



May 2003 Newsletter Volume 31, Number 5
[<http://www.underseas.org/news/0305.htm>]

In this Issue:

- [President's Waves](#)
- [May Meeting Presentation: Mike Lamplear](#)
- [Local Diving with Linda G.](#)
- [Membership Notes](#)
- [Lionfish Venomous Fish Invade Florida Waters](#)
- [Diving Philosophies](#)
- [The Most Valuable Seashell in the Ocean](#)
- [USA's Overseas Trips for 2003-2004](#)
 - [Bonaire](#)
 - [Bimini](#)
 - [Grenada and the Grenadines](#) - 3 open spots!
 - [Dry Tortugas](#)
 - [Thailand](#)
 - [Overseas Trip Payment Schedule](#)
- [Upcoming Event Calendar](#)
- [Hall of Fame](#)
- [Contact Info](#)

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.

"What do I get for the price of my membership?" Ronnie was asked that question enough times when she contacted you to renew, that I think we better talk. While a new member's dues are more than offset by the discount coupons we give, what do you see for your annual renewal?

How about a large and interesting group of intelligent friends, a monthly local dive with people you know, notices on equipment updates and recalls, safety messages, camping, biking, picnics, bowling and more. I do not understand why someone would not be willing to spend less than the price of a dive to support a club that offers such excellent programs. Dr. McAllister finds the best of speakers

for each meeting. If you were not a member, you would not have received the email message offering a tour of the submersible, "Alvin." Linda Iannello frequently notifies our members of events between meetings via email.

Of course USA is unique in its Over Seas diving program. We offer complete trips at cost including tips, airfare and some or all meals.. Often people will see a less expensive trip advertised at a dive shop, but a close study shows the price may not include airfare and never tips. Often we are able to lower the price with larger groups. Dive shops keep the extra profit; we refund it. USA has offered me the opportunity for travel to parts of the globe I would never have thought of on my own. I have made very close friends through traveling with our groups. Even the very shy soon open up on trips and become one of the gang.

About ten years ago we addressed this same situation and voted to charge guests more for activities. The amount would be \$40 for overseas diving and a surcharge for other activities such as local dives, mini-trips, dances and such. The trip leaders, until now, have not consistently charged our guests but it has become obvious to our members that they don't need to pay up to join in the fun. Soooo...from now on there will be a surcharge to non-members for all activities so that our supporting members do not feel they are paying for freeloaders.



Please let any Board member know how you feel about this. Our rules are not irrevocable. We are just trying to respond to your input and continue to be a successful organization. Hope to see you on a local dive real soon.

Kathi McCutcheon
USA President for 2003

May Meeting Program:

Captain Mike Lamphear, just retired Florida Marine Patrol officer, will speak. Topic - super amusing stand-up comic routine on marine laws, lobster regulations, etc.

Supper together is at the Avian at 6:30.



Ray McAllister
VP of Programs



Local Diving



with Linda G.

As you've either heard or read elsewhere in the Dive Lines, your Board has decided to change the cost structure for USA Dive Club activities. There will be now be member and non-member fees.

The next two local dives are scheduled on the Starfish Enterprise on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. Both will be morning dives. Spaces are limited as we'll be sharing the boat with a group from Ohio. For both days, be at the dock in Lantana at 7:30 a.m., boat leaves at 8:00 a.m. sharp! Cost is \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members (includes diving and tip). Let me know when you reserve your 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:

Let's Welcome our **new member** Larry Baum. He lives in Boca Raton. Larry was certified in Raleigh, NC in 1999. He does not have as many dives as most of our seasoned divers, so let's help him get in the water this year.

We also have a **new applicant** Eric Ghost who resides in Boca Raton. He received his certification in Seattle Washington in 1979. Eric has dived in many Exotic places including Thailand. Looking forward to Eric diving with us.

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

Ronnie Farr
Membership Coordinator

TIME FOR DUES. Please either pay at the April 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.

Lionfish Venomous Fish Invade Florida Waters Posing Possible Health Threat

Divers and Fishers Alert: Non-native Lionfish offer visual experience, but have venomous spines.

Contacts: Allison McDonald (727) 896-8626; Dan Roberts (727) 896-8626 x2080



St. Petersburg - For more than two years, scientists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) have been investigating rumors of the presence of lionfish off the east coast of Florida.

Reports have surfaced from Key Biscayne, Boca Raton, and West Palm Beach to Jacksonville, but no photographs or fish have been presented as evidence. Last summer lionfish were spotted off Beaufort Inlet, N. C. in the Frying Pan Shoals area.

Several weeks ago David Brown, a high school marine science teacher from Jacksonville, contacted FMRI scientists. Mr. Brown had a specimen of a lionfish given to him by Captain David Hagan.

Capt. Hagan, a commercial fisherman, spotted four lionfish offshore of St. Augustine back in mid-January. He collected a 6.75-inch specimen. The specimen was identified, by FMRI scientists, as *Pterois volitans*, the red lionfish. Capt. Hagan reported seeing at least six other lionfish on that trip. Background:



The official taxonomic nomenclature for the Florida specimen, as well as those from North Carolina and Georgia is *Pterois volitans*, commonly referenced as the "red lionfish," a species that is commonly seen in the size range of 6-12 inches in total length.

The red lionfish have distinctive red

to purple color with vertical white stripes, fleshy tentacles above the eyes and below the mouth, and fan-like pectoral fins. The red lionfish is commonly found in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The species ranges from western Australia and Malaysia to the Marquesas Islands. The lionfish is a popular ornamental marine aquarium fish.

Research Scientists at FMRI want to document all sightings, collections and other incidents relative to this species as well as other non-native marine species. Scientists also want to learn more about their distribution, abundance, and habitat preference.

Special Warning:

It is becoming increasingly likely that divers in excess of 80 feet, in water temperatures above 78 degrees Fahrenheit along the east coast of Florida, may encounter the red lionfish and possibly other lionfish species. Dorsal, anal, and pelvic spines of this fish are venomous and may cause severe local pain, numbness, paralysis, respiratory illness and, in rare cases, death.

For more information please contact Allison McDonald at (727) 896-8626.

Diving Philosophies

From the web ...

1. It ain't a competitive sport.
2. It ain't a macho sport - save the macho bullsh*t for the bedroom.
3. Be as concerned about your buddy's life as you want him/her to be about yours.
4. Select your buddy based upon number 3, and make sure when you are selected that you remember number 3.
5. You can never have too many good dive buddies.
6. Don't open your mouth just to change feet. When you speak, have something of value to add to the conversation.
7. No matter how long you have been diving, there will always be someone who has been diving longer.
8. No matter how many dives you've done, there will always be someone who has done more.
9. Always consult your built in bullsh*t detector before accepting free advice. Chances are if the advice sounds flaky, it is. If it's free, remember, you often get what you pay for.
10. Consult number 9 before dispensing advice.
11. Don't try to cover several square miles on each dive. The reef has more patience than you do, and will be around a lot longer.
12. Be humble. Keep in mind that you are an alien in an alien environment; you need to adapt rather than expecting the environment to adapt. There is no place for arrogance in this sport.
13. You will learn something on each dive regardless of how many dives have gone before. Be as willing to learn as you are to teach - and vice versa.
14. Never argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.
15. Share our sport with as many people as you can. If you are a newbie, have patience. Everyone was where you are now at some time in their career. If you are experienced, have patience with those who are not. You were there once, too.
16. Have fun. Slow down and enjoy the interaction with a different world.
17. There is no substitute for experience.
18. It ain't about ego.



19. Even if you're pissed at another diver, when you wave, use all your fingers. He/she may be the one who has to come to your assistance one day. It's easier to get forgiveness than permission.
20. Get mad. And then get over it.
21. A step into the water is a step down the food chain.
22. You can sometimes hide your stupidity, but don't count on it.
23. The reason you dive is to get away from meaningless conversation.
24. Always drink upstream of the herd.
25. "Good enough" depends on whether your position resembles William Tell - or his son.
26. Always hang your dripping wet suit over someone else's locker.
27. If someone else will do a dirty job, let them.
28. A good dive is good, a bad dive ain't bad.
29. It's easier to change a plan than to have no plan at all.
30. Never loan what you can't do without.
31. Never borrow what you can't pay for.
32. Make sure that your dive doesn't exceed the least experienced diver's comfort zone.
33. You dive to relieve stress, not cause it - to yourself or others.
34. Don't trust a dive shop without a coffee pot.
35. Never wrestle with a pig. You get dirty and the pig likes it.
36. Never support a philosophy which does not support integrity.
37. Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.



The most valuable seashell in the ocean (or it used to be!)

Tucker Abbott told Sue Fish and me the name of the most valuable shell

in the world, but I've forgotten it. I'd always thought it was the Glory of the Seas Cone shell (*Conus gloriamaris*), but it isn't, at least not any more. Years ago, only a very few of these shells were known and each was worth a small fortune. Then more and more showed up and the price dropped. Natives of the Indo-Pacific region, who fish for shells for the souvenir and collector's markets, found that they could catch the Glory of the Seas Cone by spreading a fine mesh net on the

bottom with bait in the center. The snails crawl up on the net, get their foot caught in the mesh and are captured. By the way, foot is the proper term for the part of a snail that carries the shell along! That's why the scientific name is pelecypod, for "hatchet foot"!

Ray McAllister



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: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 a full docket with 20 people signed up, and with 1 on the waiting list. All the photographers are getting itchy trigger fingers standing by with all batteries at full charge. 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 3 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 waitlist 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





[Rover Only](#)

3/24

Please make your May payment at the meeting or mail it to Linda Ianniello no later than 5/1.

The "2002-April" 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

USA Calendar

- **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, Ronnie + Nils
- **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 14th - Bonaire pre-trip Party - Matt Barton's**



- **June 21-28** - [Bonaire](#)
 -
 - **July 3rd, Thursday**
 - 6:00pm - [Dinner at The Avian](#)
 - 7:00pm - Social
 - 7:30pm - [General Meeting, Ramada Inn, Deerfield Beach](#)
 - **July 10th, Thursday**
 - 7:00pm - Board Meeting - Linda Caldwell
 - **July 12, Saturday, Local Dive**
 - 7:30am - Southeast Oceanic Services, Dania Beach, on the Ibis
 - **July 17-20** - [Bimini, Paradise Charters](#)
 -
 - **August 7th, Thursday**
 - 6:00pm - [Dinner at The Avian](#)
 - 7:00pm - Social
 - 7:30pm - [General Meeting, Ramada Inn, Deerfield Beach](#)
 - **<August 14th, Thursday**
 - 7:00pm - Board Meeting
 - **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
Awards	Ann Stambaugh		ann@annstambaugh.com
Hospitality Coordinator	(open)		
Membership Coordinator	Ronnie Farr	954-783-1667	farr@planetautomotive.com
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
WebMaster/Newsletter	Matt Barton	561-338-9846	bartonmg@bellsouth.net

All information and images are property of UnderSea Adventurers © 2003

Subscribe - Unsubscribe Information

ALL requests for Newsletter subscriptions -or- UNsubscriptions should be sent to:

newsletter@underseas.org

If you have received this eMail in error, we apologize.

UnderSeas Adventurers does not sell, market, or share its' eMail list.

From: Ronnie Farr
4011 NE 24 Ave
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-8025

To: