



UNDERCURRENTS

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

March 2018

Volume 48, Number 3

March Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 13th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: **Urban Squirrel Storage**
203 Lisle Industrial Ave
Program: Grand Turk by Noel

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Happy Spring fellow members. We are moving forward with our diving calendar and will be meeting Monday, March 5 for a Dive Committee meeting.

If you have ideas for a future trip, please contact Steve Gahafer.

We have several upcoming fun events on the calendar. The always fun and sometimes profitable Derby Party is May 5 and the Pig Roast will be in August. Mark your calendars and watch for emails with more information.

Our next meeting will be March 13. Since we are still looking for a permanent home, watch for an email with the meeting location or check the website. If you have a meeting location idea, please contact me. Remember, if you have moved or changed your email; please let Dan Miller know so that you can stay up to date. See you at the meeting. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



NOTE: the new place for meeting this month!!!

This month Noel Hall has let me use some of his Pics from his trip to Thailand and if you have not been on a trip with him, he was up to his, well you will see... 🚩



Has anyone seen Eton?

2018 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
Mike Sullivan, Vice President	327-8906
Kris Harn, Secretary	333-6911
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Steve Gahafer, Trip Director	229-9408
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	608-0682

Vice President's Report

By Mike Sullivan



Thanks to Steve Williams for the program DVD of his trip to Palau. Great pictures. The door prizes to Chick-Fill-A and Jason's Deli were won by John Geddes and Rick Stephan. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2018 Membership Dues

Student (High School or College ID)..	\$10.00
New Diver (First year only).....	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](#). 🚩

Trip Director's Report

By Steve Gahafer



AFRICA DIVE & SAFARI 2018

This trip is going full steam ahead we might still have open spots on this trip. If you are thinking about this trip need to decide pretty quick as we are going to have to give up spots and the airfare will start going up very fast. Please contact Dan before you do anything if you want to join this trip to make sure we still have room. Check the website [Africa 2018](#).



As of today the Trip Committee has not met but we will before this is published. Hopefully next month I will have some news on upcoming trips. 🚩



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: This month's article was suggested from Dan Miller and is from scubadiverlife.com. It's something that we "fun" divers kind of take for granted – that our dive guide will make sure we are safe.

Well, often our guides are not completely fluent in English, they are thrown on the boat without having met us or seen us do acclimation dives, and have 12-16 divers to keep track of. We each have separate and differing gear (types, models, vintage). (What is this "Skinny Dipper" thing???) So, there is no way they can manage all our safety at once and completely.

As this column often reminds you, only YOU are in charge of YOUR safety. Buddies, dive guides, boat captains – they can help of course. So read on and learn one person's definition of what your dive guide should be doing.



Remember, safe diving is fun!



The Proper Role of a Dive Guide

By Thomas Grønfeldt

The proper role of dive guides is not to keep you safe, but rather to assess the safety and suitability of the dive site and act as a tour guide.

Occasionally, on social media and in courts of law, you hear about people blaming dive guides for mishaps during dives. The story usually involves a diver or divers who have experienced a diving incident or accident, and who feel that the dive guide failed to keep them safe. But the proper role of a dive guide is not to keep our participants safe.

I often talk to my novice dive students about basic certification, which qualifies them for independent diving. They sometimes state that "I only plan to dive with guides when I travel, so that's not that important for me." The "that" they're referring to are essential dive skills such as safety evaluations, self-assessment of fitness to dive, dive planning, navigation, and equipment choice. And I've dived with more than one long-qualified "insta-buddy" who has displayed much the same sentiment: I'm just following the guide, and the guide will keep me safe. This attitude, however, is a gross misunderstanding of the guide's role. So, then, let's talk about the proper role of a dive guide.

Safety Corner Cont.

A dive guide is not there to keep you alive

That may be a bit of harsh statement because, of course, any dive guide — or another diver — will likely try to help you in an emergency. But it is not their formal responsibility. This is a description of a standard Divemaster responsibilities in relation to conducting guided dives:

- assessing the hazards of a dive site and informing the divers of the hazards
- briefing divers on the layout and points of interest of a dive site
- suggesting routes for a dive at a specific site for autonomous divers
- checking divers into and out of the water from a boat or shore entry point
- leading a group of divers in the water as a tour guide

Note that it does not say “keep divers safe by making sure their equipment works, and by making sure they dive within their limits.” Rules don’t even require dive guides to make sure everyone sticks with them during the dive. A certified diver, with a buddy, can break off from a group for whatever reason, and conduct the rest of the dive on their own. Maybe the group is heading into a current, and the buddy pair isn’t comfortable with that. Maybe the group is heading for deeper water, and one of the divers is having trouble equalizing. These and many other reasons are valid for taking your own route in most situations.



The old rubber Jelly Fish gets them every time



What is a dive guide’s role?

The dive guide’s proper role is to assess the dive site’s conditions, safety and suitability for the group. The guide must make sure the divers are informed, and, if he or she deems it necessary, cancel the dive. The dive guide is also supposed to give a thorough briefing on how the dive will take place, hazards and interesting stuff, and to make sure that everyone gets into and out of the water okay. They can also set the dive’s recommended or required limits (depth, air consumption, and/or time).

It is not their job to monitor you underwater or to make sure that you’re diving safely. Ideally, you should stick to the briefing in terms of depth, where it is safe to go, and so on, but if you don’t, it certainly isn’t the dive guide’s fault.

The dive guide is responsible for making sure *the dive* is safe. You are responsible for making sure *you* are safe on the dive.



There goes Eton...

You are in charge of your safety

As a certified diver, you should be able to plan and conduct your own dives, with a buddy, in conditions within the limits of your certification.

Safety Corner Cont.

A dive guide can help you get the most out of your dives in an unfamiliar location and avoid obvious risks. But ultimately, you are in charge of your own dive from start to finish. You must determine your own fitness to dive on any given day and decide if you're comfortable with the dive conditions and location. Your safety underwater is ultimately your own responsibility, including checking your equipment, even if you've rented it. The dive shop must maintain and the equipment and have it inspected, but you have a responsibility to double-check and to assemble and use it correctly. If you receive faulty gear or you don't know how to operate it, you must let the dive guide know.



Maintain awareness

Approach even guided dives like independent dives. Pay attention to the dive guide's information follow the guide if you choose — they often know the site's highlights —but mentally prepare for the dive as if you were on your own. Know your exit points, make emergency plans and note where you are navigationally as you dive, keeping the dive plan in mind. That way, if something goes wrong, you can complete or end the dive on your own and return safely to the surface with your buddy.

The real risk of the follow-the-leader mentality is troublesome, not just because it can lead to frivolous lawsuits, but also because it, in itself, can cause dangerous situations. A diver who is absentmindedly following a guide and not



Some kind of Crab?

paying attention, expecting the guide to do that for them, can be in trouble if they have a sudden equipment problem or if they become separated from the rest of the group.

By understanding the division of responsibility between you and the dive guide, you will have come a long way toward keeping yourself safe underwater. And you will take major steps toward becoming a truly independent diver, able to plan and conduct dives that match your certification, as well as your experience and comfort levels.

Stay safe. 🚩



From The Secretary

By Kris Harn



General Meeting

A general membership meeting was held on 2-13-18 at the Hilton Garden Inn. 13 people were in attendance. Presentation was a DVD of Palau 2011.

Board Meeting

A board meeting was held on 2-27-18 at the Beaumont Branch Public Library. Reviewed reports, trips, new and unfinished business. In process of locating a new regular meeting location. 🚩



Dive Committee Members

Steve Gahafer – Chairman	229-9408
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
John Geddes	608-0682

If you would like to be on the Dive Committee, contact Steve Gahafer, 229-9408

Webmaster's Report

By Alex Fassas



With Spring just around the corner it is the season for Spring Cleaning. I have been going through our existing club website and removing links to dead content and fixing some pages. Also in the background, I am working on a renewed website, with easier access to content and room for comments and trip reviews.

If you have specific pages of our website bookmarked, please note that the URL may have changed. You will always be able to navigate to those same pages by starting from the homepage at <http://bluegrassdiveclub.com> and using the menus and links.

If you need to add, delete or make changes to your email address of record with the club, send an email to webmaster@bluegrassdiveclub.com.

If you have additional family members that would like to be on our mailing list, you can include them too. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2018 Calendar

March

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

April

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
24, Tuesday Board Meeting



May

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

June

10-23, Africa
12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
26, Tuesday Board Meeting



July

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
31, Tuesday Board Meeting

August

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
28, Tuesday Board Meeting



September

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
25, Tuesday Board Meeting



October

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
30, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

December

TBA, Saturday Club Christmas Party