



Founded 1997

FISH TALES

February 2024

The Official Newsletter of Orlando Reef Divers

*Orlando Reef Divers meets on the **first** and **third** Tuesday of each month at*

TIBBY'S NEW ORLEANS KITCHEN

7:00 P.M.

[2203 Aloma Ave](#)

[Winter Park, FL 32792](#)

This month's meetings:

Board Meeting Tuesday *6:30 p.m., March 5th*

General Membership Meeting Tuesday *March 5th*

General Membership Meeting Tuesday *March 19th*

MEMBERS THAT PREFER TO JOIN VIRTUALLY CAN USE THIS LINK:

<https://meet.google.com/hjq-ygba-mwn> **(March 5th)**

Fish Tales is the newsletter of The Orlando Reef Divers. ***Fish Tales*** is published monthly. Subscriptions are available as a benefit of membership in the Orlando Reef Divers. Members of Orlando Reef Divers may submit **FREE** classified ads for the resale of personally owned items, find a dive buddy, etc. For business advertisements, please contact a member of the board.

Officers & Committees

President

David Quinones

davidquinones@live.com

President-Elect

Megan Betche

mbetche@gmail.com

Treasurer & Sales

Stephanie Goodenough

Skgoodenough66@gmail.com

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JSWeather4d@yahoo.com

Dive Director

Aaron Martina

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davidquinones@live.com

Undercurrent Recap

James Leiter

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Get updates on all Orlando Reef Divers activities
at our new website.

<https://www.orlandoreefdivers.com>



DIVE & TRAVEL INSURANCE

Restoration of Florida's Oyster Bay; learn
more: [The Pew Charitable Trusts \(pewtrusts.org\)](http://pewtrusts.org)

Orlando Reef Diver's Club Official Shirts!



As everyone is aware, the supply of ORD shirts has dwindled over the last couple of years to a point where we have a very limited selection of sizes (primarily smaller ones). We've mentioned at the last couple of meetings that the Board is looking at new shirts for the coming year. We have decided to order blue rash guards (Men's and Ladies' Cuts) and they will cost \$25.00 each. Additionally, t-shirts (also) blue will be available at \$20.00 each. We have placed an initial order for 80 shirts in various sizes, but the supply is limited. Reach out to Megan Betche (mbetche@gmail.com) to determine if your size and style is available.

Treasurer's Report

Account Summary For All Time - All Dates
6/28/2017 through 3/4/2024

Account Description	Amount
Total	\$37,802.00

2023 - 2024 Activities and Dive Schedule

Meeting link if you can't select from the calendar below: <https://meet.google.com/mqs-itad-nc0>

Date 2024	Location/Event	#	Member Cost	Deposit	Opens	Organizer / Assistant Contact Info
March 5	6:30 p.m. Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Club Meeting Tibby's					https://meet.google.com/hjq-ygba-mwn
March 19	7:00 p.m. Club Meeting Tibby's					https://meet.google.com/sak-vgaj-nzg
April 20-21	Shark & Turtle Dive Jupiter Dive Center/Emerald Dive Charters Jupiter, FL TBD		\$422		Feb. 6, 2024	Dave Quinones Davidquinones@live.com
May 4-5	Derby Dive SplashDown Divers		\$367 (Members) \$380 (Non-Members)		Feb. 6, 2024	Jim Leiter Leiter.jpl@gmail.com
May 25-June 1 2024	Cayman Brac Beach Resort	16	\$2163	\$250	1 August 2023	Mike Singer Res.psycho@gmail.com
June 15-16, 2024	Dive Riviera Beach Pirate's Paradise Dive Charters		\$316 (includes Nitrox)	\$100	Feb. 6, 2024	Rob Byers hewhocasesturtles@gmail.com
May 10 - 17, 2025	Crystal Blue Resort Philippines		\$2006	\$500	Nov. 7, 2023	Jack Tse jctse74@gmail.com

Important: Per Article XIII, Standards for Divers, Section 4, Refunds of the Orlando Reef Divers Bylaws once a deposit is paid, there shall be no refunds for moneys paid for dive outings. The committed participant is responsible for all unrecoverable trip costs due unless he/she finds a replacement. The only exception is cancellation due to death in the immediate family. All recoverable moneys will be refunded should a portion of a dive outing be canceled by the Club. If an entire trip is canceled by the club, all moneys will be refunded.

Shark & Turtle Dive

April 20-21, 2024



OPENS FEBRUARY 6TH 2024

\$422/INCLUDING NITROX

-JOIN US FOR THE ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME-

On Saturday, we'll meet up at [Jupiter Dive Center](#) for a two (2) tank afternoon TURTLE dive on a beautiful tropical reef. Depths are usually between 60'-80'. The team at Jupiter Dive Center has proven themselves to be consistent at finding many varieties of turtles, including Loggerhead, Green Sea, and the occasional Hawksbill. Next, we'll head to the [Best Western Intracoastal](#) to check-in. As for dinner, we can get together at a local restaurant. The marina has many excellent options, sure to satisfy the most discerning of culinary enthusiasts.

On Sunday, we'll meet up at [Emerald Dive Charters](#) for a three (3) tank morning/afternoon SHARK dive. Lunch included. The first two dives are drift dives between 40'-70'. There is considerable education provided by the dive operator before getting into the water. Diver safety and confidence is of paramount importance. Also, the Divemaster does all the work to attract the sharks. Be prepared to see Caribbean Reef, Lemon, Silky, Sandbar, and even the occasional Bull or Tiger shark. Bring your camera! This is a great opportunity to get that video of a lifetime. The third dive is usually a shallow reef or wreck dive. Don't be surprised if you see one or more of the 'resident' Goliath Grouper hanging out on the outer edges of the reef or taking refuge within the walls of a wreck. After the day of diving is complete, we'll head home with a lifetime of unmatched memories.



ALL DIVERS MUST BE NITROX CERTIFIED

**100 C.F. STEEL NITROX AVAILABLE
(ADDITIONAL CHARGE)**

\$100 DEPOSIT

SECURES YOUR
SPOT

CONTACT

[David Quinones](#) or [Stephanie Goodenough](#)

Pay with [Zelle](#). It's FREE and easy.

Send payment to: orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com



You **must** indicate that you are paying for the **SHARK & TURTLE DIVE**

5 DIVES - HOTEL - NITROX - LUNCH - INCLUDED!

Dive, Dive, Derby Dive!

With SplashDown Divers May 3 - May 5, 2024



The running of the **Kentucky Derby** is on the first Saturday in May. It is also the traditional kickoff to the Orlando Reef Divers dive season, and it's coming sooner than you think.

\$367(Members) \$380(Non-Members) gets you two nights (double occupancy) at the Hampton Inn Suites, and two, two-tank dives on SplashDown Divers with Captain Dave and his crew. Tank air or Nitrox is not included. However, you can purchase from the boat directly or bring your own. Aluminum 80cfm Air/Nitrox tank rental is \$10 per tank; \$40 for the weekend. Air/Nitrox Steel 100cfm tank rental is 15 per tank; \$60 for the weekend (Air or Nitrox is same price). We're reserving the boat for 14 divers.

Friday **May 3rd**, we check in at the Hampton Inn Suites. And just kick back and relax. Later, we'll have dinner at a nice local establishment.

Saturday morning we'll do a two-tank dive trip. Saturday afternoon, we'll have our annual Derby potluck party, and watch the *Run for the Roses*.

On Sunday morning we'll do another two-tank dive with SplashDown.

If you've done this trip before, you know it's a great time. SplashDown is a wonderful boat, the crew is awesome, and the company is terrific. This is always a popular trip. So, get your \$100 deposit payment to the Dive Coordinator as soon as possible.

Opening Date: February 6, 2024. Final payment Due: April 4,2024.

CONTACT

[Jim Leiter](#) or [Aaron Martina](#)

Pay with [Zelle](#). It's FREE and easy.

Send payment to: orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com

You **must** indicate that you are paying for the **DERBY DIVE**

Please make sure to contact the [Dive Coordinator](#) to verify your reservations have been made



Cayman Brac Beach Resort – 5/25 – 6/1/24

FASCINATING UPDATE: Since the trip opened to great interest, the small group (10 divers) has been expanded to 18 (eighteen) divers. We already have ELEVEN signed up, and room for SEVEN more at the end of August 2023.

We are going back to the Cayman islands again. Hopefully 2024 will be a good year to do this, and the end of May is early enough to skip any hurricanes. For a little more information you can find the resort online (www.caymanbracbeachresort.com) or on facebook. The diving is handled by Reef Divers Valet Diving, a very short walk from the resort, just past the pool. The picture shows the ocean front and pool, and all the rooms overlook this view (some from the 2nd floor).

Important Details: I've reserved rooms for 18 divers in 9 double occupancy rooms, and the trip includes 7 nights with 3 meals daily, **17 dives**, ground transfers from the Cayman Brac airport, taxes, fees and gratuities (excepting boat tips). They have Nitrox for an additional fee, we will organize this shortly before the trip if you are interested. All for \$2163 for club members. ***Note that airfare is not included.***

If interested, the deposit is \$250. Final payment will be early February 2024, although you can make intermittent or early payments if you wish. Extra note, if & when the trip fills, an extra discount will be shared by the group.

Please contact Mike Singer at res.psycho@gmail.com if you want more information or want to get on the trip. Megan Betche has agreed to assist on this trip and can be contacted at MBetche@gmail.com.

Dive Riviera Beach with Orlando Reef Divers

15-16 June 2024



We have a really great deal lined up: \$316 gets you two, two-tank dives with Pirates Paradise Dive Charters operating out of the Riviera Beach and one night at the Best Western Palm Beach Lakes hotel. And, wait for it, this price INCLUDES NITROX! The fun and camaraderie come at no extra charge.

The plan is to drive down to the marina on the morning of Saturday 15 June (we'll do our best to organized carpooling). then dive in the afternoon. We'll then check into the hotel and, if you're interested, we'll go out to dinner. Sunday morning we'll dive again and then head home.

Your \$100 deposit secures your place on what should be a great weekend of diving.

Contact: Rob Byers (hewhochasesturtles@gmail.com)

Pay with **Zelle**. It's FREE and easy.

Send payment to: orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com You **must** indicate that you are paying for the **Riviera Beach**. **Please make sure to contact the Dive Coordinator to verify your reservations have been made**

Philippines 2025!

With Crystal Blue Resort May 10-17. 2025



For the amazingly low cost of **\$2006** you can dive the beautiful, warm waters of the Philippines. The price includes 7 nights of lodging (double-occupancy) at the Crystal Blue Resort in Bagalangit, 6 days of diving and Nitrox, and 3 meals a day. Roundtrip transportation to and from the resort from Manila is also included. Airfare to the Philippines and any other travel related fees are not included.

Up to 18 dives include amazing critters and diverse species of corals and fishes. Get your cameras out in order to capture shots of the ten most wanted critters such as pygmy seahorse, blue ring octopus. Expect calm sea, clear visibility and warm waters with temperatures around 80-degree Fahrenheit at 60 feet of water. Expect to see the unexpected. The weather this time of year is relatively dry, sunny and warm.

The deposit for the trip will be **\$500** which will guarantee a spot on this fabulous adventure.

CONTACT

[Jack Tse \(jctse74@gmail.com\)](mailto:jctse74@gmail.com), Trip Coordinator

Pay with [Zelle](#). It's FREE and easy.

Send payment to: orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com

You **must** indicate that you are paying for the **Philippines Dive**

Please make sure to contact the [Dive Coordinator](#) to verify your reservations have been made.

DAN Travel Medical Guide

[Travelers Medical Guide - Divers Alert Network \(dan.org\)](http://dan.org)

Checklists for Travelin' Divers

Experienced divers can often become too casual at checking things before a dive. We suggest you do a thorough check that everything is up to scratch before you even set off on a trip, and notwithstanding that, a separate check immediately before each dive. To this end we've compiled a comprehensive checklist that you can download, print, and laminate, so you've always got it handy with your dive kit. Don't be too proud to use this handy reminder. It could save a dive or even save your bacon. <https://www.undercurrent.org/UCnow/UndercurrentEquipmentChecklist.pdf>



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef Divers

February 6, 2024

Minutes of the Board Meeting

President Dave Quinones called the board meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

The Shark & Turtle Dive and the Derby Dive open at the close of tonight's meeting. We will announce it during the meeting with the membership.

The Board has received the Riviera Dive information from Rob Byers for June. It will be announced tonight, and a special email will go out with the dive information.

Board discussion on the rash guards and it was decided to stay with a single price of \$25 regardless of size T-Shirts will sell for \$20. We will submit an initial order of 80 shirts.

Dave Quinones also asked for and received approval for \$300 reimbursement for deposit to Jupiter Dive Center for the Shark & Turtle Dive.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Called to order at 7:00 pm by President Dave Quinones. Sixteen members and three guests were present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stephanie Goodenough reported that the current balance is \$34,800.

Sales: The Board reported that we will be taking orders for the new rash guards and t-shirts. Rash guards come in both long and short sleeves and in men's or Ladies cuts. Rash guards will be \$25 each. T-shirts are short sleeved and will be \$20 each.

Undercurrent Report: No update for this meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: No new business.

Activities: The Bubbly Brunch was held on February 3rd.

Dive Report:

Who's Been Diving: Stephanie Goodenough reported that dived with Pura Vida with Jeff Weatherford and Megan Betche in January.

Renee Thomas reported that she had been diving in Turkey in October.

Upcoming Club Dives: Dave Quinones reported on the upcoming Shark & Turtle Dive in April in Jupiter.

Aaron Martina reported on the upcoming May Derby Dive.

Mike Singer reported on the upcoming Cayman Brad trip May 25 – June 1.

Rob Byers reported on the June 15-16 Riviera Beach Dive with Pirate's Paradise.

Aaron Martina gave an update on the Philippine's Dive trip in May 2025.

Dana Zukierski reported that she is working on the Pompano Beach dive for late July (possibly 20-21).

Social Media: Dave Quinones reviewed the club's social media resources. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

After the meeting adjourned Stephanie Goodenough gave a presentation on her dive trip to Belize from 2023.

Jeff Weatherford - ORD Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef Divers

February 20, 2024

Minutes of the General Meeting

Called to order at 7:00 pm by President Dave Quinones. Eighteen members were present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived.

Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's Report.

Sales: Dave discussed the new shirts. Rash Guards are \$25 and T-Shirts are \$20.

Undercurrent Report: Discussed the rash of fires and other issues on Liveboards. The key is that your attitude and situational awareness keep you alive. You need to be familiar with the vessel.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Club T-shirts and rash guards have been ordered.

Activities: None.

Dive Report:

Who's Been Diving: Sara Delk reported on her dive trip to St. Helena followed by a safari to Zimbabwe.

Upcoming Club Dives: Dave Quinones reported on the upcoming Shark & Turtle Dive in April in Jupiter.

Jim Leiter reported on the upcoming May Derby Dive.

Mike Singer reported on the upcoming Cayman Brad trip May 25 – June 1.

Rob Byers reported on the June 15-16 Riviera Beach Dive with Pirate's Paradise.

Aaron Martina gave an update on the Philippine's Dive trip in May 2025.

Social Media: Dave Quinones reviewed the club's social media resources.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

After the meeting, Aaron Martina, Dive Director, held Dive Trip Coordinator training.

Jeff Weatherford - ORD Secretary