



Lunarfins Scuba Club

April 18th.

“Extreme Pacific—Truk Wrecks & Outer Atolls of French Polynesia

By Justin Wallace & Scott Singleton

I am thrilled to invite you 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.



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Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **May. 8th** 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.

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Frances Boutin,
Crystal Lee,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Tom & Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Cathy Strahan,
Louise Toole,
Justin Wallace



Lunarfins
111 Circle Dr.
Liverpool, TX
77577



Membership

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

“The renewal form and dues payment is required as soon as possible prior to April 1.

Please bring the form (below) to the next meeting or mail it in.

Please fill in all fiANelds completely so that records can be verified this time around.

Don't forget to check your interest (s) and if you want to be included in the directory.

Membership Application

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



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

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

Apr. 12, 13 — HUFF— MATCH THEATERS

Apr. 15th — General Meeting — Justin Wallace & Scott Singleton — “Extreme Pacific -Truk Wrecks & Outer Atolls of French Polynesia—2710 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

Apr. 20th — Easter Sunday —



May 15th — La Brais @ 12pm p.

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

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

**July 15th — General Meeting — Betsy & Craig Beasey—
Movie Night with the Beasleys**

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,

Well spring is finally here, and I am sure everyone is excited about the dive season starting up.

The timing for the film festival [HUFF] is perfect to stir the urge to get in the water, we will be looking forward to seeing you on either Saturday April 12th or on Sunday the 13th. If you are able to make it, the details are on page 8.

I hope you can join us at the April 18th meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in League City, we have Justin Wallace and Scott Singleton giving us an Extreme Pacific presentation. They are always entertaining and fun to be around.

It was nice to have a little more room for everyone to move around. I realize that the food option is limited but it is less commotion and noise during the presentation and if I am not feeling like BBQ then I eat before I get there.

Please remember that April is the month to renew your membership, Cathy Strahan has worked out an option for those that do not use snail mail and checks. If you need a receipt, please ask Cathy and she will be happy to write you one, we don't automatically do that as I believe most of them would get thrown away and just create more waste, if you prefer to write a check and mail it, we have changed the address to:
119 S CIRCLE DRIVE LIVERPOOL TEXAS 77577-9723.

Welcome our newest member Crystal M Lee, she always has a smile on her face. it is always nice to see you, Crystal.

Our next social is Saturday April 5th at the Tookies in Seabrook, the details are on page 7. It is a good time to get to know each a little better and trade scuba adventures.

Tom and Cindy Reuland told me at the last meeting that they put the house up for sale and are moving out of state, I will miss them, they have been a great help in growing Lunarfins and are kind and generous members.

If you can't get to the film festival and are in the Galveston area on Saturday April the 12th the Sanctuary is having an open house which sounds like a great time, the details are on page 17.

Thank you, Dennis Daavenport and Mike Greuter, for taking time out of your busy worlds to bring the March 18 presentation to us in person.

The zoom connection should be better at this next meeting. We are using a different way to connect to cyber space.

Happy Easter and blessings to everyone.

May there be many bubbles in your future.

Fins up,

Brion



**Members, if you have any diving gear that you want to sale.
Please let someone on the board.**



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.lunarfans.com/>

Lunarfan's Raffle — Let's Make Some Money

Lunarfans'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 Lunarfans earn money for social events If you have something you would like to donate let one of the BOD members know. You never know what will be offered.
Your friendly Board of Directors

Lunarfans - Please keep Cathy Strahan in your prayers



I am grateful for your life...
even as I mourn your death.
I laugh at the memories...
even as I cry for those not made.
I recognize the beauty in life...
even as I experience its ugliness.
I embrace hope and joy...
even as my heart breaks.
I live... even as I grieve.

It is with much sadness to say that my mother passed away into heaven this morning. I pray that she finds peace and happiness in being reunited with my dad and brother. Her final days have been really hard on my sister and I, as her body didn't seem to want to let go even though her mind was already in heaven. I prayed god to take her and not prolong the inevitable. This morning she got her wings and is no longer having to endure the pain she was in.

May she rest in peace.



Our General Meeting — Spring Creek Barbeque

Be sure to check out their menu

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

April 15th

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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2710 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

Welcome to Our Newest Members



Crystal M Lee

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. 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

Order your tickets Now, See all the information and links to buy tickets at the HUFF website huff.hups.org.



Houston Underwater Film Festival 2025

Saturday, April 12, 3 pm Show

Environmental

1. Bone Shark Island
2. Requiem for the Baltic Sea
3. Ocean Governance
4. Critically Endangered
5. Overwhelming Remorse
6. The Cushion Star Dilemma
7. Tides of Change

Art House Flicks

1. He's Mine
2. Samsara
3. The Dream of Sperm Bar
4. Spectral Symbiosis
5. 2 Minutes
6. Flow
7. Educating
8. Power of Love

Macro

1. Rolling in the Deep - Romblon
2. Rhythms of the Reef
3. Uncle Bob's Small World
4. Breakfast at Anilao
5. The Coconut Octopus
6. Another Biodiversity Movie
7. Cosmogony
8. Beneath the Horizon
9. Magic of the Macroverse

Sunday, April 13, 3 pm Show

Feature Length

1. The Stingray Whisperer
2. Dreaming of Raja Ampat
3. The Magic of Coldwater Diving
4. Epic Encounters in the Sea of Cortez
5. Palau
6. The Coral Reef Cleaning Station
7. Residents of the Norwegian Sea
8. The Cosmos Beneath
9. Spring Arrives

Dance & Free Diving

1. I Feel You
2. The Deepest Kiss
3. Arminia - Coming Home
4. Anhelita
5. Aquaballet

Made In Texas

1. Fiji - Unspoiled Paradise
2. Tomorrow, the Mara
3. Diving Tubbataha
4. Why
5. 50 Shades of Nudis
6. Cuttlefish in Love

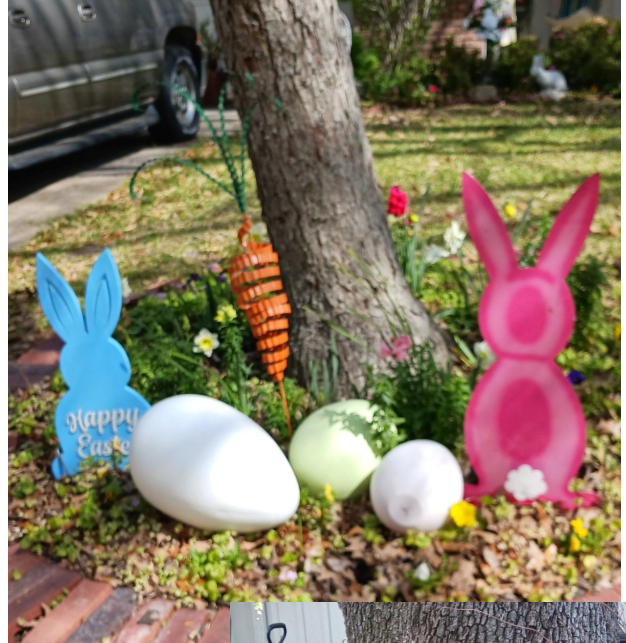
Animation

1. Even Though
2. The Sea in the Opposite Direction
3. Forest of Light Aquarium
4. The Enchanting Locket
5. The A Train Episode 2 - Global Warming
6. The Parallax
7. Drifting Turtle
8. Alien Felines from Beyond the Galaxy
9. The Ocean Protection City
10. Fish I

About our Members

Frances Boutin

Spring has sprung I love my garden and especially my bunnies.



About our Members Congratulations!!

Paul Cater Deaton

The 71st annual [Boston Sea Rovers](#) show was exceptional. There are always presentations by world-class, seasoned professionals and newcomers alike, but this year's group seemed to be way above average.

The film festival was superb and featured such luminaries as Dr. Bob Ballard, [Cristian Dimitrius](#), Eric Cheng and [Jennifer Sellitti](#) (who received a standing ovation for her presentation, which she narrated live). My dear friend [Nancy McGee](#) absolutely killed it as the emcee.

I had the pleasure of presenting in the Cousteau Room on Saturday morning. Despite some technical difficulties, my screening of "Return to Nemo's Garden" went well. The audience were quite supportive.

As chair in the same room for the Saturday afternoon sessions, I had the honor of introducing Christian Dimitrius, Jake Stout, [Madeline Kennedy](#) and Nancy McGee, all of whom gave brilliant presentations.

I was especially proud of Madeline, who gave a wonderful seminar on documentary production. This young superstar is definitely someone to watch.

But I think the highlight for me was seeing my good friend Chris Reed and his daughter, [Chloe](#), during the intermission. She and her sister have to be my biggest fans! I met them six years ago and it was a really special treat to see Chloe and her dad at the film festival.

I must also give a shoutout to Susan Copelas and the Northshore Frogmen dive club, who were kind enough to have me as a guest speaker on the evening before Sea Rovers. I showed "Tomorrow, the Mara" and tag-teamed with Jon Salas, who gave a thrilling talk about exploring some of the military ships sunk by nuclear bomb tests in Bikini Atoll in the 40s. He shared some amazing stories.



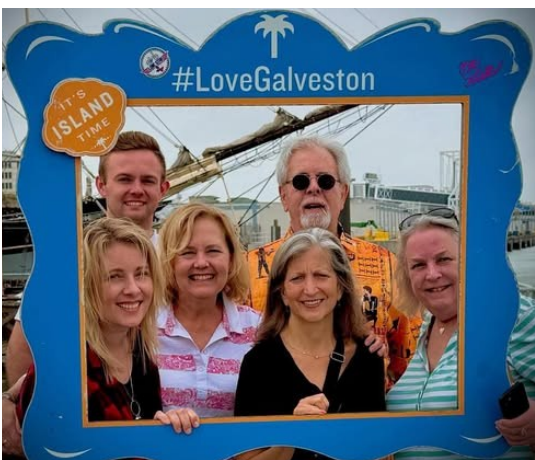
If you attended the [Boston Sea Rovers](#) show over the weekend and were unable to see my screening of "Return to Nemo's Garden," you are invited to see it on the screen page of [Paul-CaterDeaton.com](#).

About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton (Continued)



It was very nice to have family visit the island over the weekend. We had gathered from far and wide to celebrate the life of our Aunt Mary. There were loads of sibs, cousins and friends.



About our Members

Cindy and Tom Rueland



It was a short Journey at the Houston Rodeo concert last night. After about 20 minutes, in the middle of Don't Stop Believin', all the stage lights and speakers went out. It turned out there was an electrical fire. End of show. It was great while it lasted, but I stopped believin' it would resume.



About our Members

Louise Toole

Louise, thank you for sharing this very illuminating news.



How great for the color blind to see colors they could not see before now.

This young boy is one of the first visually impaired individuals to receive artificial vision support from Elon Musk and Tesla, allowing him to see colors and his surroundings for the first time.

Space Astronaut — NASA Explore The Universe

This is actually Earth! This image was taken by SpaceX.



SpaceX founder Elon Musk said Saturday its massive Starship rocket would leave for Mars at the end of 2026 with Tesla humanoid robot Optimus onboard, adding that human landings could follow “as soon as 2029.”

[https://
www.globalvillagespace.com/musk-
says-starship-to.../](https://www.globalvillagespace.com/musk-says-starship-to.../)

About our Members

Justin Wallace

Cozumel



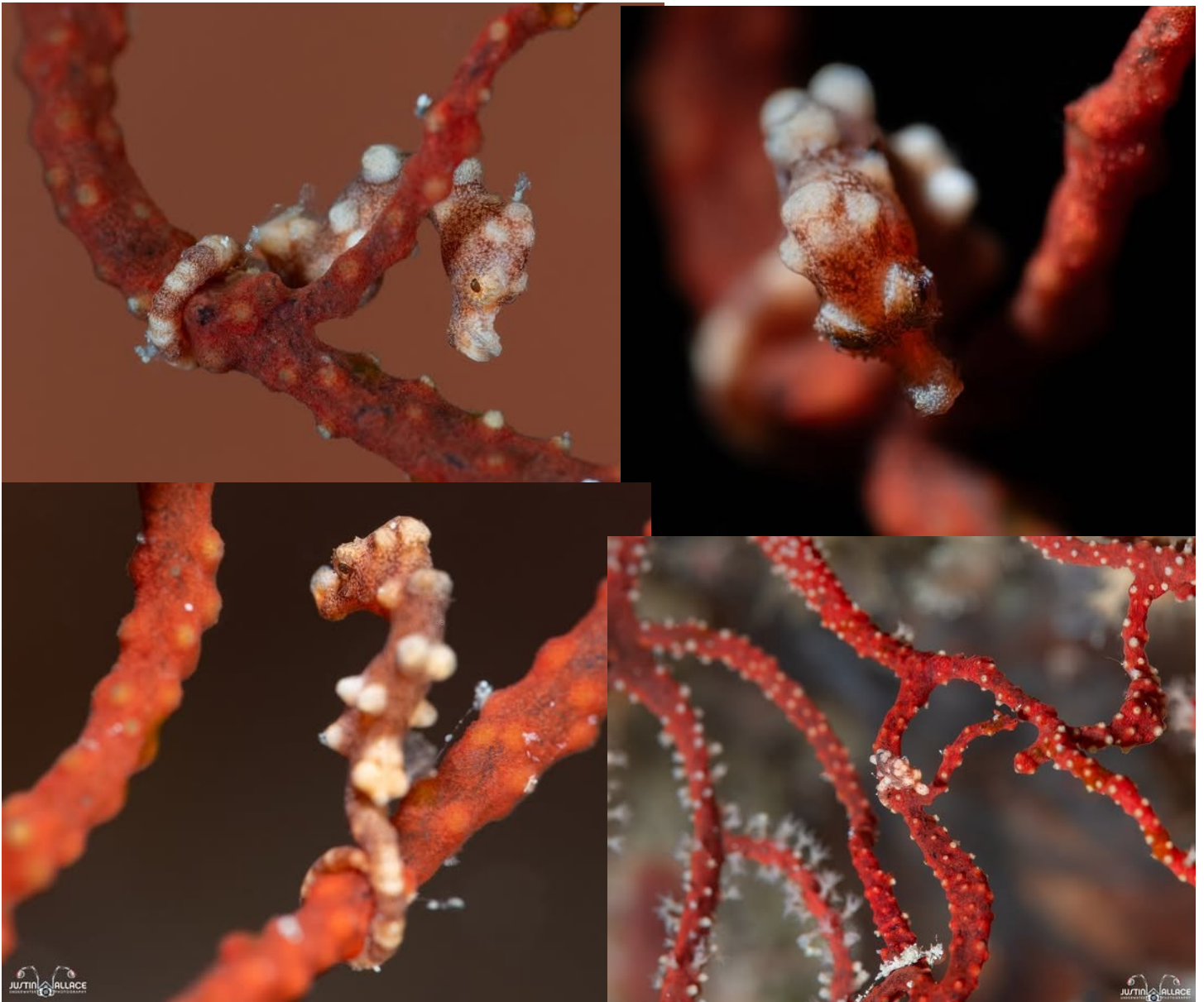
About our Members

Justin Wallace

PYGMY HORSE

Tiny, elusive, and perfectly camouflaged—photographing this pygmy seahorse was hands down the hardest shot of my underwater photography career. These creatures are barely the size of a grain of rice, blending seamlessly with their coral homes. Getting this shot meant precise buoyancy, delicate camera control, and a whole lot of patience. No touching, no disturbing—just waiting for the perfect moment.

Nature rewards those who respect it





Get Into Your Sanctuary Day

Get to “NOAA” us and discover your national marine sanctuary off the Texas and Louisiana coast!

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is inviting the community to visit our open house for a day of ocean, science, and corals. Featuring marine scientists, underwater technology, lionfish demonstrations, hands-on activities, and more, this FREE event is open to the public.

Location: Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Headquarters, 4700 Ave U, Galveston, Texas 77551

Date: Saturday, April 12, 2025

Time: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Event Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to greet visitors at the gates and assist staff members with various activities that showcase the wide variety of work that happens at the sanctuary. Volunteers will assist with the setup/take down of pop up tents, tables and chairs at the beginning/end of their shift. Volunteers should be comfortable with talking to event attendees and have some familiarity with the sanctuary. Some volunteer stations are outside, near or under shade. Volunteer shifts are three hours. Volunteers may work both shifts, if desired.

Volunteer shifts:

9 a.m.-12 p.m.: 21 volunteers needed

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. 21 volunteers needed

To sign up, please email Taylor.Galaviz@noaa.gov

M-V Fling by Texas Caribbean Charters

Our commitment to safety offshore means that we put our crew in situations where they can learn to work together and solve problems. This builds confidence for them to respond in an emergency in the field.

We spent the first morning taking a deep dive into the vsl drills (Fire, MOB, Abandon). We conduct regular drills throughout the year, but this was an opportunity for them to work with all the combined leadership teams in one place. During our last training they used fire extinguishers to put out real fires (sorry neighbors in Freeport for the smoke!) and this year the crew launched and explored the life rafts on the boat. Inside the rafts, they were able to see the actual conditions that survivors face at sea and examine the features and supplies in the rafts. They spend some time learning about our SKED rescue device, and how to pack wounds using a pork roast! Yum!

Fire is the greatest threat to any ship at sea, so we had a scavenger hunt where each crew had to locate all the fire extinguishers on the boat (all five compartments, even the smelly engine room).

When you think about it, a person overboard may not sound like an emergency, but our crew knows that a diver having trouble is no different than a person who has fallen overboard. Our MOB game is pretty good, and we carry gear that most commercial vessels don't - we can swim out a line and floatation, we have most excellent boarding ladders, there's plenty of people to help, and this is all in addition to the standard marine gear like life rings, PFDs, etc.

Next, we spent the afternoon deploying the O2 gear. Every crew deployed the portable O2 gear, practicing starting O2 and monitoring a diver. THEN, they did it all over again using our less-portable O2 gear that we carry to provide longer term O2 on the way in and while awaiting evacuation.

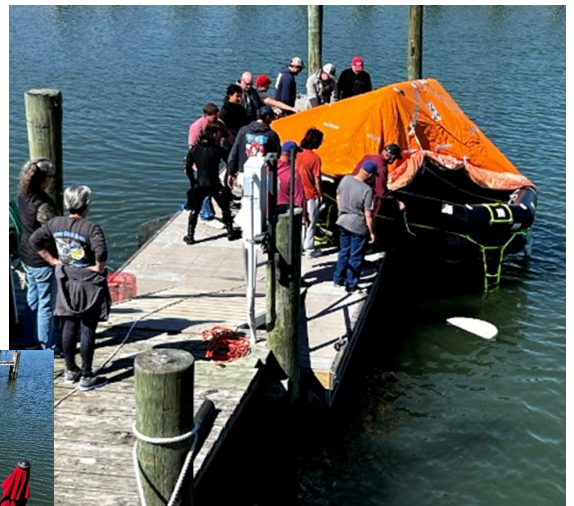
On Tuesday, we started at the pool. Our friends at Moody Gardens helped out with CCR familiarization and rescue. CCRs are being used more each year in institutional diving missions and we're gearing up to support those missions.

Afterwards, the crew went into the pool themselves! They practiced donning a life jacket in the water first, and then buddied up in groups to learn how to conserve heat (in the appropriately named HEAT formation) in the water. They then spread out while connected together to learn how to signal searchers without using any gear! And then they practiced making improvised floatation, in case they ever find themselves in the water with nothing to help.

The rest of the day was First Aid / CPR training for those who needed to update it.

Our commitment to safety starts long before your trip departs. Annual safety training is how we keep the crew educated and practiced at keeping you (and them) safe at sea!

We hope to see you offshore with us real soon! But please try not



Dive into the Gulf with KPRC '2s

Dive into the Gulf with KPRC 2's Chief Meteorologist Anthony Yanez to witness the beauty of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary with the team working to preserve the ecological treasure. **"Garden in the Gulf: Reef Rescue Mission"** showcases the critical work being done by the Moody Gardens Dive Team in partnership with NOAA to study coral reefs along the Texas Gulf coast, which could help rehabilitate other living coral reefs across the world that have sustained damage due to climate change and pollution. Learn about progress being made, environmental stories revealed in the coral cores, and challenges posed by invasive species like lionfish. "Garden in the Gulf: Reef Rescue Mission" airs Thursday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. on KPRC 2 and on the KPRC 2+ livestream.

[M-V Fling by Texas Caribbean Charters](#)

[tdeSroonsp23gmtu1g9tu61ff91hu0ii659ugth0638i855481703m1i1g5g](#) ·

We have fewer rules in Texas. In fact, Texas doesn't have any rules. The Fed rules are the same tho - 600 ft of water, holes / weight in casket, we file report to EPA, etc.

Who would you like to push overboard? Or maybe you'd like to be pushed one day! A burial at sea might be perfect for the scuba diver.

Land-based cemeteries lock up that land forever, never to be put to good use again. At sea, well, you know what happens - you become part of the ocean.

If you want your bits to return to the sea, we can help you. Let your family know, and plan ahead. We'd be proud to bring you on one last trip out to sea.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/163Cvo8xzx/>

Court Win Protects Whales, Sea Turtles, and 73 Million Acres of Ocean

March 28, 2025

What happened: A federal court ruled that the government broke the law two years ago when it irresponsibly put 73 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico up for auction to oil and gas companies. Earthjustice represented Gulf-based and environmental groups in the case. We sued the government for failing to adequately consider the lease sale's adverse impacts on the critically endangered Gulf of Mexico Rice's whale and climate change.

Why it matters: Holding this lease sale was a colossal mistake. Oil and gas drilling in the Gulf spikes climate emissions and threatens already-overburdened communities living near oil refineries and other polluting infrastructure. It also imperils many kinds of marine life.

We are continuing to fight the government's attempts to sell our oceans to the oil and gas industry. This February, we filed the first major environmental lawsuit against the second Trump administration, challenging President Trump's executive order to revoke protections from millions of acres of undeveloped public waters, including in the Gulf of Mexico.

The next offshore oil and gas sale, one of three proposed over the next five years, is currently planned for late 2025. Today's decision means Interior must give greater consideration to impacts on the Gulf ecosystem and global climate before proceeding with that sale — and any future sales.



Marsala Punic shipwreck

Sent in by [Michael Peters](#)

Discovered by a dredge ship near the city of Marsala, off the western coast of Sicily, the Marsala Punic ship wreck dates back around 2,300 years. The ship was built by the Carthaginians, a people based in the city of Carthage in what is now Tunisia. They fought a series of wars against the Roman republic, and eventually, Carthage was destroyed by the Romans. The ship was about 115 feet (35 meters) long and was well-preserved. Only a small number of artifacts, including a spearhead, an anchor and ballast stones, were found with the wreck.



“Between two piles of ballast-stones, a large timber (such as I had never seen before) emerged from the sand like the head of a primeval animal crowned with weed: the presence of a wreck was evident.” (Honor Frost, 1981).

Fifty years ago today a unique ancient shipwreck was discovered off the western coast of Sicily by an underwater survey team directed by Honor Frost. Over the course of the next seven years the remains of the vessel were excavated, recovered, conserved and reconstructed.

The distinctive ship hull was sleek, built for speed, and bore Punic shipwrights' marks. It carried little cargo other than ballast stones, and was dated through epigraphy, ceramic analysis and radio-carbon dating to the mid-third century BC. Discussions regarding the vessel's precise function have excited specialists over the decades. Frost hypothesised that it was a military long-ship that came to grief following the sea battle between the Romans and Carthaginians that ended the First Punic War on March 10, 241 BC. The Punic Ship, currently on display in Marsala at the [Museo archeologico Lilybaeum Baglio Anselmi](#) is recognised as a milestone in the history of archaeology.

To mark the 50th anniversary the Honor Frost Foundation has developed a [virtual exhibition](#) and a [virtual dive](#) to tell the story of this remarkable discovery. You can also listen to our podcast, [Dive & Dig](#) which includes more information about the discovery and Honor's legacy.

The **Marsala Punic shipwreck** is a third-century-BC [shipwreck](#) of two [Punic](#) ships. The wreck was discovered in 1969, off the shore of Isola Lunga, not far from [Marsala](#) on the western coast of [Sicily](#). It was excavated from 1971 onwards. The excavation, led by [Honor Frost](#) and her team, lasted four years and revealed a substantial portion of the hull structure.

The first, more significant wreck, turned out to be an ancient military [galley](#) that was named the Marsala Punic Ship. The second ship, dubbed Sister Ship, was identified as a merchant vessel. Inscriptions in [Punic script](#) have made it possible to attribute the remains unquestionably to the Punic. Upon its discovery, the Marsala shipwreck was the sole surviving wreck from its era. The Marsala Punic Ship is believed to have played a role in the momentous [Battle of the Aegates](#) in 241 BC. The ship's state of preservation, unique features, and artifacts offered a glimpse into the advanced production techniques, and daily life aboard ancient warships. The study of the wreck has advanced current knowledge of the [Carthaginian navy](#) at the time of the [First Punic War](#) and validated some information provided by ancient sources.

In 1969, Diego Boninni, the captain of a [commercial dredge](#) operating off the shore of Isola Lunga, not far from [Marsala](#) on the western coast of [Sicily](#), discovered underwater formations covered with [Posidonia seagrass](#). Boninni showed some of his discoveries to Eduardo Lipari, a local whose family was connected to archeological excavations in the area. That same year, Boninni and Lipari took diver-archaeologist Gerhard Kapitän and British pioneer underwater archaeologist [Honor Frost](#) to the site of the underwater heaps. Frost and Kapitän returned to the area to further investigate what they had identified as ship [ballast](#) piles, evidence of ancient marine wrecks.

Marsala Punic shipwreck (Continued)

One of the wrecks surveyed in 1970 yielded a spearhead discovered within the ballast pile, along with a warship-type anchor found nearby. Other iron objects were also found, including what was interpreted to be a [corvus](#), a military boarding device that played a notable role during the [First Punic War](#). Based on the collective discoveries, Frost inferred that the site potentially represents the wreck of a warship. Likewise, the presence of other ballast piles in the vicinity suggested that the sinkings in the area were likely the result of acts of war. Frost returned in 1971 to the "Anchor and Spearhead Wreck" but her team's soundings did not find any wooden ship remains. In 1971, expedition photographer [David Singmaster](#) signaled an off-course find to Frost at a depth of 2.5 m (8.2 ft). He had found two new piles of ballast stones, with a large [stern](#) timber emerging from the sand in between. More wooden remains of the ancient vessel were found, some of which were inscribed with Punic letters. The Punic letters were used as numerals and were painted at intervals along the keel to the positions of the ribs. The vessel was dubbed the Marsala Punic Ship. The Sicilian authorities and the [British School at Rome](#) mandated archaeologist Honor Frost to direct the excavations which were carried out over the course of four successive annual campaigns. Annual reports were published in the [International Journal of Nautical Archaeology](#). The final report was published by the [Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei](#) in 1981. The excavation was carried out off the shore of Isola Lunga, north of the Marsala, a town known in the ancient era as Lilybaeum and founded by the Carthaginians after the destruction of [Motya](#) in 397 B.C. In 1974, the stern and very few other remains of another ship were discovered 70 m (230 ft) south of the Marsala Punic Ship. The second vessel was named Sister Ship.

The reconstructed Marsala Punic Ship retains the ship's original dimensions and materials. The ship was constructed from [pine](#) and [aceraceous](#) wood, materials that did not respond well to chemical preservation treatments. The Marsala Punic Ship boasted a straight [keel](#) measuring 30 m (98 ft), making the overall length nearly 35 m (115 ft), with a width of 4.8 m (16 ft), including the side gangways. Estimated at around 120 metric tons. The excavation findings and the shape of the vessel indicated that the remains were not from a merchant ship. Merchant ships typically have features designed for storing goods or drinking water, whereas the [crockery](#) discovered at the site was meant for individual use. The ship was found to contain various types of butchered meats, such as deer, horse, beef, mutton, goat, and pork. Additionally, fragments of [marijuana](#) stalks were found, presumably for the [oarsmen](#) to chew on. The archaeologists made several other discoveries, including fragments of a basket, a rope, and human bones, suggesting that a person had been trapped. The presence of ballast confirmed the military nature of the Marsala Punic Ship.

The ship's hydrodynamic features demonstrate the maritime expertise inherited from the [Phoenicians](#), renowned innovators in shipbuilding who influenced both the Greeks and Romans. Additionally, it is believed that despite its [trireme](#) dimensions, the Marsala Ship was a [quadrireme](#) modeled after the fast and agile [Rhodian](#) galleys. In 264 BC, the Romans seized Phoenician quinqueremes that ran aground. [Polybius](#) reports that the ship served as a model for the Romans' fleet ships; they realized the additional advantage of using [Phoenician joints](#) in shipbuilding, as the lumber used in edge-joined ship [strakes](#) does not have to be [dried](#). Early in the First Punic War in 260 BC, the Phoenician shipbuilding technology allowed the Romans to build a fleet of 100 quinqueremes within two months. The Marsala wreck was entirely conceived and realized 'shell first' because of the presence of bolted floor timbers.

The shapes of the remains of the ships complement each other, in particular with a ram, and provide a unique document of the Carthaginian navy during the First Punic War. The information supplied by the excavation and the study of the Marsala Punic shipwreck corroborated naval depictions in Punic numismatics and [Carthage tophet](#) steles. Painted markings and traces of two alphabetic sequences discovered on the ships' hulls, along with its Phoenician origin, indicate a standardized [prefabricated components](#) production process, explaining the rapid deployment of Carthaginian military fleets. Each plank of the keel was marked with an alphabetic sign intended for assembly; Punic words have also been identified. The inscriptions were found on the inner side of the keel and the hull. Each sign indicated the position of each piece. The ship's components were assembled by carpenters after being prepared by joiners. This archaeological discovery corroborates ancient historians' observations regarding the remarkable speed of construction of these Punic ships, which was previously considered unlikely. [Appian](#) reported that during the [Third Punic War](#) around 147 B.C., despite the Roman siege of Carthage, the Carthaginians built several dozen triremes and quinqueremes. Since the discovery in Marsala, modern historians have been provided with further evidence supporting the assertion regarding the remarkable speed of construction of these Punic ships. This construction system validated [Polybius'](#) account of the Romans capturing a Punic ship and using it as a model to build their own fleet in record time.

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



Last Minute Lunarfins News, ect.

Sport Divers is offering a trip to Cozumel for \$1K for diving and hotel. Airfare and meals are on the individual who signs up. But for 7 nights and 6 days of diving that's a pretty good deal!

April 25 — May 2nd @ The hotel is the Coral Princess

Ocean Front Suites, Beachside Restaurant, Infinity-edge Pool, Spa, Diving...

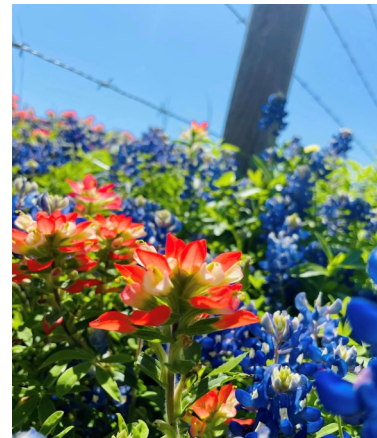
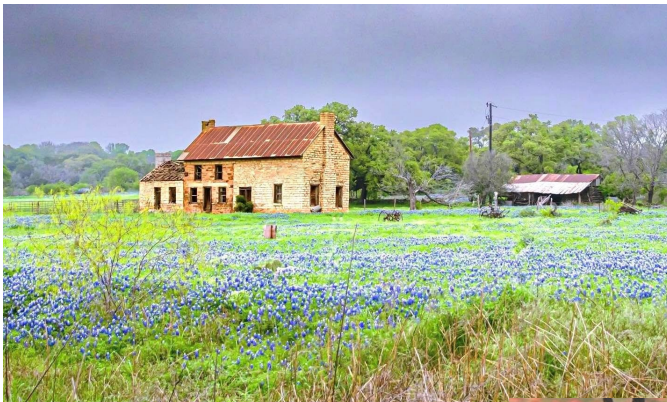
Paul Cater Deaton

Crikey! We are so excited!
We just found out that we
get to go on the inaugural
cruise!



Cathy Strahan

It's wildflower season in Texas! I love this time of year when I have to opportunity to get out of town and see the gorgeous fields of purple, pink, orange and yellow! These are from last year but I am wanting to take more from this year still! The weather plays a huge part in the Texas wildflower season and you never know where you will see the best blooms.



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: _____

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.

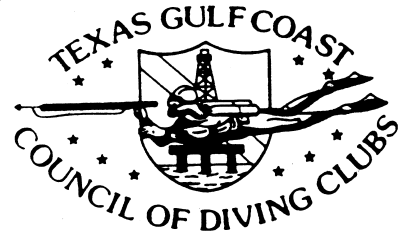
A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.

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:

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.): _____

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

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

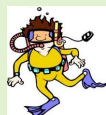
**You should have
been at our
March 18th, General Meeting**
Dennis Deavenport and Mike Greuter



**You should have
been at our
March 22nd, Lunarflins Get-together,
The Magic Show**



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

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/



You should have been at Magic Show



Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.



Diving with Jess

Dive Training~Group Travel~
First Aid

divingwithjess@gmail.com

979-236-9430



Giglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77004

281-445-3483

giglinmarlin.com

Please let them know you
are a member of Lunarfins



Maximum Scuba Houston

2391 Gun Range Rd.
League City, TX 77573

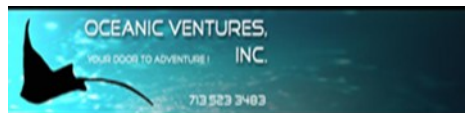
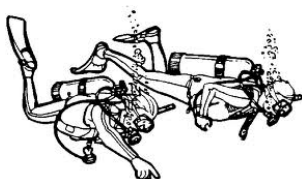
832-820-9949

9771 Long Point Rd.
Houston, TX 77055

832-993-2220

If you are a member of Lunarfins
You will get a 10% off.

<https://maximum-scuba.com/>



Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Drive
Houston, TX 77401

713-523-3483 (dive)

<https://oceanicventures.com/>



Outside The Asylum

2004 Mason Rd
STE C-2

Katy, TX 77450

www.otadiving.com

855-682-3483

Please let them know you are a
member of Lunarfins



Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D

Houston, TX

Txdivecenter.com/

Please let them know you are a
member of Lunarfins for
a discount.



Texas Scuba Adventures

2309 Mechanic St.
Galveston, TX 77550

409-363-9641

<https://texasscubaadventures.com/>