



UNDERCURRENTS

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

July 2019

Volume 50, Number 7

July Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 23
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7

Location: Bronte Bistro
Lexington Green

Program: T/B/A

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



Our last meeting had a great video about the club trip to Truck in 2006.

I wish more of you would attend the meeting you missed a great time of fellowship food and fun.

This meeting we will discuss two more trips for the club consideration one to Bonaire and a Liveaboard trip to Belize or Honduras next year, We would love your input.

Alex will have a report on our trip to the Georgia Aquarium coming up soon.

Kris will have an entertaining program and drawing for some new door prizes.

Come to our meeting at 7: this Tuesday and rekindle old friendships and make some new ones. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



The pics this month are from..... You guess it, Doug and Noel from the land of Roatan. 🚩



2019 BGDC Officer's

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Mark Kidd, President | 221-7104 |
| Kris Harn, Vice President | 333-6911 |
| Kathryn Bowers, Secretary | 619-0166 |
| Dan Miller, Treasurer | 948-5133 |
| Trip Director - Open Position | |
| Bart Bertello, Safety Info Dir. | 502-299-3656 |
| Alex Fassas, Webmaster | 582-1600 |
| John Geddes, Newsletter Editor | 608-0682 |

Vice President's Report

By Kris Harn



I look forward to seeing you all at our July meeting at Bronte Bistro. We will have appetizers/snacks at the meeting,

Door prize will be gift certificate to Joe B's. July program to be announced at meeting.

If you have information on a potential dive trip. We would love to hear from you. Please contact us or come to a meeting and let us know what kind of trip you would like to go on. 🚩



From The Secretary

By Kathryn Bowers



The minutes for your Club's Regular and Board meetings are posted on our website for your review. You can find them here. 🚩

<http://fp.bluegrassdiveclub.com/Meetings.htm>

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



The Club's annual Pig Roast is looking for a host home. While club members Mike and Sherry McCann have graciously hosted the Pig Roast for many years, it appears that we need to find a new host home for the 2019 event which has traditionally been held in August. Please let your club president, Mark Kidd, know if and when you would be able to host this event.



Your Club Board has postponed the August 1-4 trip to Ginnie Springs in Florida and the Georgia Aquarium, due to not enough interest in the springs trip and not enough dive openings for the Georgia Aquarium. Since the Georgia Aquarium is an indoor activity, we will likely plan this for later in the fall. Several have expressed interest in the Georgia Aquarium Rebreather Dive. Whale Sharks, Manta Rays, lots of other fish life, and a dive experience with a rebreather; what's not to like.

The GA Rebreather Dive with Gentle Giants is limited to 4 divers per time slot and is only available on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:15AM. The GA Dive Experience is available on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00AM and 3:00PM. More info on this

Webmaster Cont.

here <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/experience/rebreather-dive-program/> .

The GA Dive With Gentle Giants can accommodate a maximum of 8 divers per time slot. A weekend in Atlanta will be fun. More info on this here,

<https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/experience/journey-with-gentle-giants-dive/> .



The group rate is the Members price shown on the website. A minimum of 4 participants up to the max for each time slot is required, plus advanced payment to qualify for the group rate. Please consider your interest and look for a sign up communication soon.

The Club is working on a Bonaire trip in March of 2020. Look for details in the near future. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2019 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](#). 🚩



Coming up

Papua New Guinea

This trip will be one that people will be talking about for a long time.

We start out at the [Rapopo Plantation Resort](#) September 4th-12th 2019. This part of the trip includes 5 days of 2 tank dives.

On the last day, while letting our equipment get good and dry, we have arranged for a full day tour consisting of some of the local World War II sites. Some of the sites include Mt. Tarvuvur Volcano, Admiral Yamamoto's Bunker, and the Japanese Barge Tunnel.



These are just three of the several sites we will visit.

The second part of the trip is optional and starts at the end of the dive portion of the trip. It is a 5 day/4 night tour September 12th – 16th that include two full days with VIP Passes to the [Goroka Festival](#).

We will also travel to the village of the [Asaro Mudmen](#) to spend the day with them.

The trip page is up on the web site and waiting for people to sign up. We already have four people confirmed with at least two more seriously considering it. We only have 10 confirmed spots. If you are thinking about this trip now is the time to sign.

I would like to thank everyone for all your support and help the past two years I have been on the board. Because of some things that have changed over the past year I am not able to continue on the Board.

The Trip Director spot is still open and really needs to be filled so the club has a person actively looking for new trips. If you would like more information about it please feel free to contact me or another board member.

Again, thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement of the past couple of years.

We are always looking for new places to go so if you have any suggestions, let me know. 🚩



Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertello



I Learned About Diving Safety From That

My mission is to provide you relevant safety information for your use. Each article will focus on a specific safety risk. I will draw from my experience, hopefully yours, and the dive community to highlight real risks that we must be aware of. So, if you see or hear of something that we could all learn from, please pass it to me. There is nothing like first-hand experience to drive a point home. This month's lesson is:

The Buddy Check- Don't Splash Without One

I dove the LaGrange KY quarry, Falling Rock Park, recently with my dive buddy David. It was smoking hot out and we couldn't wait to get in the water. David had picked up the tanks at Louisville Dive and they had spent some time in his car. Sure enough, due to the hot ambient conditions, both our tanks were close to 3300psi. When fitting the tank to my BCD, the bands were snug, but not tight. I thought they were good. On our first dive I dropped down to 35 feet for a while, passing through a couple thermoclines. It was as cold as I could stand. I came up to a much warmer, but still cold, 25 feet where we stayed for probably 45 minutes. Half way through, I felt my tank touch my legs. Darn, my tank had slipped down! Reaching back, I tugged the bottom of my tank and could tell it was slightly loose but still secure. It was an annoying distraction for the rest of the dive. Back on the dock, I confirmed the loose tank. Apparently, the tank had shrunk enough to do this due to the high temperature changes.

Talking with David, he has experienced the same thing at the quarry and now makes sure his tank strap is extra tight. If I had asked him to check my tank before we went in, he would

have told me to make sure it was good and tight because of the temperature changes. Being very comfortable with each other's diving, we had given ourselves just cursory buddy checks before going in.

So I dove with a distraction, which we should strive to never do. The solution: I will make a real buddy check part of my dive ritual.



I found the attached article on buddy checks that is worthwhile reading. See ya down there, Bart

Diving Fundamentals: The Buddy Check

By [Marcus Knight](#)

The buddy check should always be a part of your pre-dive ritual, but many of us skip it entirely or miss key safety aspects. Here's what to watch for on your next, and every, buddy check.

The pre-dive safety check, or buddy check, is a vital part of diving. During a buddy check you'll complete a final inspection of both your equipment and your buddy's to make sure you're both ready to enter the water. The standard PADI pre-dive safety check uses the acronym BWRAF. This stands for BCD/buoyancy, weights, releases, air, and final ok. Following are some of the issues we most commonly see when it comes to buddy checks, and how to address them before getting into the water.

BCD/Buoyancy

Issue: It's easy to overlook that the toggle for the quick-release dump valve on your right shoulder is trapped under a shoulder strap or

Safety Director Cont.

chest release. This can mean that the BCD won't inflate fully. You might also struggle to stay positively buoyant at the surface when you enter the water.

Solution: Your buddy will double-check that your quick releases and toggles are free from entanglement. Equally important, you'll locate your buddy's low-pressure inflator (LPI) hose and see how it works. Each manufacturer has a slightly different configuration, and you need to know how to help them in a hurry.

Weights

Issue: Many people simply double-check that their own weights are in place and secure. In an emergency, or simply when helping your buddy back onto a boat after a dive, this can leave either of you unfamiliar with how to help the other diver release their weights.

Solution: Modern BCD and weight systems come in all shapes and sizes. There are belts, integrated pockets, harnesses, trim weights and ankle weights, to name just a few. During the pre-dive check, be sure you both know how to release each other's weights. Show your buddy where your weights are and how to release them, and find out the same for your buddy's set-up.



Releases

Issue: A loose cylinder or tank band can be potentially hazardous, as well as embarrassing. On check dives it's common to see divers with loose cylinders as they return to the boat or shore.

Solution: When you first arrive at the resort or on the boat, and while your BCD is bone-dry, soak or moisten the band/release in some water. This relaxes and expands the webbing to its maximum size before you strap in a tank. During your buddy check, stand up and ask your buddy to give your cylinder a firm tug to make sure it's snug.



Air

Issue: Checking your SPG, but not the cylinder and the regulator(s) can be an issue. Many divers take a quick glance at their SPG, determine that they've got appropriate tank pressure, and call it a day. Don't forget to make sure the cylinder valve is fully open. Take a few normal breaths from both the primary regulator and alternate air-source. It's important to make sure the gas smells and tastes okay. A cylinder that has been closed may still read full if the system hasn't been purged of pressure. This can mean a partially opened tank still shows full, and you don't want to discover that underwater.

Solution: Before you put on your scuba unit, reach to the rear of the tank and make sure the valve is fully open (with potentially a mini-turn back), rather than fully closed with a half-turn open. Breathe from your primary regulator while looking at your SPG. Let your buddy try your alternative air source (or try it yourself). Show them how and where it's clipped onto your BCD. Be sure the needle stays steady, and don't assume the boat crew has opened your tank.

Final Okay

Issue: The final okay is your confirmation to the dive group and leader that you're ready to dive. Missing accessories and gadgets are a problem in the modern diving world. Don't be

Safety Director Cont.

the person who arrives on the dive deck and then — as the skipper brings the boat into position and with seconds to spare — discovers that you've left your dive computer in the cabin. Or that you're not set for the correct nitrox mix. Or you've not clipped on your camera correctly. Maybe you're missing your reel and SMB. You get the idea.



Solution: When you first arrive on the dive deck, double-check that you have everything you need before gearing up. Make sure your computer is working, and set for the right gas. Make sure your camera is ready, and that your mask is de-fogged, prepared and in place. Ensure that you've got all your accessories and that nothing is twisted or tangled.

Next time you dive, don't skip that buddy check. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as they say. By following these simple steps upfront, you and your entire dive group will have a safer, more relaxed dive. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2019 Calendar

July

9, Tuesday Board Meeting
23, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

August

13, Tuesday Board Meeting
27, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
First person to tell me gets a drink...



September

10, Tuesday Board Meeting
24, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

October

8, Tuesday Board Meeting
22, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

November

12, Tuesday Board Meeting
26, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

December

TBA, Saturday Club Christmas Part