



# UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / [www.bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com)

September 2021

Volume 51, Number 4

## September's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, September 28  
**Time:** Social at 7:00  
 7:30-PM (business)  
**Location:** Zoom Meeting  
**Program:** Club Belize Trip Video

## President's Message

*By John Geddes*



Okay, this is my second article for this Newsletter. We were ready to announce a place and time for the Pig Roast, but due to the pandemic numbers jumping up our Host and I have decided to put it off, maybe in November?

Moving forward the Board will have their meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a regular Club meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>, place will be decided from the Board meeting. So stay tune to Alex's E-mails and the web site

And speaking of Alex, I am sure he will let us know how the Liveboard trip to Belize was. It sounded like a great trip except for the generator motor blowing a rod, but they actually had a spare motor on board, talking about having your spare parts around. 🚩

## The Editor's Notes



*By Terri Anderson*

I along with the rest of the board members of the Bluegrass Dive Club want to encourage our members to share their photos and dive experiences. While COVID has certainly limited our dive trips, we would love to hear from you about great trips you have enjoyed from the past and any photos from past trips you would like to share. Fun memories keep our dreams alive!

We will be diving as a group again soon. Please send any pictures or articles to the link below.



## 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
Trip Director - L. A. Bowe-Geddes	553-6251
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
Terri Anderson, Newsletter	502-791-4088

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## Vice President Report

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By Kathryn Bowers



Last week I found myself in the unenviable position of staying behind while my dive buddy, roommate, husband, and our webmaster departed for the blue Caribbean waters of Belize. Eight members of the Blue

Grass Dive club boarded the Belize Aggressor IV and the club's first trip since March of 2020. I have had occasion to regret that decision but it seemed like the right thing to do at the time. I have never had a great desire to go on a liveaboard. I enjoy diving quite a lot but I'm not sure I want to eat, sleep, and breath diving for a week. I also enjoy other aspects of a beach vacation. Mostly I like to walk on the sand. I have always thought 2 and very rarely 3 dives a day is quite enough diving for me. Also someone needed to stay to water the plants (mostly mine) and feed the animals (ours). It was also a nice opportunity for Alex and Demetrius to have another father son adventure.

I have however started to think that the "Liveaboard" may be the answer to diving in the age of COVID. Once you board the ship nobody is getting on or off. You in effect have created a Pod, (yes like dolphins, no pun intended) the way many people did during the height of the pandemic. Don't want to go stir crazy only seeing your kids or spouse? Form a pod, pick a few people and form a pact you won't socialize with anyone outside your pod. If you do, wait the appropriate number of days to be sure you haven't contracted anything before returning to your pod. If you are diving at a resort where you can walk about, frequent the local restaurants and shops, stop and talk to people on the beach, all the things I think make it a vacation which are the things that are risky in our age of COVID you are constantly at risk of exposure. So we should be masking, keeping our distance, avoiding strangers, and suddenly this isn't sounding like much of a vacation to me. Once the liveaboard leaves the dock, nobody new is

coming onboard. Considering everyone must have a negative test before boarding if nobody is showing symptoms you are probably relatively safe in removing your mask. Everyone needs to evaluate their own risk tolerance but that was the decision reached by members of this Aggressor trip. So, perhaps there is a liveaboard trip in my future. Only time will tell but whether I have sand between my toes or not I am anxious to be underwater again. Happy Diving. 🚩

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## New Members

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The clubs most recent (let's be honest, only trip since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic) attracted our newest members, newlyweds, Richard (Rick) Miller and Joy Waldrop Miller.

Joy's sister noticed the trip on our public Facebook page. The couple planned to marry the week before the club's Belize Aggressor IV dive trip on August 7th and feeling it was a great opportunity joined our 6 other club members for the trip and their honeymoon. They extended their honeymoon by relocating to Ramon's Village on Ambergris Caye, Belize for an additional week after the Aggressor IV liveaboard.

The couple currently resides in Lansing, Michigan. They were previously in Alabama where Joy worked in several church ministries in support of women in need and addiction recovery. She currently works for Great Lakes Aviation, an aircraft restoration and maintenance facility. Rick is retired from a career in law enforcement and is pursuing a second career as a nurse in a hospital in Lansing, Michigan.

Rick and Joy met through their church connection and found that they both were SCUBA divers. We hope they have many happy years and bubbles in their future. . 🚩

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## Secretary's Report


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By Kris Harn



The Bluegrass Dive Club had a board meeting on April 13, 2021. Minutes are available upon request.

On July 27, 2021, we had a regular meeting at Charlie's. It was so nice to get to see and talk to everyone. We also had a great program by Alex on Return to Travel.

The Bluegrass Dive Club had a board meeting on July 13, 2021. Minutes are available upon request. 

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## Trip Director Report

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By Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes



While we have seen an upsurge in COVID cases, there still appears to be light at the end of the dive travel tunnel. Our contact at Ultimate Dive Travel tells me that Little Cayman has been actively rebooking their previously scheduled 2021 reservations for 2022. This is good news for the dive industry and for divers, but it means that next spring Little Cayman has no vacancy for us. We continue to explore options for a club trip next spring.

I am still open to hearing what our membership wants. Any members who would like to offer input regarding potential club destinations may do so by emailing the trip director through the club website, [Bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://Bluegrassdiveclub.com). Click on the "Contact Us" link. 

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## From the Treasurer

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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](#). 



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## Webmaster

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By Alex Fassas



Watery Thoughts from the Web  
*"The birthday song"* (Because it is my birthday in the month of August of each year.)



***Eat, Sleep, Dive (aka wash, rinse, repeat)***

I have just returned from a week aboard the Belize Aggressor IV and the BGDC's Club Trip from 8/7 to 8/14/2021. My son, Demetrius, along with 6 other club members joined me for this fabulous trip. Our club members made up 8 of the 19 divers on the trip. This was my first liveaboard diving experience and I will certainly look forward to doing it again.

The Belize government checkpoints at the airport were fast and efficient. Have your vaccination certificate or negative test result, immigration form, and passport available. A temperature scan. And keep on moving. Note that since we arrived for this trip that the Belize government has now moved to require a negative COVID-19 test result from all incoming air travelers, regardless of vaccination status. Be mindful that wearing a mask is required whenever you are in public indoors or outside and that a 9:00 PM curfew is in effect. Once onboard the liveaboard, the masks could be removed, if you were comfortable with that, which everyone was.

The wind and weather was cooperative for a fine week of travel and diving from our floating home for the week. Visibilities were generally good, with a few days when the vis went down

due to current or tides. Very healthy reefs and fish life were in abundance. We saw so much I am having a difficult time picking out a few highlights to share. Several of us enjoyed a beautiful encounter with 3 Spotted Eagle Rays. Being mesmerized by a pair of mating Trunk fish, which were flashing a very sporting blue color; it was quite the dance, sorry no pictures or video between those of us that saw it. Being babysat by Caribbean Reef Sharks or was it being sized up. A jury of 25 squid hovered for our viewing pleasure. We had sightings of Goldentail Moray, Spotted Moray, and Green Moray eels. Many of the Green Moray eels gave us a show with their free swimming to a new hidy hole. Arrow Blennies were found and lost. Slender Filefish, Scrawled Filefish, White spotted Filefish were abundant. Queen Triggerfish, including a hungry one who was repeatedly trying to break open a shell to get at its inhabitant for a tasty snack. Yellowhead Jawfish, Scorpion Fish, Arrow Crab, Banded Coral Shrimp, Peterson Shrimp were all sighted regularly. Black Grouper, Nassau Grouper were regular visitors, and a Goliath Grouper was sighted. Octopus, Basket Coral feeding, Clinging Crab were all a part of our night dives.

Look for pictures from our adventure in this issue of the newsletter.

### ***Please update your email subscription***

Since December 2020, when we setup the new email newsletter list, we may not be getting club news to everyone's email inbox. If you are not receiving our emails, please update your email information with the club, so that you do not miss any news. Go to this weblink to update or subscribe: <https://bluegrassdiveclub.com/subscribe> . 📧





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## Safety Information Director

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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:*

**Note from Bart: Right now, Return to Diving Safely, is a major impetus in our sport, industry, and community. Lives saved, or lost, will be the measure of how successful or not we are. Please, before you start diving again, make sure you have fully assessed yourself and your diving to ensure that your return is an super one. You owe that to yourself and your loved ones. Personally, I will be diving the city pool or the local quarry with my new equipment and more than once.**

**DAN is leading this effort and has identified the critical issues of: Inactivity, Health Status, Fitness, Equipment, Diving Skills, and Travel Plans. The following material comes from their presentation along with some tidbits from my own experience. This issue we will cover Diving Equipment**

### **Return to Diving Equipment**

It is not always obvious when your equipment needs maintenance or replacement, especially after a long break from diving. Some less obvious problems can easily slip under your radar. We all know that equipment failures can and do happen, but these failures still catch divers off guard.

Some gear you can assess yourself; others will need to be serviced by a qualified technician.

If you have purchased any new gear during the time you were not diving, be sure to thoroughly familiarize yourself with it before you get back in the water.

### **Inspect Your Gear Before Your Dive Trip**

Take care of your gear, and your gear will take care of you. This is especially important if you have been away from diving for an extended period and your gear was unused. Please incorporate the following inspection recommendations:

**Wetsuit, Gloves, Hoods, and Boots:** Check that the zippers are working smoothly and repair or lubricate with wax as necessary. Examine all material surfaces for wear and



tear and the stitching for damage. Put on the suit or accessory to insure it is still pliable, fits, and is comfortable to wear and move around in. If the material feels stiff and inflexible, the Neoprene rubber has probably deteriorated over time and exposure to the elements, and it's time to replace.

**Regulator:** Ensure that the first stage is clean, including the inlet filter. If due for a service, send it to a certified and competent service facility. Inspect the second stage for any signs of cracking or damage, leaks, sticking purge, or free flow. Pay particular attention to the mouthpiece and its attachment clamp. Make sure mouthpiece is in good condition and still comfortable in your mouth. Don't



ignore the hoses. Inspect every inch, especially under the strain reliefs. Catch and treat any signs of corrosion. Perform breathing and purge test, preferably in water.

**Computer:** Check the computer for any mechanical damage. Check that the batteries are still able to power and backlight the computer fully. Recharge if necessary. Check straps and hoses for pliability and damage.



Reference the computer manual and run through all the functions and diagnostic tests. Re-familiarize yourself with all operations of your computer, especially your profile and selectable options.

**Masks:** This vital and essential piece of equipment need close examination. Check for deterioration such as cracks, wear and tear, pliability, and mold. Look at the condition of the glass. Is it time to replace the mask?



Check for deterioration such as cracks, wear and tear, pliability, and mold. Look at the condition of the glass. Is it time to replace the mask?

**Fins:** Often overlooked, a fin failure will ruin your dive and could jeopardize your safety. Check for tears and cracks, pliability, and general aging. Check that all the straps and buckles are in good working order. Verify they are still a good fit with the boots you use.



**BCD and Weights:** Should be inspected and serviced by a competent shop annually or prior to resuming diving after time away. Experienced divers can do this themselves. Reference the BCD manual. Check for the following to ensure the integrity of the BCD-



tears, rips, stitching, and glued parts. D-rings, buckles, and all Velcro attachments. Test the Velcros for strength. Check for cracks and damage. Verify proper function of all power inflators and dump valves.

Examine and test the tank attachment system. Inflate the bladder to confirm it holds air. If integrated weights, check them closely, especially any zippers or Velcro, and that the release system works smoothly and effectively. A thorough fit check and re-



familiarization is necessary. A pool test is recommended to put the BCD under normal stresses seen during a dive.

**Other Personal Equipment:** Everyone carries their own personal equipment. Lay out everything you dive with and give it a thorough inspection for condition and function. It is highly recommended that before you resume diving that you do a full dress rehearsal to make sure your package and rig is right.

**Take The Time Necessary To Re-Familiarize Yourself With Your Equipment And Get Your Equipment In Top Shape To Resume Diving.**

See everyone down there. Let's all make this a great Return to Diving by the Bluegrass Dive Club.

Bart 

## **Bluegrass Dive Club 2021 Calendar**

### **August**

7 – 14, Belize Aggressor IV Liveboard Trip  
24, Newsletter

### **September to December**

14, Tuesday Board Meeting  
28, Tuesday Club Meeting

### **October to December TBA**