

The Rebel Yell

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

April 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 – April 1, 2009

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

What's Inside?

- Pg 2 President's Report
May Meeting Speaker Information
- Pg 3 April Outing – Tyler State Park Information
Birthdays and Anniversaries,
A Welcome to Our New Members,
Diving Rebel Caps and T-shirts,
- Pg 4 San Marcos River Outing Report
- Pg 5 Arctic Dive and Wine & Cheese Contest Report
- Pg 6 Information on participating in Dive Around Texas
- Pg 7 World's Smallest Whale Shark

March Meeting Program

TBA

Upcoming Events Calendar

- Apr 1 Monthly Membership Meeting
- Apr 25-26 Tyler State Park
- May 6 Monthly Membership Meeting
- June 3 Monthly Membership Meeting
- July 1 Monthly Membership Meeting

President's Report

Diving Rebel Members and Friends,

I tend to think of this time as that first 100 days of a Diving Rebel presidential term and like to reflect on the Club's state of the union so to speak. We continue to have a strong, active, and involved Board and membership is stabilizing with some anticipated moderate growth.

At last report, we had 55 members when the dust settled from the renewal process. We have a healthy monthly attendance and outings are as popular as ever compared to the last 8 years that I've been around.

However, we continue to struggle with volunteers for heading up outings – Outing Magnificos are needed. There is a lot of freedom for planning or if you want some help that is available. I would like to see more involvement by members to organize the outings and let me, the Board, and other members play supporting roles. Discussions with my daughter about her desire to be an event planner made me realize how much or how often I and other board members wear that hat. Don't get me wrong, I do get enjoyment from it, but would not mind sharing the details of planning. Have no doubt I will help on the execution of your plan.

As you can tell, I was not the best coordinator for the March outing. So, the standards are not high for being a Magnifico as you look back on the year. February was the art of adaptation by the whole Rebel troop and March suffered as the stepchild in aftermath and because of some personal time conflicts. The point is that it does not have to be perfect, or even all that good, just try. This is one of those tests you can't fail because there is no right answer. It is all an open ended question waiting for you to write it into history.

On a different note, the other thing I would like to convey is my sincere admiration of the way our Club handles itself as a group. In meetings, we are friendly, greet visitors as individuals and the mingling and mixing of members are jovial (MW defined: endowed with or characterized by a hearty, joyous humor or a spirit of good-fellowship – yes, I had to search for a word). At outings, not only are we friendly and jovial, we are responsible and good stewards of nature. I am often impressed at how clean we leave a place compared to other campers and especially other large groups. So keep it up Rebels, you are awesome.

Pleased to be Your President,
Keith

May Membership Meeting Speaker David Prichard - Diving the USA

While most divers would love to travel to tropical international destinations for dive vacations, the economic recession has caused many divers to rethink their travel plans and consider less expensive alternatives closer to home. In his presentation "Diving the USA," David Prichard will cover all of the major US diving destinations in not only the continental United States but most of its territories around the world. David, and his wife Lily Mak, are contributing editors to Dive Training and Wreck Diving magazines and published in other dive/travel magazines as well. They have traveled to many of the destinations covered in the presentation when they are not teaching scuba diving. David also invented the Vari-Fit Snorkel Keeper which is sold at many area dive centers and at his website at www.enchantedsea.com.

I saw Mr. Prichard's presentation at the Scubadillo meeting in February and felt it was well put together and quite informative. I thought it was timely and Dave was gracious to accept my request for speaking at our meeting on May 6th. So let's pack the house and find out about some of our old haunts with a fresh perspective while keeping an eye for some new possibilities.

April Outing – April 24 -26, 2009 Tyler State Park

It will be a great weekend to get out and enjoy the spring weather and do some early spring diving among the beautiful tall pines of east Texas, Activities: Diving of course, camping, boating (motors allowed - 5mph speed limit) boat rentals – canoes & paddle boats, fishing, bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, lake swimming, nature study, and hanging out with other Diving Rebels. We'll try to have more information on that at the April meeting. Check out the Tyler State Park website for a host of other activities available in the area <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/tyler/>.

The club has campsites reserved in the Lakeview area. There is water, electricity and restrooms with showers. Entrance fee to the park is; \$3 per person, per day. Do not pay for camping. The club has reserved camp sites. The cost of camping sites and meal share will be divided among those participating. There will be a Saturday lunch, Saturday Dinner, Sunday breakfast. Bring your own snacks and your favorite beverages. Camp fires are allowed in designated fire pits. If you are able - bring firewood for a group campfire in one of the fire pits.

Directions:

Tyler State Park is 100 miles east of Dallas on Interstate 20 and 2 miles north of I20 on FM 14 north of Tyler on Park Rd. 16.

There will be a sign up sheet at the April meeting as we will need a good headcount for meals and camp site capacity. If you are not at the April meeting or for further information call or email me.

Contact: Keith Weber at 817-581-9010
Email: president@divingrebels.org



Birthdays



April 4 Elizabeth Neuman
April 7 Michele Estill
April 17 Kirk Tidwell
April 23 Linda Magnuson
April 26 Kelly Barentine

Anniversaries

April 4 Selena and Steve Woodward



A Rebel Welcome to New Members
Joining in
March 2009

Heather Thompson
NAUI Master Diver
Arlington

Say “Hi” to Heather and give a
Rebel Welcome to our newest
member!

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



Aquatic Blue



NAVY & NATURAL



BLACK



NAVY

Merchandise sold to Diving Rebels Members Only

The Diving Rebels at the San Marcos River

January 31, 2009

Provided by Keith Weber

The weather was beautiful and traffic was light on I-35 for the drive down Saturday morning. We all arrived pretty close to the 1pm target. The "we" included Mark and Michelle Estill, Kim, Alex and Zach Alloy, Mike Moody, Steve Ogden, Doug Sheppard, George Bartulevicz and Keith Weber. The group entered the river about 2pm. It seemed a little low and as time went on, found that the rivers course had changed in a couple of spots.

There wasn't quite the usual crawl on the elbows, but it still took some hand power to move along. The adventure this year was seeing neon green George walking around in about calf deep water. He had lost his weight pouch. Doug found it.

No real surprise that without Tommy Engle there, Oggie came away with the most trash (prize valued at \$15) and even was so disciplined that his plastic was in a different bag and took the most for plastics earning another \$10 for the effort. Mark Estill's antique looking tractor seat took the prize for the most unusual and he walked with a less than antique 10 spot.

We gathered a few hours later and ended with a nice dinner at Palmer's. It was another good January diving weekend. We all look forward to next year.



Diving Rebel 2009 Wine and Cheese Frigidaire

Provided by Keith Weber

Well, for those of you who were there, congratulations are in order. I think you are some of the bravest and possibly the craziest people I know. Those who were not there may be the smarter.

The outing was an orchestration of member talents and materials. It all began with the printing of tickets and sales. Steve Sadler smoked the meats and there almost wasn't room for anything else in my Explorer. Board members handled the side dishes and fixin's. The burn ban was lifted then ultimately extended through our outing. The temperature was cold and the wind ferocious. Jimmy Atkinson called me up and said, hey why don't we rent some propane heaters. We agreed that was a good idea, so he hauled them up instead of his trailer full of wood. Then upon arrival, our usual spot afforded no real wind protection so Steve and Ellen reconnoitered the shelter up by the restrooms. That looked promising so it was time to pack up and move.

Rebels, Dilloos and visitors pooled all the tarps and ropes we could gather and several, including Jim M, the tarp man, rigged up an extension of the wall to the roof and secured the doors so we had the warmest place in the park other than the only other building. Our abode looked like an octopus with electrical extension cords running to 3 locations for sources and cords inside to support the food heating exercise. Serving was a few minutes past target time, but no one complained with a full mouth. We don't have an accurate count, but I estimate we had 35 – 40 present out of the 70 tickets sold.

Only the hearty stayed for the raffle and wine and cheese contest. Both of which seemed to go relatively quickly. Special thanks to Scuba Toys and Surface Interval for their donations that made our raffle possible. And I have to apologize that I did not get the winners' names, but can tell you Jim Simpson's 1978 red won "Worst" beating my 1998 white. Unfortunately, I think my "good" one was not much further up the list. Congratulations to the "Best" winners, whoever you may be – I'll publish next month if someone lets me know who they were.

And believe it or not, there were 2 divers, Scubadilloos of course. I tried to remember their names long enough to write down, but the memory failed. I think they were Bill and Glen. Bill was dry suit and Glen was wet suit. They must be friends of ice diver John.

We broke up at about 10pm, a record I think for early. Sunday a crew took down the tarps and wrestled the knots that some had tied. Perhaps there is a need for a refresher knot tying exercise for those of us that haven't had AOW in a while - more to come on that later in the year.

Another one for the record, I can say I am glad this one is over for this year. To put it mildly, it was not one of the most fun times at Murray.

Dive Around Texas

What is it?

- Challenge to Texas divers to get out and explore some of the great diving that Texas has to offer.
- Texas is blessed with over 30 different incredible dive spots including rivers, quarries, lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico.
- It is about divers going diving in Texas and receiving the chance to win prizes and awards based on the number of verified dives you have in your Logbook.
- The more times you dive in Texas, the better your chance to win valuable prizes and trips.

When Can I Sign Up?

- NOW
- Any certified diver is invited to sign up.
- Sign up is as simple as stopping by a participating dive retailer.
- For a \$25.00 registration fee you will receive an Event T shirt and one ticket to the lunch at the Awards Recognition Day in San Marcos

What Are the Rules?

- The rules are simple.
- Get with your dive buddies and dive a minimum of 12 times in at least 4 different dive locations in Texas.
- See the Texas Parks and Wildlife brochure: 'Scuba Diving in Texas' for ideas on where to go.
- **Or even BETTER, participate in the Diving Rebels Scuba Club Outings to get the needed dives!**
- After each dive around Texas, stop by your participating dive retailer and have them verify your dive in your personal logbook with the special 'Dive Around Texas' stamp.
- Continue to dive in Texas as often as you like, the more times you dive the more 'stickers' you receive for a chance to win Prizes and Trips at the Awards Recognition Day.

What Prizes Can I Win?

These are just a few of the prizes listed on the website to be awarded:

- Dive Trip Vacation To Be Announced
- Waterproof Dive Suit valued at \$325.00
- DUI ActionWear Professional Insulation undergarments valued at \$330.00
- Bonica Snapper-XP Digital Camera & Snapper Skin valued at \$349.00
- Cressi USA Ellipse Steel/AC10 Regulator valued at \$424.00
- Zeagle Flathead XP Regulator valued at \$540.00
- Sealife Reef Master digital camera valued at \$549.00
- Oceanic VEO 250 Console-Dive Computer valued at \$560.00
- Genesis React Pro Console valued at \$560.00
- ScubaPro Mark 25/S 600 Regulator valued at \$678.00
- Suunto Cobra 3 Computer valued at \$850.00

When and Where is the Awards Recognition Day?

- Aquarena Springs Center, San Marcos, TX
- September 26th

Where Can I Register?

Shops which support the club that are participating:

- We Be Divin North Richland Hills
- Arlington Scuba Arlington
- Scuba Toys.....Carrollton

New shops are continually added, so check the site for a current list.

Where Can I Get More Information?

At the SCUBA Shops listed above or at: <http://www.divearoundtexas.com/>



Smallest Whale Shark Discovered -- On a Leash

The picture is that of a local whale shark "interaction officer" in the Philippines cradling what is likely the smallest known wild example of the world's biggest fish. For those of you who joined us in Utila in August of 2008, you saw whale sharks at their mature size. These pictures were provided by Steve Fox of Deep Blue Resort, our host last summer, who personally knows the "interaction officer".



The discovery of the baby whale shark could help protect these rare giants by shedding light on where whale sharks are born.

Early on March 7 a project leader from the international conservation organization WWF and others in the town of Donsol heard that a live whale shark was being offered for sale at a nearby beach. Expecting a stranded giant, the rescuers found instead a 15-inch shark leashed to a stake in the mud like a neglected puppy.

By the end of the day, after photos and measurements had been taken, the young whale shark was free again, released into deeper waters.

Harmless to humans, whale sharks feed mainly on plankton and can grow to at least 40 feet long. They are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, meaning they "face a high risk of extinction in the medium-term future."

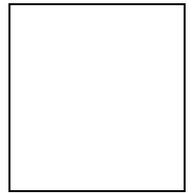
One key to safeguarding the species is finding their birthing grounds, which remain a mystery, said marine conservationist Brad Norman, a National Geographic Society emerging explorer, who had trained local WWF volunteers and staff in cataloging whale sharks.

"The find is very exciting," Norman said, as it suggests the Donsol area may be such a place.

And because the shark's photos and profile are now in Norman's ECOCEAN Whale Shark Photo-Identification Library, he looks forward future to sightings and study of the newly named P-219 for as long as it may live—perhaps another 60 or 100 years.

Thanks to National Geographic for additional information

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

