



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

## March's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, March 8th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM Dinner Meeting  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** Dinner Meeting/DVD and Pics  
 of Chuuk & Yap

## President's Message



The Yap and Truk trip is now history and the lucky 15 who traveled for what seemed like forever have memories of dozens of giant Mantas. WW II aircraft abandoned in remote jungles, villages of Yap inhabitants eager to perform ancient traditional dances and proud to demonstrate crafts and intricate word carving techniques.

Truk, the Mecca of wreck diving, was so incredible that during the trip, I never heard anyone complain about anything related to the diving or accommodations and many vowed that in 5 or 6 years we should return.

Every dive in Truk was filled with awe and wonder as we stepped through a portal to one of the darkest days of the war for Japans navy and saw objects that had been intended to take life now create a home for life to flourish.

I would like to congratulate George Fleischmann for completing the nitrox course on the Odyssey

and John Geddes for completing his advance diving certification. Good job gentlemen.

*Bluegrass Dive Club does Truk Lagoon*



Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup>, at our dinner meeting we will have images from the trip and including some underwater video form the Odyssey and several members.

Please contact Kit via email to let us know if you are coming so we can plan for the amount of food.

Next, in less than a month Cozumel beckons our 40+ members that will enjoy a relaxed dive vacation, Stella and I dove Cozumel two summers ago and were enchanted by the activities both below and above the water made available to us. Great diving, shopping and dinning await and you still might be able to sign up if you act now.

February's EC meeting centered on the events calendar you will see later in the newsletter. Lots of local diving this year, a trip back to North Carolina, and the Spring Trip in 2006 to Honduras will be discussed at the meeting.

We are planning a Derby party and if anyone is interested in hosting this event please contact the EC all we need is a space to accommodate the 40 or so members that typically attend. The club and the guests provide just about every thing else.

That's all for now, See you March 8<sup>th</sup>. □

*Mark*

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## Divemaster's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### CHUUK/YAP 2005

If you haven't heard by now, this was a fantastic trip. From diving with 20 Manta Rays to exploring ghost ships of the Pacific, this was a dive trip to remember. All went well and we all returned home safely. We will be showing the group video from the Odyssey and maybe sharing some pictures at the March meeting. Come, let us share our good times with you, there is too much to write about. C 'ya at the meeting. □

*Noel, John Hudson and Doug doing the "Y A P"*



*Is that something like the "YMCA"?*

*Yap 2005*

### COZUMEL 2005

Get ready it is your turn. Time will be here before you know it. I have received all our travel documents and we are ready to roll. Make sure and check your passports or birth certificates. Your passport has to have 6 months left before the expiration date for you to be able to use it and your birth certificate has to have the raised seal on it. Make copies of whichever one you are planning on using and keep one at home and one with you in a different location. Remember this is an all-inclusive resort so you don't have to pack any extra goodies unless you want to. Even alcoholic beverages are included, so you can leave the bottle at home. You might want to check luggage requirements but I believe the maximum weight for one bag is 50#. I will have your air tickets at the meeting in March. Mark or Rick will be handling the vouchers for me since I am not going on this one. If you need your tickets mailed to you, let me know and I will get them to you. If you have any questions, drop me a line. □

### GALAPAGOS 2006

There is still only one person on the waiting list. This trip will be another great one. We are booked up, but that doesn't mean you won't be able to go. You never know when someone might have to withdraw his or her name. Check out our website for more information. If you think this interest you, then sign up. □

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## From the Dive Committee

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By Doug Geddes

The dive committee met and has come up with a great schedule of dives for this year. There should be one or two that you could attend. We will have three local lake dives this summer within easy driving distance. Also, we will be traveling back to a few places that were tried last year and seemed to be a place that we wanted to go back to this year. The bigger trip is still being worked on and it looks like we will be going to Roatan, Honduras next spring break. More details as we get them on this one. The details of each of our other dive trips are still being worked on and will be put on the website as soon as they are finalized. At least the date will be published in our calendar so you can put them down in your book. Thanks to all the members of the committee for making this an exciting schedule for our members. Now all we need is you guys and gals to participate. Lets all try to make as many of the dives that you can. We do this for you...□

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## The Editor's Notes

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By John Geddes



As you have seen and will see from this point on, just a few of the pics from the big trip. There was an e-mail to everyone that was on the trip to send George Fleischmann your pics by the meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. I hope to use some of these pics for the Newsletter, so please bring them to the meeting.

I think there was a spin-off club from the trip, called "The Scooter Club", with Doug, Noel and myself taking our toys (scooters) we had a blast running back and forth across the 500' ships.□

*Noel, the scooter Man*



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## Co-Vice President's Report

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By Dan Miller and Carol Call



Many club members have expressed a desire to go on "local" diving excursions. One place in our own backyard is *Pennyroyal Scuba Blue Springs Resort*. The dive site is a 22-acre former limestone quarry shut down in 1986 after workers struck two springs. In 1989, Kris Tapp began looking for a quarry he could open as a dive site, and in 1994 the Hopkinsville location became available. Tapp and his father, Dennis Tapp, purchased the site and opened a dive center there in 1995. Because Pennyroyal is in the city limit of Hopkinsville, lodging and restaurants are close by. Some motels provide discounts to divers (e.g. the Best Western of Hopkinsville = \$49/night dbl occ). Let any member of the EC or dive trip committee know if you have an interest in this trip. This could be an ideal location to "get wet" in late summer after the water has warmed up.

**Depths to:** 80 feet

**Visibility:** 80-plus feet

**Water temperature:** A frigid 37 degrees in February, but a balmy 87 degrees in August

**Marine life:** Catfish, largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and koi.

**Underwater attractions:** UH-1 helicopter, 1941 Dodge fire truck, motorcycles, a school bus, seven runabout boats, two cabin cruisers, four-wheeler frames that serve as an "iron reef" for fish and a navigation course.

**Fees:** \$15 per day per diver

**On-site amenities:** Rental gear, concessions, restrooms, picnic tables, changing room, "primitive" camping facilities, one submerged platform at 23 feet, two floating docks, four open-water training platforms and two advanced training platforms.

**Open:** Summer hours Memorial Day-Labor Day, off-season hours September-May. Campers can stay overnight on Friday/Saturday in the summer.

**Directions:** From Lexington take Bluegrass Parkway to Elizabethtown. Pick up the WK Western Kentucky Parkway west towards Paducah; take exit 38, Pennyroyal Parkway south to Hopkinsville. Take Exit 9 off the Pennyroyal Parkway; turn left onto HWY 68 & 80. Go over the parkway, turn on the first road to the right (looks like a gravel yard) and your there, and just come in the front gate. **For more info:** Call (270) 797-4206; write to 602 Christian Quarry Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240 or visit;

[www.pennyroyalscuba.com](http://www.pennyroyalscuba.com),

E-mail [ktapp@pennyroyalscuba.com](mailto:ktapp@pennyroyalscuba.com)

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## Florida Manatee Trip

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By Lynn Walters

The Florida Manatee snorkel/dive trip and visits to Ginnie Springs and other cavern sites were enjoyed by seven members of the dive club in January even though the weather was 45-60 degrees. Dan Miller, Lynn Walters, Patrick Buxton, Corinne Wells and son, Evan, met Cathy and John Murray and snorkeled and dived Ginnie Springs.

The group snorkeled with the Manatees in Crystal River on Saturday and then in the Homosassa River on Sunday. The gentle giants are awesome! It was fun to pet them and scratch behind their flippers for their enjoyment as well as ours. The group, lead by American Pro Diving, was careful to follow the rules for interaction with them in their federally protected sanctuary.

The divers enjoyed diving King's Cavern, The Rainbow River, Blue Grotto, and Devil's Den. Corinne and Evan also had a great time snorkeling the Rainbow River. The Rainbow River is part of the third largest spring system in the world. It was a fun drift dive with swaying river grasses and other vegetation, varieties of fish, and turtles. The amusing circles of sand on the riverbed that "bubbled and percolated" from the spring action are called "popcorn springs". Florida's largest clear water cavern, Blue Grotto, has a huge open chamber at 50' with an air bell of compressed air where you can stop and talk to your buddy, a guideline down through swimthroughs to 100' and back around to return. Devil's Den is Florida's only underground prehistoric spring. You enter the earth down a flight of stairs to a platform from which you descend into the 50' deep spring. The water is so crystal clear that you can look up from 50' and see the trees through the opening! Both are very interesting!

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## From the Treasurer

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By Kit Hudson



**Membership Dues:** Membership dues for 2005 are being accepted. If you are unsure as to if you are up-to-date or not, please contact me:

Email: [kithuds@iglou.com](mailto:kithuds@iglou.com)  
Phone: (859) 873-4974

Remission: Bluegrass Dive Club  
% Kit Hudson  
231 Stourbridge Road  
Versailles, KY 40383

Dues:	Student (current)	\$10.00
	Family (0 or 1 diver)	30.00
	Family (2 or more divers)	40.00

**March Club Dinner/Meeting:** Please RSVP to Kit ([kithuds@iglou.com](mailto:kithuds@iglou.com)) BEFORE March 4th. We need to give a count to the Racquet Club of expected participants. See the club's website for details of the menu and costs. Click on "Upcoming Events". □

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** This month's article was taken from the web at [123Scuba.com](http://123Scuba.com). Many of us depend heavily on our dive computers and gauges, but how often do we think about them? Most of us "more mature" divers had hundreds of safe dives before buying our first computer, so we know we can dive without them, but would we do so now? The most advanced, expensive dive computer will not protect you from breaking the safe diving rules, so learn how to use these devices to assist you in making safe dives. This article helps us focus not only on how we dive with computers, but how to care for them, and how to be just a little bit safer using them. Pay close attention to the planning information. The best safety devices we can

use are a clear head and an informed mind, but a good dive computer can help.



Remember, safe diving is fun!

### Dive Instrumentation

A "Diver's Dashboard" a.k.a. instrument console provides the diver with valuable information including cylinder pressure and depth. Pressure gauges are attached to the left side of the regulator first stage and may fit into a console that combines the depth gauge/diving computer and/or compass into one compact unit. Individual modules can also be worn on the wrist or mounted on a hose depending on personal preference.

*15 BGDC Members and 50 sharks, who's going in first?*



*George and Kit to the right are on the dive deck!*

### Don't be a drag!

It is important to secure your instrument console. An unsecured console can damage the reef (or be damaged by the reef) along with a series of other potential problems. Coral grows very slowly. One swift hit from a dragging console can destroy many years of growth in seconds. Keeping your Instrument Console attached will also ensure it's easy to find when you need it.

### Diving Computers

Diving computers are ever growing in popularity among both experienced professionals and brand new divers. The practical benefits they offer combined with potentially extended bottom times make them a valuable diving tool. Automatic dive logging, automatic repetitive dive calculations, easy to read graphical user interfaces, PC downloadable capabilities are just some of the benefits dive computers have to offer.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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### *How do Dive Computers work?*

When using basic dive tables the profile is based on the maximum depth reached for the total time of the dive. As an example: a diver performs a dive for a total time of 45 minutes and the deepest part of the dive was 58 feet. On every recreational dive table the depth will be rounded up to the next highest, in this case 60 feet. Even if the diver only spent 2 minutes of their dive at 58 feet and the rest of their dive at 30 feet the entire profile charts at 60 FSW (Feet of Sea Water) on a dive table.

Diving Computers calculate a more accurate profile. They use the same (or similar) algorithms as the tables and simply perform those same calculations several times a second. Going back to the above example, a dive computer would take into account that only 2 minutes were spent at 58 feet. It adjusts the no decompression time remaining, thus allowing a practically extended bottom time. (Air Consumption notwithstanding.)

When used properly diving computers are very safe. Because they automatically read the exact depth and duration at every point of the dive they can potentially reduce diver error. They also automatically time surface intervals as soon as a diver surfaces, again, providing more accurate information which can provide benefit on repetitive dives. Over the course of a Dive Vacation a computer can add hours of available bottom time.

*President Mark*



*after his morning dive reading about Truk Lagoon*

### *Air vs. Nitrox Computers*

Having an "Air" computer does not necessarily prohibit a diver from using Nitrox. In fact it is one

of the safest ways a recreational diver may choose to use Nitrox. Using Nitrox with an Air Computer can add a significant safety factor to a dive profile. This can also be very practical since many divers' greater limiting factor is their air consumption and not the extended no decompression limits.

Nitrox computers can be set for air (21%) and "air" is actually the default setting for most of the Nitrox dive computers on the market. Nitrox computers can be programmed to reflect the percentage of oxygen in the mix. Again, allowing for the computer to calculate a more accurate profile and consequently adjust the no decompression time remaining. Since Nitrox is ever growing in popularity, it may be beneficial to spend the few added dollars for a Nitrox Computer even if you are not currently diving Nitrox. You might become a Nitrox Diver down the road in the not too distant future.



### *18 Rules for Safer Computer Usage*

When used correctly, a Personal Dive Computer can make diving easier and safer. It is important, however, to remember that Dive Computers are just performing mathematical calculations based on their programming. They do not know how you feel and will not dispatch the "Scuba Police" to stop you from staying too long or going too deep. Below are 18 rules for safer computer usage. While some of these rules are self evident and based on standard diving procedures, you might find a few that even an "experienced" diver may not have been completely aware of!

1. *Read the owner's manual:* It is amazing how few divers read the information provided by the manufacturer. Each model has its own unique operation and display. Learn the features your computer has and be aware of them throughout your dive. It would be good to know if the computer has audible alarms rather than spend a dive "wondering what that annoying beeping sound is."

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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2. *Never share your computer with another diver:* Always have at least one computer per diver. (This applies to all instrumentation too!) Diving depths often vary within the same buddy team.

3. *Plan the dive and read the pre-dive plan as displayed on your computer:* The buddy team needs to agree on maximum depth and bottom time. It is also important to verify that the planned profile is consistent with the computers' built-in planning.

4. *Check Operation:* Check the unit for proper operation BEFORE entering the water. Many computers need to be turned on before beginning the dive. Some computers will auto shut off if not pressurized within a specific amount of time. (Your owner's manual should have that info in it).

5. *Look:* Carefully and frequently monitor the computer. A computer is only a benefit to the diver who reads it.

6. *When in doubt:* If one buddy's computer is more conservative (or reading more conservatively) than the other's always follow the more conservative computer.

7. *Deepest First:* An oldie but a goodie...Just because a computer "can" perform the calculations doesn't mean you "should"! Always perform the deepest dive first with progressively shallower repetitive dives. Likewise, always perform the deepest part of your dive first moving shallower as the dive progresses. Reverse profiles because unnecessary added physiological stress which can compromise the overall safety of the diver.

8. *Don't push it:* Do not dive a computer to its maximum limits. Individual physiology is not taken into consideration by the computer. Physical predispositions such as lipid tissue content, workload, cold, fatigue, prior injury, and even certain dietary factors can make a diver more likely to become afflicted with decompression illness.

9. *Follow a slow ascent procedure:* Ascend no faster than 30 feet per minute.

10. *Make a safety stop:* Even if you are in the "green" perform a 3-5 minute safety stop at 15 feet. If surface conditions are rough move deeper to 20 or 30 feet at the maximum.

11. *Monitor your no decompression limits and time remaining:* While many computers can calculate decompression profiles, it does not necessarily mean that the diver is properly trained and equipped to perform such profiles. Additional training is required to reduce the risk factor of decompression profiles. There is no such thing as a "safe" decompression dive.

12. *Always have a back up plan:* While it is extremely rare for a dive computer to shut off during a dive, it is still a possibility. If this were to occur, the correct procedure is very simple. Check your buddy's computer (only to give a general idea of the profile), end the dive and perform proper ascent procedure (no faster than 30 feet per minute). Then, complete a minimum 10 minutes safety stop (even though your profile is a no decompression profile) at 10 feet. This is more for safety on future dives than it is for the current dive. Do not dive for 24 hours to establish a zero RNT (Residual Nitrogen Time). The alternative to the failed dive computer procedure is to always dive with back-up computer.

*John Hudson and Doug Geddes with their trip T-shirt, taking*



*a break at the watering hole before dinner at the Blue Lagoon*

13. *Log your dive profiles:* Use your log book to record the maximum depth, bottom time and other valuable information from each dive. The information is a record of your experience and will prove helpful on repetitive dive profiles

14. *One Hour Minimum Surface Interval:* While shorter surface intervals "can" be performed they add additional risk to dive profiles.

15. *Leave a 12 hour surface interval between dive days:* Surface Intervals of less than 12 hours are considered repetitive dives.

16. *Take every 4th day off from diving when diving consecutive days:* Diving Computers have more difficulty accurately tracking the Nitrogen being absorbed by the slowest body tissues. These tissues usually approach saturation after only several days of repetitive diving.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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17. *Be extra cautious if your plans call for traveling to altitude following a dive:* Extra safety stops are strongly recommended if a trip to the mountains follows your dive. If diving at altitude, be sure to adjust your computer for the correct ambient pressure. While some computers do this automatically, many require diver adjustment. (Back to the point on reading the manual!)

18. *Always allow 24 hours before air travel:* Flying after diving is equivalent to a pressure reduction of approximately 8,000 feet. This pressure reduction can bring about DCI (Decompression Illness) in the inadequately decompressed diver.

Keep these rules in mind to better ensure safer dives. Adapted for this overview from text: Open Water Sport Diver, by Edward A. Betts, Copyright ANDI International, Ltd. Oct. 1999. Remember: The advanced features of diving computers are not necessarily proportionate to a specific diver's actual capabilities.



*How was the mousse Ralph?*

### **Instrumentation Care and Maintenance**

Rinse your console in fresh water after every dive along with your regulator system. Be sure to run water into the console boot (especially where the hose meets) as it is a common place for salt and sand to collect. If your depth gauge has a maximum depth needle be sure to reset it so it is ready for your next dive day. If you are using a dive computer, check for low battery warnings (see your user manual) before and after every dive.

It is important to protect your instrument console from impact and scratches. Never leave your console lying on a bench or tank rack as it could be accidentally damaged by another diver's equipment. Additionally, keep your console out of temperature extremes and avoid direct sunlight. Sunlight (UV) can cause accelerated deterioration of the rubber materials used for wrist straps and

console boots. Extreme temperatures can cause unnecessary stress on components due to expansion and contraction. It can also damage sensors in dive computers. Use caution when transporting and storing your console as even contact with other parts of the regulator system can scratch instrument faces. Appropriately sized gauge guards and a padded console cover will also significantly protect your investment.

Store your console (after a thorough rinsing and drying) either hanging up (i.e. as part of a regulator system) or with the hose loosely coiled in a cool, dry place. Have your instrument console serviced at least once every year, along with your regulator system, by an authorized service center.□



*Some of the group at the local village in Yap*

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## Safety Corner (addendum)

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**Note:** Next month, approximately 40 of us will be heading south for a spring break trip to Cozumel. I recommend you break out your gear, check for worn hoses or seals, get your annual inspections done on regulators, etc. We are trying to arrange another visit to Dean's Divers Den in Somerset to try out your gear. The proposed date of the visit is March 12. The pool there is currently undergoing some work, so our visit will be predicated on that being completed. We will broadcast the status of this via e-mail and announce it at the March club meeting. Regardless, please make sure your equipment is tuned up and ready, and pickup any needed supplies from your local dive shop.

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## 2004 BGDC Officer's & Staff

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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

## From The Secretary

By Robert Shepard



General Meeting Minutes  
2/8/05

An informal meeting was held aboard the Odyssey dive boat located in Truk Lagoon (Chuuk). Doug briefly discussed the Cozumel trip. Mark handed out t-shirts to the crew on the boat and gave Captain Lenny and Cara a Bluegrass Dive Club license plate.

E C Meeting 2/22/05

Mark called the meeting to order. Kit presented the treasure report for approval and it was. John reported that Newsletter deadline was Friday, lots of pics from the trip. Doug reported on the dive committee meeting and a list of dives for June to October. (See calendar) Trip to Roatan in April 2006. Mike and Sherry may not be able to host the Derby Party, need to locate a place. Mark wanted to know if December 18<sup>th</sup> would be okay for the Club Christmas Party, it passed. □

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2005 Calendar

CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR ARE IN RED

### March

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
4/1, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### April

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
29, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### May

7, Saturday Club's Derby Party  
10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
31, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
6/3, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### June

??, Tuesday North Carolina Trip  
14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
7/1, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### July

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
23-24, Sat/Sun Dale Hollow Lake  
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
29, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### August

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
13, Saturday Club Pig Roast  
27, Saturday Laurel Lake  
30, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
9/2, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### September

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
17, Saturday Cumberland Lake  
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
30, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### October

11, Tuesday Club Dinner / Meeting  
22, Saturday Bonne Terre, MO  
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
28, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### November

8, Tuesday Dinner Meeting (Elections)  
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
12/2, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

### December

18, Saturday Club Christmas Party  
30, Friday Newsletter Deadline 11pm



The last sunset in Chuuk as we prepare for dinner outside