



The Rebel Yell



A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels - One of the Oldest Scuba Clubs in Texas - Established 1958
October 2009

2009 DIVING REBEL BOARD

Keith Weber, President
Mark Estill, Vice President
Selena Woodward, Treasurer
Ellen Fourton, Secretary
George Bartulevicz, Activities Director
Johnathan Bowman, Sr. Board Member
Mark Stonebridge, Jr. Board Member

Appointed Positions

Danny Bouska, Webmaster/Newsletter
Linda Magnuson, Historian

To contact one of the Club's officers,
please visit our website at:

WWW.DIVINGREBELS.ORG

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

info@divingrebels.org



MEMBERSHIP MEETING Wednesday – October 7, 2009

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

What's Inside?

- Pg 2 President's Report
- Pg 3 Chinese Auction Report
Birthdays and Anniversaries,
A Welcome to Our New Members,
Diving Rebel Caps and T-shirts,
- Pg 4 October Outing, Pumpkin Dive & Carving Info
November Speaker Information
2010 Utila Honduras Trip
- Pg 5 Chili Cook Off Information
- Pg 6-7 Labor Day Weekend Outing Report

October Meeting Program

Want to hear about diving Destin Florida? Keith will be giving a short video clip and discussing his recent dive trip there. Photos are courtesy of Elizabeth Ribble of the Reef Riders – so you know they will be much better than Keith could take. There were some definite firsts on this trip so come out, hopefully be intrigued and get excited about our wonderful USA coastal waters.

Upcoming Events Calendar

Oct	7	Monthly Membership Meeting
Oct	24-25	Underwater Pumpkin Carving and Dive Clear Springs Scuba Park
Nov	4	Monthly Membership Meeting
Nov	7-8	Annual Chili Cook Off – Joe Pool Lake
Dec	2	Monthly Membership Meeting
Dec	12	Christmas Party
Jan	6	Monthly Membership Meeting

President's Report

Well, I don't know what to say. We had some generous donations and wonderful bidders. For the second year in known history (by me at least) we have topped our \$1,000 goal and this year brought in \$1,220. That is just shy of our total proceeds last year of \$1,333 (1288 sep main auction + 45 oct dive buddy auction). That is truly amazing. Thank you both, prize bringers and prize buyers. See the related article for more details.

We had a wonderful trip to South Padre. It surpassed my expectations and left me wanting more. As it so happened, there was a charter operator on the boat that runs trips to rigs and dive locations out of Freeport. I thought that would be a good blue water trip for next year. We did learn that September is a good time of year in South Padre for the blue water line to be very close to shore if not at the shoreline. Of course I have not validated it, but I would presume that would hold true up towards Houston/Freeport. It will require a little research to determine the best timing. Additionally, the magnificence of the Flower Gardens continues to circulate and the urge to see them is percolating in my blood. Both of these trips can be done with minimum days off and perhaps a 3 or 4 day weekend type thing. I would like to stay away from holidays for these due to traveling during extreme traffic time frames. Let me know what you think. If we play our cards right, I don't think we will be disappointed in our Texas Gulf Coast diving.

As a follow on to that, and seeing how we are extremely healthy financially, the Board has discussed an incentive program to encourage attendance at blue water outings. Instead of the normal daily budget, \$120 in the case of South Padre – and the usual cap, there will be a larger budget allotment for the trip. We discussed a per-diver subsidy and other such notions and the final determination has not yet been made as to how to administer the allocation, but they will be in the 2010 budget. I think a fair amount is \$300 for the blue waters and \$200 each for Memorial, Midyear, Labor Day, Pumpkin Carving and Chili cook-off outings. It is akin to when we subsidized the barge at Lake Ouachita in times gone by – a thought for location on 2010 Memorial or Labor Day holidays. Let's put our funds to use promoting diving, explore some new territory and get reacquainted with old favorites.

Additionally, and none of this was discussed with the Board yet – you know, you think of things later – while writing, I believe raising the outing budget to \$50 a day is in order. All in all, that is a proposed outing expenditure increase of about \$1,800 – I don't have the current figure, but bet we have over 4k in the bank. On the flip side, for any major outing there will be a non-refundable deposit – amount to be determined based on trip requirements. For monthly outings, we will maintain the “week before” cancellation policy that is pretty much if you haven't told us before the meal-share food is purchased (usually the weekend before the outing), it's too late. You will owe your share (generally about \$10 for a weekend).

Now to take a turn to meetings, I also have some creative ideas for meeting agendas next year. Some depends on scuba shop donations. There may be some team buy in for dive jeopardy or other games with some nice prizes. Something like 3 member teams with \$15 entry fee. I have been thinking up all kinds of crazy games and rules too. I think once a quarter will be FUNdraising time. Be sure to stay tuned for more details.

Please consider the propositions. I and the Board would welcome any feedback you may have. I am at president@divingrebels.org or by phone at 817-581-9010. I am excited about the upcoming year and hope you can catch the wave with the Diving Rebels.

Wishing you blissful diving,
Keith

Diving Rebel Chinese Auction Sept 7, 2009

What a magnificent year! The crowd was a little lighter than usual and I had my doubts about how things might go.

We had some nice prizes and bidding was lively. We must have been about ¾ through and we hit the jackpot prize, a week in a condo in Roatan. Jim and Rita Simpson own the condo. The retail value was \$1,140 for the week and up until about \$500 we had several going at it, but alas it was Kelly Barentine that out bid me and took the prize for \$675 if I remember correctly – not being Treasurer, I don't always have the exact financial numbers, just the agony of defeat in this case. That pretty much put us over the grand right then.

A delight of the auction was Marcus Greenburg, who is the grandson of Sherry and Kevin, and quite the auctioneer's helper. He helped deliver the prizes and look for the raised hands that I seem to be terrible at seeing. I thought I could process a lot of information at once, but loudly spoken bids and a sea of waving hands must be too much. I was very grateful for his boldness to step up and help out. And when it was something he decided to bid on, the jumping, pumping enthusiasm was exhilarating for the rest of us. I'll bet next time he brings more than the \$11 and change (11.27?) he had as a budget. But he struck it big with a snorkel sporting a \$20 in the tube!

As usual it was a fun evening with plenty of hilarity. And to my amazement, I will be diving Lake Arlington on the day of the Christmas party for the second year in a row. The difference this year is that I will be accompanied by several more divers.

Maybe this year we will charge admission to watch the dive as a fundraiser – just joking. Actually I am thinking since we have to dive, perhaps that 12 hour party for a second annual event might be in order. Let me know what you think.

Carry on my fine Chinese Auction Buds,
Keith



Birthdays

Oct	8	Danny Bouska
Oct	13	KC Von Gesjen
Oct	22	Sherry Hammond
Oct	23	BJ Lasik
Oct	24	Jim Simpson
Oct	25	Stephen Ameen

Anniversaries

None Known



A Rebel Welcome to New Members Joining in September 2009

Brittany Meagher – Arlington
NAUI OW

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

Don't forget Diving Rebels Caps and T-Shirts On sale at any monthly meeting!



BLACK



NAVY & NATURAL



NAVY

Merchandise sold to Diving Rebels Members Only

Pumpkin Carving – Clear Springs Scuba Park October 24th and 25th

Come on out to CSSP and do some diving and carve up a pumpkin. The contest has been dominated by Doug and George the last few years so we need a contender that can break the Spike's (some number like Spike IV) rule of the carved vegetable. So bring your orange potential winner and cut it up with us.

Club furnished hamburgers and brats and most of the fixings will be furnished for lunch. It is planned for 11:30am with the pumpkin carving dive expected about 2 – 2:30. Judging will be about 4pm. Overnighters can enjoy any leftovers, but may want to plan a snack at least.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. We have a decent budget so the prizes should be pretty good.

For anyone really interested in diving, some of us will try to beat the classes and dive soon after opening – hopefully about 8:30 or 9am – knowing us, more like 9 or 9:15. Diving after the judging will also be available to suck up any air left in that tank.

Depending on participation and the desire of the majority, a campsite decorating contest may also be added to the agenda.

George is the coordinator, activities@divingrebels.org so if you have questions or suggestions, he would be the one to see.

Come on out, let's have some fun,
Keith



November Speaker

Mead Sams currently serves as Chief of the Planning Branch, Planning Environmental & Regulatory Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He has worked as an economist and urban planner for the Corps for 28 years. In this capacity, he leads a multi-disciplinary team of planners, engineers, landscape architects, and biologists in the development of federal water resource projects designed to achieve a variety of beneficial societal outputs, including those related to flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and hydropower. He holds a Master's Degree in Applied Economic Research from the University of North Texas, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Natural Resource Development from Texas A&M in College Station.

His interests outside of work and academia include sailing, snow skiing, classical music, and without fail, Aggie sports.

Some of you may remember Mead from his talk on the state of water in Texas. The most interesting thing with Mead I recently heard of was his trip to help study the sea otters in the northwest. Come hear about his latest adventure.

Utila Honduras – April 10 -17, 2010

A few spaces remain available for the trip to Utila Honduras, April 10-17 2010. During a four week period from the middle of March to the middle of April is prime Whale Shark season in Utila which brings Whale Shark researchers from all over the world to the island. The resort limits the number of room's available providing space to these researchers. The researchers staying at the resort provide an additional bonus because in the evenings the researchers give talks on Whale Sharks research making this not only a fun filled week, but also a very educational week.

For more information: <http://divingrebels.org/utila.htm> or contact Danny at 817-542-2962

Annual Chili Cook-off, This Year with a Twist November 7 – 8, 2009

Come on out for the hotly contested titles for Best chili and Best presentation. This is a great annual event and Doug Sheppard has done an excellent job filling the shoes of Dave Robinson that I believe may have established the event, but my history does not go back before him. Needless to say it is a wonderful event.

Sites are still to be determined and I swear I am going to remember them for the best ones from the year before, but that is where Doug is the man and get's the prime spots. Cedar Hill State Park is where you'll need to look for us and watch for Diving Rebels signs.

Cook-off rules:

Bring your chili or cook it on site. Judging is bases on these criteria: Taste, Consistency, Aroma, Color & Bite and Presentation - so you can show off your creativity with your cooking area and chili presentation.

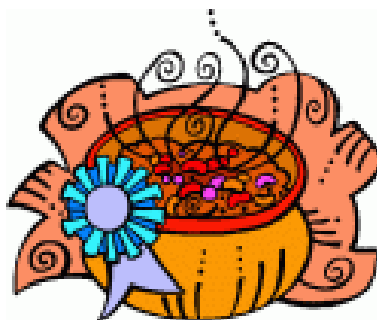
Chili turn in will be approximately 4:00 - 4:30 PM with judging at 5:00.

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

And this year there is a twist. For some fun in the afternoon we will have rope tricks and tips by Jonathan Bowman. We'll also have contests for tying knots learned in Advanced Open Water – demonstrations provided and practice hilarity expected. The time frame has yet to be finalized, but just mark your calendars for the day and let's turn out early, bring firewood and plenty of wine (had a shortage for the first time in my history last year as we went deep into the night). Cooking on site is fun and gives plenty of time for the other fun activities.

Stay tuned for more details, but be sure to plan the date. And since the spaces are booked for the night, anyone wishing to camp is welcome to do so.



Diving Rebels Trip to South Padre - September 5-7, 2009

Report by Johnny Griffin

My girlfriend Connie Mitchell and I left for South Padre after work on Thursday September 3. The drive took about 9 ½ hours. We arrived at our hotel room about three o'clock Friday morning. We were staying at The South Padre Hotel on the beach. We checked in and crashed.

We awoke about 9 am drank some coffee and headed to the beach. The seas were almost flat; it looked more like a lake than the ocean. The visibility on the shore was almost 15'. This was my first time to visit South Padre. Actually it was my first time to do many things that I was about to do. We decided to go snorkeling because there were lots of fish on the beach at our hotel. But being the kind of knucklehead that is always looking for greener pastures I decided to drive down the beach to see if there was any place that looked better. When we started down the beach the sea was at high tide. My car, which is a Toyota 4 Runner with 4-wheel drive, got stuck in the sand. This was the first time I have ever needed to use 4-wheel drive in this vehicle and guess what, it did not work. Luckily there was a guy with a monster truck and he pulled me out for 20 bucks. We went up and down the beach looking for better places than where we started. We never found a better place. Right outside our hotel was the best beach that we found on the entire island.

About noon we went to American Diving to pay for our part of the diving costs. And just to make sure we knew where we needed to be the next morning. I thought the staff was very friendly and helpful they all seemed to love what they do. I guess who wouldn't. Steve who manages the place was great throughout the entire trip. The rest of the day we played in the water went out to eat supper and went to bed early dreaming about what tomorrow would bring.

I am going to describe myself using an oil field term that some of you have probably never heard before. And that is a Genzil, which means a worm's helper. I am new to everything. This is the first time I have even been diving in salt water and I am also new to this club. I have only been diving in swimming pools and CSSP. I guess to say I was excited about what was about to happen is an understatement. All kinds of things run through your head. What are the other members going to be like, will they be nice to me, will I be a burden to my dive partners, how much weight do I need, what it is going to be like, can I really do it.

I have always wanted to dive since I was a child. I loved Mike Nelson in Sea Hunt. Later I was fascinated with Jacques Cousteau programs. I have always loved the water.

At 6:30 am Saturday we met Keith Weber, Mark Stonebridge, and Kevin Campbell and Sherry Hammond at the dock. Today we are diving a gas rig called the Little Sarah. It is located about 9 miles out in the gulf. There are about 25 people diving and 5 going snorkeling including my girlfriend Connie. The first thing we did was to get a number on the order we would go in the water to start our dives. Both days our club was the first 5 people to go in to the water. After this we rigged up our gear. A safety meeting and an explanation of what we might encounter at the rig followed. We boarded the ship and we were on our way. On the trip out, which took about 45 minutes, the water was almost flat and very clear. The crew told us that we couldn't have come at a better time.

As I stated, I am a rookie I didn't know how much weight I needed. I bought a new 130 cu. ft. tank because I suck air so bad that I hoped I wouldn't be a burden to my dive partners. My dive partners are Mark and Keith. At this point I just hoped that I would sink.

The Little Sarah sits in 105' of water Keith and Mark say let's go touch bottom. The deepest I had been before this was 51 feet in clear springs but here we go. Mark went in first then Keith then me. With the weight of the new big tank I was somewhat over weighted and sank fast. The water was beautiful there were fish everywhere. About 20-30 feet down, we could see the bottom. All I could think is (this is so cool).

Keith and Mark would watch every move I made. I remember looking into Keith's eyes and he was constantly studying me. I know that he was watching for any sign that I might be having trouble. This was very reassuring to me. In all the dives we did, both Mark and Keith never let me out of their sight. We swam around the rig what seemed to me like a lot of times. After a while I didn't have any idea where I was.

My buoyancy was terrible, my trim was terrible and I was sucking gas trying to keep up with them. To me it was amazing the way Mark and Keith move so effortlessly. In just a little while I had used all of my 130 cu.ft. tank and had to come up. Mark and Keith stayed down probably another 10 minutes. When they got out of the water they both still had air. Keith and I changed tanks to be ready for the next dive. Mark did not; he said he still had enough for the next dive. I thought what the hell does this Guy have gills or what. (continued page 7)

As many of you know Mark is a very soft-spoken man and somewhat seceretive. I know that he had just found out some news about his wife's health and he was concerned. Over the next two days I came to really admire his diving skills. The more we were together the more he seemed to open up. He never bragged about anything. He told me he had been to the Andrea Doria. I knew nothing about this ship until I came home and read about it on the Internet. This humbled me even more.

The next dive we just hung out at about 45' and looked at all the underwater life. Of course I ran out of air before everyone else and had to come up. On this day I used 200 cu. ft. of air I think Mark used about 50 cu. ft and stayed down longer than me. After the dive we headed back to the hotel to clean up and go to dinner. We went to a Mexican food place and it was pretty good. Mark and Keith had been up since yesterday and they were pretty hammered so we called it a night.

The next morning we all met up again to go to the Texas Clipper, which is, a sunken ship about 20 miles out. It was another perfect day. On the way out Mark and Keith were giving me tips on how to breathe better. They also told me to shift the weights in my BC to help my trim.

When we get to the wreck we are the first in the water again. The top of the wreck is 70' down. The water was so clear (80 feet plus) you could see the wreck right away. We drop down to the top of it to look around a minute (once again this is so cool) and right away Mark drops down into it. I remember thinking aren't I supposed to have special training to do this. Right behind him goes Keith so I thought what the hell here I go. They make everything look so easy it seems like they just think this is where I want to go and there they go. On the other hand I am grabbing stuff trying to pull myself inside hitting my tank stirring up silt and banging into everything there is. Thank goodness for my wet suit and gloves or I would have probably been a bloody mess. Once inside it was dark and creepy but I loved every second of it. Just like I stated before Keith and Mark watched my every move. And again this gave me such a secure feeling it is hard to describe. A little while later we pop out into the open. Of course by now I am out of air again so I let them know and head up.

On the last dive Keith and Mark want to go to the bottom. I know that if I do that I will be out of air fast. It is about 135'to the bottom. We decide that they will leave me at the top of the boat go to the bottom and come back and get me. While they were gone I just worked on the diving tips they had given me. I just hung around and looked at all the cool stuff and relaxed. When they came back for me Keith told me follow him and we went down to 115' to look at something he had seen on his way back up. My dive computer was making noises that I had never heard it do before. I am glad that I read the manual again before the trip. I have a suunto cobra 2 and it showed me what to do. In all I think I had to deco about 16 minutes at 3 different depths. After this we headed back in. By the end of my fourth dive using the breathing techniques that they showed me I was using at least 1/3 less air. We said good-bye to the friends we met on the boat and to the crew. We agreed to meet Kevin, Sherry, and their family at Daddy's Cajun Seafood about 7pm.

Back at the Hotel Keith and I tried to do a Shore Dive. Once again I Genzil out I decide not to wear my wet suit since it is very warm. So I take too much weight off (forgetting I am in salt water). As you all know I am now a cork bobber. Keith sees this and gives me more weight. This helps me a little, still not enough but it hurts him. So here we both are trying to stay on the bottom swimming at this type angle / head down, feet up. Then we hear Jet Ski's above us. Time to quit.

At 7 pm we all met at Daddy's restaurant and have a very nice supper. Kevin and Sherry's family are just lovely people. The food was good, however they did not know how to make a Perfect Manhattan they tried but never got it right. After dinner Mark, Keith, Connie and I went back to the Hotel got in the Hot Tub drank beer and wine maybe a little Crown Royal. The night was beautiful and the moon was full. What a perfect ending.

I want to end this by once again expressing my gratitude to every one who went, especially Mark and Keith. You made our trip one of the best times I have ever had in my life. The reason I joined this club was that I wanted to be able to dive as much as I could. I have met some very conceited and arrogant people in my short diving career. So I was somewhat apprehensive on what to expect from the people in this club. I guess as in life people who have to brag to make themselves look better are usually less capable than those who don't. I learned so much from Mark and Keith through their actions and not their words.

I am so glad that I joined this club; so far I like everyone and everything about it. I am so ready to get wet again. One last thing the crew is kind of rough on your gear. They lost my new knife attached to my BC. They broke the second stage on Keith's regulator, and I think the pulled one of Sherry's hoses loose. In their defense it is hard moving all of the heavy and awkward equipment they handle in a pitching sea.

Would I recommend this place? Absolutely, and I will go back. I think we all liked the rig dive more. There was more sea life there.

Diving Rebels Dive Club
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

