



UNDERCURRENTS

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

May 2015

Volume 45, Number 5

May's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 12th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program:

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



By the time our May newsletter is available, we will have already met for the Derby Party. And we want to send a HUGE Thank You to Mike and Sherry McCann for hosting the party this year. It is always so much fun and we appreciate all that they do for the club.

The Dive Trip Committee will be meeting soon to plan some future trips. If you have trip ideas or suggestions, please email Doug Geddes or a member of the Dive Committee with the location information. We value your desires to see new places and we want to hear from you. Watch your inbox for details coming soon! Don't forget to check the website for our scheduled trips.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 12th and it is a Swap Shop. Bring your scuba gear and accessories to sell or swap. Maybe that wet suit has gotten a little too snug! Everyone is welcome. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By Bart Bertetto



Hi everyone. Sorry the newsletter is a little late. Had to get the garden in ya know. Pictures this issue from our Derby Party at the McCanns. Great food and a fine time had by all. There was some cash flying around. At the end I've attached a couple of photos of the silver bar recently discovered underwater off the coast of Africa and thought to be from Captain Kidd's treasure. Wow. 🚩



2015 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
Corrine Mulberry, Vice President	913-0892
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	266-4516
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
Bart Bertetto, Newsletter Editor	502-299-3656



Vice President's Report

By Corrine Mulberry



PROGRAMS:

May 2015 Program

Jamie Clark will be on hand at the May meeting to tell us about the services available through **Jamie Clark Diving (Harrodsburg, KY)**. Thanks to member Bob Tibbetts for telling us about Jamie's operation! I'm looking forward to hearing all about it.

We are also having an old fashioned **dive gear Swap Shop** as part of our May Program. Bring your un-needed dive gear to the May meeting to barter, trade or sell. (P.S. I'm looking for a replacement Octii!)



June 2015 Program

BGDC member Steve Williams will present **Philippine's diving** images and footage at our June meeting. With the BGDC's upcoming Philippine's trip in early 2016, this a great teaser (for those on the fence about signing up) or a great pre-view (for those already signed-up).

If you have diving information that you would like to present at a Club meeting (past or potential dive trip, etc.), I would love to hear from you. Please contact me so that we can put you on the calendar. 913-0892 or mulberryc1@gmail.com

Costa Rica - June 6- 13, 2015

We've got a great group of 12 people going on this trip. If you missed the deadline and want to go to a new location at a great price, give me a holler and we'll see if our vendor can squeeze you in! Contact Trip Leader, Corrine Mulberry, at mulberryc1@gmail.com.



T-Shirt Preview!!!

Dale Hollow - July 18th & 19th, 2015

The Dale Hollow Lake Dive/Eat/Relax/Play trip is "ON" for 2015! We have 5 members signed up so far. Reservation form and trip details are on our webpage. Make your reservations now --- overnight accommodations at the campground, cabin or state park! The BGDC subsidizes this trip which reduces the cost to \$20.00 per person per day to be on the pontoon boat. If you are not familiar with this trip, give me a shout and I'll be glad to fill you in! (mulberryc1@gmail.com) 🚩



Don Williams, Dale Hollow



Hanging out at the lake. Dale Hollow

Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



ROATAN 2015

This trip is sold out and there are no more rooms to be had. We ended up with 24 persons on a trip that was started by 4 people wanting to travel there and put out an interest and now look at it. Way to go Stephanie...

PHILIPPINES 2016

My last mail must have worked. We have gotten a lot of interest in this trip finally. We are looking into air and the prices are under \$1200 at this time for a multi-city trip. The resorts are under \$2500 for both for the total of two weeks. As I have said many times, this is a great diving location with many creatures you will never see anywhere else. Come join us on this one. Check out the website for more info. The more the merrier.

MYSTERY TRIP 2015

No mystery any longer. We will not be looking into another trip unless someone decides they want to go to a different place and we can book it for a small group of you. Let me know if you want to do that. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2015 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 Mike Sullivan



BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Tuesday, March 31, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER COMBS
 - a. Meeting began at 7:35 PM
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA COMBS
- III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
 - a. TREASURER MILLER
 - i. Treasurer's Report was reviewed
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
 - i. 4 new members, Melissa & Jackson Hamilton, Chris Wolf, Emily Reed
 - ii. April program: Dominica
 - iii. May program: Swap Shop
 - iv. June program: Philippines
 - v. July program: Cook-out
 - c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
 - i. Absent
 - d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
 - i. Deferred
 - e. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
 - i. Decompression illness continued article
 - f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
 - i. Article Due Friday
 - g. WEBMASTER McCANN
 - i. Absent
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - TRIP COMMITTEE
 - a. Dominica (Fort Young), February 7 – 14, 2015 GEDDES
 - i. Reimbursements are on their way. Very successful Trip.
 - b. Costa Rica, June 6 – 13, 2015 MULBERRY
 - i. March 1 Full payment due
 - ii. 10 people have signed up
 - c. Dale Hollow, July 18 – 19, 2015 MULBERRY
 - i. 3 people have signed up

- d. Roatan, Honduras, October 3 – 10, 2015 GEDDES
 - i. 18 people signed up
 - ii. Doug will get information to Mike to put it on the website.
- e. Mystery Trip, fall 2015 GEDDES
 - i. Due to the overwhelming participation on the Roatan Trip there will probably not be a "Mystery" Trip
- f. Philippines, January 23 – February 6, 2016 GEDDES
 - i. Sign-ups have been slow for Philippines. We will work to get more advertisement for this trip. The program in June will be the same resorts.

- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Tax Status (501(c)7) McCANN
Deferred
 - b. Membership List Updates MULBERRY
 - i. Remove from list. Corrine will still work with Dan, etc. to try to get the records as accurate as possible.
 - c. Past Years Membership Retention Stats – DATA SULLIVAN
 - i. More to come in the future.
 - d. June Meeting Burgers \$3/plate (@ 6:30 PM) COMBS
 - i. Changed to July due to many absent Board Members for the June meeting.
 - e. Webmaster position McCANN
 - i. We are still looking for someone to take over for Mike in the future with the website.

- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Meeting to discuss membership records MULBERRY
 - i. Corrine will work with Dan to get up to date records.
 - b. Derby Party, Saturday, May 2 COMBS
 - c. Pig Roast COMBS
 - i. We need a location!!
 - d. May Board Meeting, Tuesday, **May 19** COMBS

- VII. ADJOURNMENT

**BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, April 28, 2015
MEETING MINUTES**

- I. CALL TO ORDER COMBS
 - a. Meeting began at 7:36 PM
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA COMBS
- III. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
 - a. TREASURER MILLER
 - i. Treasurer's Report will be emailed tomorrow to Board members.
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
 - i. Corrine is having a difficult time getting the new membership form completed.
 - ii. May program: Swap Shop and Jamie Clark presentation.
 - iii. June program: Philippines by Steve Williams
 - iv. July program: Cookout (\$3 per person)
 - v. August program: Dominica by Doug and Gordon
 - vi. September program: Costa Rica
 - c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
 - i. Deferred
 - d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
 - i. Club members need to complete Trip Waiver / Emergency Contact Sheet before leaving on a Club Trip.
 - e. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
 - f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
 - i. Absent
 - ii. Articles Due Friday
 - g. WEBMASTER McCANN
 - i. Deferred
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - TRIP COMMITTEE
 - a. Philippines, January 23- February 6, 2016 GEDDES
 - i. 3 people have signed-up
 - ii. 1 ½ weeks ago the round-trip airfare to the Philippines was \$1,200
 - b. Costa Rica, June 6 – 13, 2015 MULBERRY
 - i. 12 people have signed-up.
 - ii. T-shirts available soon
 - c. Dale Hollow, July 18 – 19, 2015 MULBERRY

- i. 3 people have signed up
 - ii. Tanks are available for rent by Jamie Clark Diving in Harrodsburg
 - d. Roatan, Honduras, October 3 – 10, 2015 GEDDES
 - i. 23 people have signed-up
 - ii. Doug will get information to Mike to put it on the website.
 - e. Mystery Trip, fall 2015 GEDDES
 - i. Due to the overwhelming participation on the Roatan Trip there will probably not be a "Mystery" Trip
 - ii. Club may consider a Spring trip in late May or early June to either Grenada or a return to Dominica.
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Tax Status (501(c)7) McCANN
 - Deferred
 - b. Membership List Updated MULBERRY
 - i. Remove from list. Corrine will still work with Dan, etc. to try to get the records as accurate as possible.
 - c. Past Years Membership Retention Stats - DATA SULLIVAN
 - i. Multiple family member non-renewal does not correlate to rise and fall of total membership. I think it was due to increase in sign-up for certain trips offered by the Club.
 - d. July Meeting Burgers \$3/plate (@ 6:30 PM) COMBS
 - e. Webmaster position McCANN
 - i. We are still looking for someone to take over for Mike in the future with the website.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Meeting to discuss membership records MULBERRY
 - ii. Corrine will work with Dan to get up to date records.
 - b. Derby Party, Saturday, May 2 COMBS
 - c. Pig Roast COMBS
 - iii. We need a location!!
 - d. May Board Meeting, Tuesday, **May 19** COMBS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT 9:27 PM

**BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 14, 2015**

- I. CALL TO ORDER 7:40 PM
 - a. Everyone was welcomed by Tracey Combs. A reminder that the Club Derby Party will be held May 2nd at Mike and Sherry McCann's. Please bring a dish to share.
- II. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
 - a. TREASURER MILLER
Dan reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of 3/31/15.
 - i. Twelve people have paid for the Costa Rica trip including 3 new members.
 - ii. Final payment is due for Roatan on 7/21/15.
 - iii. Payments for the Philippines are due 6/15, 9/15, and final payment on 11/15.
 - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
 - i. There are four new members; Emily Reed, Chris Wolf, Jackson Hamilton, and Mellisa Hamilton.
 - ii. Corrine reviewed the June, Costa Rica trip.
 - iii. Corrine indicated that 3 people have signed-up for Dale Hollow.
 - iv. The April program is the Dominica trip DVD made by Judy Sullivan.
 - v. The May program is the planned Swap Shop for dive gear.
 - vi. The June program is a Philippines DVD from Steve Williams.
 - vii. The July program is the cookout. Tracey will indicate the time at the next meeting.
 - viii. The door prize drawings were won by Gwen Clancy, John Geddes, and Dan Miller.
 - c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
 - i. The last newsletter had no secretary reports. Let Mike know if anyone is interested and he will email the reports to the person.
 - d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
 - i. Doug Geddes reviewed the Dominica trip and the great time that was had by all members
 1. Costa Rica, June 6 – 13, 2015
 2. Dale Hollow, July 18 – 19, 2015

3. Philippines, January 23 – February 6, 2016
The Philippines page is fully functional on the Club website.
There are currently 3 people signed-up for this trip.
4. There are currently 20 people signed-up for the Roatan trip.
 - ii. A closer look will be made about possible deals for a mystery trip at a later date if a good deal comes along.
- e. WEBMASTER McCANN
 - i. Mike was absent.
- f. NEWSLETTER EDITOR BERTETTO
 - i. Bart was absent.
- g. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
 - i. Rick had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT 8:50 PM 



Safety Corner



By Rick Stephan

Note: *Dive safety can begin in a lot of places: general health, well-maintained gear, dive planning, and so on. But all of this is no good if after you get in the water you can't find your way back to the boat (or shore entry). This month's article is from Scubadiving.com, and is a pretty straight forward review of ways to make sure you don't end up in the Galapagos when you're simply trying to dive in Costa Rica. (Not that any of our BGDC members would get THAT lost!)*

Most of the info here is not new or ground breaking, just some good common sense. Many of us have compasses on our equipment, we just never use them, and haven't since our first dive certification class. Maybe you can play a game with your dive buddies on a checkout dive, come up with a compass course to see who can most accurately plan a dive. Make it fun! Because, as we all know, safe diving is fun!

8 Tips for Better Underwater Navigation

by Eric Douglas



Recently, I was diving with a friend in the [Florida Keys](#). The conditions were good: no current and decent visibility on a shallow reef. He was chasing lobster; I was chasing my camera's viewfinder. We both spent more time on our respective pursuits than on

watching the reef, and eventually we looked at each other and exchanged the sign for "Where's the boat?" hoping the other knew the answer. Neither of us did. We spun around in the water, trying to catch a glimpse of the hull on the surface. Doubt immediately crept into my mind. How far were we going to have to swim? What if we took off in the wrong direction? How would the boat crew find us?

There are many reasons for bettering your underwater navigation skills, but put simply, it makes it possible for you to find your way home. Natural navigation requires you to use the physical contours and characteristics of the dive site to guide your way out and then find your way back, and learning to combine natural navigation with basic compass skills practically ensures you'll never get lost underwater. Here are eight steps for getting to the reef or wreck and back again.

Get briefed

Good navigation starts before you even get in the water. If you and your buddy are diving independently, get a thorough site description — and a map, if possible — from a local dive shop or other divers at the site. If you're on a chartered dive boat, pay close attention to the divemaster's briefing. He or she can impart valuable information about the site's features, depth range and currents so you and your buddy can create a dive plan. Discuss your profile and the time or air pressure at which you'll turn around, and decide on a basic route.

Follow the leader

One diver should take the lead before you even get in the water. It isn't practical for both divers in a buddy pair to attempt to navigate on a dive. If you're leading, concentrate on the planned path. Your buddy should monitor time, depth and distance.

Start at the beginning

If diving from a boat, enter the water and either surface swim to the mooring or anchor line and descend there, or drop down behind the boat and swim underwater to the mooring or anchor. Always start your dive at the point where the boat connects to the bottom. When diving from the beach, surface swim past the waves to where you plan to make your descent.

Whether diving from the beach or the boat, natural navigation starts as soon as your head goes under the water. "Upon descent make a good note of natural references like sand patches, rock formations, pillar corals, brain corals or whatever," advises Andy Phillips, training director for the [Utila Dive Centre](#) in Honduras. If you make mental notes of features you can remember, you can use those physical markers to find your way back.

Watch the clock

Swim away from your starting point for a predetermined length of time, and then turn around and swim roughly the same length of time back the opposite direction. If there's current, head into it on the way out — in this case, the return trip won't take quite as long. Watch your air consumption as well. It's a good idea to follow the rule of thirds: Use one-third of your air on the way out, one-third on the way back and leave one-third for exploring near the boat and making a safety stop.

Pay attention

Make note of the unique features or characteristics of the dive site that can make navigating as simple as a walk in the park. For example:

Pick a Path. The best navigational marker is a dedicated line you can follow like a hiking trail. At many sites this may be a sand channel or the edge of the reef where it meets the sand. Another easy path to follow is a specific depth contour on a sloped reef or wall. For example, you and your buddy can plan to descend along a sloped reef to 60 feet, then turn, swimming with the reef on your right and maintaining a constant 60-foot depth. To find your way back, turn 180 degrees so the reef is on your left and continue at the same depth.

Look for Landmarks. On many dive sites, you'll find distinct coral formations, objects or differences in the bottom's contour. Keep an eye out for anything that stands out, and make note of the depth. You may pass a swim-through at 70 feet, an anchor on the seafloor at 90 feet or a sand channel at 40 feet that runs perpendicular to shore. Use these landmarks to guide you on the way back.

Follow the Light. "Check the sunlight angle at the start of your dive and try to confirm this when you begin your descent," Phillips says. If you head into the sun at the beginning of the dive, you should have the sun at your back when you turn around. And if you're diving off a big boat, look for the boat's shadow on the seafloor when you think you're getting close.

Watch the Water. How the water moves can tell you a lot about the general direction you should go. Close to shore, the constant back-and-forth motion you feel as waves pass overhead is called surge. The wave push headed toward the beach is always going to be stronger than the return surge. This will always give you the general direction of the beach. Constant wave action also creates ripples on the sand bottom that run parallel to the shoreline.

Check Your Compass

"In tropical waters, even though it's clear, the ease of seeing what's around can often lull you into a false sense of security," Phillips says. "You can lose reference easily and get distracted. I've known many low-vis divers who've had difficulty adapting to tropical-water navigation. They think they can drop the compass and autopilot back to the boat."

As you swim, line up the long line on your compass, called the lubber line, with your body and the direction you want to swim. Proper positioning is very important. Hold the compass with two hands in front of your body. Using one hand often allows the lubber line to drift off course, and so will you. You'll also need to keep the compass flat so the wheel inside can spin freely.

"While swimming, periodically wiggle the compass to make sure it's level," explains Larry Klinehoffer, a [PADI](#) course director in Guam. "Do not fixate on the compass, but instead look over and beyond the compass with frequent glances to make sure you don't drift off course." When taking a heading, rotate the bezel on top of the compass until the hatch marks meet the North arrow. As long as you keep the compass flat and the North arrow between those marks, you should swim straight. To reverse course, simply turn

around until the North arrow points toward the marks on the other side of the bezel.

Go slow

Not only will you pay more attention to where you're going, you'll stay closer to the boat or shore, further reducing your chances of getting lost. Honestly, the reef is pretty much the same whether you're at the boat or 300 yards away, so there's little reason to go a long distance, and a relaxed attitude will not only help you conserve air, but you'll be surprised by how much more you see.

Take a peek

At a relatively shallow site, you can always make a normal ascent to the surface and find the boat. If you know you're lost, this is much better than swimming off in a random direction you think will lead you back. When you do come up away from the boat — and we all do it at some point — listen carefully for boat engines and avoid surfacing if you think a boat is passing nearby. Once on the surface, turn 360 degrees until you see your boat, then give the crew a big two-arm OK, so they know you're not in trouble.

Like every other skill in diving, practice will make you a first-rate navigator, which will open you up to a wider variety of diving possibilities. "We have a couple of very good dive locations that are 200 to 400 yards offshore, but can only be safely dived by navigating underwater because they are in areas with excessive boat traffic," Klinehoffer says. And a great way to learn these skills is by taking a navigation class, which provides hands-on training, both on the surface and underwater, and allows you to practice with an experienced navigator (your instructor) and with similarly motivated dive buddies (your classmates).

Remember, safe diving is fun!





Silver Bar from Captain Kidd's Treasure?

Bluegrass Dive Club 2015 Calendar

May

- 2, Saturday Club's Derby Party
- 12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 19, Tuesday Board Meeting

June

- 6-13, Costa Rica Dive Trip
- 9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 30, Tuesday Board Meeting

July

- 14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 18-19, Saturday Dale Hollow
- 28, Tuesday Board Meeting

August

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

September

- 8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 29, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

- 13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 27, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

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

December

- 12, Saturday Club Christmas Party

Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	885-2215
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Gordon Green	C@Meeting
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926
Corrine Mulberry	913-0892