



UNDERCURRENTS

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

September 2015

Volume 45, Number 9

September's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 8th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Hodge-podge of social and diving events from 2015 --- pics from Derby Party, Dale Hollow and the Pig Roast.

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Hello fellow divers. We had another fabulous Pig Roast this year. I want to thank Mike and Sherry McCann for their hospitality and hosting the Pig Roast. And as always our members out did themselves with the potluck. If you were not able to join us, please mark your calendars for next year. It is a lot of fun, food, and fellowship. Be sure to check out Bluegrass Dive Club on Facebook. We should be posting some pictures soon! Our Facebook Page is there to share our diving and social experiences, so please don't be shy.

The Dive Club Trip Committee met in August and we have some new trips on the books. Be sure to watch your email and check the Upcoming Events Calendar on the website for more details. We always want and need your ideas for future trips. If you have ideas for destinations, please contact Doug Geddes or

one of the committee members with the information.

One of the added benefits of being a member of Bluegrass Dive Club is the connections and friendships that we form. If you are interested in receiving additional scuba training, please ask a board member. We can provide you with a several avenues to further your scuba experience.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:30 at the Racquet Club. Guests are always welcome. I hope to see you there! 🚩



The Editor's Notes

By Bart Bertetto



Hi everyone, hope you're having a great summer. Pictures this issue from the awesome Pig Roast courtesy of John Geddes, our roving photog. Great food, stories, and rousing volleyball till dark. Some of us are getting majorly stoked on upcoming Roatan trip. With our numbers we are going to own that place! My daughter Jolene is joining me from California. 🚩

2015 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
Bart Bertetto, Newsletter Editor	502-299-3656



Vice President's Report

By Corrine Mulberry



Program: September's Program will feature a hodge-podge of social and diving events from 2015 --- pics from Derby Party, Dale Hollow and the Pig Roast.

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

New Members: A hearty "Welcome" to **Lou Hirsch** who joined the Club at the August meeting. Lou lives in Lexington and works for UK's Plant Pathology Dept. He found the BGDC online; we're glad to have him join this crazy group of divers that we call family. Lou has a Master SCUBA Diver Trainer certification and over 1,000 dives to his name

but hasn't been able to do as much diving recently as he would like. He's looking for fun weekend trips and local dive connections. And, FYI – he was a SCUBA charter boat captain in San Diego! Welcome Lou!

We briefly introduced returning member **Alex Fassas** in the last newsletter and appreciate him sharing some additional information about himself so that we can get reacquainted. We are sorry to learn that Alex is a widower after 27 wonderful years married to Marva (some you will remember her from the 2008 Utila, Honduras trip which was their last activity with the club until now). Alex was born, raised and currently resides in Richmond, Kentucky (along with Mazy Grace, his 7 yr old Golden Retriever). Alex owns Red Hed Oil Co. that operates REDI MART convenience stores in Kentucky. (In Lexington his store is the Marathon located next to Malone's restaurant across from Hamburg Pavillion.) Alex just returned from a week long sail around the British Virgin Islands on a friend's 44' catamaran. 3 of the 8 passengers including the owner/captain were divers and enjoyed as much diving as we could get in. Alex offers this shameless plug: Bill Shower of Maysville, KY, www.AStrayShower.com, for a great sailing charter in the BVI. Bill is good people.). He is a private airplane pilot, enjoys hiking, gardening, dancing, and time and stories with friends. His 25 year old son, Demetrius, lives and works in Butte, Montana. He too is a SCUBA diver. Good to have you back Alex!!

Nominations for BGDG Officers (2016): It is time to recruit 2016 Officers for the BGDC! Our President, Tracey Combs, has appointed a Nominations Committee to develop a slate of proposed nominees for elected Board positions. The slate will be presented to the Board in October and members will vote during the regular November meeting.

Elected positions include:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Trip Director
- Safety Information Director

- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster

We are particularly recruiting for someone to fill the Webmaster position! After many years of dedicated service, Mike McCann really (REALLY) wants to turn over the reins. If you have web experience and would like to contribute to the Club (as well as earn Dive Bucks that you can apply towards trips!!), please let us know!! We can fill you in on details about the position and what the Board does.

All elected positions are open to nominations. Nominees for elected positions must be in good standing (dues paid), have been a member for at least one full year and be at least 21 years of age. Please contact the Nominations Committee: Charlie Denham charlesdenham@hotmail.com, Tamara Williams tamaraw@twc.com, Brian Elkin belkins@linkbelt.com or Corrine Mulberry mulberryc1@gmail.com (859-913-0892) to nominate someone, to nominate yourself or to learn more about Board positions.

2016 Local Diving ?: After many years of coordinating local dive trips to Dale Hollow, Pennyrile, Laurel Lake and Lake Cumberland.....I am taking a break during 2016. If anyone is interested in local diving and will take the lead with coordinating trip(s), please contact me (Corrine Mulberry) or Dive Trip Director, Doug Geddes. We can set you up for success! 🚩



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



ROATAN 2015

We are now up to 30 person going on this trip. Every time I turn around someone else is wanting to add on. As long as they have rooms, we will try to accommodate. The airfare is getting a little pricy, so it might make it a little too high to add on. BUT if you do, drop me an email first before purchasing the air, to check on room availability. Getting close to push off time..

PHILIPPINES 2016

We have 11 persons signed up and looking for more, but hey with 11 this will be a great trip with great friends. If you would like to join us, go to the website and check it out. This is my favorite dive locations as far as critters and resorts are concerned. We would love for you to join us.

BONAIRE 2016

The DC has approved another Bonaire trip for March 13 – 20, 2016. This is spring break for UK so you will need to lock in your air soon, but the prices have been very good. This trip should be on our website soon, so you can sign up but we have several room types available, so you won't miss out until it is on our website. We have 8 people at the moment that have shown an interest or bought airfare. So this is a viable trip.

ST. LUCIA 2016

The EC also approved a trip to St. Lucia for June 4 – 11, 2016. This will be a very nice trip for those that are wanting more than just a

dive location. The beautiful mountain views are some of the best in the world. The diving is also very similar to most Caribbean type of diving that we have dove before. The resort looks awesome and should be on the website soon. You can google it at Anse Chastanet on St. Lucia and check it out. We are in the process of booking rooms.

GRAND CAYMAN PIRATE FEST 2016

The DC has approved a trip in November of 2016 to coincide with Pirate Fest in Grand Cayman. We will stay at Compass Point once again. This should be a great time along with great diving. Stay tuned for more info. Just wanted to get this out so you can plan on it for next fall. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2015 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



**GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER 7:43 PM
 - a. There are 23 members present.
- II. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
 - a. TREASURER MILLER
 - i. Dan reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of 7/31/15.
 - ii. Costa Rica account zeroed.
 - iii. \$1,000 transferred to "Future Trip Deposits" to bring balance to \$6,000.
 - b. VICE PRES MULBERRY
 - i. Corrine welcomed visitor Lou Hirsch and returning members, Adam Kidd and Alex Fassas.
 - ii. The door prize drawings were won by John Geddes, Ralph

- iii. Covington, and Kris Harn.
- iv. The September program will be Dale Hollow pictures.
- v. Corrine reminded everyone of the upcoming election of Club officers and to encourage members to contact the nomination committee if interested in running for a position.
- vi. The program is the Costa Rica trip DVD by Stephenie Swope.
- c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
 - i. Anyone needing a nametag please contact me.
- d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
 - i. The Roatan trip in October has 28 people signed-up.
 - ii. The Philippines trip has 10 people signed-up.
 - iii. Payments for the Philippines trip are 9/15, and final payment on 11/15.
- e. WEBMASTER McCANN
 - i. No comments.
- f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
 - i. Bart urges members to send him pictures for the newsletter.
- g. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
 - i. Article this month is on Malaria effects.
- h. PRESIDENT COMBS
 - i. The Club Pig Roast will be held at the McCann's house on August 29th beginning at 3:00 PM. Reminded everyone to bring a dish or side dish.
 - ii. T-shirts for the Roatan trip are \$10 for SS and \$12 for LS.

- iii. The Dive Committee meeting will be held on August 18th at 6:00 at Doug's office. Pizza will be served. Bring your own beverages.

ADJOURNMENT

8:47 PM 



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, August 25, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER COMBS
 - a. Meeting began at 7:38 PM
 - b. T-Shirts ordered today for Roatan trip.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA GEDDES
- III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
 - a. TREASURER COMBS FOR MILLER
 - i. Treasurer's Report as of AUGUST 25, 2015.
 - ii. Dale Hollow complete and zeroed.
 - iii. Roatan completely paid and 30 people on the trip.
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
 - i. September program – Dale Hollow
 - ii. October program – Dominica-Doug/Gordon
 - iii. November – Club Elections
 - iv. December – Club Christmas Party
 - v. January program – Roatan.

- vi. New members, April Babcock, Tim Osborne, and Lou Hirsch.
 - c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
 - i. Nametags being made for new members.
 - d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
 - i. Philippines has 11 people signed-up. Jan 23-Feb 6.
 - e. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
 - i. Article on Proper Dive Planning.
 - f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
 - i. Articles due no later than Friday.
 - g. WEBMASTER McCANN
 - i. Tax Status deferred.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS COMBS
- a. Pig Roast to be hosted by the McCanns on August 29th starting at 3:00 PM
 - b. Members reminded to bring a dish to share.
 - c. A motion was made by Corrine to purchase a HDMI cable from Doug to be used at the General Meetings for viewing the program DVDs.
 - d. A motion was made by Rick to purchase a BluRay player for the Club not to exceed \$50.
 - e. A Club member made the suggestion to appoint a member as a Scuba Trainer. The suggestion was rejected due to the liability incurred by an individual. We can only offer information to Club members. We can supply a list of Professionals to instruct training.
 - f. A motion was made by Corrine to approve the Bonaire trip as a Club sponsored trip as presented by Stephenie Swope. 13-20 Mar 2015
 - g. A motion was made by Mike to approve the St. Lucia trip presented by Gordon as a Club sponsored trip with the caveat that deposit refund availability

- h. within 65 days of trip. 4-11 Jun 2015
- i. A motion was made by Doug to approve the Grand Cayman trip as a Club sponsored trip as presented by John Geddes if we can get a group rate deposit. More details forthcoming. 12-19 Nov 2016
- j. A motion was made to table the Grenada trip as presented by Corrine until more details are available. Sep – Nov 2017
- k. A motion was made to table the BVI Land-based trip as presented by Tracey until more information is gathered. June 2017
- l. Initial contact was made by Mike with UDT about prices for Tawali, Papua New Guinea. Ken indicates he has good prices for Anbon, Indonesia. We will explore combining this with another week in the vicinity. Dates TBD

V. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:50 🚩



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Note: *This month's article is from scubadiving.com and focuses on the importance of dive planning. It is a cautionary tale about a dive "buddy" team that decided not to buddy up for the dive. As mentioned in the article, they did indeed plan out their video, but not their dive.*

How many times have you tried to get a fellow diver's attention, maybe to point out that passing whale shark or to show him that cool nudibranch, and you couldn't get them to even look? Maybe they were trying to get a picture, or fooling with their gear, or just not focusing. Regardless, if you don't have someone who has a feeling of responsibility for your safety, you probably will find it difficult to get help when you need it, at least as quickly as you need it.

*It is not a waste of time to discuss your dive profile with your buddy. It is not a stupid thing to work out a dive plan, including signals, timing, and directions. You are not being cowardly to share concerns about your health, equipment, abilities or **that of your buddy.***

Diving with friends (as in the BGDC) should help you overcome these concerns, as we normally 'own' the boats, and buddy together. However, this scenario can take place with even long-time buddies, as egos can get in the way.

Please make sure you know about the dive being done, and decide how much you can or want to do, and discuss with your buddy. Make sure if your buddy leaves you – as in they are low on air, or tired – that you escort them back to the boat or anchor line, or dive guide, and watch them to the surface, as you buddy up with someone else underwater.

Remember, safe diving (with a good dive plan) is fun!

Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail

Lessons for Life

By Eric Douglas

This video was going to go viral — Elaine was sure of it. Using small, wide-angle cameras, she was recording the port side of a shipwreck; her buddy Matthew was doing the same on the starboard side. They had already planned to edit their videos together, giving viewers a stereo look at the shipwreck. Elaine was two-thirds of the way to the stern, nearly 150 feet down, when she realized she was almost out of air.

THE DIVER

At 47 years old, Elaine was in good shape. She dived at least once a month, and had a passion for underwater photography and videography. Both Elaine and Matthew had dived wrecks for several years, and each had logged hundreds of dives, together and separately.

THE DIVE

Conditions were perfect when the boat arrived at the dive site. There was a slight current on the surface, and during the briefing the divemaster said that this site typically had a stronger current on the bottom. He recommended that they stay sheltered behind the wreck's structure so they wouldn't be fighting the current throughout the dive. He also advised Elaine and Matthew to stay on the ship's upper structure and watch their depth. The wreck rested on the sand at more than 160 feet, with the deck at 148 feet. The dive boat tied off to a permanent mooring buoy. Elaine and Matthew decided to stay close to the deck, and agreed they would each film one side of the ship so they could edit their footage together afterward. That way, the viewers would feel as if they were flying low across the ship and could see both sides of the wreck at once. To keep the audio as clear as possible, Elaine and Matthew agreed to turn off their dive-computer alarms. They didn't want to record annoying beeping sounds.

THE ACCIDENT

The current crossed the wreck from port to starboard, putting Elaine directly in stream. She had to fight harder to stay close to the deck. Elaine had been at depth 16 minutes when she realized she was out of air. She looked for Matthew, but he was on the opposite side of the ship's bridge and completely out of sight. There was no way she was going to get to him in time. Her only thought was getting back to the anchor line and the surface. In a panic, Elaine swam directly for the surface, but then angled toward the anchor line. She reached the line at 60 feet below the surface and met up with the divemaster. He realized Elaine was in trouble and tried to give her air from his alternate air source, but she refused his help. She was disoriented. The divemaster brought Elaine up the anchor line, still trying to get her to take his alternate air source. When they reached the surface, Elaine lost consciousness. The boat crew got her on board and began resuscitation efforts, but they were unsuccessful. Matthew surfaced a few minutes later without incident.

ANALYSIS

It would be easy to say that Elaine died because she ran out of air and didn't have an emergency plan in place. But panic also played a part: Upon realizing she was out of air, Elaine made poor choices that ultimately killed her. But neither conclusion tells the entire story. This accident began at the planning stage. Elaine and Matthew had spent time discussing their video plan but not their dive plan. They didn't have an emergency protocol in place. Even though they were dive buddies, they planned to be separated and weren't positioned to help each other in an emergency. A number of mistakes were made on this dive. For the production of this type of video, Elaine and Matthew should have taken the same precautions professional videographers utilize: Using two teams of divers and placing safety divers in the water who would have stayed shallow and kept an eye on both teams.

Elaine and Matthew had none of these. Elaine and Matthew also exceeded the recommended depth, and failed to plan for the

depth properly by using appropriate breathing-gas mixtures and cylinders with increased gas capacity. They also intentionally separated, effectively making a solo dive during their deepest interval. However, neither diver had an independent spare air or pony bottle, and neither had training in solo diving. Finally, Elaine and Matthew turned off the dive-computer alarms that would have warned Elaine she was getting low on air, which sealed her fate. An autopsy was not performed, but this was most likely an air embolism. As Elaine ascended, she probably didn't exhale adequately, causing the air in her lungs to expand and make its way into her brain. This would have caused confusion and stroke like symptoms and, finally, death. Like most dive accidents of this nature, this death was tragic but also avoidable.

Lessons for Life

- **Plan the dive.** Plan not only what to do on a dive, but also how to make it happen safely.
- **Stay with your buddy.** Or if you can't stay close enough to your buddy to give or receive aid in an emergency, get trained as a solo diver and carry the equipment you will need to care for yourself.
- **Pay attention.** Don't get so wrapped up in videography, wreck exploration or whatever else you are doing underwater that you forget the basics of monitoring your depth, time, and breathing-gas supply.



Bluegrass Dive Club 2015 Calendar

September

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
 29, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

3-10 Roatan Dive Trip
 13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
 27, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
 24, Tuesday Board Meeting

December

12, Saturday Club Christmas Party

Dive Committee Members

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