



# NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

## February, 2012

**February 29th, 2012 - 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 — Emily Ford—TMMSN**  
(Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network)

Emily, will be talking about activities to promote marine mammal conservation and teach the public how to respond if they find a stranded dolphin or whale on the beach.

### The BAD Calendar

#### February

- 7 BAD BOD Meeting
- BAD General Membership Meeting - Emily Ford-Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- 29

#### March

- 6 BAD BOD Meeting
- 24 Equipment check @ 288 Lake
- Ocean Discovery Days--FREE day of family & education!
- 24 BAD General Membership Meeting --
- 28 TBA

#### April

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- BAD Bring a Friend Night to Membership Meeting --TBA
- 25
- 28 Mammoth Lake Dive

#### May

- 3 BAD BOD Meeting
- 5 Cinco de Mayo Party @ ?
- 12 Mammoth Lake Dive
- BAD General Membership Meeting --
- 25 TBA
- 26-28 Clear Springs Dive & Camp Out

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

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



### February

Mike McBride	1	Verna Shannon	16
Abe Tamayo	5	Jeff Seely	19
Amy Falconi	8	Eric Falcooni	20
Amanda Clare	9	Barbara Tetley	22
Janice Seely	9	Marina Cernik	22
Claudia Hess	10	Barbara Clay	23
Melodee Gainer	10	Mia Williams	24
Cheri Zhou	15	Keith Seiser	27
Christine Longmore	12		



### 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: **March 11th, 2012** E-Mail [caladyfish@yahoo.com](mailto:caladyfish@yahoo.com)

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



# Extra! Calendar Event

Dear BADDies,

These are some of the activities that the BAD BOD have planned for the year. Let's Dive and have some fun.

## June

23-24 **Lake Travis (Windy Point) Dive & Camp Out**

## July

14-15 **Annual Blue Lagoon Dive & Camp Out**

## August

11 **Mammoth Lake Dive**

## September

8-9 **Lake Travis Clean Up & Camp Out**

## October

6 **Trash Fest**  
13 **Divers Market**

## November

3 **Anniversary Party**

So plan to Dive Safely,  
*Doreen Wells*

[President@BayAreaDivers.org](mailto:President@BayAreaDivers.org)

### Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

President	Doreen Wells	<a href="mailto:president@bayareadivers.org">president@bayareadivers.org</a>
V. President	Ja Van Pruett	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@bayareadivers.org">vicepresident@bayareadivers.org</a>
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Board	Randy Widaman	<a href="mailto:boardmember1@bayareadivers.org">boardmember1@bayareadivers.org</a>
Board	David Romano	<a href="mailto:boardmember2@bayareadivers.org">boardmember2@bayareadivers.org</a>

Webmaster Jim McConville [webmaster@bayareadivers.org](mailto:webmaster@bayareadivers.org)

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

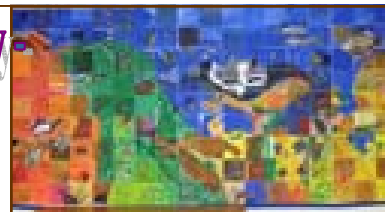
**Facebook:** Bayareadivers - Group

**Twitter:** BayAreaDivers

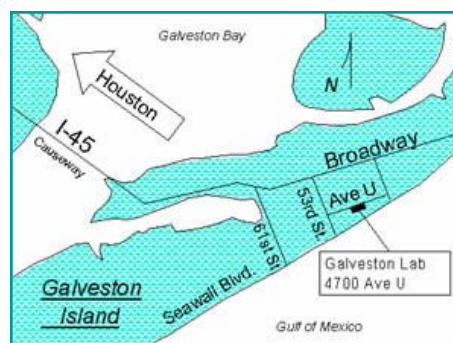
## Ocean Discovery Day

**March 24**

9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
4700 Avenue U  
Galveston, TX



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](mailto:Shelley.DuPuy@noaa.gov)



## Bay Area Divers

In Association with Save Our Leatherback Turtles Organization

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

[www.BayAreaDivers.IgniteInc.biz](http://www.BayAreaDivers.IgniteInc.biz)

For more information contact Dennis Camp  
Phone 281.703.6492 Email: [dcamp@hibexintl.com](mailto:dcamp@hibexintl.com)

# BAD BOARD (BOD) MEETING

Meetings ARE OPEN TO All, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY December 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.

# New Members



New Members— **Michael Figaro & his sister Annette Frerich**

Renewals—**Dennis Camp, Steve & Seldon Crump, Rick Decker & Shelby Dill, Forest DeVore, Mei-Hwa Ferguson, Pete & Norma Hunter, Kristopher Kohutek, David & Susan Mauk, David Pichler, David, Cindy & Trent Romano, Lisa White, Capt. Randy Widaman & Robbie Brewington**

## Member of the Month January



**Ryan Cleavey**

**Ryan Clare** was certified with his Open Water in 2011. Ryan and his wife Amanda joined BAD at the 2011 Divers Market. He has dove at Mammoth Lake.

## THANK YOU! RICK DECKER

Wednesday - Jan. 25, 2011

**At the last General Meeting:  
I hope you did not miss meeting  
(like I did)  
I heard that it was excellent.  
Very informative meeting—  
Who's going Lobstering?**

Deadline for article submission for next month is:

**March 11th, 2012** E-Mail [caladyfish@yahoo.com](mailto:caladyfish@yahoo.com)

### Remember Renew your membership

at February meeting at the rate of \$15.00 for Individual & \$20.00 for Family.

Due to the proposed changes to the bylaws that passed at the January meeting the rate has gone up. If you renew at the March meeting the rate will be \$20.00 for Individual & \$30.00 for Family

## Sad News about some of our Members

Mozelle Dwire was a member for almost two years, she didn't dive and could not swim but, she was Diver of the Month in October. She went to be with our Lord on February 10. She was the little old Lady that came to the meetings, BOD meetings and some of the events, as well as help with newsletter. Mozie will be missed by her son, PeeWee and her side kick/roommate and loving caregiver, Ja Van Pruett



*And*

Michael Kirby, was a member of B.A.D. in the 70's and 80's. He was an artist as well as a draftsman. He passed away Sunday January 1, 2012 at Shepherds Cove Hospice. He was 53 and a long time member. Michael was Diver of the Year in 1983. He enjoyed playing computer games, gardening & the outdoors.

# Rare whale caught on film for first time



A Shepherd's beaked whale pictured off the coast of Australia's Victoria state.

Sent in by Jim Ward

AFP – Thu, Feb 23, 2012

Australian researchers Thursday revealed they had filmed a pod of extremely rare Shepherd's beaked whales for the first time ever.

The Australian Antarctic Division team was tracking blue whales off the coast of Victoria state last month when they spotted the reclusive mammals, which are so rarely seen that no population estimates of the species exist.

Voyage leader Michael Double said the black and cream-coloured mammals with prominent dolphin-like beaks had been spotted in the wild only a handful of times through history.

According to the Australian environment department, there have only been two previous confirmed sightings -- a lone individual in New Zealand and a group of three in Western Australia

They have never been filmed live before.

"These animals are practically entirely known from stranded dead whales, and there haven't been many of them," Double told AFP, calling the footage "unique".

"They are an offshore animal, occupying deep water, and when they surface it is only for a very short period of time."

Double said what was remarkable about the sighting was that the whale was previously thought to be a solitary creature, yet was in a pod of 10 to 12.

"To find them in a pod is very exciting and will change the guide books. Our two whale experts will now carefully study the footage to work out the whale sizes and so on and prepare a scientific paper."

# Happy Belated Birthday

## December

Jim Rosborough	2
Sayed Naser	4
Jose Garcia	5
Mike Dehart	5
James Alexander	6
Matthew Fritsch	7
O. J. Strickland	10
Mei-Hwa Ferguson	11
Jodi Zajac	12
Jason Poffenberger	14
LaVon Kellerman	14
Lisa White	15

Jake Beckham	19
Randy Cernik	19
Tom Klinger	19
Linda Hollingsworth	20
Megan Thomas	21
Ron Hoffman	21
Steven Giesler	22
Shawn Smith	22
Christopher Chung	25
Katherine Bishop	27
Chris Shiver	28



## January

Ralph Castillo	1
Dahna Proctor	1
Rodney (PeeWee) Dwire	2
Chris Cernik	6
Michael Better	7
Hannah Hale	12
Melanie Ferguson	15
Kelly Dando	17
Mary Lowrey	20
Dorene Wells	24
Max Tinsley	28

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# Trips and Activities

## Texas Coral Reefs

### Trip to the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary aboard the *Fling*

There are currently spaces available aboard the M/V *Fling*, a 100ft live aboard dive boat that travels to the Texas Flower Gardens. The price for this trip is \$490. This price includes all meals, bedding, air fills and 7 dives. The 7 dives include diving on the East Bank & West Bank of the Flower Gardens, an oil rig, a night dive and two dives on Stetson Bank. We leave the dock from Freeport on the 27th at 8:00 pm. We will return to the dock on the 29th between 5:00 and 6:00pm. If you would like to sign up for this trip a \$100 deposit holds your spot. If you have never been diving at the Texas Flower Gardens don't miss this opportunity.

Call David Romano (281) 787-4605 or [dromano@skynethouston.com](mailto:dromano@skynethouston.com) for more information about this trip.

If you are interested being a BAD trip leader and conducting a dive trip, please review and follow these [Dive Trip Guidelines](#) then email details to: [webmaster@bayareadivers.org](mailto:webmaster@bayareadivers.org)

## East and West Flower Garden Banks

East and West Flower Garden Banks were officially designated as Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary on January 17, 1992. Stetson Bank was added four years later, in 1996.

This year we look back on 20 years of [science](#), exploration, [research](#), conservation and [education](#), and continue [planning for the future](#).

What will that future hold?

## FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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



### March 2012

All Month  
Hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays school around the banks.



### February 25-March 3 2012

#### National Invasive Species Awareness Week

Learn what you can do to help combat [invasive species](#). In the sanctuary, we have two notable invasives--lionfish and [orange cup coral](#) (*Tubastraea coccinea*). <http://www.nisaw.org/>



### 3 Nature Day at Sea Center Texas —

**Lake Jackson 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** The sanctuary will host an information and activity table at this community event. Come discover more about Gulf of Mexico wildlife. For more information about the sanctuary's participation, contact [Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov)



### 7 SEASIDE CHAT: Manta Rays, Whale Sharks and Turtles, Oh My! — Galveston— 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Galveston Fishing Pier, 9001 Seawall Boulevard

A chance to dive with some of the "big guys" has been a big draw to the sanctuary over the years. But, there's also a lot we can learn from them. Find out what these amazing creatures are teaching us about the Gulf. This is the last in a series of five **FREE** presentations. For more information, contact [Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov)



### 24 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](mailto:Shelley.DuPuy@noaa.gov)



### 30 Flower Garden Banks NMS Presentation —Rockport 6:30-8 p.m.

Part of the Grand Opening Celebration for the new Aquarium Education Center at the [Aquarium at Rockport Harbor](#). For more information, contact [Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Drinnen@noaa.gov)



Photo: Rockport Aquarium

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**Bay Area Divers**  
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**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!*

# New BAD Officers



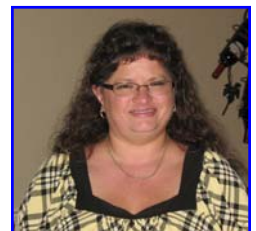
**President**  
**Doreen Wells**



**V. P. & Editor**  
**Ja Van Pruett**



**Treasurer & Webmaster**  
**Jim McConvill**



**Secretary**  
**Cindy Romano**



**Membership Chairman**  
**Seldon Crump**



**Board Member1**  
**Randy Widaman**



**Board Member2**  
**David Romano**



***Diver of the Year*** **Doreen Wells**