



UNDERCURRENTS

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

July 2020

Volume 50, Number 7

July's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 28th
Time: 8:00 PM (business)
Social at 7:30

Location: Denham Home
(See Articles)

Program: DVD on Atlanta Aquarium

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



To say 2020 has been a crazy year is definitely an understatement!

This week I struggled to find that silver lining that is hidden in every dark storm cloud. I finally eliminated the bad things in the life of those tragically infected by the Covid-19. The High school seniors that missed one of the true coming of age events, graduation.

The quarantine defined togetherness for those who were fortunate enough to have someone to stay at home with. In diving I feel for the small businesses that depend on a steady flow of clients visiting the resorts.

The silver lining to all this is the re-building of dive sites that will have had almost a year

without coral damage from careless divers to rebuild delicate marine organisms. Small critters have had some peace and quiet without divers like me that blind them with flashing of our strobes.

When we venture back to those resorts, dive boats will feature improvements such as new paint and tank racks. The shops will also be fresh with improvements from new filters on compressors to better lockers to store your gear.

We will have our July General Meeting the last Tuesday of the Month, July 28, at Charlie Denham's home. Charlie and Helen have 3 acres in Spindletop Estates, 1695 Adios Drive. The BGDC Board had our meeting there and we were able to maintain social distancing on his giant patio shaded by huge trees.

Our program will consist of venting some ideas for upcoming dive trips and a program on our club experience at the Atlanta Aquarium diving with the whale sharks. There is an incredible video with our members in the water with the whale sharks.

See you soon at our next meeting! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



Lots of article to read and pics are from Bonaire by Kathryn. 🚩

Vice President's Report

By Kris Harn



I look forward to seeing you all at our July 28 meeting at Charlie & Helen Denham's. The address is 1695 Adios Dr. Lexington Kentucky 40511. Spindletop Estates.

If you have information on a potential dive trip (lots of dive sites here in Kentucky!). 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



Bonaire

What seems like a lifetime ago (but in truth was only 4 months) eight members of the club descended on Captain Don's Habitat on the beautiful Island of Bonaire.

Bonaire is part of the Caribbean Netherlands, an island of the Leeward Antilles, off the coast of Venezuela. Islands of the Caribbean Netherlands enjoy a tropical climate with warm weather year round. The Leeward Islands are warmer and drier than the Windward and out of the hurricane belt.

The Habitat sat on the coast and provided comfortable rooms, a casual outdoor bar and restaurant, pool, dive shop, locker room, dock for walk in swimming, snorkeling, or diving and was well equipped with 4 dive boats.

Our package included 2 boat dives daily with unlimited shore diving, NITROX included. Boats left in the morning, provided 2 dives and returned to the resort for lunch. The diving was really good with a wealth of coral and sea life easily observed due to the clarity of the water and great visibility.

We saw lots of spotted eels, and a great variety of all the reef fish I look for. I saw many grey, queen, and French angelfish, rock beauties, every type of butterfly fish, many trumpet fish, and several scorpion fish. There were lots of beautiful corals and anemones. We took the opportunity to go on a night dive off the end of the house dock using UV lights. It was an interesting experience I'm glad I had but probably won't repeat.

One of the draws of Bonaire to divers is the plethora of exceptional dive sites. Most dive sites are marked and a drive around the island will reveal markers all along the road indicating potentially great diving.

Even without a boat, if you can get to the shore, most of the beaches and coastline are very rocky, almost anywhere you enter the water will provide excellent diving. The entire island is more or less the top of a reef with breathtaking coral populated by exotic fish stretching out into the sea. We made one shore drive near the salt fields with our friend Keith, an avid underwater photographer we met at Captain Don's.

We found a fairly easy place to get in and immediately were in a large, relatively shallow, open area with an abundance of staghorn and large round corals. We headed out and keeping our right shoulder to the reef began our dive. Everything was going swimmingly with Alex out front and Keith bringing up the rear, you know how those photographers dawdle. We had great visibility and were really enjoying the dive.

As we were approaching our previously agreed upon turnaround time I noticed the visibility was detonating. I tried to catch Alex and let him know something wasn't feeling right as the visibility got worse and worse, the

From The Secretary Cont.

water was also getting warmer. I felt like I was seeing horizontal waves in the water.

Just as my fingertips were almost close enough to touch his fin I was enveloped in a huge hot torrent violently pushing me down. When I was able to regain my equilibrium and assess my situation I was probably 40 feet deeper than I had been. I put my left shoulder to the reef and began a gradual climb till I saw Keith.

Somehow Alex was never caught in the current even though he was slightly ahead of me. I was pretty much done at that point but managed to maintain my composure and we finished the dive even managing to find a cute little sea horse in the staghorn coral. During the post dive discussion we decided we must have been adjacent to one of the gates used to release water from the salt beds.

Sea salt is an important export for Bonaire. Ocean water is pumped into the large shallow salt beds. It's allowed to evaporate in the hot arid climate then the salt left behind is harvested. The waves I had seen were caused by water being released from the beds. The warmer and heavier water with much higher salinity began to flow out and mix with seawater creating the visual phenomena of waves. When the gate fully opened, a torrent of the heated heavy water hit me and I was pushed down. This turned out to not be a huge deal but could potentially have been very dangerous. Word to the wise, if something looks wrong, it's best to trust your gut and act accordingly.

Our final day on Bonaire was a no dive day and we decided to explore the island. We started our day of driving at the donkey sanctuary. The island is home to a great many wild burros which can sometimes be seen walking in the street in some of the smaller towns. The sanctuary sells bags of carrots and visitors can purchase these to feed the donkeys while driving through the sanctuary. The fact that most cars are full of bags of delicious carrots is not unknown to the donkeys, which will jog alongside your vehicle

and jockey for the best head in window position. At the end of your tour the sanctuary has a few big tortoises and several Flamingos. We also wanted to see the rest of the island and followed the Queen's Highway around the Leeward side of the island.



We continued on through Washington Slagbaai Park and saw some of the flamingos Bonaire is known for. As we traveled back we passed through the Town of Rincon we found the Cadushy Distillery. The Distillery is known for the local Cadushy Liquor made from local cactus, not to my taste but also produces the Ron Rincon rum we had been enjoying at Captain Don's bar in the evening. The rum is rich and sweet but this distillery is tiny and I'm sure will never export to the US. We turned back towards Kralendijk and Captain Don's as dinner was calling.

The food at the resort was very good but Captain Don's is on the outskirts of Kralendijk, the capitol and largest city on Bonaire. Kralendijk is home to a bustling tourist industry and has many fine restaurants and on the recommendation of Dan and Anna Miller we tried a few. Everywhere we went was superb but my favorite was "It Rains Fishes".

We were in town the night of a festival and after wandering through the booths had a late reservation.

After one of the best and prettiest meals I have ever had we closed the evening and our visit to beautiful Bonaire. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2020 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.](#) 🚩

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 Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	608-0682

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



The 1st Regular Meeting since COVID-19 Shutdown

The club will have a regular meeting on Tuesday, 7/28/2020; Social begins at 7:30PM, Meeting begins at 8:00PM

Meeting time is later than usual due to outdoor video program presentation.

Facemasks will be required, social distancing will be observed.

Program will be about the February 2020 club trip to the Georgia Aquarium and the Rebreather Dive Experience with Whale Sharks & Manta Rays

You must RSVP your attendance to the club Webmaster via

email<<mailto:webmaster@bluegrassdiveclub.com?subject=RSVP%207/28/20>>;

Weather Permitting 7/28/2020 Location

The outdoor patio at the home of Charles and Helen Denham. 1695 Adios Dr. Lexington, KY 40511 Spindletop Estates

Snacks and soft drinks provided.

Alternate rain plans will be a Zoom club meeting. Zoom details to TBA

One would think that with a global COVID-19 pandemic and a stay at home order beginning the middle of March and extending through April of 2020, that there would have been plenty of time to get a few things checked off of a To Do list. Apparently this is not the case, at least for me. Something about the

Webmaster Cont.

disruption to usual routines and the initial being consumed with minute by minute news reporting derailed my senses and ability to focus. There goes a rabbit!

My To Do list included:

- Clean up existing flower planting beds at home. Check.
- Make new flower planting beds at home. Check.
- Mulch all of the above at home. Check.
- Open swimming pool at home. Check.
- Bring plants outside from the winter basement home. Check.
- Bring out and clean up patio furniture at home. Check.
- Prepare and plant garden at home. Check.
- Keep an essential business open and operating with enough staff, goods, and supplies, while employees and customers are afraid of whether it is safe to go out. Check.
- Create and distribute a DVD video compilation for the February 2020 Georgia Aquarium trip divers. Check!
- Finish the new modern website look & feel. Rabbit!
- Migrate the club group email away from the Yahoo Groups platform. Rabbit!
- Write newsletter article for February, then March, then April, then May, then June, then July. Well if you are reading this, then I have accomplished one big round up article to wrap up the Webmaster and some club dive trip activities from February to July.
- Get SCUBA regulators serviced and ready for the next diving adventure. Not yet, but soon!

The COVID-19 induced shutdown put our club regular and board meetings on a hiatus until July. The various shutdown, travel restrictions and health safety caused our May Club Derby Party to be postponed and our July Belize Liveaboard trip to be cancelled. With the Kentucky Derby being rescheduled for Saturday, September 5th, we have rescheduled and combined the Club Derby Party & Club Pig Roast to be on September 5th as well. See other club communications for the details. We will reschedule the Belize

Liveaboard trip for a later date, when the ability to travel and see into the future is more certain. Stay tuned! Your club Board wants input on diving trip destinations. When travel and diving are safe, we want to be ready to book some inviting club trips. So send us your ideas, dreams and desires; at least the diving related ones anyway.

As for my undone items, you can look forward to some changes in the next month or two to the look of our website and the way the club communicates with you.

Be safe! Practice safe social distancing and wear a mask in public. Wash those hands often and thoroughly. And please don't forget to keep planning and dreaming for your next travel or trip.

Georgia Aquarium Trip Report

The club had 5 divers and 2 non-diving spouses go on the February 21-23, 2020 trip to Atlanta, Georgia. The purpose of the trip was to have a Rebreather Dive Experience at the Georgia Aquarium swimming with Whale Sharks and Manta Rays. While in Atlanta, many of us enjoyed good food from German fare to Oyster Fest, shuck your own steamed oysters and live music in an outdoor venue, The Coca-Cola Museum, CNN Studio tour, and the Georgia Aquarium. There was even a lucky couple that beat members of a local indoor shuffle table league at a match of shuffleboard at a venue while enjoying live music and tasty eats. We couldn't hear much of what each other said across the dinner table, but then that is not a lot different for Bart or Charlie most of the time.

The rebreather dive experience utilized the Poseidon Se7en rebreather system. You should consider ordering one for yourself at about \$10,000 each. More built-in oxygen and CO2 sensors and microprocessors than we normally associate with diving. After about 45 minutes of classroom training time, we moved to the top of the aquarium exhibit pool deck, where we were given the visual tour of our equipment and its components. From there we each sat down on a bench seat in front of our own Poseidon Se7en which

Webmaster Cont.

incorporates your breathing gas, BCD, regulator with bailout valve, and your very own control console computer screen which is velcroed to the back of your hand. We were introduced to our 50+ point detailed checklist, which ended with a 5 minute pre-breathing routine, in which the rebreather would measure and calibrate its computer control to your breathing pattern and lung volume.

What is a rebreather? Simply stated, a pair of counter lungs (input & exhaust), a microprocessor controlled gas control unit integrated with a lime based CO2 scrubbing canister, an 11 cu. ft. Oxygen tank (to replace O2 adsorbed by your lungs), and an 11 cu. ft. Regular breathing air tank (for the initial fill of the input counter lung and in case of bail out).

Bail out is the switching from a closed circuit rebreather to an open circuit SCUBA for use in case of rebreather malfunction. Why a rebreather? Closed circuit system equals no bubbles. This is excellent in some diving where the exhaled bubbles may scare away sea life from a photographers probing camera.

The rebreather is also a technical dive setup and literally can allow a diver to alter gas mixes on the fly during the dive for extremely deep diving and extended dive times. This is useful for some research and commercial diving applications. As for the BGDC divers, it is an item crossed off the bucket list, without having to make an extended or expensive commitment into technical diving.

The experience of diving in a 6 million gallon aquarium exhibit was extremely cool because of the number of whale sharks, manta rays, and other varieties of sea life. Our bottom time was about 60 minutes, with a max depth of 30'. To go deeper would require a jackhammer. As we were warned, when our tour took us in front of the exhibits large viewing window, we the divers would be the attraction for the aquarium visitors. Without the divers bubbles, the sea life would swoop and swim incredibly close to us. A fun trip for sure.

Enjoying this trip were Alex Fassas, Rick Stephan, Dan Miller, Bart Bertetto, Charlie Denham. Enjoying the trip even more were Lynne Stephan and Kathryn Bowers.

Bonaire Trip Report

The club had 7 divers and 1 non-diver on its recent trip to Captain Don's Habitat in Bonaire, Dutch Netherland Antilles. We were there from February 29 through March 7, 2020. With 2 boat dives per day, unlimited shore diving, one of the best reefs a mere 75 yards from the beach at Captain Don's, what was not to like. The local people, the weather, and the sea water were pleasant and warm.

Just what a body needs at the end of February to knock the winter midwest chill from our bones. Visibilities were good at 70' or better most days. Water temperature of 82-83F. Abundant sea life and some good looking reefs.



The resort restaurant food and service was excellent with lots of local flavors and seafood. Most of us ventured into town for a few meals and to take in the local downtown art and

Webmaster Cont.

music festival. One evening, Demetrius Fassas, sat in with a local band and played bass guitar at a local bar. There was gelato enjoyed by everyone at one time or another in town. Yum!



The diving was lovely. Several of us enjoyed an ultraviolet light guided night dive. If you have never seen what glows at night under an ultraviolet light, it will certainly surprise you. On a shore dive from Paradise Beach, south of the Salt Pier, we saw a pipehorse pipe fish, big ocean, small critter, lucky find. Just off the house reef a green frogfish made his home. Most diving was max depth of 50-80', with a nice shallow return profile usually finishing in 20' of water. Some giant strides off the boat were over sand and some were over the deep blue, just a few yards from the drop off. The dive crew was always attentive to give a heads up if you were jumping into the deep blue, so you wouldn't be caught off guard. I know that the club has been to Bonaire

before, but I wanted the club to go here, as it was my first trip to Bonaire. We will go back in the future.



Enjoying this trip were Alex Fassas, Kathryn Bowers, Demetrius Fassas, Dan Miller, Anna Miller, Dale Anderson (no relation to Terri), Terri Anderson, and Gavin Gerondale. 🚩



Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertetto



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:

An Engaged Diver is a Safe Diver Tips to Stay Engaged During the Pandemic Note from Bart:

Every dive website and resource is focused on the pandemic's profound challenges and perhaps most far-reaching impact in the history of recreational scuba diving. It is a rapidly evolving situation for the industry and we can expect many changes and consequences. But one thing is the fear that safety will be compromised when people are disengaged from diving for such an extended period of time then jump in when the coast is clear. This is an excellent article from Scuba Diving on how to stay engaged.

By [Alexandra Gillespie](#) March 19, 2020

With coronavirus in every headline and adjusting travel plans across the world, some divers are uncertain how to stay engaged with the sport they love. Just because you can't travel right now doesn't mean you can't stay involved in diving.

When times get tough, divers get going. You don't become a member of this global community of adventurers without grit and

passion. Here are 10 tips to channel your adoration for the underwater world and stay engaged no matter what.



1. Start your next dive certification.

Diving is a team sport, but you don't need a buddy to start your next cert. Many of PADI's Certification courses start online and are 25% off right now, making it a prime time to sign up and knock out your eLearning. You can purchase courses online or through your local dive shop.

2. Research your local dive sites and give them a try.

It's not necessary to jet across the world to log quality water time. Quarries, rivers and lakes nearby are accessible, fun options that can provide a new experience if you don't live seaside, and provide the easiest way to get wet quickly when shelter-in-place and other restrictions are lifted. Quarries often have quirky obstacle courses or purpose-sunk oddities (like Frito Lay trucks or swing sets), and lakes may have wildlife you've never encountered. Plus, these local watering holes often have local devotees diving there frequently, offering unique culture and traditions (think underwater pumpkin carving). Familiarize yourself with dive sites close to home. You can also call your local dive shop to ask where they do certification dives or where their instructors like diving on their days off. Team up with like minded divers for a local trip and make new dive friends.

Safety Info Director Cont.

3. Purchase a gift card for your favorite dive resort or local dive shop to use later.

Falling reservations can stress resorts and dive providers' ability to weather hard times. If you know there's a shop, resort or agency you want to use in the future where tourists or locals can't visit right now, consider purchasing a gift card for yourself to use later. It gives them capital now, and you can apply it to your bill later.

4. Get your gear serviced.

Keeping gear in safe, working condition is vital for divers at any time, even if some of us break into a sweat at the idea of losing access to our gear for a few days (or weeks). If you know you're not hitting the water for a while, it's the perfect time to drop your gear off for its annual servicing. You won't miss it, and your local shop will appreciate the business.



Have gear? Get it serviced! Need gear? Now is a great time to buy and help support your local dive shop.

5. Purchase new gear.

When you're on a budget, it can be hard to pick between a trip and a toy. If life leaves you landlocked, that can free space in your budget to splurge on the latest and greatest gear you've eyed for months. Many dive shops are in the process of upgrading or creating an online store so you can do this from home,

and others are launching curbside pickup. And with your extra time around the house, you can research the latest and greatest gear.

6. Donate to conservation and scuba nonprofits.

Want to conserve the ocean, support shipwreck research, or aid soldiers in overcoming PTSD through coral gardening? Times like these are perfect to extend a helping hand to make sure the dive community is always there for our oceans and each other. Online resources abound, especially the dive groups.

7. Connect with other divers in online scuba groups.

Keep building your scuba community — the more buddies the better! There are many online scuba communities. *Scuba Diving* magazine offers an online community for diving gear-heads; *Sport Diver* has one for scuba travel tips. PADI also has several online dive communities, whether you're new to diving, want to scour for future travel ideas, or meet divers around the globe.

8. Edit those underwater photos growing algae on your hard drive.

All divers are guilty of it — we take more photos on a dive than we could ever use. (After all, you never know what frame will be *the one*.) While it's great to never miss a moment, it can leave you overwhelmed with images once you're topside.

If you can't strap on your dive computer, boot up your laptop and sort through those neglected collections. It's a great chance to go down memory lane, and you never know what lost treasures are lurking among the gigabytes.

Want to brush up your skills in the process? Check out the many underwater photography resources and articles online for the latest tips, tricks, and tools. Editing technology keeps getting better and better.

Safety Info Director Cont.

9. Stay up to date with how the industry is adapting to coronavirus.

To help the dive community stay up to date with what's going on around the globe, *Scuba Diving* has launched a [COVID-19 blog](#). This is where you can turn for the latest updates and press releases from resorts and dive authorities worldwide, so you're always up to date and diving safely.

10. Promote ocean conservation

Want to reduce single-use plastics, stop make shark finning, or adopt a dive site? Then get involved with ongoing awareness and lobbying efforts. There are many online resources. One example is [Project Aware](#), which is supported in part by PADI. You can also use this time to research who your local, regional and state representatives are so you can reach out to encourage adoption of pro-conservation policies! Representatives accept emails, calls, and letters from constituents, all of which you can do from home.

That's it. Stay engaged and stay safe. See ya down there. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2020 Calendar

July

14, Tuesday Board Meeting
28, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

August

1st Person, One Free Drink...
11, Tuesday Board Meeting
25, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

September

5, Derby Party & Club Pig Roast
8, Tuesday Board Meeting
22, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

October

13, Tuesday Board Meeting
27, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

November

10, Tuesday Board Meeting
24, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting

December

TBA, Saturday Club Christmas Party

