

# The Rebel Yell

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

October 2011

## 2011 DIVING REBEL BOARD

Danny Bouska,	President
Mark Estill,	Vice President
Kelly Barentine,	Treasurer
Rita Simpson,	Secretary
Tina Caron,	Activities Director
Sherry Hammond,	Sr. Board Member
Danny Barentine,	Jr. Board Member

### Appointed Positions

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](http://WWW.DIVINGREBELS.ORG)

or send an email with your question(s) and/or comments to:

[info@divingrebels.org](mailto: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 – October 5, 2011**  
**6:30pm Social 7:15pm Meeting Begins**

**Board Nominations**  
**Scuba Bingo**

## What's Inside?

- Pg 2 President's Report, Susan Banda
- Pg 3 Scuba Bingo, Birthdays/Anniversaries, New Members
- Pg 4 Proposed Amendments to the Diving Rebels Skin Diving Club
- Pg 6 October Outing, Blue Lagoon
- Pg 7 Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Rules
- Pg 8 November Outing Annual Chili Cook-Off, 2011 Activity Calendar
- Pg 9 Chinese Auction Success, Labor Day Post Party
- Pg 13 Ordinary Members-Extraordinary Experiences: Johnny Griffin

## Upcoming Events Calendar

- Oct 5 Membership Meeting, Officer Nominations, Scuba Bingo
- Oct 22 Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest/Blue Lagoon
- Nov 2 Membership Meeting and Officer Elections
- Nov 12 Annual Chili Cook-Off
- Dec 10 Christmas Party, Diving Lake Arlington

## President's Report

Hello Everyone,

It is with a saddened heart with which I write this month's letter. As you may or may not know, the Diving Rebels lost one of its members in a tragic accident on September 24th. Susan Banda passed in a motorcycle accident in Oklahoma. Susan loved motorcycles and scuba diving and was riding on her first overnight motorcycle trip.

I remember meeting Susan when she joined the Club at the Pumpkin Dive at the Blue Lagoon in October 2010 and she became a member at the November Membership Meeting. Susan has attended many meetings and outings and most recently, she and Sandra Playle won the Navigation Contest at the August Outing to the Blue Lagoon.

Once you met Susan, you would never forget the smile she always had and the bubbly personality which she possessed.

During the Board of Director's Meeting held on September 28th, the Board elected to donate \$100 to a fund which has been established for Brandon, Susan's son. Also the Board elected to donate the proceedings from Scuba Bingo which will be held at the October Membership Meeting. Individuals will also be given the opportunity to donate at the meeting.

Please keep Susan's family in your thoughts as they struggle through this difficult time.

Danny

### Susan Banda 1966-2011



Diving Rebels Member, Susan Maree Banda, of Roanoke, TX passed away on Sept. 24, 2011 in Oklahoma due to a motorcycle accident. Susan is survived by her son, Brandon Davis Banda of Roanoke, TX; mother, Donna Golden of Roanoke, TX ; father Alan Fred Sedgwick of Houston, TX and other extended family members.

**An "Open House" celebration of Susan's life will be this Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 2:00-6:00PM at Brandon's Home: 200 Courtland Circle, Roanoke, TX. Several members of the Club plan to be at the Open House around 3pm on Saturday and others plan to be there around 4pm.**

In lieu of flowers a fund has been set up in Susan's name to care for Brandon's future needs. The fund can be accessed online at Wells Fargo using the name Susan Banda, or donations can be made at any Wells Fargo location. Donations can also be made via Paypal using [susanbandamemorial@att.net](mailto:susanbandamemorial@att.net). The Board of Directors voted to donate to the fund \$100 plus the proceeds from Scuba Bingo which will be held at the October Membership Meeting. A means for individual donations will also be provided at the meeting on October 5th. On-line condolences may be left at [www.mulkeymasondenton.com](http://www.mulkeymasondenton.com).

# SCUBA

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



The proceeds (less prizes) from the October 5  
Scuba Bingo will be donated to the fund set aside  
for Susan Banda's son, Brandon. (See related  
article, pg2 regarding Susan's passing.)



### **BIRTHDAYS**

10/6 Tina Caron  
10/8 Danny Bouska  
10/13 KC Von Gesjen  
10/15 Roy Stillwell  
10/22 Sherry Hammond  
10/22 Tommie Thompson  
10/23 BJ Lasik  
10/24 Jim Simpson  
10/26 Sherry Strahla  
10/29 Sandra Playle  
10/30 David Pearce  
10/31 Susan Baker

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

10/11 Melvin & Leslie Boyd

Did we miss your special date? Contact  
Mark Estill to update your info!

## **A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in September 2011**

Welcome to New Members  
Bob Munger – Arlington – PADI Divemaster  
Scott Nipp – Fort Worth – PADI OW  
Sherald Vogt – Arlington – SDI AOW

**Please give a Rebel Welcome to our newest members!**



Bob Munger



Scott Nipp

## Proposed Amendments to the Diving Rebels Skin Diving Club Bylaws

### Club Name Change:

From “Diving Rebels Skin Diving Club Inc” to “Diving Rebels Scuba Club Inc” in the Bylaws title and in ARTICLE III – MEMBERS 1A.

This change would only be made under the condition that it can be done without a high degree of difficulty and with a cost of less than \$100

### Add to ARTICLE III- MEMBERS

#### 5. Suspension and Removal

- A. Members are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a civil manner, and to refrain from disruptive or dangerous behavior or any behavior which may cause discredit to the Club or subject the Club to actual or potential civil and/or criminal liability. It is emphasized that the conduct of club members and officers can greatly affect the clubs reputation, other members of the club, or the sport of scuba diving as a whole. It is of utmost importance and imperative that good conduct and safe diving be adhered to at all times. Any member’s membership may be suspended or removed from the club membership for cause:

Cause is defined as:

1. a written complaint, which has been signed by a minimum of three members, and is presented to the Board of Directors. Review will be conducted by the board at the next regular or called board meeting following the complaint and will follow with discussion with the affected member at the following regular or called board meeting.
2. a person who persists in violation of established safe diving rules
3. a person who endangers another member through his/her actions
4. a person who has a.) attended or registered to attend a club sponsored event, b.) accrued a debt(s) to either the club or the event facility and c.) has failed to settle said debt after being informed, in writing, of the debt(s) within a specific time frame set by the Board of Directors.
5. a person who misuses club property
6. a person whose conduct is detrimental to the best interests of the club

These proceedings may be initiated by an affirmative simple majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled or called board meeting, in which event, the offending member shall be immediately notified and the matter presented to the next regular membership meeting. The member may be removed, by a secret ballot vote of 2/3rds percent of the members present.

- B. Members removed for any reason are not entitled to a refund of their annual dues.
- C. Once removed former members may be allowed to rejoin the Club at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **Add: Article XVII – Hall of Fame**

1. Hall of Fame membership is given to members of the Board of Directors for their long and dedicated service to the Diving Rebels Scuba Club.
2. Board members will automatically become members of the Hall of Fame when the Board of Directors has certified that they have accumulated 84 months of service. Those board members fulfilling multiple positions will be credited with the number of months served in each position.
3. At the November Board of Directors Meeting, the president shall present the number of months and the total number of months served from previous years. The Board shall certify the months of service for each individual separately by written ballot. The certifying vote is for time served fulfilling a position(s).
4. New members of the Hall of Fame may exercise their rights as such as soon as the Board certifies that they have fulfilled 84 months of service. They will be publicly recognized as new Hall of Fame members at the next appropriate club function after their certification.
5. Members of the Hall of Fame are given lifetime membership in the Diving Rebels Scuba Club at one half the membership rate.

### **Add: Article XV - Club Diving Trips**

All dive trips sponsored by the club shall be governed by published rules established by the Board of Directors and/or the specific outing coordinator(s). The rules shall be considered part of this article.

### **Add: Article XVI – Amendments**

The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Club members present, in person or by proxy, at a regular monthly membership business meeting following:

1. The proposed change(s) shall be presented in writing at a meeting of the Board of Directors. The proposed change(s) must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors for the change(s) to be recommended to the membership.
2. Email notice of the proposed change(s) sent to all members prior to
3. Publication in the Club's Newsletter followed by
4. Verbal notification to the membership of the proposed change(s) at the Monthly Membership Business meeting following the email and publication in the Club's Newsletter and
5. A motion being introduced, seconded, and voted upon during the business meeting of the next monthly Membership Meeting

## **Proposed By-Laws Amendments**

The Board of Directors is proposing these By-Laws amendments at the October 5, 2011 Membership Meeting of the Diving Rebels Scuba Club. Please review if you are a voting member. These amendments were reviewed by the Board of Directors which cast a unanimous vote to present these amendments to the Membership.

**If you are unable to make the Membership Meeting on October 5th, you may use the "ByLaws Amendment Absentee Ballot 2011" (emailed to all Club voting members) to cast your vote. Please note that absentee ballots must be returned to [president@divingrebels.org](mailto:president@divingrebels.org) no later than 5:00pm CT on October 5, 2011.**

## October Outing, Blue Lagoon – Huntsville, Tx, October 22-23

*Outing Coordinator: Danny Bouska*

Join the Diving Rebels at the Blue Lagoon for an early Halloween and be hidden away in the haunting piney woods just north of Huntsville Texas off I45. For over twenty years the eerie lagoon has served the divers of Texas with aqua blue bodies.....of water, carving (training) platforms, mysteriously sunken boats and miscellaneous ghoulish items. There is primitive camping if you dare, an onsite air station, concessions, and ice.

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 & non-diving parents accompanying minors during diving lessons.

The Blue Lagoon opens at 8am on Saturday the 22nd and Sunday the 23rd. Camping is also available on Friday night, the 21st. The gates close at 10pm on Friday. Come out Friday night or on Saturday, spend the day or the weekend, campout under the stars in the haunting piney woods, or grab a hotel room in nearby Huntsville.

Saturday events and flexible tentative times are:

- 8:00am “Spooky” Campsite Decorating (ongoing all day) Generators may be available if your decorations have lights.  
Diving, Diving, Diving
- 1:00pm Pumpkin preparation starts
- 3:00pm Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 7:30pm Halloween Themed “Spooky” Campsite Decorating Judging
- 8:00pm Presentation of Awards

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. The Blue Lagoon does not allow pets. There are Porta Potties scattered throughout the property.

There will be a meal share for Saturday lunch and dinner and breakfast on Sunday. If you are not familiar with a “Meal Share”, the cost of the 3 meals is added together and divided by the number of participants. You are responsible for your own drinks.

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

**We need to know if you’re coming! Sign Up sheets will be available at the October 5th meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting and want to participate, and to assure we have plenty of food please email [president@divingrebels.org](mailto:president@divingrebels.org) or call Danny at 817-381-5051. This email address or phone number can also be used for questions about the outing.**

If signing up for the outing 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 if you are participating in the meal share.

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 4 miles. The Blue Lagoon entrance will be on the left.



## Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Rules

Bring your own pumpkin, any size you wish. All pumpkins must be checked in upon arrival at our camping area at the Blue Lagoon. DO NOT pre-clean/gut or pre-draw/trace your pumpkin before check-in at the Blue Lagoon. Pumpkins will be marked at check-in and held in the "Pumpkin Patch" until time for the carving. There will be three categories: Scariest, Ugliest and Best Design.

1. At 1:00, you may pick up your pumpkin from the "Pumpkin Patch".
2. You will have two hours to gut your pumpkin (on land), trace by pencil or marker if desired (no precutting of the pumpkin of any kind, except to remove the top for gutting).
3. At 3:00, buddy teams will enter the water and begin the underwater carving of the pumpkins.

### NOTE:

THE BLUE LAGOON IS PERMITTING US TO HAVE THE UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT **ALL PUMPKINS MUST BE GUTTED and CLEANED BEFORE BEING TAKEN INTO THE WATER. NOT GUTTING & CLEANING THE PUMPKIN BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER IS AN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION AND MUST ALSO CLEAN UP ANY MESS MADE BY THE GUTS.**

4. Must practice safe diving; therefore, must have a buddy and cannot enter the water by yourself. Both members of the buddy team may carve their own pumpkin.
5. Carving must be done on the platform.
6. No weights can be used to assist in submerging or holding down the pumpkin on the platform.
7. Must use only a dive knife for carving.
8. Must surface with no less than 500psi in tank. (safe diving practice)
9. All carved items must be caught in some kind of bag and removed from the lagoon.
10. Each team will be required to check in and out of the water.
11. If by chance your pumpkin were to abort the dive prior to finishing or starting, you may retrieve your pumpkin and continue.
12. All pumpkins wishing to be judged must be returned to the "Pumpkin Patch" by 5pm.



# Annual Chili Cook-Off, November 12-13

Outing Coordinator: Doug Sheppard

Mark your calendar and come out for the hotly contested titles of Best Chili and Best Presentation. This annual event is being coordinated by Doug Sheppard and will be held at Cedar Hill State Park on Joe Pool Lake. The exact camp sites are yet to be determined.

Bring your chili or cook it on site and show off your creativity with your cooking area and chili presentation. Judging is based on the criteria of taste, consistency, aroma, color, bite and presentation.

Cedar Hill State Park is located on F.M 1382, on the right heading south (over the hill and turn right at the bottom of the curve). Out of Arlington take I-20 east exit FM 1382 south. From Dallas take I-20 west Exit FM 1382 south.

Questions and Information: Doug Sheppard 817-881-5499 [dougshep@charter.net](mailto:dougshep@charter.net)

Stay tuned for more details at the October and November Membership Meetings and in the November Newsletter. Since the camp sites are booked for the night, anyone wishing to camp is welcome.

*"To make an award winning chili, one needs fresh ingredients such as freshly ground chili meat, fresh onions, peppers, and tomatoes which add flavor, an array of spices to perfect the taste and add that needed bite, and most important, time.....time for all the ingredients to blend and merge together or as Emeril states 'become happy'!" Danny Bouska*

*"You see these cooking shows and they are in a kitchen that looks homey and it makes the food look like it tastes really good." Kelly Barentine*

## 2011 WHAT'S LEFT???

<b>Oct 22-23</b>	<b>Blue Lagoon-Underwater Pumpkin Carving, Danny Bouska</b>
<b>Nov 12</b>	<b>Chili Cook-Off, Doug Sheppard</b>
<b>Dec 10</b>	<b>Christmas Party &amp; Lake Diving, Lake Arlington Rec Room</b>

## PLAN AHEAD: LOOKING FORWARD TO 2012!

<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>San Marcos River Clean Up</b>
<b>Feb 25</b>	<b>Wine and Cheese Party, Lake Murray OK</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Tyler State Park</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>South Pacific Islands of FIJI</b>

## Chinese Auction Success!

*By Danny Bouska, President*

**WOW**, if you missed this year's Chinese Auction, you missed the chance to bid on a lot of great items including trips to Roatan, Utila and the mountains in Arkansas! Not only was there a lot of fun, the bidding became furious at times even to the point of a husband and wife bidding against each other. It was all in fun and fun was definitely the theme at this year's Chinese Auction.

A special thank you goes out to Jim and Rita Simpson for their gracious donation of a week in their condo on Roatan and a weekend at their cabin near Murphysboro Arkansas which also included a fly fishing lesson from a professional guide. Also another special thank you to Linda and Jim Magnuson for their donation of a 2 for 1 gift certificate to Utopia Dive Village on Utila.

Before the auction it was announced that if \$2000 was raised, Danny would dive Lake Arlington. Well it looks as if everyone really wanted to see Danny diving Lake Arlington especially after he stated several times that he "hates cold water"! **The trips and the items brought and bid on by the members and guest present brought in a record \$3100 so Danny will be diving Lake Arlington before the Christmas Party on December 10th!** Johnny Griffin and Ray Howerton have volunteered to keep him company!

Again a great big thanks to everyone who donated item, bid and participated in this year's Chinese Auction!

## Labor Day Weekend, S. Padre Island

*By Connie Mitchell, Historian*

I hope you understand I just have to get back to the Island....

If you didn't get to go, you missed a great time. Thursday evening found Johnny and I on the road to South Texas, it seems like I could already smell the Ocean! We arrived early Friday about 4:30a.m., called the dive shop to check in and found that THE WEEKEND may be scrubbed because of the tropical storm Lee. So we jumped on the boat at six o'clock a.m. and did 2 dives on the *Texas Clipper*. Water was choppy and the undercurrent was raising the silt over the bow but it was a great day. (Note to self: cover up or put on some sun block if you're going to fall asleep on the way in.) By the time we came in there were a number of Rebels having arrived on the Island and the fun began. Kelly & Danny, Ray, Jeanne, Gail, Becky, Letty & RJ were all checking in, followed by Oggie, Steve & Scott ready to PLAY.

Jerry & his family were in and Roger & his family already having played in the ocean, jumped in the pool and cleaned up it was time for some SEAFOOD so we arrived. Once we got settled, met at "Daddy's" about sundown and filled up on fresh fish of the day. A couple of glasses were raised to ourselves and off to see the fireworks over the bay and find some quiet time... BECAUSE we might be diving in the morning.

Room phone ringing, someone at the door, cell phone going off...that is how Saturday morning started...lol. NO DIVING today, seas to high ..Well NOW what are we going to do Connie? Come, follow me, after all we are on THE ISLAND.

Well first we rounded up the Rebels that arrived Saturday morning ((Keith & Mark) then..... How about some breakfast? Off to Ted's we went. Then thanks to Jeanne and Kelly having checked out all there was to offer on Padre, we headed to the Turtle Rescue. This is a wonderful place to visit. We saw numerous turtles

that had been found, missing parts and having problems surviving in the wild. One small turtle had just been rescued that weekend; he had been washed in from the Yucatan because of the storm. We had a nice look around, listened to the presentation, and then got to watch feeding time. "Jerry" was entertaining with his eating of the lettuce thru the glass.

We all went off to eat some lunch, play on the beach and just lounge for some time. Playing on the beach we found Kevin and family, or he found us. Also Travis and a friend and arrived for the fun. Then a small group of us went horseback riding on the beach, let me tell you there is not a better feeling in the world... We were all selected according to our skills and matched with a horse. It was entertaining to say the least to watch us all get ON our horse. Then off we went, crossed the highway onto the beach thru the crowds. It's amazing how many people don't know how to get OUT OF THE WAY ... KUDOS to Kelly for saving the life of a small child that got scared and ran thru the horses. Kelly controlled her horse and managed to steer clear until our Guide could take control of the situation. Some of us got to trot our horses while some of us just walked along. I think everyone had a great time.

After cleaning up we all met at Sea Ranch Restaurant at the Marina. With some small confusion they managed to seat all 30 of us and a great dinner was had by all. Since we did not get to all sit together it was fun to get up and visit the different areas and enjoy some social time together. Then back to our rooms and watching more fireworks over the bay. Go to bed, we MIGHT dive tomorrow.....

DIVE! DIVE!... yup we get to dive today. Sunday morning found 19 of the Rebels at the dock and ready to RUMBLE.. Some stayed on shore as there were a few not up to par on this trip. By sunrise we were headed out to sea: going to dive the oil rig, *Little Sara*. Sea wasn't bad on the trip out. No high seas like Friday, but some nice swells. We geared up with our buddies and into the water we went.

Most of us dropped down to about 60 ft and decided that was not going to work. Nothing but muck. Kelly and Becky did some rescue diving to bring Gail back up but that wasn't nothing since Kelly is a RESCUE Diver...lol. The sea wasn't that clear because of the storm and lots of nice rollercoaster riding because of the swells.

Of course the creatures were awesome, if you just stopped in one place and looked you saw all there was to see. Except maybe an octopus, which Johnny saw as soon as he sent me UP!! What's up with that...?

Topside we had a few upchucks, a heatstroke and some "I am not feeling to good" episodes but off we went again. Seems the sea had cleared some, vis was better, and this dive was extended until all were low on air....

We were within 150 miles of the eye of the storm Lee and watched a few squalls go by which was nothing we Rebels can't handle. We saw some pods of Dolphins when we got into the Bay.

Back on shore we all headed to our hotels for some me time, some of us hit the beach, some went to the Bird Rescue, some played on the mainland. At dinnertime we met up at Padre Ritaville and had a few drinks and another nice fresh seafood dinner. This time we all got to sit together and had a nice indoor patio all to ourselves (well mostly). RJ posted Rebels info on their wall for all times and Oggie captured a nice moth species for his collection. Then we headed back to Padre South Hotel for some lounging in the hot tub. About 15 Rebels partied until midnight or so. NO WE WERE NOT TOO LOUD, well not all of us anyway.

Monday morning saw us all on the road. Some made it thru just fine and some of us ran from fires. We all struggled home safe and sound and so ends another DIVING REBELS OUTING.



**Diving Rebels: S. Padre Living!**



# Ordinary Members-Extraordinary Experiences

## Johnny Griffin

*By Kelly Barentine, Treasurer*

If you have been to a Diving Rebel's meeting within the last two years you have either talked to or heard about Johnny Griffin. Johnny is a gregarious man who enjoys life to its fullest and considers everyone his "buddy."

Johnny had wanted to scuba dive all his life so when an opportunity came about to go to Australia and do a live aboard traveling on the Coral Sea he wasted no time in getting his certification. To Johnny the best diving in the world is in the Coral Sea with its 100' visibility, he did his Open Water certification then a few weeks later he got his Advanced.

It was during his Advanced class he met Ray Howerton who Johnny jokingly claims that although he is not attracted to him, Ray is physically attracted to Johnny. It has been a long standing joke between the both of them. However, Johnny did meet someone at the same time that he was attracted to and that would be Connie Mitchell-Suter. Johnny is so enamored with Connie he has asked her to be his wife and plan to marry in 2012.

Johnny dove the Coral Sea in 2009 and came back with tons of thrilling stories which he shared with the Club. Although Johnny did more than just dive on his trip there is nothing that compared with his diving with poisonous Coral Sea snakes more than once. During his dive multiple snakes appeared out of nowhere and would swim all around him. Although it made him highly nervous and on guard he followed through with his dive and came back with a great story to tell.

Even though Johnny is full of stories that curl the average person's toes and sets their heart to racing when they picture themselves in that situation, Johnny just waves it off. One event that did rock him and set his heart to racing was during one of his many dives in Australia. Johnny had been diving off a reef and came around a coral head formation (called a baumey in Australia) when he came upon a 13-14' tiger shark. He said they were about 15' from each other and his initial reaction was of fear with an explicative word to express it, but after that initial moment he could not help but to appreciate how beautiful the shark was. It must be mentioned that according to Johnny he startled the shark just as badly as he had been. The shark just went his own way and Johnny continued his dive.

Johnny loves being scared and is a thrill seeker; he enjoys the excitement that comes with it. That thrill seeking drive is part of the reason Johnny has been working towards his Technical Diver certification. It has been an extremely challenging task and physically exhausting but he is taking it one dive at a time and is close to completing the training. Although diving is a part of his thrill-seeking persona, Johnny enjoys that as he is diving there is absolutely nothing going on in his mind. He loves the serenity and feels like he is cheating because he is breathing under water and he is not supposed to be.

Of all the diving Johnny has done none have been more memorable than his first trip to dive The Clipper off South Padre Island in 2009. He dove with Mark Stonebridge and Keith Weber and it was partnering up with them that helped him realize how inexperienced a diver he really was. Since then Johnny takes the opportunity to dive at every club outing possible and even creates his own outings. You will see many posts on Facebook telling all his and Connie's friends where they are going to dive and invites others to come along.

Johnny joined the club in July of 2009 by way of the web site [www.divingrebels.org](http://www.divingrebels.org) and has helped the club gain few new members as well. He enjoys the camaraderie with fellow members and just being able to be with others who dive. He loves the club as it is and would not change a thing.

Johnny has other interests besides diving which includes hunting, fishing and football. He is a Cowboys fan when they are winning but a Longhorn fan no matter what. With Johnny nothing is hidden, what you see is what you get.

Johnny has some advice he wanted me to share with his fellow divers, he feels that you should make sure you turn on your air before going on a dive. I think we all agree that is a step in your buddy check that should not be missed.

I encourage you to come to a meeting and just chat with Johnny for a few minutes. You will come away with a few laughs and a new friend. He is one of the many people in the club that help make the club not only fun but like a family, the kind you want to go and visit.



Johnny in full Tech Gear



Pictured (left to right) Johnny, Daniel Wojick and Gavio

