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## President's Waves

A blue wavy line graphic that starts under the 'President's Waves' text and extends to the right, ending under the 'Waves' part of the title.

The September general meeting was very interesting, and I want to let you know a few things in case you did not attend. First, Skip Commagere of [Force-E Dive Shops](#) spoke to us and made a very generous offer. He publishes an email newsletter which goes out to around 1500 addresses. We put an article about our club in it and he is offering any one who joins our club before the end of the year \$15 in merchandise credits. We are matching this by eliminating the \$10 initiation fee. If you do not already receive his email, simply log on to [www.ForceE.com](http://www.ForceE.com) and sign-up to the E-Club free of charge. Prospective USA members should print the article about our club and bring it to our meeting. We will place a coupon for the Force-E store credit in the new member booklet. Skip also will give a T-shirt to any member who pays the annual dues in January.

Our club is not officially associated with any business, but this is a mutually beneficial offer. New divers are more likely to continue diving if they join a club and active divers purchase more things from dive shops. So let's see how many new members we can bring in this way.



Our September speaker, Glenda Kelley, was as good a Ray predicted and many of us would like to see the IGFA museum where she is Senior Ichthyologist. Mary LePage will be organizing a private tour and dinner at the adjacent restaurant. Glenda showed slides of marlin caught in the 1930s weighing over 2500 lbs.!!! You have heard the saying "they don't make them like that anymore." Well, she says science is proving the gene pool for large fish has been depleted to the point we will never see them again even if we do not kill any more. Only the small ones are breeding.

I hope to see you at the October meeting. Our club video experts have put together their best footage and created a program that may just be better than what is produced for commercial TV. We can be very proud of them. Don't miss this event.

See you at 7:30 at the Pompano Beach Civic Center.

*Kathi McCutcheon*  
*USA President for 2003*

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## ***October Meeting Program:***

Our October meeting presentation will be a video show put on by our own Larry Townsend and Bob Weybrecht.

We will meet at Piranha Pats (Flanagan's) at 6-6:20. It is on Atlantic, about 3 blocks east of US #1 on the south side. They are reputed to have fabulous ribs! Remember, we meet at the Pompano Beach Civic Center in, yes, you guessed it, Pompano Beach.

*Ray McAllister*  
*VP of Programs*





# Local Diving

**Saturday, August 23rd** found Larry B, Chary L, Susi G, Bob L, Matt B, Ann S. Kathi M, Steve M, Jerry G & I boarding the Fathoms O' Fun for two morning drift dives. Originally scheduled to be on the

Fish Food, it was out of service due to engine problems. We had great weather and seas, diving on Abby & Horseshoe reefs. We saw some rather large puffers, lobster, and two goodly sized pairs of snook! We enjoyed a nice lunch at Flanagan's Piranha Pats.

**Saturday, September 6th** was a gorgeous day! Sunny & hot, flat seas, warm water! Larry B, Chary L, Nils J, Mary L, Larry L, Ernie P, Dave C, Theresa S, Linda I, Bob W, Matt B, Linda C, Jerry G & I boarded the spacious Narcosis for our trip to shark canyon. This is one of the best dive boats around...spacious and designed for divers! Yes, we saw sharks..several of them



throughout the dive.as well as lobster, turtles, rays, and an African pompano. Current was a bit stronger than on reefs further south, but it was still a 'must do' dive. Our second dive was on the South Juno ledge.an interesting reef but no sharks on this one today. A scrumptious lunch was eaten at the Crab Shack (on the intercoastal under the Blue Heron Bridge).

**!!!RAFT UP!!!**  
- OCTOBER 4 -

# **!-!-!-!-! RAFT UP !-!-!-!-!**

- OCTOBER 4 -  
**!!!RAFT UP!!!**

Did I hear someone ask

"When's the next USA Club **Raft Up?**"

.....well it's just around the corner....**Saturday, October 4th, 1:00pm.** Boat owners...please check to see if you're schedule allows you to participate. For those of you who are new to the Club, a raft up is when those boat owners in the club fill up their boat with club members for a morning dive. After diving, boats will meet in Lake Boca to tie up together for the afternoon, where folks can go from boat to boat to eat, drink and be merry, lounge on the deck and/or cool off in the water.

Several captains will be participating..Nancy/Roger Styles, Linda Ianniello/Bob Weybrecht, Ronnie Farr/Nils Jacobsen, Ernie Pattern/Dave Cummings, Rick Brohamer.on Saturday, October 4th. If you haven't already secured your spot..pick up the phone and call one of them..it's sure to be a great deal of fun!

*Linda Grist*  
*VP Local Diving*

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## **Membership Notes**

Let's Welcome our new Applicants:

Kevin J. Cameron  
Certified 1991  
Master Scuba Diver/Nitrox

Dr. Robert Lane  
Certified 1989

*Ronnie Farr*  
*Membership*

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## **USA Membership Directory**



Updated membership directories have been e-mailed to all members, based on the e-mail address in the club database. If you have not received one, it is probably because the e-mail address in the database is not correct. Please send any changes in personal information (e-mail address, home address, work, home, cell phone numbers, name [marriage/divorce], etc) to Bob Weybrecht at [bw999@bellsouth.net](mailto:bw999@bellsouth.net) so that the club database can be updated. Thanks.

*Bob Weybrecht*  
*USA Database Coordinator*

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## **USA Hall of Fame - Call for Photos**

Calling all Hall of Famers!

We're going to move the Hall of Fame listing from the newsletter to the website complete with mug shots! Sooooo, unless you want that old dusty Kodachrome shot of you in bell bottoms and sideburns to be representative of yours truly to the well respected dive community (OK, now you know he's pulling your leg) please do submit via eMail or snail mail a show stopping photo for the upcoming USA web Hall of Fame.

PS: If you think he's kidding about bell bottoms, you have No Clue how much devious fun our webmaster has with PhotoShop and a few Cuban coffees!!

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## **Trip Report: Key West Mini Trip Labor Day Weekend**

The final count was "12" and only "5" members of the club. You missed a fun trip. And for only \$225.00 you got "4" dives with tanks, weights included, two night stay at a very nice hotel with daily entertainment, a great breakfast and two free drinks. All taxes and tips included. Even though the seas were rough and the visibility not so good, we had great dives. Sunday was much much better. We dove the Wreck, Cayman Salvagemaster which was in 90' of water. It was over

180 feet long. The second dive of the day some of us saw a very large grouper and even petted it. The grouper stayed with us for quite awhile. Key West is always fun and we made the best of it.

*Ronnie Farr*  
*Mini-trip coordinator*

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## **Trip report: Grenada/Grenadines - Island Dancer - Rendezvous Resort**

11 club members, Linda Caldwell, Chary Lynn, Hank Resch, Sean Horin, Ronnie Farr, Nils Jacobsen, Kurt Kohler, Kathi & Steve McCutcheon, Danny Michels, and Jill Pando went on this trip. Flew out of Miami via San Juan into Grenada's Point Salines International Airport, a very nice airport (as we later learned from Mandoo, the Cubans started building that airport for the purpose of allowing Grenada to become a Soviet spring board into the Caribbean. After the US invasion, Regan finished the airport to promote tourism, etc. - our tax dollars at work).

We were met in the airport by steel drum bands, offering a special welcome including a free drink to celebrate the start of the annual carnival ... Our luggage also "had fun". It stayed out all night (in San Juan) and did not show up until the next morning. At that time we all got our luggage back (except me, that dove the first day in borrowed gear thanks to the members and the boat - my luggage took an additional sightseeing trip to Jamaica and showed up that night).

We were greeted in the airport by the crew and taken to our later hotel, met the Captain, and walked through the hotel restaurant, down a lot of steps through a tropical garden to the dock, where a dinghy/skiff took us to the Island Dancer ... We met the crew: captain Eddie, dive masters Max and Maurice, maids Charlotte and Fays (trainee), a chef and a

machinist. After checking in, we went back to the restaurant for our welcome meal.

Because of the missing luggage we dove around Grenada the first day, Dragon Bay, Mouliniere Point. The visibility left something to be desired due to rain and run off, but the sites had an amazing quantity of Azure sponges and "shallow water" Black Coral. The night dive offered both octopus and squid. Last piece of luggage arrived Sunday night and we started going north to resume the expected itinerary ...

Monday morning we were ready to dive at the first islands north of Grenada, Isle de Rhonde. We dove some uninhabited islands/rocks: 3 Sisters and White/Diamond Rock. Plenty of healthy reef, sea fans, black coral, many small fish and schools of wrasses that travel in single-file long chains rather than schools... anchored for the night at Carriacou. Some of us dove Sand Island while others took a land trip, with a small jeep trip around the Island.

Tuesday morning we arrived at the Northern most island in the Grenadines, Bequia, within sight of St. Vincent., We dove the Wall, the Blowhole, Devil's Table and The Red Jug (our "sand-dive from heaven" where we saw 3 flying Gurnards at the same time. We were dropped a little too far off the wall/reef but it was worth it ...), again very healthy and nice looking reefs. Some of us went to land in the afternoon instead of diving.

Wednesday morning we continued diving at Bequia, Boulders and Moon Hole (also called the house in the wall because it looks like somebody cut out a 3 story house right in the rocks). Saw 3 giant nurse sharks and schools of fish on these sites. In the afternoon we went just one

Island South to Isle a Quatre, dove Anchor Reef and Laguna that offered more octopus and squid on the night dive ...

Next day we dove the Negative Wall followed by the Lerico wreck that the Island Dancer was tied up too. Very nice relatively shallow wreck, say 80 feet at the bottom, with gigantic schools of small fish (silversides). We continued South (home) and dove Mayreau Garden, a big U-shaped reef with walls on both sides and some current in the middle at the bottom. We dove the wall on the leeward side. Closer to the bottom Jill found a frog fish and we left the poor thing "completely blinded" (he was hiding next to the green rope sponges covered by small yellow anemones that are closed during the day so it looks like yellow stripes... stayed over night at the dock, next to and 80 year old wreck, the Puruni, that is so overgrown that it is an amazing night dive ...

Next morning we dove the 3 Sisters again, this time in a more pleasant current, dove once more and went to shore/the mooring ... All in all a pleasant trip, nice interesting dive sites, in a pretty remote corner of the world (we never saw more than single other dive boat - many of the island do have a single operation). A very cooperative crew that tried to make everything work the best they could ...

Land: we went back to the hotel we started at, Rendezvous Resort, a nice tropical hotel with a nice garden, friendly staff and the most amazingly noisy miniature toads ... The hotel was located on one of the many bays around the Island a few miles from town - very useful during the carnival, so we got far enough away from the steel bands and the down town noise so we could sleep.. The hotel had an onsite dive shop for their guests and sea kayaks we could take out for sightseeing on the bay around hundreds of sailboats ...

First day trip, was with Mandoo's air conditioned van. Mandoo is a local "tourist activist" working to ensure that tourism develops in an environmentally sensitive way to mutual benefit for both tourist and the ordinary citizens ... We went downtown to the capitol St George,

walked through the local market, up and down some impressive hills. We went to the old Fort where the government was executed during the revolution in 1980 (prior to the US invasion). Stopped for lunch overlooking the harbor, and did our last shopping. (The place is shut down for the weekend starting Saturday noon, and because of the carnival, Monday would be shut down too, to allow the big parades to proceed through the streets ...). After an afternoon rest, we all went dining at the Aquarium, a Hawaiian looking beach restaurant.