



Volume 46 Number 1

January, 2023

President's Message

Chris Dorris

Hello fellow Barracudas! HAPPY NEW YEAR! I am so excited about all the new adventures, opportunities and challenges waiting for us this new year. We have two dive trips scheduled so far for this year: Bonaire and Little Cayman. If I'm not mistaken there are still spots available for both trips. I am going to challenge myself to plan some local day dive trips and other outings

(i.e., kayaking). If anyone has some ideas to assist me with a list of places to which to plan trips, I would greatly appreciate it.

Let's get wet! 😊 Dive safe, Dive often!

Chris

Data Services

Bill Little

It's that time of year again, kiddies! Membership renewal time! You know the drill by now: from the club home page, hover your mouse over Membership, then click on Membership Form. Download the pdf file, fill it out, and send it in to the address listed at the bottom, or email it as an

attachment to the email address given. Send your check for \$20.00 for the first family member, and \$12.00 for each additional family member included. Or, bring it all to the January general meeting and give it to me. What could be easier?

Programs and Publicity

Carol Auer/Ginger Ballou

January's guest speaker will be Karen Ferguson, naturalist at the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in Titusville. The Enchanted Forest was the first property purchased by the county's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program.

Karen grew up in central Virginia and attended Virginia Tech, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in education before entering the U.S. Air Force. After 12 years active duty, a husband, two kids and numerous moves, she made her first transition to reservist/civilian life and traveled with her family around the world for another eleven years.

Karen's next transition was leaving classroom

teaching and going back to school for an Associate Degree in Environmental Science and certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), starting a job as a Florida State Park Ranger, and taking Florida Master Naturalist courses in south Florida. Settling in central Florida, she began volunteering at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey as a docent/guest relations and Audubon EagleWatch seasonal employee and volunteer. She found the perfect way to combine conservation and education as a part-time naturalist at The Enchanted Forest Sanctuary in 2021 and completed courses to be a Florida Master Naturalist and Florida Land Steward. When she's not working or taking classes, Karen loves to kayak and geocache.

Little Cayman Island 2023

Bill Little

Heads up! The reservations for the 2023 Barracudas trip to Little Cayman Island have been finalized. We will be heading for one of the best dive destinations in the hemisphere August 19 through 26. Get your request in now to guarantee your slot. The price for the Little Cayman Beach Resort will be \$2295.00 per person for a poolside view room, based on double occupancy. The package includes all meals, two-tank morning dives, one-tank afternoon dives, and a 21-drink package. If you would like to upgrade to an ocean view room, or make alternate per room occupancy totals, let me know.

Round-trip air fare via Delta will be a total of \$781.86, based on the minimum 10 passenger group rate. That includes departure from

Orlando International and intra-island flights from Grand Cayman to Little Cayman. The bad news is that we will have to go through Atlanta on the way out and the way back. I know it's not ideal, but Jan, our travel agent extraordinaire at

Caribbean & Pacific Dive Vacations, worked her butt off to get us the best deal she could find.

All told, the total for the trip will come to \$3076.66 per person. So, get your \$500.00 deposit in now to lock in your slot! The deadline for the full amount will be Thursday, May 4 at the May general meeting. Let me know if you have any further questions or need more details. You can reach me at (321)720-7201 or littlewl@mindspring.com. Let's go diving!