RMP launches Weekly Meetups and Vacation Raffle

Starting in February 2019, RMP launched a series of community meetups open to the public every week. As part of our effort to engage with our community, RMP is holding meetups at Cannibal Cafe in West End every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month and at LALA’s Cafe in West Bay every 1st and 3rd Friday. These meetings are a way for sponsors, community members, divers and tourist alike to take part in preserving Roatan’s delicate ecosystem. We will discuss our programs, upcoming events and recommendations on how to conduct a dive briefing. We highly encourage dive masters from all dive shops to attend.

If you would like to request a meeting in your area please contact us at info@roatanmarinepark.org.

RMP’s 2019 Vacation Getaway Raffle is underway! For just $100, you can purchase a raffle ticket at WWW.ROATANMARINEPARK.ORG/DONATE via PayPal or stopping by the RMP Ecostore.

By purchasing a raffle ticket, you have a one in five chance of winning a one week stay at 5 luxury properties in Roatan. All proceeds go directly toward our marine patrol programs to deter poaching activities and to protect endangered species and the coral reef systems of Roatan. For more information contact us: info@roatanmarinepark.org
Eco Meetings at Splash Inn

Join us for a night of trivia with special guest Tripp Funderburk

Tripp will share his work in coral restoration around Roatan

Celebrating Meso American Reef Day 2019

RMP and other organizations hosted beach clean-ups in commemoration of Meso American Reef Day in communities of Roatán and Jose Santos Guardiola, ending with the 2019 Triathlon Beach Regatta at Sundowners for an evening of friendly competition amongst Roatán’s dive shops!

We teamed up with organizations, businesses and volunteers to support a massive beach cleanup in several locations around Roatán. Organizers included Roatán Volunteers, Roatán Wolves Bikers, BICCU, Fuerza Naval de Honduras, MAR Alliance, BICA, Coral Reef Alliance, Go Blue, zolitur, West End Patronato and more! With a turn out of more than 150 participants, it was inspiring to see the communities showing up to clean the island! Clean-ups took place in communities such as West End, Punta Gorda, Santa Elena, Sandy Bay, Flowers Bay, French Harbour, and Los Fuertes.

The events ended with the Triathlon Beach Regatta at Sundowners thanks to the support from Ty Rothschild and other business sponsors. The winning team had record times in the kayaking, snorkeling and swimming events. All proceeds from the event went directly toward RMP’s education programs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or getting involved in RMP initiatives contact us at education@roatanmarinepark.org

Community Spotlight

Sustainable Livelihood

Since the launch of the Cultural and Touristic Center SATUYE in Punta Gorda, much progress has been made. Since January, our community development program has been hard at work with the communities of Punta Gorda and Santa Elena.

In February, RMP held its first working group conference with partner organizations and institutions to assess the results of the evaluation conducted with the communities of Punta Gorda and Santa Elena. These results were shared with partner groups in an effort to evaluate social and economic opportunities. This community development project, funded by Fondo para el Manejo de Areas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre (FAPVS) aims to invest in sustainability of local economies. Participants included key partners such as BICA, MAR Alliance, Coral Reef Alliance, municipal government representatives from Roatán and Santos Guardiola, Cámara de Comercios e Industrias of Roatan, Honduran Institute of Forest Conservation and others. The results have demonstrated that the communities of Santa Elena and Punta Gorda are dedicated to moving forward by investing in sustainable tourism alternatives to alleviate pressure on our natural resources. Contact our Community Development Coordinator yuri.rivera@roatanmarinepark.org for more information.
RMP Coral Restoration Project

We are pleased to announce the launch of a coral nursery and coral restoration project in West Bay/West End. The “Roatan Marine Park Coral Restoration” project will be funded by the Meso American Reef Fund (MAR-Fund) through its small grant program. In collaboration with Mayan Divers and other RMP sponsors, we have been awarded a grant to initiate a coral restoration project in the West End/West Bay area. The grant will fund the installation of 20 additional coral nursery trees at a selected location. Coral reefs provide habitat for marine life, protect us from storms and provide livelihoods in tourism and fishing. Unfortunately, they have declined due to climate change, pollution, diseases, and other stressors. Staghorn coral (Acropora cervicornis) and Elkhorn coral (Acropora palmata), the building blocks of Caribbean reefs, have become threatened species. Staghorn and Elkhorn are the fastest growing Caribbean corals that provide the three-dimensional framework vital for reef life. To help restore Roatan’s reefs, we will begin growing Staghorn and Elkhorn coral in offshore coral nurseries. The RMP Coral Restoration Program will bring the dive community together to ensure we are following protocols regarding coral collections, genotype naming, coral data management, outplant monitoring and mapping, and information sharing.

We need your help! We are asking for support from the diving community of Roatan to participate. For more information please contact Tripp Funderburk at coralrestoration@roatanmarinepark.org or info@roatanmarinepark.org

Mangrove Reforestation Sandy Bay

We will be celebrating Tree Day in collaboration with Grand Roatan Resort and volunteers by planting mangroves in Sandy Bay

PADI Dive Against Debris

PADI will be hosting a dive against debris event in Roatan to raise awareness of plastic pollution and encourage local community clean-ups

Education & Outreach

During the first months of this year, RMP Education Program hosted environmental lectures across the island in commemoration of World Wetlands Day, Mesoamerican Reef Day, World Wildlife Day and World Water Day. Mangrove clean-ups and replantations were held in the communities of Sandy Bay and El Berrinche. The Back to School the Plastic Challenge is being held at schools across the island to encourage students’ decrease in plastic consumption.

The “Green Schools, Blue Future” program is being implemented at schools to promote sustainable environmental practices in their school environments.

Coral Reef Alliance is funding the RMP East Side “Protect Our Pride” program in the municipality of Jose Santos Guardiola, to support community members in becoming professional divers. Thank you to Chrissie Bowen, PADI, Subway Water Sports, Dive Pangea and Buck Beasley for making this possible!
We appreciate our sponsors who have long supported us financially! The Roatan Travel Network is one of them and this month they are doing their part for local conservation by filming a new promotional video for the Roatan Marine Park. The video shares information about all the conservation work the RMP does and informs island visitors about how they can help assist and support RMP when visiting Roatan. Watch our video on Roatan Travel Network channel 117 in Roatan or online at www.roatantravelnetwork.com or on our website www.roatanmarinepark.org. Support us by sharing our video on social media or adding it to your website!

Updated RMP Video Available Soon!

RMP 2019 Photo Competition

Deadline for photo submissions in the 2019 RMP Photo Competition. Check out our fb page @Roatan Marine Park for more info on guidelines. Winning photos will be featured in our RMP 2020 calendar.

Sponsor Spotlight

As we are a nonprofit organization, our conservation, education and community development efforts rely on our support from our donors, members and business sponsors. Learn more about how to be an individual or business donor or sponsor at www.roatanmarinepark.org/donate. Donations are tax-deductible in the US and Honduras.

“We support Roatan Marine Park because they provide essential oversight of the reef. Our business relies on the health of the coral reefs systems of Roatan. We want to contribute as a local business and organization to invest in the natural resources of this beautiful island we all enjoy!”

- West Bay Divers

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