



NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

January 2004

The BAD Calendar

Jan , 2004

- 1 New Year & New Beginnings**
- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 28 BAD General Membership Meeting

Feb , 2004

- 3 BAD BOD Meet- ing
- 7 TGCC Banquet
- 14 Valentine's Day**
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting

March , 2004

- 2 BAD BOD Meeting
- 13-20 CoCo View 2004 Trip – Chuck Boyd
- 20-21 Fling Trip
- 31 BAD General Membership Meeting

April , 2004

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 28 BAD General Membership Meeting

May, 2004

- 4 BAD BOD Meeting
- 15-22 CoCo View 2004 Trip – Randy Widaman
- 26 BAD General Membership Meeting

June, 2004

- 1 BAD BOD Meeting
- 4-6 Seaspac
- 12-19 Costa Rico Trip – John Taylor
- 26 2nd Annual Blue Lagoon Picnic
- 30 BAD General Membership Meeting

July, 2004

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 17 Canoe Trip – Beverly Cutler
- 23-25 Spearfishing Rodeo – Dennis Camp

August, 2004

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting

October, 2004

- 6-9 DEMA

December, 2004

- 11 Austin Steam Train Trip

January Meeting We have Lt. Bob Moorhouse coming to speak to us on what it is the USCG does and how they operate their Air/Sea rescue unit. Lt Moorhouse is one of the pilots for the USCG Air/Sea rescue unit out of Ellington Field. His presentation will be very informative as to how their operation works and all. So please come join us and welcome Lt. Moorhouse with a great big BAD attendance. Don't forget we are meeting at a new location for the months of January thru April right now. **See map on BAD web page and below.**

BAD Members

The meeting is now at the
Kemah Community Center

The location is on Hwy 146 and FM 2094
Go East on NASA RD. 1 towards Seabrook
to Hwy 146

Turn right on Hwy 146 and go over the bridge

Go past the Kemah Marina on your left

On your left just past T-Bone Toms BBQ

Is the Kemah Community Center

There is a stop light at this intersection

That's where we will be meeting thru April

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome



Fins to the Left . . . Fins to the Right

Welcome to 2004! Unless you are fortunate enough to be jetting (or better yet, sailing) off to some warm, exotic dive location, you are probably spending the cold, desolate winter months here in Houston reading your back issues of Rodale's Scuba Diving and dreaming of some warm, exotic dive location, while waiting for the distant spring so you can once again "get wet". Go ahead and dream a little, but don't waste these winter months. Use them to get ready for the coming dive season. It will be here before you know it.

Take this opportunity to thoroughly check over and clean all of your dive gear. (You did give all of your gear a good fresh water rinse after your last dive in 2003 before you stored it in the closet for the winter, didn't you?) Perform any repairs and maintenance that may be needed. Take your regulator into the dive shop for an inspection and service. Clean and rinse out the inside of the air bladder on your BCD. (Who knows what may be growing in there!) Unscrew, clean, inspect, and lubricate with silicone grease the connections and gaskets on your BCD for the low-pressure inflator and the air dump valve(s). If you can't remember when you last put the battery in your dive computer, go ahead and replace it now. Better now than after your computer stops working during that first dive on the Spiegel Grove in June because the battery dies. Check the straps on your fins and mask. Are any of them getting a little worn? Do you have any equipment that is getting a little past its prime? Is your name or initials clearly marked on all of your gear? Organize all

IT A NEW YEAR AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

Now is the time to renew your membership.

of your dive gear and see if there is any equipment that you need to add to your dive bag? Like a battery-powered tank light for night dives. Or an extra flashlight. Or missing spare parts for your save-a-dive kit.

Take this opportunity to bone up on your dive knowledge. Get out the course books and notes for the dive classes you have taken and look over them. (You didn't throw them away once you got your C-card, did you?) Renew your knowledge and skills. Maybe take a refresher course. It's easy to get rusty on the little things you don't do very often, and you never know when one of those little things might be important. And if your book is more than 10 or 15 or 20 years old, think about going down to your dive shop and getting a new one. Things change over time!

Take this opportunity to resolve to break some bad habits you may have fallen into over the years. Do you always make a minimum three-minute safety stop at 15 to 20 feet on every dive, even when you don't really "need" to? Do you always get to the safety stop with at least 500 psi in your tank? Do you always ascend at no more than 60 feet per minute (or even better, at no more than 30 feet per minute), especially in the last 20 feet before the surface after the safety stop? Do you periodically check yourself for proper weighting at the end of a dive to make sure you aren't over or under weighted? (Do you remember how to check yourself for proper weighting?) Do you listen closely to the pre-dive briefing, and ask questions if there is something you don't understand? Do you plan each dive carefully and completely with your dive buddy, and then dive the plan you both agree to?

Take this opportunity to get ready for diving in 2004. You've got lots of time, so use it wisely. Get all of your gear . . . and get you . . . ready to go. Don't wait until you're loading up the truck to drive down to the Fling to discover you can only find one bootie, all of your flashlight bulbs are burned out, and your tank's annual visual inspection has expired.

Mike White

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

OFFICERS 2004

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Deadline for article submission for next month is:

February 11th, 2004 E-Mail javan@wt.net

CoCoView Resort Trip

By Captain Randy

Come join me, Captain Randy and 13 other guest to CoCoView Resort on beautiful Roatan, Bay Island Honduras March 15-22, 2004. The trip includes round trip airfare from Houston IAH airport, transfers to and from the resort, 7 nights lodging and 6 days of diving, welcome drink, 3 meals a day, a BBQ picnic on the cay weather permitting, 2 boat trips per day with each boat trip having 2 dives each, unlimited beach diving day or night. We have 2 Bungalows and 5 A/C rooms reserved. Not included in the price is Roatans departure tax, tips, your drink tab, land tours, and gifts for the folks back home. A deposit of \$200.00 per person is due December 1, 2003 with the balance due March 1, 2004. We will soon have a flyer out on the BAD web page so check it out under "events". The cost is \$1375.00 per person for the A/C Rooms and \$1425.00 per person for the Bungalows. Make checks payable to Randy Widaman and mail to 2208 Mimosa Court, League City, Texas 77573. Call me at 281-338-8808 home/fax or 832-264-8047 cell. My email address is cap10randy@houston.rr.com You can also check out CoCoView's web page at www.cocoviewresort.com I have been to a lot of places diving and I honesty have to say this is the best, so come join me for a fun filled week of great diving and relaxation.

JAN. BAD BOD BRIEFS

By Madeleine K. Barnes

The BAD BOD has reviewed and approved the budget for 2004. Due to decisions by Gulf Diving to make dive trips available to a larger group of dive shops, BAD will only have one weekend trip to the Flower Gardens/Stetson Banks in 2004. This trip will be on the weekend of March 20-21." The March trip currently has only 4 people signed up and 29 are needed for a full boat. The January meeting will be a regular meeting with the speaker to be confirmed later this month. The decision was made to postpone the open house to March. The BAD BOD approved the date of November 13, 2004 for the 30th Anniversary party. The BAD BOD will meet Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004 at Ryan's Steak House at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by



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Deadline for article submission for next month is:

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GREETINGS BADDIES!

Our club's history now has a new page to be added. The culmination of 1½ years of work has provided the club legal benefits and hopefully more opportunities to grow without exposing our membership to frivolous lawsuits and federal taxes. We are now incorporated in the State of Texas as a non-profit Corporation; we have also just been awarded 501C4 status with the IRS, which means we are non-profit as to income taxes. With your continued support and guidance we will remain a premier dive club with an eye to the future. Together we as a club have taken the next step to ensure our club keeps moving forward without fear of attacks associated with success and growth.

BAD is one of Texas' most successful dive clubs. Our membership and resources are growing providing more opportunities for Baddies.

We as Baddies have a colorful, firm, and now safe foundation upon which to build. As we move forward into our 30th year we can focus on growth, opportunity and membership benefits.

Happy Anniversary Bay Area Divers, Inc.!

Donald Eubanks, Chairman 501 committee

Get Well Soon

Nell Taylor



BAD members wishes and hopes you have a speedy recovery after your surgery this past weekend.

February 11th, 2004 E-Mail javan@wt.net



Houston Divers Survive Crash

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BELIZE CITY. It's been a little over a year since eight **Houstonians** hung-on to the fuselage of a 14-seat **Cessna Caravan** for 90 minutes during a driving rainstorm after their plane crashed in the Caribbean Sea. Everyone aboard survived the impact with only minor injuries.

The **Tropic Air** flight from Belize City to San Pedro went down 2.5 miles south of Ambergris Caye, a resort island popular with many **Bay Area Houston** divers. A Houston family from the Greenway Plaza Area and couples from Sugar Land and The Woodlands were onboard.

Lance Dreyer, one of the Houston passengers, was en-route with his family to San Pedro for a five-day New Year's vacation. This was his sixth trip in seven years to Belize to go scuba diving. Dreyer, a former pilot, said "I became concerned because the pilot was looking out the window. At night in a rainstorm, you watch your instruments, you don't look out the window".

At cruising speed, the Cessna impacted the surface of the water. Dust and smoke filled the cabin as water inside began to rise. When the plane stopped, the passengers climbed out and on top of the fuselage which was resting on the sandy bottom in six feet of water. "At that point we knew ... the worst thing that's going to happen to us is we'll sit here all night. We kind-of all laughed about it", said Dreyer.

One passenger from The Woodlands happened to have a VHF radio and a GPS receiver and he radioed for help with their exact coordinates. Rescue boats arrived about 30 minutes later and took everyone to San Pedro.

The Dreyers lost most of their money and carry-on items but would later discover that their luggage had failed to make the flight and was still in Belize City.

Tropic Air is a Belizean airline founded in 1979 by a Texas A&M graduate. The Cessna Caravan is a highly respected aircraft with an excellent safety record.

B.A.D. DIVERS JUST GET BETTER



B.A.D. diver **Bill Whitehouse** just earned his Boat Diver, Deep Diver, and Drift Diver PADI specialty certifications. Bill already holds the Enriched Air Nitrox and Dry Suit Diver specialties. He completed the required certification dives in Cozumel. Congratulations to Bill for continuing his diving education.

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN TRIP

By Capt. Randy



Come join other BADDies on a fun filled adventure aboard the Hill Country Flyer train trip. The date is December 11, 2004. The train departs from the station in Cedar Park, Texas just NW of Austin, Texas. You will drive up to Cedar Park on Saturday morning and check into the Comfort Inn Motel right across the lot from the station. Then board the train at 1:30 PM for a 2-hour train ride aboard a private lounge car to Burnet, Texas where upon arrival we will be picked up and taken to a restaurant for dinner. Then taken to Bethlehem Square where the city of Burnet has converted 4 square blocks into a replica of Bethlehem. Tour the Bethlehem then back on the train for the ride back to Cedar Park. During the ride back to Cedar Park we will have a White Elephant gift exchange and be entertained by the crewmembers of the train. You will spend the night at the motel. Sunday you are free to visit any of the many sites and shops surrounding the Austin area. The trip includes the motel with a Sunday continental breakfast, and the train ride. Included on the train are snacks and soft drinks. Not included is the dinner Saturday night. The price is \$70.00 per person. Contact Randy Widaman at 281-338-8808 home/fax or 832-264-8047 cell. Also you can email me at cap10randy@houston.rr.com

DOOR PRIZES, DOOR PRIZES, DOOR PRIZES

By Beverly Cutler



How would **YOU** like to shop for door prizes for a BAD BOD General Membership meeting?!?!?! It is a great way to **SHOP** for whatever you think the membership would like for Door Prizes and not spend any of your own money!!!!.... in the long run. The BAD BOD would like to encourage you to participate more with this club and what an easy and appreciated way this is. All you need do is e-mail or call our President, Mike White at beermike@aol.com 281-424-2690 or Vice-President, Randy Widaman at cap10randy@houston.rr.com 832-264-8047 or come to a BAD BOD meeting and let them know your wishes. Hey, **HAPPY SHOPPING.**



Kirk MacLean	Feb. 09
Chuck Boyd	Feb. 14
Verna Shannon	Feb. 16
Debbie Sterling	Feb. 20
Barbara J. Morales	Feb. 23
Karen Mooney	Feb. 26
Steven Whitaker	Feb. 26
Keith Mooney	Feb. 28

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Deadline for article submission for next month is: **February 11th, 2004** E-Mail javan@wt.net



SHIRTS WITH CLUB LOGO

Hi, I'm **Verna** the new "Shirt Lady". If you are thinking about replacing your Club Shirt, I am happy to report that I finally got a copy of the disc with the Club Logo and have found a great place that will do the embroidery. Turn around on the shirts is fast and we are ready to go. The price of the shirts will be \$17 for the standard short-sleeved polo (many colors to choose from), \$22 for the short-sleeved button down collar and \$27 for the long sleeved button down collar (as with the polo's many colors are available). I have catalogs with of lots of other items you might be interested in (jackets, etc.), just see me at the next club meeting.

If you would like to order a shirt, you can contact me at 281 334-7370, or e-mail me at butch@pdq.net, or just see

FLING HAMMERHEAD TRIP

By Capt. Randy

Well our March 20-21, 2004 hammerhead trip is official and we again have the Mighty Vessel Fling booked for 34 spots. This trip is great for those who have no fear of diving with large groups of sharks swimming around them. The boat departs Freeport, Texas at 9:30 PM Friday evening March 19, 2004 and spends all day Saturday at both the East and West Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary banks. Then on to Stetson bank Sunday morning, returning back at the docks Sunday afternoon around 5:30 PM, giving each diver an opportunity to make 7 dives total, mother nature permitting of course. The cost is \$305 per person payable to Bay Area Divers. A \$100.00 deposit holds you a spot with the balance due February 13, 2004. Check out the details on the Bay Area Divers web page www.bayareadivers.org then click on "events" and then click on "Fling March trip" We will be taking deposits at the January general meeting this month.

YOUR GIFT IS IN

By Capt. Randy



Well your gift I have been promising all those that attended the BAD anniversary party has finally arrived folks. So in order to receive your gift you now have to attend the BAD January 28th general meeting at the Kemah Community Center. So bring those gray ticket stubs with you to redeem them for that special surprise gift. I hope to see all 51 of you who were at the party at the BAD general meeting Jan. 28th. Our guest speaker will be very informative.

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YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

By Madeleine K. Barnes

Your dive club needs your help. We need your articles, news, and information in our newsletter. If you taken a nice trip and can share this experience, please write it down and submit it to our editor, Ja Van Pruett. If you've been diving someplace neat or saw some great fish life or corals, write it down and submit it. If you know of some news about our members, write it down and submit it. Maybe you've read some article on diving (a few paragraphs) and you would like to share it with the BAD dive membership so that we all benefit, please submit it. This is your newsletter for all of us Baddies.

This year I am asking for a volunteer to take on the Club Historian duties. I have had the pleasure of being your historian for 2003, but I now have a new job as your secretary and need help, as I cannot do both. The job means handling the video library at the general membership meetings, getting picture donations from members, taking some pictures if you can at club events, and putting these pictures in the club archive albums for display at meetings and events, such as Seaspace. If you can help, please contact me at dwbmkb@aol.com.

If you can help with any of the club events (Seaspace booth, Blue Lagoon, Canoe trip, etc.) or committees during the year, please contact me or any of your board members for more information. Thanks for your help.

Bay Area Divers

P.O. Box 58404

Houston, TX 77258

Catch us on the web at:

WWW.BAYAREADIVERS.ORG

Dive Smart!
Dive Safe!
Dive Happy!

FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT

By Captain Randy

As your outgoing President I just wanted to once again say thanks to all those who served on the board and those that came to the BAD-BOD meetings and the monthly general meetings and gave their input these past 2 years I served as your President. Also a big thanks goes out to all those that served on committees and help out on BAD events. The BAD Flea Market workers were just fantastic as always. We all went thru some good times as well as rough times. Bad is now working on its 30th year as a dive club and that says a lot. Most clubs don't last half that long. Without the membership working together it would not happen and BADDies has shown thru the years that we can stick together and move ahead. This club will continue to move ahead. I have always tried to please everyone all the time and that at times was very difficult to say the least. Having been in this business and sport for many many years and no I am not telling how many cause that's too many years to admit, I have meet thousands of great people. I gave up an engineering career to do what I loved best and that was dive and meet more and more new people. So thanks again for all your support and friendship. Come to our next general meeting to help bring in the 2004 season.

From the Editor and Staff

*We would like to thank Randy for all of his hard work and dedication to keep this club alive. He does a lot of the behind the scenes or background work, that many members may take for granted or do not realize that an essential task has been planned and completed. But, everyone would surely know if that task was not done. There were few events that took place that he was not there. Randy works many hours on his job, but he still finds the time to give 150 percent to this club. **“Randy has led this club through what was probably the most difficult time in its history. He did this with the utmost dedication and professionalism. Few people could have influenced these events to such a positive outcome. I have been proud to serve with Capt. Randy and would follow him through hell itself (and sometimes thought that is where we were).”** “I just want to say that you have done a great job in the last 2 yrs coordinating the BAD Board and Club functions.” *“Randy has maintained a total commitment to this club in dealing with the vendors and the background details and contacts of the Flea Market that has assisted our club in a myriad of ways during these years as President. He had helped to mentor others on the board in their responsibilities and encourage others to help out. He had contributed to the overall success of our club and activities by his participation and support.”* “Randy has acted with the utmost professionalism that I have seen in a while. Randy's consummate dedication to our club is a benefit that cannot be measured in dollars and cents or membership. Randy's service to our club will be felt for many years to come, both through increase in membership and activities that have come to pass through his tenure. I feel proud to have served with Randy.”*