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By Dean Stroman

The dog days of summer are upon us with one hundred degree days and seventy to eighty degree nights. When the wind is bellowing, the day time fishing can be downright miserable. The best big bass fishing is at night and good night trips start with adequate preparation. There are several don’ts you need to be aware of if you are planning a night time trip. Always make sure you are familiar with the area you are going to fish. Don’t make a night trip to unfamiliar water and don’t wear white clothing after dark. Green, gray or blue are preferable. White clothes will attract every bug from miles away.

Take plenty of bug spray. Even though most bugs will not bite, the repellant will help keep them from crawling on you all night. Make sure your batteries are fully charged. You will be using more battery power because your lights will be on all night. Don’t turn off your running lights. It is the law. Running lights must be on after dark. If you don’t keep them on, you will meet one of our game wardens. They don’t accept any excuses for safety violations. Keep them on.

Get to your fishing area before dark and familiarize yourself with the surrounding area. Make sure you have a good, well-charged portable well-charged portable (See Strollin’... Continued on Next Page)

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light for knot tying and
fish landing. Night fish-
ing can be very reward-
ing. Being prepared can
make a big difference.

Bass are active at night
during late spring and
summer months. Telem-
etry studies have shown
largemouth bass concen-
trate as much as ninety
percent of their activity
during the night hours
when water tempera-
ture is above seventy-six
degrees. Water oxygen
content will affect bass
activity at night. Dur-
ing the day plants con-
vert carbon dioxide to
oxygen. After dark the
water around aquatic
plants such as hydrilla
have some of the highest
concentrations of oxy-
gen of the twenty-four
hour period. However,
during night time hours,
plants start using oxygen
in the water and the lev-
els will drop as darkness
proceeds. During this
period from dark until
dawn most feeding bass
will move to the outside
dges to feed.

I am booking now for
night trips and some full
day trips so call me soon-
est to get the date you
want. If I can help make
your fishing trip to Lake
Fork a good one, give
me a call. I’ll be happy
to help. Land line: 903-
383-7214, Cell: 903-
850-5083 and email:
dstroman@peoplescom.
net.

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Fourth of July Fireworks at TFFC

The annual Fourth of July fireworks show at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) will be Friday, July 4.

TFFC will be open for regular paid visitation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission for the fireworks show will start at 4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to fish in the stocked casting pond until 8:30 p.m. No license is required to fish, and bait and tackle are furnished for free. The fireworks will begin about 9 p.m.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and people are encouraged to bring picnics. KCKL (FM 95.9) will broadcast patriotic music during the show.

Pets, alcohol and private fireworks, including “snap caps” and sparklers, are not allowed. TFFC is a tobacco-free facility, and smoking or the use of tobacco products are not allowed on the premises.

The fireworks show is sponsored and paid for by the City of Athens, local businesses and individuals. The fireworks show is directed and produced by Alpha-Lee Enterprises, Inc., of Liverpool, Texas, and is a Keep Athens Beautiful event.

Contributors include: City of Athens; The Cain Foundation; First State Bank; Kim Hodges; Steve and Susan Sparkman; Athens Steel Building Corporation; Charlie and Cindy Akin; Lance and Kathryn Etcheverry; Dan and Kathleen Chaney; Stephen and Karen Jones; Ellen Key; Lake Athens Property Owners Association; Mannie Stafford; Carol Barton; Jerry and Vicki Beeler; Athens Bank/The First State Bank; John and Felecia Cain; Jones Clough Ranch, Michael and Nan Clough; Prosperity Bank; Nell and Neil Velvin; Peggy and Bob Gould; Bryon and Tamara Lichtenberg; Bill and Carmen Hunt; William Goodwin; Charles and Carletta Ramsey; Stuart Guthrie; James Oesterreicher; Nancy Strain; McCord Properties; Dalton Family Properties; Tom and Becky Abbott; Tim and Tracy Maxfield; Lake Athens Marina.

Parking is available in the main TFFC parking lot and in an overflow parking area on Peninsula Point Road. Persons using the overflow parking area may enter through Gate C, which is across the street from the parking area.

For more information or directions, call (903) 676-2277.

Be Ready For Big Fun On The Water!
Delicious seafood is a favorite indulgence on many vacations. Why not make it the centerpiece of your next beach party at home?

By Sue Hampton

One way to savor the flavor of seaside vacations is to throw a beach party at home and serve up some satisfying seafood. Decorating is a breeze with tiki torches and candles. Spread out beach towels and add colorful pails and beach balls. Encourage guests to get in the shoreline mood by wearing casual seaside attire.

As for the food, SeaPak is a favorite seafood brand of mine and it makes serving great seafood easy. Dish up SeaPak’s Popcorn Shrimp with ketchup to the children, and spoil the adults in the crowd with SeaPak’s Shrimp Scampi or Jumbo Butterfly Shrimp served with a variety of dipping sauces. Your guests will love these tasty “Island Quesadillas with Lime Sour Cream!”

**SeaPak Island Quesadillas With Lime Sour Cream**

1 package (12 oz) SeaPak Shrimp Scampi-Butter and Garlic, frozen
4 pineapple rounds (fresh or canned in juice), about 1” thick
8 (fajita-size) flour tortillas, regular or whole wheat
2 cups Monterey Jack cheese or Mexican cheese blend, shredded
¾ cup roasted red peppers, chopped
¼ cup scallions, chopped
Cooking spray
½ cup sour cream
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
1 tsp. lime zest, finely grated
¼ tsp. garlic powder

PREHEAT oven to 400 degrees. Coat a large baking sheet with cooking spray.

COAT a large skillet with cooking spray and set over medium-high heat to preheat. Place pineapple rounds on hot pan and cook 2 minutes per side, until golden brown. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add shrimp to hot pan and cook according to package directions. Lift shrimp from butter sauce (discard butter sauce if desired) and cut shrimp and pineapple into ½” pieces.

ARRANGE four tortillas on prepared baking sheet. Top tortillas with cheese (1/2 cup each), shrimp, pineapple, roasted red peppers and scallions. Place second tortilla on top and spray the surface with cooking spray. Cover quesadillas with foil and bake 5 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 to 7 more minutes, until cheese melts and tortillas are golden brown. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine sour cream, cilantro, lime zest and garlic. Mix well.

SLICE quesadillas into wedges and serve with lime sour cream on the side.

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Randy Oldfield - Lake Fork Guide

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Bringing The Beach Home

By Sue Hampton

One way to savor the flavor of seaside vacations is to throw a beach party at home and serve up some satisfying seafood. Decorating is a breeze with tiki torches and candles. Spread out beach towels and add colorful pails and beach balls. Encourage guests to get in the shoreline mood by wearing casual seaside attire.

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¼ cup roasted red peppers, chopped

½ cup scallions, chopped

Cooking spray

½ cup sour cream

2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

1 tsp. lime zest, finely grated

¼ tsp. garlic powder

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Coat a large baking sheet with cooking spray.

Coat a large baking sheet with cooking spray. COAT a large skillet with cooking spray and set over medium-high heat to pre-heat. Place pineapple rounds on hot pan and cook 2 minutes per side, until golden brown. Remove from pan and set aside. Add shrimp to hot pan and cook according to package directions. Lift shrimp from butter sauce (discard butter sauce if desired) and cut shrimp and pineapple into ½” pieces.

Arrange four tortillas on prepared baking sheet. Top tortillas with cheese (1/2 cup each), shrimp, pineapple, roasted red peppers and scallions. Place second tortilla on top and spray the surface with cooking spray. Cover quesadillas with foil and bake 5 minutes. Uncover and back 5 to 7 more minutes, until cheese melts and tortillas are golden brown. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine sour cream, cilantro, lime zest and garlic. Mix well.

Slice quesadillas into wedges and serve with lime sour cream on the side.
Texas Game Wardens Enhance BWI Enforcement Efforts

Law enforcement officers across the U.S. were geared up for Operation Dry Water - the nation’s boating while intoxicated (BDWI) awareness and enforcement campaign. The nationwide event took place June 27-29.

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in recreational boating deaths in the United States. “Texas Game Wardens as well as their law enforcement partners were on heightened alert for those violating boating under the influence laws,” said Cody Jones, TPWD Law Enforcement Assistant Commander for Marine Enforcement and Texas State Boating Law Administrator.

In 2013, officers from across the country contacted 144,044 recreational boaters and made 290 BWI arrests during the three-day weekend. Thousands of law enforcement officers, along with their boating safety partners, were on the water during Operation Dry Water educating boaters about the dangers of boating under the influence of drugs and alcohol as well as removing from the water those who choose to boat impaired.

“Game Wardens will continue to remind Texans through education and enforcement to always have a designated driver while boating on our lakes and rivers,” said LTC Danny Shaw, TPWD Law Enforcement Deputy Director. “Our purpose is to provide everyone an opportunity to safely enjoy themselves on the water and return home at the end of the day. We will have enhanced Game Warden patrols through the remainder of the summer and our officers will be on high alert for those who choose to place themselves and others in danger by drinking and operating vessels on our public waters.”

“The mission of Operation Dry Water and the law enforcement officers who participate is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related deaths on the water,” says John Fettermann, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Deputy Executive Director. “Boating should be a fun and enjoyable time spent with friends and family; we are asking that boaters make sure their voyage remains enjoyable by boating sober. Too many accidents and deaths are caused by those who choose to boat under the influence.”

In addition to having a designated driver, TPWD stresses the following four key points to decrease boating and water related accidents, injuries, and deaths.

1. Wear a life jacket. 70 percent of persons who died in a boating accident would be alive today, if they had worn a life jacket.
2. Use the ignition safety switch, commonly called a “kill switch” to stop the engine if you fall overboard. Don’t be stranded, or run over by your boat.
3. Learn how to swim.
4. Take a Boater Education course from Texas Parks and Wildlife: It could save your life.

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Minnow Bucket
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Night Tournament
Aug. 22 ~ JC Outdoors Night
Minnow Bucket

September 2014
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If you or your bass club is having a tournament
of Lake Fork email me the dates
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fishnews@lakefork.net
"Wish To Fish Foundation" 903-383-7748

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If you know a family that has a child that meets our criteria, just have them call us.
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"Every child deserves a chance to fish!" Children diagnosed or who have experienced a life-threatening illness or accident sometimes do not have that opportunity. Now through the "Wish To Fish Foundation" they can have that day in the sun with their family. Any family with a child between the ages 3 to 18 years of age that has been diagnosed or treated for a life-threatening illness or accident is invited to come fish Lake Fork for any species of fish at NO COST! Lodging, meals, and fishing are provided for. This allows the family to spend quality time together fishing without worries or expenses. The outing includes one night lodging, meals, refreshments, snacks, all on a 26’ Tritoon Pontoon, (accompanied with a 9-1-1 chase boat for any emergency that may occur. All bait and fishing equipment provided. If you are, or know of a family that meets the above criteria, contact us! Help us spread the word, we are here for the children!

For Scheduling or More Info Contact: Don Hampton, Founder & Program Director visit our website: www.wishtofishfoundation.com

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