

# ◆ RRT REEF BRIEF ◆

Volume 99, Issue 8

August 11, 1999

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Important Dates</i></b></p> <hr/> <p><b>8/8</b> JAXSPOTS Dive</p> <p><b>8/11</b> Scubanauts meeting @ Wormon's on San Jose</p> <p><b>8/14</b> Monitoring Dive</p> <p><b>8/18</b> 6:30 PM JAX RRT Officers/ Board meeting at JU-Reid Hall</p> <p><b>8/18</b> 7:30 PM JAX RRT meeting</p> <p><b>8/28</b> Monitoring Dive</p> <p><b>9/4</b> Monitoring Dive</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>From Your Coordinator</i></b></p> <p>As you will see when you read the other articles in this month's newsletter, there is an exciting new project in which we will be involved. The placement of a large number of reef balls will be challenging and interesting, to say the least. Additionally, there will be need for as many volunteer hours as we can collectively spare to make it happen in the planned timeframe.</p> <p>At last months meeting the Team voted to purchase the DAN TAGS. I have included a copy of the information and application to fill out for these tags. I have had one for the past two years and hope that I never need it, but am convinced this is an added piece of the safety puzzle that we should all have on our BC at all times. Please take the time to fill out the application and return it to our safety officer, Dennis Short, at the next meeting.</p> <p>During the July meeting I related erroneous information! I said that the team voted to equip all of the private boats with Oxygen kits. The team did not vote to do that. The team voted to equip all of the private boats with tapes, thermometers, secchi disks, etc. for completing monitoring dives. For those of you who have been patiently waiting for the team to purchase your O2 kits, please forgive me for this gross error!</p> <p>Safe diving to all!</p> <p><i>Jim Cribb</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>1999-2000 Training Class</b></p> <p>The Jacksonville Reef Research Team Training Class of 1999-2000 will be accepting applications at the August team meeting. The first training</p>	<p>dives will take place in September. We will accept the first ten (10) divers that have all the required training certifications.</p> <p>First the candidate must be certificated as an Advanced Diver or better. Secondly they must be Deep Open Water Certified. Next the candidate must be Wreck Certified. Lastly the candidate must be Photography Certified.</p> <p>The training class consists of eight modules, such as fish identification, fish counting, water quality, bottom sediment sampling and testing, mapping, photography, and other methods that we often utilize during the course of our diving season.</p> <p>For information or more details about the training curriculum, check it out on the Team's web sight at: <a href="http://www.jrrt.org">www.jrrt.org</a>.</p> <p><i>Brian Salzman</i></p> <hr/> <p><b>Shirt Alert!</b></p> <p>For those of you who ordered the new team logo T-shirts, Polo shirts, or warm-ups, bring your checkbook to the next meeting. For those of you who picked up ordered items last month and didn't pay—pay! For those of you who didn't do anything, we have a <u>few</u> extra items. The T-shirts are 100% cotton and they all look great! The T-shirts are \$6.00, Polo shirts are \$19.00, and the warm-ups are \$35.00 for the set. We will have them at the July meeting. Lets all show off our new logo!</p> <p><i>Editor</i></p>
---	---	---



### From your Vice President

Representatives of the Offshore Sport Fishing Club, Duval County Schools, the Reef Ball Development Group, Inc. and the Reef Research Team, met on August 2nd to discuss an upcoming reef project. The intent of the project is to deploy about 600 reef balls off the shores of Ponte Vedre Beach. This is the first such project of its kind in the Northeast Florida area. Project coordinator, Larry Beggs of Reef Ball, met at the JOSFC clubhouse at the Mayport boat ramp on a very rainy night, to explain the details of how the project is to proceed. Team members Jim Cribb, John Perkner, Mark Dillon and myself (representing Mandarin High School as well), along with JOSFC President, Cheryl Thompson, and Ed Kalakauskis, who coordinates with the towing companies, were briefed about the particulars, and contributed ideas on how best to proceed. Additionally, another marine science class from St. Augustine High School, headed by Phillip Stuman, will be involved. St. Johns County will receive about 100 reef balls to place u/w for their studies as well.

Currently, the proposed site for deployment will be in the area of BW, which splits the difference from the Mayport Jetties to the mouth of the St. Augustine inlet. The relatively shallow depth will make it easier for students enrolled in the high school research classes to dive on the reefs while learning the rudiments of monitoring techniques.

The funding will come from an \$80,000 grant from the local Kirbo Foundation, who funds marine educa-

tion projects. The Kirbo family has a history of fishing off the Northeast Florida coast, and intends to name it in honor of the family.

The grant will allow funding for future monitoring efforts, which hopefully we will be able to get by providing our expertise in this area. Also, the Foundation would like to fund a university student who is interested in pursuing a thesis in artificial reef technology.

Personally, this represents a perfect opportunity for a research class that I will be teaching this year at Mandarin HS to students who have already begun preparing for it by getting their scuba certifications. Last year, a SCUBA Explorer Post was established at the school to provide students with a vehicle to allow them to participate in a project of this nature. So, for me, this will be a major springboard in accomplishing this very goal. Larry would like to get volunteers to assist in assembling the balls, which are made of concrete poured into fiberglass molds, and come out looking very much like igloos with holes punched in them. The size of the balls ranges from only a few inches tall, to those that are 4 feet tall, six feet across and weigh several thousand pounds.

He is looking for 2 full-time temps to be site foremen, at the rate of only about \$8.00/hour. So, if you know of someone who might like a short term job for 4-5 weeks, let me or Jim Cribb know. The site for assembling the balls has yet to be determined, so Ed K. is working on that as well as firming up the towing company.

As things get closer to kick-off, more info will be forthcoming, but from all that was revealed so far, it promises to be an exciting project. With our capabilities, it may represent some future income for the team, as well accruing some critical data.

*Lex Waters*

### Gray's Reef

Approximately two hours north of Jacksonville, off the coast of Savannah, Georgia, lies an area of natural, limestone ledges (similar to those off Jacksonville) known as Gray's Reef. The following is an excerpt from their web site.

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) Management Plan developed in 1983, outlined strategies for the effective management of the areas resources. A stated goal of the plan is to promote and coordinate research to enhance scientific understanding of the sanctuary and improve management decision making. A main objective to achieve this was implementing of a resource studies plan based on existing knowledge of live bottom ecosystems and evolving management issues. This plan is outlined in the 1983 document and has provided the outlined areas of research needs since implementing the plan.

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary recognizes the importance of long term monitoring to understand and recognize the health and status of the significant resources found in the sanctuary. Long term monitoring of the resources also serves the management concerns of other state and federal agencies as Gray's Reef is one of the largest natural live-bottom reefs in the South Atlantic Bight (SAB) and serves as a good indicator of overall live bottom health here. The need for information on fisheries resources is especially evident as catches of snapper and grouper have declined 50% since 1980 in the SAB.

Part of this monitoring will include GRNMS Sea Turtle Satellite Tagging Project that will utilize satellite transmitter tags to monitor adult and juvenile Loggerhead Sea Turtle behavior and movement in the South Atlantic Bight.

[www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov)

## Science Officer Update

Well, here it is August already and the summer is quickly slipping away . . . But, I hope you all are not tired of diving yet.

Why? . . . well, because we have a lot more data collection to complete on the monitoring grant (SOCA's and mapping) and it looks like we are going to have a big part in the deployment of about 700 +/- reef balls offshore at Bunny's Web (just about in the middle between Mayport and St.

Augustine), or about 7 miles straight due east from my front door in Ponte Vedra.

I hope you can make a serious effort to get out to one of our monitoring sites and do at least one SOCA in the next 30 days. This will really help out our monitoring efforts. So far, we have been very lucky with the weather and have not had any tropical storms or hurricanes (bad for surfing, good for diving), so the visibility is still pretty good. We have had an occasional thermocline, but last weekend I was out and had 40 ft. visibility and the water temp was 84 degrees F on the top and the bottom! I also got to see a large nurse shark and a Jewfish. So please help out and get out and dive!

We will also be doing recruiting to help out on the "Kirbo" grant reef ball placement project. If all goes as planned we could be placing reef balls by October (which means we will be soon looking for volunteers to do some land work building reef balls and some divers to assist in the pre-deployment surveys and mapping). This will be a big project with a lot of work to be done in a relatively short timeframe. The pre-deployment alone will mean setting more than 15 bench marks with some real challenges for those who want to test their underwater navigational skills. I am sure we will see Mr. Cribb out these showing off those navigational skills for all to see).

So, remember to get out and dive . . . and try to come to the next meeting to learn more about the **Big Reef Ball** project.

*John Perkner*

## 1999 DIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Month	Dive Date	Rain Date	M	J	Location
Saturday	April	04/03	04/10		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	April	04/17	04/24		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	May	05/08	TBA	*		<b>BB</b>
Sunday	May	05/16	05/23		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	June	06/06	TBA	*		<b>CR Culverts</b>
Saturday	June	06/19	06/26		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	July	07/03	Open		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
Saturday	July	07/10	07/24		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	July	07/18	TBA	*		<b>EEF Culverts</b>
Sunday	August	08/08	08/15		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/14	TBA	*		<b>HH Barge</b>
Sunday	August	08/15	08/22		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	August	08/28	TBA	*		<b>TR Anna</b>
Saturday	September	09/04	TBA	*		<b>JW</b>
Sunday	September	09/12	09/19		*	Jaxspots
Saturday	October	10/02	10/09		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/10	10/17		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	October	10/31	TBA		*	Jaxspots
Sunday	November	11/14	TBA		*	Jaxspots

Notes: M = Monitoring Dives      J = Jaxspots Confirmation and Discovery Dives

Meet at Mayport Marine promptly at 7:30 for all dives, unless specified otherwise

Contact Alex Waters at 262-5001 or John Perkner at 273-4562 with questions on the schedule.

# 1999 Officers/Board of Directors

President - Jim Cribb	904-264-1840 (H)	904-264-0520 (W)
Vice President - Alex Waters	904-262-5001 (H)	904-260-3911 (W)
Secretary - Mary Lyons	904-724-0324 (H)	904-708-8456 (M)
Treasurer - Jim Nelsen	904-641-0717 (H)	904-448-0305 (W)
Board/Webmaster - Ray Smith	904-389-9668 (H)	904-854-5990 (W)
Board/Chief Scientist - John Perkner	904-273-4562 (H)	904-791-5064 (W)
Board/Training Officer - Brian Salzman	904-646-3241 (H)	904-641-6611 (W)
Board/Safety Officer - Dennis Short	904-268-0414 (H)	904-332-1849 (W)
Board/Public Relations - Jim Barnes	904-757-1928 (H)	904-778-6089 (W)

**SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER BY SENDING AN ARTICLE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE TEAM!**



## Spanish Mackerel

**Family Scombridae,  
MACKERELS and TUNAS**  
*Scoromorus maculatus*

**Description:** color of back green, shading to silver on sides, golden yellow irregular spots above and below lateral line; front of dorsal fin black; lateral line curves gently to base of tail.

**Similar Fish:** cero, *S. regalis*; king mackerel, *S. cavalla*.

**Where found:** INSHORE, NEARSHORE and OFFSHORE, especially over grass beds and reefs; absent from north Florida waters in winter.

ida waters in winter.

**Size:** average catch less than 2 pounds (20 inches).

**Florida Record:** 12 pounds.

### In This Issue...

**August meeting will be at Jacksonville University – Reid Hall!**



**Jacksonville Reef Research Team**  
P. O. Box 8776  
Jacksonville, FL 32239  
Website: [www.jaxrrt.org](http://www.jaxrrt.org)

**RRT REEF BRIEF** is published monthly by the Jacksonville Reef Research Team, Inc. Jacksonville Reef Research Team, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit corporation. For information or comments contact Jim Cribb @ [jimcribb@msn.com](mailto:jimcribb@msn.com)