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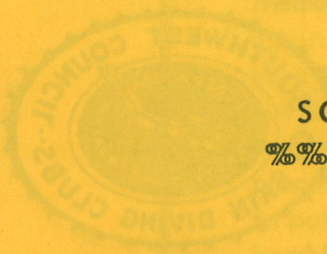
MARCH 1974

SOUTHWEST SLATE

OFFICIAL VOICE OF

SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVING CLUBS

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MARCH, 1974
SOUTHWEST COUNCIL OF SKIN DIVING CLUBS



Membership into this Council

Send the following to :

Mr. Hank Silver, 634 S. Central Expressway, Richardson, Texas 75080

1. Copy of Clubs' constitution and/or Bylaws.
2. Membership list of club including names, addresses, and designated officers.
3. Membership fee (\$10.00 for the club and \$4.00 per individual).

Membership in the Council is from January 1st thru December 31st, at which time dues become due, however, there is a grace period of 3 months, being till March 31st, at which time they expire. Dues may be paid in December of the previous year and will be good for the insuing year if the membership is not used for any council activity before January 1st.

Subscription to the "Southwest Slate"

Subscription is free to members of the council, to non-members is 40¢ per copy or \$3.50 per year. Mail subscriptions to Dick Wilgus, Editor, Southwest Slate, 804 N. High St., Longview, Texas 75601.

Information about the Council

Anyone wishing information about the council, its activities, etc., should send inquiries to the Public Relations Office, Mr. Matt Wiley (Rt. 9, Box 152B, Ft. Worth, Texas 76179) or the President whose address is listed above.

NEWSLETTER

The Southwest Slate is the official voice of the Southwest Council of Diving Clubs and is published monthly. Articles in the "Slate" may be reproduced in full or part (unless otherwise specified) as long as credit is given to the "Slate" and authors of the articles.

"NOTICE"

Articles and pictures for publication in the "Slate" must be in by the 20th of each month as the publication date will be approximately the 1st of each month. Send all material to "Slate", 804 N. High, Longview, Texas 75601.

Dick Wilgus - Managing Editor
 Horst Seeger - Asst. Editor
 Judy Crouch - Staff Writer
 Dee Shappell - Circulation
 Glen Sheridan - Art Editor

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Larry Henderson Edd Long
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 Earnie Grider Peggy Wilgus

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Before us lies an important year in the history of Sport Diving in Texas.

- A. The Spearfishing Rules change is imminent.
- B. The Environmental Protection Agency is tightening up on issuing permits to dump waste in the Gulf of Mexico.
- C. The Federal-State governments are beginning to sink useless "Liberty Ships" in the Gulf for creating artificial reefs for divers and fishermen.

How do these steps affect us and what can we do to be active in the decisions concerning these matters? Your Council is actively taking steps in all these matters. Correspondence is constantly flowing between my office and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to Mr. Linnie Peters, Chief of Inland Fisheries and Mr. Clayton Garrison, Executive Director of the Parks and Wildlife Department. The Council has initiated a dialogue with Mr. Arthur W. Busch, the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also we are corresponding with the Texas Council on Marine-Related Affairs, Mr. Joe C. Moseley, Executive Director.

These men and these organizations have a great deal to say about our diving waters, both

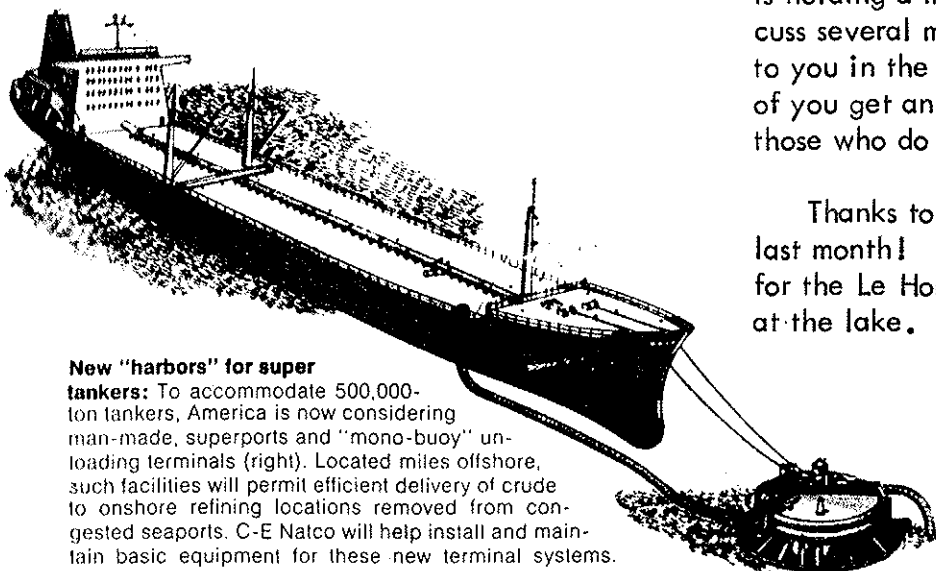
inland and off-shore. In brief, the Council wants and is pursuing the right to catch all species of fish "our way". We are putting pressure through mail on the Environmental Protection Agency to forbid further pollution of our Gulf. The biggest offenders, although they have "legal" permits, are DuPont, Shell Chemical Company, Ethyl Corporation, and G A F Corporation. These companies have permission from our Federal Government to dump in excess of 648,000 TONS of chemical, solvent, and solid waste into the Gulf and the limit of dumping is only 12 miles from the Flower Gardens and the Banks, Stetson, and Claypile. This figure is just the waste from three companies. I can't get all the figures from everyone dumping in the Gulf but I have courtesy of Busch Permits for most of these mentioned firms if any of you are interested.

Further, we are petitioning the Council on Marine Related Affairs to place the sunken ships in such a place and way so as to make them accessible to divers with the proper boats or by charter boat; that is, in water of less than 150 feet depth and close enough to a major port on the Coast to make it fairly easy to reach in a small to medium boat.

In other matters, the Executive Committee is holding a meeting Sunday March 3rd to discuss several matters. They will be reported to you in the next "Slate". Please won't each of you get an ad for the "Slate" and patronize those who do advertise.

Thanks to Dick for the sensational cover last month! Good luck and good weather for the Le Hommes DesMer dive. See y'all at the lake.

Hank Silver



New "harbors" for super tankers: To accommodate 500,000-ton tankers, America is now considering man-made, superports and "mono-buoy" unloading terminals (right). Located miles offshore, such facilities will permit efficient delivery of crude to onshore refining locations removed from congested seaports. C-E Natco will help install and maintain basic equipment for these new terminal systems.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST COUNCIL SECRETARY CAROLYN WEATHERMAN
1973 CONVENTION MINUTES
HILTON INN-DALLAS, TEXAS

Hank Silver, thanked Wayne Mathewson for the fine gavel he made for this year's convention.

Then the Invocation was given by Carolyn Weatherman 1972 Diver of the Year.

Hank Silver then introduced our guest, Mayor West Wise, of Dallas. At the conclusion of the Mayor's speech, Hank Silver, President, then called the 1973 Convention to order. With greetings to everyone present and special guest and his past Officers who served in 1972. He then added that he thought we had a harmonizing year and that was what he had strived for. Apologies were then made stating why Mr. L. Peters was unable to attend the Convention. Hank read the letter he sent and it was very informative; but he is still striving to help us.

We then had roll call of all member clubs and recognized their spokesman. There were a total of 15 clubs present and one proxie for the Hell Divers.

Then the Secretary, Carolyn, read the 1972 minutes for a period and then they were dismissed; as they were quite lengthy.

We then had our Treasurer's report given by Kay Kornegay.

After some discussion a motion was made by Richard Stovall. That the S.W.C. make a decal to put in the dive shops, who support the S.W.C. This was seconded and passed.

Hank then reminded us per our Constitution that it is time to have our Treasury books audited. Per Council permission Hank has asked a C.P.A. Firm to do this. This will cost about \$250.00. This was in agreement with all present.

Hank then one at a time introduced the two clubs that had requested membership into the Council and they were accepted by the Officers present. The two clubs are the Quitman Dolphins and the West Side Divers.

The Slate then was our topic and then Dick Wilgus was told what a fine job he had done with the Slate.

We then got off on the subject of the Underwater Society of America. Then Richard Stovall for the Midland Dune Divers made a motion, that the S.W.C. discontinue to pay any dues to the Underwater Society of America and that applications be put in the Slate for Underwater Society membership and same be sent to the Underwater Society Representative for disbursement. This passed. (This was never voted into the By-Laws).

Next on the agenda were the proposals to the Constitution. They are: 1) Article III Section (A) Teams: Now reads, A man's team shall consist of two members. Change to read, A man's team shall consist of two members, either two men or one man and one woman. This failed. 2) Rules for spearfishing Article I, G Now reads, Maximum total fee for sanctioned contest shall be \$4.50. Council fee shall be \$1.50 per entry and collected by sponsoring club at the time of contest. Changed to read, Standard fee for all sanctioned contest shall be \$4.50. Council fee shall be \$1.50 per entry and collected by sponsoring club at the time of contest. This was withdrawn. 3) Article XIV A now reads, maximum entry fee \$3.00, the Council fee shall be \$1.00. Changed to read: standard fee for each entry \$3.00 the Council fee shall be \$1.00. This was withdrawn.

Also to fail was to change the bid date from May 1st to Oct. 1st. This passed but was no addition to the By-Laws: That a committee be set up to up date all S.W.C. forms and at the next executive meeting all forms will be reviewed and voted on then originals be sent to the Secretary for distributing.

Then Hank Silver presented the Constitution and By-Laws Up-Date and Clean-Up that was done by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. They were read and they all passed as read.

To the By-Laws Robert Swilley wanted to delete the points for teams he made this into a motion and it failed.

To the By-Laws Bruce Mays made into a motion that we change the bid date for the Convention from May 1st to August 1st. This passed. To the By-Laws from Sandra Mathews, That Novice: Any Diver man or woman who has not entered any S.W.C. Contest before the current fiscal year, be added. This passed.

Section 2 of the Constitution was brought up again and made into a motion to read as follows: Regular member clubs shall pay the annual sum of \$10.00 and \$4.00 for each individual desiring membership. The Council shall maintain membership in the Underwater Society of America by paying the \$75.00 Council dues and individual dues for team members representing the Council at the Underwater Society National Contest. All other Council members have the option of paying Underwater Society dues in addition to Southwest Council dues for membership in the Underwater Society of America. This did not pass. It reads as follows: Regular member clubs shall pay the annual sum of \$10.00 and \$4.00 for each individual desiring membership. The Council shall maintain membership in the Underwater Society of America. All other Council members have the option of paying Underwater Society dues in addition to Southwest Council dues for membership in the Underwater Society of America.

Added to the Constitution was this: Article XIII C permanent Dive Dates, and make 4 to read, no further permanent dates.

Then to the Constitution was added Article XV to read as follows: The Nomination and election of Diver of the Year, and Service Awards would be held during the Convention, by Secret Ballot of Delegates present and appropriate award presented at awards Banquet.

We then had election of Officers and they are as follows: President Hank Silver, Vice President Wayne Mathewson, Secretary Carolyn Weatherman, Treasurer Kay Kornegay, Editor of Slate Dick Wilgus, Area 1 Vice President Phillip Rodriguez, Area 2 Vice President Dennis Corcoran, Area 3 Vice President Jim Gale, Area 4 To be announced, Area 6 Vice President Robert Swilley, Area 7 Vice President Mike Beach, Public Relations Matt Wiley, Directors, Bob Harris and Ben Sleigh, and Ed Ralston Underwater Society of America Representative. The dives for the year are as follows:

LHDM	MARCH 16-17	PK
IDA	APRIL 6-7	PK
TEXINS	MAY 4-5	TRAVIS
LAWTON DIVERS	JUNE 8-9	TBA
ORCA TAMERS	JUNE 29-30	TBA
AQUA JETS	JULY 20-21	TBA
GAR RODEO	DEC 7-8	EAST TEXAS
		AQUANAUTS

We then had nominations for the Diver of the Year 1973 nominated were: Cheryl Hubenack, Robert Swilley, Homer Baxley, Sandra Mathews, and awarded this award was WAYNE MATHEWSON.

Then nominations for Service Award. They were as follows: Hank Silver, Dick Wilgus, Wayne Mathewson. And awarded this award was HANK SILVER. Benediction was given by Dennis Corcoran 1972 winner of Service Award. We then called for adjournment and then the 1973 Convention came to an adjournment.



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RAIL ADDRESS, DOWLING, TEXAS

January 11, 1974

Mr. Dick Wilgus
804 N. High
Longview, Texas 75601

Dear Mr. Wilgus:

You were the signer of a recent letter to Mr. Arthur Busch, Environmental Protection Agency, Dallas, which expressed concern about disposal of industrial wastes in the Gulf of Mexico and which suggested that the EPA establish dates to terminate ocean barging of wastes for disposal.

Two Du Pont plants -- Beaumont and La Porte -- presently dispose of wastes by barging to the Gulf. We appreciate your concern, for we too are residents of Texas to whom the health of the Gulf of Mexico is important. We feel that it is not only bad business to damage the environment, but morally irresponsible.

Our ocean barging programs have never been undertaken lightly. They have been accompanied by a significant amount of research and environmental impact assessment in our own as well as outside, independent laboratories. The data show that we are not harming the Gulf of Mexico with our operations.

Further, our plants at Beaumont and La Porte are committed to ceasing ocean barging. At La Porte, facilities are under construction that will enable us to end barging in 1974. At Beaumont, extensive studies of alternative methods of waste treatment continue. We are confident these will show us a way to treat wastes on the site and thus end the need for barging.

Sincerely,

William A. Odle
Works Manager

WAO:ih

The Latest Spectator Sport - Diver Watching

Scuba diving, although an increasingly popular sport, is not for everyone. Since prerequisites to diving include good physical condition, intensive study and strenuous training, some of us are not quite ready to dive in. Two packs of cigarettes a day, a sluggish mind, lack of exercise, and no really sincere desire for adventure of heights or depths quickly relegates many of us to the rank of spectator. The diver himself actually has no inkling of what we go through.

Scuba gear, and the body encased in all that paraphernalia, is admittedly difficult to "watch". Diver watching is a real art which must be perfected slowly. One generally begins the training by surveying the pool sessions of a loved one. Here the first hint of pure fright and anxiety in store is when the little boy seated next to you in the bleachers says, "Mom, what's air embolism?" Mom replies, "Oh, nothing, dear, it's just when you forget to breathe correctly underwater and your LUNGS EXPLODE!" And she calmly continues her knitting! It is quite apparent that she is no novice spectator; she's been through this before. These early pool sessions are a breeze for her, but sheer agony for those unschooled in the art of diver watching.

Surviving these sessions is, to say the least, nerve-wracking, but it soon becomes evident that these training sessions are merely a prelude to the real terror ahead for a beginner spectator. A great deal of self-control must be maintained when the object of your affections dons full Scuba gear and submerges to 18 feet, there to remain for 30-45 minutes of testing. This testing includes all manner of trickery, such as being forced to ditch all gear on the pool bottom, then attempting to locate and retrieve it blindfolded. At this time, the mind of the watcher turns to thoughts of (a) how do I locate the nearest doctor? , (b) do these instructors really know what they're doing?, and even (c) how does one make mortuary arrangements? These are, of course, merely preliminary steps toward "fully accredited spectatorship".

The final exams are held at Open Lake Checkout. Sounds innocent enough, but here the new diver is not dealing with 18 feet of clear, sparkling water, surrounded by many qualified instructors. This is 35-50 feet of murky lake water, and one - count 'em - one instructor to take the diver down and check for signs of possible panic. It should here be stated that no provisions are made for checking the panic of the spectator. Therefore, it is advisable at this point to begin what is affectionately termed the "drink-down". This is very similar to any type countdown where one begins with large numbers and gradually decrements to smaller ones. At Open Lake checkouts, most novice spectators get SMASHED! The tee-totalers offer up deep prayers and lamentations and have often been known to resort to Yoga. However, having sanely (more or less) survived this final ordeal, one has arrived - he has become a "Certified Scuba Spectator" who has overcome his timidity and fears and can now join the ranks of those who sun themselves with no qualms whatsoever.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Burns
Fully Accredited Senior Certified Spectator

AREA I REPORT

The Texins, as in the past, held their meeting at El Chico Restaurant. Their food, as always, was great, especially that particular night. Their president, Ken Snyder, picked up my tab and naturally their beer was delicious. I think maybe I am going to enjoy going to their fine meetings. The Texins had a very interesting guest that night. He was Dr. Joel Shiner, head of the department of anthropology at S.M.U. His topic covered everything from our present fuel shortage to our past progress toward civilization. It was something to listen to. The Texins are also planning a trip to Cozumel this May 16-19 through Encore Travel Agency. I'll think about you while you all are having all that fun. Seriously, I think that's great!

The Dallas Divers also held their meeting at the same restaurant and the food was still great - so was the beer (y'all sure know how to give a club meeting). They discussed the S.W.C. Convention, and by the feeling I got, they were overjoyed by the way it turned out. It was a great convention. They didn't exactly make any money from it, but that didn't matter 'cause they enjoyed giving it and it turned out better than what they had expected. Their program for the night was a film taken and shown by Carolyn and Shorty Weatherman. It was a film of the club outing in Jamaica. The sound track was just plain good. A party is planned for March. The time and place is still "floating in water" - that is, they haven't decided yet.

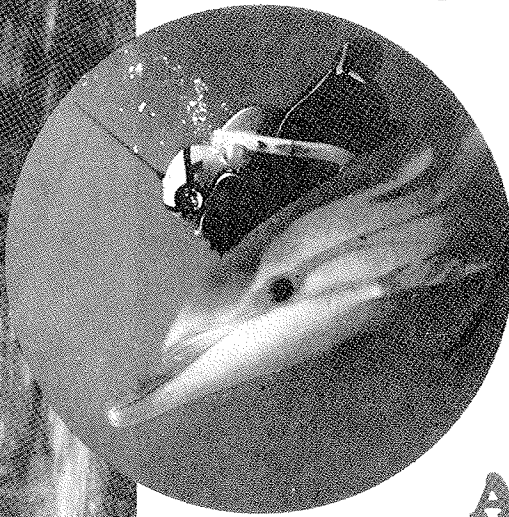
Since I just got the privilege of being the Area I V.P. (I don't know if that is good or bad yet) I haven't had the time or opportunity to correspond with the Sherman Divers. I did find out that they were planning an outing on the weekend of 30 and 31st of March in Freeport (that's in the Gulf). I'll try to have more on the Sherman Divers in the next Slate.

And now, last but not least - the LHDM Divers and Diverins (that's women divers)! Their banquet awards dinner was held last month, January, at the Western Sizzling Steaks. There were a few groans and grunts 'cause they were expecting lobster tails and steaks! They had steaks but no lobster tails. It was the wrong restaurant. All in all, it turned out pretty good. The club "Diver of the Year" went to Benny Sleigh (which he usually gets) and the Service Award went to me (which I don't ever get - Benny usually gets this award too). Congratulations, Benny! The LHDM Divers are laying plans to host the first S.W.C. Sanction Dive of the Year at Sandy Beach, Possum Kingdom Lake, March 16 and 17. Everybody is out busy getting door prizes and preparing to host a truly great dive. Hope to see every one of you out there. The program for the night was a film by "Silverflick Productions" (Hank Silver) on British Honduras. It was a great film. Incidentally, LHDM would like to thank Hank for agreeing to show the film in such a short notice (he came to the meeting in his pajamas). Just kidding! I don't know about his spearfishing, but you are a good sport!

I felt - as I went and went and went to these club meetings - that this will be an even greater year than last year and in conclusion, I'd like to say, "Come dive with us in our friendly lakes of Texas".

Phillip Rodriguez, Area Vice President

UDS-I System



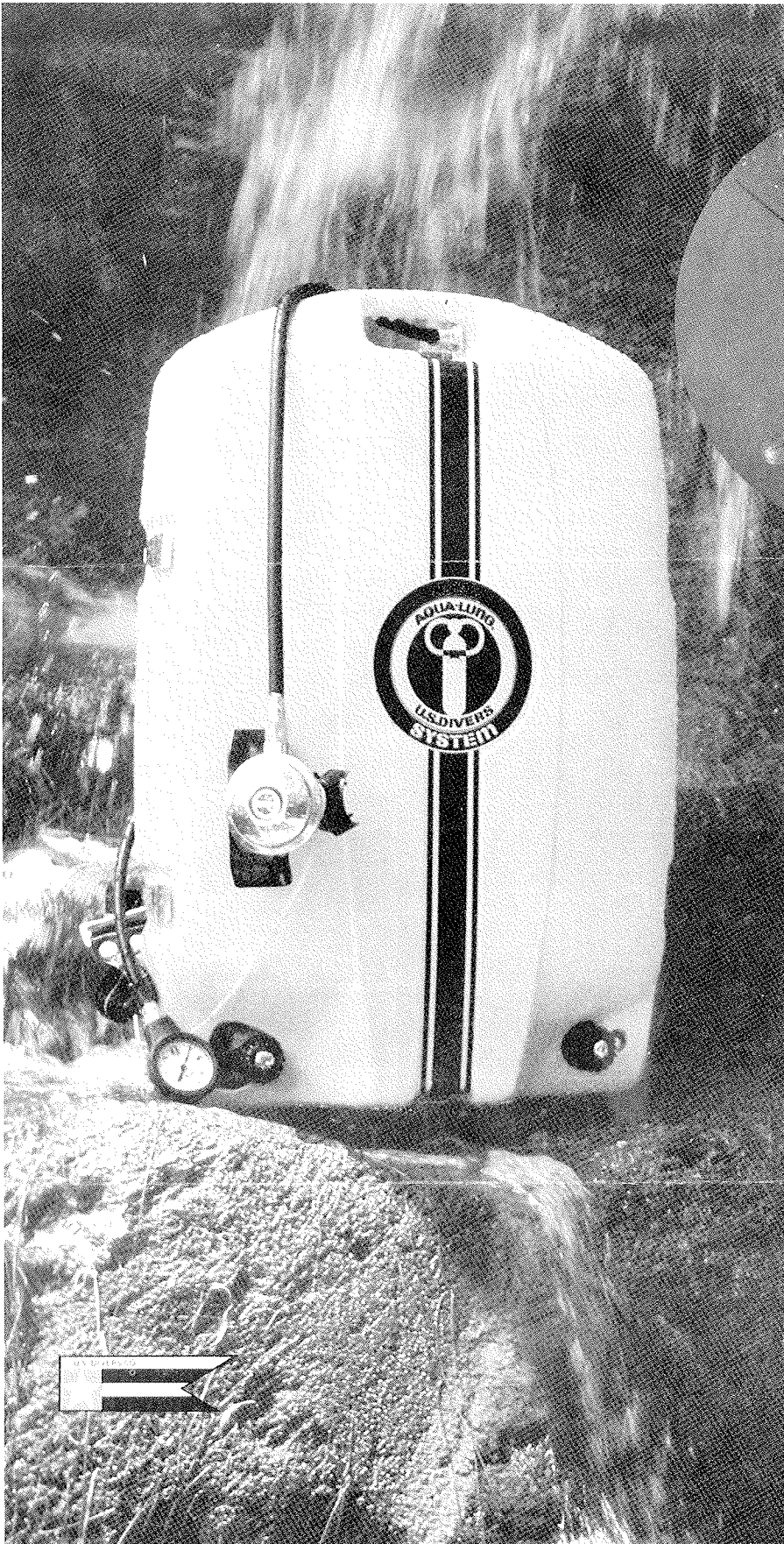
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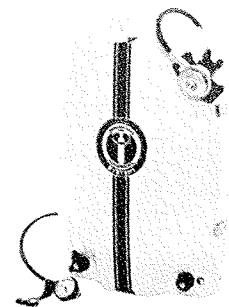
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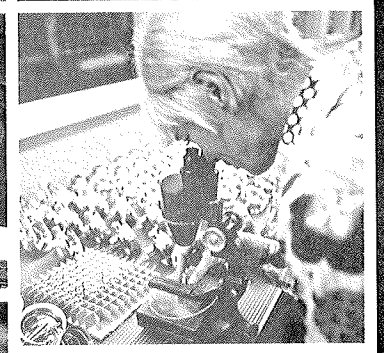
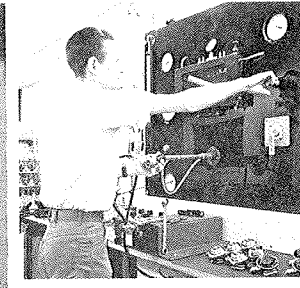
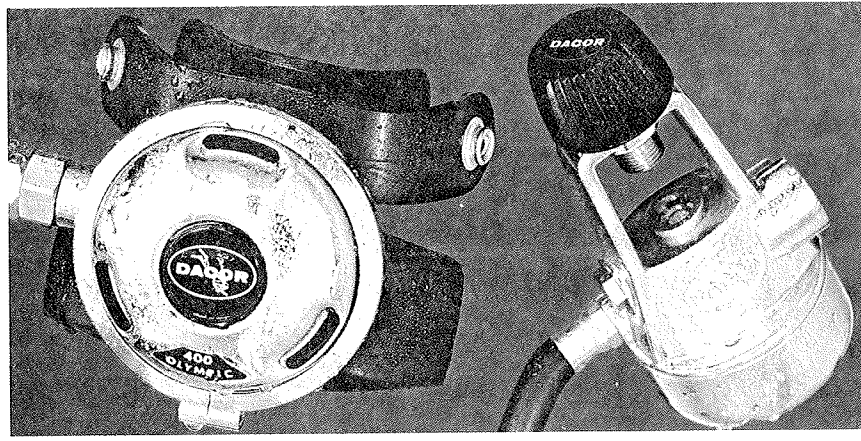
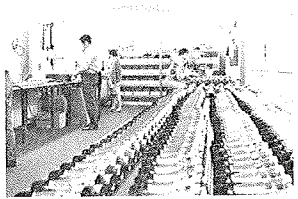
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Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Chairman of the Board



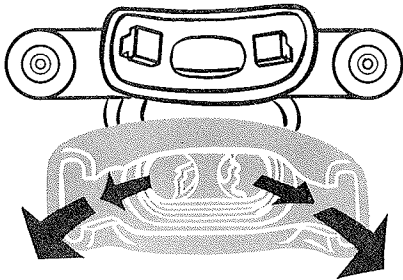
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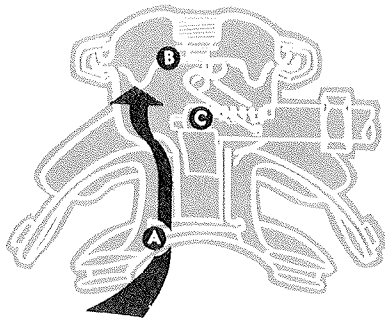
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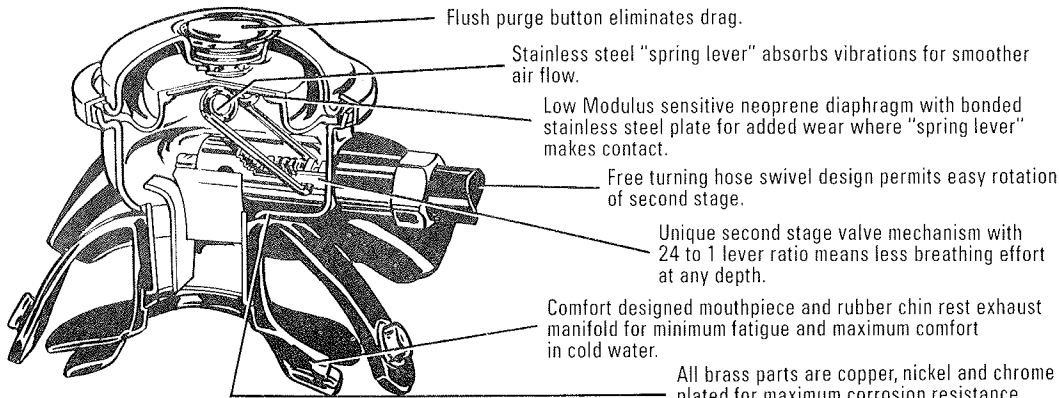
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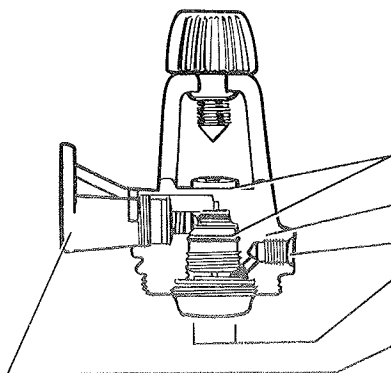
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(THERMOCLINE)

AREA II REPORT

I would first like to welcome the West Side Divers new club to Area II. I will plan to meet with them soon.

Thanks to Dallas Divers for an entertaining convention.

Area II members carried home seven trophies. Winners include Matt Wiley, Cheryl Hubenak, Sandra Mathews, Wayne Williams and myself, a good average for Area II.

I attended Orca Tamers last meeting recently where they gave door prizes and planned their monthly activity to Lake Whitney. They have also extended invitations to visitors to these meetings. Homer Baxley returned recently from a trip to Mexico where he enjoyed a successful dive in the Gulf.

I.D.A. is planning their Buffalo Blast at P.K., also planning two trips to Mexico plus a trip by Matt Wiley to Honduras with the free trip he won at the convention.

Bert Smith has just returned from Florida probably with some good film.

I also forgot to mention the spectacular prizes given at the Convention. They ranged from free diving trips to diving equipment and even a rubber boat.

The Slate needs money; I am asking Area II members to help by soliciting advertisements.

Dick, how about a classified section for members to advertise used equipment for sale or trade?

Dennis Corcoran
Area II V.P.

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EDITORIAL

Enough time has lapsed since the convention for most all clubs to have met and discussed an ad for the "Slate". Why haven't I received any? Three cheers for the Ark-La-Tex Divers who are on the ball.

A special message to all Area V.P.'s - when you visit a club in your area bring up the Slate ad and explain the need to the club members, OK!

We have a window decal being made to give to all business firms who advertise as was suggested at the convention. We will run a picture of it when it is ready.

Most everyone is getting later and later with their reports and some are not getting them in at all - let's shape up and get all reports etc. in by the 20th at the latest.

We were late getting the Feb. issue out for several reasons mainly the convention and the fact that I have been very busy trying to help get a new shop going in Shreveport, besides several Dealer meetings from Austin to Dallas. We hope to get back on schedule for the April issue so get your AD's and reports in early

Thanks,
Dick



AREA IV REPORT

Midland Dune Divers - Report For January and February, 1974.

At the January meeting elections for club officers were held. The results are: Bill Goetz-President, Bart McCollum-Vice President and Gayle Hodges-Secretary-Treasurer.

At the February meeting Richard Stovall presented a report to the club on the Southwest Council Convention. He announced that Bill Goetz was selected as Area IV-VP. The meeting was concluded with the showing of the film "Steel Reefs" produced by Getty Oil Company.

One club member and 3 potential members made a dive in Lake Amistad in early February. The morning weather was foggy and cold but by noon the skies had cleared and the diving was not too bad - 15'-20' visibility.

The last week a new diving class started at the Midland YMCA and it is hoped this class will provide members for the continued growth of the Dune Divers.

Bill Goetz - Area IV-VP

Area VI

The divers in Area 6 started the new year off with a Gar Hunt between the clubs in Area 6. As it turned out, only divers from the Aquanaut and Ark-La-Tex Divers showed up. Where were the Quitman Dolphins? Only they knew. As it turned out, the Ark-La-Tex Divers again took home all the prizes. It was after a fierce race to the finish by Mike Young, The Aquanauts club president. Mike and I tied on number of fish, but I outweighed his. I was lucky enough to stumble on a 32 pound needle nose that also won the Largest Fish Trophy. Mike donated a set of magnetic signs for most fish so I will certainly put them to use with my new dive shop.

I guess about the funniest thing that happened in Area 6 was when Mike Timo, a young diver in the Ark-La-Tex Dive club shot a 30 pound needle nose and then didn't know what to do with it. I had taken him out in the boat with me but he just couldn't seem to find any fish. After we made it around to my old gar hole he had just about given up. After he saw me land about 60 pounds he kinda thought he wanted some of the action. I got back in the boat and helped him get dressed back out. He was in the water about 10 minutes when he ran up on these large tails. When he shot one of the, it came to life. By the time it had pulled him over half the lake with him hollering for advice on what to do with it. He finally got close enough to the boat for me to take his spear gun. When I started pulling the fish to the boat _____ took off swimming away saying he didn't want it. Believe me, that was just about the most fun I've had in my diving career. We should all experience something like that at least once in our lives.

I haven't learned any reports as of yet from the group of Aquanauts that went out of Freeport to dive the rigs the weenend of our contest. They must not be the bragging

types or just didn't do any good. The Aquanauts also had about 4 divers to go to Florida last weekend to scout places for the club to dive on its club trip to Florida in March. Maybe I can give some reports and tips on places to go after I talk with them.


That is about all I have to report on for now. I hope to see everyone at P.K. on March 16 and 17.

Robert E. Swilley
Area 6 Vice President

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SCHEDULE of EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Feb. 23-24	YMCA	Advanced Diver Workshop	Jonesboro, Ark. 72401
*March 16-17	LHDM	Contest	P.K.
*April 6-7	IDA	Contest	IDA Pavillon-PK
*May 4-5	Texins	Contest	Travis
*June 8-9	Lawton Divers	Contest	To Be Announced
June 15-16	Arkansas Scuba Divers Assoc.	3rd Annual U.S. Freshwater Spear-fishing Championships	Chrystal Spgs. Boat Dock, Lake Ouachita
*June 29-30	Orca Tamers	Contest	To Be Announced
*July 20-21	Aqua Jets	Contest	To Be Announced
*Dec. 7-8	E.T. Aquanauts	Jim Clark Memorial Gar Rodeo	Curleys Camp Caddo Lake
*Jan. 11-12'75	Ark-La-Tex	Gar Rodeo	Bistineau

*Council Sanctioned





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AREA III REPORT

Area III is a bit slow. No diving at all only election of officers and such.

We can't find out a lot about T.I. Diving Clubs, so nothing to report on them.

Aqua Sports diving club has elected its new officers. They are: Pres.-Pat Tiffin, Vice Pres. - Charlie Lynch, Secretary - David McNeal.

American Airlines Aqua Jets new officers: Pres.-Elbert Jackson, Vice Pres.- Lee Bumpas, Secretary-Carolyn Embree.

This is about all I have to report for the month.

Jim Gale

WRITE THE CAPTION CONTEST was won with the Caption,

"Come on - lets see how divers do it Deeper".

Caption was written by Dick Wilgus, Editor - No one else submitted one. We will therefore no longer have a Caption Contest which is one less thing I have to worry about.



(THE THERMOCLINE)

NEWS & VIEWS

The Council received some nice write-ups in the Dallas Times Herald and the Morning News covering the Convention, officers and contest dates and sites.

The Aquanauts had an exploratory group of divers go to northern Fla. about 600 miles from Longview and check out some springs and coves. The reports were "Fantastic". Club President, Mike Young, Public Relations Officer Dennis Fogarty, Safety Officer Aubrey McElroy and member Larry Henderson are real excited about the return trip the Club has planned for March 22-23-24. They had 100'+ visibility and some exciting times.

Good News - Bad News

Sweet Thing said to boyfriend, Robert I have some good news and some bad news and I can tell you all of it in only 3 words. Robert said, "Let's hear it!". Sweet Thing said, "You're not sterile."

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NAVI

NASDS

YMCA

UNDERWATER SOCIETY OF AMERICA PHOTO CONTEST

In 1970 the "contest of contests" was announced to the diving world. This photo contest sponsored by the Underwater Society of America was designed to honor the winners in a manner of receiving the ultimate award.

The contest is of the elimination type - only those entries that have won in any previous competition are eligible to enter. The previous contest, however, need not be associated in any way with the Underwater Society of America. The thought behind the elimination contest is to compete award winning entries against each other, thus allowing the entrant a chance to compare his work.

This year the competition is divided into three divisions: Saltwater, Freshwater and a new division, Special Effects. Each division contains four categories: B&W prints, color prints, slides and movies (with the exception of the Special Effects division which does not include movies).

The awards have increased tremendously, all winners shall receive the Underwater Society of America Plaque. The winners in all print categories shall receive a plaque and ribbon. In addition, numerous prizes will be presented for the "best of the show" entries. An example of some of the prizes:

1st Place Overall

Nikonos II Camera with 35 mm Lens and Flash (\$390.00 value)

2nd Place Overall

Farallon Instrument Panel -- Consisting of Pressure/Depth Combo, Multi Tissue Decomputer and Compass (\$164.95/value)

3rd Place Overall

Two Sea View Optical Finders and Sea Filter Kit (\$163.85 value)

4th Place Overall

Ikelite "SLR" Housing (\$149.95 value)

5th Place Overall

Poseidon Cyklon 300 Regulator (\$135.00 value)

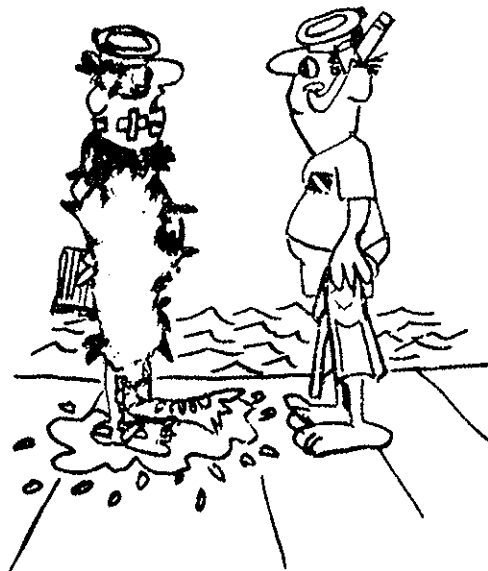
6th Place Overall

Hydro Photo Set of 3 Nikonos Close-up Lenses and Wand (\$105.00 value)

Award winning entries will be announced on May 4 in Chicago, at "Our World Underwater".

The rules and entry forms are available through your Representative, ED RALSTON, 3401 North Meridian Court, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73122, or by writing JOHN HALL, Director of Photography, c/o Underwater Society of America, P. O. Box 407, St. Louis, Mo. 63074 or by calling (314) 426-2052. Entry deadline for the contest is April 15, so get your award winning entries out and send them today to the Director of Photography at the above address.

GOOD LUCK....



"BOY - AM I GLAD MY BOOK
ON SHARKS IS FINISHED!"

(THERM D L LINE)

REMINDER

Members of the Southwest Council just a reminder that it is dues time again and applications will be in the mail as soon as possible. It would be a great help for me this year when ever anyone sends me dues to please put down if you want one Slate per family or as you have in the past each member get a Slate. Also those of you who hold contests if you would please ask those who have not entered SWC Contest MAN OR WOMAN to put Novice. Another thing I need first all money pertaining to membership first as this is how I keep an accurate account of membership. If I do Not receive payment you do not get Slate or other benefits coming to you. Pay now before the March dive if you plan to enter this dive as your dues have expired. If you have any questions please feel free to call or write me. Phone 424-6460. Address is 1309 Amherst, Plano, Tex. 75074.

P.S. There are still 1973 Convention patches for sale if you want. Contact Shorty Weatherman, 1309 Amherst, Plano, Texas 75074. They are \$1.00 each.

SECRETARY SWC
CAROLYN WEATHERMAN

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