



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

March 2008

Volume 38, Number 3

## March's Club Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, March 11th  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
 Social at 7  
**Location:** The Racquet Club  
 3900 Crosby Rd.  
**Program:** 2 DVD's

## President's Message

By Dan Miller



### Message from the Deep

At the **March 11** meeting we'll show 2 DVD's: one of **Gordon Green's** Bahamas Blackbeard's Cruises trip he just back from. The other video **Ed Gabe** shot while deep cave diving in Florida with his BGUE buddies. If you like chocolate (and didn't give it up for Lent!) you'll love our tasty door prizes this month.

We still have a few rooms available for **Belize** but we must release all unused Delta club air spots this week so if you want to go using the club air package please sign up and pay your deposit by the **March 11** club meeting. The trip details are available at the following link:

<http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com/Belize-2008.htm>.

Join me at **Ohio's Scuba Fest** the weekend of **April 25-27** in Wilmington, OH. They have many door prizes, paid workshops, free seminars, gear, travel & photography vendor booths, film festival, underwater image competition, a banquet, casino party and silent auction. Dan Orr, President/CEO of DAN, is this year's keynote speaker. Check out the details at [www.scubafest.org](http://www.scubafest.org). I won a

Bahamas Blackbeard Cruise prize drawing year so maybe you can also get lucky!

Are you a NASCAR fan? Check out the #4 and #19 cars at [www.teamscuba.com](http://www.teamscuba.com).

Thanks to **New Horizon Diving Center** for allowing our club members entry into UK's Lancaster Aquatics pool for a gear check out dive on March 5. **Dan**

## The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month's pics are from Little Cayman's dive shop. I forgot the person who took them and I thought I would share them with the club.



## 2008 BGDC Officer's & Staff

Dan Miller, President	948-5133
Rebecca Singer, Vice President	552-0880
Maryanna O'Canna, Secretary	277-2634
George Fleischmann, Treasurer	873-9539
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Information Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	223-7926

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## Vice President's Report

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By Rebecca Singer



We have a lot of trip activity in the near future, but not much membership activity to report. Brian Dawson, friend of Rick and Lynne, visited us at our last club meeting. We hope to see Brian at future meetings and that he soon becomes a new member!

For now, enjoy preparing for Utila or Roatan and I'll see the rest of you at our next club meeting. 🚩

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## Trip Director's Report

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By Doug Geddes



### UTILA 2008

Can you say, "Time to go". Yes, it has been a long year for us to wait for this one, but it is finally here. Get your bags packed, along with your passport and meet me at the airport. This boy is ready to go. I have made arrangements for the T-shirts and Polo shirts to be ready by the meeting. I will send out an email before the meeting to let you know. I would appreciate everyone picking them up at the meeting or my office before the trip. We will send the out of town divers theirs by mail. We also have the e-tickets for each of the persons traveling with us on Delta, along with luggage tags they want us to put on our luggage so it will be noticed once in Roatan. I will send out an email updating everyone that isn't flying with us on how to meet up with us for the charter flight. I am looking forward to seeing you all again. Any questions, drop me an email.

### ROATAN 2008

You guys are the next ones to leave shortly after the Utila group. We are still working on T-shirts for that one, but hope to have it done soon. Get your bags packed as well, you aren't too far behind us. There will be emails going out to all involved with final details. If we are lucky, we might see you guys as we pass thru on our way home from Utila.

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## GALAPAGOS 2008

This trip is finally shaping up. We have just found out that we need a Yellow fever vaccine to go to the Sacha Lodge area. I am trying to arrange a group outing to go take the vaccine. I will email everyone involved once I get it resolved. Some hint of climbing the volcano are being tossed around, but we will see who can and will do it. Still room to put your name on the waiting list. I don't believe we have anyone at the moment.

## INDONESIA 2009

Still far off, but never too far off to think about this great trip of a lifetime. At the moment we have 3 on the waiting list, but you might go ahead and sign up also. It doesn't cost you anything. Check the web site for more details. 🚩

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## From the Treasurer

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By George Fleischmann



### 2008 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




### Blue Grass Dive Club Meeting 02/08/08

The meeting was brought to order by Dan Miller. There was one visitor. New Horizons is offering March 5 as a night for members to try out new gear in the UK pool. Dinner meeting will be May 13 with reservations required. Derby Party will be May 3. Treasurer's report was given by George. April will be Utila and Roatan trips with most of the club absent from that future meeting. The Belize trip will take place in June. The program was a video on TED.com and scuba divers jitterbugging. The meeting was attended by 20 members and one visitor.

### Blue Grass Dive Club Board Meeting 02/26/08

Present: Mike, Dan, George, Rick, Doug, Rebecca, Maryanna, John  
Treasurer report was given by George. Approved Dan is to be added to the Belize website, as he is trip leader.  
Doug distributed e-tickets to Roatan and Utila. Ten members are signed up for Belize in June. T-shirts being made for the Utila trip. The design was approved. Doug will ask if more members want more shirts, and George will verify the orders. More shirts will be made for the divemasters as gifts.  
Doug will look into group immunizations for Galapagos in September.  
Dale Hollow trip will be July 19 and 20.  
Rebecca has reported new applications received, no dues yet.  
The club articles of incorporation are now official.

Minutes approved by the board. 

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## Safety Corner

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By Rick Stephan



**Note:** This month's article comes from *scubadiving.com*. I know most of us in the BGDC don't get heavily involved with trying to bring up anchors from 140', but we do sometimes get very focused on chasing the whale shark (at least I hope I am in Utila!!!) or taking a picture of juvenile spotted drums, or whatever. Keeping your focus on safety is sometimes just keeping your mind on the basics. Read this tale of good divers trying to take on something more than they could handle, and see if it applies to you!

Pay special attention to the Lessons for Life section. Make sure you know what you are doing if you are trying to do something special. Get technical training from your dive shop. Make sure your gear is serviced properly. Keep calm in all situations. Panic is the biggest cause of problems while diving – so plan the dive, dive the plan, and practice your skills so even when something goes wrong you will come out safely.



*Remember, safe diving is fun!*

### OUT OF BREATH

February 2008  
By Michael Ange

Allison's heavy breathing thundered in her ears as she struggled to fill the 100-pound lift bag for the fourth time. Over inflated with her precious air, the bag slipped from her grasp and rocketed toward the surface. Finally peering through the swirling silt at her forgotten gauges, she recognized the gravity of her situation: 126 feet down, 10 minutes of mandatory deco and only 300 psi left. Desperate, she spotted Mary, closed the long gap and accepted her buddy's octopus just as she took her last breath. The relief she felt as she inhaled deeply from the alternate was short-lived--her second breath was all water and the tunnel vision in her panic-ridden brain told her she had 70 vertical feet between her and her next lung-full.

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## Safety Corner Cont.

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### The Divers

Allison and Mary were active divers in their early forties who made a point to keep pace competitively with their friends in the sport. They were also active boaters, maintaining a 40-foot pleasure craft, which they frequently used for diving. Both had advanced certifications, hundreds of logged dives, and were in excellent health.



### The Dive

The week before Allison's incident, the two women had fouled their anchor in 140 feet of water. Their friends ribbed them about their boating skills during the following week, and the recovery became a matter of pride as neither woman's ego could take being "bested" by the rest of the dive group. When they returned to the site, they attached a 100-pound lift bag and pulled the anchor free of the debris pile. Allison had never worked with a lift bag before, and she became entangled in it repeatedly, twice nearly allowing it to drag her to the surface on an uncontrolled ascent. On the fourth attempt, Allison finally let the bag go. She hadn't accounted for the depth of the dive or the amount of gas it took to inflate the large lift bag four times, and seeing her gauge well below the 500-psi mark gave her quite a shock.

### The Accident

Recognizing her dire straits, Allison immediately began ascending, hoping to find Mary once she swam above the swirling cloud of silt she had kicked up in her recovery effort. Finding good visibility and spotting Mary off in the distance, she swam quickly, running out of air just as she got to her buddy, signaling frantically. Mary pulled her octopus free and pushed it toward Allison's mouth, who sucked a huge breath of air and signaled for an immediate ascent. When Allison's next breath

filled her mouth with water, full-scale panic hit and she bolted for the surface, ignoring her required decompression in the process. When she broke the surface, Allison still had the rubber mouthpiece from Mary's octopus clamped tightly between her teeth.

### The Rescue

On the surface Allison quickly explained that she had skipped at least eight minutes of decompression and that she did not feel well at all. Mary ordered Allison not to exert herself and yelled to the person on the boat to throw them a line. Allison climbed the ladder, and immediately put herself on oxygen and lay on the deck. Mary climbed aboard, and they headed for shore. Allison got overnight observation in a small local clinic, coming through her ordeal physically unscathed.



### Analysis

Like many dives gone wrong, this one started with oversized egos. Neither diver had any experience or training in this type of recovery, and neither was qualified to dive beyond the no-decompression limits. But rather than ask for assistance, they undertook the recovery on their own. For a lengthy recovery at this depth, both divers should have at least carried redundant air supplies.

A review of Allison's computer would reveal that she had actually missed only four minutes of decompression, even though she reported seeing 10 minutes and then eight minutes on her computer. She likely misread her computer, seeing the total ascent time instead of the decompression time in each of these cases.

Finally, Mary's equipment had not been properly maintained. It had been more than two years since its last service and she had replaced the mouthpiece on her octopus herself the preceding month. Unfortunately, she hadn't properly

## Safety Corner Cont.

tightened the zip tie around the mouthpiece. However, even after losing the mouthpiece, had Allison stopped to consider her situation, she still could have breathed on the regulator by either reinserting the second stage into the mouthpiece or holding the second stage with her hand and using it without the mouthpiece. In spite of doing almost everything wrong, good luck prevailed, saving Allison from the potentially fatal consequences of this ill-fated dive.



### Lessons for Life

**Maintain your equipment.** Annual servicing should eliminate the need for major field repairs, and you should always check the security of even seemingly minor parts.

**Recovering even relatively** light objects in shallow water requires training and practice. Heavier objects and deeper water make this training even more critical. Learn to use any specialized equipment or recovery techniques before taking on a recovery mission.

**Decompression dives,** or potential decompression dives, also require specialized training and equipment. Get both before you attempt these dives.

**Leave your ego in your dive bag.** The only thing it will contribute to your dive is a threat to your safety. ▀

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2008 Calendar

### March

11, Tuesday Dinner Meeting  
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting  
29, Utila Dive Trip

### April

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

This one is from Yap with Noel, John Hudson and Doug



### May

3, Saturday Club's Derby Party  
13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### June

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

### July

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
19-20, Saturday Dale Hollow  
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

