

1st Quarter

Jan Feb Mar 2009



ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

The Harlequin



Frag Fest

ORCA kicked off the year with a fabulous frag auction in January. Close to 90 people attended and over 270 frags were auctioned. This was the largest frag event in ORCA history. We owe Joe Durham, our Frag Director, and his frag crew a hearty round of applause



Disney's Armed Forces Salute

Veteran's and active duty personnel will want to take advantage of this offer. Disney is offering a free 5 day pass to all active duty or retired personnel. There is also a discount for family members. <http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/disney/36573/>

First Quarter Review

January

The January meeting was a frag event and was held at the home of Rick and Terry Loewen. Frag event was a misnomer, it should have been called a fragathon as over 270 frags were auctioned into the wee hours of the night, which was quite chilly. Our hosts made it tolerable by serving hot food and apple cider all night.



February



February found us at the home of Kelly and Mike Martin in Casselberry. Over 65 members dined on pulled beef, Chile and chicken followed by wonderful deserts. Since this was a DIY meeting Russell Whitney held our attention with a very informative presentation on dosing.

March

ORCA gathered at Harmony High school. Our featured speaker was Dr. Janet Nestlerode (below), who described her experiences aboard Aquarius, an underwater laboratory 60 feet below the surface of Key Largo. Her riveting descriptions of the experiments conducted and life underwater were fascinating. Jane Berkley provided us with a bounty of food and desserts and was topped off by one of Kelly Martin's wonderful Clownfish cakes.



Welcome to Our New members

New 1st Quarter members

Jose Martir	Bryan Hall
Michael Williams	TJ Pacheco
Orly Ortiz	Gary Millar
Jonathon Diaz	Roy Perkins
Keith Dixon	Jane Berkley
Randall Vogel	Ryan Smith
Andrew Silver	

New 1st Quarter Sponsors

Max Reef
Kapaloric Family Pets

Bulletin Board

New Frag Event Rules

Due to the large amount of frags and the time it took to auction them off in January there will be new frag rules in effect for the April Frag Event. These rules apply to people bringing frags as well as those coming to purchase them. Please consult the website for an important announcement concerning the April Frag Event.

Save the date

April 25- ORCA frag event
May 30- DIY Meeting (Check website for updates)
June 27- Speaker Meeting (Check website for updates)
July 11, 2009—Southeastern Reef Conference



Looking Ahead—2nd Quarter 2009

April

This meeting will be held on Saturday, the 25th of April. 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.

Note: New Frag Event Procedures

May

The May meeting will be held on the 30th. The location has not been confirmed as yet so check the website for additional information.

June

This meeting will be held on June 27th. A speaker has not been confirmed yet but may be soon. Check the website for additional information.

Notables



Southeastern Reef Conference update -The 3rd bi-annual SRC will be held on July 11, 2009 at the Maitland Civic Center. ORCA is gearing up for this unique and special event. Tickets are now on sale with a discount for ORCA members.. Confirmed speakers are Anthony Calfo, Eric Borneman, Bob Fenner and Scott Fellman. Feast your eyes on the vendors, exhibits and raffles below. And there are more to be added as we get closer to show time. It's a reef keepers dream day. www.SRC2009.com

Raffle Items

110 G RR Tank
30g and 40g cubes
3- Dual GFO and Carbon Reactors
17 bags of IO salt mix
Canister Filter
Acrylic Sump Filtration System
T5 Light Fixture
4 stage RODI unit
Assorted Specialty T-Shirts
Assorted reef additives and foods
Numerous gift certificates

Sponsors/Exhibitors

Aquavitro
Brightwell Aquatics
Bulk Reef Supply
Caribsea
Current
David's Tanks and innovations
Drs' Foster & Smith
Exotic Aquarium
Gulf Aquaria
Instant Ocean
Marc Weis
Purely H2O
Marineland
Oceans Blend
Ocean Direct
Ocean Inspirations
Orlando Science Center
Pacific East Aquaculture
Reef Nutrition
Reefer DNA
Salty Supply
Sea in the City
Two Little Fishies
World Wide Corals

Make plans to attend this very special event as this will be the biggest and best SRC yet



Local Fish Stores / Sponsors

Online Stores / Sponsors

ORLANDO REEF CARETAKERS ASSOCIATION

We're on the Web

WWW.O-R-C-A.COM

Have something to include in the newsletter?

Send it to:

Newsletter@o-r-c-a.com.

**Aquarium Fanatics
Exotic Aquarium
Kapaloric Family Pets
Max Reef
Ocean Direct
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**



**Best Club Website
2008
Third Place**



Orlando Reef Caretakers Association
www.orca.com

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.

2009 ORCA Board of Directors

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Secretary - Joshua Solomon

Treasurer - Jon Clements

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Mentoring - Mitch Carter

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Raffles - John (Mac) McDougall

Frags - Joe Durham

Photography—Yanira Rodriguez

ORCA Out Takes



What is it Terry? I don't know, what do you think Barry? I don't know, look at this thing Ron. George get up here, we need you.



I can't wait to put my new catfish in the tank.

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.

Jane Berkley

Jane was our host for the March 28th meeting that was held at Harmony HS. She was born in Clearwater and returned to Florida in 2000 after being away for 20 years. She has been married to Cliff Berkley for 25 years and they have 2 grown children. Jane joined ORCA in February of this year. She is sponsoring a 180 gallon LPS and softie tank that is located at the High School. Funds to establish the tank were received from a grant she wrote in 2007. The grant paid for the equipment, sand, 125 lbs of live rock and the startup salt water. Fish, coral and more live rock started to be added last august with the help of donations from staff and students. The tank is centrally located and easily viewable by all. Jane reports that many students stop by before or after school and during lunch. She has often found administrators standing in front of the tank, spending a few minutes observing, and then moving on to their duties. She says "It is very calming and provides a great place to take a breather. Some of the staff have special fish and take time everyday to check on their friends. They talk to them and I often get reports about their activities". Jane says that the summer students who helped her set up the tank dubbed it "Longhorn Ocean" after the Harmony Longhorns. ORCA was proud to donate corals to this very worthy project on this very special night. Our own Russell Whitney has generously volunteered his time, expertise and product as a sponsor and mentor.



ORCA SWAP Meet—March 14th 2009

Tom of Exotic Aquarium graciously sponsored this event. Above and beyond the usual ORCA discount, attendees were offered a 20% discount on livestock and dry goods. Tom even donated a coral to our raffle. The food was good and there were many bargains to be had. All in all a great ORCA event.



Saving Our Reefs

A few miles from the southeast Florida coast, at a depth of crushing pressure and frigid temperatures, lies an eerie world of snowy coral, undiscovered forms of life and rock towers thrusting through ink-dark water.

Although the deep ocean reefs of the southeastern United States rose before the pyramids, their existence had only been hinted at by geological evidence until ruggedly built submersibles reached them in the late 1990s. Now, before commercial fishing damages a still-pristine ecosystem, the federal government is considering protecting a stretch of ocean floor from the Florida Keys to North Carolina, an area six times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council plans to vote in June on banning bottom trawls, bottom longlines and other destructive fishing gear across 23,000 square miles, an area thought to encompass the largest deepwater reef system in the world. Although elsewhere such reefs have been mown down by commercial fishing gear, the reefs being considered for protection have sustained little impact from human activities, and the council wants to act before any damage takes place.

"We want to protect these very fragile, vulnerable ecosystems that we know very little about," said Myra Brouwer, a biologist with the Fishery Management Council. "They grow very slowly, and they're thousands of years old."

More remote than the polar ice caps or the Himalayan peaks, the deep ocean has surrendered its secrets slowly. It took the use of submarine-hunting sonar, for example, for scientists in the 1950s to map out the oceans' submerged mountain ranges. And while they suspected the existence of reefs in the ocean depths, they only acquired the tools to study them with the development of deep-diving submersibles, multibeam sonar and remotely operated vehicles.

John Reed, senior scientist at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University discovered many of the deepwater reefs off Florida riding the submersible *Johnson-Sea-Link* 2,500 feet below the surface, where no sunlight penetrates and the water temperature drops into the 30s. During undersea trips from Jacksonville to Miami, he counted about 400 coral mounds, one reaching a height of 400 feet, mostly composed of a delicately branched, snow-white coral called *Lophelia pertusa*. He saw eels, scorpion fish and several examples of the huge six gill shark, a primitive species that hunts near the surface at night and spends the day in the depths.

During a dive off southeast Florida, he peered through the submersible's acrylic bubble as the craft inched toward the coast. Searchlights swept the black water, revealing only small fish and sandy bottom. But as the craft came within 15 miles of the hotels and condominium towers of Miami, the floor sloped sharply upward, in a rugged, rubble-strewn ascent of more than 1,000 feet.

At the top, about 900 feet below the surface, a lush undersea landscape of sea fans, black corals, sponges and other creatures covered the reef called the Miami Terrace. New species of fish, crab and coral have been found in these reefs, and scientists expect to find many more.

"We really don't understand a lot about the ecology of these deepwater reefs," Reed said. "We're still learning what lives there — what animals, what fish."

Despite encompassing a vast stretch of ocean floor, the plan is not particularly controversial. A small amount of commercial fishing takes place along the periphery of the reef systems, mostly for shrimp and golden crab. The new rule would allow the fishing to continue, although it would freeze the footprint of the golden crab fishery in place.

Unlike famous landscapes such as the South Dakota badlands, Florida Everglades or Amazon rain forest, the reefs of the deep ocean can't be experienced except through photographs and videos. Pressed for an explanation of why we should care about protecting them, scientists talked of the pharmaceuticals that could be developed from deep reef species and spoke of our duty to prevent harm to ecosystems with their own integrity and beauty, whether or not we can see them directly.

"This is a unique ecosystem that occurs right in our backyard, and we should act as stewards," Reed said. "They're very similar to ancient redwood forests. Once they're clear-cut, they're not going to grow back in our lifetimes."