



UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2020

Volume 50, Number 12

January's 2021 Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 26th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7

Location: Zoom video

Program: TBA

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



This year is almost gone, some may say good riddance.

With a vaccine here maybe life will return to normal and the BGDC can have meetings and go diving as we were meant to do.

Take advantage of this time to check your gear, replace bad or missing parts and increase your exercising so when the time comes to start diving you will be ready.

Most importantly spend time with family and friends while you have them. I lost my Mom last week to Covid and there was not enough time to say everything I wanted to say.

God bless you all!
Merry Christmas 🇺🇸

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



Needless to say this has been one heck of a year. I am working on some things as your new President. Next year to work around this epidemic and to keep your interest in the Dive Club, we will see...

Had a few more pic of Douglas I wanted to share.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas!! 🇺🇸



2021 BGDC Officer's

John Geddes, President	608-0682
Kathryn Bowers, Vice President	619-0166
Kris Harn, Secretary	333-6911
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Leigh Ann Bove-Geddes, Trip Dir.	553-6251
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-365
Terri Anderson, Newsletter	502-791-4088
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600

Vice President's Report

By Kris Harn



Report on 2021 Officer Elections:

The election of the clubs officers for 2021 were held during the regular club meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, 11/24/2020.

For the first time since 2018, we have elected a full slate of eight officers.

Your 2021 officers are:

President – John Geddes
Vice President – Kathryn Bowers
Secretary – Kris Harn
Treasurer – Dan Miller
Trip Director – Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes
Safety Information Director – Bart Bertetto
Newsletter Editor – Terri Anderson
Webmaster – Alex Fassas

Please welcome these new officers, as we guide the club beyond the pandemic and into our next chapter.

Thank you for letting me be your membership V.P. this year! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! 🇺🇸



From The Secretary

By Kathryn Bowers



Wow, what a year it's been! If anyone had told me a year ago we would still be here, locked down in our homes, unable to dive, unable to see the ocean, unable to travel at all, unable to even go to Bronte's for a meeting I wouldn't have believed them. I'd have thought, "that's nuts, no way" but here we are. With no idea how long this will last and when we can feel comfortable doing just "normal things" it's hard to even think about planning where we want to go when the pandemic ends. But end it will!

Having a vaccine and the possibility of returning to the lives and travel we want is on the horizon. For the present, let's all dream of sunny beaches, flashing fish, renewed reefs, and dive sites that have been left alone to rebuild themselves due to the absence divers.

Moving forward is going to require patience. After watching the BVI's fits and starts at opening and almost immediately closing again and postponing opening I think we can all agree now isn't the time to be a trailblazer.

How disappointing it would be to wait, plan, anticipate and almost be able to taste the salt air only to be forced to cancel all those carefully made plans. We need to take this hiatus to check our gear, perform any required maintenance, and replace anything that needs replacing. Do a little research, think of the reef you have always wanted to dive, a resort you have always wanted to visit and suggest that location for a club trip.

2021 is right around the corner! All your dive buddies are raring to get wet, lets plan a trip to go down in the minuets as one of the best ever. If you have an idea for a meeting program suggest it.

From The Secretary Cont.

For the foreseeable future we will still be having our meetings via Zoom but that opens up some great possibilities. Out of town members we rarely see only need an internet connection to attend our meetings. Speakers we couldn't afford to host before due to travel costs might be willing to zoom in. The future of meetings is only limited by our imaginations. Let's use 2021 as a year to reinvigorate the club and renew our love of SCUBA.

Meeting Minutes 11-24-20

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom CALL TO ORDER: 11 on Zoom in attendance at meeting. The meeting was opened by Kris Harn; Mark Kidd was not in attendance Approval of Minutes Kathryn Bowers Minutes from the September meeting were read by Kathryn. Accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was presented by Dan Miller. Report was accepted and filed. There was concern expressed about funds remaining on account for long periods of time and what should be done about them.

Bart had nothing to add safety related but stated these are trying times for the dive industry. The industry is in flux and can use All the support it can get. Christmas might be a great opportunity for some new dive gear. Everything seems to be on SALE!

John requested submissions by 1 December for the Christmas newsletter. Webmaster's Report Alex Fassas apologies for not keeping new content up to date. Alex has been extremely busy and will work on getting all the links up.

Vice President's Report Kris Harn No prizes for a Zoom meeting. November is the month we elect officers for the coming year.

New Business:

Election of officers for 2021: As of this meeting the slate of officers stands at: President, John Geddes, Vice President

Kathryn Bowers, Secretary Kris Harn, Treasurer Dan Miller, Webmaster Alex Fassas, Safety Director Bart Bertetto. The offices of Trip Director and Newsletter Editor are open. There were two nominations from the floor; Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes for Trip Director, Terri Anderson for Newsletter Editor Rick Stephan motioned the nominations be closed and Alex Fassas seconded the motion.

Election of 2021 Officers, Rick Stephan motioned we accept and elect the slate as presented by acclamation. The motion was seconded by John Geddes. A vote was given and the slate was unanimously accepted.

We will have to cancel the in-person Christmas Party. Open to suggestions for a fun alternative. Program for the next meeting is TBD. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2021 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](#). 🚩

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Club Social Update:

Due to the continuing health risks of social gatherings during this pandemic, your Club Officers have cancelled the Club 2020 Christmas Party.

Webmaster article:

It seems quite impossible that it is already December 2020. Where did this year go? Don't answer that!

I am so glad to have gotten two diving adventures in during February and March of 2020. First to the Georgia Aquarium, to swim with the Whale Sharks and Manta Rays, with rebreather gear for added adventure and difficulty. We recently received news that the eldest Georgia Aquarium Whale Shark passed away, here is a link to the story: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/georgia-aquariums-largest-female-whale-031701630.html>

The second trip was a week in beautiful Bonaire. This was a first time for Kathryn and myself. We enjoyed the club member group company, the diving, the food & drink, and the laughs. February and March helped us in weathering this upending of our usual social life, but the glow of the winter travel has worn off some months ago. Keep the faith, stay safe, be smart in how you conduct yourself, and most importantly be well.

I plan to get the long planned updates to our website and social media presence completed before the New Year.

Dan Miller asked that the following be inserted into the Newsletter:

The Reef Line 🚩

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:



Boat Propellers Kill and Maim Divers!!

Note from Bart: Sorry if that title is a little too in-your-face, but this subject justifies your strict attention whenever you are diving. When researching it I was frankly shocked at the number of occurrences and the utterly horrific and tragic outcomes on victims and their loved ones. There are websites dedicated to their stories and the efforts to reduce the danger from boat propellers. I concluded however, that every incident is unique; there are so many factors and dynamics playing out in nanoseconds. This is one area that you cannot trust anyone but yourself. Your knowledge, expectations, and reactions are the only things that will keep you safe.

Safety Info Director Cont.

In March of this year, on board a 48-foot Palm Beach Florida dive boat, divers were being recovered from the water about a mile-and-a-half southeast of the Lake Worth Inlet.

According to the lawsuit, as the divers that were in the water were coming up from the first dive of the day and were trying to get back aboard the boat, the boat captain suddenly put the boat in reverse, pulling a 37-year-old woman and her husband under it. She was struck by the spinning propellers and trapped under the boat, suffering fatal injuries. Investigators had reportedly been told that the boat was in a "rough current".



Here are some interesting facts: The average spinning propeller can strike your body 160 times in one second. It takes the average recreational propeller less than one tenth of a second to travel the length of your body. Because of the speed and torque, this hidden danger has the potential to kill, mangle or permanently disfigure an unsuspecting person in the water. Because of the momentum, a propeller can continue to spin with deadly energy well after drive is engaged in neutral or engine is shut down.



You got to respect these guys

For your knowledge, expectations, and reactions, here are some important points:

On The Boat:

1. Pay close attention to the boat procedures and dive briefing. If the captain does not clearly explain what the dive plan is then ask questions.
2. Take particular note of any **potential boat maneuvering from: strong currents or tides, strong winds, anchored or buoyed, proximity to rocks, reefs, other boats, shore, etc.** If any of these things exist, ask captain about possible maneuvering to avoid danger to boat.
3. What are the diver entry and exit procedures and follow them exactly. When is it safe, what is the signal, to enter the water? **Verify yourself that all maneuvering is complete and that props have stopped, i.e., the boat is not under power.**
4. If this is a drift dive understand the plan and adhere to it completely. Basically, don't take anything for granted.

Safety Info Director Cont.

5. Be especially aware of other boats or the potential of other boats in the area. Could other boats arrive at the site while you are underwater?
6. **Finally, carry a safety sausage and know how to use it.** More on that later.



In The Water

1. On entry, immediately orient yourself to boat and swim clear of the stern. Keep your eyes on the boat. Be prepared for a strong swim and kick away hard if necessary. Never return back to the boat unless you have established communication with a crew member. The idea is to minimize your exposure to the props.
2. An unplanned ascent and surfacing in the open water, even of a minor non-emergency nature, presents a real danger of a boat/prop strike. You must ascend extra slowly, circling, observing, and listening carefully. If taking a safety stop, circle around at your depth and look up and around. Deploy your safety sausage before you reach the surface. Pay utmost attention; your boat or other boats may not see you, especially if they aren't looking for you. Divers will pretty much blend in with the water, especially if there are waves and whitecaps. You need your safety sausage to make you visible and attract the attention any boats.
3. When returning to the boat, again try to minimize your exposure to the props. Swim well clear of them and maintain your orientation to the boat. Recall established procedures and surface some distance off the stern so crew can see you. Do not crowd the swim deck or

Safety Info Director Cont.

4. ladder area. Wait your turn before moving in and exit as quickly as you safely can. Be aware of those props and if you are not certain of your safety, kick away hard and regroup with communication from crew.



Not where you want to be when returning. Approach from the rear on the surface with a view of the operation



Diver in good position, on surface with his safety sausage deployed, waiting for his turn

This subject was really an awakening to me. In my nearly 40 years of diving, I've been on countless boats,

and even remembering having to swim clear of my maneuvering boat a few times. And yea, I've had a few unplanned casual ascents. But I'm not sure I was as safe or cognizant of prop dangers as I should have been. And back then I was a much stronger swimmer and thought I could handle anything. Different story now and I'm sure that holds for many of us.

See ya down there, hopefully sooner than later, 🚩

Bluegrass Dive Club 2021 Calendar

January

12, Tuesday Board Meeting
26, Tuesday **Dive Club Meeting**

February

9, Tuesday Board Meeting
23, Tuesday **Dive Club Meeting**

March

9, Tuesday Board Meeting
23, Tuesday **Dive Club Meeting**

