



UNDERCURRENTS

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

August 2017

Volume 47, Number 08

August Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 8th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Come and see what it is.....

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



We've made it through most of the summer! It is still great diving weather, so let's enjoy it while we can. We had several people enjoy Dale Hollow last weekend and I am looking forward to hearing about the fun!

Our Annual Pig Roast will be Saturday, August 12 at 4:00 pm at Mike and Sherry McCann's home. 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 still have availability on some great trips. Make sure you check the website for details and sign up today. If you are interested in joining the Dive Trip Committee, please contact Doug Geddes or me. If you have any suggestions for upcoming trips, please let us know! Doug will be stepping down as Trip Director. If you are interested in this position, please contact me or a board member. Elections are in November.

Our next meeting is at the Racquet Club on August 8th. Everyone is welcome. 🚩

Member Article

By Bart Bertetto



Hi How often do you see a great dive story that has a little bit of Don Henley and Albert Einstein? Well here is mine:

Recently I was diving the La Grange Kentucky quarry, Falling Rock Park. It was a beautiful sunny morning as I drove thru the thick woods on the way out to meet up with my dive buddy David at the quarry. The radio was cranking and a great song, Don Henley's *Boys of Summer*, was playing. I pulled up to the quarry singing "you got that hair slicked back and those Wayfarers on, baby." I had that tune in the back of my mind as we were diving. (And a great deal longer as you shall discover)

David and I splashed in and the conditions weren't too bad for the quarry. Visibility was about 15 feet but it got dark real quick as you went down. The water also wasn't too cold if you stayed above the thermocline at about 25 feet. We descended on the buoys to visit the collection of silt covered boats, police cars, and other pieces of junk. It's a fun place to practice your underwater compass navigation, moving from site to site. Near the surface we saw lots of bluegill, some big bass, and a couple of monster, four foot long jet black paddle fish. These creatures are scary, prehistoric looking things that have the tail shape of a shark. In the front they have a mouth that opens real wide to filter feed and you can see through the gills.

Being a nice summer day there were lots of folks at the quarry having a good time. A gang of twenty-somethings across the water from us

were out on floats and jumping into the water from a high diving platform above the quarry walls. David and I were finishing our first dive when one of the kids paddled over to us very distraught. He had jumped off the platform and lost his Apple Watch! Could we try to find it for him? I told him that I happen to have my dive light and would give it a shot.

David and I swam over to where the kid had jumped in and a park staff member up on the platform kept everyone off. The watch was black and knowing how dark it got down there I had very little hope of finding it. But what the hell, go for it. I took a compass bearing off the quarry wall so I wouldn't lose my orientation and started down head first, light in one hand, compass in the other. When you hit the thermocline that's usually your signal to stop but I bit down hard on my reg and pushed on into the dark cold soup. The quarry bottom consists of rock piles covered with silt and mud. Any disturbance of the muck removes all visibility, even with a light. With gentle buoyancy control I brought myself in over the rocks and felt the icy chill to my bones. I knew I could only last a minute or so. But it only took a second or so. There on top of a rock my light instantly found a black Apple Watch. At first I couldn't believe it. How lucky was that!! If it had fallen inches to either side it would have been lost in the rocks.

I turned to start back up and a shape buried in the silt caught my eye. It was a pair of black sunglasses so I grabbed them as well and started up. When I hit the warm water it felt so good and I know I had a big grin on my face. Coming to the surface I raised the Apple Watch and got a roar from the floaters and folks on shore. The kid was absolutely overjoyed and his friends went crazy. Watch worked fine since they are waterproof. He gave me a big hug and called me his hero. It was a great feeling to have made someone so happy.

Swimming back to our dock I turned my attention to the sunglasses. Washing the silt and mud off they looked brand new and I couldn't believe my eyes for the second time: Ray-Ban WAYFARERS! Of course the song came immediately to mind but it didn't really hit me until I recalled that that was the last song I had

heard.....and sung. How crazy was that! What are the odds? How many Wayfarers do you see around? If it had been any other sunglasses it would have been a non-event. Wow!

Back in LaGrange we had a wonderful lunch and relived our great day. Being a Sci-Fi nut and enthralled by all things space and universe, I pondered what I had experienced. Could I have experienced a wrinkle in Einstein's Space Time Continuum? That's the theory where at such moments, past and future events can influence each other. How was it that those glasses were buried right next to the watch? Or was it that the watch fell right next to the glasses. Or that I found the watch at all in those conditions. Or that I noticed the glasses covered in silt. And that they were Wayfarers. And I had just heard that song. Or, Or, Or, And, And, And. HA!

Cheers,
Bart



The Editor's Notes

By Steve Gahafer



I hope everybody is enjoying the summer as it is starting to wind down. This month's pictures were provided by John Geddes of the recent Dive Club trip to Dale Hollow.

2016 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
John Geddes, Vice President	223-7926
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	266-4516
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	621-3178
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Kim Hudson, Webmaster	614-937-1955
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Steve Gahafer, Newsletter Editor	229-9408
	sagahafer@gmail.com



Vice President's Report

By John Geddes



Congratulations to Jim Frenzenberger and Kris Harn are the winners on the Door Prizes for the July Meeting, can't win if your not there!

Still working on the Program for August as of the newsletter deadline. The one I was going for will not out till September 26.



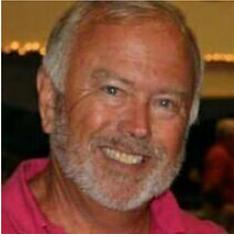
By now you have started to see some of the pics from Dale Hollow. The new pontoons were great with a 75 horsepower engine, it moved right along. We only had 4 people go but it was nice, no clocks, no time deadlines. We left before 10am, 3 dives for Jerry and Janet, lunch and got back by 5pm. That's about it in a nut shell.

Something else on my mind - Its not too far out to be thinking about if you would like to serve on the Board, so if you have any questions just ask me about it. Election are in November! 🚩



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



BELIZE 2017

Looks like this trip had taken off, just like Dominica. We now have at least 20 persons and still growing. Please check with Dan before buying airfare, to make sure we have rooms. The resort is filling up and we have used up our allotment, but hopefully we can get more. Check out the website [Belize 2017](#).



CURACAO 2018

Another great trip being offered by the dive club to one of the best looking islands in the Caribbean. This should be a great check out dive for the upcoming Africa trip for those that haven't been in the water for a while. This trip is now up on our website at [Curacao 2018](#). Check it out. It is a great place for non-divers also, so bring some friends to paradise.



AFRICA DIVE & SAFARI 2018

Yes, it is almost time to purchase your air fare for this trip that has been in the works for a year or so. If someone finds a great fare, please share it with us, so others might join you, but you need to make sure it works with the times we need to arrive in Africa. I will try and get that info out to you. We still have a room or so reserved, but if they call we will have to give it up, so if you are on the fence, please consider grabbing it before it is gone. Check the website [Africa 2018](#) 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2017 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](#). 🚩



From The Secretary

By Mike Sullivan



BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, July 11, 2017

A General meeting was held on July 11, 2017 at the Racquet Club on 3900 Crosby Road. A presentation was made by Janet Hensley on the Blue Heron Bridge in Florida. The Club Pig Roast will be held on August 12th at Sherry and Mike McCann's house. See the website for directions. Please bring a dish to serve 12 people. The board will meet on July 25th at the Tates Creek Public Library on Walden Drive at 7:30 PM.

BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Tuesday, July 25, 2017

The Board meeting was held on July 25, 2017 at the Tates Creek Public Library. The Dale Hollow trip had only 4 people that enjoyed a new double-decker boat. A yellow fever vaccine will be required for the Africa trip to go to Zanzibar. The safety feature this month in the newsletter is about what to do when the dive boat leaves you stranded. The Club Pig Roast will be held on August 12th at Sherry and Mike McCann's house. See the website for directions. Please bring a dish to serve 12 people. The board will meet on August 29th at the Beaumont Public Library on Fieldstone Way at 7:30 PM. 🚩



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Note: *This month's article was recommended by Dan (not that DAN, our Dan Miller!) and comes from scubadiverlife.com. It addresses that scariest of scenarios: you surface and there is no dive boat visible. We've seen a number of movies with this theme. The one that always comes to my mind is the 2003 film, Open Water. The outcome is predictable; but not comforting to those of us who are wanting to always see that diver down flag and our buddies' faces welcoming us on board.*

Read on, and try to picture why taking these steps could be very important in your safe diving regimen. It's always cheaper to have to buy a round for the boat for having to come pick you up, than to not get home at all! Remember, safe diving is fun!

What if the Dive Boat Leaves You Behind?

By Marcus Knight

It's every diver's worst nightmare. You surface from the dive and don't know where you are, and worse — the dive boat is nowhere in sight. Although this situation is quite rare, it's not unheard of. How can you avoid this situation? And if the dive boat leaves you behind, what should you do?

Dive charters and liveaboard vessels usually have a series of checks in place to make sure they don't miss anyone. Professional dive vessels also have procedures in place for dropping off and picking up divers. Dive-trip leaders set up dive rosters and take roll calls. They will inform the captain that the vessel can leave the site only when they have confirmed all divers back onboard.

However, sometimes (usually due to diver error) you may surface without the boat in sight. That may be due to poor navigation or adverse conditions such as strong currents. Alternatively, you may have to unexpectedly abort the dive due to a problem such as malfunctioning equipment, equalization issues or buoyancy problems.

The best way to avoid a situation where the dive boat leaves you behind is for it not to happen in the first place. Here are a few tips to ensure your rendezvous with the boat.

Plan the dive; dive the plan

It's an old adage, but worth repeating. The best way to avoid being left behind is to plan the dive and dive the plan. Make sure that you and your dive buddies [attend the dive briefing](#). Whether you have a guide or not, it's your responsibility as a qualified diver to find out the key aspects of the dive and adhere to them. During the briefing, the instructor will share valuable information with you. Pay attention. Note any pertinent details on your dive slate and ask questions if you're unsure.

- * Pay attention to compass bearings and directions. Is the reef or wreck to the north, south, east or west? Which direction takes you back to your exit point?

- * Note depths at various parts of the dive site. The topography of the site will give you navigational clues and help you find your way around.

- * Note any significant landmarks described in the briefing. Pinnacles, outcrops, drop-offs, walls and rock formations all help you navigate to the correct exit point or find your way back to the boat. If you're diving on an iron or steel wreck your compass will be ineffective, so note down the wreck layout, significant features and the location of the shot line.

- * Be aware of any areas the local guide or instructor advises may have strong currents that could push you away from the dive site. If the guide tells you not to go around the corner of the reef wall, don't. It's probably because the conditions become more challenging or there are hazards there.

* Heed the expected run time for the dive. If the captain and crew instruct you to surface after a maximum of 60 minutes, do so.

* Some captains use a specific signal for pickup from their vessel, e.g. raising the SMB in a certain position. Find out what it is so you can signal your crew if the area is busy with several dive boats.

* Finally — and most importantly — note how and where you will be entering *and* exiting the water. Is the crew expecting you to navigate back to a boat moored on a line? Or is it a drift dive, where the main vessel will move to a specific area to pick up divers? Be sure you know before leaving the briefing.

Take the right gear

Make sure you take the right equipment for the dive. No matter how well a dive is planned, separations may occur. Bringing the correct equipment can make the difference between a very bad day and an interesting story for your friends. DSMBs, SMBs, horns, whistles, lifelines, mirrors, rescue streamers, strobes and lights can all help turn a potentially dangerous situation into a minor inconvenience. But what to take?

DSMB/SMB

Delayed Surface Marker Buoys or Surface Marker Buoys (DSMBs/SMBs), also called 'safety sausages,' should be standard gear for every diver on every dive. Particularly, do not dive without them where there may be tides, currents or danger of separation from the group. Entry-level open-water courses from both PADI and SSI now include SMB use within their training syllabus. Easy to carry in your BC pocket, SMBs simply unravel. Inflate them via your regulator or orally to create a brightly colored tube that helps your vessel spot you upon pickup.

Not all SMBs are the same. Some are small and designed for easy storage and use in tropical conditions. Extremely large SMBs are better for conditions where you may be disappearing in and out of view in surge. Some SMBs feature strobes for even more visibility. If you are at the surface in fading light, point your torch inside the SMB to light it up. DSMBs, combined with a reel, are an even better safety device. You can deploy

these from depth with the correct training. This allows you to signal your position to boat traffic before you complete your ascent and safety stop. Again, not all DSMBs and reels are created equally. Check with your local dive center for equipment recommendations and training on how to deploy them safely.

Mirrors

You can use signal mirrors on the surface to reflect light and catch the eye of passing boat or air traffic in an emergency. You can purchase a dedicated signal mirror. But if you're on a tight budget, put an old CD in your BC pocket and use it as a makeshift alternative.

Lights

To avoid separation on night dives or in challenging visibility, clip a strobe to your equipment. This small, flashing light will also help your boat find you at the surface if you become separated as the sun is setting. Torches, also, are not just for night dives. Many divers also carry a torch in daylight; not just for shining into crevices, but also for signaling the boat if the light is beginning to disappear.

Noise

None of the visual devices listed above will be useful if the captain and dive crew are looking in the other direction. Most modern BCs come with a whistle. If yours didn't, attach one. The sound of a whistle carries through the air much more effectively than human vocal cords. Attach it to your equipment somewhere where you can easily reach it. Squawkers or air horns can also boost your volume in an emergency. Usually fitted to your BC's low-pressure inflator hose, you can sometimes use these above and below the surface. Certainly loud and effective, their drawback is that they function using the gas from your tank — so if you're empty, you're out of luck.

Modern technology

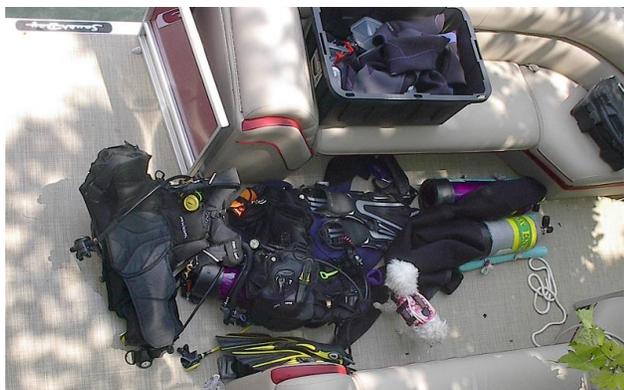
For those with the money and inclination, high-technology solutions such as the [Nautilus Lifeline](#) can offer a bit of a security blanket. While not inexpensive, this GPS tracker plots your exact position within 4 feet (1.5 m) in a 30-mile (50 km) radius. Simply press the distress button in an emergency and the dive boat will be able to find you. The Nautilus is becoming more prevalent in areas with strong currents and

challenging seas, such as the Galapagos, where the units are often included as part of the liveboard diving package.

Stay buoyant and protect your airway

If the worst happens and the boat may not find you for a while or the sea conditions become tougher, don't be afraid to ditch your weight belt or weight system to stay comfortable at the surface. Protect your vision and airway if the conditions are tough. Keep your mask on at the surface in challenging seas. It's difficult to signal a vessel if you can't see. A snorkel that you've stowed in your BC or wetsuit pocket can protect your airway as you face waves to signal for assistance.

None of these solutions are 100-percent failsafe. But having a few options at your disposal — with your dive buddies doing likewise — certainly increases your chances of being spotted if your dive boat leaves you behind. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2017-2018 Calendar

- June 13 General Meeting
- June 27 Board Meeting

- July 11 General Meeting
- **July 22** [Dale Hollow](#)
- July 25 Board Meeting

- August 8 General Meeting
- **August 12** [Annual Pig Roast](#)
- August 29 Board Meeting

- September 12 General Meeting
- **September 23-30** [Belize](#)
- September 19 Board Meeting

- October 10 General Meeting
- October 24 Board Meeting

- November 14 General Meeting
- November 28 Board Meeting

- December TBD **Christmas Party**

- January 9 General Meeting
- January 25 Board Meeting

- February 13 General Meeting
- **February 10-17** [Curacao](#)
- February 22 Board Meeting

- March 13 General Meeting
- March 29 Board Meeting

- **June 2018 10-23** [Africa](#)

Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	621-3178
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926