

The Rebel Yell

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

March 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:

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We are on the web in multiple locations:
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MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday – March 2, 2011

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

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March Meeting Program: Steve Ogden

Steve will introduce the Aquarena Center in San Marcos, Texas and the volunteer diving opportunities there. The Aquarena Center is home to Spring Lake, the oldest continually-occupied site in North America. Divers may dive in Spring Lake after completing the Diving for Science certification program. *(Continued page 6)*

Upcoming Events Calendar

Mar	2	Monthly Membership Meeting
Mar	12-13	Wine & Cheese Party/Arctic Dive, Lake Murray
Apr	6	Monthly Membership Meeting
Apr	15-17	Tyler State Park
May	4	Monthly Membership Meeting
May	27-30	Balmorea State Park
June	25-16	Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year Party
Dec	10	Christmas Party, Lake Arlington Rec Room

President's Report

Happy Almost Spring Everyone,

Mother Nature tried her best to cancel our February meeting, but the Rebels prevailed. It was evident that "cabin fever" must have gotten to everyone as we had a large turnout of approximately 40 people at the meeting. Thanks for coming out in the ice and icy winds.

March is upon us, which means the return of warmer weather and warmer water. Yes, I know there are those of you in the Club who "enjoy" diving in frigid waters. I definitely will not be in your way, as I look forward to the warmer water.

As the diving season approaches we begin to think about the condition of our BCD, regulator, fins, and other gear including disposable items such as o-rings, defog or Sink the Stink and what we will need to buy or have repaired for the upcoming dive season. We are very lucky to have several excellent dive shops in the DFW Metroplex, which provide club members benefits for just being a club member. The benefits provided by these dive shops cost the dive shop money whether it is via a discount or an air fill. You may have just saved \$8 on a "free" air fill but also remember that fill cost that shop in labor, electricity and wear on the compressor. Some of you have your favorite shop, others shop for the best price wherever it can be found; however, we as club members should patronize the shops that support us. It is understandable that you may like a particular brand and cannot get it at XYZ Dive Shop, but XYZ Dive Shop does carry o-rings, defog, dive lights, knives etc. Remember you saved \$8 on an air fill and maybe an item you need costs a little more at this shop than another, but by buying that item at the shop that just gave you air for your dive outing, you help keep their doors open so you can get more air in the future.

I am a big advocate of "Support Your Local Dive Shop." What happens when you need service a week or days before you are to leave on that dream dive trip to the Great Barrier Reef? That online store will tell you to send it in and it may be weeks before it is ready whereas, a local dive shop will bend over backwards to get your gear ready for your trip if you have purchased that gear from them.

There have been a number of dive shops in the Metroplex, some that have been around a long time, that have gone out of business in recent years. Remember, you can most likely buy a BCD, regulator, computer, etc. cheaper online but there is one thing you cannot buy online.....air and quick and friendly service. If we do not support the dive shops that support us, when they go out of business, where will you get air, service the night before that big trip, or additional training?

Please support the dive shops that support the club and while you are there, let them know you are a club member and say "thank you" for their support.

Danny

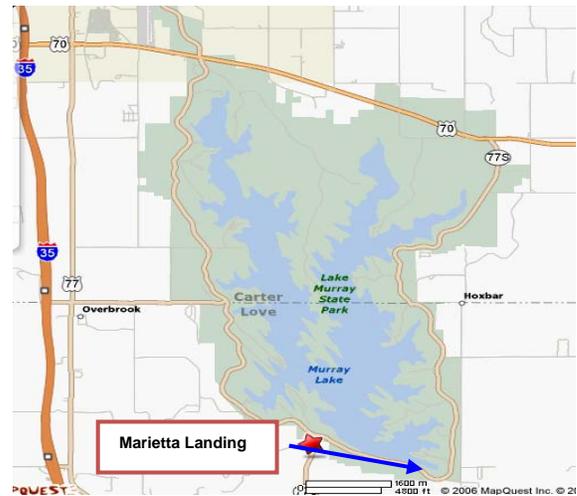
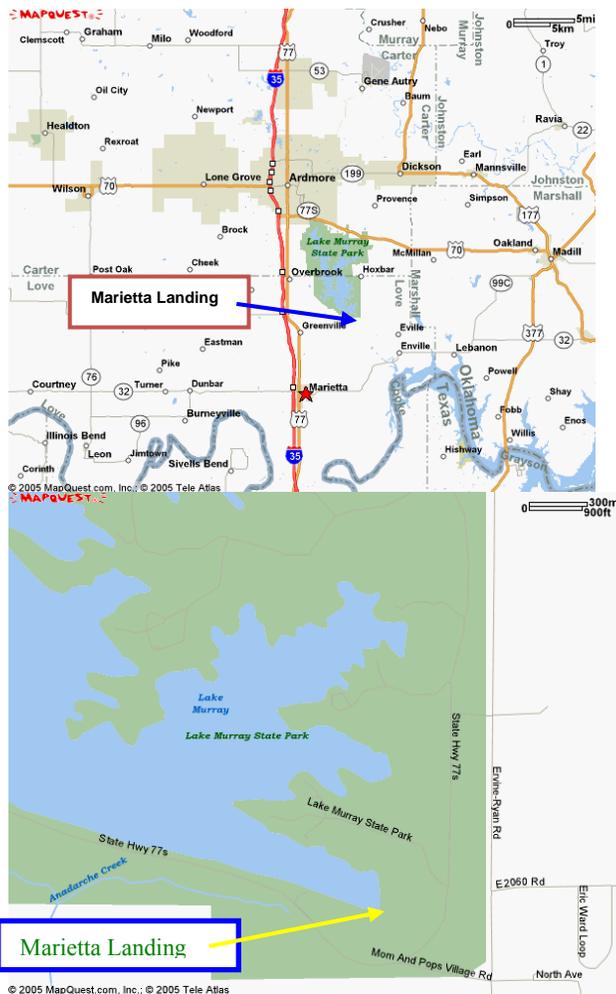
A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in February 2011

Becky Marak - NAUI AOW
Trevor Walker - PADI OW

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

Wine & Cheese Party and Arctic Dive: March 12-13

The Rebels will join with the Scubadillos and any other interested divers for the annual Wine & Cheese Party /Arctic Dive on March 12 and 13 at the Marietta Landing campground area at Lake Murray State Park about 24 miles north of the Texas border and seven miles north of Marietta, Oklahoma. (Lake Murray State Park link: http://www.stateparks.com/lake_murray.html). Please see the outing information flyer for the outing that provides additional information including lodging info. The latest information is that there are no cabins that have not already been reserved. But some of those cabins have been reserved by those planning to attend the outing. If you are one of those and have uncommitted space in your cabin, please let us know at the March meeting. Trailer and tent camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. We will have some folks traveling there on Thursday or Friday to ensure that we at least have our central gathering site where we build our bonfire. Three maps below provide directions to the Lake Murray and the Marietta Landing campground.



As noted in the outing flyer, we are soliciting volunteers to bring appetizers and desserts, so if you have a favorite, please share it with us. So scour your wine cellar or favorite liquor store to bring your best / worst red and white wines, as well as best cheese, for the judging that we will have after dinner. Also, we need judges, so if you are not a contest participant and would like to judge, please let Steve Ogden know. Let's have a great turnout and have the Rebels well represented.

What to Expect at Upcoming Events/Outings!

March 12-13 Wine & Cheese Party/Arctic Dive, Lake Murray, OK

April 15-17 Tyler State Park, Tyler, TX is always a fun outing. This shallow lake warms up quickly and offers descent visibility, lots of fish and turtles.

May 27-30 Balmorhea State Park, Balmorhea, TX was identified by members as a favorite location!

See page 6 for a complete list of Events and Outings!

Activities Director's Report from Tina Caron

I want to thank each of you for electing me to serve your club in the position of Activities Director! I am very excited about the activities we are working on for 2011, and I hope you will be too! Thank you for your participation in the 2011 Outing Survey - your responses played a big role in determining where your club will dive this year.

I am quickly learning that the Diving Rebels are full of tradition, and there are many spots that the club likes to visit year over year. I am personally disappointed that I won't be able to join you on one such outing - the Lake Murray Wine and Cheese Tasting. It's shaping up to be quite an event, and I hope everyone that attends has a great time. I'll be sure to be there in spirit. You can look forward to more of your favorite outings in the coming year, with locations including Tyler State Park, Lake Travis, and Lake Ouachita making the list of must-do outings.

As we have already announced, we will visit Tyler State Park in April. Kelly Barentine and I are co-ordinating this outing, and will be looking for meal coordinators. Please let us know what you are able to help with! Also in accordance with tradition, we will be holding the Annual Mid-year party in June, this time at Clear Springs Scuba Park. The tradition of Underwater Pumpkin Carving will live on in October, at the very popular Blue Lagoon. And of course, we will hold the Annual Chili Cook-off in November, followed by the Holiday Party in December.

Your responses to the survey gave us valuable insight into other locations that we needed to consider as a club. As a direct response to overwhelming interest, we are visiting Balmorhea State Park over Memorial Day weekend. Steve Ogden stepped up on the spot to coordinate this outing, he was so pleased! He's as excited for this outing as I am, and he's putting together a great weekend for us. Another one of Steve's favorite places, Aquarena Springs, was highly rated with many people interested in participating in the Scientific Diver class held there. While not planned as an official outing at this time, it's on the radar and maybe we will find a way to slip it in!

It is also clear that our club loves Blue Water, with locations like Florida, South Padre Island and the Flower Gardens scoring very high marks. In fact, the only fresh water dive site to even land in the overall top 5 responses was Balmorhea!

I am very excited to tell you that I am already working on setting up a Flower Gardens trip for this summer! We have a potential date for the outing, over the 4th of July long weekend. This will give folks an opportunity to enjoy the Freeport/Galveston area for a day after all that great diving, or just make a leisurely trip back home. Look for more details on this outing during the March member meeting, and upcoming newsletters.

Of course, I could go on and on telling you all about the fabulous outings we have on the agenda. We, as a board, are very pleased to have scheduled outings for the entire year, based mostly on your survey responses. I hope you will find that we are visiting a good variety of sites, near and far, fresh and salt. We were also able to gather quite a few ideas for outings to plan in 2012, with locations such as Bonne Terre Mines, Cozumel, Roatan, and the Bahamas getting lots of write in support. Thanks to your honest feedback, we have outing ideas for a long time to come!

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

What's The Plan, Stan?!

Tina Caron

Plan your dive, dive your plan. That was the motto drilled into me during my open water scuba diver class. It's one of the tenets of safe diving, helping everyone in your dive group to understand what to expect when you are underwater, be it in a lake, pond, or the deep blue.

The Diving Rebels dive all over, in rivers, lakes, and many other locations that are comfortable and familiar, like your favorite pair of jeans! It's very easy to forget to think about your dive plan when you are diving a location that you have been to many times before. Remember that we have new members all the time, and they may be experiencing a dive for the first time. They may not know that "the spot to the left of the rocks is where we always get in"! Treat each dive like you, or someone in your group, is diving that site for the first time.

Next time you get ready to enter the water, I challenge you to stop and discuss your dive plan with your buddy or group. It's better to find out at the surface that Sally gets nervous when her tank pressure drops below 750 psi, or Timmy is scared to dive to 70 ft in the lake! Consider the following points, and review with your dive group for understanding and agreement:

- Entry and exit point and method.
- Intended and/or maximum dive duration.
- Maximum depth.
- Minimum tank pressure upon surfacing.
- Will buddy pairs remain on the dive while others are surfacing, or will everyone terminate the dive when the first person reaches minimum tank pressure?
- Objective of the dive. Are you following a navigation plan or trying to find a specific location?
- Determine who is the dive leader.
- Determine who is the leader in each buddy pair, and determine the order in which each diver or pair of divers will proceed.
- Discuss safety issues such as lost buddy procedures, out of air procedures, and how you will communicate with each other underwater (hand signals, slates, noisemakers, etc).

Once you are in the water, remind your group to give an OK when they are ready to descend, "orient as briefed" (that's the plan part!), switch out the snorkel for the reg, check your time, and GO DIVING! Remember, plan your dive, and dive your plan to keep everyone in your group safe!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A YEAR OF DIVING AND FUN!

March	12-13	Wine & Cheese Party and Arctic Dive, Lake Murray
April	15-17	Tyler State Park
May	27-30	Balmorehea State Park
June	25-26	Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year party
July	1-4	Flower Gardens (Tentative)
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

Diving Rebels at Texas Dive Show in Irving

On March 25 and 26th the Diving Rebels manned a booth and display at Texas Dive Show. International tourism, resorts, dive shops, dive clubs, equipment representatives, live aboard adventures, and certification agencies were all present at the 2011 show. It was a great opportunity to visit with travel representatives from resorts and dive operations in the Caribbean and far beyond. The Diving Rebel display showcased the club's monthly activities, diving and active membership with photos, handouts and a slideshow of event photos.



Continued from page 1, March Meeting Presenter: Steve Ogden on Aquarena Center

The Rebels are investigating organizing a Rebels-only class for this program in the near future. Diving in Spring Lake is about the closest to blue-water diving you will experience in inland fresh water and is a magical experience. A couple of photos below provide a hint of what will be presented in the program. Hopefully, this will whet the diving appetites of many Rebels and you will join us in the class. (Pictures below represent above and below Spring Lake.)





Birthdays



- 3/4 Gerald Foster
- 3/4 Heather Thompson
- 3/8 Wren Tidwell
- 3/9 Tyler Tidwell
- 3/18 Ray Howerton
- 3/28 Debbie Leyden
- 3/30 Marc Gowdy

Anniversaries

3/10 Michelle Neff & Alan Redman

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

Member Announcements

With sadness we share news of the death a member's loved one: Member Sherry Strahla's son-in-law, Steven Paul McGann, passed away on Thursday 2/10/11. He leaves behind Sherry's daughter, Kim, and their two young daughters. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that contributions be made for the girls' college expenses. The Club will collect contributions at the March meeting.

With joy we share a note from members Etson and Chau Barentine: Little Emma Rose is here and would like to thank you for your generous gifts. Here is a picture of Little Emma. She was born February 9, 2011 weighing 6 lb 12 oz and 18" long. We are excited to bring Emma to her first meeting as soon as she can pick out something to wear. But in all seriousness we will try to make it the next club meeting.



Tyler State Park Outing, April 15-17

The April Outing is scheduled for April 15-17 and will be located at Tyler State Park (TSP). TSP is a favorite location for the Diving Rebels. Located about 2 hours east of Dallas just north of I-20, it is a great place to spend the weekend.

Wildlife species are characteristic of east Texas: deer, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, as well as numerous species of birds. Popular fish include crappie, perch, catfish, and bass. See website: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/park/tyler/>

The park is well maintained and staffed by helpful, courteous rangers. They do a great job of alerting campers to weather concerns, thieving raccoon gangs, etc. Bathroom facilities have showers and are kept clean daily. The Diving Rebels have 2 campsites reserved.

The park includes a 64-acre lake with maximum depth of 25-30 feet. A diver will find typical lake residents here – fish, turtles, etc. Besides scuba diving, other activities include boating (motors allowed - 5 mph speed limit), fishing, birding, hiking, mountain biking, and lake swimming. The Park store (phone 903-592-6790) rents canoes, paddle boats, kayaks, bike boats, jon boats, and mountain bikes. And if all that activity makes your leg muscles hurt, bring your hammock and relax.

Kelly Barentine and Tina Caron are co-outing coordinators for TSP. More information will be available at the April 6 meeting and in the April newsletter.

