

# The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

July 2006

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**July Meeting - JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Doug Russell Park**  
**The fun begins at 6:30pm,**  
**dinner 7:00pm**

**See Page 5 for more information**

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### Calendar of Events

- |      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| July | 5     | Monthly Membership Meeting                |
| July | 15-16 | Mid-Year – Possum Kingdom Lake            |
| Aug  | 2     | Monthly Membership Meeting                |
| Aug  | TBA   | Monthly Outing TBA                        |
| Sept | 1- 4  | Labor Day Outing – Lake Ouachita Arkansas |
| Sept | 6     | Monthly Membership Meeting                |

## President's Report

We're back – from Roatan, that is. Nineteen divers participated in the Rebel's diving foray to the Fantasy Island Resort on the island of Roatan, one of the bay islands just off the north coast of Honduras. About half the divers were Rebel members and half were guests joining us from various parts of the country including New York, Houston, Aspen (my brother, Tom) and several from the DFW area. And we even picked up an additional member to our band of divers on the way from the airport to the resort. Guy Lennon, from Cincinnati, was down there on his own and after he and I talked a bit, I invited him to join our party. Guy was a welcome addition to our group and was a very competent diver and fun "guy."

Over a period of five days of diving, I experienced 18 dives with about 20 hours of bottom time and would have gotten in another 3 or 4 dives had it not been for a pretty severe infection that settled in each ear and took me out of diving commission for the last day and a half. Our 20 divers completed 234 logged dives that probably represented about 245 hours of bottom time. An additional 25 – 30 dives were unrecorded shore dives, either as night dives or daybreak dives.

Fantasy Island turned out to be quite a good choice for our stay in Roatan so thanks to Danny and Jill for arranging this. The resort is literally on a small island, about 50 yards off the main island. It is also located near one of the two greatest concentrations of dive sites along the Roatan coast. So, therefore, almost all of our dive sites were merely a five to 10-minute boat ride from the dock. I think the longest we had to travel was 20 – 25 minutes, so overall quite good. Our boat, Little Andreu, was captained by Dimas with Mark as our dive master. Both did a good job, even though Mark and I did not get off on the best of terms on our first dive due to an unnecessary mask-clearing requirement that I resisted.

Each person will have special stories to tell about their respective diving experiences, so I recommend that if you care to get a sense of the collective range of our dive experience that you talk with several of our group about their recollections. So I will share a few highlights of my dive experiences with you, with photos perhaps to come later at a meeting, as I took about 1,000 pictures during the week. Please check our website for pictures posted there of our time and diving in Roatan.

In comparing Roatan and Cozumel, which is probably the reference point for most of us, Roatan for the most part does not have significant currents so there is not much in the way of drift diving – that can be positive or negative depending on your preference. We did do a couple of drift dives, so we had a bit of the Cozumel experience on those. The soft coral in Roatan is impressive – very lush and colorful – more so than Cozumel, although Cozumel generally wins with its hard coral.

During the dives, we saw a number of sea horses – red, black, white and yellow. I guess they have their own races, just like we humans. We also saw baby drum, coral shrimp, arrow crabs, spider crabs, lobster and green moray eels, so hopefully I'll have some decent pics of these. I perhaps got one decent photo of a yellow tail damsel (they just don't want to pose at all) and surprisingly got a couple of good photos of blue tangs (they also seem to wait until just before you shoot to move).

We were able to dive Mary's Place again (my brother and I dove it when we were on Roatan 3½ years ago. This is truly a magnificent dive with much black coral to see at only 60 feet. The narrow channels through the coral walls were covered in spectacular life and it was akin to floating through a steep canyon.

I did set a personal diving depth record (not that I'm that much into those) as Frank Elia (our Feb. speaker) and I did a deep dive where I went to 153 feet. Just for the record, we used air and not nitrox for this one dive. I really couldn't tell much difference from being at 100 – 120 feet. As we both went into deco, we followed our computer instructions for off gassing and made it back to the shallows in good order. As best as I could tell, I did not seem to be "narced" at all, although when I mention how the dive ended, you may wonder. What was interesting is that both Frank and I independently surfaced at the wrong boat and then had to wait 20 – 25 minutes in relatively rough seas on this boat for their divers to surface. While waiting on the boat, I wasn't in great danger of feeding the fish, but there were some initial impulses working. So I was glad to get back to shore. Because my Oceanic computer didn't like the fact that I had made a deco dive, it went to a safe mode that forces you to not use the computer for 24 hours. So Frank and I sat out the next dive to be safe and I then used his back-up Cochran computer for my next dives until my computer reset itself.

Lest you think all we did was dive, we did a few other things on and off the resort. In the evenings, the resort generally had some sort of entertainment for us as we polished off a few cold ones in the setting sun. These included some really talented local fire dancers that were quite impressive. One evening, a few of us provided the "entertainment" in the form of karaoke. Mark Estill is quite a talent – you should book him for your next party. And of course we had to watch the Maverick games, including the ignominious Game 3 that proved to be the downfall for the Mavs.

Quite a few of us spent most of the last full day on Roatan doing a little tour of the island. Danny, Jill and I experienced a bit of panic when we showed up at the Avis office near the airport to pick up the two vans Jill had reserved and were told that there were no vans. Things don't work quite as well down there as we might expect them to back in the good ole' US of A. But we were bailed out by Ronald at the nearby National / Alamo office. He was able to supply us with the vans and we now know that this office is the place to rent vehicles while in Roatan.

We met up with Jimmy Atkinson and spent a very rewarding 45 minutes or so at an orphanage on the island distributing toys and school supplies. Those of us who left out of Dallas checked a large box of toys and/or school supplies as our second piece of baggage. So quite a large amount of these items made it to Roatan and it was a really enjoyable time seeing these children so excited to receive these things. One little girl, Gabriella, was such a doll, that I don't see how she could avoid being adopted. While we couldn't distribute all we brought down there at the orphanage, the next day the remainder of the items were transported to a stadium where a missions group was working with a large gathering of children on the island. So the items were able to be handed out as intended. We also made it over to the West End (yes, Roatan has one also) for some shopping, sightseeing and a bit of interesting driving on the beach right next to the water.

Back at the resort that night, we were feted to a last evening meal of all the lobster you could eat – and it was excellent. Overall, the food was quite good there and our evening server, Carolina, was a real treat, as she took very good care of us – especially with all the refills for the water and tea I was drinking. It was our pleasure to tip her very well.

Our last day on the island turned out to be quite interesting. Before heading to the airport, some of us traveled just down the road to an iguana farm. We met up with the proprietor, Jenny Lee, who feeds about 4,000 iguanas that come out of the surrounding jungle at various times. Some of these critters were quite huge, easily six feet long from tip to tail and probably 20 pounds. And I learned a new way of picking them up that Jenny demonstrated.

When we got to the airport about 1:30 PM for our 3:45 flight, we found out that because of all the rain in Houston, our Continental flight was going to be four hours late. So rather than sit around at the airport, our new good buddy, Ronald (McDonald) from National / Alamo volunteered to be our private driver for a couple of hours. He took us down to Coxan Hole to a bar he knew where we knocked off a some more of the local brews and then went on to a Pizza Inn, of all places, for dinner. We made it back to the airport in plenty of time to wait about another hour for the plane to finally get there.

President's Report Continued on Page 3

## President's Report – Continued

We finally made it to Houston, but at that point Continental really dropped the ball on any kind or reasonable assistance and customer service. It became a real nightmare at that point. My brother, Frank and I did manage to, by some kind of dumb luck, make it on our scheduled flight that also had been delayed, but our baggage didn't make it. In fact we even watched them take baggage off and ultimately received a personal apology from the pilot for how bad Continental had bungled things. But that is another whole story that I won't bore you with now. Others had to spend the night in Houston and each has their own horrors to relate.

I just finished watching a very interesting television show featuring Jacques Cousteau's grandson Fabien involved in a fascinating shark encounter. If you didn't have a chance to see the show, it involved the construction of a "great white shark" submarine. Fabien, his sister, a shark biologist, the submarine and a support crew journeyed to the mid-Pacific to swim with the great whites. I would have thought they might have had access to the Calypso, Jacques's famous ship, but they made the journey in a fishing boat captained by Captain John, a very clever and versatile guy. After a number of fits and starts, the shark submarine was launched into the ocean with Fabien inside wearing Scuba gear (of course with a rebreather) and all the best gear. But he was still very much at the mercy of the live sharks with which the sub was designed to swim as well as the unpredictable performance of the sub itself. Twice, including a night dive, the shark sub sank to the bottom at about 60 feet, a ledge very near a drop off to about 2,000 feet. But he survived and much was learned about great whites in a setting that simply observed shark behavior without using baited hooks to stimulate feeding frenzies that are observed from shark cages.

Please see Linda's information about our mid-year party at PK. We haven't been there for a couple of years, so it should be good to get back there.

Steve Ogden

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**July 15-16, – Mid-year Party at Possum Kingdom Lake.** We are renting a couple of the cabins at Scuba Point to share. They sleep at least 4 and have air-conditioning. Look for details on page 4.

**Labor Day – Lake Ouchita,** September 1-4, 2006. This will be a joint venture with the Scubadillos. We will have the big barge and we are planning to camp on an island. Look for more information in August newsletter.

**Hope to see you there at these events!!**



### Birthdays

George Bartulevicz July 3  
Don Niemiec July 19  
Jim Kirchhoff July 25

### Anniversaries

None Known



## Congratulations to Rebel Members and other trip participants who achieved Advanced Certifications while in Roatan!

### Enriched Air Diver Specialty

Mark Estill Michelle Estill  
Jenny Jun

### Wreck Diver Specialty

Kevin Campbell Sherry Hammond  
Mark Estill Michelle Estill  
Ted Glodowski  
Sigurd Enkosen Elisha Enkosen

### Night Diver, Deep Diver, Boat Diver Specialties

Sigurd Enkosen Elisha Enkosen

### Advanced Open Water Certification

Sigurd Enkosen Elisha Enkosen  
Darron Ray

### Aging Increases Risk from Decompression Sickness

The effect of aging on risk for the development of decompression illness in SCUBA divers has often been reported as an incidental finding in analyses of diving accidents. However, previously no-one had specifically attempted to quantify or qualify those risks. Now though, a new study demonstrates that aging increases risk for injury overall, and in particular serious injury. It also lessens the potential for recovery.

<http://tinyurl.com/jjhh9>

## **DIVING REBELS ANNUAL MID-YEAR OUTING/PARTY**

### **July 15-16**

Bring your diving gear for a weekend of boat and shore diving! We have arranged to have both day and night dives from barges provided by Todd Burns of Scuba Point. Tipping for service is requested.

You will be treated to a barbeque meal by the Rebel Board Members on Saturday evening. We have a special guest speaker who will tell some fascinating tales of diving in the early days when dive shops weren't readily available. We will gather at the Inland divers pavilion next door.

Scuba Point Pricing: Daily entry for divers is \$10; Swimmers and snorkelers are \$2:50; kids 8 and under are free. These prices apply if you are not camping or staying in a cabin. Campsites w/water & elect are \$15 + \$5/person park entry. There is an additional fee of &5 for an extra tent.

RV hookups w/water, Electric, and sewer hookups are \$35 + \$5/per person entry. If you are interested in a cabin please call Linda M. (817-540-2950).

Note: You are responsible for your own drinks and meals other than Saturday evening. Scuba Point now has a food concession.

Nitrox fills are available

## **Rebels Visit an Orphanage in Coxen Hole, Roatan Honduras**

### **Distributing toys and school supplies with Toys For The Children**



JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> MEMBERSHIP MEETING @ Doug Russell Park  
The fun begins at 6:30pm, dinner @ 7:00pm

Where: This park is located on UTA Campus, South Cooper Street @ Mitchell. Parking is in Texas Hall lot off S. Cooper Street in metered spaces or visitor section. Walk down the steps, across the bridge and up the hill to grassy area to the left of the sidewalk.

What: Monthly membership meeting of the Diving Rebels. The program will be fun and games. The board of directors will provide Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and the fixin's.

What to bring: Your own beverages, chair and a side item to share (such as chips, salads, fruit, dessert). Contact a board member if you have outdoor games such as horseshoes, bocce, volleyball & net, etc.

A short business meeting will be held at 7:30pm.



**Did You Know? Coral Reef Facts**

At 2300 km in length, the Great Barrier Reef is not just the largest coral reef in the world, it is the largest living structure of any kind in the world. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a collection of nearly 3000 smaller reefs and around 1000 islands, and is home to 400 species of coral, 400 species of sponge, 1500 species of fish and around 4000 species of mollusc...and these are just the ones that have been documented. Countless others remain undiscovered.

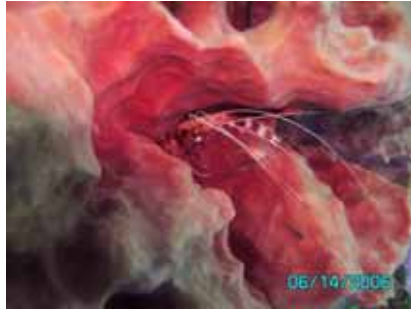
From the Beautiful Oceans on-line course: Coral Reef Architecture and Organisms.

**Coral algae could adapt to warming**

Some of the world's coral reefs may be able to adapt to global warming - up to a point. Reefs get their vivid colours from algal cells that live inside, and feed, the coral polyp. If the water gets too warm the algae flee, leaving the coral white and, eventually, dead. Warmer seas have led to severe bleaching and die-offs on some reefs. Now biologists in Australia have shown that some algae can adapt. Corals from warmer reefs harbour a strain of algae called type D and resist bleaching. Corals from cooler reefs have a slightly different strain, called type C, which can't take the heat. This finding holds a 'nugget of hope' for some corals.

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/life/mg19025553.100-coral-algae-could-adapt-to-warming.html>

**Pictures from Diving Rebels Trip to Roatan Honduras**



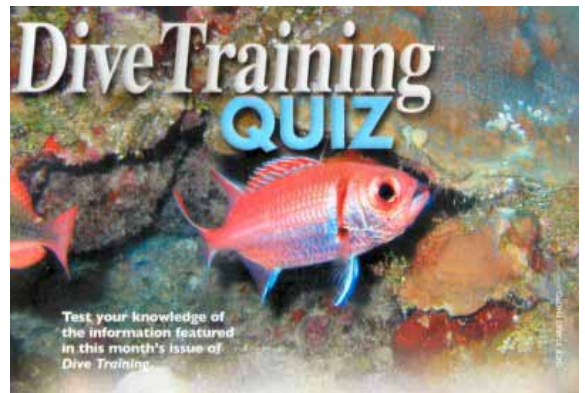
**More Pictures Coming Soon to the Diving Rebels Website!**

**1,** Corals can be classified two ways:

- A. Tender and abrasive
- B. Silky and soft
- C. Fuzzy and fragile
- D. Hard or stony, and soft

**2,** All corals contribute to the foundation and growth of the reef in terms of adding limestone.

- A. True
- B. False



**3,** Andros Island, Bahamas' biggest export is:

- A. Coconuts
- B. Rum
- C. Bananas
- D. Fresh water

**4,** Andros Island is nicknamed:

- A. "The Big Yard"
- B. "The Bone Yard"
- C. "The Tongue"
- D. "Chickcharnie Island"

**5,** Formal freediving courses teach participants to recognize the symptoms of, and avoid, a form of anoxia called:

- A. Shallow-water Blackout
- B. Hypoxic shock
- C. "The Willys"
- D. "The Flops"

**6,** Freedivers use a three-phased breathing technique in a pre-dive ritual. This progression from normal breathing, to ventilation, to super ventilation, to peak inhalation is called:

- A. "Triangle breathing"
- B. "Packing it in"
- C. "The breathe-up"

**7,** Freedivers routinely use the technique of hyperventilation in order to take in more oxygen before a dive:

- A. True
- B. False

**8,** California's state fish is the:

- A. California sea bass
- B. Lingcod
- C. Garibaldi

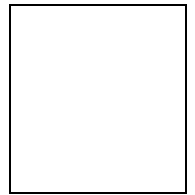
**9,** North Dakota's Lake Sakakawea was named in honor of the famous Native American guide. It is formed from the waters of the:

- A. Snake River
- B. Garrison River
- C. Missouri River

**10,** For divers, the risk of entanglement exists in:

- A. Shipwrecks
- B. Areas shared by fishermen
- C. Kelp forests
- D. Overhead environments
- E. All of the above

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

