



[www.bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com)

## Club's Christmas Party

**Date:** Saturday, Dec. 11th  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Home of Mark & Stella Kidd  
991 Lakeland Drive  
266-2276

The club will provide ham, rolls, and drinks: wine, beer, & soft drinks.

For anything stronger than beer/wine - BYOB.

Please bring a side dish that can be shared with 10-12 others.

**Children & grandchildren welcomed.**

**Note:** There will NOT be a regular club meeting for December.

## President's Message



Can it be time for THE CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday December 11 at 7 PM at 991 Lakeland Dive near Alumni and New Circle. already!

Stella and I look forward to opening our home to the club. Bring a dish to feed 10 or so and any special beverage. Ham and beer and soft drinks will be provided.

Years ago when I started diving (I do mean YEARS) December meant 5 months or more before the start of diving. Unless you cut a hole in the ice and trusted your ¼ inch wet suit from KMART to keep you from freezing to death May was the first dive month.

When I was 15 you could buy a full set of dive gear from KMART and my first wet suit cost \$49.95 on sale after Christmas and in February of that year I made my first and last Ice dive in a quarry somewhere in northern Ohio.

Now 36 years later I am heading to Yap and Chuuk with the Club this February.

Diving has brought me too many parts of the globe where new friends were met and visions of great reefs, wrecks, and marine life fill my memories. I believe that had I not been involved in the club I may have gradually given up diving over the years.

Through the work of the members of the Executive Committee we continue to have world class diving at incredible savings to all. Local trips and diving to regional locations that are in most budgets and fun parties and monthly meetings.

As 2004 comes to a close I would like to thank you for all of the wonderful support the past 4 years. The club is more than individuals interested in diving.

It has become a band of friends as evidenced by the outpouring of emotions for Al at the November meeting.

God Bless, Everyone.□

*Mark*

## 2004 BGDC Officer's & Staff

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Mark Kidd, President              | 266-2276 |
| Carol Call, Co-Vice President     | 253-3992 |
| Dan Miller, Co-Vice President     | 948-5133 |
| Bob Shepard, Secretary            | 263-0165 |
| Kit Hudson, Treasurer             | 873-4974 |
| Doug Geddes, Divemaster           | 224-3197 |
| Rick Stephan, Safety Office       | 223-3719 |
| Mike McCann, Webmaster            | 255-3937 |
| John Geddes, Undercurrents Editor | 223-7926 |

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## Divemaster's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### CHUUK 2005

All is finalized and the check has been written. We should be getting all of our documents from our travel agent. Hopefully, everyone has sent the release waiver back to Ultimate Dive Travel for the Odyssey portion of the trip. If you did not get or haven't done so you need to contact me ASAP. John Geddes will be showing his video at the January meeting and discussing with us what we should or should not bring along with us. The shirts are being ordered. If you did not request a T-shirt or a polo shirt and still would like to get one it is not too late to do so. Just e-mail me your preference and size. I will try to hand out the documentation, if I receive it, at the Christmas party. For those not attending the party, I will mail them to you. Any questions drop me a line.

### COZUMEL 2005

As usual, we have lost a few then gained a few. We are still at the 40-person mark and looking to add a few more. Time is running out if you plan to use the club air. We have to release the extra seats by Jan. 15th. If you have an interest, then you need to go ahead and make the plunge. Check out the website for more details on the trip and the resort. If you are on the list, you should be getting a final invoice for the trip. Please make every effort to get this back to Kit on time. We don't have enough monies in our treasure to cover anyone's payments. If you don't receive an invoice, you might want to double check with Kit or me and make sure you are on the list. We will be putting out a list for T-shirts for this trip at a later date. Looks like a great group of persons going, you need to add on if you haven't already.

### GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR 2006

If you didn't get a chance to sign up for this trip, it is not too late. At this point, we do not have anyone on the waiting list. You do not have to put up a deposit unless you get a chance to move up on the active list. The trip is still a long ways out, so you never know what could happen. Visit the website and check out this trip.□

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## The Editor's Notes

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By John Geddes



For the ones going to Yap and Chuuk here is a little hint If Old Santa is looking for a stocking stuffer for you. With all the ship wrecks and penetrations to see inside them, I would recommend having extra batteries for your under water light and back-up light.

With 4+ dives a day, not counting a night dive, you could burn a set a day. The Odyssey carries battery but be prepared to pay for them.

Just want to take a moment to Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from My Family to Yours.□

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** *Happy Holidays! In lieu of an article on safety this month, I thought this was very interesting reading from about.com - a short history of diving, from the earliest diving bells to the world record breath hold diver. People have longed to explore under water for a long time. As technology and the understanding of human physiology have improved, so has the diving safety and the gadgets that make diving more safe each year. When was the first dive tank used - think it was Jacques Cousteau? - wrong - check out 1865! Yes, our sport has been under development for a long time. Keep safe over this holiday season - see you next year!*



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

### A Brief History of Scuba Diving

Men and women have practiced breath-hold diving for thousands of years.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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We know this because scientists found undersea artifacts on land and there are depictions of divers in ancient drawings. This type of diving is still practiced today in different variations - freediving and skin diving.

1535 - Guglielmo de Loreno developed what is considered to be a true diving bell.

1650 - Von Guericke developed the first effective air pump.

1667 - Robert Boyle observed a gas bubble in the eye of viper that had been compressed and then decompressed. This was the first recorded observation of decompression sickness or "the bends."

1691 - Edmund Halley patented a diving bell, which was connected by a pipe to weighted barrels of air that could be replenished from the surface.

1715 - John Lethbridge built a "diving engine", an underwater oak cylinder that was surface-supplied with compressed air.

1776 - First authenticated attack by military submarine - American Turtle vs. HMS Eagle, New York harbor.

1788 - John Smeaton refined the diving bell.

1823 - Charles Anthony Deane patented a "smoke helmet" for fire fighters. This helmet was used for diving, too. The helmet fitted over the head and was held on with weights. Air was supplied from the surface.

1828 - Charles Deane and his brother John marketed the helmet with a "diving suit." The suit was not attached to the helmet, but secured with straps.

1837 - Augustus Siebe sealed the Deane brothers' diving helmet to a watertight, air-containing rubber suit.

1839 - Seibe's diving suit was used during the salvage of the British warship HMS Royal George. The improved suit was adopted as the standard diving dress by the Royal Engineers.

1843 - The first diving school was established by the Royal Navy.

1865 - Benoit Rouquayrol and Auguste Denayrouse patented an apparatus for underwater breathing. It consisted of a horizontal steel tank of compressed air on a diver's back, connected to a valve arranged to a mouthpiece. With this apparatus the diver was tethered to the surface by a hose that pumped fresh air into the low-pressure tank, but he was able to disconnect the tether and dive with just the tank on his back for a few minutes.

1876 - Henry A. Fleuss developed the first workable, self-contained diving rig that used compressed oxygen.

1878 - Paul Bert published "La Pression Barometrique," a book length work containing his physiologic studies of pressure changes.

1908 - John Scott Haldane, Arthur E. Boycott and Guybon C. Damant, published "The Prevention of Compressed-Air Illness," a paper on decompression sickness.

1912 - The U.S. Navy tested tables published by Haldane, Boycott and Damant.

1917 - The U.S. Bureau of Construction & Repair introduced the Mark V Diving Helmet. It was used for most salvage work during World War II. The Mark V Diving Helmet became the standard U.S. Navy Diving equipment.

1924 - First helium-oxygen experimental dives were conducted by U.S. Navy and Bureau of Mines.

1930 - William Beebe descended 1,426 feet in a bathysphere attached to a barge by a steel cable to the mother ship.

1930s - Guy Gilpatric pioneered the use of rubber goggles with glass lenses for skin diving. By the mid-1930s, face masks, fins, and snorkels were in common use. Fins were patented by Louis de Corlieu in 1933.

1933 - Yves Le Prieur modified the Rouquayrol-Denayrouse invention by combining a demand valve with a high pressure air tank to give the diver complete freedom from hoses and lines.

1934 - William Beebe and Otis Barton descended 3,028 feet in a bathysphere.

1941-1944 - During World War II, Italian divers used closed circuit scuba equipment to place explosives under British naval and merchant marine ships.

1942-43 - Jacques-Yves Cousteau and Emile Gagnan redesigned a car regulator that would automatically provide compressed air to a diver on his slightest intake of breath. The Aqua Lung was born.

1946 - Cousteau's Aqua Lung was marketed commercially in France. (Great Britain 1950, Canada 1951, USA 1952).

1947 - Dumas made a record dive with the Aqua Lung to 307 feet in the Mediterranean Sea.

1948 - Otis Barton descended in a modified bathysphere to a depth of 4500 feet, off the coast of California.

1951 - The first issue of "Skin Diver Magazine" appeared in December.

1953 - "The Silent World" by Cousteau was published chronicling the development of the Cousteau-Gagnan Aqua Lung.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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1950s - August Picard with son Jacques pioneered a new type of vessel called the bathyscaphe. It was completely self-contained and designed to go deeper than any bathysphere.

1954 - Georges S. Houot and Pierre-Henri Willm used a bathyscaphe to exceed Barton's 1948 diving record, reaching a depth of 13,287 feet.

1958 - The first segment of Sea Hunt aired on television, starring Lloyd Bridges as Mike Hunt, underwater adventurer.

1959 - YMCA began the first nationally organized course for scuba certification.

1960 - Jacques Picard and Don Walsh descended to 35,820 feet in the bathyscaphe Trieste.

1960 - NAUI was formed.

1962 - Beginning in 1962 several experiments were conducted whereby people lived in underwater habitats.

1966 - PADI was formed.

1968 - John J. Gruener and R. Neal Watson dove to 437 feet breathing compressed air.

1970s - Important advances relating to scuba safety that began in the 1960s became widely implemented in the 1970s, such as certification cards to indicate a minimum level of training, change from J-valve reserve systems to non-reserve K valves, and adoption of the BC and single hose regulators as essential pieces of diving equipment.

1980 - Divers Alert Network was founded at Duke University as a non-profit organization to promote safe diving.

1981 - Record 2250 foot-dive was made in a Duke Medical Center chamber.

1983 - The Orca Edge, the first commercially available dive computer, was introduced.

1985 - The wreck of the Titanic was found.

1990s - An estimated 500,000 new scuba divers are certified yearly in the U.S., new scuba magazines form and scuba travel is big business. There is an increase of diving by non-professionals who use advanced technology, including mixed gases, full face masks, underwater voice communication, propulsion systems, and so on.

May 2002 - The FBI issued a nationwide alert saying that it has received information about a possible terrorist threat from underwater divers. The threat was serious enough for the agency to contact several scuba shops, seeking information about students and customers.

November 2002 - "Skin Diver" magazine ceased publication.

July 2003 - John Cronin, co-founder of PADI, died.

July 2003 - Tanya Streeter, a world champion freediver, broke both the men's and women's variable ballast freediving world records. She descended 400 feet (122 meters) to capture the variable ballast record and become the first person to ever break all four deep freediving world records.□

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## From The Treasurer

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*By Kit Hudson*



### Attention Cozumel Trip Participants:

Final/balance payment deadline Jan. 1, 2005. A reminder letter with balance amount has been mailed to ALL trip participants. Attention to this matter is appreciated.□

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## From The Secretary

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*By Robert Shepard*



EC Meeting Minutes 11/28/04

Mark, Dan, Kit, Carol, Rick, Doug, John and I met at Mark's house.

The 2005 Truk/Yap trip final details are being worked on.

Discussed people signing up on the web, but not sending in their dues.

40 people have signed up for the 2005 Cozumel trip.

**Jan. 8, 2005, Sat. Diver's Den in Somerset will have the pool open for a checkout dive. It will be open between 2:00 - 4:00. Call Mark for details.**

Treasurer's Report showed \$33,135.56 in both reserved and unreserved funds.□