

SLATE

MARCH 1976

Voice of

Southwest Council of Diving Clubs



IDA

BUFFALO

BLAST

P K

APRIL 10&11

The first contest of the 1976' season is here. It's time to get your diving gear out of the closet and check to see if everything is in order. Ask yourself when was the last time I had a visual inspection of my tank? I encourage all divers to read the Editorial page in the March issue of "Skin Diver".

This will be another great year for the Southwest Council. There is bound to be more competition in the Novice Division with two new clubs in the Council. Also the Novice Division will be giving two trophies instead of just one and every diver that has not won at least three trophies can compete for these trophies.

I would like to encourage all divers to enter the Scuba Skills event that will be held at all contests except the Gar Rodeo.

If you have any questions or problems about the Council ask your Area V.P. or write me or do both. The officers of the Council were elected to encourage and promote the sport of Scuba Diving and represent you.

I hope to see everyone at the LHDM contest and the Buffalo Blast.

Deryle R. Matthews

AREA 3 VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

American Airlines Aquajets have elected club officers for 1976, they are; President Lee Bumpas, V.P. Glenn Wright, Sec./Treas. Elbert Jackson.

The club is busy making plans for their SWC sanctioned dive scheduled for June 12-13, at Lake Whitney. The Aquajets also voted at their Feb. meeting to have at least two dive trips to the Gulf of Mexico this year. We will be reporting more on these trips as plans are completed.

We don't have anything to report from the B.I. Divers as we have been unable to contact anyone from that club. Perhaps next month I will have news from them.

I have become affiliated with the Underwater Explorers Society of Freeport, Grand Bahamas as an Instructor and Guide. We have a few openings for a week of unlimited diving in the Bahamas at a very reasonable price. Available weeks are; the last week of April, the last week of June, and two weeks during October. If anyone would like additional information you may contact me by mail at 4274 Crest Haven Dallas, TX or call (214) 358-4005.

Elbert Jackson

The Midland Dune Divers are in the process of attempting to reorganize the leadership in the club. It is proposed that we have no officers and no scheduled events except for the monthly SWC sponsored dives. If anyone is planning a trip other than a SWC dive, it is requested that they notify the shop to see if there are others who may wish to join. If this plan is successful, you will be able to tell with the attendance at the first SWC dive in March.

Don Howard, an ex-club member who moved to Houston several years ago, and I went to Amistad in January. We launched at Diablo East Marina (where the Nationals were held) and traveled up the Rio Grande approximately 40 miles to the Pecos River. It was a very interesting trip. The journey took two days and used right at 30 gallons of gas! Coming back to Diablo East was an experience in itself, as the waves were tremendous. The lake authorities displayed the small craft warnings (38 mph wind), but we were unaware of this when we left the day before. After talking with them when we returned, they said that this gust of wind had been expected for several days. Three smaller boats and one 40 foot houseboat were sunk. After the storm was over, we went up Devils River and found water with visibility between 30 and 40 feet. I have never seen water so clear in a lake. The temperature was another surprise, 46 Degrees.

Dad and I went to Lake Spence the other day. We had a lot of fun, visibility about 10 feet. The water was considerably warmer than that at Amistad.

Hope to see you at P.K. in March.

Bart A. McCollum

NOTICE: Please be reminded, the 1976' dues are due and if not paid soon the March edition of the Slate shall be the final issue received. Also, for competition points or V.P. bonus points, your individual dues must be recorded.

EXECUTIVE
MEMBERS:

REVOKED J.J.'S PRIVILEGE OF COMPETITION FOR 2 YEARS IN SWC FOR BAITING & PREMEDITATED VIOLATION.

editorial



The Slate got off to a very slow start for the year 76'. Our February edition was delayed until after the Convention in order for Convention Reports to be made. We held the Slate until Feb. 24th and still did not receive much material as that edition reflects. We have had numerous complaints on the quality and outlay of the Slate in general.

After having spent approximately four evenings working into the early morning hours preparing an edition for the printer (typing reports, setting ads, margins, page numbers, arranging the front cover and various art work) and then preparing the edition for mailing (inserting pages, stappling, typing labels, applying labels, sorting by Zip code, tying off for each mailing station, and counting each Slate for Bulk fee charge); we realize more than anyone, the poor quality of the Slate, after applying ourselves to preparing 400-500 copies of the Slate per edition. But if there is any blame for the outlay of the Slate it is accepted here by the Editor and Secretary. We have welcomed suggestions and material but keep in mind the limited budget of 1975'!

At the Les Hommes Dive I will have estimates of printing the Slate which I will submit to the Executive Board for discussion. The items to be discussed are the cost of professional set-ups and printing or resuming the present off-set printing.

Your Slate Editor and Secretary do not mean this article as a complaint to the membership but as an explanation of the effort and time we put into the Slate. We accepted office again for 76' in order to continue to be an active part of and work for OUR COUNCIL. We need your co-operation as well as your complaints. We hope to have the Slate a new printer and back on a regular schedule with the April edition.

Charlie

Schedule of Events - 1976

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
*Mar. 20-21	Rough Fish Roundup	PK, Sandy Beach	Les Hommes De Mer
*April 10-11	Buffalo Blast	PK, IDA Pavillion	Inland Divers Assoc.
*May 1-2	Underwater Safari	Travis, LCRA Park	Texins Divers
*May 22-23	Spearfishing	Texoma, Soldier's Creek	Lawton Divers
*June 12-13	Spearfishing	Whitney, State Park	American Airlines Aquajets
*Aug. 7-8	Mid-year Convention	To Be Announced	The Hutto's
*Aug. 7th	Photo Contest	Mid-year Convention	Dallas Divers
*Aug. 21-22	Spearfishing	Whitney, TBA	Orca Tamers & Whitney Divers
*Sept. 3-5	Spearfishing	Date Subject to change	Little Gem - TBA
*Dec. 11-12	Jim Clark Memorial (Texas Gar Rodeo)	Caddo, Curley's Camp	East Texas Aquanauts
*Jan. 15, 76	Photo Contest		Inland Divers Assoc.
*Feb. 5, 76	Photo Contest	SWC Convention	To Be Announced
* TBA	Photo Contest		East Texas Aquanauts

*SOUTHWEST COUNCIL SPONSORED

Area 1 has reason to be very proud! David McMurry was elected Executive Vice President at the recently concluded SWC Convention and Myrna Jorgensen re-elected Treasurer.

Congratulations to the East Texas Aquanauts for putting on a splendid Convention. A vote of thanks to Robert Swilley for a year well served as our President, ya done good! I am proud of the Vice President trophy presented by the Crawfords. It is beautiful and I invite you all to see it at our store where it is proudly displayed.

Diving activity is up in our area. All clubs held well attended February meetings. Lets highlight them:

Texins: they have sent out volunteer scouts to find other suitable lakes in the region to dive and one was reported on by scout Doc Patterson who visited Broken Bow and Pat Wayse. Ker Snider reviewed the Texins training class plans with the emphasis on Pizza. Thad Moore spoke about "the Cousteau Story" being shown Feb. 28th at Northpark Inn, Dallas. Mel Cannon told of the Dallas Divers Jamaica trip in June and the club was entertained by a certain Area Vice Pres. with film of the Great Blue Hole.

Aqua Sports: changed their ever loven name. Now they are ACTION DIVERS! Secretaries and SWC historians take note. Action Divers is a great name and everyone hopes the club will grow and become more active in Southwest Council activities. They also enjoyed my film.

Les Hommes De Mer: had a large meeting at the Dallas Aquarium. This club is on the grow! James Ardis is its President this year and is a go-getter as well as a fine-putter-utter! We did the film to them too! Their dive on March 20-21 was discussed and the committee is hard at work to get the diving season off to a great start. All Carp and Buffalo, Shad and Grindle have been alerted at PK to be in their places on Sunday March 21st and prepare to get shot. Small fry need not be present.


Dallas Divers: met before a standing room only croud. Wayne presided over this madcap bunch whose biggest news was the fact that one of our members, Sharron Robinson, is running for Dallas County Sheriff! I know she is gonna win it too! She is a Diving Sheriff and the best looking candidate for any office this election year. Reason enough to cast your vote April 3rd for Sharron.

Sherman Divers: will see a great new film at their meeting March 13th. As for activities I am told they have been diving all winter in Texoma, that the visibility is 6 inches but that the North Texas area divers dont mind at all.

We are actively talking to two groups at present with intentions of having them form clubs and join the SWC.

The Explorer Post #1168: meets regulary and is enjoying new growth. The young explorers have a dive at Lake Travis planned for the first week-end in March. Eight Explorers recently made their first Gulf dive with a group from Divers World on the Silver King 11. They had a Spadefish contest which Matt Hammer won with a 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ " specimen narrowly edging out Dan O'Conner's Spade at 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". Several Post members plan to go to the Belize Blue Hole in March and they all expect to partake of SWC activities this year. I hope when you see these youngsters you will welcome them to your dives and show them where the fish are.

Safe Diving,
Hank



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For many people, "April Showers bring May flowers", and for members of the Lawton Divers Club, April will bring a spearfishing trip to the oil rigs off the coast of Texas.

In anxious anticipation of the diving season and culminating many less than clamorous spearfishing trips in December and January, the Lawton Divers are planning and co-ordinating a trip to the high seas.

In response to inquiries received and with due respect to the SCUBA USA column in the Skin Diver magazine, this may answer a few questions concerning diving in Lake Elmer Thomas, Northwest of the Lawton/Ft. Sill area. It should be noted and a word to the wise should be sufficient when traveling to and from Lake Elmer Thomas on US Hwy 49 (Medicine Park Hwy) caution should be exercised. The Medicine Park Constables have recently acquired "Reinforcements" and a less than favorable reputation. You've heard of speed-traps and Kangaroo Courts, you ain't seen nothing yet.

Lake Elmer Thomas itself has approx. 20 miles of shoreline and an average depth of 45 ft. The lake is divided, half is on the Military or Ft. Sill side and the other on the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. On the Refuge side are two swimming beaches open to the public from May to September and the dam where a depth of 75 plus feet may be attained, visibility ranges from zero to 25 ft, during the colder months. The bottom is cluttered with boulders, near the dam, flat areas with one to three foot of silt near the cliffs and as in all comparable lakes, vegetation near the banks. Fish in the lake seem to have been depleted over the years but a flathead may still be found, remembering of course, that spearfishing in the lake is no longer legal. Divers planning a dive on the Military side should register at the boat house and keeping in mind the local "fuss" when diving use a dive flag.

Doyle Delaney

Our World-Underwater - VI welcomes you to Chicago for your forthcoming meeting and Convention May 6 and 7, 1976. This program (OW-U VI) is sponsored by the Chicago YMCA Metro Council and your meeting is co-hosted by the Illinois Council of Skin and Scuba Clubs.



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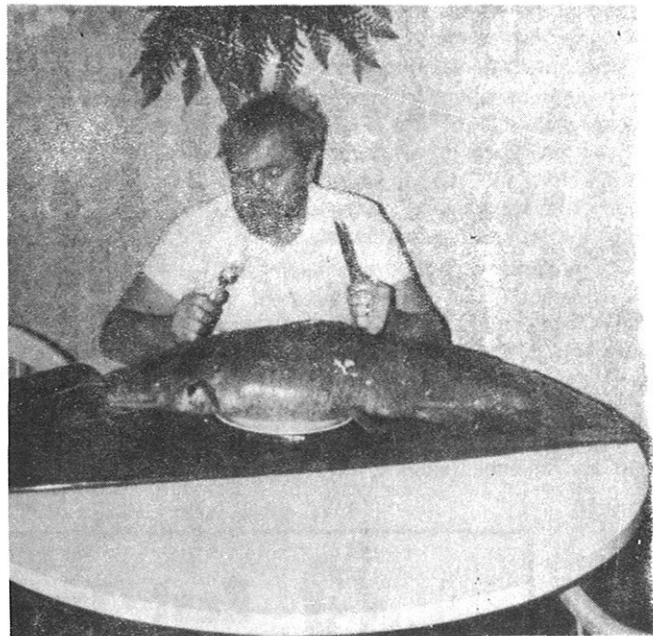
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Bruce Mayes of the Lawton Divers enjoys his catch. His 31 lb. Flathead was speared in Jan. at Lake Ft. Cobb.

Matthews goes off the deep end

Deryle Matthews, a Vought Systems numeric control operator, says he is doing just fine on the job.

Off duty, however, he's down a lot of the time. He's even gone off the deep end a few times.

Matthews is not schizophrenic, or even particularly troubled. You see, he's an amateur skin diver. His hobby is going under — and he loves it.

He is especially happy these days because he recently became president of the Southwest Council (SWC) of Diving Clubs, a confederation of 20 groups of inland divers in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Matthews said the challenges and risks of diving offer him the same kind of attraction that flying holds for pilots.

And the rewards are well worth the risks. "The underwater world is completely different; it's quiet, beautiful and fascinating," he said. "I thrive on it."

Diving caught his attention five years ago when he was seeking a hobby his whole family could enjoy. Determined to make it a family sport, he persuaded his wife, Sandra, to join him in taking a course given by a dive shop in Hurst.

Today, he says, she is as much a diving enthusiast as he, and the four children are rapidly following suit.

Through membership in a Fort Worth diving club, the couple advanced from regular diving to spearfishing. It wasn't long before they began entering SWC-sponsored spearfishing contests held at lakes throughout the Southwest.

For spearfishing, Matthews explained, the diver dons his usual equipment of mask, fins, scuba tanks (self-contained breathing devices) and a wet suit if it's cold, plus a spear gun of the old rubber-spring or the new pneumatic variety.

The fishermen travel in pairs for safety and convenience reasons. "It's good to

have someone keep an eye on you," he said. "And guys who've worked together a lot can improve each other's fishing."

To trap his prey, the diver gets as close to the lake's bottom as possible and then remains motionless so fish will come to him.

Matthews said the sport is difficult because the diver has only one chance to hit his target. After he makes his move, the fish are spooked.

Not every variety of fish is fair game. Matthews said Texas law restricts spearfishing to rough fish such as carp, buffalo, gar, shad and drum. Laws in other states are similar, he said, and SWC competitions adhere to the regulations of whatever state they are held in.

Matthews won first and second places in spearfishing at Lake Whitney last May for catching 23½- and 20-pound buffalo.

Not to be outdone, his wife placed second in the women's division of a national meet held last fall at Amistad Reservoir, near Del Rio on the Rio Grande.

Matthews said contestants at this national convention hauled in more than 3,000 pounds of fish.


As SWC president, Matthews has ahead of him a busy year. There are business meetings and conventions to be supervised. There are contest dates and regulations to be settled. And there are projects he has in mind such as one to encourage more young people to enter diving competitions.

Privately, though, his first concern remains with spearfishing. "I take it seriously," he said. "I enjoy winning; I'd like to go to the nationals and be No. 1."



HE'LL GO JUMP IN A LAKE — Spearfisherman Deryle Matthews, a numeric control operator, prepares to go under water as his wife, Sandra, and their children wait in the boat. Matthews is new president of the Southwest Council of Diving Clubs. He and his wife both enjoy diving and spearfishing.

Profile



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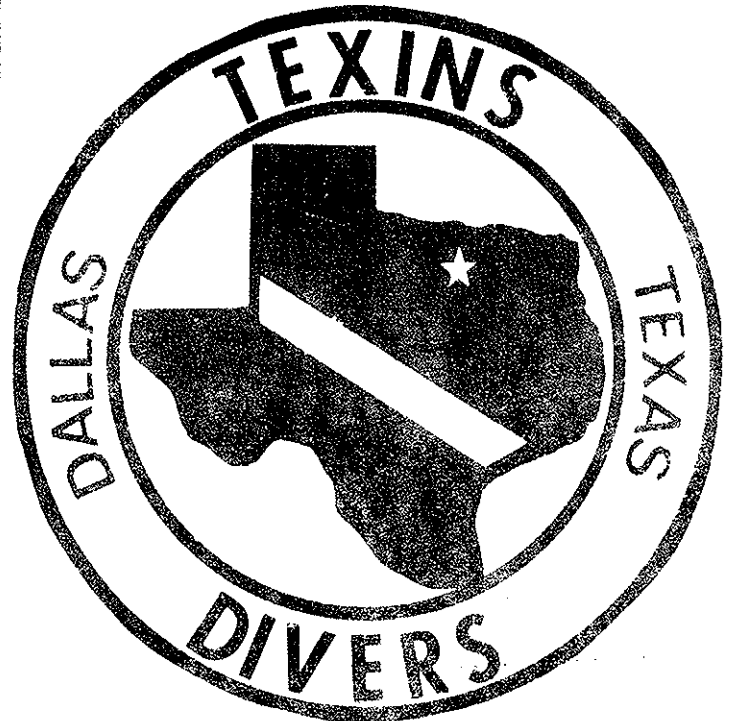
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