

The Rebel Yell

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

November 2009

2009 DIVING REBEL BOARD

Keith Weber, President

Mark Estill, Vice President

Selena Woodward, Treasurer

Ellen Fourton, Secretary

George Bartulevicz, Activities Director

Johnathan Bowman, Sr. Board Member

Mark Stonebridge, Jr. Board Member

Appointed Positions

Danny Bouska, Webmaster/Newsletter

Linda Magnuson, 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 – November 4, 2009

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

What's Inside?

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January Outing Information
Birthdays and Anniversaries,
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November Meeting Program

Mead Sams currently serves as Chief of the Planning Branch, Planning Environmental & Regulatory Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will speak.

See more details on page 4

Upcoming Events Calendar

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|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Nov | 4 | Monthly Membership Meeting |
| Nov | 7-8 | Annual Chili Cook Off – Joe Pool Lake |
| Dec | 2 | Monthly Membership Meeting |
| Dec | 12 | Christmas Party |
| Jan | 1 | Polar Bear Dive – Lake Murray |
| Jan | 6 | Monthly Membership Meeting |
| Feb | 3 | Monthly Membership Meeting |

President's Report

The year in the rear view mirror has seen the Diving Rebels in familiar haunts and also making new tracks. Lots of time was captured in that rear view to and from South Padre, but I think if you ask anyone who went, they will say it was worth the trip. I can't say the same for a trip or two to Lake Murray, flash blacks of February still chill me occasionally. But then again, diving there early in the day during the summer was well worth seeing the Red River fade away as we trekked north into Oklahoma and dipped into the cool water and the casino. Of course the tried and true Tyler State Park from any viewpoint is wonderful. A little zigzag across the lake and one can find a fish hatchery galore. And what would a year be without the under water pumpkin carving in October.

And as much fun as it is to see Ft Worth fade into the rear view, we have had some great social events right here in the metroplex. The Omni Theater and dinners, social hour and dinner at a burger joint were among some of the most heavily attended Diving Rebel gatherings.

There were other changes too. We've ventured into Facebook and continued the commitment to our Meetup launched in 2008. We adapted to results of the survey from December 08 too. The meeting agenda was rearranged in May and 30 minutes taken out of the time line. I believe that has worked well. We were serious about looking for diving locations closer to home with the best available visibility, shorter stays at the least possible cost. The DRIFT point schedule was revised and retroacted for the year. Please see the August newsletter for the details of the program.

We continue to swell in numbers and have added at least 1 new member in the last ten consecutive months. There have been meetings where I wondered if we would all fit. Luckily we have an ebb and flow that seems to balance us out for occupancy in the room. And isn't Mandy the greatest waitress? I just love how she reads my mind and pretty much the rest of the club's too.

We have had a variety of speakers talk to us about subjects such as diving the USA, the state of water in Texas, wrecks in the New York area, the Oriskany and wreck diving teaser and diving Destin and even looking forward to otter studies this month and Bali in December. I don't recall that any of those are repeat subjects. And a couple of them are new speakers in our circuit.

All in all, I would say we've had an interesting and fruitful year. I have certainly enjoyed it, well, maybe not February.

Go my friends and dive the world,
Keith



Do you do the dues or do the dues give you the blues?

With so many new members and some of us forgetful ones, membership dues are payable in January and late as of the beginning of the March meeting. As a relief for the dues blues, we are continuing our 5 year tradition of offering the Early Bird Special of roughly 10% - rounded down to the dollar. The Special runs for the November and December meetings and the fees are as follows:

Individual membership \$22 (retail 25)
 Family (per additional individual) \$13 (retail 15)
 Non-diver \$4 (retail 5)

So family memberships would go something like this,
 Family of 1 is \$22
 Family of 2 is \$35
 Family of 3 is \$48
 Family of 4 is \$61.

So renew early, get a discount and help us plan for membership numbers next year. And if tradition holds, when those membership cards are passed out in early 2010, the back will be worth more than what you paid to get the statement, signature and seal on the front.

Of course if you procrastinate and don't renew before the March meeting, the initiation fee applies and it will cost you \$40 for the individual membership.

Diving Rebels January Outing Polar Bear Dive Jan 1, 2010 Lake Murray, OK

Based on talk at the October outing, there's a slight, well maybe drastic, change in the January outing this year. Normally we are in the warmest water in the region while we dive the San Marcos River. This year we will be at Lake Murray for a little colder dive. We will be having a January 1st Polar Bear Dive – and hopefully a fire. Location has yet to be determined as Marietta is thought to be closed at that time.

The dive will be early afternoon – most likely 1 or 2, depending on majority vote, but betting no one will want an early dive due to potential cooler temps and prior night activity.

Stay tuned for more details.



Birthdays

Nov 9 Johnny Griffin
 Nov 12 Steve Herman

Anniversaries

None Known



Did we miss your special date? If so, it's not in our database. Contact Mark Estill to update your info!

A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in October 2009

Gerald Foster – Arlington
 PADI OW

Say "Hi" to Gerald and give a Rebel
 Welcome to our newest members!

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

Christmas Party December 12, 2009

6300 Arkansas Ln - Richard Simpson Park Building – Lake Arlington

I don't know if you can call it a first when it is a **second annual** event, but our first second annual 12 hour Christmas Party will be this year at our beloved room on Lake Arlington. The party hours are on the 12s – NOON to MIDNIGHT.

In traditional form, we will begin at noon with pizza sponsored by the Club. Soon afterward, most likely about 1:30, Keith, and to the best of my recollection, will be joined by Brittany, Steve H., Mark S., and Marc G., in braving the cold and possible hazardous waters of Lake Arlington. Upon emergence from the water we will get cleaned up as quickly as possible and join the continuing festivities. We are planning some games suitable for inside or out to take us through the afternoon. The fireplace is also anticipated to be working throughout the day so please bring some wood.

Appetizers are expected about 5:30 or 6, with the main meal targeted for 6:30 or 7. We are planning on frying some turkeys and having a ham for the Club meats.

There will be the traditional gift exchange (\$20 - \$25). We will wrap up about 10:30 or 11 with the raffles (that will begin earlier – perhaps with appetizers) and have time to clean up and end at midnight. There will be lots of nice prizes and some that are probably questionable – so it will be a very exciting evening. It will be wise to buy some tickets – Mark S. will be your man to see.

And speaking of tickets, the entrance ticket will be \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. See Selena or Keith to purchase your meal ticket.

Looking forward to another first-second and an exceedingly good time. Bring your favorite holiday music for the meal and dance tunes for afterward.

Merry Christmas Diving Rebels

November Speaker

Mead Sams currently serves as Chief of the Planning Branch, Planning Environmental & Regulatory Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has worked as an economist and urban planner for the Corps for 28 years. In this capacity, he leads a multi-disciplinary team of planners, engineers, landscape architects, and biologists in the development of federal water resource projects designed to achieve a variety of beneficial societal outputs, including those related to flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and hydropower. He holds a Master's Degree in Applied Economic Research from the University of North Texas, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Natural Resource Development from Texas A&M in College Station.

His interests outside of work and academia include sailing, snow skiing, classical music, and without fail, Aggie sports.

Some of you may remember Mead from his talk on the state of water in Texas. The most interesting thing with Mead I recently heard of was his trip to help study the sea otters in the northwest. Come hear about his latest adventure.

Utila Honduras – April 10 -17, 2010

A few spaces remain available for the trip to Utila Honduras, April 10-17 2010. During a four week period from the middle of March to the middle of April is prime Whale Shark season in Utila which brings Whale Shark researchers from all over the world to the island. The resort limits the number of room's available providing space to these researchers. The researchers staying at the resort provide an additional bonus because in the evenings the researchers give talks on Whale Sharks research making this not only a fun filled week, but also a very educational week.

For more information: <http://divingrebels.org/utila.htm> or contact Danny at 817-542-2962

Annual Chili Cook-off, This Year with a Twist November 7 – 8, 2009

Come on out for the hotly contested titles for Best chili and Best presentation. This is a great annual event and Doug Sheppard has done an excellent job filling the shoes of Dave Robinson that I believe may have established the event, but my history does not go back before him. Needless to say it is a wonderful event.

Sites are still to be determined and I swear I am going to remember them for the best ones from the year before, but that is where Doug is the man and get's the prime spots. Cedar Hill State Park is where you'll need to look for us and watch for Diving Rebels signs.

Cook-off rules:

Bring your chili or cook it on site. Judging is bases on these criteria: Taste, Consistency, Aroma, Color & Bite and Presentation - so you can show off your creativity with your cooking area and chili presentation.

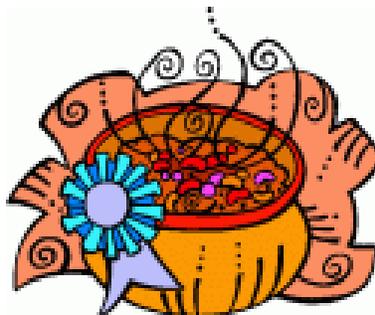
Chili turn in will be approximately 4:00 - 4:30 PM with judging at 5:00.

Cedar Hill State Park is located on F.M 1382, on the right heading south (over the hill and turn right at the bottom of the curve). Out of Arlington take I-20 east exit FM 1382 south. From Dallas take I-20 west Exit FM 1382 south.

Questions and Information: Doug Sheppard 817-881-5499 dougshep@charter.net

And this year there is a twist. For some fun in the afternoon we will have rope tricks and tips by Jonathan Bowman. We'll also have contests for tying knots learned in Advanced Open Water – demonstrations provided and practice hilarity expected. The time frame has yet to be finalized, but just mark your calendars for the day and let's turn out early, bring firewood and plenty of wine (had a shortage for the first time in my history last year as we went deep into the night). Cooking on site is fun and gives plenty of time for the other fun activities.

Stay tuned for more details, but be sure to plan the date. And since the spaces are booked for the night, anyone wishing to camp is welcome to do so.



Diving Rebels at Clear Springs Oct. 24, 2009 Annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving

Man! If you didn't come out for this one, you missed a great day. The morning upon arrival at 8:50 was a bit nippy at 47 degrees but was on a steady climb and warmed into the 70's for an absolutely gorgeous day. We had 12 turn out with 7 Diving Rebels and 5 guests.

The vis on the morning dive was 10 -12 ft and water temp at 41ft was 64 degrees. There were few classes and the vis for the pumpkin carving was probably 8 to 10.

There was a lot of activity, Keith and a guest, Gene, took a tour together, George and Doug and Steve H and Mathew, student guest, went on their separate journeys. There was another round of dives as others arrived. Brittany had a magnificent find of a turtle shell that looked as if the occupant just swam out of it. Some scooters were broken out for some advanced training. Then the time for the highly anticipated pumpkin carving dive arrived.

We had 3 entrants, Brittany taking first with her Turtle Eating Devil-iva, George and Doug's Spike V (or some number) taking second – to their astonishment, and Keith's Butt-face sliding in for 3rd. A group of divers next door were asked to judge on their way to the water. The victory for the newcomer was a unanimous opinion and the legacy of Spike's rein tumbled. Congratulations to all, but most to Brittany who did what few of us Rebels have done.

This year's carving was also special as there was a non-carver, Steve H, buzzing around and appearing over one's shoulder or in the middle of the platform in the blink of an eye. You could hear it and then all of a sudden, there is Steve, smiling and waving at you (really good vis – no kidding).

We loaded up in the late afternoon and bid our farewells. Keith caught the sunset and was the final one out the gate after an exceedingly excellent diving day.



1st Place Winner



DIVING NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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Western Australia to Protect Whales with Marine Park

[<http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/western-australia-to-protect-whales.html>](http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/western-australia-to-protect-whales.html)

The state government of Western Australia is creating a marine park to protect and manage a key nursery of the world's largest humpback whale population. The marine park is to be at Camden Sound, about 400km north of Broome.

Blue Whales drowned out by seismic surveys [<http://tinyurl.com/mbpnlp>](http://tinyurl.com/mbpnlp)

The intense noise produced by seismic surveys affects Blue Whales, making them call much more frequently.

Albatrosses feed with Killer Whales

[<http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/albatrosses-feed-with-killer-whales.html>](http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/albatrosses-feed-with-killer-whales.html)

Scientists have recorded the first observations of how albatrosses feed alongside marine mammals at sea. A miniature digital camera was attached to the backs of four black-browed albatrosses. The still images recorded from the cameras show that albatrosses associate with killer whales in the same way as tropical seabirds often do with tuna. In both cases the prey (usually fish) are directed to the surface and then it's easy hunting for the birds.

Coral Reefs Worth a Fortune

[<http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/d-wac101509.php>](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/d-wac101509.php)

According to economists, a hectare of coral reef generates an average of US \$130,000. They reach this conclusion by adding up such things as tourism, recreation, moderation of extreme events, food, and climate regulation. To divers though, coral reefs are priceless.

Coral bleaching increases chances of coral disease

[<http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/esoa-cbi100109.php>](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/esoa-cbi100109.php)

Mass coral bleaching has devastated coral colonies around the world for almost thirty years. Now scientists have found that bleaching can make corals more susceptible to disease and, in turn, coral disease can exacerbate the negative effects of bleaching. A paper in the October issue of the journal Ecology shows that when they occur together, this combination of afflictions causes greater harm to corals than either does on its own.

Ocean observatories give new marine view

[<http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/nsf-launches-ocean-observatories.html>](http://www.news.scubatravel.co.uk/2009/10/nsf-launches-ocean-observatories.html)

Planned ocean observatories will give people a never-before-seen view of the world's oceans.

Warmer climate not the cause of oxygen deficiency in the Baltic Sea

[<http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/uog-wcn101209.php>](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-10/uog-wcn101209.php)

Oxygen deficiency in the Baltic Sea has never been greater than it is now. But it is not an effect of climate change but rather of increased inputs of nutrients and fertilizers. This is the finding of researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, who have analyzed the ocean climate of the Baltic Sea since the 16th century.

Diving Rebels Dive Club
1213 Mountain Air Trl
Ft. Worth, Texas 76131

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

