



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

November 2014

Volume 44, Number 11

## November's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, November 11th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** Nitrox Review Class

## President's Message

*By Tracey Combs*



I hope everyone had a HAUNTING Halloween. We have some great upcoming trips on our calendar for 2015, so get your reservation in today. If you have ideas of new locations, please let us know!

Our November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will include our Elections. If you are interested in a position on the board, please contact Corrine or any Nomination Committee Member. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held instead of the regular meeting in December. The party will be on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Please visit the website for more information.

I hope to see you at the next meeting. Please feel free to bring your family and friends who are interested in diving. Everyone is welcome. 🚩

## The Editor's Notes

*By John Geddes*



This month we are going to see some more pics from Grand Cayman. The underwater pics are from Noel Hall. Thanks again Noel. 🚩



## 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

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## Vice President's Report

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By Corrine Mulberry



After the 2015 Board elections (see below), Mike Sullivan will provide a quick Nitrox review. Whether you are currently Nitrox Certified or considering getting certified in the future, this review will provide valuable and timely information to ensure we are all diving safely! Thanks in advance Mike.

If you have diving information that you would like to present at a Club meeting (past or potential dive trip, etc.), 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](mailto:mulberryc1@gmail.com)



We were very happy to have **Jim and Linda Freudenberger** join the BGDC at the October meeting. Jim has advanced certification and over 200 dives; Linda enjoys snorkeling and keeping a watch on the beach! They most recently (August) traveled to Bonaire. Jim is a retired chef and Linda a retired occupational therapist (Cardinal Hill). Linda works some/as need at The Willows in Hamburg and has a therapy dog (Westie) named Clancy. Their

grandson, Joey, is 8 months old! **Welcome Jim and Linda!**

And, a hearty "welcome back" to returning members **Lynn & John Walters** and **Theo & Dawna Scripps and family!** Lynn & John live in Florida now, and we sure do miss seeing them. We'll get a chance to reconnect with them on the Costa Rica trip next June. We also welcome back returning members Theo and Dawna Scripps and their daughters Margaret and Eleanor. We'll get a chance to reconnect with the Scripps on the Dominica trip in February. So wonderful to have you guys back with the Club and ready to go diving!



Voting for 2015 Elected Officers for the Bluegrass Dive Club will take place during the November meeting. The Nominating Committee (Tamara Williams, Brian Elkins, Noel Hall and Corrine Mulberry (Chair), developed a slate of nominees for elected Board positions. The slate was approved by the Board during the Board's October meeting. The slate of nominees, along with information about each nominee, is as follows:

### Tracey Combs for President



"I have been a member of BGDC since May 2006. I was appointed President, from Vice-

## Vice President's Report Cont.

President, in 2011. I will be glad to continue to serve as President in 2015.”

### Corrine Mulberry for Vice President



“I have been with the BGDC approximately 10 years and have enjoyed many diving trips (Bonaire, Grenada, Belize, St. Croix, etc!) as well as numerous social events. What wonderful friends and associates I made through the Club! I was appointed Vice-President in May 2011. I have enjoyed serving the Club – from introducing and welcoming new members, to bringing new Programs to our meetings, to managing our door prizes. I also serve on the Trip Planning Committee and assist with planning and organizing some of our dive trips. I would be happy to continue to serve the Club as Vice-President in 2015.”

### Mike Sullivan for Secretary



“I have been retired for 9 years and diving for about 13 years. I am a Master Scuba Diver Trainer (MSDT) and have gotten to like diving in the Pacific best. I have been the Club Secretary for a year and during this time I have organized all the previous written material into yearly and category specific files. I have updated the numbers from previous years on members within the Club in

attempting to track ups and downs in membership. I maintain the Club Reports, take monthly minutes at the Board meetings and General Membership meetings and forward these minutes to the Newsletter Editor to be included in the Monthly Newsletter, and make Name Tags for new members. I really enjoy the position of Club Secretary and being more closely involved in the Club activities.”

### Dan Miller for Treasurer



“Got book/pool certified at New Horizons with ocean checkout dives in Dominican Republic in 2001. Joined club in 2002 with first club trip to St. Thomas in April 2003. Certified in open water, advanced open water, nitrox and rescue diver. Served in following offices for BGDC: co-VP with Carol Call for 2 years, 1 year as VP, 2 years as President, in 3rd year as Treasurer. I have 632 logged dives to date. My (non-local) club trip participation is as follows: (2003) St. Thomas; (2004) Little Cayman & Bonne Terre lead mine; (2005) Florida Springs, Cozumel, North Carolina & Bonne Terre; (2006) Roatan; (2007) Bonaire & Ft. Lauderdale; (2008) Utila, Belize & Galapagos; (2009) Curacao & St. Croix; (2010) Little Cayman; (2011) Fiji; (2013) Grand Cayman; (2014) Truk/Yap. Graduated UK with degrees in accounting and political science. Worked at Trane the past 13 years. Live in Lexington with wife Anna and 3 cats.”

### Doug Geddes for Trip Director



“Got certified in 1972 and a member of the club ever since. Have served as President

## Vice President's Report Cont.

and Dive Master (as it was called 30 years ago). Currently serving as Trip Director and have been for the past many years. Knowledge of working with travel agents and planning trips has been one of my strengths and did so alone for many years until current by-laws required a dive committee. Still have a few good years to devote to the position if elected, but will to step aside if someone desires this position and will work it as I have. New blood is never a bad thing.”

### Rick Stephan for Safety Information Director



“BGDC history: 34 year member, past President, Vice President, Treasurer, Dive Coordinator. Occupation: Full time BGDC Safety Information Director. Seriously, my intent is to help keep our safety record spotless. I try to find pertinent information and articles and share this with the club in concert with current club activities. While diving today is so much easier than in the past, it is important to remember it can be a dangerous sport if training, preparation, and planning is not done properly.”

### Bart Bertetto for Newsletter Editor



“From Long Beach California. I started underwater as a kid spearfishing with a sling. Got NAUI certified in 1976 during college at San Jose. Was an avid California Kelp Diver all along the coast for many years. Continued my passion for freediving, hunting abalone in the rough waters off northern

California. Active member of Douglas Aircraft Dive Club. Left the beach to join UPS Airline in Louisville. Kept diving during visits home, mostly on multi-day offshore boat trips. Retired from UPS last year as Aircraft Engineering Manager. Have really enjoyed the BGDC especially the organization, camaraderie, and of course the dive trips. Now that I'm retired and have the time I'd like to contribute and will be happy to take the Newsletter Editor job.

### Mike McCann for Webmaster



“Currently retired, have over 40 years experience in computer hardware and software. Originally created the Bluegrass Dive Club website in April 1999 and has maintained it ever since as a resource to all divers in central Kentucky.” 🚩



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## From The Secretary

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*By Mike Sullivan*



### BGDC General Membership Meeting October 14, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 PM. Dan reviewed the September Treasurer's Report and briefly reviewed the money on account procedure for members. Noel Hall asked about each member being notified about the disbursement of individual member's money on account and Dan indicated that he has been doing that since being elected Club Treasurer. Dan will be sending an email in the next week to members concerning their money on account.

Corrine reminded everyone that November is election month for Club Officers. If members have an interest or would like to nominate someone to the Board contact: Corrine Mulberry, Tamara Williams, Noel Hall, or Brian Elkins. New members, Linda Freudenberger, and Jim Freudenberger were present. Divers Den of Somerset is now a commercial dive operation and can lift items from the bottom of up to 150,000 lbs. They are sponsoring an underwater pumpkin carving contest the end of October.

Doug reviewed the Dominica trip in February. There are currently 12 people signed-up but we can handle as many as 20 so now is the time to decide. The airfare is still reasonable and if anyone is interested, contact Doug for the best deals.

The Philippines trip is in January 2016 and Doug is still negotiating final prices but it is a good deal. Anyone thinking about the trip can go the website and review our trip there in 2012.



Corrine reviewed the Costa Rica trip scheduled for June 2015. We are staying at the Arenal Volcano Lodge and then at Villa Sol Resort for the diving.

Noel Hall presented the video of the Grand Cayman trip as the monthly presentation. Good video and shot with Noel's new camera.

The monthly door prizes were won by Tamara Williams, Mike Cobb, and John Benson.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.



### Board Meeting 09/30/2014

7:34 pm

Attendees: Tracey Combs, Mike McCann, Rick Stephens, Corrine Mulberry, Doug Geddes, John Geddes

Absent: Mike Sullivan, Dan Miller

Agenda approval Mike/Doug

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## From The Secretary Cont.

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Treasurer: no report filed

Vice President: Visitor Jim Freudenberger at the September meeting. October: Video Grand Cayman. November: Election and brief Dominica presentation to try to get more participants. January: Costa Rica. February: Mike Sullivan Partial Pressure/Computers

Secretary: no report filed

Trip Director: Deferred

Safety: Dive Travel Planning

Newsletter: October article due 10/30/2014

Web: Deferred



Trip Committee:

- Dominica: Some flight changes. Doug is working with Laura. 6 confirmed.
- Costa Rica: Corrine will get new info to Mike McCann for the website. 3 confirmed. Payment due 11/15/2014
- Mystery Trip: Looking for an inexpensive trip. Will put Saba, St. Kits, Nevis, St. Barts as future trips, since they are more expensive.
- Philippines: Doug has been in contact with Laura. Still no information on the website. Doug will get Mike McCann information.

Old Business:

- 501(c)(7): Mike now has all of the information he needs. He will file this.
- Membership: Corrine has found several entries that have not been updated. Dan will be consulted regarding these entries. Household changes (i.e. marital status, non-student, etc...) needs to be looked at for some members.

New Business:

- Elections: Mike McCann will continue to be Webmaster and mentor to Stephanie for the future role.
- Each candidate will be asked to write a 2 – 3 sentence blurb for the next newsletter regarding running for office. Corrine will send out the request to each candidate.
- John Geddes will not be running for Newsletter Editor. Corrine has spoken with Bart Bartetto regarding the position. He lives in Louisville and will not be able to be at all of the meetings. The Board held a discussion and agreed that if he could attend ½ of the Board Meetings in person and conference call the remaining, All Financial Meetings, and 1/4 to 1/3 of the regular meetings, this would be acceptable. Corrine will be in contact with him.
- September Bank Fee: The Board voted that the club will pay the \$15 penalty fee.
- Christmas Party: Mark and Stella Kidd will be contacted.
- Diver's Den: Corrine will contact them and find out any specials for an announcement at the meeting.

Adjourned 8:38 pm 



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## Costa Rica

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By Corrine Mulberry



**June 6-13, 2015**

The Planning Committee has put together a great, economical, land & water-based Costa Rica trip for next June (2015). This trip involves 2 resorts – 2 nights at the Arneal Volcano area and 5 nights at the pacific coast Villa Sol. Mark your calendar and complete the reservation form to secure this trip.

*Volcano Lodge, Arneal Volcano Area*



Standard Room - Diver \$1,243.00/Non-diver \$988.00 (double occupancy) 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 ziplining, horseback riding, day pass to Hot Springs for massages, relaxation and ultimate pampering, canyoneering, hanging bridge tour, jungle boat tour, etc.

Includes 3 group transfers - from Liberia Airport to Volcano Lodge; Volcano Lodge to Villas Sol (**with lunch**) and back to Liberia Airport. 🚩

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## From the Treasurer

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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](#). 🚩

*Mike, Sherry and Doug*



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## Dive Committee Members

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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
Corrine Mulberry	913-0892

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## Trip Director's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### DOMINICA 2015

This trip is about to close out. If you haven't signed up yet, you need to do so soon, before it is too late. We will have to give back the unused rooms we have on hold. At the moment, we have 13 people signed up. This will be a great dive trip with one of the best diving locations in the Caribbean, voted by many of the dive operators and magazines. It is also on Valentine's week, so what a great place to take your sweetheart. Check out the website for more information. Don't put it off any longer, sign up now. If you need help with your air, contact me and I can help.

### FALL TRIP

We are still working and waiting on the best deal we can find for next fall. If you know of a place or see a great special sent to you, please pass it along to me to consider. We always look for the best deal to the best location we can find.

### PHILIPPINES 2016

Sorry, this trip hasn't been put up on the web just yet. If you want to look at the one we did a couple years ago, go to the website and look at past trips. We will be following the same scenario as last time. The prices will just be different, but not that much. We just can't get all the pricing for 2016 just yet, so we have to base it on next years for now. But the price is awesome for two weeks of diving in one of the best locations in the world. Just ask anyone that went last time and I think they would agree. You have over two years to start saving your money, so that should help out. 🚩

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** This month's article is from *scubadiving.com* and is one of their ongoing "Lessons for Life" series. It is an interesting one for our readership, as the divers' personal profiles fit many of our members.

*Key points in the story include the lack of focus on the environment by the divers, and their trusting that the dive boat would be looking for them as soon as they came up.*

*Scootercam John*



*Just a little editorial fact: by diving with a large group of friends (like the BGDC), divers who don't dive frequently are less likely to be "allowed" to make mistakes. (You WILL be chided if you are doing something considered risky – from diving too deep, or hooking up your gear wrong, or whatever – believe me, I know!) This generally good-natured ribbing will help you become more aware of what you are doing. Also, just the fact that you are diving with a group of people who know you will help: if you've ever dove on a "cattle boat" you will understand what I mean. Most of the dive guides can barely keep up with the problems of the different divers – like o-ring*

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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*problems, free-flowing regs, etc. much less pay close attention to what each diver is doing in the water. That's where your buddy (and the group in general) comes in.*

*One more reason to join and dive with the Bluegrass Dive Club! You can have more fun and be safer, which only goes to prove that – all together now –*



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

### Lessons for Life: Strength in Numbers

By Eric Douglas

The wind shifted while Mary and Herb were underwater. It made surface conditions choppier than when they had entered and created a strong surface current. That strong current, combined with a meandering dive, took the pair off-course. They found themselves a long way from the boat when they surfaced, and it was going to be a long swim back. What's more, they had to swim directly into the current to get back to the boat.

#### The Divers

Mary and Herb were in their early 50s, and they loved to be outside and active. While neither was a "health nut," they worked to stay fit. They both considered diving a great way to combine a love of the water, being outdoors and doing something together. They were occasional divers, making three or four dive outings a year with a couple of dives on each one. They both wanted to dive more, but life often got in the way of those plans.

Still, they kept their dive gear in good repair and did their best to stay fit enough to dive locally. Their local diving was a bit colder and a little more challenging than the typical warm-water destinations they would read about in magazines. They both felt the local diving was just as beautiful as the distant destinations, and more rewarding because it was in their backyard.

*Leigh Ann, Karen and Brian ready to go home*



#### The Dive

The boat was floating at anchor with 2 to 3 foot swells rolling through — nothing unusual for the location — with the water temperature around 68 degrees F. They were both wearing adequate thermal protection: a 5 mm suit for Herb and a 7 mm suit for Mary. The divemaster briefed the dive, suggesting they head into the current that was flowing along the bottom, turning when they reached the midpoint of their dive to allow the current to bring them back to the boat.

Everything started out great as the buddy pair kitted up and began their dive. Mary descended first with Herb behind her. They reached the bottom at around 80 feet and began by swimming away from the boat. Neither diver paid much attention to the surroundings when they started out. The dive was uneventful and, after about 20 minutes, Herb reached the air pressure they agreed would signal the turning point of the dive. They began swimming back toward the boat as a team.

When Herb was down to approximately 500 psi in his tank, they began to surface together.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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They didn't see the boat's anchor line on the way up, but assumed they had to be close to the boat. After completing their safety stop, Herb and Mary surfaced for a total dive time of about 40 minutes. As soon as their heads broke the surface, they realized they were in trouble. They could barely see the dive boat off in the distance and only when they rode to the top of a swell. Worse still, the current was pulling them farther away.

*Bob Tibbetts*



### The Accident

Mary and Herb tried yelling and waving their arms to get the attention of the boat, but the waves and chop made it impossible for the crew to see them. They were both confident the crew would begin to look for them soon, but not yet. That's because they weren't late — the boat captain would probably wait another 10 minutes before he realized they were lost. It could be a while before the search began in earnest, and the speed at which the current was pulling them away made the couple think they might be long gone before anyone even realized where to look.

With that in mind, the divers ditched their weight belts and began swimming. They decided to swim with their masks in place and use their snorkels. They began by sighting the boat. Mary took a compass heading and then they started swimming, stopping every few minutes to find their bearings and to attempt to signal the boat. When Mary stopped to look for the boat and check her heading, she realized Herb wasn't with her any longer.

They had gotten separated by the waves while they swam. She looked for him for a half-hour before accepting that he was lost. She just hoped they would both be found soon.

### Analysis

Mary was picked up by another dive boat about an hour after she became separated from Herb. It wasn't until three hours later that searchers found Herb. He had ditched his tank to make himself even more positively buoyant, and his BC was fully inflated. A combination of the cold water, stress and coronary-artery disease probably caused him to have a heart attack. He was dead when searchers located him.

Mary and Herb's only major mistake during the dive was not paying closer attention to the underwater topography for navigation. They weren't thinking about how to find the boat on the return; instead, they simply assumed the current would bring them straight back to where they started. But they didn't swim in a straight line on their way out, so it stands to reason that when they turned and began riding the current back, they would return to another spot.

*Joey Pagano*



The surface current created by the turning wind took them farther off-course. The wind was blowing across their original path. And while they waited at their safety-stop depth with no visual reference and no anchor line to hold onto, they were dragged farther away from the boat. Upon surfacing, the biggest

## Safety Corner Cont.

mistake the couple made was not staying together. Most survival specialists believe that when you are lost at sea, staying together is more important than trying to swim: Two divers together make a bigger target to spot than one. They also could have encouraged each other and, by holding onto each other, they would have lessened the cold water circulating around their bodies. They were both smart, however, by making themselves positively buoyant.

*Doug*



A typical diver can swim only about 1 knot per hour in full gear for a short period. A highly trained, fit rescue swimmer can make only about 2 knots for limited periods. Fighting a 2-knot current, as was present that day, is impossible and will serve only to put more stress on your body, and paradoxically might even chill your body faster — you are generating heat from the exercise, but you are also flushing more cold water over your body, even with a wetsuit, which will carry that heat away.

The last thing that would have helped Herb and Mary's chances of survival was a surface-signaling device. Many commercially available devices are brightly colored, reflective and raise a diver's in-water profile between 4 and 6 feet above the surface of the water. This simple device would have made it significantly easier for rescuers to locate the pair floating on the surface.

## Lessons for Life

### 1. Be aware of your surroundings.

Take a natural-navigation course to understand how to notice bottom features and navigate your way back to your starting point.

### 2. Practice self-rescue techniques.

If you are ever separated from the boat, stay together and hold onto your buddy.

### 3. Carry a surface-signaling device.

This will raise your profile above the wave heights. Ideally, this will include an inflatable surface-marker buoy and some sort of whistle or noisemaker to gain attention. 🚩

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2014-15 Calendar

### November

11, Tuesday Dive Club Elections  
25, Tuesday Board Meeting

### December

13, Saturday Club Christmas Party

### January

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

*Waiting for the plane, Wifi Heaven*

