



The Mouthpiece

Our Web
www.active Divers.
org/

July 2010 THE ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Important Change From April

Send all payments (checks or money orders, payable to ADA) to:
Jerry Kosakowski 8221 NW 8 Place Plantation Fl. 33324

July

July 3- Sat. am Biscayne National Park reef \$59
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'.

July 11- Sun pm W. Palm Beach (*Advanced drift*) \$49
Drift Dive in swift currents. See giant turtles, groupers, schooling fish and outstanding color. Depth 80' - 100"
Visibility 40—100' Many wreck, reef sites to chose from. *See Advanced diving criteria this issue.*

July 17 - Sat. pm Eagle wreck (*Advanced*) \$49 BBQ \$10
The EAGLE, named for its donor, The Eagle Tire Company, is a huge freighter, lying on it's side in about 115' of water. Two green morays call it home, as do tarpon and barracudas. We call it a great dive! **See advanced criterion this issue.**

July 17- Sat **Night Dive** Reef \$49
See article this issue.

July 25 Sun am Biscayne National Park reef \$59
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'.

July 31 Sat pm Islamorada reef \$49
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.

August

Aug. 7 pm Miami wreck (*Advanced*) \$49
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.**

Aug. 15 pm N. Key Largo \$49 BBQ \$10
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 tropical's, morays, cudas.
BBQ after dive, see article this issue

Aug. 21 pm Tavernier \$49..
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 morays, schooling tropical's, unusual pillar corals.

Aug. 29 pm W. Palm Beach (*Advanced*) \$49
Drift Dive in swift currents, giant turtles, grouper, schooling fish and outstanding color. Depth 80-100', visibility 40-100'. Many wreck/reef sites to choose. **See advanced criterion this issue.**

10:00 AM. Time to wake up and call Lon to check-in for the weather report and then start loading the car once he gives the good news that "we're good to go!"

That's how every diving day should start; with a late morning! That said, it should be mentioned that some ADA members are SO passionate about SCUBA diving that they would wake up early and drive 4 hours, all the way from Key West, as Lilly did. And Steve, my dive buddy for the weekend, came all the way from Texas. Now that's dedication!

Though my diving day started at 10:00 AM that Saturday, in reality, it had started weeks prior when I was contemplating signing up for the dive. I had never dove the Tenneco Towers before and I wanted to know what to expect. I wanted to know a bit more history about these Towers and what type of diving this would turn out to be.

My curiosity led me to discover that the Tenneco Towers were 1.5 miles off Hallandale, to the North, near the Dade/Broward county line. And that the towers, which were owned by the Tenneco Oil Company, are actually the second artificial reef donated by the company; the first located 22 miles southeast of Pensacola.

The Towers were actually two complete oil production platforms that were in use approximately 75 miles southwest of Morgan City, Louisiana, and also a drilling deck from another platform located 15 miles further. The structures weigh more than 912 tons and have a total surface area of 100,000 square feet.

On October 3rd, 1985, after a 920 miles journey from the Gulf of Mexico and around the Florida Keys, the Tenneco Oil Company sunk the 5 sections of the structures at 3 different sites. The first site (Tenneco Tower West), closest to shore, has a single section resting in about 100 feet of water. The structure ended up tilted after a hurricane. The second site (Tenneco Tower East), about 100 yards seaward from the first, has 2 sections resting in 110 feet of water. The lower deck is 20 feet below the first which rises to about 60 feet from the surface. The third site (Tenneco Tower Deep), inaccessible to recreational diving, is about 85 yards further seaward in 190 feet of water. The 2 sections found at this last site are the supporting legs, also known as jacks, of the oil drilling platform. With this information in hand, I was now ready to make my "pit stop" at the Towers.

Captain Todd and his excellent crew of the America Dream II ferried us to our first site which was Tenneco Tower East. We jumped into the water as soon as we had moored and received our briefing and made our descent down the anchor line, passing a few divers from time to time. The sight seemed like one from a movie; the blue water turning a darker shade of blue with each passing feet until a shadow of the platform revealed itself at around 60 feet. Reaching platform itself at about 90 feet, I quickly looked at Steve and gave him the OK sign to which he replied the same. I then signed to Steve that we should go check what's below the platform. Steve agreed and off we went. We were greeted by the sight of hundreds of jacks, snappers, and grunts. And out of the corner we spotted a goliath grouper making his retreat. This was promising to be a memorable dive!

We swam across the school of fish towards the west side of the platform and ascended back on top of the deck to preserve our oxygen. It's then that I realized just how strong the current was when it took quite a bit of a workout to stay in the same spot. On the deck of the platform, we were now hovering over soft and hard coral, crossing paths from time to time with gray angelfish, sharp-nosed puffer, honeycomb cowfish, and tangs. My remaining air time must of been swept with the current for I was soon finding myself with only 5 more minutes. And so we decided to make our way up to the upper section at 70 feet to gain back some precious bottom time. Hanging on to the edge of the north-east corner, I starred at other divers circling the lower structure. A few moments later, we were back on the anchor line following other divers back to the surface and onto the boat. Captain Todd moved us a few yards to Tenneco Tower West, and after an hour long surface interval, we were back in the water.

The descent for this second dive seemed just as long as the first one, and after 4-5 minutes, we found ourselves arriving at the southwest corner of the deck. Several divers were hovering around the platform, trying to avoid being swept off by the strong current. The sight made me wonder if that's what it'd be like to look at a school sharks hovering a reef.

(Continued on page 3)

"Fueling at Tenneco Towers" (continued from page 2)

Steven and I decided to once again head down and check the lower levels. We found our way through some hole and into the structure. Like the one from the first dive, there were several fishes inside but unlike the first dive, this one had an access to the upper and lower decks. We went up to the main deck, opting to conserve our air. While letting the current take us to the other end of the deck, I noticed bubbles making their way through the deck. This was a great indicator that some of my fellow divers were in the lower sections of the platform.

While swimming back and forth, I had this weird sensation that it was harder to swim up the tilted deck than going down, as though I was actually running up a hill. It's rather interesting what the mind will make you believe once it's computed the available data; I guess it forgot to account for weightlessness.

My dive computer soon enough showed 5 minutes of remaining air and without another structure at a higher altitude, we had to start making our ascent back to the boat. We found ourselves making our safety stops at 60 and 30 feet with quite a few other divers.

Back on the boat, we started sharing our experiences, and I must say, the irony of diving on a sunken oil drilling platform, days after the disaster of the BP Deepwater Horizon one, was not lost on me and the others. It certainly sparked many discussions on the topic while on our way to the site and back!

"Taking only memories; leaving only bubbles!"

Lionfish in the Keys!

June 6 was a gorgeous, sunny day in the Keys and it was also the first sighting of a lionfish by many ADA members. We were anchored near Alligator Light and diving the ledge when lo and behold! a lionfish. Roger Bach pointed it out to me and I took some video. The boat crew captured the lionfish while we did our second dive so that critter will no longer be a threat to the local inhabitants. Lionfish are voracious eaters and will devour anything, which is why we hope we don't see too many more of these critters in the Keys.

Carol Cox



Manatees



Manatees (Genus *Trichechus*) are aquatic mammals that have a large, streamlined body, flipper-like front limbs, and a rounded, horizontal flipper-tail. Although they may resemble whales and dolphins in some ways, they are in fact more closely related to elephants.

There are three species of manatees:

- West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*)
- Amazon Manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*)

West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*)

There are two subspecies of the West Indian Manatee: the Florida Manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) and the Antillean Manatee or Caribbean Manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*).

Manatees and dugongs are the only marine mammals that feed exclusively on plants and this characteristic impacts many aspects of their biology.

Since manatees and dugongs live their entire lives in the water and feed only on aquatic plants, they are restricted to coastlines, seas, and rivers where the water is clear and shallow enough for sunlight to penetrate and support plant growth.

A diet of aquatic plants places unique demands on manatees and their behavior and physiology reflects this. Since aquatic plants are low in nutrients, manatees must spend between 6 and 8 hours a day feeding. They consume up somewhere between 5 and 10 percent of their body weight each day and a large adult animal can weigh as much as 220lb. Manatees have a large upper lip that is lined with bristles and has two lobes that can be moved together to grasp onto food from the seabed.

As they chew, their teeth slowly migrate forward and new teeth at the back of the jaw replace old teeth that fall off at the front of the jaw. Like many animals that have a low nutrient diet, manatees have an extremely slow metabolism.

THE USE OF SHORTY WETSUITS

The debate between the suitability of long and shorty wetsuits will continue and it merely comes down to personal preference, as well as the regions that you predominantly dive, surf or practice water sports in. The reasons for wearing the long or shorty wetsuits in the first place are practically the same anyway, with the main factor being that of insulation provided by the wetsuit. With the main differences being that the full suit will provide insulation for the arms and the legs, whilst the shorty wetsuits are said to be less restrictive and more comfortable in general.

In general the use of the wetsuit also provides protection from a number of potential hazards, especially when in the sea. These hazards include bumps and scrapes from rocks and coral when scuba diving, or even snorkeling, as well as the possible protection afforded when you encounter jelly fish and the blue bottles, which are predominantly found in the warmer water regions. These stings can provide a really nasty experience and by wearing the suit you may well be afforded some sort of reprieve from the pain and discomfort of these stings.

Although many do not realize that the water temperatures are colder than that of the outside temperature, which is why we will often get cold in the water even on a hot day, makes the use of the wetsuit ideal if you are looking to stay in the water longer. This is necessary when you are going on a diving adventure or if you are going out surfing or body boarding, as you really do not want to go into the water for a couple of minutes and then have to exit because of feeling cold. Therefore the protection from hypothermia is also offered by both the shorty wetsuits and their full suit counterparts.

In terms of flexibility, shorty wetsuits are often preferred over the long ones, as the freedom of movement is more prevalent in these types of suits; although with the advancement of technology the materials are getting lighter and more flexible which is great for the long or full versions of the suits.

The issues of buoyancy, and less water drag, must also be taken into account when considering the wetsuit. In some triathlons the use of such attire is not permitted, if competing professionally, as it is perceived to give the wearer an unfair advantage, although this is another issue of debate altogether. However, many swimming instructors specifically with kids recommend shorty wetsuits to help with the confidence levels of the kids as well as contribute to the buoyancy issue.

Long or shorty wetsuits each have their own positives and negative traits and one should select the best for their specific needs and requirements accordingly, and is really mostly affected by the predominant water temperatures that you will be using the wetsuit in.

**Are you on Facebook? Join the ADA page here:
<http://www.facebook.com/ActiveDivers>
We can post your photos and share dive stories!**



Post Dive BBQS

Cost \$10.00 includes-

Grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, chips and fixins. Soda & Beer.

While divers are tending their gear, our chef of the day will be preparing a feast fit for a King/Queen or at least for hungry divers. We invite all divers on the above dates to join us for good outdoor food and telling tall fish tales. Please send \$10 along with the dive fees, you may make one check for both.

DIVE AND EAT FREE

That's right, on our BBQ days you can earn a free dive and free eats. It's easy, just volunteer to be the chef of the day and you go for free.

Here's how it works -

You buy the food and bring to the dive, after which you and the Safety Officer will prepare and serve.

The supplies and menu list will be faxed to you a few days prior with an exact list of needed items. Then you submit a receipt and your expenses will be reimbursed. Call Lon for more info and sign up!

REVIVE YOUR DIVE- FREE!

July 25

Long time dive instructor, Tec Clark, director of Ft. Lauderdale's Reef Ministries, is offering a day long program of **free** health screenings, dive skill refreshers and gear maintenance, designed to address the common causes of dive accidents. The event will take place on Sunday, July 25, at the City of **Ft.**

Lauderdale Aquatic Complex, 9 am to 5 pm.

Confirmed participants include DAN, hyperbaric physicians and nurses, EMTs, dive instructors, The Florida

NO MORE SHARK FIN SOUP !!!

At last, someone is doing something about the gross practice of killing sharks for their fins.

The state of Hawaii has banned the sale, possession and distribution of shark fins. The state is attempting to help prevent the overfishing and extinction of sharks around the world.

Kudos to Gov. Lingle for signing the bill.

ADA KEEPING DIVE COSTS DOWN

1. We do not plan to raise our local dive prices this year.
2. We are offering free beach dives this year in the metro area. No need to drive long distances to dives.
3. Our prices are still the lowest in town.

Examples:

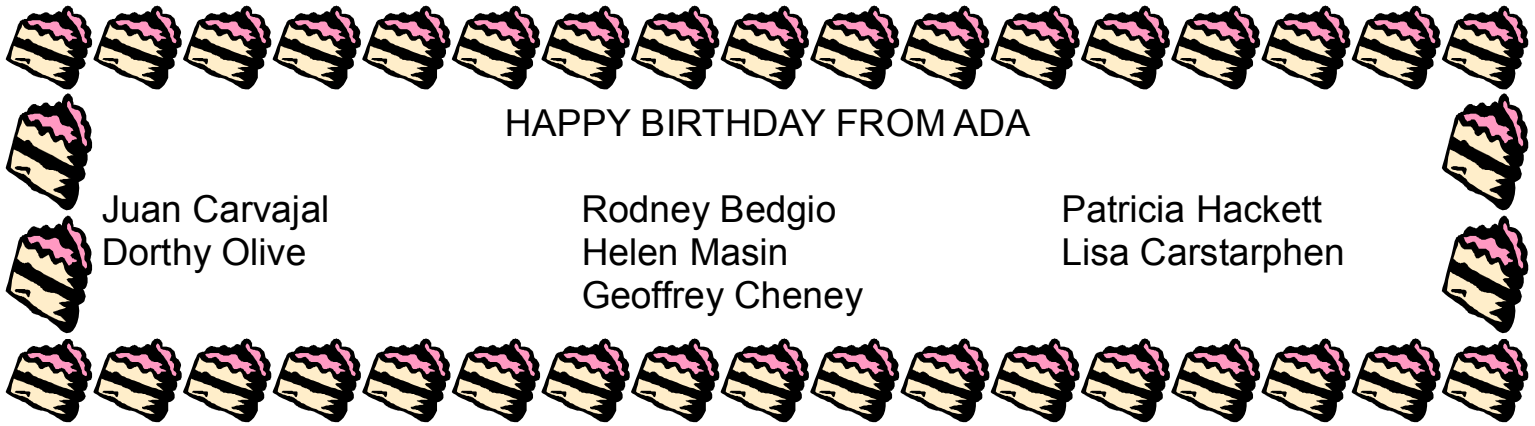
Dive shop A- walk in divers \$99

Our price same shop \$59

Dive shop B- walk in divers \$80

Our price same shop \$49

4. Free dives and free food. See article this issue for details.
5. We are offering a frequent-diver discount. Pay for any 5 local dives and get the 6th FREE.
You can't beat that with a stick.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM ADA

Juan Carvajal

Dorothy Olive

Rodney Bedgio

Helen Masin

Geoffrey Cheney

Patricia Hackett

Lisa Carstarphen

HOW TO SAVE OUR PLANET, BIT BY BIT.

THE THREE R's OF BEING GREEN

Reduce- consumption of electricity, gas, water, non-renewable resources, waste.

Reuse- plastic bags, boxes, paper, bottles, cans, containers and donate items.

Recycle- plastics of all types, paper, cardboard, glass, metals, if you can't reuse them.

You can do these each day, every day.

ADA Now Offers Free Dives

July 11 Aug. 14

This year ADA will be having some free dives. Sounds great? It is for those of us who like beach diving. Count me in because it is my favorite. It offers convenience, long dive times, multiple dives and a lot of exercise. They were usually held in the morning but this year the late afternoon/early evening will be offered. The times and places will be determined at the beginning of the dive scheduled week.

Some of the locations will be John Lloyd Park, Ero Jacks (dive boats drop you at this one), Glenn's Reef, The Boulders, The Golden Brick Road, 8th St. (we can also make the Copenhagen from here, again dive boats go here) Delray Wreck and Embassy Suites. See the adventurous. For more information or suggestions please call me at 954-990-9534.

Jerry Kosakowski

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 buddyed 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

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 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 this year.

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.

- 1.

HOW TO MAKE DIVE RESERVATIONS

1. Check this newsletter or the annual calendar for upcoming dives.
2. Call Lon (305) 251-4975 to make a reservation. Please do not leave a message on the answering machine, The trip may be full.
3. We will hold your reservation for four (4) days from the date you call. If we do not receive payment within four days, your space may be given to other members. If you wish to confirm receipt, call Lon.
4. Ask for details about the trip when you call. Otherwise, details will be given when you call for a weather report. See important weather information in this and every issue)
5. Make your check payable to ACTIVE DIVERS ASSOCIATION. Not to any individual, and mail to :
Jerry Kosakowski ,8221 NW 8 Place Plantation, Fl 33324
7. Itemize dates of dives in the left hand corner of your check.
8. REMEMBER! That family members must have completed individual documentation to register as ADA members.

ADA CHECK-IN TIMES !!!

Ours are different than the dive operators.

When making dive reservations or during the all important WEATHER CHECK.

Inquire about the ADA CHECK-IN TIME. Please arrive on time, or better yet, a bit earlier and chat with new friends and old buddies.

Divers Den

Instruction • Sales • Service • Rentals



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