



UNDERCURRENTS

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

May 2008

Volume 38, Number 5

May's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 13th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social 6:30, Dinner 7:00
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Video of Utila

President's Message

By Dan Miller



Message from the Deep

Thankfully, our 60 folks got back from Honduras OK and no serious injuries were incurred on the trips. At the May 13 dinner meeting program will be video and pictures of our Utila & Roatan trips. We have so much club-produced content that we may need to show some of it at the June meeting.

Ramon's Village still has a few rooms if you want to jump in on our **Belize** trip but you'd be on your own for airfare. It's not too late to sign up for this trip departing June 15th so let me know if seriously interested. Also, I'll be organizing another trip to Western KY over this July 4th weekend to Pennyroyal Blue Springs Resort & Dive Cerulean that mimics the trip we made last year so look for the trip details soon.

I'm going to the **Georgia Dive Show** in Atlanta May 17-18 and Anna is even going! If interested in attending, check out the website at www.georgiadiveshow.com.

Doug Geddes' dive trip committee is working hard on several '09 trips so look for the announcements

to be made real soon. I'll probably run two cheaper trips myself next year. First, a cheap trip over Memorial Day weekend to **Cooper River, SC** to muck dive for Megaladon teeth & Civil War artifacts coupled with a stay in an antebellum Charleston bed & breakfast.

Secondly, a Labor Day weekend trip to the **1,000 Islands region of Canada** (Yes, the water is still 77-80 degrees that late in their dive season!). These 2 trips would make nice bookends to the summer diving season added to the clubs typical foreign exotic and local lake dive offerings.

Big congratulations go out to **Adam Kidd** for just attaining his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout rank. 🚩

Dan

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month all of the pics are going to be of the Derby Party, forgot that we could make this issue with them, we have 44 members and guest. A Big Thanks to The McCann's for hosting the event. There are some great pics floating around out there of the Utila and Roatan trip. Ed Gabe even has a great video on You Tube, Check it out at [BGDC trip to Utila](http://BGDC_trip_to_Utila). 🚩



Vice President's Report

By Rebecca Singer



Happy Spring everyone. It sounds like the Utila and Roatan trips were a success! I for one am looking forward to this meeting's program so I can hear all the stories and see some great pictures and video of the trip.

I have no new members to report for April. Please help spread the word about our dive club to your friends. You know how much you like diving with the club - encourage others to get in on the fun too!!



I want to take a moment to thank our Dive Trip Committee again for all their hard work. Check out the trip section for all the great trips we have scheduled already for 2008 and 2009. But.... keep in mind that the dive trip committee is working hard to fill out the 2009 calendar with some incredible trips in the winter and summer so that everyone gets a chance to dive!

I'll see everyone at the meeting! 🚩



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



FT. LAUDERDALE 2008

David Graves and Traci Combs have graciously agreed to head this trip up for the club this year. Currently we have 7 persons that have said they are going. We have two rooms reserved for Sept. 13 - 20, with the possibility to add more if we need to. The rooms are costing \$439.55 each and the total cost of the rooms will be divided by the number of persons going. The cost shouldn't be over \$140 per person for the week which includes a \$50.00 fee for the RCI group for the rooms. The diving portion will be set up based on what the group what's to do. You will decide if you want to dive that day or not. Each person will be paying for the diving on their own. All meals will be extra as well. The only cost the club is collecting will be to cover the rooms. A rental car might also be needed if someone doesn't drive and that cost will be divided by those using the vehicle. All in all, this trip should still come under \$1000 including air and 6 days of diving. There will not be a reservation form for this trip since we are only doing the rooms, but you will need to send me an email and \$100 deposit to George if you are interested. We still have room for more persons..

GALAPAGOS 2008

At this moment we have an opening for this great trip. If you have an interest you need to fill out a reservation form and send George a check for \$1000.00 to catch up with the group on payments. I am hoping to have all the final costs nailed down pretty soon and will get an email out to those going, so they know what the final cost will be. The website estimates are close, but I want to nail it down, once I get a response from everyone letting me know their final schedules. If I haven't heard from you, then you need to get back to me.

SPRING 2009

After several conversations with other clubs and persons that have been there, we have decided to go to Curacao. The dates will be March 28 - April 4. We will be staying at the Habitat Curacao. <http://www.habitatcuracaoresort.com/contactus.htm>, Check this one out. I will be sending out an

Trip Director's Report Cont.

email once I get more pricing and information. Mike will put it on our website, once we have all the info. Mark your calendars now; don't miss out on this one. 🚩



Dale Hollow Lake

By Corrine Mulberry

July 19th-20th, 2008

It's time! Sign-up now for the Dale Hollow Lake Trip. This is a great trip for divers and non-divers. Last year we had 21 people participate! We have a 30' double-decker pontoon and a regular 25' pontoon boat reserved for this trip. On Saturday, July 19, 2008, we will enjoy lake diving, swimming, relaxing and a pot-luck dinner in the evening. On Sunday, July 20, 2008, we enjoy more lake diving, swimming and relaxing on Dale Hollow Lake. RSVP so you don't miss out! We can only guarantee spots for the first 20 people. The cost is \$15.00 per person per day.

We will have our tremendously fun pot-luck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring a couple of dishes that will serve at least 10 people. Everyone works up quite an appetite being on the water all day. Most people will camp at Dale Hollow State Park Campground in loop M. You are responsible for making your accommodations/reservations. Bring your own lunch, snacks, water, drinks in a small cooler (or if you only have a larger cooler, plan on sharing it with others as space is limited on the boat with all of the dive gear.). Also, if you don't want to fool with bringing breakfast items, many of us drive over to the Park Lodge for breakfast before heading to the boat dock. Unlike past years, we must have sign-ups in order to retain the reservations on the pontoon boats. 🚩

From the Treasurer

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. . 🚩



From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



Board Meeting 4-29-08

Present: Dan M., Doug, G., Rebecca S., Maryanne O., George F., Mike M., John G

The Treasurer's report was given by George. A motion to accept the report was made by John and seconded by Mike. All approved.

The trip committee report was given by Doug. The trip to Curacao and Bonaire for Spring Break '09 was accepted by Mike, seconded by George and all approved.

Rebecca reported that there were no paid new members for the month of April.

The Club's Derby party plans were finalized. Party will be held at the McCann's home.

The minutes were read and accepted by Rebecca, seconded by Doug, and all approved. 🚩



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

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: This article is a bit of an update from the September 2006 Undercurrents. I had several requests to update the Divers Courtesy list... based on things that had been observed during dive trips. Safety includes not only preparing yourself for the dive (planning, equipment, health) but also how you interact with others, including your dive buddies, other folks on the boat, the crew, etc. And, last but not least, the very thing we go diving to see – the environment.

Most of this is common sense. Please don't think of this as preachy – we all make mistakes at times, no one is completely innocent. But, by reviewing these points, perhaps you can make your next dive outing more enjoyable for others – and maybe even yourself!



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.

Safety Corner Cont.

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. Always fly the diving flag when diving, but not when on the way to, or from, the dive site. Never leave a boat unattended.

3. 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.

Safety Corner Cont.

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.

4. Remember that certain areas, like rinse buckets, are for common use. Don't monopolize a bucket. Don't put soap or defog into the bucket: scoop clean water out with your mask and rinse over the side of the boat.

5. Observe the rules of the 'head'. Marine toilets are notorious for clogging, make sure you know its operation and adhere to the directions.

6. Don't throw trash into the water. This would seem to be pretty self-evident, but there are lots of plastic bottles and bags that litter the beaches that 'accidentally' blew off the boat. Make sure all your pieces and parts are secure, before, during, and after the dive.

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. 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.

3. Avoid diving from beaches that are protected due to conservation projects that protect plant and animal species.

4. Take photographs and notes - not specimens.

Before dives

1. Gather your fins, weights, mask and snorkel around you before you start putting on your BCD. Put all other gear away, securing hats, towels and shirts, which could blow overboard. Clear your excess gear away from the open deck where people need to walk.

2. CHECK YOUR AIR BEFORE YOU PUT ON YOUR GEAR. Make sure you have enough PSI and your air is on.

3. Make sure your computer (if using) is operational.

4. Put on your dive skins or wet suit while approaching the site. Any sooner, you might overheat. If you wait till you're there, you (and those behind you) will have to deal with the extra time rocking and rolling while the boat is tied to the mooring.

5. Make sure you and your buddy (or group) know which way the dive will progress when you enter. If the surface is rough or has current, agree to meet on the mooring line.



On dives

1. Before you jump in the water, make sure no one is under you.

2. After you jump in the water, check your gear quickly; give the 'okay' to the boat, and get out of the way of the dive platform so others can get in the water.

Safety Corner Cont.

3. Follow the dive plan. Stay buddied up.

4. If you want to show someone something, make a noise (tank banger, rattle, etc.). But DO NOT continue doing it for extended periods. Sound travels very well under water.... If they aren't coming to look at what you've found, they don't want to.

5. If several people are wanting to see something, say a seahorse, be very polite. Let people know that you are going to approach - don't just swim in swiftly and knock people around so you can see it. Approach the object quietly, look, then back away and let someone else see it. Don't try to touch it, herd it around, or chase it down.

6. If you are a photographer: your camera does not give you special privileges to see things before other divers - you still have to take your turn. Poking your camera right on top of a sea creature will frighten it away so other divers can't see it. Be extra courteous, and extra cautious. Photographers are notorious for being poor dive buddies, make sure you check on each other.

7. Also for photographers and videographers: your hobby requires much more dive skill than just moving along unencumbered. Stay off the reef, stay off the bottom in the silt, watch your depth, watch your time, and watch your breathing.

8. If you have an underwater scooter: don't zoom in on people. Don't scare away all the fish life ahead of the dive group before the kickers get there.



9. Continuously check your buoyancy, make sure you stay off the bottom and off the reef.

10. When going back to the boat, make sure to do your safety stop.

11. Before going to the ladder, look around, make sure you're not swimming on top of or in front of someone who has waited their turn.

12. Keep your fins on until you have something solid in hand - the ladder, the dive platform, etc. If you let go of a rope, your bare feet won't get you to the boat very quickly.

13. If the boat is rocking, hold the ladder away from you as you remove your fins. Keep a stiff but flexible arm on the ladder to keep you from being hit.

14. Hand your fins up only after you have a secure footing on the ladder or better yet, all the way up. Again, if you fall back into the water, you'll need those fins to get back.

15. Don't follow too closely behind a person going up a ladder. If they lose their footing, they could fall back onto you. A metal tank falling on top of you with a person attached, could ruin your day - or worse.



After dives

1. Gather your fins, weights, mask and snorkel around you as soon as you take off your tank and BCD. Be careful with your weights, as other people may have computers or dive masks out on seats.

2. Keep your masks where they are supposed to be. Camera rinse buckets are for cameras only - keep other gear out of them. (and vice versa).

Safety Corner Cont.

3. Some boats have tables for camera gear. Don't put sunscreen or other things there.
4. Don't hang wet divesuits or towels where they will flap in other people's faces.
5. Be aware of other people wanting to move around the boat. Don't monopolize open space.
6. Pack up your gear and have it ready to take off the boat before you get back to the dock. Packing up while others try to get around you to get off is impolite, and possibly dangerous.

The bottom line is always the golden rule. Make sure you are courteous, and others will be back to you. This makes for a much more fun and safe dive for everyone! 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2008 Calendar

May

- 13, Tuesday Dinner Meeting
- 27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

June

- 10, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 15-22, Sunday Belize, CA
- 24, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

July

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



August

- 12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 16, Saturday Club Pig Roast
- 26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

September

- 9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 30, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

October

- 14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
- 28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

November

- 11, Tuesday Dinner Meeting (Elections)
- 25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

- 13, Saturday Club Christmas Party

