



UNDERCURRENTS

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

August 2007

Volume 37, Number 8

August's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 14th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Cave Diving DVD

President's Message

By Dan Miller



Message from the Deep

The August 14th program will feature a 12-minute cave/cavern diving DVD and a 9-minute DVD on DUI's Dog Rally & Demo Days.

Our annual July pilgrimage to Dale Hollow Lake was a big success! We had 20 folks enjoy the weekend, more than I've ever seen in 5 years with the club. Special thanks go out to all our support staff: pontoon captains Daniel Vinson & Gordon Green, potluck chef John Geddes, pre-dive safety briefer Rick Stephan, boat owners Doug Geddes and Ralph & Sherry Covington and trip leader Corrine Mulberry who did a bang up job organizing this trip. 🚩



The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month we have some pics from the Dale Hollow weekend. Some 21 people make the journey down to the lake and I think the pics show the good time we all had.

Ok, here you go... Who eats at underwater restaurant? 🚩



2007 BGDC Officer's & Staff

Dan Miller, President	948-5133
Rebecca Singer, Vice President	552-0880
Maryanna O'Canina, Secretary	277-2634
George Fleischmann, Treasurer	873-9539
Doug Geddes, Divemaster	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Office	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Undercurrents Editor	223-7926

Pig Roastin' Time

Mark that Date down!!! Aug 18th
Suuuuuuu-Eeeeeeeeeeee !!!

Time for our pig roast again.

Date: Saturday, Aug 18th
Time: 4:00-PM
Where: Doug & MaryAnn Geddes
105 Country Knoll
Equestrian Woods Estates
(See BGDC Web Site for Map)
(606) 224-3197

Activities: Swimming, Ladder Golf Volleyball.

What to Bring

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

The club will provide the Bar-B-Que, beer, & Soft drinks products.



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *Another reasonably short, but pertinent article. I've written before about Dive Flags (see the Safety Corner from August 2005). But, as we get into local diving season through the warmer months, we need to fend off the boaters.*

I have heard the story about the boaters who converged around the dive flag float and started pulling it up along with the divers towing it. When the divers came up and

asked what was going on, the boater said "I saw this floating out here and thought it had fallen off someone's boat so I stopped to pick it up!"

Here is some info I picked up off the web some time ago, along with some info from the Kentucky State Boating Laws. It would be great if everyone understood the rules. You can help. Explain the rules about boating safety around divers to all your boating friends. Who knows? You may just recruit a new diver! Remember, safe diving is fun!!!

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The Flag

The Dive Flag has become the symbol for the exciting sport of scuba diving in recent history. This unique flag is recognized by many but is more than just a symbol for scuba diving. (Note: but it does look great on the front of your car on a BGDC license plate!) In most areas, local laws and policies require that one must use a dive flag while diving. Here in the United States, the dive flag is a red flag with a white diagonal stripe running usually running from the top left corner to the bottom right corner.



Dive flags, which are usually vinyl, are mounted in a variety of ways, whether it be on the boat you're diving from or the standard fiberglass staff where the flag is stiffened with a wire so that it stands out from the staff at all times. When diving without a boat the flag is usually held afloat by securely attached float. There are a variety of other attachments that secure a dive flag to an inner tube and other buoyant items.

Safety Corner Cont.

Whatever way you choose to mount your dive flag, you must be sure it is clearly visible to other boaters. Laws requiring how far boats must keep from dive flags vary from state to state and internationally but distances usually range from 50 to 150 feet. Divers are often required to surface within 25 feet of the flag, and not doing so could be fatal to the diver. If your diving area is larger than the distance allowed by law, multiple dive flags should be used that are separated then no more than 100 feet apart to ensure boaters can see and obey the laws. Internationally, the alpha flag, a swallow-tailed blue and white flag, is used when diving from a vessel. The dive flag is not only one of your cheapest purchases in scuba diving but also one of your most important.

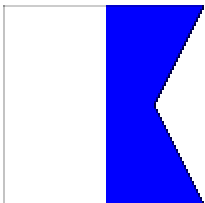
Rules vary from state to state, but, from Kentucky law:

Diver Down Flag: State law requires that scuba divers or snorkelers display the “diver down” flag to mark the diving area. Vessel operators must not operate within 100 feet of a displayed “diver down” flag. Divers must surface within 50 feet of the flag. The “diver down” flags are:

- A rectangular red flag, at least 12 inches x 12 inches with a white diagonal stripe at least 3 inches in width, if on state waters.



- A blue and white International Code Flag A (or Alfa flag) if on federally controlled or international waters. (Note: I'm not sure what international waters there are in Kentucky!!!)



Scuba divers and snorkelers should not place a flag in an area already occupied by other boaters or where diving operation will impede the normal flow of waterway traffic. Divers should also follow all of the water safety rules themselves. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By George Fleischmann



2007 Membership Dues

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

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below. And 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 or Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club
% George Fleischmann
9048 Clifton Road
Versailles, KY 40383 -9077

New Members: Fill out & mail a membership form from the web site. 🚩



Divemaster's Report

By Doug Geddes



FT. LAUDERDALE 2007

It looks like maybe people are finally taking notice of this trip. We now have around 8 persons that are showing an interest. We are still putting together a trip page, but you can email me and get put on the list. The club will be collecting monies just for the room and the rest will be up to each person to pay the rest of the expenses. The reason for this is the way this trip was set up with alternating start dates and types of dives. Check out our web site for projected costs of the rooms and diving. Please don't wait until the last minute to sign up for this one...



UTILA 2008

WOW, I can't believe what happened after the last newsletter. This trip went from 26 persons to 43 in a blink of an eye. For those on the waiting list, I tried to get you to sign up months ago. We will be maintaining a waiting list, so those that haven't signed up, you can without a deposit and hope someone drops out. If you wait to do that, you will miss this trip for sure. Someone mentioned at the last meeting, maybe we could put some persons at the other resort on the island. If you would like to do this, drop me a line and I will check into it for you. The costs will be more and you won't be able to dive with us, but you will be on the island with us. I really don't think that is what anyone would want, but I would be glad to look into it for you.

DALE HOLLOW 2007

I want to thank Corrine for doing a great job of setting up and running our trip to the lake. We had over 20 persons show up and enjoy at least part of a beautiful weekend of fun on the water. Also, thanks to Ralph for bringing his boat to the lake. Without it we would have had a tough time fitting all of the people on the pontoon boat. If you guys haven't tried any of our lake trips, then you have really missed all the companionship your fellow members offer. It is not always about the diving, but who you dive with. We do have a bunch of great friends that love the same things. 🚩



Vice President's Report

By Rebecca Singer



We saw lots of new faces at the meeting in June! Anna and Dan brought their friend Panna Patel to the meeting. She has been diving for years, but is hoping to get back into it. We also welcome several new members to the club. Luke Riddering just moved to Kentucky from Illinois and has his advanced open water certification. He is looking forward to some Caribbean diving! The dive trip committee will be sure to keep that in mind as they plan the dive calendar. We also welcome Rick Borden and his stepson Jordan Perkins to the club. Please take a moment to say hello in person to Panna, Luke, Rick and Jordan at the next meeting.

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer and I am looking forward to seeing old faces, and hopefully more new faces, at the next meeting. 🚩



Presidential Potpourri

Several late summer dive opportunities abound
I'll be attending all these events and I hope to see you there.

8/4 *Laurel Lake*, annual NHDC Treasure Hunt & Pig Roast (sign up at the dive shop)

8/31-9/3 *Labor Day weekend in Western KY*, visit Mammoth Cave, Corvette Museum, dive at Pennyroyal (Hopkinsville) and Dive Cerulean (Cadiz). Do it all for under \$300!

9/15 *Lake Cumberland*, 35th annual KUES clean up dive.

9/21-9/30 *Ft. Lauderdale/Key Largo*, cheap trip organized by Gordon Green

10/6-10/7 *Mermet Springs* (Metropolis, IL). DUI's Dog Rally & Demo Days

TSA announces Registered Traveler program

Want to speed your way through airport security lines? Just pay a \$100 one-time fee, agree to a background check and submit a biometric iris scan and you may begin whizzing by your fellow travelers in 2008. Average time savings is 3 times faster. To find out more about the RT program go to www.tsa.gov.

Need a moonlighting dive-based job that pays well?

2.5 *billion* golf balls are lost in the USA each year and a \$200 million secondhand ball industry has sprouted up to retrieve them. A good diver can collect 10,000 balls in an 8-hour shift while raking in a 6-figure annual income! Who knew? 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2007-08 Calendar

August

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
18, Saturday Club Pig Roast
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

September

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
21, Friday Ft Lauderdale and Keys
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



October

9, Tuesday Club Dinner / Meeting
30, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

November

13, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

Calendar Cont.

December

15, Saturday Club Christmas Party



January 08

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

February

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



March

11, Tuesday Dinner Meeting
18, Tuesday E.C. Meeting
29, Saturday Utila Dive

From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



General Meeting Minutes 7/10/07

The 7:30 meeting was attended by 30 members. The program was a video put together by our members on the recent Grand Turk trip. Last minute arrangements were made to Dale Hollow Lake. The club trip has over 20 people promising to attend.

EC Meeting 7/31/07

The 7:30pm meeting was attended by Dan, Mike, George, Maryanne and Rebecca.

A motion was made to accept the latest draft of the club's by-laws, which has polished by a sub-committee of the EC. The motion was seconded. A quorum of members of the EC unanimously voted to accept this draft as the final version to be presented to the members of the club via e-mail. Members should expect to view the by-laws by 8-7-07. Approval date by the club will be the date given to the final document. For now the adoption date by the EC will be 7-31-07.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved.

The vice-president for membership reported that five new members have joined.

The Webmaster needs the secretary's report and pictures to be submitted for the newsletter. Reservation forms will be developed for the Labor Day trip to W. KY.

New business: Pig Roast on 8-18-07 and November dinner meeting sign-ups.

Submitted by Maryanne O'Canna 7-31-07 