



April 2003 Newsletter Volume 31, Number 4
[<http://www.underseas.org/news/0304.htm>]

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President's Waves

A decorative blue wavy line graphic that extends across the width of the page, starting under the 'President's Waves' title and ending with a small peak on the right side.

This year our Annual Awards Banquet was held at Boca Dunes Golf and Country Club, and we had a great time. Mary LePage worked hard on this event, and I want to thank her for her efforts. For decorations, she made these funny fish which hung from the ceiling. The room was set out with formal,

covered chairs complete with ribbons and bows. The food was very good.

I hope everyone appreciates Ronnie Farr for her outstanding energy and efforts to help our club. She has now taken on the Membership position and is going at the job with her usual fervor. I sent an email to all members announcing this update. I mentioned a membership drive and suggested every member try to bring a guest to a meeting. Look how much Linda Grist has contributed to our club in the short amount of time she has been with us. Why don't other people volunteer for things? Ronnie has learned that our members want more activities, but who is willing to organize them? The same small group cannot do everything. One thing we need is a telephone committee. Maybe you would be just the person to organize it. Talk to Ronnie or me if you would like to do something. It could be a one-time activity or an ongoing thing.

Our Safety Coordinator, Steve McCutcheon, has started collecting articles regarding equipment recalls and general safety matters. This will be located in the front of the meeting room for you to browse. If you have anything to contribute on that subject, please see Steve.

Be sure and pick up a free door prize ticket at the front membership desk. This month there will be two items. You can pay dues when you pick up your ticket. Join us for dinner around 6 o'clock. Remember, the meetings start at 7:30 now. See you at the Avian Restaurant on Thursday.



Kathi McCutcheon
USA President for 2003

April Meeting Program:

Our April program will be a talk by Dr. Dan DiResta from the Univ. of Miami Rosenstil School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (now you see why they call it RSMAS). He wrote me "I direct the Marine Science Program and am a faculty member in Biology. I collaborate with researchers at RSMAS on several projects. I'll talk about some of the work we've done on corals and some of the stresses coral reefs are facing, both locally and globally." It will be illustrated with slides. Bernie Meier heard him in Miami and suggested that he would be an excellent speaker for the USA.

Supper together at the Avian. It looked like food quality was vastly improved at the March meeting, so join us for good marine BS.

Ray McAllister
VP of Programs



Local Diving



with Linda G.

Here's an update for the calendar of upcoming local dives:

June 14 - South Florida Diving Headquarters, Pompano Beach, on the Safari Diver

July 12 - Southeast Oceanic Services, Dania Beach, on the Ibis

The first local dive of the season (March 22) almost fizzled Out. I only had three divers signed up which didn't meet the boat's minimum. Thus, I rescheduled the Safari Diver trip for morning of June 14th. Phil B, Pam O & Jerry G were determined to go diving - they we're having withdrawal symptoms as they hadn't been in the water since December! I took pity on them on Tuesday and called Capt. Craig Smart (Starfish Enterprise) and was able to get them spots on Saturday. I rode along to enjoy the sunshine and camaraderie (and bringing the goodies to feed the crew!) We headed north out of the Boynton Inlet for two drift dives. Visibility wasn't the greatest, but lobsters were plentiful (a few were bagged) turtles, a spotted ray, angels, nurse sharks, spotted moray, colorful parrots - lots of things to enjoy!

The next local dive is scheduled on the Diversity on Saturday, April 26. Be at the dock in Deerfield Beach at 7:30 a.m., boat leaves at 8:00 a.m. sharp! Cost is \$40 (diving and tip). Let me know when you reserve you spot if you need rental tanks. Don't miss out. Sign up now! Give me a call (561 369-1286) or email me at ljg247@hotmail.com.

Linda Grist
VP Local Diving

Send checks payable to USA to: Linda Grist 5557 Boynton Place Boynton Beach, FL 33437



Membership Notes:

From your New Membership Coordinator : Ronnie Farr

If you have not already heard, I am now taking on "membership" for USA. I am actually looking forward to this new position in the hopes of keeping in touch with our members as well as soliciting new members. I also would like to ask for everyone's help with new ideas to keep our club interesting and exciting. I have already heard from several of our members that we need to have more activities. I agree, but it also takes people that are willing to plan the activities and give up some of their time.

We are a "Dive Club" and to most of us this is our passion. All of us need to support our VP of Local Diving, Linda Grist by filling up the boats, as well as assisting her with Dives. If we all just planned one dive a month we would only have to do this every five years per person.

Nils Jacobsen, VP of Overseas Diving will soon be planning our overseas diving for next year. As you know, Nils has planned a trip to Thailand for 2004 and the trip is already full. We need everyone's ideas of where YOU want to dive next year, locally as well as overseas. Let's keep this club active.

If you have not paid your dues for this year, you still have a chance to belong to USA Dive Club by paying your dues by the end of April. Please come and join the comeraderie ...

... and ***Lets Go Diving!!!***

Ronnie Farr
Membership Coordinator

TIME FOR DUES. Please either pay at the March meeting or send your check for \$40 to Judy Townsend, 798 NE 35 Street, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Keep up your membership in a great club.

Welcome our new member
Rob Meyers - Davie, FL

And Greetings to our new applicant
Larry Baum - Boca Raton, FL



USA's Overseas Trips for 2003



Bimini - *Waiting List Only*

July 17-20, 2003 : We plan to go to the Bimini again in 2003, July 17-20. This boat holds 6-7 divers. We leave Thursday night; dive Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning, arriving home Sunday evening. Persons signed up: *Chary Lynn, Theresa Shaner, Larry and Mary LePage, Dianne Johnston*

Ronnie Farr, Nils Jacobsen

Trip Leader: [Nils Jacobsen, tgm349@email.mot.com](mailto:Nils.Jacobsen.tgm349@email.mot.com) 954-783-1667

www.underseas.org/trips/bimini2003.html **Price \$770**

Bonaire - *Waiting List Only*

June 21-28, 2003 : We currently have 19 people signed up, and 3 on the waiting list. Bonaire has the highest recorded fish species diversity in the Caribbean, a photographer's paradise. Persons signed up:

Kathi and Steve McCutcheon, Linda Caldwell, Jeff Lindemuth, Judy Tobin, Marie York, Frank and Joanne Morgan, Ralph

Smith, David Bloore, Roger and Nancy Styles, Linda Ianniello, Bob Weybrecht, Larry Townsend, Jim Dunn, Eunice Hamblen, Jill Pando, Clarence Chumney

Trip Leader: [Matt Barton, bartonmg@earthlink.net](mailto:bartonmg@earthlink.net), 561-297-2917

www.underseas.org/trips/bonaire2003.html **Price \$1422 Diver, \$1121 Non-Diver**

Grenadines and Grenada

PRICE BREAK! - Only 2 Spots Left

August 2-12, 2003 : The "Island Dancer" is now part of the Peter Hughes fleet. Fly to Grenada. Board the "Island Dancer" for an 8-day / 7 nights upscale live

aboard experience, followed by 3 days in a beach resort, with land excursions. Members signed up: *Gwen Bissell, Linda Caldwell, Chary Lynn, Hank Resch, Sean Horin, Ronnie Farr, Nils Jacobsen, Kurt Kohler, Kathi & Steve McChutcheon*

Trip Leader: [Nils Jacobsen, tgm349@email.mot.com](mailto:tgm349@email.mot.com) 954-783-1667
www.underseas.org/trips/grenada2003.html **Price \$2445**

Dry Tortugas - Waiting List Only

Sept 25-29, 2003 : We are already booked solid - Waiting List Only on our annual Dry Tortugas Lobstering / Spearfishing trip. This trip always sells out Fast, but is prone to a few last minute changes, so don't hesitate to get on the waiting list. Persons signed-up: *John Baron, Matt Barton, Gail Cistrelli, Bob Cistrelli, Otto Fernandez, Chuck Goby, Ronnie Farr, Nils Jacobsen, Jake Jacobsen, Hank Resch*

Trip Leader: [Ronnie Farr](mailto:Ronnie.Farr@underseas.org) 954-783-1667
www.underseas.org/trips/tortugas03.html **Price \$1090 Nitrox, \$990 Air**



Thailand, Ocean-Rover, Andaman Sea Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phuket

March 5 - 24, 2004 : Currently the trip is full, we only take waiting list signups. Not every update makes it to the Newsletter, and sometimes multiple changes can happen between issues.

To keep everybody posted of all changes, I have created a mailing list. You are welcome to join the mailing list even if you are not signed up, just let me know. If you want to reserve a priority position on an eventual waiting list, you need to file a signup form (with deposit). No other payment will be due until you eventually clear the waiting list.

Also, if you plan to add on to the land part, or have any questions, please let me know? Currently we have confirmed add-on trips to Angkor Wat (Cambodia, before the main trip) and Khao Sok National Park (near Phuket; after the main trip). Other suggestions are listed in the detailed trip descriptions on the web page www.underseas.org/trips/Thailand2004.htm

Channel 7 (Fox) has a nature show Saturday at 10am that often shows sites in Thailand. Similarly for Sunday morning on many of the other nature/travel channels (OLN/Travel/Animal Planet/Discovery/TLC) The latest issue, March-April 2003, of "DIVERS, The Real World of Diving", has a nice article: "Surface Interval, Thailand", covering Bangkok and Northern Thailand

Perons signed up: *Linda Caldwell, Jim Dunn, Ronnie Farr, Carrol Frederick, Barbara Giacoppo, Linda Ianniello, Nils Jacobsen, Chary Lynn, Kathi & Steve McCutcheon, Frank & Joanne Morgan, Gary Sharp, Ann Stambaugh, Nancy & Roger Styles*

Trip Leader: Nils Jacobsen, 954-783-1667
www.underseas.org/trips/Thailand2004.htm

Overseas Trip Payment Schedule

2003 Destinations	Trip Dates	2002-March	Apr	May	TOTAL
Bonaire, Sand Dollar Resort	6/21-28	1,045	189	188	\$1,422
Bonaire, non-diver	6/21-28	820	144	144	\$1,108
Bimini, Paradise Charters	7/17-20	659	111		\$770
Island Dancer Grenada	8/2-12	1775	335	335	\$2,445
Dry Tortugas (Nitrox)	9/25-29	808	141	141	\$1,090
Dry Tortugas (Air)	9/25-29	736	127	127	\$990

2004 Thailand Trip	Trip Dates	2003-March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Thailand, Land and Ocean-Rover	3/5 - 3/24	725	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	\$5,000
Thailand, Ocean-Rover Only	3/10 - 3/24	660	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	410	\$4,350

Please make your April payment at the meeting or mail it to Linda Ianniello no later than 4/3.

The "2002-March" column is the sum of the all current payments to date.

Mail all trip payments to:
Linda Ianniello
359 Cottonwood Lane
Boca Raton, FL 33487

Pictures from the *UnderSea Adventurers 2003 Awards Banquet*

See the complete photo album at www.underseas.org/photos/banq2003

Caribbean Lobsters Under Attack by Herpes Virus

Scientists have discovered a new strain of herpes virus called HLV-PA (Herpes like virus-*Panulirus argus*) affecting juvenile Caribbean lobsters. It is the first virus seen in any lobster species and is unfortunately 100% lethal.



Discovered two years ago by Dr. Mark Joseph Butler IV professor of biological sciences at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, the virus typically kills off a juvenile lobster within 3-4 months of infection. Infection rates currently show as high as 16 percent infected. Estimates of early stages of infection are as high as 30 percent.

Butler along with Jeffrey Shields of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science are currently studying the impacts of this deadly virus. They will co-author a paper describing HLV-PA to appear later this year in the journal "Diseases of Aquatic Organisms."

Some symptoms discovered thus far include:

- - appearance of the disease throughout the Keys waters
- - easily transmitted from lobster to lobster
- - the virus attacks the blood cells, turning it milky white

One natural defense has been observed - the ability of healthy lobsters to chemically sniff out sick lobsters and avoid them. Much further research is still needed.

Butler and his team have been given about \$300,000 from the National Science Foundation and the National Marine Fisheries Service, about 2 years worth of study.

Commercial lobster harvests off Florida have been on the decline for the past few years, indicating a drop in overall lobster populations.

Broward Beach Renourishment Delayed Until 2006

State approval of funds to renourish areas of Broward's beaches are likely to pass the Governor's desk and the cabinet, but with a two phase stipulation. The environmental impact of the project will be studied for the beaches south of Port Everglades, and assessed before proceeding with areas north of the port.



A yearlong study will determine the impacts on submerged reefs and sealife within the south area. Lobbyists backed by South Florida businesses and tourism promoters have intensely pushed for the beach rebuilding projects to begin,



LOADING BROWARD COUNTY "NEAR-SHORE" PLEASE WAIT

especially around the new Diplomat hotel in Hollywood. Environmentalists have come to the defense of the reefs and Florida's sea turtle nesting areas.

The project is estimated to bury 13.5 acres of near shore reefs using 3 million cubic yards of sand taken from sites off Deerfield, Pompano, and Hillsboro Beach.

LUXFER TANKS \$50 REBATE

In January Luxfer announced a \$50 rebate on the 6351 alloy tanks good on the purchase of a new Luxfer tank if you send them your old tank. I checked and found it would cost about \$20 to send the tank back, but if you check your local dive shop they may give you a better deal.

Force E will take your tank in trade and sell you a new Luxfer 80 with 10 free fills and a VIP+ for \$105 with the valve or \$89 without a valve. The card and VIP+ is worth more than \$45.

Divers Direct will give you \$50 off a Luxfer tank and \$25 more without the valve.

So if you have a Luxfer 6351 tank made between 1972 and June of 1988 you can get a new tank at a good discount. This offer is only good until the end of this year.

*Steve McCutcheon,
Safety Coordinator*

Florida Near Shore LADS Maps Available

For those who may have seen the presentation on Broward County's LADS Reef Mapping project, the CD "Broward County - Near Shore" is now available from the web site: <http://www.floridanearshore.com>.

The CD contains an Adobe pdf file with annotated LADS charts of Broward County divided into seven sections. Both AM & PM emphasized views of the



same site are available. There are 136 dive sites listed both alphabetically and by latitude in the bookmark section of the pdf file. For example: If you want to get a close-up view of the "mercedes", just search for it alphabetically, click on either the AM or PM view, and you will be taken to a 400X blow-up view of the site. If you are looking for a second dive site close to your 1st dive, look up your current latitude and see what the closest site is to where you are located. All charts and blow-up views may be printed either to your printer.

Pete Kendrigan brinypete@bellsouth.net
Florida Near Shore
5000 N. Ocean Blvd.
Briny Breezes, FL

P.S. Another CD containing Palm Beach County sites will be available later this year.

For authors and readers of the web Newsletter

A guideline has been created for reuse of material both for and from the newsletter and web pages. It is intended that these guidelines will help our authors and members and other readers in such a way that we can continue publishing necessary and usefull information in the club-use-only spirit, while at the same time protecting the copyrights of original material owners. See the new policy online at www.underseas.org/copyright.html

If you as an author are concerned about how to stay "legal" when using a picture from some other web page, you need to check this policy. If you want to protect your pictures when included in an article, you need to check this policy.

If you as a reader consider copying or "borrowing" material from any of USA's websites, please consult the policy first.

Nils Jacobsen

USA Calendar

- **April 3rd, Thursday**
6:00pm - [Dinner at The Avian](#)
7:00pm - Social
7:30pm - [General Meeting, Ramada Inn, Deerfield Beach](#)

- **April 3-6th, [Dania Beach Marine Flea Market](#)**
- **April 10th, Thursday**
7:00pm - Board Meeting, Linda Ianniello's
- **April 26th, Saturday, Local Dive**
7:30am - [Diversity, Sun Star Aquatics Services](#), Deerfield Beach
-
- **May 1st, Thursday**
6:00pm - [Dinner at The Avian](#)
7:00pm - Social
7:30pm - [General Meeting](#), Ramada Inn, Deerfield Beach
- **May 3-4, [Air & Sea Show, Fort Lauderdale Beach](#)**
- **May 8th, Thursday**
7:00pm - Board Meeting
- **May 16-18 - [The Ocean Festival Dive and Adventure Sports Expo 2003](#)**
(AKA OceanFest), Fort Lauderdale Beach
- **May 24th, Saturday, Local Dive**
7:30am - [Starfish Enterprise, IDIVE, Inc., Lantana](#)
- **May 25th, Sunday, Local Dive**
7:30am - [Starfish Enterprise, IDIVE, Inc., Lantana](#)
-
- **June 5th, Thursday**
6:00pm - [Dinner at The Avian](#)
7:00pm - Social
7:30pm - [General Meeting, Ramada Inn, Deerfield Beach](#)
- **June 12th, Thursday**
7:00pm - Board Meeting
- **June 14, Saturday, Local Dive**
7:30am - South Florida Diving Headquarters, Pompano Beach, on the Safari Diver
- **June 14th - [Reef Sweep and Beach Cleanup](#)**
- **June 21-28 - [Bonaire](#)**
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- **July 12, Saturday, Local Dive**
7:30am - Southeast Oceanic Services, Dania Beach, on the Ibis
- **July 17-20 - [Bimini, Paradise Charters](#)**
 - **Aug 2-12 - [Grenada, Island Dancer](#)**
 -
 - **Sep 27-30 - [Dry Tortugas, Playmate](#)**



UnderSea Adventurers Hall Of Fame

Alan Barrows

Mary May Barrows

Joe DellaFera

Esther Drury	Jim Dunn	Anne Dupont
Ronnie Farr	Sue Fish	Chuck Goby
Gerry Greene	Nancy Greene	Paul Guyon
Dianne Johnston	Patrice Marker	Ray McAllister
Kathi McCutcheon	Carl Meyer	Jerry Millspaugh
Kathy Millspaugh	Carl Nolting	Hank Paurowski
Sue Revie	Gary Sharp	Robert Shearer
Larry Townsend	Marilyn Van Valkenburg	Marie York

Contact Info

UnderSea Adventurers website: www.underseas.org
 DAN website: www.diversalertnetwork.org

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at
Avian Restaurant
 1401 S.Federal Highway Deerfield Beach, FL
 Dinner: 6:00 PM, Early Bird until 6:00PM
 Social: 7:00 PM, Happy Hour 6-8PM
 Meeting: 7:30 PM

Board of Directors

Officers

President	Kathi McCutcheon	954-432-1960	kathianandsteve@aol.com
VP of Programs	Ray McAllister	954-426-0808	dinodivr@bellsouth.net
VP of OS Diving	Nils Jacobsen	954-783-1667	TGM349@email.mot.com
VP of Social Events	Mary LePage	954-917-3082	muskymama@comcast.net
VP of Local Diving	Linda Grist	561-369-1286	LJG247@hotmail.com
Secretary	Linda Caldwell	561-391-0080	bocalou22@aol.com
Treasurer	Judy Townsend	561-391-4364	judytowns@aol.com

Appointees

Audio Coordinator	Larry LePage	954-917-3082	lplepage@comcast.net
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Awards	Ann Stambaugh		ann@annstambaugh.com
Hospitality Coordinator	(open)		
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Membership Database	Patrice Marker	954-577-7919	patmarker@aol.com
Mini-Trip Coordinator	Ronnie Farr	954-783-1667	farr@planetautomotive.com
OS Dive Accountant	Linda Ianniello	561-999-9820	Lindai@us.ibm.com
Photographer	Carol Schurtz	954-746-5578	madnurse@aol.com
Promotions Coordinator	Theresa Shaner	561-493-0600	tshaner@aol.com
Safety Coordinator	Steve McCutcheon	954-432-1960	kathianandsteve@aol.com
Scrapbook	Chary Lynn	561-330-7490	cseaflower@aol.com
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From: Ronnie Farr
 4011 NE 24 Ave
 Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-8025

To: