



UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2011

Volume 41, Number 12

Club's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, Dec. 10th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Home of Mark & Stella Kidd
991 Lakeland Drive 266-2276

Members and Guest, Bring a dish to share.

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Happy Holidays fellow divers. I hope everyone is satisfied from your Thanksgiving feast and getting ready for Christmas. Our Christmas party is always a festive event and I hope to see you all there. I appreciate the hospitality of the Kidd's for hosting the event again this year. The details are available on the website.

Please take a moment to look at our dive calendar and plan your next trip with the club! We have some amazing trips planned for the future. Contact the trip leaders, if you have questions. The Dive Committee always wants new ideas, so please let them know if you have been to a wonderful destination and want to revisit or if there is a location you have always wanted to visit.

If you have pictures or video you would like to share with your fellow scuba divers, don't forget about Facebook.

Don't forget the local dive shop, New Horizons, for all of your scuba gear, service, and rentals. They also offer many classes to upgrade or update you diving knowledge.

I hope to see you at the January 2012 meeting. Please bring your friends and family who are interested in diving. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



The pics for this month are of the Bimini trip and were from Noel Hall.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Party and if I don't, I will send my greeting to you now, Merry Christmas and have a safe New Year. 🚩



2011 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
Corrine Mulberry, Vice President	913-0892
Kris Harn, Secretary	278-4246
George Fleischmann, Treasurer	873-9539
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



Election of Officers:

Election of Board members for 2012 took place at the November meeting. 2012 Board members are as follows:

- President – Tracey Combs
- Vice President – Corrine Mulberry
- Secretary – Kris Harn
- Treasurer – Dan Miller
- Trip Director – Doug Geddes
- Safety Info Director – Rick Stephan
- Newsletter Editor – John Geddes
- Webmaster – Mike McCann



Looking for a Holiday present?

We have BGDC caps for \$12.00. If you are interested in purchasing, send me an email at scubagirl07@insightbb.com or call me at 913-0892 and we'll figure out a way to get the cap to you in time for a Holiday gift. 🚩

These are not for sale.



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



This is your last chance to sign up for our March 3 - 18, 2011 Philippines trip. This is the area where the Great Barrier Reef began and has the most variety of fish life in the world. The prices for this trip will never be as low as it for us on this one. We negotiated these prices 2 years ago and they are a lot higher now. We are staying at two great resorts on two different islands. For some reason, if you decided you could only do one week, that is possible also.

Please check out our website www.bluegrassdiveclub.com and click on upcoming events and scroll down to find March. Check out all the links to the resorts. I know this is going to be a great trip. We have 16 persons going but we could handle a few more. Remember, we also get some monies back at the end of the trip once we get all our expenses paid for, so this will lower the already great prices even lower. Don't miss out on this one...great Christmas gift to yourself and others.



ALSO, if you are looking for an Early Summer trip (June), we have a Cozumel trip up on the website also. Please check it out. Another great opportunity to dive in another favorite dive location. We need to add some numbers to this trip, so if you were planning on signing up for this one, please do so as soon as you can. Prices and info on our website. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By George Fleischmann



2011 and 2012 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, 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
% George Fleischmann
9048 Clifton Road
Versailles, KY 40383

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

SCUBA Diver's Prayer

(or the Safety Stop Psalm)

PADI is my shepherd; I shall not want to cross over to NAUI. They maketh me dive in quarries and ponds before I am allowed to dive where I want. The LDS they refill my tanks and lead me to the best paths to find choice dives, for my own sanity's sake.

Yea though I swim through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no cartilaginous fish, for my dive buddy is a slower swimmer than I. His gut and lack of streamlining they comfort me.

DAN prepares a recompression chamber for me in the presence of mine enemy. They pump me full of oxygen so that my blood does not bubbleth over, Surely I will have learned a lesson that will follow me all the days of my life. So that I will not have to revisit the chamber ever again. AMEN!

From The Secretary

By Kris Harn



REGULAR MEETING
11-8-11

22 people in attendance. Tracey opened meeting at 7:35 pm. George gave Treasurer's report. Doug gave trip report on upcoming trips. Reports were given by Kris, John, Mike, & Rick. Corrine ran elections.



The following people were voted to be the 2012 board: Tracey Combs-president, Corrine Mulberry-membership V.P, Kris Harn-Secretary, Dan Miller-Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Mike McCann-Webmaster, Rick Stephan-Safety Info Director, and Doug Geddes-Trip Director. Membership Directories were picked up at end of meeting and will be available at next regular meeting. 🚩

Patrick hanging



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *This year is rapidly coming to an end. At this month's board meeting, a proposed dive calendar was discussed, stretching out more than 2 years! The BGDC has been, and remains, very active, with both local and international trips planned to serve all levels of divers. With Christmas coming up, this would seem to be a good time to get Santa your diving wish list so that you can find some nice goodies under the tree this December 25.*

I've put down a few different types of gifts, but most divers I know are pretty picky about the gear they get, so I didn't put down specific items. Go by your local dive shop and see what deals they have. After dive clothing and accessories can be bought at local outdoor specialty stores or department stores. Consider buying high quality products – getting good performance from your gear is more important than carrying a lot of different ones.

I hope you have a safe and joyous holiday season. We'll see you next year with some more safety tips and stories.



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Scuba Gift Ideas

High End Gifts

Obviously, there are some very expensive gifts you could give. These include things like: dive computers, BCDs, regulators, underwater cameras, underwater propulsion vehicles, etc. If you expect to give (or get)

any of these as gifts, I'd recommend making sure what make or model is desired is communicated to the prospective giver.

Individualized Gifts

There are several items that are important to be fitted properly. Mask, fins, and booties really need to be tried on. You may be a perfect Medium size, but the mask you liked in the window may be too narrow for your face or the booties loose enough so they rub your foot raw when you put them on the first time. Make sure you look to get these from your local shop.



Dive Bling

For their next dive trip, maybe your favorite diver would like a new piece of dive-related jewelry. There are lots of diving baubles to buy – diver cufflinks, fish earrings, dive watches, or maybe a pendant with a mounted piece of eight from the Atocha. Many options are available, from inexpensive to very expensive. Check out local jewelers and internet sites.



Techno Divers

Advances in technology are great to give as scuba/dive travel gifts. What about a waterproof case for an iPhone? What about some noise-cancelling headphones for that long flight? If your diver likes music, a small

Safety Corner Cont.

MP3 player is a great thing to have for long trips or layovers.

Safety Santa

Yes, safety can be a Christmas present. What about a scuba flag buoy? Local dives require you to provide your own marker flag. You can get an inflatable buoy with a detachable flag, so you can tow it with you underwater, or mount the flag from a mast on your boat (assuming you dive right around your boat!)



Light up your Christmas

A dive light is always appreciated. New LED versions are smaller, lighter, and more durable than some of the older models. Consider buying a smaller light that would fit in the BCD pocket and could be used as a backup light on a night dive, or to shine into dark crevices in a reef to seek out some critters.

The Weather Outside is Frightful

Dive protection gear is pretty much a personal decision. Fit, color, and style are something that generally can only be picked out by the individual. Wetsuits, since they stretch, are a little more forgiving – especially in the water, but sizes vary wildly between manufacturers, so check these out and make sure you get a good fit. However, a dive hood or vest can be pretty universal, and very helpful to lake divers for extra warmth.

Don't forget sunglasses, a broad-brimmed sun hat, or even a dive parka (fleece lining and water/wind repellent shell, with hood) for various weather conditions on the surface.

Gloves are not generally recommended for normal diving, (you should use your buoyancy control skills to stay off the bottom!), but you might want a small pair for diving on wrecks.

Fitted Mouthpieces

There are some really nice ergonomic regulator mouthpieces out there, where you can get your bite impression into the mouthpiece, making it stay in your mouth securely, with less effort and jaw fatigue. On long dives, or when there is a bit of surge, this is very nice to have.

Bag it Up

Travel bags can range from a large duffel to transport your dive gear, to a small padded bag to put your computer or regulator into your carry-on luggage. For the larger bags, look for durable materials, solid large zippers, and a rigid frame with wheels and extendable handle, for pulling through the airport. If you're going places where you have to tote your gear, consider a backpack-type bag, so you can put the weight on your shoulders. Other protective containers could be used for your first aid kit (see below) or your dive mask.

Stocking Stuffers

There are lots of small gifts that are useful to the diver in your house. Clips or carabiners are handy for hanging gear from D-rings on your BCD. Think about some hose protectors to keep your regulator hoses intact. What about retractable lanyards for your computer console or other gear?



Mask defog or silicone lubricant is always in need. Active divers will really appreciate some travel packages of wetsuit cleaner/deodorant. What about sunblock or

Safety Corner Cont.

anti-seasickness medication for your favorite pale or queasy diver?



Safety accessories like a dive whistle, reflective signaling mirror, or safety sausage are important, especially for dive trips to remote locations. Small waterproof (and maybe crushproof) containers are nice for keeping sunglasses, medications, or small parts together in your dive bag. Having a personal first aid kit is a great help to the dive traveler as well. (See the July, 2011 issue of Undercurrents.) Last, but not least, make sure your diver has a save-a-dive kit – with extra straps for mask and fins and assorted o-rings.

I wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and the wettest New Year! 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2012 Calendar

Quick reference, see the Website for more details

January

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
31, Tuesday Board Meeting

February

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
28, Tuesday Board Meeting

March

3-18, Philippines Dive Trip
13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

April

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
24, Tuesday Board Meeting

May

5, Saturday Club's Derby Party
8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
29, Tuesday Board Meeting

June

16-23, Saturday Cozumel Dive Trip
12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
26, Tuesday Board Meeting

July

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
14-15, Sat & Sun Dale Hollow
31, Tuesday Board Meeting

August

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
18, Saturday Club Pig Roast
28, Tuesday Board Meeting

September

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
25, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

6 or 13 Mystery Dive Trip
9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
30, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting (Elections)
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

December

8 or 15, Saturday Christmas Party