



NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

February 2004

The BAD Calendar

Feb , 2004

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

March , 2004

- 2 BAD BOD Meeting
- 17 St. Patrick's Day 🍀
- 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 Seaspace
- 12-19 Costa Rico Trip – Dick Osborne
- 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
- 6 Jamaica — Bill Jones
- 23 Cozumel — Bill Jones
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting

October, 2004

- 6-9 DEMA

December, 2004

- 11 Austin Steam Train Trip

Have an event you want to lead, contact the Board for more details.

February Meeting, At our February meeting we have invited Trish Hessel from the Texas Marine Mammals Stranding Network to talk to us about what all it is the TMMSN does when a stranded mammal is picked up and brought to their location down in Galveston, Texas. At this time they have 2 Dolphins, Cupid and Emma. Trish will talk about Cupid and Emma and how the TMMSN is taking care of them. So mark your calendar for February 25th and come welcome Trish with a big BAD welcome. Don't forget we are meeting at a new location for the months of February thru April right now. It is the new Kemah Community Center located on Hwy. 146 and FM 2094 Right next to T-Bone Toms BBQ restaurant. See map on BAD web page.

At the January meeting, BAD would like to thank Lt. Bob Moorhouse for his very informative talk on how the USCG Air/Sea Rescue team out of Ellington Field operates. From those that were at the meeting, I heard several comments on a job well done by Lt. Moorhouse.



I want to thank all you BADDies for giving me your **Diver of the Year award for 2003**. It is a wonderful honor to be presented with this recognition and receiving this award has made me so very proud. I was never trying to get this award, I was just trying to help BAD and have fun. I encourage everyone to help in any way you can; organizing a local event, an international trip, a trip to somewhere in the states, serving on the Board, serving as a Volunteer, writing an article for the newsletter, helping with an event or however you choose to support this organization. The more that help, the more fun we all have.

But back to the main topic of this article, I want to say how very much I appreciate being given this honor!

With All Sincerity,
I Thank you,
Beverly Cutler

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fins to the Left . . . Fins to the Right

By Mike White

Well, 2004 is off and running. We had our first meeting in our new, temporary meeting place, the Kemah Community Center, and it seems a reasonable number of you BADDies were able to find it. It must be all that good navigation training you got in your scuba diving classes.

If you missed the January meeting, you missed an excellent speaker provided by V.P. Capt. Randy. Lt. Bob Moorhouse, U.S. Coast Guard, talked to us about the Air/Sea Rescue unit at Ellington Field. Lt. Moorhouse is a pilot who is the aircraft commander in charge of a four-person helicopter crew. He explained how the Coast Guard manages search and rescue operations (important tip – if your boat starts sinking, don't try to call Ellington Field), how helicopter crews make rescues, the jobs of each of the crew members, and showed us some of the equipment they use. In other words, he gave us a briefing on one government service you hope you never have to use.

In talking to Lt. Moorhouse after the meeting, by chance we discovered that his helicopter was the first one on the scene last August when Mike Nixon's "Living Extra Fast" powerboat crashed into a barge in the Ship Channel and sunk. Amazingly, he had not yet heard that Nixon had been recently discovered and arrested up in Weatherford, Texas. As you might imagine, he was less than pleased

IT A NEW YEAR AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

Now is the time to renew your membership.

to find out he and his crew had risked their lives performing a night search over water looking for someone who apparently was not there to be found.

Get your scuba gear together! On the weekend of March 20-21, we will have the only BAD club trip to the Flower Gardens currently scheduled for 2004. Jump start the 2004 dive season by joining your fellow BADDies on this trip to see the hammerhead sharks. Contact Trip Leader Ken Kimmey today to reserve your spot.

We also have a couple of BAD Dive Trips to CoCo View coming up in the next few months. BADDie Chuck Boyd is taking a group during the week of March 13-20, and Capt. Randy is taking a group during the week of May 15-22. Looking ahead to June 12-19, BADDie John Taylor is going to Costa Rica. Give them a call, and go diving.

If you want to improve your diving skills this year, BADDie Bill Jones, a PADI Master Instructor, has offered to provide a variety of scuba classes at a special price for BAD members. More details will follow later, but reserve time on you calendars for May, June, and July. Thanks, Bill.

The BAD Board is in the process of planning BAD activities for 2004. We have several on the calendar already. Take a look at the front page of the newsletter or check out the web page. The 2nd Annual Blue Lagoon Picnic is scheduled for June 26, the Canoe Trip is scheduled for July, and we have a few more ideas in the works. However, the eight of us on the Board don't claim to have all of the good ideas, so if you have a good idea for a BAD activity, let one of the Board members know about it, or better yet, come to one of the BAD Board meetings and let's talk about it.

Mike White

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Deadline for article submission for next month is: **March 8th, 2004** E-Mail javan@wt.net

CoCoView Resort Trip

By Captain Randy

Well my trip to CoCo View Dive Resort is almost full but I still have some spots open and if you are interested in going I need to know real soon because the resort is going to need my names by the end of February. So if you are interested let me know. The trip dates again are May 15-22, 2004. Go to the BAD home web page and click on the Capt. Randys CCV 2004 trip and read all about it. Give me a call at 281-338-8808 or email me at cap10randy@houston.rr.com for further information or to sign up.

FEB. BAD BOD BRIEFS

By Madeleine K. Barnes

There are still spots available for the March 20-21st Flower Garden trip. Get with Ken Kimmey to reserve yours. BAD BOD is requesting members' suggestions on activity planning for this year and steps to encourage club participation in both diving and social events. Look for more information in your newsletter and at the meetings. The BAD Open House will be scheduled for March 31st. Look for information from Bill Jones about new trips to Cozumel and Jamaica in August. Also, Bill Jones is offering scuba courses in May, June, and July for members. The BOD will be exploring the possibility of a more centralized board meeting location at future meetings. Next month the BAD BOD will meet Tuesday, March 2nd at Ryan's Steak House at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.

BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by Beverly Cutler

How about we gather at Chilies by the Kemah Community Center, in front of WalMart on FM 518 for the after meeting dinner/beer and socializing??? Plan to have even more fun and socializing. See you there!



Susan Coffee	7
Robbie Brewington	21
Ronald Stueber	23

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Deadline for article submission for next month is:

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MARCH FLING TRIP

By Kenneth Kimmey

Fellow Badies this is just a reminder that Bay Area Divers will only be going out on the Fling to the Flower Gardens and Stetson Bank 1 time this yr for a weekend trip. This is not to say that we cant get a trip later in the yr for a weekday. But for now we just have 1. So if your are interested in diving with the Hammerhead Sharks then please send me your deposit so that I can add you to the list. Spaces will be going fast. Contact Kenneth Kimmey at klk43@aol.com for more info or to confirm space. Go to our website at bayareadivers.org to check out the trip refund policy in the event it is cancelled due to weather. Thanks

MARCH "OPEN HOUSE"

By Capt. Randy

Be sure to mark your calendar for March 31st to attend BADs "Open House" We have moved the month of our Open House to March this year. With our new meeting location at the Kemah Community Center we will be able to invite more guests to come and show us their equipment and talk to us about their operation due to the larger floor space at the center. I need all of you to help me in who all we need to invite. So if you know of a dive store or organization that is dive related please email or call me with their name and phone number so I can call and invite them. Each store will get one table.

March 8th, 2004 E-Mail javan@wt.net



NAUI CO-FOUNDER AL TILLMAN IS DEAD AT 76

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Seattle, Washington. Albert Alvin Tillman, co-founder of NAUI died January 16, 2004 of natural causes on his 76th birthday.



Born in Los Angeles, Tillman attended the University of Southern California where he earned an undergraduate degree in Public Administration while playing football for the USC Trojans. During World War II, he was stationed in Hawaii, he was taking classes at the University of Hawaii, and he was diving there in his spare time. After the war, he attended graduate school at Loyola earning his tuition by working as a professional wrestler.

In 1953 he went to Scripps Institute of Oceanography with Bev Morgan to take a course designed for scientists by Conrad "Connie" Limbaugh. Tillman and Morgan took this basic template and designed the first organized public classes in scuba diving.

Tillman was working part-time as a contributing editor for Skin Diver Magazine in 1960 when he and fellow editor **Neal Hess** created the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI). Seventy-two of their best candidates and eight instructors met at the **Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston** to take a six-day course with only fifty-three of the candidates graduating. This was the first international instructor certification course marking a whole new era in recreational diving education. Tillman ran the agency until 1969 and continued actively training Scuba instructors for NAUI until the mid-1980's.

In 2001, Tillman was one of the inaugural inductees into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame along with other pioneer divers including Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Hans Hass, Sylvia Earle, and Canadian Underwater Photographer, Jack McKinney.

The family requested that no cards or flowers be sent. Tillman's cause of death was listed as a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

BAD SCUBA CLASSES



Members in good standing will have the opportunity to take BAD Scuba Classes beginning in May. Classes such as Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Nitrox, and Oxygen First Aid will be offered. Watch for Details.

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Deadline for article submission for next month is:

HUMOROUS BOOK FOR HUNGRY DIVERS



If you want to check out a cool recipe or just want a chuckle, browse through the "Diver's Guide to the Kitchen", by Joan Forsberg, ISBN 0-9679976-3-1. It captures the culinary secrets and humorous quotes from the likes of Paul Humann, Ernie Brooks, Stan Waterman, Wes Skiles, Emory Kristoff, Robert Balard, Jack Drafahl, and numerous others including (for some unknown reason), yours truly. I really don't cook but I really do like to eat.

Jesse Cancelmo
www.cancelmophoto.com

PAINTBALL CHALLENGE

By Capt. Randy

While at the TGCC Awards Banquet I put out a challenge to all other clubs to a Paintball game. I received one possible challenge from HUC. If we go as a group the cost would be \$15 per person plus the paintballs for an all day event. Included in the cost is your marker (gun), mask (face guard), all day air refills and field fee. The only other cost would be your paintballs. The cost for paintballs are 200 rounds-\$8, 500 rounds-\$13, 1000 rounds-\$25 and 2000rounds-\$40. There is a \$10 deposit per person to reserve rentals. You can go to www.ultimatepaintballoftexas.com for more information on the field. So let me know who wants to be on the BAD team. I am looking at November 6th possible date.

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March 8th, 2004 E-Mail javan@wt.net

MEMBER's Spotlight

Greetings from one of the new members. I arrived in Galveston (job transfer from New Orleans) in Oct 02, and was still getting settled in last July when two things happened: I sent in my club (BAD) membership form, and then got word that the Corps of Engineers (my employer) was going to take me up on my (volunteered) offer to go to Iraq for four months.

I left my new home (beach house in Jamaica Beach, on a canal. Really neat!) on Sunday, Aug 10, heading for Fort Bliss in El Paso, for a one week stay to get ready for the trip overseas. After a week of medical checks, paperwork reviews, and equipment issues, I got on a large aircraft, among maybe 250 mostly active duty troops in full battle gear headed east. I remember how funny it was to have the flight attendants ask that all the guns and knives to please be placed out of the aisle so that they could get the snack carts through.

Anyway, we landed in Kuwait City around midnight on 19 August, and after being picked up by one of the local Corps folks there, headed off to our bunks in a very dusty warehouse. Next morning, I find that luck is with me - an aircraft headed for my ultimate destination, Kirkuk, would be leaving that day. So, I hurry through the in processing that morning, and make the flight to the big oil town in the north.

Landing around noon on the 20th, I met the lucky fellow I was replacing, and started my acclimation to the Iraqi environment. Not an easy adjustment. It was still quite hot (120+) in August, but security problems had not yet become what they would. My job would be Project Engineer for the Northern Project Office there, basically doing Quality Assurance checks on the contractor, Kellogg, Brown, and Root (KBR) who was working very closely with Iraqi engineers to put back together many of the oil facilities that were "trashed" during the postwar violence against anything connected with the previous regime.

Like any routine, you get used to it. Workdays were 12 hrs/day, 7 days/week, no holidays. Getting familiar with some of the equipment in the oil processing business took a while. But the KBR guys were really great, and put up with a lot of really stupid questions, for which I am thankful. Out on the roads 2 or 3 times a week was typical at first, but that changed as the local welcoming parties started to turn against us.

The bad news started with the dynamiting of the oil pipelines. Some of the fires were really large, taking days to burn out. That was the usual plan: stop the flow, let the fire burn what was still in the pipeline, let it cool off, and then dig up the burned portion and replace. A couple of weeks' work. But this exercise in, literally, putting out fires, was not the primary work. The real effort involved some 55 projects for equipment repair and replacement, and two very large construction projects for laying pipeline (about 50 km), and drilling under the Tigris river, all to get the crude south and west to refineries or to export.

Most of my memories are not real pleasant: terrible poverty, no regard for the environment, animal abuse, and of course we had some violence directed at us quite deliberately. The

bombing of the Kirkuk "Baba Club" dining facility on Nov 22nd was an event I attended. We were very lucky that the bomb was not larger, or that they had not found a way to get it into the dining hall itself. Quite rude behavior. But there were some positive aspects to even this. You will surely see people at their best (and worst) in such situations.

Having returned Dec 16th, I can't say I enjoyed it a great deal, but am not sorry for going. I feel lucky to have got through without injury, and am glad to be back home.

Clifford S. *Dominey* SWG



Pipeline fires



Kurdish home life



Present for school kids

From one our own member's, that was sent to protect, and do what was need to be done to allow us here at home to enjoy our comfortable life styles.

IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL -PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR at javan@wt.net

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March 8th, 2004 E-Mail javan@wt.net

Bay Area Divers

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Two Fabulous Beaches

ALL YOU CAN EAT AND DRINK

All Taxes, Exit Fees, and Gratuities

One PADI Specialty Diving Certification
(some restrictions & fees apply)

Diving with PADI 5-Star Dive Center

Group Parking Discount

at Bush Intercontinental Airport

Must be 18 or older, Severe Cancellation Penalties Apply
Based on Double Occupancy

Prices and Specifications Subject to Change until Purchased,
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