



UNDERCURRENTS

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

September 2006

Volume 36, Number 9

September's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 12th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
 Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
 3900 Crosby Road
Program: Galapagos images

President's Message



The Pig Roast turned out to be another great day for the dive club. The weather was great and the food was plentiful for the 50 or so that took a chance and enjoyed the hospitality of the Geddes' for the 21st pig roast at their homes, best as I can calculate.

The Laurel lake dive offered some new locations with great visibility and sites with interesting caves as Dan will elaborate on later in the newsletter.

And our premier lake dive is coming up September 16th so make plans to attend as we dive with the Kentucky Underwater Explorers Club from Louisville.

A well worn comment but heard often from those who dove Galapagos was that it was a once in a lifetime trip.

At the September meeting you will see some of the incredible sites and sounds of this once in a lifetime trip, and hear stories of whale sharks, rays and everything else you have wanted to see.

Although summer is officially over there is still a lot of activities planned and with two big trips

coming up we look forward to seeing you at our meetings. □

Mark

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



Hey there, wasn't sure if this month issue was going to be out, you always hear about someone else's computer goes down. Well, with 3 kids and being 4 years old, I guess I came out pretty good. The entire Newsletter file were recovered and back on... and the pics I did not have backed up were recovered too, so the pics of the month are from the Pig Roast. Next month are going to be from the Laurel Lake dive, sorry I missed that one Corrine.

Congratulations to Joy Johnson and Mike Kennedy, they dove on August 12th right into the marriage vows. The wedding was in Hendersonville, North Carolina and finally gone to meet Joy's Dad, who is a big diver, so you can guess what we talked about... □



Co-Vice President's Report

By Dan Miller and Carol Call



Report by: Dan Miller

New Members

Steve & M'Rae Cason of Lexington joined at the August meeting. Steve was certified in 1986 and M'Rae is considering taking the plunge soon. Daniel Vinson of Versailles joined via the website. All 3 of them quickly got immersed in the club by attending their first BGDC event at the Laurel Lake dive.

Lake Cumberland Clean Up Dive, Sept 16

The water is still warm (above 25 ft!) so don't pass up this end of summer dive opportunity while helping clean the environment. Contact Richard Rabek, President of the KY Underwater Ecological Society (KUES), for details on how to participate at Lake Cumberland. Call him at 502-426-2023 or email radvm@aol.com.

Treasure Hunt de-brief

Four BGDC members racked up big time on prizes at New Horizons Diving Center annual Treasure Hunt & Pig Roast held August 12th at Falling Rock Quarry in LaGrange, KY. Between us we won: a BCD, Oceanic air-integrated console computer, Scuba Pro dry snorkel, mask/fin/snorkel bag from Innovative Scuba Concepts, 2 beanies, a Scuba Pro 2.5mm shorty wetsuit and much more. Each participant also walked away with an event T-shirt, good diver fellowship and a full stomach! Next year let's see more club members attend or I'll keep all the great prizes for myself!



Tidbits from the Deep

(1) Do you like playing video games? Well Stuart Cove's has teamed with Scuba Diving Magazine to create the worlds first on-line dive-based video game. To play "Chum Challenge" just go to dive.scubadiving.com/travel/Bahamas/game/index.php and see how many levels you can conquer before the sharks eat you! (2) If you enjoy luxury diving then there's a new dive book just for you. *Dive in Style* is 288 pages and includes 743 pics. It profiles the top 22 dive resorts and 4 live-aboards in the world. (3) If you have Dish Network satellite service, tune into channel 217 and catch the latest happenings on the *Water Channel*. They cover all aspects of water including daily shows on diving.



Thanks

(1) To *New Horizons Diving Center* who donated 5 door prizes to the club. Come to the Sept. 12th meeting for your chance to win one. (2) Seven club members had a good time during the August Laurel Lake trip. Thanks go out to Corrine Wells (trip coordinator), Daniel Vinson & Patrick Buxton (boat captains) and Patrick's friend Chris Sharpe who steered us to a really cool hidden gem of a dive site at Laurel known as Whipper Will Creek. He also pointed out the protected giant Eagle's Nest. □

2006 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

Divemaster's Report

By Doug Geddes



GALAPAGOS 2006

For those not at the last meeting or at the pig roast, I just wanted to let everyone know what a great diving experience the club had in Galapagos and Ecuador. The number of large critters seen above and below the water was some of the best we have ever seen. The hammerheads and eagle rays gave us a show at Wolf Island. It was like watching a movie. They were parading right in front of us and would even come right up to you. What an awesome experience. The excursion into the rainforest turned out to be a great experience also. All in all, this was probably the best all around trip we have taken as a club.



BONAIRE 2007

It is about time for you to make up your mind if you are going to Bonaire. We are close to the deadline for closing out this trip with our agent. The problem is the rooms. Everyone is asking for quad rooms and we only have so many. I will need to ask them to switch out the doubles and give us some more quads, but I need to make sure and get a better count. SO, if you have been waiting to sign up, now is the time. We have 24 persons with deposits. This is shaping up to be another great trip. Remember, you guys wanted this trip. Not that 24 isn't a good number, I just know there are more of you that have said you were going. LET'S get-r-done. Go the web site and fill out the form. Don't forget, you need to pay the deposit or you are not counted in the totals or considered on the trip until that is done.

GRAND TURK 2007

Time is getting away from us on this trip. We need you to sign up for this trip. We have \$1000 deposit and we could lose it if no one goes. I have it on good authority; we have at least 4 to 6 persons interested in going. They just need to fill out the form, so we have an idea who they are. This is the best diving in the Caribbean and this is the best time to go. The water will be warm and the visibility will be at its peak. If you are thinking about going on this one, PLEASE either fill out a form or email me and let me know you are considering this one. I can't say enough about this location. You will love it. It is also a great place to take non-divers and children. This can be your summer vacation for the whole family. □

The Laurel Lake Dive

By Corrine Wells



Saturday, August 26th

What a great day on the lake! We had seven Bluegrass Dive Club members on our day trip to Laurel Lake – Corrine Wells, Dan Miller, Patrick Buxton, new members Daniel Vinson, Gordon Green, and Steve and M'Rae Cason. We met up with a friend of Patrick's who has a boat at Grove Marina and a wealth of knowledge about dive sites on the lake.

We started the day by feeding Patrick's potato chips to the ducks in the marina (shhh...don't tell him!) and then we were off to our dive sites. Our first dive was at the dam and the second was in a beautiful little cove up Whippoorwill Creek. We saw decent sized bass and small bluegill and sunfish. Didn't see any freshwater jellyfish, though. Maybe next time. The Whippoorwill Creek cove had lots of structure (rocks, undercut ledges, trees, etc.) for us to explore. Patrick's friend Chris turned out to be a treasure hunter as he hauled to the surface a fishing rod, fishing lure, a tool box with craftsman tools, and an anchor!

Lots of sun and fun—both in and out of the water. Let's plan to do this again next year! □

From The Secretary

By George Fleischmann



General Meeting Minutes

8/8/06

The 7:30 general monthly meeting held on 8/8/06 was attended by 22 folks.

EC Meeting

8/29/06

The 7:30pm meeting was attended by Mark, Dan, Carol Kit, Doug, John, and myself, with Bob Shepard as a guest.

Mark called the meeting to order. Bob Shepard presented additional information on an Australia live aboard dive operator as input for future trip consideration. Kit presented the treasurer's report, and it was approved.



Dan presented an update on the recent Laurel lake trip. Doug presented an update on the dive trips for 2007. There was also a discussion on possible locations for 2008. Dan provided an update on the general meeting door prizes purchased with the \$300 allocate at a previous meeting. George presented an update on the draft of the new Bylaws that are now undergoing legal review. The meeting was then adjourned. □

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: *At the risk of sounding a little like Monty Python here, "and now for something completely different". My wife has been reading a book which refers to the lack of common courtesy and politeness which seems to be rampant all over the place. Not just young people, but some of our senior citizens push in front of lines, use vulgar language, verbally abuse and belittle waiters or store clerks for trivial matters, and seem to try to lie, cheat, and steal their way through life. In short, rudeness seems to be the rule.*

I hope there is still some civility left, at least in the dive community. We always talk about the person on the dive boat that leaves their gear in our spot, or takes our wetsuit hangers, or scares away that blue ribbon eel that we've been waiting for 10 minutes to get a good picture of. But, do you know of a 'code of conduct' for divers? Well, surfing the web, I found one, of a sort, established by the Hooper Dive Club from the University of Wisconsin. I've made liberal changes to the document for this month's article – changes both small and large to make it more pertinent to our club.



This is what I'd like you to do. Read through it, and use it as a mirror to check out your own behavior. If it makes sense, we might try to adopt it for our own club. Send me any thoughts you might have on changes or additional 'rules'.

Be thoughtful of your fellow divers, the environment, and your neighbors – that's the summary. The Golden

Safety Corner Cont.

Rule really applies to divers, who should have some of the best appreciation for the wonders of our nature.



Remember, safe (and courteous) diving is fun!!!

Divers Code of Conduct rules Planning Dives

When planning an outing, ask BGDC members to see if they have ever been to the site. If you cannot find someone who has, contact the nearest dive operator local to the dive site for their advice. Seek advice from them about the local conditions and regulations. Consult local weather forecasts, and if appropriate, have the correct chart and tide tables for the area to be dived.

If you are going with a dive shop or professional dive operator, ask about diving conditions, appropriate equipment to bring including exposure garments, and the expected skill level required. Taking a newly certified diver on a deep, cold, murky, current dive is not a wise decision.



Diving on your own: on the beach, river bank or lakeside

1. Obtain permission before diving in a harbor or estuary or in private water. Thank those responsible before you leave. Pay harbor dues if necessary.

2. Try to avoid overcrowding one site, be considerate of other people on the beach.

3. Park sensibly. Avoid obstructing narrow approach roads. Keep off verges. Pay parking fees and use proper car parking lots.

4. Don't spread yourselves and your equipment since you may upset other people. Keep launching ramps and slips clear.

5. Please keep the peace. Don't operate a compressor within earshot of other people or late at night. At remote locations, try not to shout or cause too much commotion.

6. Pick up litter. Close gates. Be careful about fires. Avoid any damage to land or crops.

7. Obey special instructions such as national, state, county and city park rules as well as local bylaws and regulations about camping and caravanning.



8. Remember divers in wet or drysuits are conspicuous and bad behavior could ban divers from beaches.

9. Always make sure you have a safety lookout on shore to mark your way back and to signal in case of trouble.

In and on the water

1. Mark your dive equipment so that your gear can be identified easily. Unmarked equipment has the possibility of being claimed by someone else.

2. Stay away from fishing buoys, pot markers and fishermen. Line entanglement is best avoided by staying clear of areas under active fishing.

Safety Corner Cont.

3. Remember ships do not have brakes, so avoid diving in fairways or areas of heavy surface traffic.
4. Always fly the diving flag when diving, but not when on the way to, or from, the dive site. Never leave a boat unattended.
5. Whenever possible, divers should use a surface marker buoy.

On Diving from a private Boat

If you have approval to operate the boat, be certain to become familiar with state and federal boating regulations that may be applicable to the area, as well as the operating procedures for the boat and safety equipment required to be in place (and how to use it). If someone else is operating it, make sure they do.

When operating the boat, ensure it operates at slow speed in any area where divers are below. Be certain any boat maintains a minimum distance of 100 feet from any SCUBA dive flag. Those in the boat should keep close watch for divers surfacing unexpectedly. When dropping divers into the water, or retrieving them, ensure the engine is in neutral and turned off. All boats should be marked for easy identification and should be properly equipped before taking them out on the water.

1. Obey the prevailing rules regarding speed. Don't anchor/dive in waterways or close to marinas. Check weather forecasts and take appropriate precautions. Carry and post a dive flag, in addition to the in-water dive flag for the people under the water.
2. State Law requires that each boat carry one Personal Floatation Device (PFD) per person. There is a fine if caught without them. A Buoyancy Compensating Device (BCD) does not qualify as a PFD. Life jackets must be worn if you are a non-swimmer. When worn, the life jacket must be SECURELY fastened.
3. Ensure that someone always remains onboard while divers are in the water.

On Diving from a commercial Dive Boat

1. Listen to the dive briefing. Make sure you understand the procedures for leaving and

re-entering the boat, what to do with your gear, and what to do in case of an emergency.

2. If you are diving with an assigned buddy, have a conversation. Find out how experienced and skilled they are. Get familiar with their equipment, especially the BCD, weights, and regulator. If he has a problem, you may need to operate the dump valve, inflator, or drop his weights. If you have a problem, you may need to depend on his octopus to breathe. Make sure he knows how to operate your gear. Even if you know your buddy well, have the same conversation with them before you dive.
3. Keep your gear together before and after each dive. It is easier to find, less likely to get lost, and won't get in your neighbor's way. After the dive, don't hang towels or wet suits up where they will drip on your neighbor's gear or flap in their face.

On conservation

1. Observe local laws and restrictions on the collection of animal and plant specimens as well as state and local fishing and spearing regulations.
2. Protect waters from invasive species such as Zebra mussels and Eurasian water milfoil by rinsing equipment after every dive outing.
3. Ascertain and comply with seasonal access restrictions established to protect waterfowl and seabirds from disturbance. During the breeding season reduce noise near such breeding sites.
4. Avoid diving from beaches that are protected due to conservation projects that protect plant and animal species.
5. Take photographs and notes - not specimens.



Safety Corner Cont.

On wrecks

1. Do not lift anything that may be of archaeological importance. Any wreck that is 50 or more years in age is considered one of archeological interest. These are considered protected wrecks.
2. Military wrecks should not be disturbed or items removed from them. This includes the debris field. The debris field is the trail of wreckage that comes away from the main body of the wreck during the sinking process. This trail can consist of parts of the ship, the cargo and the personal possessions of the crew.
3. Underwater sites and objects other than shipwrecks are also protected under state law. These could include historic dock remains; inundated structures or sites that were formerly on land; fur trade canoes and artifacts; logging, quarrying, or mill sites; historic dumps; lost artifacts from ice-cutting, and a host of other materials.



4. If you do find any material of obvious value from the lake-bed, it is a legal requirement to report it to the state authorities or local DNR office as soon as possible; even if you own the wreck that the material has come from.
5. Avoid the temptation to take souvenirs. Go wreck diving to enjoy the scenery and life, or get involved in projects. If you must take something, try photographs or measurements, and records of marine life.
6. Know and understand local wreck laws. A sound knowledge of wreck law will prevent you breaking the law, perhaps even ending up with a

criminal record where no crime was intended.

On finding thing of obvious value

If a diver comes across something of obvious value, for example a car, boat or snowmobile, what should they do? First, do not touch anything. The property may be stolen or used in a crime. Try to locate a hull number, license number, anything that can be used to track down the rightful owner. Mark the location and obtain GPS, Loran or compass bearings. Then contact the local Sheriff's Department. If the property was lost it belongs to the last legal owner, either an individual or an insurance company. This owner is now responsible for the removal of that property from the lake.

When property is lost in a lake, the owner has 30 days to remove the property from the lake. After 30 days the State can begin charging the owner fines (which can run over \$100 per day). If the owner cannot locate the property, and can convince the appropriate law enforcement agency that a reasonable effort was made to locate it, then the property is considered as lost. If the property is later found the owner once again becomes responsible for removal. If the lost property was insured, ownership would have transferred to the insurance company when the claim was paid.

A diver who finds property has very few legal rights in these cases. The coordinates must be given to the legal owner. If the property is of enough value there may be a finder's fee. However, there are no guarantees that the diver will get anything other than "bragging rights" and personal satisfaction. If the property cannot be traced back to the legal owner the diver still cannot legally remove that property. In this case the abandoned property belongs to the State.



As an example, assume a diver comes across an old car or boat (newer than 50 years), which is of little value. There are no plates or registration numbers,

Safety Corner Cont.

making it difficult to locate the legal owner. The diver decides to move the property from its original location to a more convenient location, to use it as a novelty item for him and his friends to dive on, or even as structure for marine life. Can the diver legally do this? After all, it is of no real value, so what's the harm in moving it to a better location? The answer is, in spite of the diver's logic that it shouldn't hurt anything, it is illegal to move this property from its present location without authorization and the proper permits from the appropriate law enforcement agency.



Alcohol

Federal law prohibits people under the legal drinking age from consuming alcoholic beverages. It is also forbidden for anyone to provide for or assist an underage person in obtaining alcoholic beverages. Many counties and localities we dive in have enacted "dry" laws. Water enforcement officers will ticket, fine, and possibly arrest you if they find open containers in your boat.

There are also well known dangers associated with the consumption of alcohol prior to SCUBA diving.

IF YOU DRINK BEFORE A SCHEDULED DIVE, YOU SHOULD NOT DIVE THE DIVE. IF YOU DRINK AFTER ANY DIVE, YOU ARE DONE DIVING FOR THAT DAY. □



Bluegrass Dive Club 2006-07 Calendar

September

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

October

10, Tuesday Club Dinner / Meeting
31, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



November

14, Tuesday Dinner Club Meeting (Elections)
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

16, Saturday Club Christmas Party

January 07

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27-3, Thursday Bonaire Trip
30, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

February

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

March

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting