

The Rebel Yell

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

August 2011

2011 DIVING REBEL BOARD

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Ellen Fourton,	Newsletter Editor
Danny Bouska,	Webmaster
Connie Mitchell,	Historian

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:
Click on an image to go to the site!

Mobile Users



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Humperdinks in Arlington
700 Six Flags Dr.
Arlington, TX 76011

Wednesday – August 3, 2011
6:30pm Social
7:15pm Meeting Begins

Member **John Richerson** presents on his recent trip to the **Philippines**

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Upcoming Events Calendar

- Aug 6 Scientific Diver Course
- Aug 20 Blue Lagoon
- Sept 3 South Padre Island Rig and Wreck Diving
- Sept 7 Membership Meeting - Chinese Auction
- Sept 23 Lake Travis
- Oct 5 Membership Meeting – Board Nominations

President's Report

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is finding water to get into during this long hot spell which has descended upon us during the month of July. If not, there is no excuse as the Club has plenty of diving opportunities lined up over the next few months.

Speaking of upcoming outings, we have set the dates for one of our most popular event, the Wine and Cheese Festival, which is held at Lake Murray in February. This past year, the Texas Dive Show was scheduled on the weekend the Diving Rebels and Scubadillos traditionally co-host the event. In 2012, the Texas Dive Show will be held in Austin. After discussion with the Scubadillos, we have scheduled the event for the weekend of February 25-26, 2012. This should provide enough advanced notice so those of you who would like to rent cabins can start making your plans!

Our move to our new meeting room at Humperdink's was and is a huge success. The room was set up to seat 50 people and we had to bring in another table. The room is comfortable and everyone has plenty of room. I believe the move to Humperdink's is a positive step forward for the Club as we now have 91 members and we continue to grow.

I'm looking forward to holding one of our most fun meetings at our new location.....the Annual Chinese Auction! This event will be held at the September Membership Meeting and is not only some of the most fun you can have, but is the biggest fund raiser for the club. Read more in this and the next edition of the newsletter. Plan to come to the meeting, bring your items for auction and be prepared to have a great time! Rumor has it that the condo in Roatan will be up for auction again and who know what other great items will be available!

In closing, I'd like to say thank you to the Membership and the Board of Directors. It takes everyone to make a Club successful. The Board can schedule the outings, the meetings and the social events, but it takes the Membership to make the events successful. All of our outings and meetings have had excellent attendance this year so THANK YOU!

Danny

A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in April 2011

Kevin Shuck - PADI AOW - Arlington
Jerry Watts - NAUI Advanced - Fort Worth
Travis Wells - NAUI OW - Red Oak
Steven Buchert - PADI AOW - Arlington
Kelly Gray - NAUI AOW - Mansfield
Gregory Gray - NAUI AOW - Mansfield

Please give a Rebel Welcome to our newest members!

BLUE LAGOON-HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

AUGUST 20-21, 2011

Kelly Barentine

The honor of your presence is requested in joining the Diving Rebels in a quest for “aqua blue” water at the Blue Lagoon in Huntsville, Texas. There are not many guarantees in life but we can guarantee you will be welcome!

The Blue Lagoon is hidden away in the piney woods north of Huntsville, Texas off I-45. For over twenty years the lagoon has served the divers of Texas with aqua blue bodies of water, training platforms, sunken boats and miscellaneous items. There is primitive camping and an onsite air station and concessions which include hot sandwiches, sodas, water, various sport drinks and an assortment of candy bars and chips.

The entrance fee for divers and non-divers is \$16.00 per day. Non Divers must be accompanied by a C-card holder. There is no charge for children under 10 and non-diving parents accompanying minors during diving lessons.

The Blue Lagoon opens at 8am on Saturday, July 10th. Come any time after that and spend the day or the weekend, campout under the stars in the piney woods (club has 2 sites reserved), or grab a hotel room (listed below) in nearby Huntsville.

- If you wish to camp, your entry fee allows you to camp overnight but there is a two day minimum fee so if you come in Saturday and leave Sunday the fee is \$32.00.
- Air fills are \$8.00, rental tanks are \$12.00. If you need other gear: Regs \$20.00, BCD \$20.00, Wetsuits \$20.00, Weights \$10.00
- The Blue Lagoon does not allow pets.
- There are Porta Potties scattered throughout the property.
- There will be a challenging Underwater Navigation Competition for buddy teams with a prize being awarded for the winning buddy pair.
- There will be brisket, potato salad & etc. for Saturday dinner but we need meal coordinators for Saturday breakfast & lunch along with Sunday breakfast. You are responsible for your own drinks as well as Sunday lunch.

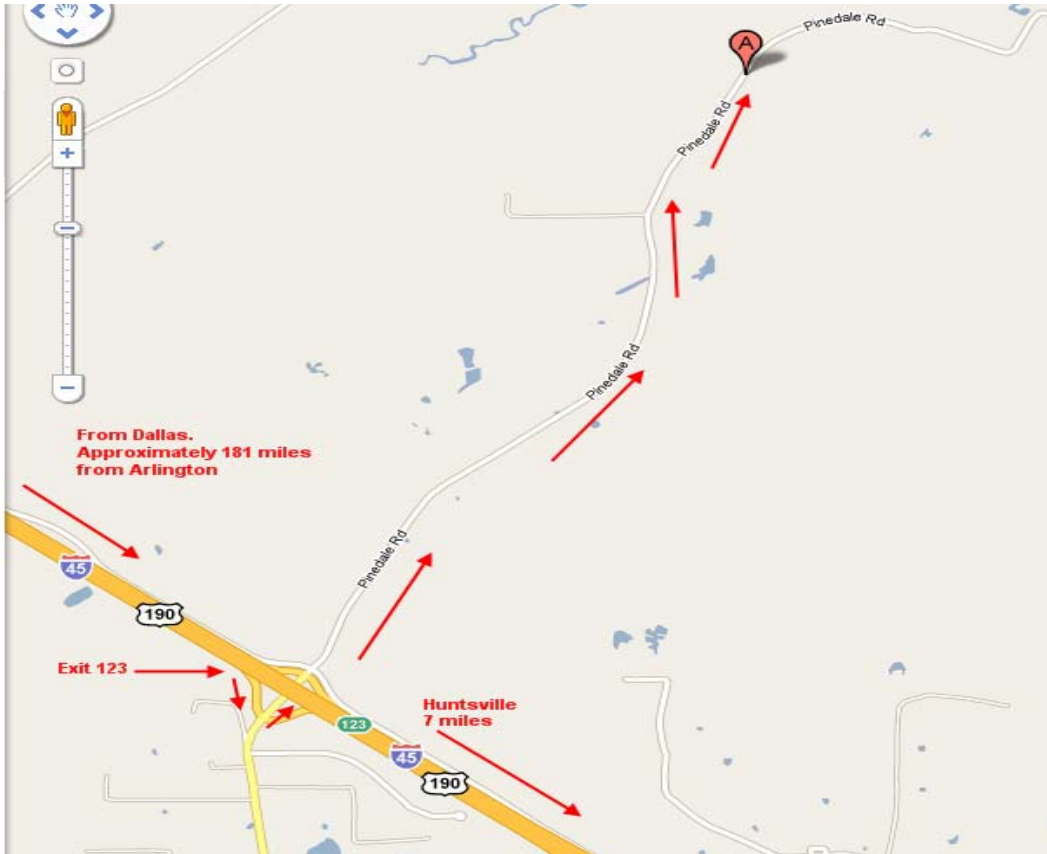
Outing Coordinator is Kelly Barentine.

We need to know if you're coming! Sign Up sheets will be available at the August 3rd meeting but to assure we have plenty of food for Saturday night and Sunday, please email treasurer@divingrebels.org.

If responding via email please include: When you will be arriving, how many people in your group, if you are camping, staying in Huntsville or just making a day trip, and in which meals you will be participating.

Directions:

Take I45 south from Dallas/Ft Worth toward Houston. Take Exit 123 approximately 7 miles north of Huntsville and turn left (east) at Farm to Market Rd 1696/Pinedale Rd. Continue to follow Pinedale Rd for approximately 2.9 miles. The Blue Lagoon entrance will be on the left.



AVAILABLE HOTELS

BEST WESTERN -201 W Hill Park Circle Huntsville, TX 77320 Phone: (936) 295-9000

HOLIDAY INN EXP-148 I-45 S Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 295-4300

COMFORT SUITES-631 I-45 S Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 436-9600

SUPER 8-3121 Montgomery Road Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 730-8888

ECONO LODGE-112 I-45 N Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 295-6401

DAYS INN-160 I-45 S Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 438-8400

LA QUINTA INN-124 I-45 N Huntsville, TX 77340 Phone: (936) 295-6454

ATHENS SCUBA PARK – JULY OUTING

Gena Natho & John Richerson

The Diving Rebels scheduled a weekend outing to Athens Scuba Park of July 15 through July 17. This event was scheduled as a three day outing. In the end, it ended up being a one day affair. That wasn't all bad though. The weekend was extremely hot with temperatures reaching in to the triple digits.

No one arrived for Friday night camping. A small group of Rebels arrived early Saturday morning to begin the day's festivities. By 10 am, a number of Rebels were in the park and ready to dive. Most everyone geared up and did at least one dive before noon. Several members conducted 90 minute to 2 hour dives. Many saw the new jet that has been sunk at the park. There are many wrecks to dive on, boats, sailboats, Dart bus, simulated cave system, 2 jets and more. Because the park is specifically for divers, there are no boats to worry about.

After the first dive of the day, most everyone made individual plans to eat sandwiches or travel into town to eat lunch. After lunch everyone began a second or even a third dive. These dives really helped to cool off. The water temperature was around 90 degrees. Still, this was cooler than the air temperature of 104.

By about 3:00pm, the heat really began to drag everyone down and some people began to pack in the gear to head home to that wonderful a/c. Ahhh! By about 6:00pm, about half of the Rebels remained. A hearty group of about 12 Diving Rebels along with Calvin and Shannon Wilcher, the Athens Scuba Park owners, headed into town for dinner. We gathered at Applebee's restaurant. During dinner, there were lots of stories told that night. A good time was had by all.

All in all, I believe everyone had a lot of fun on Saturday even if it was oppressively hot. I know several members were visiting Athens Scuba Park for the first time. I hope we can go back and do this again maybe even when the weather is a bit cooler.



Athens Participants



Connie Mitchell ready for Diving

What is the CHINESE AUCTION?

September 7, 2011

Danny Bouska



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 a minimum \$10 value which will be usable by the winner. It should be 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A YEAR OF DIVING AND FUN!

Aug 6-7 Scientific Diver Course, Aquarena Spring, Register w/ Danny Bouska
Aug 20-21 Blue Lagoon, Kelly Barentine Coordinator
Sept 3-4 S. Padre Island, Rig and Wreck Diving, Connie Mitchell Coordinator
Sept 7 Membership Meeting AND Chinese Auction
Sept 23-25 Lake Travis – Windy Point, Need Coordinator
Oct 22-23 Blue Lagoon – Underwater Pumpkin Carving, Need Coordinator
Nov 12 Chili Cook Off
Dec 10 Christmas Party, Lake Arlington Rec Room
June 9, 2012 South Pacific Islands of FIJI



BIRTHDAYS

8/2 - Ellen Fourton
8/7 - Robert Martinez
8/7 - Ted Glodowski
8/7 - Steve Woodward
8/12 - Jim Magnuson
8/21 - Phyllis Kirchoff
8/23 - Clay Hensley
8/28 - Rick Seba

ANNIVERSARIES

8/21 - Chau and Etson Barentine
8/24 - Phyllis and Jim Kirchoff
8/28 - Diane and George Bartulevicz
8/31 - Laurie and Rick Seba

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

SCIENTIFIC DIVER COURSE AUGUST 6-7, 2011 Aquarena Spring, San Marcos Texas

Thirteen members of the Diving Rebels will be attending the Diving for Science authorization course which was developed to protect and preserve the unique and special aquatic environment. Aquarena's Diving for Science program is a great way for divers to get to dive in the cleanest and clearest water in Texas and at the same time get to become involved in one of the largest habitat restoration projects in the country.

Once the course is completed the members participating will have the opportunity to participate in the many educational, research and conservation projects that occur throughout the year. The Scientific Diving Program helps assure that all diving operations in Spring Lake are procedurally safe as well as environmentally sensitive. Once certified, divers have limitless opportunities to participate in our Volunteer Diving Program.

The two day course focuses on The Edwards Aquifer, the Habitat, Endangered Species, Archaeology, State & Federal Regulations governing Spring Lake and advanced diving techniques to ensure protection of this critical habitat.

Diving Rebels Outing to South Padre Island Rig and Wreck Diving with American Diving Sept 3-5

Just a reminder that we have a dive trip coming IN BLUE WATER to South Padre Island, on Labor Day Weekend. See full article in the July Newsletter on the website.

There were a few questions at the July meeting. Here is additional information:

American Dive

Non-Diver is \$60.00.

Nitrox is additional \$10.00.

They do supply Tanks & Weights.

No deposit required since they have worked with us in the past.

We will divide the price once we get there and see how many divers we have total.

PS: if you have signed up at the first meeting you need to call me and confirm your status and book rooms. Space is getting SMALLER on the boat. I have 16 on my sign up and 11 confirmed with rooms booked.

For more information contact Connie Mitchell: 817-829-2195; officemomma_2000@yahoo.com

Diving Rebels at the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary

by Tina Caron, Activities Director



For most people, the Forth of July means the Stars and Stripes, cooking on the grill with family and friends, and watching traditional fireworks. But for the Diving Rebels, the long holiday weekend was all about dive, dive, dive! And that's exactly what 15 of us did! As always, both the diving and food were plentiful, and we had a great crew taking care of us on the boat.

Most of us carpooled to make the long haul to Freeport on Friday night, with the group split in half between a couple of impromptu meeting places for dinner before hitting the MV Fling dock at the appointed time of 7:30 PM. We were met by the boat's divemaster and anxiously awaited boarding of the dive boat. Once allowed on board, we staked out our spots on the dive deck for the weekend, then laid claim to our bunks. Once everyone was settled, we gathered in the galley for our safety briefing. After that, we were free to enjoy the boat and hang out, or head to the bunks for some sleep. It was unfortunately a rough crossing, and not everyone was enjoying our ride out to the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary!!



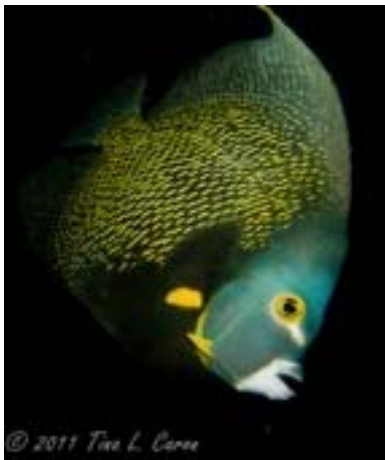
We woke up Saturday morning at 6:00 AM to the call of "One hour to dive time!" and continental breakfast waiting in the galley. After everyone rubbed the sleep out of their eyes, we were all ready to get the diving underway. Our first site was on the Flower Gardens West Bank, which is absolutely stuffed full of corals of many types, colonies of Christmas Tree worms, and plenty of pretty tropical fish. We saw tons of jacks, sharp nose puffers, rock hinds, queen triggers, angelfish, and parrotfish. There was a mild current, and visibility was pretty good, upwards of 40-60 ft. Once up on deck, everyone was chattering about what they saw and then headed in for a hot

breakfast. Dive 2 was on the same site, and what a treat we had. A large portion of our crew was clustered together near the mooring line when out of nowhere our group was joined by a huge Mobula Ray!

I have never seen a group of divers freeze in place and barely breathe! No one wanted to be “the one” that scared it away, and we were graced with a beautiful display as this amazing ray swooped through our group like we were nothing unusual. I thought he was headed away, and then he came back for another pass. That was definitely the highlight sighting of the trip! Several divers reported seeing one or two other similar rays near the surface around the boat as well! We even had some dolphin sightings while we were on surface intervals, but alas, my dream of diving with them was not fulfilled.



We had lunch and the boat moved over to a working Gas Rig for our next dive. The current stayed mild, and we got in nice long dives among the legs of the rig. If you have never dived on a rig, you are missing out. They are ugly blemishes above sea level, but once you break the surface, they are teeming with life. Every bit of the structure is encrusted with corals and sponges and various creatures, and all manners of fish are taking shelter in the area. I spotted many damselfish, angelfish, filefish, barracuda, silky sharks, and jacks. There were probably many more kinds that I am still learning to identify! There were at least two loggerhead turtles in residence on this rig too!



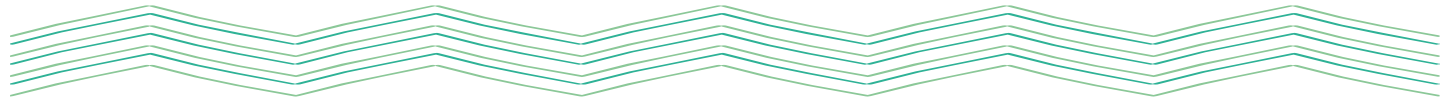
Back on board we had snacks, and prepped for our next dive while the boat moved to dive site number three...Flower Gardens East Bank. The East Bank has some nice sandy patches to use for navigational assistance, making for a little bit less challenging set of dives if navigation is not your strong suit! We spent a lot of time at the edges of the sand, looking in crevices, and under ledges for critters. During the afternoon dive we saw lots of trigger fish, rays, corals, eels and Christmas Tree worms. The night dive was on this site as well, where by the beams of our dive lights we found lots of crustaceans such as slipper lobsters, tiny shrimp, arrow crabs, and hermit crabs. Beware the sea urchins here!

The galley crew set us up with warm brownies and ice cream to make brownie sundaes after our night dive and everyone retired to rest up for two more dives in the morning. After another wake up at 6AM of “One hour to dive time!” we were ready to get the diving day underway. The current had picked up by the time we entered the water at Stetson Bank. Unfortunately we also had some fairly limited visibility, which in combination made navigation on this usually beautiful dive site very challenging. We made our way to the edge of the wall and found some southern stingrays and plenty of fish. Stetson is a great dive site for anyone that loves the little macro critters.

They are EVERYWHERE on the small coral patches and in the sand leading up to the wall. I spent my entire second dive hovering just a few feet from the mooring line, on or near the bottom, snapping pictures of little tiny blennies, and one eel that was hiding under a small bit of rock and coral. Rumor has it that there are also plentiful scorpionfish here, but try as I might, I didn't spot any. I bet they saw me though!



All in all, despite some rough crossings, and the increasing current and decreasing visibility toward the end of our trip, everyone had a blast, and logged some awesome bottom time! After a relaxing and fairly smooth crossing back to Freeport, we departed the Fling and gathered up at nearby restaurant On the River for dinner. Most of us opted to spend the night in Lake Jackson, and several of the Rebels met once again for breakfast at Ihop before making the long ride back home.



The Diving Rebels Scuba Club



**Invites You
To Join Us**

June 9 – June 16 or 23 2012

**On a Trip to the
South Pacific Islands of FIJI**

June 9 – June 16, Beqa Lagoon Resort, Beqa Island Fiji
June 16 - 23, VoliVoli Beach Resort, Viti Levu Fiji



**Two Spaces Remain at the Original Price
If you're interested in joining us on this fabulous trip, contact us soon, when these spaces are gone, price nor availability can be guaranteed!**

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

