

# The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

September 2005

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## September Meeting Program

### "Underwater Photography and Equipment"

We are pleased to have Lily Mak and David Prichard of Enchanted Sea Images with us as presenters for our September meeting. Lily and David, a wife and husband team, will talk about their underwater photography experiences. They will present some of their photographs, having had many of them published in dive magazines and other formats, as well as exhibit some of their underwater photography gear and equipment. This may be the impetus for some of us to start pursuing underwater photography and others to learn some fine points. So be sure to attend an entertaining and information program.

## Diving Rebels Calendar of Events

- Sept 7 Monthly Membership Meeting  
Sept 17 Quarterly Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pickup  
Oct 5 Monthly Membership Meeting  
Oct 22 Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest  
Lake Murray  
Nov 2 Monthly Membership Meeting  
Nov 19 Chili Cook-Off, Joe Pool Lake  
Adopt-A-Highway Trash Pickup

## President's Report

The "magnificent" seven of us, representing the Diving Rebels, who trekked to La Paz, Baja California at the end of July, had an overall very good experience diving in waters where none of us had dived before. These seven souls included Danny and Jill, Ted, Vicky and her husband Bill (a non-diver), my brother Tom and me. We did 11 dives over 4 days, giving up two additional dives in exchange for snorkeling with pilot whales and having a small plane scout the area for whale sharks. A special thanks to Danny and Jill for all their planning and organizing efforts to make this trip come off well.

Except for some relatively minor glitches that we were able to overcome individually and collectively, including,

- Me missing my flight out of Dallas because of some bad information from American and arriving in Cabo San Lucas almost three hours late- the others were patiently waiting for me
- Me getting quite sick my second night there – but not missing any dives
- The practice of the resort on wanting to charge us for things they shouldn't have (e.g. \$10 for extra pitcher of iced tea – wasn't this supposed to be an all inclusive?) - Danny got them squared away
- Having to put up for a couple of days with a boat captain who was going to smoke even if we requested that he not – we requested and got a different boat and captain and pretty much our private dive master – Joe Chamsi – the best ever – he made the trip for us
- Surviving 25 people being put into a current unlike anything any of us had seen before (Jill almost being swept away) and having to literally fight our way down the anchor line to the wreck we were diving,

We really did have a good time.

Now that I have first highlighted some of the more negative aspects of the trip, here are some of the positives for me, and which outweighed the negatives:

- The first day, instead of our third dive, coming across a large pod of pilot whale and snorkeling with them – my brother and I on different occasions each had a whale dive just a few feet directly under us – so very cool
- Diving with the sea lions gliding toward and then past us performing their underwater acrobatics
- Seeing manta rays, even if the small variety know as manta mobila (Danny and Jill saw some larger ones)
- Seeing an amazing variety of sea stars (previously called starfish) and other sessile invertebrate life
- Getting to see my first two nudibranchs
- Doing our last two days of diving with Joe as our private dive master – great guy
- Performing both dives on our last day on a seamount 2 hours north of La Paz and diving on a site with a overall concentration of sea life in one place like I have never experienced before anywhere, including viewing more green morays on those two dives than I had seen in all my previous ocean dives (150 - 200) put together
- Not getting seasick at all on this trip – made use of Scapolamine patches and Meclazine tablets
- Getting certified as a Nitrox diver – also discovering why you need to check your oxygen concentrations for each tank – tanks with 47% and 80% O<sub>2</sub> (this would have killed someone had they used it)
- Finishing up the four days of intense diving, with my brother and I lying in hammocks along the beach, having a couple of cold ones while reminiscing about our diving that week and experiencing a fantastic sunset

We had a pretty small turnout, about 10 folks, for our membership dive outing at Clear Springs – and no new members. While disappointing with regard to the club turnout, we never the less had fun diving there with pretty decent weather – fairly hot, but the water was cool and the company was good.

Speaking of small turnouts, it looks like we will only have about 6 or 7 of us going over to Lake Ouachita for our annual Labor Day outing. This is in marked contrast to the 15 – 20 folks who indicated at the July meeting that they would be attending. While I understand that we all have other things to attend to and that may come up, when we plan for big outings like this where it becomes relatively expensive for the few that do attend, when many more had previously indicated they would go, well, in my opinion, this needs to change if we are going to continue to have these outings. We'll talk more on this.

Happy and safe diving, all.

Steve Ogden

## Smaller 'Dead Zone' Forecast

This summer's "dead zone" off the coast of Louisiana and Texas should be significantly smaller than the average size since 1990, a team of scientists predict.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists expect the dead zone to be less than 1,400 square miles (3,640 sq km), an area a little bigger than Rhode Island. The average annual hypoxia-affected area since 1990 has been about 4,900 square miles (12,740 sq km).

The forecast is based on nutrient loads from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in May and June.

This year's nutrient loads were lower than average, probably due to below-average precipitation across much of the Mississippi River Basin, the team said. The nutrient data is provided by the U.S. Geological Survey. NOAA finances research cruises to track development of hypoxia. These have been conducted monthly since January and will be completed by the end of July.

"This prediction is an example of an innovative environmental service, known as 'ecological forecasting', that we believe will become an important tool in coming years for both decision makers and the public," said Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., assistant administrator of the NOAA Oceans and Coasts Service. "Ecological forecasting is a great example of NOAA's efforts to use an ecosystem-based management approach to protect and restore the use of coastal and ocean resources, which is one of the goals of the strategic plan."

The "dead zone" is an area in the Gulf of Mexico where seasonal oxygen levels drop too low to support most life in bottom and near-bottom waters. It is caused by a seasonal change where algal growth, stimulated by input of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, settles and decays in the bottom waters. The decaying algae consume oxygen faster than it can be replenished from the surface, leading to decreased levels of dissolved oxygen.

Research indicates that nearly tripling the nitrogen load into the Gulf over the past 50 years has led to the heightened Gulf of Mexico hypoxia problem.



From: Dive Training Magazine, September 2005

## Birthdays

Jill Bouska Sept 5th  
Steve Sadler Sept 9<sup>th</sup>  
Tommy Engle Sept 17th

## Anniversaries

Kevin Campbell & Sherry Hammond Sept 6th



## Join the Diving Rebels Scuba Club

**June 10th - 17<sup>th</sup> 2006**

## Fantasy Island Beach Resort Roatan Honduras



Please see page 4 or the website for more information on this fantastic trip

**June 10th - 17<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**Fantasy Island Beach Resort  
Roatan Honduras**

Roatan is located 30 miles off the Northern coast of Honduras and lies on the second largest barrier reef in the world, after the one in Australia. Some of the world's best diving is found only minutes from the resort. Over 50 dive sites, characterized by spectacular crevices and tunnels opening to breathtaking walls, offer excellent visibility, abundant fish and brilliant corals. Most sites are within 10-20 minutes, and good diving is accessible approximately 40 yards from the beach.

Fantasy Island Beach Resort is located on a private, 21-acre island off the south shore and is 8 miles from the airport. With air-conditioned rooms, restaurant, two bars, dive shop and operation, and souvenir shop, Fantasy Island offers the ultimate in guest comfort and luxury. The rooms are tastefully decorated and have, satellite TV, telephone and refrigerator. Other amenities including a fresh water swimming pool and tennis courts. Guests can unwind in intimate indoor and outdoor lounges, and the restaurant is one of the finest in all of the Bay Islands. Served buffet style, by courteous staff, it offers an outstanding culinary selection, including sumptuous seafood, steaks, native specialties, and delicious desserts.

Fantasy Island Beach Resort was built specifically for the needs of traveling divers. There are SSI/PADI certified Divemasters and 6 dive boats with the capacity of 5 to 20 divers. The full service dive shop offers a large selection of rental equipment. There is a hyperbaric chamber on the Resort. The spacious guest gear storage area, underwater photo center, compressors and equipment rental facility are all nearby. The famed south shore dive sites are but minutes away, and when conditions favor the excellent north side diving.

For those who prefer to dive from shore at their own place, day or night, a unique dive Gazebo places a mysterious shipwreck, a sunken airplane a beautiful shallow reef and dramatic wall diving just a giant stride away.



The price of \$1600.00\* per person double occupancy, and \$1550\* per person triple occupancy, includes roundtrip airfare from DFW, airport transfers, meals, lodging, 3 boat dives per day, 1 boat night dive and unlimited shore diving. A deposit of \$200 reserves your spot with balance due by April 11<sup>th</sup> 2006.

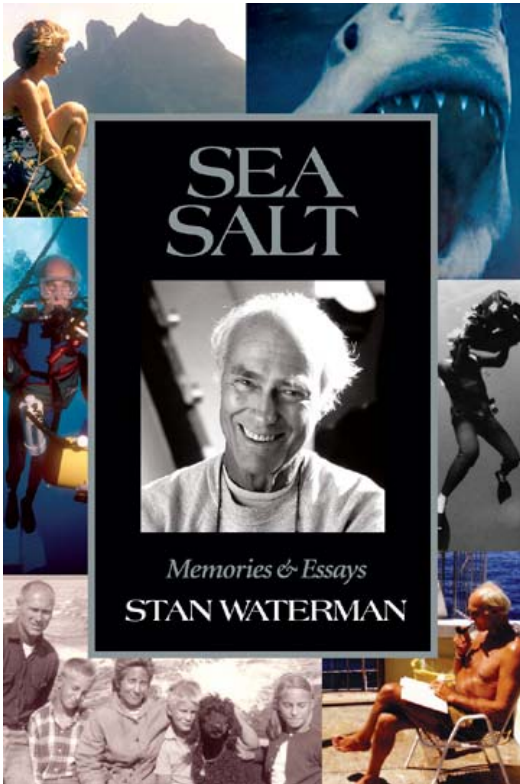
\*Price is for cash, check, or other certified funds. Credit cards will be accepted via Pay Pal and will be subject to a 3% fee. Package price may vary slightly higher or lower depending on final airfare cost, but it is anticipated that the package price will be lower.

For more information: [www.divingrebels.org/fibr.htm](http://www.divingrebels.org/fibr.htm)  
or call 817-291-7039

The Scubadillo Dive Club Proudly Presents...



## An Evening with Stan Waterman



Be among the first to purchase a personally autographed copy of his brand new book,

*Sea Salt: Memories & Essays.*

Hear the fascinating real life story of this legendary five-time Emmy award-winning underwater photographer and witness his talents in video.

Sunday, September 25, 2005

6:00 p.m.

DoubleTree Hotel

(Midway at LBJ)

4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas Texas

972-385-9000

Admission: \$20

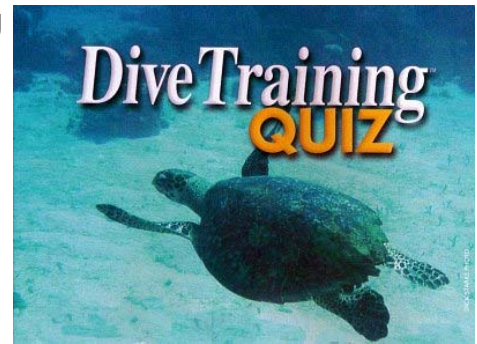
**Purchase Tickets to this Extraordinary Book-Signing Event:**

- ScubaToys.com – Carrollton- (On Line), 972-406-2996 or 877-728-2243
- Emerald Sea Divers – Richardson- 972-669-3483 or 888-494-7928
- Scubadillo Dive Club- [www.scubadillo.org](http://www.scubadillo.org)



**1.** The faces of a variety of marine mammals, including sea lions, seals, walruses, sea otters and manatees are adorned with long, thin whiskers known as:

- A. Villi
- B. Ampullae
- C. Vibrissa
- D. Barbels



**2.** The catfish gets its name from the two to four pairs of whiskers on the upper jaw that give these fishes a catlike appearance. The "whiskers" are actually long, thin sensory organs known as:

- A. Barbels
- B. Vibrissa
- C. Villi
- D. Ampullae

**3.** If there is a chance that a fatigued diver may require in-water resuscitation (rescue breathing), the assisting diver should link arm to arm with the fatigued diver in a rescue technique known as the:

- A. Do-si-do
- B. Piggyback
- C. Hopscotch
- D. Tango

**4.** Though few divers are aware of it, the Academy of General Dentistry has a term for disorders affecting divers. It's called "diver's mouth syndrome" or:

- A. Orthobarotrauma
- B. Barodontalgia
- C. Temporomandibular syndrome
- D. Denticula

**5.** Air-filled spaces in a diver's teeth will be affected by changes in atmospheric pressure. Pain in the center of the tooth caused by changing pressure is known as:

- A. Denticula
- B. "Tooth squeeze"
- C. Orthotrauma
- D. All of the above

**6.** Grand Cayman's Deep Explorer research submarines take passengers on dives to a maximum depth of:

- A. 500 feet
- B. 600 feet
- C. 800 feet
- D. 1000 feet

## **7. The Southern California Bight is composed of:**

- A. Seven islands
- B. A 75-plus-square-mile "mountain range in the sea"
- C. Igneous and metamorphic geologic formations
- D. All of the above

## **8. Ninety percent of Catalina Island is owned by:**

- A. The Wrigley family
- B. The Catalina Island Conservancy
- C. The Santa Catalina Island Company
- D. Private landowners

### **Ban on catching whales and dolphins**

Costa Rica became the first country in the world to prohibit holding whales and dolphins captive, under any conditions. Through an executive decree, the nation accepts catching these animals only if they are hurt or sick. The regulation bans swimming or diving in the presence of whales and dolphins, and establishes requirements for the companies, institutions, or people who develop any type of activity -be it observation, research, or tourism- with these mammals. The decree approves observation from aircraft, but only for filming or for scientific purposes. The new regulations were published and became law on July 28, but weren't brought to the public's attention until August 4<sup>th</sup> by the environmental group PROMAR.

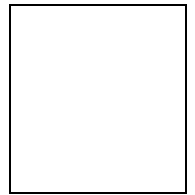
### **Underwater City Off Coast of Cuba**

National Geographic Magazine will sponsor another underwater exploration of the sunken city off the Coast of Cuba this fall. Russian-Canadian oceanographer Pauline Zelitsky will head the expedition. Political differences prevent the US from participating, and much of the work has been done by France and Russia. So far, the exploration has been done by remote-controlled mini submarines, armed with video cameras. Their provocative images have shown what look like stepped pyramids, extending as far as South America (where these types of pyramids were built by the Mayans).

Zelitsky's theory is that a peninsula once stretched from the Yucatan to Cuba, which collapsed due to seismic activity. This reinforces the theory that early man did not arrive in the Americas by crossing the Bering Straits (a land bridge from Russia which no longer exists) but instead arrived from Asia via the Pacific Ocean. British archeologists have found human footprints in Puebla, Mexico that are 40,000 years old. On her early expeditions, Zelitsky discovered an underwater city with not only pyramids, but geometrically precise passages, tunnels and temples, many carved with ancient symbols. Since natural structures can be pyramid-shaped and have straight lines as well, these carvings are especially important. There is still controversy about whether the underwater pyramid off the coast of an island in Japan was manmade or is a natural formation.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

