

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

January 2005

2005 DIVING REBEL BOARD

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2005 Dues are Due!

Dues for the 2005 Membership year are now due and payable through the February Meeting.

Early Bird Renewal Discounts!

Renew your membership by the end of the January meeting. After the limited time offer, the rates are the new standard: regular membership rates, so take advantage of the savings and renew early. See Keith's letter on Page 3.

JANUARY 2005 OUTING

Our January outing will be our usual San Marcos River cleanup that will take place on Saturday, January 22. We will plan to start the dive at the usual meeting place there at the San Marcos Drive bridge at the river about 1 PM. Steve Ogden is the trip coordinator and his cell number is (214) 641-6013. Call if you are running late so we know to wait for you. We will have prizes for the collector of the most trash and as well the collector of the most unusual piece of trash, as voted by the participants. We will have dinner together, probably at the San Marcos Pub and Grill. We will be staying at the Motel 6 there in San Marco. Please make your reservations by calling (512) 396-8705. Rates are \$29.99 + tax for a single, and \$35.99 + tax for double occupancy. If you have never done this dive before, this is a very interesting and rewarding dive experience. So please come out and support the Diving Rebels in this worthy effort.

January Meeting Program

Steve Ogden will be making a photo presentation of his top 100 or so pictures from his mid-November 2004 trip to Cozumel. As part of the presentation, we will be trying to identify the various fish and other life depicted in the photos. This will be a good refresher for your underwater naturalist skills.

President's Report

Welcome everyone to 2005 – a new year with lots of opportunities for great diving and good fellowship with other divers. We are fortunate in the north Texas area to have these within the Diving Rebels, as well as other venues, and I encourage all members to take advantage of this. We again have a very strong board this year that is committed to making your dive experiences safe and memorable, as well as giving you the occasion to learn new aspects and features of diving and acquire new skills.

Before I proceed to discuss some of the what and where of 2005, let me recount our final club event of 2004 – our Christmas party on Saturday, December 11. We had a good turnout of nearly 50 people in attendance. The Herman Son's Lodge in Fort Worth was decorated in the trappings of the season and there was a lot of good food and drink. Steve Sadler was there in his DJ role providing a variety of music.

We had over \$1000 in raffle prizes that were given away at various times during the course of the evening. Bob Martinez really had a good run of luck going with him during the evening, as his tickets were selected seven times, I believe. We had several multiple winners including the Magnusons, Randall and me. The top two prizes were won by Jim Magnuson (the \$200 gift certificate) and Jim Kirchoff (the regulator).

We also had fun playing a game where a Scuba topic printed on a piece of paper was taped to our backs where others could see it, but we couldn't ourselves. We then had to ask a series of questions to try to determine what our topic was. But what made it more interesting and somewhat complicated was that we asked the questions after inhaling some helium, with the result that our questions were in somewhat of a cartoonish voice. But it was all a lot of fun and I want to thank Bob Martinez for bringing the tank of helium.

We awarded our two top annual awards, based on the membership vote for the Service and Diver-of-the-Year Awards. Both awards went to very deserving individuals and the voting was not even close. The Service Award went to Danny Bouska, our Vice President, Webmaster and newsletter editor, without whom we would not have nearly the effective communication that we have. The Diver-of-the-Year went to Keith Weber, our Treasurer. Keith will be on a diving hiatus for a few weeks while he recovers from back surgery, but I know he will be back in the water as soon as he can.

The party was a good success and I want to thank all those that attended, and for you that didn't, we hope to see you there this next Christmas.

And speaking of Christmas, I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with their friends and families. Please remember our troops in harm's way, as well as all those affected by the tsunami tragedy, in your thoughts and prayers.

At our December board meeting we made some tentative decisions regarding the activities and direction of the club for 2005. Our first club meeting will be on Wednesday, January 5, at J Gilligans, as usual. Our January outing will be the weekend of January 22 and 23, in San Marcos for our annual river cleanup there. Please see separate announcements in the newsletter for details of these events. Looking ahead, our Wine and Cheese Party at Lake Murray, held jointly with member of the Scubadillos, the Finns and perhaps others will be February 26. We will be getting out additional information on this event – so be sure and mark on your calendar.

We discussed other outing possibilities at the board meeting, but really need members to step up and forward to assume coordinator responsibilities for one or more outings. This is an opportunity for you to actively participate in club affairs and we need your support on this.

Steve Ogden

Letter from the Treasurer

Diving Rebel Members,

Well, as all of you probably know, my sudden outage due to back surgery has required an extension of the dues sale. So in keeping with our intention of driving early renewals (just 1 month later), if you pay by the end of the January meeting you will receive the approximate 10% discount. This makes the rates 22 -individual, 13 - each additional family member and 4 non-diver.

Thursday the rates are at the new rates (25, 15, 5), so don't miss out. And remember if you haven't paid before the March meeting, the initiation fee applies.

Let's have a good year,
Keith Weber
Diving Rebels Treasurer

Rebel January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Phil Kirchhoff, January 3
Jimmy Atkinson, January 5
Ed Cason, January 19

Anniversaries

The following story thanks to Mark Estil

US scuba divers survive Asian tsunami unscathed, but return to "hell"

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US couple who were scuba diving off the sun-kissed coast of Thailand when Asia's killer tsunami hit emerged from the water unscathed, only to find themselves in "hell," they said.

Psychology professor Faye Linda Wachs and her husband Gene Kim were underwater off Koh Phi Phi island when the tidal wave roared through the ocean around them and struck the Thai coast, killing at least 2,400 people there.

When the buffeted couple surfaced and got back to the beach, the palm-fringed paradise they had left was an unrecognizable scene of death and destruction. "As we came in, we realized how lucky we are because you could see bodies floating in the water," Wachs said after returning to her home in Los Angeles. "It was terrible. The devastation was unbelievable. The island is essentially gone. We left paradise -- it was a beautiful island -- and we came back to just hell," the holiday-maker said.

At least 119,000 people in eight Asian countries are so far confirmed killed by the tsunami, which was spawned by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The deadly tidal wave was the first in recorded history to have hit several countries at the same time.

Wachs, 34, and Kim said they were diving around a wrecked ship on Sunday morning when the water suddenly churned up around them, creating a "white wash" that sucked them downwards towards the seabed. "I was being tossed around like I was inside a washing machine," said Wachs' husband, Kim, adding that he had thought he was headed for the surface, but his depth gauge indicated he was going downwards. "So I was being sucked under, not knowing what was happening," he said. Kim eventually saw sunlight and made his way towards the surface. Shocked but unharmed, Wachs was meanwhile surfacing slowly with the help of a divemaster, not realizing that she and Kim had just survived one of the worst natural disasters in modern history.

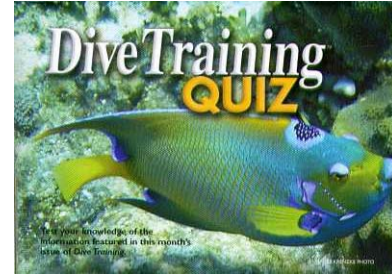
Still unaware that disaster had struck, the pair made one last dive before heading to shore. As they headed back to shore, the horror of what had just happened began to reveal itself as the couple started encountering debris and human corpses in the water. "There were numerous bodies that were floating out from the shoreline, and we brought in a few ourselves," Kim said. When they got to the beach, little was left of the popular resort and the couple's cabana had been destroyed.

"It was indescribable to see several people dead in the wreckage," Wachs said. "It was unbelievable."

The couple spent the rest of the day helping to carry injured survivors to the island's helicopter pad before making arrangements to return home.

1. The chronic, slow degrading changes in various ecosystems that are difficult to notice because they occur subtly over time are described using the term:

- A. Paradigm shift
- B. Evolutionary decline
- C. Cyclic declination
- D. Shifting baselines



2. Some scientists contend that due to the combined effect of global warming, pollution and overfishing, more than 50 percent of the coral reefs that exist today will disappear within the next 100 years.

- A. True
- B. False

3. At its root, physics is the science of relationships of:

- A. Matter
- B. Energy
- C. Force
- D. Motion
- E. All of the above

4. When exposed to either increased or decreased pressure, gases' behavior is highly predictable. This is the basis of:

- A. Boyle's law
- B. Dalton's law
- C. Henry's law
- D. Charles' law

5. The largest archipelago in the world is composed of more than 17,000 islands, which are part of:

- A. Japan
- B. Greece
- C. Turkey
- D. Indonesia

6. The Komodo dragon can reach lengths of 10 feet (3 m) and can weigh more than 220 pounds (99 kg).

- A. True B. False

7. Giant sea bass reach sexual maturity in about:

- A. 6 to 8 years
B. 11 to 13 years
C. 15 to 18 years
D. 20 to 22 years

8. The soupfin shark is a species that is known in other parts of the world as:

- A. School shark
B. Tope shark
C. Stew shark
D. A and B are correct
E. B and C are correct

The following articles courtesy Scuba News
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SCUBAPRO Direct Feed Recall

Divers with an Air 2 Alternate Inflation Regulator on a NON-SCUBAPRO buoyancy compensator should immediately stop use and contact SCUBAPRO, as the coupling could break. They will be instructed to take their buoyancy compensator with the Air 2 intact to their authorized SCUBAPRO dealers for a free replacement.

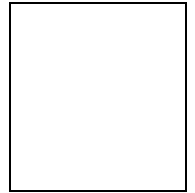
<http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=2687042>

70% of World's Coral Reefs at Risk

About 70 percent of the world's coral reefs have been wrecked or are at risk from human activities but some are showing surprising resilience to global warming, a recent report said. The international survey, by 240 experts in 98 nations, said that pollution, over-fishing, rising temperatures, coastal development and diseases were among major threats to reefs. Twenty percent of the world's coral reefs have been effectively destroyed or show no immediate prospects of recovery, said the report

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=533>

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