



UNDERCURRENTS

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

December 2017

Volume 47, Number 12

Annual Christmas Party

Date: December 9th

Time: 6 PM

Location: [Christmas Party](#) location

President's Message

By Tracey Combs



Happy Holidays fellow divers. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast. Our Christmas party is December 9 at 6:00 pm. I appreciate the hospitality of the Kidd's for hosting the event again this year. The details are available on the website. Remember to bring a dish to share with 10-12. The club will supply the ham, soft drinks, and ice.

I personally want to thank the returning board members for serving BGDC another year. Our officers help make our club successful. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to the club. They make my position as President easier.

Our officers for 2017 are
President: Tracey Combs,
Vice President: Mike Sullivan,
Secretary: Kris Harn,
Treasurer: Dan Miller,
Trip Director: Steve Gahafer,
Safety Information Director: Rick Stephan,
Newsletter Editor: John Geddes,
Webmaster: Alex Fassas.

Please take a moment to look at our dive calendar and plan your next trip with the club! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By Steve Gahafer



This is my last Newsletter as the Newsletter Editor. I am changing positions on the Board next year and will be taking over the Trip Director's spot. I will try and keep up with the high standards that Doug has set. On that note I would personally would like to thank Doug for everything that he has done for the Dive Club over the many years that he has been directly involved with it. Although he will not be on next years Board he will always be around in one form or another.....

The Dive Committee will be meeting soon so if you have someplace in mind that you would like to go let me know. I am thinking if we have enough interest to try some "local diving" i.e. you do not need a passport. Some places that come to mind are Morehead City NC to dive a U Boat, the Keys or Pensacola FL to dive the USS Oriskany. If you have an interest in these or any others places let me know.

Do not forget about our annual Christmas Party this Saturday night hosted by the Kidd's. You can find out more about the party and directions to it by clicking [Christmas Party](#).

This months pictures are from a variety of places.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 🚩

2016 BGDC Officer's

Tracey Combs, President	621-4066
John Geddes, Vice President	223-7926
Mike Sullivan, Secretary	327-8906
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Doug Geddes, Trip Director	621-3178
Rick Stephan, Safety Info Dir.	223-3719
Kim Hudson, Webmaster	614-937-1955
	Khudson4974@yahoo.com
Steve Gahafer, Newsletter Editor	229-9408
	sagahafer@gmail.com



Vice President's Report

By John Geddes



Congratulations to the Door Prizes winners from last month, Dan Miller on the Membership for 2018, Mike Sullivan on the Papa Johns and Kathern Bowers on the Papa Johns. I hope everyone enjoyed the Door Prizes this year, I was trying to be a little different.

So we are going to make this article short and sweet, Thank You for letting me serve as your Vice President this year and I hope to see you at the Christmas Party on the 9th 🚩

Trip Director's Report

By Doug Geddes



CURACAO 2018

Another great trip being offered by the dive club to one of the best looking islands in the Caribbean. This should be a great check out dive for the upcoming Africa trip for those that haven't been in the water for a while. This trip is now up on our website at [Curacao 2018](#). Check it out. It is a great place for non-divers also, so bring some friends to paradise.



"I've got 3 kids, a husband and a stressful job. There's nothing down there that will make me panic."



AFRICA DIVE & SAFARI 2018

This trip is going full steam ahead. Several people have already purchased air so if you still need to do that we can give you some suggestions. If someone finds a great fare, please share it with us, so others might join you, but you need to make sure it works with the times we need to arrive in Africa. I will try and get that info out to you. **We still have a room or so reserved, but if they call we will have to give it up, so if you are on the fence, please consider grabbing it before it is gone.** Check the website [Africa 2018](#) 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



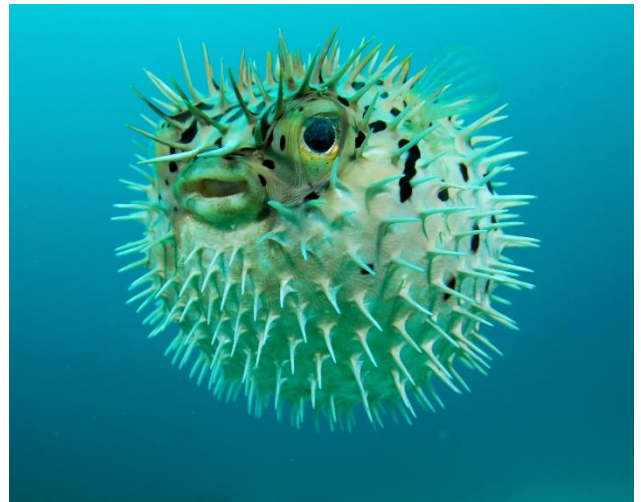
2017 Membership Dues

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](#). 🚩



From The Secretary

By Mike Sullivan



BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

A General membership meeting was held on November 14, 2017 at the Racquet Club on 3900 Crosby Road. The Club Christmas Party will be held on December 9th at Mark and Stella Kidd's house. Please bring a dish to serve 12 people. The Club will furnish the meat and sodas.

The Club elections were held and the following persons elected to Club Offices:

President - Tracey Combs
Vice-President - Mike Sullivan
Secretary - Kris Harn
Treasurer - Dan Miller
Trip Director - Steve Gahafer
Webmaster - Alex Fassas
Newsletter Editor - John Geddes
Safety Information Director - Rick Stephan

BLUEGRASS DIVE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, November 28, 2018

A Board meeting was held on November 28, 2017 at the Beaumont Branch Public Library. A reminder that the final payment for the Curacao trip is due December 5, 2017. A reminder that the Africa trip final payment is due February 15, 2018. The board will meet on January 30th at the Beaumont Branch Public Library on Fieldstone Way at 7:30 PM. The Board will meet on January 2, 2018 at Mike Sullivan's house at 6:30 PM at 3405 Montavesta Road. The Club Christmas party will be December 9, 2017 at the home of Stella and Mark Kidd at 6:00 PM. 🚩

Safety Corner

By Rick Stephan



Remember, safe diving is fun!

Note: *Anyone remember the meaning of SCUBA? I'm sure you do – Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus. So, what is the most important piece of gear to allow you to scuba dive? Camera? Uh, no. Cool looking matching dive skin and booties? Don't think so. Of course, it's that thing that allows you to BREATHE underwater – your regulator. So, it is absolutely imperative that you be able to depend on the device that gives you your breathing gas while submerged.*

This article, from dtmag.com, discusses how you should care for your regulator and might just save your dive vacation sometime, or even your life. Knowing how to care for your gear prior to, during, and after returning from your dive trip will keep your gear working well for years to come.

Speaking of years to come: I wish you and yours the blessings of the Christmas season, and the best of everything in the new year. Thanks for being a loyal member of the Bluegrass Dive Club, a wonderful group of people from all kinds of backgrounds who are united in their love for the beauty and wonder that is our underwater world.

*And of course, for this year and all years, remember:
safe diving is fun!*

**Regular Care for Your Regulator:
Establishing a "Rinse and Repeat"
Routine**

Story and photos by Barry and Ruth Guimbellot

Your scuba gear is your life support equipment when exploring the underwater world. Taking proper care of your gear is important for your safety and to protect your equipment investment. Dive gear, especially the regulator system, is sturdy stuff. By establishing a routine that includes a few simple steps to clean your regulator after each dive, it will stay in good condition for your next outing.



Regulator Review

The purpose of the regulator is to regulate the flow of air from the tank. The scuba tank contains compressed air under high pressure, about 3000 psi (207 bar). To reduce the compressed air to a breathable level at any depth, the regulator works in two stages. The first stage (the part that connects to the tank valve) lowers the pressure to about 140 psi (9.6 bar) as it enters the hose. When air is consumed as diving depths change, the regulator compensates for the resulting changes in ambient water pressure. It reduces the intermediate pressure in the hose coming from the first stage and adjusts it to the surrounding water pressure, which means you can breathe easily and comfortably at any depth. The second stage consists of a mouthpiece, an exhaust valve (or tee) and a purge valve or button. When you exhale, your exhaled breath exits the exhaust valve into the water in the form of air bubbles. The purge button, when pressed, forces air into the second stage chamber.

When cleaning the regulator and its components, there are a few things to remember. First of all, be sure the first stage is attached to the cylinder or that the first stage

dust cap is securely in place before you rinse or soak the regulator. This will keep water from entering the first stage air inlet, where the first stage connects to the cylinder valve. Secondly, unless the regulator is attached to a cylinder with the air turned on, avoid depressing the purge valve while rinsing the regulator, as this can allow water to enter the hose. When rinsing the regulator, use a gentle flow of fresh water; do not use a high-pressure stream.

Your dive gear requires periodic maintenance by a professional. Servicing should be performed as specified by the manufacturer's warranty. Always take the time to register your new equipment warranty with the manufacturer, and keep track of your gear's service record. If at any time the regulator does not seem to function properly, take it to your local dive center for professional inspection and servicing.



Water, Water

Rinsing the scuba unit in fresh water after each use is a simple yet important maintenance routine all divers should establish. A thorough rinse is especially important if you have been diving in salt water because salt crystals can damage dive gear. An immediate rinse is not as critical if your dive was in fresh water. However, the gear needs rinsing as soon as possible to remove any dirt or debris that has gotten on the gear.

This can be a challenge when fresh water isn't readily available. Many of us dive in salt water from chartered boats that have a limited supply of fresh water on board. Typically, one bucket is designated exclusively for cameras while another rinse bucket is for dive gear. They are

usually clearly marked but, when in doubt, ask the crew. A full fresh-water rinse of the scuba unit might not be possible until the boat is back at the dock, but whenever possible, give your regulator a quick dunk in a bucket of freshwater or a spray with a hose and then repeat with a more thorough cleaning when you have greater access to fresh water. Most dive shops and marinas have a dedicated water supply and/or rinse tank for cleaning the gear.

Some shore diving locations may have rinse facilities but most don't. Some avid shore divers bring jerry jugs of water and/or a small cooler to the dive site, so they can soak their regulators immediately after use.



Rinsing your Regulator: 3 Methods

There are three methods commonly used for soaking/rinsing dive gear. The first method is to rinse the entire scuba unit with a hose while it is still attached to the tank and the air is still turned on. If a large fresh water rinse tank is available, a second method is to place the entire pressurized unit in the water to soak. The third method involves removing the regulator from the tank before rinsing it.



1. Gently spray the entire scuba unit with water to remove any dirt or salt residue.

Rinsing your Regulator With a Hose

Using a hose for a fresh-water rinse is the first method of cleaning our gear. The scuba unit should still be fully assembled and turned on. First, gently spray the unit to remove any dirt or salt residue (*Photo 1*). Now individually rinse each part of the regulator. Run a gentle stream on the regulator first stage (*Photo 2*).



2. Use a gentle stream of water to rinse debris and salt residue from the regulator.

Now guide a stream of fresh water into the regulator mouthpiece while moving it from side to side allowing water to drain from both sides of the exhaust tee (*Photo 3*). During this process, avoid depressing the purge button when rinsing even though the system is pressurized. Remember, rinsing the scuba unit while pressurized helps prevent water from entering the system and causing any damage.



3. Guide a stream of fresh water into the regulator mouthpiece allowing water to drain from both sides of the exhaust tee.

Rinse the gauge/computer console and the swivel connection where the gauge attaches to the hose (*Photo 4*). Rotate the console while streaming water around the entire outside. Repeat this step on both second-stage regulator hoses and the low-pressure buoyancy compensator (BC) inflator hose.



4. Rinse the gauge/computer console and the swivel connection where the gauge attaches to the hose.

Fresh-water Rinse Tank

The majority of dive resorts and dive shops have a dedicated gear rinse area with a large tank available. After diving, you can submerge your entire pressurized unit in the rinse tank and then give it a thorough rinse with fresh water. If unable to soak the entire pressurized unit in the rinse tank, at least place the second-

stage regulator in the water and swish it back and forth so water can flow through the mouthpiece and exit through the exhaust tee.

Disassembled Regulator Rinse

In some instances it is not possible to thoroughly rinse the regulator unless it is removed from the scuba tank valve. After removing the regulator from the tank, carefully dry the dust cover and place it over the first-stage air inlet. Now finger tighten the yoke screw to secure the dust cover (*Photo 5*). This keeps the water from entering the first stage when rinsing the regulator. From this point on, use the same procedure listed above under the topic of rinsing with a hose.



5. Make sure the dust cap is securely covering the first-stage air inlet before rinsing or soaking the regulator system.

When using a rinse tank, first coil the regulator into a circle, keeping the first stage slightly higher than the second stage when possible. Swish the second-stage regulators back and forth so water can move through the chambers. If the area is crowded with fellow divers, you may only have time for a quick rinse. If the rinse tank is relatively empty of gear, leave the regulator in the tank to soak for several minutes to help dissolve salt crystals. After cleaning the regulator in the tank, we always give it an extra rinse with fresh water to wash off any remaining salt residue left in the water from other gear.

After a vacation with numerous dives, give your dive equipment a thorough soak and rinse after returning home. Always allow the gear to dry completely away from direct sunlight before storing it in a cool, dry place. By properly maintaining your equipment and servicing it on a timely basis, you will be able to enjoy many safe, trouble-free dive vacations. 🏊

Bluegrass Dive Club 2017-2018 Calendar

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ October 10 | General Meeting |
| ▪ October 24 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ November 14 | General Meeting |
| ▪ November 28 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ December 9 | Christmas Party |
| ▪ January 9 | General Meeting |
| ▪ January 30 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ February 13 | General Meeting |
| ▪ February 10-17 | <u>Curacao</u> |
| ▪ February 22 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ March 13 | General Meeting |
| ▪ March 29 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ April 10 | General Meeting |
| ▪ April 26 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ May 8 | General Meeting |
| ▪ May 31 | Board Meeting |
| ▪ June 12 | General Meeting |
| ▪ June 10-23 | <u>Africa</u> |
| ▪ June | Board Meeting |
| ▪ July 10 | General Meeting |
| ▪ July 26 | Board Meeting |

Dive Committee Members

Doug Geddes – Chairman	621-3178
Tracey Combs	621-4066
Ralph Covington	621-3862
Mike Sullivan	266-4516
Ed Sullivan	C@Meeting
John Geddes	223-7926

