



# NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

## July 2005

### The BAD Calendar

#### July, 2005

- 4 BAD boats in Clear Lake for Fireworks display-Beverly Cutler
- 5 BAD BOD Meeting
- 16,17 BAD's Annual Camping, Picnic & Treasure Hunt at Blue Lagoon, Beverly Cutler
- 27 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### August, 2005

- 1-5 Jamacia- Bill Jones
- 2 BAD BOD Meeting
- 8-12 Cozumel Trip-Bill Jones
- 20 Behind the scenes tour of the Moody Gardens Aquarium
- 24 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### September, 2005

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 28 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### October, 2005

- 1 Trashfest
- 4 BAD BOD Meeting
- 3-7 DEMA—Las Vegas
- 15 BAD Flea Market
- 22-29 CoCo View-Randy Widaman
- 26 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### November, 2005

- 8 BAD BOD Meeting
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving
- 30 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### December, 2005

- 8 BAD BOD Meeting
- 25 Merry Christmas

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



**July Guest Speaker:** This month we have invited Jacki and Mary Lou Reid to come to our July meeting and present to us 2 digital shows. They are bringing 2 shows this time. The first is on their trip in 2004 to Wakatobi, Alor and Flores Indonesia. The second show is on their most recent trip in April of this year to Raja Ampat and the Kungkungan Bay Resort. These 2 shows will certainly be ones that you will not want to miss so plan on coming early to get a good seat and be sure to bring and friend.

**June Guest Speaker:** We would like to thank Joyce and Frank Burek for coming down to our June meeting and presenting to us 2 wonderful digital shows. If you miss this meeting you missed a wonderful presentation. Their first show was on Bonaire and the second one was on the Flower Gardens and Stetson Bank. We are always glad to have both Frank and Joyce come to our meeting and have them give us a great presentation.



### JULY

Glynda Guiney	July 2
Ja Van Pruett	July 5
Don Eubanks	July 9
Linda Furlong	July 11
Greg Trevino	July 13
Pamela Kennedy	July 13
Rick Heiman	July 15
John Thomas	July 18
Steven Gibson	July 19
Natascha Cox	July 25
Mary Ellen Onufrow	July 30

### COME VISIT and DIVE WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS

Bay Area Divers meet at Clear Lake Park, 5001 NASA Road 1 at 7:30 pm the last Wednesday of each month (except December).

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

The B.A.D. Board of Directors meet at Ryan's Steakhouse on Bay Area Blvd. on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

All members are welcome.

Deadline for article submission for next month is: **August 7th, 2005** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## FINS TO THE LEFT . . . FINS TO THE RIGHT

by Mike White

**Oops!** Where in the world was the BAD President in last month's newsletter? MIA? DCI? DOA?

No, actually I was BVI. On Friday, June 10, at "0-dark-30" I got on an airplane at Bush Intercontinental (IAH) and started winging my way to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. About halfway across the Gulf of Mexico I suddenly remembered . . . "Oh s\*\*\*! I didn't send Ja Van my article for the June newsletter!" Well, nothing I could do about it then, and I couldn't get in trouble for about nine days until I got back, so I did the only reasonable thing under the circumstances . . . I ordered my first cuba libre (of many) that would be consumed over the next week, and started reading my scuba and snorkeling guide for the BVIs.

The BVIs are a group of closely-spaced islands that lie just east of the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, etc.), and both island groups are to the east of Puerto Rico. The largest and main BVI island is Tortola, and other significant islands are Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke, and Anegada. The BVIs are intentionally not as well-developed or populated as the USVI, which is a good thing. Although the BVIs are primarily known as a sailing/cruising destination, there are also a lot of good diving and snorkeling sites sprinkled around the islands. There are 63 sites in the dive guide, including the famous wreck of the "RMS Rhone". The "Rhone" was a British mail ship that foundered and sank in a hurricane just off the western end of Salt Is-

land lies in two large pieces (and many smaller pieces) a couple of hundred yards from the shore in about 35-40 feet of water for the stern and in about 60-80 feet of water for the bow. The crystal clear water makes this a very impressive dive, and you can easily see the debris field from the surface.

I was in the BVIs with a group of sailing club friends on a seven day sailing vacation (we had bareboat chartered four cruising catamarans). Although I probably would not recommend going to the BVI if you were only going there to dive, it makes an excellent destination for a combination sailing and diving trip. Maybe I'll write a more detailed article about it for a future newsletter, including how we talked a cute 20-something Austrian girl into jumping naked off the "Willy T". But, I leave that for another day.

A belated thank you to all the volunteers who helped out at the BAD booth at Seaspace. Thanks to Natascha Cox, Fran and Don Eubanks, Bill Jones, Linda Furlong, William Mills, Joe Neely, Ja Van Pruett, Judy Raben, Verna Shannon, Polly and Fred Swerdlin, and you other "walk-up" volunteers who couldn't commit ahead of time. We got a lot of interest at our booth (some of whom came to our July meeting and a few who joined BAD at Seaspace), and our new door prizes and registration resulted in a lot of advertisement and names for our Flea Market in October.

And speaking of the Flea Market, BOD member Jim Delane has volunteered to chair the **BAD Flea Market** this year, which is scheduled for **October 15** (you have already marked it on your calendar, haven't you?). Jim will be looking for all you BADdies to help put on this event (which is BAD's big money-maker for the year), so when Jim comes calling, jump in and take over a little task that needs to be done, so we can make this a very success event.

Our annual diving/BBQ/picnic weekend at **Blue Lagoon** on **July 16 and 17**. See you there, and call Beverly for details.

In August, we have a BAD "behind the scenes day" at Moody Gardens planned for Saturday, August 20, and on Sunday, August 28 we have another diving/BBQ afternoon planned, this time at Tiki Lake. I hope that the Tiki Lake event provides an opportunity for new divers to practice their newly acquired skills in a nice, relaxing atmosphere before you go off on that first diving trip, so I encourage you to join us. Please see articles about these two events elsewhere.

As I discussed at an earlier BAD meeting, the Board now has a few proposed revisions to the club bylaws and constitution for the membership to consider. Please see my article elsewhere in the newsletter for more details.

Well, gotta go . . . keep diving in 2005!

<b>Bay Area Divers Officers &amp; Directors</b>		
<b>OFFICERS 2005</b>		
President	Mike White	<a href="mailto:beermike@aol.com">beermike@aol.com</a>
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TGCC/Board:	Don Eubanks	<a href="mailto:deubanks@houston.rr.com">deubanks@houston.rr.com</a>
<b>WEBSITE:</b> <a href="http://www.bayareadivers.org">www.bayareadivers.org</a>		

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# Welcome



NEW BAD Members:

**Hai Dang, Cliff Dominey, Jim & Barb Jenkins, Elizabeth & Michael Stillion, Lisa & Mike, Kids- Adam, Veronica, & Laura White**

Guests:

**Marvin Adamson, Carroll Bagley, Renee Bearer, Shon Corrier, Monta Horner, Karen Solis, Jayne Woody**

## MOTHER NATURE AT WORK

BY Ja Van Pruett

**Mother Nature at her best.** Hurricane Dennis with it's strong winds of 115 mile per hour and strong current flipped over USS Spiegel Grove with waves of 20-foot waves. Hurricane Dennis was a Blessing in disguised when he blew through the Florida Keys Coast on July 7, 2005.



When Florida had acquired the 510-foot long and 85 feet in width and 6,880-ton/hulk, the largest ship to be used for diving. She was originally constructed in September 1954, launched on November 10, 1955 and commissioned on June 8, 1956. The Navy Ship (LSD32) is a Cold War relic that is a former Loading Ship carrying landing crafts and cargo. The ship served duties in the Caribbean Sea, the United States East Coast, Africa, the Mediterranean Sea, Panama and the Middle East, including a vital role in the original Operations Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf, USS Spiegel Grove Navy Ship, was decommissioned and placed in a floating storage until the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce purchased the ship in 1998.

During the previous night before the planned sinking of the Spiegel Grove decided to sink on its own, which created a navigational hazard when it landed bottom-up with the stern on the seabed and the bow jutting above the waterline. On June 11, 2002, a salvage company came in an assisted in righting this enormous vessel using giant airbags and steel cables to turn it onto it's starboard side; where it is safe from passing vessels but confusing for divers to swim through.

Diving the Spiegel Grove, it is suggested for divers to have some experience although dives of varying degrees of skill can be planned based on the large variation in depth and opportunities for penetration. Novice divers can visit the wreck safely, all divers must be award of frequent strong current around the Spiegel Grove.

You can find it in 130 feet of water a few miles off Key Largo in the National Marine Sanctuary. Every effort has been made to make the ship as safe as possible.



### BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by Beverly Cutler



How about we gather at **Boondoggles** in Seabrook for snacks and more socializing??? It is located on NASA Rd. 1, near highway 146. Plan to have even more fun and socializing. **See you there!**

### August

Rebecca Jacobs	Aug. 03
Susan Garcia	Aug. 06
Lynn Hale	Aug. 17
Ed Richards	Aug. 17
Hayes Kennedy Jr.	Aug. 18
Jim Ward	Aug. 22
Michael Dush	Aug. 27
Debbie Stanford	Aug. 28
Candace Camponelli	Aug. 30
Jack Dwire	Aug. 30



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**Note from the Editor:**  
**PLEASE, PLEASE** if you like to write or have an article you want put it into the newsletter pertaining to diving, please contact me or send it to [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net).

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## A BAD FRIEND IS GONE

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**Roatan, Honduras:** The **CoCo View Resort** had two dive fatalities on June 21, 2005 at **Pirates Point**. The first fatality happened only minutes into a 60-foot afternoon dive when **Randy Gibbs**, 49 of San Angelo Texas, became an "unconscious diver at depth" according to the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa. In the moments following, PADI DiveMaster **Tulio Gomez** died during the rescue attempt. Both were transported to San Pedro Sula for autopsies. The official cause of death was "Submersion Asphyxiation" (drowning). Guests of the resort participated in the double recovery.



Tulio Gomez was a personal friend of many of our BAD members and was well known to guests of CoCo View for his flamboyant and cool demeanor characterized by his sunglasses, clothes, and style. A DiveMaster at CoCo View said, **"He was helpful to everyone, not just to the guests but an honest gentleman, who would always open a door or extend a hand to help someone in need"**. The 32-year-old DiveMaster died extending his hand to someone in need.

Remembered well by guests for his "Tulioisms", he often joked "Get off my boat", "I almost saw a shark", and "Are we here yet?". If you cut or scratched yourself during a dive, he would ask "Did you touch my reef?". Tulio loved being a DiveMaster and often told guests that he was

Tulio is survived by his wife and two children. Donations to assist Tulio's family may be made payable to Patty Grier and sent to: Tulio Fund, Box 877, San Antonio, FL., 33576. Patty is Tulio's first PADI Instructor.

Roatan is an island 33 miles off the coast of Honduras in the Caribbean Sea. Pirates Point is on the south side of this popular dive-destination.

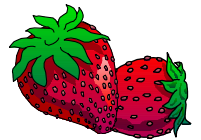
## Strawberry Cheesecake Trifle



- 2 pkg. (8 Oz each) cream cheese
- 2 C confectioners' sugar
- 1 C dairy sour cream
- 1-1/2 t vanilla extract, divided
- 1/4 t almond extract
- 1/2 pt whipping cream
- 1 T sugar
- 1 angel food cake, torn into bite-size pieces
- 2 qts. fresh strawberries, thinly sliced
- 3 T sugar
- 3 T almond-favored liqueur or almond extract to taste

In a large bowl, cream together cream cheese and sugar; add sour cream, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla and almond extract. Set aside. In a small; deep bowl, whip the cream, remaining vanilla and sugar. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture. Add cake pieces; set aside. Combine strawberries, sugar and almond liqueur/extract. Layer together in large glass bowl, starting with strawberries, then adding cake mixture. Continue layering; finish with strawberries. Cover with plastic wrap; chill well. **Yield:** 24 servings.

## Strawberry Salad



- 1 pt. Frozen strawberries, (reserve juice)
- 1 pkg. (3 oz) vanilla pudding, not instant
- 1 pkg. (3 1.4 oz.) tapioca pudding, not instant
- 1 pkg. (3 oz) strawberry gelatin
- 2 bananas
- 2 C whipped cream or topping

Pour strawberry juice and/or water into 2-qt. Glass measure to make 2 cups liquid. Add puddings and gelatin. Microwave on high for 5-6 minutes or until mixture thickens and boils. Stir once or twice while cooking; cool. Add strawberries, bananas and whipped cream. **Yield:** 8 servings.



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# Behind the Scenes Tour

Ahoy! BADdies, join your fellow club members and friends to go backstage at the Moody Gardens Aquarium in exotic Galveston, TX to see what makes the thing actually work! Tour the divers' equipment and staging area where the volunteers get in to swim with **SHARKS!** See the pump and filter room which looks like it could support a space station! Inspect the kitchen where the food for the critters is prepared! No, they don't cook the critters there. Meet, greet and shake flippers with real live Emperor Penguins!

Then spend all the time you want wandering around the Aquarium. Well, at least until they close.

## Pertinent Trivia:

**Sat Aug 20, 2005, 12:30 pm**  
at the Aquarium entrance

**Wear closed toe rubber sole shoes,**  
no flip flops or sandals

**Must** be 14yrs of age or older

**\$20 US per person,**  
only about \$5 US more than regular admission

**Non-members welcome**  
Call **713-818-8859** if running late

**Payable by cash or check no later than July 27**  
(at the club meeting)

**Make checks payable to:**

**Joe Neely**  
**819 Seafoam**  
**Houston, TX 77062**

**Or see me at the meeting**

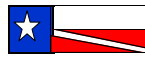
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## For Sale

Oceanic Thick-Glass 175 Gallon Aquarium, Stand, Top, and Light in excellent condition. Various equipment included. Will make a fine saltwater or freshwater tank. Never used with saltwater. **\$300**

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## B.A.D.'s Monthly Specials

Were **YOU** at the June Membership meeting and able to scarf up on the Special of the Month? WW Divers made us a whoppin good deal on hangers for Wet Suits, BC's and Booties. Hummmm.....I wonder what the special for this month will be. I am going to be there, ARE YOU?

If another organization wants to offer B.A.D. a monthly special, please let me or the BAD BOD know so that we may make those arrangements.

See you at the July BAD General Membership meeting.  
*Beverly*

## Happy 3rd Belated Wedding Anniversary

## Larry & Blanche Albritton

# 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!*

If you are planning to take a scuba class or a first aid class this year, this is a good time to buy your book and begin reading and completing the knowledge reviews at the end of each chapter. Be sure to **tell them you are in BILL JONES PRIVATE CLASS** and they will show you what you need. **See more about classes below.**

**Classes offered by — Bill Jones to Bay Area Divers at discount Prices.**

All Divers are always welcome to come with us to Blue Lagoon to do equipment check out dives, practice skills, BBQ, or just socialize with other divers. **Contact Bill Jones:** [Bjones@houston.rr.com](mailto:Bjones@houston.rr.com)

**Open Water Diver Class-** (for those new to scuba, you earn the Certification Card you need).  
July 8-17.

**Advanced Open Water Diver Class-** Pre-Req: Open Water Diver or equiv. July 16.  
(Blue Lagoon) (Requires an additional deep dive for Certification).

**Enriched Air Nitrox EANx Class-** Pre-Req: Open Water Diver or equiv July 12-16.

**Other Speciality Class-** July 16 (in Huntsville-Blue Lagoon).

**Master Scuba Diver Class-** Pre-Req: OWD ACWDM Rescue Diver, 50 logged dives, 5 Specialty certifications or equiv.

**DiverMaster, Assistant Instructor, Instructor Development Course** Email  
[Bjones@houston.rr.com](mailto:Bjones@houston.rr.com) for details.