



Lunarfins Scuba Club

David Lenderman

Our October 21st meeting will feature long-time HUPS member David Lenderman, who will present on one of his favorite destinations—Bali, Indonesia. David has visited Bali seven times, including three trips to specifically dive only Bali. While many divers pass through Bali en route to more well-known Indonesian dive sites, David’s program will highlight why Bali itself deserves attention. With its excellent diving quality and remarkable variety, Bali is a destination worth exploring in its own right. Beyond the underwater world, Bali is equally famous for its scenery and cultural experiences. In 2025, Travel + Leisure ranked Bali the #3 island in the world, marking the island’s eleventh consecutive year in the magazine’s Top 25 Islands. David’s most recent trip, in March and April 2025, coincided with the Balinese New Year—a celebration he says should not be missed. His presentation will include a discussion of what makes Bali special, both on land and underwater, followed by a music-synced slideshow featuring favorite images and video clips from his 2025 journey.

In case you do not know David, he has been an active HUPS member and frequent presenter since 1998. Over the years, he has earned numerous HUPS honors, including Advanced Photographer of the Year, Member of the Year, and the Lifetime Achievement Award. David has also served the organization in many roles, such as President, Vice-President, Board Member, Newsletter Editor, and Workshop Coordinator. More recently, he has contributed as a photographer for the Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF), where he has created engaging recap shows documenting the weekend’s events.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTdz09>

ID: 836 7464 2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings
are held every other month **Nov. 13th** 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
119 Circle Dr.
Liverpool, TX
77577

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This’s Month Contributors

Betsy & Craig Beasley,
Mike Calloway,
P J Campagna,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Mike Peters,
Brion Saathoff,
Bob Sanders,
Cathy Strahan



LunarFins
111 Circle Dr.
Liverpool, TX
77577



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Membership

2025 Membership dues are now being accepted from April 1st, 2025 to Now

“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 fields 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/>

Oct. 21th — General Meeting — David Lenderman-Zoom meeting—Bali

Oct. 26th — Pumpkin Carving Contest

Nov. 13th — Lunarfins Board Meeting — Zoom

Nov. 19th — General Meeting — Marty Sniderman

Dec. 7th — Lunarfins Christmas Party



Dec. 25th — Merry Christmas



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 2026?](#)

[Please share them with any of our officers.](#)

Lunarphins President's Notes



Hello My Lunarphins Family,

So here we are in the first week of fall, I love living in south Texas because fall is actually just an extension of summer, as we all know we only have two seasons here, winter and summer, it is nice to be in the cooler half for a bit. The beach party went well, we had a great time, the weather was perfect, the wind and the water could not have been more agreeable for us. It is so nice to get together with everyone and share our adventures and scuba stories. I find it a great opportunity to get to know more about our members and where the skeletons are buried.

A big thank you goes out to Chris Ledford for taking the time to bring us up to speed on the coral research and how the funds that resulted from the Deep Water Horizon incident is being used to help Mother Ocean heal her wounds.

I did not realize that we had crossed paths at the Moody Gardens aquarium and Chris is the Dive Officer for our field programs at MG.

Speaking of that, the application window has closed for the volunteer diver program at this time but if you might be interested it will open again in April 2026.

Our next guest will be David Lenderman from our sister club HUPS, he is doing a presentation on Bali, It is a good show, David is a great guy, I have had the pleasure of seeing it at our general meeting of HUPS at the Bayland Community center in Sharpstown, If you are into under water video or photography and are interested in giving it a go, our members at HUPS are always very happy to help you with your projects, we welcome everyone from newcomers to advanced, I am very much an amateur and I have a great time there, you will feel very welcome. you can find us at: <https://www.hups.org>

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Pumpkin carving contest at Mammoth Lake on October 26th, this will be my first one so I am really looking forward to it, we will have a great time, don't forget to fill out your waiver ahead of time for the lake, even if you are a spectator and are not entering the water we still need you to do the waiver. <https://divemammoth.com>

There is still time left to hitch a ride with Cathy Strahan to Roatan October 8-25, it is a screaming deal at \$975 all-inclusive. The only thing you have to add is airfare and tips.

You can contact Cathy for details at: veghead59@msn.com.

For the 1st time the MV Fling/Texas Caribbean Adventures is going to six to seven oil rigs October the 10th through the 12th. If you have never dived a rig, it is an awesome experience. This is your opportunity to take your first adventure on the Fling, a decided dive boat with a very profession crew. details at, <https://texascaribbean.com>

Dennis, Cathy, Dylan and I went out a few weeks ago and had a great time, Dylan had the pleasure of passing her 50-dive mark in the Sanctuary, Congratulations and way to go Dylan,

Thank you, Cathy, for the providing some great pictures of our adventure.

I hope to see everyone soon,
Happy diving,

Tiny bubbles, Fins up,

Best Regards,

Brion Saathoff :-)



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

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, Ja Van Pruett and Dennis Deavenport have regularly donated for the Raffle.

Each month will have at least one item to pick from and you will not know until you come and see what is being offered... Bring a little *Mad Money* to the meeting to help Lunarfins earn money for social events. If you have something you would like to donate, Please contact JaVan Pruett at <caladyfish@gmail.com>, she would love to hear from you.





Upcoming General Meetings — Spring Creek Barbeque

Tuesday Oct. 21st, and Tuesday, Nov. 19th

Be sure to check out their menu

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

2710 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

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

***Welcome to
Our Guest***

Margaret McPhail



Welcome to Our Guests



Leena Siiteri



Alina O'Kanski



Alanna Araguz



Yasmeen Hage

Up coming Event

LUNARFINS UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST



**SUNDAY 10/26 11AM-4PM
AT MAMMOTH LAKE**

Prizes for best carving, best costume, and door prizes!

Provided: Lunch, drinks, pumpkin, and carving kit

Not provided: Lake entrance fee, tank and gear rentals

Must rsvp and pay by 10/21 to have your pumpkin and carving kit included. Signups after 10/21 are allowed, but you must bring your own pumpkin.

Divers: \$20 Non-divers: \$10

rsvp to Jess: divingwithjess@gmail.com

Pay event fee to LunarFins Treasurer Cathy at the LunarFins meeting on 10/21, or to her Zelle with the comment "pumpkin".

All clubs and divers welcome!

Send Money with Zelle®

CATHY STRAHAN



Zelle®

About our Members

Craig & Betsy Beasley — [Icy Strait Point, Hoonah, Alaska.](#)

Humpback whales are "baleen" whales, which means they don't have teeth but instead have baleen, or "whale bone" in their mouths that is made of keratin. They eat by pushing water through the baleen, which is a screen or filter that catches plankton and small fish. It's not easy to see but I was lucky to catch this one in the middle of a "bite" so you can see it here. It was possible because this is taken in the middle of the bubble net hunting behavior where they seem to linger while they finish off the bait ball. **Yum.**



Here's a pod of humpbacks doing bubble net hunting. It shows the water being filtered and expelled through the baleen at the top of his breach.

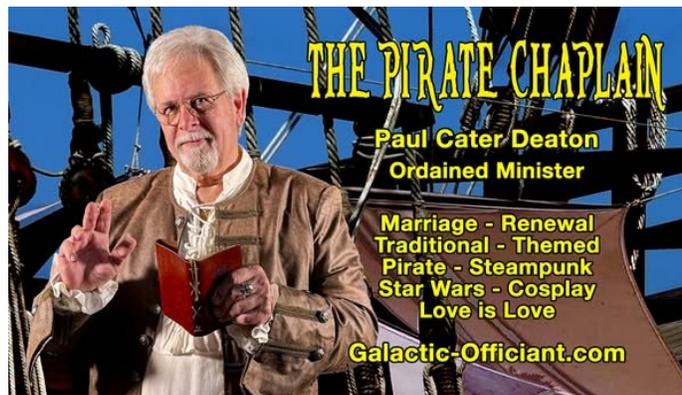
About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton

So, a couple thousand friends and neighbors gathered for a somber memorial this morning for the lives lost in the great storm of 1900. After that, the CO of the local contingent of the US Army Corps of Engineers gave us the history of the seawall. Then we thought, "It's Saturday morning at the beach, so why don't we just set a Guinness World Record!"



Paul Cater Deaton---On Saturday, we get to re-launch something I started doing quite some time ago and have wanted to get back to ever since. When someone wants to elevate their wedding experience with a themed ceremony, the sky is actually no longer the limit. We'll look forward to seeing loads of people at the Galveston Pirate Festival! (If for no other reason, you should come just to see me in the hat.)



What an amazing shot by Monica! We had a great day at the Galveston Pirate Fest. We talked to loads of scalliwags and we expect that some of them will contact us when they're ready to walk the plank... er.... aisle!

About our Members

Brion Saathoff



Finished a great day at the aquarium with dinner and adventure stories at Gaidos in Galveston with my dear friends, Dennis Deavenport, Paul Cater Deaton and Monica, Monica is working the camera.

Paul's newest environmental film called "Tomorrow the Mara" is a tour of Kenya and Zanzibar from the air, land and under the water.

It's a great documentary, If you Google it, it will come up on his YouTube channel.

Thank you for dinner Dennis. It was awesome.

About our Members

Bob Sanders



Enjoying life!

The future is uncertain, but we can't ignore the now

About our Members

Cathy Strahan

I have been working in Dallas area all week. One of my last locations I found near the Fort Worth Stockyards. I have lived in Texas for almost 25 years and had not been there before. The rest of the United States they don't get it about Texas pride— these pictures below show some of the reasons why! So much historical significance here, you cant hardly go 50 miles without seeing a historical landmark through-out the state.

The Stockyards are So cool, it was the main cattle selling spot for the ranchers to bring their cattle. I know how hot Texas can get, I bet those cattledrives were a long, hot and dusty ride just to bring their livestock to market. On the walk of fame stars, I am sure everyone will recognize some of the names, one is John Chisum. I just watched the series of Lawman Bass Reeves, that was only two among many others that have gone down in the history books.



About our Members

Cathy Strahan (continued)

Went out with Caribbean Charters on the Fling this last weekend, always a good time! Great food and lots of diving! Some very nice colorful coral, the weekends on the Fling always end too quickly.





Chuuk Lagoon shipwreck starts leaking oil

A state of emergency has been declared in the State of Chuuk after the Japanese shipwreck Rio de Janeiro Maru started leaking oil into the surrounding waters.

Divers on the liveaboard Odyssey were among the first to see the large oil slick pluming above the wreck, which sank in February 1944. On 11 September, and it has since grown in scale, spreading towards the islands of Panitiw, Nukanap and Sopota.

Local islanders have been warned to be wary of toxic fumes, contaminated water and fish.

Governor Alexander R Narruhn has requested assistance from Japan and the United States, of America to deal with the oil spill.

A government spokesperson said: "It's been about 80 years since these ships sank in Chuuk Lagoon after World War Two battles between the United States and Japan.

"Oil spills from these wrecked ships are threatening our food security in the future. There is a company from Japan called JMAS, which does oil extraction, but this help is not enough.

"We are also asking the United States government to help, and they have acknowledged our request."

Technical diver and underwater photographer Pete Mesley, who has been heavily involved in the Chuuk Wreck Baseline Project to ascertain the state of the wrecks, commented: "And so it begins. As predicted by many. One of the wrecks in Truk have split one of their fuel tanks.

"Hopefully now progress will be sped up to further reduce the devastation that leaking oil will have on not only tourism, but to the livelihoods of the local people.

"The [Truk Wreck Baseline Project](#), which Marcus Blatchford and Pete have set up, was not to just create a baseline of all the wrecks for all to enjoy, but to redo them every five years to show the rate of collapse in their structures.

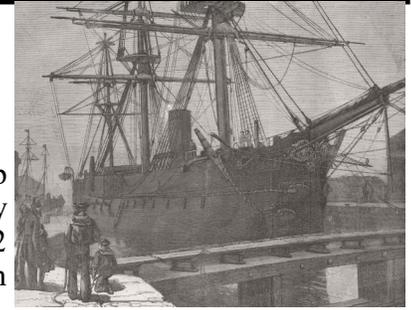
Thanks to [Odyssey Adventures](#), [Truk Lagoon](#) for documenting this."





The Monterrey Shipwrecks Project- Gulf of Mexico

Sent in by Mike Peters



In April 2012, the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer investigated a 4,300-ft deep shipwreck target previously identified in a 2011 a remote-sensing survey required by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM). The 2012 archeological assessment of site 15577 was part of a larger study focusing on deeply submerged environmental and cultural resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

What was found through remotely operated vehicle (ROV) reconnaissance and documentation of the site is a very exciting discovery. The shipwreck appears to be an untouched, early 19th century, wooden-hulled, copper-clad vessel containing artillery and firearms. In a partnership between the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, NOAA, BOEM, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), the Texas Historical Commission (THC), and the Institute for Ocean Exploration at the University of Rhode Island, a team of top notch archaeologists and explorers was being assemble to return to the site in July 2013 for more in depth documentation and artifact sampling in order to identify the shipwreck and share the findings with the general public.

The vessel's length is 84 feet, and the most prominent feature of the site is the remains of the ship's hull covered with copper sheathing, which indicates a relative date of late 18th to early 19th century. The rake of the vessel at the stem and the stern suggest that it is potentially a clipper or shares attributes with this vessel type. While the hull might be the most prominent feature, the assemblage of material culture found on the shipwreck is extremely impressive and lends to the need for sampling and further study. The assemblage includes six iron cannons, a cast iron stove, bottles, porcelain plates and an iron cauldron close by. Some of the bottles are unopened, still protecting their organic contents from the harsh marine environment. Other weaponry, such as groups of muskets lay exposed outside the ship's hull. Textiles that appear to be rolls of fabric and potentially one article of clothing are visible as well. Navigation devices such as octants, hourglasses, and a telescope are strewn throughout the wreckage as well. There also appears to be a possible leather trunk, partially covered in sediment with contents unknown; perhaps the captain or an ordinary sailor.



The goal of the project is to carry out further in-depth documentation and mapping of the site, as well as recover a sample of the artifacts for conservation, analysis, and exhibition. It is true that the archaeological assemblage is out of reach of humans, and technology will be the medium by which the data sets collected during the course of field work will be used to address research questions including determining the age, function and cultural affiliation of this vessel. In addition, there is a desire by the archaeologists on this project to say more about the past using the data collected from the field investigations. The ability to tease out human behavior from the archaeological record is paramount, and separates this project from something akin to applying the archaeological lens solely to the artifacts found on this shipwreck. All of these artifacts not only provide clues to the identity of the shipwreck, but also tell stories of the crew, the activity that was occurring during that time period, and can allow for further examination of the big picture of maritime activity in the Gulf of Mexico.



Past Event—You should Have Been There!

Summer beach party on September the 27th at the Texas City Dike.

Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Sept. 27th @ 10:00AM

Look for the LunarFins Flag



Past Event—You should Have Been There!



Fun for all!

**Brandy and Skip Behanna,
Mike Calloway,
P J Campagna,
Shon Corrier,
Christie Emerson,
Crystal Lee,
Jessica & Jeff Lee,
Kim Murphy,
Brion Saathoff,
Cherie Zarsky**

(Continued from September) "Privateer La Fortuna", sunk in 1748



Not 1, but 4 ships were found

The most surprising thing was that researchers found more than La Fortuna, there were three more wrecks in the same area of the river along with old wooden docks and even a colonial road. So, let's talk a bit about them, shall we?:

- One of the ships seemed to have been used as landfill for building docks.
- Another was likely a flat-bottomed colonial vessel for carrying goods and passengers.
- The fourth wreck remains mostly buried and is still a mystery.

Thanks to these remains, archaeologists can rebuild how life was in Brunswick before it was destroyed by British troops in 1776.



Running out of time

However, not everything is great because these remains are threatened by erosion, storms, and channel dredging. That is why researchers did an emergency recovery mission. What they basically did was take the wood they found to the Queen Anne's Revenge conservation lab in Greenville. Once there, it will be subjected to a special treatment to stop its deterioration so that researchers can rebuild part of the Spanish ship, and who knows if they could display it in a museum?

Why is this Spanish ship so important?

Every finding is a new learning about the past, but this one reminds us that the history of North America wasn't just about the British and French people. As you can see, Spain also had an important role in the era with docks, colonies, and corsair ships sailing the Atlantic.

The case of La Fortuna shows how Spanish corsairs fought for control of trade routes, and how small colonial communities defended themselves. It is a forgotten piece of history that is finally resurfacing. Isn't it fascinating how much we can discover from the remains of an ancient ship?

Roatan

October 18-25, 2025



Cathy Strahan is going on a trip to Roatan October 18-25. This is a fun loving dive group out of St. Lewis that Cathy has traveled with in the past. The cost is only \$975 for all inclusive, trip even ground transportation, All you need are tips and airfare! We are staying at Tourquoise Bay. It's decent and typically not so crowded.

We are being offered different specialty dives including lion fish hunting and a shark dive. Cathy needs a good dive buddy and roommate. As we go to press there are also 4 rooms still available. For more details contact Cathy NOW at <veghead59@msn.com>.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2258172627965938?fs=e&s=TleQ9V&fs=e&mibextid=wwXIfrg>

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: _____

The Lunarfin's 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.



You should have been at September General Meeting -It was Great!



Lunarfin's

119 South Circle Drive
Liverpool TX 77577

281-851-5206

webeditor@lunarfin's.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/687047211312336>

Website:

<https://www.lunarfin's.com/>

TGCC

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

TPWD reefs:

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



Dive Shops, etc.



Diving with Jess

Dive Training~Group Travel~
First Aid

divingwithjess@gmail.com

979-236-9430



Giggin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd.
Houston, TX 77004

281-445-3483

gigginmarlin.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/>