



UNDERCURRENTS

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

February 2007

Volume 37, Number 2

February's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 13th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Pics from Bonaire

President's Message

By Dan Miller



Your Dive Trip Committee is finalizing plans for the 2007 & 2008 events calendar. Their next meeting is scheduled for 2/20. Soon, a comprehensive diver survey will be sent to all members via Yahoo groups. Your responses will be used to plan future trips.

A 2nd survey dealing with non-dive aspects of the club's operation will also be sent. This will cover things such as budgeting, parties, meeting times/place, food, etc. with the goal to improve club operation while maximizing our fun per dues dollar. We're all stake-holders in the BGDC so the more feedback we get the better in moving forward.

21 of us are going to Bonaire so let's be safe in our travels and dive practices. Don't forget to bring Passports, C-cards & Drivers Licenses. By the way, those wishing to attend the March 13 dinner meeting please sign up/RSVP via our site in the Upcoming Events tab. You needn't eat in order to attend the regular meeting but you must RSVP in order to partake in the grub.

New Member Welcome

The Cunningham family from Winchester (Jim, Dana, Chase, Justice, Leslie & Carlie) joined via the website this month. We hope to see them all very soon. 🚩

Dan

Mark Your Calendar

2007 Assorted (non-BGDC) Dive Events

Council of Ohio Skin & Scuba Divers, www.scubafest.org; Wilmington, OH, Mar 9-11
DUI Dog Rally & Demo Days, Gilboa Quarry; Findlay, OH, Jun 1-3
Island Sun-splash '07, Upper Keys Assoc of Dive Operators; Key Largo, FL, June 10-16
KUES, Lake Cumberland clean up dive; Sep 15
DUI Dog Rally & Demo Days, Mermet Springs; Mermet Springs, IL, Oct 5-7
DUI Dog Rally & Demo Days, Manatee Springs; Chiefland, FL, Nov 10-11

2007 New Horizons Diving Center trips

Florida Springs, Feb 22-25 & May 10-13
Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras Mar 24-31
Little Cayman Beach Resort, Jun 2-9
USS Oriskany, Pensacola, FL, Jun 20-24
Bonaire, Buddies Dive Resort, Jul 13-20

2007 USA Dive Trade Shows

Our World Underwater, Chicago, IL, Feb 9-11
Beneath the Seas, Secaucus, NJ, Mar 23-25
Ocean Festival, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Apr 20-22
Sea Space, Houston, TX, Mar 31-Apr 1
So Cal Scuba Show, Long Beach, CA, Jun 2-3
DEMA, Orlando, FL, Oct 31-Nov 3

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



As I said last month, we will have some pics from Bonaire by Dan O'Canna and maybe some more from me next month. 🚩

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

From the Treasurer

By Kit Hudson



2007 Membership Dues

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

New Members: Fill out & mail a membership form from the web site. 🚩

Divemaster's Report

By Doug Geddes



BONAIRE 2007

Too late if you didn't sign up & go, we be diving.....Don't miss the next great trip we have scheduled..

GRAND TURK 2007

We now have approximately 9 persons that are going to Grand Turk in June. If you have not signed up, now would be a great time to do so. This time of the year is the best for diving in this region. The water will be warm and the visibility will be at it's best. Check out the web site and see if this is for you. It is a little pricey, but the diving is worth the difference.

GALAPAGOS 2008

We have 12 persons signed up with deposits for this great trip of a lifetime. Mike has updated the web page for this trip to show what and when we are doing. I have heard there are several persons that are going to fill the last two spots, but as of this date, we still have two available. Don't forget the \$250.00 deposit to lock in your spot. . 🚩



Dive Committee Report

By Doug Geddes

We had our first meeting of the year on January 16, at my office off the old drag strip. We had a total of 9 persons in attendance. Many things were discussed. One of the things that we can tell you about now is a dive at Dale Hollow trip on the July 14 - 15 weekend. We have secured a 30' pontoon boat for the weekend. We will be charging each person on the boat, \$10.00 per day. This should help offset the cost of the boat and gas. If you are thinking about going on this trip and want to stay at the State Lodge, you might want to go ahead and make a reservation now. It wouldn't even hurt to make the campsite reservation either, if you are spending the night. Once someone makes his or her reservation for the campsite, I hope they would share that info with the group so we can camp together. There will be more details to follow on that trip. This group of persons on this committee seem very willing to help set up many trips for our club. They are working on several great locations for this summer and beyond. We will meet next month to begin planning these trips. If you know of a place you would like us to look at, talk to one of us at the next meeting. 🚩



From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



January 2007 Club Meeting

The meeting was started by the club's new president, Dan Miller, with gavel in hand. The new VP for membership, George, was happy to hand out door prize tickets to all in attendance. Maryanne, the new secretary, took over the maintenance of the club badges.

The program included a talk from the past president, Mark, on how to have proper etiquette while diving with a camera and diving with photographers. Dan O'Canna brought a DVD on his recent trip to Crystal River, FL with a New Horizons Dive Shop group swimming with manatees.

Doug reported on the impending Bonaire trip, handing out t-shirts and e-tickets to the folks leaving for that trip at the end of the month. A practice swim to the UK pool was planned for those who felt the need to try out new gear.

More people are needed to sign up for the Grand Turk trip in June. Also, more trip ideas will be discussed at next week's trip committee meeting. Attendance at Scubafest in Ohio in March is encouraged.

EC Meeting Minutes 1/23/07

By: Dan Miller

Attendees: Dan M, Kit H, Mike M, John G, Rick S & Doug G.

Reviewed Treasurers report, new member dues received, upcoming trip payments made; updated member and guests email distribution lists.

Made annual payment to website host; updated website with the latest DiveAssure price list; assigned Dan Miller to fill out trip report for Bonaire.

Reviewed newsletter entries still outstanding; discussed upcoming dive club surveys.

From The Secretary Cont.

Recapped 1/16/07 dive trip committee meeting highlights; announced follow up dive trip committee meeting slated for 2/20/07; announced 2 persons dropping out of Bonaire trip due to surgery; discussed sign-up status for Grand Turk & Galapagos trips; discussed options for 2008 trips.

Discussed budget, food expenditures, under-sized T-shirts, bylaws, articles of incorporation, 3 person board; Venture Scout participation in future club trips; door prizes; dues; lake dive user fees. 🚩

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: Okay, now you've opened all the Christmas presents and found out that box had fruitcake in it, and wasn't the new regulator you really wanted. So now, you go out to buy some gear before that late winter dive trip. It makes a lot of sense to buy from your local dive store. They have the people there to help you pick out what you need, and make sure it works, and will generally try to meet you on price. However, if you decide to go to the internet, read this article from Rodale's to see what could happen if you are penny-wise and don't look at the bigger picture. Whether you buy online, or someone's used gear, make sure it works before you leave on a trip, you could save some lost dive time, or maybe even your life.

Remember, safe diving is fun!



A Bad Bargain

Dan saved a few bucks by ordering his gear online, and it nearly cost him his life.

(Note: this Dan is not any of the 'Dans' in the BGDC – as far as I know.)

By Michael Ange

The deafening roar of escaping air assaulted Dan's ears as he struggled to breathe from the violently free-flowing regulator. In spite of the cascade of air, every breath was filled with water and he had to inhale cautiously just to avoid choking. To make matters worse, he couldn't see past the curtain of bubbles boiling upward and had no way to signal his buddies for help. Fighting back panic, he stole a look at his pressure gauge. The needle was steadily winding its way toward zero, and he already had less than 500 psi left in his tank. Unable to control his fear any longer, Dan bolted toward the surface.

The Divers

Joy and Al were active recreational divers who convinced their friend Dan to earn his C-card and join them on their frequent dive vacations. Certified for less than a year, Dan was still accumulating his gear and as they left for a weekend island getaway, he proudly showed off his latest acquisition—a high-end regulator still in the box. Dan had purchased it at a huge savings from a web site selling discount dive equipment.



The Dive

When the divers arrived on-island, Dan borrowed some tools in order to attach an octopus and pressure gauge to his new regulator. The divers entered the water as a three-man buddy team and descended to the reef 60 feet below. The sight of a black-tip shark in the distance enthralled Dan, and when he turned back to his buddies, he noticed that they were far ahead of him. Dan dropped the last few feet to the bottom and swam quickly to catch them.

Safety Corner Cont.

The Accident

Dan was breathing hard on his regulator when he heard a distinctive pop behind his head, followed by a deafening roar as air began to gush from his mouthpiece. There were bubbles everywhere and the free-flowing regulator was shooting air-and a generous amount of water-into Dan's mouth. Struggling not to choke, Dan looked for Joy and Al, but could see little beyond the curtain of bubbles.

As his anxiety grew, Dan's ability to deal rationally with the problem began to decay. At some point, it dawned on him that he was wasting too much time and losing air way too fast. He pulled his pressure gauge directly in front of his mask and was stunned to see his tank was nearly empty. Seized by panic, he began swimming rapidly for the surface.

The Rescue

Dan surfaced, screaming for help and struggling to stay afloat. The boat captain yelled for Dan to inflate his BC and drop his weight belt as the mate dived in and swam rapidly to the panicked diver. Grabbing Dan just as he began to sink below the surface, the mate managed to add a small quantity of air to the BC and released Dan's weight belt.

Dan was in full-scale panic, but thanks to the mate's quick action, he was no longer in danger of drowning. The mate backed away, letting Dan exhaust himself while calmly issuing reassuring commands. Slowly, Dan's panic began to recede and he dropped into a state of exhaustion, allowing the mate to safely approach and tow him back to the boat. Though shaken, Dan escaped without harm.

Analysis

As with many dive accidents, this one was set in motion long before the divers entered the water. In this case, the problem began when Dan clicked the purchase button on a web site offering "brand-new, out-of-the-box equipment" at "big savings."

Dan was very proud of his internet shopping savvy, but he failed to recognize the importance of making sure his life-support equipment was properly inspected by a qualified technician. Manufacturers produce tens of thousands of regulators each year and some will have problems.

This is why dive stores are required by their dealer agreements to inspect and test each regulator before delivery to a customer. Some internet and discount venues-including the one where Dan found his great deal-do not offer these inspection services.

An inspection of Dan's regulator immediately following the accident revealed several issues. First, there were metal shavings inside the regulator's first stage, apparently left over from the manufacturing process. Under pressure, these shavings cut into the seat material causing the first stage to fail and creating the violent free flow. The technician also found a loose port plug on the regulator. The O-ring on the plug was extruded, probably as a result of the high-pressure seat failure, and was the apparent source of the water Dan inhaled during the free flow. It is unclear whether the plug was left loose in assembly or whether Dan loosened it by mistake when he attached the additional hoses. Either way, a proper inspection would have identified all of these problems and prevented this accident.

Once the accident began, Dan's buddies were nowhere near and never realized the problem until they surfaced at the end of the dive. This is a clear example of how three-man buddy teams provide only the illusion of safety unless all members of the team recognize their responsibilities.

Even with these mistakes, Dan's accident was still not life-threatening until panic took over. He had ample time and air to make a slow controlled ascent and that is precisely what he should have done as soon as it was apparent that his buddies were unavailable. At the surface, Dan compounded his problems when he failed to get positively buoyant. Dumping his weights and inflating his BC would have helped control his panic.



Safety Corner Cont.

Lessons for Life

Be frugal-not stupid. When comparing bargain-priced equipment to the gear for sale at a reputable local dive store, add the cost of setup and service to the cost of the bargain. Either way you buy, be sure a technician checks your equipment.

Three is a crowd. Whenever possible, only dive in two-man buddy teams. If you must dive as a buddy trio, assign specific obligations to each diver.

When in distress, surface-slowly and deliberately before you have to do it without control.

Get positive. Dump your weights and inflate your BC as soon as you have reached the surface, or even sooner if you feel you can't make it there. It doesn't hurt to practice this skill in controlled conditions before you have to do it for real. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2007 Calendar

February

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

March

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

April

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
24, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

May

5, Saturday Club's Derby Party
8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

June

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

July

10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
31, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

August

7, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
??, Saturday Club Pig Roast
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

September

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

October

9, Tuesday Club Dinner / Meeting
30, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

November

13, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

??, Saturday Club Christmas Party

