



UNDERCURRENTS

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

August 2018

Volume 48, Number 8

August Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 14th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: **Urban Squirrel Storage**
203 Lisle Industrial Ave

Program: Africa trip by Rick

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



A special Thank You to Mike and Sherry McCann for hosting the BGDC Pig Roast again this year. I appreciate that you open your home to this group for food, fun, and friendly competition.

There are a few Board Members that will not be returning next year to serve. If you have interest in becoming a board member or if you want more information, contact Mike Sullivan.

I am looking forward to our future trips! Check out the website for details on the Barbados and Little Cayman trips. Remember, if you have any trip ideas or suggestions to please contact someone on the dive trip committee or Steve Gahafer. If you have been somewhere wonderful or have a location on your bucket list, please feel free to share. Contact Mike Sullivan if you would like to present a video on your trip at the general meeting.

Our next general meeting is Tuesday, August 14 at the Urban Squirrel. You do not have to be a member to attend. Details are on the website. I hope to see you there! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



The pics this month are from Doug Geddes from where else but Roatan. This is from a wreck dive called Mr Bud. 🚩

Pig Roast

**Mark that Date down!!! Aug 11th
Suuuuuuu-Eeeeeeeeeeee !!!**

Time for our pig roast again. Go to the Website for the details.

http://bluegrassdiveclub.com/Pig_Roast_2018.htm

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



The door prizes were won by Doug Geddes, Jason's Deli Card; Bart Bertetto, Chick-Fil-A card.

Rick Stephan and Noel Hall have both volunteered to provide a DVD on the Club, Africa Trip this month. 🚩



From The Secretary

By Kris Harn



7/10/18
General Membership Meeting

A general membership meeting was held on 7/10/18 at the Urban Squirrel. 16 people were in attendance. Presentation was DVD of land based St Vincent's.

7/31/18
Board of Directors Meeting

A board of directors meeting was held on 7/31/18 at the Beaumont Branch Public Library. Reviewed reports, trips new and unfinished business. 🚩

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](#). 🚩



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

Trip Director's Report

By Steve Gahafer



Little Cayman



We have already received some trip reservations so get yours in before it fills up. This should be a great trip with valet diving at your service. If you have never been to Little Cayman now is your chance to go. The dates are May 25th – June 1st. You can find out more about this trip on the web site at [Little Cayman 2019](#). If you have any questions please email me.

Barbados



As promised in last month's newsletter we now have another trip approved by the Board and should be up on the website soon. We will be going to Barbados next year February

16th - 23rd. Barbados is a great place to visit and not just for the diving. There is plenty to do for non-divers on this trip too.

Here is a link of a few touristy [things to do](#) while not diving. This trip should be up on the web site soon.



Future Trips

The Dive Committee is always open to suggestions if anyone has an idea of a place they would like to go diving.

Currently we are looking at a couple of liveaboards to the Maldives, Indonesia or a land-based trip to Papua New Genia. for next Fall or earlier 2020. These trips are in the earlier stages. You will be getting a survey soon about them. Please respond back the survey even if you have no plans to go on these trips. 🚩



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *This month's article comes from an interesting source, NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations. The author, unnamed by the way, gives a lessons learned as an experienced diver. Most of the BGDC membership is pretty experienced too, but we sometimes feel like we've done this so often that we KNOW things are ok. We also have lots of toys – cameras, propulsion devices, etc., that we have to get ready prior to the dive entry. So, with all the preparation and putting the parts together, we might not be listening to the dive briefing. We might assume that the tank doesn't need analyzing, since they've been about the same all week.*

Well, read on through this article, and you might want to change your preparation process. This dive worked out well for the author, but he also did one thing that we don't seem to do too much – have an identified dive buddy that he stayed close to. If he, a professional with 35 years of diving experience, can learn something, hopefully we can too, since of course



Remember, safe diving is fun!

A Personal Account: Out of Air Incident

Background

I have been an active diver for 35 years and a NOAA diver for the last nine. During my diving career I have witnessed and responded to multiple diving accidents from near drowning to hypothermia to DCS to stingray stings. Through all of this, I have learned that the number of dives you've

made or years of experience you have has nothing to do with safe diving. Getting behind, being rushed, but thinking, "it will be ok, I'm a safe diver" doesn't make you a safe diver. I was reminded to follow all safety protocols every time and be aware that diving by itself is stressful enough and only gets more stressful with extra task loading. When we allow other stressors to distract us, valuable attention goes to things that will not save our lives in an emergency or better yet, help us to avoid emergencies altogether.

Incident Narrative

I was participating in a multi-day mission that was focused on a coral spawning event. My job within that mission was to capture the coral spawning event on video, as well as interview the researchers and divers who were there to observe the event. The events described below occurred on the second day of the multiple day mission.

Dive ops began at 12:30pm on an artificial reef that was an ideal subject for filming the coral spawning event. While busy interviewing divers, I found myself far behind the other divers in my group in my diving preparations. I had not yet analyzed my nitrox or checked the pressure of my tank and still had a lot of gear to prep. After being notified the dive window was closing and that I was very much behind, I was re-teamed with the last dive team as they prepared to enter the water. Knowing I was hurried, I became more preoccupied with a potential camera gear failure than my SCUBA gear. I quickly threw everything together and hastily joined my new team to enter the water.

The beginning of the dive was nominal and seeing the platform from underwater was truly an experience. Most divers were busy shooting video as was I. While I had already made some serious mistakes that would affect the outcome of the dive, I remembered that despite my interest in gathering video, I made a point to stay close to my dive buddy. Approximately twenty minutes into the dive, I noticed an odd sound while taking a breath. I checked my pressure gauge to see I was below 100 PSI. I realized I was using the remaining gas in my tank from my previous

Safety Corner Cont.

dive and it had not been filled by the boat crew as it had been on all the previous dives of the trip. I reached over to my nearby non-NOAA dive buddy and signaled, “out of air / buddy breathe.” My buddy responded immediately with their octopus, we gave each other an “ok” and motioned to head back to the boat. We began a steady, slow, and uneventful egress from the artificial reef and proceeded to our safety stop along the line provided by the boat. The non-NOAA Divemaster joined us to confirm we were all ok, remained with us during the safety stop, and subsequent ascent. After the safety stop, we surfaced and exited the water without further incident.

Incident Discussion

While we are trained not to make a safety stop for such an incident, I was with two other non-NOAA divers and as one of them was providing my air, I decided to complete the stop in order to not confuse or alarm my fellow non-NOAA divers.

As the videographer for this mission I often found myself short on time as I shoot topside and underwater using the same camera. The rig must constantly be refitted for each kind of use. This requires a good amount of time and often creates a ‘time crunch’ when trying to conduct both topside and underwater shooting in very close proximity to each other.

I happened to be filming during the introduction of the cruise, which covered the mission and boat pre-dive briefing. Unfortunately, my attention was dedicated elsewhere (sound levels, focus, light, composition, etc.). I missed relevant information regarding the handling of used tanks after each dive. Additionally, I was the first diver/tank position on the boat and was serviced immediately after each dive. As a courtesy my tank was often refilled while I was still doffing gear. Missing the used-tank procedure (diver removes regulator from

tank valve for refill) I somehow, for the first six dives, did not follow this procedure. I had a false expectation that my tank was always taken care of. As it turned out, a tank with regulator attached, meant the tank was analyzed and ready for diving.

In this one instance my tank was not serviced immediately and I did not remove my regulator. The crew who began filling tanks later on must have understood this to be a full analyzed tank, and left it alone. I however, in my rush made the critical mistake to trust it was refilled. I was told I would miss the dive if I did not hurry and hastily assembled my camera and dive gear not taking the extra time to make sure I followed all safety protocols.

I was informed minutes before the dive that the subject of my video was leaving immediately after this dive. I had anticipated access to the interviewee for several days to come. We hastily completed our only interview just before the dive (making me very late for the dive) and subsequently, I was focused entirely on capturing b-roll of the subject during the dive, which would be my only opportunity. With my focus elsewhere, I was solely focused on getting needed footage and did not follow standard safety protocols.

Lessons Learned

- Never fail to do all safety checks, every time.
- Never trust someone else has taken care of your dive safety gear/ checks.
- Never be so rushed that safety protocols are skipped.
- Create more realistic workloads that do not draw focus away from pre-dive safety checks and safe diving.
- Understand that a dive may have to be missed, and use that time to get caught up if behind. ❏

Bluegrass Dive Club 2018 Calendar



August

- 11, Saturday Pig Roast
- 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