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This's Month Contributors

P J Campagna,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Kirk Leissner,,
Mike Peters,
Cindy & Tom Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Cathy Strahan





Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Mar. 17th  — **General Meeting — Dan Tirtowidjojon — Diving in Galapagos**

Mar. 28th — **Majic Show — contact PJ —see p. 7**

Apr. 5th — **Easter Sunday**  —

Apr. 11 & 12th — **HUFF — MATCH theater**

Apr. 21st — **General Meeting — Burt Jones - Secret Sea Vision**

Apr. 26th — **Lunarfins UW Easter Egg Hunt**

May 19th — **General Meeting — Autumn Blum — lifelong ocean advocate**

Jun. 16th — **General Meeting —TBA**

Jul. 21st. — **General Meeting — Valera Sakhnenko**

Aug. 18th. — **General Meeting — Chuck Noe**

Sept. 15th. — **General Meeting — Walter Marti**

Membership

2026 Membership are due Now

If you are a retuning member you do not have to fill out a membership form. Unless you have changed your address, email address or phone number. Please bring the form to the next meeting or mail it in.

*Remember you can pay with a check which will be deposited once received, or you can Zelle it to **Cathy Strahan***

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

[Membership Application](#)



ELECTED OFFICERS

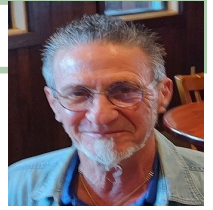
President	Brion Saathoff
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Brandy Behanna
Treasurer	Cathy Strahan
Social Director	OPEN
APPOINTED	
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Jessica Lee
Trip information	P J Campagna
	Jessica Lee
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	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 you are doing well; we had a great time with Dennis and Justin at the February meeting, and I want to thank them both for an awesome show. We had a good turnout. Remember if you cannot get there in person you can always drop in on zoom. The ID And password are always in the newsletter. JaVan has done a great job at lining up some good speakers for this year.

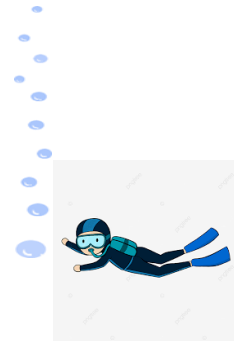
If anyone is interested, we will be diving at Mammoth Lake on Saturday the 14th of this month. You will need to purchase your day pass on line and fill out the waiver and so far there are still some passes available. It is always a good idea to reserve any equipment in advance.

There was a really good article from DAN this quarter about training lakes and how they help with diver proficiency. Speaking of that Kirk, Dylan and I were diving Longhorn on the 14th of last month and the vis was maybe 4 feet. As we were going around one of the boats I was pulling up the rear and as I approached the boat I came up under one of the tag lines and it tangled in my first stage. I kept reaching back and could feel it, but I could not get it to untangle. My buddies were moving out of my sight with the low vis, and I knew that I was wasting time and burning gas in my struggle to get out of my situation. I was not worried, I knew my buddies would be doing their 60 second count and backtracking when they noticed me missing, and I was only about twenty feet deep. I slowed down, assessed the situation and decided the best solution was to remove my BCD so I could get at the line. I took my kit off and freed the line and as I was putting it back on Dylan and Kirk showed up. Dylan helped me secure everything to speed up the process and we carried on with the dive. This is exactly the point the DAN article was making about training lakes and using them to hone your skills. I am also very comfortable with these two divers because we have developed a history together in confined and open water, they are competent and focused.

We have a great program this month on March 17 with my friend Dan Tirtowidjojo, come join us or zoom on in. Also, the HUFF (Houston Underwater Film Festival) is coming up on the 11th and 12th of April and Kirk is hosting our first ever underwater Easter Egg Hunt at Mammoth on the 26th of April.

Hope to see everyone soon, Fins up  and happy bubbles.

Brion Saathoff :-)



Happy Birthday to you!
May your day be filled with Happiness.

Julie Khatri & Tom Reuland

Mar. 11th

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 Dwire 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.



Louise Toole



Mike Calloway



Justin Wallace



Upcoming General Meetings — Spring Creek Barbeque

Tuesday, Mar. 17th, and Tuesday, Apr. 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

Lunarfins UW Egg Hunt

- **Diving**
- **Food**
- **Drinks**
- **Games**



**April 26, 2026
10:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Thunder Pavillion
Mammoth Lake, Clute, TX**

Contestants must furnish their own underwater bag-sket to collect the eggs



Entry Fee* \$10.00
Free for Lunarfins members
*Park Admission not included



The Magic Show

March 28, 2026 — 5:00 pm

**Meet at St. Thomas Episcopal Church
18300 Upper Bay Rd. Nassau Bay 5 pm**

Bus will leave as soon as it's full ...

We will arrive in plenty of time to get a bite to eat on your own before
show starts at 8 pm.

Theater offers free water and popcorn and since there is no liquor license,
you can bring liquor, wine, beer and/or soft drinks for yourself at to share.

Bus will be back in Nassau Bay by approximately 11 pm.

Tickets will cost only \$28.00 (26% discount code is Scuba)

go to www.magicshowtheater.com to purchase tickets in advance.

**WE NEED AN RSVP ASAP TO SECURE THE
BUS!!!**

So please let us know how many people you are reserving seats for.

P J Campagna: 713-875-6005

Brion: 979-239-8292 (please leave a message)

About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton

So Noelle and the Fabulous Twincesses came down to take me to a belated birthday breakfast, then they surprised me with a daddy/daughter session at Neck Deep tattoo Studio. Isla was immediately enthralled by the whole thing, so I asked Hunter, the ink artist, if it was okay for her to ink one of the dots. The rest is now part of my permanent record, so to speak.



Congratulations!

I'm proud to announce that award winning writer, producer, director and cinematographer Paul Cater Deaton, is attending this years North Carolina Wreck•Shark Shootout at Olympus Dive Center and has agreed to be key note speaker at the events presentation night. Paul works all over the world on film, TV, music video and documentary projects. It is not determined what he will present on yet but it will be riveting. The WSS 2026 is sold out at this time with no one on standby.



It is gratifying to see my photo of Fujiyama as the title shot for the Large Scale Projects and Expeditions presentations segment scheduled for Sunday, 15 March, at Boston Sea Rovers! It will be the first public screening of "The Occidental Tourist." Coming soon to a galaxy not that far away.

About our Members

Tom and Cindy Reuland



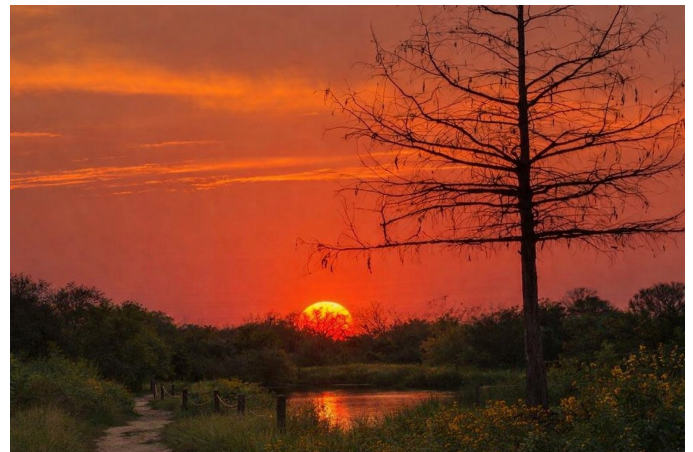
For those of you interested in attending the premiere space event of the year from across the nation - the American Space Museum & Space Walk of Fame's ShuttleFest V this June 19 - 21, 2026 - click on the link below for additional details.

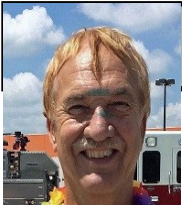
NASA MANNED SPACE will again be a sponsor for the event. I hope to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1AZRUZ8xD5/?mibextid=wwXIf>

Cathy Strahan

Sunset in San Antonio.





Missing Lake Michigan steamer *Lac La Belle* located after 150 years

Sent in by Mike Peters

February 26, 2026

Illinois shipwreck hunter and scuba diver Paul Ehorn has located the passenger steamer *Lac La Belle*, which sank in Lake Michigan in October 1872.

The vessel had been missing for almost 150 years, and the wreck is understood to be lying upright with an intact hull.

The *Lac La Belle* was built in 1864 in Cleveland, Ohio. In its early years of service, it operated between Cleveland and Lake Superior. In 1866, it sank following a collision in 25ft of water in the St Clair River. The vessel was raised in 1869 and underwent extensive reconditioning before returning to service.

It was later acquired by Milwaukee's Englemann Transportation Company and placed on a passenger route to Grand Haven, Michigan.

On the night of 13 October 1872, the steamer departed Milwaukee during a moderate gale. On board were 53 passengers and crew, along with a cargo of barley, flour, pork and whiskey. Approximately two hours into the voyage, the vessel began to leak uncontrollably from an unknown source, causing the captain to turn back towards Milwaukee. Conditions deteriorated, and heavy seas swept the deck, extinguishing the boiler fires. The vessel then drifted south for several hours while in a sinking condition.

At around 5am, the captain ordered the lifeboats lowered. The steamer sank stern first. One lifeboat capsized in rough seas, resulting in eight fatalities. The remaining boats reached shore between Racine and Kenosha, where survivors later described the incident to local reporters.

***Lac La Belle* was close to home for me'** Ehorn became a certified scuba diver in 1960 at the age of 15. He began searching for Great Lakes shipwrecks in 1965. Over the following decades, he located several wrecks, including the steel automobile carrier *Senator*, which he found in 2005. He has a particular interest in early wooden steamers.

Ehorn says: "As a woodworker myself, I appreciate the hand craftsmanship that went into these early vessels. The *Lac La Belle* was close to home for me and is a wreck that's always been on my radar."

The position of the *Lac La Belle*'s sinking had not been precisely recorded, resulting in a broad search area for wreck hunters. In 2022, maritime historian and wreck hunter Ross Richardson identified historical information that helped to reduce the search grid.

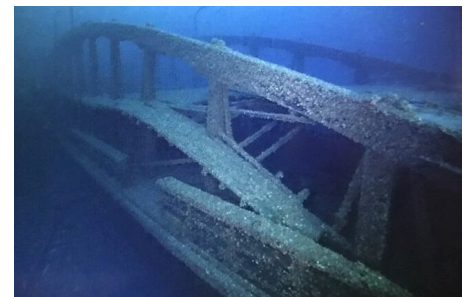
Ehorn and his search partner Bruce Bittner conducted a survey using a Klein sidescan sonar system. During their second pass over the target area, a large structure appeared on the sonar display. They repeated the pass at higher resolution, which revealed structural features consistent with the vessel's hogging arches (to explain Hogging is the stress a ship's hull or keel experiences that causes the center or the keel to bend upward.), . "It was a moment of real jubilation," says Ehorn. "We knew we had done it."

The wreck lies some distance from shore. Adverse weather conditions delayed a direct examination for nearly two years. Ehorn, now 80, subsequently worked with divers John Janzen and John Scoles to document the site.

Video footage shows the 217ft vessel to be largely intact despite the circumstances of its loss. "Although her superstructure is blown off, you can see all of her wooden framing and some of her cargo is visible," stated Ehorn.

Ehorn plans to produce a 3D photogrammetry model to document the layout and condition of the wreck before disclosing its precise location.

He is scheduled to present details of the discovery at the [2026 Ghost Ships Festival](#), taking place at the Inn on Maritime Bay in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on 7 March 2026.





Hazards of Balloons

By Brion Saathoff

February 24, 2026



Back in 2018 I wrote an article about balloon releases and the hazards they create for the ocean and our marine life.

We had been given a presentation in August by Jonie Steinhaus from the Turtle Island Restoration Network about people releasing balloons and their effects on sea turtles. She told us about a turtle they rescued that had a one of its flippers almost completely amputated by the ribbon from a released balloon.

I noticed an up tic on social media around Valentines Day this year against balloon releases from many like minded people like myself and thought it would be a good time to revisit the subject.

There are two primary types of balloons. Mylar and latex, Mylar is made of plastic nylon sheets with a metallic coating that essentially will never biodegrade, in fact there are thousands of power outages every year from mylar balloons, landing on power lines and transformer banks. The crew of the MV Fling has found this type of balloon floating 100 miles out in the FGBNMS.

The second culprit is latex it will remain in the environment indefinitely as it breaks down into micro plastics, in fact, they have found micro plastics in the deepest trenches of our oceans. When the latex balloons burst in the atmosphere, they become pieces that resemble jellyfish or squid. They eventually become coated with algae and other microorganisms that smell like food so marine animals and birds consume the pieces. latex is malleable so it can conform to an animal's stomach or digestive track, and either block it or make them feel full, they typically cannot pass it, so they die of starvation with a full stomach. Soft plastic bags also create the same problem. Scientists who worked with stranded whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles have found balloons, parts of balloons and balloon strings in the stomachs of many of these dead animals.

Latex is the deadliest form of plastics for sea birds, they are thirty-two times more likely to be killed by latex balloons than other plastic debris. Ribbons from the balloons ranked just behind fishing gear, plastic bags and plastic utensils as a high risk of entanglement.

In 2019 the international coastal cleanup organized by the Ocean Conservancy recorded over 104,150 balloons found around the world with almost half in the US.

Thus far in the US only 10 to 13 states have passed laws banning or restricting the intentional mass release of balloons. In August 2021 the city of Galveston unanimously passed an ordinance banning the release of latex or mylar balloons. It is now a class C misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$200 fine. Kudos to the beautiful island of Galveston for taking a stand. There are many balloons marketed as biodegradable, even the so called Eco-Friendly Balloons can take six months to four years to decompose, and then they are still in the environment just in a micro form. Also, it is littering, everything that goes up must come down. It is no different than throwing trash out the window of your car onto the beach.

If you feel that you want to honor somebody, donate to a marine conservation cause or volunteer with one of the many entities that are working very hard to restore the health of our mother ocean and the ecosystem, she needs all the help she can get.

In the famous words of Tigger: TTFN. (Ta Ta For Now)

Fins Up 

Happy Bubbles,
Brion Saathoff.



American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2026 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. 2026 registration is \$20.

[ACWA’s Donation Committee optional targets for 2026:](#)

[o Sea Camp Scholarships](#)

[o Houston Underwater Film Festival – Pay discounted ticket costs for Marine Biology or Film Study students to attend. Donation would go to cover the MATCH theater portion of each ticket, HUFF would no charge their portion of each ticket.](#)

[o Adaptable](#)

[o Turtle Conservation](#)

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: _____



3 New Boats



7 Night FIJI DIVE ADVENTURE

May 29-June 5, 2027 (leave on May 27th)

Package price \$3,950*

Included:

R/T Non-Stop Air DFW to Fiji



R/T ground and boat transfers from airport to Beqa Lagoon

7nights in a Deluxe, AIR CONDITIONED, Fijian villa

3 gourmet meals daily

5 Two-tank boat dives & unlimited shore diving

Kayaking, hiking treks, snorkeling, paddle boarding

Fijian cultural events & entertainment daily

Air & Hotel taxes



BONUS FEATURE
CATHEDRAL SHARK DIVE
&
Welcome poolside foot massage

One of....
1,000 Places to See Before You Die
NY Times #1 Bestseller

BEQA LAGOON RESORT
Fiji Islands

Home of....
the Legendary Firewalkers

World Class Diving
Shark & Big Fish Encounters
&
Friendly Fijian Hospitality

Reserve your spot by contacting Jess:

divingwithjess@gmail.com 979-236-9430

\$750 non-refundable deposit to reserve (applied to balance)

*Pricing is per person USD\$ based on double occupancy in Koi/Garden view room. Upgrade to Beachfront villa is \$100pp. Single supplement is \$400. Space is based on availability at time of booking. For non-diver deduct \$500 pp from the package price. Pricing is subject to change & other restrictions may apply.



HOUSTON UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 11-12, 2026

To watch this years trailer -- <https://youtu.be/XwhakhlTvPw>

Lunarfins Scuba Club Membership Application

18515 Sandelford Drive, Katy, TX 77449

Taking Dues Now!

<p>Please Check Membership Type</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Fill out and sign the complete application below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No Changes to previous information provided</p>	<p>DUES</p> <p>Individual \$25/year <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$19.00</p> <p>Family \$35/year <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$26.00</p> <p>Membership year: January 1 – December 31</p> <p>New Applicants joining July 1 or later, ½ price</p>
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Name	Certification Information Agency & Type	(List highest certification only)	
		Certification Number	Year

Individual Release Form

In consideration of the acceptance of this application for membership in the Lunarfins Scuba Club. I, intending to be legally bound, hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Lunarfins Scuba Club, its members, agents, representatives, or assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in any club event in which I may participate:

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Directory YES or NO (Circle one)	Volunteer Functions Check any that interest you	
<p>I would like my contact information published in the membership directory. Only those included in the directory will receive the Membership Directory. Addresses and phone numbers are Not distributed to any third party. Your monthly newsletter will be sent to the e-mail address(es) above, whether or not you elect to be included in the Directory.</p>	Club President	Meeting technician
	Vice President (pgms)	Board Member
	Secretary	TGCC Representative
	Treasurer	Membership
	Social Director	Presenter
	Trips & Training	Activity helper
	Webmaster	Other
	Newsletter editor	Other

***We had 42 Members Renew.
If you haven't renewed, it's due.***

Ashland, JoAnn	Hems, Adams
Brunel, Roberto	Hunter, Norma & Pete
Callaway, Mike	Huss, Dylan
Campagna, P J	Leissner, Kirk & Julie
Campanelli, Bert & Joe	McGlothlin, Gloria
Corrier, Shon	Peters, Mike
Costello, Michael	Pickler, Dave
Davis, Pat & Leonard	Saathoff, Brion
Deaton, Paul Cater	Seiser, Barbara & Keith
Deavenport, Dennis	Sykes, Rebecca & Parker, James
Dwire, Ja Van & PeeWee	Smith, Brent
Dwire, Jack, Cathleen & Scott	Smith, James & Mary
Ferguson, Mei Hwa	Strahan, Cathy
Gorman, John	Wallace, Justin
Harvey, John & Nancy	Williams, Billie

\$25 single person membership

Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$19.00

\$35 family membership

Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$26.00

<http://www.lunarfins.com> or cash/check.

If you choose to pay via cash/check payment will be accepted at all meetings or snail mailed to **Cathy Strahan @ 18515 Sandelford Dr., Katy TX 77449**. All checks made payable to the club will be deposited immediately with no hold back or waiting period. Addressed envelopes are also available on request at club meetings for convenience sake.

We also welcome Zelle payments

Now you can pay online, please contact our Treasurer: Cathy Strahan.

TGCC Awards Banquet

February 7th, 11 am —Bayland Community Center



Lunarfins First Ever Bingo Night!

Great Fun, you should have been there!

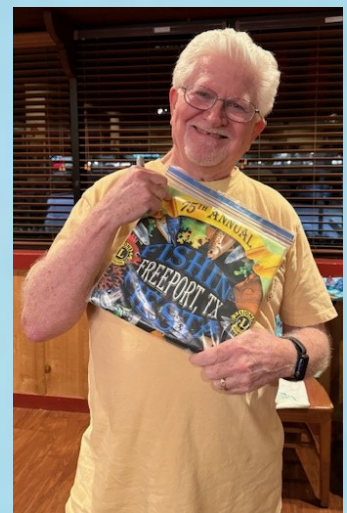
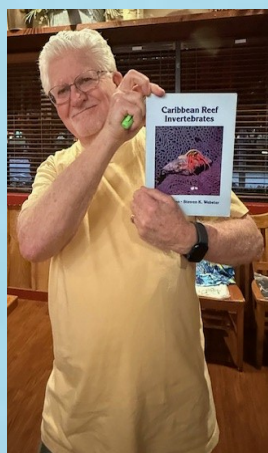
February 21st 6PM-8PM—Spring Creek Barbecue



Jack Pot Winner
\$25.00
Mai Hwa Ferguson



Other Winners



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



You should have been at February General Meeting --It was Great! (Continued)

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

18515 Sandelford Drive,
Katy, TX 77449

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



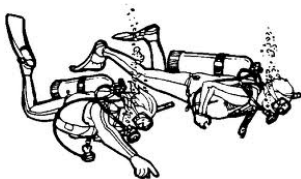
Maximum Scuba Houston

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/>