

Friends of Little Beach / Maui SunSeekers

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Cruise News

Many of you know that our Valentine's Cruise was cancelled at the "last minute." On Wed, Feb 8, Captain Al of the Maka Kai called me to say he had just found out that the boat was in the process of being sold. He said he would confirm the news as soon as he found out and that he would lobby for us to be able to go on our cruise as scheduled. He called on Thursday and said the sale was complete and that the new owner would not honor our cruise, in spite of the 50% down payment /deposit we had made. It was acknowledged by the new owners (The Pacific Whale Foundation) that the boat would sit idle for a week or two until they could coordinate schedules with their other boats. This makes the third boat in 6 years that has backed out of FOLB cruises. Unfortunately the word snakebit comes to mind.

As a result of the Valentine's cancellation and the costs most charter companies are charging, we made the decision in Feb to not schedule our annual Nude Rec Week cruise in July. An additional reason is that this cruise draws the fewest cruisers of the three, so financially it is a drag on the others. When we find another boat we will re-assess each cruise before committing to a schedule. Dick Hyers, through a business contact from AZ, has given us the name of a Mauian who arranges charter cruises so



Little Beach Beat

While 2006 has already been a different year (winter arrived in March and summer really isn't here yet) 2006 can truly be called the Year of the Shark for Maui.

Last December (granted it was '05) a swimmer was bitten off Keawakapu Beach and lost a small finger to a shark. On Feb 2, a big shark between Molokini and Maui bumped a kayaker. Fortunately, a snorkel boat was able to get between the shark and the kayak to prevent further problems.

On Feb 25, the body of a free diver was recovered off Makena. The body had several severe shark bites in it. The diver had been declared missing days earlier and the coroner stated that the bites were inflicted after the diver's death. On Feb 28, a local student was bitten in the calf as she waded in 1-2 feet of water on Big Beach. She required overnight hospitalization for treatment. In late April a 4-5 foot shark was seen in the shore break off Little Beach. DNLR and Safety Officials searched the waters for sharks, but none were found. Then on June 7, 2 students snorkeling and spear fishing off Kapalua apparently aggravated a small white-tipped reef shark. The shark then became aggressive toward the snorkelers but soon swam away as the boys used their fish spears to defend themselves. Overall, there have been 12 shark bite incidents since Aug 2000 around Maui.

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we hope to have some good info soon.

As we have indicated in the past, cruise boat costs are going up and I expect this will be the case with the next boat we find. In order to help us plan and make decisions, I'd like feedback on how much you are willing to pay for a cruise. So, for those of you who would go on a cruise with FOLB, please give us some guidance. Are you willing to pay:

Up to \$50 per person?

Up to \$ 75 per person?

Up to \$100 per person?

Over \$100 per person?

Please respond by email, USPS or in person. Also, any suggestions you have are appreciated. ☆

Little Beach Beat *continued*



Unfortunately when there is a biting event, the beaches are closed for a mile in each direction from the point of attack. This precaution is necessary for the safety of all ocean users in the area, but it is also an aggravation to locals and

visitors alike. There was speculation that this years whale migration might have brought more sharks to the area than usual but no conclusions were reached.

Finally, on June 7, a cluster of jellyfish was encountered off Little Beach. Several swimmers were stung and one severely enough that the paramedics were called to treat the individual. ☆



Email Address Update

For those of you who did not get the notice or have forgotten it, our email address is now mauidaves@hawaiiantel.net. Verizon sold their Hawaii land phone system last year so everyone who had a verizon.net address now has a hawaiiantel.net address. ☆

AANR and TNS Update

For all of you who have renewed your AANR membership through FOLB, thank you. However, there are many of you who have already lapsed and may be dropped by AANR unless you renew quickly. AANR does not send out renewal notices to those who have joined/renewed through a club so it becomes the club's responsibility to notify members that dues are due. We do this by email to those who have it and by US Mail Postcard for those without email service. So, when you receive an email from mauidaves@hawaiiantel.net about AANR dues, please do not ignore and delete it as that is the only notice you will receive.



Our AANR members grew to 30 in 2005 which prompted AANR President Pat

Brown to send us an email congratulating us on our success. Now we need to keep it going, so please help by renewing through FOLB.

TNS on the other hand does send renewal notices directly to each member. However, on their form there is an option to renew through a club and we encourage you to do so through FOLB. For each new/renewed member through a club, the club keeps \$5. The club then sends TNS a check for you. So, your TNS dues help both FOLB and TNS.



Mahalo for supporting FOLB. ☆

