

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

July 2005

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July Meeting Program

In lieu of a speaker for our July 6, meeting, we will be having our annual Chinese auction. Please bring both items for auction as well as your checkbook and cash, as this event is one of our primary fundraisers for the year. The items to bring to enter into auction should have some sort of reasonable value and utility, preferably related to diving and/or camping. But they may also be of general use such as around the house or yard. Items with a value of \$10 - \$20 and up are encouraged. Fancy wrapping is not required. Who knows, there might be a wetsuit, BC, regulator or fins that will be available for your bidding pleasure.

We will explain the auction process in more detail that night, but suffice it to say, if you were not the successful bidder for a particular item, there will be opportunity for you to "steal" the item during bidding for the next item. So even if you are unfamiliar with the process, please come and join us for an evening of fun and hopefully, successful fundraising. Steve Ogden, President, has put out the challenge to the members that if we raise \$1,000 during the event, he will attend the September club meeting wearing a dress. Now this may or may not be incentive for a lot of aggressive bidding, but be sure to join us that night and find out.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|----------|--|
| July 6 | Monthly Membership Meeting, Chinese Auction |
| July 31 | La Paz Baja California Mexico |
| Aug 3 | Monthly Membership Meeting |
| Aug 13 | Membership Drive-Clear Springs |
| Sept 2-5 | Labor Day Outing – Lake Ouachita |
| Sept 7 | Monthly Membership Meeting |

President's Report

If there was any doubt that it is summer in Dallas now, that was removed, as today was the first official 100-degree day of the year. So now we have more hot days to look forward to. But during the last two Rebel outings, we were very fortunate in being able to avoid the sweltering heat.

Our first bit of great weather was experienced during our trek to Balmorhea State Park in west Texas over Memorial Day weekend, where I don't think the temperature got much above the mid-80s. In contrast, during the previous weekend, the temperatures in the area ranged up to 114°F, so we definitely got a break. The temperature was very favorable for all our activities there including our diving, hiking around, travel to the McDonald Observatory for a star party and even our nights, as sleeping was very comfortable, even to the point of needing a light blanket. We did have to contend with some pretty heavy rain shortly after arriving and getting camp set up, but the clouds that lingered for the remainder of the weekend provided the right mix for a very pleasant and fun-filled weekend.

In fact, the general area of the park had so much rain during the past year, about 35 inches, in contrast to the normal 10 – 12 inches, that the pool in the park has been impacted. The soil and sediment carried off by the excess rainfall runoff percolated into the ground water recharge zone that provides the water for the springs that feed the pool. This sediment was then introduced into the pool at the spring's discharged point. While the vis in the pool normally is 50 – 75 feet, the area downstream of the spring discharge probably only had vis of about 30 feet due to the suspended particulate in the water. The sediment settled out on the bottom of the pool up to 15" in depth. And if someone else kicked up this soft sediment, the vis could quickly go to zero. So while the water quality was not up to the normal high quality we have experienced in past years, it was none-the-less, fun diving. As usual, the release of a little of bit of dry dog food from plastic bags taken underwater with us, resulted in a feeding frenzy of the tetras in the pool.

Our second weather-fortunate event was our mid-year party on June 18 and 19 at Clear Springs Scuba Park near Terrell. The weather forecast earlier that week had called for temperatures around 100 over the weekend. But on Saturday, the clouds that blanketed the sky most of the day held the temperature down to about 90, resulting in a very pleasant day of diving, fun and fellowship for the 23 folks who attended the outing. There was plenty of food and prizes including over \$500 in gift certificates distributed to the winners of the underwater poker contest as well as door prize drawings. For those of us who spent the night, the weather was also conducive for comfortable sleeping.

But now that the heat is upon us, it is time to escape the north Texas area. So if you are able, you should join those of us heading to La Paz in Baja California, Mexico for several days of diving in the clear, refreshing waters of the Pacific.

Steve Ogden

Members Only Section on divingrebels.org is now available!

A Members Only area on the website has gone thru beta testing by the board and will be available soon. Members will be notified via email with details on how to access the area. This is a password-protected area to which only Members will be given access. Included in the Members Only area is:

Membership Directory	Member Chat Area
Swap N' Shop Area	Outing Questionnaires

This is a beginning. New items may and will be added to the area. Watch your email for information and use the login and password that you received via email and start communicating with each other today!

Won't receive the login and password because you're not a member?
Become a member of the Diving Rebels and see what you're missing!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Jim Kirchhoff July 25th

Anniversaries

None Known

Membership Survey!

The Diving Rebels Board of Directors will be mailing out a Membership Survey to current members. This is your club, and we as a board wish to gather member input on a variety of areas. Please return the survey in the postage paid return envelope or bring it to the August meeting. By bringing your survey, and attending the August membership meeting, you will receive a free ticket for the door prize. Help the board make the club the best in the DFW area and Texas by taking a few minutes and completing the survey and attending the July membership meeting and Chinese Auction.

Mark your Calendars! August 13th

Bring diving non-members to Clear Springs. Club will provide hotdogs and hamburgers. Lets show them what fun the Rebels can have and increase our membership! More information in the August Newsletter!

La Paz – July 31 – Aug 5, 2005

The deadline has passed, but if you are still interested please contact Danny or Jill Bouska. We may still be able to get you signed up for this exciting trip.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

This place is special.....This place teems with life!

Picture yourself over 100 miles from land, in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico. At times, the seas can be very unforgiving, and the weather can turn foul in an instant. But here, in the midst of this unpredictable Gulf, lie three of the most beautiful and wild places in all the world. Manta rays, whale sharks, coral heads that are bigger than cars, hundreds of species of fish and invertebrates...

The Flower Gardens are actually the northernmost coral reefs in the United States. Located about 105 miles directly south of the Texas/Louisiana border ([click to see map](#)), they are perched atop two salt domes rising above the sea floor. Salt formation began 160 to 170 million years ago when salt layers were deposited in what was then a shallow sea subject to evaporation. In subsequent years, miles of sediments were deposited over the salt layers.

There is an abundance of life on the Flower Gardens. Twenty-one species of coral have been documented, with no large branching corals, sea fans or sea whips. There are 80+ species of algae and 250+ macroinvertebrate species of invertebrates. Two hundred plus species of fish inhabit the Flower Gardens and there are 3 documented species of marine turtles, with only the loggerhead turtle as a resident.

If you are interested in going to the Flower Gardens, come join Jill and Danny as they lead a group to the Gardens on July 22. The trip will depart, from Freeport Texas, at 8:00pm on the 22nd and return on July 24th between 5 and 6pm. Trip includes up to 7 diving opportunities, conditions permitting. Accommodations, meals and beverages are provided while onboard. This is a condition controlled dive trip and the final word on whether the trip is a "go" or not will be announced at 12 Noon on the day of the trip. Cost of the trip is \$380.00. If you are Enriched Air certified (EAN) and want to dive Nitrox, add an additional \$65.00. If you are not EAN certified and would like to be, the classroom part of the class will be taught the Tuesday prior to the trip and the required dives will be done at the Flower Gardens. Cost of the class is \$99.00, which is a savings of \$50 off of the regular price.

For additional information on the Flower Gardens: www.gulf-diving.com/index.html

To sign up for the trip, contact: Jill 817-291-7039 or Danny 214-668-6127

PACK A PASSPORT



New law extends to all travelers leaving U.S.

If you're planning a dive trip to the Caribbean next year, you'll need a passport, regardless of your destination. That's according to a new U.S. law designed to help secure the nation's borders.

Currently a driver's license or a birth certificate is enough to get you back into the United States and into dive destinations like Grand Cayman and the Bahamas.

Requiring passports improves border security because they are not as easily counterfeited as documents such as birth certificates, the U.S. government says.

The law signed late last year by President Bush will be enforced in three phases:

- Beginning December 31, 2005, a passport will be required for all travelers entering or re-entering the United States from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Central and South America. Central America includes the dive destinations of Belize, Honduras, and Costa Rica.
- By December 31, 2006, the requirement will extend to all air and sea travel to or from Mexico and Canada.
- It will apply to all air, sea and land border crossings by December 31, 2007.

Called the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, the new law was drafted in accordance with The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA, also known as the 9/11 Intelligence Bill).

Right now U.S. citizens are not required to present a passport to enter or re-enter the United States when traveling within the Western Hemisphere, which includes North America, South America, Central America, Latin America, the West Indies, and the Caribbean.

With the new law, the number of new passports issued is expected to surge. The U.S. government issued or renewed more than 8.8 million U.S. passports in fiscal 2004, a 21 percent increase over 2000, which was followed by two years of declines in international travel. The 2003 figures rebounded to just above the 2000 level.

Expecting a wave of passport requests, the U.S. government encourages travelers needing a passport to apply early. Processing usually takes six to eight weeks.

A new adult passport costs \$97, which includes a \$12 security surcharge added in March and a \$30 execution fee paid to the "acceptance facility" processing the application.

You cannot apply for a passport online but the State Department's Web site provides application forms that can be downloaded or printed. Renewing a passport can be done online and is strongly encouraged. To do so, complete form DS-82, which can be downloaded from the State Department Web site, www.travel.state.gov/passport; enclose your most recent passport, two identical passport photos, and the passport renewal fee of \$67; and send all items to the National Passport Center in Pittsburgh.

Is Blowing Bubbles Enough for You?

From www.scubaboard.com Author: Scott C

Have you blown all the bubbles you've ever wanted to watch? The time will come when that adventurous feeling that got you started in diving begins to cool. There are signs to look for, which will tell you when you have blown enough bubbles. The excitement of your first dives would burn up a tank in twenty minutes. Those first dives were exciting because you were in a different world. As you gained more experience your tank of air lasted longer, because you were more comfortable. When this happens you are at a crossroads that many divers reach. Find something exciting or let your dive gear gather dust in a closet.

Before you hang up your fins, look around the diving scene. I've blown bubbles for 35 years and still like to watch bubbles rise in clear water. But there is more. What has kept me blowing bubbles for so long? I found something else to do while blowing bubbles. I once met a young man that had emptied 50 tanks of air in his parent's swimming pool. This young man could not get to a lake or ocean and tired of looking at concrete walls. There are divers who do something similar to pool diving by going to one spot over and over till they are bored with bubbles.

Grab those fins and other gear and head for your favorite diving location. Now that blowing bubbles has taught you buoyancy control, some underwater navigation, some skill at keeping close to your partner, you're ready to move on. Your favorite diving site will suggest what to do next. Dive shops and some fishing stores have paper that you can take underwater. Use this paper to sketch a map of the bottom. When you've mapped one area, explore other areas and map those. When you have accumulated a number of locations, share them with other divers, in the evenings, divers love to talk about dive sites. They will add details to your sketch or suggest other locations. Now you have other divers to share information with, possibly new partners, and a good reason to try new places.

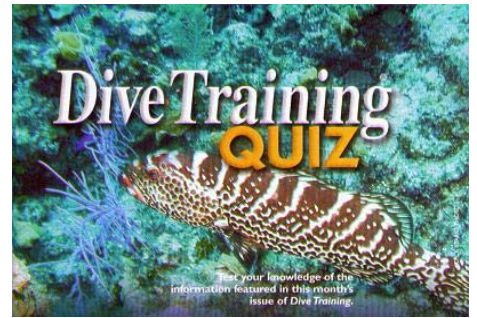
If you are not diving in an underwater park, take some fish food down with you. In our fresh water lakes there are small sunfish that are important in the food chain, the food of predator fish. The sunfish are easy for beginners to approach and will swarm divers feeding them with fresh water mussels, earthworms or bread. Why feed these small baitfish? If you are a food source to these small fish, your skill around small fish will improve. Some of your movements, irregular breathing, waving arms, suddenly holding your breath, these will startle the fish. Any of your actions that scare little fish will scare the bigger fish, hiding at the edge of visibility. Another tip, every fish in the lake or ocean has spent its life trying to avoid being eaten by something larger. As divers we're usually big enough to scare any fish. When around fish, don't approach "head on" you look like you're going to eat them. Get closer by moving sideways or parallel to their path. Fish can't attack sideways, so smaller fish will let you get closer if they think you are interested in something else. Your lack of skill in the water can scare fish further away than you can see. As you learn to "fit in" with small baitfish you will see bigger fish. If your skills around fish are good, you'll be able to find fish anywhere. When you go to the ocean you will be able to get closer to the fish on the reefs.

And you thought there was nothing left to do. When you're around other divers very long, you will learn from them and they can learn from you. What makes a good dive site? Ask the diver that just came up from a dive. Where's the closest place to buy air? Share the work carrying tanks to the air station. Every diver likes help carrying tanks. What happens while waiting for 10 or 20 tanks to be filled? Divers tell where they're diving and what they've found. When you're with a group of divers at any dive shop you'll find there are clubs for divers. Some clubs will organize trips to local sites. Lots of clubs have competition among themselves and with other clubs. When winter weather has caused terminal cabin fever. Some dive clubs find an indoor pool to play underwater hockey. Great for conditioning to get ready for the dive season. When a club goes to the lake there are group activities like treasure hunts, U/W compass courses, Poker, and of course dive partners for exploring underwater. The evenings after diving are great times to share your experiences while sharing theirs.

Another underwater skill that excites people is photography. Please don't grab for an underwater camera when you barely know which way the bubbles go. Only when you have very advanced skills, when your buoyancy is second nature, you know where you are underwater and can find your way home, only then should you begin to think about photos. Many inexperienced divers are distracted by "getting the perfect picture" and lose track of their partner, dive group and dive boat.

That great dive magazine cover photo isn't going to happen to a lost, inexperienced diver! When you are the diver everyone in the boat wants to follow, then you might be ready for a camera. There's an advantage when the divers are following you. You get pictures of their faces. If you're not the lead diver, the view never changes. You see divers butts, and fish, only after everyone has scared them.

There are always some people that hang up the fins for good. But the only reason that should happen is if they won't make the effort to meet some really good people who like the same adventures, exploring a new world. It excited you once, keep it going. Keep blowing bubbles.



1. When the sun and moon are at right angles to each other, the solar tide helps cancel out the lunar tide. These tides are called:

- A. "Neat" tides
- B. "Neap" tides
- C. "Spring" tides
- D. "90-degree" tides

2. There are three basic tidal patterns:

- A. Semidiurnal, mixed semidiurnal, and diurnal
- B. High, low and slack
- C. Lunar, solar and equatorial
- D. Onshore, offshore and longshore

3. Coral spawning is influenced by lunar cycles.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Ambient water pressure does not have any effect on the compressed air inside a diver's scuba cylinder.

- A. True
- B. False

5. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment assesses ecosystems in terms of:

- A. What's wrong with them
- B. The number of people who use them
- C. Which country owns or manages them
- D. The services or benefits derived from them

6. Of the world's approximately 9,700 bird species, seabirds comprise only:

- A. 9 percent
- B. 6 percent
- C. 3 percent
- D. 1 percent

7. In order to be classified as a "seabird" a bird must:

- A. Have webbed feet
- B. Eat a diet that contains at least 50 percent seafood
- C. Be able to fly great distances without stopping
- D. None of the above

8. Because albatrosses, petrels and storm-petrels have external tubular nostrils they are sometimes referred to as:

- A. "Snarkys"
- B. "Tube-beaked"
- C. "Tubenoses"

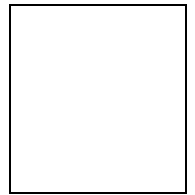
9. Diver distress at the surface is usually caused by:

- A. Not enough weight on the weight belt
- B. Claustrophobia
- C. Inadequate buoyancy
- D. Cold water temperatures

10. To become comfortable while resting at the surface, the first thing a diver should do is:

- A. Establish ample buoyancy
- B. Remove the mask
- C. Remove his weights

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

