



Lunarfins Scuba Club

Paul Cater Deaton

January 21st.

TOMORROW, THE MARA —

Kenya and Zanzibar from Under the Bubbles and Up in the Air

Fourteen flights, countless vans, three dive boats, an electric Land Rover and one hot air balloon carry documentary filmmaker Paul Cater Deaton to Kenya and Zanzibar for adventures high and low. First, there's diving off the coast of Kenya, then visiting the sprawling cities of Nairobi and Mombasa. Flying to the Maasai Mara, on the northern tip of the Serengeti, PCD visits a Maasai village, films the Mara from a hot air balloon and sees first-hand what Toto meant about the rains down in Africa. Then it's off to Zanzibar, birthplace of Freddie Mercury, to dive surprisingly healthy reef systems in the Indian Ocean.

PAUL CATER DEATON

Filmmaker/Adventurer Paul Cater Deaton has come face-to-face with packs of tiger sharks in open water. He has climbed to the summit of Mt. Sinai to catch the sunrise. Three times. He has seen the Southern Cross from the Sulu Sea and sipped coffee in the shadow of the Great Pyramids. He made history on a film shoot in Cuba, and filmed the mysterious "Crystal Maiden" of Belize.

Often accompanied by the underwater and adventure travel films he has produced during his many global expeditions, PCD has thrilled audiences around the world for 30 years. His easy-going manner and quick wit, paired with research and preparation, make him highly sought-after as a featured speaker and master of ceremonies.

(Continued on Page 5)

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2772 Passcode: 076802



Lunarfins Board Meetings

are held every other month on the 2nd Thursday of the Month. Our next meet will be on **Jan. 9** if you want to attend contact Brion Saathoff at brionsaathoff@icloud.com > before 7:00 PM. on day of meeting to get the zoom access code.

It will be a ZOOM Meeting

If you have an item to bring before the board, contact any board member to get on the agenda.

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Betsy & Craig Beasley,
Frances Boutin,
Alexis Gangeme,
Pete Hasbrook,
Johnnie & Sonny King,
Mike Peters,
Ja Van Pruett,
Cindy Reuland,
Brion Saathoff,
Bob Sanders,
Justin Wallace,
Billy Williams



Lunarfins
P.O. Box 57514
Webster, TX
77598-7514



Events Calendar

(Tentative plans)

Jan. 1st —



Jan. 21st — **General Meeting Paul Cater Deaton** —
TOMORROW, THE MARA —Kenya and Zanzibar
from Under the Bubbles and Up in the Air

Jan. 25th — **TGCC Banquet** — **Bayland Community**—
11am (get tickets from *Ja Van Pruett*) —*P. 5*

Feb. 14th — **Happy Valentines** ❤️

Feb. 15th — **Lunarfins Get-Together** — *P. 4*

Feb. 18th — **General Meeting** — **Jennifer Opiela-**
Miksch — Treasure of Coos Island

Mar. 15th — **Lunarfins Get-Together** — *P. 15*

Mar. 17th — **St. Patrick's Day** 🍀🍀🍀

Mar. 18th — **General Meeting** — **Dennis Deavenport** —
Siren Song—A Modern Greek Tragedy

Apr. 15th — **General Meeting** — **Justin Wallace &**
Scott Singleton — “Extreme Pacific -Truk Wrecks &
Outer Atolls of French Polynesia

Membership

2024 Membership dues are now being accepted from **April 1st, 2024 to March 31st 2025**

“The renewal form and dues payment is required as soon as possible prior to April 1.

Please bring the form (below) to the next meeting or mail it in.

Please fill in all fiANelds completely so that records can be verified this time around.

Don't forget to check your interest (s) and if you want to be included in the directory.

Membership Application

<https://www.lunarfins.com/>



ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Brion Saathoff
Vice President	Ja Van Pruett
Secretary	Frances Boutin
Treasurer	Cathy Strahan
Social Director	Mike Peters

APPOINTED

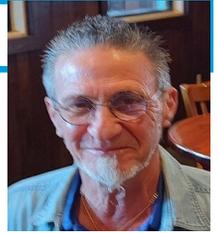
Media Manager	Dennis Deavenport
Training information	Jessica Lee
Trip information	PJ Campagna
	Jessica Lee
TGCC Representative	Tom Burns
Advisor	Dennis Deavenport
Advisor	PeeWee Dwire
Advisor	Mike Peters
Newsletter	Ja Van Pruett
Website	Tom Burns

Do you have any ideas for event or

Topics for Speakers for 2025?

Please share them with any of our officers.

Lunarfin's President's Notes



Hello and happy new year's my Lunarfin's family,

I want to thank everyone for helping to make Lunarfin's a great club, I am looking forward to many good times in the coming year, JaVan has already lined up some excellent speakers and Mike Peters has some great socials on the calendar.

The Christmas party was a great turnout, it was a lot of fun and it was good to see so many of you, thank you so much for the RSVP's, it really helped with coordinating the event.

Please come join us for the first meeting of the year on January the 21st, The presentation will be from our dear friend Paul Cater Deaton, "**Tomorrow, The Mara**". Paul will share his adventures in Africa both dry side and under the water, it's always a great show.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the TGCC banquet on January 25th. that's when all the clubs get together to see old friends, make new friends and recognize members of the dive community for their contributions and work for the promotion and advancement of our sport.

JaVan can hook you up with tickets if you want to come visit with everyone.

To me the council and the clubs are very important, the more people we get under the water to see the mother oceans wonders the more they will want to help her and her children.

I want to congratulate Jessica Lee for being elected Lunarfin's Diver of the year, Jess has put in a lot of her time to help with social events and has been a driving force in promoting the club, she has also brought in new members with many talents and a bit younger than myself. it's nice to see all the new faces.

I would like to welcome two of my dear friends to the club, Betsy Beasley and Craig Beasley, they are a pleasure to visit with and they bring a lot of talent and experience to scuba diving and underwater video and photography. Craig is the president of HUPS and Betsy is the editor of the HUPS newsletter among many other things.

Congratulations to P J Campagna for receiving her pin into the women divers hall of fame, good job dear.

I see that Alexis Gangeme made good use of her holiday time to make her first dive vacation to BVI, congratulations on the first of many more.

Keep in mind, if you have any children or grandchildren that the BSA sea scout ship Eagle 1503 has open enrollment, its a great way to teach them seamanship and scuba, remember these young people are our future and the mother oceans future protectors, the details are on page 18.

I want to say my farewell to Peggy Widaman, she went to be with her brother Captain Randy, she was a special person with a very happy personality, she will be missed.

I would like to leave you with one of my favorite poems for Peggy.

Fins up and have an awesome year ahead,

[Brion Saathoff](#).

Gone from my sight
I am standing upon the seashore. A Ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. she is an object of beauty and strength,
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.
Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."
Gone where?
Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just in large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.
And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,'
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"
And that is dying.....

Henry Jackson Van Dyke Jr.



Our General Meeting — South Shore Grille

Be sure to check out their menu

<https://soshoregrille.com/league-city-south-shore-grille-food-menu>

January 21st., 6:00 pm

Come at 6 pm—and order, 6:30—announcements & social

Speakers start at 7:00 pm —will be a ZOOM presentation

2800 Marina Bay Dr. League City TX 77573

Lunarfin's Raffle — Let's Make Some Money

Lunarfin's will be offering raffle items at meetings. Tickets will be very reasonable and the items raffled off will be interesting and worth having. Cathy Strahan has also donated several gifts.

Each month will be a great item and you never know till you come and see what you can pick from what we are offering. Bring a few extra dollars to the meeting to help Lunarfin's earn money for social events.

Your friendly Board of Directors



Lunarfin's Get-to-gather

Mediterraneo Market & Café

Feb. 15th. 2:00 pm

1400 NASA Road 1 Unit D, Nassau Bay, TX 77058

Please **RSVP** — **Mike Peters** (we need 15 members)

@281-481-9091

Greek eats, wine & beer

(Paul Cater Deaton — Continued from P. 1

Career Highlights:

Multiple award-winning documentary filmmaker who has shot on six continents over a career spanning 40 years.

National Fellow in The Explorers Club, Member of the Television Academy.

Principal Underwater Cinematographer and part of the Emmy Award nominated cinematography team for Season 25 Premiere of The Amazing Race.

Internationally published writer.

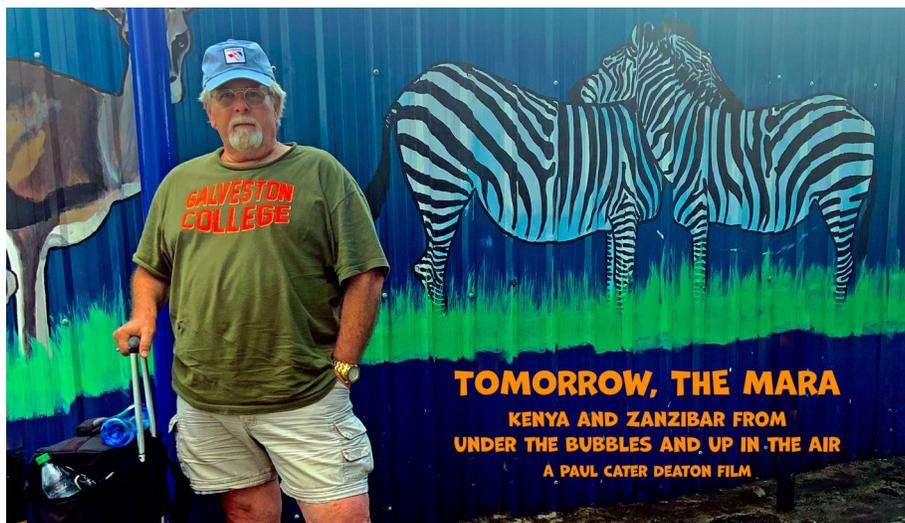
His work has been seen on HBO Documentaries, The Discovery Channel, The Travel Channel, The Amazing Race, Animal Planet, National Geographic, Warner Brothers, Nickelodeon, ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, BBC, CMT and MTV, Comedy Central, and at the United Nations, among others.

Paul Cater Deaton

Mobile: 409-789-1016

www.PaulCaterDeaton.com

P.S. We are in for a real treat, I have seen a 5 minute version of this film and it is awesome, I watched it twice.



Up Coming Events:

TGCC Awards Banquet

January 25th, 11 am

Bayland Community Center

6400 Bissonnet St.

Houston, TX 77074

Tickets? Contact Ja Van Pruett

TGCC Awards Programs

One of the purposes and objectives of TGCC, as specified in the TGCC Constitution, is to “provide recognition for outstanding contributors to the dive community”. TGCC accomplishes this through its various Awards Programs, which are designed to “promote education in the dive community” and to “encourage, coordinate and promote cooperation” among divers and member clubs. The TGCC 1st Vice President normally oversees these programs, which are defined in the TGCC Bylaws and its Attachments. These awards are typically presented at the annual TGCC Awards Banquet.

Members of the Year – for each club will be to Recognize an individual for work done for TGCC and/or the dive community.

Neptune Award – A point based individual award based upon events. events/contests sanctioned by TGCC. (See TGCC By-Laws – Attachment 1)



About our Members

EULOGY

PEGGY LEE WIDAMAN

This Eulogy is a tribute to our most **special** friend for her most **special** talents and contributions to all who knew her **or even heard about** her. She had a gift for spreading energy, laughter, love, enthusiasm, creativity and **compassion**, exploration, and She had an acute sense of humor **by just** being PEGGY.



Peggy worked hard to preserve the essence of LIFE: "Be all you can be, never stop, show humanity **that** greatestness **comes** from the heart and **yours** only **if you** share with each **other**."

She was a friend to all and a friend for life. And life she did live with all that she could do to make it the best life-ever. What an example she provides for all of us.

Peggy had only a year to imagine **how she** could transcend the many obstacles **she** needed to banish to continue **to** be her delightful, encouraging, lovely **self for** the rest of her short life. But **SHE DID IT** and **left** her **LEGACY** for each of **us to cherish**, ponder **in our hearts** and strive to always **to** and always be our best.

IT IS TO PEGGY LEE WINDAMIN WE PAY TRIBUTE.

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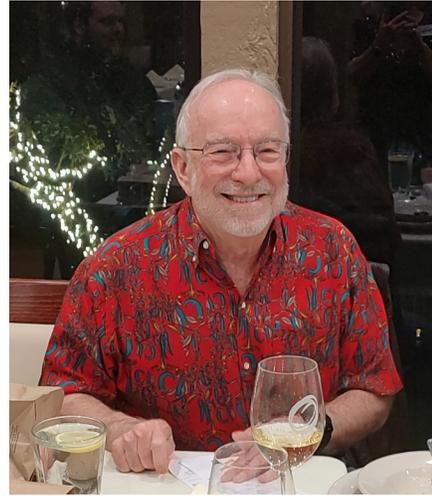


To really understand Peggy and realize what the world will miss: go watch <https://www.facebook.com/1154034525/videos/pcb.10225201934012793/1572659699858654>

Meet our New Members



**Betsy Beasley—
Editor of HUPS Newsletter**



**Craig Beasley—
President of HUPS**



About our Members Congratulations!!

Diver of the Year

Jessica Lee



About our Members

JP & Shon Campagna



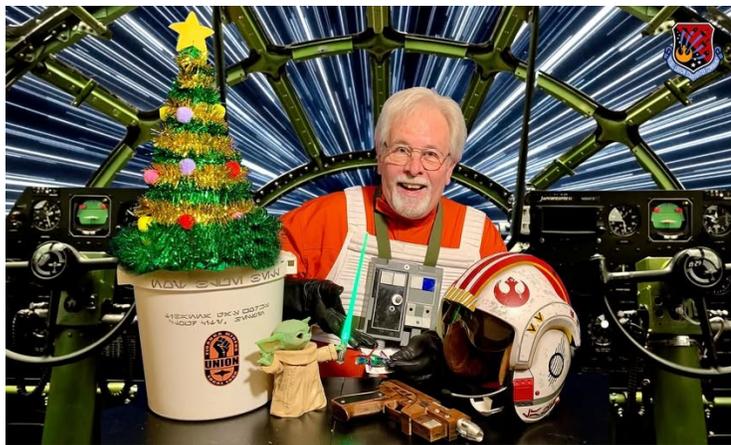
P J Campagna —
receiving her pin by
Michelle Hall into the
Women Divers Hall of
Fame

Christmas dinner in
College Station at
Brad & Tracy Geisler
Corrier's



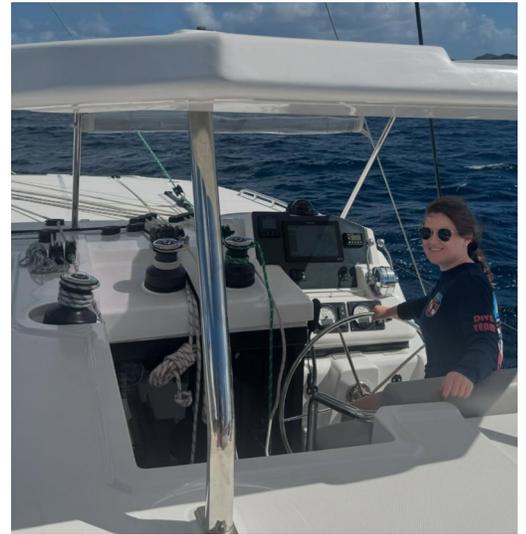
About our Members Congratulations!!

Paul Cater Deaton



About our Members (Continued)

Alexis Gangeme—BVI



About our Members (Continued)

Pete Hasbrook



Had a wonderful time singing holiday music at a private corporate event tonight with Ringside and our new friends, the Prince Street Singers!

Johnnie & Sonny King



SENDING WISHES FOR A VERY MERRY & MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FROM THE KING
FAMILY, Sonny and Johnnie

About our Members (Continued)

Bob & Kimi Sanders



Quick hike up to skull rock



About our Members (Continued)

Justin Wallace



Justin Wallace is at Moalboal, Cebu.

MANDARIN MATES

This behavior shot of Mandarinfish coming together (no pun) for their nightly mating ritual was shot with a [@backscattervideophoto](#) Mini Flash and Optical Snoot - one of my most challenging captures to date.



Cute Boy + Creative Daddy + Cardboard
+ Camera



The Milwaukee—137-year old shipwreck discovered

Sent in by [Michael Peters](#)

Explorers with the (MSRA) [Michigan Shipwreck Research Association](#) this weekend announced the discovery of a nearly 140-year-old shipwreck located with the help of old newspaper clippings.

The “remarkably intact” steamship Milwaukee sank under 360 feet of water in Lake Michigan about 40 miles from Holland, Michigan, when it was rammed by another boat in 1886.

“This marks the 19th shipwreck the our team has found off the shores of West Michigan” said MSRA co-founder Valerie van Heest, who coordinated the search with her husband Jack van Heest. The announcement was made in front of a live audience at the Knickerbocker Theater in Holland, at their annual film festival.

The Milwaukee was discovered in June 2023 using side-scan sonar, and the Van Heests worked along with others through the summer to film the shipwreck using a specially developed remote operated vehicle (ROV) and confirm the ship’s identity.

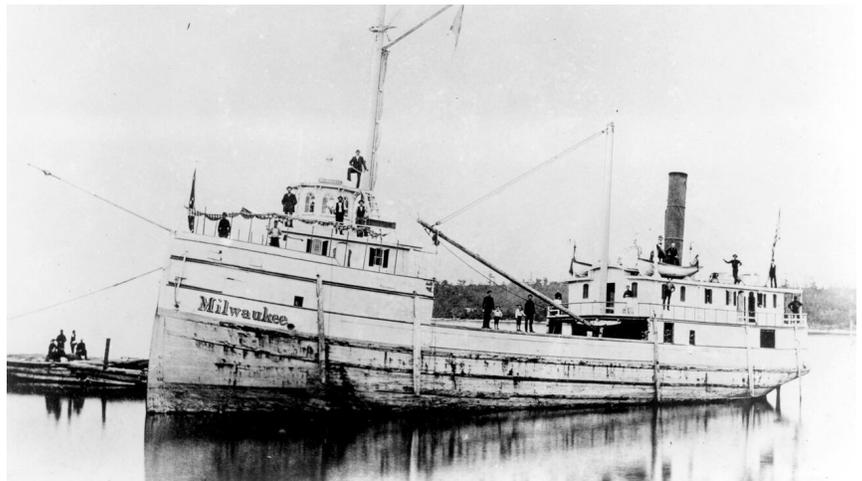
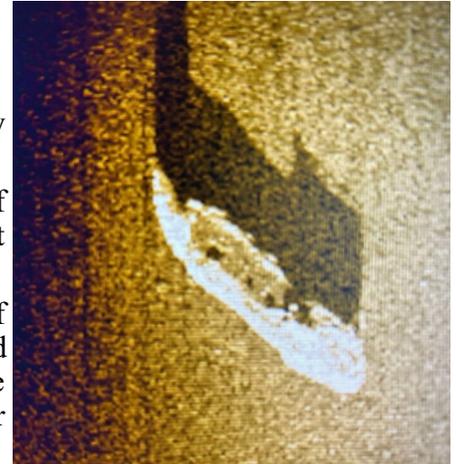
According to MSRA, the 135-foot Milwaukee began its 18-year career as a passenger steamer commissioned by The Northern Transportation Company of Ohio. With three decks — one for passengers and two for freight — the ship spent 10 years ferrying settlers and settlement supplies west from Ogdensburg, New York, to Chicago via Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

But after the expansion of rail lines in 1880, such steamships became inefficient for their original purpose. The Milwaukee was one of many passenger steamships converted for cargo by removing upper-level passenger cabins to accommodate more freight. The Milwaukee was converted in 1881 at Port Huron, Michigan, and began a new career on Lake Michigan and was purchased by lumberman Lyman Gates Mason in 1883. At the time he registered the ship, documents indicated it had only one deck, suggesting it had been converted a second time, but there were no photographs or other documents detailing the conversion.

“But it was newspaper accounts of the sinking that provided the clues we needed to locate the shipwreck,” said Valerie van Heest. On July 9, 1888, the Milwaukee was en route back to Muskegon after dropping off a load of lumber. A similar ship, the C. Hickox, left Muskegon that evening for Chicago with a full load of lumber for a different company. The lake was “calm,” but smoke from wildfires in Wisconsin was blowing in.

At around midnight, both ships were on a collision course off Holland. The Milwaukee’s lookout, Dennis Harrington, spotted the lights on the Hickox and notified Capt. Armstrong. Capt. O’Day of the Hickox spotted the Milwaukee at around the same time. “Navigational rules were specific: both ships had to slow down, each had to steer to starboard (right) to avoid a collision, and each had to blast their steam whistle to signal their course change,” MSRA said. “But the old superstition that bad things happen in three’s would haunt the captains of both ships that night. Neither Captain slowed down because visibility was generally fine, but suddenly a thick fog rolled in rendering them both blind.”

O’Day quickly turned the Hickox, but when he tried to sound the steam whistle, the pull chain broke. Armstrong, unable to see the Hickox and not hearing a whistle, “froze.” When the Hickox was nearly upon the Milwaukee, Armstrong tried to make a turn, but the ship was rammed.



(Continued on next page)



The Milwaukee—137-year old shipwreck discovered — (Continued)

Sent in by [Michael Peters](#)

Armstrong sounded a distress signal, and the crews created a “canvas jacket,” stretching the sail over the damaged side of the ship to slow the water intake. Another steamer, the City of New York, arrived in response to the distress signal, and, along with the Hickox, pulled alongside the Milwaukee and rigged ropes to try to keep it afloat. Their efforts were unsuccessful, and the ship sank. Everyone on board safely made it aboard the Hickox.

“News accounts of the accident, as well as the study of water currents, led us to the Milwaukee after only two days searching,” said Neel Zoss, who spotted the ship on the side-scan sonar.

“Visibility was excellent,” said Jack van Heest, who piloted the ROV. “We saw the forward mast still standing as the ROV headed down to the bottom.” The ship remained upright, facing northeast, as it was the night it sank. The explorers saw for the first time the ship’s final conversion, which was not documented in historical photos.

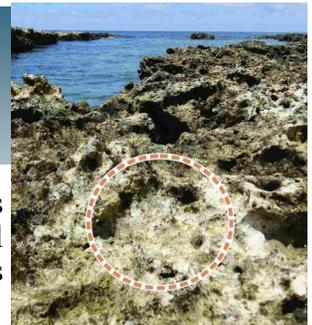
“In studying the video, we realized that Lyman Gates Mason, who owned the Milwaukee, had made both the pilothouse and the aft cabin smaller in order to maximize the amount of lumber the ship could carry on each run,” said Craig Rich. Both O’Day and Armstrong temporarily lost their licenses after the sinking, for not slowing down as they should have.

“Slowing down in the face of danger may be the most important lesson this shipwreck can teach,” MSRA said.

Prehistoric Stone Tool Cut Out of Coral Reef and Taken Away in Kyushu Island



KIKAI, Kagoshima — A stone tool, believed to be from Japan’s prehistoric Jomon period, which had become embedded in a coral reef on the seashore of Kikai Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, has been cut out of its place and is now missing, it has been learned.



The island’s municipal government is looking into preserving similar stone tools found at six other locations on the island.

According to the buried cultural properties center of the Kikai municipal board of education, the missing stone tool had been partially buried in a coral reef on the west coast of the island. It was reddish in color and about the size of an adult’s fist.

Nobuyuki Matsubara, chief researcher at the center, discovered at the site in March that a square portion of the coral reef, including the stone tool, had been scraped away.

This autumn, the town published a request for information in its public relations magazine, but the whereabouts of the stone tool and who took it remain unknown. The island was formed about 100,000 years ago by rising coral reefs. The reefs continue to rise even now, at a rate of about 2 millimeters per year.

As the coral reefs near the seashore are more than 4,000 years old, the local government believes that the stone tools fell into the sea and became embedded in the surrounding corals over a long period of time before emerging above ground.

The site where the tool used to be is located on a shoreline with jagged rocks that offer poor footing. There is no signboard nearby to indicate the presence of the stone tool. Even on the island, only a few people knew its exact location.

Matsubara said: “It’s regrettable that the stone tool was lost. It’s a valuable artifact that provides clues to what people did during the Jomon period. We want to work hard to establish a system to protect other tools and raise public awareness.”

Open Enrollment For BSA SEA SCOUT SHIP EAGLE 1503



www.scubadivingship.com

Sea Scouts BSA is adventure in, on, around, and under the water. Chartered by Sport Divers of Houston, SSS Eagle 1503 is a co-ed scouting unit for youth ages 14-20. Youth that are 13 and have completed the 8th grade are also eligible to join. Sea Scouts enjoy a range of maritime and aquatic focused activities such as scuba diving, sailing, and rowing sports like kayaking and canoeing. Sea Scouts develop teamwork and leadership skills through opportunities to learn and master seamanship and scuba diving. A greater set of core values and ethics to live by are instilled through volunteering and participating in service projects, such as beach cleanup, cleaning attractions at Mammoth Lake, food drives, and toy drives. Ship meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 4-6pm at Sport Divers of Houston. For more information, email our Skipper, Kevin Reams, at kgreams@gmail.com or our Ship Committee Chair, Thomas Fitzgerald, at ship1503@scubadivingship.com.



Join us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/groups/scubadivingship



American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2024 Supporter Registration

The “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) was established by SCUBA divers on March 31, 2023. ACWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit charity. Staffed by non-paid volunteers, ACWA’s administrative and donation support is provided annually by members of our community.

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) is open to Dive Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America. 2024 registration is \$20.

“Supporters” on record for 2023 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2024 payment of \$20 to ACWA’s treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz (contact information listed below).

New “Supporters” need to complete this form to provide ACWA with contact and IRS reporting information. To join as an individual (must be a certified scuba diver, or a member of a dive club) - fill out the application below. Please print legibly as e-mail addresses will be utilized to keep supporters abreast with the charity’s status and your name as identified below, used in any future donation reporting required by you or the IRS.

Dive Club _____

or

Certifying Agency: _____ C-Card Number: _____

Make Checks Payable To: **ACWA, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 77092**

Name: _____ Phone / Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

You should have been at our General Meeting Nov. 19th, 2024



You should have
been at our



Lunarfins Christmas Party





You should have been at our LunarFins Christmas Party 2024

The LunarFins Scuba Club was organized in 1963 by a small group of divers who worked at the Manned Spacecraft Center, as Johnson Space Center (JSC) was known back then. The club grew primarily through the sponsorship of SCUBA training classes, local dive trips and social activities. Since that time, membership has broadened to include anyone interested in diving. The majority of our members are in some way affiliated with NASA but this is not a requirement for membership and we have members from all across the board.



LunarFins
P.O. Box 57514
Webster TX 77598-7514

281-851-5206
webeditor@lunarfins.com

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/687047211312336>

Website:
<https://www.lunarfins.com/>

TGCC
<https://www.tgccdiving.org/>

TPWD reefs:
https://tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/habitats/artificial_reef/



Trips Offered by Dive Shops etc.

Captain Beard Charters

1011 Casco Rd – Freeport TX

captainbeardcharters.com/index.shtml



Giglin' Marlin Dive & Swim

4502 Almeda Rd – Houston TX

giglinmarlin.com

Island Dreams

10245 Kempwood Dr E119 – Houston TX

www.divetrip.com



Maximum Scuba

134 Gulf Freeway North – League City TX

maximum-scuba.com

Oceanic Ventures

5808 Newcastle Dr. – Houston TX

oceanicventures.com



Outside The Asylum

15015 Westheimer Rd #H – Houston TX

otadiving.com

REEF Trips

Dive Vacations That Count – Key Largo FL

reef.org/trips



Sport Divers

20814 Gulf Fwy #60 – Webster TX

sportdivers.com

Texas Dive Center

364 FM 1959 #D – Houston TX

txdivecenter.com/



Texas Scuba Adventures

2315 Mechanic St #120 – Galveston TX

texasscubaadventures.com

