



UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2006

Volume 36, Number 12

Club's Christmas Party

Date: Saturday, Dec. 16th
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Home of Mark & Stella Kidd
991 Lakeland Drive
266-2276

Children & grandchildren welcomed.

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

President's Message



The past 8 years have been a great experience for me as your president. I cannot believe how the time has flown as I think back to all the exciting dive trips slide and video presentations and other events that have taken place.

Dan Miller will be a great president and Marianne O'Canna will make an excellent addition to our EC as secretary. Carol Call will be missed as co vice president, but will be still coming to meetings and as time permits diving with us...

The rest of the EC in tact will continue to do their excellent work as Kit, George, John, Mike, Rick, and Doug will always be there for you the members.

The coming year is full of diving and fun activities but we still have one of my favorites this December. Our club Christmas party will be at our home Saturday December 16th at 7:30 and I hope you can attend.

Bring a dish, a story, and be prepared to have a relaxing time with our friends in diving. Check out the web for a map or call for directions. 🚩

Your friend in diving,

Mark

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



I was going to use some other pics, but since its only 10 degrees outside, I thought I would put some of the McCann's shots from BVI to warm-up this month's Newsletter. If you have some pics from a trip or of interest, let me take a look for printing in our Newsletter. Merry Christmas to All and to All a Good Year in Diving!! 🚩



2007 BGDC Officer's & Staff

Dan Miller, President	948-5133
George Fleischmann, Vice President	873-9539
Maryanna O'Canna, Secretary	277-2634
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

Co-Vice President's Report

By Dan Miller and Carol Call



1st Time Visitor by: Dan Miller

No new members joined in November but we did have a 1st time visitor at our monthly meeting. **Justin Woodward** was a guest of Mike McCann. You may remember Justin from his past years working at New Horizons Diving Center. BGDC member Sharon Palmisano just relocated to the San Francisco Bay area in search of greener pastures. We'll miss Sharon and wish her the best of luck!

DUI's DOG Rally & Demo Days 2007

DUI has just announced their 2007 tour dates. The 2 closet event sites are June 1-3 at *Gilboa Quarry* in Findlay, OH (4 hours from Lex) and October 5-7 at *Mermert Springs* near Metropolis, IL (4.5 hours from Lex). Make plans now to drysuit dive along with me and Daniel Vinson.

Inspirational Diver

Do you ever tell yourself what you cannot do? On November 13 in Key West, 29 year old Minnesotan Matt Johnston became the world's first ventilator dependent quadriplegic to scuba dive in open water. Check out Matt's story at www.divingadream.org.

The other "Chicken" Fish



This is a Short Nose Bat Fish

Thanks to New Horizons Diving Center

NHDC is providing BGDC members access to UK's Lancaster Aquatic Center pool on Wednesday night January 10th. For those who've recently bought gear or if you're going on the club's Bonaire trip, this is an ideal opportunity to do gear check outs. See Neil McEachin at the shop.

Artificial Reef News

Soon, Artificial Reefs of the Keys (ARK) will sink the USAFS Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenburg 6 miles off Key West. This 520 ft vessel is truly unique, a US Air Force guided missile tracking ship. In place of the normal superstructure are huge domes and radar dishes making this a one-of-a-kind dive. I can't wait to explore her! To find out more about the upcoming sinking, go to

www.bigshipwrecks.com.

"Musical" Dive World Record

Pop singer Katie Melua, 22, set a world record October 2nd for giving the deepest ever underwater concert. She performed her "Gig in a Rig" at 900 ft for oil workers in the leg of an oil platform off the coast of Norway.

Scuba Diving Magazine 2006 Readers Choice Awards

Dive Destinations with the Best Beaches:

(1) Grand Cayman; (2) Maui; (3) Providenciales; (4) Cozumel; (5) USVI.

Best Dive Destination:

(1) Palau & Yap [tied]; (2) Truk; (3) Indonesia; (4) Bonaire; (5) French Polynesia

Top Advanced Diving:

(1) Truk; (2) Palau; (3) Indonesia; (4) North Carolina; (5) Galapagos

Top Wall Diving:

(1) Yap; (2) Palau; (3) Little Cayman/Cayman Brac; (4) Grand Cayman; (5) Grand Turk/Salt Cay

Top Big Animal Encounters:

(1) Yap; (2) Galapagos; (3) French Polynesia; (4) Palau; (5) North Carolina

Healthiest Marine Environment:

(1) Palau; (2) Galapagos; (3) Egypt/Red Sea; (4) Indonesia; (5) Bonaire

Destinations with the Best Topside Activities:

(1) Cozumel; (2) Maui; (3) Grand Cayman; (4) Key West; (5) Cancun

Top Beginner Diving:

(1) Bonaire; (2) Florida Keys; (3) Maui; (4) USVI; (5) Curacao

Top Underwater Photography:

(1) Truk; (2) Indonesia; (3) Palau; (4) Bonaire; (5) Papua New Guinea

Best Destinations to Take Kids: (1) Cozumel; (2) Maui; (3) Grand Cayman; (4) Key West; (5) Cancun

Top Wreck Diving: (1) Truk & Ontario Canada [tied]; (2) North Carolina; (3) BVI; (4) Florida Keys; (5) Aruba

Top Shore Diving:

(1) Bonaire; (2) Florida Springs; (3) Curacao; (4) Oahu, Hawaii; (5) Monterey, CA 🚩

Divemaster's Report

By Doug Geddes



BONAIRE 2007

If you haven't signed up for this trip by now, it is too late. We have paid all our bills and all persons have paid theirs. If you should have a change of heart and might want to add on to this trip, go to the web site and email the resort to see if there is space and ask for the current rate. Also you will need to get your own air to Bonaire. For those lucky enough to be going, I will be getting the vouchers and e-tickets soon. I will be giving those out at the January meeting. If you live out of town, I will send them to you or give them to someone else for you. As you recall, a T-shirt is included in your cost of the trip. Those should be available at that meeting also. **As Mike McCann has stated in a few emails, it is imperative that you have a passport for this trip. Don't get left at home because you don't have one and say you were not told.** Any questions about the trip, drop me an email.

Well, It's not Paul Sr. from OCC



GRAND TURK 2007

We have our first person that has sent in his reservation for this trip. He also pointed out to me that this is Carnival time for Grand Turk. This should add even more fun to this trip. If you are planning on going to this great destination, please go to the web site and fill out a reservation form. Not sure why this trip is not full, but you are missing out on one of the best locations in the world. Charlie Denham just got back from that region and stopped in at the hotel and said it was real nice. He said the lady that runs it has really

fixed it up from the last time we were there. Diving must have been good, because he said it was tough to find a dive buoy to tie up to. Any question about the resort, give Charlie a call.



As Noel said: If you didn't get pics, it wasn't the Turtle's fault

GALAPAGOS 2008

We have 12 persons that have paid a deposit for this trip. We still have room for two more. The total cost has not been calculated because of air cost and the side trip, but you can figure on \$4500 minimum to \$6000.00 max. This diving is incredible. Do not miss this trip, if you want a trip of a lifetime. 🚩

From The Secretary

By George Fleischmann



General Meeting Minutes

11/14/06

42 folks attended the 7:30 dinner meeting held on 11/14/06. Everyone seemed to enjoy the dinner and good conversation. Kit presented the treasurer's report.

Annual election of club officers was held. For each position starting with President, nominations from the floor were accepted followed by a vote of the attending membership. The club officers for 2007 are: Dan Miller president, George Fleischmann vice president, Maryanne O'Canna secretary, Kit Hudson treasurer, Doug Geddes trip coordinator, and Rick Stephan safety officer.

John Geddes presented a video he shot on the BVI trip.

From The Secretary Cont.

EC Meeting

11/28/06

The 7:30 pm meeting was attended by Mark, Dan, Kit, Doug, Rick, John, Mike and I. Dan and Maryanne O'Canina attended as guests. Mark called the meeting to order. Kit presented the treasurer's report, and it was approved. Kit also reported that Carol Call has agreed to do a mini audit of our accounts by the end of the year.

Doug reported that all planning for the Bonaire dive trip is complete and all members planning to go have paid. Several people have expressed interest in the upcoming Turks and Caicos trip; however no reservations have been received from club members. There was also a discussion on possible location and timing of trips for 2008.

George provided an update on the by-laws and will continue to contact David Graves to obtain input.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by voice vote to have Mike continue as Webmaster and John as Newsletter editor.

Plans for the Christmas party were discussed. See newsletter article and web site for details.

The December EC meeting will be held January 2, 2007, 7:00pm, at Mark's house. Mark adjourned the meeting. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Kit Hudson



2007 Membership dues are now due.

- Student (High School or College ID) \$10.00
- Single & Family (1 diver) 30.00
- Family (2 or more divers) 40.00

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below. And 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 or Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club
% Kit Hudson
231 Stourbridge Rd.
Versailles, KY 40383
(606) 873-4974
kithuds @ iglou.com

New Members: Fill out & mail enclosed form at the end of this newsletter. 🚩

Just another hard day at the "Office"



Dive Committee

I am looking for a few people to serve on this years dive committee. If anyone is interested please let me know. If you are currently on the committee, I need to know if you still want to be on it. 🚩

Doug

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: This month's article was taken from Rodale's on line magazine (<http://www.scubadiving.com>). There has been several conversations discussing diving on the wreck of the Oriskany down in the Gulf of Mexico. We've done a number of wrecks off North Carolina and Truk, and those at the other dive sites that our club has visited. We generally just follow the Divemaster on our boat for these dives, and only penetrate vessels that are wide open and suitable for non-trained wreck divers.

But, what if you got the chance to actually go inside a wreck that was unique and not a planned dive destination? Would you know what to do – and more importantly, what not to do? Read on and get some tips on why you should get some specialty training before tackling this type of advanced diving.

PS – Here's a website about the Oriskany – "The Mighty O" - (<http://www.divemightyo.com>).



Remember, safe diving is fun!

PENETRATING QUESTIONS

When diving a wreck, should you go inside? Not without proper training.

Whether it's a historic vessel lost to the indignities of war and weather, or an everyday freighter sunk as a diver's playground, there's something about wreck diving that gets a diver's blood bubbling--in a good way. It can also be one of the most dangerous pursuits in diving, especially when divers penetrate a wreck's interior without proper training and gear.

Open Water Wreck Diving

The first step to safely diving wrecks is entry-level wreck diving certification. Offered by recreational training agencies, this course teaches you to identify and deal with common hazards found when diving the exterior of a shipwreck. These hazards include disorientation, sharp metal edges

and entanglement hazards created by rigging, nets and monofilament line.

In addition to making exterior explorations safer, an entry-level wreck diving course is also a good first step to advanced levels of wreck diving. Your training dives in an open-water wreck diving course focus on surveying the wreck to identify all potential hazards and proper navigation techniques to help you maintain a constant awareness of your position on the wreck relative to the ascent line. The metal in the shipwreck can make your compass virtually useless for navigating, so this part of the class focuses on natural navigation cues.



Limited Penetration

The next level of training teaches skills for limited penetration. Limited-penetration divers typically use traditional recreational equipment, although some also carry a wreck reel for primary navigation. While limited-penetration courses are offered by most recreational and technical training agencies, the definition of limited penetration is not clear-cut. Most technical agencies define limited penetration as swimming into simple swim-through areas where the risk of entanglement and entrapment is minimal and the diver can remain inside the natural light zone created by the entry area. Limited-penetration divers should never rely on light streaming through portholes or other non-passable openings and should always keep the entry/exit point in easy view.

The biggest potential hazard for the limited-penetration diver is loss of vision. The clear water inside the wreck will nearly always be clouded by rust particles, silt and other sediments when you turn to exit. Poor buoyancy control, poor fin technique and even your exhaust bubbles will

Safety Corner Cont.

cause this diminished visibility by kicking up sand and silt, and dislodging sediments from rusting steel plates overhead.

These clouds of silt and sediment can range from a minor annoyance to a disorienting hazard that completely robs you of the ability to see. To alleviate these problems, limited-penetration divers are trained to penetrate only open passages that have large openings for access and preferably more than one opening for entry and exit.



Full Penetration

The most advanced form of wreck diving is full-penetration or technical wreck diving. At this level, divers are trained to penetrate to any level of the ship provided that the structure is stable and the dive is within the skill and experience level of the diver.

The penetration diver must have skills very similar to those used in cave diving, and he assumes that every wreck dive will be a decompression dive. Therefore, most training programs go beyond penetration skill to include gas management techniques and the use of decompression gases to facilitate staged decompression stops during the ascent. This training often includes use of a lift bag or surface marker to allow the dive boat to track the diver's location if he is forced to decompress while drifting.

In addition to a stage tank and a surface marker, the penetration diver will replace his primary cylinder with either a high-capacity (98 to 120 cubic feet) single cylinder with an H valve or a twin cylinder configuration utilizing an isolation

manifold with two regulator connection outlets. Either of these tank configurations will allow the diver to both carry more gas and to carry a complete, separate regulator system consisting of a first stage and second stage connected by a five- to seven-foot-long hose.

If the diver should find himself inside the wreck and experience a catastrophic failure in one regulator system (such as an uncontrolled second stage free flow), the diver can simply shut down the malfunctioning regulator and switch to the backup. This will allow the diver to preserve his gas supply for exiting the wreck without having to share gas with a buddy. If the situation becomes even worse and the diver finds his primary gas supply completely exhausted, the seven-foot hose allows the diver's buddy to share gas even if the divers have to pass through restricted passageways one behind the other. Penetration divers also use a conservative gas management technique called the rule of thirds. In very simple terms, this means that the diver uses one-third of his gas as he swims away from the exit point, one-third of his gas to return to the exit point, and saves one-third of his gas to deal with any emergencies that may occur.

The full-penetration diver will use wreck reels and line markers to safely navigate inside the wreck. During the course of penetration, the divers will survey the structure of the wreck to look for loose or unstable structures and alternative paths to open water should the primary entry route become impassable.

Technical wreck dives can be done on any intact structure; however, divers pursuing this passion frequently discover that deeper wrecks offer the most potential. Therefore, most technical wreck divers will also get training in extended-range or tri-mix diving in order to access wrecks in the 150- to 330-foot range.



Bluegrass Dive Club 2006-07 Calendar

December

16, Saturday Club Christmas Party

January 07

2, Tuesday E.C. Meeting for December
 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

A women's place, is on a dive boat!



We all took turns in the galley

Membership Form



Bluegrass Dive Club Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

No of Family Members: _____

No of Divers in Family: _____

Highest Level of Certification: _____

Basic Open Water: _____

Advanced Open Water: _____

Rescue Diver: _____

Divemaster: _____

Instructor: _____

Membership Options (check one):

____ Student (with student ID)\$ 10.00

____ Single / Family with 0/1 diver\$ 30.00

____ Family with 2 or more divers\$ 40.00

Please fill out and mail to: **Bluegrass Dive Club**
 (With payment please) **c/o Kit Hudson**
231 Stourbridge Rd.
Versailles, KY 40383

Questions: **Kit Hudson - (859) 873-4974**
 Email: **kithuds@iglou.com**

Rev 1/06