

All Dive Club Halloween Camp-Out

By Madeleine K. Barnes



BAD members have been invited to participate in a fun event in conjunction with other dive clubs on Friday, October 29th through Sunday, October 31st, 2004. The event is described as a camp-out with pumpkin carving contest on Saturday. There will be hiking, fishing, canoes, and paddleboats along with swimming available. The location is the Double Lake Recreation Area, Sam Houston National Forest, north of Houston near Coldspring. The cost is \$35.00 per person (food is included in this cost) and \$5 per car per day to enter the park. Margaret Hollinger from HUC is heading up this event and the deadline for reservations and payments is October 22, 2004. Check out the flyer at the next meeting for more information.

B.A.D. DIVERS JUST GET BETTER!

BAD Divers **Joe & Gloria Pechacek, Wendy Whitehouse**, and four other BAD party guest earned their PADI Diver Propulsion Vehicle specialty certifications at Bev's BAD Annual Blue Lagoon Picnic and Campout. **Pee Wee** supplied the scooters for the class and he finally earned his DPV specialty certification too (as if he needed it). PADI specialty certifications are part of the requirements to be awarded the prestigious Master Scuba Diver rating. Congratulations to these BAD Divers for continuing their diving education.



August

Rebecca Jacobs	Aug. 03
Susan Garcia	Aug. 06
Lynn Hale	Aug. 17
Jim Ward	Aug. 22
Michael Dush	Aug. 27
Holda Elizondo	Aug. 29
George Tamalis	July 31



BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by Beverly Cutler

How about we gather at **Boondoggles** in Seabrook for snacks and more socializing??? It is located on NASA Rd. 1, near highway 146. Plan to have even more fun and socializing. See you there!

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SHARK FINNING — A CRUEL AND WASTEFUL PRACTICE

"It may also be endangering the world's population of sharks in just the next few years"

With the growth of Asia's economies in the past decade, the demand for shark fin soup, which can fetch more than \$125 per bowl, has gone up. People want to show off their wealth a little more, and one way is to have the soup at their party or for dinner. Perhaps tragically, the ins are essentially tasteless but add a certain texture to the broth, but mostly, it is a demand of the ego. The soup's popularity in Asia has also led to a corresponding practice of finning by unscrupulous or at least environmentally unconcerned fishermen. While shark finning itself is legal, it is illegal for U.S. ships to possess shark fins without the accompanying carcass. With shark fins fetching \$30 per kilo at the dock, fishermen kill the sharks, cut off their fins, and throw the carcass overboard. The creatures' fins are often cut off while they are still alive, with the sharks returned to the sea to be eaten by other sharks or to die slowly. Sharks are key predators at the top of the food chain. As their numbers decline, other species expand to occupy the vacant niche, changing the balance of marine life. While there's a market for shark teeth, oil, meat, and cartilage, the meat spoil quickly unless blast frozen, and few fishing vessels have the right equipment.

Companies that buy tons of shark fins from fishing vessels for \$20 to \$30 per kilogram can sell them in Singapore or Hong Kong for \$50 per kilogram. A single dorsal fin from a whale shark (the largest fish in the sea) or a basking shark can bring

