



UNDERCURRENTS

October, 2005

The Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club

Vol. 35, No. 10

www.bluegrassdiveclub.com

October's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 11th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Travel in China

President's Message

By Mark Kidd



Just when we thought things were getting back to normal after Katrina, Hurricane Rita comes along and gives us more concerns.

Speaking of hurricanes, Wednesday September 21st Joseph Beth hosted the author of No Safe Harbor details of the Wave Dancer tragedy Joe Burnworth for a book signing more details in the news letter.

Our last meeting was attended by around 40 members and guests and we were entertained by a short video on diving in Cozumel by yours truly.

This general meeting will have videos on travel in China and Diving in Truk to enlighten and entertain.

The next dive opportunity will be a trip to Bonne Terre Mo. in October spearheaded by Dan Miller our Vice President.

The Florida Springs trip in January will be discussed and deposits will be taken at this meeting.

Of course November will be our Dinner meeting and you get to nominate your candidate and vote for the 2006 Executive Committee.

As of this time all of the current officers have agreed to have their names on the 2006 slate.

See you at the meeting. □

Mark



The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month we have a few pics from the Laurel Lake dive and the book signing at Joseph Beth of Joe Burnworth's new book, being on the Wave Dancer with the Club in 1996 it was interesting to hear Joe on this tragedy and how it relates to everyday activities, not just diving. □



Co-Vice President's Report

By Dan Miller

and Carol Call



From Dan Miller

New Member to the BGDC

Please welcome our newest club member: Andrea (Andy) Surface from Lexington.

Bonne Terre Trip (Oct 21-23)

Call me at 948-5133 with any questions. So far there are 2 of us going on this trip. You may decide to go up until the last minute if you wish as they have plenty of slots open.

Dive movies

The Cave and *Into the Blue* both opened in September and I want to see them both. A few folks had expressed interest in going as a group at the last meeting. If anyone is interested in going with a fellow diver just let me know and I'll be there!

Cumberland Lake debrief

Eight BGDC folks attended the Cumberland Lake dive trip September 17th. In addition, a large contingent from the Louisville KUES group performed their annual lake clean up ecology dive. Mother Nature cooperated and we all had a grand time.



Etc.

Think you know a lot about sea critters? Take the Fish Quiz @ www.fishid.com.

Honduras Notes

If you want to go to Honduras with us in April but are a little short on dough, try your luck at winning a free trip there. Go to www.scubaduba.com and sign up for your chance to win. Visit

www.hondurasinfo.hn to learn more about Honduras.

Check out the 4 minute video at www.sportdiver.com/videos and select Fantasy Island Beach Resort. This video gives an in-depth look at the resort and dive operation. If this video doesn't get you juiced for Roatan then nothing will.

Get your log books ready for the Top 5 dive sites in Roatan according to Sport Diver Magazine: (1) Mary's Place, (2) Valley of the Kings, (3) Spooky Channel, (4) Calvin's Crack & (5) West End Wall. I emailed the resort and they said weather permitting we could get all 5 dives in during our visit there. Keep your fingers crossed! □



Noel Hall having his book signed by Joe

Divemaster's Report

By Doug Geddes



GALAPAGOES 2006

Not much new to add about this trip that hasn't already been said for a year. If you are interested in going on this trip, go to our website and check it out. This trip is still sold out, but we are taking names for a waiting list. We are in the process of getting pricing on air and any side trips that we might be looking at. I will be e-mailing the trip participants the information as soon as I get it, so we can decide what we might like to do.

Divemaster's Report Cont.

ROATAN, HONDURAS 2006

Looks like this trip is about to take off. If you haven't signed up, you should start thinking about it. The price on this trip is unbelievable and will never be offered again. Less than \$700.00 for an all-inclusive resort with 3 dives and 3 meals a day, get real. This is a trip everyone should take advantage of. We have 44 spots reserved and I think they will be gone soon. Check this one out on the website and get your reservation form in. I don't want to hear any one say this is too expensive. The diving in Roatan is done on the world's second largest reef system. You can and might see just about any type of sea animal that exist. Don't wait to long to sign up; you just might be too late. □

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *At the last EC meeting, I heard a story about one of our friends in the diving industry having a situation on the open seas. He was diving with a group in the Galapagos, and decided to stay and film a group of silky sharks rather than going with the rest of the dive group to see a whale shark. Evidently, there was some miscommunication, or problems with current, or both... and you guessed it, he was left by himself (except for the silkies, of course!) in the water for 2 hours. The boat picked him up then, and he was fine.*



Remember, safe diving is fun!

If you've seen movies like 'Open Water' or others, you know that there is not always a happy ending to these tales. So, the best thing to do is not to get abandoned. Follow the dive rules, stay with your buddy, and make sure that at least two other people on shore or the dive boat knows you are diving. Have the right gear with you (here's a plug for having the snorkel with you, and a knife, and maybe that little safety kit we bought a couple of years ago with tether, reflector, whistle, glow stick and safety sausage).

Here are some other ideas for preventing this very avoidable problem, and what to do if it does occur. Your best dive tools are knowledge, being prepared, and thinking clearly. While we never expect these problems to occur, they can. Having a familiarity with the situation, the right pieces of gear with you, and the clearness of mind to make the right decisions could be the difference between having a good story to tell around the bar and becoming a statistic.

Abandoned at Sea: How to Prevent, What to do if it Happens

Preparation is the best means of prevention. Find out all you can about the dive situation, how the boat is operated, and what plans the dive boat crew has in place to avoid these problems, and what plans they will execute if it occurs.



The Dive Boat

- Check out the boat and boat captain before diving
- Ask questions about rescue action plans
- Ask about the history of the motor
- Ask about the credentials of the crew
- Ask about the system for counting heads (Names!)
- Find out if the boat has a functioning radio
 - Request to see and hear it function
 - Ask who they call for assistance
- Be alert to location of the nearest land

Once you're on board, you're somewhat at the mercy of the crew, so pay attention to what they say, but keep an eye out yourself. While the crew wants to keep everyone safe (including themselves), you bear some of the responsibility for your own safety.

The Dive

- If a drift dive, listen carefully for instructions, stay with the group
- Check for current, tide and wind conditions; imagine yourself out of sight of the boat
- Always start your dive by swimming up current after orienting yourself
- Develop navigational skills. See <http://www.scubadiving.com/training/instruction/navigation/>

Safety Corner Cont.

While this list does not include them, it is logical that a snorkel and knife of some kind could be a real benefit. It is likely that the boat will have problems finding you right away, and floating for a couple of hours in 5 foot seas without a snorkel could be very difficult (and dangerous). Even diving on a calm day, the weather can change quickly. This may be a good time to invest in one of the fold-up snorkels. A dive knife can be used as a signal device or to cut tangling sea vegetation or fishing line to free you.

Equipment possibly helpful

- Inflatable Sausage
- Reflector
- Whistle or other noise maker
- Slate
- Line

These are straightforward, but they are a grim list of why we don't want to get into this situation in the first place.

Hazards of being left behind

- Dehydration and thirst
- Hypothermia
- Severe sunburn and immersion injury
- Marine animal injury
- Drowning

These are also straightforward things to do. It is important to maintain your strength and warmth. Don't overexert yourself. If you swim, swim slowly and deliberately. Hypothermia and dehydration will set in quicker if you don't take care of yourself. Staying with your buddy (or groups of buddies) increases the likelihood of a quick rescue. (That's why those Velcro tethers were in our safety kit.) Keep your hopes up, there will be rescue groups on the way, and you'll need to have your wits about you to help them find you.

Things to do

- Inflate BC
- Drop weights, preserving belt
- Inflate sausage
- Flash reflector (Someone might see it, even though you can't see them)
- Blow whistle
- Write time, approximate location and speed of current on your slate
- If you swim, swim diagonally with the current toward any known dry land.

- Stay with others involved. Use a tie up method using empty weight belt or other straps. This gives a larger target for searchers.
- Remember that there will be rescue attempts and searchers.



Seven Steps to Survival

Survival at sea depends on the recognition that you are in danger of losing your life. There are commonly described "seven steps" to survival that may make a difference in the outcome of some rather terrible situations. Even an accident fairly close inshore in cold water can quickly lead to hypothermia and drowning. The seven steps to survival are: recognition, inventory, shelter, water, food, signals and play. Of course, flotation is a prerequisite for any survival after only a short time in the water. Other factors come into play, the most important of which is immeasurable, "the will to live".

The seven steps to survival include recognizing that you are in peril and realizing that what you are wearing constitutes a form of shelter. Use signals in the form of mirrors, flares, colored objects or waving arms, suits or objects about to attract attention. Finally, "play" comes into action as you have memories, fantasies, prayer, tell jokes and get rid of your anger. □



From The Secretary

By George Fleischmann



General Meeting Minutes 9/13/05

The 7:30pm regular meeting held on 9/13/05 was attended by 25 folks.

Kit gave the treasurer's report and answered questions. Doug reviewed future trip plans. Details are available on the web site.

EC Meeting 9/27/05

The 7:30pm meeting was attended by Mark, Dan, Rick, John, and Mike.

Mark called the meeting to order. The treasurer report was presented and approved.

The dive trip schedule for the next year was reviewed. The schedule, details and preparation for the Galapagos trip were discussed. Continue to watch the web site for details on future dive trips.□

No Safe Harbor

By Mark Kidd

Wednesday September 21st, John Geddes, Mike McCann, Noel and Kathy Hall had dinner with Joe Burnworth, author of No Safe Harbor, a non-fiction account of the capsizing of the Wave Dancer in Belize and death of 16 Richmond Virginia Dive Club members and 4 crewmembers in 2001.



Joe was in town for book signing and oral account of some of the high points at Joseph Beth that we all enjoyed.

The author personally witnessed the event while staying aboard the Belize Aggressor during Hurricane Iris.

Having just finished the first chapter I feel the book is a valid read for anyone doing live aboard travel and having been on the Wave Dancer with the club we can relate to this tragedy on a personal level. □

Bluegrass Dive Club 2005 Calendar

October

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

November

8, Tuesday Dinner Meeting (Elections)
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting
12/1, Thursday Newsletter Deadline 11pm

December

18, Saturday Club Christmas Party
29, Thursday Newsletter Deadline 11pm



2005 BGDC Officer's & Staff

Mark Kidd, President	266-2276
Carol Call, Co-Vice President	253-3992
Dan Miller, Co-Vice President	948-5133
George Fleischmann, Secretary	873-9539
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