



UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / www.bluegrassdiveclub.com

August 2014

Volume 44, Number 8

August Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 12th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Safety Officer, Rick

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Summer is almost over, but there is still some great weather for diving and of course getting together with your fellow divers.

Our Annual Pig Roast will be Saturday, August 23rd, 3:00pm at Doug Geddes' House. Bring your chair, swim suits and your game face for the volleyball match. Please bring a dish to share with 10 – 12 people. The pig and sodas will be provided by the Club. Details and directions are available on the website.

We have some great new trips up on the website. Make sure you check them out and sign up today. 🚩



The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month are some pics from the Dale Hollow Trip, I believe these were taken by Corrine. 🚩



2014 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
Corrine Mulberry, Vice President	913-0892
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	266-4516
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	223-7926

Vice President's Report

By Corrine Mulberry



Safety Officer, Rick Stephan, will provide August's Program. Be quick with your recall of SCUBA safety and you may be a winner! Join us for an informative and fun program!

If you have diving information or destinations (past or potential future trips) that you would like to present at a Club meeting, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me so that we can put you on the calendar. 913-0892 or mulberryc1@gmail.com

We have **10 new members** to welcome to the Bluegrass Dive Club this month!

Jennifer Clifton (previously introduced as a visitor earlier this year) joined the BGDC at the July meeting. Open Water certified, Jennifer is fairly new to diving and is hoping to travel to warm locations during the winter months to get in some diving. Jennifer lives in Lexington and works in granite sales. Welcome Jennifer!

Stephenie Swope (previously introduced as a visitor earlier this year) & **Kendra Swope** also joined the BGDC at the July meeting. Advanced Open Water & Nitrox certified, Stephenie has about 50 dives under belt including locations such as Cancun, Cozumel and Fiji. Her most awesome dive was a shark dive in Fiji where she got up close and personal with a 14-ft tiger shark. Oh Yeah! She likes to travel and meet new people and would like to go diving in warm locations during winter months. Previously a software engineer, she has recently started working as Technical Writer at HP. Stephenie resides in Lexington with her old cat & 2 pugs and enjoys designing websites, writing, playing with gadgets and knitting (who knew?). Her daughter, Kendra, is 20 and a junior at

University of Louisville. Welcome to both Stephenie and Kendra!

Mishari (Mish) Aldiab (previously introduced as a visitor in 2010! --where ya been Mish??) joined the BGDC at the July Dale Hollow Dive Trip. Open Water certified, Mish is a fairly new diver with experience diving in the Arabian Gulf. He's an international student from Saudi Arabia studying photography at Eastern Kentucky University. He's interested in meeting new divers and making new friends. Dale Hollow was fun! Thanks for being part of it. Welcome Mish!

Mohannad Alrayes joined the BGDC at the July Dale Hollow Dive Trip. Advanced Open Water certified, Mohannad has quite a bit of diving experience including the Red Sea. Mohannad, a student at Eastern Kentucky University, hopes to do more diving here in Kentucky. (Dale Hollow was a good start!) In addition to diving, Mohannad enjoys working out, kayaking, MMA and swimming. Thanks for making the Dale Hollow trip fun! Welcome Mohannad!



The Elkins Family – Jonathan, Lisa, Bradley, Brice and Brindley – joined the BGDC as a non-diver family for the Dale Hollow Trip. (Brindley wasn't able to make the trip – we missed you!). Jonathan and Lisa are parents of members Brian & Kelley Elkins; Bradley, Brice and Brindley are Brian's siblings. We so much enjoyed the company of the Elkins on the Dale Hollow trip. What a wonderful family. We hope you join us at the Pig Roast and Christmas Party this year! Thank you for all of your help and engaging conversations! Welcome Elkins Family!

Vice President's Report Cont.

Post-Dale Hollow Trip:

We had a great time at Dale Hollow. Check out the Bluegrass Dive Club on Facebook for pics! I would like to extend my personal thanks to all the participants for pitching in and helping make this a fun and enjoyable weekend for all. We went diving, boating, floating, tubing, and fishing this year! [Oh, yeah....and EATING!] A total of 15 people participated including 7 brand new members and 2 kinda/sorta new members (Don & Lisa!). We had a full pontoon boat with 4 members bringing their own boats.

While folks on the pontoon boat did pay \$20 per person per day, the Bluegrass Dive Club contributed over \$350.00 towards this local dive trip! We appreciate the Board's support for providing local diving opportunities to members.

So sorry Bart and Sandra didn't make it. Hope you are feeling better Bart....nothing worse than being sick in the middle of the summer!

And.....while I didn't get any tickets this year.....and I did a beautiful job of dock and tying-up the pontoon boat all by self on Saturday morning.....let's not talk about my "kissing" that huge expensive houseboat Saturday evening. 'kay? 🚩



From The Secretary

By Mike Sullivan



BGDC Board of Director's Meeting
June 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

Doug Geddes made a motion that the Agenda be approved with an item of Mid-Year Review being added to the Agenda.

In attendance were: Tracey Combs, Corrine Mulberry, John Geddes, Doug Geddes, Dan Miller, Mike Sullivan, Mike McCann, and Rick Stephan.

Dan handed-out Treasurer's Report for June and a Treasurer's Report for the Cayman trip. A payment is due to UDT on July 11th. He also provided a new member sheet submitted by Chris Collett.

A brief discussion was held about the Costa Rica trip contract.

Mike McCann indicates that the website is working but that he is unable to make any changes. He is working with the provider to getting it fully functional.

Corrine indicated that 9 people have registered for Dale Hollow and that 4 people are bringing boats.

Doug says that the consensus of board is to go with Fort Young Hotel for the Dominica trip and he will get pricing for that selection. The preferred date for the Philippines trip is 23 Jan-6 Feb and he will check on availability.

Corrine says that the trip form is currently in Word format until the website is fixed.

From The Secretary Cont.

Dan says he will provide Corrine with a membership list update.

Dan will provide a report to each board member ahead of the mid-year review meeting to be held on July 29, 2014 at 6:30 PM.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mike Sullivan to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING July 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. There were twenty four members in attendance. Dan reviewed the June Treasurers Report. Corrine changed the program from a Philippines DVD to an Indonesia DVD. Corrine introduced new members, Stephanie Swope and Jennifer Clifton. Corrine introduced visitors Mohamed Alrayes and Mish Aldiah. Corrine discussed the details for upcoming Dale Hollow weekend. Corrine briefly discussed the Costa Rica planned for 6-13 June 2015.

Doug discussed the upcoming trip Grand Cayman and indicated that the trip full. Doug spoke briefly about the planned trip to Dominica in 7-14 February 2015. The trip will cost approximately \$2,500 including airfare. Details will be coming to members in the very near future. Doug indicated that the Club will be going back to the Philippines in 23 Jan-6 Feb 2016. The cost will be approximately \$2,200 plus airfare.

Rick discussed the current safety issue of Fire Coral and some of the remedies that work, but primarily said, "Don't Touch Coral."

Tracey discussed the Club website and Facebook pages.

Mike McCann said the website is down and will probably have to be rebuilt from scratch.

The Yahoo Group has changed and members have to be invited and then accept to receive emails from the Club.

A reminder that the Pig Roast is planned for August 16, 2014 at Doug Geddes' house. Members should bring a dish to serve 12 people. The Club will furnish the pig and soft drinks. (the date was changed at Board Meeting from 16th to the 23rd)

The monthly drawings were won by Mish Aldiah, Mark Kidd, and Kris Harn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM. 🚩



Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	885-2215
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Gordon Green	C@Meeting
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2014 Membership Dues

Student (High School or College ID)..	\$10.00
Single & Family (1 diver)	30.00
Family (non divers).....	30.00
Family (2 or more divers).....	40.00

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below, please make sure there is a correct indication of your mailing address, phone number and it is very important to indicate an email address.

Contact / Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club c/o
Dan Miller
824 Gunpower Drive
Lexington, KY 40509

New Members: Visit the website to fill out an on-line form or to access a Microsoft Word printable form. [CLICK HERE](#). 



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *The BGDC has been blessed to have a fairly steady stream of new members. While these new members have varying levels of personal dive experience, the fact that they are new to the group means that they will likely have new dive buddies for upcoming club trips. By going through a pre-dive checklist, each dive buddy team will not only be more sure of the integrity of their own gear, but will become more knowledgeable about their buddy's equipment too. This makes for a safer dive environment – if you're confident in your gear, you can focus on the other things, like buoyancy, navigation, etc.*

Read on then, and learn (or re-learn) this skill in the article from about.com. And of course



Remember, safe diving is fun!

The Pre-Dive Safety Check for Scuba Diving By Natalie Gibb

Do you consider flying dangerous? Most people will agree that while there are certain risks associated with flying, traveling by plane is fairly safe. One of the reasons that air travel has a fantastic safety record is that pilots complete a long checklist to make sure that a plane is working properly before it ever leaves the ground. Scuba divers have a similar checklist, the pre-dive safety check (or buddy check), to review their scuba gear before hopping into the water. Thankfully, scuba equipment is much less complicated than an airplane, and once a diver becomes comfortable using the pre-dive safety check,

Safety Corner Cont.

reviewing scuba gear before a dive takes only a matter of seconds.

Why Perform a Pre-Dive Safety Check?

Most divers check their scuba gear as they are assembling it. Why is it necessary to check the equipment again before entering the water?

• The Pre-Dive Safety Check Is Performed Once a Diver Is Wearing His Gear

Between the time that a diver sets up his scuba equipment and the time that he rolls off the boat, a number of changes may be made to his gear. "Helpful" crew may close the tank valve so that air is not lost during travel to the dive site. A bumpy boat ride may shift gear around and damage or disorganize it. Even donning the scuba gear may cause some of the hoses to become entangled. The pre-dive safety check is a last-minute review to make sure that all of the gear is still functioning properly and arranged to the diver's satisfaction.

• A Diver Runs Through the Pre-Dive Safety Check With His Dive Buddy

A diver may be one-hundred percent certain that his gear is perfectly assembled, but does he have the same level of confidence in his buddy's gear? Consider that if a diver's buddy has an equipment-related problem underwater, it is the diver who has to help him. This can delay or even ruin a dive. Using the pre-dive safety check in buddy teams familiarizes the divers with each other's gear, helping them to assist each other efficiently in the unlikely event of an emergency. A good dive buddy may also catch small mistakes in equipment assembly that his partner has overlooked.

• Zen in the Art of Scuba Diving

Crowded dive boats and dive sites can be disorienting, full of divers hustling about in excited anticipation. The pre-dive safety check helps divers to stop, focus on their gear, and

enter the diver mind set before jumping in the water. I find the pre-dive safety check is a great way to mentally prepare a diver to enter the underwater world.

The Pre-Dive Safety Check for Scuba Diving

A standard pre-dive safety check consists of five steps. As an instructor, I have found that it helps divers to run through the steps of the pre-dive safety check in the same order before every dive. Divers are less likely to forget a step when they use a methodical system. The steps of the pre-dive safety check are:

1. Buoyancy Compensator
2. Weights
3. Releases
4. Air
5. Final Okay

PADI uses an acronym to help divers remember the steps in order –

Begin With Review And Friend

Creative dive instructors around the world have come up with other acronyms to remember the check, some more politically correct than others.

B - How to Check Your Buoyancy Compensator

The first step of the pre-dive safety check is to check the divers' buoyancy compensators (BCDs) for function and to make sure that both BCDs are inflated before the divers jump in the water.

Inflate your BCD to make sure that the inflator button works, and then check each of the BCD's deflators to confirm that they function, and that the dump/pull strings are unencumbered. While checking your own gear, your buddy should be checking his. Visually confirm that your buddy's BCD inflates and deflates, and note the position of the inflator and deflator mechanisms in case you need to assist your buddy in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Safety Corner Cont.

Once you and your buddy confirm that each other's BCD functions properly, make sure to inflate the BCD enough that you will be able to float on the surface when you enter the water. Check that your buddy does the same.



W - How to Check Your Weights

The second step of the pre-dive safety check is confirmation that the divers' weight systems are in place. First, check to make sure that each diver is wearing his weight system (whether it is a weight belt or integrated weights). Then, confirm that the quick-release system for the weights is visible and unencumbered.

A diver wearing a weight belt should check that it is oriented as a right-hand release (the diver wearing the belt can pull it open using just his right hand), that the free end is visible, and that the belt is clear of other gear so that it can fall away easily when opened.

If a diver is using an integrated weight system, make sure that the weight pockets are inserted securely into the buoyancy

compensator (BCD). Next, confirm that both divers understand how to release the weights in an emergency, as quick releases for integrated weight systems vary according to the type of BCD.

R - How to Check Your Releases

The third step of the pre-dive safety check is to check the buoyancy compensator's (BCD's) releases to make sure that they are snug. Tug on each of the releases to confirm that that clips are correctly closed and that the straps are adequately tightened. Each diver should check his buddy's gear to confirm that the tank band connecting the BCD to the scuba tank is snapped closed, and that the band is tight enough that the tank will not slide out once the diver jumps in the water.

A - How to Check Your Air and Regulators

The fourth step of the pre-dive safety check is to confirm that the regulator is functioning properly, that the tank valve is open, and that the scuba tanks are full.

Each diver takes his pressure gauge in hand, confirms the tank pressure (a full tank is close to 3000 psi or 200 bar), and then breathes from his regulator several times while watching the pressure gauge needle. As long as the pressure gauge needle does not drop significantly (to nearly zero after three or four breaths), the tank valve is open. Confirm that the regulator breathes comfortably and easily. Next, each diver should explain to his buddy where his alternate air source (or alternative second stage) is located and how it deploys. Breathe a few times from the alternate air source to confirm that it functions, and watch your buddy do the same.

F - The Final Okay

Now that each diver has confirmed that his gear is functioning properly, the last step of the pre-dive safety check is to glance over the gear and make sure that everything is in place. Are all the hoses secured in their proper positions? Are both divers wearing fins and masks? Have both divers remembered to take their sunglasses and hats off? Yes? Then you are good! Have a great dive! 🚩

Costa Rica

By Corrine Mulberry



June 6-13, 2015

Costa Rica BABY !! Check out this fabulous trip on the BGDC's website (under upcoming events). This is a very economical trip with lots of extras and land-based activities available.

- Standard Room - Diver \$1,243.00/Non-diver \$988.00 (double occupancy)
- Includes **3 group transfers** - from Liberia Airport to Volcano Lodge; Volcano Lodge to Villas Sol (**with lunch**) and Villas Sol to Liberia Airport
- 2 night accommodations with **2 breakfasts** at Volcano Lodge in the Arneal Volcano area
- 5 night accommodations at Villa Sol – **all inclusive with breakfast**, lunch, dinner, snacks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Three 2-tank boat dives

Additional dives to Bat Island or Catalinas or other destinations are available. Many land-based activities may draw us away tho -- ziplining, horseback riding, day pass to hot Springs, canyoneering, hanging bridge tour, jungle boat tour, etc.

Give me a shout if you have any questions about the trip! 🚩

Bluegrass Dive Club 2014 Calendar

August

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
23, Saturday Club Pig Roast
26, Tuesday Board Meeting

September

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
13, Saturday Grand Cayman
30, Tuesday Board Meeting



October

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
28, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
25, Tuesday Board Meeting

December

13, Saturday Club Christmas Party



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



DOMINICA 2015

All is in place for you to go and sign up for this awesome trip. This is in the lower Caribbean and it has been quite a few years since we went there. The diving is the best in the Caribbean and has all the critters and more than Bonaire. It is a true volcanic island with lots to see. Go to our website and check it out. We will not be doing club air since we can buy it cheaper. Make sure your connections get you there in late afternoon on the same day. The dates are February 7 – 14, 2015. We only have 10 rooms on hold, so if you are wanting to go, you need to get on the list, ASAP.

PHILIPPINES 2016

The EC has approved going back to the Philippines and we now have dates. We will be going, Jan. 23 – Feb 6, 2016. We will be going back to Kasai Village and El Galleon, the same places we stayed before. You can sign up for one or both weeks if you can't do them both. I hope to get the correct info to Mike so he can get it up on the website soon. I know it is a couple years away, but time flies. Check this one out. It was one of our best dive trips, ever...

CAYMAN TRIP

You are too late to join this one, better jump on earlier next time, LOL 🚩



Pig Roast Time

**Mark that Date down!!! Aug 23rd
Suuuuuuu-Eeeeeeeeeeee !!!**

Time for our pig roast again.

Date: Saturday, Aug 23rd
Time: 4:00-PM
Where: Doug Geddes' House
105 Country Knoll
Equestrian Woods Estates
(See BGDC Web Site for Map)
(859) 621-3178



Activities: Swimming, Volleyball.

What to Bring

- A dish to share with 10 - 12 others
- Swim suit & towel
- Lawn chairs

The club will provide the Bar-B-Q, Buns & Soft drinks products.

This pic by Noel

