



Deep Sea Digest

Winter 2005/2006

**** Ohhh...The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful... ****

Well, this is Texas, so that's not always an accurate statement, especially when it comes to TrashFest... We had an absolutely gorgeous weekend, and had good participation in Trashfest. This year, participation was down for a variety of reasons, but on the flip side of this, the amount of material collected by the teams was double past years performances. We typically average 35-40 teams each year with trash collection totaling approximately 1/2 of a 40-yard roll-off bin. This year, we had 18 participating teams that nearly filled a 40-yard bin. The total trash collected was over 25,000 cans, bottles and cups and aggregate weight totals were nearly 7,500 pounds. The weather could not have been nicer, with the daytime high in the low 80's, not a cloud in the sky, and no threats of rain or floods canceling this years event. By the time all of the diver's had turned in trash and got cleaned up for dinner,



we ended up with almost 150 people attending, enjoying dinner catered by Schwabb's Sausage House, and liquid refreshment from Wright Distributing in New Braunfels. Approximately \$10,000 worth of door prizes were awarded, including three trips, several

cameras, scuba gear galore, and items from local merchants (including stays a local inns and bed & breakfast's).

Again this year, without the support of the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, New Braunfels Parks & Recreation Department, local businesses such as Schwabb's and Wright Distributing, this event could not have gone as smoothly as it did. Trashfest and TGCC would also like to thank our many

sponsors, such as Sea Sports Scuba, Ken Lee's AquaSports, Sport Diver's of Houston, Houston Scuba Academy, Utila Tours, and the good folks in Roatan, Honduras. Raffle tickets were also sold to support Jimmy Atkinson and the Toys for the Kids project.

As President and Trashfest Coordinator, I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered in working the event and behind the scenes, most especially Dr. Dick Zingula, who has worked tirelessly for many, many years to help make Trashfest a success. Watch the TGCC website for a full report coming soon (we do not yet have all the donations totaled up yet).

TrashFest 2006
 Saturday October 7th
 New Braunfels, Texas
 Registration 8-10AM
 Assigned Diving 11AM-1PM
 Open Diving 1-3PM
 Dinner 5 PM

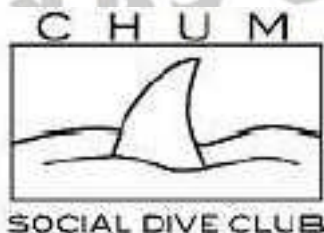
CLUB BRIEFS

BAY AREA DIVERS – BAD will be having their general meeting and election of Officers at the November meeting. There will be no meetings in December. BAD's annual flea market was a huge success! Look for details at their website:



<http://www.bayareadivers.org>

CHUM Club - What do you know...CHUM will celebrate their first anniversary in December! They're going to combine the Anniversary Bash with their Christmas party on December the 1st.



Come join them at Saint Arnold's Brewery to help celebrate. [Click here](#) for details. Tickets in advance are \$20 cash, \$21 via Paypal or \$25 cash at the door. <http://www.chumclub.org>

HUC (Houston Underwater Club) - HUC will be holding their officer elections and election of Diver of the Year at the November meeting. 2006 dues are also due in for membership. <http://www.hucscuba.org>



HUPS (Houston Underwater Photographic Society) – HUPS will have a busy December: Annual Best of HUPS Contest – Leader of the Pride



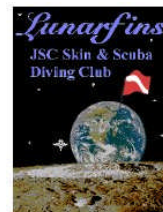
Slide contest - Novice & advanced categories
* Indo-Pacific
* Caribbean/Gulf

Digital contest - Novice & advanced categories
* Open – but taken with a digital camera

* Anything Goes – digital, scanned, edited, creative images

<http://www.hups.org>

Lunarfinz – December 3-10th, Lunarfinz will have a trip to Cozumel, and a Christmas Party on the 17th.



<http://www.geocities.com/lunarfinz/Default.html>

To All Clubs: Be sure and drop a line to TGCC's editor and president when your 2006 calendars are lined out so that we can get your events listed!

To our other members, if you know of any type of dive event that would be of interest to our clubs members or if you're planning a trip and want to invite others along, be sure and let us know about them. We'll be glad to print a brief synopsis of the event, along with website addresses or contact information.

Send all correspondence to Todd Rushing at txscubaman@yahoo.com.

The TGCC's NEW Website is up and running at:
<http://www.tgccdiving.org>
Come Check Us Out!

We've all had bad hair days before... but I really had to show off Bill's bad hair day!



In Other News... News from the diving world

Human impact on coral reefs far worse than tsunami

ACEH, Indonesia (8 Nov 2005) - HUMANS have made more of an impact on coral reefs in Indonesia's Aceh province than the devastating Boxing Day tsunami, researchers have discovered.

The findings, published today in the international science magazine *Current Biology*, found "chronic human misuse" had far greater repercussions for reefs closest to the epicentre of the Sumatra-Andaman earthquake, which triggered the killer wave on Boxing Day last year.



Dynamite and chemical fishing turn coral reefs into graveyards.

Researchers from north Queensland's James Cook University (JCU) and Indonesian ecologists found damage to reefs on the north-west coast of Aceh Indonesia, where the tsunami was most ferocious, was "surprisingly limited".

In contrast, on reefs exposed to destructive human practices such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, and to land runoff from fertilisers and sediment, had turned once vibrant coral colonies into "graveyards".

"The tsunami-related damage we saw was mainly to large colonies growing in sand and rubble that had been excavated from underneath," said Andrew Baird, a senior research fellow at JCU's Centre for Coral Reef Biodiversity.

"Underwater a lot of these colonies were overturned, some of them were completely buried.

"But the damage we saw caused by humans involved large rubble fields, and very few live colonies with a uniform cover of algae where there should be vibrant coral colour."

The team visited the region within three months of the tsunami, surveying 200 km of coastline over three weeks.

Dr Baird said today the impact of the tsunami was "trivial" compared to the destruction caused by humans.

He estimated humans were responsible for 80 per cent of the damage to 49 coral reefs in the study site, while the tsunami was thought to have caused as little as five to 10 per cent.

Dr Baird said tsunami damage included occasional broken coral branches, presumably a result of impacts of debris such as building materials, and coral which had been dumped up to 100 metres from affected reefs.

But he said apart from some sediment damage, there had been no change in fragile shallow coral assemblages.

"I'd been on these reefs in 2003 and there was no change despite the fact that the tsunami in areas was up to 10 metres high," Dr Baird said.

"I was stunned to see those fragile colonies still in place."

Dr Baird said there was a "reasonable" chance of recovery of the reefs if human impacts could be minimised.

He said researchers also found there was no evidence to back claims that healthy, intact reefs could offer protection from tsunamis.

"Whether you've got a healthy reef or no reef, it doesn't make any difference - when a big tsunami hits, you're in trouble," Dr Baird said.

Cruise ship blasted pirates with sonic weapon

SOMALIA (7 Nov 2005) -- The crew of a luxury cruise ship used a sonic weapon that blasts earsplitting noise in a directed beam while being attacked by a gang of pirates off Africa this weekend, the cruise line said Monday.

The Seabourn Spirit had a Long Range Acoustic Device, or LRAD, installed as a part of its defense



Seabourn Spirit under repair after pirate attack off the east coast of Africa.

systems, said Bruce Good, a spokesman for Miami-based Seabourn Cruise Line. The Spirit was about 100 miles off Somalia when pirates fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns as they tried to get onboard.

The subsidiary of Carnival Corp. was investigating whether the weapon was successful in warding off the pirates, he said. The ship's captain also changed its course, shifted into high speed and headed out into the open sea to elude the pirates, who were in two small boats, he said. He had no further details.

Device maker American Technology Corp. said earsplitting "bangs" were directed by trained security personnel toward the pirates. That, combined with ship maneuvers, caused the attackers to leave the area, the company said.

The LRAD is a so-called "non-lethal weapon" developed for the U.S. military after the 2000 attack on the USS Cole off Yemen as a way to keep operators of small boats from approaching U.S. warships.

The military version is a 45-pound, dish-shaped device that can direct a high-pitched, piercing tone with a tight beam. Neither the LRAD's

operators or others in the immediate area are affected.

American Technology, based in San Diego, compares its shrill tone to that of smoke detectors, only much louder. It can be as loud as about 150 decibels, while smoke alarms are about 80 to 90 decibels.

The devices have been deployed on commercial and naval vessels worldwide since summer 2003, the company said.

Another week, another scuba diving fatality in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California (6 Nov 2005) -- A second scuba diving accident in the San Diego area has claimed the life of a scuba diver who died off the coast of La Jolla.

Richard Hart, 48, was found unconscious about 100 meters offshore and was rushed to Scripps Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The victim was diving with other friends who said he aborted the dive at the surface prior to the descent due to rough sea conditions.

They last saw him swimming back to shore but he never made it.

The death of the diver was the second scuba diving fatality in the San Diego in two weeks.

On October 30, Daniel Fisch, 54, died while diving near kelp beds off Point Loma.

Advanced Diving shut down, owner permanently banned as dive guide

PLACENCIA, Belize (30 Oct 2005) -- Advanced Diving of Placencia, Belize has been forced to shut down in the aftermath of a dive trip accident that killed one scuba diver and critically injured three others.

The Tour Operating Licensing Committee of the Belize Tourism Board voted unanimously to shut

down Advanced Diving and permanently ban owner Vance Cabral and divemaster Henry Mark Tucker from participating in commercial dive tour activities.

Officials said the strict penalties were based on the police investigation of the October 22 accident and a previous accident in late December 2004 when the "Advanced One" dive boat owned and operated by Advanced Diving capsized injuring several tourists.

In addition to losing their licenses to work as professional dive guides, both Cabral and Tucker could face several criminal charges including negligence, manslaughter and operating without valid operator and guide licences.

Police said that because the surviving divers have admitted leaving the "Advanced One" dive boat voluntarily, it could be difficult to prosecute Cabral and Tucker on the more serious charges.

Advanced Diving led a group of 10 tourists on an ill-fated boat diving trip 20 miles offshore to Silk Caye despite small craft warnings, no onboard emergency equipment, no drinking water and a broken radio.

After the small dive boat's engine failed and it started drifting out to sea, four divers abandoned the vessel and attempted to swim for shore. One of the divers was not wearing a wetsuit and died after drifting at sea for three days.

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Sanctuary Forms Advisory Council - Public Invited to Attend First Meeting

The sanctuary staff welcomes aboard the newly formed Flower



Garden Banks Sanctuary Advisory Council! A big "thank you!" to the many highly qualified individuals who submitted applications volunteering to serve in the various council seats. It made the selection process quite a challenge and we hope individuals who were not

selected can lend their talents in other capacities. New council members will have an orientation meeting November 9, 2005. Interested members of the public are also encouraged to attend. For meeting details and to RSVP, please contact Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov or call (979) 846-5942.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Membership Elected Citizen Seats:

Recreational Diving, Primary Member - **Richard Zingula**
Recreational Diving, Alternate Member - to be announced

Diving Operations, Primary Member - **Frank Wasson**
Diving Operations, Alternate Member - **Arthur Melvin**

Oil & Gas Production, Primary Member - **Clint Moore**
Oil & Gas Production, Alternate Member - **Timothy Gibson**

Recreational Fishing, Primary Member - **Irby Basco**
Recreational Fishing, Alternate Member - **John Stout**

Commercial Fishing, Primary Member - to be announced
Commercial Fishing, Alternate Member - to be announced

Research, Primary Member - **Ian MacDonald**
Research, Alternate Member - **John Embesi**

Education, Primary Member - **Haidee Williams**
Education, Alternate Member - **Kristina Hardwick**

Conservation, Primary Member - **Page Williams**
Conservation, Alternate Member - to be announced

Appointed Governmental Seats

Minerals Management Service - **James Sinclair**
NOAA Fisheries - **Rusty Swafford**
US Coast Guard - to be announced

(Editor's note: If you see any of these folks or want to contact them, be sure and thank them for serving the diving community...)

RECIPES From the heart...

SHRIMP KISSES

I tried this in a restaurant in Galveston during the Lone Star Bike Rally, and thought I had died and gone to heaven, so I thought other folks might be interested in this one... Some of it is a guess as to what they used, but I would imagine that it will be very close.

1 Lb. Shrimp (16-30 count), deveined, tail on
Monterrey Jack Cheese
Bacon
Flour
KC Masterpiece BBQ Sauce

Take the deveined shrimp and butterfly them. Insert a wedge of Monterrey Jack cheese and wrap the shrimp and cheese with bacon (should be about 1/3 to 1/2 slice per shrimp) and secure with a toothpick. Roll this shrimp/cheese/bacon assembly in flour and deep fry until bacon is done. Drizzle the whole bunch with BBQ sauce and enjoy. *If you want to try the originals, go to 'Fish Tales' on Seawall Blvd. and be sure to order the Baby back rib & shrimp kisses combination. Both were fantastic!*



Seafood/Chicken/Sausage Gumbo – Quick and Easy

This is one that I have made a couple of times, and have even made it for large numbers of people (up to 120+ at a time)...

Choose any combination of the first three ingredients:

1 Lb shrimp (30-50 count size)
1 Lb course sausage (like Chappell Hill or Eddy's)
3 Lbs chicken leg quarters

1 bunch celery, diced including leafy center
1 large can diced tomatoes
3-5 cubes chicken bouillion
1 Lb frozen cut okra
1 bunch green onions, diced
1 container Tony Cacherie's Instant Roux
Instant Rice

Prepare the Roux per the directions on the package. Should make enough for up to 5 gallons per container of mix, so judge according to your needs. If using chicken, boil and de-bone the leg quarters (cut up chicken to bite size pieces). Save the broth. If using sausage, slice into thin slices (~1/4 inch thick). Add enough of the chicken stock (or bouillion and hot water) to the roux to make your soup. Add celery and simmer for about 10 minutes or until the roux/stock mixture reduces slightly. Add the chicken or sausage and simmer about 30 minutes or until chicken is just beginning to fall apart. **If using shrimp wait to add it until the last 10 minutes of cooking.** Add the okra and canned tomatoes (drained), simmer 5 minutes. At this point add shrimp if desired, and add 1 cup instant rice per gallon of stock. Simmer ~5 minutes or until shrimp and rice are done. Sprinkle with diced green onions and serve with your favorite bread or crackers. Makes ~1 gallon.

Got a favorite recipe? send it to txscubaman@yahoo.com

T E X A S
M A R I N E
M A M M A L
S T R A N D I N G
N E T W O R K

On the Web <http://www.cdnn.info>
Cyber Diver News Network

**A shameless plug for some of our friends:
Check out Gulf Diving's website to see
dates of trips and participating dive shops
that offer them!**



<http://www.gulf-diving.com/>

TGCC Needs Your Help!!!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again... TGCC needs your help! We need people who are willing to volunteer as council officers. I know many of you will say that it takes up too much of your time, but think about how little time you have to donate to make a huge difference! As a TGCC board member or Club Representative, you will: attend six (6) meetings a year (unless the council deems more are necessary), deliver club reports, vote on council business, such as budgets and spending, and coordinate clubs to promote activities within clubs. Each of the meetings lasts about one (1) hour and occur on odd-number months. Can't you spare just 6 hours per year???

Here's the dilemma... every officer and club representative for 2005 was unelected! Noone was willing to run for office in 2005, so each of the officers agreed to stay on from 2004 to 2005. Now several of our officers have conflicts that make attending the meetings impossible. We need officers from each club (club reps) and general officers (President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor). If the council cannot get any volunteers for 2006 (*we will hold elections in January*), then there may not be a council anymore! That could mean the end of great things like College Scholarships and Trashfest! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! Volunteer today and help save the council!

TGCC Annual Diver of the Year Banquet

February 4, 2006

Watch for details at the TGCC Website, <http://www.tgccdiving.org>

TGCC
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