



UNDERCURRENTS

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

August 2008

Volume 38, Number 8

August's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 12th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: TBA

President's Message

By Dan Miller



Message from the Deep

At this writing, I don't have a program set for the 8/12 meeting so if you have a suggestion please let me know ASAP. However, at the 8/12 meeting, *The Racquet Club Grille* will offer a **cook out** from 6-7 pm. For just \$3.00 you get coleslaw, potato chips, iced tea or water and your choice of a hot dog or hamburger with all the fixings'. Of course, other soft drinks and adult beverages will be available from the bar as usual but our normal appetizers & soft drinks will not be provided. No RSVP is required to join the cook out.

August has a lot in store for local divers. The weekend of 8/8-10 sees the annual *International Legends of Diving* event return to Portage Quarry, OH. It's a 4.5 hour drive from Lexington but if I can round up a dive buddy, I'm there, so let me know if you want to go. Check the details at www.internationallegendsofdiving.com.

On 8/16, *New Horizons Diving Center* hosts their annual Treasure Hunt & Pig Roast at the Falling

Rock Park quarry in LaGrange. I've already paid so I'm going if anybody wants to share a ride let me know. Call the shop at 277-1234 to get on the list or check out all the details at the following link: www.newhorizonsdiving.com/2008/08/16.

Of course, the highlight of the month (besides UK beating UofL on 8/31!) is sure to be the 8/23 BGDC Pig Roast & Pool Party hosted as always by Maryann & Doug Geddes. All the info is at the link:

<http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com/Pig%20Roast.htm>. Bring a swimsuit, dish to share and your own booze. The club (and our very generous hosts) will provide the rest. 🍷

Dan

Pig Roast Time

**Mark that Date down!!! Aug 23rd
Suuuuuuu-Eeeeeeeeeeee !!!**

Time for our pig roast again.

Date: Saturday, Aug 23rd
Time: 4:00-PM
Where: Doug & MaryAnn Geddes
105 Country Knoll
Equestrian Woods Estates
(See BGDC Web Site for Map)
(859) 224-3197

Activities: Swimming, Ladder Golf Volleyball.

What to Bring

- A dish to share with 12 others
- Swim suit & towel
- Lawn chairs

The club will provide the Bar-B-Q, Buns & Soft drinks products.

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



This month I am going to continue the pics from Dale Hollow and hope to have some from the Belize Trip in June, if not I will have some of my BVI pics from "The Hall Trip." 🚩

Vice President's Report

By Rebecca Singer



Visitors and New Members

We welcomed several new members at the July meeting this month. Steve Gahafer joined a few months back but made it to his first meeting this month so we were thrilled to welcome him in person. Krisy and Jason Carty joined the club in July and made it to the meeting – an outstanding feat considering they are from Mount Sterling, KY. Greg Snowden, from New Horizons Diving Center, has visited with us at meetings, but became a full-fledged member during the July meeting. Please continue to give all our new members a warm welcome (and encourage them to come on an upcoming trip!). If you know of any divers who aren't already members, be sure to gently drag them to the upcoming meeting on August 12th. We'll see you there!!

Upcoming Trips

I want to take a brief moment to thank all the members of the Dive Trip Committee for working so hard on getting the 2009 calendar finalized. Take a look at Doug's Upcoming Trips section to learn about our new June, 2009 trip to St. Croix. It should be a lot of fun and we'd like to take as many people as possible. 🚩



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: I have to admit that this month's article (from scubadiving.com) is a bit disconcerting for me. I am one of those people who seem to not pay attention during the flight safety instructions on the plane before we take off. I fly very frequently, on the same kind of planes, I know where the exits are, when to fasten seat belts and where to look for the masks should we become depressurized.

In the same respect, I've been diving for a long time, gone on lots of week long trips, with very similar safety lectures that I've heard before. I sometimes don't listen to the pre-dive safety briefing, and (so-far) I've been safe.

This is a good time for you to consider whether you pay attention, and are prepared to save your own life – or your buddy's – by knowing the safety drills and how your dive boat executes safety maneuvers. So read on, and see whether or not you're one of the people who don't sweat the small stuff....



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Sweating the Small Stuff

Bill's disregard for Scuba 101 turned the perfect dive into a disaster.

By Michael Ange

Bill surfaced in the lee of the boat. Protected from the rising wind, he cavalierly tossed his regulator aside and removed his mask. As the boat shifted, a light swell smacked him head on, like a scrappy boxer dealing short, persistent jabs to the face. The first mouthful of seawater took him by surprise. The second sent him into a panic. Then came a third, fourth, fifth ... Bill faintly heard Captain John order the boat crew to "go" and saw the divemaster silhouetted against the bright sun as he closed the gap. But Bill never did see his rescuer face to face--by the time he arrived, Bill was floating face down, his body undulating in the rolling swell.

Safety Corner Cont.

The Diver

Bill, a healthy diver in his mid-forties, had between 20 and 30 dives under his belt and more confidence than his skills deserved--enough to get into significant trouble by thinking himself exempt from basic safety procedures. John was a hard-nosed captain who demanded a strict adherence to the rules and had a reputation for brusqueness, both with his crew and paying guests, but his rough manner came from his dedication to getting every diver safely back to shore, which usually earned him the respect of his crew and his customers.

Bill was an exception. Bristling at Captain John's direct nature, he discounted his rules, thinking them overstated. Bill had made a few dive trips to the islands and felt he could discern between necessary safety procedures and those drummed up by lawyers for liability purposes.

Corrine, the Trip Leader



The Dive

Morning broke on a beautiful day as the divers gathered on the dock for their 8 a.m. departure. The boat left the channel and motored across mirror-flat Atlantic waters. Reaching their first dive site and tying quickly to the mooring, there was so little wind or current that the boat didn't even pull taut on the mooring line. The first dive went off without a hitch. They made a second dive on a shallow reef normally swept by a mild current, but today even that was nonexistent. After a leisurely exploration, the divers boarded the boat in buddy teams, reveling in their remarkable dive day.

The Accident

As the divers began to board, the wind shifted, pushing the boat around on its mooring. The seas

were smaller than two feet, but the strong breeze made them choppy. Just in case, John's divemaster threw a trail line behind the boat for divers to hold while they waited to climb on board. While scanning the surrounding water, John spotted Bill astern--his mask in his hand, no regulator in his mouth. Immediately, he asked Bill if he was OK and screamed, "Put your mask back on!" Bill signaled an overhead OK and began swimming slowly back to the boat as his buddy, who had gone ahead at Bill's suggestion, began climbing the ladder.

As the boat shifted a bit farther on its mooring, it no longer sheltered Bill from the breeze. The first wave slapped him in the face; coughing and sputtering, Bill tried to regain control. He reached up, attempted to put his mask on and caught another jab that flooded his eyes, nose and mouth with saltwater. Struggling now, Bill began to panic. He lost control of his breathing, coughed up seawater and lost his mask in the process. Bill waved his arms and cried for help, but only a gurgle emerged as the small but persistent waves forced themselves upon him, depriving him of the air he so desperately needed. Then, everything went dark.



The Recovery

The divemaster reached Bill within moments of Captain John's order, rolling him onto his back while dumping his weights. Bill had stopped breathing, and the divemaster tried to force his own breaths down Bill's throat despite the waves' continued assault. Hooking his arm into the boat's trail line, he held Bill securely as John towed them in. Although it seemed like days, only minutes had passed from Bill's initial signs of distress to their frantic attempts at CPR back on board. John sped to the nearest dock where an ambulance waited to continue treatment and transport Bill to a local

Safety Corner Cont.

hospital. Despite everyone's efforts, the doctors pronounced Bill dead on arrival.

Analysis

The good conditions made Bill feel he could disregard accepted safety rules. Like many divers, he felt uncomfortable in his mask on the surface and immediately took it off in the calm conditions--the first in a series of mistakes that seemed minor at the time, but ultimately cost Bill his life. Initially, the boat sheltered Bill from the surface chop, but when it shifted, exposing him to the elements, he should have immediately replaced his mask. When he was struggling to control his breathing, he should have dumped his weight belt--this may have floated him far enough above the surface to get a breath. Replacing his regulator would have allowed him to breathe, even with the seas slapping him in the face. Finally, had they not separated, Bill's buddy could have helped him. Unfortunately, he did none of these things. In spite of a stellar reaction by the crew, this diver died from his mistakes. An investigation into the incident would later show that Bill had more than 1,000 psi in his tank when he drowned, and his equipment worked perfectly.

Lessons for Life

Stay with your buddy at all times, until you're back on the boat.

Always keep your mask and regulator firmly in place until you're on the boat and away from the boarding area.

Any time you encounter difficulty on the surface, inflate your BC and dump your weights.

If waves are giving you trouble on the surface, either submerge a few feet or turn your back to the swells until you can regain control.

Keep your ego in check. In diving, pride and arrogance often foreshadow tragedy.

Remember, conditions can change rapidly, so follow the rules and prepare for the unexpected. ▀



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



GALAPAGOS 2008

If you haven't heard, we now have an opening for our trip to Galapagos. A medical issue has forced another one of our trippers off of this one. We are looking for someone to take their place. The cost is the best it will ever be. We are just paying \$2965 for the week long dive boat trip on the Aggressor I. Go to our web site and check it out and see if it is for you. The dates for the boat are Sept. 11 - 18. You will never get a chance like this again. This is our second trip and I doubt we will be going back as a club for a long time. Don't let this one get away.

FT. LAUDERDALE 2008

We are down one diver for this trip, but we still have 6 persons going in September to one of the best dive locations in the world. The combination of wrecks, reefs and large fish life, makes it that way. Talk to anyone that has dove there and you will find it among their favorite dive. We still have space for two or more divers. David Graves and Traci Combs are heading this one up. For more info, check our web site.



CURACAO 2009

This trip is shaping up to be one of largest trips ever. If you haven't signed up on our web site, you need to ASAP. We only have 25 club air seats on Delta. According to other sources, we basically have taken all the cheap seats on this flight and there are none to be had, unless you are a major flyer. We are looking for a \$200 deposit for the resort and a \$125.00 deposit for the air. Both are refundable if canceled in time. Please don't wait until it is too late to sign up for this one. Check out

Trip Director's Report Cont.

all the types of packages this resort offers. This is Fayette County's spring break, so bring the kids. Under 13, they stay for free. The dates are March 28 - April 4. If you miss this one, it's your fault you aren't having fun with us.



THANKS DIVE COMMITTEE

If you get a chance, thank the members of my (our) dive committee. They have been working overtime to bring you a good list of dive locations at reasonable prices. Many thanks to Dan for his Belize trip and Corrine for our annual Dale Hollow weekend. They put many hours into making those dives a success and go off without any major hitches. I also would like to thank Rebecca for getting our next year's summer trip to St. Croix set up. This trip involved a lot of research on her part and the committees to get it up and going. I hope many of you hop aboard on this one. Once again, thanks to all of my committee for their hard work. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By George Fleischmann



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. 🚩



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

From The Secretary

By Maryanna O'Canna



Club Meeting 7/8/2008

The meeting was called to order by Dan. The treasurer's report was given by George. The meeting was attended by 34 members.

Three new members were welcomed into the club.

The annual Dale Hollow Lake trip was finalized with plans to go in a couple of weeks. Corinne is the trip leader.

Upcoming fall trips to Ft. Lauderdale and Galapagos were discussed and the Dive Committee looking into a trip to St. Croix for the Summer of 2009.

The meeting was concluded with a video on diving in St. Croix and Gordon's video of the dive trip to Belize.


Board Meeting 7-29-08

Present: Dan Miller, Rebecca Singer, Maryanne O'Canna, John Geddes, Rick Stephen, Doug Geddes, Mike McCann.

The meeting was called to order by Dan. He presented the treasurer's report in the absence of George. A motion was made to accept the report by Doug and seconded. Motion passed.

Rebecca and Maryanne presented their findings on the trip to St. Croix for approval by the Board. A vote was taken earlier to dive with Dive Experience and to stay at The Palms at Pelican Cove during the week of June 13-20, 2009. There will be no group air for this trip. The Board passed a motion to accept these trip arrangements.

The upcoming Pig Roast will be at the home of Doug Geddes on 8/23/08. The club will provide the meat, buns, soft drinks and paper products.

Meeting adjourned. 

Bluegrass Dive Club 2008-09 Calendar

August

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
23, 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

January

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

February

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

March

10, Tuesday Dinner Meeting
24, Tuesday E.C. Meeting
28, Saturday Curacao thru 4/4

April

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

