

November 18th, 2025



Lunarfins Scuba Club

*Yesterday & Today in the Cayman Islands
with
Joe, Bert, Candace, Rob, Roberto, and Dennis*

Many of us have enjoyed diving off liveboard dive boats and many have been on one of the many Aggressor boats. Not too many can say that they've done more than two or three. However, Over the years, the Campanelli's (Joe 33 trips), Bert (31 trips), Candace (21), and now Rob (3) are veterans of several of the Cayman Aggressor boats. Because of their love for the boats and how they operate, they have been awarded the "Aggressor Liveboards Addicts' Award". Joining them on our October trip, Roberto Brunel and Dennis Deavenport, taking full advantage of the Campanelli's experience to have a great time.

This presentation goes way back in history starting in the 1980s, moving forward with a wealth of old photos and video clips. Candace, Roberto, and Dennis tell their first-hand accounts of what we've done and seen since that first trip. It's a merry jaunt down memory lane landing squarely in 2025 with all of the photos and video clips collected from our group along with some footage taken of us by Braven, the Aggressor's video pro.

The diving was, as we've come to expect, awesome, and weather predicted to be not so great, turned out to be calm and sunny. The walls, two wrecks, the critters, schools of fish, multiple shark sightings, and all of the things expected and unexpected are part of the show. Hopefully, it's not only interesting and biographical, but also entertaining and fun. It was all of that for me and I'm sure it was for everyone else on the boat. We met and enjoyed other divers from as far away as Newfoundland and one who has summited every 14,000 ft peak in the lower 48 as well as Everest Base Camp at over 17,000 ft. So, yeah, it was really interesting and fun.

Putting together a presentation with so many people contributing photos, video clips, and stories, is an exercise much like putting together a 2000 piece puzzle. Eventually, as pieces start fitting together, the final image starts to show up. I can't thank everyone who contributed enough. Thanks, team! I hope it turns out like I think it might.



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

[pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfgT0pWL1hTdz09) ID: 836 7464 2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings
are held every other month **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

Inside this issue

- 3 Events Calendar, Club Officers
- 4 Presidents Notes
- 5 Raffle Information & Winners
- 6 Meetings information & - No Meeting Announcement
- 7 Up coming Event — Lunarfans Christmas Party & Wedding Announcement
- 8 About Our Members — Paul Cater Deaton
- 9 About Our Members — Pete Hasbrook
- 10 About Our Members — Cathy Strahan
- 11 You Should Have Been There Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 12 Mike Peters — Sub discovers unexploded Nazi bombs teeming with marine life
- 13 Mike Peters — U166
- 14 (ACWAF)
- 15 You Should Have Been There — General Meeting
- 16 Dive Shops

This's Month Contributors

Mike Calloway,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Dennis Deavenport,
Pete Hasbrook,
Mike Peters,
Brion Saathoff,
Cathy Strahan



Lunarfans
111 Circle Dr.
Liverpool, TX
77577



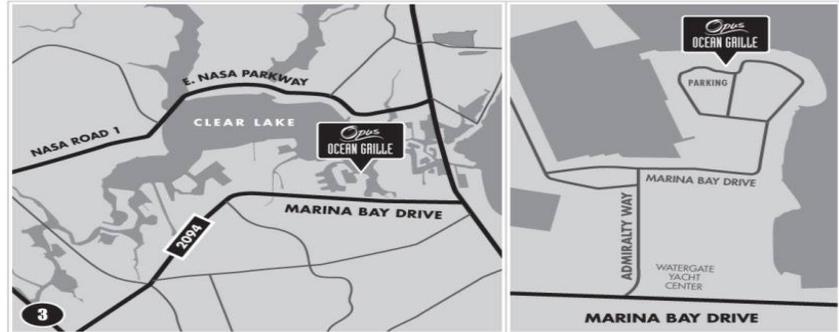
Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Nov. 13th — Lunarfans Board Meeting — Zoom

Nov. 18th — General Meeting — Dennis Deavenport

Dec. 7th — Lunarfans Christmas Party



Dec. 25th — Merry Christmas

Jan. 20th — General Meeting — Jody and Barry Cline

Feb. 17th — General Meeting — Burt Jones - Secret Sea Vision

Mar. 17th — General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojon

Membership

2026 Membership dues are now being accepted from April 1st, 2026 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.lunarfans.com/>



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.

Lunarfin's President's Notes



Hello Lunarfins,

I hope everyone had a great Halloween with plenty of spooks and treats.

The pumpkin carving contest was interesting and fun, we had a good turn out, it was my first time carving a pumpkin underwater it turned out to be much easier than I had anticipated, the water seems to help the carving tools cut easier.

Congratulations to Monica on her first place pumpkin, and to Felix and Kirk respectively, great job everyone.

Thank you David Lenderman for the tour of Bali, it was a great presentation with some really good stories,

Dennis Deavenport has put together a presentation on the Cayman Islands and the Aggressor live aboard with The Campanelli's and friends for our November meeting, Please join us, it will be a good show.

Mark your Calendars for the Christmas party on December 7th at Opus Ocean Grille, Don't forget to bring a gift for the White Elephant Game. Oh! And there is going to be a wedding.

We do need you to RSVP, it helps them with the staffing and helps us coordinate the event better. This will be the only event for the club in December; we will not have a general meeting. We will be voting on the "Lunarfin's of the Year" so if there is someone you would like to like to nominate you can send a letter to JaVan Pruet.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving and i hope to see you soon.

Blessings,

Fins up,

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 Greek Barbeque

Nov. Tuesday 18th, and Tuesday, Jan. 21st

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

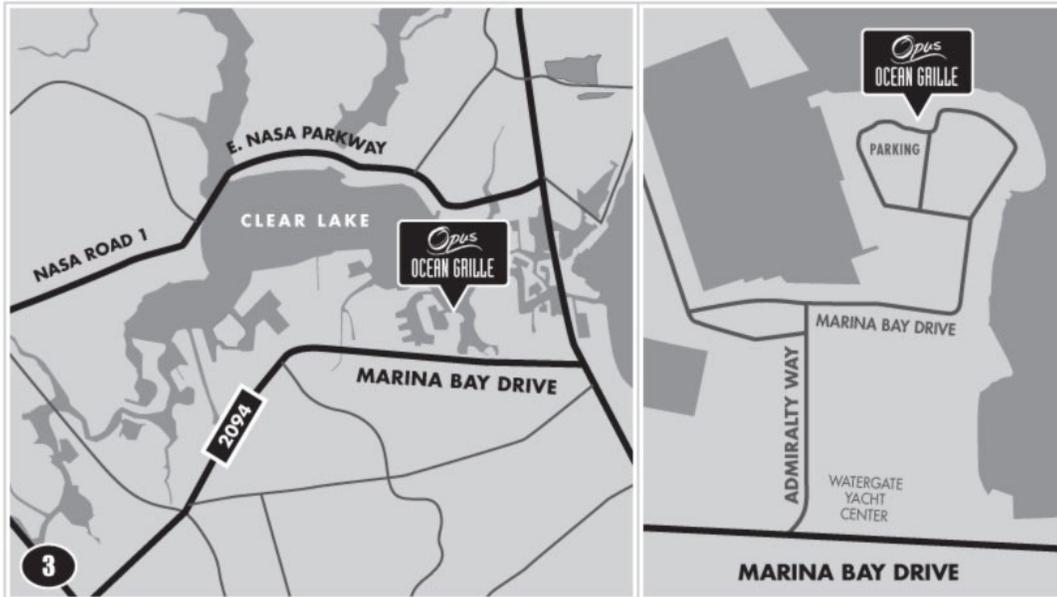
No General Meeting

in December 2025

2025 Lunarfins Christmas Party

December 7, 2025

4:00 P M, Second Floor



OPUS OCEAN GRILLE

1510 Marina Bay Drive, Building 124
Clear Lake Shores, Texas 77565

Opus Ocean Grille offers a variety of your favorite fresh seafood dishes; from oysters on the half shell, Alaskan King Crab, Chilean Sea Bass and much more!

Located within the Watergate Yachting Center in Clear Lake Shores, our waterfront dining experience makes for a perfect brunch, or evening out with Friends and family.

If you bring a gift you get to play the White Elephant Gift Game – (so be sure to bring a gift — something you would want to receive)

I need a good head count by November 5th.

Oh! And there is going to be a Wedding between

Rodney (PeeWee) Dwire & Ja Van Pruett

Please RSVP: Ja Van Pruett, text or email

281-229-8631 or caladyfish@yahoo.com

About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton

Wings Over Houston Airshow

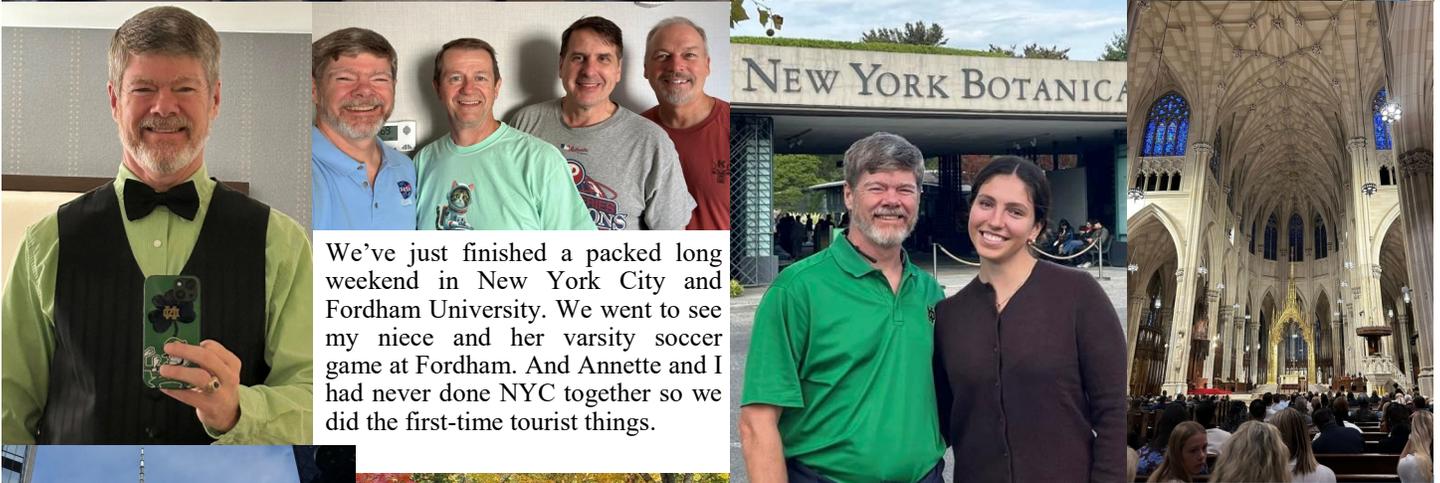


And we'll be back at [Wings Over Houston Airshow](#) on Sunday to do it all over again.

About our Members

Pete Hasbrook

I had a super fun weekend at the barbershop convention this weekend, and the highlight was a reunion of Note-oriety Quartet! I sang in the chorus contest with [The Houston Tidelanders](#), [Dave Frye](#) sang with [Space City Sound](#), [Mike Wilson](#) sang with [Wayfarers Quartet](#). And we convinced [Stefan Hussenoeder](#) to come up to make us a quartet again. We sang together from 1999 to 2007, and Stefan hadn't sung since then. We pulled a song together and toured hospitality rooms as a one-shot wonder. And we're making plans to appear on the Space City and Tidelanders shows December 20 and 21. Mark your calendars!

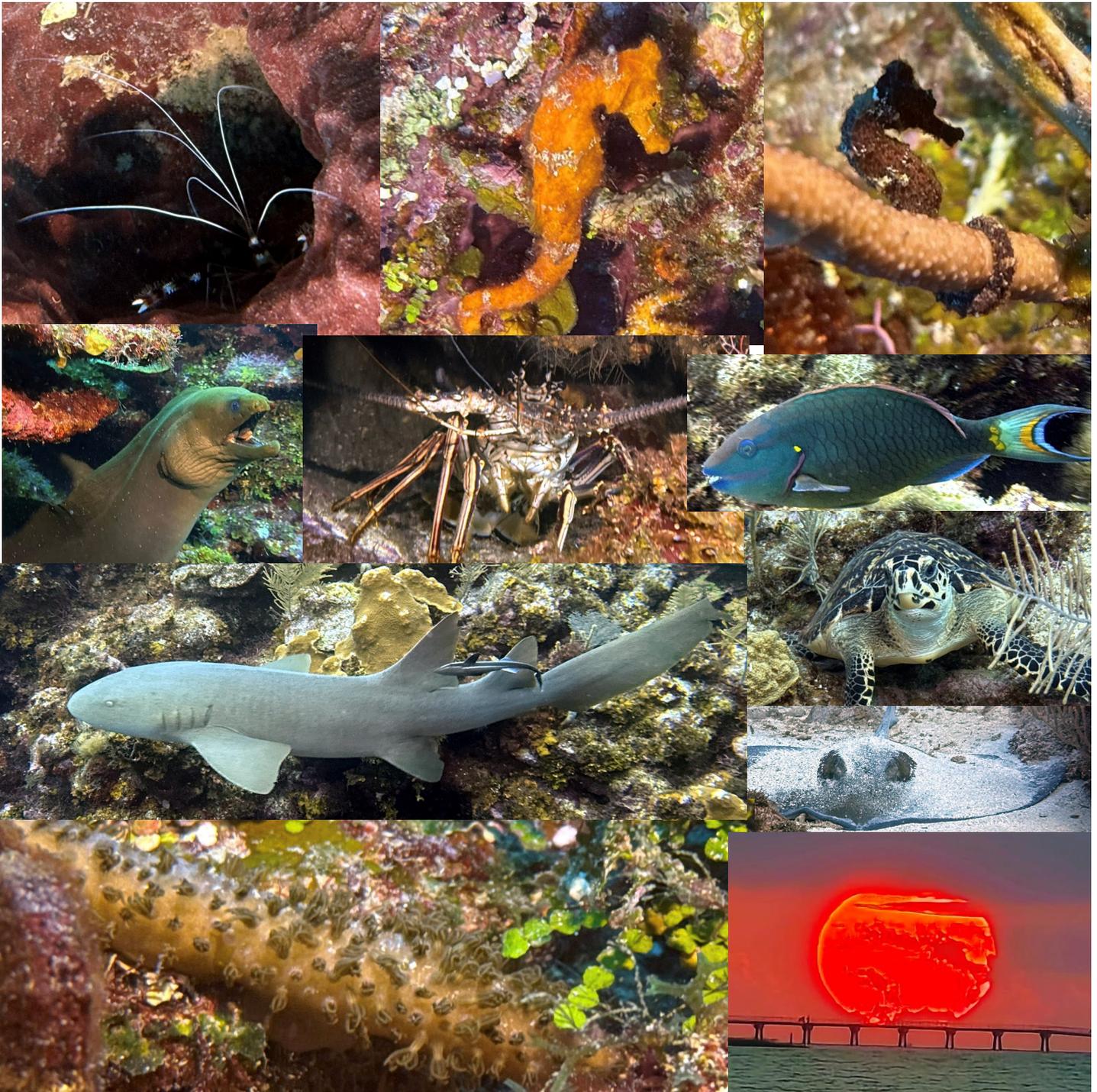


About our Members

Cathy Strahan

It's time for a new adventure! Diving in Roatan with my peeps! 🌊

Sharing some pictures of my salty watery world under the sea! A crab with most of its legs missing, several playful sharks, a colorful nudibranch, and some seahorses, a giant ray, a turtle, and a very alien worm of some sort, have NEVER seen anything like it before! Also some other assorted sea creatures! I love my salty life



You should have been at Pumpkin Craving Contest





Sub discovers unexploded Nazi bombs teeming with marine life

Sent in by *Mike Peters* Fri, September 26, 2025

Marine life is thriving on unexploded Nazi bombs sitting at the bottom of a German bay, a submersible has discovered, even capturing footage of starfishes creeping across a huge chunk of TNT.

The discovery, which was revealed in a study published Thursday, was "one of those rare but remarkable eureka moments," marine biologist Andrey Vedenin told AFP. The waters off Germany's coast are estimated to be littered with 1.6 million tons of unexploded munitions left behind from both world wars.

In October last year, a team of German scientists went to a previously uncharted dump site in the Baltic Sea's Luebeck Bay and sent an unmanned submersible 20 meters down to the seafloor. They were surprised when footage from the sub revealed 10 Nazi-era cruise missiles. Then they were stunned when they saw animals covering the surface of the bombs.

There were roughly 40,000 animals per square meter — mostly marine worms — living on the munitions, [the scientists wrote](#) in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment*. "Despite the potential negative effects of the toxic munition compounds, published underwater images show dense populations of algae, hydroids, mussels, and other epifauna on the munition objects, including mines, torpedo heads, bombs, and wooden crates," the study concludes.

They also counted three species of fish, a crab, sea anemones, a jellyfish relative called hydroids and plenty of starfishes.



While animals covered the hard casing of the bombs, they mostly avoided the yellow explosive material — except for one instance. The researchers were baffled to see that more than 40 starfishes had piled on to an exposed chunk of TNT.

"It looked really weird," said Vedenin, a scientist at Germany's Carl von Ossietzky University and the study's lead author. Exactly why the starfishes were there was unclear, but Vedenin theorized they could be eating bacterial film collecting on the corroding TNT.

Life on deadly weapons

The explosive chemicals are highly toxic, but the animals appeared to have found a way to live near it. Other than the death-wish starfishes, they did not seem to be behaving strangely.

"The crabs were just sitting and picking something with their claws," Vedenin said. To find out what kind of bombs they were dealing with, he went online and found a manual from the Nazi air force Luftwaffe describing how to handle and store V-1 flying bombs. The cruise missile exactly matched the 10 bombs from the footage.

Vedenin said "there is some irony" in the discovery that these "things that are meant to kill everything are now attracting so much life."

He compared it to how animals such as deer now thrive in radioactive areas abandoned by humans near the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Hard surfaces on the seafloor are important for marine life that want more than mud and sand.

Animals once flocked to huge boulders that littered the Baltic Sea, however humans removed the stones to build infrastructure such as roads at the start of the 20th century.

So when the Nazi bombs are eventually cleared from the bay, the researchers called for more stones — or concrete structures — to be put in place to continue supporting the sea life.

The scientists also plan to return to the spot next month to set up a time-lapse camera to watch what the starfishes do next.

Marine life also thriving in shipwrecks

It's the latest example of wildlife flourishing in polluted sites. Previous research has shown shipwrecks and former weapons complexes teeming with biodiversity.

Studies like these are a testament to how nature takes advantage of human leftovers, flipping the script to survive, said marine conservation biologist David Johnston with Duke University. He recently mapped sunken World War I ships that have become habitats for wildlife along the Potomac River in Maryland.

"I think it's a really cool testimony to the strength of life," Johnston told The Associated Press.



U-166

Sent in by Mike Peters

(U-805, a Type IXC class U-Boat the same as U-166.)



U-166 was a Type IXC U-Boat constructed by Seebeckwerft A.G. in Wesermünde, Germany (now Bremerhaven) in 1941 and was commissioned into the Kriegsmarine in 1942. *U-166's* first patrol was around the coast of the United Kingdom. In early 1942, Admiral Karl Dönitz and German dictator Adolf Hitler approved military action known as Operation Drumbeat against the United States which had just joined the war months earlier. Operation Drumbeat entailed U-Boats would patrol the American coastlines and would sink all merchant ships in sight. Her second patrol was to the Gulf of Mexico. American military forces were ill-prepared and unable to counter the U-Boat threat, whereas the British had prior experience earlier in the war and had previously broken the Enigma codes. German U-Boats were able to sink hundreds of American ships without much consequence. Furthermore, German U-Boat crews found it easy to navigate the coastlines of the United States at night, due to American cities refusing to exercise the same blackout routines Canadian and British cities were already enforcing.

After success on the American east coast, a handful of Type IXC U-Boats including *U-166*. On June 17, 1942, *U-166* left Lorient, France on what would be her final patrol. On July 30, 1942, *U-166* caught the Eastern Steamship Lines' passenger steamship *Robert E. Lee* inbound to New Orleans under escort by USS *PC-566*. The *U-166* fired a torpedo and sank the *Robert E. Lee* killing 25 people. Immediately, *PC-566* went on the offensive and fired depth charges by order of Lieutenant Commander Herbert Claudius at the *U-166*. The *U-166* crash dove in an attempt to escape, but a single depth charge landed on the submarine's deck. The depth charge detonated in turn detonating the submarine's torpedoes, blowing off the bow of *U-166*, flooding and sinking her immediately. Despite the victory, the United States Navy refused to credit Claudius for the sinking of *U-166* until the early 21st Century when Dr. Robert Ballard and an accompanying dive team. Claudius posthumously received the Legion of Merit for his actions.

A total of [23 U-boats](#) were stationed in the Gulf of Mexico during World War II. Over the course of the conflict, they took out a number of Allied vessels, with only one meeting a similar fate. *U-166* had only been stationed in the area for a short while when she was taken out by an American ship – however, US Navy officials didn't believe it at the time. The Type IXC *U-166* was commissioned into service with the [Kriegsmarine](#) in March 1942, in the midst of the [Second World War](#). After undergoing training with the 4th U-boat Flotilla, she was transferred to frontline service with the 10th U-boat Flotilla. The vessel first patrolled the British Isles, before traveling to France and, later, crossing the Atlantic for the Gulf of Mexico. Over the course of the [U-boat's](#) short military career, she sunk four vessels: the Dominican sailing ship *Carmen*, the *SS Oneida*, *Gertrude FV* and the *SS Robert E. Lee* (1924). The latter encounter ultimately led to *U-166's* demise.

On July 30, 1942, *U-166* torpedoed *Robert E. Lee* just south of the Mississippi River Delta, causing the ship to sink beneath the water's surface. Her escort, the submarine chaser *PC-566*, launched a counterattack, with skipper Lt. Cmdr. Herbert G. Claudius claiming to have sunk the U-boat with depth charges. Navy officials didn't believe this, however, and removed Claudius from his command. He was then sent to anti-submarine warfare school.

The location of *U-166's* wreck remained unknown until 2001, when the remains of *Robert E. Lee* were found less than two miles from where the ship had been attacked. Sonar [led researchers](#) to the U-boat, some 6,650 feet below water. While the vessel was covered in silt, her conning tower and deck gun were still visible.

Given the remains of her crew remain within, *U-166* was subsequently declared a war grave. In 2014, a survey of the U-boat showed that her bow had been destroyed, with historians theorizing that a depth charge had hit the forward deck. When the munition exploded, it triggered the detonation of *U-166* torpedoes, causing the vessel to sink. As a result of this new information, it was determined that *PC-566* had [actually been responsible](#) for the U-boat's loss.

Claudius was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," with then-Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus saying, "Seventy years later, we now know that [Claudius's] report after the action was absolutely correct. [Claudius's ship] did sink that U-boat, and it's never too late to set the record straight."

U-166 holds the distinction of being the only U-boat to have ever been lost in the Gulf of Mexico.

Wreck Location

The *U-166* lies at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico off the state of Louisiana in about 6,650 feet of water, mostly covered in silt. The exact location isn't disclosed in order to preserve the remains, but the rough location of the wreck has been provided by NOAA. The conning tower, conning tower details and deck gun are visible above the silt, covered in colorful anemones and marine growth. Despite such the U-Boat is almost perfectly preserved from the day it sank. The bow section including the bow planes is several hundred feet away from the main section, the damage from the day she sank more than noticeable. The wrecksite is a protected military grave site as all 55 crewmembers were killed when the submarine was sunk. *U-166* lies two miles away from her victim, the *Robert E. Lee*.

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 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.



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



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.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/>