

The Rebel Yell

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

April 2011

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To contact a member of the Board, 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:
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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday – April 6, 2011

J. Gilligan's, Arlington

6:30pm Social

7:15pm Meeting Begins

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April Meeting Program

S-C-U-B-A

The 5 letter word we all dive for!

What makes that word better?

Combine it with another 5 letter word: MONEY!

Put those together and you have:

SCUBA BINGO

Come to the April meeting and bring a fist full of dollars to play!

Cards are \$1.00 each per game –

3 games will be played

*Another FUNdraiser



Upcoming Events Calendar

Apr	6	Monthly Membership Meeting
Apr	15-17	Tyler State Park
May	4	Monthly Membership Meeting
May	27-30	Balmorhea State Park
June	5	1 st Annual Diving Rebels Crawfish Boil
June	25-16	Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year Party

President's Report

As I write this month's letter, I am grateful that spring has started and the water is warming. I was recently notified that the temperature at the Blue Lagoon was 66 degrees on the surface and 63 degrees at the platform which also makes one think that the water at Tyler State Park will also be in the mid to upper 60's or better when we get there in a couple of weeks.

Many thanks to everyone who assisted in making the Lake Murray outing successful. Everyone had a good time, even the divers in the 50-degree water! There was a good crowd, plenty of food, a nice fire (before the burn ban went into affect on Sunday) and lots of laughter.

Speaking of good crowds, if you came to the March Meeting, you noticed the walls bulging as we had a packed room at J Gilligan's. At one point, I counted 52 heads and I am sure several were missed in the count.

We have been in discussion with the owner of J Gilligan's on an alternate meeting room. For the last few months, our membership has been on the rise as have the number of guest attending the Monthly Meetings. J Gilligan's has provided the club with several alternatives to consider; one of which we will be trying at the April Meeting. We will be meeting in the bar area of J Gilligan's. The room is much larger than the meeting room on the east side and should easily accommodate 70-80 people. This is by no means a commitment to this room and if it is not acceptable to the membership, alternate meeting rooms or locations will be researched and considered.

With growth comes growing pains and as families grow, they have to expand their current space or move to a new place. We like this type of growing pain and as the Diving Rebels Family grows so does the need to accommodate the growth in our family, so we must consider expanding into a larger space or locate a larger meeting location. If you have a suggestion for an alternate meeting location, please contact one of the board members. Locations should be centrally located in the Mid Cities, should be able to accommodate 70-80 people, should be smoke free, and should have reasonably priced food and beverages including adult beverages but not be mandatory for everyone to make a purchase.

See you next at the April Membership Meeting!

Danny

A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in March 2011

David Pearce – NAUI Advanced
Bert Lindquist - Divemaster
Roger Lee – SSI Master Diver
Gene Moren - SSI Advanced

Please give a Rebel Welcome to our newest members!

Diving Rebels Annual Tyler State Park Outing April 15-17

Fellow and future divers, no greater fun can be had than at the annual April outing at Tyler State Park, April 15-17. If you are like me (sane), you have not had the chance to get your gear wet lately due to the colder temperatures. If that is you, then your chance to dip your fin in the water will take place at the Tyler S.P. outing located at 789 Park Road 16, Tyler, TX 75706-3630 PH (903) 597-5338.

What diving conditions can you expect?

Moderate temperatures about of about 70-72 degrees (based on past diving averages) with visibility of about 20' or more above 12' (again, based on past dives). The reason we dive Tyler S.P. in April is because you can get decent visibility since the weather has not turned warm enough for the mold spores to release and hamper visibility. The depth of the lake is about 20-23 feet so one tank will last some people all weekend, but if you are like me you may want to bring two filled tanks. Please be aware that there is not any place local to fill a tank so make sure you bring them already filled and plenty of tanks to last all the dives you want to make. We will make our first dive Saturday at about 11:00am and an afternoon dive about 3:00pm. Sunday morning dive is optional and will be determined by whether or not you have a buddy to dive with.

What can I expect to see?

You will see a variety of fish but mainly bass who are spawning. You will see turtles and other aquatic life. Above water will be a variety of fowl, raccoons and squirrels. You may even get lucky and see a deer or two depending on if you venture on the trails around the lake.

What weather conditions can you expect?

Folks, this is Texas so your guess is as good as mine! Keep an eye on the weather man and remember, when diving you are already wet so what does it matter?

What will we do when we are not diving?

We will hang out, talk of past and future adventures, eat good food, and have a Washers tournament for prizes for first, second and third place winners. Form your 2-person team and get ready to show off your skills! If you have a game that you think others would enjoy and it is not too complicated, then by all means bring it along and it could become an outing HIT. Nearby in Tyler is Tiger Creek, a Big Cat rescue and refuge. We are making arrangements for a "behind the scenes" tour of the park, tentatively scheduled for Saturday afternoon. (More information at April's meeting; <http://www.tigercreek.org/default.html>) In addition to all this fun, Tyler State Park does offer the option to rent paddle boats, canoes and small (oar driven) fishing boats. Who can imagine a trip to the state park without trying their hand at fishing? *Remember that you do not have to have a fishing license to fish while in the state park.

When can I show up, how long can I stay and where will everyone be?

You can show up any time after 2:00pm on Friday, April 15th and check out will be 2:00 pm Sunday, April 17th. Johnny Griffin and Connie Mitchell will be at Tyler S.P. about 9:00 am to claim our sites but according to park rules we cannot set up until 2:00pm unless it is not currently occupied. We will not know what sites we will have until the day of the outing, but just ask the Park Rangers and they should be able to help you. We should have some signs posted to direct you to our general location and then just look for the famous Diving Rebels banner. Just be aware that if you plan on camping the sites will have water only and no electricity, but Danny Bouska, our resourceful President, will bring a generator to use in case it is needed.

OK! All the above is great but what about the food?

Well I am glad you asked that question, I cannot believe it took you this long. It will go like this:

Friday-fend for yourself

Saturday-(B) Provided by Tina (L) Provided by Johnny/Connie (D) Provided by Danny/Kelly

Sunday-(B) Provided by Tina

***FOR SATURDAY DINNER THERE WILL BE BRISKET, GRILLED CHICKEN AND PASTA SALAD. WE ARE ASKING FOR MEMBERS TO BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT IF YOU PLAN TO EAT DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT! GO AHEAD, SHOW OFF YOUR GROCERY STORE BUYING SKILLS, I DARE YA!**

(continued page 4)

Well I am hooked but what is the cost?

Basically the cost for the outing will be really inexpensive. In past years generally you will pay \$5-\$10 per person. That includes all meals and the camp sites. You will need to pay \$5 per person per day to get into the state park; there is no way around that, but if you have a Texas State Park Pass you won't have to pay those fees. If you know of someone who has one, invite them along and then get in free yourself!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the outing and know you will have a good time. Remember to practice safe diving techniques as you always should and NEVER dive without a buddy! There are many of us who are new to the diving world and look to all the seasoned divers to keep us in check and our skills sharp. Being a Diving Rebel should not be about breaking the rules but rebelling against complacency in your diving skills.

Lake Diving: What's the Point?

By: Kelly Barentine

Some of you know that I have not been diving long, my diving "career" began in 2008 and I have been hooked ever since. I cut my teeth on snorkeling in the beautiful blue of the Caribbean Ocean even further back than that. I never tired of paddling around on the top of the water looking down at the new world below, that was until I saw my first scuba diver down below who was not just a spectator but a participant in that underwater garden.

Now I always knew about diving but I was one of those, "if God wanted me to go that deep he would have given me gills," kind of people. I finally realized that little did I know that he did give us gills in a roundabout way through the technology of S.C.U.B.A. After I did that first Discovery Scuba dive I was hooked and wanted nothing more than to be "certified" and get the magic card that would allow me to see all the creation within that Caribbean blue.

I don't know if you realize it but I do not live by the ocean, sadly I am landlocked and have no hope of changing my circumstances anytime soon. I had no choice but to do my Open Water in a lake, at first I did not think it was any big deal. That was until I began to submerge for my first open water training dive. Oh my, it was nothing like the turquoise colored water I had been used to! I had no idea why I was doing it because it looked nothing like what I saw in the Caribbean. I guess I was in sort of a culture shock, so to speak but I followed through on my dive training and succeeded in earning my C-card. I even went on to complete my Advanced Certification the following month (although the diving conditions where we did that were a little better).

So fast forwarding to our first trip as scuba divers we arrived in Cozumel, I had not done any other diving besides what I needed to get my advanced and that was a HUGE mistake. Folks did you know that there are currents running through Cozumel that can be a little tricky if you don't know what you are doing? Well let me tell you that was an experience for me.

I suddenly realized with tremendous clarity that I need to practice the skills I have been taught, such as:

Navigation	Breathing control
Buoyancy (extremely important)	Rescue techniques
Hand signals	

Each one of the above mentioned skills must be performed regularly to be effective and what better place than at a lake. If you think about it when you dull one of your senses such as sight let's say then some of your other senses are a little keener and help you compensate. So if you practice Navigation in less than ideal conditions you will become a much better navigator in the long run.

I learned very quickly to take advantage of my lake diving trips. One trip I took all I did was practice my Buoyancy the whole time because first of all I do not want to damage those beautiful formations that I long to see. Secondly, I do not want to ruin someone else's good time because I chose to be ill prepared. *(continued Page 5)*

Lake Diving: What's the Point?, continued from page 4

Lake diving is helping me with my photography skills and I plan to practice more this next dive season because when I take my next blue water trip I do not plan to miss that money shot because I could not find the location nor become still enough to take a clear photo.

With each dive I have made it has helped with my breathing and most of those dives have not been in the clear blue water we all long for but in lakes or quarries. Before, I could only stay down about 40 minutes on an 80 cf tank; now due to my various lake dive trips I have increased that to 60 minutes. I know that as time goes by with more diving (lake or other) I will increase that time as well.

As for hand signals, rescue techniques, buddy checks and all the rest; well I do not need to go over why those are so important. Why ruin your trip along with someone else's by not following the guidelines developed to help you dive safely. The average person may get to take a blue water trip once a year, that is a lot of time to pass by and gives too much room to forget what must to be remembered. Those lake trips help keep you sharp and stay focused so that when the time comes for that special vacation with 100+ foot of visibility you are on top of your game.

What is the point of lake diving? It will keep your skills sharp, to get you ready for that perfect trip around the corner and finally to help new divers like myself glean a little of your knowledge. I have so much to learn as many others and I cannot learn it if you stay on land. Now if you plan on taking me on your blue water trip and paying my whole way I will be content with that but I do not see that happening. Help me with my skills and show me how to be a better diver, I welcome the knowledge I will get from your instruction and I bet others will too.



1ST ANNUAL DIVING REBELS CRAWFISH BOIL

Say There, dem crawfish be coming...

What a great way to pass de time and welcome in summer! De Diving Rebels will be cooking some crawfish and shrimp on June 5, 2011 at de VFW Post 8561, 3221 Howell St, Arlington, Texas 76010.

We gonna be havin' boiled crawfish and boiled shrimp wit all de fixins'. Also some good ol' Rum Punch while it last!! We will all be de guest of de good folks at de VFW and will have use of dere CASH BAR at de post - all your favorite beer and mixed drinks and plenty of cold pop wit de foam on top to quench your thirst. But we can't bring our own, non - dat be against de local jardarme's and we don't want to be in trouble wit Mr. John Brown!!

De festivities start at 2:00pm on Sunday June 5, 2011 and go on till you be too tired to peel dem crawfish and shrimp or dey be all gone! To get to de VFW exit Abrams St off of HWY 360 and go east for about a mile - turn right on Peewee Street and go past de water tower to Howell St and turn left - de VFW is on de left about 500 yards or about ten shakes of de gator tail! If you go to Great Southwest Parkway you done gone too far so turn right on Great Southwest Parkway and brought yourself down to Sherman and turn right, den de VFW will be on your right. It's easy to find! If you got one of those GPS tings, just plug in de address and listen to de pretty woman who will brought you dere just fine!! Or you can visit dere website at www.vfwpost8561.org to get a map.

Tickets are only \$20.00 per person and can be bought at de next tree Diving Rebels meetings or online at crawfish@divingrebels.org. For Chilluns under 12-well dat's only \$5.00. All you need to bring is your camp chairs! Come on out and pass a good time wit your friends!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A YEAR OF DIVING AND FUN!

April	15-17	Tyler State Park
May	27-30	Balmorhea State Park
June	5	1 st Annual Diving Rebels Crawfish Boil
June	25-26	Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year party
July	1-4	Flower Gardens
July	16-17	Athens Scuba Park
August	13-14	Valhalla Missile Silo (Tentative)
September	3-5	Lake Ouachita
September	23-25	Lake Travis – Windy Point
October	22-23	Blue Lagoon – Underwater Pumpkin Carving
November	12	Chili Cook Off
December	10	Christmas Party, Lake Arlington Rec Room
May 31 – June 16 2012		South Pacific Islands of FIJI

Coordinating an Outing, It's Simple and It's Fun!

Coordinating an outing is a very rewarding experience as the coordinator will surely interact with and get to know a large number of members and guests; however, the first thing you need to do is “Commit” by taking that first step in saying "I CAN DO IT". There are no outing templates, which say it must be done a particular way; however, there are tools, which can be utilized to make your outing successful. Staying in budget, your outing can be as simple or elaborate as you wish.

What is the budget? The budget set by the board, for 2011, is \$50 per day. For example, a Saturday/Sunday outing is considered a 2 day outing and a Saturday, Sunday, Monday outing is considered a 3 day outing. The \$50 per day can be allocated by the coordinator, as he/she deems appropriate such as to subsidize food, campsites or prizes if contest are being held. Expenses for food, camping and prizes beyond the \$50 per day allotment should be divided amongst the outing attendees in what is known as a “Meal Share”.

A brief example of a meal share: 2 day outing generates \$100 for outing expenses. Meals and camping for the weekend cost \$140 dollars. There were 20 participants so the breakdown would be:

Total Expenses	\$140
Allocated funds	\$100
Funds to be collected:	\$ 40 divided by 20 attendees = \$2.00 each

Pretty cheap for a weekend of food and camping!

Any expenses which will not be shared via the “Meal Share”; are outside the \$50 per day allotment, and reimbursement is expected must be approved by the board by first contacting the Club’s Activity Director. If he/she is unavailable the Club’s Treasurer or President should be contacted prior to the expenditure, or the expense may not be reimbursed. If the expense is approved, a receipt must be submitted.

Make a sign in sheet available at the outing making sure the attendees are aware of where it is located or maintain a record of who attended. A dive log should also be available which will be the diver’s responsibility on which to log his/her dives. These sheets are to be provided to the Senior Board Member for D.R.I.F.T Point tabulation. D.R.I.F.T Point rules, Sign Up/Sign In Sheets and Dive Log should be located in a clipboard in the outing container and are available in the Members Only Area of the website.

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Items for which an Outing Coordinator is responsible:

1. Make reservations for and/or secure needed permissions for camping if board has not already done so
2. Provide a brief announcement about the outing at the Membership Meetings or provide information to the Activities Director.
3. Provide sign up sheets during at least two Membership Meetings prior to the date of the outing
4. Have releases available if necessary
5. Ask for Meal Coordinator volunteers to handle meals during the outing.
6. Obtain the Outing Container, First Aid Kit and Oxygen Unit from the Activities Director. Return the items after the outing, in the same state as obtained, notifying the Activities Director replenishing is needed.
7. Write an article for the newsletter. It doesn't have to be much but enough so those who were not there will know what fun they missed!
8. If a date change is necessary for an outing after it has been announced, contact the board as soon as the need is known.

Don't schedule too many activities, diving or otherwise during an outing. Activities generally start later than planned and last longer than planned, so be flexible. Encourage Friday night camping and start coordinated meals with Saturday lunch and include Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast on a two day outing and add Sunday dinner and Monday breakfast for a 3 day outing.

If coordinating an outing for which a site or date has not been set, there are several things to consider such as bathroom facilities which are a must; food, is it BYOF, meal-share, or club sponsored; shelter, is there somewhere to get out of the hot summer sun; diving, considering access and whether air is available, and utmost safety, and by having the oxygen unit and first aid kits available.

When deciding to coordinate your first outing, start simple and then tackle more difficult outings such as Balmorhea, Lake Murray or Ouachita. Remember that you have people to lean on such as the board and other members who have coordinated outings. Don't be ashamed to ask for help.

Get involved - Coordinate an outing and when it's over you'll have provided a great service to the Club and members and will have that "Job Well Done" feeling!

Next Month: "I have been asked to be a Meal Coordinator! What do I do?"

Member Announcements

Sherry Strahla's son-in-law, Steven Paul McGann, passed away on Thursday 2/10/11. The Club will collect contributions at the April meeting to send to the family. Checks can be made payable to the Diving Rebels.

We wish a speedy recovery to **Mike Manila**. Mike broke his leg on 3/25 and had surgery. We think he fractured his tibial plateau. It's a compression injury where the femur came through the knee and damaged the top of the tibia.



Birthdays



- 4/4 Elizabeth Neumann
- 4/5 Mike Manila
- 4/7 Michele Estill
- 4/13 Chau Barentine
- 4/17 Kirk Tidwell
- 4/23 Linda Magnuson
- 4/26 Kelly Barentine

Anniversaries

4/4 Selena and Steve Woodward

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

Diving Rebel's May Outing to Balmorhea State Park, May 27-30

The Rebels will once again trek to Balmorhea State Park in west Texas to “dive the desert” for our May outing from May 27 – 30. We will depart Friday evening May 27 for a drive through the night, arriving at the park about 7 AM. We will set up camp and start diving.

The diving there is very unique, with ocean quality viz and fish (Comanche Springs pupfish) found nowhere else. We will have some underwater contests, perhaps another checkers tournament as we did several years ago. Weather permitting; we will attend the star party at the McDonald Observatory on Mount Locke.

If you have not been there before, Balmorhea State Park is an oasis in the desert (see pics below), an experience not to be missed, so I hope you will join us. I will have more information in the next newsletter and at the May meeting.

Oggie

Steve Ogden, May Outing Coordinator



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

Merchandise sold to Diving Rebels Members Only



NAVY & NATURAL



BLACK



NAVY

Blue Water Diving

July Flower Gardens Trip Deposit Due at April Meeting - Make Payable to Diving Rebels

Did you know....why it is called the Flower Garden Banks?

At the turn of the century, snapper and grouper fishermen nick-named this area the "Texas Flower Gardens" because of the brightly colored sponges, plants, and other marine life they saw on the reefs below them. By the time the sanctuary was designated, the term 'banks' had been added to the name as a reference to the salt dome formations upon which the reefs are perched. (<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/welcome.html>)

The Diving Rebels Scuba Club



Invites You To Join Us

May 31 – June 16 2012

On a Trip to the South Pacific Islands of FIJI

May 31-June 9, Beqa Lagoon Resort, Beqa Island Fiji
June 9-16, VoliVoli Beach Resort, Viti Levu Fiji



Life's an adventure; don't miss out, SIGN UP today!

More information available on the Club's Website

www.divingrebels.org

Or by emailing

fiji2012@divingrebels.org

Wine and Cheese Party / Arctic Dive, March Outing

The Diving Rebels were joined by members of the Scubadillos and other guests for this year's Wine and Cheese Party / Arctic Dive at the traditional location of Marietta Landing at Lake Murray State Park in southern Oklahoma. Over 50 folks were present at the outing. What made this event non-traditional was that the date of the outing, March 12, was two weeks later than the last weekend in February that has traditionally served as the outing weekend for this event. While the weather was absolutely spectacular, there were certain challenges for this later date. One was that, in contrast to the park being traditionally opened up early exclusively for our event, this year the park was already opened to the public and we had to compete for camping spaces.

A very special thanks goes to Alan Redman who took some vacation time and drove up to the park on the Wednesday before the outing. He was able to secure one of the two most critical campsites that enabled us to unload two huge loads of firewood transported to the park by Jimmy Atkinson as well as by Oggie (see picture below). The park appeared to be completely full by mid-Saturday afternoon and without Alan's early arrival, we would not have been able to secure our traditional site and have a successful outing. Leonard and Anneke Patterson also travelled up early and made it there by Thursday and were able to grab an adjacent site for camping.

And speaking of firewood, although there was not a burn ban, we were informed early on by a park ranger that we could have a campfire, but not a bonfire, due to the fact that conditions were very dry and a fire ban was planned to go into effect that next Monday (in 2 days). He stated that our fire could not exceed the perimeter of the very large fire pit border we had constructed with rocks gathered by a group overseen by John Richerson. The ranger was even complimentary of the fire pit. To ensure that we maintained control of the "campfire", Oggie forayed into the nearby town of Marietta and bought a garden hose and nozzle sprayer. We hooked it up to the nearest hydrant to the fire pit and had it at the ready in the event that our "campfire" got out of control. Interestingly, we had another Ranger Rick come by that evening and tell us that our fire pit did not meet the official dimensions of a legal fire pit. Kinda makes you wonder if the only smoke being generated that day came from our "campfire." (See picture below).

Nine adventurous divers braved the frigid waters of Lake Murray, as coordinated by John Richerson. John had issued a challenge that the diver with the longest bottom time would be the proud inaugural recipient of the "Order of the Polar Bear" or some such as conferred by the awarding of a polar bear-adorned cap to the winner. As a result of two dives that added up to the longest bottom time, Alan Redman was the recipient of this special award and will be the keeper of the polar bear cap (see picture below) until next year's outing at which time he will have a chance to defend this award along with his honor.

We were treated to a delicious dinner primarily prepared and coordinated by Elizabeth Newman. Elizabeth cooked up a batch of wonderfully-seasoned pulled pork, which when combined with Jimmy Atkinson's always scrumptious beans and cole slaw prepared by Doug Sheppard, made for a tasty and hearty fare. We were able to again commandeer the pavilion as a food prep and serving location.

In addition to the cold-water diving, the other primary feature of the outing is the wine and cheese tasting contest. As usual the contest was coordinated by Oggie, although this year the number of participants was down dramatically. Last year, there were nearly 20 red wine entrants, about 10 white wine participants and over 10 cheese entries. In contrast, this year there were five red wines, only two white wines and four cheeses. But, never-the-less, the five judges had a delightful time sampling the wines (some had to be sampled more than once). The clear winner for the best red wine was Doug Sheppard with his Penfolds Rawson Retreat. The white wine winner was Bill Davidson of the 'Dillos with his Lindeman's Moscato. And then for the recognition as the worst wine, having the highest score for either wine, Linda Magnuson scored big with her Casa Lapostoue Cabernet 2007. The number one cheese belonged to Sandy Santi of the 'Dillos with her Dublineer entry, a firm white cheese with a wonderful nutty flavor. (*continued page 11*)

Wine and Cheese Party / Arctic Dive, March Outing, continued from page 10

A silent auction was held for dive items including wet suits, dive knives, gloves, snorkels and the like. This activity turned out to be a great success as the initial goal of raising \$100 was easily surpassed with a revenue of \$170.

A raffle was conducted for the 2 for 1 trip to Utopia Village on the island of Utila, generously donated by Utopia Village. A total of \$316 was collected for the raffle that was won by our very own Linda Magnuson. She and Jim will be scheduling a dive trip to Utila now within the next year.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this outing. It was a group effort regarding the planning and organization and included Gena Natho, John Richerson, Elizabeth Neumann and Steve Ogden. And thanks to all those who contributed food, silent auction items and entered the wine and cheese contest. Various pictures of the outing follow.



Oggie's firewood load



Ray helping Johnny gear up



Ray and Johnny getting wet



John Richerson done diving



Leonard and Anneke w/friends



Leonard all wrapped up



Doug being a good tree



Alan and his polar bear cap



A nice "campfire"

