



# UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / [www.bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com)

September 2007

Volume 37, Number 9

## September's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, September 11th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Road  
**Program:** Dog Rally and Dale Hollow  
 DVD

## President's Message


*By Dan Miller*



### From the Deep

The September 11th program will feature Noel Hall's video of our July trip to Dale Hollow Lake and a 9-minute video on DUI's Dog Rally & Demo Days. We'll also be taken a vote on the proposed Bylaws that were emailed to everyone last month. If you haven't had a chance to read them yet, please take a moment to do that.


We're always looking for an entertaining and informative program so if you have any pics/video or guest speaker you'd like to present just let me know in advance and we'll get you scheduled. Looking ahead to future meetings we'll be showing DVD's from our Labor Day weekend trip to western KY; Noel Hall's August BVI live-aboard; the KUES Lake Cumberland clean up dive from 9/15; the club's Ft. Lauderdale/Largo trip; and the DUI trip to Mermet Springs held the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in October.

Come On, I'm Psyched So Let's Go Diving Already!!!  **Dan**

## The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes




What a fast summer, Labor Day just past and The Christmas Party will be here before you know it. The pics for the month are for sure from the Pig Roast. As one of the members going on the Lauderdale trip, I would guess the pics for next month will be some from there. 

## Vice President's Report

*By Rebecca Singer*



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! We have two new members to introduce this month. Kris Harn visited with us at the July meeting and joined the club that same night! We are thrilled to have her as a new member. Kris will be joining the group diving in Florida in September (as a world-class bubble-watcher!). We also welcome Gail Perry to the club. Gail joins the club by way of a recommendation from Dan O'Canina. Thanks to Dan for the recommendation. Everyone please take a moment to welcome Gail to the club when you see her. Jim Leemhuis visited us at the July meeting and we hope to be welcoming him as a new member shortly!

In other news, thanks to everyone who filled out and submitted the trip survey. Results have been tallied and the dive trip committee will be meeting shortly to finalize the 2008 calendar and begin planning for 2009! Stay tuned.... 

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## Divemaster's Report

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By Doug Geddes



FT. LAUDERDALE 2007

Time is getting close for those going on this trip. If you haven't signed up yet, it is still not too late. Check out the website to see where and when. This will be the lowest cost trip that this club has ever taken, except for the lake trips. If you miss this one, then I don't want to hear anyone bitching about trips and costs.

Dan relaxing with Lynne and Sherry



### UTILA 2008

As you know already if you have been reading our newsletters, this trip is booked up. If you want to get on the waiting list, then go to our website and sign up. No monies are required for the waiting list. For those signed up, I will be sending out an email with the costs (as best I know them) and when more monies are due. There won't be any money due until around December or January. For those getting FF air travel, you need to get that resolved. I will be giving up our extra seats on the plane by December. My email to you will ask you again to make your choice of club air or not. For those using their own air, I am still trying to work out the details so you can fly over to Utila with us. No rush on anything, but I will keep you informed.

### GALAPAGOS 2008

No additional news to report on this trip. We are still a little out to get the pricing on the air. Once we have that, then we can get close to a final price. I will be sending out a payment schedule for

this trip. Once again, nothing will be due till around December or January. If you are considering dropping out of this trip, please due so early instead of holding a spot. The people on our waiting list need to make their plans also.

Barbara and Autumn Geddes talking with new member Kris Harn



### DIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

By the time you are reading this, we should have had another dive committee meeting to talk about trips for the future. Several persons have asked me to look into a couple of trips. I have and I have also looked at some others. Save your money, this next big trip will be a doozy. 🚩

Karen and Tracey pool side with the Kids



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## 2007 BGDC Officer's & Staff

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Dan Miller, President	948-5133
Rebecca Singer, Vice President	552-0880
Maryanne O'Canna, Secretary	277-2634
George Fleischmann, Treasurer	873-9539
Doug Geddes, Divemaster	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Office	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Undercurrents Editor	223-7926

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## From the Treasurer

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By George Fleischmann




### 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  
% George Fleischmann  
9048 Clifton Road  
Versailles, KY 40383 -9077

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

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## From The Secretary

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By Maryanna O'Canna



### General Meeting Minutes 8/14/07

The 7:30 meeting was attended by 18 signed-in members, however more were there who didn't sign the roster. Two visitors attended. The trips for the future were discussed: Ft Lauderdale, Lake Cumberland Ecology Dive, W. Ky Labor Day, Utila. The upcoming Pig Roast was also mentioned. The program was a couple of videos about Cave Diving and Environmental Awareness.

### Board Meeting 8/28/07

The 7:30pm meeting was attended by Dan, George, Maryanne, Rick, Doug, John and Rebecca.

John is to make a motion and present at the next Club meeting for the new set of by-laws.

Dan and Dan looking on I think to the volleyball game



A November Dinner Meeting is planned to be catered as last year by the Racquet Club. A sign-up sheet will be mandatory to sign to attend the event.


One new member has joined as of the last meeting. She is added to the newly established member's roster submitted by George. In addition, discussion was held about the use of permission by individual club members to have their data included on the membership roster.

Upcoming trips discussed were: Ft. Lauderdale, Utila, and Galapagos. Possible trips for 2008 and 2009 will be discussed by the Trip Committee in the coming week.

A motion was made by George for the club to purchase a couple more dive flags. Rick suggested that the club needed more than one. Rick will pursue the acquisition.

A suggestion was made to link the Dive Assure video up to a link on the club website for safety purposes prior to making a dive trip.

A slate committee needs to be formed for election of new officers in November.

Minutes submitted 8/29/07 

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** Well, we are nearing the end of another summer dive season, just in time to start thinking about some fall diving, prior to the winter travel diving season. Hey, come to think of it, there is no end to the dive season, we just use different equipment and/or travel more. With the Western Kentucky dive weekend, the KUES ecology dive, and more, there is lots of diving left to do in 2007! Even more reason to spend a little time checking out the gear. When on a dive vacation, whether it is at a Kentucky quarry or in the Galapagos, we all need to copy the Boy Scout motto: Be Prepared.



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

Corrine serving up



### Checking Your Dive Gear

I've presented articles before about having new (or new-used) gear checked out by your local dive shop experts before taking a trip. However, our summer trip to Dale Hollow showed the importance of checking out your equipment thoroughly before any dive.

We know that it is important to check damaged rubber or torn silicone in your fin or mask straps. We have our tanks inspected regularly. We replace broken latches or zippers, and make sure our hoses have no bulges or cracks. But, loyal readers, do you check your bag to make sure there are no dead animals in there? (Sorry Doug, I had to

do that!) But in addition, there were missing weights, leaking masks, holy BC's, and other problems.

The point is, just because your gear worked the last time you used it, and you just stuck it in your dive bag right after, doesn't mean it will be fine for the next trip. Make sure you pull it all out with plenty of time before you leave on a dive trip. Do a visual inspection of all important gear. Make sure your snorkel is in the bag and you have some sort of snorkel keeper. Make sure you have your 'save a dive' kit in there with replacement straps. Put that old mask in the bag. Make sure you have the dive knife secure and your underwater light is working and has extra batteries. Make a list of all your dive gear and make sure that you pack all of the gear before you leave for your trip, whether it is local or to the other side of the earth.

### Masks

If your mask is new, you should know that sometimes during the manufacturing process, a thin film of silicone will develop on the glass lens. This film will cause rapid fogging that is resistant to conventional anti-fog measures. It is important to remove this film of silicone from the lens prior to your first dive. To remove it you will need to scrub the lens inside and out with a mild abrasive. A paste like toothpaste is ideal but a liquid scrub will also work. Rub the cleanser into the lens with your fingers several times and then rinse clean thoroughly.

Laine and the other side looking for that serve



Mask fogging is a normal occurrence, even after the film of silicone has been removed. Normal fogging can be easily prevented with after market anti-fog agents or saliva. Rub onto the lens and then rinse. Your dive will now be fog free!

Some after after-market anti-fog agents contain formaldehyde, alcohol, or other substances that may damage the plastic materials used in your mask. If unsure, avoid prolonged exposure of

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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the anti-fog agent with the plastic parts of your mask.

**Mask check out.** Inspect the strap for tears. Replace it if you find any. Make sure there are no dead animals present. (*Sorry again, Doug!*) Closely inspect the mask skirt, around the nose especially, for any small tears. You may be able to fix these before they get too large. Consider replacing the mask if you are going on a big trip, and bring the old repaired one as a spare.

*Eat and dive club*



**Fins, Check out the strain areas.** Make sure there are no cracks or tears on the straps. If you have buckles, check for starting cracks or damage. Replace these before the trip, and put extras in your save-a-dive kit.

### Regulators

Your Scuba diving equipment is a life support system. The air delivery system is responsible for providing you with air. Annual service is designed to prevent problems from equipment failure on your vacation. Your local dive shop has a team of service technicians that are certified by the scuba manufacturers as a requirement for remaining an authorized dealer. Use them for maintaining your important (and expensive equipment). Don't skimp here!

**Get it wet.** Before your vacation, get in the pool and check out all your gear. Especially make sure your recently serviced regulator is working well.

**Check the hoses.** Move the strain relief devices (those stiff plastic coverings that slide up the hoses to the first stage) and look for bulges, cracks or tearing, especially on high pressure hoses. If you

don't have the strain relief devices, get some. They are inexpensive and will help prevent damage to your hoses from bending and pulling.

**Computers, Check the O-rings.** Most dive computers have eliminated the clumsy battery compartment O-rings that used to plague owners of devices like the Edge. There are still O-rings there, make sure they are smooth, clean, and lightly lubricated.

**Get a charge.** Take batteries out between vacations. Make sure they are charged and working with the computer before you leave for vacation. If you use replaceable batteries, make sure you bring along extras.

*More eat and dive clubbers*



### Tanks

Regardless of if it is your tank or a rental tank; there are some common things to check out before the first dive.

**Check the valve O-ring.** Rental and resort tanks are used and abused. O-rings probably aren't replaced until they actually leak. Give yours a close look for fraying, nicks and cracks. Listen closely for a leak, or splash water on the pressurized connection and look for bubbles. O-rings are cheap and easy to replace (you can even bring your own in a save-a-dive kit) and the dive operator shouldn't hesitate to do so, or to provide a new cylinder.

**Check the valve-to-tank seal.** A leak there suggests a crack in the tank where the valve threads to it. You will probably need to submerge the tank and look for bubbles to find this leak. If you do, report it and ask for another tank for the next dive.

**Check the VIP Sticker and hydro stamp.** They are required in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New

## Safety Corner Cont.

Zealand—but not in many other popular dive destinations. Foreign operators may still inspect tanks and record the info in a log book instead of on a sticker, so don't panic if you don't see one. Almost all the danger of tank failure is during the fill when, presumably, you'll be somewhere else.

**Check the valve action.** If a valve is hard to turn, slips or sticks, it needs service, but as long as it doesn't leak it's nothing to worry about.

**Check the appearance.** Does the tank look dinged, scratched, battered and bruised? You would be too if you were handled that way. It's not likely to be a problem unless there's a deep gouge, say one-eighth inch or more. Even then, it's the guy who fills it who's most at risk.

**Wetsuit Inspect for damage.** Look for tears, especially along seams, and check knees and elbows for scuffing and torn nylon. Because neoprene stretches but zippers do not, the seam between them is highly stressed: Inspect the stitching, and while you're at it, examine the zipper for broken teeth.

*Tracey with the kid*



**Store it right.** Store the suit stretched out flat, or folded with crumpled newspaper or old T-shirts inside to give it some form, or hanging from a fat hanger. Do not allow your wetsuit to be crunched or crushed. Do not allow heavy objects like weights or tanks to lie on top of it. Dents may be permanent, and mean lost insulation.

### **Knives** (yes, knives!!!)

Inspect the blade for rust spots or any corrosion. You may not have completely cleaned it from the last time in salt water, or moisture may have been in your bag. Take the handle off if possible.

**Rinse it.** Remove the blade from its sheath and soak both parts in fresh water. If the knife disassembles that's even better, as it will allow you to clean all components separately, eliminating all those joints where corrosion loves to hide.

*Marion, Stella with the President*



**Wipe it down.** After a good soak, give both sheath and knife a good shake, then wipe down the knife with a dry towel. This is when you want to inspect the knife closely for any signs of corrosion. A good rub with the towel will clean any rust spots before they get worse. (If you do have rust spots, use a little steel wool to remove them.) Now's also the time to give your sheath's straps a quick look. Better to replace a dry-rotted strap now than to have it snap on you at 80 feet.

**Spray it.** Once dry, you may want to spray a light coat of silicone on the blade. You can get this stuff at virtually any dive store--it's also used on zippers. Then slide it back into the dry sheath. Do not use WD40 or any other petroleum products.

If you personally inspect your gear, and personally repack it, there is no reason you should miss a dive due to missing or malfunctioning equipment. And, after all, that's why we go on dive trips right? To go diving!!! 🚩

*From L to R, Dan, Gordon, John and Rick*



## Presidential Potpourri

### September 15<sup>th</sup> is International Clean-Up Day

I'll be participating in this worthwhile cause and I hope you will also. 9/15 Lake Cumberland, 33rd annual KUES clean up dive. The lake is down 45 feet due to Wolf Creek Dam repairs so the trash pickings should be real good. The food will be plentiful and the door prizes aplenty. First pick of prizes go to the team hauling in the most trash.

### Wounded Warriors Project

Many Iraq War vets are coming home with lost limb disabilities. Fortunately, several organizations have sprouted up to help get them into diving for the rehabilitative and therapeutic benefits. If you want to help or just to learn more, log on to the following websites: [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org); [www.diveheart.org](http://www.diveheart.org); [www.hsascuba.org](http://www.hsascuba.org); [www.underwaterwarriors.org](http://www.underwaterwarriors.org) & [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org).

### September 28th Shark Water documentary hits theaters

The movie deals with the issues that threaten shark populations worldwide. I've seen the trailers and the encounter footage is fascinating though the finning is disturbing. Check out the trailer at [www.sharkwater.com](http://www.sharkwater.com). I plan on seeing this movie while I'm on the club's Ft. Lauderdale-Key Largo trip. Coming soon to a theater near you!

### Sport Diver Magazine Top 11 Live-Aboard/Itinerary combos

Many club members have dived these boats and locales in the past and can vouch for their excellence. Here they are in no particular order:

*Peter Hughes Sun Dancer II* - Belize  
*Aqua Cat* - Bahamas  
*Mike Ball Spoilsport* - Coral Sea  
*Bermuda IV* - Bermuda  
*Aggressor I & II* - Galapagos (BGDC trip July '06 & Sept '08)  
*Cuan Law* - BVI  
*Solmar V* - Revillagigedos  
*Manthiri* - Maldives  
*Expedition Fleet* - Philippines  
*Truk Odyssey* - Chuuk Lagoon (BGDC trip Feb '05)  
*Spirit of Freedom* - Australia 🚩

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2007-08 Calendar

### September

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
21, Friday Ft Lauderdale and Keys  
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

15, Saturday Club Christmas Party

### January 08

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### February

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

### March

11, Tuesday Dinner Meeting  
18, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
29, Saturday Utila Dive

*The President of the eat and dive club*

