



Deep Sea Digest

Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs
Winter 2008

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TGCC Banquet **February 2, 2008**

The TGCC Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for February 2, 2008 at Chabucca's in Webster. The social hour begins at 6 PM and dinner is served at 7 PM. Chabucca's is located at 316 W Nasa Rd 1, Webster, TX 77598. For tickets and menus, go to www.tgccdiving.org



Trashfest T-Shirt Contest Winner

Amy Lipp, a local graphic designer, submitted the winning entry for the new Trashfest T-shirt logo. Congratulations, Amy!

News from TGCCDIVING.ORG **TPWD Funding**

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) funding and accounting of the Artificial Reef Fund (ARF) has been a concern of our member dive clubs for some time now. We have encouraged divers to be proactive in sending [letters and petitions](#) concerning the Artificial Reef Program. Our concern is ensuring that the monies allocated for artificial reefs are being used wisely towards that purpose. Therefore, we have been politically active both publicly and behind the scenes to seek a full accounting of these funds. Last month, this [Houston Chronicle article](#) outlines how state parks are funded and notes that the state legislature is expected to increase state park funding soon. But it also describes a scathing report recently released by the state auditor on how TPWD manages it's finances. More recently, TGCC 2nd Vice-President George Clark sent a letter to the Senate Finance Committee and Senate Natural Resources Committee requesting a full accounting from TPWD of both the Sports Fish Restoration Act (SFRA) and the Artificial Reef Fund (ARF) for the past 5 years. We will keep you update on this issue and continue to encourage you to write letters and petitions to both elected and appointed representatives.

New Rules for Travelers



With the new year comes a new requirement that all air travelers, including U.S. citizens, will need a valid passport to enter the United States. Those traveling by land and sea have until June 2009 before they are required to carry a passport. The U.S. Postal Service handles passport applications. Fees to the State Department for adults are \$67 (children under 16 are \$52) for the passport and a \$30 execution fee to the Postmaster. You will be required to supply a 2x2 inch photo or you can have your photo taken at select Post Office locations that process passports. For complete information and to locate the closest Post Office visit the website: www.usps.com/passport or call (800) 275-8777.

Congratulations To Our 2007 Scholarship Winners

TGCC has awarded two \$1000 college scholarships for 2007. Kristen Roberts, representing HUC received one of the scholarships. Alice McDonald, attending Texas A&M University and representing CHUM Club received the other scholarship. Congratulations to both of them.

RECALLS ON DIVE GEAR

Oceanic Regulators:

Oceanic Regulator First Stages Model CDX5
Certain serial numbers from 30202856 through
51312641 -and- Purchased from May 2006
through October 2007

Model FDX10 Certain serial numbers from
51408026 through 51411813 -and- Purchased
from May 2006 through October 2007

Models CDX, DXi, DX3, DX4, and TDX5 All
serial numbers -and- Serviced from May 2006
through October 2007

AERIS Regulator First Stages Model AT400
Certain serial numbers from 30200036 through
51311560 -and- Purchased from May 2006
through October 2007

Balanced Diaphragm All serial numbers -and-
Serviced from May 2006 through October 2007

M&J Engineering: SW-3000 Aga OmniSwivel

Innovative Scuba Concepts: HO110 Swivel



Trashfest wishes to thank Nathan Pence and the staff of the New Braunfels Parks & Recreation for their support of Trashfest 2007!

Club Calendars

January, 2008

3-10 – Lunarfin's Cozumel Trip
7 – HUPS General Meeting
9 – Lunarfin's General Meeting
17 – Chum Club General Meeting
19 – HUC General Meeting – Covered Dish Social
26,27 – Texas Dive Show – JW Marriot Hotel



February, 2008

2 – TGCC Annual Awards Banquet – Chabucca's, Webster
4 – HUPS General Meeting
6 – Lunarfin's General Meeting
16 – HUC General Meeting
21 – Chum Club General Meeting
23 – Sea Turtle Saturday – Houston Zoo

March, 2008

3 – HUC General Meeting
5 – Lunarfin's General Meeting
16 – HUC General Meeting
20 – Chum Club General Meeting



April, 2008

May, 2008

17-24 – HUPS Bali Trip

August, 2008

TBA - Bill Jones Cozumel Trip



October, 2008

4 – Trashfest 2008
18-25 – Captain Randy's CoCo View Trip



Underwater archaeologists find Captain Kidd's 1699 shipwreck

CATALINA ISLAND, Dominican Republic (14 Dec 2007) — Resting in less than 10 feet of Caribbean seawater, the wreckage of Quedagh Merchant, the ship abandoned by the scandalous 17th century pirate Captain William Kidd as he raced to New York in an ill-fated attempt to clear his name, has escaped discovery -- until now.

An underwater archaeology team from Indiana University announced Dec. 13 the discovery of the remnants. IU marine protection authority Charles Beeker said his team has been licensed to study the wreckage and to convert the site into an underwater preserve, where it will be accessible to the public.

Beeker, director of Academic Diving and Underwater Science Programs in IU Bloomington's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, said it is remarkable that the wreck has remained undiscovered all these years given its location, just 70 feet off the coast of Catalina Island in the Dominican Republic, and because it has been sought actively by treasure hunters.

"I've been on literally thousands of shipwrecks in my career," Beeker said. "This is one of the first sites I've been on where I haven't seen any looting. We've got a shipwreck in crystal clear, pristine water that's amazingly untouched. We want to keep it that way, so we made the announcement now to ensure the site's protection from looters."

The find is valuable because of the potential to reveal important information about piracy in the Caribbean and about the legendary Capt. Kidd, said John Foster, California's state underwater archaeologist, who is participating in the research.

"I look forward to a meticulous study of the ship, its age, its armament, its construction, its use, its contents and the reconstructed wrecking process that resulted in the site we see today," Foster said. "Because there is extensive, written documentation, this is an opportunity we rarely have to test historic information against the archaeological record."

Historians differ on whether Kidd was actually a pirate or a privateer -- someone who captured pirates. After his conviction of piracy and murder charges in a sensational London trial, he was left to hang over the River Thames for two years. Historians write that Kidd captured the Quedagh Merchant, loaded with valuable satins and silks, gold, silver and other East Indian merchandise, but left the ship in the Caribbean as he sailed to New York on a less conspicuous sloop to clear his name of the criminal charges.

Anthropologist Geoffrey Conrad, director of IU Bloomington's Mathers Museum of World Cultures, said the men Kidd entrusted with his ship reportedly looted it, and then set it ablaze and adrift down the Rio Dulce. Conrad said the location of the wreckage and the formation and size of the canons, which had been used as ballast, are consistent with historical records of the ship. They also found pieces of several anchors under the cannons.

"All the evidence that we find underwater is consistent with what we know from historical documentation, which is extensive," Conrad said. "Through rigorous archeological investigations, we will conclusively prove that this is the Capt. Kidd shipwreck." The IU team examined the shipwreck at the request of the Dominican Republic's Oficina Nacional De Patrimonio Cultural Subacuático.

"The site was initially discovered by a local prominent resident of Casa De Campo, who recognized the significance of the numerous cannons and requested the site be properly investigated," said ONPCS Technical Director Francis Soto. "So, I contacted IU."

Beeker and Conrad have worked closely with ONPCS for 11 years since they began conducting underwater and land-based archaeological research related to the era when the Old World and New World first met.

"It continues our work down there from the age of discovery to the golden age of piracy, the transformation of both the native and introduced cultures of the Caribbean," Conrad said.

Much of their work is focused in the area of La Isabela Bay, the site of the first permanent Spanish settlement established by Christopher Columbus. The Taino were the first indigenous people to interact with Europeans. Beeker said much of the history of this period is based on speculation, something he and Conrad are trying to change.

The IU research in the Dominican Republic typically involves professors and graduate students from various IU Bloomington schools and departments, including the School of HPER, the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and the departments of anthropology, biology, geology and mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Anthropology doctorate student Fritz Hanselmann, who teaches underwater archaeology techniques in HPER, said there have only been a few pirate ships ever discovered in the Americas, and that IU's multi-disciplinary research will make a significant contribution to the field.



Trashfest 2007 Sponsors



Annual Awards Banquet

February 2, 2008

Social 6:00 PM / Dinner 7:00 PM

Chabuca's International Grill

316 W. Nasa Rd 1, Webster, TX 77598

Menu

The Sampler Platter

Choose any three (3) items from the rotisserie. Served with mashed potatoes and a fresh green vegetable medley. Help yourself to our selection of salads.

Angus Beef

Eye of Round
Montreal
Basil Garlic Inside
Round
Six Pepper Sirloin
Spanish Cap
Argentine Churrasco
Filet Mignon Montreal

Poultry

Tender Duck Confit
Flamed Turkey
Glazed Chicken Breast
Fruit and Peppers
Honey glazed Melon
Honey Hawaiian Pineapple
Manioc Cheese Bread
Grilled Peppers and Onions



Shrimp

Flame grilled shrimp

Lamb

Succulent Leg of Lamb

Pork

Honey Glazed Smoked Ham
Smoked Polish Sausage
Cheddar Jalapeno Sausage
Spicy Italian Sausage
Boneless Pork Loin Parmesan
Bacon-wrapped Pork Mignons

Dixieland Delicacies

Cajun Pork Boudin
Deep Fried Frog Legs
Fried Louisiana Gator
Tail



Tickets \$30

Contact your club rep for tickets or pay online at

<http://www.tgccdiving.org>

Please RSVP and return your payment by January 26, 2008 to:

TGCC, P.O. Box 2314, Bellaire, TX 77402

Scuba-Tini oceanic martini

A murky, but delicious martini like the depths of the ocean, and even a deadly critter.

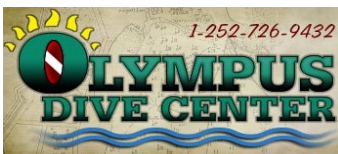
Ingredients

- 6 ounces of Blavod black vodka.
- 1 ounce of Blue Curacao.
- 1/4 teaspoon of freshly squeezed lemon juice.
- 1 small toy rubber shark.

The mix

- Pour your Blue Curacao and Blavod black vodka into a shaker 1/2 full of cracked ice.
- Shake, shake, shake...and shake some more daddy-o. Give it a good minute of shaking.
- Add your lemon juice and swirl the shaker a few times.
- Strain your beautifully murky liquid into two frozen martini glasses.

Call your guest's attention to yourself by madly waving the rubber shark to and fro above the martini glasses (keep this up for about fifteen seconds--any longer and they will call the authorities).

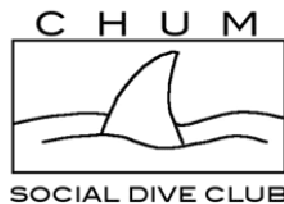


More great Trashfest Sponsors...

Club Listings



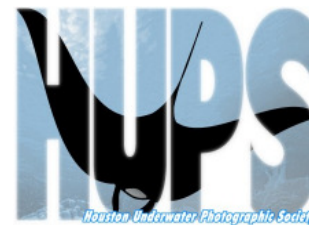
www.lunarfins.com



www.chumclub.org



www.hucscuba.org



www.hups.org



www.shoekrewe.net

TGCC Dive Clubs
P.O. Box 2314
Bellaire, Texas 77014

[Place Address Label Here]

Texas Clipper Begins Fourth Life as a Reef

From the TPWD Website

The Texas Clipper began her new life as an artificial reef on Saturday, November 17, 2007, in the Gulf of Mexico 17 nautical miles off the coast of South Padre Island. She fought hard not to sink as she slowly took on water when the valves for sinking were opened just before 11:00 am. She began to sink more quickly about 12:20 as water entered large openings in her sides, and then plunged quickly below the surface at 12:35 pm CDT in a plume of spray and bubbles. A small armada of boats carried curious visitors to the site as officials from Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service observed the reefing. A TPWD helicopter hovered overhead to capture an aerial view of the event for the media and those who could not venture onto the Gulf waters. A number of former crew members of the ship made it through the rough seas aboard chartered and private vessels to witness the transition to her fourth and final life as home to sea life and a destination for divers and anglers. Perhaps many will now take up sport diving as a new hobby to continue visiting her as she surrounds herself with a growth of marine organisms. Scientists will soon be studying the development of the reef community. TPWD Artificial Reef Program staff will gather data on her exact location and orientation on the bottom, and provide a detailed report on this website.

