



# The Rebel Yell



July 2016

## 2016 DIVING REBELS BOARD

Allen Bothwell	President
Steve Ogden	Vice President
Kevin Schuck	Treasurer
Steve Black	Secretary
Jeff Bennett	Activities Director
Mark Stonebridge	Sr. Board Member
Marcus Greenberg	Jr. Board Member

### Appointed Positions

Jay Delmar	Newsletter Editor
Danny Bouska	Webmaster
TBD	Historian
Cathy McWilliams	Social Coordinator

To contact a member of the board, please visit our website at:

<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!



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday – July 6, 2016

Humperdinks, 700 Six Flags Dr., Arlington, TX

6:30 pm Social 7:15 pm Meeting

### What's Inside?

- Pg 2 Events and Outings at a Glance, Member News!
- Pg 3 President's Letter
- Pg 4 June Restaurant of the Month Report and Restaurant of the Month ~ July
- Pg 5 Athens Scuba Park Outing
- Pg 6 Dive Florida: September 10–17
- Pg 7 Dive the Desert Report: Balmorhea State Park
- Pg 10 Midyear Outing Report: Clear Springs Scuba Park
- Pg 13 Club Sponsors

## July Meeting Program

Edward Pietersz, of Ocean Encounters Curaçao, will discuss diving opportunities in Curaçao, one of the “ABC” islands off the coast of Venezuela. Ocean Encounters Curaçao is a PADI five-star instructor development dive resort, offering PADI dive courses for every level, from beginner to open water diver to dive instructor. Ocean Encounters provides special dive trips to the Mushroom Forest and Klein Curaçao as well as dolphin dives for divers and nondivers. For more information on Ocean Encounters, see <http://www.oceanencounters.com/en/>.

### Upcoming Events Calendar

- Jul 2–9 Belize
- Jul 15 Restaurant of the Month: Villa's Grill
- Jul 23–24 Athens Scuba Park Outing
- Aug 20 Wheeler Branch
- Sep 2–5 Lake Ouachita, AR
- Sep 12–19 Fort Lauderdale, FL

## Congratulations to Cathy McWilliams on attaining Master Scuba Diver status!



Way to go, Cathy!!!

## Birthdays



Jul 03 George Bartulevicz  
Jul 16 Kevin Schuck  
Jul 15 John Richerson  
Jul 25 Jim Kirchhoff

Did we miss/make an error with your special date? If so, it's either not included or incorrect in our database.

Contact **Steve Ogden** to update/correct your information!

## Welcome to Our Visitors and New Members!!

The Diving Rebels were happy to welcome **Jason and Mandy Wright, Mark Mathews, Chris Wilson, Samantha Wilson, and Ray and Kim Conrow** to our April, May, and June membership meetings.

Thank you for visiting with us! We hope that you come again soon. We'd love to see you join the Diving Rebels Scuba Club and share some great diving experiences with us!

And here's a big Diving Rebels "howdy" to our newest members, **Terry Crippen, Jason Hastings, Ken Harris, Dawn Peters, and Carl Cogdill**. Welcome to the best scuba club in Texas!!

## Tell All Your Dive Buddies about the Diving Rebels!!

Now's a great time for your friends to become **Diving Rebels** since they can join the club for the rest of 2016 at a reduced rate—see the table below!

## Need New Rebel Wear?

See **Mark Stonebridge** to place your order!!

## Prorated 2016 New Memberships

As mid-year approaches, Diving Rebels Scuba Club membership dues are prorated starting July 1 to reflect a 50% decrease in diving member dues. The club offers a number of significant advantages; see <http://www.divingrebels.org/index.php/info/benefits> for a list of some of the benefits that club members receive.

The following table outlines the schedule and payments for Diving Rebels Scuba Club prorated membership dues.

	Single Diver – Regular Member	Initiation Fee	Each Additional Diver – Family Member in Same Household	Nondiving/ Nonvoting
<b>Joining July 1 and Later</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00*	\$10.00	\$5.00

If you cannot pay your club dues at a monthly membership meeting, remember that Chase Quick Pay is always an option. For more details on Chase Quick Pay, see the article in the January 2016 issue of *The Rebel Yell* (<http://www.divingrebels.org/newsletter/newsletters2016/Jan16newsletter.pdf>), or contact Kevin Schuck at [treasurer@divingrebels.org](mailto:treasurer@divingrebels.org) for a mailing address.

\* The initiation fee is per diving member and includes a club t-shirt.



## President's Letter



### Happy Birthday America!

I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start. After just finishing up the first outing of the summer, the Midyear Outing at Clear Springs Scuba Park, I would have to say there are at least a few Diving Rebels who at five days into summer got it started off right. Especially our newest member who managed to draw his own number for the Members Only raffle, winning a new tank . . . way to go, **Carl Cogdill!**

During the rest of the year, we still have plenty of events scheduled where you can get your fins wet, from the blue water trip to Belize to the trip to Ft. Lauderdale to other points within a reasonable drive from DFW.

Locally, we have the Athens Scuba Park outing coming up on July 23–24, the Wheeler Branch outing on August 20, and the Lake Ouachita (pronounced wash-it-ahh) outing on September 2–5.

Keep in mind, also, that if you want to go diving when the club hasn't scheduled an event, just contact one of your fellow Diving Rebels. There's usually someone who's ready to gear up!

Finally, as we head toward the end of 2016, we'll begin to talk about what outings to schedule for 2017. If you have dived somewhere that you think our club members would enjoy or know of a site where you would like to dive, do some research, and present it to the membership or just discuss it with a member of the club's Board of Directors. The outing can be local; in the tristate area of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; or even farther afield.

Fair warning! If you're thinking of a long-distance trip, be prepared to be the one to put it together.

Finally, just a friendly reminder—make sure that your gear that requires batteries is working, inspect your O-rings, carry a few spare parts, and let's get in the water while it's warm!!

Happy Fourth of July to all! Have fun, but most of all, BE SAFE!

Allen

## June Restaurant of the Month Report and Restaurant of the Month & July



**Where:** Villa's Grill  
**Address:** 137 S. Main St., Irving, TX 75060  
**When:** Friday, July 15, at 7:00 pm  
**Phone:** (972) 259-2939  
**Web:** <http://villasgrill.net/>  
**Email:** Cathy McWilliams at [social@divingrebels.org](mailto:social@divingrebels.org) or [fifeandthistle@outlook.com](mailto:fifeandthistle@outlook.com)

Greetings!

Summer is in full swing, and with the Texas heat upon us, all I can think of is diving—but dining comes a close second (just one little letter off), and with that comes my June Restaurant of the Month report. We had a great showing at Saviano's Italian Grill on June 10, 13 people joining us for some great food and fun.

On **Friday, July 15, at 7:00 pm**, we're going to celebrate the Summer Games in Brazil (at a safe distance from Zika virus-laden mosquitoes) and enjoy an evening at **Villa's Grill**, located at **137 S. Main Street, Irving**. Villa's Grill is an all-you-can eat Brazilian steakhouse, and if you have never been to one, it's a treat. With an all-you-can eat salad bar including cold and hot selections, 8 to 10 meats to choose from, and fantastic deserts, if you go away hungry, it's your own fault. I have to admit, I had never been to a Brazilian steakhouse before, so when Villa's was recommended to me, I had to check it out for lunch. There is a small selection of wines there, but they do allow BYOB, and there is NO corkage fee. I have only one word of caution: come hungry!!!!!!



Please let us know that you're planning to join us by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 13**. Just respond by signing up for the event at the July membership meeting. You can also respond by inserting a comment in the announcement of the July Restaurant of the Month event on the Diving Rebels Scuba Club Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/96073813073/>) indicating that you're coming and including your name and the number of attendees; by responding to the Villa's Meetup invitation; or by contacting me directly by email ([social@divingrebels.org](mailto:social@divingrebels.org) or [fifeandthistle@outlook.com](mailto:fifeandthistle@outlook.com)) or phone (253-219-6074) to let me know that you're coming.

Bon Appetit

Cathy McWilliams  
Social Coordinator

# Athens Scuba Park Outing

On **July 23–24**, the Diving Rebels Scuba Club will meet at **Athens Scuba Park, 500 N. Murchison St., Athens, TX**, for a weekend of diving and other fun at that well-known scuba facility.

Activities Director **Jeff Bennett** is coordinating the outing this year, and he is planning some diving-related events that should be a lot of fun, including some activities for prizes and raffle drawings. We'll also have a movie night, so if you have a favorite movie in your collection, bring it to Athens, and we'll vote on which ones to watch. **Jeff needs someone to coordinate a meal share for Saturday's lunch**, so let him know if you can help. Contact Jeff at [activities@divingrebels.org](mailto:activities@divingrebels.org) to volunteer or to get more information about the event.

For specific information about Athens Scuba Park, check out the park's website: <http://www.athensscubapark.com/home.html>. However, here's a useful summary of what you need to know:

- ☞ The park entry fee for each diver is \$20, and each diver must bring his/her C-card.
- ☞ The charge for Friday and Saturday camping or night diving is \$5.
- ☞ The charge for electricity at RV sites is \$25; water and sewer is available on request. If you're planning on using an RV site, please fill out the online registration form.
- ☞ You can get an air fill for \$10. However, tanks 20 years old or older will not be filled.
- ☞ Lake and shop summer hours: Wednesday through Friday 10:00 am–5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am–6:00 pm), camping and night diving Friday and Saturday



A sign-up sheet for the outing will be available at the July membership meeting, and we'll be discussing the event in more detail then.

Even if you can't attend the July meeting, make plans to come out and join us at Athens Scuba Park for our fun July outing. Don't forget—you can earn DRIFT points by attending and more points by diving! We'll be looking for you!!

# Dive Florida: September 10–17

Join your fellow Diving Rebels in Florida, September 10–17, as we enjoy a week of diving in Fort Lauderdale!

## FLORIDA UPDATE

**Date Line:** September 10–17

**Location:** Fort Lauderdale

**Hotel:** Bhia De Mar

**Diving:** Sea Experience

**Hotel 3 miles from the airport!**

**Boat, right out the back door!**

### **Air and hotel (Orbitz):**

**Spirit nonstop \$499**

**American nonstop \$723**

**Delta one stop \$642**

### **Examples of individual pricing:**

**Spirit \$90.18 Hotel \$728 (no tax)**

**Total \$818.18**

**American \$315 Hotel \$728 (no tax)**

**Total \$1,043.00**

**Slots are filling fast, so sign up soon . . .**

See Allen Bothwell for more details, or contact him at [president@divingrebels.org](mailto:president@divingrebels.org).

# Dive the Desert Report: Balmorhea State Park

## Steve “Oggie” Ogden

Over the Memorial Day weekend, 22 Diving Rebels, Rebedillos (folks with dual membership in the Diving Rebels and the Scubadillos) and Scubadillos journeyed to Balmorhea State Park in far west Texas, about 40 miles south of Pecos just off I-10, to “Dive the Desert.” Among that total, we had 20 adults, 2 children, and 15 divers. Both the number of attendees and the number of divers represent record participation for a Diving Rebels outing at Balmorhea State Park. **Cathy McWilliams** and **Terry Crippen** arrived on Thursday and secured the three campsites that we had reserved since last November—here’s a big “Thank You” to Cathy and Terry for coming out early.

In contrast to our 2014 sojourn at Balmorhea when most folks stayed in the park motel or RVs, all 2016 attendees tent camped, so our three sites were relatively crowded with tents.

The weather was quite pleasant again this year as it was in 2014, with temperatures in the upper 80s and low 90s; fortunately, we saw no torrential rain and hail like we experienced in 2014! Late Sunday afternoon, while some of us were still in the water, a very strong wind came through the campground and did some damage to tents and awnings. Sadly, the really nice large canopy belonging to **Ken Harris** that we all sat under prior to the wind coming through was destroyed.

Everyone dove or swam in the world’s largest outdoor spring-fed swimming pool. We dove twice both Saturday and Sunday. The vis in the morning dives was at least 60–80 feet, but that in the afternoon dives was a bit less due to the large number of swimmers stirring up the water, particularly in the diving board area of the pool. One diver, **Patricia Jabour**, performed her first open water dive after being recertified in May—congratulations, Patricia!

A few of us played underwater checkers and found that maintaining our neutral buoyancy required a certain degree of effort, particularly as we were set up in an area that experienced some current due to nearby subsurface spring flows.

On Saturday evening, we journeyed about an hour southwest of the park to the McDonald Observatory on Mt. Locke for its world-famous Star Party that has become a tradition during our outings at Balmorhea. What we did not know was that in contrast to previous years, the observatory had changed its reservation protocol in January 2016 to require online reservations. So we were told, sorry no reservations, no attending. But we were also told that there might be some cancellations and to hang around. There must have been a number of cancellations, since when we arrived at the amphitheater for the show, there were plenty of seats.

The sky was absolutely perfect for stargazing; no clouds were present, and the moon had not yet risen. When twilight faded and the evening darkness settled, we were once again treated to a fascinating lesson on the names and positions of various heavenly bodies. We learned some heuristics to enable us to identify and visually move from one skyward location to another, such as “arc (from the curve of the handle of the Big Dipper) to Arcturus” and “spike to Spica.” The powerful laser pointer used by the narrator to mark the various celestial objects appeared to reach all the way to the stars. In past years, the observatory was sometimes downright chilly, but this year, it was pretty mild and comfortable.

As usual, the observatory had a number of fixed and mobile telescopes available for viewing that some of our troupe stood in line to experience. Others were tired and headed back to the park after the narration. Unfortunately, Cathy experienced some sort of allergic reaction that necessitated her and Terry’s return to

the park prior to the start of the Star Party. **Jim and Linda Magnuson** graciously accompanied them back to the park.

As usual, we ate very well. On Friday night, we traveled into Balmorhea (three miles down the highway from the park) to eat at the Cueva de Oso (Den or Cave of the Bear). In what has become a bit of a tradition for the Diving Rebels, about 15 of us ate in the courtyard and experienced a very pleasant evening. On Saturday evening, Patricia and I were the meal coordinators; we got started a bit late (my fault), so **Steve Black** came to the rescue and got two grills going that served to get the cooking and preparation of chicken and roasted vegetables completed. Patricia also prepared two kinds of salads, so it was a great meal. Jim and Linda and **Ken Harris** and **Dawn Peters** prepared some great breakfasts, and Cathy provided hearty and tasty lunches on Saturday and Sunday. Combining costs for meal share and camping, and factoring in the club's contribution of \$100/day, each person's share came to a paltry \$10.28—extremely low considering the great time we had.

On Sunday evening, we were planning to go back to the Cueva de Oso, but we found out the restaurant closed early on Sunday night. We learned about a street festival in the town of Balmorhea and decided to check it out. That turned out to be a very good idea as the festival was really a blast, with live music and lots of different mobile food and drink vendors. We ate and drank well, and some of us even danced in the street. Since the festival is apparently an annual event, we will need to make it part of our future plans for the outing and create another Balmorhea tradition.

On Monday, we packed up for the long return trip to the Metroplex after a great weekend during which we experienced an oasis in the desert in different ways. Some of us got hung up on the way home (some longer than others) due to a tractor-trailer fire along I-20, just west of Odessa. Once we got past that, a few of us toured the Odessa Meteor Crater, site of a meteorite impact estimated to be about 63,000 years old. It was quite interesting walking along and through the crater formed by the impact.

If you missed the outing, you missed a great time—check out these photos from the event.



**Rebels Central**



**Campsite and Tents**





**Campsite and Tents**



**Relaxing under and around Ken's Shelter (Later Destroyed by Wind)**



**Dive Gear Assembly Area Near Pool**



**Gathering for a Meal**

# Midyear Outing Report: Clear Springs Scuba Park

## Allen Bothwell

Our Midyear Outing was held June 24–26 at Clear Springs Scuba Park (CSSP) and was yet another 2016 event not disturbed by bad weather! Clouds were threatening in the late afternoon but did not yield a drop; they did help to create a gorgeous sunset, though.

Here's a special "Thank You" to **Cathy McWilliams** and **Jeff Bennett** for getting to CSSP early and grabbing a primo spot, right across from the air fill station and bathrooms. Also, thanks to all of you who brought additional shade to the park in the form of canopies.

Approximately 40 Diving Rebels, family members, and guests came out to enjoy the comradery, warm weather, and diving. In addition, we gained two new members. Welcome to the Diving Rebels, **Carl Cogdill** and **Terry Crippen!**

Clear Springs is full, and the water, down to 15 feet, did not require a wet suit. Deeper than that, it got chilly fast. The visibility was hit and miss at best, but more on that subject further down. (No pun intended!)

I saw lots of fish—did I say lots of fish, one bluegill led the way. Returning to shore, I swam through a pack of bluegill, upwards of 20, whew!!! Fortunately, I made it through the school without losing an ear. Other divers reported seeing a catfish of 18 inches or so. We couldn't tell how much it weighed because it had no scales—yuck, yuck, yuck!

The water visibility wasn't great; vis was around 8–10 feet, then you hit a patch of murkiness, and once you were below that, the water would clear back up. The vis didn't keep anyone out of the water, though; almost all of us got in at least one dive, and there were several multiples. The water temperature on the surface was a balmy 80°, with the first thermocline at 15 feet where the temperature dropped to 70°. With no wet suit on, I didn't venture beyond that point.

We did have one casualty during the dive, and that was my daughter, who got one ear to clear but not the other. End result—a hole in the ear drum, ouch! She's been to the doctor, and fortunately, she'll be fine.

Aside from the diving there was a lot of talking, probably a few tall tales, and a lot of munchies.

Thanks to those who provided the additional snacks, cookies, brownies, and pies. Speaking of tall tales, I have to confess, Kroger did not let me in early in the morning to bake.

The Soulman showed up a little early, so the vittles were served at about 2:45, but we were all ready to eat! Lunch consisted of brisket, sausage, chicken, beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and all the fixings. There was enough food that if you went hungry, well, that was on you. We even had enough food to make some of the leftovers part of the raffle.

After dinner, we held a raffle offering a number of diving- and non-diving related prizes (Rebel Wear). A special Members Only raffle was held for a tank, which was won by **Carl Cogdill**, our newest member. Congratulations, Carl! Special thanks go to **Marcus Greenberg** for handling raffle ticket sales, which brought in \$345.

After some more laughter, the camp pretty much cleared out. A few hearty souls, **Mark Stonebridge**, **Cathy McWilliams**, and **Terry Crippen** chose to camp out in the warm night. **Jeff Bennett** and **Susan Taylor** opted to camp out in Jeff's air-conditioned trailer. Jealous? . . . you bet!

Thanks to everyone who helped organize the Midyear Outing as well as to those who participated in it. It made for a great day! And guess what . . .

We'll do it again next year!



### Fun at Clear Springs!!!



**Skies were cloudy, but when you're diving, who cares?**





Remember to Support Our Great Diving Rebels Sponsors!



ARLINGTON SCUBA CENTER, INC.

