



UNDERCURRENTS

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

October 2020

Volume 50, Number 10

November's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 24th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7

Location: Zoom, details to follow

Program: TBA

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



One of our friends passes.

As many of you now know Doug Geddes passed away, 10/2/2020, of COVID-19.

This is one of the hardest letters I have ever had to write and the reason for my delay in writing.

How do you say goodbye to a friend you have known for over 45 years and traveled the world with, having fun, making wise cracks and experiencing the wonders of the underwater world with 20 or more of your equally fond friends.

Doug devoted many hours of his time to helping us succeed as a club, contacting the travel agencies at DEMA to save us money,

and accommodate our schedule's which in this day and age is an impossible task.

For the 45 years that I knew Doug he was a great diver and trip planner that facilitated many of the trips to faraway places that even now bring a smile as I see Doug and Carol Call, perpetual dive buddies, diving under coral cliffs looking for little critters.

Reports are that he had dove the week before coming down with COVID-19 and it is fitting he continued to dive up to the end enjoying a sport he loved so dearly.

Doug will be missed by all, including myself, with future dive trips a little less sunny without his smile to warm up our wet suits.

Our hearts go out to his family and friends.

With Doug's wishes, he was cremated. A virtual memorial service is being planned at the Episcopal Church on Roatan, Honduras.

We will share the details as they become available. His son, D.J., is currently enroute to Roatan to help Susan Geddes with arrangements.

There is also discussion by his Roatan friends to have a dive site named in his memory. More info on his memorial opportunities as they become available.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Geddes family and friends during this time. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



Sorry about this issue running a little late. Going back through 15 years of Newsletters to pull pics of Doug was a little tough needless to say, a lot of fond memories and great trips with him. RIP 🚩



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

Mike, Sherry and Doug



Vice President's Report

By Kris Harn



Per the Bi-laws elections are to be in the month of November. As of now there is two open offices, these can be filled or any office by calling me and nomination can be made from the floor.

Nominees for elected board positions:

President - John Geddes

Vice President - Kathryn Bowers

Secretary - Kris Harn

Treasurer - Dan Miller

Trip Director - **open**

Safety Information Director - Bart Bertetto

Newsletter Editor - **open**

Webmaster - Alex Fassas 🚩

From The Secretary

By Kathryn Bowers



At the October 13, 2020 meeting of your clubs Board of Directors the following actions were taken.



From The Secretary Cont.

In recognition of the ongoing pandemic, the lack of scheduled safe dive travel, nothing new to share in club or programming, and the desire to keep our membership safe; the Board voted to cancel the October 27th regular club. There will be a regular club meeting on November 24, 2020, at which time we will hold the annual election of officers. The November meeting is planned to be a virtual meeting due to ongoing concerns for club member's health and safety. In addition, the Board voted to modify the ongoing regular club meeting schedule to every other month until such time as the pandemic restrictions and concerns change. The expected regular meeting schedule will be for meetings on January 26, March 23, May 25, etc. in 2021.



The Board also voted to make a memorial gift in memory of Doug Geddes, in the amount of \$50 to a recognized charitable organization that supports our and Doug's beloved sport of diving and the underwater environment that we all enjoy. In the past donations have been made to organizations such as Save the Reef.



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 



Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



It seems that during this time of COVID-19, the swimming pool has been the only getting wet that most of us have done. Well now that outdoor swimming pools are closed or too cold to be in, here in Kentucky, one of our only sources of solace is gone also. For some the focus on planning a trip has kept their mind and dreams busy. I know that many are itching to travel, but the myriad of travel restrictions and ever shifting rules upon entry to a foreign country make this an idea that is fraught with peril.



If you have not already heard the sad news, one of our clubs founding members, Doug Geddes, passed away on October 2, 2020. Doug was hospitalized in Roatan, Honduras as he was fighting the COVID-19 virus and pneumonia at the time of his passing. Although Doug grew up, raised a family, and made a career in Lexington, Kentucky; his dream was to retire and move to a scuba divers Mecca. Four years ago, Doug accomplished his retirement dream. He and his newlywed wife, Susan, purchased and moved to an idyllic home high on a ridge on the island of Roatan in Honduras. For the past four years, Doug and Susan had made many new friends and welcomed many old ones to visit and participate in his dream.

Doug's children, D.J. and Elizabeth, travelled to Roatan to share in a beachside memorial service for Doug, along with his wife Susan and many of his new friends.



A portion of Doug's ashes were committed to the sea above a reef just off the beach at Parrot Tree on Roatan. The remainder of Doug Geddes remains will be returned to Lexington, Kentucky to be interred at Christ Church Cathedral. No arrangements are known at this time.

Doug was a lifelong member of the Christ Church Cathedral Choir in Lexington, Kentucky. He also enjoyed many travelling adventures with friends and family, many of which revolved around scuba diving.

Memorials for Doug Geddes are suggested to the: Friends of Cathedral Music
Christ Church Cathedral 166 Market St.
Lexington, KY 40507

Be sure to put "Friends of Music" or "Choir" on the memo line.

You may also give by visiting:

<https://www.ccclex.org/give>

or

<https://www.ccclex.org/music>

or send a text message to "CCCLEXGIVE" to 77977.

Additionally, a group of Roatan friends have committed to naming one or two dive sites in honor and memory of Doug Geddes. The details for the Roatan dive site memorial are:

A dive site to be named "Doug's Dream".

Karen Slaughter Bogart, a friend in Roatan, is handling the funds for this memorial.

Donations can be made via PayPal

<https://paypal.com>

to her account at

fairbankstexas@gmail.com

You would select transfer funds to a friend in order to make this a fee free gift.

Webmaster Cont.

There is a cost of \$750 per dive site, which is a onetime fee. The fee covers the cost of a concrete buoy anchor and the mooring buoy and adding the named dive site to the list of registered dive sites. Additionally, they will be having a copper plaque with Doug's name, dates of birth and death, and the name of the site which will be mounted to a concrete monument on the sea bed.

Until next time, stay well, think and plan about the next time we can all get wet again, and keep Doug's family in your prayers. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2020 Calendar

October **NEWSLETTER ONLY**

November

10, Tuesday Board Meeting
24, Tuesday Zoom Meeting-Election

December **NEWSLETTER ONLY**



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:

Dive Operations and COVID-19: Prepping for Return – Dive Operations

Note from Bart: *The Diver Alert Network website is a great resource for COVID-19 impact on the scuba diving industry. I have excerpted some FAQs that will be of most interest to us waiting to return. Last month we covered the dive shop operation. This month we will cover dive operations*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

While many dive businesses may not be operating due to national and local lockdown orders, divers and dive business owners are eagerly anticipating a return to diving. It's not too early to prepare for the resumption of diving when restrictions are lifted. The following Q&As have been compiled from questions sent in by divers, dive professionals and dive business owners and are intended to help everyone get ready for a safe return to the water.

Q: How long does the coronavirus survive on various materials and surfaces?

Safety Info Director Cont.

A: Research on SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is still developing, forcing experts to apply knowledge about similar viruses for answers. The human coronavirus 229E was found to survive for 2-6 days on plastic, 5 days on steel, glass, PVC, silicone, Teflon™ and ceramic, up to 8 hours on latex, and 2-8 hours on aluminum. The SARS-CoV-1 virus was found to survive up to 9 days on plastic, 5 days on metal, 4-5 days on paper, and 4 days on wood and glass. Studies of SARS-CoV-2 have found that it can survive for 2-3 days on plastic and steel, 24 hours on cardboard, up to 4 hours on copper and up to 3 hours in aerosols (from a cough or sneeze). Little data exists on the survivability of SARS-CoV-2 on fabrics. Disinfection — in conjunction with additional practices such as social distancing — remains a vital part of reducing the risk of viral transmission between divers using rental equipment.



Q: Is COVID-19 transmissible through water? If so, does the risk vary based on type of water, i.e. swimming pools, open fresh/saltwater and rinse tanks? Will adding a disinfectant to the water be sufficient to inactivate the virus? What about adding regular hand soap to the rinse tank water?

A: Currently it is not known whether the new coronavirus can be transmitted in a rinse tank with communal equipment; however studies on other corona viruses have shown that they survive well in surface water such as lakes and rivers. With this research in mind it would be prudent to assume that the virus will survive in a rinse tank and, although diluted, could remain infectious. According to the CDC the virus would be inactivated in a properly

treated swimming pool, however rinsing equipment in a swimming pool is not an acceptable method of disinfection.

A disinfectant solution must be used according to the manufacturer's directions, and these usually include specific dilution requirements and a statement instructing the user to thoroughly rinse the disinfected item and allow it to dry. Therefore, a disinfectant solution should be mixed and used separately from the freshwater rinse tank. Best practice in this case would be to have divers disinfect equipment before rinsing to avoid contamination of the rinse water. Hand soap is not a viable option for disinfecting. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a list of disinfectants that will kill the virus called "List N"; a disinfectant should be chosen from this list or from among registered disinfectants from other local governing bodies.



Q: Would the use of protective gloves reduce the likelihood of contaminating materials and surfaces?

A: The use of protective gloves will only protect the hands of the person who is wearing them. They do not protect the environment or other people. While they might be useful for people handling items, they would not protect items from becoming contaminated if the virus is present on the outside of the gloves. Hand hygiene and frequent disinfection of high-touch surfaces is effective in limiting virus transmission.

Q: Should staff and divers to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before filling cylinders or connecting their regulators or rebreathers to the cylinders?

A: The use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers is recommended only when soap and water is not available. Alcohol-based substances

Safety Info Director Cont.

should not come into contact with some equipment, including cylinders and fill whips that are used with any compressed gas but especially oxygen-enriched gas. This would increase the risk of fire and explosion due to the high volatility of alcohol and its ability to ignite at relatively low temperatures.



Q: If gear is left for 24 hours, would this be enough time for the virus present on surfaces to become inactive?

A: Studies suggest that the new coronavirus may remain active on surfaces for as little time as a few hours or as much as 9 days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g., type of surface, temperature and humidity). Studies have also revealed that it is possible to render the virus ineffective through simple disinfection procedures with easily obtainable products. Your gear should be disinfected before you leave in the evening.

Q: Can rental equipment still be rented and used?

A: Yes, but staff should take additional care, including but not limited to the following:

- Restrict access to the rental area: Bring the rented equipment out to the client.
- Disinfect returned rental equipment thoroughly according to directions on the selected disinfectant. This should include second

stage regulators, BCDs, wetsuits, snorkels and masks. Rinse thoroughly with fresh water and allow to dry before renting them out again.

- Maintain a separate area for returned rental equipment to avoid contamination of equipment that has already been disinfected.
- Instruct clients not to touch the cylinder valve outlet or regulator inlet when assembling and disassembling their scuba unit. Alternatively, consider providing divers with a pre-assembled rental set and instruct them to not disassemble the set after the dive. As long as your staff work with clean hands or gloves, this will prevent contamination of the cylinder valve outlet and first stage regulator inlet.
- Instruct staff that handle used rental equipment how to properly disinfect the materials and protect themselves.
- If a client dives with you for several days, label the rental equipment so that client always gets the same equipment. The other listed recommendations still apply.



Q: Should an individual mouthpiece be used for every client who rents a regulator?

A: If you wish to provide each diver with their own mouthpiece this will reduce some of the risk of contamination. However, exhaled air

Safety Info Director Cont.

will enter the second stage and potentially contaminate the inside of the regulator. If not properly disinfected, this could cause infection of the next person to use the regulator. Proper disinfection should be used in addition to providing individual mouthpieces.



Q: Can the coronavirus survive inside the bladder of a BCD? What are DAN's recommendations for oral inflation?

A: It is not known if the virus will survive inside the bladder of a BCD. Oral inflation of BCDs may increase the risk of contaminating the inside of the bladder. If possible, consider taking rental BCDs that have been orally inflated out of service for the predicted survival time of the virus. This would reduce the risk of transmission between divers. It may also be prudent to consider mitigation measures for the release of air from the BCD (if it has been orally inflated), as the virus could theoretically be aerosolized with any water vapor that leaves the BCD as you deflate it to descend.



In terms of disinfecting the BCD, the best practice may be to thoroughly disinfect the outside of the BCD and avoid oral inflation after disinfection. Recommendations for disinfecting the bladder of the BCD are unclear. The use of disinfectant solutions should always be followed by a rinse with fresh water to remove the active ingredient. This helps avoid inhalation or ingestion of the disinfectant and prevents the active ingredient from damaging equipment over time. It is unclear whether remnants of disinfectant solutions inside the BCD bladder would affect the health of a diver through inhalation or ingestion or would cause damage to the bladder material.

Q: What should I do when a client wants to try on a mask or other equipment?

A: Any mask or other equipment handled by clients should be properly disinfected, rinsed with fresh, clean water, and allowed to dry. In the case of masks specifically, alcohol or other disinfectant wipes could be used for disinfecting. It is recommended that wetsuits not be available to try on. However, if this is really necessary, they should be removed from sales stock following fitting and stored for nine days to allow the virus to die naturally.



Q: If I run my compressor, is there a chance that the compressed air inside my cylinders could be contaminated? Can the new coronavirus get into my filled cylinders?

A: The new coronavirus is small enough to theoretically enter the compressor without being caught by the filters. The compressor will heat the air up to well above 150°F after

Safety Info Director Cont.



each stage of compression. In addition, during each stage, the peak instantaneous temperature due to near adiabatic heating that occurs during compression, can be at least 360°F (182°C) inside the cylinder, irrespective of whether the compressor is cold or warm. This will therefore occur multiple times. These temperatures are hot enough to eliminate infectivity. Therefore, no live virus should enter a scuba cylinder during filling. It can, however, enter a cylinder if the fill whip or cylinder valve is contaminated, such as by being touched by an infected person. For this reason, it is important to practice hand washing and disinfection of high-touch areas including cylinders and fill stations.



Q: What actions should I consider during dive boat operations to prevent possible COVID-19 transmission?

A: This situation is one in which the risk of transmission will be high due to the limited space and proximity of people. At a minimum, consider the following suggestions. Note that these recommendations are for day boat operations; liveaboard operations are outside the scope of this answer.

- Reducing the number of divers per boat to better respect

social distancing, and discourage any non-diving passengers.

- Any materials not needed for the dive operations or for safety reasons should not be taken on board.
- Have all equipment on board before you start boarding the divers.
- Have scuba units assembled before divers board.
- Protect masks, snorkels and second stages/mouth-pieces by securing them in such a way as to limit contact/exposure.
- Boarding procedures should be organized to respect social distancing at all times.



- Pre-dive mask rinse buckets should not be used. Anti-fog should be used, but spitting in masks should be discouraged or disallowed (especially for rental masks). Consider having divers supply their own masks instead of providing rentals.
- Encourage regular hand hygiene by staff, especially when handling customers' equipment.
- Social distancing is important to prevent the spread of a virus, but one should keep in mind that on a moving boat or in the wind, the virus may travel a longer distance.

Safety Info Director Cont.

The use of protective masks will reduce the risk of contamination, but the virus can be present on any surface on board.

- Advise everyone on board to avoid touching anything unnecessarily and to avoid touching their face.
- Remind divers not to share equipment or even let their equipment touch.
- Maintain social distancing while divers enter the water, and ensure that divers do not crowd together on the surface without a compelling reason to do so.



- Encourage divers to maintain at least 6 feet of distance when clearing their nose, sinuses or throat at the surface or after a dive.
- Maintain social distancing when divers get back on board.
- In general, customers should be responsible for assembling their own equipment. If crew members handle customers' equipment, they should practice hand hygiene before and after handling each customers' gear.
- Encourage divers to handle only their own equipment.



Dive safety is a responsibility shared by divers and dive operators. It assumes that healthy divers protect themselves, ill divers do not dive, and divers who were in close contact with COVID-19 patients stay self-quarantined for 14 days. In return, dive operators should implement anti-microbial control at the dive site, follow current local rules that may limit gathering, screen their staff and put in place reasonable social distancing measures.



As social activities resume, people with an increased risk of severe COVID-19, should remain at heightened alert regarding social participation and travel for as long as the pandemic is not eradicated.

We will get through this pandemic as we have past pandemics. We are fortunate that we have modern science and medicine to show us the way. I'll see ya down there, hopefully sooner than later. 🚩

