



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

February 2016

Volume 46, Number 02

## February Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, February 9th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** White Shark Cage Diving

## President's Message

*By Tracey Combs*



Happy Valentine's Day. Hopefully our cold winter days are coming to an end and more diving is in everyone's future.

We welcome back the group from the Philippines. Their trip pictures were AMAZING and I can't wait to hear the stories.

We have several upcoming trips that look fabulous on the schedule. Sign up on our Future Trips page and join us for diving and fun in the sun. March: Bonaire, June: St. Lucia, November: Grand Cayman.

I hope to see everyone at our regular meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Racquet Club. If you have ideas regarding future trips or want to share information regarding one of your past trips, please contact Doug Geddes or a member of the Dive Committee.

Everyone is welcome! 🚩



## The Editor's Notes

*By Bart Bertetto*



Hi everyone. We are off to a great year of diving and I've been following the illustrious exploits of our team in the Philippines. Doug gives us a brief report following. My wife Sandra downloaded a few of their pics off of FB for this issue. Can't wait to see the full movie at an upcoming meeting. Cheers 🚩

## 016 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	621-3178
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
Bart Bertetto, Newsletter Editor	502-299-3656



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## Vice President's Report

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*By Corrine Mulberry*



**Program:** Three BGDC members - Noel Hall, Jimmy Hollander & Dan Miller - went on an adventurous great white shark diving trip in the Pacific last year. While some of you saw the fabulous pics on Facebook, Noel Hall has put together a great collection of photos and video for us. This was an amazing trip!! Come to the meeting and hear about their encounters with these awesome creatures.

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 [mulberry1@gmail.com](mailto:mulberry1@gmail.com)

**New Members:** Thank you **Mark & Lisa Witt** for sharing more information about yourselves so we can get to know you better and introduce you to other members. Mark is a healthcare provider and, in addition to diving, enjoys playing didgeridoo, hiking and honing nature and native skills. He and Lisa have a parrot named Fred and says he never knew they could love a bird so much! (Edd & Gwen – you guys will have a lot to talk about!) In addition, apparently, while Lisa doesn't drive and Mark can't spit a watermelon seed very far, Mark can circular breath (he says it's a didge thing!) (Hmmm...we'll have to follow-up on that one! ha). Diving stuff: Mark likes diving Maui when the hump backs are migrating – "diving and hearing the songs of these ocean canaries is a thrill.". Mark is advanced open water certified and has been diving since 1989. Welcome (again!)

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## Trip Director's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### BONAIRE 2016

This trip is about ready to take off here in the next month. I believe resort still has rooms, but the air is either sold out or very expensive. With that said, you need to double check both before making final booking. Check with Dan for room availability. If there is space, then you can book your air if you find a decent price. Almost getting to be too late for this one.

### ST. LUCIA 2016

This trip is starting to get some reservations and looks like a great trip to jump on. Dates are June 11 – 18, 2016 and will be here before you know it. Please fill out the reservation form so we know that you are going. Have heard from several people they are going, but no reservation, including mine. This will be a great dive and land destination, so don't miss it.

### EAST END CAYMAN 2016

No reservations on this one yet, but I know of a group of people that will be signing up. This will be another great trip to the same resort we have used the last couple of times. Check out the website for this and the other trips.

### PHILIPPINES REPORT

This trip turned out to be another awesome trip to the two locations we went to four years ago. With the unknown of the travel times known this time around, it made the trip a little easier. No the length of travel was the same, but we knew what to expect this time around and where not upset with them. Even found a way to pre-pay our overweight luggage in advance to save lots of money on our way between resorts. Diving was awesome with lots of great critters to see. Viz was a little on the bad side

and the water was a little colder, but I think everyone enjoyed it anyway. Hard to find these critters in the Caribbean. I am sure there will be a program soon on the diving from Noel or others. 🚩



*Nudibranch Plume (lungs)*



*Pigmy Seahorse – wow*



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## From the Treasurer

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By Dan Miller



### 2016 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](#). 🚩



Frog Fish

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## From The Secretary

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By Mike Sullivan



### General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 12, 2016

- I. CALL TO ORDER 7:34 PM
  - a. There are 15 members present.
- II. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS REPORTS:
  - a. TREASURER MILLER
    - i. Dan reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of 11/30/15 and 12/31/15.
    - ii. The Roatan trip will be closed-out on the January Treasurer's Report.
  - b. VICE PRESIDENT MULBERRY
    - i. We have six new members; Rob Foster, Amy Katz, Sandi Graham, Kelly Woodard, Lisa, and Mark Witt.
  - c. SECRETARY SULLIVAN
    - i. No Comments.
  - d. TRIP DIRECTOR GEDDES
    - i. The Philippines trip currently has 10 people leaving next week.
    - ii. Currently, the Bonaire trip airfare is expensive and anyone going should wait for fares to go down before purchasing.
    - iii. There is no activity on any of the other planned trips.
  - e. WEBMASTER McCANN
    - i. No comments
  - f. NEWSLETTER ED. BERTETTO
    - i. Absent.

- g. SAFETY INFORMATION DIRECTOR STEPHAN
  - i. Article this month is on diver safety in the water.
- h. PRESIDENT COMBS
  - i. The Derby party this spring will be at Doug Geddes' house.
  - ii. The Pig Roast this summer will be at the McCann's house.
  - iii. Door prizes were won by Mike Cobb and Doug Geddes.
  - iv. A DVD on a white shark dive in South Africa was shown by Mike McCann.

ADJOURNMENT 8:23 PM

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

No meeting in January 🚩



Rick



Gordon

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## Safety Corner

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*By Rick Stephan*



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

**Note:** *This month's article is the completion from forscubadivers.com about some potential problems that can happen underwater and what to do about them. I hope they make sense to you and that you never have to use them!*

*To be safe, be prepared. And remember, safe diving is fun!*

### Most Challenging Emergency Scenarios For Scuba Divers (part 2)

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#### **Separated Mouthpiece**

You turn your head to look at a passing angelfish, and suddenly you're sucking a slug of water. What the... ?

**Risk Factor:** The risk factors for a separated mouthpiece scenario include inhalation of water, choking and the inability to breathe. Any of these can cause stress and lead to panic, rapid ascents, decompression illness and pressure-related injuries.

**Likely Causes:** The problem of a separated mouthpiece comes as the result of neglected maintenance and a poor pre-dive equipment check. A missing fastener or failure of the mouthpiece material can cause the mouthpiece to separate from the regulator.

**Avoidance:** The best way to prevent a separated mouthpiece is to inspect your regulator carefully and thoroughly before every dive, and replace worn mouthpieces and missing ties.

**Dealing With It:** The best way to deal with a separated mouthpiece is to immediately switch

to your safe second. If your lungs are empty and you can't purge the regulator by exhaling, use the purge button. If switching to your alternate air means you no longer have a backup regulator, terminate the dive.

### **Blown Deco Stop**

You get to the surface after a dive, and then realize that you were supposed to stop to decompress. Drat! What to do next?

**Risk Factor:** Missing a required decompression stop puts you at significant risk of DCI.

**Likely Causes:** Blown deco stops sometimes occur when a diver becomes distracted, or suffers from an equipment problem or failure that requires or leads to an immediate ascent to the surface. They can also be caused by problems such as entanglements that occur as a diver nears the end of the dive, and as air supplies run low.

**Avoidance:** Several strategies can be used to help avoid blown deco stops. First and foremost, be sure to monitor your dive carefully. Consider the environment carefully, and plan your dive so that you have plenty of reserve air and time to deal with problems that can crop up at the end of the dive. Finally, give your equipment a thorough pre-dive check to ensure there are no maintenance "loose ends" that could cause the dive to "come undone."

**Dealing With It:** The general rule for missing a required decompression stop is to begin the use of breathing oxygen and seek medical attention. Avoid the temptation to simply switch gear and return underwater to complete the missing deco stop, as further medical complications can develop that could require the assistance of personnel on the surface.

### **Can't Find the Dive Boat**

You surface after a dive expecting to board the boat, but wait a minute! Where is it?

**Risk Factor:** Among the risks inherent in being separated from the dive boat are those of being left behind, exposure and dehydration.

**Likely Causes:** Among the reasons that divers find themselves separated from the dive boat are navigational problems, poor visibility, currents, distractions and separation from a buddy or dive group.

**Avoidance:** Among the keys to avoiding the problem of being left behind are careful pre-dive planning and solid underwater navigational skills. In addition, divers should carry a variety of surface signaling devices and tools to draw attention to their location in the event that they do become separated from the boat. Such equipment should include as a minimum a surface marker buoy (SMB) or "safety sausage," signaling mirror, whistle or air horn, a dive light and strobe. Yet another strategy to avoid being left behind is to make certain that another buddy pair will check for you before the boat leaves the dive site. Also, make certain that someone on shore knows where you are going (name of the boat), when you should return, and whom to contact in the event that you don't return as scheduled.

**Dealing With It:** If you do become separated from the dive boat and are left behind, use every means available to signal other boats or passing aircraft. If you're near shore, you may improve your chances of survival by getting to land. Otherwise, stay cool and wait it out until help arrives.

### **Unfamiliar Buddy**

At the last minute, your buddy decides not to make the dive, and you're stuck diving with a stranger.

**Risk Factor:** Any time we dive with an unfamiliar buddy, we run the risk of not working well together as a team. Especially if an abnormal situation develops, unfamiliar buddies may be less likely to resolve the situation effectively and safely as compared with dive buddies who dive together regularly.

**Likely Causes:** Despite the commonalities among different certification agencies and instructors, not all divers follow the same buddy procedures or communication protocols. Divers vary in how close they stay to one another, the roles they assume in the buddy system and how frequently they communicate with one another during a dive. And that's just for starters. Teaming with an unfamiliar diver not only requires a sorting out of these basic buddy issues, but also demands familiarization with each other's equipment.

**Avoidance:** When possible, dive with a familiar buddy, but if that isn't possible, take the steps needed to come to review the buddy procedures and check over each other's equipment.

**Dealing With It:** If you find that you're incompatible with another diver, ask the divemaster or other person in charge to change buddies, or join up with another diver or buddy pair on your own.

### **Lost Buddy**

You're cruising the reef and turn to get your buddy's attention, but he isn't there!

**Risk Factor:** A lost buddy means the complete breakdown of the buddy system, and it puts both divers at risk for any number of situations including out-of-air, entanglement and other equipment problems.

**Likely Causes:** A lost buddy situation is more likely to occur when divers don't have clearly established roles and buddy system procedures. Low visibility, currents, equipment problems, distraction and differing dive objectives can also result in separated buddies.

**Avoidance:** The best way to avoid buddy separation is to adopt good buddy procedures and stick with them. Be certain to review the buddy system protocol with any new or unfamiliar buddy, just to make certain you're on the same page. This includes deciding where and how to join up after entering the water, and how the safety stop and final ascent will be managed.

**Dealing With It:** If you do become separated from your buddy, don't sweat it. While there are variations in the standard procedure for a lost buddy, consider the following. First use an audible signal to attract your buddy's attention, spend no more than one minute completing a 360-degree turn (in case he's right behind you) and then make a controlled ascent to the surface to find him.

### **Unfamiliar Equipment**

At the last minute, you find that a piece of your equipment is malfunctioning, so you quickly switch to rented or borrowed dive gear.

**Risk Factor:** The major risk factor in the use of unfamiliar equipment is being unable to cope with an abnormal or emergency situation that occurs during a dive.

**Likely Causes:** The primary causes that lead divers to use unfamiliar equipment is a loss or failure of their dive equipment, and then not taking the time to familiarize themselves with the rented or borrowed equipment prior to diving.

**Avoidance:** Before heading out on a dive trip, sort through all your dive equipment and make certain that everything is in good working order. Pack your dive equipment carefully.

**Dealing With It:** If you do end up using new or unfamiliar equipment while on a dive trip, take the time to thoroughly familiarize yourself with that equipment before diving. Run through a full function check in shallow water to make certain everything is working properly before heading to the depths. Also, make certain your buddy is familiar with your gear, especially your "safe second," BC operation and emergency weight release functions.

### **Jammed Reel**

You send up a marker buoy to let the dive boat know you're making a lengthy safety stop, when suddenly the reel jams, and you head for the surface like a hooked mackerel!

**Risk Factor:** Sometimes divers use a reel in conjunction with a surface marker buoy or safety sausage. The primary risk is being yanked or pulled to the surface if the reel jams during deployment of the buoyant device. Divers who make a rapid or uncontrolled ascent also face risk factors for DCI and AGE.

**Likely Causes:** The cause of rapid ascents associated with the use of line reels are primarily due to improper techniques and procedures. These include having the device clipped to themselves during deployment and gripping the reel too tightly.

**Avoidance:** The best bet is to get professional instruction before using a line reel to deploy a buoy or other buoyant device. In addition, a few simple rules apply: Never clip the reel to yourself during deployment, deploy slowly and downcurrent to avoid entanglements and make certain your buoyancy is properly set before

deployment. If possible, anchor yourself while deploying a buoyant device with a line reel.

**Dealing With It:** If you do find yourself on the business end of a runaway reel, dump all air from your BC and flare your body to slow the ascent. If possible, cut the line free and let the buoyant device surface without you. If that isn't possible, follow the procedures for a blown deco stop if that scenario applies.

### **Entanglement or Entrapment**

Swimming around a wreck, you decide to just swim in a short distance to get a better look, when suddenly you find you're tangled up and stuck!

**Risk Factor:** The primary risk in any underwater entanglement or entrapment scenario is running out of air. That is why it is so important to be prepared, to dive with a good buddy and to avoid situations that could lead to entrapment or entanglement.

**Likely Causes:** Entrapment scenarios often occur when divers choose to continue diving in an environment for which they are untrained and improperly equipped. Examples include divers who enter wrecks, caverns and caves without proper safety equipment and training. Such environments are extremely hazardous to the untrained diver. Entanglements can occur also on wrecks where fishing nets and lines may become caught and abandoned, and in areas of strong currents.

**Avoidance:** Common sense goes a long way in avoiding entanglement/entrapment problems. Never dive a wreck or other overhead environment without the proper training and equipment. Approach wrecks, caves, caverns, fast-moving water and other entanglement/entrapment hazards with extreme caution.

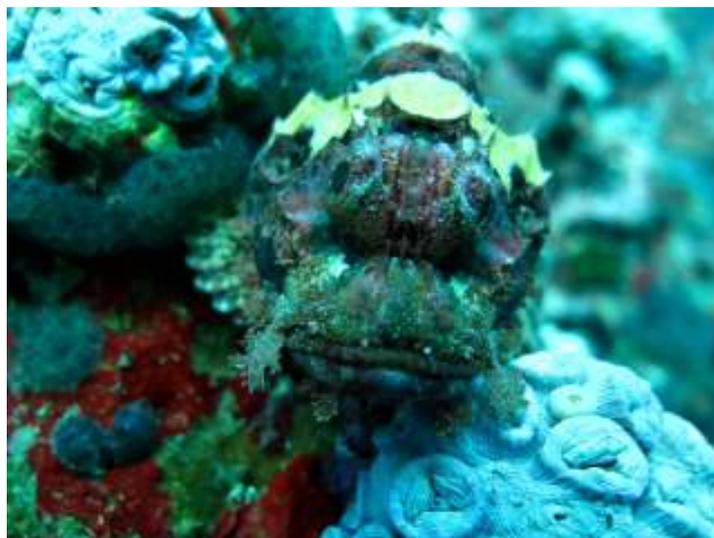
**Dealing With It:** Make all efforts to draw attention to your situation. Bang on your cylinder with a metallic device such as a knife to draw attention, or use an underwater horn or rattle. Remain calm and conserve your air as long as possible. If you become entangled use a safety sausage or SMB to signal for help if possible. If your remaining air supply is depleted and you cannot extricate your equipment from entanglement, as a last resort you may need to consider ditching your gear

and making an emergency swimming ascent to the surface.

Many divers go their whole career without a serious complication or emergency, but it's always important to be prepared. This is why advanced and specialty training is so valuable. By continuing our scuba education and remaining mindful of the worst-case scenarios in our diving, we can be ready to cope with whatever comes our way. 🚩



*Terri's ride*



*Scorpion Fish*

# Bluegrass Dive Club 2016 Calendar

- January 10            Board Budget Meeting
- January 12            General Meeting
- January 26            Board Meeting
- **Jan 23-Feb 6**        **Philippines Trip**
  
- February 9            General Meeting
- February 23           Board Meeting
  
- March 8                General Meeting
- **March 13-20**        **Bonaire Trip**
- March 29              Board Meeting
  
- April 12                Board Meeting
- April 26                Board Meeting
  
- **May 7**                 **Annual Derby Party**
- May 10                 General Meeting
- May 31                 Board Meeting
  
- June 14                General Meeting
- **June 11-18**        **St. Lucia Trip**
- June 28                Board Meeting
  
- July 12                 General Meeting
- July 26                 Board Meeting
  
- August 9               General Meeting
- **August 13**           **Annual Pig Roast**
- August 30             Board Meeting
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- September 13        General Meeting
- September 27        Board Meeting
  
- October 11            General Meeting
- October 25            Board Meeting
  
- November 8           General Meeting
- **Nov 12-19**          **Grand Cayman Trip**
- November 29         Board Meeting

## Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	621-3178
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



*Turtle with Remora buddies*



*Nudibranch*