



UNDERCURRENTS

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

July 2014

Volume 44, Number 7

July's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 8th
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7
Location: The Racquet Club
3900 Crosby Rd.
Program: Highlighting the Philippines

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Summer is here and thanks to the hard work of the Dive Trip Committee we have future trips ready for sign-ups. Please watch your emails and check out the website for some fabulous trips to Dominica and Costa Rica coming in 2015. Remember, if you have trip ideas or suggestions; please contact Doug Geddes with the information. We value your desires to see new places and we want to hear from you.

A huge thank you to Linda and the staff at the Racquet Club for helping us have our summer social last month during our regular meeting. It was great seeing everyone and getting a chance to catch up.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, July 8th. Everyone is always welcome. We hope to see you there! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



The pics for this month are from Noel Hall in Grand Cayman. For the Divers on the September Trip this is a seek peek of what you might see... 🚩

2014 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
Corrine Mulberry, Vice President	913-0892
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	266-4516
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	224-3197
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Mike McCann, Webmaster	255-3937
John Geddes, Newsletter Editor	223-7926



Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	885-2215
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Gordon Green	C@Meeting
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926

Vice President's Report

By Corrine Mulberry



July's Program will feature the BGDC's trip to the Philippines from a few years back. Highlighting the Philippines trip is timely as the Planning Committee is working on a January/February 2016 Philippines trip! Woo Hoo. Come and see what all the Philippines excitement is about.



If you have diving information or destinations (past or potential future trips) that you would like to present at a Club meeting, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me so that we can put you on the calendar. 913-0892 or mulberryc1@gmail.com

We welcomed 2 "familiar faces" at our May meeting – **Jeff Poling** and **Billy Forbess**. The cook-out/social at the May meeting gave us a chance to catch up with these guys. **Jeff** is a Field Service Specialist with Honeywell



and lives in Paint Lick, KY. He has Advanced Open Water Certification and enjoys Caribbean diving whenever he can work it in. He would love to see the Club plan trips to the Caribbean, Hawaii and the Florida Keys. Jeff is married with 4 kids and 1 grandson. He's lived in KY over 23 years and enjoys sports and cruises as well as diving. Welcome back Jeff! **Billy** lists his occupation as "Dentist/Beach Bum". Love it! But we know him as the founder of the BGDC!! Maybe we can talk him into telling us about the early days of the BGDC at one of our meetings? Billy is a Master Instructor with over 3000+ dives under his belt. He resides in Lexington has recently been diving in the Caribbean. Welcome back Billy! It was great to have you. 🚩



From The Secretary

By Mike Sullivan



Board of Director's Meeting
3 June 2014

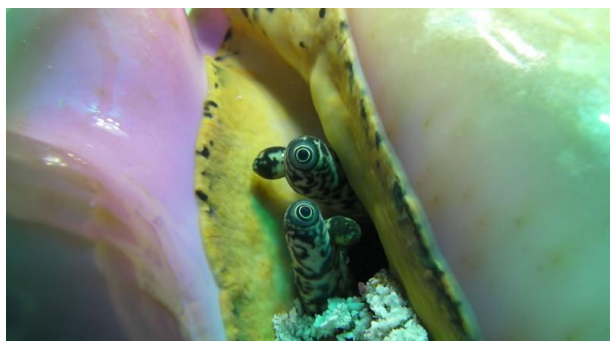
The meeting was called to order at 7:44 PM.

Mike Sullivan made a motion that the Agenda be approved with minor changes.

In attendance were: Tracey Combs, Corrine Mulberry, John Geddes, Doug Geddes, Dan Miller, and Mike Sullivan.

Dan handed-out Treasurer's Report for May, Treasurer's Report for the Cayman trip, May transactions details and funds on account, and Funds on Account for Year Report.

Tracey asked that an email be sent Thursday about a Social being held prior to the June General Meeting instead of a program and that the individual cost of \$6 be paid to participate.



Corrine showed a certificate that is presented to the Club for the Adoption of a Coral Reef in Florida. She indicated that 2 new members have joined this past month; Susan Edgington and Barbara Wentz. The program for July will be a video on Indonesia.

John indicated that the Newsletter will be emailed on Thursday.

Corrine indicated that the reservation deadline is June 15th for the Dale Hollow trip. Doug indicated that the Cayman Island trip is full and the final payment is due June 23rd.



A discussion was held about the Costa Rica trip being planned for June 1015. Doug made a motion that the Volcano Lodge be the selection for the Arenal Volcano portion of the trip. Changes in the sign-up date, 1st payment due date, and final payment date were made as presented by Corrine.

Doug gave a presentation on Dominica for January 2015. He has received a quote from Castle Comfort that includes breakfast for \$1260. After a discussion on the Fort Henry Hotel, Mike made a motion that the Fort Henry Hotel be looked at as an alternate for the trip.

Doug gave a presentation on the Philippines trip planned for January 2016. If we accept the locations, we can lock-in the 2014 rates for the trip. These are \$1409 for Kasai and \$1010 for El Galleon. We would receive 3 comp rooms for 15 paid at Kasai, and 1 comp for 9 paid at El Galleon. John made a motion that we accept these proposed comps and rates.

Corrine indicated that the Membership Forms online do not work properly and need to be updated. There are also differences in the forms and changes need to be made to make them in agreement.

Dan indicated that corrections have been made and the 2013 taxes have been filed.

From The Secretary Cont.

Dan will send-out a new membership list and it can also be used to update the Club Retention Status.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
10 June 2014

Prior to the meeting, a cookout/social was held in the meeting room beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM. Twenty-six people were in attendance. Dan reviewed the current Treasurer's Report. Dan was able to re-deposit \$2000 that had been used to secure a deposit for Grand Cayman and was no longer needed.

Corrine introduced new member Bonnie Wentz, guest Jeff Poling, and long-time member Billy Forbess. Corrine also discussed the annual Dale Hollow trip and that Loop "L" has been reserved for the Dive Club. Corrine also presented the details for the Costa Rica trip planned for 6-13 June 2015.

Doug said that 27 people have signed-up for the Grand Cayman trip and the trip is full. Doug also presented the trip to Dominica planned for 7-14 February 2015 at the Fort Young Hotel. A trip is in the planning to return

to the Philippines in either January or March of 2016. Right now a Fall, Mystery Trip is being planned.



Mike McCann indicated that the website is functional but no updates can currently be made because of a Provider problem that is being investigated.

Rick discussed the Safety article in the current newsletter about drinking alcohol and diving and there not being a lot known about the results but that caution should be used by divers.

Mike Cobb says that a New Horizons special is ongoing for a Sherwood Regulator set.

The door prizes were won by Billy Forbess, Brian Elkins, and Anna Miller.

Tracey reminded everyone about the Pig Roast on August 16th at Doug Geddes' house.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2014 Membership Dues

Student (High School or College ID) ..	\$10.00
Single & Family (1 diver)	30.00
Family (non divers)	30.00
Family (2 or more divers)	40.00

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below, 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 / Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club c/o
Dan Miller
824 Gunpower Drive
Lexington, KY 40509

New Members: Visit the website to fill out an on-line form or to access a Microsoft Word printable form. [CLICK HERE](#). 🚩



Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



CAYMAN 2014

As you have been told, this trip is all booked up and even over flowing at the moment. Several persons were kind enough to allow people to sleep on the pull down beds in the family room area. We now have 27 persons going and this will be another great outing to the Caymans. If you still have an interest, you could put your name on a waiting list, but I really doubt that there will be space opening up, but you never know.



DOMINICA 2015

Dates have been set for this awesome trip. They are February 7 – 14, 2015, so load up your loved one for Valentine's and plan to come with us to this great dive destination. I am still working on the air because of the tight connection into the island. Do not book any air

Trip Director's Report Cont.

yet. We will be staying at Fort Young resort and will have several options on rooms. Go check it out on the web. We probably will be booking mostly the standard ocean front rooms. We have dove this island before and it has great diving and will be warm year around. I will be getting out an email with pricing soon. It is not the Dominican Republic...

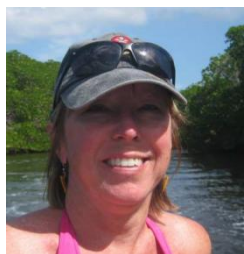


PHILIPPINES 2016

We have set the dates for this awesome trip back to the Philippines; they are Jan. 23 – Feb 6, 2016. We will be staying at Kasai Village in Moalboal on Cebu Island for one week and then travel to Puerto Gallara (Manila) and stay at El Galleon resort. These are the same two places we stayed last time and had such a wonderful time and great diving. Mark this down on your calendars and start saving your pennies. Like in the past, the resorts are cheap but we are doing two of them along with air and transfers. Pricing will be coming soon. 🚩

Costa Rica 2015

By Corrine Mulberry



Yes! The Costa Rica trip is finalized and approved by the Board!

[Please note that we are having some problems with posting to our website at the moment, so trip details have been sent out via email (word docs).] Here some of the details:

- Standard Room - Diver
\$1,243.00/Non-diver \$988.00 (double occupancy)
- Includes group transfers from Liberia Airport to Volcano Lodge; Volcano Lodge to Villas Sol (with lunch) and Villas Sol to Liberia Airport
- 2 night accommodations with 2 breakfasts at Volcano Lodge in the Arneal Volcano area
- 5 night accommodations at Villa Sol – all inclusive with breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.
- Three 2-tank boat dives

Additional dives can be added to Bat Island or Catalinas or other destinations. Many land-based activities may draw us away tho -- ziplining, horseback riding, day pass to hot Springs, canyoneering, hanging bridge tour, jungle boat tour, etc.



Dale Hollow Dive Trip

By Corrine Mulberry



Last Chance - A Few Seats Are Still Available

Join in the fun at Dale Hollow Lake the weekend of July 12th & 13th --- a few seats on the pontoon boat are still available. We have 9 people signed up for this trip (several folks are bringing their own boats, thus room is still available on the pontoon boat). This is a fun and relaxing weekend on the lake and an opportunity for local and inexpensive diving. \$20.00 per person/per day secures you a spot on a pontoon boat (partially funded by Bluegrass Dive Club membership fees). If you want to bring your own boat, there is no cost, but please sign-up on the webpage so we can plan the cook-out/pot luck accordingly.

Come and get WET and try out your new or existing gear before Grand Cayman!



Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Note: Almost every trip brings new knowledge to the intrepid members of the BGDC. Sometimes it is in seeing a new location or a new type of sealife, other times maybe learning about different cultures, or sometimes even learning to not do something, such as getting fire coral in your bootie.

Now, I'm not naming names, but the name rhymes with Bob Bibbetts... Anyway, it happens to us all. I learned a long time ago to not pet the bristle worms, even with gloves. Other folks have learned not to snorkel their first day out without sun protection. Hey, remember, I said we were learning!

In that spirit, here is an article from watersports.answers.com about fire coral. You might learn a few things about it – I did. And note that peeing on fire coral stings does not work – use vinegar. And don't rinse with fresh water, it will make the nematocysts fire again, injecting more venom.

Best idea – stay away from all coral, that way you preserve the reefs (and your skin).



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Fire Coral: Appearance, Danger, and Treatment

Fire coral is one of the many dangers aspiring scuba divers need to be aware of. The name of this creature is misleading, as it is not actually a coral at all. It is more closely related

Safety Corner Cont.

to the jellyfish. However, it is often mistaken for coral or sometimes seaweed. You may think you are coming into contact with a harmless creature and be confused when you start experiencing pain and swelling from its sting. Read on to learn more about fire coral, the damage it can inflict, and how to treat it.

What is Fire Coral?

Fire coral is not actually a coral, but a hydrozoan or hydroid, a species related to coral. It has two life forms, a polyp and a medusa, the first of which is immobile and the latter of which is free swimming. Fire coral is most closely related to jellyfish, and like the jellyfish, it can sting. Fire Coral lives in warm, shallow reef areas exposed to sunlight. It can live on the edge of reefs, on the reef face, or on the top of steep drop-offs. It can be found in the warm areas of all oceans and is most common in tropical environments.



What Does Fire Coral Look Like?

Fire coral gets its name because it often resembles coral reefs. It is brown or yellowish-

green in color. Its appearance varies based on the strength of the current in its location. If the current isn't strong, its branches will be thin and will form a lattice that can be mistaken for seaweed. In an area with a stronger current, the fire coral will form thick branches or columns. In very heavy current, it will form a thin encrusting layer. The branches themselves are hollow and brittle.



What are the Dangers of Fire Coral?

Fire corals have tiny, nearly microscopic polyps. The polyps are embedded in the skeleton and are linked by tiny canals. Some of these canals are housed on the surface of the coral, and some of these contain polyps that have nematocysts, or stinging barbs. If you accidentally come into contact with fire coral, it can shoot these barbs and sting you. You will know you have been stung five to thirty minutes after contact. The first symptom will be a burning or stinging sensation. You will develop a red, itchy rash in the affected area with raised bumps or vesicles. Over time, you may experience swelling of the lymph glands, and in extreme cases, vomiting or nausea.

NOTE: In rare cases, a person may have an allergic reaction to a fire coral sting. In this case, it can be very dangerous. If a person starts experiencing shortness of breath, swelling of the face, throat, or tongue, or other symptoms of an allergic reaction after a fire coral sting, seek medical help immediately.

Safety Corner Cont.

How do You Treat Fire Coral Injuries?

Fortunately, fire coral stings are highly treatable, and as long as the person stung is not allergic, they are not dangerous. If you get stung by a fire coral, rinse the area with saltwater. Avoid fresh water, as it will increase the pain. Treat the area with vinegar to deactivate the venom in the stings. Use a gloved hand or tweezers to carefully remove the barbs, and keep the affected area as immobilized as possible to decrease the chances of spreading the venom. For follow-up care, you should apply hydrocortisone cream two to three times a day. This will help with itching and prevent infection. Over-the-counter painkillers, such as acetaminophen and ibuprofen, may be used to relieve pain. If the sting develops pus or blisters, seek medical help.

Fire coral stings aren't especially dangerous, but the danger of the fire coral lies in its misleading appearance. Without being familiar with the creature, most would assume it is harmless. A fire coral sting is painful and may take a few days to clear up completely, which can put a damper on any ocean exploration. The best solution is to be aware of the creature and try to avoid contact. If you do experience a fire coral sting, follow these steps to treat the wound as calmly and quickly as possible. The best defense against the dangerous creatures of the ocean is knowledge and preparation. 🚩



Bluegrass Dive Club 2014 Calendar

July

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
12, Saturday Dale Hollow Diving
29, Tuesday Board Meeting

August

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
16, Saturday Club Pig Roast
26, Tuesday Board Meeting



September

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
13, Saturday Grand Cayman
30, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
28, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
25, Tuesday Board Meeting

