

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

April 2005

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April 9-10th – Tyler State Park

Make sure to attend the Diving Rebels April outing at Tyler State Park! Sites have been reserved in the Lakeview campground area. We will have a Barbeque cook-off; so get your recipes ready. Cook Off rules are on page 2.

Coordinators: Linda & Jim

La Paz – July 26-31, 2005

Join the Diving Rebels on a trip to Club Cantamar in La Paz on the Baja Peninsula departing on July 26th and returning on July 31st. See page 3 for more information!

April Meeting Program

Calendar of Events

April 6 Monthly Membership Meeting
April 9-10 Tyler State Park
Dive and Barbeque Cookoff
April 10 Scubadillo's Crawfish Boil 2pm
May 4 Monthly Membership Meeting
May 27-30 Balmorhea Outing
June 1 Monthly Membership Meeting
June TBA Mid-Year Party

President's Report

Our first outing of 2005, the traditional journey to San Marcos for a drift dive down the San Marcos River while performing an underwater cleanup, was an interesting one. Ted Glodowski, who brought along his friend Carla, and I were the only Rebels who made the trip, but that didn't stop us from fulfilling our subsurface responsibilities and enjoying the dive. Between the two of us we collected nearly four mesh bags of trash, including the usual glass bottle and aluminum can suspects, but also including various articles of clothing, sunglasses, flip flops, a dog leash and finally an ATM debit card (didn't try it out). With only two of us, it wasn't too difficult to award the two prizes: one \$25 Surface Interval gift certificate for most trash collected (me, again) and one \$25 Surface Interval gift certificate for most unusual piece of trash collected – Ted, for a partially melted, warped Frisbee. Please see the accompanying photos for our before and after dive poses.

Ted, Carla and I had a delicious and relaxing dinner at the San Marcos River Pub and Grill. We made it an early evening and returned to our rooms at Motel 6. Ted and Carla had to take off about 8 AM to return to DFW so Ted to get to work in time. Taking my leisure, I had a good breakfast at Herbert's Taco Hut, the designated diver's breakfast hangout.

I then headed to the Aquarena Center for my dive in Spring Lake to perform whatever volunteer work they needed me to do. The lake had its usual good vis, so I took my camera along and ended up taking 128 pictures during a 75-minute dive. I also collected a mesh bag full of Hydrilla, the noxious invader aquatic weed that the Aquarena Center personnel are trying to eradicate from Spring Lake. They are making excellent progress, having removed probably 75 – 80 percent of the Hydrilla biomass that was present in the lake when I first dove there 8 years ago.

I would like to again encourage all that are interested in experiencing the outstanding and unique resource that Spring Lake represents to consider taking the Scientific Diver certification course that Aquarena Center offers through many dive shops throughout Texas. To provide possible motivation for anyone interested, I may present a program on the Scientific Diver program in a few months. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Steve Ogden

Tyler Outing Barbeque Cook Off Rules

1. Categories will be brisket, ribs, and chefs' choice.
2. You may begin cooking on Friday night and all meat must be turned in by 4:30pm on Sat.
3. All meat must be cooked on sight.
4. Meat will be judged on flavor, tenderness, smoke ring, and appeal.
5. You may COOK with sauce but DO NOT add sauce, marinade, sop, or juice to meat or container once the meat is prepared for turn-in. NO garnishing or markers or sauce allowed.
6. There will also be a category for chefs' choice. This can be anything you want to enter. It will also be judged on appeal, and taste.
7. Your entries will be Saturday nights outing dinner.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Eli De Leon, April 6th
Michelle Estill, April 7th
Chris Hoffman, April 15th
Linda Magnuson, April 23rd
Ginger Hoffman, April 27th

Anniversaries

Robert Dove April 4th
Eli and Anita April 25th

Join us!

La Paz Baja California



Dive in the Sea of Cortez!



July 26th - July 31st



La Paz Baja California Mexico is located right on the Tropic of Cancer, with a desert landscape and comfortable dry and warm climate year-around. The natural marine wonders of the Bay of La Paz and the surrounding area make it the eco-tourism capital of Mexico. You can travel halfway around the world searching for exotic dive destinations but dive, for dive, dollar for dollar, no other destination matches southern Baja when it comes to good times and great diving. The Sea of Cortez, at a mere 4.5 million years, is the youngest sea in the world. This bustling port city, located in the southernmost nook of La Paz Bay, is a prime jumping-off point for Baja divers thanks to its proximity to large, uninhabited offshore islands.

While La Paz diving offers a diversity of sites including shallow reefs and even a decent wreck dive, the star attraction is the one-two punch of the El Bajo seamount and the Los Islotes sea lion colony—sites that are rate as favorites in Baja. El Bajo is a domed seamount from 17 to 40 feet famous for schooling hammerheads (though you may have to go deep to find them), while Islote is a small, rocky colony with a swim-through tunnel cutting all the way through the tiny island.

The price of \$1295 ppdo, includes: roundtrip airfare from DFW on America West, airport transfers, meals, lodging and 3 dives per day at Club Cantamar. Night dives will be available at an additional cost of \$45/dive. To secure your spot, a non-refundable deposit of \$140.00 is due by April 25th.

For more information: www.divingrebels.org/lapaz.htm or call 817-291-7039

Etiquette for Photographers

1. Be Eco-Friendly

Getting a good photo is no excuse for damaging the environment.

This is where we underwater photographers are most vulnerable to criticism. Adding a camera and strobe will affect buoyancy, and once the eye is glued to the viewfinder, depth perception and peripheral vision are reduced enough so that even a skilled and concerned diver might accidentally bump into coral. In addition, the technical limitations of underwater photography require proximity to the subject in order to maximize color and resolution. Get too close, catch a bit of surge, and, regrettably, accidents do happen. Those photographers who truly care about the reef will learn and practice optimal buoyancy control. Unfortunately, there are also callous photographers who are willing to damage the reef in pursuit of a photo. You've seen them lie in a patch of fragile staghorn to get close to a butterflyfish, or wedge their fins between boulder corals to steady themselves for a wide-angle shot. Is it possible they simply do not know better? Not likely in this age of eco-enlightenment. We now realize the reef is a finite resource, and no one should be allowed to trash it purposely, whether in pursuit of tropical fish for the aquarium, food for the table, or even photos for a slide show. Doing so is criminally wrong.

2. Be Nice

Harassing marine life for the sake of a photo is wrong.

Photos of purposely inflated pufferfish or divers riding turtles show a lack of respect for sea life and the marine environment. These photos shouldn't be taken, and certainly should not be rewarded by being published or considered in photographic competitions.

But there are other, less obvious ways marine life may be harassed photographically, sometimes by a photographer and sometimes by those assisting a photographer. I've watched divemasters plunge their hands in the sand to drag garden eels from their burrows and then hold them for a photographer's macro framer. Tossing a shrimp into the water column to photograph it against a black background often results in a yellowtail swooping in to eat your subject. Even the seemingly benign act of hand feeding a fish can cause it harm. There is the obvious consideration of inappropriate diet, but more significantly, hand feeding bears the risk of desensitizing fish to a potential threat from humans, especially in areas where hook-and-line or spearfishing is allowed.

3. Be Considerate

Just because you hold the camera doesn't mean you automatically acquire eminent domain over all marine life encounters.

Too often, photographers assume that because they're holding a camera, they should get best access to marine life encounters. Don't forget that the non-photographers are paying for the dive, too. If you see a diver observing something of interest, wait from a respectful distance and approach for the shot when the other diver is finished.

4. Be Safe

Don't ignore dive safety in pursuit of a photograph.

This is my prime example of "do as I say, not as I have all too often done." For too many years I dived too deep, stayed too long, and performed careless zigzag profiles, all because that's where the pictures were. I assumed I was bulletproof--until I got bent. My incident was more than a decade ago, but it was also on a live-aboard boat in Vanuatu, far away from help. There were no recompression chambers anywhere nearby, and had it been a more serious hit, I could have been in big trouble. The dive boat would have had to steam back to port for an air evacuation, and my aggressive dive profiles could have not only hurt me physically, but also cut short the dive holiday for the other 15 divers on board. As it turned out, I didn't dive anymore that week, but everyone else had a great time. It clearly illustrated to me the need for all divers to behave responsibly, because a dive accident inevitably affects everyone on the boat.

5. Be Appreciative

Taking photographs under water is a privilege, not a right.

Toting cameras below does not bestow upon the photographer any special status or rights. Whatever one's underwater interests--identifying fish, photographing them or just watching them--all divers should enter the water with an ample supply of humility and an appreciation of one another and the special place we are going.

Used with permission: [Stephen Frink Photographic](http://www.stephenfrink.com) www.stephenfrink.com

Etiquette for non-photographers

1. Be Knowledgeable

All contact is not necessarily bad contact.

There are portions of the reef, particularly bits of rubble or algae-covered rocks, that are unaffected by careful finger or fin placement. Kneeling in the sand patches is certainly reef-friendly, so long as a photographer doesn't erupt in a cloud of detritus leaving the bottom, thereby silting the very coral reef you so admired a moment before. Before assigning guilt, make sure the photographer is actually in damaging contact with live coral. Sometimes the perspective of distance gives a false illusion of eco-terrorism.

2. Be Understanding

Appreciate the value of the equipment.

Not everyone on a dive boat understands the value or the fragility of photographic equipment. The photographer bears the responsibility of keeping the gear on a dedicated camera table or somewhere out of the normal flow of traffic. Other divers on boats bear the responsibility of not dropping weight belts on dome ports or flinging saltwater droplets from wetsuits or hair as the photographer is changing film. A little space for photographers and their gear is essential.

3. Be Sensible

Use common sense with underwater encounters.

If you see a photographer carefully stalking some elusive specimen of marine life, don't swim nearby. Just the sound of your regulator exhaust may blow the photo-op. If you see a photographer setting up a wide-angle shot on a vertical wall, don't swim directly beneath. Your exhaust bubbles will inevitably rise exactly where they shouldn't.

4. Be Forgiving

Just because you see an unattended camera on the bottom, don't assume you've struck it rich.

Photographers can't change film or batteries under water, so occasionally they will carry more than one camera or strobe on a dive. In fact, I do this often, moving the cameras to various parts of the reef and setting them carefully on the bottom when not in use. Yes, camera gear may get dropped and lost. But if it is a known dive site and the camera is sitting oh-so-carefully on sand or a bit of shipwreck, it is far more likely there is a photographer lurking nearby who will be very distressed to see you swimming away with your "prize."

5. Be Careful

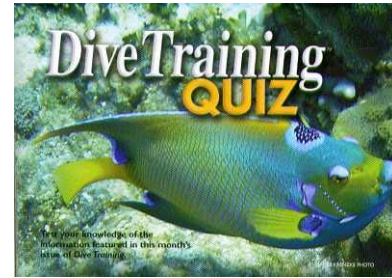
The rinse tank is no place for carelessness.

This precaution is for photographers, non-photographers and divemasters. Too often, camera floods or dome damage occurs at the end of the dive in the rinse bucket. When multiple camera systems are placed in the rinse tank simultaneously, cords entwine framers and abrasive arms and trays inevitably bounce on delicate ports. Pulling one system out pulls something else off, and a flood ensues. The goal is to displace salt water with fresh water immediately, and to that end, a brief but thorough rinse is all that's required.

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1. "Olympic size pool" is a loosely applied marketing term.
To be Olympic size, a pool must be:

- A. 25 meters long
- B. 50 meters long
- C. 100 meters long



2. The most efficient stroke for workout swimming is:

- A. Freestyle
- B. Breaststroke
- C. Backstroke

3. The ears are connected to the nasopharynx via the:

- A. Ostium
- B. Eustachian tubes
- C. Round window
- D. Epiglottis

4. When towing a float, the coil of line or reel should be held in the diver's hand and never secured to his equipment or body.

- A. True
- B. False

5. To be seen while floating on the surface in any water conditions, divers should carry:

- A. An inflatable signaling device
- B. An audible device
- C. A signaling mirror
- D. A dive light
- E. All of the above

6. Clownfishes, more properly called anemonefishes, are members of the:

- A. Anemone family

- B. Blenny family
- C. Cardinalfish family
- D. Damselfish family

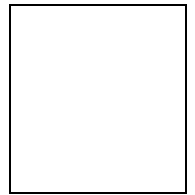
7. Anemonefishes are poor swimmers.

- A. True
- B. False

8. All anemonefish eggs hatch as males.

- A. True
- B. False

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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