

# NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

## August 2005

### The BAD Calendar

#### 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
- 12 BAD Anniversary Party**
- 24 Happy Thanksgiving
- 30 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### December, 2005

- 8 BAD BOD Meeting
- 25 Merry Christmas

#### January, 2006

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting

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



**August Guest Speaker:** I have invited Dennis Casey from the NASA NBL (Neutral Buoyancy Lab) to come to our August 31st 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 equipment used in the training to the meeting. So be sure to mark you date calendar and come out to this informative meeting. Bring a guest also.

**July Guest Speaker:** Thanks to Mary Lou and Jaki Reid for coming out to our July meeting and giving us an excellent digital presentation on their trips to Wakatobi Indonesia and Kungkungan Bay Resort. If you missed this show you missed a good one for sure.



### August

Rebecca Jacobs	03
Susan Garcia	06
Lynn Hale	17
Ed Richards	17
Hayes Kennedy Jr.	18
Jim Ward	22
Michael Dush	27
Debbie Stanford	28
Candace Camponelli	30
Jack Dwire	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: **September 11, 2005** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)

# Welcome



NEW BAD Members:

**Joe & Bert & Candace Campanelli,  
Pat & Marife & Heather, Montgomery,  
Karen Solis, Kenneth Weade**

Guests:

**Allan Garvin, William Max,  
Pat, Heather & Marife Montgomery,  
Jacki & Mary Lou Reid, Kenneth A. Weade**



## BAD AFTER MEETING GATHERING

by Beverly Cutler



### Boondoggles

We seem to be having a rather large and quite content group attending our last several 'After Meeting Gatherings'. This has been close to our meeting location, easy to access, offers plenty of parking, has a great selection of refreshments and plenty of good food. For these reasons maybe we should again visit them after our August General Membership Meeting.

# B.A.D.'s 2005 New Braunsfel's Camping, Canoeing, Diving and Schlitterbahn Trip

**Divers are water lovers aren't we? I think most of us are!** We found plenty of it in New Braunsfels this year for our trip. Thursday night found some of us (Rick, Steve, Linda and I) sitting on the side of the river listening to it ease past us under a full moon. The camaraderie and relaxing was indescribably serene. Friday morning found us (the previously mentioned 4 along with Barbara and Bill) at Schlitterbahn, sitting on the sidelines was Not us....no siree Bob. Up the stairs, in the tubes, on the mats, in the inflatable, on our bellies, racing, sliding, screaming, yelling as we went down the slides, chutes, man-made and natural river or just being taken around and around the lazy river. Did I tell you that some of our members were sharpening their boogy-boarding skills? Yep, that was a sight to see all right. Later that afternoon found us quite content and felt we had stayed there long enough to suit us. So off we went to plan our dinners and wait for more of our fellow BADDies to arrive.

Saturday found most of us casually greeting the day as PeeWee and Ja Van fed us breakfast. Then it was off to the Guadalupe River. PeeWee and Company were in kayaks while the rest of us were in canoes. The river was flowing at almost 250 cfs, which is more than I am accustomed to. We got in the river just above the 3rd crossing and lazily, for the most part, let the river carry us down to the 2nd crossing, where some of us got out while PeeWee and Company traveled on down to where we were camped. Watching tubers and divers travel down river late that afternoon and evening in front of our campsite proved to be lots of laughs and fun. Dinner found some of us at a favorite local restaurant on the river (T.G.M.). Sunday morning arrived with us not in a hurry to do anything. Finally we gathered our belongings up, said our 'see ya later' and headed on down the road to whatever each of us wanted to do.

## Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

### OFFICERS 2005

President	Mike White	<a href="mailto:beermike@aol.com">beermike@aol.com</a>
V. President	Randy Widaman	<a href="mailto:cap10randy@houston.rr.com">cap10randy@houston.rr.com</a>
Secretary	Larry Albritton	<a href="mailto:scubalba@peoplepc.com">scubalba@peoplepc.com</a>
Treasurer	Fred Swerdlin	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@bayareadivers.org">Treasurer@bayareadivers.org</a>
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Board	Rowe Henry	<a href="mailto:rowehenry@hotmail.com">rowehenry@hotmail.com</a>
Board	Butch Shannon	<a href="mailto:butch@pdg.net">butch@pdg.net</a>
Board	Jim Delane	<a href="mailto:Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org">Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org</a>

Webmaster:	Jim Delane	<a href="mailto:Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org">Jimdelane@bayareadivers.org</a>
Bartender:	Blanche Albritton	<a href="mailto:scubalba@peoplepc.com">scubalba@peoplepc.com</a>
Sales:	Verna Shannon	<a href="mailto:butch@pdg.net">butch@pdg.net</a>
Librarian/ Historian:	Larry Albritton	<a href="mailto:scubalba@peoplepc.com">scubalba@peoplepc.com</a>
TGCC/Board:	Don Eubanks	<a href="mailto:deubanks@houston.rr.com">deubanks@houston.rr.com</a>

**WEBSITE:** [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org)

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There are those who have been doing this event for years and those who recently started. The Guadalupe River, above and below has an attraction for many of us, and once again we were able to enjoy her peaceful yet Sometimes-swift water.

Beverly



Steve, Rick & PeeWee



Adrian & PeeWee



## BAD DOES COZUMEL

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### Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Thirty-three BAD divers and friends arrived in Cozumel on August 8, 2005. After planning the trip for more than six months, the airline canceled the flight just weeks before the trip. Last minute re-booking to Cancun added a fun ferry ride from Play del Carmen to Cozumel to the adventure. BADies checked-in at the beautiful HOTEL COZUMEL & RESORT HOTEL in time for dinner and drinks. BAD divers took advantage of the hotel's all-inclusive bars.



The HOTEL COZUMEL & RESORT HOTEL is a hacienda-style 178-room resort with an on-site full-service PADI Gold Palm Dive Center that quickly became the rendezvous point for the group after the buffet breakfast each morning.

The diving day started with two-tank boat dives with divers enjoying dive sites as far south as Palancar Gardens to Paradise Reef. BAD divers saw Sea Turtles, Moray Eels, Manta Rays, King Crab, Caribbean Lobsters, and Reef Sharks. Lots of fish were seen including Groupers, Angel-fish, Parrotfish, Palometa, Scorpionfish, Butterflyfish, Hogfish, Snapper, Squirrelfish, and Tomtate just to name a few.

Each afternoon the BAD group split up, some going to town for shopping, some making afternoon boat and shore dives, and some relaxing around the huge swimming pool or in one of the hotel bars. Divers played volleyball and made use of the wireless internet included in the trip package. Some went to Carlos 'n Charlies and some went to eat at local restaurants including El Pique and Chilangos in San Miguel.

The night diving was great. An Octopus with a head about the size of a gallon milk jug was star of the show. More than 30 certifications were earned by BADies and their friends on the trip.

After checking-in at the airport for the return flight, BAD divers insisted that we have an 8-day option for the trip next year.

## 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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**September 11, 2005** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)

## Get Well Wishes and Prayers



### Goes out to:

**Beverly Cutler**, her mom had surgery, and is recovering.

**Cathy Schexnider's**, her guy friend and former member of BAD, **Ken Orton**, had to have mouth surgery.

**Please keep these people in your prayers to prevent any additional medical problems.**

# 2005 HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST



**October 26, 2005** is the slated date for our Annual Halloween Costume Contest. Our Contest is open to BAD Members and will be held during the October General Membership Meeting at our usual location on Nasa Rd 1. Rent it, buy it, make it, borrow it, we don't care, come in a costume or al naturale, Just Not Bare. The prize has already been purchased and it's really nice too. A majority vote of the members who are there will determine the best costume bearer, right there. In case of a tie there will be a runoff, in case of a run off times 2, a flip of the coin will decide who runs off with the great Costume Prize from you.

## UNWELCOME GUEST THREATENS CORAL REEF

Aug. 19, 2005, 12:27AM

Foreign species making itself at home on nearby oil platforms has scientists worried.

By *DINA CAPPIELLO*  
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The health of the Gulf of Mexico's only true coral reef could be compromised by an invasion of a non-native coral species colonizing nearby oil and gas platforms, a federal report released Thursday has concluded.

This foreign species, native to the Pacific Ocean, is among a series of threats facing the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, a 385-acre underwater monument built over thousands of years by microscopic animals more than 100 miles off the Texas coast.

"We don't want it on the reef," said Emma Hickerson, the research coordinator for the sanctuary, of the orange cup coral. "We don't know what the impact might be. If it is aggressive, it might (replace native coral)."

The good news is that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration survey, which evaluated the health of reefs in 14 U.S. territories and the Pacific Islands, found the Flower Gardens to be one of the healthiest reef systems of those reviewed. But lingering concerns over the effects of nearby oil and gas exploration, increased fishing and boat traffic remain.

"We have to be vigilant. We can't take it for granted that everything is fine," said Hickerson, referring to the fragility 4  
Inc.,

of coral-reef systems, which are hubs of marine diversity that attract fishermen, divers and researchers.

If the coral dies, the whole system eventually crumbles. "Anything we are doing out there may have some sort of cumulative effect on the resilience of coral," Hickerson said.

Though the well-publicized effects of climate change, disease and coastal pollution ranked as the most serious threats to the coral reefs NOAA surveyed, the threats facing the reefs of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico are unique, and thus have not been well-researched. What toll they may take, if any, remains a mystery.

Since the report was completed, scientists have been troubled by additional signs of stress. In February, researchers spotted widespread symptoms of what may be white-plague disease — a bacterial infestation characterized by a white band along the coral's edges.

"This is the first time we have had multiple colonies of multiple species affected," said Hickerson. "In the past, we've seen what we have suspected as white plague out there but nothing that would alarm us."

Luckily, recent surveys have indicated that the bacteria are not spreading.

### Fresh water a threat

Another concern surfaced in June, when Hickerson and a colleague discovered that fresh water from the Mississippi River, likely laden with fertilizers and other chemicals, had penetrated the Flower Gardens' boundaries. Hickerson is not sure what effects that will have.

"There is definitely Mississippi water at Flower Garden banks," she said. "We were under this false impression that we were not affected by that. Now, that could be another stressor."

Given sanctuary status in 1992, the Flower Gardens is one of the only natural reef systems in the Gulf and the northernmost reef in U.S. waters. Though there are other areas in the Gulf that have coral, the Gardens and the McGrail Bank, east of the sanctuary, are the only ones actively growing, Hickerson said.

### Diving industry worried

In the four-mile area that is home to the protected East and West Flower Garden Banks and Stetson Bank, there are 14 production platforms and 178 kilometers of pipeline, the report notes. The platforms are homes to massive colonies of orange cup coral, an invasive species first documented in the Flower Gardens in 1992 when an unknowing diver took a photograph of it.

Last year, 46 colonies of orange cup coral were removed from Geyer Bank, a coral mass about 12 miles east of the East Flowers.

Only one of the platforms lies within the sanctuary. Erected in 1981 and purchased by Houston-based W&T Offshore in,

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1999, High Island 389 is covered with orange cup coral and home to a diverse array of marine species that make it a frequent stop for divers.

"We are very concerned about this. We are very cautious and cognizant of what is going on down there," said Manuel Mondragon, a company spokesman.

Besides native coral, the possible spread of an aggressive invasive species could devastate the local diving industry.

A survey of charter-dive operations in 1997 found that an estimated 2,350 divers visited the Flower Garden Banks.

That year, they spent about \$870,000 in Texas, the majority in Freeport, where many of the charter operations are based.

"If the coral dies, we are gone basically," said Sharon Cain, who has owned Gulf Diving LLC in the seaside town since 2002. The charter runs multiday trips to the Flower Gardens throughout the year.

'Living together' Cain, however, said she is encouraged by recent reports that the white-plague disease is not spreading. Thus far, she said, none of the orange cup has been seen on the Flower Gardens.

The same geological forces that created the mass of oil and natural gas that energy companies seek beneath the Gulf of Mexico caused salt domes to lift, forming the banks on which the coral of the Flower Gardens attached and flourished.

Even today, there remains a relationship between the industry and nature.

Platforms, like coral reefs, attract a diversity of marine organisms. And when they are retired, many are topped to create artificial reefs.

"We have been living together for 10 to 20 years now," said Mondragon, referring to the estimated 6,500 platforms dotting the Gulf. His company operates more than 250.

**A possible solution**

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which converts abandoned platforms into artificial reefs in the Gulf, said Thursday that if the orange cup coral posed a threat to the sanctuary, the department could move platforms inundated with the species out of the area.

"It may be a consideration if it indeed was deemed a problem," said John Embesi, an artificial-reef biologist with the department, of the relocation. "We've done it with other problem species."

[dina.cappiello@chron.com](mailto:dina.cappiello@chron.com)



Deadline for article submission for next month is:

**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). August 19-28.

**Advanced Open Water Diver Class-** Pre-Req: Open Water Diver or equiv. August 27.

(Blue Lagoon) (Requires an additional deep dive for Certification). **Divers meet for dinner at Tajas Cafe in Huntsville (optional)**

**Enriched Air Nitrox EANx Class-** Pre-Req: Open Water Diver or equiv August 23-27.

**Rescue / First Aid Class** Pre-Req: **Advanced Open Water Diver or equiv.** Email [Bjones@houston.rr.com](mailto:Bjones@houston.rr.com) for details.

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**Other Specialty Classes:** Saturday, August 27, 2005: 9:00a-5:00p Class and Certification Dives at Blue Lagoon in Huntsville at Tajas Cafe in Huntsville (optional)

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

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**September**



- Banche Albritton Sept. 04
- Judy Rabren Sept. 03
- Barbara Courtright Sept. 09
- Kenneth Weade Sept. 10
- Kelley Burns Sept. 12
- James Parker Sept. 13
- David Erdin Sept. 17
- Frank Resch Sept. 18
- William Mills Sept. 18
- Madeleine Barnes Sept. 22
- Debbie Fuqua Sept. 22
- Aberle, Steve Sept. 26

**BAD Charitable Contributions**

\$400.00 Total for 2005

- ♦ TMMSN and DAN Research—\$100.00 each
- ♦ HONDURAS SHIPPING—\$100.00—Fred
- ♦ HEART—\$100.00—info.

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**September 11, 2005** E-Mail [javan@wt.net](mailto:javan@wt.net)



## Retail Advocate John Nesbit is Dead

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**Greensboro, North Carolina.** The dive industry mourns John Nesbit, killed August 7, 2005 when a light-sport aircraft he was learning to fly crashed into a 25-acre cow pasture.



Nesbit was a native of Greensboro and a US Marine Corps Veteran that graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Management. Nesbit first stepped into the public spotlight while working for fourteen years at WFMY, the Greensboro area's local CBS Television affiliate. As Associate Producer and Co-host of the station's "Good Morning Show", his natural charisma, down-home charm, and sense of humor provided an instant connection with TV audiences.

In 1987, Nesbit opened "Island Hoppers", a PADI Five Star Dive Center in his hometown of Greensboro. He immersed himself in the dive industry and quickly became an active contributor to PADI's Retailer Advisory Committee and DEMA's Promotion Advisory Committee. His passion for scuba diving was clear with his intentions to leave the industry in better condition than he found it.

Nesbit accepted the position as Manager of the PADI Retail Association in 1994 and moved with his wife Mary Kaye to Southern California. He brought credibility to the retail association because of his leadership role in the diving industry. With over 11 years at PADI, Nesbit's honesty and energy never faded.

**BAD Divers that attended DEMA here in Houston** remember his lecture sessions that reminded us of the importance of our own short precious time on earth saying "tic toc, tic toc". His enthusiasm for the business of diving led him on a crusade across America and overseas conducting diving business education seminars for PADI members. Nesbit greeted everyone with a hearty handshake and warm smile. It was his belief in the future of the diving industry and optimistic attitude that drove him to share his philosophy with others. Many will remember him walking toward them with his right hand extended prepared to shake hands.

Nesbit at 51, is survived by his wife Mary Kaye and their son Andy. The Nesbit family will hold a Carolina Beach memorial service and PADI will host a memorial service in Southern California in the next few weeks. Contact PADI Human Resources Department at 800-729-7234 ext. 2231 to send personal condolences or eMail WFMY at [mrible@wfmy.gannett.com](mailto:mrible@wfmy.gannett.com).

The Allegro 2000 that Nesbit was in had been flown for about 90 total hours. The high-wing 'T'-tail aircraft was

manufactured in the Czech Republic and was certified in the U.S. as a "Light Sport Aircraft" in May. The accident will be among the first LSA crashes to be investigated by the NTSB.

# BAY AREA DIVERS TIKI LAKE

**Tiki Lake (the old Reef) is a 18.8 acre spring fed lake with 10' to 30' visibility.**

**There are 26 sunken boats, 3 school buses and 1 bulldozer.**

**The lake contains plenty plant life and a variety of fish life.**

**There is a food stand on weekends that sells Mexican food.**

**Picnic tables are on location. You may bring your own food and drinks.**

**There is no compressor so no tank refills**

**We will start at 11:00 AM, the lake closes at 8:00 PM.**

**Admission is \$10.00 per diver (if we get 25 or more divers), price will be \$8.00 ea.**

**Location: 4800 Schurmier Rd.**

**Houston, TX 77048**

**Phone: 713 991 5758**

**Directions: West** on Sam Houston Tollway to Cullin exit (the one before 288). **Right** on Cullin (north) to the Tiki Lak. **Right** on Schusimer Rd. **The lake** will be on the right about a mile from Cullin.

**Tell the people at the gate you are with Bay Area Divers.**



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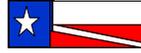
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# BAD'S THIRD ANNUAL BLUE LAGOON PICNIC AND TREASURE HUNT

**Wow!** Our Annual Blue Lagoon Picnic and Treasure Hunt has come and gone again. As last year, the rains taunted us but the vast majority stayed way to the south. We did receive a small shower Saturday afternoon and Sunday we had a very healthy shower in the AM. The weather was very nice and neither rain shower was enough to deter us from staying. The visibility was reasonable, there were not that many others diving in the lagoon so the water was green and fairly clear. Jim Delane and his lady friend Teresa brought his pit. Larry and Blanch Albriton also brought their pit. While the pits were rolling out smoke, wings (by Larry and Blanche), hamburgers, chicken (by Jim and Teresa) and Vinson sausage (by Karen Solis - New Member) the rest of us were sunning, socializing, training, diving, floating or underwater scootering (several scooters provided by PeeWee Dwire). After we ate (lots of good food provided by many and Brownies provided by Ja Van) it was time for our Underwater Treasure Hunt. The preassembled weights, strings and cylvume sticks (compliments of Larry and Blanche) were hidden and all were located with the exception of 5 (3 more were located the next morning). Treasure items (provided by Garden Ridge Pottery, Bill Jones, Kenlee's Scuba and WW Diving) were handed out by the fire, which we were trying to bring up to a nice blaze. The ladies got the fire started and the gentlemen brought it up to a blaze. After more socializing and relaxing around the fire some left the lagoon for other places of rest while 6 of us camped. It was a wonderful night by the lagoon, so cool that we were looking for blankets. The next morning found no breeze and a mist over the lagoon. As the sun began to rise mini tornadoes formed in the mist on the water. What an intriguing sight to see as another gorgeous day began. Breakfast found us gathered around the pit again, mmmmm mmmmm good. With our energy levels replenished and more BAD members arriving we were off and diving again.

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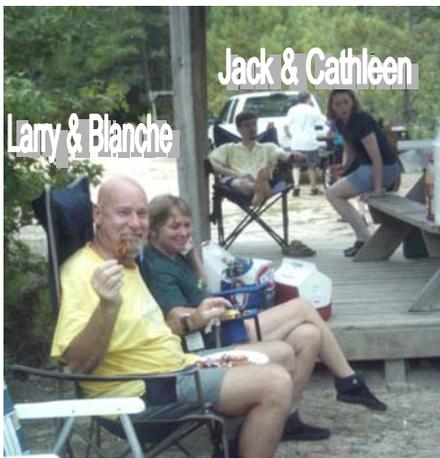


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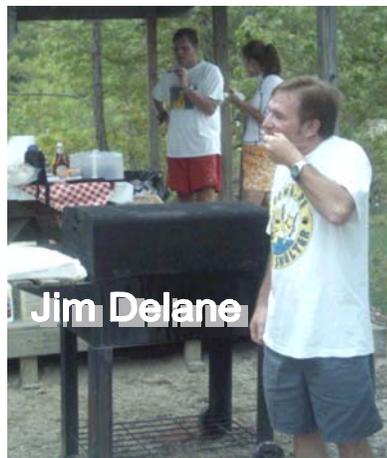
Mike Pilar

Teresa Larry & Blanche



Jack & Cathleen

Larry & Blanche



Jim Delane



Mike

Jon Biggerstaff

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**Bay Area Divers**

**P.O. Box 58404**

**Houston, TX 77258**

*Catch us on the web at:*

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