

# NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club March 2004

## The BAD Calendar

### 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
- 26 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### September, 2004

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

### October, 2004

- 2 TRASHFEST
- 9 B.A.D. FLEAMARKET
- 13-16 DEMA
- 23 Galveston Strand Historical Tour

### December, 2004

- 11 Austin Steam Train Trip

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



**March Meeting.** At our March meeting we are having or OPEN HOUSE. We are in the process of inviting several dive shops and other dive related organizations. So be sure to mark your calendar for March 31st and be sure to invite your friends and come out for an informative club night. There will not be a general meeting that night. Refreshments will be available so if you have a dish or desert you would like to bring by all means do so. The evening will be a come and go atmosphere. **Don't forget we are meeting at a new location for the months of March 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 February meeting,*** BAD would like to thank Trish Hessel from the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network for coming out and giving us a very informative talk on the Networks activities and a report on the rehab of "Cupid" and "Emma" their two Bottlenose Dolphins. "Cupid" thanks to FedEx is now in Vallejo, California at Marine world.



March

Susan Coffee	7
Robbie Brewington	21
Ronald Stueber	23

## COME VISIT and DIVE WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS

Bay Area Divers meet at Kemah Community Center located on Hwy. 146 and FM 2094 Right at 7:30 pm the last Wednesday of each month (except December).  
**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

The B.A.D. Board of Directors meet at Ryan's Steakhouse on Bay Area Blvd. on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.  
All members are welcome.

Deadline for article submission for next month is: **October 12th, 2003** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## FINS TO THE LEFT . . . FINS TO THE RIGHT

By Mike White

Wake up! Spring is now just around the corner, and winter is a soon-to-be-fading memory. My last couple of sailing weekends have been without the need for Polartech and foul-weather gear, so I know it's close. And that means the Texas scuba diving season is almost here. Have you gotten all of your scuba gear ready to go like I told you in January?

Our February meeting saw another great speaker provided by V.P. Capt. Randy. Trish Hessel from the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network talked to us about the organization, and gave us a detailed review of their recent efforts in saving two dolphins. TMMSN is planning to come back for our Open House. I encourage you to stop by their table, learn about what they do, and give them a generous donation.

And speaking of our Open House, it's March 31 at our new meeting location, the Kemah Community Center. A little later in the year than our previous Open Houses, but closer to the diving season. Come on out and see what the local dive shops and others have to offer. Maybe you'll even find a great deal for 2004.

Looking past the Open House, check the BAD Calendar on the front page of the newsletter and on the BAD web



RETURN TO BAD– Members

NEW BAD Members

GUEST– Debra Dale

## FINS TO THE LEFT . . . FINS TO THE RIGHT (continued)

page to help plan your 2004 diving. There are BAD trips to CoCo View in May. In August, there are trips to Jamaica and Cozumel. To get you ready to enjoy all this diving more, there will be some BAD dive classes in May, June, and July.

One thing you need to mark on you calendar right now is SEASPACE on June 4-6. This is a great opportunity see the latest products from dive gear manufacturers, collect information from dive trip operators and destinations, and generally check out a host of diving-relating exhibitors . . . such as the Bay Area Divers. Yes, BAD will have a booth in the Environmental Awareness Area at SEASPACE again this year to promote the club. We will need volunteers from the club (this means YOU!) to work our booth. Be ready to sign up for a short shift.

## AFTER MEETING GATHERING

By Beverly Cutler

We had such a good selection of food, plenty of room and a really great turn out after our last BAD Membership meeting! Why don't we do it again this month? Let's go back to Chili's after our March meeting. If you didn't make it after the Feb. meeting it is a stones throw west of the Kemah Civic Bldg. Come on and join us this month for the After Meeting Gathering for more socializing, food & drink. See you there.

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## CoCoView Trip in May

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. Randy's CCV 2004 trip and read all about it. Give me a call at 281-338-8808 or email me at [cap10randy@houston.rr.com](mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com) for further information or to sign up.

### CONSUMER ALERT:

#### Sea & Sea Strobe Recall

Sea & Sea Underwater Photography is recalling about 7,000 strobe lights because of two incidents in which the strobes exploded. The recall covers all model S-50 strobes and any YS-60 or YS 120 strobes whose serial numbers begin with 96 or 94 manufactured between February 1988 and March 1999.

#### Aeris & Oceanic Computers Recall

### MARCH BOD BRIEFS

by Madeleine K. Barnes

There are currently fifteen divers committed for the March 20-21<sup>st</sup> Flower Garden trip. We are having our Open House at the March general membership meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup>. President Mike White is heading up the Seaspace booth committee for the weekend of June 5-6 and Don Eubanks is chairing the Marketing Committee. Verna Shannon has a good selection of club merchandise (shirts/jackets) available in a variety of colors for ordering. See her for details. The Clear Lake Park meeting location will not be available for the May Meeting. Vice President Randy Widaman is investigating alternatives for meeting location for May with plans to be back at Clear Lake Park by the June Meeting. Be sure to read your newsletter or look at the website for location details for May. The selection of a new club logo is to be voted on at the April Meeting. Vice President Randy Widaman is working on the plans for the club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>. Next month, the BAD BOD will meet Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at Ryan's Steak House at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.

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## ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Here are the new rates for advertising in the Bay Area Divers Newsletter. If you are a new advertiser the first year the business card rate is \$100.00 for the first year and then it will go back to \$120.00. For a quarter page it is \$200.00 the first year and then it will go up to \$240.00. Now if you are already advertising in the Newsletter and you increase double your size than you will get the lower rate for the first year. The B.A.D. board decided the new rates.



By Capt. Randy

We are having an Open House this month at our regular general meeting. We are inviting dive stores and other dive related groups to this Open House. What I need from our membership is for you to bring something in the line of snack food and such. Gloria will have drinks of course so no need to bring drinks. I was thinking along the line of say chips and dips, cookies, cake, and what not. Ja Van said she would try and bring a cake. So if you are coming to the Open House and are bringing something please call or email me and let me know so we don't have 20 people bringing chips.

3 832-264-8047 [cap10randy@houston.rr.com](mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com)

Deadline for article submission for next month is:

October 12th, 2003 E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)



## CYPRESS GARDENS IS BACK

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**Winter Haven, Florida.** Opened in 1936, Cypress Gardens was Florida's first theme park that included world famous water ski shows, lovely mermaids, and beautiful botanical gardens.



The pressure of lessening-tourism following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center took its toll on this once-popular park. On April 13, 2003, the 67-year-old Cypress Gardens was forced to close.

Cypress Gardens was a topside second-unit filming location for story establishing shots on several SEA HUNT episodes that featured water skiing and other surface stunts. Movies filmed at Cypress Gardens included "Easy to Love" (1953) and "On an Island With You" (1948) starring Esther Williams, and "Moon Over Miami" (1941) starring Betty Grable.

On February 24, 2004, after lawyers spent most of the day bickering over last-minute issues, the transfer of 150 acres of Cypress Gardens to Georgia theme park owner Kent Buescher was completed. Following the sale, Governor Jeb Bush said **"Cypress Gardens is a rare piece of Florida's modern history, ...Florida's first theme park will live again."**

Under it's new name, **Cypress Gardens Adventure Park** will re-open in the summer 2004 with a lower admission price, new rides, and new attractions. Buescher said he would invest another \$35 million for thirty new rides over the next year.

Cypress Gardens Adventure Park is located in Winter Haven Florida about 35 miles southwest of Orlando in the 2600 block of South Lake Summit Drive.

## ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

By Beverly Cutler



A round table discussion is being planned for the April BAD General Membership Meeting. This discussion is intended to bring out the desires of the membership as to what kind of events we want planned. So be thinking about what kind of events you would like to see BAD host.

## Help Baddies!

### AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION

Fran and I have been diving for 12 years. Diving is the most exhilarating sport that I have participated in. It is also one of the only sports that we enjoy participating in together. Fran and I have dove on some of the most beautiful reefs in the world. We most enjoy diving on the largest reef system in the world the Caribbean system. It is about this system that I am writing today. I must report to you that each year there is more trash being found on the reef.

In the not too distant past while diving we would collect the occasional trash bag that unwittingly found its way into the water only to wind up on the reef. We did this because it was the right thing to do and because we were worried that a turtle or porpoise might get into trouble with it.

It has gotten so bad in the past years that we have quit collecting the trash as there is now so much we would be spending our entire dive collecting the trash and still not make much of a difference.

Cruise ships are floating cities, carrying up to 5,000 people and traveling to some of the most pristine ocean environments. Like cities, cruise ships produce hundreds of thousands of gallons of waste from mopping floors, galleys, washing laundry, dry-cleaning uniforms, flushing toilets, preparing food, and developing photographs. In addition, a cruise ship's black and gray waste water contain sewage and toxic chemicals. Sewage carries bacteria and viruses that are harmful to human health, and can also sicken and kill marine life, including corals.

I own and operate a boat in the gulf and can report that individual boat owners are strictly prohibited from dumping anything overboard and yet the cruise ships seem to be dumping at will. Even 8,000,000.00 dollar fines are not making an impact. We have enjoyed cruising and would encourage everyone to do it however we must in my opinion take a stand. Most of us would not consider dumping personal waste on the reef yet it is being done in our behalf. Consider the following;

A cruise ship can generate up to the following **every day**:

- **30,000 gallons of sewage** (called **black water**)
- **255,000 gallons of dirty water** generated by laundries, showers, sinks and dishwashers that include toxic chemicals (called **gray water**)
- **7,000 gallons of oily bilge water**
- **33 tanker trucks-worth of ballast water** (or 265,000 gallons), complete with non-indigenous aquatic plants and animals that are taken from

## AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION (CONTINUED)

from faraway locations and released into U.S. harbors and bays

- **7 tons of garbage and solid waste**

Cruise ships are needlessly dumping vast amounts of raw sewage and other harmful wastes into some of the most pristine parts of our oceans every day. An average-sized cruise ship carrying 3,000 passengers and crew generates 30,000 gallons of raw sewage every day. Discharges from cruise ships endanger our oceans, marine life and human health. With up to six ships visiting our favorite reefs daily the effects are already devastating! If we don't do something quickly our legacy may well be dead reefs. So take pictures to show your grandchildren what we had or join the fight to save our planet and stop this senseless murder! **SAVE OUR REEFS!**

This call to action is to request that our membership get involved. The reefs need our help. To get involved get online and go to [StopCruisePollution.com](http://StopCruisePollution.com), or [www.oceana.org](http://www.oceana.org)

Get involved before it is too late.

## **WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT WANTS BRIDGE TO BECOME REEF**

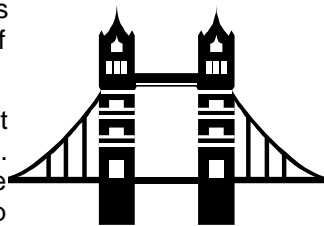
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**CORPUS CHRISTI** -- State Parks and Wildlife officials want a chunk of an old Corpus Christi causeway to use as an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico.

The idea is to take a 600-foot section of the old John F. Kennedy Causeway over the Humble Channel, break it up and put it into 60 to 70 feet of water. The reef would become a habitat for fish and attract scuba divers and fishermen.

State officials told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times the bridge likely would be sunk about six miles offshore between Port Aransas and Kleberg County.

The state is negotiating with a contracting company. Meanwhile, the section of bridge would be stored for about two years, until the parks department can plan where and how to place it.



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## **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](mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com)

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**Deadline** for article submission for next month is: **October 12th, 2003** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)

# 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!*

## **NEW BAD CLUB LOGO AT APRIL MEETING**

*By Mike White*

At the April 28 general membership meeting of Bay Area Divers we will be voting on a new official logo for the club. I encourage you all to consider the new logo, and come to the April meeting to discuss your preferences with your fellow BADDies.

For the past couple of years we have been unofficially using a new club logo on our BAD member shirts. This logo is the colorful angel fish with the words "Bay Area Divers" written above and below it, which is reproduced nearby. Although many members like this new logo design, it has never been officially adopted as the BAD club logo. There is some uncertainty about what exactly is the official club logo, but it appears to consist of one or two scuba divers along with the words "Bay Area Divers", and an example is reproduced nearby for comparison.

At the February BAD BOD meeting, the Board decided that the question of adopting a new official club logo for BAD should be placed before the membership for adoption at the April general membership meeting. The Board would like to resolve this in time for use at SEASPACE in June.

The Board is recommending that the members of BAD approve the angel fish design.

See you in April . . .