



UNDERCURRENTS

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

November 2010

Volume 40, Number 11

November's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 9th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Slides by Doug Geddes

President's Message

By Rebecca Singer



Welcome to fall! The weather has been spectacular for us until now but it's time to prepare for some colder temperatures. With that brings Thanksgiving and Christmas though. Speaking of Christmas, put December 11th, 2010 on your calendar. That is the date of our Dive Club Christmas party. I hope to see a big crowd there this year, as in past years.

We have a bit of a lull in our dive calendar but be sure to check out Doug's Trip Reports section of the newsletter for all the 2010 trips planned. We've got some good ones. The trip committee is already hard at work researching trips for 2011 and even 2012. If you have any ideas, please let Doug or another member of the trip committee know. Remember that our November meeting is our election meeting. We need your votes to make sure the voice of the membership is heard at these elections. No mud-slinging ad campaigns in this club. After elections, Doug will be showing slides from the last Fiji trip. It is sure to make all of us, who are not signed up for the February Fiji trip, jealous. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



The pics for this month will be the second part to the Pig Roast. So enjoy. 🚩



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



Vice President's Report

By Krisy Carty



I am happy to announce the addition of one new club member this month. Welcome the family of **Liz Henderson** of San Diego, CA. Liz is an Oceanographer with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Liz and family were referred to our club by Rebecca Singer. We hope to get the chance to meet you all soon!



DON'T FORGET that 2011 BGDC Officer Elections will be held at this month's meeting on November 9th. Those club members that volunteer their time to manage club business would appreciate support of members at this time. You should plan on attending this meeting to cast your vote. A nomination committee has proposed a slate of officers that were presented to the board and the following suggestions were approved:

President:.....**Rebecca Singer**
Vice President:.....**Tracey Combs**
Treasurer:.....**George Fleischmann**
Secretary:.....**Kris Harn**
Dive Trip Coordinator:.....**Doug Geddes**
Safety Information Director.....**Rick Stephan**
Newsletter Editor.....**John Geddes**
Webmaster.....**Mike McCann**



Gordon Green has also accepted the nomination for Safety Information Officer. The slate is a suggestion only and nominations will be accepted on the floor at the November meeting. If you wish to nominate a member for office, you must nominate them and they must be willing to accept the nomination. If you have any questions regarding the election process, please contact me at drcarty@hotmail.com.



This year the election process will be organized in a manner that allows current members to ONLY nominate other current members for a specific office. Please voice nominations only. Once that member accepts the nomination, they will be given a chance to promote themselves and explain why they would make a good officer for the BGDC. I will not be in attendance at the November meeting, as I will hopefully be getting discharged from the hospital with our third child. Rick Stephan has graciously agreed to run the election process in my absence. Also, the nomination committee will be present to help with ballot votes. Thanks again to Steve Gahafer and Russ Tucker for helping me with the nomination slate this year! 🚩



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.

Key West – October 2010 - This trip was a blast. Shame the diving was blown out by a hurricane off to the east. We did get in two days of diving on the Vandenburg but the currents and visibility were pretty bad. Still a great place to party. We will have to go back soon.

Fiji – February 2011 - It is amazing; we are really getting close to going on this trip. Before you know it, we will be flying out to LA to head to Fiji. We are still full, but only have one person on the waiting list. Sign up now so you can be the next to go, if a space should open up. Nowhere in the world is the diving better. Ask Charlie or Noel, they have been to most of them.

Grenada – April 2011 - What an awesome trip. Reservation forms are on our website. Don't miss this new and exciting location. This is our first time going here, so don't miss it. This is Fayette Co. spring break week, so bring the kids. Finally this trip is starting to fill up. Don't wait until all the spots are taken. If you are going, now is the time to sign up.

Bonaire – June 2011 28 persons signed up, need I say more...still room.

Eleuthra – October 2011 is now on our website... check it out...WOW what a great location. I know this is a ways off, but if you have an interest, please let us know. We have had several persons sign up for this awesome trip. Still plenty of space and time to sign up, but don't wait too long if you are really interested.

2012 – The dive committee is currently looking into several great locations for 2012. If you have one you are thinking about, please drop us a line. One of the hot spots would be a land base trip to the Philippines in January. This will be a great location for divers and non-divers to visit. Start saving now. 🚩

From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



General Meeting Minutes 10-12-10

In attendance: 28 The treasurer's report was given by George. The months of August and September were reviewed.

Krisy reported on two new members. The November meeting will include election of officers. Rick will conduct the election process. The slate of officers were announced in the newsletter.



Doug's trip report:

Key West: tales of the trip were told

Fiji: one on the waiting list

Grenada: lots of room left, new site to the club, 3 signed up

Bonaire: 26 signed up, space for 40, air itinerary to be shared by Rebecca

Eleuthera: very reasonable trip, all inclusive

Check website for all trips. The trip committee is open to any member who wants to research future trips.

Program: Gordon's video of Manta Ray Diving in Hawaii



From The Secretary Cont.

Board Meeting
10-26-10

Present: George, Rebecca, Doug, John, Maryanne
George presented the treasurer's report as of today. Dive The report was approved and filed.



Election for November: Rick's running the election process, Rebecca's bringing the ballots, John is parliamentarian, and George is bringing a list of eligible voting members.

Trip report:

Grenada: picking up more members, 6 signed up now

Bonaire: air fare is going up, 28 signed up, t-shirts to be designed

Figi: Musket Cove payment to be paid separately to the resort

Eleuthera: need a new clarified contract from the resort

Dale Hollow: date set for July 30 and 31, 2011. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

The Dive Trip Committee met last week to discuss trips for 2012.

Old business: Discussion held on a couple of possibilities for acquiring a television set for the club to use at the Racquet Club meeting room.

New business: Doug will show slides from the last trip to Figi.

The club Christmas party date set for 12-11-10 at the home of Mark and Stella.

The trip waiver needs to be updated and improved.

A date needs to be set for the January budget meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9 pm. 🚩



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](#). 🚩

Bluegrass Dive Club 2010 Calendar

November

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

December

11, Saturday Club Christmas Party



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: After the discussion about some of the diving off Key West at our last meeting, the subject of this month's article was pretty obvious – safety when diving in currents. I know most everyone has some rudimentary knowledge of what to do, but you need to have that locked in your mind. It's too late to think about it as you're being carried off by a ripping current.

There are lots of examples of accidents which occurred after someone went into the water and the current changed. Even if you've been briefed by your dive boat as to technique and safety factors for their operation, you are still the only one responsible for your own safety underwater. I've pieced together several articles to cover the planning and safety procedures generally used. You should feel confident in quizzing the dive operator about what should happen if you're swept away, and of course make sure you have your dive safety kit with you.

It sounded like we were fortunate to not have anything serious happen in Key West, let's keep working to make the BGDC an even safer group with which to dive.



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Scuba Diving in Currents

Scuba diving in currents can seem quite intimidating, but it can also be one of the best things you ever experience. It is also important to know how to dive in currents in case you are ever caught under the water in a current that you didn't expect.

Currents often change the number and type of fish that you see underwater. However, diving safely in currents requires a certain amount of experience in diving. So, before you get started, you need to be sure that you're physically fit and fully-prepared to prevent any accidents from happening.

How to Scuba Dive in Currents. Before getting in the water, look at the pattern of the current. If you're diving in unfamiliar waters, be sure to ask an experienced diver or local fisherman who is familiar with the area.

2. Once you've familiarized yourself with the water, it's time to get in. Once you're in, you should try and descend as fast as possible so the current doesn't sweep you away from the dive site. Often, you will use a line to descend to a dive site where there are strong currents. This gives you something to hold on to which helps keep the dive group together. Once you get down to the bottom, the current will be milder and you can start exploring.

(SID Note: If the current is still ripping at the bottom, don't let go. The worst dive in the world is spending 40 minutes grabbing the bottom, inching along, trying to get back to the down line.)



3. When there is a strong current at a dive site, you will usually swim with the current, which actually makes the dive easier than normal because you don't have to do any work - the water just takes you. This is much easier than swimming against the current.

4. To ascend after the dive, you will want to return to the line and use it to get back up to the boat. If you don't use the line, you will ascend and be a long way from the boat, which could be dangerous.

Important Safety Tips for Scuba Diving in Currents

First of all, you should only attempt to dive in currents if you have some scuba diving experience. As a minimum, you should have your Open Water SCUBA certification. This course will teach you all the basic skills and knowledge you need to dive safely. You can take this course in any diving centre. Ideally, you will have a little more education and have completed the Advanced Open Water course which gives you even more experience in the water.

Safety Corner Cont.

If you don't have much experience, always go diving in currents with a certified dive instructor or a more experienced diver than you.

Never swim against a strong current. This will cause fatigue faster and may lead to some accidents. Study the tide table and keep an eye on the time to prevent yourself from getting surprised from a sudden increase in the current's speed.

Be wary of rip tides or rip currents, which are strong channels of water that flow away from the shoreline. If ever you do get caught in one; do not panic! Swim parallel to the shoreline until you get out of it.



Fins - This may seem an odd thing to bring up, but it does have an effect. Soft/flexible fins may be comfortable to use where there is little or no current; however in strong current they aren't going to 'cut the mustard'! You need fins that can move a lot of water without bending... (Jet fins are great for this if you have powerful legs!)



Technique - About the best technique for finning in current is the flutter kick. But there are also a few things you should take focus on; first, use a steady powerful kick, but make sure you don't open your legs too wide. Doing this will cause drag and reduce the effectiveness of your finning!

Second, remember finning in current is a marathon not a sprint; pace yourself so that you can maintain the speed, and take advantage of the changes in current (currents will always vary as you swim through water). Thus when the current reduces slightly take advantage and use it to relax your leg muscles a little.



Depth - the current will always be less close to the seabed, so where possible always descend to the bottom.

Cover - use the underwater landscape to shelter yourself from the current, such as large rocks/coral heads, etc. This allows you to rest and relax for a few moments before continuing on; or you may use it to decide on your plan...aborting the dive certainly being one option!

Hands - don't forget you can use your hands to pull yourself along, or you can use a pointer or knife if you have one. This obviously isn't the most ideal situation, but if you really have to get to a point it may be the only way!

Plan - last of all don't forget to plan! If you don't like strong current, don't dive! Or plan a drift dive, so the boat will pick you up as you surface.

(SID Note: Make sure your dive operator and your buddy are in full knowledge of your plan, and make sure you have a safety kit, including a safety sausage, a visible signaling device such as a mirror, an audible signaling device such as a whistle, and a way to keep you and your buddy together such as a Velcro lanyard. It is also a good idea to either have a small flashlight or chemical light to mark yourself if it gets dark. Prepare for the worst, work toward the best – stay safe! 🚩

