



UNDERCURRENTS

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

July 2010

Volume 40, Number 7

July's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 13th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Tank Safety by Mike

President's Message

By Rebecca Singer



Happy July everyone! As I'm writing this, I am preparing for another dive trip, this time to St. Lucia, and other dive club members are preparing for a trip to Pennyroyal. We welcome a group back from BVI as well. We are living up to our name as a DIVE CLUB. I can't wait to hear about everyone's trips.

Please take a look at all the new trips that are up on the website. As always, if you have an idea for a trip, talk to one of the trip committee members about it and they will bring it up for discussion at the next meeting. We welcome all your input.

This month's program will be a discussion about tank safety. We are thankful to everyone at the shop for continuing to offer their expertise! Thanks to Ed Gabe for giving us all some great information on Pennyroyal and thanks to Mike Sullivan for agreeing to come this month to talk about tank safety. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



June sure was a busy month. People getting married, people diving in BVI, family vacations, people coming from Maryland and now finishing the 4th of July celebration.

It was great to have Autumn in BVI with me on her FIRST ocean diving. I must say I was a little nervous, but she looked like a pro and I was very proud of her. Some great video of her diving the HRS Rhone (and everyone else) and hope to have that edited soon for a Club Meeting. So, the pics this month are going to be some from the BVI trip. 🚩

Pam, Terri, Brian, Sherry, Mike, Autumn, John, Charlie and Kris from the Dream Cat



Vice President's Report

By Krisy Carty



Summer is here and scuba diving is back in the bluegrass. A group of divers are just returning from a trip to Pennyroyal Scuba Center in Hopkinsville and I am sure fun was had by all! A special thanks to Ed Gabe for the presentation/video on Pennyroyal at the June meeting.

We are pleased to have new members to announce this month. Welcome to the Bluegrass Dive Club:

- **Nikki Stevens of Lexington, KY** thanks to a member referral
- **Hilary and Sue Skees of Lexington, KY** thanks to New Horizons Diving

Don't forget to attend the July meeting to learn more about the upcoming trips and events for club members. The Annual Dive Club Pig Roast will be held on August 21st at the home of Doug and Mary Ann Geddes in Nicholasville. Details are listed on the website.

Noel, Tracy, Alan, Emily, Kathy, Will and Terri (again) from the Holo holo



The next regular club meeting will be held on July 13th. Fellow club member, Mike Sullivan will be providing a short presentation on tank safety, essential information for those who own tanks and those who rent tanks. Mike will be available to answer questions following the presentation. Hope to see you all at the meeting! 🚩

From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



Board Meeting 6-22-10

Present: Maryanne, Krisy, George, Doug

The Treasurer's report was completed as of 6-1-10.

Six new members were added to the club roster pending the payment of dues.

The trip report included discussions on: Pennyroyal (up to \$75 would be supplied by the club for food), Dale Hollow (club will reserve one pontoon boat), Key West (reservations are in Krisy's name), Figi (\$500 payment due on 8-1-10), Grenada (deposit has been sent), Bonaire (next June). The idea of a fact sheet on future trips to be made for handout at meetings was discussed. The Eleuthera trip needs to be added to the web site. Ideas for trips in 2012 are trips to Maldives and Philippines.



Club t-shirt design tabled again for next month. The July program will be a talk on scuba tank safety.

New business included the idea of Ken (Ultimate Dive Travel) coming to talk to the club, the Pig Roast at Doug's house on 8-21-10 and the club making amends for misunderstanding at the clubhouse earlier in the month. 🚩

Dale Hollow Weekend

By Corrine Wells Mulberry



July 17th-18th, 2010

The Dale Hollow Lake trip is scheduled weekend of July 17th-18th. This is a great trip for both divers and non-divers. We have **one** 30' double-decker pontoon boat reserved for the weekend (12 person capacity). If we have more than 12 people sign-up (we often have 18-20 people!) a second boat will be reserved if it is available. Pontoon boats are often in short supply at the marina, so if we have a bunch of folks sign up at the last minute, we may not be able to get a second boat. First come, first served – get your reservations and payments in as soon as possible to secure your spot!



On Saturday, July 17, 2010, we will enjoy lake diving, swimming, relaxing and a pot-luck dinner in the evening. On Sunday, July 18, 2010, we will enjoy more lake diving, swimming and relaxing on Dale Hollow Lake. RSVP so you don't miss out! The cost is \$15.00 per person per day for pontoon boat users. For members that bring their own boat, no fee is required; however, a reservation form and waiver form for each person is needed.

Visit the BGDC Website and sign-up now for the Dale Hollow Lake Trip so you don't miss out. 🚩

Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



Here is a list of trips that we have in the works. Check the website for more information. If it isn't on there yet, it will be soon. We are working on them.

Dale Hollow – July 2010 Need to sign up ASAP, need head count for pontoon boat.

Key West – October 2010 Getting closer, could use more divers, but good group

Fiji – February 2011 (Full with waiting list)

Grenada – April 2011 This trip is now on our website. Check it out. Going to be a great trip

Bonaire – June 2011 This trip is filling up, don't miss out. Great price, great location

Eleuthra – October 2011 Should be online soon. Wow what a place.

This is a very aggressive dive schedule and we are looking for divers for all trips. Most of them are already well under way of having a good turnout or sold out.

I know a lot of you are waiting to sign up at the last moment, but on some of these trips, if we don't get enough response we will have to cancel them, so please sign up if you are planning on going. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By George Fleischmann



2010 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 or Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club
% George Fleischmann
9048 Clifton Road
Versailles, KY 40383-9077

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



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: This month's article comes from the AquaViews online magazine (<http://aquaviews.net>). Most diving accidents occur when something unusual happens and the diver panics. If you've ever had a free flowing regulator, you know how this can freak you out very quickly. A wall of bubbles, the fear that your air will run out too quickly, and the frustration of a potential lost dive all serve to put us in panic mode. By considering this possibility ahead of time, we can possibly avoid the panic, as well as save a dive – and maybe a life.

Very important in this is having well-serviced equipment. Make sure your gear is working. Check it out in a pool well before the trip, and if anything is even marginal, take it to the dive shop and get it fixed. The BGDC has a great safety record, and we'd all like to keep it that way.



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Dealing With a Regulator Free-Flow

By Noreen



Safety Corner Cont.

One of the most common problems you can face or expect to face at least once at some point in your diving life is a free flowing regulator. It can be quite nerve-wracking when it happens, as air is a diver's lifeline underwater. It's also been a top cause for ascent-related incidents, as divers tend to shoot to the surface following a regulator free-flow, throwing caution to the wind. But that is just about the worst thing you can do.

Cold water is the number one reason for a regulator to free flow; however, an improperly maintained or faulty piece can also lead to free flowing. The Second stage in regulators are designed to be fail safe, meaning that if anything fails inside the regulator it will flow continuously rather than ceasing to work. So, in the event that you are faced with this problem underwater here's a look at how to continue breathing from it safely and the best way to deal with the problem with a few options according to your situation.

Breathing from a free flowing regulator

It's possible to breathe from the free-flow as air streams out of the regulator, but the technique takes practice to perfect and to feel comfortable with.



So try practicing it in a controlled environment and in safe conditions to get a feel of what you need to do.

Start by tilting your head to the right (this is where your regulator hose comes out) and take the left side of the mouthpiece out of your mouth keeping the right side of the mouthpiece firmly in your mouth. Pressing the purge button and using your tongue as a splashguard to prevent choking on water, it's possible to breathe for a limited time from the free flowing reg. Though it doesn't sound easy, if performed correctly by holding the purge button fully and good amount of air comes rushing out and sipping it comes almost naturally as a survival instinct.

Your Other Options

1. If you are carrying a pony tank, switch to your bailout gas.
2. If you are not carrying a bailout gas, immediately switch to your buddy's alternate air source, as you will lose air fairly quickly.
3. Take some calming breaths, assess the situation and abort the dive safely with your buddy.

Prevention

It's very important to make sure your kit is serviced regularly and if it has not been in use a long time at least a month before you dive again. When diving in cold water, especially fresh water as salt water freezes at a lower temperature than fresh water, take your first check-out breaths submerged in shallow water immediately before the dive, rather than above the surface in the cold air. You should even consider a special cold water regulator designed with a whole host of preventative measures for free-flows, if you dive a lot in colder conditions.

Always remember, a great dive buddy and good dive planning including being prepared with safety gear and back-ups, goes a long way in situations like these. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2010 Calendar

FOR A FULL LIST, SEE OUR WEBSITE

July

- 13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 17, 18 Saturday Dale Hollow
- 27, Tuesday Board Meeting



August

- 10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 21, Saturday Club Pig Roast
- 31, Tuesday Board Meeting



September

- 14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 28, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

- 12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 27, Tuesday Board Meeting



November

- 9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting (Elections)
- 30, Tuesday Board Meeting



December

- 11, Saturday Club Christmas Party

2010 BGDC Officer's & Staff

Rebecca Singer, President	552-0880
Krisy Carty, Vice President	497-4333
Maryanna O'Canna, Secretary	277-2634
George Fleischmann, Treasurer	873-9539
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Information Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	223-7926