

NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

October, 2008

October 29th, 2008

Social starts at 7pm - Meeting at 7:30pm

Guest speaker is David Hergert with
Houston Police Department Dive Team

The BAD Calendar

October, 2008

- 4 Trashfest 2008 — Kyle Stephens
- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 18-28 CoCo View, Roatan Trip—Randy Widaman
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting-
Houston Police Department Dive Team

November, 2008

- 1 34th Anniversary Party
- 4 BAD BOD Meeting
- 16 33rd Annual SCUBA Divers
Market Expo
- 26 BAD General Membership Meeting-
Elections

December, 2008

- 2 BAD BOD Meeting

January, 2009

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 28 BAD General Membership Meeting
Craig Shannon- on spear fishing

February, 2009

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- TBA TGCC 2009 Annual Banquet-
Chabuca's Internation Restaurant
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting



WEBSITE:

www.bayareadivers.org

October



Randy Widaman	2
Ashley Williams	5
Sharon Williams	15
Bill Jones	16
Jim Delane	29
Manual Garza	29
Mike White	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!

B.A.D. Board of Directors meeting at **Don Julio's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina**, 2900 East Nasa Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. Which is between Kirby Blvd. and Hwy 146. 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, 2008** E-Mail aladyfish@verizon.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: *Jim Delane*

Hello BADdies,

November is shaping up to be a very busy month for Bay Area Divers.

On Saturday, Nov 1, we have the Annual BAD Anniversary and Membership Party. It will be held at the Monument Inn. Tickets are \$15 with BAD picking up the rest of the cost of the meal. It is all you can eat - at the table buffet. We choose the BAD Diver of the Year at the Party. So please send in your nominations and a paragraph or 2 of the BAD member that you think deserves this honor and why. Also at the Party we give away a bunch of door prizes. It is a party you do not want to miss.

On Sunday, Nov 16, we have our Annual SCUBA Divers Market & Expo. We lost a couple of vendors and gained a couple. A lot of people have contacted us wanting to know the rescheduled date and it looks like it will be a good event. We really need a good membership turnout to help with the event. This is the event that funds our club. This is the one event where you help makes a BIG difference. We start set up and load in at 7am. The event ends at 4pm. We have dinner thereafter. Whether you can help all day or just for a couple of hours - it is appreciated.

November is also the month that the Board of Directors gets elected for 2009. Linda Woodward will be coordinating the election. We need people who are interested in helping run the club. The positions open are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Editor

and 3 At-Large Board Members. It is the membership that makes this club work. As a Board Member, you help with the decisions that determine the direction of the club and how we spend our money. We need your help. Please contact Linda Woodward at linda@houstonhomenetwork.com or 713-896-8953 and let her know you are interested in running. There will be ballots mailed out with pre-stamped envelopes for you to vote on. They will have the names of the interested candidates and a place for write-ins should a last minute candidate appears. Please participate - volunteer to be on the Board and/or send in your ballot.

It has been a good year for Bay Area Divers. See you at the meeting on Oct 29th, see you at the Anniversary Party and see you at the Market!

Dive often - Dive safe!
Jim Delane

Door Prize Winners

Would like to thank **Christie E. & Ja Van P.** for purchasing your door prizes for the club for the month of September.

Everyone that attended the meeting **won** a Door Prize

So you see — sometimes it pays to go to the meeting.

New Members Only Pay \$7.50

2008 Dues are only \$7.50 from July 1st to the end of the year!

Bring a friend or 2 or 5 and they can try us out for half the price!!!

Lets have more friends GET WET!

BAD BOARD (BOD) MEETING

Meetings ARE OPEN TO All, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY, August 5th, 2008** at 7:00 PM at **Don Julio's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina**, 2900 East Nasa Parkway, Seabrook, TX 77586. Which is between Kirby Blvd. and Hwy 146. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we appreciate **everyone's participation and your input**. Come earlier if you would like to eat and visit with some of us prior to the meeting.

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors		
President	Jim Delane	Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org
V. President	Christi Emerson	crazamora@earthlink.net
Secretary	Sandee Roquemore	Moreroqus@aol.com
Treasurer	Steve Giesler	steve.giesler@gmail.com
Editor	Ja Van Pruett	aladyfish@verizon.net
Board	Randy Widaman	cap10randy@comcast.net
Board	Dennis R. Camp	DCamp@HibexIntl.com
Board	PeeWee (Rodney) Dwire	Rodney.Dwire@lyondellbasell.com
Webmaster:	Jim Delane	Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org
Bartender:		
Sales:	Christi Emerson	crazamora@earthlink.net
Membership:	Lanelle Hanagriff	lhagriff@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org		

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Members

CLUB LOGO MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

New Members — *Patrick Barnes,*
Sheila Barron / Bob Young,
Mei-Hwa, Stephen & Melanie Ferguson,
Chelsey Hernandez, John & Travis
Johnston, Marie "Dusty" Manning,
Jim & Lori Riesenber,
David & Cindy & Trent Romano,
Jim Rosborough, Bob Stabe,
Patrice, Alexandra, Victoria Sutherland,
Walter Prado, Scott Troutman,
Doug, Andrew, Ashley, Sharon Williams

Re-new Members — *Debra Jean Dale,*
Sue Radoff, Hai Dang, Tanya Gorguraki /
Christopher Chung

Are you thinking about replacing your Club Shirt, or are you a New Member and would like to have a "BAD" Logo shirt to wear just for fun?



I am happy to report that I can help you with all of your "BAD" Fashion Needs.

There are lots of styles, colors and sizes to choose from. I can get them made fast and you'll be ready to go in no time.

- BAD Patches \$ 5 ea
- Short Sleeve Polo Shirt.....\$19 ea
- Zippered Sweat Shirt \$22 ea
- Short Sleeve Button Down Dress Shirt \$27 ea
- Long Sleeve Button Down Dress Shirt \$29 ea

*Prices slightly higher for XX & XXX sizes

- New Items - Tee-Shirts\$12 ea
- Bumper Stickers.....\$ 1 ea or 3 for \$2.00

(The Tee's have an Angel Fish Photo on the Front and the BAD Dive Flag on the Back)

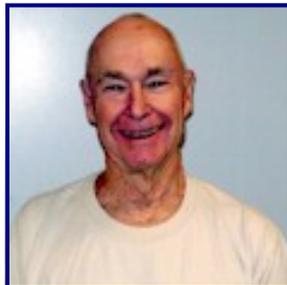
See me about the possibility of putting your favorite photo on the front. Available in all sizes.

I also have catalogs with of lots of other items you can purchase. Another item that we have available is "BAD" Logo patches. You can sew these on a jacket or bag that you already have.

If you are interested in any of these items, see me at the next club meeting or you can contact me, by e-mail **Christi Emerson** crazamora@earthlink.net.

Display your club logo with pride; it's **GOOD TO BE "BAD"**.

Diver of the Month



Jim Rosborough

Jim Rosborough shared his experience in volunteerism on projects doing marine research with Earthwatch over the past 12 years. Jim has worked on projects in Belize, Aruba, Jamaica, Barbados, Exuma Cays, Puerto Rico, Bonaire, San Salvador, Hawaii and St. John. Earthwatch is currently organizing research projects in the Seychelles, Belize, Thailand and Truck Lagoon.

Jim has been a diver and explorer for over 50 years. He grew up on the island of Aruba. This was a good opportunity to learn about the many ways that us divers can participate in these types of projects.

www.earthwatch.org

We Put the FUN In FUNdraiser!

Started in July, we will be having new 50/50 Raffle at meetings.

It's easy to play and you can win cash.

Simply buy a ticket for a dollar or 6 for five dollars,

And at the end of the meeting, the winner gets half the pot!

Alexandra Sutherland was
September Winner

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SCUBA Divers Market & Expo

Hurricane Ike has created problems for all of us and of course; there was no way to hold the Market & Expo as scheduled in September. The Market has been scheduled for Sunday, November 16. I did a poll of the vendors and that was the preferred date.

This event is the event that primarily funds Bay Area Divers. It provides us with the money we need to buy door prizes, pay for the gift certificates we give to speakers, pay for food and drink that we have at the local dives, pay for paper, ink, postage and printing supplies, picnics and campouts, pay for the Diver of the Year award and to pay for part of the membership tickets to the Annual Anniversary party. As you can see, it is B.A.D.'S very important event.

Also, this is the one event that we need to have the membership turn out and help with.

This year we will be giving out BAD travel bags to the volunteers. We ask that you wear a BAD shirt. We will also be providing name tags to identify you as a volunteer. We will be printing custom t-shirts for the Market. These are optional. The shirts are \$12 each. If you need a BAD shirt - this is a good one to get. Contact Christie at 281-701-6997 or order one at the general meeting or the Anniversary party.

Linda Woodward will be coordinating the volunteers. We need to know who can be there in the morning shift 7-12am, who can be there in the afternoon shift 12-5, who will be able to show up and help for just a couple of hours during the day (this helps give the other volunteers breaks so they can eat, shop or relax). When you arrive, you will need to check in with Linda so she can let you know where you are needed. Everyone that helps gets a ticket that enters them into the membership doorprize giveaway. People that work the whole day get 2 tickets.

At 7 am, we start. Saturday, there will be a party in the Pavilion and they will have left the tables and chairs out. We will need to rearrange them. Vendors are scheduled to unload between 7 and 10 am. We need people to show up and help with set-up and unloading. If you have a hand truck/dolly which you can lend us for the event - it would be appreciated. Capt Randy had heart surgery and normally handles the load in / load out. Beverly Cutler has stepped up and will be coordinating the load in along with Randy. Basically, we will start with setting tables and shift over to assisting load in as vendors arrive.

When the market opens, we will need to have people at the front door, at the food stand, at the raffle and ticket tables, at the BAD table, at the consignment, etc. Linda will assign the spots and be rotating people out for breaks.

The Market ends at 4pm. We then assist the vendors with load-out. After that, we have the membership appreciation dinner. That generally consists of pizza and whatever, brisket, chicken, salad, beer, soda, etc that we have left. Then we draw for door prizes. You do not have to be present to win a door prize. The only qualification is that you have helped. We expect to be out of there by 7pm.

I appreciate all the help that you give. Even a hour or 2 makes a great difference.

Call me if you have any questions. 281-782-7469
Jim Delane
Market Coordinator

Exhibitors

Ascuba Venture	www.ascubaventure.com
Brazosport Underwater Club	www.buc-club.com
Craig Shannon	Seabrook, Texas
Debby McBride - Underwater Art	281-286-0891
Denise Gallimore - Massage Therapist	denkko@hotmail.com
Dive & Sail Sports	832-201-9949
Divers Alert Network	www.diversalertnetwork.org
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	flowergarden.noaa.gov
Giggin' Marlin Divers	www.gigginmarlin.com
H.E.A.R.T.	www.seaturtles.org
Houston Underwater Club - HUC	www.hucscuba.org
John Thomas	Kemah, Texas
Maximum Scuba	www.maximum-scuba.com
Moody Gardens Aquarium	www.moodygardens.com
Ross & Jennie Hargis	Baytown, Texas
SOLO	www.leatherbackturtles.org
Tammy Carrithers - Juice Plus	www.tcarrithersjuiceplus.com
Taylor Sport Chiropractic	www.taylorhealthcare.com
Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network	www.tmmnsn.org
Texas Parks and Wildlife	www.tpwd.state.tx.us
The Dive Shop	www.diveshoplufkin.com
Toys For The Children	www.toysforthechildren.org
WiredIn.cc	www.WiredIn.cc
WW Diving Company	www.wwdive.com

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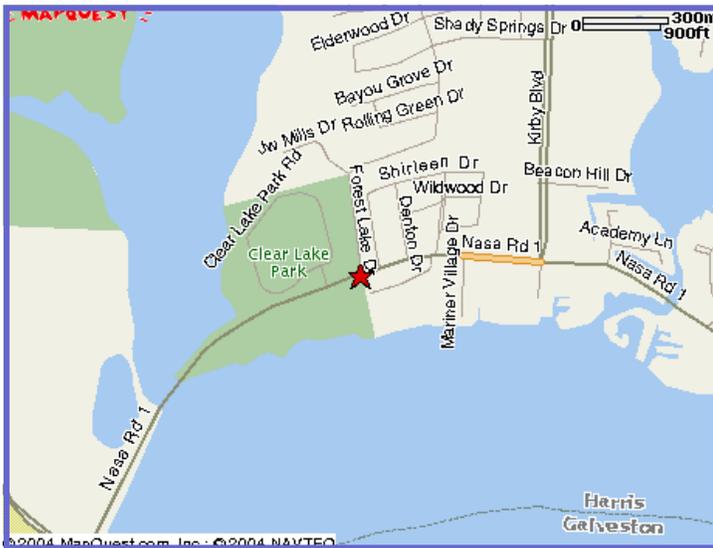
33rd Annual SCUBA Divers Market & Expo

Scuba Divers Market Speakers Presentation Schedule November 16, 2008

Sunday - November 16, 2008

10am to 4pm

**Landolt Pavillion in Clear Lake,
Texas**



**Driving Directions to BAD's General Meet-
ing Place: 5001 NASA Parkway**

Take I-45 Gulf Freeway South to NASA Rd. 1 Turn East on NASA Rd 1. Go past Johnson Space Center on your left. Go Past the Hilton Hotel on your right. Go over the bridge. Go past the public boat ramp on your right. Just past the boat ramp is a stop light. Turn right (lake side of NASA Parkway) into the parking lot of Clear Lake Park. We meet in the brown building there on the last Wed of each month except December. Social starts at 7 pm and meeting starts at 7:30pm.

**New and used equipment - Dive shops
- Flea Market**

**Speaker Seminars - Food - Drink -
Raffles - Door Prizes**

YOU CAN'T MISS IT!!!

10:30am - 11:15am

**SOLO - Save Our Leatherbacks
Organization**

11:20am - 12:05pm

**Texas Parks and Wildlife – Artificial
Reef Program**

12:10pm - 12:55pm

Maximum Scuba- Spear Fishing

1:00pm - 1:45pm

**HEART – Help Endangers Animals –
Ridley Turtles**

1:50pm - 2:35pm

**TMMSN - Texas Marine Mammal
Stranding Network**

2:40pm - 3:25pm

**Flower Gardens Banks National
Marine Sanctuary**

3:30pm - 4:15pm

Earthwatch

YOU CAN'T MISS IT!!!

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Beaked whales - into the abyss

By Richard Black

Environment correspondent, BBC News website, the Canary Islands

Sent in by Jim Ward



A Cuvier's beaked whale makes a rare foray to the surface

Most articles about scientific subjects start

by telling you what people have discovered about something. This one is mainly about what people have not discovered about something. "There's not much known about these creatures - where they live, their lifestyle," says Ted Cranford from San Diego State University in California, US. "In fact, they might be the least understood group of large mammals on Earth."

The creatures in question are beaked whales - rarely seen, elusive, private, yet the subject of some attention in recent years because of the damage that military sonar systems appear to inflict on them. This summer, the research vessel Song of the Whale is attempting to fill in some of the gaps in our understanding as it sails in and around the Canary Islands, home to several beaked whale species.

Operated by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw), the yacht's main research tools are hydrophones - underwater microphones - that listen for and track the whales' characteristic high-frequency clicks.

And there is much to discover: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7641537.stm>

Venomous Lionfish Prowls Fragile Caribbean Waters

David McFadden, Associated Press

Sent in by Jim Ward



A maroon-striped marauder with venomous spikes is rapidly multiplying in the Caribbean's warm waters, swallowing native species, stinging divers and generally wreaking havoc on an ecologically delicate region.

The red lionfish, a tropical native of the Indian and Pacific oceans that probably escaped from a Florida fish tank, is showing up everywhere — from the coasts of Cuba and Hispaniola to Little Cayman's pristine Bloody Bay Wall, one of the region's prime destinations for divers.

Wherever it appears, the adaptable predator corners fish and crustaceans up to half its size with its billowy fins and sucks them down in one violent gulp. Research teams observed one lionfish eating 20 small fish in less than 30 minutes.

Dehart said: "If we start losing these smaller reef fish as food to the lionfish ... we could be in a whirlwind for bad things coming to the reef ecosystem."

Read more on this: <http://dsc.discovery.com/news/2008/08/13/red-lionfish-caribbean.html>

Divers reach steamship that sank off Mass. in 1898

Sent in By: Jim Ward

BOSTON - Five Massachusetts men became the first divers to reach the wreck of a 19th-century steamship that sank in one of the most destructive storms in New England history, and say they saw an array of artifacts like dishes and mugs but no human remains.



The Portland, known as the "Titanic of New England," sank off the Massachusetts coast Nov. 26, 1898, after it sailed from Boston, taking more than 190 people with it.

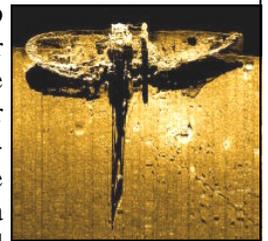
The recreational divers spoke this week for the first time about their three successful dives in August and September.

David Faye, one of the divers, said wreckage of the Portland was littered with artifacts like plates, dishes and mugs, wash basins and toilets — and even a few medicine bottles etched with the name of an apothecary in Maine. "I immediately thought of these people — how horrible it must've been," said Faye, a lawyer in Cambridge, Mass. "They had no communication with shore. They had no idea where they were. The storm was pushing them out to sea."



An image from team leader Bob Foster's camera depicts a starfish clinging to a mug. Another shows toppled stacks of sandy plates and dishes.

Reaching the ship tested the divers' limits and their equipment because the wreckage rests so far below the surface. Their dives — 460 feet below ocean surface — were so deep that some of the underwater lights imploded with a boom, Faye said. The divers could only spend 10 to 15 minutes exploring the wreckage site before returning to the surface.



Captain Hollis Blanchard may have believed the Portland could outrun the gale, but the storm was actually two separate storms that collided at sea and grew in force. Winds reached 100 mph, and waves crested at 60 feet, higher than the ship's smokestacks.

The divers were unable to retrieve artifacts from the wreckage because of rules in place at the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. For now, the Portland's resting place remains a secret to prevent it from being plundered.

To read more: <http://www.bostondeepwrecks.com/wrecks/Portland.html>

Pictured: The incredible secret world at the bottom of the sea

Sent in by: Jim Ward

Last updated at 8:36 AM on 18th October 2008

In a year-long mission, a BBC team probed a small part of the earth's amazing undersea world. They completed 1000 dives and explored seven different oceans across the globe. What they found was extraordinary...To most of us, seas and oceans are featureless expanses. On a good day, the vast surfaces stretching endlessly towards the horizon provide a picturesque foil for a sunset.

Yet these glassy waters hide an extraordinary world

Early sightings of a dugong, or sea cow, were probably responsible for the myth of the mermaids. But their numbers are declining rapidly. The expedition headed to the Bazaruto archipelago, nine miles off the coast of Mozambique, to investigate the very last sustainable population of dugongs - which are related to elephants - in the western Indian Ocean



In fact, we know more about the surface of Mars than we do about the deep ocean floors, which is why a team of experts decided to probe a small part of the planet's seas, and film it for an eight-part TV series, to be shown on BBC2 next month

Headed by Paul Rose, ex-base commander of the British Antarctic Survey and dive trainer to the US navy, the Oceans team includes maritime archaeologist Lucy Blue, marine biologist and oceanographer Tooni Mahto, and conservationist Philippe Cousteau, grandson of the celebrated underwater pioneer Jacques.



A giant manta ray, known to have the biggest brains of all fish, spotted off the south coast of Mozambique. In the background lurks a shark

Four-fifths of all life on Earth is found beneath the waves, and scientists estimate a million new species are out there waiting to be discovered.

Below the surface of the oceans there are mountains that would dwarf the Himalayas, waterfalls bigger than Niagara and more active volcanoes than anywhere else on the planet.

None of the dive team had ever seen a weedy sea dragon, found only in kelp forests. But Philippe Cousteau and Tooni Mahto struck lucky at Fortescue Bay, on the east coast of Tasmania



Below the surface of the oceans there are mountains that would dwarf the Himalayas, waterfalls bigger than Niagara and more active volcanoes than anywhere else on the planet.

To read more go to: <file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/Ja%20Van/Local%20Settings/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.IE5/A7G3EXON/>

Dolphins Blow Bubble Rings

Humans blow smoke rings but dolphins have a much healthier habit. The attached video is of dolphins playing with rings which they have the ability to make under water to play with. It isn't known how they learn this, or if it's an inbred ability.

As if by magic the dolphin does a quick flip of its head and a silver ring appears in front of its pointed beak. The ring is a solid, donut shaped bubble about 2-ft across, yet it doesn't rise to the surface of the water! It stands upright in the water like a magic doorway to an unseen dimension.

The dolphin then pulls a small silver donut from the larger one. Looking at the twisting ring for one last time a bite is taken from it, causing the small ring to collapse into a thousands of tiny bubbles which head upward towards the water's surface. After a few moments the dolphin creates another ring to play with. There also seems to be a separate mechanism for producing small rings, which a dolphin can accomplish by a quick flip of its head.



An explanation of how dolphins make these silver rings is that they are 'air-core vortex rings'. Invisible, spinning vortices in the water are generated from the tip of a dolphin's dorsal fin when it is moving rapidly and turning. When dolphins break the line, the ends are drawn together into a closed ring. The higher velocity fluid around the core of the vortex is at a lower pressure than the fluid circulating farther away. Air is injected into the rings via bubbles released from the dolphin's blowhole. The energy of the water vortex is enough to keep the bubbles from rising for a reasonably few seconds of play time.

To view the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMcf7SNUb-Q>

Underwater Video of Offshore Platforms in Gulf of Mexico

You may be interested in viewing the marine life colonizing offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. We have recorded over 25 species of obligatory and cryptic fish inhabiting the structures. In addition, there are more than 50 facultative and pelagic species. The number of different invertebrates is unknown. <http://www.ecorigs.org/Videos.html>

Imagine living, dining, or studying long-term underwater. Check out underwater habitats in the works or already created at:

<http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com/featured/incredible-underwater-habitats/2593>

Hurricane Ike and Gustav

NO! Offshore Oil Spills From Hurricane Ike

AUSTIN - In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas General Land Office Oil Spill Prevention and Response crews are busy - **but not cleaning up oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico.** Of the more than 3,800 offshore oil and gas production platforms in the Gulf, none appear to be leaking. **A direct hit on one of the nation's most important oil and gas producing regions by one of the largest hurricanes in Texas history has resulted in little or no oil in the Gulf.**

Hurricane Ike destroyed 28 of the more than 3,800 offshore production platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the Minerals Management Service. But before the storm came, crews had already shut down the wells, limiting the risk of a spill. The federal Minerals Management Service reported those 28 wells produced a total of 11,000 barrels of oil and 82 million cubic feet of gas per day.

"Despite sustaining a direct hit from a massive hurricane, there's no huge oil spills from offshore drilling," said Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office. "Congress needs to pay attention. This clearly shows that even in a worst-case scenario, we can drill offshore without hurting the coastal environment."

For current updates or information on the Texas coast after Hurricane Ike, visit www.glo.state.tx.us/ike/hurricane.html.

Adopt-A-Beach Volunteers Cleanup After Hurricane Ike

AUSTIN - Nearly 3,500 volunteers hauled more than 101 tons of trash off Texas beaches during the 22nd Annual Texas General Land Office Adopt-A-Beach Fall Cleanup Saturday. That 101-ton total is all the more impressive considering for the first time in 22 years thousands of Adopt-A-Beach volunteers couldn't reach the beaches in Beaumont, Galveston or Surfside. Thanks to Hurricane Ike, those sites were closed due to safety concerns. But Adopt-A-Beach volunteers from Matagorda Beach to Boca Chica removed a heroic amount of Hurricane Ike-related debris.

"Hurricane Ike trashed our Texas beaches," Patterson said. "But Texans know how to pull together and bounce back. That's what we saw at this weekend's cleanup."

To learn more about items collected at the cleanup, and for information on the health of the Texas coast, visit the Adopt-A-Beach Program Web site at www.texasadoptabeach.org, or contact the Texas General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST (1-877-892-6278).

Bahamas Operators, Diving Association issues updates and status reports following recent Caribbean storms.

Sent in By: Dennis Camp

Nassau, Bahamas, September 9, 2008: All Bahamas Diving Association operators are happy to report no damage from the recent rash of hurricanes that have clipped portions of the Bahamas.

Neal Watson, President of the Bahamas Diving Association states: "The Bahamas is such a huge area that often, such as what happen with Hurricane Ike, one island can be affected in the far south, with all of our dive operators being virtually unaffected." Mr. Watson continues: "Currently, all our dive operators and resorts are back to normal operation, and no damage is reported by our dive members. As of now, all airlines are in full operation, hotels open, and dive boats running."

The Bahamas Diving Association is the official association of dive operators for The islands of the Bahamas (www.bahamasdiving.com).

The following is a first-hand report of a dive on the Oriskany after Gustav. Our correspondent is Captain Dave Mucci of Blue Water Dive Adventures.

I had a charter to the Oriskany on Saturday morning, September the 6th. When my divemaster jumped in and could not find my primary sub-surface buoy, which was at 30 fsw and clearly visible prior to Gustav, the red flag went up. I tied into a secondary buoy and set the boat up for dive ops.

My divemaster prepared the clients for their first dive and I jumped in mask, fins and snorkel to search for the "lost" buoy. Visibility was about 40' on the surface and I found the buoy at around 50 fsw. After their first dive the DM reported that he thought the ship seemed deeper than he had remembered.

I had dove this spot many times and had marked it at 136 fsw, it now marked at 147 fsw. I took several marks at various locations to try to get a feel as to whether she had listed or not. The tip of the yardarm (starboard side refueling boom where the flags hang) is at 88 fsw, it was at 75 fsw, which puts the flags at around 95 fsw, they were at 85 fsw and also indicates that she has listed to starboard about five degrees.

She is still an awesome dive and somewhat a "new" dive now, but a little deeper than before.

Safe diving,
Capt. Dave
www.BluWaterAdventures.com

A grand sendoff

By Jane Howard Lee
Contributor

Sent in By: Jim Delaine

Every year during coastal Mexico's rainy season, thousands of baby turtles emerge from eggs on the Mexican shores and make their way towards the ocean.

This year they had a bit of help from a Baytown couple who not only help underwrite a program that helps protect the eggs and hatchlings, but also were there to move the freshly-hatched turtles to a sandy beach near Ixtapa. From there, the turtles will disappear into the sea.

"It was phenomenal," said Jay Eshbach who, along with wife Kay, helped release more than 3,000 tiny turtles during a two-Day period earlier this month.

Those 3,000 are among some twenty to thirty thousand turtles released after being hatched on private property belonging to a Mexican family. Eshbach said several families with waterfront property in the area participate in efforts to help ensure survival of three species of turtles that come there to lay their eggs. Some local hotels also participate, he said.

"Altogether they are expecting to release more than 100,000 just in that area this year," he added.

The life of a sea turtle is a hazardous one but most dangerous of all for the tiny hatchlings, who must survive natural predators just to get to the water after hatching.

Those that make it disappear into the sea. The males never come back to land but after eight to 10 years, females who are then at breeding age will come back to their own hatch site to lay eggs.

They come ashore at night and lay their eggs in a hole that they have dug. The mother turtles cover the eggs with sand to protect them from predators. The eggs will hatch within 40 to 51 days and the nests of babies will head for the sea. Few make it on their own but when human intervene the numbers go way up.

The program that the Eshbachs participate in sends workers to search for eggs. When a nest is located, the eggs are dug up, and then reburied in round plastic enclosures that have no bottoms. The containers are covered with cheesecloth for additional protection.

When the eggs hatch the tiny turtles are placed in larger, water-filled containers and fed for a week to 10 days, giving them extra strength for the ordeal soon to come.

When the moment comes that the turtles are deemed ready to face life on their own, they are taken from their containers and transferred to the beach. "They are released right at sunset when fewer birds are flying," Eshbach explained. Though the Eshbachs reveled in the experience, they can't recommend it as a pre-planned vacation.

"You can't be sure way in advance exactly when the eggs will be found, will hatch or when they will be released," Eshbach said. "We just got lucky."

Trash Fest 2008

Saturday, October 4, 2008
New Braunfels, Texas

Congratulations! B.A.D Wins Again

This year's results were 3,679 lbs in aggregate weight, plus an additional 3,562 bottles/cans/cups and 149 shoes/sunglasses that were counted.

Congratulations to the teams who won "Super Scooper" shirts in those categories:

Aggregate Weight

3rd place Bay Area Divers Team II

Number of Cans, Bottles, Cups

3rd place Bay Area Divers Team I

Number of Shoes/Sunglasses

2nd place Bay Area Divers Team I

Most Unusual Item (Adult)

2nd place Neil Lowery

Bay Area Divers Team I—Jim Delaine —

Linda Woodward, Mei-hwa Ferguson, Melanie Ferguson,
Neil Lowery, Dave Romano, Cindy Romano.

Bay Area Divers Team II—Christie Emerson —

Tami Thomas, Jose Garcia, Joel Skelly, David Williams,
Ashley Williams, Sharon Williams, Andrew Williams.



9 Sent in by: Catherine Schexnider

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Trips and Rebecca Jacobs Trips

Cozumel Oct 29-Nov 2 2008

Bonaire Nov 23-30 2008

Email: rebecca@wwdive.com

Contact: **Rebecca Jacobs 281.540.1616**

Contact **Rebecca Jacobs**
281.540.1616

CoCoView Resort Trip October 18-25, 2008

By Captain Randy

Come join me, Captain Randy Widaman and 13 other guest to CoCoView Resort on beautiful Roatan, Bay Island Honduras **October 18-25, 2008**. 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 6 Ocean Front A/C rooms and 1 Cabana A/C room reserved. Not included in the price is Roatans departure tax of \$32.32, tips, your bar 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@comcast.net. You can also check out Coco View'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.



Photos: www.bayareadivers.org

Advertise with BAD

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

Activities Next Scuba Classes

Email Mr.Bill.Jones@comcast.net for details.

Friday, Oct. 17, 2008: Open Water Class 6:00p-10:00p
Lecture Chapter 1 & 2 Clear Lake/Nasa area

October 25, 2008: Advanced, Rescue, Master Scuba Diver, DiveMaster, & Specialty, & Specialty certification classes at Blue Lagoon 2, Site 2.

2009

April 10, 2009: The Next Beginner Open Water Scuba Class. Email me now for details. Discounted books available right now and in class.

The **FLOWER GARDENS** –
October : 5—11, 12—18, 19



TECH TRIP to Brine Seep – Full

Capt Waldo

Act Now! Many of these trips **will sell out quickly!** ACT NOW and receive a \$25 Gift Certificate from Captain Waldo's Aquatic Emporium. **Offer ends soon, so ACT NOW!**

Contact me for details.....or use this link> <http://www.spreexpeditions.com/Default.asp?ds=Captain+Waldo>
Capt Waldo Aka Dennis Camp Denis@captianwaldos.com

FLOWER GARDENS

IKE REEF ASSESSMENT ON WEB

We were finally able to get 3 people out to the sanctuary for a quick-look at what Hurricane. Ike did to the reef. The initial Impression is that the damage is very similar to that from Hurricane Rita in 2005



Please visit our web site for details and photos: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>. There is a link from the home page.

Nov. 12 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting - Galveston, TX 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sanctuary Advisory Council Meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact [Jennifer Morgan](mailto:Jennifer.Morgan).

2009

Jan. 17th Sanctuary Birthday — The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary was designated on this date in 1992.

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New Life in Study

As a result of this census, divers from six federal agencies and universities (NOAA, U-Miami Rosenstiel School, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, National Park Service, Reef Education and Environmental Foundation, and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington) collected data showing increases in the numbers of snapper, grouper, and corals in the outermost Florida Keys — positive signs of recovery.

Toppled coral. (Credit: NOAA)

The census project itself set a record. Over the 20-day study this past summer, 1,710 research dives or studies were made — the most dives for the 38-member team since the project began. There was an average of 86 dives a day from seven feet to 110 feet deep. The divers spent the equivalent of about 46 days underwater.



“We also were looking at how the area has responded to hurricane activity,” said Ault. “This area has been hit by six major hurricanes since 2004, so we can compare that information with what we found this year to see what effect the hurricanes had on the environment.”

The full report is expected to be issued later this month.

Read more: http://www.noaa.gov/features/monitoring_1008/marinelife.html

Do all sharks have to swim continuously so that the water can flow through their gills allowing them to breathe?

Answers:

Some species of shark also have the ability to pump water across their gills while at rest, but others lack this ability. In the latter case, these sharks must continuously swim to breathe.



Stopping would mean death due to a lack of oxygen

Most oceanic sharks that live in the open seas will suffocate if they cannot move forward in the water because they must force seawater through their open mouths and over their gills to breathe. Some kinds of sharks can rest on the sea bottom where the current is strong enough to flush water over their gills, and others with well-developed gill muscles can breathe by pumping water over their gills.

W. W. DIVING COMPANY



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Nov., 2008

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At the last General Meeting:

Wednesday - September 24, 2008

NASA Neutral Buoyancy Lab Presentation

We have invited **Dennis Casey** from the NASA NBL (Neutral Buoyancy Lab) to come to our September 24th general meeting to talk to us about what is that the NASA NBL dive team does in preparing our Astronauts and the other Foreign countries that work with the ISS and Shuttle team for their next space flight. Dennis said he would try and bring some neat stuff used in the training to the meeting. Dennis got his open water certification in 1983 and his Dive Master certification in 1987. He then went on to get his captain's license in 1989 and captained the Spree and the Fling for a number of years

Get Involved Contest

We are going into our fourth year for this contest. Every time your name/or picture has been entered in the newsletter you will receive a point. The way to get you name in the newsletter is to Get Involved. We have several events coming up & need chair people. The Winner's will be announced in the January 2009 Newsletter and at that time you will receive your gift.

This is sponsored by the Editor.

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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

34th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Nov 1st - 6 PM - 11 PM

\$15 all-you-can-eat

Door prizes - Diver of the year election

at the Monument Inn – La Porte, Texas

4405 Battleground Road

All you can eat served at the table buffet

For tickets contact

Randy Widaman c 832-264-8047 h 281-338-808

cap10randy@comcast.net

Christie Emerson 281-701-6997

crazamora@earthlink.net

Jim Delane 281-782-7469 jimdelane@gmail.com

Anniversary Party Cake

Over \$800.00 in Door Prizes



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