NEWS FROM
The "Get Wet" Club

August, 2011

August 31th, 2011 - General Meeting
Social starts at 7pm - Meeting at 7:30pm

***Mario's* Flying Pizza & Italian Restaurant**
618 West NASA Rd. 1, Webster, TX

Speaker of the Month — **Chuck Noe–** Will be talking about **"Goodenough Springs Exploration Project" & the "Jacob's Well Exploration Project"**

Chuck has been diving since 1980, earned Full-Cave Diver certification in 1996, and Advanced Trimix Instructor certification in 1997.

"Goodenough Springs Exploration Project" Cave divers from the Goodenough Springs Exploration Project surpassed their previous exploration efforts by successfully penetrating this high-flow underground aquifer to a depth of 515 feet (lake level 1098 ft). This dive confirms Goodenough Springs as likely the deepest explored underwater cave system in the United States.

"Jacob's Well Exploration Project" Jacob's Well is one of the most significant natural geologic treasures in the Texas Hill Country. It is one of the longest underwater caves in Texas and an artesian spring.

The **BAD** Calendar

August	
2	BAD BOD Meeting
1--7	**10th Annual Bill Jones COZUMEL Mexico Vacation**
20	**Lake 288**
31	BAD General Membership Meeting- **Chuck Noe- "Goodenough Springs Exploration Project" & the**
September	
2	BAD BOD Meeting
10,11	**Lake Travis Clean-up** & Camping at Manfields Dam, Austin-Contact: Events@bayareadivers.org
28	BAD General Membership Meeting- **Jason Puffenberger-NEMMO**
October	
1	**TrashFest 2011**
4	BAD BOD Meeting
8	**Divers Market**
22	Texas Renaissance Festival
26	BAD General Membership Meeting- Dennis Camp-TBA
November	
1	BAD BOD Meeting
12	Anniversary Party-Tropical Theme
16	**Elections**
December	
6	BAD BOD Meeting

WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org

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

August

Jerra Harding	8/9
Keith Goodwin	8/12
Barbara Smith	8/18
Clifford Hess	8/20
Jim Ward	8/22
Kellee Ashe	8/25
Rebecca Alexander	8/27
Robert Briscoe	8/28

COME VISIT and DIVE
WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS

Bay Area Divers meet at **Mario's** 618 W NASA Rd 1, Webster, TX 77598 at 7:00 pm the last Wednesday of each month (except November & December).

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Deadline for article submission for next month is: **September 11th, 2011** E-Mail **caladyfish@yahoo.com**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear BADdies,

Dive trips, lake dips, back flips, Oh my! Keep posting your pictures on the Bay Area Divers Facebook page and keep sharing the 'Get Wet' FUN!

We are finalizing teams and t-shirts for Trashfest 2011 on October 1st, in New Braunfels , TX and our bank of rooms are filling up! Pay $15 for registration, tshirt, and BBQ Awards dinner by August 31st. Email Cindy Romano at Secretary@BayAreaDivers.org with names and t-shirt sizes to join one of the most awarded teams of Trashfest. Then call **Heidelberg Lodges on the Comal River** for Friday and Saturday nights with special pricing for members when you say you are with Bay Area Divers. Call them at **830.625.9967** to reserve your room in **section C** and join us at a social for Friday's arrival in the President's cabin. Saturday night is out for ice cream and then Gruene Hall for some dancing!

We continue to have phenomenal turnouts for our lake dives!!! Now is clean up season starting with Lake Travis with camping out on September 10th and then morning dives on the 11th. Free lunch and tshirts at Carlos and Charlie's on Lake Travis !

Our membership logs keep growing! Welcome to all the new members! Please remember that our monthly meetings are the LAST Wednesday of the month except for November and December. Check the BayAreaDivers.org website for more details. Our Anniversary party on November 12th at Monument Inn is most anticipated this year with member only pricing of $15 per person (normally a $40 value)! This year's theme is a luau so plan to come in your tropical best for all-you-can-eat seafood including boiled shrimp and oysters! We select our Diver of the Year at the party so start planning your nominations.

Are you ready for your "Whale of a Deal"? Join us at our **36th Annual Divers Market** at Landolt Pavilion in Clear Lake Park in Seabrook scheduled for **October 8th** from 10am-4pm! We still have coupon cards at the meetings to hand out to fellow divers and other interested parties. Send in your name and tshirt size and join us for the volunteer feast afterwards with special door prizes just for our many helpers. The more shifts you help out, the better your chances. As this is our largest fundraiser of the year, we need many volunteers to make the day run smoothly for our many vendors and customers. Sign up to help make this the BIGGEST, BEST, and BADDEST Divers Market EVER!!!! Just email: diversmarket@bayareadivers.org to help out!

So get ready to "Get Wet" and Dive Safely,
Doreen Wells
President@BayAreaDivers.org

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

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V. President	Ja Van Pruett	vicepresident@bayareadivers.org
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WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org

Facebook: Bayareadivers - Group

Twitter: BayAreaDivers

Extra News

- **5 Teams for Trashfest Whoa!**
  Last call to sign-up August 31st!
- **Lake Travis Clean-up**—Cindy Romano
- ***Pirate's Adventure —at Texas Renissance Festival Oct. 22*** Set sail for a swashbuckling Saturday as the crew of the Pride of Bedlam invade the shire with their piratical shenanigans. Quench yer thirst and sing songs of the sea at the Sea Devil Tavern, and try yer luck by entering the Talk Like a Pirate Contest. YAR, ye bilge water swilling land lubbers! — *David Romano*

BAD BOARD (BOD) MEETING

Meetings ARE OPEN TO All, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY September 6th 2011** at 7:00 PM at **La Brisa**, 501 North Wesley Drive (behind Sudie's at exit 28 on I45) League City, TX . Everyone is encouraged to attend as we appreciate **everyone's participation and your input**. Come earlier if you would like to eat and visit with some of us prior to the meeting.

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New Members

New Members- **James E. & Rebecca Alexander, Behnam Benyamin, Deborah, James, Nathan, Samuel, Will & William Foster, Jerra Harding, Michael Lanier, Rex Manley, Nola Morrow, Greg Otto, Carlos, Kim, & Isaac Saldivar, Pete Richard**

Member of the Month

July

Pete Hunter

Pete is from Pasadena Texas and has been diving for 4 years. He had wanted to dive his whole life, so when he retired, he took the course and got certified.

September Speaker

September 28th, 2011

BAD General Membership Meeting

Jason Poffenberger. Jason, is a member of BAD and is an 8 year veteran of the US Navy, Combat Aircrew-6, VP-94, Naval Air Station, Belle Chase, LA. I have a BFA in photography from the UofH and an MS in aeronautical science. Been in the space business for about 16 years. I'm currently working for Exploration Missions and Systems Office, here at JSC. My primary responsibility is to support EMSO Analog Integration, developing space exploration architecture as it applies to destinations like the Moon, Mars or, Near Earth Asteroids.

Jason talking specifically about NASA's Extreme Environment Mission Operations at the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory in Key Largo, FLA. This year's saturation mission, scheduled for the 17th through the 29th of October, focuses primarily on an exploration mission to the surface of an asteroid. We've got 7 astronauts participating with us this year in several different roles including saturation crewmembers, Deepworker submersible pilots and CAPCOM duties.

There is a link to the Aquarius Reef Base web site just in case you'd like to have a little more detail about the laboratory. http://aquarius.uncw.edu/

This will be an SUPER MEETING!
DON'T MISS IT.

THANK YOU!

FRANK & JOYCE BUREK

Wednesday - July 27, 2011
At the last General Meeting:
I hope you did not miss this meeting.
GREAT!

Bay Area Divers

In Association with Save Our Leatherback Turtles Organization

$$ Club Fund Raising Project $$
"Turning Energy into Income"

www.BayAreaDivers.IgniteInc.biz

For more information contact Dennis Camp
Phone 281.703.6492 Email: dcamp@ hibexintl.com

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BLUE LAGOON DIVE

Doreen Wells Thank you to everyone that came out to Blue Lagoon! I can't go over all the ways the contributions of everyone made this weekend such a success! From those that put together the glow sticks for the night dive to the guitar and drums while munching on smores to breaking out the griddle to sauté the onion and peppers for the fajitas, we had new divers, returning divers, and divers that have dove in Jacob's Well when it was still open. There were divers fresh from Hawaii and divers studying for their AOW. Water scooters, first-time night divers, and snorkelers abounded. The stars and milky way dazzled the late night water-treaders. In the end, everyone pitched in at meal time and food and sides were overflowing. Thank you again for a wonderful weekend and I hope you cherish the memories made this weekend with your fellow divers!

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LETS GET WET!

Saturday, August 20th

Great turn out-
James & Rebecca Alexander, Mei-Hwa Ferguson, Bill, Deborah, Will, Nathan, James & Sam Foster, Ron Hoffman, Pete & Norman Hunter, Cory Jensen, Bradley & Bryan Phelps, Doreen Wells & Jim McConville, David, Cindy & Trent Romano, Kim & Carlos Saldivar, Fran Smith, Lisa Smith, Connie S. & guest, and Hendrick Gesink

8.7 million species exist on Earth, study estimates

By Juliet Eilperin, Published: August 23 ***Sent in by Jim Ward***

For centuries scientists have pondered a central question: How many species exist on Earth? Now, a group of researchers has offered an answer: 8.7 million.

Although the number is still an estimate, it represents the most rigorous mathematical analysis yet of what we know — and don't know — about life on land and in the sea. The authors of the paper, published Tuesday evening by the scientific journal PLoS Biology, suggest that 86 percent of all terrestrial species and 91 percent of all marine species have yet to be discovered, described and catalogued.

The new analysis is significant not only because it gives more detail on a fundamental scientific mystery but because it helps capture the complexity of a natural system that is in danger of losing species at an unprecedented rate.

Marine biologist Boris Worm of Canada's Dalhousie University, one of the paper's co-authors, compared the planet to a machine with 8.7 million parts, all of which perform a valuable function. "If you think of the planet as a life-support system for our species, you want to look at how complex that life-support system is," Worm said. "We're tinkering with that machine because we're throwing out parts all the time."

The researchers predicted there are about 7.77 million species of animals, 298,000 of plants, 611,000 of fungi, 36,400 of protozoa and 27,500 of chromists (which include various algae and water molds). Only a fraction of these species have been identified, including just 7 percent of fungi and 12 percent of animals, compared with 72 percent of plants.

"The numbers are astounding," said Jesse Ausubel, who is vice president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and co-founder of the Census of Marine Life and the Encyclopedia of Life. "There are 2.2 million ways of making a living in the ocean. There are half a million ways to be a mushroom. That's amazing to me."

Researchers are still pushing to launch a series of ambitious expeditions to catalogue marine life over the next decade, including a group of Chilean scientists who hope to investigate the eastern Pacific and a separate group of Indonesian researchers who would probe their region's waters.

One of the reasons so many species have yet to be catalogued is that describing and cataloguing them in the scientific literature is a painstaking process, and the number of professional taxonomists is dwindling.

Smithsonian Institution curator Terry Erwin, a research entomologist, said fewer financial resources and a shift toward genetic analysis has cut the number of professional taxonomists at work. Erwin noted that when he started at the Smithsonian in 1970 there were 12 research entomologists, and now there are six. Erwin still thinks counting actual specimens is the best route, noting he and his students determined in 2005 that there are more than 100,000 species of insects in a single hectare (or 2.5 acres) of the Amazon. Noting that insects and their relatives count for 85 percent of life on Earth, he wondered why there's such a fuss about counting the rest of the planet's inhabitants: "Nothing else counts."

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BAY AREA DIVERS

37th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Hawaiian Theme

Wear your Tropical Best and get Lei'd!!!

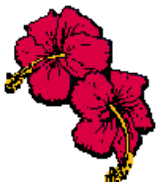
Monument Inn – La Porte, Texas

4406 South Battleground Road

All-You-Can-Eat* Served Family-Style

Saturday, November 12th, 2011 6pm - 10pm

Dinner is served at 7pm



Fresh Shucked Oysters on the Half Shell
Cold Boiled Shrimp
Fried Catfish / Fried Oysters /
Fried Shrimp / Stuffed Crab

Coffee / Tea & French Fries
Dinner & Cinnamon Rolls
Cash Bar

Tickets are on sale $15 members only

We are limited to the first 75 people

See Capt. Randy Widaman for tickets!

Best Door Prizes all Year!!!

Top Prize - Trip!!

***Non-seafood entrees also available.**

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Trips and Activities

LAKE TRAVIS UNDERWATER (& SHORELINE) CLEANUP

Sunday, September 11th

The Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup is the BIGGEST scuba diving and shoreline cleanup in Texas. The event invites several hundred certified scuba divers and shoreline volunteers to help round-up trash from the bottom of Lake Travis and 11 Travis County Parks around the lake. The cleanup is followed by a volunteer thank-you party & is a great event for ALL ages! RAIN OR SHINE!

Join us on September 11th as we unite with volunteers across the nation to make the tenth anniversary of 9/11 one of service and remembrance.

We are taking names for those interested in attending! We camp Saturday night, Sept 10th, in Mansfield Dam Park for $20/per vehicle and there are no other fees! Please let Cindy Romano know if you are going. They have great prizes for both divers and non-divers.

This was last year—looks like they had lots of fun!

Mei-Hwa Wilson Ferguson Can't wait - count me in! Last year, we did an night dive at the dam. They have a scuba park with several sunken boats, a plane, and buoyancy course to explore.

I especially like that we're camping right by the bathrooms and showers with hot and cold water! I won a regulator (one of the many door prizes) last year at the after party at Carlos n Charlie's.

Cindy Romano Yes. We did have fun. David, Trent & I will be there.

FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Please visit our web site for details and photos: http://flowergarden.noaa.gov.

September All Month
Whale sharks may be sighted in the sanctuary. Aggregations of small squid may be noticed during coral spawning.

5 Labor Day Holiday
Sanctuary offices closed.

14 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting - Galveston 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 4700 Avenue U, Building 216 Council meetings are open to the public, and include a brief public comment period. A meeting agenda will be available about a week beforehand. For more information, contact Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov

*675 Invasive Lionfish Removed from FKNMS Waters in Single

Sent in by Jim Ward

On August 20, 19 dive teams successfully removed 675 invasive lionfish from the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in second of three 2011 roundups. Sanctuary staff supported the Key Largo, Fla. derby through outreach, promotion, and on-site photography, assisting researchers, media relations, and filleting. The derbies, coordinated by FKNMS and Reef Environmental Education Foundation, have removed more than 1,800 lionfish since they began in 2010. Lionfish roundups help raise awareness about the marine invader, and also provide partnering scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA Fisheries with tissue and stomach content samples to aid in research. The winning team captured 289 lionfish in the single day event. The largest lionfish captured was 373mm (14.6 inches), and the smallest 70mm (2.75 inches).

Invasive species are a threat to protected areas as they endanger biodiversity and the integrity of native ecosystems. Successful control of invasive lionfish in National Marine Sanctuaries, such as the FKNMS, will require adaptive management, partnerships and community involvement.

Lionfish Invasion Update

Lionfish have arrived in the sanctuary! Rather than being cause for celebration, this is actually a cause for concern.

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Bay Area Divers
P.O. Box 58404
Houston, TX 77258
409-622-3022
409-6BA-D022

Catch us on the web at:

WWW.BAYAREADIVERS.ORG
FACEBOOK: BAYAREADIVERS - GROUP
TWITTER: BAYAREADIVERS

Dive Smart!
Dive Safe!
Dive Happy!

36th Annual
Scuba Divers Market & Expo
Saturday, Oct 8, 2011

C.D. "CAP" LANDOLT PAVILION

(6 Miles East of I-45) 5000 NASA Parkway

10:00 am –4:00 pm

$6.00 ADMISSION

NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT AND DIVING ACCESSORIES AT DISCOUNT PRICES!!!

Over 75 Spaces with Dive Shops, Dive Clubs, Conservation Groups, Etc.

Consignment Table Set Up to Sell Individual Equipment

Door Prizes Every Hour – Refreshments and Food Too!

For more information contact Doreen Wells at (409) 622-3022 or diversmarket@bayareadivers.org

Or visit our website at: http://www.bayareadivers.org, email: info@bayareadivers.org

We need Volunteers to help put on our club's only major fundraiser**.** All paid members get in for free and can put up to three items on the consignment table for free. **PLUS, the market has been sanctioned by the TGCC! Participants can earn points towards TGCC awards.** All guests and non-members pay $6 admission. Door Prizes are drawn every hour and new and used items are for sale at great prices. If you are interested in volunteering for a couple of hours at the event, all volunteers get a T-shirt and are invited to attend our after party and barbeque with special door prizes just for the volunteers. Let us know if you need more information on any of these activities. You can sign up at the meeting or Please contact Ja Van Pruett for your assignments caladyfish@yahoo.com or call (979) 549-0995.