

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels - One of the Oldest Scuba Clubs in Texas - Established 1958
September 2008

DIVING REBELS - CELEBRATING 50 YEARS in 2008

2008 DIVING REBEL BOARD

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Danny Bouska, Webmaster/Newsletter

TBA, Historian

To contact one of the Club's officers,
please visit our website at:

WWW.DIVINGREBELS.ORG

or send an email with your
question(s) and/or comments to:

info@divingrebels.org



MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday – September 3, 2008

Meeting Time
6:30pm Social - 7:15pm Meeting

What's Inside?

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September Meeting Program

The Annual Chinese Auction is slated as the big attraction for this month's meeting venue! What is a Chinese Auction? Find out on page 2 of this Newsletter!

Upcoming Events Calendar

Sept 3	Monthly Membership Meeting & Chinese Auction
Sept 13-14	Athens Scuba Park
Oct 1	Monthly Membership Meeting
Oct 11-13	Broken Bow
Nov 5	Monthly Membership Meeting
Nov 8	Chili Cook Off – Joe Pool Lake
Dec 3	Monthly Membership Meeting
Dec 6	Christmas Party
Jan TBA	San Marcos River Dive
Feb TBA	Arctic Dive / Wine & Cheese Festival – Lake Murray

President's Report

Divers of the Diving Rebels,

I struggle with my topic this month as my perceptions of our Club have taken a dose of reality. Perhaps diving in conditions where you can't really see what other divers are doing is a good thing. In April I wrote the following paragraph.

"Additionally, I believe we continually challenge and improve our diving skills. From the extremes of swift currents, cold water, and severe summer heat to altitude, depth, almost black water, night dives and tests of navigation, we are versatile and experienced divers. Many of us have obtained advanced certifications during our tenure with the club. So not only do we do the deeds, we can pass the tests that then seem simple to prove our academic grasp of the experience. We learn from others as well as books and have the chance to practice and apply that knowledge."

What I observed on the trip in Utila was not always the diving of seasoned divers with many advanced certifications. Many of us were not aware of body position and affect of our movements on the reef. There was some extreme confidence in our own abilities and limits were definitely pushed. Dive masters were not obeyed on occasion and it was difficult to get divers' attention in some cases. And probably my biggest heartbreak was the rampant disregard for the surrounding environment to get the all important photo. I was grieved by some of the inflicted damage that I witnessed. We must be more conscious of our impact.

We as a Club need to improve. And based on my observations and limited photographic ability, I personally am going to refrain from participation in any photo contests and will take photos carefully and sparingly in my diving future.

In hope of becoming better divers,
Keith



What is the CHINESE AUCTION?

Well it's time for the circus to come to town! By that it means the annual Diving Rebels Chinese Auction. This is not only the biggest Rebels fundraiser but also one of the most entertaining meetings the Rebels have.

The way this works is that we have a live auction for donated gifts. What makes it special is that the items being auctioned are wrapped and unknown to the audience. What is being auctioned might be a dive computer, an old wet suit, spare fins, boxes of Girl scout cookies or just about anything else. After you win an item by high bid, you have the choice of either keeping the item, or forcing a trade for whatever item was won before yours. The kicker is that you have to decide to trade or not to trade before you unwrap your item. The previous bid winner may have won the bid for a dive knife that you want. So you trade off your wrapped item for the dive knife not knowing what you traded away. This means that you at least get the dive knife, but what did you give up for it???? Maybe it is an old smelly wet suit; maybe it is a new dive computer. As trades can only go back to one previous round, the bid winner before you will unwrap whatever you swapped him. He cannot have it taken away nor can he force a swap for any other previously auctioned items.

Your item; whether you swap or not, can be taken from you by the next bid winner. You also must unwrap it and disclose to the group what it is. If all of this does not make sense, don't worry it will be explained again at the meeting.

What we ask you to bring is some item of value wrapped in a nondescript wrapping, newspaper or paper bags are quite acceptable. Think about things you can talk your employer into donating, things you got two of for Christmas. How many people really need two paper shredders, twelve boxes of thin mint cookies or three electric cheese straighteners?

If you want to win a bid bring some \$\$\$\$, as the competition some times becomes quite fierce, and the banter hilarious and the items worth the effort.

Athens Scuba Park Outing September 13-14 2008

<http://www.athensscubapark.com>

Coordinator: Gena Natho

Join the Diving Rebels at Athens Scuba Park where we can be found at Dock #1. Bring your camping gear as there is plenty of area to camp near the dock. For those not desiring to camp, listed below are area hotels that have given special rates for people diving at Athens Scuba Park. Gena will be camping at the park Friday night so look for her at Dock #1 when you arrive. Meals are on your own except for dinner where we will grill out Saturday evening, probably burgers and hot dogs. There is a Group Night dive scheduled for Saturday so bring your lights. A treasure hunt is scheduled for Sunday, the 14th. Entry and camping fees are listed below. Questions or suggestions please email Gena at uwgal40@yahoo.com.

Below is the list of hotels and park hours and fees.

Hotels:

Best Western 1-903-675-9214 direct / 1-800-528-1234
Cost Approx: \$55 plus tax. Hot Breakfast, Internet, cable, restaurant

Super 8 (on 175 as you come into town) 1-903-675-7511 direct / 1-800-800-8000
Cost Approx: Single \$52 / Double \$59 - think this includes tax -
Continental breakfast (plus pour your own waffles)

Spanish Trace: (older hotel and about 2-3 blocks from the park) 900-675-5173 / 800-488-5173
Cost: approx Single \$50 / Double \$60 plus tax

Holiday Inn Express (close to Walmart) 1-903-675-2500 direct / 1-800-HOLIDAY
Cost Approx: \$85 (Can put up to 4 people in a room for this)
(Not sure about any continental breakfast)

Gate - Diver (must have C-card) \$15.00 - Non Diver 15.00
Camping / Night Diving 5.00 - Electricity \$20.00 - Air Fills \$5.00
Cash, Check MC, Visa, Disc & AE accepted

2008 Hours

Summer (May - Oct) Wed - Fri 10 AM - 5 PM and Sat & Sun 8 AM - 6 PM
(Camping & night diving Fri & Sat)



Birthdays

Jill Bouska	Sept 5
Tommy Engle	Sept 17
Jonathan Bowman	Sept 19

Anniversaries

Nick and Paula Boyett	Sept 1
Kevin Campbell/Sherry Hammond	Sept 6
Doug Peterson	Sept 9



Don't forget Diving Rebels Caps and T-Shirts On sale at any monthly meeting!



NAVY & NATURAL



BLACK



NAVY

Merchandise sold to Diving Rebels Members Only

Utila Honduras – Deep Blue Resort Report

Twenty Diving Rebels members and friends from the DFW area and the Houston area departed on August 2nd to experience diving on the island of Utila Honduras. The group arrived on Roatan early Saturday afternoon and checked in for the charter flight to Utila. After a brief delay, the flight to Utila departed and arrived at the small airstrip on the island where we were met by Shirley Fox the resort representative. Now, if you have not flown into a remote Caribbean or any remote island airstrip, it is something you should experience. There are no TSA, there are no luggage handlers, heck there isn't even a terminal, just a covered area to wait; however, a new hangout had just been built near the airport so we had a place to wait as the group was shuttled from the airport to the dock at the Deep Blue Dive Shop. Once at the dive shop, we boarded the dive boat for the 10 minute ride to Deep Blue Resort where we were greeted by the owners, Steve Fox and Jasmine Dale. After completing the typical registration paperwork and receiving our room assignments, we sat down to a meal which everyone devoured in short order.

After dinner, the group retired to their rooms where the luggage had been delivered. We unpacked and prepared for our first day of diving. This was the beginning of a week of being pampered. We placed our dive gear outside our room and did not have to touch it again until it was packed away at the end of the week for our return trip home

Breakfast was served each morning at 7am and the dive boat left around 8:15 to 8:30 for two dives returning in time for lunch around 1pm followed by a third dive that afternoon. Dinner was served each evening at 6pm and the rest of the evening was spent filling out log books, playing pool, cards or listening to Steve Fox talk about whale sharks.

Our second day of diving was cut to only one boat dive. Being cut to one boat dive was not a bad thing because it was cut short so we could snorkel with Whale Sharks! We were about 30 minutes into our first dive when a diver recall was conducted. Whale Sharks had been sighted! Everyone got into the boat as quickly as possible and off we went to find the sharks. Soon we were in the area of the sightings and were briefed on how to enter the water and interact with these magnificent gentle giants. We had a total of four sightings that morning and everyone had the opportunity to get into the water and be face to face with a whale shark. The biggest of the sharks was estimated to be 35 feet in length. It was an awesome experience and our only experience of the trip as the winds kicked up making it impossible to spot the sharks for the remainder of the week. Everyone was grateful for the experience which they had as Jacques Cousteau only had 3 experiences with Whale Sharks his entire life, and we had 4 in one day!

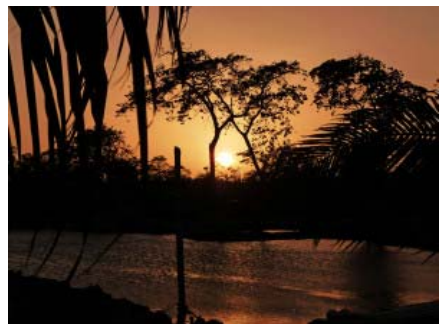
But Utila was not just about Whale Sharks, the diving was great and the Divemasters were excellent. The Divemasters knew where to find the smallest of marine life and THE LARGEST and were very informative with the dive briefings. They were a fun group with which to dive and share our surface intervals. They treated us as if we were the first group to visit during the season with a lot of enthusiasm and friendliness. After our experience on Monday, the rest of the days was spent diving, eating, diving, eating, sleeping and starting all over again the next day. During our dives we saw spotted eagle rays, manta rays, lobster, barracuda, and a wide variety of other reef fish and creatures.

There were many activities in the evening after dinner. On Tuesday evening, Steve Fox provided a presentation on Whale Sharks which was very educational and enjoyed by all. During the week we also had an Underwater and Terrestrial Photo Contest, a Texas Hold'em Card Tournament and a Billiards Tournament, and a Best Dive Story Contest. Jill Bouska won the Underwater Photo Contest and Paula Boyett won the Terrestrial Photo Contest. (photos pg 5) The card shark of the group turned out to be _____ as he won the Texas Hold'em Tournament. A twelve year old, Tyler Tidwell, brand new pool player, went undefeated in the Billiard Tournament, defeating Keith Weber for the championship. The Best Dive Story was a tie between Mark Estill and Kevin Campbell. (Best Dive Story pg 6).

Our week of diving ended after a single boat dive on Friday morning which was actually scheduled to be a two tank dive; however, "Percy The Puffer" had sabotage on his mind! (Percy the Puffer, pg 6) We spent the afternoon exploring Utila City and Saturday, August 9th came too quickly as we all said good-bye to Deep Blue Resort and the island of Utila Honduras and came back to the hustle and bustle of the DFW and Houston areas.

Many thanks to Scuba Toys, We B Divin, and Tiger Shark Scuba for the prizes and discounts they provided for the various contest. Also many thanks to Steve Fox, owner of Deep Blue Resort, for judging our Photo and Dive Story Contest and providing polo type shirts as prizes for the winners.

Pictures from the Diving Rebels Trip to Utila Honduras



Whopper of a Tale! Best Dive Stories from Utila!

There were many good dive stories told on Friday night before our departure from Utila. Mark Estill's story of "Percy the Puffer" and Kevin Campbell's "SS Wedding Ring" tied for the distinction as "Best Dive Story" Here are the stories, but let me preface your reading of the stories with also listen to the audio. The voice reflection of each story teller brings the story to life!

Many thanks to Scuba Toys for the gift certificate which was shared by the co-winners of the Best Dive Story Contest.

Mark Estill – "Percy the Puffer"

Mark's story must be prefaced with a little bit of history leading up to the story. On Friday, our last day of diving on Utila, we were scheduled for a 2 tank morning dive. When the boat Captain started the engines, they would run for a short period of time then shut down. It was discovered that insufficient water was coming thru the intake to cool the engines. The Captain opened the engine compartment and examined the impeller and determined it was the culprit and went into town to acquire a new impeller. After the trip to town and a now a one hour delay of our last dives, the impeller was installed, but much to the dismay of the Captain this did not resolve the issue. What else could be causing insufficient water to cool the engine the Captain pondered. The Captain removed the intake hose and there is where he discovered "Percy the Puffer" had entered and clogged the intake thus causing the issue and delaying our final dive by over two hours. Here is Percy's side of the story as told by Mark Estill:

"My name is Percy. I've been swimming in the seas all my life.

I've experienced divers coming down, these people blowing bubbles out of their face and coming up to me and trying to pull my tail.

I see them coming around trying to take pictures FLASHING in my eyes! Why? I try to figure out why? I don't understand.

All I know is these people are evil! They're very evil!

So last night, I decided to take a rest, in a small hole, in the bottom of a boat.

I tell you Man! It cost me my life, but I took down a group of divers this morning!"

The audio of this story can be heard at:

<http://www.divingrebels.org/photos/displayimage.php?album=54&pos=0>

(Whopper of a Tale continued on page 7)

Kevin Campbell – SS Wedding Ring

"I'm here to tell you about diving the Halliburton. Prior to coming to Utila, I thought this was an oil company headed by the Vice President of the United States, but here I found out it's a wreck. It is no longer called the Halliburton. It is now called the SS Wedding Ring."

"Ok here is the story of my dive on the SS Wedding Ring. Sherry and I are partners we are dive buddies and we go down.....we are also married.....we don't have the same last name. So we do down, we are good buddies, we go down together. I'm watchin her, she's watchin me, I'm watchin her, she's watchin me, then all of a sudden I see this Goliath Grouper...which occupies my full attention. Meanwhile, Sherry determines that her camera is flooded.....so she ascends.....unbeknownst to me! So I think, Sherry, the wreck diver extraordinaire, much more of a wreck diver than I am, has already gone to explore this wreck so I look on the other side where I saw bubbles, I look down in where the cargo hold was because I saw bubbles there. I look all over, I don't see her!"

I see Dan (one of the divemasters), so I go to Dan and I use a signal that I was taught long ago (pointing to the place on the left ring finger where the wedding ring should be) "MY WIFE?" (tapping left ring finger) Where is my wife? He looks at me and (with a shrug and up stretched arms) I don't know either.

I said I'm going up (using thumbs up signal) He goes OK (giving OK hand signal).

So I say I'm going to do one last thing as I look around the wreck, and I see Mark Estill...and I go to him. MY WIFE, WHERE? (pointing to ring finger with a questioning look) He looks all around and goes I don't know either (shrugging shoulders with up stretched arms). I said, I'm going up (gives thumbs up signal).

I go up. I come up on the stern of the boat and I go "Sven" Sven goes "What?" I said "Is my wife aboard?" He goes "Yes" and he taps on his ring finger. I go aboard as I'm down to 1400 psi and can't go back down.

Then we went into town, exchanging tanks, something, I don't know, I got a coca cola.

And someone comes up to me an says "Kevin, this was a catastrophic dive for you and Sherry."

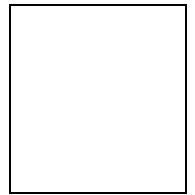
I said "Yeah, I know"

They said "Not only did she lose her camera, you lost your wedding ring!"

The audio of this story can be heard at:

<http://www.divingrebels.org/photos/displayimage.php?album=54&pos=1>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

