



'DILLO DIVER

GOIN' DOWN SINCE 1984



www.scubadillo.org

August 2005



Picture by Walter Davis

New Members

Gary Grimes
Maurice McEntyre

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Michael Green	8/6
Robert Martinez	8/7
Mona Valentine	8/8
Jeff Colvin	8/10
Michael Joe	8/20
Judy Aschner	8/23
Teresa Howard	8/24
Pam Nowell	8/25
Sophie Douet	8/27

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Barney and Sandy's Scuba Vacation By Barney Thibodeaux

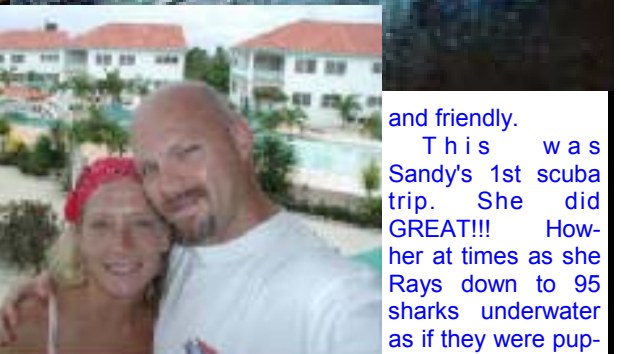
Welcome!!! We would like to share with you our pictures from our recent Scuba vacation (6/25/05 - 7/2/05) to Ambergris Caye, Belize. Ambergris Caye is a small Island just off the mainland. Not much



to do once you are there except relax, take in water sports, or Scuba Dive. The main source of transportation is either by foot, golf cart or bicycle. There is a Water Taxi that runs on the hour and will transport visitors to/

from their resort to the small town of San Pedro. Once your are there, take off your sandles, walk the beach and stop by one of the open bars or restaurants. The seafood is always fresh!!!

We had an awesome time and look forward to going back soon. Belize is rich in culture and the people are warm



ever, I had to keep an eye on got daring, chasing Eagle feet and grabbing nurse and petting them on their belly pups.

That's the beauty of it! It's a silent underwater world as you get lost in your surroundings. Please enjoy!!!

and friendly.
This was Sandy's 1st scuba trip. She did GREAT!!! How-her at times as she Rays down to 95 sharks underwater as if they were pup-

Barney and Sandy!

A Word From Your President



Jeff Colvin — 2005 SCUBADILLO President

I hope everyone had a great July 4th weekend. If you went to some exciting dive location, I would appreciate it if you could lie to me and say that you didn't have that good of a time. This act will enable me to keep my jealousy level under control. I will then re-

turn the favor and not make a big deal about diving at Clear Springs in Terrell. It was actually pretty nice; I just put a little table salt in the water and pretended it was the Great Barrier Reef.

August for me is a month of both amazement and depression. First of all,

August marks my 29th wedding anniversary. The amazement is that my wife (Cat) has put up with me for that long. August is also the month when I officially hit the double nickel, yeah that's right, 55. That's the depression part. Oh well, at least I still have hair in the front part of my head. I just have to concentrate on not turning my back on anyone.

As scheduled, August is diver education month, and thanks to Vice President Steve Partain, the Scubadillo Dive Club has been given special rates for O2 Certification and Nitrox Certification classes. Emerald Sea Divers in Richardson and Scuba Toys in Carrollton, continue to support our club in a special way. Our thanks go out to Mike and Larry.

I would like to finish this month's Word from Your President by mentioning a very inspirational woman I met at our club dive at Clear Springs. Her name is Mary Ann (I didn't get her last name), and she came down on the dock in a wheel chair wearing a full body wet suit. I had just returned from a dive with Sonny Gaither when I saw her slide out her chair and maneuver to the edge of the dock. She then donned full gear with fin like gloves and dropped into the water. Sonny and I followed and had a very nice dive in her company. She showed us all her spirit and determination in doing what she loved, not allowing any obstacle to stand in her way. She moved through the water with grace, she was free; she was truly a scuba diver. I'm Jeff Colvin and I am your President.

Whale Shark at Clear Springs!! By Jeff Colvin

"It was incredible, unlike anything I have ever seen!" I was on an advanced deep dive (17 feet), exploring the wreck of an American Airlines passenger plane that had crashed so violently in Clear Springs that there was nothing left but the fuselage. As I searched for the slight possibility of survivors I saw it, rising from over 40 feet of cold black depth. You might say that I'm crazy, but then again you weren't



there. Sonny was the only one with the right stuff to handle such an adventure, but even he refused to admit what we saw that day. In the shock of the moment, he thought we only saw a **perch**.

The July 23rd Scubadillo Dive Club day dive at Clear Springs in Terrell drew over 40 divers for some fun, food, and diving. The visibility was fairly





Don't Forget the Troops. They Need Our Prayers and Donations Ongoing. Go to www.scubadillo.org for web addresses that suggest ways to help.



Cozumel Beats Hurricane Emily !

By Stacey Burton Ellis

Hurricane Emily skirted over Cozumel and left only a minimal trail of damage. Hurricane Emily did not do any structural damage to any of the hotels...just cosmetic damage... some broken windows,, crashed a few palm trees & she was out of there. The biggest culprit was the usual flooding from the surge.

Seawater flooding...requires all fabrics to be replaced. Drapes, tablecloths, beds & bedspreads etc. must all be replaced. It will take some time to get these items sent down to Cozumel and set up. Currently, The Grand, The Allegro, The Iberostar & The Reef Club are closed. They all expect to be fully operational by mid Sept. at the latest.

I spoke with Martin, of Dive with Martin, two days after Emily,, his dive operation suffered ZERO damage! His boats are kept in a protected marina and he was taking divers out within the week! Since Emily did not "hover" over the island,, there was only mild silting on a few reefs, which has corrected itself from the daily currents. But NO DAMAGE TO THE REEFS!

Funjet & Adventure Tours have ceased all flights into Cozumel until Sept. 30th... or earlier, if the hotel refurbishment stays on track. Vacation Connection is routing its divers down via Cancun & they are taking the ferry over to Cozumel. There are still plenty of hotels in full operation! It is just a bit difficult to getting to Cozumel but well worth the effort.

No island can afford the financial hardship of "ceased flights"! I am sure it will force some of the smaller business out. So, all you loyal Cozumel divers get down to the island. Your visit will be greatly appreciated and Martin will be waiting for you with dive boat & a smile!!

(Whale Shark...Continued from page 2)

good, as long as you got into the water early enough. We had several visitors for the local dive event, asking about becoming members. There were even a couple of foreigners with strange accents; I think they were from somewhere down in south Texas.

All participants and guests were treated to a big lunch of fried chicken, potato and macaroni salads, baked beans, bread and cookies. There was also plenty of covering available to keep everyone out of the sun. If you were not able to attend, we missed you, but had a great time. ***I'm sure we will see some of our visitors at the next club meeting!***



2005 Scubadillo Diving Schedule

August 20th	Training in August! Nitrox at Scuba Toys on Wednesday, August 24th, attending is free; pay \$75 and get your Nitrox card! Want a refresher? Audit the class! THEN, O2 at Emerald Sea Divers on August 25th. Special price for Dillo members is \$75.
September 17th	End of Summer Fun Event.
October?????	Trashfest in New Braunfels. Comal River Cleanup. BBQ hosted by city of New Braunfels. Cheap hotel camping. Roadway Inn \$31.95 1-800-967-1168.
October 15th, 16th	Pumpkin Dive. Tyler State Park. Oktoberfest theme hosted by Gael Murdoch. Reservations: www.tpwd.state.tx.us 512-389-8900
November 11th to 14th	COZUMEL!!!!

2004 SCUBADILLO OFFICERS

PresidentJeff Colvin
Vice President Steve Partain
Treasurer Laura Greig
SecretaryStacey Burton Ellis
Sgt. At Arms Steve Sadler
Dir. Of Club Affairs Mona Valentine
Newsletter Editor..... June Hallman

2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

All above officers, plus
Phil Ray
Sonny Gaither
Gael Murdoch
Kim Penny
Annette Evans
Barney Thibodeaux

Future Speakers: Throughout the year, we will be bringing you more speakers to talk about great dive sites, underwater photography, manufacturers' reps to show us the latest innovations in dive equipment and much more! Don't miss a meeting!

Next Meeting:

When: Thurs, August 4th, 2005 7:30 p.m. (Social Hour 6:30)

Where: Midway Point Restaurant,
NW corner of Harvest Hill & Midway

Speaker: To Be Announced! Come join us!

Upcoming Events

What: Happiest of Happy Hours

When: Friday, August 12, 2005

Where: SNEAKY PETE'S - Lake Lewisville, TX 5-8pm

Weather will determine whether we sit inside or outside!

Mona will have flyers at the meeting & more info!

What: TRAINING IN AUGUST! Nitrox & O2 Classes

**When: Aug. 24th at Scuba Toys for Nitrox and Aug. 25th at
(& Where) Emerald Sea Divers for O2! Special Prices! See
inside the newsletter for a bit more detail.**



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