

The Rebel Yell

A Newsletter for the Diving Rebels.

-Oldest Scuba Club in Texas-

Established in 1958

September 2006

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September Meeting Program

“Scuba Caribe Diving”

Mr. Gus Astorga, a representative of Scuba Caribe, will provide a presentation on the Scuba Caribe operations throughout the Caribbean. This should provide some useful information for your dive vacation planning. So please come out and join us.

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New Rebel Caps Arrive!

Baseball caps embroidered with the new Diving Rebels logo have arrived and will be available at the September Membership Meeting. These caps will be available to members only at the introductory price of \$10 through the October 4th Membership Meeting. After the October Membership Meeting the cap price will be \$15. Three colors of caps have been ordered: natural with a navy visor, solid navy and solid black. . We have a total of 24 caps, 8 of each color. Be one of the first to own one of these caps with the Club's new logo! See pictures of the caps on page 5.

Calendar of Events

- | | | |
|------|----|--|
| Sept | 23 | Adopt-A-Hiway Trash Pickup (more info on page 5) |
| Oct | 4 | Chinese Auction (more info on page 3) |
| Oct. | 28 | Pumpkin Dive – Lake Murray Oklahoma |
| Nov. | 11 | Chili Cook Off and Trash Pickup |
| Dec. | 16 | Christmas Party |

President's Report

About a dozen Rebel divers are on their way, or will be on their way shortly, for our annual trek to Lake Ouachita near Hot Springs Arkansas for what should be a fun weekend of diving. The heat has broken (I think) and we should have some pleasant weather there in Arkansas. We will have the large barge again (with the bathroom), thanks to the diligent planning of Jim Magnuson. And thanks also to Linda Magnuson for all her work in planning for this outing.

We will at some point over the weekend be joining up with about 16 Scubadillos that will also be diving at Lake Ouachita. While the Rebels will be tent camping on an island somewhere on the lake, the Dillos will avail themselves of rooms at the Spillway Resort. But we should be able to do some diving together and we have planned to eat Sunday dinner together.

The August Rebel outing was a day trip to Possum Kingdom Lake on the 12th. Three Rebels and a prospective Rebel made it to the lake for refreshing diving. Jim Magnuson, Terry Pickl and I rode together to PK. We didn't get there until almost noon and met up with John who had already completed his dive (sorry you had to dive alone, John). Jim, Terry and I did two dives, met up with Bob Martinez and Debbie at the lake and then all had dinner together before heading back. It was a nice outing and you should have been there.

One last thing to think about. The year is beginning to wind down, although there sure are an awful lot of things still to do. But I point this out because I would like everyone to consider their role regarding the club for 2007 (Wow, are we almost 7 years past Y2K?) I would encourage you to consider running for one of the officer positions if you have an interest. At least two of the positions are open for the moment – Junior Board Member and Activities Director. Both of these positions are important, particularly that of the latter, so please consider your involvement.

Here's to a great and safe Labor Day weekend for all.

Steve Ogden

Birthdays

Jill Bouska Sept 5th
Tommy Engle Sept 17th

Anniversaries

Kevin Campbell and Sherry Hammond
Sept 6th



Divers Still Flock to Andrea Doria, Despite Risks

On a foggy night in July 1956, the Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria was speeding toward New York on the last leg of a trans-Atlantic crossing when it collided with a passenger ship and sank, killing 51 people. At least 14 people have since died while exploring the wreck. The latest fatality came July 8, when researcher David Bright suffered decompression sickness after making his 120th trip to the Andrea Doria ahead of an anniversary dive there. The Andrea Doria has been called one of the most difficult dives in the world.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-07-24-andrea-wreck_x.htm

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SAFETY NOTICE

Suunto Oy has identified a software bug in the D9 and D6 diving instruments. The software bug may cause the D9 and D6 to incorrectly track dive time on rare occasions, potentially causing a risk to the diver. Therefore, Suunto is requesting that the D9 and D6 products with the serial numbers listed below be returned for a software update that eliminates this issue.

The products affected are: D9 serial numbers 62102582 and below. D6 serial numbers 62103693 and below.

Suunto strongly recommends that D9 or D6 not be used for diving before the unit has been updated with the latest software. If the product is used before updating the software, backup instrumentation must also be used.

Suunto will provide a free software update to fix the bug. Owners of the product should bring their D9 and/or D6 to the nearest authorized Suunto retailer for the software update as soon as possible. For contact information, call Suunto toll-free at (800) 543-9124.

Suunto will at the same time replace the battery and perform a pressure test free of charge.

http://www.cdn.info/recall/suunto_060616/suunto_060616.html

Johnson Outdoors Inc has announced a recall of some X650 second stage regulators due to a manufacturing error that could cause the unit to suddenly stop functioning, which would put the user at risk of drowning.

According to the CPSC recall announcement (see below), Scubapro authorized dealers sold the defective regulators to dive consumers in June 2005.

The recall affects Scubapro X650 second stage regulators sold from June 2005 through May 2006.

http://www.cdn.info/recall/scubapro_060607/scubapro_060607.html

Oceanic has announced a recall of all Oceanic Versa Pro revision 2A Digital Dive Computers due to reports that displayed Elapsed Dive Time can be in excess of actual elapsed time.

According to the CPSC recall announcement (see below), Oceanic authorized dealers started selling the defective dive computers on March 21, 2003.

The recall affects Oceanic Versa Pro 2A modules sold from March 2003 through April 2006.

Owners of Oceanic Versa Pro 2A dive computers affected by the recall should return the units to their local dealers or directly to Oceanic.

http://www.cdn.info/recall/oceanic_060503/oceanic_060503.html

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! CHINESE AUCTION October 4, 2006

The annual Chinese Auction will be held on Wednesday, October 4 2006. Please bring at least one item per person to be auctioned. Multiple items are encouraged.

Watch for sales on camping or dive related items at your local dive shops and sporting goods stores!

This is a major fundraiser for the club. Let's have a great turnout! More info next month!

Rebel Member Begins Dive School

Diving Rebels member, Ted Glodowski, begins working towards a major career change as he begins training at The Ocean Corporation in Houston. Upon completing the 7 month program, graduates are certified as commercial divers. They work offshore and inland performing search, salvage, inspections, and underwater welding and burning.

Ted, a very active member of the club, will be missed. Send Ted an email and wish him good luck at: TEDGLODOWSKI@aol.com

Dive right in: Artifacts will fill lake

CLUTE - Into a giant sand pit where the remains of a mammoth and a saber-toothed tiger were discovered, some folks want to throw a bus, a couple of antique fire trucks and a space shuttle look-alike that once thrilled visitors at a now-defunct amusement park in Houston.

Why all the junk? To create a world of wonders for scuba divers. The owner of the 50-acre pit wants to flood the hole and then charge diving enthusiasts for the privilege of exploring the sunken objects. It would be one of the nation's biggest lakes ever created specifically for diving, and one of the few started from the ground up, instead of from an existing body of water.

"This is a dream come true," Mike Cryer, who runs a dive shop in nearby Lake Jackson, said as he gazed over the hole up to 70 feet deep that by next year could become Mammoth Lake. Cryer and his wife will help with the project's design and manage the operation.

The guys behind the project are Kenny Vernor and his cousin Tim Sweeten, both 46-year-old diving Enthusiasts. Vernor's company owns the soon-to-be-exhausted pit, which has produced sand since the 1950s. He and his cousin also run a junk business that has been saving pieces of scrap that they want to throw down the hole.

Such as the metal skeleton of an old church steeple. A couple of rusty ship anchors. And a number of boats, one more than 40 feet long and another a 36-footer. The salvage company also has a scrap contract with NASA, from which it has gotten a collection of twisted pipes and intriguing metal spheres. And old F-5 Navy jet is already in the pit. The project's organizers are also hoping to acquire a tank.

"Scuba diving itself is very exciting, rewarding," Vernor said. "You put something down there for somebody to look at, (it) just increases everything exponentially. You can get closer, get different angles. If you want to see what the top looks like you just kick your fins and get up there and check it out."

The project will need a permit from the zoning board in Clute, a city of some 11,000 about an hour's drive south of Houston, but officials have been enthusiastic.

Diving in and around big junk is nothing new.

At Athens Scuba Park, a lake about 70 miles from Dallas, a couple of sunken buses and a military cargo plane are among the underwater attractions. In Bethlehem, Pa., a former quarry called the Aqua Park at Dutch Springs attracts hundreds of divers weekly who swim in and around a bus, fire truck, car, helicopters and a trolley.

At the sand pit in Clute, pumps normally prevent groundwater from rushing in. By the end of the year, when the last marketable sand has been removed, the pumps will be shut off and water allowed to build up. The pit could take a year to fill.

Cryer said there is "something uniquely cool" about "diving around an antique fire truck, or a tank, or crawling inside a boat that used to float." "There's a lot of explorer in most divers," he added.

In 2003 a backhoe operator at the pit unearthed tusks. A skull and other bones also were found. Scientists determined the skull was about 38,000 years old and came from a warm-climate relative of the woolly mammoth. The artifacts are now at Texas A&M University.

Joseph Ramirez, whose family owns some of the property that overlooks the pit, said the lake will attract more traffic but should be good for the city. And besides, "I've got lakefront property," he said with a grin.

Clute, a city of 11,000 is about an hour's drive south of Houston.



This huge mask is at a Clute, Texas, sand pit, which will be turned into a diving lake.

New Diving Rebel Caps Arrive!



Navy



Black



Natural with Navy brim



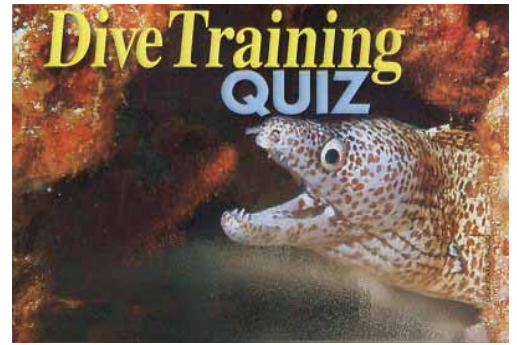
Adopt-a-Highway – Update from the Roadside – Road Kill done right



Well, not many of you will remember the scorching day of Sunday, June 11. But let me tell you the Magnuson trouper trio and I do. While many of the Rebels were off to Roatan, some took on the grueling two miles in 100 degree heat to do our duty to the Club and the State. The Magnusons held on until about 1pm and for want of food and heat relief, threw in the towel. I managed to hang in until 4pm and finished the stretch.

So what we need this month is a few more people to help carry the load. The temperature should be cooler if the trend holds, so let's get out in force. I thought a good day would be Sep 23rd and unless we have some suggestions and commitments on another date at the meeting, let's plan on 9:30am at Discount Electronics on the Southeast corner of Collins and Pioneer on Sep 23rd. If it changes at the meeting, I'll send an update. I'll bring the bags and vests and you bring the will to leave our adopted highway looking trashless.

Keith - Chief Adopter



1. Technical diving has been defined as:

- A. Exceeding 130 feet of depth.
- B. Making planned decompression dives.
- C. Traveling more than 130 linear feet (distance to surface as well as penetration length) into an overhead environment.
- D. A combination of some/all of A-C.

2. A popular way to enjoy diving in the Solomon Islands is via:

- A. Dugout canoes
- B. Kayaks
- C. Live-aboards

3. Which of the following is not a form of gas?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Nitrogen
- C. Water

4, Styles of dive floats include

- A. A small, cylindrical Styrofoam collar that holds the flag upright
- B. A tire inner tube covered with nylon mesh and cloth
- C. Rafts
- D. Small, towable boats
- E. All of the above

5. General prerequisites for divemaster certification include:

- A. A minimum age of 18
- B. Twenty or more logged dives
- C. Diver rescue certification
- D. Current CPR and first-aid training
- E. All of the above

6. Important considerations in dive packages include:

- A. Number of dives
- B. Type of room
- C. Type of transportation
- D. All of the above

7. Lake Ouachita in Arkansas is known for having:

- A. No residential development along its shore
- B. Some of the country's cleanest water
- C. One of the world's largest veins of quartz crystals
- D. All of the above

8. When withdrawing their gill plumes, Christmas tree worms close their tube with a hard trap door called an:

- A. Annelid
- B. Operculum
- C. Ornament

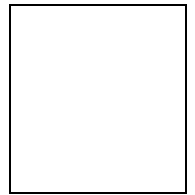
9. To ensure the image of a fish's head will turn out clear, photographers should focus on the animals:

- A. Dorsal fin
- B. Caudal fin
- C. Eyes
- D. Mouth

10. An ideal place on a boat to keep personal items dry during a dive is:

- A. On the floor
- B. A flexible waterproof container like a dry bag
- C. In the head
- D. Behind some unused air tanks

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

