

Lunarscope



March 2007



Officers/contact info:

President

Paul Herring
281-692-9983

Vice President

David Melendez
713-398-8585

Secretary

Ann Herring
281-692-9983

Treasurer

Louise Toole
281-532-1179

Social Director

Katie Gwinn
281-793-6256

Equipment Officer

John Harvey
281-483-2171 - Office
713-855-8169 - Cell
281-488-1464 - Home

Training Coordinator

Bill Jones
281-488-3663 - Office
281-488-3663 - Home

Newsletter Editor

Fred Toole
281-532-1179
fctoole@yahoo.com

Trip Coordinator

Bob Puschinsky
281-326-1060
Puschinsky@aol.com

TGCC Representative

Tom Burns
281-504-2627 - Office
281-488-6759 - Home

Advisors

Mary Smith
281-488-7070 - Office
281-338-2482 - Home
Tom Reuland
tomreuland@earthlink.net

Bill Todd

832-642-0868 - Office
281-930-1022 - Home
Don & Emily Sanderfeld
281-554-6444 - Home

Fred Toole

281-532-1179

George Clark

geokarclark@aol.com

Terry Tri

832-338-7999 - Home

Lunarfins Newsletter www.lunarfins.com

Next meeting: Wed., March 14

Lunarfins, a non-profit club that promotes the sport of scuba diving, is hosting its monthly meeting Wed., March, 14, 6:30 pm, at Clear Lake Park.

Lunarfins member Dennis Camp is going to give a presentation on Technical Diving.

Dennis, a very experienced tech diver, is going to give an overview of the training required, the gear that is used, the benefits...and dangers of tech diving that are not inherent in Recreational Diving. If you've ever wanted to know what goes on below 140' come and hear Dennis's presentation!

General Meeting Information

When: Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Come early for social hour at 6:30 p.m. And join us afterward at Mario's in Seabrook for food, drink and camaraderie.

Where: Clear Lake Park on the South (lake) side of NASA Road One. Contact Mike Manering at 281.483.2618 for information.

Editor's Note

Lunarscope editor welcomes your diving related articles. Send info to

Fred at fctoole@yahoo.com. Newsletter deadline is first Monday in the month.

What's Happening

March

8 Lunarfin Happy Hour
14 Lunarfin Meeting
31 thru April 1 Seaspaces

April

11 Lunarfin Open House at JSC
14 Wine Tasting Party
18 Lunarfin Table at JSC Safety Fair

Seaspaces

Seaspaces is a non-profit corporation, with proceeds from the event funding marine-related scholarships and grants.

Educational seminars, workshops, demonstrations, scuba gear, and tropical travel agents are a few of the more than 150 booths in the exhibit hall. Seaspaces will be at the Reliant Center this year on March 31st and April 1st. Seaspaces has engaged Houston's only 3D IMAX screen at the Edwards Marq*e Theatre for one showing of Deep Sea 3D on March 31 at 8:00pm. For additional info see

www.seaspaces.org.

A group of Lunarfin will be caravanning on Saturday March 31st around noon. The exhibit can last as long or as short as we want it to.

After everyone is finished getting trip prices and rifling through dive gear, we can eat at the infamous El Pueblito. In order to arrange how many vehicles and who needs to drive, I will need to have RSVP's by Saturday March 17th. RSVP to kgwinn@houston.rr.com.

Sunday Breakfast

Our Lunarfin breakfast at Chabuca's on February 18 had a good attendance by members and some of their friends. Last head count was 26. It was a good chance for many members to catch up and talk of recent and future trips.

Who Enjoys Tasting New Wines



When: Saturday April 14th @ 6:00 pm
Where: Wendy and Bill Whitehouse
470 Richvale Ln.
Webster, TX
832-355-2149

Please bring a bottle of wine that you would love for your friends to taste and a wine friendly appetizer. We will put the wines everyone brings out to be tasted from 7p.m. until 8 p.m. After the tasting, the wines will be consumed in typical Lunarfin party style.

Please RSVP by Saturday April 7th to: kgwinn@houston.rr.com.

Raincheck date TBD.

HUPS Meeting- April 2

HUPS (Houston Underwater Photo Society) will be presenting a program by James Watt, renowned marine wildlife photographer. This is the Monday after SeaSpace – April 2nd. This free program will be from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Tracy Gee Community Center. Lunarfin are welcome. Tracy Gee is located off the North Sam Houston Tollway, on Westcenter Drive, between Richmond and Westpark. Flyers will be available at the HUPS Booth at Seaspaces

Local Divers Involved in Liveaboard Fire

© Bill Jones

Maldives Indonesia. Maldives is often called “The Promise of Eden”. That promise was temporarily interrupted for passengers on the liveaboard “Guilia” when it caught fire, exploded, and sank about 7:30p on February 19, 2007. There were no casualties but the passenger list included four divers from Bay Area Houston’s own LUNARFINS dive club. Divers had only been aboard for nine hours of the planned trip and had only done one checkout dive.

Anchored in sixty feet of water near the Kaafu atoll in Gulhee harbor, passengers were evacuated to other vessels as the flames spread. Crews from nearby fishing boats helped in the attempt to put out the fire, but the “Guilia” was totally destroyed. Divers from “Guilia” staff dove the wreck the following morning and reported that nothing would be salvageable.

The “Guilia” was a luxurious, diver-friendly live-aboard. It was appointed and laid out fabulously and staffed with a knowledgeable and competent crew and divemasters.

One Lunarfins’ member had just laid down in his cabin when the explosion occurred. Passengers below deck safely made their way to the main deck in total darkness in spite of the chaos. Passengers on-board lost personal items including cash, credit cards, passports, clothes, and scuba gear.

In the aftermath, “Italian Seafari Adventures” owners and their agents provided emergency clothing, passenger medications, meals, lodging, temporary passports, and spending money. They provided airline arrangements for those wishing to return home. They also brought in personnel from the U.S. Counsel in Sri Lanka to issue temporary passports and facilitated the very prompt support from the Male Police to develop the police reports for

use to make claims on trip and homeowner’s insurance policies

Some passengers elected to stay at five-star resorts in the Maldives for the rest of their vacation. The LUNARFINS on board have already booked the same vacation adventure with “Italian Seafari Adventures” for next year.

The Maldives was part of the area that 87 resorts were closed because of damage caused by a Tsunami on December 28, 2004. [See picture on pg. 5](#)

Diver Seriously Injured in Oz

© Bill Jones

Sydney Australia. A 41 year-old male scuba diver suffered a fractured skull on February 11, 2007 while diving near Sydney.

During a “normal ascent”, the diver was struck in the head by the propeller of the boat he was using to dive. The diver was airlifted to Gosford Hospital for initial treatment and then CareFlighted by helicopter to Sydney’s Royal North Shore Hospital for emergency neurosurgery.

Police said the diver was injured at about 10:00a just off Shelley Beach near “The Entrance” while surfacing.

Lunarfins should remember to stay well clear of propellers, even when the engine is not running. While boat operators generally do not engage props while divers are below, it is always prudent to assume that the propeller could begin spinning at anytime. “Prop wash”, the current produced by a spinning propeller, could pull or push you into an unsafe situation at any time.



For details contact trip sponsor or go to www.Lunarfins.com

Club- Sponsored Trips

WANANAVU BEACH RESORT - FIJI

March 15-24, 2007 - 9 Days \$2,517 PP Total
 7 night's Ocean View dbl, All Meals
 11 Boat Dives, Unlimited Beach Diving
 Tax, Xfers, \$56 USD Resort Credit: \$1,259 PP; :
 Grp Air RT PP LAX-Nadi Total \$895, IAH-LAX: \$363
 8 Booked – 4 Openings (\$75 late Booking Fee)
 Deposit \$200 PP non refundable + Air
 Air Prices Not Final Until Tickets Acquired
 (puschinsky@aol.com).



Member-Sponsored Trips

BRAZIL ADVENTURE

April 22-May 4, 2007

12 nights, Amazon, Rio & Iguassu Falls
 Approx. \$2,595 PP (\$500 deposit).

Includes:

All Air: Hou – Brazil RT; All Land w
 specified meals and Rio by Night tour
 Brazil Visa required \$100-\$120 from
 Houston Consulate; 19 signed up
 Contact Bob Puschinsky if interested
 (puschinsky@aol.com).



6TH ANNUAL BILL JONES COZUMEL DIVING VACATION

May & August, 2007; 4 & 7 nights,
 \$599 & \$799

Hotel Cozumel & Resort All Inclusive
 DIVING AVAILABLE BUT NOT INCLUDED
 Email Bjones@houston.rr.com for details

DIVI Flamingo Beach Resort- Bonaire October 13-20, 2007 – 7 Days

\$1,980 PP (Dbl Occupancy) Total

7 night std A/C room, airport transfers, All
 meals, 3-tank boat dive daily (check dive &
 replaces 1 boat dive, Unlimited beach
 diving tanks, Full payment with booking
 Airfare: BYO \$613 AA

Resort package including diving: \$1,367
 Contact Bob Puschinsky if interested
 (puschinsky@aol.com).

Member-Sponsored Trips

COZUMEL DIVE TRIP

December 2007

Under Construction by
Louise Toole

PANAMA CITY Beach, FL

September 2007

Under Construction by
Wendy Whitehouse

GALAPAGOS DIVE TRIP

September 2009

AGGRESSOR Live-Aboard
(Under Construction)



Maldives Liveboard Fire See article on pg. 3

Election of Officers

Nominations for 2007/2008 Lunarfin Officers

The nominating committee is proud to announce the following proposed slate for the coming year:

President-----Terry Tri
Vice President-----Barney Corbin
Secretary-----Ann Herring
Treasurer-----Mary Smith
Social Director-----Debbie Sterling
Equipment Officer-----John Harvey

The elections will be held at the March meeting.

Thanks to the committee, Aurin Tesoro, Mary Smith and John Harvey for assembling an outstanding proposed slate of officers.

Grand Cayman Event

March 29, 6pm-8pm

Please join the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and various on-island vendors at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It will be an exciting evening starting with a reception in front of the Cockrell Butterfly Center.

Private tours will be given during the reception. Enjoy a private screening of the IMAX Deep Sea 3-D. Caribbean cuisine and island smoothies will set the mood.

Travel agents, dive shop owners and dive clubs are encouraged to attend. This is a family friendly event so feel free to bring children over 3.

For additional info contact:
slawson@caymanislands.ky or
713.461.1863 by Thursday,
March 22nd, 2007. Limited space, so
reserve your seats today

Haak Vineyards & Winery Sunday March 18

Mark your calendars for a really fun event. We return to the Haak Winery to be entertained with a Parrothead event featuring Kelly McGuire and his group. Their music is a blend of instruments that make up a unique Gulf Coast sound from steel guitar to tropical steel drums and congas. Enjoy an afternoon of free music under the outdoor covered pavilion or bring a lawn chair and relax on the grassy areas around the pavilion. The band plays from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. You can see Kelly's website at www.redfishisland.com to hear samples of his music.

Come earlier to join one of the free group tours of the winery. The last tour will be 12:30. Food maybe available; however, the menu or price has yet to be provided. If you prefer, you may bring your own picnic lunch. Wine can be purchased at the winery if desired, but no other alcohol is allowed on the premises. We will gather and sit together. No reservations can be made for a group to be seated together in a particular area.

The Winery address is 6310 Ave. T, in Santa Fe, Texas located 1.8 miles south of State Highway 6, between Alvin and Galveston, Texas. Santa Fe, Texas is approximately 15 miles from Clear Lake

This will be a blast as have been other events at the winery attended by Lunarfans. Check out their website for map directions and more information. www.haakwine.com

April Meeting Preview

Annual Lunarfans Open House at the JSC/Gilruth Center Pavilion

The annual "Lunarfans Open House Meeting at JSC/Gilruth" will be our Wednesday, April 11 monthly meeting. Please note the MEETING LOCATION - GILRUTH PAVILION, and EARLY START TIME - 5:00PM (so folks can stop by on their way home from work). As in the past, we'll have hotdogs, beer, soft drinks, and plenty of information about the club and SCUBA diving to share with fellow divers and future divers all across the JSC community. This is open to both members and prospective members. Members usually bring a picnic side dish or dessert to share.

Remember, there is now a public access gate to Gilruth Center from Space Center Blvd. so everyone can easily get there without going through the main JSC gate

Lunarfans Donation

The Lunarfans donated \$200 for medical supplies to be sent to Cayos Cochinos. The following is a note of appreciation from Jan Jones.

*Thanks so much for all your continuing help. It really makes a difference. Rushing to get off this week, more later. I do appreciate you all. The \$ went to vitamins for kids, enough for about 30 kids for a year (at \$3 a week) what a difference it makes to their growth and general health.
Thanks again.
Jan Jones*