

NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

August 2006

**Wednesday August 30th, 2006 General Meeting -
7:30pm**

Guest speaker is Kelly Drinnen

with Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

The Flower Gardens are the northern most coral reef system and is the only coral reef off the Texas Coast and a qualifies as a "local" dive trip. Come and learn about the sea creatures, the corals and the unique geological formation known as the Flower Gardens and Stetson Banks.

Thanks to

Guest speaker Joan David for a wonderful presentation on Whale Sharks on July 26. As a special treat, we had a couple of gentlemen visit who had been swimming with whale sharks in Holbox Mexico on the Saturday before, July 22. They shared their experiences about their adventure swimming with a congregation of 10+ whale sharks. As Joan appropriately said it, this is an opportunity practically on our back door. I will be on the Bill Jones trip to Cozumel, August 7-14, and have scheduled an excursion to Holbox (just north of Cozumel) and plan to bring back pics to post on the web. Check the website for updates!!

The BAD Calendar

August, 2006

- 1 BAD BOD Meeting
- 26 Twin Lakes – Jim Delane
- 30 BAD General Membership Meeting

September, 2006

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

October, 2006

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 7 Trashfest in New Braunfel's
- 14 BAD Flea Market — Jim DeLane
- 14 Ambergris Caye — Tom Doolin
- 21 Coco View Resort — Randy Widaman
- 21 Haunted Tour of Houston
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

November, 2006

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 18 32nd Annual BAD Anniversary Party
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

December, 2006

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 18 32nd Annual BAD Anniversary Party
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

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



August



Rebecca Jacobs	8/03
Susan Garcia	8/16
Ed Richards	8/17
Trica Kelly	8/20
Jim Ward	8/22
Scott Luzny	8/24
Holde Elizondo	8/29
Jack Dwire	8/30

COME VISIT and DIVE WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS

Bay Area Divers meet at Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Road 1 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: **September 10th, 2006** E-Mail aladyfish@verizon.net

B.A.D. B.O.D. BRIEFS

July 11, 2006

By Beverly Cutler

All **B.A.D.** Board members were in attendance as well as several guests. Randy Weidaman will be hosting a trip to Houston's Hyperbaric Chamber at Memorial Herman Hospital on Aug 12, 2006. We have again joined TGCC for 2006. Blue Lagoon Picnic for 2006 has happened. See article in the newsletter for details. Flea Market signup sheet will be passed around at our meeting July 24, 2006. The Board has voted to donate \$100 each to Postage for medical supplies to be shipped to a Honduran Clinic, Divers Alert Network, H.E.A.R.T Sea Turtles here in Galveston and Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network. We have and are again looking at how we can reduce expenses and attract new members. **TRASHFEST!!! We have 8 people who have committed to this event. See Rowe Henry and he will help place you on a team if you don't already have one.** We are also volunteering to help serve food after the event and during awards and door prizes. The Board is continuing to explore other potential events for the club.

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

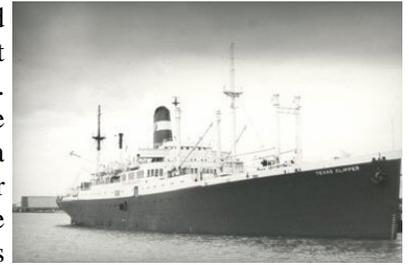
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Texas Clipper in Trouble

YOUR help urgently needed!!!

The Texas Clipper did indeed settle her stern at her berth in Beaumont. I'm unsure whether the exact cause was a leak, a bilge pump problem, or something else, but she has been fixed and is floating again. However, as a result of this incident MARAD (who currently holds title to her) has decided that maybe she'd be better off **scrapped** and has sent out emergency



RFP's to get bids on scrapping her. PLEASE WRITE MARAD AND LET THEM KNOW TEXAS DIVERS DON'T WANT HER SCRAPPED. Emails should to to [Ms. Julie Nelson](mailto:julie.nelson@dot.gov) (julie.nelson@dot.gov) with a CC to [Ms. Zoe Washnis](mailto:zoe.washnis@dot.gov) (zoe.washnis@dot.gov).



Florida Honduras Bay Islands www.cocoviewresort.com

CoCoView Resort Trip October 21-28, 2006

By Captain Randy

Come join me, Captain Randy Widaman (M/V Fling) and 13 other guest to CoCoView Resort on beautiful Roatan, Bay Island Honduras October 21-28, 2006. 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. We will soon have a flyer out on the BAD web page www.bayareadivers.org so check it out under "events. For further info call Randy Widaman 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.

Brashear, Navy diver depicted in 'Men of Honor,' dies at 75

Sent in by Randy Widaman

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. - Carl M. Brashear, the first black U.S. Navy diver who was portrayed by Cuba Gooding Jr. in the 2000 film "Men of Honor," died Tuesday July 25, 2006. He was 75.

Brashear died at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth of respiratory and heart failure, the medical center said.

Brashear retired from the Navy in 1979 after more than 30 years of service. He was the first Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an amputee, the result of a leg injury he sustained during a salvage operation.

"The African-American community lost a great leader today in Carl Brashear," Gooding said of the man he depicted alongside Robert DeNiro, who played Brashear's roughneck training officer in "Men of Honor." "His impact to us as a people and all races will be felt for many decades to come."

In 1966, Brashear was tasked with recovering a hydrogen bomb that dropped into waters off of Spain when two U.S. Air Force planes collided.

During the mission, Brashear was struck below his left knee by a pipe that the crew was using to hoist the bomb out of the water. Brashear was airlifted to a naval hospital where the bottom of his left leg was amputated to avoid gangrene. It later was replaced with a prosthetic leg.

The Navy was ready to retire Brashear from active duty, but he soon began a grueling training program that included diving, running and calisthenics.

"Sometimes I would come back from a run, and my artificial leg would have a puddle of blood from my stump. I wouldn't go to sick bay because they would have taken me out of the program," Brashear said in 2002 when he was inducted into the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians. "Instead I'd go hide somewhere and soak my leg in a bucket of hot water with salt in it - that's an old remedy I learned growing up."

After completing 600- to 1,000-foot-deep dives while being evaluated for five weeks at the Experimental Diving Unit in Washington, D.C., Brashear became a master diver in 1970.



Brashear faced an uphill battle when he joined the Navy in 1948 at the age of 17, not long after the U.S. military desegregated

"I went to the Army office, and they weren't too friendly," Brashear said in 2002. "But the Navy recruiter was a lot nicer. Looking back, I was placed in my calling."

Brashear, the son of poor sharecroppers in Sonora, Ky., quickly decided after boot camp that he wanted to become a deep-sea diver.

"Growing up on a farm in Kentucky, I always dreamed of doing something challenging," he said. "When I saw the divers for the first time, I knew it was just what I wanted."

In 1954, he was accepted and graduated from the diving program, despite daily battles with discrimination, including hate notes being left on his bunk.

He went on to train for advanced diving programs before his 1966 incident. Brashear is one of only seven enlisted men to be enshrined in naval archives with a 164-page volume transcribing his life and career.

Brashear married childhood friend Junetta Wilcox in 1952, and had four children - Shazanta, DaWayne, Phillip and Patrick - before their divorce in 1978. He later married Hattie R. Elam and Jeanette A. Brundage.

"He kept to himself personally, but his military life was an open book," said Junetta Brashear, who lives in Portsmouth, about 15 miles from Brashear's home in Virginia Beach.

She said Brashear's health started to deteriorate about three years ago, but that he had experienced problems ever since the amputation.

Phillip Brashear, an Army helicopter pilot, was on emergency leave from Iraq to be with his father in his final hours, the Navy said.

He was buried in his hometown of **Brainerd, Minnesota**.

Despite the battles he faced in the Navy, Brashear had said his passion for military service was unyielding.

"I loved the Navy so much I once tried to get my mother to join the Navy reserves," he said with a laugh. "I would love to do it all over again."

To learn more about this remarkable man go to:

<http://www.chasingthefrog.com/reelfaces/menofhonor.php> :

[http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5585788)

[storyId=5585788](http://www.africanamericans.com/CarlBrashear.htm)

<http://www.africanamericans.com/CarlBrashear.htm>

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/07/25/brashear.obit.ap/>

[index.html?section=cnn_topstories](http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/07/25/brashear.obit.ap/index.html?section=cnn_topstories)

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Old Wives' Tale?

Urine as Jellyfish Sting Remedy Vinegar Works Best, Doctors Say

By DR. ARCHANA REDDY
Sent in by Jim Ward



Aug. 8, 2006 — From Hanauma Bay, Hawaii, to Cape Cod, Mass., jellyfish are swarming right now, even forcing some beaches to close to keep swimmers from being stung.

That's because late summer is prime jellyfish season, with warm waters luring them close to shore.

And since you're far more likely to suffer a jellyfish sting than a shark bite, here's what you need to know, step by step, to cool the burn of a sting:

First, don't believe the rumors. Peeing on a stung bit of skin won't do much to relieve suffering, and you'll suffer some odd stares, too, doctors say.

Urine has not been scientifically proven to help in jellyfish stings, said Dr. Paul Auerbach, an emergency physician at Stanford University Hospital and an expert on jellyfish stings.

Instead, vinegar is the best first treatment, he said, when treating stings from North American jellyfish.

First: 'Deactivate' the Stingers

First things first, though. If stung by a jellyfish, be sure to get away from the jellies and out of the water to a safe area, he said. If a jelly tentacle is wrapped around an arm or leg, remove it using another object, such as a stick.

The next step is to inactivate the stingers, or nematocysts, that attach to the skin after brushing up against jellyfish tentacles. The best thing to use is acetic acid, or regular household white vinegar, Auerbach said.

In fact, the beaches of Australia are lined with vinegar stands, says Dr. Suzanne Shepherd, a travel medicine specialist and emergency physician at the University of Pennsylvania. Shepherd, who has herself been stung by jellyfish, said she takes vinegar with her when she heads out for a swim in the ocean.

Apply the vinegar by soaking a paper towel or thin cloth in vinegar and gently placing it to over the sting for 30 minutes, said Auerbach. Or pour the vinegar directly over the area. Isopropal alcohol or rubbing alcohol can also inactivate nematocysts, although neither it nor vinegar should be rubbed into the sting, Auerbach said.

Vinegar is Best, But Other Remedies Work, Too

Rubbing the sting will cause more nematocysts to fire and that will just mean more pain, he added. Auerbach said he carries a 50-50 mixture of vinegar and rubbing alcohol when he goes to the beach.

While vinegar is the best option, unseasoned meat tenderizer, baking soda, household ammonia, and lemon or lime juice are other things that can also prevent nematocysts from causing pain, he said. Baking soda has been used, particularly on the East Coast where stinging nettle jellies are common.

If using meat tenderizer, it must not be left on the skin for too long since it also can cause a rash.

Shepherd also recommends avoiding fresh water to treat a jellyfish sting because it could just cause the remaining nematocysts to fire.

Next: Remove the Stingers

Once the nematocysts are deactivated, it is safe to remove them from the skin. The best way is to gently apply shaving cream to the area and scrape them off using a safety razor, said Shepherd. If no shaving supplies are available, use sand and a shell to scrape away the nematocysts.

With the nematocysts off, consider using hydrocortisone cream to decrease skin irritation. If it's not strong enough, see your physician for a prescription steroid cream.

The rash from the sting can last anywhere from 24 to 48 hours, although this is highly variable, Auerbach said.

A jellyfish sting can produce an allergic reaction similar to a bee sting, so if there are any immediate signs of an allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing or hives, head to the nearest emergency room or call 911.

Small children that are stung over a large area of skin should go to the hospital, Shepherd said, as should people with stings that go on to become infected.

Can You Prevent Stings?

To prevent stings altogether, there is at least one lotion available in the United States that protects against jellyfish and other stinging marine life. If applied before going in the water, the lotion, Safesea, can help minimize the pain associated with stings.

Safesea's key ingredient is the same protective chemical that makes clown fish resistant to jellyfish stings. Auerbach, who was involved in designing clinical trials of the lotion and has part ownership in the company that makes the lotion, said the lotion has been shown to be safe and effective.

But the question still lingers, if no vinegar is in sight is urine better than nothing? While studies haven't proven it, Auerbach admits he's known a few people who said urine worked for them.

Trashfest 2006

TrashFest is a major event bringing together scuba divers, businesses, governmental agencies, schools, civic and youth groups, scout troops and local citizens to improve the quality of the Comal River in New Braunfels, TX. The Comal River became famous when Ripley's Believe It or Not featured it as the shortest river in the world. The 2.5-mile The Comal is one of the largest springs in Texas with 8 million gallons of water flowing through every hour. The water is pure, clear and cold, about 23-29 Celsius, and attracts thousands of tubers and tourists each year.

TrashFest draws participants from all over Texas and beyond. Since the first clean up in 1974, more than 8500 volunteers have removed over 85 tons of trash from the Comal River during TrashFest. Believed to be the longest running underwater cleanup in the country, TrashFest:

Raises public awareness of the aquatic environment in Texas Educates citizens about the sources of, and impact of, debris and litter in the aquatic environment Promotes recycling programs and community involvement Serves as a model for other river and aquatic cleanup programs around the country Involves young children and educates them about the importance of protecting our environment

Since 1980*, over 8500 volunteers have removed over:

- ◆ 197,000 pounds of trash
- ◆ 250,000 cans and bottles
- ◆ 351,000 pop-tops and bottle caps
- ◆ 8,500 sunglasses and shoes

*no records available prior to 1980

This year, TrashFest will be held on October 7, 2006. Registration will be held at the Comal County Fairgrounds, and the trash weigh in and collection will be at Prince Solos Park, New Braunfels, TX.

Schedule of Activities

- 8:00 - 10:00 AM Registration at Comal County Fair grounds
- 10:00 - 10:45 AM Contestants Meeting
- 11:00 - 1:00 PM Diving in assigned areas of the Comal River
- 1:00 - 3:00 PM Diving in any part of the Comal River
- 3:00 PM All Trash Due at Check-In Site (Prince Solms Park)
- 5:00 - 8:00 PM Dinner and Awarding of Door Prizes and Super Scooper Prizes

You can find additional information on TGCC website: www.tgccdiving.org

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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!**

Any Member of the Bay Area Dive Club can run an add for as long as you would like.

Business Card size would be \$10.00 a month
Double Business card size would be \$20.00 a month.

Please contact Editor: aladyfish@verizon.net

Contest

Every time your name/or picture has been entered in the newsletter you receive a point. The way to get your name in the newsletter is to get involved. We have several events coming up. The Winner will receive their prize at the January meeting.

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Deadline for article submission for next month is: **September 10th, 2006** E-Mail aladyfish@verizon.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!

BAY AREA DIVERS
32nd ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Monument Inn – La Porte, Texas

All-You-Can-Eat Family Buffet-Style Served at the Table

Saturday 11/18/2006 6PM - 11PM serving starts at 7PM

Fresh Shucked Oysters on the Half Shell

Fried Catfish / Fried Oysters / Fried Shrimp

Stuffed Crab & Cold Boiled Shrimp

Coffee / Tea & French Fries

Dinner & Cinnamon Rolls

Anniversary Party Cake

Door Prizes

ALL FOR \$20 PER PERSON



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