

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels - One of the Oldest Scuba Clubs in Texas - Established 1958
September 2010

2010 DIVING REBEL BOARD

Keith Weber,	President
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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



We are on the web in multiple locations:
Click on an image to go to the site!

Mobile Users



MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday – September 1, 2010

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

What's Inside?

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Did you know.....
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Birthdays and Anniversaries,
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September Meeting Program

Annual Chinese Auction
See page 4 for more information

Upcoming Events Calendar

Sept	1	Monthly Membership Meeting & Chinese Auction
Sept	4-6	Lake Ouachita – Arkansas
Sept	25-26	Lake Travis
Oct	6	Monthly Membership Meeting
Oct	23-24	Blue Lagoon – UW Pumpkin Carving & More!
Nov	3	Monthly Membership Meeting – Officer Elections
Nov	13	Annual Chili Cook-Off – Joe Pool Lake
Dec	1	Monthly Membership Meeting
Dec	11	Christmas Party

President's Report

Hello all,

The months are sure clipping by. It is back to school for some and a thank goodness the crowds are gone for others. There is still plenty of good camping and diving to be had for all.

We have a full calendar remaining for the year and already have anticipation for the annual events that begin a new year. Check out the "What to Expect" column for the briefs.

And for those that need access to the member's only area of our website, please sign up through the Forum. Instead of having one set of login information for the entire Club, Danny has secured it so each of us can have individual login ids and passwords. It is a good security enhancement that just takes a member to sign up and be validated.

This is the month for the Chinese Auction and I am excited. There's been a lot of talk and it almost feels like a Christmas atmosphere. So bring something someone else might be able to use and in turn bid on things to take home with you.

And don't forget, Board nominations are next month. Have a position you're wanting or willing to fill, please let me know.

All aboard for diving,
Keith



SHARKS Sighted!

A group of 17 Diving Rebels took the trek to Fort Worth on August 14 to take part in the Fort Worth Museum's Omni showing of the IMAX movie *Sharks* - an astonishing up-close, giant-screen encounter with a multitude of shark species, including the Great White, Hammerhead, and Whale shark. Most of us never want to be that close to most of these creatures, so it was a great way to live vicariously.

Unfortunately, some weren't able to participate in the show, as the movie quickly sold out before they arrived. However, most all stayed around the museum and we reconvened for a great authentic meal from old Mexico at Benito's on Montgomery St. The cervezas and queso flameado, along with many entrees made us all feel like we were on a diving trip to Cozumel.



What to Expect at Upcoming Events/Outings!

September 1

Chinese Auction: This is the biggest Rebels fundraiser. Expect this to be one of the most entertaining monthly meetings of the year. Make plans to attend. For more info on what a Chinese Auction is, see page 4.

September 4-6

Lake Ouachita: Keith is coordinating this outing and you can expect lots of diving with good visibility. Average depth is 50' with deepest being 200'. Currently surface water temps are in the mid to upper 80's with a thermocline at 16-25' dropping temps to around 70 and getting progressively cooler with depth. There is more information on page 4.

September 25-26

Lake Travis: Danny Bouska is coordinating this outing. We will be at Windy Point Park and will be doing shore dives and if there is enough interest, a 4 hour/ 2 tank boat dive to hard to get places on Lake Travis. Expect water temperature to be similar to current temps at 86 at the surface, 80 at 35' and 68 at 60' with visibility averaging 10-15' at Windy Point; 5-10' at Wreck Alley and 20'+ at Starnes island. There is more information on page 5.

October 23-24

The Blue Lagoon: Danny Bouska is coordinating this outing. Expect a lot of fun at this outing as the main event for this outing will be an Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest. Other events being planned may include a Navigation Contest, Underwater Egg Race, Underwater Torpedo Toss, and an Underwater Golf Ball Search. Watch for more information in your email, the website, and upcoming Newsletters!

November 12

Our Annual Chili Cook-Off will have your taste buds watering as you taste the wide array of chili cooked by the club members. This event is held locally at Joe Pool Lake and will be coordinated by Doug Sheppard.

Gulf Oil Spill Concern

Coral populations in the Gulf of Mexico could fall because of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster – from contact not with oil but with the dispersant that's supposed to get rid of it.

Laboratory tests suggest that Corexit 9500A, the dispersant used by BP to tackle the largest offshore oil spill in US history, stops coral larvae latching onto the surfaces where they usually mature.

[Click here to read more!](#)



Birthdays

Sept	5	Jill Bouska
Sept	15	Etsen Barentine
Sept	18	Brittany Meagher
Sept	19	Johnathan Bowman

Anniversaries

Sept	1	Nick & Paula Boyett
Sept	6	Sherry Hammond & Kevin Campbell



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



On August 24, 2010 Lance O. was flying reconnaissance in his helicopter off Sunset Beach. He was 500 – 1,000 yards from the beach in front of Gladstone's Restaurant. He observed a very large White Shark, estimated at 18 feet or more, near the surface.

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



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 monthly meetings.

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, may be taken from you by the next winning bidder. You also must unwrap and disclose your item to the group. 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 sometimes becomes quite fierce, and the banter hilarious and the items worth the effort.



Divers' Alert – read all about it - Lake Ouachita for Labor Day, Sep 4 – 6, 2010

There has been considerable interest in a trip to Lake Ouachita in Arkansas. I believe it will be too late to reserve a barge so a great deal depends on level of interest. I will be looking for a \$20 non-refundable deposit prior to the September meeting. If there are enough divers, at least 4, I will take my boat. The deposit will offset about ½ the fuel costs of dragging it up there with 4 divers which is what my boat can handle in a run. If more than that, obviously our travel costs go down while ferry run fuel for divers will increase.

We will need meal coordinators. I will handle Saturday evening and then we will anticipate meals for Saturday lunch, Sunday all 3 meals and Monday breakfast.

The pick up and rendezvous point is Brady Mountain Marina. [directions below]. We usually camp on an island. The first pick up will be approximately 11pm and departing for the island at 11:30pm Friday evening. The pick up on Saturday if needed will be at 1pm departing at 2:00. Depending on how many and the cargo involved, this may be on the way to a dive, or back to the island to unload gear. Afternoon dives begin at 3 and will finish about 6. If there are any stragglers we can make a pick up on the way back. Saturday night dives will be at the cove or island. Sunday diving begins at 9:30am until about noon and afternoon dives begin about 2:30 – 5. Night dives will begin after dinner at approximately 9pm. Monday will consist of a first trip at 9am to the drop off, and then depends a lot on population as to what we can do later. I tried to allow good surface intervals because some of these dive profiles can be 80 to 100 feet.

To get to Brady Mountain Marina Take I-30 to HWY 70 to Hot Springs. Out of Hot Springs take 270 west until you see the sign on the right and turn there (Brady Mountain Rd). This should be about ½ mile past FM1272 and Royal, AR. Their phone number is 501-767-3422. The map can be found at [http://mappoint.msn.com/\(jziiui450ozzva555ekul5zw\)/map.aspx](http://mappoint.msn.com/(jziiui450ozzva555ekul5zw)/map.aspx)

We have a little time to finalize plans, but it is key that we have a decent number count to plan for boat loads. There will be a sign up sheet (u sign u pay) or please let me know at actionfigurekeith@hotmail.com or home phone 817-581-9010 asap.

Keith

Lake Travis Windy Point – September 25 and 26

Coordinator: Danny Bouska

The Diving Rebels haven't been to Lake Travis in several years. The lake level has been down making it difficult to reach the water. Rains this spring and summer have lake levels back to normal, so it's time to get wet at Lake Travis!

We will be at [Windy Point Park](#) which is located on Comanche Trail Drive, 2 miles below the Oasis Restaurant. Windy Point Park offers large shade trees on a natural grass lawn, which overlooks the wide open waterfront on Lake Travis. Windy Point Park has picnic tables, camping areas with fire pits, courtesy carts to move your gear, courtesy air to inflate rafts and mats, clean restrooms, changing facilities, rinse-off showers, concession area, free wireless internet access, stairs for easy access to lake, protected swim & dive areas, on-site SCUBA air fills and boat launch access. The tent camping is primitive, but the groomed lawn and abundant shade trees help to make it feel civilized.



The current plan is shore diving along with a charter dive with [Lake Travis Scuba](#) who provides transportation to a variety of dive sites on Lake Travis aboard THE GIANT STRIDE, a 30-foot Pontoon Boat customized for scuba diving. The boat has many special features and amenity updates to make your excursion comfortable, safe, and enjoyable. The boat has 8 Diver Stations with two tank holders and equipment storage, a dry storage area, canvas enclosure for sun shade or warmth in cooler weather and a large heavy-duty ladder for easy exit from the water. You will need to provide your own gear and tanks, weights, if needed, are provided. It is recommended each diver carry a line reel, surface marker buoy. Lights are highly recommended.

The cost of the 4 hour/two tank dive is \$40 per person. A shuttle will pick us up at Windy Point Park and take us around the corner to the public boat ramp where we will board the boat. A signup sheet will be available at the meeting on September 1st and a \$20 non refundable deposit will reserve your space on the boat. The first dive is scheduled from 8:30am to 12:30pm and if we have more than 8 people we can do a second boat dive from 1pm to 5pm.

For those not participating in the boat charter or for diving before or after the charter, Windy Point Park is one of the top diving "hot spots" in the Central Texas area. There is a wealth of items to find, explore, and seek out in Lake Travis. Divers will find boat wrecks and unique metal sculptures of a scuba diver, a sea turtle, a shark and a manatee along with other interesting objects. There are training platforms, a jet ski, some small boats, a larger sailboat, a Pinto, and more! An underwater map can be seen at: www.windypointpark.com/uwmap.asp

The entrance fees to Windy Park are:

- Day Use: 8AM to 10PM, Weekends: \$15.00
- Camping: 6PM to 10AM, \$10.00
- Air Fills: \$8.00 Boat Launch: \$10.00
- Weekend Admission after 3PM: \$8.00
- Weekend Special: 2 nights + 2 days (Fri Night - Sunday) \$45.00



Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast will be meal shares. Meal coordinators are needed.

How to get there: From the DFW Metroplex, take I35 South toward Austin. Though you can take RR 620 off I35 at exit 252 B-A, it is recommended you continue south and take Toll Road 45 West (Exit 250B). Toll Rd 45 West ends onto RR620 just past Hiway 183 and you will miss a lot of lights and traffic. I have been told there is one toll booth. Once on RR 620, continue west to Comanche Trail and turn right. Comanche Trail should be the first major road to the right after crossing RR 2222. If you get to the dam, you've gone too far. Follow Comanche Trail past Hippy Hollow and just past Bob Wentz Park is Windy Point. Please watch the website as I will post maps to Windy Point in the near future.

Area hotels and bed and breakfast include:

[Holiday Inn Express](#), 12703 Ranch Road 620, (RR 620 & 183) 512-249-8166

[Extended Stay America](#), 13858 N. US Hwy. 183 (512) 258-3365

[The Tram House](#), located at Windy Point, check their website for more information

[La Villa Vista Bed & Breakfast Resort](#), 6701 Oasis Pass, approximately 2 miles from Windy Point, 512-266-6000

Jill, Cory and I plan to arrive on Friday evening. If someone can go earlier and secure a great campsite, please let me know. If you have questions or can go early on the 24th, I can be reached at 817-542-2962 or dannyb@divingrebels.org

August 21-22 - Canyon Lake Outing Report

Submitted by Johnny Griffin

August 20, 2010 started as a day I doubt I will ever forget. I awoke at 5 am to find my Company Truck had been stolen from the front of my house. Not a good way to start the day. I had been looking forward to this trip all week, I had heard very nice things about this lake. But I was now really thinking about not going. The weather was forecast to be 100 plus and we were camping. I asked Connie what she wanted to do and bless her heart she said what ever you want to do I am ok with.

Having something stolen from you is such a helpless feeling of being violated. I knew I had to change my attitude. Diving has a very theraputic affect on me. It is the one place that I can truly escape, so here we go. We left town about 3pm and to our surprise the traffic was great. We didn't have to slow down anywhere. We made it to our camping area about 7:30 pm. When we arrived we were surprised and very happy to find the wind to be blowing about 20mph across the lake. This made it feel like it was about 20 degrees cooler than it was in towm. Tina was already here and had her camp completely set up by herself. After Connie and I set up our camp we went for a swim with Tina to cool off. Keith made it in at 9:50, 10 minutes before the gate is closed. We helped him set up camp went for another swim and called it a night.

The next morning Keith, Tina and I went for a 50 something minute dive to about 55 ft. The visibilty all weekend was about 5 – 10 feet with it being a little clearer below the thermocline at about 30 feet. The water temp was 83 degrees at the surface, 74 degrees at about 30 feet, and cold at 55.

After the dive we had a nice breakfast. Keith and I then went to San Marcos for tank re-fills. On the way we passed through a place called the Devils Backbone. This is a beautiful Canyon we had not seen before. Actually this part of Texas is pretty where ever you look. After we got back we did another 50 something minute dive. We saw lots of fish some of them quite aggressive. Tina was bitten on both of her ears, Keith had his wetsuit covered elbow attacked and I was bitten as well. I think this time Tina got the worst of it. When we came out of the water we were greeted by Danny, Jill, and Cory. They had planned on being there earlier, but got stuck in traffic.

We all went back to camp and started dinner. Keith cooked fried catfish and hushpuppies he also had some home grown tomatoes and zuchinni from his Dad's garden. Connie made a rice dish and we all feasted. We had quite a bit left over and gave it to our neighbors. After dinner we all sat around talked diving and other things until Danny, Jill, and Cory had to leave.

The next morning we awoke early and went straight in the water Keith and Tina managed to get a 93 minute dive out of a 80 cu.ft. tank I was impressed as I have a 130 cu.ft. tank and I was down to 800 psi. On this dive we saw a huge catfish in a truck tire at about 32 feet. We also saw a big carp. On this dive Tina wore a hood to protect her from the mean fish I guess it worked because they attacked my ears instead of hers. After the dive we had another great breakfast of bacon, eggs, and Tina made french toast that was truely some of the best I have ever had. I guess food always tastes better outside.

This was the first outing Tina has been on with us. I was, and I think Keith was as well impressed with her skills. For some one who has only been diving since March she was very accomplished and knowlegable to say the least. Overall we had a great time, after all I had been through on Friday it was great to get away and clear my mind. The only thing I could have wished for was to have more people show up. It is just always more fun when a lot of us get together.

Complacency Can Happen to ANYONE

By Danny Bouska

The following is a fictional story, but could very easily be true. Because you have hundreds of dives under your belt or because “it will never happen to me” are you sometimes complacent and forget important safety checks?

I always have a dive plan and perform a gear check before diving. So last Saturday, Jill and I were going diving. The meet time at the lake was 8am, and the site is about an hour and a half away. The alarm was set for 5am, which would have given us plenty of time, but we hit the snooze a couple of times, I got on the computer, and Jill decided to make breakfast so we didn't begin to pack until after 6, **so we were in a hurry.**

I grabbed a couple 80cf tanks out of our garage, (We put the valve dust cover on our tanks when they are full, and leave them hanging when we have used the tank. So the dust cover was on the tanks I grabbed so they were FULL) and I placed the tanks and gear in the trunk and we were off. We arrived at the site at 8:15, and several divers were already suited up, and the rest were almost ready. We asked if we were too late and were told they would wait.

I put the BCD and the regulator on, and pressurized the system to make sure there were no leaks. I usually check the air pressure at this point, **but I was in a hurry, and I forgot.**

I put the last touches on gear, got into my wetsuit and donned the remainder of my gear. I took a quick breathe off the regulator and inflated the BCD slightly. It was hot like it normally is in Texas in August and I decided to finish the gear check in the water. I always watch my gauge when I breathe from a regulator, **but I was in a hurry, and I forgot.**

We made our way down to the water, to meet some new divers who were making their first dive with the group. We had introductions, checked buddy teams, and made a dive plan. We ran through a gear check, and when we got to "air" on the checklist, Tim asked each of us what size tank we were diving. Jill and I both said we were on 80s, and given the 40 foot planned maximum depth, we knew we had plenty of air. I usually check my air gauge during the gear check . . . **but we were in a hurry, and I forgot.**

We began the dive, and were having a great time. We saw what looked like a sea of bomb craters which were once Blue Gill breeding nest and as we continued our descent small fish darted in and out of the grass hiding from the bass lurking nearby. I checked my air about 20 minutes into the dive, which is a much longer time than normal for me to check my air . . . and to my surprise, I had 1000 psi. The minute I saw the gauge, I realized what had happened -- I had grabbed a partially empty tank at home, and gotten through not ONE, but THREE check points without ever checking my air and without realizing I had omitted a very important check.

After the dive, I realized what had happened. I had picked up the two 80s from a friend who is not currently diving, and added them to our stack of tanks, and decided that I would check them later to see if they were full, **but I forgot.** The caps were onso of course, they were FULL!

Though this turned out to be a non-event, the tank could have easily only had 500 psi in it, and my first inclination could have been pulling those last breaths out of the tank and thankfully, I had several buddies close by from whom I could have gotten air. You have to realize that as divers, being trained at handling emergency situations does not mean we should take more chances of needing to use that training.

I'm question how I allowed myself to get sloppy and careless, and how I could have missed THREE check points in my normal routine and my buddies, who are also supposed to be equally meticulous, also didn't ask the right questions. It comes down to the plain fact that I was complacent.

From now on, the **BWRAF** is the rule rather than the exception before getting in the water! However you decide to remember it: *Begin With Review And Friend, Bruce Willis Ruins All Films, or Big White Rabbits Are Furry, start your dive on the shore or on the boat with.....*

- B** BCD – is it on properly, right size, any tears, does everything work
- W** Weights – are the weights there if needed, are they secure, how do they release?
- R** Releases – what type releases does my buddy have on his BCD, where are they located?
- A** Is my air on, my buddy's air? Is it turned on all the way? How does it taste? Do we know how much air each other has? Do the regulators work, not just the primary, but also the secondary?
- F** Final Ok – concur with my buddy that we are ready to get in the water.

Luckily nothing serious occurred but what did occur was that I learned a valuable lesson.....**Complacency sneaks up on ALL of us, and hurrying when you are diving is not only a bad idea, but could be deadly.**

