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Welcome to Our Visitors!

The Diving Rebels were happy to welcome **Joe Rector** to our April membership meeting.

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 let's all welcome **Brian Wicker** and **Kody Dale**, two new Diving Rebels!

Birthdays



May 06	Doug Sheppard
May 08	Connie Mitchell Griffin
May 14	Steve Ogden
May 15	Jeffrey Bennett
May 20	Mark Stonebridge
May 25	William Beaty

Anniversaries



May 13	Danny and Jill Bouska
May 13	John and Gena Richerson
May 14	Mark and Michele Estill
May 16	Darrell and Mary Lou Barabash

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

Contact **Vice President Dale Romack** to update/correct your information!

Don't Forget!!

Reserve **June 23–25** on your calendars now for the **Diving Rebels Scuba Club's Annual Midyear Outing at Clear Springs Scuba Park!**

See the article in this newsletter for details.

Why We Dive . . .

We can share underwater adventures with our friends and families—



Jay Delmar and one of his favorite dive buddies, his daughter Erin

In Memoriam

The Diving Rebels are sad to announce the death of a long-time member of the club, as we pass along the following information.

Jim Kirchhoff, a long-time Rebel member and former officer who was an active participant in the club for many years, passed away recently. Jim's funeral will be held on **Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 pm** at the **Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Chapel, 7301 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, 76112** (<http://www.dignitymemorial.com/shannon-rose-hill-funeral-chapel/en-us/index.page>). His wife, **Phyllis**, and son **Phil** have also been long-time members. Phil Kirchhoff is currently the president of Inland Divers, which has a very nice facility at Possum Kingdom Lake that a number of Rebels have utilized and enjoyed. For those who knew the Kirchhoffs, a note of condolences would certainly be appreciated. Phil's email address is philkirchhoff@yahoo.com, and his phone number is **(817) 688-9644**.



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*



"You said it was going to get deep enough to dive 3 miles ago."

President's Letter

Well Hello There!

"How do I find buddies to dive with?" or something to that effect is the question I get asked the most. My typical answer includes "Find a dive club like the Diving Rebels, and go to its outings and meetings." Talk with Diving Rebels members, and become engaged in the organization. Join our Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/96073813073/>). Many impromptu dive outings are planned close to the weekend and are posted on Facebook. Take advantage of these outings. This is one of the keys to building a diving **community**. The club's upcoming events include an outing at **Balmorhea State Park** on **May 19–21**, where we've reserved three camp sites, and our **Midyear Outing** at **Clear Springs Scuba Park** on June **23–25**, featuring Soulman's BBQ in June 24!

For more information, check out the material in this newsletter, the Diving Rebels' Facebook page, and our website (<http://www.divingrebels.org/>). And don't forget our Meetup.com site (<https://www.meetup.com/Diving-Rebels-Scuba-Club/>). If you have any questions about an outing, see our Activities Director, **Jeffery Bennett**, or email him at activities@divingrebels.org.



If you read last month's newsletter, you might be thinking that lazy bum is using what he wrote last month. Well, yes, I am. I will let you choose which one it is, laziness or importance. As representatives of our club's members, we take their suggestions seriously. **Penny Johnson** suggested that we create a "diving buddy list." At first, we thought about using our Facebook group for this purpose, but not everyone uses Facebook (shocker), and some don't want personal information easily accessible. So we turned to our website for a solution, and Webmaster **Danny Bouska** set up a Diving Rebels Member Forum that we can use for a variety of purposes.

The Diving Rebels Member Forum can be accessed via <http://www.divingrebels.org/forum/index.php>. To register and log on to the forum, you must use the email address you filed when you joined the club. If you don't remember what it is, just ask me. (It is most likely the one where you receive the newsletter.) The forum comprises five sections: General Discussion, Membership List, Dive Buddy Needed, Dive Gear Needed, and Dive Gear for Sale. If you don't want to be included in the Membership List used in the forum, contact **Vice President Dale Romack** at vicepresident@divingrebels.org.

I'd like to thank Penny Johnson for her input and Danny Bouska for setting up the forum. Remember, the Diving Rebels Scuba Club is **your** club! If you have any suggestions, please pass them along to any member of the Board of Directors for consideration!

Let's get wet!

Kevin



Member Spotlight: Cathy McWilliams



1. **The Rebel Yell:** Tell us a bit about yourself, e.g., where you live, what work you do, your family, where you grew up and went to school.

Cathy: I currently live in Fort Worth. I'm retired from federal civil service, and I'm also a retired kilt maker. I grew up in Florida and California, joined the Army, and was honorably discharged in Washington State where I spent the next 23 years. I relocated to Texas for a lot of reasons, but mostly because I was tired of the rain. I have three children: John and his wife, Amber, in Galveston; Caroline and her husband, Josh, in Fort Hood; and Beccah in Los Angeles, CA.

2. **The Rebel Yell:** How long have you been diving? Where did you train, and what are your certifications?

Cathy: I received my first certification in March 2015 through PADI at Spring Lake, San Marcos, TX. And I haven't stopped learning. My other certifications include (PADI) Nitrox, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Search & Recovery, Navigation, Dive Authorization Course/Spring Lake, First Response, Advanced Open Water Diver, Master Diver, Deep Diving, and (NAUI) Advanced Rescue. I have my eyes on my Cave Diving certification next.

3. **The Rebel Yell:** Tell us about some of your favorite places to dive in Texas. What do you like most about them? Describe one of your favorite Texas dives.

Cathy: My favorite place to dive in Texas is my next dive. There is always something that the last place didn't have, but some places have more than others. These are the ones I keep going back to. Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary offers blue water diving and doesn't require a passport. Balmorhea offers altitude diving, and its clear, cool waters and tiny fish are fun! Spring Lake also offers clear, cool waters that I enjoy going back to again and again. Clear Springs (not so "clear" as the name indicates) is a fun quarry dive with lots of sunken toys—and fish—to play with. My favorite Texas dive will always be my first dive in Spring Lake. That's where I got my life back and started my journey forward in a world that before I could only admire from the shore. I am disabled, with pain being my constant companion, and I found that in the water I could do just about anything that any normal person can do. I am not limited by my size, shape, physical condition, or gender. I am defined by my heart and spirit, and I am at peace.

4. **The Rebel Yell:** Have you done any blue water diving? Where are your favorite dive sites, and what do you like most about them? Describe one of your favorite blue water dives.

Cathy: I have done blue water diving in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Texas and Florida, Cozumel, Roatan, and the Sea of Cortez. I love them all because I grew as a person and a diver with each dive. I had my first blue water experience off Texas. In Florida, I went lionfish hunting. I had my first drift dive in Cozumel where I saw my first seahorse. But I have to say diving in the Sea of Cortez changed my attitude about sea life. Living in the Seattle area, I had a negative opinion of sea lions. I thought they were smelly, lazy, nasty creatures that were a problem because they threatened the salmon population. Then I went to the Sea Lion Colony at La Paz. I went there primarily for the whale shark dive (truly the ocean's gentle giants), but I also was able to observe sea lions in their natural environment, and I changed my mind about them. Sea

lions (the younger ones anyway) are fun and energetic. They are graceful as they fly underwater, and they are as playful as a group of teenagers. They are also patient. I watched one as it waited for just the right swell so that it could ride the wave up to a rocky ledge 15 feet above the water. I now love sea lions as much as I love any other creature that shares the waters with me.

5. **The Rebel Yell:** In general, what do you like most about scuba diving? What do you dislike about it? Would you encourage others to try the sport?

Cathy: The very first time I went diving, I had a feeling of true inner peace. I was calm. I had no fear. Most significant, for the first time in over 30 years, I could move with no back pain. I also felt joy experiencing every creature I came upon, from sharks and eels to seahorses, sea lions, and (my favorite) turtles. I love seeing things that I never saw when I was young. I am weightless and can fly over the underwater mountains and valleys. The wildlife never ceases to amaze me with its grace and beauty. I encourage everyone to dive. Divers aren't defined or limited by anything but their spirit. I'm short, old, and decrepit—and I'M A DIVER!!!!

6. **The Rebel Yell:** When did you join the Diving Rebels Scuba Club? What do you like most about the club?

Cathy: I joined the Diving Rebels in May of 2015, only two months after getting my first certifications. There is nothing I don't like about the club. I instantly gained over 3 dozen mentors and 6 dozen dive buddies. I learned more about diving from them than anywhere else. We all come from different backgrounds, but we share the same love and respect for our underwater world. And yes, Diving Rebels really do know how to have fun above water too!

7. **The Rebel Yell:** As a Diving Rebel, how have you participated in the operation and outings of the club? What club activities have you attended, and which were your favorite ones?

Cathy: I try to attend all the club's events. I even attended a few days after foot surgery. I go to meetings, board meetings, outings, and dive trips (if I'm not already diving someplace else). My favorite activity is the next one. I love them all.

Be an Ambassador for Diving!

Talk to your friends about scuba diving, and encourage them to give it a try!!

Several certifying agencies have “Discover Scuba” programs that are relatively inexpensive and lots of fun—tell all your friends about them. And then tell them about the Diving Rebels!!

April Restaurant of the Month Report

Restaurant of the Month & May



Where: Vito's Pizza
Address: 2000 Esters Rd., #208, Irving, TX 75061
When: Friday, May 12, 7:00 pm
Phone: (972) 986-1243
Web: <http://www.vitos.pizza/home.html>
Email: Cathy McWilliams at social@divingrebels.org or fifeandthistle@outlook.com

At the Rodeo Goat



On Friday, April 14, at 7:00 pm, the Diving Rebels met at Rodeo Goat in Fort Worth for an evening of fun, fellowship, and great hamburgers! Attendance was good, and those who came out had a good time.

Our next Restaurant of the Month (RoM) event will be held on **Friday, May 12, at 7:00 pm at Vito's Pizza, 2000 Esters Rd., #208, Irving, TX 75061.**

Opening in 1993, Vito's has been committed to serving the best pizza in the city of Irving. Its food is always fresh, using only the best

ingredients. Whether you're in the mood for a hearty helping of lasagna, or something flavorful like Vito's chicken cacciatore, its kitchen is sure to satisfy any appetite.

Please let us know that you're planning to attend the May RoM by **5:00 pm on Wednesday, May 10.** Just respond by signing up for the event at the May membership meeting; accepting your invitation to the RoM on the club's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/96073813073/>); or contacting me directly by email (social@divingrebels.org or fifeandthistle@outlook.com) or phone (253-219-6074).



Vito's pizza looks terrific!!

Bon appétit!

Cathy McWilliams
Social Coordinator

Balmorhea State Park Outing

The Diving Rebels will trek to the west Texas high desert for our May outing on **May 19–21**. Our destination will be **Balmorhea State Park** (<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/balmorhea>), 30 miles south of Pecos and about 6 1/2 hours west of Arlington. Each person attending is responsible for his/her own transportation, but information to facilitate ride sharing will be provided at the May membership meeting and via social media. For Friday and Saturday evenings, we have reserved three campsites that have water and electricity and can accommodate a total of 24 persons (8 per campsite).

Balmorhea State Park is literally an oasis in the high desert of west Texas. Entrance to the park costs \$7 per person per day, but diving in the world's largest outdoor spring-fed swimming pool does not cost any extra. And you can dive as often and as long as you like—the pool is open from 8:00 am to 7:30 pm or sunset, whichever comes first. Due to the depth of the pool (less than 20 feet deep), you basically have unlimited bottom time—you should be able to exhaust the air in your tank long before you would have any decompression issues. Some of the fish in this pool are found nowhere else in the world, e.g., the Comanche Springs pupfish, other than the subsurface and surface aquifer system to which the pool is connected, and that is pretty cool. Hundreds of Mexican tetras in the pool will swarm you if you bring some frozen peas or dry dog food to feed them during your dive. There are also many big catfish and some bass and turtles for you to observe.

For Saturday night's dinner, we will conduct our traditional meal share in which some participants in the outing volunteer to be meal coordinators, plan the menu for the meals, and buy and/or prepare the food, the cost of which will be reimbursed.

Although the area can get very hot during the day (100+°F), because Balmorhea is in the desert, the temperature will drop during the night into the 60s, making for very comfortable sleeping in a tent. If you do not want to camp, the area does boast some hotels, but you should try to make your reservations as soon as possible since they tend to fill up over the weekend.

Come join us, and dive in this unique environment!



Fashion and Fun: June Rebel Wear Fashion Show and Meeting

Elizabeth Neumann

Well—it's the time of the year to begin thinking about Rebel Wear fashions. Yes, I know you have been waiting for this opportunity to enhance your current Rebel Wear wardrobe. While you can order Rebel Wear any time, our June membership meeting on **June 7** will have a unique program featuring a Rebel Wear Fashion Show, four “Diving Vignettes,” and a display of member diving photos:

- ☞ Volunteers will model various items of Rebel Wear to help you make your decision about placing an order that night.
- ☞ Four club members will give a five-minute presentation describing their **best** diving experience. (We decided not to include worst dives since we wouldn't want to embarrass any club members—they know who they are!)
- ☞ We would also like everyone to submit their favorite diving photos. **Jeff Bennett** will collect them and set them up as a rolling background for the fashion show.

Save June 7 on your calendar for an evening of high scuba fashion, new diving experiences/stories, and frivolities. If you're interested in being a presenter or model and the possibility of winning some Rebel Wear, just see me at an upcoming membership meeting, or contact me by clicking on the link to the Senior Board Member on the Club Information/Board of Directors page on the Diving Rebels Scuba Club website (<http://www.divingrebels.org/index.php/info/directors>).

Note: You have to pay a fine if you don't wear an item of Rebel Wear to a membership meeting. **Prevention is the key—make plans to order your Rebel Wear in June!**

Have fun at the Fashion Show!!







Midyear Outing: Clear Springs Scuba Park



The 2017 Diving Rebels Scuba Club Board of Directors cordially invites club members and their guests to attend our annual Midyear Outing at Clear Springs Scuba Park. This event is coordinated by the board as a way to show appreciation to our members and assist them to do what Diving Rebels do best . . . **PARTY!!!**

- When:** Friday, June 23–Sunday, June 25
Time: Friday after 5:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am 'til ???
Where: Clear Springs Scuba Park (CSSP), Terrell, TX
Food: BBQ with all the trimmings. Members are encouraged to bring desserts and snacks to share, along with their own drinks.

We will provide more information at the June membership meeting, but the basics are the following:

-  Someone will go to Clear Springs Friday afternoon to hopefully grab the spot under the trees on the south side of the park; however, since this area has little grass, if it's too wet or muddy at that spot, a secondary location will be chosen. After you check in at the park, look for the famous Diving Rebels Scuba Club banner!
-  Most of the activities will take place on Saturday, June 24. The Saturday meal, BBQ catered by Soulman's, will be served at no cost to members and their guests at approximately 3:00 pm. Members are welcome to bring snacks or dessert items if they wish, if possible enough to share, but all the basics will be provided by the club. We will provide water to drink—if you want to drink anything other than water, you will have to bring it yourself.
-  The entrance fee to the park on Saturday, June 24, will be \$20. **Be sure to bring your C-card if you intend to dive, and remember that CSSP accepts only cash.** See the CSSP website at www.clearspringsscubapark.com for a listing of air fill and equipment rental prices and other charges.
-  We will hold a raffle offering some great prizes; early-purchase tickets will be available at the June membership meeting. You can buy one ticket for \$1.00 or six tickets for \$5.00. The more tickets you buy, the better your chances are to win!!
-  **Members Only:** We will hold a special raffle for Diving Rebels Scuba Club members who buy raffle tickets.
-  Camping is available at CSSP. However, camping costs (\$5.00 per day) are the responsibility of the individual. See the CSSP website for additional information and restrictions.

Let's go diving in June and have some fun!



Tyler State Park Outing Report Jeff Bennett



I'd like to thank everyone who came out to Tyler State Park for the Diving Rebels outing on April 21–23. We had a fairly small turnout but had a good time anyway. The water was warm enough for decent diving, and viz was OK—better that it was other times we were at Tyler. We had a little rain, but, hey, we're called Diving Rebels for a reason!

Our Easter egg hunt was a kind of a bust since we had so few people, so we turned it into a raffle.

I'd like to thank **Susan Taylor** for doing the meal share with me for Saturday's dinner and **Kevin Schuck** for providing Sunday's breakfast.



I think we have a new member who was with us at the park; she lives in a tree and was well taken care of!







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