

# Triton's Call

NASJAX SCUBA DIVING CLUB

[www.nasjaxscubadivers.org](http://www.nasjaxscubadivers.org)

January 2022

Seahorse is a symbol of good luck. As we begin a new year, I wish that you will become like the seahorse; riding the waves that approach and changing with the tide. May the seahorse bring you good fortune this year.



## **President's Comments - Kathy Lawler**

I am excited to be planning outside events for our NASJAX Scuba Club. Check your calendars and let's dive Blue Heron Bridge in March, either 3/4-6 or 3/11-13 and participate in Earth Day Saturday April 23 by cleaning up the lake at Camp Blanding. Vote on a date if you will be diving BHB, a club organized dive.

Please vote by sending me an email.

### **Right Whales Spotted Along Our Coast**

JACKSONVILLE BEACH, Fla. – Christmas Eve crowds on Jacksonville Beach got a special treat. They saw a mother right whale and her calf swim nearby. Sky 4 also spotted the pair and captured it on video (link below). This happened one week after a whale called Snow Cone and her calf were spotted off the coast of Ponte Vedra Beach. Snow Cone has been entangled in a rope, but Florida Fish and Wildlife experts said Snow Cone is not in danger. We told you how a kayaker tried to remove the rope, but the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission warned against it. FWC urges everyone to avoid getting too close to a whale. Two new mothers - #7 and #8! Eight North Atlantic right whale mother-calf pairs have been sighted this winter in the... Posted by FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute on Monday, December 20, 2021. FWC reports eight different North Atlantic right whale mother-calf pairs off our coast. Populations have fallen and the North Atlantic right whale is endangered with fewer than 350 remaining, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

If you see a whale in the water, make sure you keep your distance. Swimming too close, even by accident, could cost you a heavy fine. Copyright 2021 by WJXT News4Jax, author: Rebecca Vaca

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2021/12/24/another-right-whale-pair-spotted-off-jacksonvilles-coast/>

### **A Mammoth Discovery – Literally!**

In May 2021, two scuba divers made a gigantic discovery of prehistoric proportions. In Florida's Peace River, embedded in the sand, they found a four-foot, 50-pound mammoth leg bone. The once-in-a-lifetime discovery could date back as far as the Ice Age.

I was fortunate enough to find two amazing once in a lifetime fossils yesterday. This is the first, come back tomorrow to see the rarest fossil you can find in Florida. Pictured here is a Colombian Mammoth leg bone, and while not as rare as the other thing, it is still an incredible find. Amazingly, it is almost completely undamaged and very well mineralized. Huge shoutout to @derekthediscoverer for helping me unearth this beast. #florida #fossils #ancient #iceage #mammoth ...

Found by Florida scuba divers Derek Demeter and Henry Sadler, the bone was well mineralized and almost completely undamaged. As it turns out, it came from a Columbian mammoth. This type of mammoth was the largest of its kind. Paleontologists estimate that the animals stood 14-feet tall and weighed "about five cars stacked on top of each other," NDTV reported. Also, their tusks reached wider than two bicycles laid end-to-end, the report continued. Mammoths, the ancestors of modern-day elephants, went extinct about 11,000 years ago.



Thanks, 🙌

*Kathy*

## **Vice President- vacant**

## **Dive Club Secretary-Carol Hughes**

We will be having another Zoom meeting for February. Supposedly, when the meeting ends, we all should be able to log back in using the same provided link so we can have a meeting for more than 40 minutes. We will try this for February & see if it works.

At this point, we will not be collecting dues for 2022. If you are receiving this newsletter/emails, and no longer wish to, please email me back & I will take you off our Roster & email list.

Also, if you dive between the January & February meeting, please do a little write up of your experience & send pictures if you like to my email: [clhughes287@gmail.com](mailto:clhughes287@gmail.com). That way I can send out the newsletter in a timelier fashion. 😊

We are scheduling an Executive Board Zoom meeting for January 26 at 7:00 & Kathy will send the Zoom link to everyone if you are interested in attending.

## **Dive Club Treasurer – Venessa Wood**

In 2021, we did not collect dues from members. We made a dollar in interest from our checking account and sold one \$15 T-shirt. We had to pay web hosting services and each year we file an annual report with SunBiz as a Florida non-profit organization, which costs \$61.25.

We had a little over \$1,000 in the bank at the end of 2021. This year I have already filed our annual report with SunBiz so that I could get our new Treasurer's name and address put on the record for the club. That brings our current balance down to \$968.51.

From past Treasurer-Monster M.

## **Dive Club Safety Officer – vacant**

## **Dive Club Webmaster - Sharon Green**

We had a lot of unique visits on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Maybe members got new computers or changed internet carriers?

Sharon

904-755-2218

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## **Dive Reports**

Report from Kim Walther & Bill Davis:

Open Waters Beach Front Resort and Club, Riviera Beach (It's actually ICW-front)

(Check out their website) <https://www.openwatersresort.com/>

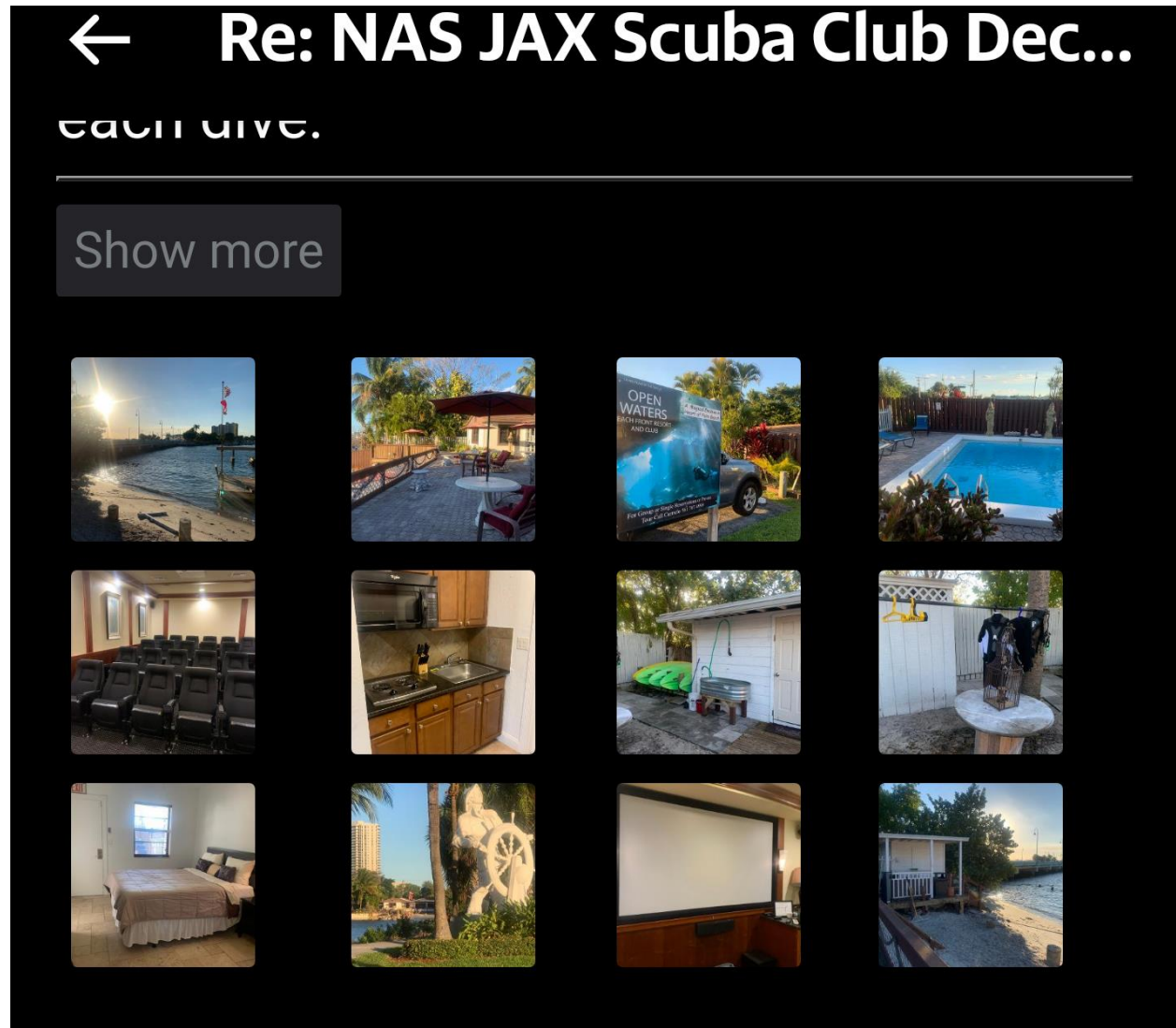
We found just north of the Blue Heron Bridge a spot that caters to divers. The rooms are mostly updated, they have mini split ac (quiet) and a pool. We toured three or four rooms, the manager Darryl was very helpful. They have lots of outdoor areas, and dive gear wash station. Their waterfront area still has a deal of maintenance and work to be done.

When you look at the photo of the mariner at the wheel at Phil Foster Park, you can see the dive flag across the channel. Since you are on the East of the channel and North, you'd swim against the incoming tide to reach the bridge, and against it to return. However, this location is almost right under the bridge, so not too bad.

We did find that staying at the Airbnb South of the bridge allowed us to drift dive North up to the bridge, and there are a lot of pilings and things to see on the way to the bridge, then the ability to drift dive back South to the Airbnb.

This location would provide the opposite situation. Also, if you wanted to dive the snorkel trail, you'd have to consider how rapidly the outgoing tide will be through this narrow cut. Maybe stage a car over at the park before you get in the water, and plan to return by car. It seems people are in the water earlier and later than the high tide over at the snorkel trail due to the

coverage from the island that somewhat blocks the current. This location was about 30% less expensive than where we stayed, with quieter ac, but less dive time possible on each dive.



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**Dive Club Members attending the January meeting:**

Bill Davis, Sharon Green, Carol Hughes, Art LaRue, Kathy Lawler, Mitch Maxson, Billy Schofield, Kim Walther, Venessa Wood, Glen Akins, Monster Molyneux, Mark Vogel, Ed Fite, Rick Reckert, Jason Schofield

**February 2, 2022 Meeting**

**Will be another Zoom Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

Kathy will email the logon information prior to the meeting.

**NASJAX SCUBA CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President - Kathy Lawler**

**Vice President-vacant**

**Secretary - Carol Hughes**

**Treasurer - Venessa Wood**

**Web Master - Sharon Green**

**Safety Officer -vacant**