



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

May 2012

Volume 42, Number 5

## May's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, May 8th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** Philippines DVD Part II

## President's Message

*By Tracey Combs*



I am looking forward to seeing every at our next meeting, Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Racquet Club. Everyone is welcome, members as well as those who may be interested in joining the club. It is finally starting to get nice outside and that means we can start thinking about local diving again. Remember to use the website, Facebook, and the Member Directory to contact your fellow divers.

I want to thank Doug Geddes and the Dive Trip Committee for all of their hard work. They met recently and some great new dives will be available for sign-up on the website very soon. As always, if you have ideas for a club trip, please contact one of the trip committee members.

I also want to put a huge Thank You to Lisa and Jimmy Hollander for opening their home to the Dive Club for the Derby Party. We really appreciate the hospitality. 🚩

## The Editor's Notes

*By John Geddes*



This month we have pics from Doug Geddes on the Philippines trip. The pics in Rick's article only relate to Rick's article. See you at the Derby Party. 🚩



## 2012 BGDC Officer's

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Tracey Combs, President          | 621-4066 |
| Corrine Mulberry, Vice President | 913-0892 |
| Kris Harn, Secretary             | 278-4246 |
| 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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## Derby Party

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By Mike McCann



For Club Members and Invited guests only

Date: Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 3:30 until ??

Location: Home of Lisa and Jimmy Hollander  
127 King Fisher Way  
Midway, KY 40347

Phone: (502) 570-0412



Club will furnish: Ham, rolls and soft drinks  
What to bring: A snack, finger food, munchies, or dessert to share.

Directions: Are on the website under "upcoming events". 🚩



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## Vice President's Report

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By Corrine Mulberry



Noel Hall will present "Part II" of the recent Philippines dive trip at our May meeting. This was an extensive trip, involving two different resorts and numerous dive sites. If you did not get to see "Part I", be sure to attend May's meeting!

If you have diving information that you would be interested in presenting at a Club meeting (past or potential dive trip, etc.), we would love to hear from you. Please contact me so that we can schedule you! 913-0892 or scubagirl07@insightbb.com



**Visitors:** We gave a hearty welcome to **Jeff Poling** who attended his first BGDC meeting last month. Jeff has 2 divers in his family, which includes his wife (Anita), 4 kids and one grandson. He heard about us through New Horizons (thank you New Horizons!) and is interested in additional training, diving trips (especially Turks, USVI and Puerto Rico), and meeting other divers. We hope to see you again soon Jeff!

**Caps:** We have baseball-style caps available for \$12.00 each. The caps are adjustable, canvas type of material, tan color with the BGDC logo and name embroidered on the front. 🚩



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## Trip Director's Report

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By Doug Geddes



**COZUMEL 2012**

Finally this trip is set and ready to go. It was a wild finish with one cancellation and then adding back on and then one more adding on. It made it fun for our treasurer who was trying to close the trip out and send in a final payment. But, we did end up with a total of 13 persons going on this trip. This will be a great trip for those that will be going. Rebecca Singer will be heading this trip up but will mostly be there as a go between for those going and the resort. Please remember this is her vacation also and she will be glad to work with the resort, but she will not be working on setting up group events, such as group dinners for all. Please keep all of our travelers in your prayers as they make this trip.

### MYSTERY TRIP 2012

We are still looking into this trip and really getting close to deciding on where we will be going. We will have had a dive committee meeting before the meeting to discuss this and other trips. If you see a great deal, please pass it along to us. Keep your October dates open for this trip. I think it will be a great one.

### GRAND CAYMAN (EAST SIDE) 2013

This is going to be an awesome trip to one of the best dive location in the Caribbean. We are still looking for more people to make their reservations. I think some of it has to do with the refunds from the Philippine trip. I know that is my case anyway. Please visit our website to check this trip out. Dan Miller went to this resort this past winter and had a great time and great diving. He is going to go back with us next year, so that should be a good testimony of how good it is. Go sign up soon. 🚩

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## From the Treasurer

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By Dan Miller



### 2012 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 / 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](#). 🚩



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## From The Secretary

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By Kris Harn



MARCH 27, 2012  
BOARD MEETING

Tracey called meeting to order at 7:39pm. Dan, Corrine, Kris, Doug, Rick, John, & Mike in attendance. Dan gave Treasurer's report. He will email updated report to board. Corrine announced new members and purchased more door prices for this year. No report given by Kris or Rick. John needs newsletters in by 03/29/12. Mike to update local and non-local trip reports on website. Doug review upcoming Trips. \$10.00 administration fee on every trip except Dale Hollow was approved by board. Membership renewal letters to be sent out by Dan. Mike to update trip pricing on website. Tracey adjourned meeting at 9:30pm.

APRIL 10, 2012  
REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order at 7:36pm. New Guest was introduced. Dan gave Treasurer's report. Corrine explained dive bucks to membership and talked about hats and license plates for sale. Doug went over upcoming trips. John let membership know that the newsletter was sent out. Mike has updated new membership form on website. Rick was not in attendance at regular meeting. Announcement to RSVP if attending Derby Party on May 5th. Door tickets were pulled. Noel's DVD on Philippines was shown. Meeting ended. 🚩



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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** This month's article is from [aquaviews.net](http://aquaviews.net).

*The BGDC has had trips to many sites around the world, with many different types of diving. One of our upcoming trips is to Cozumel, where drift diving is predominant. Many divers love the experience of drift diving. You float along with the current, pretty much effortlessly traveling over the reef. There are some divers who don't like it however, whether it's having the perceived safety of an anchored boat to go back to, or the feeling that they are not in control of their dive, to be able to go in any direction, or to stop and spend more time at one spot.*

*This article goes over some tips on how to handle drift dives. Understanding this may help you be more ready for the type of diving you will experience diving in currents.*

*Whatever your preferences, if you do drift dive, be aware of how your particular boat crew handles the dives. Make sure they give you a complete dive briefing. Ask questions, like "How do you handle divers who use their air up quickly?" or "Do you require us all to enter the water at one time?" or whatever your concern may be. Feel comfortable in what they are instructing you to do, if you don't, ask them to explain.*

*You are the only one ultimately responsible for your own safety. And, of course, if you are feeling safe, you will have a better time.*



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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### 5 Tips for Drift Diving in Currents

Written By Nevin



If you can't beat them, join them. This is what started off the thrilling drift dive which makes the currents work for you instead of against you. There is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot off along a strong current and watch the reef pass you by as you sail along effortlessly. It's almost the equivalent of sky diving underwater.

Here are a few pointers that will help you enjoy drift diving even more and make it a little safer as well.



### 1. Follow the three 'S' of drift diving: Surface float, Surface Supervision and Safety Sausage

The best way to drift dive is to appoint a line handler and trailing a surface float while you dive that can be trailed by the dive boat above. This allows for an easy pick up at the end of the dive, and allows the group to dive greater distances riding the current. The surface float is especially helpful diving in newer waters where the boatman may be unfamiliar with the currents.

Whether you drift dive with a surface float line or not, it is essential that you have surface supervision on a drift dive, that can spot the divers on the surface and bring the boat around for retrieval. The surface supervision team also spots and picks up any divers that detach from the group, and have to ascend to the surface.

All divers on a drift dive should carry a safety sausage or a deployable high visibility buoy that can help the dive boat spot you should you separate from the group and have to surface. A whistle attached to your BCD might help as well in such a situation.

### 2. Watch that Depth Gauge like a hawk.

Once you're riding the fast currents, it is really difficult to monitor your depth. Divers can be carried upwards or downwards at great speed depending on the strength of the current. This can be dangerous if you are diving in deeper waters and a nightmare if you have trouble equalizing. Set your dive computers to drift mode if they have the setting, which alerts you with a series of audible beeps. It is always advisable to drift dive in shallower waters, where you can use the terrain as a reference guide and keep a constant check on your depth gauge.

### 3. Hug the Bottom

The current is almost always less at the bottom near the sea bed, so if you need to slow down or wait for the group to catch up with you, go lower and hug the bottom. Some divers use their scuba knives to gain purchase to the sea bed if there are no rocky outcrops to grab hold of. While descending, a quicker decent to the bottom will give you a bit of time to regroup. Those that take longer to descend or have trouble equalizing will get carried

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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away by the stronger currents at the top so watch your buddy closely and stay together at all times.



### 4. Go with the flow, not against it

I guess this is one of the most common tips for drift diving, but somehow several divers still choose not to accept it. Currents can create psychological stress for divers who aren't used to them, which often cause divers to swim against or fight the current which is an almost natural instinct. This however can lead to exhaustion, and rapid air depletion. Once you learn to go with the flow, you quickly realize that there is no need to even use your fins, other than to correct course, and you can dive for longer and cover much greater distance on a single tank of air.



### 5. Drift dive in good visibility only

Moving at high speeds along a reef in poor visibility poses a risk of running smack into something. I know it's difficult to have clear water where there are currents, but check for

relatively clear visibility just enough to allow you to anticipate and take evasive maneuvers whenever something looms up ahead. Poor visibility can also make it hard for the group to stay together, which is critical on a drift dive. Losing a buddy and having to meet up at the surface is extremely challenging in strong currents, so make you can maintain at least visual contact with everyone in your group. 🚩

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## Dale Hollow Lake

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*By Corrine Mulberry*



July 14-15th, 2012

### **The deadline for signing up for the Dale Hollow Lake dive/eat/swim/float-around-in-the-lake trip is quickly approaching!**

This is a great trip for divers and non-divers alike. We have pontoon boats reserved for Saturday and Sunday to transport us on the lake for fun, sun and diving.

Enjoy a weekend of lake diving, swimming, relaxing and a pot-luck dinner on Saturday evening. Thanks to financial assistance from the Bluegrass Dive Club, the cost for participants is only \$20.00 per person per day for pontoon boat users. For members that bring their own boats, there is no fee; however, registration and waiver forms must be completed for each person.

Overnight accommodations are up to you----pitch a tent and camp, reserve a rustic cabin or stay at the State Park Lodge. Our pot-luck dinner will be held in the State Park Campground. Campers are encouraged to utilize campsites near cabin site C006 such as K008, K007, K006 and L001 and L003. (I've got campsite L002 reserved for me and my little tent).

First come, first served – get your reservations and payments in as soon as possible to secure your spot! Visit the BGDC Website and sign-up today. 🚩

# Bluegrass Dive Club 2012 Calendar

## May

- 5, Saturday Club's Derby Party
- 8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 29, Tuesday Board Meeting



## June

- 12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 16, Cozumel Dive Trip
- 26, Tuesday Board Meeting



## July

- 10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 24, Tuesday Board Meeting



## August

- 14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 18, Saturday Club Pig Roast
- 28, Tuesday Board Meeting

## September

- 11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 25, Tuesday Board Meeting



## October

- Dive Trip
- 9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 30, Tuesday Board Meeting



## November

- 13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting (Elections)
- 27, Tuesday Board Meeting



## December

- ??, Saturday Club Christmas Party