



UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2012

Volume 42, Number 12

Club's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, Dec. 15th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Home of Mark & Stella Kidd
991 Lakeland Drive 266-2276

Members and Guest, Bring a dish to share.

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Happy Holidays everyone. The weather is starting to change and I wish I was somewhere warm diving. Our Annual Christmas Party is upon us again. I want to thank Mark and Stella Kidd for graciously opening their home again to the dive club for our Annual Christmas Party. I hope to see you all there on Saturday, December 15, 2012. Check out the website for additional details. The club will provide the ham, rolls, and soft drinks. Please bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share with group. I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season. 🚩



The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month the pics are from Noel's trip to Cabo San Lucas – Socorro. If you haven't seen the video of the whale shark rescue, He will be bring it to the Christmas Party.

The last time I heard it had around 500,000 hits on You Tube, aired on the NBC Today Show, CNBC and many more. Talking about being in the right place at the right time... 🚩



2012-2013 BGDC Officers'

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

Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



GRAND CAYMAN 2013

We are getting close to finalizing this trip. We added two, but we lost two, so we are still at 25 persons. I have sent in the rooming list and we are almost set to go in a few months. You will be getting your final billing sometime in December. If you are still thinking about going, we might have space and you might be able to go, but it is dependent on space available at the resort. Check it out and let me know soon, if you want to try and be added on. I will send out more information to those going, once we get closer.



SPRING TRIP 2013

We are still working on a trip for June 2013. We had been looking at Grand Turk, but the pricing is a little higher than we wanted to pay for that time slot. We are now looking at a couple of places in the Bahamas. Once we get a better idea of a couple of places, we will get it out to you as soon as we can. Time is getting close on that one, also.



MYSTERY TRIP 2013

Like last year, we will still have our trip in the fall, but we will wait for our best deals to pop up. Sorry we can't give a date or location, but keep your fall (Sept/Oct) timeframe open.



TRUK 2014

We are now working on the Yap portion of the trip. We have to work it around the airline schedules of who goes where, when? Once we get all that, then we will be able to price it out. Trip participants will be getting a bill for \$1000 due on February 15, 2013. This along with the airfare being published should solidify the signup list. We still have 5 on the waiting list, so we wanted to give them time to get good airfares instead of waiting a couple of months to find them, if someone canceled much later than February. If you are on the fence, please let me know as soon as you can. 🚩



Vice President's Report

By Corrine Mulberry



Election of Board members for 2013 took place at the November meeting. 2013 Board members are as follows:

- President – Tracey Combs
- Vice President – Corrine Mulberry
- Secretary – Kris Harn
- Treasurer – Dan Miller
- Trip Director – Doug Geddes
- Safety Information Dir – Rick Stephan
- Newsletter Editor – John Geddes
- Webmaster – Mike McCann

Rope cut off of the Whale Shark



Thanks to the officers who are willing serve and the Board members for participating in the election process!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the BGDC Christmas Party! 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2013 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 Kris Harn



BOARD MEETING 10-30-12

Meeting called to order by Tracey at 7:42pm. Tracey, Corrine, Dan, Kris, John, Rick, Mike, & Doug in attendance. Dan gave Treasurer's report. Corrine notified board of 2 new members and that no program would be show in November due to elections. John asked for articles by November 1st. Doug gave trip updates. Board went over new and unfinished business. Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm



REGULAR MEETING 11-13-12

Meeting started at 7:35pm. 18 people were in attendance. Tracey informed everyone about Christmas party on Dec 15th. Dan gave treasurer's report. Corrine reported that we have 4 new members. Doug went over trip reports. Rick went over article on buoyancy. 3 door prizes were handed out by Corrine. Officers were elected: Tracey-President, Corrine-V.P., Kris-Secretary, John-newsletter Editor, Dan-Treasurer, Rick-Safety information Director, Mike-Webmaster, Doug-Trip Director. Meeting ended at 8:50pm. 🚩

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: As often stated in this column, properly functioning dive gear is very important for dive safety. Obviously, getting your gear checked out periodically is important. Also important is proper care of gear – cleaning and storing, especially for long periods between dives. (See the Safety Corner article from Undercurrents in September 2011).

But, if you pack your bags poorly for the dive trip, your gear could be damaged in transit, so all your care would be for naught. I gleaned some information from several articles on line for thoughts on how to pack, to keep your equipment safe and intact.

As the Christmas season approaches, maybe a good gift option could be a new travel dive bag, or protective carry-on bags for your mask, computer, or regulator. Making the right decisions on packing can help you be a safer diver, and as we all know...



Safe diving is fun!

The Art of Packing for a Dive Trip

So, there are several questions to be answered:

What needs to be packed?

How should it be packed?

How to keep the dive luggage safe and secure during the trip?

Safety Corner Cont.

What you need

With the limitations on weight for checked luggage, you really need to figure out exactly what to take, and no more. In the old days, the big, bulky scuba duffel also became the vehicle for transporting other things, since you could stuff it quite full. Several times I put a twelve-pack of Diet Coke into the bag, for consumption at locations that didn't carry it. But, no more!

Determine what diving you will be doing. Is the water cold – do you need multiple wetsuits/skins? Will you be doing specialty diving requiring lights, lines and reels, or other items? What about spare air or backup gear? Batteries for lights/computers?



The bag

Gear bags are generally big, can be expensive and are popular. There are an amazing number to choose from.

Many gear bags are in pretty, bright colors, with a scuba flag or label on them. You can't miss them. When I see one of them on a conveyor belt (or the pull cart, depending on the island!) at the airport, to me it screams "open me up, I have a lot of expensive gear inside."

For your gear bag, I would suggest buying a more generic, plain, non-descript bag. No need to advertise what's inside.

Many, if not most, scuba gear bags these days come in plain, unmarked (or very small label) black bags.

I have no idea if the theft rate is any higher with a brightly colored scuba bag than with other bags. I haven't been able to find any statistics on the issue. I just feel more comfortable with a generic bag. It's a personal choice.

What I use when packing scuba gear for flying is a big, non-descript rolling duffel bag (patched appropriately with duct tape). The wheels are key features to have, since all that gear can get heavy.

And you'll only look like you over packed, not like you have hundreds of dollars worth of equipment with you. The bag is big enough for packing all the scuba gear for flying in the one bag.



Packing

I fit my mask, fins, wetsuit, BC and a lot of other stuff in the bag with no problem. I sometimes also pack my regulator (I have a pretty plain, durable one, not with a lot of adjustment controls that could be banged up). I put the softer and durable stuff on the outside – like fins, wetsuit, etc. BC and reg are farther in, with the mask in a protective case.

Minimize the space that individual items take up before putting them in the bag. Make sure all of the air is out of your BCD prior to packing. My wet suit boots go in the foot pocket of my fins. Don't make mistakes by

Safety Corner Cont.

packing things you thought you needed, and not packing things that you really need. For example, consider getting a dry bag to hold your towel and clothes in while you're in the water. It folds flat for travel. I use a very small Pelican box to hold my sunglasses on the boat. Only bring one that fits what you need.

If you can, pack your expensive dive equipment and accessories in your carry-on luggage – such as your dive computer or camera gear. Luggage handlers aren't very careful with bags – especially big ones – and your sensitive equipment could be damaged. Consider packing your prescription mask with you in carry-on luggage. If you lose this item it could ruin your whole trip. You can borrow or buy a plain mask at most locations, but you won't get a good look at those underwater items you paid to see.

Carry any prescriptions with you in your carry-on bag so they will not be lost.

Be sure to pack extra fin straps and repair items you might need as well as motion sickness medicines. These can go in the dive bag.

Security

Ever since 9/11, security is a big deal. You will need to get gear that most TSA agents don't understand through inspection without hassle, and get it to your dive destination safely.

Make sure you place your dive knife in your checked baggage and not your carry-on. This item is prohibited on board an aircraft. (Not to mention – lionfish killing spears are in this same category. Or for Gordon, lionfish scaring spears...)

If you do choose to carry your own personal small emergency air source, make sure the valve is out of the cylinder and it can be inspected at your time of departure.

Do not forget the most important item!

Make sure you lock your baggage with a TSA approved lock. This will prevent anyone from removing items out of your dive bags.

The Rental Option

Even if you own your own gear, you can still opt to rent gear from the dive operator you are diving with. This way you won't have to worry about packing, and maybe losing your dive gear. Or you can bring some and rent some.

I'm a bit skeptical about renting gear in other countries. Who knows how well it has been taken care of? And, for safety sakes, you may not be comfortable with the operation of the rental gear if it is a different type than what you normally use. I'm no germophobe, but it is disconcerting at the least just thinking about donning a rental wet suit that a thousand people may have puked on, peed in or done something worse. So I prefer to take my own gear. Certainly renting gear at your destination is a viable option. Just do your homework into how they service their gear.

Dive Gear Acquisitions for Travel

If you take frequent scuba vacations, make sure that you think through your gear choices when traveling. It doesn't hurt to have a travel BCD that is smaller and lighter than your home BCD. Same thing with fins. As much as I love your Scubapro Jet fins, some of the new fins can save as much as 4 extra pounds of travel weight. You can also buy warm water boots that are low cut and a thin rubber sole, instead of bringing your wet suit boots with high tops and thick, hard soles.

Otherwise, if you don't mind paying the extra fees for exceeding your checked bag weight limit, then feel free to keep stimulating the economy. We could use all the help we can get! 🚩

Bluegrass Dive Club 2012 Calendar

December

15, Saturday Club Christmas Party