



EVENT DECK


OCTOBER 30th, 2025

FOUNDERS 2025

THE INTERNATIONAL SEAKEEPERS SOCIETY



EVENT OVERVIEW



On Thursday, October 30, The International SeaKeepers Society will host its annual Founders Event, an evening to honor Jimmy Buffett and celebrate the love of our oceans. The DISCOVERY Fleet, which has supported programming throughout the year will also be recognized.

WHO

The Board of Directors of
The International SeaKeepers Society

WHAT

2025 Annual Founders Event

HONORING:

Jimmy Buffett

2025 SeaKeeper of the Year

Presentation of the NextGen Award to
Emily Cunningham MBE

Recognition of the 2025 DISCOVERY Fleet

WHEN

Thursday, October 30, 2025


7:00 pm Cocktails | 8:30 pm Dinner

WHERE

Pier Sixty-Six
2301 SE 17 St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

EVENT INFORMATION

Marjurie@SeaKeepers.org
786.924.6209



A photograph of Jimmy Buffett, an older man with a white beard and mustache, smiling and playing a guitar. He is wearing a patterned shirt and a watch. The background is dark with some foliage visible on the right side. The image has a blue and green color overlay.

Jimmy Buffett

2025 SEAKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Jimmy Buffett's legacy is one of music, adventure, and ocean conservation. His songs captured the spirit of coastal living, while his philanthropy supported marine preservation, from coral reefs to manatees. Through his music and advocacy, he left a lasting impact on the seas he loved.

Singer-songwriter, “tropical troubadour” and legend of pop culture, Jimmy Buffett (1946-2023), regaled audiences for over five decades with songs about the faces and places he’d seen during his lifetime journey along the road less traveled. With Hemingway’s eye for detail and Mark Twain’s inclination for mischievous humor, Buffett’s music tells stories of hustlers, beach bums and pirates from all corners of the world. Through it all are woven themes of escapism, wanderlust, human connection and an unbridled curiosity that makes life a journey worth taking.

Buffett was born on Christmas Day 1946 in Pascagoula, Mississippi and raised in the port town of Mobile, Alabama. He was a fourth-generation sailor and fisherman, a pilot, a surfer, and a frequent traveler to remote and exotic places of the world.

Jimmy quickly learned guitar when he saw how a fraternity brother in college with a guitar captured the attention of the girls. He learned basic chords and was on his way. While he still attended classes, he formed his first band and went from busking the streets of New Orleans to playing six nights a week at Bourbon Street clubs.

After graduation, Jimmy headed to Nashville to work for Billboard Magazine and to try his luck as a folk-country singer, releasing his first record, “Down to Earth” in 1970. However, it was a fateful trip to Key West, Florida with Jerry Jeff Walker in 1971 that would give Jimmy the inspiration to merge his musicality, wanderlust and storytelling.

Key West in the ‘70s was not the tourist friendly town it is today – it was the last outpost of smugglers, con men, artists and free spirits who simply couldn’t run any further south in the mainland United States. It was there that the young musician thrown into the midst of this eclectic mix found his true voice as a songwriter – telling stories of the wanderers, the adventurers and the forlorn.

In 1974, his song “Come Monday” from the fourth studio album “Living and Dying in ¾ Time” entered the Billboard charts, eventually peaking at number 30. That year found Jimmy touring solo acoustic and performing at well-known folk venues across the country, from the Troubador in Los Angeles to Club Passim in Cambridge, Mass. Jimmy continued to tour from then on and never stopped.



In 1977 came “Margaritaville,” a laid-back anthem about escapism and life in the tropics, the song spent 22 weeks on the Billboard chart peaking at number 8. It catapulted Jimmy to national fame and nearly a decade later, inspired Jimmy to launch a business empire.

“Margaritaville” has been inducted into the Library of Congress (2023) and the Grammy Hall of Fame (2016) for its cultural and historic significance. Jimmy was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame (2006) and the Mississippi Songwriters Hall of Fame (2020). Posthumously, Jimmy was honored with a star on the Nashville Walk of Fame (2024) and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Class of 2024.

After 32 studio albums (most of which are gold, platinum or multi-platinum), three NY Times #1 Best Sellers, a Broadway play, numerous movie and TV appearances, Grammy nominations, Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association Awards, it was still the music that inspired Jimmy. He was just as likely to pop up and play an impromptu set alone at a Caribbean beach bar as he was to be on stage in front of 50,000 loyal Parrot Heads. And, after logging millions of miles on the road, on the ocean and in the air, distant ports still beckoned and the same unbridled curiosity drove him to keep looking for that next story to share in a song.

Jimmy passed away peacefully on September 1, 2023, surrounded by his family, friends, music and dogs after a four-year battle with Merkel Cell Skin Cancer. He was 76.

At the first anniversary of his passing, the Florida legislature honored Jimmy by renaming the A1A Highway to the Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway. The highway begins in Key West and runs the entire length of Florida’s east coast.

Florida state also named August 30, Jimmy Buffett Day, to be celebrated annually. The day honors not only Jimmy’s life and music, but also his philanthropic legacy and hopes to inspire others to do good in their communities by “turning good vibes into good deeds.” Jimmy started the charity, Singing For Change in 1995, to support grass roots organizations working to create positive social and environmental change. The Parrot Head community also keeps philanthropy at the heart of their functions, raising money for their communities, proudly referring to their events as “Party with a Purpose.”

For its first year, Jimmy Buffett Day, drew thousands to Key West to celebrate, all Margaritaville properties participated in a day of service, Parrot Head clubs and many fans across the country held tribute shows and events throughout Labor Day weekend.

Jimmy Buffett lived his life like a song and is missed beyond measure by so many. His legacy lives on and per his wishes, we will “keep the party going.”

Fins and Bubbles Up Forever.

GOVERNANCE & SUPPORT

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAY WADE, *CHAIRMAN*

PATTY ELKUS, *VICE CHAIR*

JULIAN CHANG, *CHAIRMAN, SEAKEEPERS ASIA*

MARK LUTHER

NORMA TREASE

MICHAEL T. MOORE, *CHAIRMAN EMERITUS*

ADMIRAL CLUB MEMBERS

JIM & NANCY BALDWIN

JAMIE COULTER

RICH* & HELEN DE VOS

CHARLES & DIANE GALLAGHER

JIM & JAN MORAN

JAMES & SUJO OFFIELD

LEE & PENNY ANDERSON

FRED & PHYLLIS BALM

ALBERT GERSTEN

J. MARK GROSVENOR

DON TOMLIN

** Deceased*

2025 DISCOVERY FLEET

The International SeaKeepers Society is grateful for the continued support of our DISCOVERY Fleet members. The DISCOVERY Program has engaged numerous vessels and will recognize them during the Founders 2025 event.

For all the activities and details of the DISCOVERY Fleet in support of Scientist-Led Expeditions, Citizen Science, Educational Outreach and Community Engagement, [click the button below](#).

[2025 DISCOVERY PROGRAM](#)

FOUNDERS

The Founding Members are a legacy group which made a critical investment to launch the activities of the organization.

MICHAEL & SARA ABRAHAM
MOHAMMED AL-BARWANI
NASSER AL-RASHID
THEODORE & GIANNA ANGELOPOULOS
MICHAEL & SHEILA ASHKIN
FRANK & SALLY ATLASS
ANTHONY & LINDA BAKKER
H. DOUG BARNES
RICHARD BEATTIE
MICHAEL & KAREN BLAKE
TIM BLIXSETH
STEVE & TINA BOSTIC
JOHN LANDRUM BRYANT
BRIAN & ANNIE CHANG
JIM CLARK
BRIAN & DENISE COBB
DAVID COPLEY
BRYAN & CHRISTINE CRESSEY
LARRY DE GEORGE JR.
MICHAEL DE GROOTE
ROY & PATRICIA DISNEY
ALEX & RENATE DREYFOOS
RICHARD & JUDI DUCHOSSOIS
ORIN & CHARLENE EDSON
RICK & PATTY ELKUS
BRUCE A. ERIKSON
DONATELLA DE FILIPPO CAMPIONI
ROBERT & MARILYN FISHER
STEVE FORBES
STEPHEN & LORI GAROFALO

RUSS GEORGE
ROBERT GERARD
OWEN GLENN
CHENG LIANG GOH
FRANK & LEE GOLDBERG
MARC & DIANE GOLDMAN
TOM GONZALES
THOMAS HAFFA
DUANE & LOLA HAGADONE
MATTHEW HAGANS
JOHN HARGREAVES
JERRY & MARYANNA HERBST
BILL & KERRY HOLEKAMP
DOUG & ROXANNE HOUGHTON
STANLEY & KAREN HUBBARD
RICHARD HULL
GALE ANNE HURD
JOHN & JUNE KLINDWORTH
SCOTT & MANDY LEONARD
LESLIE J. LOTT
CHRISTINA SORENSON LOTTER
ROBERT & ROXANA LORTON
EDWARD LOZICK
J. DANIEL & ELLE LUGOSCH III
HENRY & KELLY LUKEN
CHRISTINE LYNN
GERALD & LINDA MACKIE
CRAIG & SUSAN MCCAW
RICHARD & LYNETTE MERRILAT
HOWARD & RORY MEYERS

MICHAEL T. MOORE
JOHN & SUSAN MORRISON
NANCY S. MUELLER
LEE & LAURA MUNDER
PETER NICHOLAS
BUD & MARLA PAXSON
CARLOS & MARIANA PERALTA-QUINTERO
JERRY PIKOLYSKY & LEE CLARK
JOHN PORTER
GARY PRIMM
DENISE RICH
JOHN & IRENE ROTH
MARLYENE SEXTON
DAVID & JACQUELINE SIEGEL
BILL SIMON FAMILY
MICHAEL SMURFIT
JOHN & SUE SOBRATO
JIM & CYNTHIA STEBBINS
PHILIP STEPHENSON
ROBERT & CHRISTINE STILLER
HRH PRINCE KHALED BIN SULTAN
JOHN & GEORGENE TOZZI
GARY & STACI TURNER
LEO & KATHRYN VECELLIO
DOUGLAS & LINDA VON ALLMEN
JAY WADE
TED WAITT
HERBERT & NICOLE WERTHEIM
FRANK WLASEK
AMBROUS & ANNIE YOUNG

RECOGNIZING LEADERSHIP

SEAKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Throughout its existence, SeaKeepers has honored and promoted key decision-makers and influencers who have made extraordinary commitments to preserving our planet's oceans. The SeaKeeper of the Year Award is presented annually at our signature event.

2024 GUY HARVEY, PHD
2023 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
2022 NAINOA THOMPSON
2021 VICTOR VESCOVO (USN RET.)
2019 AMOS NACHOUM
2018 MICHAEL J. SAYLOR
2017 WENDY SCHMIDT
2016 ALEXANDER DREYFOOS
2015 FABIEN COUSTEAU
2014 WENDY BENCHLEY
2013 THE SARGASSO SEA ALLIANCE
2012 AGNÈS B
2011 KELLY SLATER
2010 HSH PRINCE ALBERT II

2008 BERNIE MARCUS
2007 TED DANSON
2006 WALTER CRONKITE
2005 ADMIRAL JAMES WATKINS (USN RET.)
2004 BOB TALBOT
2003 WILLIAM K. REILLY
2002 SIR PETER BLAKE (POSTHUMOUSLY)
2001 MIKHAIL GORBACHEV
2000 HRH KHALED BIN SULTAN
1999 CRAIG O. MCCAWE
1998 JAMES CAMERON
1997 DR. SYLVIA EARLE
1996 HSH PRINCE RAINIER III
1996 JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU

SEAKEEPERS OF THE WORLD

In June 2015, the SeaKeepers of the World Program was launched to identify individuals who demonstrate a commitment to ocean research and conservation in their local communities.

2022 RANI BIN AWANG – MALAYSIA
2022 H.E. OLAI ULUDONG – PALAU
2020 DR. ZEEHAN JAAFAR – SINGAPORE
2019 DR. ACHIER CHUNG – MALAYSIA
2018 MICHAEL HENRY – COOK ISLANDS
2018 DR. KARENNE TUN – SINGAPORE
2017 FRANCIS LEE – SINGAPORE
2017 FRANCESCA THYSEN-BORNEMISZA – JAMAICA

2017 JUDIE CLEE – BERMUDA
2017 CHRIS FLOOK – BERMUDA
2017 PHILIPPE MAX ROUJA – BERMUDA
2017 JOHN PAUL SKINNER – BERMUDA
2016 DR. CARRIE MANFRINO – CAYMAN ISLANDS
2016 PROFESSOR CHOU LOKE MING – SINGAPORE
2015 DR. CÉCILE GASPARD – FRENCH POLYNESIA
2015 CASPER VAN DE GEER – KENYA
2015 COMMODORE ESCRICH – CUBA

The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of light blue tropical leaves. Overlaid on this pattern are several large, solid dark blue leaf silhouettes: a Monstera leaf in the top left, a palm frond in the top center, a palm frond in the bottom left, and another Monstera leaf in the bottom right.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ANCHOR YOUR BRAND IN OCEAN CONSERVATION – SPONSOR SEAKEEPERS FOUNDERS 2025 AT FLIBS.

SPONSORSHIPS

DISCOVERY SPONSOR

\$15,000

- Tickets for up to ten (10) guests with VIP seating arrangements.
- Sponsor recognition on digital save-the-dates and invitations sent to over 32,000 contacts over six (6) months.
- Sponsor recognition in all pre- and post-publicity efforts by media partners, with an estimated circulation of over 100,000 subscribers.
- Recognition piece in one (1) issue of SeaKeepers Quarterly newsletter, received by over 32,000 contacts.
- Recognition on the event web page.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Inside (double-page) spread advertisement in the printed event program distributed at the event.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

EDUCATION SPONSOR

\$7,500

- Tickets for up to six (6) guests.
- Inside single-page advertisement in the printed event program.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

SCIENCE SPONSOR

\$5,000

- Tickets for up to four (4) guests.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

UNDERWRITING

INVITATION SPONSOR

\$12,500

- Tickets for up to eight (8) guests.
- Sponsor recognition on digital save-the-dates and invitations sent to over 32,000 contacts.
- Inside single-page advertisement in the printed event program.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition in post-event recap on the SeaKeepers event page.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

CENTERPIECE SPONSOR

\$10,000

- Tickets for up to six (6) guests.
- Sponsor recognition on digital save-the-dates and invitations sent to over 32,000 contacts.
- Inside single-page advertisement in the printed event program.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

AUDIO VISUAL SPONSOR

\$8,500

- Tickets for up to two (2) guests.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR

\$7,500

- Tickets for up to four (4) guests.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

VALET SPONSOR

\$5,000

- Tickets for up to two (2) guests.
- Sponsor recognition on customized valet cards or hangtags placed in each car.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

PHOTOGRAPHY SPONSOR

\$3,500

- Ticket for two (2) guests.
- Recognition on the event website, hyperlinked to the sponsor website.
- Recognition on all event social media platforms.
- Sponsor recognition on digital screens during the cocktail hour.

For a tailored sponsorship package, contact Marjurie@seakeepers.org or call +1 786.924.6209. In-kind sponsorships are also an option.

TICKETS & TABLES

INDIVIDUAL TICKET: \$475 | TABLE OF TEN: \$4,500

INTERNATIONAL TABLE

\$6,500

A unique opportunity with ten prime seats and recognition at Founders, combined with SeaKeepers' promotion at The Monaco Yacht Show. Additional name and/or logo recognition on the following collaterals:

- Villa Monaco Event: An exclusive, invitation-only VIP gathering for approximately 150 guests, with invitations distributed to around 1,000 selected contacts.
- Scientific Roundtable: Exclusive invitation to an expert-led discussion held during the Monaco Yacht Show, shared with ~2,500 contacts in our programming network.
- Monaco Activity Calendar: Advance notice of all SeaKeepers-related events and presence in Monaco, shared with an audience of over 50,000 contacts.

PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENTS

Please provide ad page files and logos in JPEG, PNG, EPS, or PSD format at 300 DPI resolution. Photos should be submitted in Raw, PSD, or JPEG format (highest quality) at 300 DPI.

Advertisement Sizes: Full Page (with bleed): 8.75 x 11.25 | Two Page Spread (with bleed): 17 x 11.25

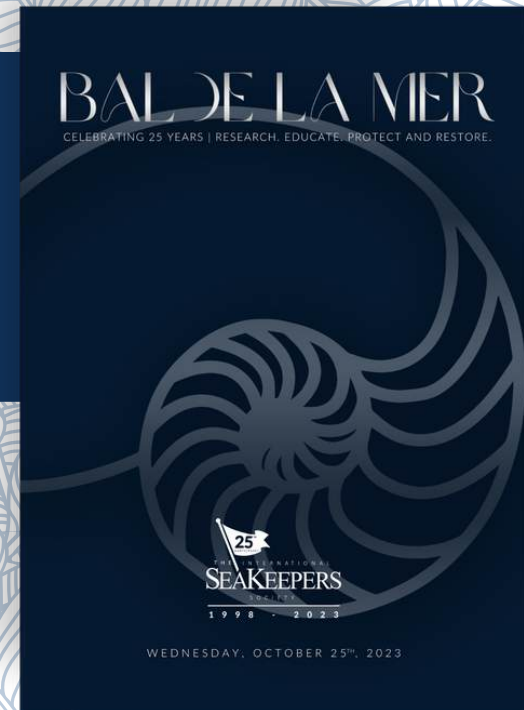
Deadline: Thursday, October 09 , 2025 | Send your ad to Director of Marketing & PR: Ivonne@SeaKeepers.org

ADVERTISING RATES FOR EVENT PROGRAMS

➤ Outside Back (Cover I)	\$2000
➤ Inside Front (Cover I)	\$1500
➤ Inside Back (Cover I)	\$1000
➤ Full Page	\$500

PROGRAM AD OPPORTUNITIES

If you're interested in securing advertising space in our event program book, please contact Ivonne Gamboa, Director of Marketing & PR, at Ivonne@SeaKeepers.org or 786-924-6209.

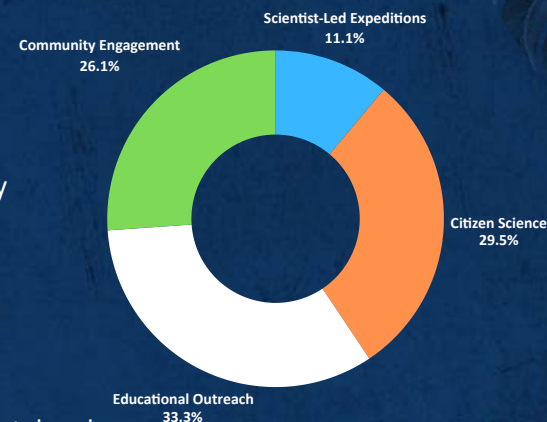


SUPPORT OUR MISSION

SeaKeepers is expanding its reach and engaging with boating communities in regions that have previously had limited access to its initiatives.

SEAKEEPERS' DISCOVERY PROGRAM

In 2024, SeaKeepers completed a total of 261 activities through its DISCOVERY Yacht Program, which is comprised of Scientist-Led Expeditions, Citizen Science initiatives, Educational Outreach, and Community Engagement. With 245 activities completed the prior year, SeaKeepers has seen a 6.53% increase in programmatic activities.



TOTAL CLEANUPS

In total, SeaKeepers has completed 217 cleanups since 2019. In 2024, SeaKeepers completed 37 coastal and underwater dive cleanups.

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

SeaKeepers has engaged 6,984 volunteers since 2019. Of that, in 2024, SeaKeepers welcomed 1,468 volunteers.

TOTAL TRASH COLLECTED

In 2024, SeaKeepers collected 5,400 pounds of marine debris through coastal and underwater dive cleanups in collaboration with multiple Miami-based organizations.

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

The International SeaKeepers Society offers a variety of program opportunities to support at-sea research expeditions, citizen science projects, educational outreach through floating classrooms, and community engagement via coastal cleanups. Each program is designed to engage vessels and researchers in meaningful activities aimed at protecting and understanding marine environments. For more details, scan the QR code.



2024 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The International SeaKeepers Society hosted the 2024 Founders Event during the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show to celebrate the programming that was accomplished throughout the year, the 2024 SeaKeeper of the Year, Dr. Guy Harvey, and the 2024 NextGen Awardee, Dr. Shireen Rahimi. Taking place on Thursday, October 31, at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa, the event attracted a sold-out crowd of over 250 guests from around the world.



Jay Wade (Chairman), Dr. Guy Harvey & Michael T. Moore (Chairman Emeritus)



Dr. Shireen Rahimi (2024 NextGen) & Dr. Guy Harvey (2024 SeaKeeper of the Year)



Trenton Gay, Melissa White, Joscelyn O'Keefe, Sarah Toxward, Maddie Spencer, Cynthia Rasch & Jono Hanley



John Jepson, Wendy Benchley & Beth Bernstein



Michael & John Kelly (Bradford Marine) with Jennifer Johnston Smith (Shadowcat)



Kate & Shireen Rahimi, Shian Vidange, & Jennifer McIntire



Matthew Sawyer & John Jarvie (Oversea Insurance)

2024 EVENT COVERAGE

Major support for the event was provided by RSA Insurance, YachtWorld, Georgia Aquarium, Bradford Marine, and numerous other generous supporters.

Media placements ran across print and digital platforms.



PROMOTIONAL IMPACT (OVER FOUR MONTHS)

- Social media coverage that includes (25+) posts reaching (50,000+) constituents between (5) platforms through direct permanent and temporary posts; distribution to (15+) media partners, and awardee and partner collaborations.
- Distribution of (10) event digital notifications featuring logo placement, hyperlinks, and name recognition that is sent to (35,000+) constituents.
- Pre- and post-event press releases distributed to (15+) media partners with potential exposure to up to (1M+) constituents.
- Name recognition on the SeaKeepers programming video showcased to attending guests and posted on YouTube, achieving (12,000+) channel views and (140+) event views.

SUPPORT FORM

For more information, call 786.924.6209 | or email marjurie@seakeepers.org.

SPONSORSHIPS

- | | |
|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVERY Sponsor | \$15,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Sponsor | \$7,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Science Sponsor | \$5,000 |

UNDERWRITING

- | | | | |
|---|----------|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation Sponsor | \$12,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment Sponsor | \$7,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centerpiece Sponsor | \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Valet Sponsor | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio Visual Sponsor | \$8,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography Sponsor | \$3,500 |

TICKETS

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Table of Ten | \$4,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> International Table | \$6,500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Ticket(s) @ \$475, Total: \$ _____ |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|---------|--|

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Make checks payable to: **International SeaKeepers Society.**

Mailing Address: ATTN Founders Event | 255 Aragon Avenue, Third Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134

By Wire Transfer - BA Routing number for Pacific National Bank: 066-0113-50

Bank Address: 1390 Brickell Avenue, Miami, FL 33131

Account Name: The International SeaKeepers Society Inc. | Account Number: 1427482

Card Type: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ CSV: _____

Signature: _____

The International SeaKeepers Society is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization. Federal ID# 58-2385869.

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