

Newsletter - Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

14 April 2019

www.nasjaxscubadivers.org



Joe's Tug. Photo from Key West Dive Center

President's Waves



Greetings, Divers!

As the days grow warmer more of us are back into diving. It is important you review all the basics and check over your gear carefully if you haven't been in the water for a while. A quick refresher dive in a pool or one of the regional springs is a good and safe way to make sure everything is working and you're up to speed on your safety and emergency procedures. Consider practicing with a buddy, review underwater signals, inflate your safety sausage, breathe from your octopus regulator for a few minutes underwater, and practice dropping your weights while in shallow water. These are not things you normally do but you must be comfortable doing them. It's one thing to have chalkboard knowledge of a topic and quite a different thing to have the muscle memory, so practice!

This month we tried a new meeting place, the Player's Grille on Hendricks Avenue. We had a private meeting room to ourselves, a video screen to show videos, a friendly staff with great service, and terrific food. One member noted that any place that offers fried pickles and chocolate malts on its menu is a winner in his book. The burgers, BBQ, salads, and other foods we ordered were great.

All in attendance at the April meeting agreed we should meet at Player's Grille again. For most, it's 15 minutes farther away than driving to the Golden Corral, but as one diver pointed out, "Hey, it's only once a month!" We sympathize with dedicated members who come to our meeting from Palatka, Orange Park, Palm Coast, St. Augustine, and other remote locations. If anyone wants to suggest another venue we are open to trying others, but for now this will be the new club meeting place.

Don't forget our Rainbow River club picnic/dive event this month. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. We are planning to meet at KP Hole Park at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 27 April. This is a family event, so please feel free to bring non-diving friends and relatives with you. They can kayak, swim, or snorkel while you dive. It will be a fun day even if you don't do the diving and just want to socialize with your fellow club members!

Monster Molyneux

Upcoming Dive Trips and Events

Puerto Rico – 17-24 April Glen Atkins, Ed Fite, Kathy Lawler, Monster and Annette Molyneux - diving near the towns of Aguadilla (shore dives), Rincon (Desecheo Island National Marine Reserve) and Guanica (walls and reefs).

Rainbow River – 27 April Jax Dive Club Picnic Event.

The KP Hole Park website is KPHole.org .

[9435 SW 190 Ave. Road
Dunnellon, FL 34432](#)

KP Hole is south of Gainesville and west of Ocala. Allow approximately 2.5 hours drive time from Jacksonville area to get there. Park opens at 8:00 am, plan to be there by about 9:00 am to be assured of getting in. Divers cost is \$15 for park entry. Non-divers pay \$5. Water taxi for drift dive \$10 per diver. Depth roughly 20 feet. Water temperature low 70s. All dive groups or buddy teams must have a floating dive flag to tow with them on the dive. No tank/weight rental; must bring your own if you dive. Canoe/kayak rentals available for non-divers/ family members. We plan to grill burgers/hotdogs after the dive. Please bring a side or dessert to share with the group. Right now we have people signed up for chips and dip, veggies, fruit, coleslaw, 2 desserts, paper plates and plasticware and 1 “something”.

Blue Heron Bridge – 17-19 May – Bill Davis and Kim Walther “pre-Cuba Shakedown”.

Cuba – June - Bill Davis and Kim Walther

South Africa – June/July - Mark Vogel

Cozumel – 8 - 16 July - Marshall Gross. Staying at Hotel Cozumel.

Gadeloupe – July - Marshall Gross.

Antiga – August – Marshall Gross

Fiji – September - Marshall Gross

Little Cayman – September - Mark Vogel

Caribbean Cruise – December - Bill Davis and Kim Walther, Craig Stoops and Arvilla Scureman

Dive Club Executive Officers' Reports

Treasurer - Evan Ball

We have \$1216 in the account right now. This year's expenses have been paid and the only expenses are raffle prizes and the Christmas party.

Webmaster - Sharon Green

The website is doing well. We had 891 unique visits last month. If you are planning a dive send the info and the calendar will be updated. Please put "NAS JAX DIVE CLUB" in the subject of the email so I know to open it.

Secretary – Craig Stoops

Just a reminder that if you can send your dive reports via email to me before the meeting, that will help me with accuracy in the newsletter. Send pics for the newsletter too if you have any to share. And if your information is incorrect on the roster, please let me know.

Vice President – Venessa Wood

Nothing to report this month. Thank you to everyone who donates to the raffle. Please consider donating! No E-board meeting this month.

Safety Officer – Chet Tomlinson

In his "Presidential Rant" Monster covered very important safety information that both the experienced and seasoned divers should always consider. The main topic was it is important that everyone dives "within their training". Do not succumb to peer pressure when you think the dive may exceed the limits of your training. If your dive buddy is pushing you or the dive master has a plan that includes portions that exceed your training limits or you are uncomfortable, say something and call the dive if necessary. One of our club maximums is "anyone can call a dive". You can at your discretion decide something is not right and you can decline to dive. So, stay within your training and if you want to go beyond your training, get the specialty training and if necessary get refresher training.

Dive Reports

Khuyen Tran

Traveled to Key West in March. Did some reef diving, and then dove the Vanderburg and then did some shore dives to finish the trip. Dive sites were great and conditions were excellent. The dive shop I used was Lost Reef Adventure.

Kim Walther

In Key West we dove Joe's Tug. It was a great dive, but didn't look anything like the pictures. The next dive we did a shallow reef dive with a lot of lionfish. We did have an incident with a panicky diver in the group and a diver who struggled with the current. I ended up calling the dive for the safety of the struggling diver. Anyone with access to the military facilities and MWR should look into lodging and diving with MWR. The facilities are excellent and the prices are hard to beat.

Rick Reckert

Major and I dove West Palm for last day of lobster season. Came back with 8 bugs, lost a few, some had eggs, but all in all good diving. We did Flower Garden and Breakers with Walker Dive Charters. Water temp was 77°. Also saw a sharptail snake eel, several lionfish. Viz not so great. I'd say about 40-50'.

We went again on 4/1 on board Narcosis and went back to Flower Garden, 4th Window (part of Breakers). We saw some gigantic lobsters that were laughing at us since they got away. Saw another sharptail snake eel, one turtle at Turtle Mounds. Viz much better that day around 60' and water temp 77°. At Flower Garden we settled on the bottom as the huge school of resident spade fish would come rub against our fins to rid themselves of parasites. Pretty neat!

Dippy Diver Award - For minor diving offenses.

No nominations this month.

Coprolite Diver Award - For more serious diving infractions.

No nominations this month.

This Month's Raffle Winners:

Billy Schofield – Diver's Supply Gift Card

Kim Walther – BCD Hanger, notebook dry bag

Art LaRue – T-shirt

Carole Hughes – Bonaire T-Shirt

Members present at the April dive club meeting:

Glen Atkins, Evan Ball, Bill Davis, Howard Feingold, Richard Green,
Sharon Green, Marshall Gross, Carol Hughes, Art LaRue, Mitch Maxon,
Kathy Lawler, Annette Molyneux, Monster Molyneux, Elmer Osborne,
Billy Schofield, Craig Stoops, Arvilla Scureman, Mark Vogel, Kim
Walther, Eric Wilson, Vanessa Wood.

First Time Visitors to our Dive Club:

Charles Painter, Denise Stuart, Khuyen Tran Anabelle Wilson

Diving Club EXTRAS



In recognition of Baynanza and Earth Month 2019:

FREE EDUCATIONAL CLASSES



Stony Coral ID

Tuesday 4/16
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Pura Vida Divers

Tuesday 4/16
6:00 – 8:00 PM

and

Thursday 4/18

12:00 – 2:00 PM
6:00 – 8:00 PM



**Biscayne Bay
Environmental Center**



REEF Fish ID



Tuesday 4/23
12:00 – 2:00 PM

6:00 – 8:00 PM
and

Thursday 4/25

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Biscayne Bay
Environmental Center**

Thursday 4/25

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Loggerhead
Marinelife Center**



Marine Inverts ID

Wednesday 5/01

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Loggerhead
Marinelife Center**

Wednesday 5/01

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Biscayne Bay
Environmental Center**



BleachWatch

(learn about coral bleaching and disease)

Tuesday 5/07

and

Thursday 5/09

6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Biscayne Bay
Environmental Center**

Tuesday 5/07

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Pura Vida Divers

Loggerhead Marinelife Center

14200 U.S. Hwy 1
Juno Beach, FL 33408

Pura Vida Divers

2513 Beach Ct.
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Biscayne Bay Environmental Center

1277 NE 79th St.
Miami, FL 33138

RSVP to:

coral@floridaDEP.gov

Scuba divers swim with enormous stingray off Tarpon Springs coast

Video shot by local diver Howard Cohn

By: [WFTS Digital Staff](#)



TARPON SPRINGS, Fla. — Two scuba divers caught an enormous stingray on video during an underwater excursion eight miles off Tarpon Springs last weekend.

The stingray was resting on the Gulf of Mexico floor in the sand.

The underwater video was shot by Howard Cohn, a Tampa Bay local, who was diving with [Narcosis Scuba Center](#) 's Shawn Campbell.

You can see how massive the sting ray actually is when Campbell swims next to it.

The divers estimate the sting ray was about 10 to 12 feet long, with the tail.

NASJAX DIVE CLUB OFFICERS for 2019

President - Monster Molyneux

Vice President – Venessa Wood

Secretary – Craig Stoops

Treasurer – Evan Ball

Safety Officer – Chet Tomlinson

Webmaster- Sharon Green

JAX Dive Club T-Shirts for Sale

Our dive club now has four different colors of t-shirts for sale for only \$15 each. We have all sizes. If you would like one, contact Venessa Wood. We've added lime and sapphire blue colors to our line of shirts.



