine Sanctuary Foundation



# Lunarphins Get-Together at Tookies Seafood



**April 5th**

**Time 12:00 Noon**

**1106 Bayport Blvd, Seabrook, TX 77586**

## **National Ocean Service, NOAA**

### **Florida Keys Lionfish Derby & Arts Festival**

April 24-27, 2025

#### Event Details

- April 24 - Kick-off Party and Captain's Meeting
- April 25-26 - Lionfish Hunting Derby teams may fish from sunrise on April 25 through sundown on April 26.
- April 27 - Family-Friendly Arts and Science Festival: A free festival at the REEF Campus in Key Largo, celebrating the intersection of art, science, and marine conservation.

#### Register your derby team!

Teams of 2-4 divers may register online at [www.REEF.org/derby](http://www.REEF.org/derby). Early bird registration is available through March 21. After this date, the fee increases. Deadline is April 24.



**APRIL 12- 13, 2025**



**HOUSTON UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL**

**MIDTOWN ARTS & THEATER CENTER**





## Dive into Summer!

### Included:

- 8 night stay at Plaza Beach & Dive Resort Bonaire June 14-22, 2025. All inclusive meals and drinks.
- Roundtrip airport transfers (on same flight).
- 6 2-tank AM boat dives, 5 1-tank PM boat dive, 17 total boat dives.
- Unlimited shore dives.
- Free upgrade to Nitrox for EANX certified divers.
- Marine Park Fee (\$40pp)
- Taxes (except visitor entry tax)

**Book Now**

divingwithjess@gmail.com | 979.236.9430 | @divingwithjess

### Add ons:

- Guided Night dive \$100
- Courses: Fish ID, Nitrox, Advanced

### Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare to Bonaire
- Bonaire Visitor Entry Tax- \$75pp
- Dive and waitstaff gratuities
- Insurance: Dive and Travel
- Rental equipment

### Pricing based on Double Occ. Diver:

Jr. Suite Laguna View: \$2,850pp

Grand Suite Ocean View: add \$250pp

Non-Diver: subtract \$540pp



# About our Members Congratulations!!

**Paul Cater Deaton**

It is gratifying that "Tomorrow, the Mara" has been named an official selection! Check out the site for festival tickets and information. This is an excellent two-day festival at the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston, and it's not just for divers!

What a great weekend! Saturday saw our invasion of the Texas City Mardi Gras Parade, then Sunday brought a surprise performance by the Huyen Quang Lion Dancers at [Galveston's Own Farmers Market](#) in celebration



# About our Members

## Dennis Deavenport



We need to be on the hunt for one of these guys! 😊

Typically inhabiting tropical and subtropical waters, blue hairy frogfish are often found on coral reefs or amidst rubble and debris on the ocean floor. Their hunting strategy is as fascinating as their appearance. As ambush predators, they use a specialized lure called an esca, which mimics the appearance and movement of small prey like worms or shrimp. This deceptive lure attracts unsuspecting prey, which the frogfish then quickly engulf with its large, extendable mouth.

Unlike most fish, frogfish are not adept swimmers. Instead, they "walk" along the ocean floor using their pectoral fins, which much like legs. This unique mode of locomotion, combined with their ability to change color to match their surroundings, makes them nearly invisible to both predators and prey. The blue hairy frogfish is a perfect example of nature's ingenuity, showcasing an extraordinary blend of adaptation and survival strategies.

**Fun Fact:** Pufferfish release a toxin when they puff out that is meant to impair the attacker, so they can safely escape.

Ironically, this doesn't work on dolphins in the same way.. it actually gets them high. So they purposely inflate them and pass them around to their dolphin friends for fun.





# About our Members

## Pete & Annette Hasbrook



Special treat today! We got a personal tour of [Sea Turtle, Inc](#) by our friend [Amy Daley](#) who volunteers there, along with her husband [Paul Sorenson](#). Our turtle friend was “Merry Christmas”. Paul was working backstage today, cleaning the temporary containers where they’re housing cold-stunned turtles that are being brought in after this weekend’s cold snap.



## Congratulations!!

I had a special opportunity on Thursday night. Attended my first ever [Vocal Majority](#) rehearsal. I saw a lot of guys I know or have met via BHS SWD conventions and Top Gun quartet schools, and even a few old friends from [The Houston Tidelanders](#). And I felt very welcome. The highlight of the evening was being asked to direct Keep the Whole World Singing at the end of the night!



# About our Members

**Justin Wallace**

Malapascua Island, Philippines.



## **M-V Fling by Texas Caribbean Charters**

Our friends in the Panhandle of Florida are bringing a new artificial reef to the Gulf of Mexico.

It's not just new. It's not just B I G . . . it's the largest artificial reef ever built anywhere.

The historic ship, the SS United States, set speed records and raised the bar for passenger ships of her time. She's languished with an uncertain future for a long time, and plenty of folks worried that she would be scrapped - cut up for steel recycling. So this new plan might give those folks hope that her legacy as the greatest, as the bar-raiser, will live on forever.

She's currently making 4.7kts southbound in the Delaware River, headed to sea! She will spend some time in a Mobile, AL shipyard to clean up parts that shouldn't be in the ocean and make her safe for scuba divers like YOU!

We're keeping close tabs on the ship because, if the timing works out, we want to bring the Fling there so we can carry divers to watch the sinking and then be the first to dive the reef!



## **Lunarfins News**

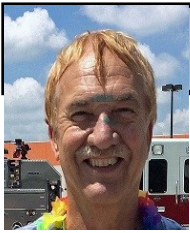
[Dennis Deaveport · esSonptdorMuh9y r6t1h a0m75u113t A2e07m1ha1a4tbt0gt00: 97aFl01 ·](#)

Wellington, the guy filming Paul Cater Deaton's presentation at Lunarfins last meeting, edited it into a good news APP for others to enjoy. Here it is complete with Brion Saathoff as one of the supporting cast. Enjoy.

### **Schaefer, Todd**

Good morning everyone. I am really not good at this but here goes. My name is Todd Schaefer and I am looking for dive buddies. My wife who is my dive partner is the hardest working ICU nurse I know. That makes it hard to get out with her but I am working on staying proficient. I just need someone who is willing to dive local. Mammoth, or Longhorn are fine. I know the vis is terrible but I would rather get wet in terrible than not wet at all. Please feel free to shoot me a DM if you have any room for me to tag along. Schaefer, Todd <CaptainToddSchaefer@gmail.com>.





## The “Endurance” ship

Sent in by [Michael Peters](#)



This started out being an article on the “Endurance”, the famous explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew left the South Atlantic on October 26, 1914, a whaling port of Grytviken on the island of South Georgia and set sail for the Weddell Sea. Their goal was to reach the South Pole and cross the Antarctic continent: something no explorer in human history had — at that point in time — managed to do.

For a short while, it seemed as though [Shackleton’s voyage](#) would end in success, not shipwreck. Thanks to its rounded hull, their ship — christened the *Endurance* — was able to work its way through thick layers of pack ice. The further the crew waded into Antarctic waters, the thicker this ice became. Before long, their ship was moving at a pace of less than 30 miles per day.

In January of 1914, heavy winds caused the pack ice to compress, surrounding the *Endurance* from every direction. The crew attempted to hack their way through the ice, but when the ship failed to gain the momentum necessary to free itself, Shackleton decided that it was unwise to waste any more coal and manpower.

The expedition had come to a grinding halt. Its boilers extinguished, the *Endurance* was forced to wait for the ice to disperse naturally, which did not happen. Winds rose and temperatures fell further still, heralding a blizzard that continued into July. After getting stuck again, the ship’s masts collapsed, and the bow was crushed.

On November 21, 1915, pressure waves crashed down upon the *Endurance*, causing the ice to separate. Unable to keep afloat, the heavily damaged ship sank into the depths below. Against all odds, Shackleton and his crew [survived the ordeal](#) and returned to civilization, but their trusted vessel had turned into a shipwreck and was lost forever.

**The Endurance was** discovered in 2022, this was the ship that Captain Ernest Shackleton tried to sail to Antarctica in 1915. Bound’s discovery team started from Cape Town on a research and logistics vessel dubbed the *Endurance22* and set courses for the Weddell Sea. Once the icebreaker reached the point where the original *Endurance* was believed to have sunk, they used underwater search vehicles to locate the wreck, which had rested at depths of 3 kilometers for more than a century.

Thanks to environmental conditions, the *Endurance* was preserved extraordinarily well. “It would appear that there is little wood deterioration,” Dr. Michelle Taylor, a polar biologist at the University of Essex, [told the BBC](#), “inferring that the wood-munching animals found in other areas of our ocean are, perhaps unsurprisingly, not in the forest-free Antarctic region.”

While many people would love a chance to see the *Endurance* in person, the wreck won’t be exhibited in a museum any time soon. Doing so would violate the [Antarctic Treaty](#), which was signed to regulate international relations regarding Antarctica, and which designates Shackleton’s ship as a historic monument that cannot be removed from its current position.

The *Endurance* quickly became one of the most famous shipwrecks of all time, second only to the *Titanic*. So, let’s do a deep dive (no pun intended) into the fascinating logistics of recovering centuries-old shipwrecks.

To learn more about go to <https://bigthink.com/the-past/ernest-shackleton-shipwreck-atlanta/>

**At the March meeting you might get lucky I am giving away a copy of the book *The Endurance*.**

# American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



## 2025 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. 2025 registration is \$20.

“Supporters” on record for 2023 or 2024 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2025 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: \_\_\_\_\_



I am pleased to **report that 2025** shows significant progress for ACWA. ACWA increased its support of community activities, Target Donations have continued, and Supporter support has rebounded. Your officers and subcommittees continue to move us forward, and develop a solid base. Our prospects for the future are bright.

This document contains updated Supporter information. It also provides a summary of all ACWA's Subcommittees. These subcommittees work with your officers to conduct ACWA's day-by-day business.

ACWA "Supporter" activities:

- 16 of the 26 have recommitted for 2025 with \$20 or more.
- Thank you/update emails have been sent to Supporters who are current.
- Commitment reminders/update emails have been sent to those Supporters who have not renewed their commitment for 2025.

Supporter income for 2025 is \$520. Amount includes two Supporters who contributed in excess of the required \$20, and 4 individuals that chose to support our charity, but did not want to commit as Supporters.

ACWA Subcommittee Report:

ACWA has a number of dedicated members who have been assigned to evaluate/establish procedures/handle periodic duties for certain areas of our operations. Some are active, others are positioned to handle situations should they arise. They are as follows, with details provided where appropriate:

- ACWA Booth - Ja Van Pruett & PeeWee Dwire. Handles appearances at events.

- Donation Review Committee:

Kirk Leissner Chairman, Dennis Deavenport & Betsy Beasley members

Mission – Develop for; a list of; and preferential order of groups/charities/foundations/etc. that ACWA should support.

Establish procedure/criteria for evaluating future ACWA donation targets.

Advertising Coordinators– Betsy Beasley & Dennis Deavenport

Donations and Donner Correspondence Coordinator– Frank Burek

Founder Committee:

Frank Burek Chairman, Mark Leiserowitz, Dennis Deavenport.

As the Incorporator of ACWA, this group is responsible for defining what ACWA's purpose and objectives are.

Develop and provide guidance to the ACWA Board of Directors on the general direction/scope/purpose/objectives of ACWA in accordance with ACWA's Incorporation, 501(c)(3) public non-profit submission (IRS form 1024EZ) and ACWA's Bylaws.

Define "WHY" ACWA was established.

- o To provide general guidance for day to day ACWA's operations.

"Supporter" Coordinator:

Frank Burek

Maintaining contact and coordination with ACWA's "Supporters".

- **Target Donation Review Committee:**

Chairperson – Martin Daniels

Member – Dennis Deavenport

ACWA provides support for our community's decision in the donation process. Community members can utilize ACWA to direct donations thru the charity. Target Donations is a service we provide our community, as well as others who may share our interests.

**Target donations:**

Increases ACWA's community's impact.

Provide a forum for determining community interest (ACWA Website posting) in a donation target.

Provides ACWA's Board with input on what charitable targets our community believes its charity should be addressing.

Charge:

Review possible "Target Donation offers" to determine what types are appropriate for ACWA to be in the middle of.

Establish procedures and guidelines for their evaluation and establish an ACWA decision making process. To what extent

ACWA needs to examine the donor, the donor's intent, and the donor's donation target to being in accordance with the IRS's 501(c)(3) standards. What to do if the target donation is on ACWA's donation list, or not on that list.

Create and Maintain the "Target Donation" instruction list in ACWA's Operating Manuel.

At this time, I envision input from all these subcommittees being incorporated into an ACWA Operating Manuel. Copies of the Operating Manuel would be made available to Board Members. The master copy of the manual would be the responsibility of the ACWA President. Maintenance of the individual sections would be the responsibility of the subcommittee chairpersons.

Please note that you should be in possession of the minutes from our January 8, 2025 meeting. Changes or additions should be sent to me by February 5<sup>th</sup>. Once in order, I will call each of you for a voice vote. Final disposition will be at our January 7, 2026 Board meeting when we will document the vote.

Best to you all.

Frank Burek

ACWA President

# 2025 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2025. This scholarship is given in memory of the many deceased members and leaders 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 higher educational goal of the members, and their families, who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

## **Eligibility Rules:**

Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2025, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2025.

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 2025.

Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2025**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 10, 2025.

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.

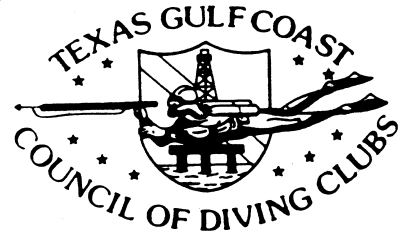
Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.

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 throughout the year.

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



# 2025 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 2025: \_\_\_\_\_

(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, BAD, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarphins, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# You should have been at our February 4th, General Meeting





**You should have  
been at our  
February 15th, Get-to-gather,  
Mediterraneo Market & Café**





# Bay Area Divers Farewell Party

## February 16th., 2025



We had the pleasure of enjoying a delicious brunch with friends today, surrounded by warmth and laughter.





# **You should have been at our february 18th, General Meeting**

Jennifer Opiela-Miksch





# **You should have been at Mardi Gras *On The Beach***





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

119 South Circle Drive  
Liverpool TX 77577

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.tgccdive.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 Madi Gras



Kirk and Brion have already found a great spot for next year. It will be on the west side of a little pavilion so it will be easier for everyone on the concrete. Next year we want everyone to come and enjoy the fun.

## 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/)



### Gigglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

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

