



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

January 2017

Volume 47, Number 01

## January Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, January 10th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** Roatan by Noel Hall

## President's Message

*By Tracey Combs*



Happy Holidays and Welcome 2017! Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the Christmas Holiday and is ready for the New Year. We have several dive trips scheduled this year, so check the Calendar. Many of these were added recently, so be sure to double check the list so that you don't miss a great trip. Dominica and Belize are just around the corner, check the website for details. If you have suggestions for future trip locations, please contact Doug Geddes or one of the Dive Trip Committee Members.

A special thank you to Mark and Stella Kidd for hosting the Christmas Party. It was a great event and the food was amazing, as always. I greatly appreciate them opening their home. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Racquet Club. I hope to see you there.



## The Editor's Notes

*By Steve Gahafer*



I hope everybody had a great Christmas and New Year. I would like to thank Bart for doing the newsletter the past year and for meeting with me and showing me the ropes and how to put the newsletter together. I would hope several people got some new dive gear for Christmas. The dive Committee is working hard on places for you to try out your new gear. If you have any places in mind get in touch with someone on the Dive Committee and let them know. This month's pictures are from the club Christmas Party that Mark and Stella Kidd were so gracious to host again this year.



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## 2016 BGDC Officer's

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Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
John Geddes, Vice President	223-7926
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	266-4516
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	621-3178
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Kim Hudson, Webmaster	614-937-1955
	<a href="mailto:Khudson4974@yahoo.com">Khudson4974@yahoo.com</a>
Steve Gahafer, Newsletter Editor	229-9408
	<a href="mailto:sagahafer@gmail.com">sagahafer@gmail.com</a>

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## Vice President's Report

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*By John Geddes*



I guess to start off with, I hoped everyone had a Safe and Happy New Year. I am looking forward to serving on the Board again, kinda missed everyone. Under the area of Vice President, one of the duties is membership chairperson, I would like to have some help in this area for the Club to grow, if you're not growing, you're dying. I'm sure everyone knows a diver or a person who likes to eat, we are known as the "Eat and Dive Club" sometimes. So bring them out to a meeting.

The program for January will be from Noel Hall and I'm sure it will something great!

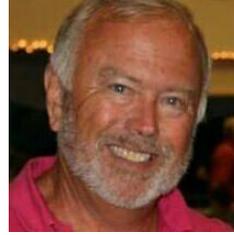


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## Trip Director's Report

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*By Doug Geddes*



### Dominica 2017

We have ended up with 21 persons signed up and paid for this trip. If you are still considering this one, it might be time to sign up. You need to check first before buying your air, might not have room at the Inn.

### Belize 2017

We have 5 persons already signed up for this fall trip. Check out the website as we do not have but 6 rooms booked. Don't wait until it is sold out.

### Africa 2018

Even though this is a year out we have 8 persons signed up with deposits. I know of several more that are about to sign up. Check out our website for all the details. This is going to be a trip of the lifetime with a safari and diving on the same trip. Need to sign up soon to lock in the 2017 prices. **After the initial sign up the prices could go up.**



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## From the Treasurer

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By Dan Miller



### 2017 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](#). 🚩



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## From The Secretary

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By Mike Sullivan



### General Meeting Minutes

**No meeting this month**

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**No meeting this month**



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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

**Note:** Christmas is over, Hanukkah is finished. Hope you got all your wishes fulfilled. Now, let's start thinking about the upcoming dive season. Won't be long till the Domenica trip, and you'll want to enjoy every minute of your diving.

So, start thinking in advance about making sure you have your gear up to date and all is working. It may take some time to get a new gizmo delivered after the holiday rush, and your local dive equipment technician may be backed up. This article was taken from [divein.com](http://divein.com), and is focused on the simple, mostly visual checkout of your gear. I thought the best idea was to do a checkout dive prior to the trip. Even though most trips have an acclimation dive for the first day, if your gear has problems, you may miss some dives while they fix your gear at the local dive shop – assuming they CAN fix your problem. You don't want to be buying all new stuff, either, as most resorts are not exactly budget friendly.

So, consider this good practice to prep for your diving this year. Let's hope this is the best year ever. Hope you enjoy it, and, as usual, let's remember, safe diving is fun!

### Getting Your Scuba Gear Ready For Spring

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By Thomas Grønfeldt Senger

Spring is coming, and for many, this signals the beginning of the scuba diving season. Follow our guide to see how to prep your gear for the season.

For most divers, the ones who haven't taken to cold water diving, winter equals off-season. When spring rolls around, the official dive

season starts again, and the dive gear is taken out of hibernation.

But having been stored for perhaps months can mean that your gear needs a bit of TLC before it's ready to be taken to the water's edge.

### Storage of your dive gear



The first step is something you should have done already, to ensure that you're storing your gear properly.

Always follow the instructions in your equipment's manual or care guide.

General rules of thumb would be:

- All gear should be rinsed and dried thoroughly
- BCDs and wetsuits or drysuits be stored on appropriate hangers
- Regulator sets should be stored loosely rolled up
- And along with all other gear be stored in a dry, well-ventilated place out of direct sunlight.

Also ensure you keep your gear away from any chemicals that may damage it, in particular if you're storing it in your garage or basement.

### Getting your dive gear ready



Once you're ready to break out the scuba gear after the winter break, start with a visual inspection of all items. Are there any obvious frays, dents, or other signs of wear and tear that you didn't pick up on during the dive season? Have these mended. If it's just a bit of fraying, a pair of scissors and a heat source to seal them off may do it.

If it's a sign of more serious damage, have it tended to by a qualified shop.

### **Check your BCD and suits**

Check all zippers on BCD's and drysuits or wetsuits. Check that they're intact, and that they run smoothly. If they're hard to zip, add either a professional grade lubricant, natural beeswax, or simply a bit of candle wax (rub the stub of a candle on the entire zipper) to make it run smoothly again.

And check for any holes or punctures in the material, for drysuits, in particular in the membranes around neck and wrist.

### **Check your regulator**



Check your regulator set visually by pulling back on any hose protectors you may have, and ensure that all hoses are intact and haven't started cracking at the points where they bend.

Check the rubber on the hoses for decay, they will feel very soft, and may even crumble a bit if you scrape a nail on them.

Look at your mouthpieces and the strips that connect them. Both should be intact, if not, change them for new ones.

If you have access to a full tank of air, attach the regulator set to this and take a few breaths and check that the breathing is easy, and that there are no unexpected sounds when you breathe in it.

A rasping sound can indicate a problem with membrane, which should be addressed by a trained technician.

### **Check all your "loose" parts**

Check gloves and hoods for holes, frays, and general wear and tear. Check fin straps to ensure that they're still robust and won't suddenly tear. Check dive knives for rust and re-lubricate it with vaseline to protect it from further corrosion.

Check mask straps for wear, and consider rubbing the lens with toothpaste inside and out to remove any buildup. And finally, check dive lights for batteries and to ensure the bulb is still working.

Finally, consult your gear service log and see if any of your gear is ripe for a full-on service. You do have a service log for your gear, right?

If you find any problems with your gear that cannot be readily fixed, such as replacing a mask strap, turn it in at an authorized shop.

### ***Do a check-out dive***



Finally, take your dive gear for an easy dive at a well-known site, to ensure that everything works in real life.

This is also a good chance to test the most important element in your equipment configuration: You. Most dive accidents can be traced back to the human elements, with bad decisions, panic, and error in judgment being the main reasons dives turn bad.

So check that your dive skills are still up to spec, and if you feel a bit rustier than you like, ally yourself with a good, qualified instructor or divemaster and do a tune-up dive or two before taking your dive adventures to the deep water.

Going through your gear like this at the beginning of each dive season, or any time you've been away from diving for an extended period will greatly enhance your dive safety and enjoyment.



### Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	621-3178
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926



## Bluegrass Dive Club 2017 Calendar

- January 10                    General Meeting
- January 31                    Board Meeting
  
- **February 2-11**                **Dominica**
- February 14                    General Meeting
- February 28                    Board Meeting
  
- March 14                        General Meeting
- March 28                        Board Meeting
  
- April 11                         General Meeting
- April 25                         Board Meeting
  
- **May 6**                            **Derby Party**
- May 9                             General Meeting
- May 30                            Board Meeting
  
- June 13                         General Meeting
- June 27                         Board Meeting
  
- July 11                         General Meeting
- July 25                         Board Meeting
  
- August 8                        General Meeting
- **August 12**                    **Annual Pig Roast**
- August 29                        Board Meeting
  
- September 12                 General Meeting
- **September 23-30**            **Belize**
- September 26                 Board Meeting
  
- October 10                     General Meeting
- October 31                     Board Meeting
  
- November 14                 General Meeting
- November 28                 Board Meeting
  
- December TBD                **Christmas Party**
  
- **June 2018 10-23**            **Africa**