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November 2004 Newsletter Volume 32, Number 11

[ <http://www.underseas.org/news/0411.htm> ]

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### **Page One Shot**

*Carol Schurtz sillouettes the Gulf Stream Eagle on a recent trip to West End.  
Photo by Matt Barton*

Submit your photos for the Page One Shot to [webmaster@underseas.org](mailto:webmaster@underseas.org)

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**November  
Meeting Program:  
Club Photo Expo**

**SHOW US  
YOUR  
STUFF!**

We want to see the prints you have been doing the last year (underwater or topside).

I will have the club screens at the December meeting. Frames must be able to hang on a "S" hook. Please let me know how many photos you wish to display and the size by Nov 26.

*Happy Bubbles, your club photographer,  
Carol Schurtz and Ray McAllister  
VP of Programs*



**Dinner before the club meeting**

Please join your fellow USA friends at:

**THE FLAMING PIT RESTAURANT**  
1150 N FEDERAL HWY  
POMPANO BEACH, FL  
954-943-3484

On Thursday, November 4th at 6pm

Direction: approx 1 mile north of Atlantic Ave in Pompano Beach on Federal Hwy. They are expecting us

with open arms, separate checks & good food & service. Thank you to Kurt Koehler for recommending this fine restaurant. 18 USAer's had a wonderful dinner at this restaurant last month & can't wait to go back.

**After the club meeting** on Nov 4th, please join your fellow USA'ers for a cocktail or refreshment at: **PAT'S PLACE**. This nice pub is on Atlantic Blvd, between Federal Hwy & I-95 on the east side of the street. Cheap drinks, good food & service & plenty of parking ensure a good time.

COME HUNGRY!!!! See you there before the meeting.

## Halloween Party:

Thanks to the large turnout from fellow USA club members, the "Under the Sea" Halloween Party was a tremendous success! We had a full moon, good weather, lots of good eats, drinks, dancing under the stars & fun costumes & prizes. We have many talented, creative people who had the best costumes. Thank you to Emily for making this party a success. If you missed it, you missed it.

## and last but not least ... December Meeting:

Get your cookbooks out. The December meeting is our annual Christmas Party. We ask each member to bring a dish to share. I will cook a turkey & ham. We always have lots of wonderful food & good camaraderie. Come hungry.

*Kim Whaley*  
*VP Social*



## President's Waves

Our November program is a composite of club activities captured by our photographers and videographers throughout the year. Former members have been invited to the meeting in order to try us out again and perhaps renew old friendships. Also, we have heard that several dive clubs in the area have gone out of existence. If you know of anyone who is looking for a club with safe and fun people to dive with, invite them to our November meeting. Kim is serving dessert (cake and cookies) and soft drinks, so save room.

The members, who signed up for the May Bimini trip, finally got to go. From October 12th through the 16th, Larry (Larry LePage) and the Babes (Marilyn Van Valkenburg, Chary Lynn, Nancy Luellan, and myself) toughed it out on the Easy Goin'. As the name implies, it wasn't tough and we didn't starve. If you have enough time, ask Ronnie Farr about the food on the Easy Goin'. We observed minimal storm damage to the reefs we dove.

Due to wind, rain, and hurricanes, this has really been a tough year for local diving, dive operators and the members who put the trips together. Two of the five dives Larry Baum scheduled were cancelled and a couple of live aboard trips had to be postponed. The Dry Tortugas is postponed until next year. We hope 2005 will be a better year.

Elections for officers will be held at the December meeting. The slate will be presented at the November meeting. We will welcome nominations from the floor as well. The slate recommended by the board is:

Treasurer Judy Townsend  
Secretary Linda Caldwell  
VP of Local Diving Larry Baum  
VP of Social Kim Whaley  
VP of Overseas Diving Nils Jacobsen  
VP of Programs Ray McAllister  
President Mary LePage

*I'm looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Thursday, November 4th.*

*Mary LePage  
USA President for 2004*

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## **Local Diving**

### **with Larry B**

The Local Dive program is on hiatus as we enter the (pick one) "winter, holiday, travel, cold water, cold air, enough diving for one year already" period.

I enjoyed the diving, and all your support, so much that my hope is to

remain the VP for Local Dives for 2005. I'd welcome any competition for the job, but please note that I have a number of negative, attack ads ready to go if anyone crosses me (and my discharge papers as an army specialist, 2nd class, are open to the public). My plans are to run the program next year similar to 2004. Start in April and run through September one day a month, dive on Saturday mornings, use many of the boats we've used and enjoyed in the past, meet afterwards for an apres dive lunch, and bring tons of trail mix, fruit, and baked goods. If it ain't broke, don't fix it and all that. Of course, wherever possible, I'll continue to schedule the dives on weekends when the Club does not have overseas trips and try to avoid any other obvious conflicts.

Our first dive will be with the Southeast Oceanic Services, IBIS, in April, 2005. We had to cancel our September dive with them and I want to give them first shot when the new season begins.

I'm looking at two changes for next year. First, I want to consider some more dives in the Northern part of Palm Beach County. Our 2004 dives were from Lantana to Fort Lauderdale, but I've been told there are some great dive sites North of Lantana out by the Breakers and beyond. Also, we hope to reinstate our Raft-Up in the new year. With the rough seas in May and the hurricanes in September, 2004 presented a few challenges for us. However, the dives we made with Parrot Island in April, Diversity in June, Starfish Enterprise in July, and American Dream II in August were great dives. The conditions could not have been better and the turn-out was outstanding.

Thanks again for all your support and comradery and I look forward to seeing you again on the local dives in April, 2005.

*Larry Baum*  
VP Local Diving [lbaum@us.ibm.com](mailto:lbaum@us.ibm.com)

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The short summary for 2004 is "*Thailand and Caribbean weather*". San Salvador as the exception had real nice weather; all our other trips – 2 to Bimini w/ Easy Goin', Tobago and Dry Tortugas all got impacted one way or the other by the whether. On top of that several of our members got personally affected by one or more storms direct impact on their homes and were hence in a bad position to travel anywhere. Except for Dry Tortugas all trips did commence, some w/ delays some itinerary adjustments). Let's hope next year gets closer to normal!

We had a first overseas committee meeting early October. Minutes have been sent out to participants (if you want a copy of the minutes please let me know?). **The next meeting will be Monday, Nov 8**(between Election Day and the next general meeting). Invitations will be sent out to the club mailing list. Note that all members are welcome to come and express their opinions and desires to help to create a program that fit your travel interest for next year.

Ronnie and I went to DEMA in Houston as the only 2 from our club compared to 20+ the year before in Miami. (DEMA has been trying to limit attendance to "professionals, it did look like that was working; there were fewer people, it was easier to get around and the exhibitors were in general happy w/ the changes). We were acting on the outcome of the first overseas committee meeting. We did find a boat, the "Pelagian" for Irian Jaya, Raja Ampat (Sorong) that was available in the fall of 2005 prior to the onset of the holiday season ... We had an impromptu overseas meeting for the potential travelers 10/20. The boat is booked. The boat dates are Nov 1-12 (10 days of diving). Most other details are still open, but it looks like the travel will take us in through likely Singapore and definitely Manado, with a layover to dive Lembeh Straits or similar and w/ an option for a stop in Bali on the way back ...

**For 2005 Caribbean we have some items on the agenda already:**

- We already booked the Cayman Aggressor, so far the 16 spots we have are all sold out ... [If you are trying to get a mileage ticket, you need to act soon: I just

tried and could not get off the island again except Saturday morning at 7.30 or Sunday – guess what I did!):

- Due to the weather cancellation of the Dry Tortugas trip, the whole trip got pushed out from 2004 to 2005. All divers signed up for the 2004 trip got first priority for 2005 (and we are close to selling out)
- We are considering Easy Goin' again but have yet to decide if we take a "Dolphin" trip or a southbound trip?

Still to be considered, at the Nov. 8th meeting: What else to do: Land based trips, say (Cozumel – w/ snorkeling w/ Whale sharks?) Somewhere in the Bahamas (old favorite spots or maybe a new one?) Curacao? If you have other ideas that you want to bring to the next meeting, please contact me ahead of time, so we can have some tangible details ready?

Also, please note that to be ready for signup in January, you must be up to date on dues and pay 2005 dues no later than at signup.

### **Membership benefits**

If you plan on doing your own trip with one of our major providers, please call me first so you get the best deal ...

*VP Overseas Diving*  
*Nils Jacobsen*

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## **CAYMAN AGGRESSOR IV JUNE 18-25, 2005**

**5 DIVES A DAY  
INCLUDING  
FABULOUS NIGHT  
DIVING.**

Dive into Adventure with the Ultimate in Live-Aboard's. Many divers consider the Cayman Island the crown jewel of the Caribbean, with awesome visibility often exceeding 150 feet, lush walls covered with gigantic barrel sponges, twists of golden tube

sponges and plumes of crimson gorgonians. Friendly residents like turtles, grouper, eel, octopus, reef sharks and eagle rays also enhance Cayman's beauty.

We will dive Grand Cayman, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Completed in 1998, the 110 feet, 18-passenger dive yacht offers her guests the finest on-board accommodations and service in the Caymans. With features such as spacious staterooms with en-suite baths, a custom dive deck with person gear storage, and a sprawling sun deck with hot tub.

When we arrive on Saturday morning a uniformed crew member will greet us at the Owen Roberts International airport and whisk us off to the yacht. We may board the Cayman Aggressor IV after 2:00pm. If you arrive early the crew will take your luggage and hold it for you and you will have the opportunity to shop, sight see, take a tour of the turtle farm or visit "Hell" a unique geological formation that looks like scorched earth. Saturday evening, the boat takes off to Little Cayman while we eat dinner. Here we dive the famous Bloody Bay Wall, a glorious coral eden starting at only 16 feet. After a day or two at Little Cayman, the Aggressor speeds to Cayman Brac for one of the most thrilling wreck dives in the Caribbean, the Capt. Keith Tibbetts, a 330-foot Russian destroyer. The week culminates back on Grand Cayman with the world-famous feeding frenzy at Stingray City. Through out the week, Cayman Aggressor IV divers explore Grand Cayman's best dives sites like the wreck of the Oro Verde, Bonnie's Arch, Tarpon Alley and Babylon.

There are plenty of things to do topside between dives, that is, when you are not eating. With three delicious meals a day, plus fresh baked goodies and tasty desserts after the night dive, you'll quickly see why Aggressor's motto is "Eat, Sleep and Dive." Aside from eating, you can relax on the sun deck with a good book, soak in the hot tub, or watch a movie. After two dives Friday morning, the Cayman Aggressor IV returns to the harbor, but your vacation isn't over yet. You may spend the afternoon walking through historical downtown Georgetown (more shopping), visiting a local English style pub, stroll Seven Mile Beach or just relaxing onboard until the evening cocktail party hosted by the crew when everyone reminisces about the wonderful week. After the party, everyone dines at a local restaurant. This is the only meal not included in the charter. Check out is 8:00am Saturday morning. The crew will arrange your transportation to the airport.

#### Photo Facilities

- On-board computer with internet access via satellite phone
- E-6 lab for processing slide film
- Full complement of

rental U/W cameras and accessories

- Light tables and projector for viewing slides
- Extra large, three-tier camera table with low pressure air hoses
- Battery charging area
- Photo and video courses
- Video editing station
- PC with slide scanning Option

Diving Amenities

- In-Place Nitrox fills
- Personal dive gear lockers
- Wide dive platform with two boarding ladders
- Two warm, 100F freshwater rinse showers
- Full complement of rental gear
- Rental "Apollo" scooters

Cost is \$1950.00 without the airfare. Some of you may want to use your frequent miles on American Airlines. I will be looking into getting a group rate when I can make reservations at a later date. Cayman Airlines flies directly to Grand Cayman from Miami International Airport. Estimated airfare is \$425.00. *Waiting List Only.*

Not Included

- Port Charges
- Breakfast, lunch on Saturday 18th
- Dinner on Friday the 24th

*Persons Signed Up: Ronnie F, Nils J, Chary L, Linda C, Linda I, Bob W, Theresa S, Clare A, Russ M, Julie M, Joanne M, Frank M, Hank R, Bob H, Kurt K*

<http://www.underseas.org/trips/2005/cayman/>

Please direct all questions to Ronnie Farr.  
954-783-1667 Home 305-774-7690 Work

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## Overseas Trip Payment Schedule

	Trip Dates	Paid In	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL
<a href="#">Cayman 2005</a>	June 18-25	\$800	\$230	-----	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	<b>\$1,950</b>
<a href="#">Cayman 2005 plus Airfaire</a>	June 18-25	\$955	\$285	-----	\$285	\$285	\$285	\$280	<b>\$2,375</b>

*PLEASE mail your [trip signup forms](#) to:*

Nils Jacobsen  
4011 NE 24 Ave  
Lighthouse Point, FL 33064-8025  
[TGM349@email.mot.com](mailto:TGM349@email.mot.com)

*Mail All Payments To:*

Chary Lynn  
2160 NW 10th St  
Delray Beach, FL 33445  
[cseaflower@aol.com](mailto:cseaflower@aol.com)

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## **Carnivorous Fish Thriving Off Carolina Coast Lionfish Could Threaten Snapper, Grouper, Sea Bass**



*Information from: The Star-News, <http://starnewsonline.com>*

WILMINGTON, N.C. (Aug. 19) - When divers first reported lionfish off the North Carolina coast four years ago, biologist Paula Whitfield thought it must be a mistake or an aberration. The poisonous, carnivorous Indo-Pacific lionfish is native to tropical waters half a world away - not the seas off the Outer Banks.

An ongoing study has shown Whitfield that things are worse than she could have imagined. The fish is not only present but thriving, and could threaten important commercial fish species such as snapper, grouper and sea bass. "They're everywhere," she said Tuesday as divers brought another two lionfish aboard the University of North Carolina at Wilmington research vessel Cape Fear.

Whitfield, a fisheries biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is leading a team that has been diving about 50 miles southeast of Wrightsville Beach. The expedition, sponsored by NOAA's Undersea Research Center at UNC-Wilmington, is meant to see how extensive the invasion by the lionfish is and what effect it might be having on native species. Whitfield said researchers were hoping to find 30 specimens, but have already hauled up nearly 80 with a week of dives still to go.

The disheartening results could mean dropping efforts to eradicate the fish and instead developing a plan to manage them.

"It wouldn't be bad if we were just finding adults," research center science director Tom Potts said. "But now we're finding juveniles and pregnant females as well."

The fish is the top predator in its native Indian and South Pacific ocean habitats - a role filled by the grouper and snapper in local waters. It has no known natural enemies. A worrisome note is that the reefs and hard-bottom areas it favors locally are also the nursery grounds for important commercial and sport fish, such as snapper and grouper. "We now know they're eating fish, not crustaceans or other shellfish,"

Whitfield said aboard UNC-W's research vessel Cape Fear, as NOAA research technician Christine Addison removed a small jar from a cooler containing three young sea bass found in a lionfish's stomach. Little is known about the lionfish's breeding pattern, but scientists believe it can spawn several times a season. Addison, holding a full ovary from a fish she was dissecting, said each female can release between 5,000 and 20,000 eggs each spawning. The way the eggs are dispersed could explain the lionfish's rapid colonization of reefs and hard-bottom areas between Florida and Long Island, N.Y., she said. They are buoyant, and could ride the warm waters of the Gulf Stream all along the Atlantic seaboard - one way lionfish or their eggs might have migrated up the coast from Florida, where many researchers think the first aquarium releases occurred.

"This fish seems to have everything going for it," she said with a wry smile. Whitfield said lionfish have been found only in areas of warm water, with temperatures from the mid-60s or higher, in depths ranging from roughly 120 feet to an estimated 260 feet. "That means they probably won't get any closer than maybe 25 miles offshore," she said. But that leaves a huge swath of ocean for the lionfish to colonize. "We've found them at 10 of the 12 places we've dived at, and in large numbers," Whitfield said.

Researchers plan to conduct more dives this winter to see how the lionfish manage off the Cape Fear coast as water temperatures drop. Whitfield also said she hopes to do some fish tagging and additional census data to gauge the newcomer's density and geographic range. But she said she can already draw one conclusion without any additional research.

"I think they're here to stay," she said. "Unfortunately, that's something we can now say pretty confidently."

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## **Marine Conservation Tidbits**

*from Ocean Watch [www.oceanwatch.org](http://www.oceanwatch.org)*

Help conserve our precious coral reefs by coming out to the meeting described below. Meeting open to the public. Come on the days that fit your schedule the best, or the days where the speakers presenting at the meeting are of interests to you. Ocean Watch Foundation will have a display table set up of educational



handouts, so stop on by to see us and learn more about the fragility of the coral reefs.

**U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE MEETING - MIAMI BEACH,  
FLORIDA  
DECEMBER 3-5, 2004 (NOTE: THIS WAS RESCHEDULED FROM  
SEPTEMBER DUE TO HURRICANE)**

The next meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) will be held December 3-5, at the Eden Roc Hotel, 4525 Collins Avenue, in Miami Beach, Florida. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force ([www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org)). The USCRTF will also sponsor several seminars and workshops.

Ocean Watch Foundation will be recognized with an award at the event for our commitment and extraordinary efforts to the coral reef ecosystems of southeast Florida.

The USCRTF meeting is open to the public. There will be opportunity for public comment during the meeting. Advance registration is requested for all meeting attendees (registration information is available at [www.coralreef.gov](http://www.coralreef.gov) ).

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## USA Calendar

- **Nov 4th, Thursday**  
6:00pm - Dinner  
7:00pm - Social  
7:30pm - [General Meeting](#) - [Pompano Beach Civic Center](#)
- **Nov 8th, Monday**, Overseas Dive Committee Meeting, Ronnie and Nils
- **Nov 11th, Thursday**  
7:00pm - Board Meeting - Carol Schurtz
- **Nov 13-14, Saturday-Sunday** - **Lighthouse Point/Pompano Beach Nautical Flea Market**, Pompano Beach Community Park, 1801 NE 6th Street, Hours: Sat 8-5, Sun 8-3, [www.nauticalfleamarket.com](http://www.nauticalfleamarket.com)

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## Contact Info

Under Sea Adventurers website: [www.underseas.org](http://www.underseas.org)  
DAN website: [www.diversalernetnetwork.org](http://www.diversalernetnetwork.org)

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at  
*Pompano Beach Civic Center*  
1801 NE 6th St, Pompano Beach, FL  
Social: 7:00 PM, Meeting: 7:30 PM

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## ***Board of Directors***

### **Officers**

President	Mary LePage	954-917-3082	muskymama@comcast.net
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	Kim Whaley	954-485-7988	kspike007@aol.com
VP of Local Diving	Larry Baum	561-487-8112	murphybaum@aol.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	Marilyn Van Valkenburg	954-735-5543	marilynv@bellsouth.net
Membership Coordinator	Roger Styles	954-436-9922	rogstyles@aol.com
Membership Database	Bob Weybrecht	561-999-9820	bw999@bellsouth.net
Mini-Trip Coordinator	Ronnie Farr	954-783-1667	farr@planetautomotive.com
OS Dive Accountant	Chary Lynn	561-330-7490	cseaflower@aol.com
Photographer	Carol Schurtz	954-746-5578	madnurse@aol.com
Promotions Coordinator	(open)		
Safety Coordinator	Steve McCutcheon	954-432-1960	kathianandsteve@aol.com
Scrapbook	Hye Chung		kach@nova.edu
WebMaster / Newsletter	(open)		

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