

The Mouthpiece



MAY 2001

THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY-JUNE DIVE SCHEDULE

▶ ▶ ▶ For the yearly schedule please visit www.activedivers.org ◀ ◀ ◀

MAY 6, SUN AFTERNOON TAVERNIER \$29.00 (BBQ \$7)

Sites may include: Conch Reef, Davis Ledge, Hens & Chickens, Little Conch, Capt. Tom's Ledge, 40' Ledge, Fish Trap, Horseshoe. Average depth 30', average visibility 40-60', many moreys, schooling tropicals, unusual pillar corals. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

MAY 12, SAT MORNING BISCAYNE NATL. PARK \$45.00 (Tanks Incl.)

Sites may include: Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Ball Buoy, Far Out Reef, Cuda Ledge. Usually no currents, massive corals, small caves. The Keys "Best Kept Secret", only one commercial boat allowed in area. Depth 20-30', vis 30-60'.

MAY 20, SUN AFTERNOON ISLAMORADA \$29.00

Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30-40', visibility 40-50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks.

MAY 26, SAT MORNING MIAMI BEACH (ADVANCED) \$29.00

Choice of more than 40 wrecks. Some unlike anywhere else: Jet airliner, M-60 Tanks, Tankers, Freighters, Tugs, Barges. Most are intact with penetration possible. Average depth 90', visibility 40-50'. Expect currents and dramatic profiles, many fish. **See advanced criterion this issue.**

JUN 2, SAT AFTERNOON S. KEY LARGO \$29.00 (BBQ \$7)

Sites include: Molasses, Spanish Anchor, Hole-in-wall, French, Pickles. Average depth 35-40', average visibility 50-70', expect currents and high voltage action. High profile corals. **BBQ after dive, see article this issue.**

JUN 2, SAT NIGHT S. KEY LARGO (NIGHT) \$35.00

Sites include: Molasses, Spanish Anchor, Hole-in-wall, French, Pickles. Average depth 35-40', average visibility 50-70', expect currents and high voltage action. High profile corals. **Free Mini Night Dive Course - before dive, don't forget your lights.**

JUN 10, SUN AFTERNOON FT LAUDERDALE (ADVANCED) \$29.00

Double your pleasure with the best of both worlds! A reef followed by a wreck. A plethora of flora and fauna, just waiting to be explored. **See advanced criterion this issue.**

JUN 16, SAT MORNING BISCAYNE NATL PARK \$45.00 (Includes Tanks)

Sites may include: Rocky Reef, Elkhorn Forest, Ball Buoy, Far Out Reef, Cuda Ledge. Usually no currents, massive corals, small caves. The Keys "Best Kept Secret", only one commercial boat allowed in area. Depth 20-30', vis 30-60'.

JUN 24, SUN AFTERNOON N. KEY LARGO \$29.00

Sites may include: The Christ of the Abyss, the Elbow, N. Dry Rocks, N. N. Dry Rocks, Grecian Rocks, Carysfort, Shark Reef. Average depth 30', usually no current. Average visibility is 30-50' with many tropicals, moreys, cudas.

JUN 30, SAT AFTERNOON ISLAMORADA \$29.00

Just 4 miles past Tavernier, sites may include: Hammerhead, The Canyon, El Infante, Crocker, No Name, The Valley Aquarium, Alligator. Average depth 30-40', visibility 40-50'. Some current, many fish, shallow wrecks.

2001 FLORIDA KEYS ADOPT-A-REEF CLEAN UP PROGRAM

E X P E R I E N C E D D I V E R S N E E D E D

As a diver, how can you help preserve the beauty of the Florida Keys reefs. One way you can do this is by participating in the 2001 Florida Keys Adopt-A-Reef program. The purpose of this program is to encourage and support the preservation of coral reefs by organizing a series of reef clean-ups throughout the year. In return for your help, you receive discounted diving rates for the following dives:

May 5, Saturday - Arrive at shop 8:00 AM

Quiescence Diving Service, Inc., Key Largo (MM103.5)
\$35 per diver (includes tanks and weights), \$30 per snorkeler (includes gear)
Number of participants: 12
Reservations: 305-451-2440
www.keylargodiving.com or www.quiescence.com

May 6, Sunday - Arrive at shop Noon

Captain Slates Atlantis Dive Center, Key Largo (MM 106)
\$25 per diver
Number of participants: 25
Reservations: 305-451-3020 or 1-800-331-DIVE
www.pennekamp.com/atlantis

May 19, Saturday - Arrive at shop Noon

Aqua-Nut Divers, Key Largo (MM 104.2)
\$30 per diver includes tanks & weights, 50% off rental gear
Number of participants: 32 divers
Reservations: 305-451-1622 or 1-800-226-0415
<http://www.aqua-nuts.com>

May 26, Saturday - Arrive at shop 8:15 AM

Paradise Divers, Big Pine Key (MM 38.8)
\$45 per diver includes tanks & weights, BCD & regulator \$12
Number of participants: 18
Reservations: 305-872-1114
<http://www.paradivers.com>

CAYMAN BRAC 2001 JULY 19-23

DIVE THE WORLD FAMOUS
Russian Destroyer & Bloody Bay Wall!

5 days and 4 nights-\$945*
***subject to change until ticketed**

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Hotel (double occupancy)
- Round trip air fare
- Breakfast and dinner
- 3 days of 3 tank dives
- Airport transfers (Cayman Brac)

CALL LON TODAY!!!
305-251-4975

HIDDEN CAMERA CATCHES WHALE DURING REIN OF TERROR

This picture was taken just moments before the brutal attack by a whale on diver Lon Von Lintel during an ADA dive trip in the Silver Banks. The renegade whale, still on the loose, was reported to have been seen drinking heavily before the incident - supposedly "Seawater Shooters". Authorities believe this may have contributed to his erratic swimming patterns and loss of fin control.



"El Ojo Del Muerte"

May B-Days	
Debbie DeGrazio	2
Cynthia Prettyman	2
Christine Connor	3
Matthew Sugdinis	3
Robert Dudley, Jr.	4
Jacob Brody	5
Suze Dudley	5
Melvyn Grunthal	6
Daryl Johnson	10
Tim Blankenship	12
Ron Olinger	13
Louis deThomas	19
Peggy Benenati	20
Ileana Fernandez	20
Michael Odom	20
Chantal Herron	22
Alan Mayer	23
Stuart Rapee	27
Peter Yamamoto	27
Steven Bruce	28
Elizabeth Ford	31

Earn Free dives & BBQ

Throughout the year, ADA will offer BBQ's after selected dives. You can enjoy both for free! All you do is volunteer to be the chef of the day - we provide a list of foods, you buy & bring to the dive. After the dive, you & the ADA Safety Officer cook & serve to the hungry divers. It's not too hard, and a great way to go for free! Call Lon & sign up. (ADA will reimburse monies spent for food).

Post-Dive BBQ's \$7

May 6 - Tavernier, June 2 - S. Key Largo

Last year our BBQ's were a great success. A hot delicious meal after an exciting dive is a wonderful way to punctuate the day. Cooking will begin just after we hit (not too hard I hope) the dock, and before you have stowed your gear, your choice of grilled meats will be ready for your enjoyment. Including:

- Grilled chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs
- Soda or beer
- Potato Salad, slaw, chips & condiments

When you make your dive reservation, indicate if you plan to join us (check the dive schedule first to make sure it's a BBQ dive) & include an additional \$7 with your dive schedule reservation payment.

2000' Awards Dinner Report

March 25, 2001

Those that attended the 2000' Awards Brunch, held this year at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, were treated to a lavish buffet that seemed to go on for miles. And like the Biblical "Fish & Loaves", the trays once emptied magically refilled themselves, providing us with an endless bounty of epicurean delights.

Did we do anything but eat? Of course, we handed out awards. International Diver of the Year went to Paul

Thatcher while Jerry Kosakowski picked up Local Diver of the Year. Staff, Volunteers, Board Members and Committee workers all received awards for their generous contributions of time and effort. Guest lecturers brought us up to date on the Manatee's and also Biscayne Nat'l Park and how it may be impacted by the Everglades restoration project. All in all, a great afternoon.

!!! NEW !!! ADA KAYAK TRIPS

www.kayakfloridakeys.com

To be held at Florida Bay Outfitters
in Key Largo, MM 103.
(305) 451-3018.

Half day - Kayak & Snorkel

Sunday June 3rd. 9:00 a.m.

Garden Cove & North Sound Creek. Meet at Florida Bay Outfitters in Key Largo. Rent or BYK and join us for a paddle to Rattlesnake Key through a mangrove canopy and into the North Sound Creek lagoon. Snorkel and explore the shallow reefs around the key. For more information call Julio 305-551-7545.

Full day - Kayak & Snorkel

Saturday September 8th. 9:00 a.m.

Indian Key State Historic Site.

(Possible snorkeling at the San Pedro underwater archaeological preserve - depending on seas and weather).

Rent or BYK and join us for a short paddle to Indian Key. Snorkel and explore the shallow reefs around the key. Indian Key history dates from the time of prehistoric Indians to the 1830's, when the key was the seat of the newly created Dade County. Jacob Housman bought the strategic key in 1831 and turned it into a busy port of wrecking. In 1838 Dr. Henry Perrine moved to India Key to pursue his interest in tropical botany where he was killed in an Indian attack in the early morning of August 7, 1840. Indian Key has remained uninhabited and Dr. Perrine's plants have grown over the ruins. For more information call Julio 305-551-7545.

Julio Raimundez, *Social Co-Chair*

(305) 252-7035 x3314

julioraimundez@assurant.com

**ADA will be offering more
Kayaking trips later this year.**



ADA RULES & REGULATIONS

All Members Must be familiar with the following

FOR ALL ADVANCED DIVES

(DEPTHS OVER 60') ADA DIVERS MUST:

1. Be current (dive activity within the previous 3 months).
2. Have the approval of an ADA Safety Officer.
3. Have a minimum of 25 logged dives.
4. Carry an alternate air source (octopus), time keeping device and depth gauge.
5. Have previous ADA diving experience.
6. All members must dive with at least a 72 cubic foot tank.

ADA GUIDELINES FOR COMPUTER ASSISTED DIVING

1. Members using dive computers may extend their time underwater ten-(10) minutes beyond the time allowed by the tables.
2. Computer assisted dives must be well within the NO DECOMPRESSION LIMITS.
3. Members should understand and follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
4. If a computer diver is buddied with a diver using the tables, both must follow the tables.
5. If a buddy-team is using unlike computers, both must follow the more conservative computer.
6. If, in a buddy-team, either computer fails, both divers must terminate the dive.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE SAFETY OFFICERS' COMMITTEE

All members are reminded to read the "Rules & Guidelines for Diving Activities" you received with your membership package. Number 16 states, "All divers must be present for the pre-dive briefing". If the diver is not present for the entire briefing, diving privileges may be revoked for that dive. Please plan to arrive on time - or better yet - a bit early. We thank you and appreciate your cooperation.

Julio, Dan, Robert, Lee and Lon

ADA SPRINGS TRIP REPORT

A small but crusty crew departed Miami April 4 and headed north to the cold country- Gainesville, FL. Arriving some 7 hours later, we labored to set up base camp. Tents were erected, fire pits dug, clothes lines strung, and a million small details were tended to. Within 10 feet of the unusually clear Santa Fe River, our front porch view was a panorama of cypress trees laden with Spanish moss, mother ducks with small quackers in tow, crows and egrets perched in the overhanging branches, and a few reptilian on distant banks (they always keep their distance, remember they are more afraid of us than we of them). At night the surrounding water and woods were alive with sounds of mating peacocks, hoot owls, crickets, an orchestrated symphony of bull frogs, and some we didn't want to know the origin. This was nature at its best.

(continued)

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR LOCAL DIVE TRIPS

Because of our contractual agreements with our service agents - dive shops and boat captains, we must notify them - usually seven days in advance - of the final number of spaces we are paying for. Thus, if our members cancel less than seven days in advance, we regret that *NO REFUND OR CREDIT* can be given, unless trip cancellation insurance has been purchased at the time of the dive trip payment (see next news article!)

ADA TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE

The Board of Directors has approved a unique concept in local diving: *NO FAULT INSURANCE!!*

For an additional \$5.00, per person, per local dive trip, members can eliminate the worry of losing their dive fees because of an unforeseen change of plans.

If, for any reason you are unable to attend a local dive for which you are scheduled and have paid the insurance, ADA will credit your \$29.00 dive fee to another date. *The \$5.00 insurance is non-transferable and non-refundable!*

When you make a reservation, ask for dive trip cancellation insurance.

The Board has elected to continue the insurance offer for 2001.

NOTE: It may be discontinued at any time without prior written notice.

Please call Lon with your questions and comments.

IMPORTANT WEATHER INFORMATION

Before departing for the dive site, confirm weather condition with Lon or the designated Safety Officer. It is the responsibility of the member to call; we cannot call you due to the large number of divers involved. For morning dives, call between 6 and 10 p.m. the night before the dive. For afternoon dives, call between 9 and 10 a.m. the morning of the dive.

The next day we were up at the crack of 10 am and settled into our routine of brunch, diving, lunch, diving, and late evening supper cooked on an open camp fire. (we use the campspeak word supper instead of dinner) Our usual favorite dive sites were flooded out by rising river levels caused by heavy rains in Georgia, so we opted for several stand-bys. We dived Ginnie, Devils Ear, Little Devil, and Catfish Hotel. In between eating and diving, some found time to canoe, kayak, and fish. The afternoon of the last day was devoted to tubing/rafting down the pristine waters of Ichetucknee Springs, a state park which has done a remarkable job of preservation. The fauna and flora appear unchanged from the days when native Americans hunted and fished these waters. We can only hope it remains unchanged for a thousand generations to come.

Happy trails, Lon

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

GUSHING OVER OIL: BP Amoco just keeps on spillin

Previously, we told you about the plans of "Big Oil" to pursue drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Despite claims that oil drilling can be done in an environmentally friendly manner, BP Amoco dumped up to 9,700 gallons of oil onto Alaska's North Slope in two separate spills within a matter of hours this week. That didn't stop friends of Big Oil from beating the drum for drilling in the nearby Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Even though oil accounts for only one percent of California's power generation, Interior Secretary Gale Norton said drilling in the pristine refuge would ensure "that elderly people in California are not having to worry about how to keep their homes warm." And Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, bragged that he's only three votes short of a Senate majority to open the refuge to oil development. Murkowski is introducing his bill as early as next week.

What you can do: In only the first month of Defenders of Wildlife's on-line petition drive to protect the Arctic refuge, supporters have sent more than 650,000 e-mails and faxes to President Bush and Congress from our Web site SaveArcticRefuge.org. We've created a special animated video to help our campaign. To view the animation, click here. To join our growing on-line petition drive, click here: <http://www.savearcticrefuge.org> -- and don't forget to forward the petition to your friends.

Inside this month's issue you'll find:

- Check out the May-June Dive Schedule
- Cayman Brac - Dive Trip Details
- The 2000' Awards Brunch Report
- New Family Fun Activities - Including Kayaking, Picnics, Camping, BBQ's, and more!
- Environmental & Local Issues

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May 2001 Issue

Dive Trips/Return Address:

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Conservation:

Robert Fox (305) 378-6733
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Julio Raimundez (305) 551-7545
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THINKING ABOUT MOVING? ☎ DON'T KEEP IT A SECRET!

Call Jim at Membership (954-752-6234) *It could save your newsletter.*