

NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

April 2004

The **BAD** Calendar

April, 2004

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 11 Happy Easter
- 28 BAD General Membership Meeting

May, 2004

- 4 BAD BOD Meeting
- 14-23 BAD Classes (see Page 6) — Bill Jones
- 15-22 CoCo View 2004 Trip – Randy Widaman
- 26 BAD General Membership Meeting

June, 2004

- 1 BAD BOD Meeting
- 4-6 Seaspace
- 26 2nd Annual Blue Lagoon Picnic
- 30 BAD General Membership Meeting

July, 2004

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 17 Canoe Trip – Beverly Cutler
- 23-25 Spearfishing Rodeo – Dennis Camp

August, 2004

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- 6 Jamaica — Bill Jones
- 23 Cozumel — Bill Jones
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting

September, 2004

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

October, 2004

- 2 TRASHFEST
- 9 B.A.D. FLEAMARKET
- 13-16 DEMA
- 23 Galveston Strand Historical Tour

December, 2004

- 11 Austin Steam Train Trip



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

April Meeting At our April 28th General Meeting we have invited back by popular demand Mr. John Forsythe. John has been with the UTMB Marine Bio Medical Institute for 29 years now and has done research and studies on Cuttle Fish. John is bringing to us this month a presentation on "Flamboyant Cuttle Fish" You may remember 2 years ago John talk to us about "Mimic Octopuses". So you really don't want to miss this presentation by John Forsythe. Hope to see you all at the meeting and be sure to invite a guest or even better call up an old BAD member that has not been to a meeting in some time.

At the March Meeting BAD would like to thank all the vendors that attended the "Open House". They were Bill Jones, TMMSN, Oceanic Ventures, Houston Scuba Academy, Gigglin Divers, Divers Paradise, W.W. Diving, Frank and Joyce Burek, Jesse Cancelmo, Moody Gardens, Sport Divers, Diving Adventures, Robert Straight, Aquatic Excursions, BAD Merchandise sales, H.E.A.R.T., Vic Bowen, JP Distributing Co., and DEE Rags by Davida Hinton. All our guests had excellent presentations and were well received by our membership. So thanks again to our diving friends for coming out and showing us what it is they have to offer to the diving community.



April

Don Barnes	5
Forest DeVore	11
John Taylor	14
Bill Whitehouse	19

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: **May 9th, 2004** E-Mail javan@wt.net



FINS TO THE LEFT . . . FINS TO THE RIGHT

by Mike White

It's April. My azaleas have bloomed, and my clocks have sprung forward, so I know that spring is finally here. I have passed my two sailing courses with flying colors (highest grades in the class, thank you very much), and am now in the middle of the third course, which will qualify me to bareboat charter sailboats in those exotic dive destinations.

More importantly, April means the scuba diving season has finally arrived. BAD has already been out to the Flower Gardens in March, and from what I hear it was an excellent trip, with lots of shark sightings, but also with a few cases of seasickness. If you look on the BAD Calendar on the front page of the newsletter, or on the BAD web page, you will see we will soon be having some local club activities, in addition to the BAD diving trips that are planned. Get ready to participate.

And also get ready to bring some ideas to the Board and the club. At the April meeting, we will set aside some time during the meeting for a round table discussion for members to make suggestions for events and activities to add to the BAD calendar, especially activities that can be held in the local area to allow lots of BADdies to participate. We already have a few on the calendar, but

RETURN TO BAD– Members

NEW BAD Members

want to add more. So give this some thought and bring you ideas to the April meeting.

SEASPACE 2004 is approaching on June 4-6, and we will need volunteers to set up and man the BAD booth. I will have a sign up chart for people to volunteer a little time to BAD for SEASPACE. Please reserve some time on calendar now, and come to the April meeting ready to sign your name. If you cannot attend the April meeting, then just send me an e-mail and volunteer that way. I'll fit you in.

Finally, a reminder that at the April meeting we will be discussing and voting on a new official logo for Bay Area Divers. More detail is provided elsewhere in the newsletter, but please come with your thoughts on this important decision.

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

OFFICERS 2004

President	Mike White	beermike@aol.com
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Secretary	Madeleine Barnes	dwmbkb@aol.com
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Board:	Beverly Cutler	bcutler@pdq.net
Board:	Todd Rushing	trushing@wt.net
Board:	Butch Shannon	butch@pdq.net

WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org

BAD's 2nd Annual Blue Lagoon Pic-nic June 26 & 27, 2004

It is going to be upon us before we know it. So mark your calendar for this bubble blowing event and picnic. Details are still being worked out but there will be an under water hunt, an afternoon picnic, overnight camping and all the diving you could want to do in 36 hours. This will be a great opportunity to check out your dive gear, have some underwater fun and visit with your dive buddies. Be watching for more details next month.

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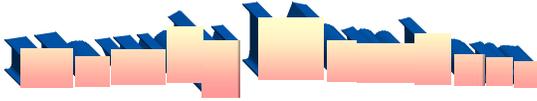


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Deadline for article submission for next month is: **May 9, 2004**



We flew back into Houston Saturday, March 20th with a myriad of stories and adventures. The weather was great, water temp was 81, seas 2-4 with an occasional 5' thrown in for fun and the diving just as spectacular as last year. We did do some new things, so if you haven't been to Roatan in the last 2 years, here are some different things to try.

1 - the Canopy Tour is an eleven (11) wire tree to tree platform that starts on the road at the top of a mountain on the West End and ends up on the beach. Six members of our group tried this and we had a blast making our Tarzan yells!! Exhilarating would not describe this event. Feel free to call Chuck & Susan, Don & Mad or George Tamalis if you desire more specifics. Cost was just \$35/pp - CASH only .

2 - the new Shark dive is something all of you should try. You go 3 miles offshore to a 70' u/w plateau where the shark folks bring a bucket of food. The grey reef sharks (all female) were gathering as we made our descent. The max group size is 12 and we had 11 on this trip. Although the dive is only for 30 minutes, Susan counted 16 sharks by the time they opened the bucket. The sharks (as they swim around) are all within an arms length away. We got lots of video and pictures so ask Don & Mad, Forest, Chuck & Susan or George if you have any questions. Price was \$73/pp and yes, they take credit cards.

3 - the "M/V BUD" is the newest wreck dive site. Good penetration available. Wreck is still to new to have lots of growth but the wall is just 40' feet away from the bow. No extra cost for this dive.

Forest and Elva did an island self guided tour in a rented car. We all went out Thursday night to Gio's for a crab dinner. Man the mallets were flying that night! The new hot tub at CoCoView got lots of visits.

There were three eagle rays flying around the Prince Albert and Neuman's Wall the whole time we were there. Many sea horses and one pipe fish found. Laura has started shooting u/w digital stills. Looking over her shoulder, well, she is going to give Rick a run for his money.

We had 3 members take their advanced PADI rating - so please say congratulations to Barbara Morales and Mad & Don Barnes! Now they want to take the class to be a Moody volunteer. For next year, we are looking into a resort on one of the Bahama Islands. More later and happy bubbles!!

Chuck & Susan Boyd

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AFTER MEETING GATHERING

By Beverly Cutler

For our 'After Meeting Gathering', Wed. April 28, let's try this. Bring a suggestion to the next meeting about where you would like to go for a bite to eat, maybe a beer and more socializing. I am sure there are places close to the meeting location we would like to go that I am not aware of. I would like to go someplace I have not been before. See all at the BAD General Membership Meeting.

B.A.D. DIVERS JUST GET BETTER!



BAD Diver **Jose Garcia** earned two PADI Specialty Certifications while on the March **BAD Hammerhead Shark Trip** to the Flower Gardens. Jose adds Boat Diver and Deep Diver to his collection of four other specialty certifications and now earns his Master Scuba Diver certification resulting in a total three certifications earned on the trip. Jose holds other PADI and NAUI certifications including Rescue Diver, Divemaster, and Assistant Instructor. Jose plans to complete his Gulf-Diving Divemaster class this year. Congratulations to Jose for continuing his diving education.



BAD Trip to Flower Gardens

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Freeport, Texas.

BAD Captains **Randy Widaman** and **Ken Kimmey** piloted the **M/V Fling** loaded with BAD divers to the Flower Gardens on March 19. BAD **Joe Pechacek** dive-mastered seven fabulous dives in almost current-less water. Visibility was running 75 feet.



Divers saw Hammerheads, other sharks, turtles, large schools of Barracudas, Groupers, eels, manta rays, and lobsters on the annual BAD Hammerhead Shark Trip. Water temperatures ranged from 67 to 71 degrees with divers using everything from 3mm-wetsuits to drysuits. BAD **Beverly Cutler** worked the galley keeping all of the hungry divers happy.

Divers were treated to the sights of the automated Mobil Oil Rig HI-A-389a. Built in the late 70's, the high-tech rig has been under the Flower Gardens Sanctuary rules since 1992 when President Bush ordered the site to be protected by the **Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act**. Large orange-spotted Filefish, Angel fish, Groupers, and Barracudas seemed to dominate the rig's huge legs. This rig is clearly a home to plenty of large species that will delight all of its diving visitors.

BAD Trip Leader **Jose Garcia** worked on diving specialty certifications with other students while having a fun and exciting weekend vacation. BADies that missed this trip should begin planning to go on other trip deals offered by club members this year. If you have never been on a dive trip with other BAD divers, you've missed being with a group of people that know how to have a great time.

The Flower Gardens are the northernmost living coral reefs on the continental shelf of the United States.

NAVY SELECTS RECIPIENT OF FIRST OBSOLETE WARSHIP TO BE USED AS ARTIFICIAL REEF

By *Randy Widaman*

The Navy announced today that it intends to transfer the former aircraft carrier ex-ORISKANY (CVA 34) to the State of Florida for use as an artificial reef. The Navy was granted authority to transfer obsolete warships to States for artificial reefing purposes under the Fiscal Year 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 108-136).

"This selection represents another step forward in the Navy's efforts to safely reduce its inventory of obsolete ships by cost-effective means that also have proven benefits to the marine environment" commented Rear Admiral Charles S. Hamilton, the Navy's Program Executive Officer, Ships. Captain Lawrence M. Hones, Jr., Program Manager, Inactive Ships Program Office (PMS).

Everyone:

I am sending you (almost 200 of you) this e-mail so you can hear it from me first. Nave has awarded the Oriskany to Florida. The news release is below Each of you are on the blind copy to protect your address.

I want to personally thank each and every one for your e-mails of support for our attempts to acquire the carrier for Texas' Artificial Reef Program. Although I and I am sure your are very disappointed we did not get the ship, the silver lining here is that there are 24 more ships that Navy wants to reef somewhere.

With you continued support, we can get ships off Texas. Talk it up with your friends and colleagues. Bring it to your mayors and chambers of commerce. Tell them the economic boon reefing ships and other materials can bring to your communities.

Please keep in touch, and tanks again for your support.

Sincerely and Regards,

Paul Hammerschmidt, Director
Artificial Reef Program
Coastal fisheries Division
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

A Scuba Party Trip of a Lifetime

COZUMEL \$650 pp, dbl occ, tax incl Co-Op Dive Trip August 23, 2004

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Must be 18 or older, Sever Cancellations Penalties Apply
Based on Double Occupancy
Prices and Specification Subject to Change until Purchased,
Ticket Subject to Availability
Diving Not Required, Divers Must Show Proof of Certification
Signed Liability Release Required

Contact Bill Jones: Bjones@houston.rr.com

JAMAICA \$850 pp, dbl occ, tax incl Co-Op Dive Trip August 6, 2004

4 Days, 3 Nights at The Breezes Resort Hotel (5-star)

Package Price Includes:

**Air Fare, Ground Transportations,
Hotel Accommodations
Two Fabulous Beaches**

ALL YOU CAN EAT AND DRINK

All Taxes, Exit Fees, and Gratuities
One PADI Specialty Diving Certification
(some restrictions & fees apply)

Diving with PADI 5-Star Dive Center
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Help Baddies!

OOPS! EDITOR MADE A MISTAKE –

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY THE ONE AND ONLY DON EUBANKS. SOMEDAY I WILL GET A FROM HIM PICTURE.

ATTENTION DIVERS

Moody Gardens Aquarium is now accepting applications for the next volunteer class. The new class will start on May 1st and run two Saturdays (May 1st & 8th) from 9am to 1pm. You can also take the week day classes which will be on Tuesdays (May 4th & 11th) from 6-9pm.

Please contact Yvette @ 800/582-4673 x4108 or local 409/683-4109 to sign up. You must have an Advanced rating to dive (or you can get your advanced while you do your volunteer hours). If you do not want to dive, there are lots of "behind the scenes" and exhibit guide needs that are super fun. The Caribbean exhibit now has 7 sharks in 802K gallon tank. The other 1500 fish (74 species) will also charm you.

All that is required is that you volunteer for 8 hrs/month - fit you volunteer time to YOUR schedule (weekdays or weekends). You can even do two 4 hr shifts.

Hope you will come join us for a fabulous experience and meet folks from all over the world!

YOUR CLUB LOGO – HISTORY AND SYMBOL

By Madeleine K. Barnes

The club will take a vote at the April membership meeting to designate the official club logo. I am taking this opportunity to provide a history of the only official club logo that BAD has ever had. My mission is to provide you with information about the club's history so that you can make an informed decision. There is a page in this newsletter that will show a variety of symbols that have appeared in club publications and on shirts in the past. All of these and others have been used for a variety of purposes, however there has been only one club logo, the "little man diver". The following history comes from one of our club's founders, Tom Rumney. According to Tom, the club logo originated during the planning of a BAD trip in 1975. Remember that our club was founded in 1974, so this was the first BAD club trip. Jim Fowler, our third club president, Frank Resch, our second club president, and Don Young decided that a symbol or logo was needed for the trip T-shirt. Jim Fowler designed the logo with input and assistance with the other two. The logo of the "little man diver" is the result. This logo was developed by them to show the diversity of diver interests by the club's members. The "little man diver" carries a camera for those who have photography interests, he carries a collection bag for trash to demonstrate the club's participation in trash clean up and interest in ecology, and he carries a spearfishing gun for those who have spearfishing interests in the club. There was also the development of the club's motto at that time as "It's Good To Be B.A.D." which appeared above the little man diver. The shirts and newsletters also showed the dive flag with Houston and Galveston in the upper right and lower left corners and Bay Area Divers in the white banner of the dive flag. The club has also had the more recent motto of "The Get Wet Club". The little man diver appeared on the newsletter through 1998, when the newsletter editor could not find a way to replicate this for the website and it was dropped from the newsletter.

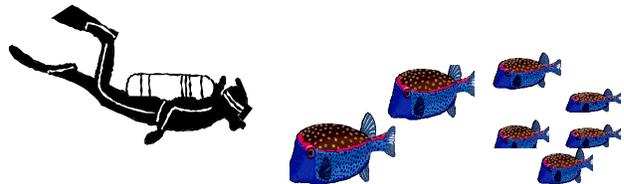
I have nothing against the angelfish that has appeared on our club shirts, other merchandise, and beautiful 2003 diver of the year award. I have two of these shirts and the angelfish is very attractive. It does not symbolize our club logo to me however, because I am a diver, not a fish. I like the "little man diver" because it is a representation of diver interests that our B.A.D. club has. We have had other t-shirts, jackets, hats, etc., in the past with all types of fish, whales, sharks, and other

marine life on them and I think that we can continue to have different things on our shirts that are interesting and attractive without losing our club history. I would like to see the "little man diver" on our newsletter again along with a club motto. Our history, our members, and our little man diver are what make B.A.D. special and different from other clubs. I will be wearing my "little man diver" shirt at the April meeting and look forward to seeing you there.

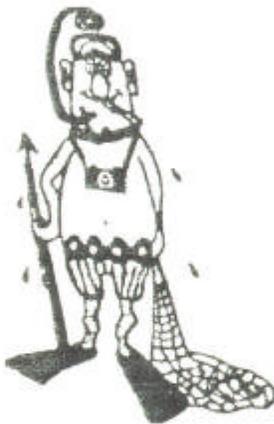
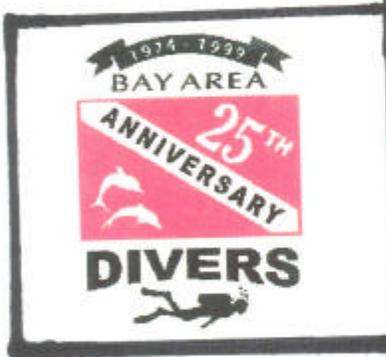
APRIL BOD BRIEF

By Madeleine K. Barnes

The April edition of the newsletter will be the final one sent to members who have not renewed their membership for 2004. This also applies to advertisers in the newsletter who have not notified/paid our editor for their 2004 advertising renewals. There was discussion regarding sending the club member roster to all Baddie's. This will be a topic for discussion at the April membership meeting so that comments and feedback can be considered. The renovation at the Clear Lake Park building is in progress and may be completed in May. The club has reserved the Kemah Community Center for the May, June, and July meetings just to be sure that we have a meeting site. Randy Widaman continues to develop the plans for the 30th anniversary party. The BAD Flower Garden Trip in March was a success and had 16 participants. BAD has made a donation to rejoin membership with the Marine Mammals Stranding Network. Copies of the club logos will appear in the next issue of the newsletter for consideration at the April membership meeting when the designation of the club logo will be voted on. Next month, the BAD BOD will meet Tuesday, May 4, 2004 at Ryan's Steak House at 7 p.m. All are invited to attend.



BAD'S BOARD MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **Tuesday May 4, 2004** at 7:00 PM at Ryan's Steak House on Bay Area Blvd. near Hwy 3. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we appreciate **everyone's participation and your input is appreciated**. Come earlier if you would like to eat and visit with some of us prior to the meeting.



**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!*

Classes:



Open Water (for those new to Scuba)

May 14, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 15, 2004: 8:00a-Noon LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 15, 2004: Noon-6:30p POOL at Williams Pool

May 21, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p Review & Final Exam at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 22, 2004: 8:00a-5:00p Open Water Certification Dives at Blue Lagoon in Huntsville

May 23, 2004: 8:00a-3:30p Open Water Certification Dives at Blue Lagoon in Huntsville

Rescue Diver

May 17, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 19, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 21, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p Review & Final Exam at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

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May 23, 2004: 8:00a-5:00p Open Water Certification Dives at Blue Lagoon in Huntsville

Enriched Air Nitrox

May 18, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 20, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p LECTURE at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)

May 21, 2004: 6:00p-10:00p Review & Final Exam at Sport Divers NASA Parkway & Gulf Fwy, (Garden Ridge Pottery parking lot)