

**Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT)
Monthly Meeting**

Date/Time

Wednesday, 15 April 2009, 6:30 PM – 8:45 PM

Location

Jacksonville Public Library – Southeast Regional Branch, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32256

Attendees

Sue Wilcox, President	Daniel Hughes
Genny Gunsolus, Vice President	Linda Daley
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Candida Bronson
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer	Mason Cooper
Mike Barnes, Training Coordinator	Chloe Dean
Larry Davis, Dive Safety Officer	Luis Roldun
Rob Bronson, Webmaster	Jose Zouain
Jim Davis, REEF Coordinator	

City of Jacksonville Artificial Reef Program

- COJ was awarded an artificial reef construction grant from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) March 2009.
- City legislation for the artificial reef grant was approved by City Council earl-mid-April 2009.
- The City can now bid the project. Jody McDaniel has drafted the Scope of Services and Bidding Specifications. The goal is to advertise the request for proposals early May 2009.

Earth Day 2009

- JRRT will have a booth at the Native Sun Earth Day celebration (10000 San Jose Boulevard).
- Saturday, 18 April 2009, 12:00-4:00 PM.
- Free booth for non-profit organizations. Booths will be covered.
- Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Volunteers should contact Genny.

Beaches Parade – Sunday, 26 April 2009

- JRRT will participate in the Beaches Parade.
- Line up begins 10:30 AM; all participants need to be in line by 12:30 PM. Parade begins at 2:00 PM.
- JRRT will ride in a trailered boat and walk along-side, handing out brochures.
- Volunteers should contact Sue.
- Volunteers are also needed to create banners/signs.

Training

- ~2 weeks ago, there was a training trip to Riviera Beach.
 - Mapping skills were conducted.
- 18 April 2009 – photo-documentation and invertebrates
- 19 April 2009 – fish identification/exam

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- May 2009 – water skills

Public Relations

- **St. Johns River Cleanup 21 March 2009**
 - 5,000 volunteer hours logged.
- **Let it Shine in 2009**
 - 16 May 2009
 - Coordination for all Adopt-A-Highway groups to conduct clean-ups on this day.
 - JRRT was planning to do the next clean-up 02 May 2009, but will switch to 16 May to participate with the Let it Shine in 2009 event.
 - JRRT is responsible for the area on A1A between Little Talbot Island and Fort George Bridge clean.
 - JRRT is responsible for picking up litter 4 times each year; it is recommended the clean ups be conducted quarterly.
 - Trash bags and safety vests are provided. Volunteers must obtain their own gloves. JRRT must have a 1st Aid kit available during the clean up.
 - Those wishing to volunteer must first watch the safety video. The video (~5 minutes long) can be viewed at:
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/statemaintenanceoffice/aah.shtm>.
- **California Sea Grant**
 - Phil ordered a new publication.
- **Great American Fish Count**
 - Mid-July 2009
- **City of Jacksonville and the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup – 19 September 2009**
 - JRRT will participate again this year.
- **Bubbles Up Dive Club**
 - Would like JRRT to give a talk at an upcoming meeting.
 - Next meeting – 16 May 2009, 6:00 PM, at Crazy 88's.

Treasurer Report

- ~\$23,000 available, of which ~\$17,000 is liquid.

Dive Safety Officer

- Medical/training forms/certifications need to be updated and provided to Larry.

REEF

- Lisa Mitchell – still developing details on the field station program.
- Ana Deloach is still coordinating with REEF on having JRRT fish identification sheets printed on water proof paper.

Website

- No updates.

USS Vandenberg

- On its way to the Keys for deployment as a new artificial reef.

Jacksonville Reef Research Team (JRRT)
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- Deployment is scheduled 20 May – 01 June 2009.
- \$8.6 Million.

Artificial Reef Summit

- FWC intends to have an Artificial Reef Summit this year on the east coast of Florida.

Fish Identification – Refresher

- Daniel conducted a fish ID refresher for the team. 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM.

Next Meetings

- 20 May 2009, 6:30 PM at the Southeast Branch Library.
- Guest speaker – the importance of having diver’s insurance.

JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
MONTHLY MEETING

DATE/TIME

Wednesday, 20 May 2009, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LOCATION

Jacksonville Public Library – Southeast Regional Branch, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32256

ATTENDEES

Sue Wilcox, President	Daniel Hughes
Genny Gunsolus, Vice President	Denise Hughes
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Mason Cooper
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer	Joel Leavitt
Jim Davis, REEF Coordinator	Joe Kistel
Larry Davis, Dive Safety Officer	

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PHIL HARVILLE)

- Earth Day at Native Sun – Mandarin location on San Jose Boulevard
 - Held 18 April 2009.
 - Volunteers: Phil, Mike, Larry, Genny, Joe, and Sue.
- It was suggested JRRT create a book, things for kids, recipes, info on JRRT/training, etc.
 - Little pieces of paper to hand out, with basic JRRT information.
- We have two new JRRT flags from Windy Creation.
- City of Jacksonville Beach Parade – “Opening of the Beaches”
 - Held Sunday, 26 April 2009.
 - <http://www.jacksonvillebeach.org/index.asp?NID=209>
 - Tom Martin let us use his boat. Sue towed the boat with her truck. JRRT members stood on the boat waving and blowing bubbles.
 - Our new team flag blew in the wind.
- Banner – Phil will look into obtaining.
- Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup
 - Held Saturday, 16 May 2009.
 - Volunteers: Phil, Sue, Joe, Mason, and Beth Strawbridge.
 - This was the 3rd event this year.
 - The next one will be ~August 2009.
- New Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) rule.
 - Now have to pay to fish from shore. \$7.50.
- *Atocha* – advertising to dive with them. Treasures cannot be brought up to the surface. Contact Mel Fisher at 305.294.5441.
- *Queen Anne* – University of North Carolina.
 - Dive dates in June-July 2009.
- Great Annual Fish Count
 - 18 July 2009
- International Coastal Cleanup
 - Saturday, 19 September 2009
 - http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc_home
 - JRRT will be the “site captain” for this event at the Little Jetties in Mayport.

**JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
MONTHLY MEETING**

TRAINING

- Expedition – 20 June 2009.
 - Divers needed.
- New training session begins September 2009.

DIVE SAFETY OFFICER (LARRY DAVIS)

- Make sure you have diver insurance.
- Get forms in to Larry.
- Dive 31 May 2009.

GUEST SPEAKER – MIKE MCMANN – THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVE INSURANCE

- Mike relayed his accident at sea on a live aboard and how grateful he was that he had diver insurance with Divers Alert Network (DAN).

REEF COORDINATOR (JIM DAVIS)

- Trip 13-20 June 2009. Aboard the *Sundancer* with Lad Adkins. Dissecting lionfish.
- 15 May 2009 is Endangered Species Day.
- REEF offers ~ 5 trips/year that you can join and volunteer with.
- Obtaining JRRT fish ID sheets on waterproof paper – Jim is still trying to coordinate with Anna DeLoach.
- South Florida Dive HQ moved to Deerfield Beach.

TREASURER (BILL LINDHOLM)

- The unclaimed money from the State of Florida has been received / deposited (~\$1,500).
- As of 30 April 2009, there is ~\$17,000 in checking.

SPIKE (JOE KISTEL)

- Safe Harbor Boys Home had called Joe last Friday indicating the *Spike* would be scrapped. The Boys Home needs the boat off the property, as they need to construct a new building where the tug sits. Joe went to talk to them to convince them to wait.
- The U.S. Coast Guard has agreed to tow the tug out for deployment, at no charge.
- Need to find a crane to get it from land to the water. W.W. Gay was out there 19 May 2009.
- The goal is to get the *Spike* into the water by 27 June 2009.
- JRRT would need to do a pre-deployment survey.
- www.sinkthespike.com

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE – CONSTRUCTION GRANT FROM FWC

- The City was approved for the construction grant applied for March 2008.
- The City is working on getting out a request for proposals for a crane/barge to deploy materials.

NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, 17 June 2009 at 6:30 PM.
- At the Southeast Regional Library.

**JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
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Wednesday, 17 June 2009, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

LOCATION

Jacksonville Public Library – Southeast Regional Branch, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32256

ATTENDEES

Sue Wilcox, President	Joe Kistel
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Dana Morton, City of Jacksonville
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer	Anna DeLoach
Larry Davis, Dive Safety Officer	Gene Langeman
Mike Barnes, Training Coordinator	Scott Schlueter
Mason Cooper	Katina Zaros
Aaron Rouse	

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PHIL HARVILLE)

- Banner – 3 x 5-feet. Would be on vinyl, with a red dive flag as the background.
- John Perkner had asked to keep one of the JRRT flags with his boat. It was agreed that would be fine.
- Adopt-a-Highway
 - 01 August 2009
 - This will be our 4th required quarterly cleanup for the contract year.
- International Coastal Cleanup
 - Saturday, 19 September 2009
 - http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc_home
 - JRRT will be the “site captain” for this event at the Little Jetties in Mayport.
- Florida Sportsman Show – 07-08 November 2009.
 - Based on last year’s experience, occurring in the fall does not seem worthwhile.
 - Perhaps have just a few team members walk around to give JRRT exposure.
- Right Whale Festival
 - December 2009 at the Beaches.
 - Sue will follow up with Elizabeth Carwell on a booth for the JRRT.
- Certificates of Appreciation from the City of Jacksonville
 - St. Johns River Cleanup
 - Let It Shine ’09 – Adopt-A-Highway
 - Sue will scan the certificates so we can post them to the JRRT website.
- JaxSpots book – no recent activity.
- Great Annual Fish Count
 - 8 July 2009
 - Anna volunteered to head the planning committee.
 - Maybe have an end of month party to celebrate.

TREASURER (BILL LINDHOLM)

- \$18,500 in account.

JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
MONTHLY MEETING

- Our last grant proposal (March 2009 application) was \$14,000 – this amount needs to be set aside for the grant work.

DIVE SAFETY OFFICER (LARRY DAVIS)

- Make sure you have dive insurance.
- Get medical forms in to Larry. No forms, no diving.
- Get your equipment serviced.

TRAINING COORDINATOR (MIKE BARNES)

- Expedition – 20 June 2009. (Aaron and Mason)
 - Divers needed.
 - Will be at the Coppedge Tug.
 - Meet at 6:30 am in Mayport.
 - Participants signed up: Aaron, Mason, Bill, Kurt Gunther, Jim Davis, and Mike Barnes.
 - 2 dives (wreck mapping / fish survey / water quality / temperature / visibility)
 - Post-dive – meet at a restaurant in Mayport. All logs will be completed and given to Aaron and Mason.
 - Will present data/report at July 2009 meeting.
- New training session begins September 2009.
 - Applications due August 2009.

REEF BRIEFS (MIKE BARNES)

- Mike handed out the May 2009 edition of Reef Brief.
- It is also posted at www.jaxrrt.org.

LIONFISH (ANNA DELOACH)

- Extensive article in the most recent DAN magazine. Sue passed around her copy.
- Perhaps have Lad Adkins come up and give a talk to the diving/fishing community in northeast Florida.
- Researchers at Florida State University are studying what the lionfish eat – theory that Goliath grouper are eating lionsfish. Perkner and Sue have been providing data to them.

ARTIFICIAL REEF ACTIVITY

- ***Vandenberg***
 - Sunk ~ 6 miles off Key West on 27 May 2009.
 - Video of the sink – <http://www.fla-keys.com/>
 - <http://www.foxnews.com/photoessay/0,4644,7328,00.html>
 - Salvage hunt on ship. You can buy a slate that gives clues of things to find on the ship (40-65’).
- **St. Johns County**
 - St. Johns County is planning to deploy the “temporary” Bridge of Lions material, once it is removed.
- ***M/V Miss Lourdes***
 - Deployed 06 June 2009 off Deerfield Beach.
 - 165-foot-long freighter.

JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
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- History – The Vessel was seized by officials June 2008 in the Miami River, with 389 pounds of cocaine on board.
- ***Spike* (Joe Kistel / Dana Morton)**
 - There have been clean-ups the past few weekends. There is still some clean-up left to do. The JOSFC has done most of the work.
 - JRRT will need to do a pre-deployment survey. Boats will be provided by the JOSFC. JOSFC is available to go out next Tuesday (23 June) or Thursday (25 June).
 - Harm's Ledge area.
 - Money has been budgeted to fix the bottom of the *Spike* (several holes were discovered while cleaning).
 - W.W. Gay will crane the tug into the water.
 - The U.S. Coast Guard has agreed to tow it out (depending on how it floats).
 - The U.S. Navy will use C4 explosives to sink the tug.
 - Using explosives means we have to address marine mammal issues. Dana obtained the marine mammal plan used with the recent sinking of the *Vandenberg*.
 - Hope to get *Spike* in water by 06 July 2009 (but no later than 27 July 2009).
 - Joe showed pictures of the *Spike*, cleaned out. Also showed pics/video of the Coppedge from the dive last weekend.
 - www.sinkthespike.com
- **City of Jacksonville – Construction Grant from FWC (Dana Morton)**
 - The City was approved for the construction grant applied for March 2008.
 - The City is working on getting out a request for proposals for a crane/barge to deploy the materials.
 - Have until 31 August 2009 to deploy the concrete material.
 - The railroad ties, originally identified at the time of the grant application, are no longer available.
 - However, COJ recently discovered materials at one of their facilities (storm water culvert pipes, junction boxes).
 - This material has a higher profile than the railroad ties; thus, a new location in deeper water will need to be identified (including pre-deployment survey).
 - Possibly Floyd's Folly / Ponte Vedra Ground.

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- Wednesday, 15 July 2009, at 6:30 PM.
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Sue Wilcox, President	Mason Cooper
Genny Gunsolus, Vice President	Aaron Rouse
Phil Harville, Public Relations	Dane Shields
Bill Lindholm, Treasurer	Joe Kistel
Larry Davis, Dive Safety Officer	Jose Zouain
Jim Davis, REEF Liaison	Katina Zaros
John Perkner	Janice Price
Daniel Hughes	

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PHIL HARVILLE)

- Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC)
 - Dive Saturday, 18 July 2009. Jim, Phil, Katina, Mike, Larry, and Bill.
 - Depart 7:00 AM from Mayport aboard Native Diver II (Steve Parks and Atlantic Pro Dive).
 - Monday, 27 July 2009 – Anna DeLoach going on fish count aboard Native Diver II.
 - Fish ID training tonight at Scuba Tiger in Orange Park.
 - Saturday, 01 August 2009, 1:00 – 5:00 PM – Survey Roundup Party and Barbeque at Little Talbot Island State Park.
 - There will be raffles and door prizes.
 - A \$5 donation is requested to cover costs.
 - RSVP to jaxrrt.GAFC@gmail.com
 - Each GAFC survey submitted to REEF by a registered participant will count as an entry into raffles for prizes.
- Adopt-a-Highway
 - Due to the GAFC finale/gathering on 01 August, the Adopt-A-Highway clean up is rescheduled to 15 August 2009.
 - This will be our 4th required quarterly cleanup for the contract year.
- International Coastal Cleanup
 - Saturday, 19 September 2009.
 - http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/PageServer?pagename=icc_home
 - JRRT will be the “site captain” for this event at the Little Jetties in Mayport.
- Right Whale Festival
 - Saturday, 05 December 2009, at the Sea Walk Pavilion in Jax Beach, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
 - Sue submitted the application to the Ocean Conservancy for a booth for the JRRT.
 - www.righwhalefestival.org

JACKSONVILLE REEF RESEARCH TEAM (JRRT)
MONTHLY MEETING

TREASURER (BILL LINDHOLM)

- ~\$17,000 in the account.
- Our last grant proposal (March 2009 application) was \$14,000 – this amount needs to be set aside for the grant work.

DIVE SAFETY OFFICER (LARRY DAVIS)

- Make sure you have dive insurance.
- Get medical forms in to Larry. No forms, no diving.
- Get your equipment serviced.

TRAINING

- Training Expedition – Saturday, 20 June 2009 (Aaron Rouse and Mason Cooper)
 - At the Coppedge Tug and culverts.
 - Participants: Aaron, Mason, Bill, Kurt Gunther, Jim, and Mike Barnes.
 - 2 dives (wreck mapping / fish survey / water quality / temperature / visibility)
 - Aaron presented data/report.
- New training session begins September 2009.
 - Applications due August 2009.
- 1st Aid/CPR – 22 July 2009.
- Rescue Diver – 08-09 August 2009.

REEF BRIEFS

- Phil handed out the June 2009 edition of Reef Briefs.
- It is also posted at www.jaxrrt.org.

ARTIFICIAL REEF ACTIVITY

- **St. Johns County**
 - St. Johns County is planning to deploy the “temporary” Bridge of Lions material, once it is removed.
 - As of now, it looks like this could occur this winter.
 - St. Johns County is coordinating with NOAA-NMFS to allow the deployment during right whale calving season.
- **Spike (Joe Kistel)**
 - www.sinkthespike.com
 - *Spike* was moved from land to water today. WW Gay donated the crane services.
 - *Spike* is currently floating at the Bollinger yard at Atlantic Boulevard and the intracoastal.
 - As of now, everything looks good for deploying *Spike* at the sinking location (Harm’s Ledge: 30°N 22.489’ / 80°W 53.692’) on Friday, 17 July 2009.
 - Sue is coordinating boats/divers/spectators. Let Sue know ASAP if you would like to participate.

NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, 19 August 2009, at 6:30 PM.
- At the Southeast Regional Library.