

"VOICE OF THE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL"

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January, 1972

1678 Lbs. Gar at Jim Clark Memorial

by Horst Seeger

A most unusual, most successful Jim Clark Memorial Texas Gar Rodeo just completed at Caddo Lake near Karnack, Texas. The East Texas Aquanauts from Longview, Texas have hosted this spearfishing contest now for the fourth time in a row; once a year since 1968, when Jim Clark, a diver from Shreveport, Louisiana, was fatally shot by a duck hunter mistaking him for an alligator. In his memory are we holding this event annually

Largest Gar

	Lbs.	Oz.
1. Jack Echart, Tex.	44	5
2. Matt Wiley, Tex.	38	1
3. Jerry Belyew, Mo.	37	0
4. Gary Swearengin, La.	35	2
5. Jim Uievar, Okla.	34	12
6. Matt Wiley, Tex.	33	7
7. Jim Nievar, Okla.	31	2
8. Dennis Corcoran, Tex.	30	0
9. Jim Nievar, Okla.	28	10
10. Ronald Williams, Tex.	27	7
11. Matt Wiley, Tex.	27	5
12. Jerry Belyew, Mo.	26	12
13. Mike Young, Tex.	26	11
14. Jerry Belyew, Mo.	26	8
15. Matt Wiley, Tex.	26	7
16. Bob Overy, Mo.	26	6
17. Jim Wood, La.	26	1
18. Dennis Corcoran, Tex.	25	11
19. Aubrey McElroy, Tex.	25	7
20. Aubrey McElroy, Tex.	25	5
21. Ed Ralston, Okla.	25	3
22. Bob Overy, Mo.	25	0
23. James Swilley, Tex.	24	11
24. C. H. Jesseph, Okla.	24	3

Divers Entered: 62

MOST AGGREGATE WEIGHT (Single Diver)

	Lbs.	Oz.
1 Bob Overy, Mo., J.C.M. Champion	271	10
2 Matt Wiley, Tex.	208	10
3 Jerry Belyew, Mo.	184	0
4 Dennis Corcoran, Tex.	142	9
5 Ed Ralston, Okla.	141	3
6 Gary Swearengin, La.	133	3
7 Jim Nievar, Okla.	104	0
8 Mike Young, Tex.	67	9

Novice

1 Jim Wood, La.	26	1
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TEAM STANDINGS

	Lbs.	Oz.
1. Dennis Corcoran—Matt Wiley, Tex.	351	3
2. Bennie Hartwell—Bob Overy, Mo.	280	5
3. Jerry Belyew, Mo.	184	0
4. Ed Ralston—C. H. Jesseph, Ore.	179	3
5. Jim Wood—Gary Swearengin, La.	159	4
6. Paul Cannon—Mike Young, Tex.	121	2
7. Ronald Williams—Jack Echart, Tex.	104	3
8. Jim Nievar—Paul Cleveland, Okla.	104	0
9. Aubrey McElroy, Tex.	50	12
10. Paul Oberle—Dennis R. Welch, La.	43	14
11. Robert E. Swilley—James R. Swilley, Tex.	36	3
12. Bob Womack—Bill Womack, Tex.	30	8
13. Molt Mews—Mike Sabin, La.	21	6
14. Robert Lachey—Wayne Mathewson, Tex.	6	14
15. Ron Hazel—Charlie T. Crawford, Okla.	5	6

Teams Entered: 33

1,678 3

under the sponsorship of the Southwest Council for Skindiving Clubs.

For those who are unfamiliar with diving and spearfishing, I will give a few sentences of explanation. The objective of this event was to spear the gar, a prehistoric monster, which has survived the ages unchanged and is known to terrorize the fish life of the southern lakes and rivers. The diver, half-fish and half-human, jumps out of his boat and disappears below the surface of the ice cold water, preferably 45-50 degrees Fahrenheit. There he swims along the bottom of the lake until he sees the object, a needle-nose or alligator gar, lying in his winter sleep. Nervously, he aims his speargun at the fish and pulls the trigger. If he doesn't miss, the spear will penetrate the gar's body and the ride begins. The wounded fish will try to escape and will drag the diver behind him through moss and brush until the gar gets tired. Now the

diver can get closer to the beast, grab it by the snout, swim with it to his boat and throw it in. This game will repeat itself until it is weigh-in time, the diver gets tired, or he sees a ten-foot alligator.

This year sixty-two divers from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Missouri tried to outdo themselves in this more and more popular sporting event, and what a job they did. A total of 1,678 pounds of gar was killed by these hardy men in a four-hour-long contest — previous record was 286 pounds.

The new Jim Clark Memorial champion is Bob Overy from St. Louis, Missouri with a catch of 271 pounds, 10 ounces of gar — previous record was 79 pounds, 9 ounces. The largest gar, weighing 44 pounds, 5 ounces, was brought in by Jack Echart from Arlington, Texas — previous record was 31 pounds, 15 ounces. Second place trophy for largest gar went to Matt Wiley from

(Continued on Page 2)

SWC Wins Inter Council Contest

by Ron Hagel

There was an air of excitement this past weekend as the Okies and the Texans tangled in the first inter-council dive. The Southwest Council came out on top and took the big inter-council trophy home. Matter of fact, the SWC virtually took all the goodies at this first meet.

Southwest Council Clubs showed up in force with eleven clubs attending, Oklahoma was represented by the Okla. Council (Hydronauts); although outnumbered they did an outstanding job — Okla. was to be represented by two councils, one attended.

The council that attended was the Okla. council (Hydronauts). OKLA. SCUBA DIVERS, WHERE WERE YOU? Special thanks to the Okla. Council for attending

The competition was stiff, but everyone had a good time and made some new lasting friendships. The lake was not at its best condition for the contest, the visibility was poor and very few fish were brought in. This was due to the recent rains and made it very hard for the divers to locate fish.

The Lawton Argonauts would like to thank each and every diver of the SWC who showed up and participated in the contest.

I would like to take this time and give a special thanks to the members of the Argonauts for a job well done. It took a lot of hard work to make the contest the success that it was.

For a tally of the receipts — we took in \$310.50 in entry fees, our total expenses were in excess of \$325.40. Even though we did not break even, we felt we owed an obligation to the charity that received the most votes at registration (Crippled Children Fund); therefore, we are giving a donation of \$25.00 in the name of the Southwest Council and Okla. Council.

Gordon Beznoska, a State Rep-

(Continued on Page 3)

SWC Convention At Longview Feb. 4, 5, 1972

After serious consideration of several attractive bids for the Southwest Council Convention, the executive committee established the East Texas Aquanauts as the host for the annual convention which will be held in Longview, Texas on February 4 and 5, 1972. Festivities and the business sessions will be held at the Continental Inn at Longview. Festivities will begin with a social hour Friday night, February 4, at the Continental Inn, located on highway 80 in Longview. Saturday, February 5, will be the business session starting immediately after breakfast, a buffet luncheon, and an afternoon session including election of officers for 1972. Saturday night there will be the awards banquet followed by dancing to a live band. There will be separate activities for the wives of members who do not wish to attend the business sessions.

Rooms for the convention can be obtained at very reasonable

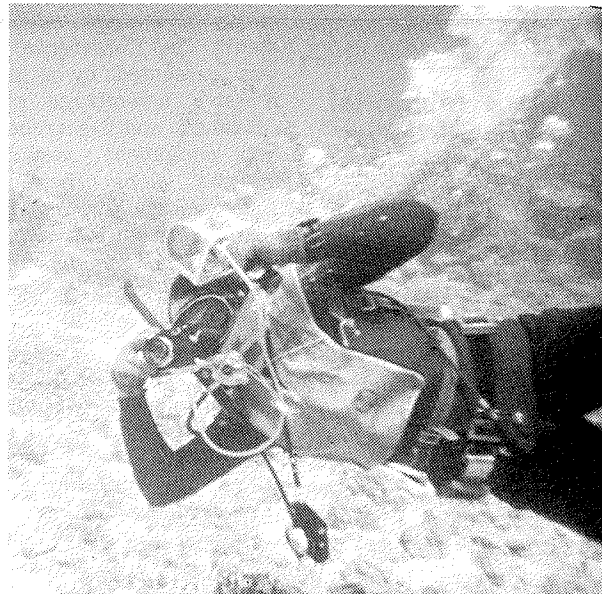
rates at the Continental Inn. Call them directly for reservations. Clubs and council members are reminded to submit constitutional amendment items to Ben Sleigh as soon as possible for consideration at the convention. Members are also requested to start thinking about their preferences for 1972 officers.

1971

Point Standings

Ed Ralston	71
Matt Wiley	40
Wilbur Knight	28
Dennis Coresian	27
Charles Crawford	24
James Permeater	23
Bruce Mayes	23
Ronnie Walters	20
Wayne Mathewson	20
Jack Parsons	19
Ben Sleigh	18
Earl Rhodd	18

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Lake Murray Lawton Dive

Largest Fish

- 1st—Bruce Mayes, 10 lb 11 oz
- 2nd—Wayne Mattenson, 9 lb 4 oz
- 3rd—Joe Landon, 8 lb 1 oz
- 4th—Ed Ralston, 6 lb 10 oz

Teams

- 1st—Joe Landon, George Gill, 41 lb 7 oz
- 2nd—Ed Ralston, Jim Nievar, 36 lb 0 oz
- 3rd—Robert Lackey, Wayne Mathewson, 24 lb 2 oz
- 4th—Bruce Mayes, Chuck Joyner, 16 lb 11 oz

Misc.

- Novice—Joy Redden, 5 oz
- Most Fish—Ed Ralston, 7 fish

Treasure Hunt

- 1st—Alan Steinway
- 2nd—Jack Trotter
- 3rd—Bud Banner

—Jim Clark Memorial

(Continued from Page 1)

Fort Worth, Texas (38 pounds, 1 ounce). The third largest gar was caught by Jerry Belyew from St. Louis, Missouri (37 pounds). The fourth place trophy was won by Gary Swearingin from Bossier City, Louisiana with a 35 pounder. When has it ever happened that a 34 pound, 12 ounce gar, killed by Jim Nievar from Oklahoma City, for example, did not win a prize? Can you imagine that 22 gar were caught weighing more than 25 pounds each!!

First team trophy went to Dennis Corcoran and Matt Wiley from Fort Worth, Texas with an unbelievable catch of 351 pounds, 3 ounces of gar. WOW!! Previous record was 133 pounds, 7 ounces. Second place team trophy was won by Bennie Hartwell and Bob Overy from St. Louis, Missouri with a catch of 280 pounds, 5 ounces of gar, and third place team trophy was won by Jerry Belyew from St. Louis, Missouri with a catch of 184 pounds doing the job of two. WOW!! WOW!! He beat out thirty other two-man teams for a beautiful third place team trophy. Only one record still stands, that for novice diver and this one was only barely missed. New 1971 Novice Champion is Jim Wood from Shreveport, Louisiana with a nice gar weighing 26 pounds, 1 ounce. He could not better our Dee Shappell's record of 26 pounds, 12 ounces. By the way, all trophies were hand-made from cypress knees by Mike Young, the president of East Texas Aquanauts and should therefore be a valuable rarity.

I believe some of these records

ICUE Huge Success

by Judy Crouch

The Third International Conference on Underwater Education, hosted by the Southwest Council Instructors Program, was a tremendous success with an excess of 300 registered participants. The Conference, held at the Dallas Hilton Inn on September 17, 18 and 19, has been declared most successful by the National Association of Underwater Instructors, who sponsor the IQ annually.

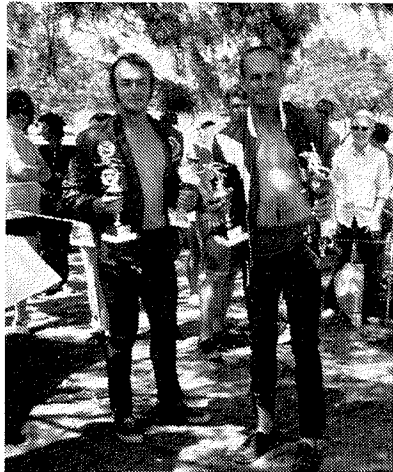
Divers from every area of the United States and several other countries came together to exchange the latest information in diving education and advancement. The Conference program was presented by a most impressive assemblage of diving educators and researchers. Diving equipment manufacturers brought along their latest achievements for registrants to examine first-hand. The underwater photographic world was well represented by the amazing photographers and their amazing equipment.

Friday night's Attitude Adjustment Hour was highlighted by a television spot on the 10:00 News featuring the ICUE activities in the exhibitors area taped earlier in the day.

Dallas' first Underwater Film Festival, despite the record low temperatures, was a smashing success. 1500 bundled-up people made their way to McFarlin Auditorium to see a collection of breath-taking underwater films. Emcee Paul Tzimoulis, editor of "Skin Diver Magazine", was greatly impressed with the enthusiastic response of the Dallas audience.

Congratulations to the Southwest Council Instructors Program and all those people who worked to make the IQ3 a success for diving a success for the Dallas area diving community.

will stand for awhile. In spite of the miserable weather throughout the tournament, (it rained continuously, was windy and cold) this year's Texas Gar Rodeo will remain unforgettable for all who participated. Nobody can imagine what we could have done if we could have had a better turnout and sunshine. No matter what, Caddo Lake should be a better lake for fishing next year because 1,678 pounds of gar will not neat 10,000's of pounds of game fish.



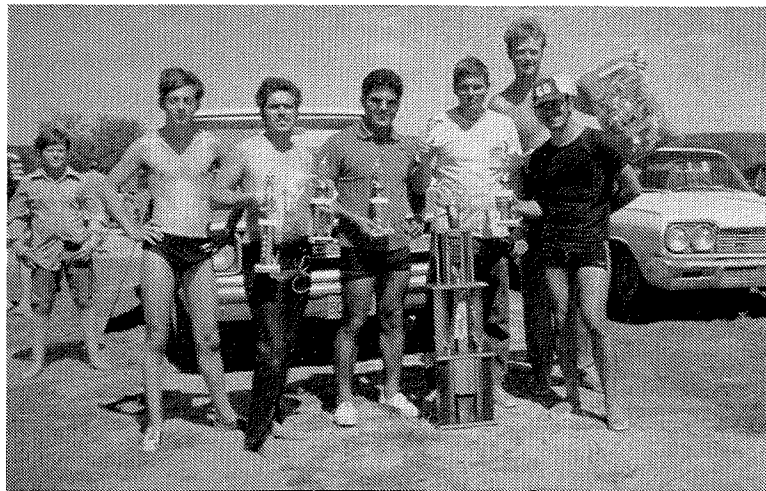
MATT WILEY and Denis Corcoran were first place team in the inter council contest. Both divers placed high in the SWC point standings.



HEADQUARTERS AREA for the SWC vs. Oklahoma Councils dive at Possum Kingdom Lake The dive was hosted by the Lawton Argonauts.



ED RALSTON was the winner of the Lawton Dive at Lake Murray. This win cinched the top point standing position for the SWC.



LES HOMMES de Mer vs. Texins dive was won this year by the crew shown above from LHDM.



TEXINS TEAM of Blackstone and Zetty won first place at the Texins last dive of the season.

SWC CONVENTION FEB. 4, 5, 1972

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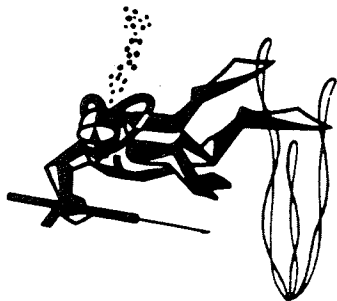


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"DEEP QUALITY"



PAUL TIZMOULIS was a key speaker at the ICUE sessions. He was also the MC of the Underwater Film Festival.
—Photo by Bert Smith

—SWC Wins Contest
(Continued from Page 1)

representative from Oklahoma, was on hand to hand out the trophies to the winning divers and to hand out the door prizes that were donated to the dive by retail merchants of Lawton.

The winners of the contest were: Traveling Trophy, Oklahoma Hydronauts; Largest Turtle, Zeke Zetty; Smallest Turtle, Larry Wiley. First Largest, Matt Wiley; Second and Third Largest, Dennis Cocoran. Most Fish, Dennis Cocoran. First Team, Matt Wiley and Dennis Cocoran; Second Team, George Blackstone and Zeke Zetty; Third Team, Benny Sligh and Jack Echart; Fourth Team, Larry Wiley and Merrill Stienthorpe; First Largest Novice, James Wilson. SWC is the champions of the two councils, but I have heard rumors that the Okies are planning to take the big council trophy home with them next year.

I would personally like to thank Benny Sligh, President of SWC and John Gibbons, Vice-President of Underwater Society of America, for the help they gave the Argonauts in regard to the contest.



THE REGISTRATION BOOTH at the ICUE started the conference off on the right foot with a cheery smile from the attractive young ladies who handled the task. —Photo by Bert Smith

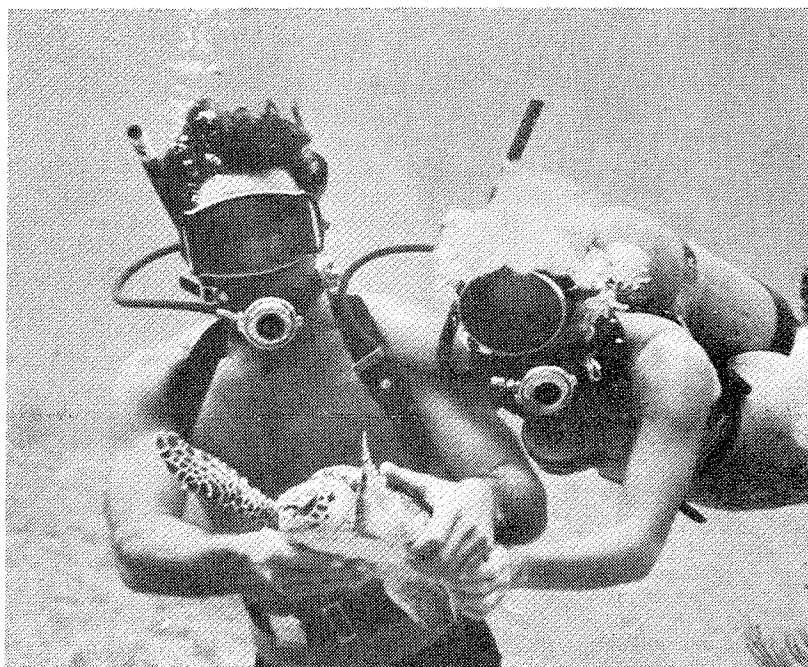
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