



Founded 1997

FISH TALES

May 2025

*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:

May 6th-Board Meeting at 6:30 PM and

General Membership at 7 PM

May 20th -General Membership at 7 PM

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.

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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)

Treasurer's Report

**Due to possible phishing the treasurer's report will only be
available to be viewed in person by members of the Orlando
Reef Divers.**



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. Reach out to Aaron Martina (martinatime@gmail.com) to determine if your size and style is available.

DAN Travel Medical Guide

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

Checklists for Traveling 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>

2024 - 2025 Activities and Dive Schedule

Date 2025	Location/Event	#	Member Cost	Deposit	Opens	Organizer / Assistant Contact Info
May 2 nd – 4 th	Derby Dive in Boynton Beach	14	\$375	\$100	Feb 4th	Jim Leiter (Lead) Dana Zukierski (Assistant)
May 10 – 17, 2025	Crystal Blue Resort Philippines	8	\$2006	\$500	Nov. 7, 2023	Jack Tse jtse74@gmail.com
June 14-15 2025	Riviera Beach Dive with Pirates Paradise	14	\$330	\$100	March 18th	Rob Byers (Lead) Danielle Campbell (Assistant)
July 19-20 2025	Pompano Beach Dive with South Florida Dive Headquarters	14	\$297	\$100	Feb 18th	Dana Zukierski (Lead) Jim Leiter (Assistant)
August 16-17 2025	TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD	Dana Z Dive Director
September 20-21 2025	TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD	Dana Z Dive Director
May 23-30 2026	Roatan Aggressor	8	\$3081	\$500	May 6 th	Stephanie Goodenough (Lead) Dana Zukierski (Assistant)

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.

Dive, Dive, Derby Dive!

With SplashDown Divers May 2 - May 4, 2025



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.

\$375(Members) \$388(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. We're reserving the boat for 14 divers.

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 **\$15** per tank; **\$60** for the weekend. Air/Nitrox Steel 100cfm tank rental is **\$20** per tank; **\$80** for the weekend (Air or Nitrox is same price).

Friday, **May 2nd**, we check in at the Hampton Inn Suites. And just kick back and relax. Later, we'll have dinner at a nice local establishment.

Single room supplement: Add Extra **\$173.00** (Queen Double).

Single room supplement: **Add Extra \$157.00** (King single).

Saturday, **May 3rd** 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*.

Sunday, **May 4th** 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 4, 2024. Final payment Due: April 3, 2025.

CONTACT

Jim Leiter or Dana Zukierski

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*

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 \(ictse74@gmail.com\)](mailto:ictse74@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.

Dive Riviera Beach with Orlando Reef Divers

14-15 June 2025



We have a really great deal lined up: \$330 gets you two, two-tank dives with Black Flag 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 14 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***



Pompano Beach Dive

July 19 – 20, 2025, \$297 per member

Join us for an awesome weekend of diving in South Florida!

Hotel: Sands Harbor Resort & Marina, 125 N Riverside Drive, Pompano Beach, FL

Dive shop: South Florida Diving, located in the marina and within walking distance from the hotel entrance. You won't need to move your car the entire weekend!

We have planned a two-tank dive for Saturday afternoon and another two tank dive Sunday morning on the Goliath. Tanks are \$11/tank and Nitrox is \$16/tank (steel tanks are limited and are \$22 per tank; air fills are \$8 and nitrox fills are \$11). You will pay the dive shop directly for your tanks/air fills.

Diving: Most likely drift dives. The boat rides are fairly short and there are lots of species of fish – we typically see turtles, grouper, queen angelfish, lobster and many other countless reef fish.

Dinner: Group dinner Saturday night

Dive coordinator: Dana Zukierski 615-594-8505 (email: dana.zukierski@yahoo.com);

Dive Assistant: Jim Leiter (email: leiter.jpl@gmail.com)

Zelle (free and easy!): orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com and indicate you are paying for the Pompano Beach Dive; \$100 secures your spot





Roatan Aggressor

May 23 – 30, 2026

Member \$3,081
Non-Member \$3,111

Roatan is ideally situated along the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the second largest barrier reef in the world. This extensive reef attracts a wide variety of marine animals and feeds the Bay Islands with healthy and diverse populations of fish and other marine creatures, making it a true diver's delight.

The Bay Islands of Honduras consist of eight islands and 53 small cays located off the northern coast of Honduras. Our Roatan diving liveaboard trip in Honduras departs from the dock located at Roatan Yacht Club & Marina. The 7-night charter runs from Saturday to Saturday.

- Diving begins Sunday morning and ends Friday around noon when the Aggressor returns to port.
- Average of up to 27 dives on 7-night charters including night dives.
- Depth Range: 30 – 130 ft (9m – 40m)
- 3-5 mm wetsuit recommended
- Average water temperatures: 78-84F, 25-28C (summer) 75–80F, 24-27C (winter, with possible 72F, 22C drop in January)

4 deluxe double-occupied rooms available. Air is included in this fee; nitrox is available at an additional charge of \$100 paid directly to the boat. Required fees **NOT** included in the trip fee:

- \$40 (\$20 each way) airport transfer fees
- \$145 park fee paid in cash upon boarding liveaboard.

The boarding is between 3:30 and 4:30 May 23rd and check out is 8:00 am on May 30th.

NOTE: Airfare, gratuities and hotel (if you choose to come early) are not included in the liveaboard fee.

A **\$500 deposit** is required to reserve a spot. Remaining payments due as follows: **August 15, 2025 - \$1,000; November 15, 2025 - \$1,000; Final payment of \$481 due January 15, 2026.** Although you can make payments before or on these dates with a check, please use Zelle if possible, to: orlandoreefdiversclub@gmail.com and indicate you are paying for the Roatan trip.

Contact Stephanie Goodenough @ skgoodenough66@gmail.com or Dana Zukierski @dana.zukierski@yahoo.com if you have further questions. For information on the liveaboard, please go to [Roatan Scuba Diving Liveaboard Trip in Honduras | Aggressor](#).



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef Divers

April 1, 2025

Minutes of the Board Meeting

President Jim Leiter called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jim Leiter, Jeff Weatherford, Stephanie Goodenough, Danielle Campbell, and Dana Zukierski were present.

Derby Dive is set. Discussion about who is rooming with whom and booking 6 rooms. But can add if anyone wants to join need to make room arrangements by April 7th. Jim requested the names of those paid from Stephanie.

June Riviera Dive is open and need divers to sign up.

July Pompano Dive is also open and need divers to sign up.

September Dive- Stephanie is working on booking with Shellback Aquatics out of Riveria Beach staying at the Best Western.

The Philippine's trip is set for May and the Treasurers Report will reflect the expenditures for that trip.

Discussion about taxes and state renewal.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Called to order at 7:01 pm by President Jim Leiter. Twelve members were present.

Jim reviewed the upcoming calendar of events.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived.

Treasurer's Report: Available for members on request.

Sales: The club does have rash guards and other items available for sale.

Scuba News: Our fish of the month was the trumpetfish. Jim reported that a great white has been reported off the east coast of Florida and that tiger sharks may be pelagic. Finally, he provided a profile of the Roatan Aggressor.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: None.

Activities: None

Dive Report:

In the Who's Been Diving report, no one has been diving since the last meeting.

Dana Zukiersji reported on the upcoming year's (2025) dive schedule.

- The Derby Dive is set for May 2-4 and there are still open spots if anyone wants to join, however final payments are due by Friday, April 4th as they need to make the room arrangements by April 7th.
- Philippines ready to go!
- Riviera Beach for June 14-15. The dive is open and ready for booking it includes Nitrox!!
- The Pompano Beach dive is set for July 19-20. Ride the Brightline down the night before just let Jim or Dana know if you need another night for the hotel. Train prices as low as \$128 and as high as \$330 aiming to be on the 1:45 PM train from Terminal C at OIA
- August Trip is still up in the air!
- September trip Shellback Aquatics and Stephanie is working on getting the info!

Upcoming activities: October Picnic

Updates: FL Tax Information refer to prior year documentation per Aaron.

Dan has pictures to share from his trip to St. Kitts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Danielle Campbell - ORD Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef Divers

April 15, 2025

Called to order at 7:02 pm by President Jim Leiter. Nine members were present and two guests. Daniel Bickford, Software Manager, is newly certified brought to the meeting by Dawn. He lives in North Carolina however is traveling to Florida often and diving with Dawn to get some dives under his belt before heading to Egypt soon. Robert McMilan, Engineer, is also from North Carolina and just moved to Florida a couple of weeks ago. He is looking to get back into diving and found the club on MeetUp.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived.

Treasurer's Report: Balance provided, and the club has funds.

Sales: In addition to the usual merchandise, the new rash guards and t-shirts are here. 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 with Jim: Jim will be giving a three-part highlight during each meeting to include a fish species, dive-related article and a destination highlight.

- Fish Species: Sea Anemone-there are over 1000 species of sea anemones throughout the world with the greatest diversity in the tropics.
- Destination: Roatan Aggressor Liveaboard- Stephanie is putting together a proposal for a club trip for May 2026 that will be approximately \$3000 per person with flight not included. Nitrox would be \$100 for the week, but food and drinks included. More info to come!

Who has been Diving?-

Dawn Sollman has been diving and has gone to Alexander Springs and the Rainbow River.

Stephanie Goodenough went diving in Jupiter and saw a school of barracudas.

Darren Goss advised he is going to Belize on the Aggressor III in October for around \$2600.

Trip Discussion:

- Derby Dive is all set for May 3rd and 4th with SplashDown Divers

- Philippines May 10th-17th, 2025 all set to dive. Had their prep meeting before to tonight's meeting to discuss some details.
- June 14th/15th Riviera Beach dive with Black Flag Divers lead will be Rob Byers staying at the Best Western dive is open and ready to sign up.
- July 19th/20th Pompano Beach dive with South Florida Diving is also open!
 - BrightLine info shared around \$168 roundtrip for Smart/2nd class Point of contact is Jim Leiter

Old Business: N/A

Activities: N/A

Social Media Outreach: Nothing new

Member Announcement: Discussion about the Juliet Live Abroad out of Miami.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Danielle Campbell - ORD Secretary