



Founded 1997

FISH TALES

November 2023

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. November 7th*

General Membership Meeting Tuesday *November 7th*

General Membership Meeting Tuesday November 21st *Cancelled*

*****2025 PHILIPPINES DIVE *****
OPENS NOVEMBER 7th

MEMBERS THAT PREFER TO JOIN VIRTUALLY CAN USE THIS LINK:

<https://meet.google.com/byb-cpbc-drh> **(November 7)**

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 Bechte

mbechte@gmail.com

Treasurer & Sales

Stephanie Goodenough

Skgoodenough66@gmail.com

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Jeff Weatherford

JSWeather4d@yahoo.com

Dive Director

Aaron Martina

martinatime@gmail.com

Membership Committee

David Quinones

davidquinones@live.com

Undercurrent Recap

James Leiter

JNLeiter@msn.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1863

Winter Park, FL 32790

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

<https://www.orlandoreefdivers.com>



DIVE & TRAVEL INSURANCE

2023 - 2024 Activities and Dive Schedule

Date 2023	Location/Event	#	Member Cost	Deposit	Opens	Organizer / Assistant Contact Info
November 7	6:30 p.m. Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Club Meeting Tibby's					https://meet.google.com/byb-cpbc-drh
December 5	6:30 p.m. Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Club Meeting Tibby's					https://meet.google.com/sap-keqq-wte
December 9	Annual Holiday Party 11:00 a.m.					Rob Byers RSVP: mailto:mhewhochasesturtles@gmail.com
May 25-June 1 2024	Cayman Brac Beach Resort	16	\$2163	\$250	1 August 2023	Mike Singer Res.psych@gmail.com
May 10 – 17, 2025	Crystal Blue Resort Philippines		\$2046	\$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 monies 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 monies 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 monies will be refunded.

DAN Travel Medical Guide

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

Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 9th, 11:00 A.M.

Where: The Shark & Turtle Pub



The Club provides the Turkey, Ham and a few basics

Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish

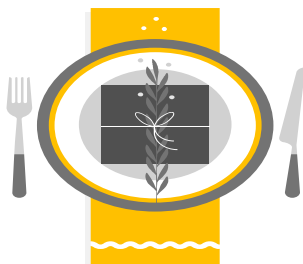
Soft drinks and bottled water provided

Feel free to bring your favorite Beer or Wine

A gift exchange (*under \$25*) for those who wish to participate

Raffle tickets for the **"Basket of Cheer"** available

RSVP to Rob Byers hewhochasesturtles@gmail.com





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.

Philippines 2025!

With Crystal Blue Resort May 10-17. 2025



For the amazingly low cost of **\$2046** 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.

Of the 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.



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef

Divers

October 3, 2023

Minutes of the Board Meeting

President David Quinones called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The board discussed the responsibilities of the newly elected board positions.

The annual Christmas Party was discussed. Rob Byers graciously offered the use of the Shark & Turtle and the date was set for Saturday, December 9th, 2023 at 11:00AM.

It was also determined that the Board would look at updating our policies in the coming year.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Called to order at 7:00 pm by President David Quinones. Eight members and four guests were present. Three of the guests joined the organization at the end of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived. Secretary Jeff Weatherford reviewed the results of the September 19th Board Elections.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stephanie Goodenough was not present. President Quinones reported that we have money. The most recent treasurers report is available in the October newsletter.

Sales: David Quinones reported that the Club has numerous items for sale. He also indicated that the Board would be looking into replenishing the shirt supply and would be looking at rash guards rather than cotton t-shirts.

Undercurrent Report: David Quinones presented articles from Undercurrent. The main stories were about Tricky Trumpetfish and a documentary – “The Dive-90 Minutes on the Amazon with 22 Minutes of Air.”

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Members were reminded that annual dues were due.

David Quinones announce to the membership that the Annual Holiday Party would be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at the Shark & Turtle Pub. More information to be provided in the newsletter.

It was also announced that no meeting would be held on November 16 or December 21 due to the holidays.

Activities: The club annual picnic was held on October 1, 2023 at the home of Rob Byers.

Dive Report:

The 2024 ORD Dive Schedule was discussed by David Quinones and Aaron Martina.

The Dive Season begins in May with our annual Derby Dive traditionally held the first weekend in May. Details to be determined. The club will also plan for dives in June, July, August and possibly September.

The Club is currently planning an international trip to Cayman Brac May 25-June 1, 2024. There are still spots available.

Jack is looking at the possibility of a Phillipines trip in April or May of 2025.

President Elect Megan Bechte announced a non-club Halloween dive on October 29th at Rainbow River. Those interested should contact Mac's Sports in Clearwater.

Social Media: David Quinones reviewed the club's social media resources. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Jeff Weatherford - ORD Secretary



Meeting Minutes

Orlando Reef

Divers

October 17, 2023

Minutes of the Board Meeting

President David Quinones called the board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Megan Bechte raised the issue of canceling the January 2nd, 2024 meeting. Approved by Board unanimously.

The Board was joined by Jack Tse who discussed a proposed international trip to the Philippines from May 10th through May 17th, 2026. Jack will be the trip coordinator. The trip was tentatively approved by the Board pending additional financial information (Note: information was received and approved by the Board via email).

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Minutes of the General Meeting

Called to order at 7:00 pm by President David Quinones. Twelve members and no guests were present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Reading of minutes waived. It was announced that the next Board meeting will be held on November 7th at 6:30PM. Additionally, the meetings for November 16th and December 21st, 2023 and January 2nd, 2024 have been cancelled due to the proximity of holidays.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Stephanie Goodenough was not present. President Quinones reported that we have money. The most recent treasurers report is available in the October newsletter. President Quinones noted that the only financial action was the approval of reimbursement of funds expended on the Annual Picnic to Rob Byers and receipt of dues by new members.

Sales: David Quinones reported that the Club has items for sale. He also indicated that the Board would be looking into replenishing the shirt supply and would be looking at rash guards rather than cotton t-shirts.

Undercurrent Report: No Undercurrent Report was presented.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Rob Byers announced that ScubaLab would be testing fins at Alexander Springs on October 25th and 26th if anyone is interested.

Activities: It was announced that the Annual Holiday Party would be hosted by Rob Byers at the Shark & Turtle Pub on December 9th at 11:00 AM. The club will provide turkey & ham. Sides will be potluck with attendees signing up when they RSVP. A voluntary White Elephant will be held and gifts (preferably dive related) should be \$25 or less.

Dive Report:

Mike and Kathy reported that they had just returned from Roatan where they had a great time diving.

The 2024 ORD Dive Schedule was discussed by David Quinones and Aaron Martina.

The Dive Season begins in May with our annual Derby Dive traditionally held the first weekend in May. Details to be determined. The club will also plan for dives in June, July, August and possibly September. The club may consider starting the season early with a dive before the Derby Dive. More information to come.

The Club is currently planning an international trip to Cayman Brac May 25-June 1, 2024. There are still spots available.

It was announced that a Philippines Dive Trip is planned for May of 2025 with a per person cost (not including airfare) under \$2000. More information will be provided next month.

Aaron Martina will give a presentation on the recent Bahamas Live Aboard trip held earlier this year after the meeting.

Social Media: President-Elect Megan Bechte reported on the club's social media resources. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Jeff Weatherford - ORD Secretary