



Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2016

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## From the desk of Ann Marie...



Best of the VI  
 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010,  
 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015  
 and 2016!



As we launch our first newsletter to keep our loyal divers up to date with the happenings of Low Key Watersports, the staff and I wanted the our first article to reflect the personal touch that we have in dealing with our clients on a daily basis. Many clients and friends followed the life and times of Mr. Cooper, our beloved mascot. So without much ado -

*We brought our Golden Retriever, Cooper, over to St. John in 2007. He was named after a wonderful trip we had on Cooper Island that year.*

*Housebroken within a day, he was loving, smart and happy. Wherever I went on St. John, Cooper was sure to be close by. Cooper would patiently wait by the cash register at Low Key, surrounded by his toys and a bowl of water, for a tourist to come pet him. Many repeat clients came in year after year for a Cooper pet. He became so popular, and such a figure head at Low Key, that we had a custom hat made in his honor. Of course, hat sales boomed. On weekends, we would take him boating, and when we trained for the beach to beach power swim, we bought Cooper a swim vest so he could swim right along next to us! The only time we were apart was our annual stateside vacations. Shelia and Tim, whom we rented from, took him on numerous hikes. Cooper*

*soon figured out he could go upstairs and say hi to Tim and Shelia and garner additional attention. He spent much time upstairs with Tim and Shelia as well over the years. Cooper marked a nine year timeline in my life which yielding a new marriage, a physical move from Low Key at Wharfside to Low Key at One Bay Street, and the building of our new home in Coral Bay. He was*



*such a staple in our lives. In December of 2014, Cooper exhibited signs of illness. We were blessed to have a client, Dr. Heidi, who has since become a good friend, vacationing down here when Cooper became extremely ill. Our local vet, Dr. Laura, performed abdominal surgery on Cooper, and Dr. Heidi assisted. After a brief recovery period, he relapsed into*

*illness. It was determined to bring him up to Atlanta's School of Veterinary Medicine. No doubt that Cooper also liked the "Bull Dog" mascot which aided in his choice of Vet Schools. It was quickly determined that Cooper was suffering from Cancer. He was given the gold standard of care by the top Veterinarians, and continued his chemo treatment down here with Dr. Laura. He made THREE FIRST CLASS flights from St. Thomas to Atlanta. Well behaved, wearing his EMS red vest, he marched through TSA security like a tenured employee of the airport. Cooper smiled that Golden Lab grin the entire time. He was perfectly well behaved on each flight, lying down at my feet. Cooper ended his battle with cancer this January. His quality of life up to this point was very good. Knocking off items on his bucket list, he went to Pet Smart in Atlanta as well as played in Stone Mountain Park. He flew first class with Delta Airlines garnering a gold set of wings from a pilot and two standard sets up wings from flight attendants. He is missed and loved daily. Cooper's Mom  
 Ann Marie*

## Low Key Watersports celebrates 30 Years!

On April 6th, Low Key Watersports celebrated our 30th anniversary. There are so many things that have changed in the last 30 years including our boats, our location and our dogs, but a few things remain the same such as Ann Marie and Bob's commitment to providing guests with a fantastic diving experience. Check out how we have grown over the years...

- 1986 — Ann Marie and Bob open LKWS in Wharfside Village with little over 300 sq feet of storefront. Initially, we did not have our own boats, but that did not stop us from giving guest a fantastic dive experience and certifying new divers!
- 1987 — LKWS gets our first boat; M/V Low Key.
- 1990 — Our first long-term employee, Janet Simonsen starts.
- 1991 — We expand the store to 550 sq ft.
- 1995 — LKWS staff grows to 6 staff members with both dive staff and office help.
- 1997 — LKWS expands again to 1000 sq ft of retail space and 800 sq ft of training and office space.
- 2000 — We expanded our fleet to 2 boats with the M/V Hey Now.
- 2003 — We began to offer specialty trips such as the Wreck of the Rhone on a regular basis.
- 2011 — LKWS moves to our new location at 1 Bay Street with a staff of 10-11 people.
- Today — LKWS has a staff of 18-20 people, we are diving 7 days a week, we have moved into our new office space and we are continuously looking for new and exciting ways to give our guest a phenomenal dive experience. Come join us!

Freedom  
**TRI-Quest**



The inventory at Savannah's Boutique is always changing...we are constantly getting new items in stock to keep up with the trends and stay ahead of the competition. We only carry the brands that we feel perform the best for our customers such as TUSA, Cressi, Mares and O'Neill

**\*\*Just Arrived\*\***

The M3001 Freedom Tri-Quest Mask

\*Expanded panoramic view through 1-window lens

\*New Design — Patented domed side windows

\*reduced frame structure to reduce blind spots

\*Three-dimensional strap for unprecedented fit

\*Five-position strap angle adjuster for micro-adjustment

Stop in and get yours today \$95!

## What's new at Savannah's Boutique

PADI recently released an article listing 3 things you should not use if you love the ocean...sunscreen was one of them!

*For many people, using sunscreen is a must, especially when they are at the beach or taking a long boat trip. However, most sunscreen products are incredibly harmful to the ocean, especially to coral reefs.*

*The chemicals often used in sunscreen can awaken a dormant virus inside the symbiotic algae that help build coral reefs. The virus causes the algae host to explode, which in turn causes the virus to spread and do even more damage. This results in the coral whitening (bleaching), and it will often die as a result.*

*The solution: When purchasing sunscreen, check the label to make sure the product you choose uses eco-friendly compounds. In particular, avoid the use of oxybenzone, butylparaben, octinoxate and 4-methylbenzylidene camphor, as even in small amounts these can cause a lot of damage to reefs.*

Coral Safe SPF 30 is a biodegradable sunscreen made with green tea, a powerful antioxidant, non-nano particles, and no harsh chemicals. As a biodegradable sunscreen it won't harm the marine life and is reef-safe, perfect for snorkelers and scuba divers! (Size: 8 oz.) \$23.00

Our pocket-size face stick is perfect for no-mess application on the face. Tropical Sands® SPF 30 is a biodegradable sunscreen made with non-nano particles, and no harsh chemicals. As a biodegradable sunscreen it won't harm the marine life and is reef-safe, perfect for snorkelers and scuba divers! (Size: .5 oz.) \$15.00

Tropical Sands® SPF 50 is a biodegradable sunscreen made with green tea, a powerful antioxidant, non-nano particles, and no harsh chemicals. As a biodegradable sunscreen it won't harm the marine life and is reef-safe, perfect for snorkelers and scuba divers! (Size: 5.4 oz.) \$24.00

## Under The Sea

With the water getting warmer(80 degrees Fahrenheit), new life is being seen under the surface. The humpback whales cruised through the waters off the USVIs and BVIs this past February, March and April. Although there were few sightings, the divers could hear them singing underwater.

One group of guests who went out on the Wreck of The Rhone Dive (offered on Thursdays), were able to see a mother and a calf breaching, as she was teaching the baby how to play. This was a special sight to be seen for both crew and guests!

Each day the captain pulls out of the harbor to check the conditions. Dive sites are chosen based on the best ability and least amount of current. With the north swell dying down, we

are now able to dive back on the north side of St John. Congo Cay is one of our dive instructor's favorites; bordering the Caribbean and Atlantic. At this site, we tend to see bigger creatures amongst them rough tail rays hiding in the sand, schools of tarpon eating the bait fish and occasionally a spotted eagle ray flying by. Another fan favorite site along the North Shore is Mingo Cay. This dive site is great for both beginner divers as well as experienced divers. On the shallower part of the reef we see schools of blue tang and Creole wrasse. Due to the vast amounts of seagrass, we are almost guaranteed to see a green sea turtle grazing.

As a PADI 5 star facility, we are always busy training. Since January 1st, we have completed the following training for guest....

\*\*2 Advanced Open Water Students

\*\*15 Junior Open Water Students

\*\*83 Open Water Students

\*\*177 Discover Scuba Divers

\*\*2 Rescue Divers

If you are interested in becoming open water certified or furthering your education in advanced open water, check out our website at [divelowkey.com](http://divelowkey.com) for course descriptions and pricing. We would love to add you to our ranks of certified divers!



Photo Credit Sheila Caballero



Have you liked us?

Check out our Facebook page

and get up to date

information on new products,

fun day trip ideas and the

latest happenings at Low Key

Watersports!



## Cooper Gear

We are launching a new LKWS merchandise portion of our [divelowkey.com](http://divelowkey.com) website.

You may now purchase limited edition Cooper hats and visors as well as St John towels, LKWS hats, tee shirts and rash guards online. These are perfect gifts for dive fans as well as a great way to commemorate your vacation experience.

All items will be shipped in 2-3 business days to arrive to you within 7 business days. We look forward to sending you some gear!

<http://divelowkey.com/shop.php>