

Hello fellow divers ! Where has the summer gone? It flew by this year but luckily for us the storms are not heading our way and the water is nice and warm and the viz not bad at all. The water temps are still warm so for us Florida divers it is just perfect. With the rains we have been having it has helped to keep the heat down a lot. Now with fall coming in it will be the most beautiful time in Florida to dive. The water temps will be dropping soon so get ready to get into that old wetsuit and get the hood and gloves ready. I will get you caught up on the latest.

## TRIPS

We have had so much fun this season in the Keys with the lobster trips and have done very well. Now before the winds pick up and the temps drop down in the waters we are planning yet another exciting trip to Key West to dive the Vandenberg wreck that went down May 30th. We got to do 2 great dives on the Vandy before we returned back home. Believe me this is one great wreck and there is so much to see. You get to swim around the satellite dishes, smoke stacks, upper and lower decks and some of the passage ways. This wreck will take many dives before you see it all. Best of all no matter which of the 6 mooring buoys you drop down on there is so much to see in that immediate area. The structure starts at 45 foot and goes to 8 foot on the main deck. The Vandy sits just 5 miles south of Key West on a sandy bottom.

Our trip will be on the 24th to the 27th of this month. Thursday to Sunday. We will drive down on Thursday, dive on Friday and Saturday and return home on Sunday. Package includes hotel for 3 nights double occ, ride down including gas expenses and parking fees, 4 dives in 2 days with boat charges. Tanks and tips not included. Since we are driving down we can take our own tanks with us or you can rent them down there. This is a computer mandatory dive by the dive association in Key West to keep the divers safe. If you don't have a computer you can rent one from us for just \$30.00 for the 2 days of divin'. Total cost for this fantastic and exciting fun filled trip is just \$550.00. Don't miss out on one of the greatest wrecks ever to be sunk in the USA. And you get Key West ! And you know how much fun that is ! Call the shop ASAP to get onto this trip. It will book up fast ! This trip is just wreck divin', no buggin' or reef divin'.

## SCALLOPING

This year we had decided not to do a scalloping trip. When the rains came in during the summer it kept the scallops way out deep other than Pasco county where you cannot LEGALLY take scallops. We were waiting for good reports on the catches and the little buggers were scarce ! So we decided not to do a trip. We will just have to wait until next season and see. I am sure they will be in and very large ! This season scallops win ! But we made up for it Lobstering !

## SSS SPEAR FISHING CLUB

Outside of the SSS Club Aquarius we have started a spear fishing club. This is a no dues club for spear fishermen to get together to shoot fish. We had our first meeting this past Wednesday and had a great turn out and plenty of enthusiasm. We now have 8 boats available from Mondays to Sundays. There are from the beginners to the well experienced and deep divers. A little for everyone. Best of all the club is designed for divers to share the boat expenses but to keep divin' more affordable. We all know that the insurances, gas, oil, docking, licensing, captains licensing etc has skyrocketed and made the commercial trips quite expensive in the past 2 years. This club will help divin' cost stay down and allow us to get out more often, dive and spear fish ! Not only for the spear fishermen but you can just go along as a diver.

The next meeting for the SSS Hog Hunters spear fishing club will be Wednesday the 23rd here at the dive shop from 6- 8 PM. All are welcome ! Since this is a no dues club no food or beverages will be served but you can bring your own drinks that you may want. We will have the tub filled with ice. If you want to get out into the Gulf and dive and shoot fish then this club is for you ! And I also give classes for divers who want to learn spear fishing. This I do on a one and one basis. Call me at the shop if you are interested. All club members will also get a 20% discount on all spear fishing accessories and guns and all other items in the store excluding scuba tanks. They are a lost leader. Hope to see you at the next meeting !

# PUMPKIN' CARVIN' !

Yes divers it is that time of year again for the SSS annual Pumpin' Carvin' contest ! This is one hell of a fun filled even that is good for the whole family ! You get to outline your pumpkin out of the water ahead of time but you MUST carve and decorate it under the water. There are so many secrets to doing this and the unknowing have a lot of surprises ahead of them. You talk about a lot of laughs ! There are times I have laughed so hard I choked on water ! Now all you have to do is buy a Pumpkin', any size, get the design done on it, get your tools together along with any decorations, come join us at Crystal River and go to it ! There will be prizes for the most imaginative, funniest, most ugly, best try, and the scariest ! And I am sure we come up with some others as we always do. We have set a date for this fun filled event and it will be Saturday October the 10th. Mark it on your calendar ! Cost for this fun filled event will be \$40.00 per diver. We will have plenty of time for a dive in the head spring or over at 3 sisters. Come on and join the fun ! Call the shop to get onto the list ! See if your pumpkin' will be the best !

# GEAR SERVICING

Divers this year has been one of the worse years ever for gear failure that I have seen in a long while. With last years bad economy a lot of divers did not dive and their gear just sat. Well with all the salt and minerals on a lot of the gear it caused a lot of failures. Don't let this happen to you and cause you missed dives and lots of money in repairs. Divin' as you know is an expensive sport. Get your gear in for servicing BEFORE you put it up for the winter months so you will not have failures when you go to use it next season. This will save you in lost dives and extra costs. We are running a fall special on reg servicing this month at \$50.00 for most regs and \$25.00 for most bcd's. Some regs and bcd's are more intricate and cost a little more to service. Summer is over and the mad rush is over. So get in your gear now while things are slower.

# SALES

As we all know there has been so much gear for sale on the internet it is ridiculous. Sad for some divers to be in the situation where they have to sell their dive gear to get by these days. Hopefully for all of us the economy crunch will end soon and we can get back to some normalcy. I know divers love a deal but buyer be ware! A lot of divers have come by that got good deals and others ripped off badly. Bcd's with holes in them and regs that need so much work they are not worth servicing. Tanks too old to service and some with corrosion. So buyer be ware !

We also have a lot of GOOD and GUARANTEED used gear for sale. Yes it is not the cheap stuff but very good quality and SAFE dive gear. As you always hear "What is your life worth?" If you know the gear and it is from a buddy or friend got for it. Otherwise be very careful not to waste and lose your money. It is too hard to come by these days. I will list some of the items that we have for sale in the shop. And we have plenty more items on sale right now. Just call or stop by the shop to see what we have.

H2 Odyssey large dive bag on wheels	regular price	\$269.00	now	\$ 189.00
Deep Sea shorties	regular price	\$79.95	now	\$64.95
Mask Snorkel Fin bags	regular price	\$29.95	now	\$15.99
Intova digital underwater	regular price	\$249.00	now	\$189.00
Akona 1 MM suits	regular price	\$119.95	now	\$79.95
USA made dive skins	regular price	\$74.95	now	\$ 59.95
2 gauge consoles	regular price	\$249.00	now	\$199.00
Cochran EMC16 Air/Nitrox computer	regular price	\$699.00	now	\$ 499.00
Used-only 9 dives				

All dive lights	25% off
All second stages	25% off
all accessories	25% off

# THE HOOKAH NIGHTMARE

Divers I am sure you have all seen the headlines about all of the Hookah accidents in Florida waters this past lobster season. This has to be one of the worse that we have seen in divin' accidents using Hookah. Divers I have emphasized for years the importance of scuba training and GOOD quality scuba training. Too many people these days have thrown caution to the wind and have taken scuba for granted. Well this is the results of people not caring or wanting to be cheap and not get scuba certified. What part of DANGEROUS do they not understand? With this fast pace world today and quick, cheap and easy it is finally catching up with people and these are the results. Please pass the word that scuba divin' is one of the most safest sports there can be. With proper training in equipment, skills, and safety one will have a life time of enjoyment and fun without a problem. Myself I have been divin' now for over 42 years with over 15,000 dives and without incidence. Why? Because I have taken the time to take the proper courses from professional instructors throughout the years and have purchased good quality top of the line equipment. Yes divin' is expensive but it must be ! It takes good quality equipment for dealing with the environment and depths and pressures to keep you alive ! This is not a sport for the get by type of diver. This is a sport for the diver who wants to enjoy the underwater world with proper training, experience and safety. Please dive safely, don't take chances and get the proper training for the divin' you are going to do. Stay with the professionals and not the "Cheapie Charlie" dive shops. They will put your life at risk ! And for your friends let them know there is no replacement for EXCELLENT scuba training and there is no room for stupidity !

Well divers that does it for now. I hope you all enjoy the end of the summer divin' season and also the fall that brings us plenty of good divin' as the temps start to fall but bring us great viz and plenty of fish in the Gulf. We still have plenty of good divin' before winter sets in. Stay safe and good divin' !

*Remember if you are not out divin' or havin' fun, don't blame  
Sunny Seas !*

*W E B E D i V i N'*

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