

# The Rebel Yell

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

May 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
Marcus Greenberg,	Jr. Board Member
Cory Bailow,	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

**Wednesday – May 4, 2011**

**J. Gilligan's, Arlington**

**6:30pm Social**

**7:15pm Meeting Begins**

## May Meeting Program

**Activities Director Tina Caron is going to present her recent trip to Fiji.**

Fiji's waters are considered to be among the best in the world for diving. Soft corals and an abundance of stunning tropical fish, reef sharks, dolphins, manta rays and turtles can be seen throughout the islands. For those who don't know Tina, she is an excellent underwater photographer.

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## Upcoming Events Calendar

- |      |       |  |
|------|-------|--|
| May  | 4     | Monthly Membership Meeting                         |
| May  | 27-30 | Balmorehea State Park                              |
| June | 1     | Monthly Membership Meeting                         |
| June | 5     | 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Diving Rebels Crawfish Boil |
| June | 25-16 | Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year Party          |
| July | 1     | Flower Gardens                                     |

## President's Report

It's hard to believe that May is just around the corner. The Diving Rebels have had a very active year and there is an exciting schedule of activities for the remainder of the year. Not only have the outings been well attended but our Monthly Membership Meetings also have had record attendance.

Last month, the Monthly Meeting was held in the larger bar area of J Gilligan's. The area was much larger and people had plenty of "elbow room" which didn't exist in the room on the East side. As with any move to a new location, it may take a few meetings to get the bugs worked out, but overall, the feedback on the new meeting area was positive. Utilizing the feedback which was received, suggestions have been made to J Gilligan's on how the acoustics in the room could be improved and a few other minor points are being addressed. I urge you to provide feedback to myself or to any member of the board as we work to improve our Monthly Meeting space. As I mentioned last month, if the meeting area is not acceptable to the membership, alternate meeting rooms or locations will be researched and considered.

There are several upcoming activities which need commitments before moving forward.

- As of the writing of this report, the Flower Gardens trip is full with 16 people. Tina will let us know if spaces open.
- Another activity which needs commitment is the Scientific Diver Course at Aquarena Springs in San Marcos. Please see the article in this newsletter for additional information.
- On April 28<sup>th</sup>, an informational meeting on the planned trip to FIJI in June of 2012 was held, there are deadlines associated with this trip so please see the article in this newsletter and the website for more information.

I am excited about the course the Club has taken in 2011 and the number of diving opportunities, to a wide variety of locations, which are being offered. I commend the board for their hard work and especially, the membership and guests for making these outings a success.

The water is warming up, get out and dive!

Danny

**Did you miss the last meeting? Want to know what happened?  
Just go to the Diving Rebels website to find out!**

The minutes from each meeting will be posted on our website: <http://divingrebels.org>. Under the Main Menu on the left, click on or hover over the Club Information link. Then select the link for Meeting Minutes, and Voila! You can now select the minutes from whichever meeting you desire!

**A Rebel Welcome to New Members  
Joining in April 2011**

**Cheryl Carella - PADI AOW  
Sandra Playle - PADI OW**

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

## **Diving Rebel's May Outing to Balmorhea State Park, May 27-30**

The Rebels will once again trek to Balmorhea State Park in west Texas to “dive the desert” for our May outing from May 27 – 30. We will depart Friday evening May 27 for a drive through the night, arriving at the park about 7 AM. We will set up camp and start diving.

The diving there is very unique, with ocean quality viz and fish (Comanche Springs pupfish) found nowhere else. We will have some underwater contests, perhaps another checkers tournament as we did several years ago. Weather permitting; we will attend the star party at the McDonald Observatory on Mount Locke.

If you have not been there before, Balmorhea State Park is an oasis in the desert, an experience not to be missed, so I hope you will join us. I will have more information at the May meeting.

Oggie

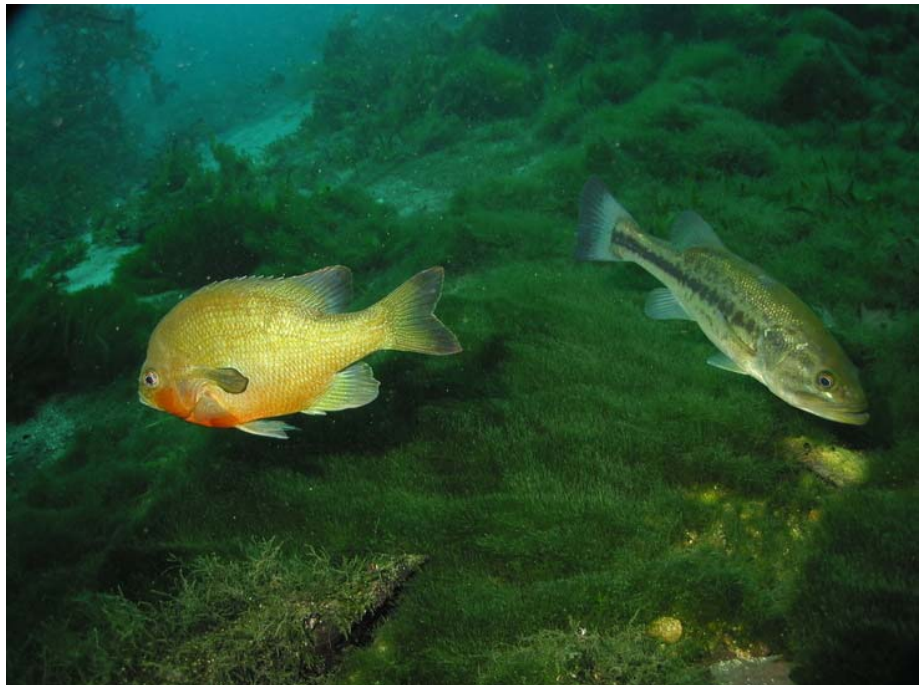
Steve Ogden, May Outing Coordinator

### **Scientific Diver Course Aquarena Springs, San Marcos Texas**

The Diving for Science authorization course was developed to protect and preserve the unique and special aquatic environment. Aquarena's Diving for Science program is a great way for divers to get to dive in the cleanest and clearest water in Texas and at the same time become involved in one of the largest habitat restoration projects in the country.

Once the course is completed individuals have the opportunity to participate in the many educational, research and conservation projects that occur throughout the year. The Scientific Diving Program helps assure that all diving operations in Spring Lake are procedurally safe as well as environmentally sensitive. Once certified, divers have limitless opportunities to participate in the Volunteer Diving Program.

The course is held over two days: Saturday & Sunday. The two day course focuses on The Edwards Aquifer, the Habitat, Endangered Species, Archaeology, State & Federal Regulations governing Spring Lake and advanced diving techniques to ensure protection of this critical habitat.



The cost of the course is \$230. A registration form will be available at the May meeting or can be downloaded from the Club's website. Check the main page under “Join Us For A Great Time & Great Diving” for the link. A \$100 deposit will hold your spot with the balance needing to be paid by or at the

July Membership Meeting. There is a maximum of 16 students per weekend. The initial course date will be scheduled for August 6 – 7 with overflow going to the weekend of August 20 – 21.

For more information or questions, contact Danny Bouska at 817-381-5051 or email [scientific.diver@divingrebels.org](mailto:scientific.diver@divingrebels.org)

## MEMBER NEWS



**A big Rebel CONGRATULATIONS to Johnathan Bowman (PADI OW),** great-nephew to Selena and Steve (Woody) Woodward, as Johnathan is awarded Eagle Scout rank!!! Johnathan's Eagle Ceremony took place on Saturday, April 30. Congratulations to Johnathan, Selena and Woody for the amazing perseverance, sacrifice and effort required for this journey. Perhaps now Johnathan can dive with us!



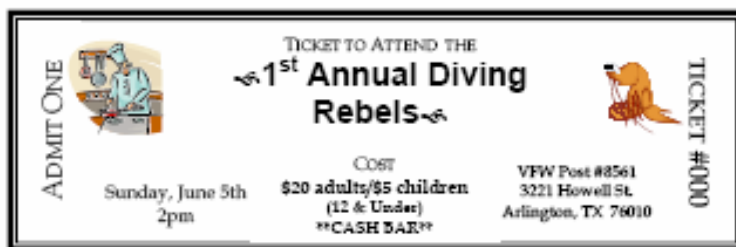
### BIRTHDAYS

5/1 - Jimmy Atkinson  
5/6 - Doug Sheppard  
5/8 - Connie Mitchell  
5/14 - Steve Ogden  
5/17 - Rita Simpson  
5/20 - Mark Stonebridge  
5/21 - Shari Taylor

### ANNIVERSARIES

5/13 - Jill & Danny Bouska  
5/14 - Michele & Mark Estill  
5/27 - Deborah & David Pearce  
5/28 - Debbie & Bert Lindquist

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



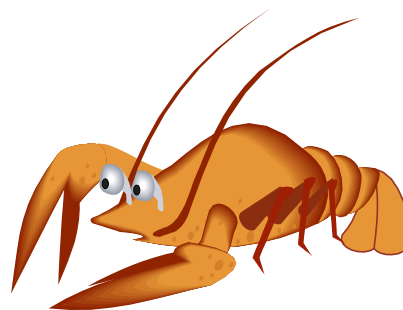
**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE REBEL**

**CRAWFISH BOIL**

**JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 2PM**

**3221 HOWELL STREET**

**ARLINGTON TX 76010**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A YEAR OF DIVING AND FUN!

May	27-30	Balmorhea State Park
June	5	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Diving Rebels Crawfish Boil
June	25-26	Clear Springs Scuba Park – Mid Year party
July	1-4	Flower Gardens
July	16-17	Athens Scuba Park
August	13-14	Valhalla Missile Silo (Tentative)
September	3-5	Lake Ouachita
September	23-25	Lake Travis – Windy Point
October	22-23	Blue Lagoon – Underwater Pumpkin Carving
November	12	Chili Cook Off
December	10	Christmas Party, Lake Arlington Rec Room
June 9, 2012		South Pacific Islands of FIJI

### Buddy? Check!

By Tina Caron, Activities Director

One of the guiding principles for safe diving is always diving with a buddy. If you have done a lot of diving with the Diving Rebels, chances are you dive frequently with the same people. Even if you are a long time member, we have new members joining regularly and attending our outings, greatly increasing the chances that someone new will be joining diving forces with you.

Do you take the time to do a buddy check before your dives, even when you dive with someone familiar, with whom you have done many dives? Do you only do buddy checks when you are diving with someone new? Maybe you feel like buddy checks are only for new divers. I'd like to challenge you to incorporate buddy checks into your pre-dive routine, regardless of who your buddy is, or how often you dive together. This will help you enter the water fully prepared to execute your dive plan, and stay calm and in a good position to help your buddy if an emergency occurs.

So what happens in a buddy check? Well, in short, this is your opportunity to make sure you understand how each other's gear works, and that your gear is functioning and properly set up for your dive. Remember that even if you are diving with a buddy with whom you have completed many dives, they may have introduced new gear that could change their overall configuration.

I like the BWRAF Buddy Check method, which I was taught to remember using the phrase "Blonde Women Really Are Fun." Maybe you have your own mnemonic that helps you remember these letters! How about the PADI standard of "Begin With Review and Friend?" I also think "Burger With Relish and Fries" is a yummy way to remember!

- B = BCD

Make sure the BCD is functioning properly. Check that it holds air, the inflation system works properly, and that the dumps all work. Check both the auto inflator and the oral inflator. Inspect the straps to make sure they are secure, and lie flat.

- W = Weights

Does your buddy have a weight belt, or integrated weights? How do you ditch excess weight from your buddy's weight system? Does your buddy HAVE his weights? I recently did a shark dive in high current with someone who left his weight belt on the boat. No, he wasn't my buddy!

- R = Releases

Make sure you know where all the releases are on your buddy's BCD, as well as his weight system. This will include the waist strap and the shoulder straps, and any extra straps that secure the BCD, such as a chest strap. Be sure you know how the releases function. You can also take this opportunity to check the tank strap to be sure the tank and BCD are secure as a single unit.

- A = Air

Check the valve on your buddy's tank to be sure it is fully open. Ask your buddy to breathe off the regulator to test the quality of the air and that each regulator breathes easily. Check that the regulators don't begin to free flow when purged. Ensure you understand the procedure for buddy breathing with your buddy's secondary regulator. Many people prefer the secondary regulator integrated with the BCD inflation system. Be sure you know how to share air with your buddy's regulator configuration!

- F = Final Check

Double check that you each have your mask and snorkel, and fins and booties. You can think of this as two up, two down. Also take this opportunity to check for any additional equipment required for the dive, such as lights, reels, safety markers, slates, compass, etc. Make sure that hoses are neatly clipped in and secured.

There are other pre-dive checks and mnemonics for remembering them, depending on which agency you are trained by. Some include details about the dive plan, and emergency procedures. For example, NAUI uses the acronym SEABAG for their pre-dive checks:

- S = Site; is the chosen dive site diveable under the current conditions?
- E = Emergency; what are the emergency procedures, including oxygen and decompression chamber locations?
- A = Activities; what is the purpose of the dive? Any special risks or concerns?
- B = Buoyancy; check the buoyancy system, including the BCD and weights.
- A = Air; check each other's first and second stages, know locations of octopuses, and breathe from each other's equipment. Know how much air each buddy has, and what their SAC rate is.
- G = Gear check, and go!

Regardless of the agency that provided your training, running through a pre-dive buddy check is a good practice. Incorporate this habit for all your dives, and enter the water knowing everyone is fully prepared and ready to dive!

## **Tyler State Park Outing, April 15-17, 2011**

By Tina Caron, Activities Director

We had a beautiful weekend of weather from April 15-17 for the Diving Rebels to once again visit an annual favorite – Tyler State Park. We'd had a week of wicked winds leading up to the outing, so some of us planning to camp were a little nervous about pitching tents and keeping them pitched, but Mother Nature pulled through with calm winds, warm sunny days, and brisk moon filled nights!

Connie Mitchell, Johnny Griffin, Ray Howerton and an entourage of several guests arrived early on Friday morning to make sure we got 3 campsites together in a good location. They really came through for us, with three sites that were along a short road. The sites were wooded with great tent pads, lots of open space, fire rings, and

not too far from the bathhouse! Steve Herman, Kelly and Danny Barentine, and Keith Weber arrived later in the day, and many braved the cool water of the lake for some diving. Steve was providing instruction for Open Water certifications for Connie, and Kelly and Danny were making advances on their Master Scuba Diver certificates! Tina arrived around 9:30 PM after fighting some traffic along the way from Westlake to Tyler, and Danny and Keith jumped right in to get her tent pitched quickly so everyone could rejoin the party. There were 12 of us Rebels gathered around the campfire, relaxing and talking until probably far too late.

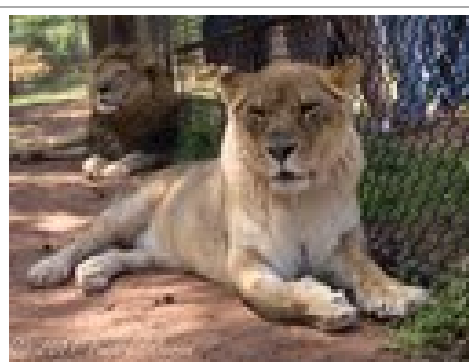


Connie Mitchell, Steve Herman, Kelly Barentine,  
Danny Barentine

After a very chilly night for tent camping, Saturday morning kicked off with breakfast tacos prepared by Tina. You should have seen the kitchen paraphernalia spread out over our three campsites! We must have had 3 or 4 cook tops, a camp oven, a plethora of propane tanks, and lots of chefs! The good news is that there was no shortage of skilled hands to help with cooking and keeping things warm, and plenty of equipment to make it happen. We were well fed and warmed by the coffee that was kept in good supply, and several people went off to dive as more and more Rebels started trickling in. Danny Bouska was notably delayed because he had a tire blowout on the highway. We are glad he didn't have any issues aside from the inconvenience of having to stop and get the tire changed, because that tire was an unbelievable shredded mess! I think Danny kept it as a souvenir for posterity.

Kelly and Danny braved the water again for more specialty dives, and Connie continued her Open Water dives. Steve and Keith even managed to help Tina try on a dry suit for the first time, although it was a little snug for her taste and she opted not to dive in it. I'm sure the process of putting on that suit was an entertaining one for those watching from the sidelines. It's not easy to don one of those things! While some divers were soaking their heads, Connie, Johnny and Ray got busy preparing a fabulous lunch of fajitas! Folks, you really missed out on this one if you weren't there – they were superb. Ray is certainly going to meet with success in his endeavors to become a culinary expert!

After lunch a group of Rebels drove a few minutes up the road to visit Tiger Creek, the big cat refuge also in Tyler. Many thanks to Steve Herman for organizing this activity! We all enjoyed visiting with the tigers, lions, leopards, pumas, and other big cats at Tiger Creek. We got a behind the scenes tour of the facility, where we saw some of their newly built natural habitats up close and personal, and even got to pet a lion!! Yes folks, we pet a lion, albeit through the chain link fence, with a close eye on his every movement. Tina was in heaven with a chance to take some photos of these amazing creatures up close and personal.



After Tiger Creek we headed back to the park for more diving. Several divers tried out DPV's and got some more bottom time on the logs, even though the thermocline was only 17 feet down and a chilly 57 degrees! Connie even finished enough dives to earn her "Scuba Diver" certification. She's one step closer to being a fully certified Open Water Diver now. By dinner time, the Diving Rebels gathering had grown to an amazing 28 attendees. Kelly and Danny provided a delicious dinner of barbeque chicken and brisket, with accompaniments and dessert provided by the attendees. We had the campsite blazing again (and we needed it to keep warm once sundown came) and Kelly and Danny conducted a Washers Tournament. Keith Weber walked away with the grand prize of his choice of \$15 in Rebel Wear or a Tank Light. He chose the light, handing the \$15 second place prize to Mark Stonebridge, and Ron Herman, Steve's brother, clinched third for \$10 in Rebel Wear.

After one more brisk overnight, we awoke to another beautiful day, and breakfast of French toast, bacon, sausage, and fruit salad served up by Tina. A few more die hard Rebels took the opportunity for another dive, and we broke down camp to start heading for home. The last few of us still around for lunch time feasted on left over brisket and chicken from the evening before, and we all departed rested, well fed, and remarking on what a great time we'd had that weekend.

We look forward to repeating the Rebel fun at Balmorhea State Park over Memorial Day weekend!

### July 2011 Flower Gardens Trip

The Diving Rebels have reserved space on The Fling charter to dive the Flower Gardens from July 1-4, 2011. **The trip is booked but the waitlist is open.** We have a great group of divers registered for this trip, and would love to add a few more to the roster! Please see the following link for some great information about The Fling and diving in the Flower Gardens: <http://www.flingcharters.com/pdf/faq.pdf> If you are interested in waitlisting for this trip, please contact Tina Caron, Activities Director.

### The Diving Rebels Scuba Club

### Invites You To Join Us

**June 9 – June 16 or 23 2012**

### On a Trip to the South Pacific Islands of FIJI

June 9 – June 16, Beqa Lagoon Resort, Beqa Island Fiji

June 16 - 23, VoliVoli Beach Resort, Viti Levu Fiji

**Deadline for deposits is June 1, 2011**

**There are 24 spaces available**

**Life's an adventure; don't miss out, SIGN UP today!**

**More information available on the Club's Website**

**[www.divingrebels.org](http://www.divingrebels.org)**

**Or by emailing [fiji2012@divingrebels.org](mailto:fiji2012@divingrebels.org)**



## Ordinary Members-Extraordinary Experiences: Mark Stonebridge

By Kelly Barentine, Treasurer

In a person's lifetime they will come across a diverse cross section of people and with that a wide range of experiences from those individuals. I believe that most will agree that when you get into a room full of divers the normal everyday experiences balloon into the extraordinary. In the various conversations had between diving club members you will come across someone who intrigues you more than most and with that being said I think many will come to believe that Mark Stonebridge is one of those people.

When you first meet Mark you don't even think he could be one who has led an exciting life or who takes risks. He is a quiet and unassuming man who would rather have his arm twisted off than speak publicly. He is one who is willing to get involved and help but to step into the spotlight is against his grain.

Mark had lived by the water all his life in Bellport, Long Island and his desire to learn scuba diving grew with each day he had to pass the scuba shop. The day finally came where he could afford to "take the plunge" and get certified. So Mark's scuba diving escapades began in 1989 with his Open Water certification and about 18 months later he received his Advanced certification. Mark has a firm belief in not rushing through certification, he feels that once experience is gained then you can move on to the next level. So with his certifications out of the way it did not take Mark long to fill his dive log full with various dives in multiple locations.

In looking through Mark's log book there is one consistent theme throughout which is, shipwrecks! It seems that Mark had developed a passion for wreck diving, and he is quick to tell you that there is a difference between shipwrecks and sunken boats. A shipwreck is caused by some sort of nautical disaster and has gone down with all its trinkets and goodies scattered about to be found, where as a sunk boat has been put there on purpose and has already been scuttled of all the valuable items.

In Mark's lifetime he has estimated to have performed over 700 dives and touched on 30 or more wrecks between New York and Bermuda. I would love to touch on each one, because being a diver myself I know that each dive is an experience in itself but unfortunately spaces limits me. We did touch on four different wrecks that he was able to dive; the SS Oregon, USS San Diego both off the coast of Long Island, the Constellation off the island of Bermuda and the SS Andrea Doria off the coast of Massachusetts.

The SS Oregon was a liner on its way to New York from Liverpool, England when it was broadsided by the Charles R. Morse in 1886. The Oregon remained afloat 8 hours after it was rammed and then gently sank to the bottom at 130 feet remaining upright as if sitting in dry dock. Mark has explored this wreck numerous times and states that it is his favorite wreck to dive. He has brought up several bottles which he displays in his home along with bronze fittings from the wreck, which he had to leave with friends when he moved to Texas.

The SS San Diego was a naval ship that was sunk off the coast of Long Island on July 19, 1918 by a mine which was laid by the German submarine U156. It was reported that there was an explosion on the portside engine room which caused the ship to sink 20 minutes later. The ship is lying upside down in 115 feet of water and gave Mark one of his most frightening moments in all his diving. During one of his many dives of this wreck Mark and his dive buddy Gary penetrated the wreck to locate various artifacts including brass and artillery shells. While within the ship Mark penetrated a section of the ship through a small hole but a short time afterwards he could not locate the way back out due to the poor visibility and silt. According to Mark after a short moment he just calmed down and allowed his training take over. He began to systematically search for a way out and banging on the side to allow his buddy to know where he was located. He knew he

had plenty of air left so after about 10 minutes he broke through a rusted out section of the side of the ship and emerged out into the open where he met up with his buddy. That experience alone has imprinted upon him the necessity of being a more cautious diver.

The wreck Constellation was a schooner and is off the coast of Bermuda located in about 30 feet of water. Carrying a 2,000 ton general cargo, including hundreds of bags of cement, 700 cases of Scotch whiskey, and an assortment of drugs, she was en-route from New York to La Guira, Venezuela. After mechanical failure of a pump she began to take on water and so the captain headed for Bermuda to have repairs made but while waiting on a pilot to bring the ship in a strong current drove her into the reef where she sank. This ship was also the inspiration for Peter Benchley's book/movie *The Deep* in 1977. Mark has enjoyed diving on this wreck and notes that it was his first blue water dive. He brought up numerous trinkets from this wreck including bottles (which he kindly shared with the Barentines and Simpsons at the Andrea Doria dinner from the Diving Rebels 2010 Chinese Auction) and he does have some of the ampules of adrenaline and morphine as well.

The wreck Andrea Doria is probably one of the more well-known wrecks that Mark has dove. The Andrea Doria was an Italian Liner that collided with the MS Stockholm on July 25, 1956. After staying afloat for more than 11 hours the ship finally capsized and rests on its side in 260 feet of water. Fortunately due to lessons learned from the sinking of the Titanic there was only the loss of 46 lives as a direct result of the collision itself. One of Mark's more memorable dives is the Andrea Doria wreck with his maximum depth of 225 feet. Mark did not go the full 260 feet since he was diving with air while others who were diving on Trimix went deeper. He does want to make sure it is understood that he was mentored closely while diving this wreck; this was a time where standards were not as closely monitored as they are now. He ensured that he dove safely and performed all the necessary safety stops. To this day Mark still has dishes that he salvaged up from the Andrea Doria. There was one fact about his dive of the Andrea Doria that was interesting and that is he dove with Rob Stevenson who is a descendent of Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote *Treasure Island* among others.

With all the exciting dives Mark has done and dive trips he has been on his most exciting experience was a diving trip in Bonaire. Bonaire is where he made his most important discovery and it did not lie under the ocean or within the decaying walls of a ship. Mark discovered he wanted a permanent buddy and began courting his lovely wife-to-be Mary. They began dating in October of 1996 and were wed four years later on June 3rd, 2000.

Mark Stonebridge has been a member of the Diving Rebels since 2004, he found out about the club from his nephew Eric who learned about it from Arlington Scuba. Mark has served on the Rebel board and states that he enjoys being a part of the club because of the companionship it gives him along with a chance to dive. Of course he is always looking for a reason to be a "rebel."

Aside from diving Mark enjoys other hobbies such as bowling, target shooting and working out at the gym daily. Both he and Mary are active in their church and Mark volunteers by serving food to the homeless. Mark's main hobby is Mr. Fix-It and working on his honey-do list at home.

As a relatively new diver I find the advice of the experienced (aka Old timers) invaluable so I always like to glean information to help me not look foolish under the water. When I asked Mark his advice to those of us who will listen he told me, "Do as many certifications as you can, do not take short cuts. Know your limitations and abort a dive, there is always next time." I find that advice worth listening to and plan to follow it.

For those of you who do not know Mark Stonebridge very well I encourage you to sit down and get to know him, he has a wealth of information and experience in wreck diving and he will not lead you astray. For those of you who do know Mark I hope that you have learned something about him you did not know before. He is one of those normal, everyday people who have had an extraordinary life and we are lucky to have him as a member of our club and as a friend.



From left to right: Rob Stevenson, Mark Stonebridge, Joel Silverstein and Steve Bielenda

