

4th Quarter

Oct Nov Dec 2008



ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

# The Harlequin



## ORCA's Holiday Bash

The ORCA Holiday party was held on December 13th at the home of John Toms in Orlando and was a huge success. ORCA members turned out to the tune of over 70 strong. Our gracious host provided a delicious Chinese food buffet in addition to a wonderful homemade guacamole dip. Jose and Neimar Perez provided their homemade Puerto Rican Egg Nog. The night started with a game called "guess what your are" and proceeded to the white elephant game. In between we were treated to Bonnie's breathtakingly nostalgic DVD production of ORCA's year in review and everyone went home with their own personal copy. Awards were presented during the evening and are listed below. The evening concluded with Mac's gigantic end of the year raffle with prizes too numerous to list. This was one of ORCA's biggest events of the year.



### Award Winners

Luckiest Raffle Winner: Ray Wortley  
Mad Scientist: Mitch Carter  
Host of the Year: John Toms  
Frag King (Most bought): Cesar Campo

Most Outgoing: Mel Kantz  
Most Active New Member: Jose Perez  
Big Ham award: John "Mac" MacDougall  
Most Helpful at Meetings: Russell Whitney

#1 Frag Event Supporters: Rick and Terry Loewen

## Winter Update

For those who traveled to Tampa in October 2007 for the Aquarium/Dinner Cruise excursion and were awed and inspired by Winter the Dolphin we are happy to report she is doing well. At the age of 3 months she lost her tail when entangled in a crab net. She was rescued and transported to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium where she was treated and rehabilitated. Almost 2 years later she has learned to swim with a prosthetic tail donated by Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, valued at \$150,000. Winter will need more tails as she grows. The prosthesis has contributed to changes in the development of human prosthetics and encourages amputees across the country. We will continue to update you periodically on this heartwarming story.

# Fourth Quarter Review

## October

The October meeting was held at Jill and Manny's lovely home in Casselberry. Delicious appetizers, meatballs and chicken were offered amid a Halloween backdrop. Over 120 frags were auctioned and we were all treated to a view of their tank and home made custom stand in progress .



## November



There is traditionally not a meeting in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. However ORCA did put on a BBQ at beautiful, scenic Kelly Park. Sliced beef, pulled pork, chicken and all the trimmings were served to our members free of charge. We had our own private pavilion by the lake and some swam, hiked or relaxed while others played frisbee or horseshoes.

## December

The December meeting ,as always, was a Holiday Party and was held at the home of John Toms in Orlando. John really knows how to throw a party. The food was delicious, there were fun games played all night, awards were presented and raffle prizes kept flowing. You could not help but be impressed with the 400-500 baby clownfish in all shapes and sizes in John 's breeding room. This night was an awesome topping to one of ORCA's greatest years.



## Welcome to Our New members

### New 4th Quarter members

Bernie, Teresa, Chris & Sean Jacobsen  
Karen & Bob D'Andrea

### New 4th Quarter Sponsors

Juicy Corals  
Pacific East Aquaculture

## Bulletin Board

### Southeastern Reef Conference

Here we go again folks. The 3rd bi-annual SRC will be held on July 11, 2009 at the Maitland Civic Center. Anthony Calfo, Eric Borneman and Bob Fenner are confirmed speakers with more to follow. Vendors and great raffle prizes are being planned Watch for updates on the website and make plans to attend this very special event! This will be the biggest and best SRC yet!

### Save the date

January 31- ORCA frag event  
February 28- Monthly Meeting (Check website for updates)  
March 28- Monthly Meeting (Check website for updates)

**MAC** promises the biggest and best raffle year ORCA has ever seen.

**REMINDER** — 2009 membership renewals are due by January 31st.



# Looking Ahead—1st Quarter 2009

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## January

This meeting will be held on Saturday, the 31st of January. Check the website for address and time. This will be a frag event meeting. Pictures of frags will be posted on the website as they are registered.

## February

The February meeting will be held on the 28th. The location has not been confirmed as yet so check the website for additional information.

## March

This meeting will be held on March 28th. A speaker has not been confirmed yet but may be soon. Check the website for additional information.

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# Notables



## Wedding Bells



Tara & Jason Le—November 1, 2008



Becky & Donovan Simms—November 6, 2008

*Congratulations to the  
Newly Weds*



## Local Fish Stores / Sponsors

## Online Stores / Sponsors

### ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

We're on the Web  
[WWW.O-R-C-A.COM](http://www.o-r-c-a.com)

Have something to include in the newsletter?

*Send it to:*

[Newsletter@o-r-c-a.com.](mailto:Newsletter@o-r-c-a.com)



Best Club Website  
2008  
Third Place  
  
Orlando Reef Caretakers Association  
[www.orca.com](http://www.orca.com)

**Aquaria Studios  
Aquarium Fanatics  
Blue Reef Marine  
Coral Reef Aquariums  
Exotic Aquarium  
Ocean Blue  
Ocean Direct  
Reef Works  
Sea in the City  
Seven Seas Aquarium  
World Wide Corals**

**Air Water & Ice  
David's Tanks and Innovations  
Juicy Corals  
Looking Glass Aquarium  
Ocean Inspirations  
Oceans Blend  
Pacific East Aquaculture  
PurelyH2O  
Reef Cleaners  
Salty Supply**

*ORCA thanks you for your support*

Want to host an ORCA meeting? Ask any of the Board of Directors below for information  
We're the guys in the black ORCA shirts

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## 2009 ORCA Board of Directors

### Club Officers

**President** - Terry Alexander

**Vice President** - Ray Wortley

**Treasurer** - Leslie Masem

**Secretary** - Joshua Solomon

**Public Relations** - Bonnie Alexander

### Directors

**Membership** - Neimar Perez

**Web** - Paul Ogne, Cesar Campo

**Newsletter** - Ron DeNoia

**Mentoring** - George Reed

### Coordinators

**Raffles** - John (Mac) McDougall

**Frag**s - Joe Durham

**Photography**—Yanira Rodriguez

# ORCA OutTakes



Smile and hope they don't see the sign. We'll have to find a new place to meet next week.



The ORCA HellBoy



OMG—I hope Neymar doesn't see this!

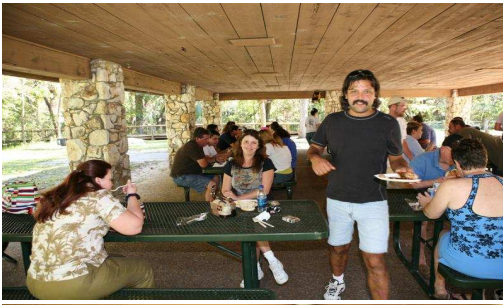


This frag not for sale



Look—No more green card—I'm legal

# Good Times



**ORCA BBQ  
November 8th 2008**



Before

After



# ORCA Holiday Party



# The ORCA Spotlight

The ORCA Spotlight will shine on members and sponsors. We will learn more about each other and hopefully become a tighter knit ORCA family. Email the newsletter if you'd like to recommend someone to be spotlighted.

## Russell Whitney



Russell was born in Stuart, Florida. He is married to Rebecca and they have a son, Bristol who is 3 1/2. He has a 180 gallon reef that is undergoing some renovations with mostly SPS and also houses a true perc, mimic tang, kole tang, painted pajama cardinal and anthias. Russell has a Tech Degree in Engineering , drafting and design. He is the owner of Ocean's Blend which features, among other products, the two part additive which many of us use to keep our tanks running at the optimum. More info can be found at <http://www.oceansblend.com>. Russell was one of the original founders of ORCA and President from 2002 – 2003.

## Hail and Farewell



Terry Alexander takes over the presidential reigns from Matt Kantz. Terry promises an exciting new year with many member oriented events. Matt skillfully guided the club for the past two years which propelled ORCA to new heights. A job well done Matt.



The Membership Directorship falls into the capable hands of Neimar Perez. . Mel Kantz leaves the board after serving two years as Vice President in 2007 and then Membership Director this past year. She will be missed but has earned the right to sit back and enjoy our meetings from a different perspective. .



Bonnie Alexander is putting down her camera (at least as far as ORCA is concerned) to become our new Public Relations Director. Yanira Rodriguez becomes the new club photographer and will surly provide us with top notch photographic records of our meetings and events in the coming year.



Cesar Campo has been added to our Web Team. His hard work, behind the scenes, will ensure our website is better than ever going into the new year. Pam McDougall is leaving the Treasurer position after two years of great service to ORCA. Thanks Pam.





## The Plight of the Banggai—A Cardinal Sin

In 1994, Dr Gerald Allen rediscovered the Banggai Cardinalfish which were originally described in 1933. It was an immediate hit with marine aquarists worldwide—especially Americans—and the species have been collected and imported in massive numbers for the aquarium trade since. Banggais are of no interest for any other trade purposes, and this is important for us to know for two reasons. First we as hobbyists are solely responsible for the harvest of this fish. Second, this fish has merely been collected for slightly more than a decade and the massive decline in its numbers during this time should give pause to even the most skeptic among us.



Harvest of this species is not an important part of any local economy. At the current payment rate of 1 to 2.5 cents per fish, its economic value, even in a depressed region, is barely significant. It is estimated that 1.8 million of these fish are collected each year by 230 collectors. That amounts to approximately 7826 fish per collector, which represents a supplemental income of \$78 to \$195 per year. Who is affecting this species? We, the aquarium hobbyist. Who would be affected by a cessation of its collection? Only a handful of people—to the tune of about a hundred bucks a year each.

Unlike many marine organisms that can feature thousands of pelagic planktonic larvae the Banggai has virtually no dispersal mechanism. Being mouthbrooders, the handful of fry from each spawning settle in the domain of the parents, leaving little or no possibility for populating new areas or repopulating older, extirpated areas. As a result the Banggai Cardinalfish exists in isolated pocket colonies throughout half the islands in the Banggai archipelago as well as one location in the northern Sulawesi. The species is also strictly home sited, which means that even if moved far away they would return to their home site. To further complicate matters they prefer shallow water 5–8 feet deep, and prefer living substrates, such as long-spined urchins. When threatened they retreat into the spines of the urchins making collection methods fairly simple, easy and effective. The entire urchin is scooped up, fish and all. Urchin populations in heavily fished areas are declining along with the cardinalfishes, which means that there are many fewer urchins to be re-colonized by other cardinalfishes, leaving them with no survival mechanism against predators.

### Some facts

- Current population densities average .07 fish per square meter, giving a total wild population of approximately 2.4 million fish. In areas where it is known that fishing has not occurred the population densities are .63 fish PSM, almost 10X greater.
- In two areas placed under the protection of local authorities populations increased during the bans, but have not recovered to the densities found in one area that is known to have never been fished.
- In an area within its natural range—a privately owned pearl farm—there has never been any fishing allowed. Here Cardinal population densities are 900% higher than the average populations everywhere else.

### The Bottom Line

Collectors are paid only a penny or two per fish, exporters 10 to 700 times that. Retail price for wild caught fish is anywhere from \$15 to \$25, 750 to 2500 times what the collectors get. Captive bred fish must be priced competitively in order for them to sell. Because wild collected fish are so inexpensive and (for the moment) readily available, captive breeding efforts are proving to be unprofitable or barely profitable, thus driving down the number of fish from these sources or preventing them from increasing in number or expanding their programs.

### What We Can Do

Do not buy wild caught Banggai Cardinalfish. If there is no market for wild caught fish, their populations will increase. Banggai expert Dr Alejandro Vagelli asks that hobbyists spend a little more money to ensure that they are obtaining captive bred specimens. He stresses that the value of the captive bred fish is higher since there is an extremely high mortality rate among wild caught fish. He encourages people to breed them at home since they are a relatively easy marine fish to breed and there is a wealth of information about raising them. Dr Vagelli's message is simple: "Hobbyists have the power to decide the future of this species."