



# NEWS FROM The "Get Wet" Club

## July/August 2014

**June 25th, 2014 - General Meeting**  
Social starts at 7pm - Meeting at 7:30pm

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

**Speaker for this Month — Andrew Wilson**  
*US Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer*

Andrew will speak about the rescue of a bent diver from the Fling last year.

**Come out and visit with friends, make new ones and maybe even win a door prize!**

### The BAD Calendar

#### June

21-22 Group dive/overnight trip to Athens Scuba Park, Athens, TX

**25** BAD General Membership Meeting --  
**Andrew Wilson: USCG Rescue Swimmer**

#### July

1 BAD BOD Meeting 7pm La Brisa

19 Day trip to Blue Lagoon, Huntsville, TX, 9 am—close

30 BAD General Membership Meeting

#### Aug.

2 Platform dive trip—Pirates Charter

5 BAD BOD Meeting 7pm La Brisa

13-15 Flower Gardens dive trip

**27** BAD General Membership Meeting

30 Joint group dive with Diving Rebels at Mammoth Lake

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

Have an event or trip you want to lead? Contact the Board



COME VISIT and DIVE  
WITH YOUR FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS  
GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

**Divers Market**  
**October 11, 2014**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Landolt Pavilion,**  
**Clear Lake Park**

## BAD BOARD (BOD) MEETING

Board Meetings ARE OPEN TO ALL, so come on out and join us for our next meeting **TUESDAY, July 1st 2014** at 7:00 PM at **La Brisa Mexican Grill**, 501 North Wesley Drive (behind Sudie's at exit 28 on I-45) League City, TX . Everyone is encouraged to attend as we appreciate **everyone's participation and input**. Social starts at 6:30 pm.

# What's News



Dear BADDies,

Now that our “dive season” has started, we’ve had a campout and group dive at the Blue Lagoon on May 17—18. More on that a bit later. I want to give this outing plenty of room to do it justice.

Our next group dive and overnight trip is to Athens Scuba Park in Athens, TX 6/21—6/22. Evites have already been sent out as well as an event created on our Facebook page.

**We have many events planned, and the calendar on page 1 of our newsletter lists only what we could fit in. Please remember to check the BAD website, Facebook and Scuba-board.com (more about that later) for the most up to date events.**

To finish our “Meet the Board” feature, here are the Communications Director, Membership Director and our two at large board members.

**Patrick Newman, Communications Director:** My wife (yep, see below) and I started diving in 2011, under the instruction of our very own Bill Jones. I’ve since earned my AOW Nitrox, and a couple of other certifications, and look forward to Rescue Diver. Wreck diving is fascinating, and diving the USS Oriskany last June was definitely one I will remember. I got to dive the C-53 wreck in Cozumel last April, and am hoping to dive it again this November when Cindy and I visit Cozumel off the Carnival Magic. Local diving at Mammoth Lake somewhat satisfies my wreck diving thirst. My favorite Caribbean diving is in Grand Cayman. I can’t wait to dive the USS Kittiwake the next time we make it to Cayman.

**Cindy Newman, Membership Director:** Married to the guy above, Cindy has kept him as a dive buddy all over the Caribbean. She also earned her AOW and Nitrox certifications, and is still on the fence about taking the Rescue Diver course. Her favorite dive locations are the Blue Lagoon locally and Roatan in the Caribbean.

**Pee Wee Dwire, Board Member:** (Presented here in Pee Wee’s own words) My name is Rodney Dwire, but most people either call me “PeeWee” or “Captain Fly”. I have been diving since late 1978. I have been a member of Bay Area Divers since the 80’s, except for a three year hiatus.

I have dived inland lakes, the Caribbean, the FL Keys, and the Gulf of Mexico off the Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama coasts. My primary passion is spearfishing. Most of my diving has been in the Gulf from many small boats (from 18 to 110 feet).

I trained on CCR’s [closed circuit rebreathers] in ’96

but believed them to be unnecessarily dangerous, so I redirected my interests. I started diving trimix for my deeper dives beginning in ’99 but never certified in this field.

I retired my last Gulf boat (a 25’ Boston Whaler, Frontier model) a few years ago because the motors had gotten too old (1983 vintage) to be considered reliable for the distances went out. I have found it hard to justify the expense of repowering the boat at my age (67 years young). Few Gulf boats still carry divers but I’m game if you find one.

**Sandy Benigar, Board Member:** (Presented here in her own words as well) I’m Sandy Benigar, married to Rusty Benigar. I’ve been swimming and snorkeling my whole life. I don’t dive due to a medical condition, but I do love to frolic in the water. I’ve been a member of BAD for more than 2 years. Rusty and I have made diving/snorkeling trips to Cozumel, Grand Cayman, Jamaica and Nuevo Vallarta as well as many places in the US. I just love the water and love the opportunity to help others learn about how much fun diving is.

## Members of the Month:

Our April Member of the Month was **Donna Contenta**. Donna Contenta always wondered what was underneath the water when boating so she decided to find out. She became certified in June, 1982, and dove locally for several years. She then drifted away from scuba until last year, when her daughter got involved with Bay Area Divers. Her husband had been an active diver for years through his job, so Donna decided it was time to get back in the water. She has a cruise planned to the Virgin Islands in October and will do some diving then. In the meantime, she’s been familiarizing herself with the equipment and is back in the water diving locally. To her, Bay Area Divers means a chance to meet a lot of great people and to have a lot of good times.

Our May Member of the Month was **Judy Thompson**. Every month BAD highlights the diving experiences of one of its members. In a change of pace, BAD looks at the water experiences of one of our visitors to the May meeting, Judy Thompson. Judy is not a diver, but does enjoy snorkeling while her husband adds to his 30 plus years of diving experience. Her two favorite places to snorkel are Hawaii and the Caribbean. One experience she will always remember happened off the island of St. John many years ago. She was swimming slowly, focusing on looking at the beautiful fish near the bottom. Then she happened to lift her head to look up and there were three very large barracuda quickly swimming directly toward her. She believes she could have beaten Michael Phelps in a race with the speed she used to get back to shore. There was no more snorkeling for her that day.

**More news continued on the next page.**

# What's News - Continued



## Scubaboard.com?? What's this?

As I mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, we have another way to communicate our news and events. We created our very own forum on the Scubaboard.com website (<http://www.scubaboard.com/forums/bay-area-divers/>)

For those not familiar with Scubaboard, it's a forum based website offering a HUGE amount of information on all aspects of diving. You may view any topics on this site without creating an account, but should you want to post anything, you'll need to create an account. It is **FREE** to do so, and all you need is an e-mail address. I encourage **EVERYONE** to create an account and participate in not only our forum, but the other forums as well. You can find me on scubaboard (and most other forums) as "Lefty Writer."

## Welcome!

A very warm welcome to **Barbara Westby**! Barbara is BAD's newest Lifetime Member, and is the fiancé of **Keith Seiser**, our other Lifetime Member. Barbara received her OW certification just a couple of weeks ago at Mammoth Lake.

## Divers Market & Expo

With the Divers Market and Expo coming up in October, we are actively looking for vendors and advertising ideas. We are encouraging all members to help out with these details and volunteering during the actual market. Please contact any board member with your ideas. The market is our biggest fund raiser of the year and it's up to *all* of us to make it a success.

## In Memorium:

We recently lost one of the founding members of Bay Area Divers. **Cliff Holloway**. I received this news from another of the founding members, Frank Resch. He informed us of Cliff's passing after our last newsletter went out. For those that don't know, the other two founding members are Tom Rumney and Hal Devaney.

Another passing of note is **Larry Elsevier**. Larry was a friend of several BAD members, and was a local sales manager for Cochran (dive computers).

I would also like to mention one more loss to the diving world: **Captain Don Stewart**. While I did not have the privilege of meeting this man, some of our club members have. Captain Don was known to be a legend in Bonaire and was instrumental in bringing Bonaire to prominence in the diving world.

## Blue Lagoon has a nude beach???

So, our first group campout and dive this year was at the Blue Lagoon, Lagoon 1. This was the first time several of us has had a chance to dive at Lagoon 1. Most of Lagoon 2's sites just have a number, Site 1, Site 2, etc. Lagoon 1, however, has names for several of the sites. We BADDies were assigned to the "Hot" and "Nude" beaches. Ummm, OK, this will be...different...

The Blue Lagoon staff was quick to point out that these were names *only*, and should not be thought of as "requirements." Whew, I was a bit worried for a little while there...

Pee Wee brought some of his scooters (DPVs) and for many of us, myself included, this was the first time using one of these devices. They were fun! We had an awesome BBQ dinner that Saturday evening, and with all the side dishes and desserts, all of us were stuffed! Several participated in the night dive and glow stick hunt. The next morning those of us who camped enjoyed breakfast tacos made with leftover BBQ, eggs and bacon.

## A few final words...

As of early June, there is still no definitive word on Trashfest. TGCC will make a final determination and once they do we'll update everyone.

As I've mentioned before, the newsletter is prepared quarterly, and with the dynamic nature of news and events, please make sure to visit our website, Facebook page and Scubaboard forums regularly for the most up to date and complete news. I will be posting a full calendar of events on Facebook and Scubaboard, and the webmaster will update the site as well. I'd hate for someone to miss something so I'm using multiple resources to spread the news.

I avoid sending out group e-mail updates, as most people would rather not have an inbox full of messages containing just one or two items. When something is particularly time sensitive, we'll send out a group e-mail alert, but generally I'll keep the other venues updated as things change or develop.

Of course, should you, the membership feel differently, please let me know. I'm here to help spread the news in the most efficient way possible, and want to make sure people are getting what they need and want.

Stay safe and happy diving.

*Patrick Newman*  
[communications@bayareadivers.org](mailto:communications@bayareadivers.org)

# Let's Camp & Get Wet!



**June 21-22 @ 10 am**

**Athens Scuba Park - Athens, TX**

Join us for a weekend of diving,  
camping, glow-stick hunt & night dive  
500 N Murchison St. Athens, TX

We will have fried & baked chicken for  
lunch on Saturday around 1 pm, so bring  
your favorite side dish/dessert, chairs, and  
dive gear and join the FUN!

Please contact [events@bayareadivers.org](mailto:events@bayareadivers.org) or  
Patrick & Cindy Newman for more details.



## Bay Area Divers Officers & Directors

President	Doreen Wells	<a href="mailto:president@bayareadivers.org">president@bayareadivers.org</a>
V. President	Rick Decker	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@bayareadivers.org">vicepresident@bayareadivers.org</a>
Secretary	Judith Jackson	<a href="mailto:secretary@bayareadivers.org">secretary@bayareadivers.org</a>
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Board	Pee Wee Dwire	<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 group:** BayAreaDivers

**Twitter:** @BayAreaDivers

# Upcoming TRIPS

## Texas Flower Gardens Trip mid August - Dave Romano

(281) 787-4605 or [dromano4008@gmail.com](mailto:dromano4008@gmail.com)

**DON'T MISS OUT!!!** Few spaces remaining aboard the *M/V Fling*, a 100ft live aboard dive boat that travels to the Texas Flower Gardens. Contact Dave Romano for current pricing. 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 at 8:00 pm. We will return to the dock 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.

Find more events on the Bay Area Divers Website:  
<http://bayareadivers.org/event-calendar-current.html>

## TGCC Scholarship Deadline June 30th

**Last Chance to apply for Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Club College Scholarship Award (Michael Szewczyk Award) is June 30th! For 2014, TGCC is awarding 1 - \$1000 scholarship and 1 - \$500 scholarship. For application: <http://tgccdiving.org/forms/TGCC%202014%20Scholarship%>**

## 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)

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