



Lunarfins Scuba Club

October 21st — Paul Cater Deaton

The Occidental Tourist

Paul Cater Deaton is an award-winning Writer, Producer, Director, and Cinematographer who has shot on six continents for film, TV, music video, magazine, and documentary projects. Credits include The Travel Channel, The Discovery Channel, HBO Documentaries, and The Amazing Race.

Splitting time between his two favorite worlds, SCUBA diving and Star Wars, documentary producer Paul Cater Deaton makes the most of expeditions to Japan and Mexico. He dives the frigid muck of Osezaki before attending Star Wars Celebration in Tokyo, then explores the mysterious cenotes of the Yucatan and joining 300 costumed members of the famed 501st Legion for a grand parade through the streets of Merida, Mexico. With exotic sites and marine life here on Earth to denizens of a galaxy far, far away, one need not be a Star Wars nerd to enjoy this film.



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83674642772?pwd=YUtDMkdGdkhzVHRleFdwrfGT0pWL1hTdZ09>

ID: 836 7464 2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month **Nov. 12th** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at [<brionsaathoff@icloud.com>](mailto:brionsaathoff@icloud.com) before 7:00 PM.

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

P J Campagna,
Paul Cater Deaton,
Julie [Khatri](#),
Kirk Leissner,
Brion Saathoff,
Bob Sanders,
Cathy Strahan,
Justin Wallace





Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Membership

2026 Membership are due Now

If you are a returning 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](#)



Sept. 26th — Beach Party — P10

Oct. 11th — Pumpkin Carving Contest — P10

Oct. 20th. — General Meeting — Paul Cater

Deaton— The Occidental Tourist

Oct. Bingo Night—Oct. 29th—6:30-8:30pm — P15

Nov. 17th. — General Meeting — Scott Singleton

Dec. 6th. — Lunarfin's Christmas Party—P6

2027

Jan. 19th. — General Meeting — Paul Schenk

Feb. 15th. — General Meeting — Craig Beasley

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Brion Saathoff

Vice President

Ja Van Pruett

Secretary

Brandy Behanna

Treasurer

Cathy Strahan

Social Director

Open

APPOINTED

Media Manager

Dennis Deavenport

Trip information

P J Campagna

TGCC Representative

Tom Burns

Advisor

Dennis Deavenport

Advisor

Kirk Leissner

Advisor

Mike Peters

Newsletter

Ja Van Pruett

Website

Tom Burns

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2027?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes



Hello Lunarfins,

It seems as though the year has moved forward on us rather quickly as we are sliding into the holiday season. It was a busy summer with some great events, we still have a few more for you in our bag of tricks (or treat's) The second annual pumpkin carving contest is this Sunday October 11, it is a great opportunity to learn new tricks and meet other divers. If you have a costume you want to try out before a Halloween party, Sunday would be a great time to do it. We had a blast last year, we hope to make it even better this year. you can find all the details on page 7, just a reminder we will be at Memaid just past the fill station this year." RSVPs by the 6th will really help us out please."

Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday 21, October, there has been a change of speakers, Dennis will be in world traveller mode so our dear friend Paul Cater Deaton has offered to entertain us with his adventures in Japan, Mexico and beyond, come on out and join us, good food and great friends. If you cannot be there in person the Zoom details are on page 1.

Cathy has pulled another fun bingo night out of her trick or treat bag for a social event on Thursday 29, October, come on out and have a great night with us at Spring Creek BBQ in league city.

There is still room on the Maldives trip for September 2027, you can contact PJ or Dennis if you are interested. Details on page 12.

Paul and I had a great time attending the 2nd annual Galveston Island pirate festival at Moody Gardens last month, I would like to give a shout out to Johnny Steverson and the WhoDah crewe, they work very hard to bring us Great events to the wonderful city of Galveston, Pirate festival, Steampunk festival, and much more, I met them when I found an Invitation to be in the Dickens on the Strand parade, it was a fun day and evening.

We are very blessed to have Galveston island so close or for some of us at our front porch.

JaVan has reached into her trick or treat bag and pulled out a nice surprise, she had the Christmas party moved to Sunday 6, December from 11:00 to 4:00 we want everyone to be able to attend without having to drive home in the dark.

We will be voting on Lunarfins of the year at the party this year and we are working on a pirate theme dig out all your



pirate gear be ye a scallywag, captain, wench, lady in waiting or whats other that bees ye fancy. . We will have many props for the photo shoots so please come or we may be sending The Black Pearl for you.

We had a great time at the beach party at the Texas City Dyke. It was a bit windy but it helped keep it cooler. Our newest member Rick Heiman came out to meet some of our members and get comfortable with his Lunarfins family. Welcome Rick it is a pleasure to have you with us.

Next months meeting will be presented by my friend Scott Singleton, Scott is diving all over the world in pretty much all modes of diving. He is an avid deep wreck diver so it will be fun to see what he bings to the table. If you have never met him he is a great guy.

Cathy has put in a reorder for more rash guards and shirts, we will be trying to maintain a small inventory, hopefully it will grow as we sell more, we are putting the proceeds back into Lunarfins products that we plan on adding in the future, the pricing is very reasonable.

I want to give a shout out to to all the awesome Board members and volunteers that make Lunarfins a great club and all of you that keep joining us every year, without your support we could not promote marine conservation, scuba diving and safe environmentally conscious practices in and out of the water.

Tiny bubbles,



Fins up

Brion <.:;>



Happy Birthday to you!

May your day be filled with Happiness.

Betsy Beasley — Oct. 1

Cathy Strahan — Oct. 6

Mike Peters — Oct. 20

Kirk Leissner — Oct. 23



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. **Thank you. Judith Jackson for your donation.**

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.



Bill Todd



John Hartman



Christie Emerson



Ja Van Pruett

Welcome to our Newest Member



Rick Heiman



Upcoming General Meetings — Spring Creek Barbeque

Tuesday, Oct. 20th, and Tuesday, Nov. 17th.

Be sure to check out their menu

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

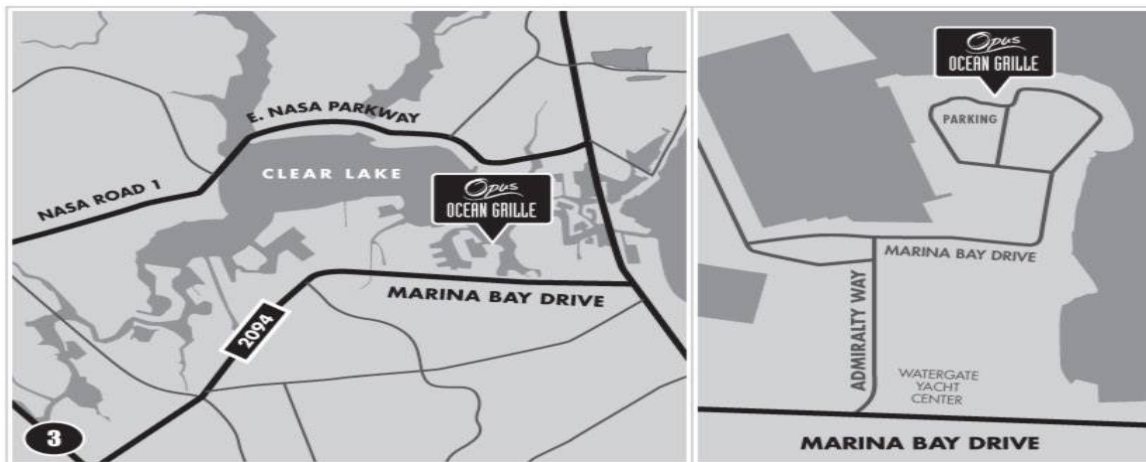
2710 Gulf Fwy S, League City, TX 77573

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

Dec. 6th — Lunarphins Christmas Party



11:00 AM—4:00 PM, Second Floor

Lunarfins U/W Pumpkin Carving



October 11, 2026 - 10 AM to 2 PM
Mammoth Lake (Mermaid Beach), Clute, TX

Entry Fee* \$15.00 includes

- Carving Kit
- Pumpkin
- Prizes
- Food

**Park Admission not included*

To reserve pumpkin, RSVP by
Oct 6 to veghead59@msn.com
After Oct 6, you must bring your
pumpkin

**Please RSVP as soon as you can in order for Cathy to
order you a pumpkin!!**

**2025
winners**



About our Members

Paul Cater Deaton

It was a fun weekend that lasted all the way through Monday. Saturday started with a cookout with Lunarfans Dive Club on the Texas City dike. It ended with Flight Against Breast Cancer at Lone Star Flight Museum. The Fab 5 headlined and I've never heard them sound better. They even did "Pinball Wizard," which I've never heard another band cover before.

On Sunday, I continued building an artsy entry for Bra Dazzle, a very special breast cancer event happening this Thursday. Just wait until you see the photos of this masterpiece!

Monday saw us at the Twincesses' jr. high for Quinn's choir concert and some quality time with a bunch of family. All in all, a right



The legend is back! Some A-hole drove their car into Leon's World Finest BBQ a year or so ago and they closed the place. Word was that Mr. Leon was going to go ahead and retire, which was a real bummer because his BBQ is BANGIN'. So I'm driving back from the mainland the other day and I see a "Now Open" sign on the place and "Leon's World Finest BBQ" in new paint. I thought, "could it be?" I went in and, sure enough, there's Mr. Leon in a tastefully refurbished interior. I said, "Praise the lord and hand me a chopped beef sandwich!" I'm a BBQ Fan Boy. Deal with it.



About our Members

Julie Khatri

One more talented member of Lunarfans— Beautiful work,

Started a new crochet blanket. I was thinking of entering it into the state fair this year. It will be square when I'm done.



Go Astros!

About our Members

Brion Saathoff



Had a great day at the pirate festival at Moody Gardens in Galveston with my dear friend, Paul, Cater Deaton, and the WhoDah Crewe of the Galveston Mardi Gras fame. What a great bunch of people, pirates and Scalliwags.



About our Members

Bob Sanders

Can't stop learning! This week I am participating in a mountain medicine course, just got off the mountain. It's 9:53 PM when we were repelling after dark



Love you Hubby and Happy 30th Anniversary. Time to plan our next 30 years of adventures.



PROPOSED TRIP – SEPTEMBER 2027

THE MALDIVES on the DUKE OF YORK LIVEABOARD

Dates: September 12-19 or 19-26, 2027



Boat specifics:

- **118 ft long luxury dive yacht, metal construction**
- **UK style outlets, 220V**
- **Rooms for up to 25 guests but 20 max is normal.**
- **Three room styles**
 - **There are 11 cabins onboard the Duke of York. 3 on the upper deck - 2 with twin beds and 1 with double/twin bed. 8 on the lower deck - 3 are twin bed, 4 can be used as double, twin or triple share, and 1 cabin can be used for single occupancy. All cabins have private bathrooms.**
 - **Standard rooms - \$2310 (\$2136 after 7.5% discount)**
 - **Deluxe rooms - \$2510 (\$2322 after 7.5% discount)**
 - **Suite (or Superior) - \$3465 (\$3205 after 7.5% discount)**
 - **Lower deck single bed cabin (price not available right now)**
 - **Third person sharing a cabin with 2 friends – 20% discount**
 - **One additional free for 10 paid (to be distributed to all who pay)**
- **Nitrox included, \$30 for park fee, \$84 a green tax, \$140 service Charge (crew tip)**
- **Spa on top deck**
- **One full-service dive tender for all dives but dropping divers at 2-3 different locations per dive to avoid overcrowding. Dive gear stays on the tender between dives.**
- **A range of shore options for add-on extensions (to be negotiated later as people choose to stay longer)**

Yes, I'll go: Names _____

E-mail Address _____ **Phone** _____

Dive the World will send you an invoice for your deposit.

Questions: Dennis Deavenport ddeavenport@comcast.net or 832-265-0690

Faint signal leads treasure hunters to massive discovery at legendary 400-year-old wreck

55-pound artifacts, valued at up to \$25,000, was found buried in mud

By [Andrea Margolis Fox News](#)

Published [September 17, 2026, 8:00am EDT](#)

A treasure-hunting crew searching a legendary 17th-century underwater shipwreck off the Florida Keys has recovered a massive 55-pound copper ingot — the latest find along a trail that its captain believes could lead to more treasure.

The ingot was found by divers with Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Expeditions at the wreck site of the Nuestra Señora de Atocha, about 35 miles west of Key West.

The Spanish treasure galleon was on its return voyage to Spain when it sank in a hurricane off the Florida Keys in 1622 — carrying silver, gold and emeralds.

MYSTERY OF GOLD COIN SHIPWRECK FINALLY UNMASKED AFTER 30 YEARS: 'FANTASTIC CONCLUSION'

Mel Fisher began searching for the Atocha in 1969. He spent years recovering artifacts from the wreck before his company prevailed in a lengthy legal battle over rights to its treasure in 1982.

Fisher's team discovered the Atocha's famed "Mother Lode," or main cargo deposit, in 1985 — and the site still yields new finds decades later.

Photos show the 55-pound copper ingot — or copper bar — heavily coated in marine encrustation after spending over [four centuries](#) underwater.

In an August press release, Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Expeditions said the ingot has an estimated value of about \$18,000 to \$25,000.

[UNDERWATER ROBOTICS EXPERT REVEALS 'SHIPWRECK CITY' HIDING BENEATH MAJOR URBAN LAKE](#)

Captain Drake Nicholas was retracing an area from the salvage vessel DARE when his metal detector picked up a faint signal, he told Fox News Digital.

The captain said he was following a "tight trail of coins" at the time.

"I thought it was a cannon, but it ended up being a copper ingot, which was also very exciting."

"Faint hits are always the most exciting because they lead to, you know, stuff very deep in the mud," said Nicholas.

"And I got that very faint hit. I dug down like I always do ... and it got louder, and that's, you know, when the excitement really kicks in."

[DIVERS UNCOVER HUNDREDS OF ANCIENT RELICS NEAR SHIPWRECK UNTOUCHED FOR 2,100 YEARS](#)

Nicholas said he initially mistook the ingot [for a cannon](#) due to its rounded shape, large size and bronze-copper coloring.

"I was so excited," he said. "I thought it was a cannon, but it ended up being a copper ingot, which was also very exciting." Though the ingot may appear ordinary to the untrained eye, Nicholas said copper was a "very precious" resource in the 1600s — especially for making the bronze cannons that the [Spanish Empire](#) relied on.

"I believe that only certain people could actually own copper because it was making such strong cannons," he said. "It wasn't something [that] an everyday guy could have a stockpile of — it was more for the king and queen to make cannons."

To make the ingots, metalworkers "would basically dig a hole in the sand and just pour copper into it," he said.



"It would make this copper ingot or a copper bar," added Nicholas.

"They were very crude, not many markings on them, a lot of impurities in them, but [it was copper](#) being sent over to Spain for bronze canons."

The recent discoveries have given Nicholas reason to believe the crew may be closing in on a larger concentration of treasure.

Copper, seen above, was a "very precious" resource in the 1600s and was used to make bronze cannons, according to treasure hunters and underwater explorers. (Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Treasures)

Faint signal leads treasure hunters to massive discovery at legendary 400-year-old wreck (Continued)

"The size of what we've been finding lately is ... leading us to what I believe is the rest of the treasure," Nicholas said. Part of that confidence comes from new technology that Nicholas said allows the crew to detect targets deeper beneath the dense mud covering the site.

"We've never really [gotten] to penetrate that mud with a metal detector to get down and find, you know, the rest of the silver bars, copper ingots and coins," he said.

Part of that confidence comes from new technology that Nicholas said allows the crew to detect targets deeper beneath the dense mud covering the site.

"We've never really [gotten] to penetrate that mud with a metal detector to get down and find, you know, the rest of the silver bars, copper ingots and coins," he said.

"Right now, I have 19 targets that are very interesting, very high-value targets that I'm going out after next," added Nicholas.

"And it's a lot of digging through that mud and getting down to that level. But once I'm there, I'm very, very confident and excited — we're just very excited to see where this is leading."



Copper, seen above, was a "very precious" resource in the

1600s and was used to make bronze cannons, according to treasure hunters and underwater explorers. (Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Treasures)

New technology allows the treasure-hunting crew to search deeper beneath the dense mud covering the historic Atocha wreck site. (Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Treasures)

The latest discovery follows another recent find from the Atocha shipwreck.

Earlier this summer, Nicholas and his team found a 22.5-pound silver bar at the site, which remained remarkably intact despite heavy marine growth.



Captain Drake Nicholas, pictured at right, said he discovered the copper ingot while following a "tight trail of coins" at the Atocha wreck site. (Mel Fisher's Shipwreck Treasures)

Lunarphins Member of the Year

Nomination Criteria

The **Lunarphins Member of the Year** award recognizes a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the club and has demonstrated the spirit, enthusiasm, and camaraderie that make Lunarphins special.

The award is based on **overall contribution and positive impact**, rather than simply the number of dives, meetings, or events attended.



1. Participation & Enthusiasm

- Actively participates in Lunarphins dives, trips, meetings, social events, and other club activities.
- Shows enthusiasm for diving and the activities that bring our members together.
- Makes an effort to participate even when they are not personally benefiting from an event.



2. Contribution to Diving

- Pro safe, responsible, and enjoyable diving.
- Shares diving knowledge, experience, and skills with fellow members.
- Supports and encourages divers of different experience levels.
- Helps make dive trips enjoyable and successful for everyone



3. Support of Fellow Members

- Welcomes new members and helps them feel like part of the Lunarphins family.
- Encourages other members to participate in dives and club activities.
- Is willing to lend a hand, answer questions, share equipment knowledge, or simply be there when another member needs help.
- Demonstrates genuine camaraderie and concern for fellow divers.



4. Leadership & Initiative

- Steps up when something needs to be done, whether or not they hold an official club position.
- Volunteers to organize dives, trips, meetings, educational activities, or social events.
- Brings new ideas and energy to the club.
- Can be counted on to follow through on commitments.



5. Conservation & Respect for the Underwater World

- Demonstrates respect for marine life and the underwater environment.
- Encourages responsible diving and good environmental practices.
- Supports conservation, reef protection, cleanup efforts, or other activities that benefit our oceans and waterways.

Lunarphins Member of the Year (Continued)



6. Lunarphins Spirit

- Helps create a fun, welcoming, and inclusive atmosphere.
- Participates in the social side of the club and helps build friendships among members.
- Encourages camaraderie both above and below the surface.
- Represents the adventurous, fun-loving, and welcoming spirit of Lunarphins.



7. Positive Representation of Lunarphins

- Represents Lunarphins in a positive and respectful manner.
- Demonstrates good sportsmanship, teamwork, and consideration for others.
- Helps strengthen the club's reputation within the diving community



8. Overall Consideration

The **Lunarphins Member of the Year** should be someone who consistently demonstrates:

Commitment • Camaraderie • Leadership • Sportsmanship • Adventure • Service • The Spirit of Diving
The recipient should be a member who has made a **meaningful positive difference in the Lunarphins club experience for others.**

The award is not necessarily given to the member who dives the most, attends the most meetings, or holds the most responsibilities. It is intended to recognize the person whose **actions, attitude, generosity, and involvement best embody what it means to be a Lunarphins member.**

Lunarphins Second Bingo Night!

Save The Date!

Please join us for a night of fun and laughter at our 2nd Lunarphins Bingo Night!

October 29nd 6:30 PM—8:30 PM

Spring Creek Barbecue

2710 Gulf Freeway, League City (Same place as our meetings)

All Lunarphins members, children, family and friends are

encouraged to join in on the fun!

One Last Dive with PeeWee

A photographer's perspective on capturing a final farewell at sea
Words and photographs by Justin Wallace

As underwater photographers, we spend a lot of time trying to anticipate what will happen next.

We learn the behavior of our subjects. We watch the current. We think about light, composition and positioning. We try to put ourselves in the right place before the moment happens.

But on a recent trip aboard the MV Fling to the Kraken wreck off the Texas coast, I found myself preparing to photograph something I had never photographed before—and something I knew I would only have one opportunity to capture.

We were saying goodbye to our dear friend, Rodney Paul Dwire, affectionately known to many of us as “PeeWee.”

I knew PeeWee personally, and when I think about him, the first thing I remember is his smile. He had a warm demeanor and a way about him that made you happy to see him. So although I entered the water with a camera in my hands, this wasn't simply another photographic assignment. This one was personal.



I had never photographed ashes entering the water. I didn't know what they would do.

Would they float? Would they immediately sink? Would they disperse across the surface? Would they follow the current? There was almost no current that day, which somehow made their behavior even harder to predict.

The

plan was to release PeeWee's ashes into the Gulf, and I wanted to capture the moment from the water as a split shot—his friends gathered aboard the Fling above the Surface and his ashes entering the ocean below.

Technically, that presented an interesting challenge. Split shots are difficult enough when you have control over the scene. This time, I had none.

And, most importantly, there would be no second take.

I positioned myself in the water beside the ling, watching through the viewfinder and trying to balance two very different worlds. Above me were PeeWee's friends and loved ones preparing to say goodbye. Below me was the blue Gulf of Mexico and the unknown.

Then the ashes were released.



For a moment, the photographer in me took over. Frame. Focus. Waterline. Composition. Shoot.

But through the camera I watched something remarkable happen.

Instead of simply disappearing, the ashes entered the water and blossomed into a pale cloud beneath the Fling. Fine particles streamed downward while the larger cloud seemed almost suspended in the blue. With virtually no current, it remained visible long enough for me to capture several frames.

Looking at the photographs afterward, the image that stays with me is the split shot.

Above the water are the people who came to say goodbye. Below it, PeeWee begins his final journey into the ocean.

The waterline separates the two, but it also connects them.

Later, we descended to the Kraken. Its enormous bow emerged from the blue, covered in marine life and surrounded by fish—a reminder of something divers understand particularly well: beneath the surface, things change, but they don't simply disappear.



I've photographed wrecks, sharks, tiny creatures and countless moments underwater. Usually I'm thinking about whether I captured the photograph I envisioned.

This time felt different.

I went into the water worried about focus, exposure, the waterline and what the ashes might do. I came out realizing that the technical challenge was only a small part of what I had photographed.

I had been given the privilege of documenting a friend's final goodbye.

And every time I look at that photograph, I'll remember PeeWee—not as the cloud disappearing beneath the surface, but as the man with the warm demeanor and that unforgettable smile.

One last dive, my friend - Justin.



NOAA'S Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Dr. Tom Bright, was considered by many to be the "Father" of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, first explored the reefs and banks of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico in the 1970s. It began on the deck of a ship with a surprise offer from Tom to let me take his place on a submersible dive. It would be my first dive on the Flower Garden Banks in the northwest Gulf of Mexico. It was a moment of generosity and trust that did much more than provide the samples I needed for my graduate research. It gave me confidence that I was accepted – that I belonged in his field.

Tom passed away September 17, 2026, completing his 89-year, adventurous journey of Planet Earth. He was at his beloved log cabin in northern Idaho. Tom was a mentor and friend to many; a man with an endless curiosity and fascination with nature, a passion for teaching and sharing knowledge, a commanding presence, and a contagious zest for life.



Born in Georgia and raised in Queens, New York City, Tom served aboard U.S. Navy submarines as a diesel mechanic from 1955 to 1958. After attending the University of Wyoming and Texas A&M University, he taught at Jacksonville University before returning to Texas A&M in 1973. He served as Professor of Oceanography until his retirement in 1994 and served as Director of the Texas Sea Grant College Program from 1985 to 1993.

Throughout his career, Dr. Bright was committed to science and service. He began his career at a pivotal moment in environmental history, as landmark legislation in the early 70s ushered in the modern era of conservation. Tom immediately understood the importance of science in guiding management and devoted his career to putting that principle into practice and passing it on to his students.

He conducted reef ecology research in Florida, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Arabian Gulf. He is best known for his pioneering studies of the Flower Garden Banks and for advocating their protection. Over more than two decades, he, along with colleagues and graduate students, including more than 20 for whom he served as major professor, explored and documented these remarkable reefs, producing much of the scientific foundation that ultimately led to the establishment of NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. He was instrumental in the original selection of the banks as a candidate for sanctuary status in the 1970s, recommended approaches to protect the banks prior to the 1992 sanctuary designation, helped develop the sanctuary management plan, then evaluated data that led to the addition of 15 more banks to the sanctuary in 1996 and 2021. As Sea Grant Director, he donated space and support for the inaugural sanctuary office. Tom will forever be known by his colleagues, including the graduate students whose lives and careers he inspired, as the "Father of the Flower Gardens."

Among his many scientific contributions, Dr. Bright co-authored two landmark books on the biology, geology, and hydrography of the hard banks and coral reefs of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Renowned for his remarkable ability to describe, characterize and interpret marine environments using submersibles and ROVs, he also pioneered diver-conducted, non-destructive benthic survey techniques using underwater photography, video, direct measurements, and acoustics to assess coral populations, growth, reproduction, recruitment, disease, mortality, and recovery.

A veteran scientific diver and explorer, Dr. Bright led missions in the Tektite II and Hydro-Lab undersea habitats and conducted research from the submersibles Nekton Gamma, Diaphus, Johnson Sea Link, NR-1, and Alvin. He served not only as a scientist on the Perry PC-14 submersible Diaphus, but also as a submariner mechanic and pilot.

Following his retirement from Texas A&M, Tom and his wife Cindy spent three years sailing aboard their 44-foot ketch Tempest throughout the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys, and the northwestern Caribbean. In 1998, he came out of retirement to become Station Manager of the Glover's Reef Marine Research Station Belize, where he hosted visiting scientists and students and supported research, education, and field operations. He also produced an extensive guide to the environment and biota of the atoll.

Tom worked closely with the Government of Belize, residents of Glover's Atoll, and environmental organizations in the stewardship of one of the Caribbean's most important reef systems. His experience with the

NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Continued)

offshore energy industry in the Gulf of Mexico helped Belize evaluate the risks and their readiness for associated coastal and offshore development. Ultimately, they decided not to support it.

Endlessly curious and enamored by the natural world, Tom and Cindy moved to Idaho in 2001 and lived in a log home they built on 10 acres near Sandpoint, overlooking Lake Pend Oreille. For 25 years, they enjoyed skiing, sailing, fly-fishing, and tending the fir, larch, and cedar trees that populate their hillside forest.

The last work I did with Tom was a joint Ocean Elders podcast with Dr. Sylvia Earle and Liz Taylor in June. We had a diving trip to the Flower Gardens planned and had hoped that Tom might be able to join us. Ultimately, his health prevented that. So, I was especially grateful when Sylvia and Liz invited us to do the podcast and share our experiences together.

During the conversation, I shared how proud I was that Tom, and I had co-authored not only my first scientific paper in 1983, but also one of my last, 40 years later in 2023. It would also be his last publication. In between, he supported me, encouraged me, advocated for me, and continued to inspire me as I watched him explore our world.

As a scientist, explorer, adventurer, teacher, and mentor, Tom was a model for those fortunate enough to work with him. Few will forget how his booming voice filled a room and his eloquence captivated his audience. But for all of us, he demonstrated the fullness of a life led by curiosity, caring, and a lifetime of learning.

Tom, may your adventure continue. He came out on the M/V Fling many times while I was a volunteering cook.



To learn more about the Flower Gardens –Please go view the website below

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Tom%20Bright>

NOR'EASTER REPORTEDLY UNCOVERS REMAINS OF 19TH-CENTURY SHIPWRECK IN NANTUCKET

The discovery came on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 as strong winds and heavy rains struck the Northeast

By **Bailey Richards**

Published on September 26, 2026, 05:33PM EDT

The nor'easter lashing Nantucket with wind and rain this weekend has uncovered the remains of a shipwreck along the island's south shore. The fragment is likely from the 19th century schooner Warren Sawyer, a wooden ship that wrecked near Miacomet Beach on December 22, 1884.



Pieces of the ship were previously uncovered on Nantucket's south shore in 2022 — in the same area of beach as Saturday's wooden fragment, according to the Nantucket Current. Plus, the current nor'easter "has already caused significant erosion in that area,"

The portion of the Warren Sawyer that washed ashore in December 2022 — discovered by a resident who was walking her dog — was likely a section of the hull from the schooner's lower bow, the Nantucket Current reported in February 2023, citing the findings of David Robinson, a state archeologist.

But researchers with the Egan Maritime Institute — a historical organization dedicated to preserving Nantucket's maritime heritage — cautioned at the time that they could not claim with "complete certainty" that the surfaced wreckage was part of the long-missing Warren Sawyer.

There had been other wrecks in roughly the same area of the island, and there was an inconsistency in the ship's fastening hardware, the researchers said at the time, per the Nantucket Current.

The Warren Sawyer was en route from Boston to New Orleans, carrying cotton and scrap iron, when the sailing vessel was blown off its course by gale-force winds.

The outlet previously shared an account of the shipwreck published in the Nantucket newspaper The Inquirer and Mirror in 1945, years after winds sealed the fate of the Warren Sawyer.

The captain and all seven others on board were saved, and some cargo was recovered, according to the account of the 1884 shipwreck.

"With the schooner lurching under the impact of the seas, it was a difficult task to keep a steady strain on the hawser, but the experienced life savers worked unceasingly and with the coming of the morning of the 23rd, all hands had been safely landed on the beach,"

The rare September nor'easter currently bringing heavy rain and wind gusts of up to 60 mph to the Northeast has already caused extensive flooding along New Jersey's shore and left tens of thousands in the region without power, according to [CNN](#). [Travel plans have also been disrupted](#), with more than 1,900 flights delayed as of Saturday afternoon.

Conditions are expected to further worsen around Saturday evening's high tide, per CNN, bringing more heavy rainfall to areas including New York City.



THREE-MASTED SCHOONER WARREN SAWYER ASHORE AT SUNSHINE.

**You should have
been there!**

Beach Party— Texas City Dike

Sept. 26th @ 10:00AM



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: _____

Lunarfins Scuba Club Membership Application

18515 Sandelford Drive, Katy, TX 77449

Taking Dues Now!

Please Check Membership Type ☐ New Fill out and sign the complete application below. ☐ Renewal _____ ☐ No Changes to previous information provided	DUES Individual \$25/year ☐ Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$19.00 Family \$35/year ☐ Last years members will pay a prorated fee \$26.00 Membership year: January 1 – December 31 New Applicants joining July 1 or later, ½ price
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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	
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.	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

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

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.



Lunarfin's

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Katy, TX 77449

281-851-5206

webeditor@lunarfin's.com

Facebook:

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

Website:

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

TGCC

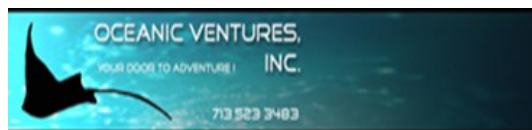
<https://www.tgccdiving.org/>

TPWD reefs:

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



Dive Shops, etc.



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713-523-3483 (dive)

<https://oceanicventures.com/>



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giglinmarlin.com

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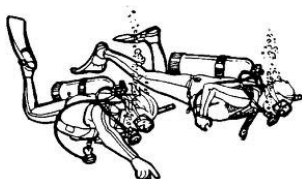
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