



NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

March, 2011

March 30th, 2011 - General Meeting

Social starts at 7pm - Meeting at 7:30pm

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

The BAD Calendar

March

- 1 BAD BOD Meeting
- Ocean Discovery Day--FREE family fun, Galveston, TX*
- 26 **BAD General Membership Meeting—**
- 30 **Jesse Canselmo**

April

- 5 BAD BOD Meeting 
- Night out w/ Dinner & Dancing--*
- 16 *Contact: Events@bayareadivers.org*
- BAD Bring a Friend General Membership**
- 26 **Meeting—Mithriel M. MacKay**
- Equipment Checkout Dive--Lake 288-11am-4pm & cookout*
- 30

May

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting 
- Join us for Breakfast--*
- 14 *Contact: Events@bayareadivers.org*
- 25 BAD General Membership Meeting--

June

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- 29 BAD General Membership Meeting

WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org

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



Speaker of the Month — **Jesse Cancelmo** is an accomplished underwater photographer, author, and photojournalist. His articles and photographs have appeared in numerous diving and wildlife publications. He has authored three books, DIVING CAYMAN ISLANDS (1998), and DIVING BERMUDA (1990 and 2005). His third book TEXAS CORAL REEFS, published by Texas A&M Press, was released in April 2008. Jesse is a contributing editor/photographer for Dive Training Magazine, contributes regularly to Texas Parks & Wildlife and other dive and wildlife magazines. He leads groups on Gulf of Mexico and Indo-Pacific dive adventures.

Jesse@CancelmoPhoto.com

Don't miss this meeting!



| March | |
|--------------------------|----|
| G. Marie "Dusty" Manning | 1 |
| David Brandt, Jr. | 2 |
| James Bozsa | 3 |
| Susan King | 5 |
| Shelby Roquemore | 8 |
| Sandee Roquemore | 12 |
| Kim Tyler | 13 |
| Kade Alford | 20 |
| Robbie Brewington | 21 |
| Jonathan Dory | 22 |
| Andrew Rigolo | 23 |
| Tina Gutierrez | 25 |
| Courtney Tyler | 31 |
| George Young | 31 |

**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 December).

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Deadline for article submission for next month is **April 5th, 2011** E-Mail caladyfish@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear BADdies,

As the weather gets warmer, I'm hoping for an early spring to warm up the local lakes for our first **Kickoff Club Dive of the year at Lake 288**. Plan to attend on **April 30th between 11am-4pm** for a cookout and then lake diving to "Get Wet" and check out your equipment. I know I'm anxious to try out my new integrated dive computer I purchased from one of our vendors at last fall's Divers' Market!

I want to say a special **Thank You** to those who have completed and returned the questionnaire our Membership Director, Seldon Crump, send out in February to current and past members. We love your feedback and are taking great strides to secure new speakers with diving-focused topics and planning more activities both in and out of the water. However, your participation in both planning and attending these activities is very much needed!!! As a board, we commit to not canceling activities if you commit to signing up and attending. With your help in planning, we can lessen the load on everyone and still a fun-filled event! Just email your questions and willingness to help to: info@bayareadivers.org.

We are continuing our **Annual Membership Drive**. In addition to your dues, please take the time to complete the membership form as we are having newsletters returned and emails bouncing back! Also consider signing up for the email only option for the newsletter as every penny saved on producing and mailing the newsletter can be used to subsidize other fun activities in the club. Of course, if you prefer to still have a mailed copy sent to your address,

Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| President | Doreen Wells | president@bayareadivers.org |
| V. President | Ja Van Pruett | vicepresident@bayareadivers.org |
| Secretary | Cindy Romano | secretary@bayareadivers.org |
| Treasurer | Jim McConville | treasurer@bayareadivers.org |
| Editor | Ja Van Pruett | caladyfish@yahoo.com |
| Membership | Seldon Crump | membership@bayareadivers.org |
| Board | Christine Emerson | boardmember1@bayareadivers.org |
| Board | David Romano | boardmember2@bayareadivers.org |

Webmaster Jim McConville webmaster@bayareadivers.org

WEBSITE: www.bayareadivers.org

Facebook: Bayareadivers_Group

Twitter: BayAreaDivers

be sure our Membership Director knows so she can ensure you are on the mailing list! Ja Van Pruett does a great job on the newsletter and does a lot of work to keep us informed, but she still needs your help for articles for the newsletter. Email them to her at caladyfish@yahoo.com. **Will you be the one this year receiving the prize for most articles submitted?**

Also please note that we meet the last Wednesday of the month as some months this year, including March, has 5 Wednesdays. My apologies for the last minute change to Chabuca's in February. Although we made a reservation at our usual location, Mario's, it didn't get to the proper person so we weren't notified of their closing for remodeling. However, they have completed renovations and have our meeting room reservation for **March 30th**, so join us at Mario's Flying Pizza Restaurant in the rear meeting room for some family-friendly Italian food!

Be sure to check our calendar for upcoming events. In March, we are gathering to attend a **FREE family fun and education event for Ocean Discovery Day** at NOAA Galveston Facility, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, TX 77551 on March 26th between 9am-3pm. I'm looking forward to seeing you for the fun to be had at NOAA's Sea Turtle Facility in Galveston.

Last note: We are now on **Twitter!!!** Follow us at: **BayAreaDivers** for up-to-date information and changes.

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

Time to re-new your membership.



BAD BOARD (BOD) MEETING

Meetings ARE OPEN TO All, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY April 5th, 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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April 5th, 2011 E-Mail caladyfish@yahoo.com

New Members



New Member - **Kellee Ashe, Daniel Bosley, Frank and Kelly Dando, Mark and Cindy Erminger, Mickey Evans, Sherwood Hamilton, Heather Houk, Kevin and Susan King, Elyse Leavine, Jennifer Pellenich, Andrew Rigolo, Shawn and Barbara Smith, Abe Tamayo, John and Catherine Thomas, Shawn and Davilyn Ward, Ben Wong, Jan Workman, Patrick Zamagne, Cheri Zhou**

Re-new Membership - **Don & Madeleine Barnes, Chris Chung & Tanya Gorgusaki, Bill Jones, Mary & Neil Lowery, Tami Thomas & Zachary Dykhuizen, and George Young**

Member of the Month February



Don Barnes

Don Barnes was certified in 1985 and has been a BAD member since 1986. His favorite location to dive is CoCo View. His wife Madeline got him into diving.

Thank you to Jimmy Atkinson

**At our last General Meeting:
Wednesday - February 23, 2011**

Jimmy Atkinson with Toys for the Children was our speaker. He presented information about how his organization brings toys to underprivileged children at favorite dive locations in different parts of the world. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause. Jimmy is asking for toothbrushes, toothpaste, school supplies, and soccer balls please bring them to the Divers' Market.



Have you ever been to Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary?

If so, you are probably a scuba diver or fisher. If not, you are not alone!



Because of its distance from shore, Flower Garden Banks sanctuary is a place many people will never visit. But that doesn't mean they will never get to see it.

Through [partnerships with zoos and aquariums](#), we attempt to bring the sanctuary to people like you in the form of live animal exhibits. (Photo: *Joyce & Frank Burek*)

The sanctuary exhibits closest to Galveston are at Texas State Aquarium (Corpus Christi, TX), Cameron Park Zoo (Waco, TX), and Audubon Aquarium of the Americas (New Orleans, LA).

The largest Flower Garden Banks sanctuary exhibit, [Secret Reef](#), is located at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN. Next week, zoo and aquarium professionals from across the country will be there and have the opportunity to learn more about the sanctuary. We'll be there too!

Be sure to check in with us on [Facebook](#) next week for updates on how that visit is going and last minute reminders about Ocean Discovery Day, March 26th

About two of Our Members

Mozie Dwire, mom to **Rodney (PeeWee) Dwire** — was in the hospital with for 6 days with pneumonia and bronchitis. She is now out of the hospital and is doing much better.

Lanelle Hanagriff — lost her mother, Syble Wheeler on February 26, 2011. She had been sick a very long time.

Our condolences to all of your family and friends.

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Great white shark population lower than previously believed

Sent in by Mei-Hwa Ferguson

Great white shark: Researchers have found that fewer great whites are in the Pacific ocean than previously believed. Other shark species from around the world have also suffered steep population declines like the great white shark's in recent years.



Far fewer great white sharks are cruising the waters off of California than previously thought, according to researchers who conducted a unique shark census in the northeastern Pacific Ocean. "This low number was a real surprise," said Taylor Chapple, a doctoral student at the University of California, Davis when he led the [great white shark](#) study. "It's lower than we expected, and also substantially smaller than populations of other large marine predators, such as killer whales and polar bears," said Chapple, now a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute in Germany.

Counting the great white sharks was a hands-on activity. The researchers went out into the Pacific Ocean in small boats to places where great white sharks congregate, and lured the massive predators into photo range using a seal-shaped decoy on a fishing line.

From 321 photographs of the uniquely jagged edges of the [sharks' dorsal fins](#), they identified 131 individual sharks. From these data, they used statistical methods to estimate that there are 219 great white sharks in the region.

"We've found that these white sharks return to the same regions of the coast year after year," said study co-author Barbara Block, a Stanford University marine biologist and a leading expert on sharks. "It is this fact that makes it possible to estimate their numbers. Our goal is to keep track of our ocean predators."

The study, published in the journal *Biology Letters*, is the first rigorous scientific estimate of white shark numbers in the northeast Pacific Ocean, and represents one of the best estimates among the world's three known white-shark populations. Great white sharks also live in the waters around Australia and New Zealand, and off the coast of South Africa.

Shark species around the globe have [suffered steep declines](#) in recent years. As many as one-third of the world's sharks and other cartilaginous fishes are threatened, and shark numbers along the United States eastern seaboard have plummeted, some species by as much as 90 percent.

Great white sharks are classified as "vulnerable" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, but relatively little is known about the elusive species.

"This estimate only represents a single point in time," Chapple said. "Further research will tell us if this number represents a healthy, viable population, or one critically in danger of collapse, or something in-between."

Huge lobster saved from the pot



LONDON (Reuters Life!) – One of the biggest and oldest lobsters ever caught in Britain has been saved from the pot and will live out the rest of its long life in an aquarium.

The massive crustacean measures close to one meter (3 feet) in length and weighs more than 4 kg (9 lb).

"He's a fantastic specimen and by his size alone he has got to be at least 50 years old," said Lindsay Holloway of the Blue Reef aquarium in Portsmouth, southern England where the lobster now lives. "He is an amazing creature and it's quite an achievement to have reached such an impressive age," he added.

The lobster was caught in around 14 feet of water by a compassionate angler fishing for sole in Bracklesham Bay, off the coast of West Sussex.

Lobsters are among the planet's oldest inhabitants with fossil remains found dating back more than 100 million years. They are also extremely long-lived with some reaching ages of over 80 years.

The aquarium said the heaviest recorded crustacean is an Atlantic lobster nicknamed Mike who was caught in 1934 and tipped the scales at an awesome 19 kg. (London newsroom; [stephen.addison.reuters.com](#))

Sea Legs

Sent in by Jim McConville

Thanks to modern mechanical prosthetics, complete with hydraulics and microprocessors, missing a limb needn't mean missing much. Except when it comes to swimming. Artificial appendages for the water are still rudimentary: Most resemble clip-on canoe paddles for hands or kiddie flippers for feetclunky versions of their nimble landlubbing brethren. So, inspired by amputee sprinters like Aimee Mullins (whose extensive collection of 12 prosthetic legs includes).

Swedish industrial design student Richard Stark developed an beautiful and elegant, water-friendly prosthetic designed for lower limb amputees longing to get back in the water. It is called the Neptune. "I wanted users to be able to choose from a variety of colors, like with shoes," he says. But to make sure form didn't drown function, Stark teamed up with a pair of competitive amputee swimmers and their coaches to solve the problems amputees encounter in the pool. The fin is divided into three "fingers" a stiff digit in the middle



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Continued

allows wearers to emulate the vaguely circular motion of treading water; swimmers can use the slider to adjust the Neptune's flexibility to match their strength.

And in a modification suggested by one of the amputees, the fin can rotate 90 degrees to switch from the sideways kick of the breaststroke to the up-and-down motion of the crawl. When Stark finished the project, he published photos and a video online and was surprised at how quickly the Neptune garnered a response. "Amputees all around the world were asking me if they could order it," he says. Stark is trying to sell the concept as he pursues his master's degree, but many insurance policies don't cover a prosthetic that's strictly for swimming. So Stark will have to simplify his design and get the cost down to something people will be willing to payout of pocket—hopefully less than \$350.

Read more: [Richard Stark's Amazing Neptune Fins Help Amputees Swim Again Neptune Prosthetics – Inhabitat - Green Design Will Save the World](#)

Artist's awe-inspiring underwater reef complete



Coral reefs are an integral part of oceanic wildlife. They make up less than 0.2 percent of the world's oceans, but they are home to one-fourth of all marine life. They filter the water, feed the fish, buffer coastal areas from storms, and provide homes for oceanic life. And as the [Los Angeles Times](#) recently reported, a coral reef-like structure can also take the form of an impressive underwater art exhibit.

Artist Jason deCaires Taylor recently completed "The Silent Evolution," an underwater museum and permanent sculpture exhibit set up in the waters near Cancun, Mexico. It is located in the National Marine Park of Isla Mujeres, Cancun, and Punta Nizuc.

Experts hope that the exhibit, easily accessible by snorkeling, will alleviate some of the tourist traffic on the

Artist's awe-inspiring underwater reef complete —(continued)

nearby natural coral reefs. Cancun Marine Park is in close proximity and receives up to 750,000 tourists annually.

Coral reefs are under assault all over the globe. Sewage and agricultural run-off from coastal areas poison many reefs via toxic algae blooms that can cut off their much-needed oxygen supply. Human visitors also cause extensive damage by literally knocking into the ecosystems, breaking off pieces of souvenir coral and dragging boats and anchors across its fragile surfaces.

Further, as ocean temperatures increase, reefs are succumbing to coral bleaching. This is the process in which coral expels some of its inhabitants due to heated waters, leaving them white and lifeless.

Fossil records date some of the oldest corals on Earth to be 500 million years old, and yet they are under grave assault from warming temperatures and humankind's encroachment. As he told the [Los Angeles Times](#), "I would also like to point out that this installation is by no means over and the second phase is dependent on nature's artists of the sea, to nurture, evolve, and apply the patina of life."

Made from environmentally friendly materials, deCaires Taylor's sculpture promotes awareness of the plight of coral. The artist says his sculpture garden in Mexico is only in the first stages of development.



http://green.yahoo.com/blog/guest_bloggers/79/artist-s-awe-inspiring-underwater-reef-complete.html;_ylt=AuI4sbnNeOKipzSMBK6Cb36tV8cX

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Trips and Activities

Rebecca Jacobs Trips

March 5 – 6 Flower Gardens
 March 16 — 20 Cozumel
 April 9 – 10 Flower Gardens
 April 27 — May 1 Cozumel
 May 7 – 8 Flower Gardens
 May 22 — 29 Cozumel

Australia in 2012

Australia's Great Barrier Reef!

Contact Rebecca Jacobs

Email: rebecca@wwdive.com

281.540.1616



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



March— All Month

Hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays school around the banks.

2 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

26 Ocean Discovery Day - Galveston
 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 4700 Avenue U—Join us for a **FREE** day of discovery and exploration. Learn more about NOAA's activities in the community. Meet NOAA scientists, visit the sea turtles, and more! For more information, contact Shelley.DuPuy@noaa.gov

April— All Month

Hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays school around the banks.



11 Seaside Chat: The Hawaiian Connection - Galveston
 7-8 p.m. 4700 Avenue U, Building 216., Join us for a presentation about the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, one of the most remote marine environments protected by our National Marine Sanctuary System. For more information, contact

Future Speakers

Mithriel M. MacKay

My research interests include cetacean behavioral ecology with a focus for my dissertation on North Atlantic humpback whales. I am taking advantage of the opportunities presented while studying a low density of individuals off Puerto Rico for observing behaviors related to mother-calf pairs, singletons, and groups. The base station for my PhD dissertation research is set up in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico. A land based pilot study started December, 2010, with vessel based observations to follow beginning in the fall 2011 in Mona Passage. Behaviors are monitored using theodolite tracking, photography, videography and include photo identification and acoustic monitoring of whales in Mona Passage.

Don't miss this meeting!

Scuba Classes with Bill Jones

Email Mr.Bill.Jones@comcast.net for details.

May 6—Next Beginner Open Water Scuba Class
 May 14 & 15: Scuba Classes at Blue Lagoon

Everyone is welcome to join us to try out your scuba gear, just socialize, BYO-BBQ & Pit, BYOB, picnic, camp out, swim, scuba dive, earn a Specialty certification, or whatever at Blue Lagoon 2, Site 2! Interact with the group as little or as much as you wish, stay the weekend or for 5 minutes. I will also be teaching Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Master Scuba Diver, DiveMaster, & Specialty certification classes. Discounted books available now and from me at the dive site.

Sea Cucumber Podcast from EOL

What reef animal comes in a rainbow of crazy colors, can throw out its innards to immobilize predators, then creep away and regrow a brand-new stomach? It's the sea cucumber, prized as a gastronomic delight by some cultures and beginning to yield some of its secrets to scientists. Follow host Ari Daniel Shapiro from a Chinatown market to the reefs of Fiji to learn more about this amazing creature.

Listen to the podcast and enjoy a Google Earth tour video on the Learning+Education section of the Encyclopedia of Life. <http://education.eol.org/podcast/sea-cucumbers-0>

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Belize Marine Research and Jungle Tour

Join our team for five-days of research diving on Tom Owen's Caye in the Sapodilla Cayes in southern Belize; plus three days exploring at a jungle lodge. Coral surveys will be conducted using the Reefcheck protocol www.reefcheck.org, plus potential of diving in spawning aggregates with whale sharks, and spiny lobster, commercial fish and conch surveys. Typically we will do two research dives a day plus shore diving and night diving. Our host will be Reef Conservation International www.reefci.com who have seven years of research experience on the Cayes.

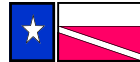
We fly to Punta Gorda via Belize City on Friday, 5/13, and spend three days at Cotton Tree Lodge www.cottontreelodge.com. Day trip choices include wading a river into a cave, Maya ruins, limestone caves, waterfalls, organic chocolate farm, Garafuna village and drumming tour, kayak up the Moho River, and more. Monday we boat to the Cayes for 5 days of diving. Friday we boat back to Punta Gorda and depart on Saturday 5/21 for Houston. We strongly suggest you go to our host's web sites to explore these rich adventures.

Cost is \$1650 for the 8-day ground package including local transportation, accommodations, all meals, tours, and unlimited diving. Airfare is for your account and is currently \$650 (use ff miles?) to Belize City and \$235 for the connection to Punta Gorda.

A \$670 deposit is required to hold your place; balance is due March 11th. Cancellation policy: Deposits are not refundable. Cancellation before April 13th loose deposit only. Cancel after April 13th no refund. Cancellation by Reef Conservation Intl., 100% refund of Reef CI portion except in cases of natural disaster and force majeure.

A PADI Medical Form indicating your fitness for diving (self reporting) and diving insurance is

W. W. DIVING COMPANY



Store Hours

Monday-Friday 10am-7pm
Saturday 9am-6pm
Sunday 12pm-6pm
thru mid Oct. 2011

ALL LEVELS OF SCUBA TRAINING
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Apparel ♦ Photography ♦ Jewelry
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1307 First Street Humble, TX 77338
Tel: (281) 540-1616 Fax: (281) 446-8861
Email: rebecca@wwdive.com
Website: www.wwdive.com

Belize (cont)

required. ReefCI has a PADI instructor and some advanced courses offered free.

Trip leader is Kevin King who participated in last year's project. Dive master is Jim Rosborough, BAD and HUC member, NAUI instructor, 46 years of diving experience, and Field Representative for Earthwatch (20 research projects). This is a Jim's fifth research project on the Sapodilla Cayes and he is a certified ReefCheck leader. Kevin and Jim are leading this trip as individuals.

If you are interested contact Kevin at 713-206-8072 cell, PO Box 7968, Houston, TX 77270-7968; kcking99@gmail.com. Jim at: 713-552-0104, 281-685-5339 cell, 2929 Buffalo Speedway #1408, Houston 77098; njrosborough@me.com.

BAD now can do PayPal

We're up and running on the web site and can now accept PayPal payments for memberships...

Check it out here: <http://bayareadivers.org/membership.html>

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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!

CLUB LOGO MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Are you thinking about replacing your Club Shirt,
or are you a New Member and would like to have a
“BAD” Logo shirt to wear just for fun?

We are happy to report help you with all of your
“BAD” Fashion Needs.

There are lots of styles, colors and sizes to choose from.

BAD Patches \$ 5 ea

Short Sleeve Polo Shirt..... \$19 ea

*Prices slightly higher for XX & XXX sizes

Tee-Shirts\$12 ea

Bumper Stickers.....\$ 1 ea or 3 for \$2.00

(The Tee's have an Angel Fish Photo on the Front and the BAD Dive Flag on the Back)

Available in all sizes

We also have catalogs with of lots of other items you can purchase. Another item that we have available is
“BAD” Logo patches. You can sew these on a jacket or bag that you already have.

If you are interested in any of these items, see Board Member at the next club meeting
Display your club logo with pride;
it's **GOOD TO BE “BAD”**.

