



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2015

Volume 45, Number 12

## Club's Christmas Party

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 12th  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Place:** Home of Mark & Stella Kidd  
991 Lakeland Drive  
Lexington (859) 266-2276

## President's Message

*By Tracey Combs*



Happy Holidays fellow divers. I hope everyone had an extraordinary Thanksgiving feast and is getting excited for Christmas. Our Christmas party is December 12<sup>th</sup> and is always a festive event. I appreciate the hospitality of the Kidd's for hosting the event again this year. The details are available on the website. Remember to bring a dish to share with 10-12. The club will supply the ham and soft drinks.

I personally want to thank the returning board members for serving BGDC another year. Our officers help make our club successful. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to the club. They make my position as President easier. Our officers for 2016: President: Tracey Combs, Vice President: Corrine Mulberry, Secretary: Mike Sullivan, Treasurer: Dan Miller, Trip Director: Doug Geddes, Safety Information Director: Rick Stephan, Newsletter Editor: Bart Bertetto, Webmaster: Mike McCann.

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 2016. 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.

Our next regular meeting will be January 12, 2016. Please feel free to join us and bring your friends and family who are interested in diving. Everyone is welcome. 🚩

## The Editor's Notes

*By Bart Bertetto*



Hi everyone. Sorry for the late newsletter; just got back from sunny and warm Southern California. Was rollerblading down the waterfront in Long beach and stopped by my old dive shop. Still there and thriving after 40 years! More pictures this issue from our awesome Roatan trip in October. Cheers and happy holidays. 🚩



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## 2015 BGDC Officer's

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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



Roatan Shark Dive

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## Vice President's Report

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By Corrine Mulberry



**Program:** See you at the Christmas Party ya'll!

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:** Big shout-out "Welcome!" to **Sandi Graham** who joined the Bluegrass Dive Club at the November meeting. Sandi recently

relocated to Lexington from Portland, Oregon where she spent the past 15 years diving in Puget Sound (Washington) (brrrr!). She has over 500+ dives, has been diving for 25 years and is Search & Rescue certified. Looking forward to diving with you **Sandi!**

**Thanks:** Sincere "thank you" to newly elected 2016 BGDC officers for continuing to serve the Club. 🚩



Where did that guy go?

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## Trip Director's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### **PHILIPPINES 2016**

Our number has changed to 10 awesome divers. If you would like to join us, you need to do so very quickly as this trip is about to launch. The diving in this area is equal to the best diving anywhere in the world. Check it out on our website if you have an interest. Lack of numbers actually make it a better dive trip, because we don't have 30 divers fighting over the same photo, LOL

**BONAIRE 2016**

This trip is starting to take shape, but we could use a few more divers to sign up for this awesome trip. We have around 8-10 persons that are currently thinking about it or have signed up. This is at Buddies Divers and will be a great get away trip for the winter. Check it out on the website.

**ST. LUCIA 2016**

We are now taking reservations for this awesome trip to an island paradise with lots of good diving and even more land excursions than anywhere we have been. Don't miss out on this one. Check it out on our website for more details. 🚩



Feeding frenzy, range 15 feet

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**From the Treasurer**

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*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](#). 🚩



Jolene exploring her first wreck

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**From The Secretary**

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*By Mike Sullivan*



**General Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 10, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER 7:38 PM
  - a. There are 24 members present.
- II. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
  - a. TREASURER MILLER

- b. Dan reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of 10/31/15.
  - i. The Philippines trip has 10 people with one person backing-out of the trip
  - ii. Three new trips are posted on the website and require a \$200 deposit.
  - iii. The refunds for Roatan are ready to be emailed to the members that made the trip.
  - iv. People signing-up for the St. Lucia trip are reminded to make the proper date selection of 11-18 June 2016.
- c. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
  - i. Absent
- d. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
  - i. No Comments.
- e. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
  - i. The Philippines trip currently has 10 people signed-up.
  - ii. Doug and Noel went to DEMA and looked at possible sites for new trips in the Caribbean and in the Pacific.
- e. WEBMASTER McCANN
  - i. Absent
- f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
  - i. Please send articles that may interest the members.
- g. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
  - i. Article this month is on dive boat etiquette. Cautioned members to look for divers in the water before making an entry. Plan ahead for trips.

- h. PRESIDENT COMBS
  - i. Please send old pictures to Adam or Mark Kidd for the Christmas Party.
  - ii. There were no nominations from the floor for Club Board positions. Charlie Denham made the motion to accept the slate of nominees and was seconded by Ralph Covington. The motion passed. The existing Board members will continue to serve for another year.
  - iii. The door prizes were won by Russ Tucker and Doug Geddes.
  - iv. A DVD on the Roatan trip by Tim Osborne was shown.
  - v. A reminder of the Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Mark and Stella Kidd's house. See the website for directions and time.
  - vi. ADJOURNMENT  
8:38 PM 🚩

**Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER COMBS
  - a. Meeting began at 7:42 PM
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA McCANN
- III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
  - a. TREASURER MILLER
    - i. Emails will go out Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> with Trip Refunds for Roatan.
  - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY  
Absent

- c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
  - i. No comments.
- d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
  - i. Philippines has 10 people currently for the trip.
  - ii. St. Lucia trip currently has 2 people signed-up.
  - iii. Bonaire trip currently has 2 people signed-up.
  - iv. Doug attended DEMA and is looking at Indonesia for 2017. UDT is offering 1 week land based for \$1,780 and 1 week on a boat for \$3,360 for a total of \$5,140. Start saving your money.
- e. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
  - i. Newsletter article will be on Underwater Dive Etiquette.
- f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
  - i. Absent.
- g. WEBMASTER McCANN
  - i. No comments.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS COMBS
  - a. Board Budget meeting will be held January 10, 2016 at 3:00 PM at Mike McCann's house.
  - b. Club Christmas Party will be held on December 12, 2015 at Stella and Mark Kidd's house beginning at 6:00 PM. Everyone is reminded to bring a dish.
- V. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:49




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## Safety Corner

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*By Rick Stephan*



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

**Note:** *Last month's article got some good feedback, but I was requested to take it a step forward – etiquette underwater. I got quite a bit of this from diverwire.com. Again, this stuff is just common sense, but we get worked up because we are getting to do something that only a small percentage of the populace ever gets to do. That can easily make us forget to take our time.*

*As the last item in this article states, we ALL mess up sometimes. I myself cut in front of some of our group on a dive in Roatan (and was reminded of it on board the boat). I did it intentionally, because there was a delay, but I didn't understand why the others were not moving forward. The thing is: we need to reduce the number of times we "mess up", to make all our dives safer and more fun. Otherwise, we might kick off someone's mask, stir up silt in a cavern, scare off a unique critter, or worse – really get someone hurt.*

*When you see something you'd like your buddy to see also, let them know without a lot of noise. Tank bangers or underwater noisemakers should be used sparingly. Constantly sounding off not only annoys the other divers, but you may not get attention later if you need help. (You can also scare off fish in the area.)*

*If you are trying to see something that your buddies have found, look at it, take a picture or two, and slowly move away, without scaring the subject away. You can come back for more shots later. Conversely, if you see a photographer trying to get a shot, don't stick*

*your face (or finger, or anything) into his framing unless he asks for you to do so.*

*We're back to that Golden Rule – it really does apply. Be conscious of your diving habits, and be a friend to all your group. Be safe, and considerate. Safe diving is fun!*

### Mind your diving manners – A refresher on Scuba Etiquette

By Stacy Amberson

Webster's dictionary defines Etiquette as, "personal conduct or behavior as evaluated by an accepted standard of appropriateness for a social or professional setting". Basically it's all about courteous behavior for the good of the group.

There are some general rules of Dive and Dive Boat etiquette that most people follow as a matter of course; it's how they behave normally. Many articles, blogs and social forums have addressed this issue however we continue to fall victim to the discourteous diver.

- Follow instructions from the DM or crew on how and when to enter the water, wait your turn and then be ready to go – don't dawdle. Some of us are ready to throw you in at that point.
- Once underwater don't flail about, remember to move slowly and be aware of your position and that of those around you. Although an elbow or fin blow to the nose won't ruin a dive for most of us, it isn't as good as for instance, spotting a Manta Ray.
- If the guide or DM points out an item of interest, don't rush the area like the free cheese give-away on welfare payday. Move slowly, take turns and let everyone have a chance. Yes, you may miss it. That happens sometimes and it's not the end of the world. You may feel some minor disappointment but also feel good and slightly superior knowing that you are a courteous diver and people will want to dive with you again.

- Small, minute fin movements near the bottom or on a swim through; sandstorms happen frequently in the desert countries and are moderately interesting in theory, but most of us choose diving instead.

- If you are diving with a group, please stay with your group. We all get caught up in the wonder and beauty of the undersea world but pay attention to your group. Don't make them search for you or get so far behind you mistakenly join another group. In either scenario people are inconvenienced because of your inattention.

- On a similar note, occasionally there will be something of such magnificent and singular interest that you just have to exceed the planned depth to check it out. Remember; safety first. Be a good buddy. And contrary to some schools of thought – going deep for the sake of depth does not make you a better diver, tougher, more attractive or in any way increase the size of certain anatomical features.

- Unwise behavior (rather than breach of etiquette) still causes many an experienced diver to grind their teeth into calcium dust. Please! We're begging here, if you haven't mastered buoyancy and/or basic skills don't bring a huge cumbersome professional sized camera rig into the mix. You may be Ansel Adams up on top; we respect your talent and will often pay huge sums for mere prints of your work, but underwater you're still a new diver. Get some experience and skills under your belt and then bring a boatful of camera gear with our full blessings.

- At the end of the dive bear in mind that everyone will get a chance to use the ladder or ramp in order to exit the water. This isn't a shoe sale where it's completely acceptable to shove children or the elderly out of your way. Unless you're in a low budget horror movie, the ladder or ramp will be there when it's your turn.

- And not so much dive or dive boat etiquette but just in general because we're on a roll here. Foreign countries are going to be

different from home. That's why most of us travel. Don't complain about those differences, embrace and learn from them. Respect the locals and their customs. If you are genuinely upset, appalled and morally outraged by the lifestyle and/or traditions, keep it to yourself and find inner peace and contentment with the knowledge that nobody will make you return.

- Mistakes happen. If you do something dumb, be willing to laugh at yourself because the rest of us certainly will. If you slip-up or make a faux pas, apologize and move on. No one is perfect and we wouldn't want to dive with them if they were. Most of all enjoy yourself, diving is the most wonderful activity and you are one of the fortunate who get to do it. 🚩



*Tim Osborne hit it out of the park with this shot of me. I had no idea he had taken it....Bart*

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2015 Calendar

- December 12 Club Christmas Party

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2016 Calendar

- January 10 Board Budget Meeting
- January 12 General Meeting
- January 26 Board Meeting
- **Jan 23-Feb 6 Philippines Trip**
- February 9 General Meeting
- February 23 Board Meeting
- March 8 General Meeting
- **March 13-20 Bonaire Trip**
- March 29 Board Meeting
- April 12 Board Meeting
- April 26 Board Meeting
- **May 7 Annual Derby Party**
- May 10 General Meeting
- May 31 Board Meeting
- June 14 General Meeting
- **June 11-18 St. Lucia Trip**
- June 28 Board Meeting
- July 12 General Meeting
- July 26 Board Meeting
- August 9 General Meeting
- **August 13 Annual Pig Roast**
- August 30 Board Meeting
- September 13 General Meeting
- September 27 Board Meeting
- October 11 General Meeting
- October 25 Board Meeting
- November 8 General Meeting
- **Nov 12-19 Grand Cayman Trip**
- November 29 Board Meeting

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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



*Roatan beauty*



*....and Serenity*