



# UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / [www.bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com)

October 2006

Volume 36, Number 10

## October's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, October 10th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** Australia Live Aboard

## President's Message



Our Program for October is a video on a live aboard in Australia that we will be planning to use in 2008 as one of our club trips.

Bob Shepard, who will be in BVI during the October Meeting, is beginning the planning process for the trip and will have more info by November.

I am pretty excited by the completion of the By-Laws that you will have all received by now in an attachment to an email sent out in the past couple of days.

We will vote on this new document at the November Dinner Meeting as we vote on new officers and board members.

George, Rick, Carol, Mike and the rest of the EC worked very hard over the past 9 months to update the 35 year old by-laws to reflect what the club currently needs to be in order to be effective into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Look forward to seeing you October 10<sup>th</sup> at the club house. 🚩

*Mark*

## The Editor's Notes

*By John Geddes*



This month I am going to jump to the Galapagos pics and will have the Laurel Lake pics next month. 🚩

## Co-Vice President's Report

*By Dan Miller and Carol Call*



**Report by:** *Dan Miller*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Time Visitor

No new members joined in September but we did have a visitor at our monthly meeting. Larry Wells of Lexington was a guest of Noel Hall. We hope to see Larry back with us real soon.



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## Co-V P's Report Cont.

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### Lake Cumberland Clean Up Debrief

Kudos to the *KY Underwater Ecological Society* for hosting this 32<sup>nd</sup> annual event on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Daniel Vinson and I teamed up to collect almost 200 lbs of garbage from the murky depths. Team Vinson/Miller didn't collect the most trash but we did have a great time. The food was fabulous and the diver fellowship was tops. Thanks to outgoing KUES President Richard Rabek for coordinating this worthy cause. Next year we'll strive to have more BGDC members participate.

### October Dive Opportunities Abound!

If you weren't able to make our British Virgin Islands Barefoot Cruise this month, don't fret. There are two local dive events to participate in. First, *Mermets Springs* (near Metropolis, IL) Oct 6-8 is the site of **DUI's Dog Rally & Demo Days**. If you're thinking about getting into cold water diving here's your chance to take free drysuit test dives and learn all about drysuit diving. Go to [www.dui-online.com](http://www.dui-online.com) or [www.mermetsprings.com](http://www.mermetsprings.com) for details. Secondly, there'll be an underwater pumpkin carving contest held Oct 28 at *Pennyroyal Scuba Blue Springs Resort* (Hopkinsville, KY). Check out the details by visiting [www.pennyroyalclub.com](http://www.pennyroyalclub.com). I'm game for attending both events if I find another hardy diver/travel buddy. If you're interested give me a call ASAP. 🚩

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## From The Secretary

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*By George Fleischmann*



### General Meeting Minutes 9/12/06

The 7:30 general monthly meeting held on 9/12/06 was attended by 26 folks. Kit presented the treasurer's report. Doug presented details on the upcoming trips and answered questions. Doug also announced that there is a return to Galapagos trip planned for 2008. Details will follow. A dive video shot by the Aggressor Fleet of the clubs trip to Galapagos Islands was shown.



### EC Meeting 9/26/06

The 7:30pm meeting was attended by Mark, Dan, Kit, Doug, Rick, John, Mike, and myself. Bob Shepard also attended as a guest. Mark called the meeting to order. Bob Shepard presented additional information on an Australia live aboard dive operator as input for future trip consideration.

Kit presented the treasurer's report, and it was approved. A motion was made and seconded to move \$500 of club funds budgeted to cover early deposits made to resorts and dive operators back from reserved to unreserved funds. This motion passed.

Dan presented an update on the recent new members. Doug presented an update on the dive trips for 2007. There was also a discussion on possible location and timing of trips for 2008. The meeting was then adjourned. 🚩



*Catch the stickers on the window above Patrick*

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## From the Treasurer

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By Kit Hudson



### November Dinner Meeting

As enjoyed by all previously and back for an encore.....the club's November 14th meeting will feature dinner to go with the club's annual officer elections. In order to give The Racquet Club an anticipated count of those expected for dinner, there will be a signup list at the October 10th club meeting. Or if you cannot make it to the October meeting, but do plan to attend the November dinner meeting, there will be a reservation tab from our club's website. Or you can email me at [kithuds@iglou.com](mailto:kithuds@iglou.com).

The COST will be \$16.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity), payable at that meeting.  
The anticipated MENU will be:

Lemon Pepper Chicken, Prime Rib Au Jus, New Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Garden Salad Rolls, Coffee, tea, soft drinks, Cheesecake. 🚩

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## Divemaster's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### **BONAIRE 2007**

It is getting close to being too late to sign up for this trip. We are going to have to make our final payments to the resort by October 31. If you haven't signed up and are still interested you need to go to the web site and sign up or drop me a line and let me know if you are interested. We currently are at 21 or so, persons. Don't miss out on this trip...

### **GRAND TURK 2007**

We are still waiting for the first sign up, but there are persons going on this trip. Please get your reservation in. You guys wanted a second trip and we have planned a great trip, so let's sign up.

Grand Turk is one of the best diving spots in the world. The wall starts at 40' and drops to over 500' deep. You never know when a large critter will pass you by. Check out the web site and then fill out the form. We need some more divers. The weather will be perfect that time of year. Remember, school will be out and this is a great place for non-divers.

### **GALAPAGOS 2008**

Back by popular demand, we will be traveling back to the Galapagos Islands and dive on the Aggressor once again. This trip will also offer spaces for non-divers to add on and travel into the jungle for the second part of the trip along with a few days on their own in Quito. I sent out an email looking for a response and I got around 10 or so persons that responded. Those persons are on the list. We will open the trip up at the meeting to those that now think they might want to go. We are asking for a \$250.00 deposit. All persons, including the ones that emailed me and said they wanted to go, need to pay this deposit. This will cost a little more than the last trip since we only get 3 free trips to help offset the cost. The boat cost is \$3295.00 plus air and extras along with the jungle tour to Sacha Lodge (price unknown at this time) we are a good ways off, but the boats there book up very early. The prices are also climbing for the next years, so I figured we better catch it while they are down. If you are thinking about going and haven't talked with any of us that went on the last one. Drop me a line or give me a call. This is a trip of a lifetime... 🚩

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2006 Calendar

### October

10, Tuesday Club Dinner / Meeting  
31, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### November

14, Tuesday Dinner Club Meeting  
(Elections)  
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### December

16, Saturday Club Christmas Party

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** *This past month the world lost an exuberant promoter of wildlife and nature in the untimely death of the "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Erwin. Now, you may have thought him a joke, or a clown, or maybe you thought he was a genius. But regardless of your opinion, no one argued that he was a passionate champion of wildlife and their environments.*

*Due to the bizarre circumstances of his death, there has been a lot of information in the media concerning the hazards of being around wildlife, and specifically stingrays and other ocean creatures. I know from personal experience with wild stingrays, they are relatively docile, but they can be large, powerful, and you are in their domain. Oh yeah, there's that barb thing too. All wildlife should be observed from a safe distance, not pestered, grabbed, or even ridden. (Including whale sharks – you know who you are...)*

*So, to address what could happen, and what you should do, I've included parts of a couple of web articles in this month's column about dangerous sea creatures. The first is from the American Boating Association on types of creatures, the second from Aloha.com with the details of how creatures may injure you and what you should do. The key message here is: don't bother them and they won't bother you.*



Some Sea Creatures to Think Twice About For anglers, swimmers or anyone who ventures on the sea, dangerous marine animals divide into three broad types: biters, stingers, and poisoners.

Among the biters, sharks are the ones with the longest rap sheet. And even though the human race has always been thousands of times more dangerous to sharks than vice versa, in many cases they deserve their notoriety. Makos, for one of the best examples, are now classified as a game fish and are widely harvested for their food value - but they are also fast, savage and can be extremely dangerous, with a long history of attacks on people and even on boats. Found in warm waters of the Atlantic, in the summer they are reported as far north as the Canadian Maritimes, and variations of the species range the whole Pacific. Growing to 13', they have prominent teeth, slender shapes, and stealth colors: blue-gray or deep blue when viewed from above, with a white belly to reduce visibility from below.



The Tiger Shark is at least as ubiquitous in all the world's warm oceans, and is the most common species in the tropics. Easily recognized by its short snout and sharply pointed tail, it usually outgrows the striping from which it derives its name; adult Tigers, up to 20' long, are gray or grayish brown, darker toward the dorsal. Primarily scavengers, they can be fast in a chase but are generally more sluggish than the Mako and somewhat less inclined to human attacks.

Hammerheads are probably the most striking in appearance of the dangerous varieties, with their futuristic/primeval design featuring a wing-like, cantilevered skull terminating at each end in a black and yellow eye. Fast, powerful and up to 15' long, they have been known to attack swimmers and small boats. The favored cinematic heavies of the shark world are the Great Whites, thanks to the movie *Jaws* and with a boost from reports in the press some years ago that one of them ate the Prime Minister of Australia. They deserve their reputations. Aggressive, fast, with lethal triangular teeth and a history of boat attacks, at a length of 15' they can weigh more than a ton and a half.

## Safety Corner Cont.

Other noted biters include the Orca (or less fashionably the Killer Whale) which, *Free Willie* notwithstanding, has been known to lunge right up onto the shore in pursuit of warm-blooded prey and is rightly regarded as one of the most dangerous animals on earth. The Moray eel - another Benchley subject, after the Great White - can grow to 10', has an extremely destructive, tearing bite, and is easily provoked to attack, especially in response to blind probes by divers or to offers of finger food (pun intended.) And no list would be complete without the ubiquitous barracuda, a school fish designed like a mackerel with serious overbite, growing up to 8' but less than half that length on average, some species of which are considered more dangerous than the average shark.



Did you know that the shy, reclusive octopus is a biter as well? But it has more in common with the stonefish or the sea snake than with the sharks: its bite is poisonous. The characteristic two small punctures can cause extensive bleeding from the anti-coagulant in its venom, and the wound soon becomes swollen, inflamed and hot. There is no treatment for the bleeding other than to staunch the flow and wait for the venom to wash out of the system.



Other poisonous sea creatures are: cone shells - snails whose venom can produce paralysis and even death; sea snakes - true air-breathing snakes capable of staying submerged in the ocean for hours and whose venom can be several times more deadly than a rattler; a wide variety of jellyfish, most notably the sea wasp and Portuguese Man of War; the spiny sea urchin; and a host of toxic teleosts that range from catfish, toadfish, weever fish, scorpionfish, and stingrays all the way to the Zebrafish.



And just when you thought it was safe to go into the water again! Well, that's the point of this list. If you know what to watch out for and have the common sense to avoid unnecessary risk, boating is safer than ever.





*Remember, safe diving is fun!*




Below is some good summary information about various sea creatures. Enjoy watching them - but leave them be!!!

**NOTE:** *Teleost - a fish with a bony skeleton (I had to look it up, too!!!) As opposed to cartilaginous fish like sharks which are known as elasmobranchs. See, you can learn something in this newsletter!!* 🚩

	<h2>Anemone</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	From tide pools to deep offshore waters.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Avoid direct contact with skin. While tide pooling use footwear and don't put fingers/hands into holes and crevices.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Tentacles have stinging cells that are used for catching prey.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Burning and itching sensation, redness and swelling where contact was made. Severe Reaction: may include shortness of breath; loss of consciousness.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Rinse thoroughly with fresh or salt water. Apply ice for pain. <b>IMMEDIATE medical attention may be required for severe reactions.</b>

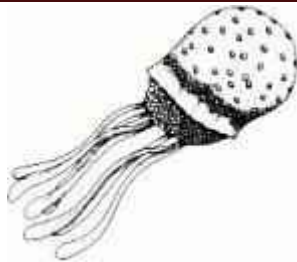
	<h2>Barracuda</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Open waters/bay areas in the shadows, under floating objects.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Don't wear shiny objects. They are attracted to reflective things that look like dinner.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Sharp jagged teeth with strong tearing jaws.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Slashed and jagged tears in your skin.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop bleeding with pressure. <b>Get medical help.</b>

	<h2>Cone Snail</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Tide pools, sandy areas, shallow to deep offshore waters.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Do not handle (even with gloves), especially near tip.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Poisonous, dart-like mechanism near tip used for stunning and killing fish and invertebrates.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Stinging, burning pain, numbness, coma or cardiac arrest.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Scrub the wound. <b>Get medical help for severe reactions.</b>



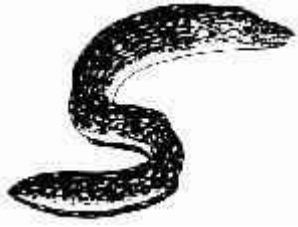
## Coral

COMMON HABITAT	All depths.
PREVENTION	Protect feet while tide pooling or reef walking. Don't touch coral. Stay out of rough shallow waters.
INJURY MECHANISM	Sharp edges cause abrasions and lacerations.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Bleeding, torn skin causing irritation, mild swelling.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop any bleeding with pressure, clean thoroughly with soap and water. <b>Get medical help for deep cuts and embedded pieces.</b>



## Jellyfish

COMMON HABITAT	Very common in all water bodies.
PREVENTION	Don't go into areas where sighted, or if dead ones are seen on the beach. Observe posted signs.
INJURY MECHANISM	Stinging tentacles.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Stinging, burning, redness, swelling of lymph nodes. <b>Severe reaction: difficulty with breathing and cardiac arrest. Occasional long welt lines.</b>
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Douse with vinegar. Apply ice for pain. <b>IMMEDIATE medical attention may be required for severe reactions.</b>



## Moray Eel

COMMON HABITAT	Rocky areas, in holes, under rocks, crevices and tide pool ledges.
PREVENTION	Keep hands out of rocky areas, holes and crevices. Use stick to probe. Dead fish, blood or bait will bring them out of their holes.
INJURY MECHANISM	Razor sharp teeth, powerful jaws.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Bleeding, severe muscle damage, but more commonly tendon and nerve damage.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop bleeding with pressure, clean thoroughly. <b>Get medical help</b> (guard against infection).



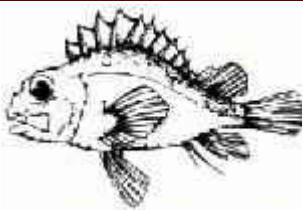
## Needle Fish

COMMON HABITAT	Near surface in bay areas and open waters.
PREVENTION	Use caution when night lighting/fishing.
INJURY MECHANISM	Long pointed jaw.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Pointed jaw may puncture and break off leaving a puncture wound.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	If point doesn't break off, clean with antiseptic if stabbed. If point breaks off do not remove it. Stop any bleeding with pressure. <b>Get medical help immediately!</b>




## Portuguese Man-of-War (Bluebottle - *Physalia* spp.)

<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Open ocean. Bays and beaches during strong onshore winds.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Avoid areas where they frequent. Usually found when winds blow in from the ocean onto land. Observe posted signs.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Long blue, threadlike tentacles.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Stinging, burning, redness, swelling of lymph nodes. <b>Severe reaction: difficulty with breathing and cardiac arrest. Long welt lines.</b>
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Pick off any visible tentacles. Rinse with fresh or salt water. Apply ice for pain. <b>IMMEDIATE medical attention may be required for severe reactions.</b>




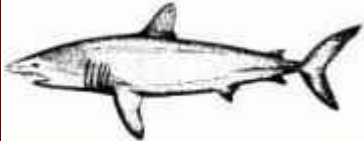
## Scorpion Fish

<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Protected ledges, rocky areas, and shallow inshore areas.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Do not handle. Keep out of crevices and places into which you can't see.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Toxic dorsal, pelvic, and anal spines.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Punctured skin, extreme pain, throbbing for hours. Sometimes convulsions and cardiac arrest.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Immerse in hot water to tolerance. <b>Get medical help for serious reactions or for infection.</b>

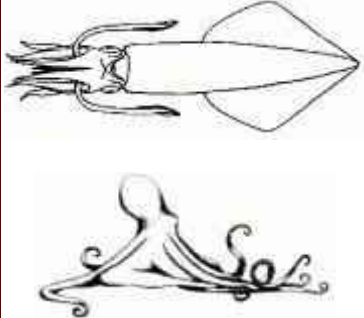
	<h2>Sea Snake</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Specific areas around the world, most often in the western Pacific.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	<b>If sighted stay clear, leave the area.</b>
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Venom through fangs.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Paralysis, severe pain, cardiac arrest.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	<b>Keep the victim calm and warm. Transport to a medical facility or call 911 for an ambulance, IMMEDIATELY.</b>



	<h2>Sea Urchin</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Shallow reef areas to 100 foot depths.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Wear foot protection. Don't walk on rocky areas with poor visibility. Do not handle!
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Long, extremely brittle spines.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Throbbing pain. Purplish discoloration.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Pull out protruding spines. <b>If spines(s) is/are in a joint, nerve, or when wound is infected - get medical help.</b>

	<h2>Shark</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Shallow inshore waters to open ocean.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Avoid murky waters. Leave water if sighted, if you have an open cut or are pulling a string of speared fish. Try not to look like food.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Jaws and rows of razor sharp teeth. Abrasions from sandpaper-like skin.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Severe bleeding, injury to or excision of muscle, bone and appendages.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Control bleeding with pressure. <b>Transport to medical facility or call 911 for an ambulance for severe shark attack bites.</b>



	<h2>Squid or Octopus</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Squid - open ocean, free swimming. Octopus - on bottom in rocky areas from tide pools to deep waters.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Do not handle.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Beak-like teeth.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Bleeding, mild stinging and throbbing.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop bleeding with pressure, clean thoroughly with soap and water. <b>Get medical help for deep cuts and embedded beak pieces or in case of infection.</b>



## Stingray


COMMON HABITAT	Shallow, sandy areas to deep oceans.
PREVENTION	Shuffle feet when walking in shallow inshore waters. Stay clear of disturbed (swimming) ray. Do Not Molest!
INJURY MECHANISM	Tail with poisonous barb near base of body.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Lacerations and severe pain. Punctures in abdomen or chest are very serious - a medical emergency.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop any bleeding, clean thoroughly with mild soap and water. Immerse in hot water to tolerance for pain. <b>Get medical treatment for deep cuts and embedded barb pieces. Do not try to remove pieces yourself - get medical help.</b>



## Tube Worm

COMMON HABITAT	Shallow reef areas.
PREVENTION	Use protective footwear and gloves.
INJURY MECHANISM	Hardened, razor sharp opening to worm's shelter.
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	Circular cut with fragments that may be embedded. Bleeding.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop bleeding with pressure, clean thoroughly with soap and water. <b>Get medical treatment for deep cuts and embedded pieces. Do not try to remove pieces yourself.</b>



	<h2>Surgeonfish</h2>
<b>COMMON HABITAT</b>	Wave zone to 150 foot depths.
<b>PREVENTION</b>	Take care in handling.
<b>INJURY MECHANISM</b>	Spine and knife-like razors near tail.
<b>SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS</b>	Throbbing pain, itching, bleeding and numbness.
<b>FIRST AID TREATMENT</b>	Stop bleeding with pressure, clean thoroughly with soap and water. <b>Get medical treatment for deep cuts and embedded spine pieces. Do not try to remove pieces yourself.</b>

