



UNDERCURRENTS

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

February 2022

Volume 52, Number 1

February's Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 8
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7:00

Location: Zoom Meeting
Program: TBA

President's Message

By John Geddes



I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy family during the Holidays. We had family in and out of quarantine in the early part of December, but we all made it for Christmas.

In starting the club off for 2022, it's not much better than 2021, with this second strain of COVID, and I hope it peaks soon. I know people have been on some trips and that too is why the club is here, so people can connect.

We have decided to keep the members informed by having virtual meetings every other month and the Newsletter in the off months of meetings. You can check the calendar out for pending dates for club activities.

I'm sure Kris Harn, our VP, could use some help in lining up guest speakers; if there is someone you would like to have, give Kris a call. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By Terri Anderson



Well unfortunately, 2021 was about the same as 2020. As soon as we felt comfortable to come back out of our closed quarters and enjoy fellowship with one another and in-person gatherings, a new variant came barreling through the country. I hope all is well with our members and families as we start 2022.

A small group of BGDC members were aboard the Aggressor in Belize in August 2021. Additionally, a few BGDC members were able to do a non-club sanctioned trip with some diving along with sailing in the BVIs in October 2021, a much-needed plunge for us. Let us hope there are more plunges in 2022! 🚩



2022 BGDC Officer's

John Geddes, President	608-0682
Kris Harn, Vice President	333-6911
Kathryn Bowers, Secretary	619-0166
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Trip Director - L. A. Bowe-Geddes	553-6251
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
Terri Anderson, Newsletter	502-791-4088

Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I'm glad to be your Membership VP this year! Please let me know what type of programs that you would like to have this year! Hope this year will be a good one and hopefully, we will be able to line up some trips to get back into the scuba diving everyone loves!!! 🚩



Blue Grass Dive Club Having fun in Belize on the Aggressor in August 2021

Secretary's Report

By Kathryn Bowers



A note from the incoming Secretary.

Welcome to 2022! A new year but not much has changed. I am returning to my position as your club secretary, just where I was in January of 2020. I feel like I could just pull up that first newsletter article, delete all the hopeful talk of upcoming trips and dreams of sunny beaches. Or recycle my article from January 2021. Talk about how unbelievable it feels to still be waiting for travel to open, and for social distancing and travel requirements to ease...

So here we are moving into the third year of this pandemic. Over the past two years not a lot has changed. Our meetings are still virtual, zoom only or socially distanced, which is impractical in colder months. When we did briefly consider going back to Bronte's Bistro, we discovered they (like many other restaurants) have changed their hours of operation. The new 8:00 PM closing makes accomplishing a meeting beginning at 7:30 unrealistic. We all miss in person meetings but for the time being it seems they are not to be.

This brings me to some news: As a thank you to all who have continued to support the club through the past two years of this pandemic and a nod to the fact the club has not been able to deliver what seems to be our reason for existence your president, John Geddes, has proposed a sort of Dues holiday for 2022. This decision was supported by the board. We can't make all the dues go away and still remain a "club", but I am pleased to announce that **for 2022 only, every level of membership, individual or family will be JUST \$10.00!**

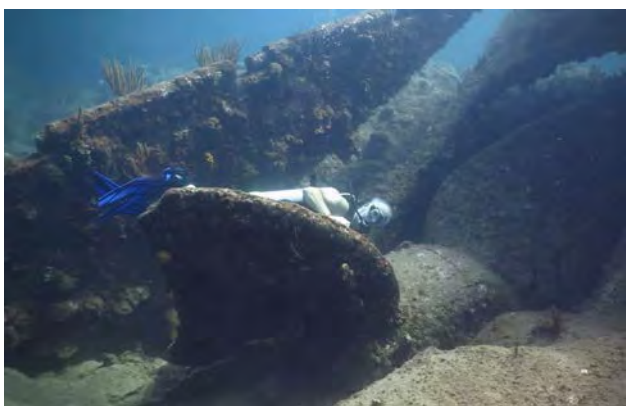
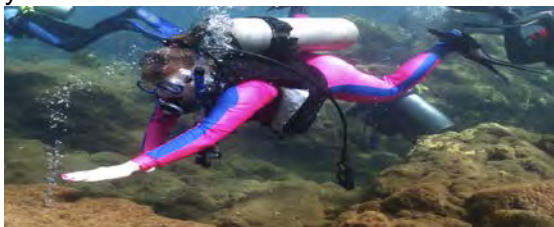
Please continue to support and help reinvigorate your dive club!

- Participate in our zoom meetings

Secretary's Report Cont.

- Join a committee
- Let us know where you want to dive
- Reach out to your board members with ideas for meeting topics
- Offer suggestions for travel in the future
- Know someone interested in diving? Invite them to join, it's just 10 bucks!

Help us present meeting content you are excited to hear about. Trips take some time to research and put together, we need to know where you might be itching to go in order to start planning and get something on the books. Let us use 2022 as a year to reinvigorate the club and renew our love of SCUBA. I hope to see you all in the coming year! 🚩



Alex Fassas exploring the Rhone Shipwreck in BVI in October 2021



BVI trip October 2021 – a little diving, a little celebrating

Trip Director Report

By Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes



Exciting Bucket List Opportunity!

Are there places on your bucket list where you would like to dive? We want to hear about it! We need input from membership regarding places you would like to visit with the Bluegrass Dive Club. This includes near and far sites, domestic and foreign. Do you love the Florida Keys? Have you always wanted to see and dive the beautiful islands of the Caribbean side of Panama? Let us know your heart's secret dive destination desires, as well as favorite dive destinations you would like to visit again. We also are interested in your favorite time of year to dive, and why. Email the Trip Director at tripdirector@bluegrassdiveclub.com with your thoughts and suggestions.

For those who are interested in participating in the trip planning process, please let me know. We need at least two club members who are not on the board to participate in the Dive Committee. Responsibilities for this committee will not be taxing or terribly time consuming; our plan is to convene (most likely virtually for now) and discuss desired dive sites and timing of trips. The Trip Director will take it from there to plan the logistics and gather all the information to take to the board for approval to put the trips on the calendar.

We all need to stretch our legs, expand our lungs, and act on our ***Urge to Submerge***. Some countries are open to tourist travel with the application of some restrictions, such as COVID testing before entering and leaving the country. We shall consider these points as we plan.

To friends and future diving,
Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes 🚩

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



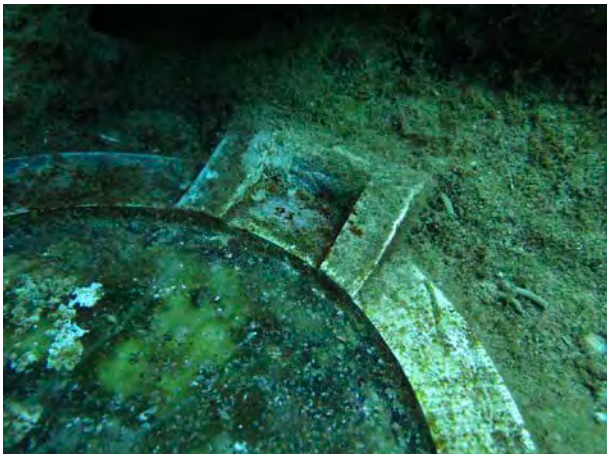
2022 Membership Dues \$10.00

Student with ID
Single & Family (1 diver)
Family (non divers)
Family (2 or more divers)

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](#). 🚩



Picture from the RMS Rhone Shipwreck in the British Virgin Islands – the Porthole made famous by Jacqueline Bisset in the movie “The Deep”. Legend has it this is the portal of the sole survivor of the shipwreck

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Groundhog Day

As I write this article, we will soon be upon Groundhog Day, February 2nd. For those that are fans of the actor Bill Murray, the reference will immediately come to mind. Are we really doing this again? As if the year 2021 being a similar repeat of the year 2020, where in my lifetime, we had to confront a global pandemic and the life routine changes that go along with it, were not enough. Yes, we are still planning a year of not in-person meetings, until the club leadership feels that the red beach flag can be lowered, and it is safe and not ill-advised to meet in-person again. You will take note that your club leadership has set a calendar for 2022 where your leadership will meet monthly to keep abreast of the travel and health landscape, while providing online meetings bi-monthly, and a newsletter in the off months. So you, the membership, will be hearing from your club at least every month. For those more brave divers among us, we know that you have been on some travel adventures during this time. Just know that you are not alone in that regard. It is more difficult for the club to book future planned trips at this time, because of the backlog of group travel previously booked trips that had to be rescheduled numerous times.

What Makes The Club Tick – Diving & Sharing

A recent survey of some of our club members indicates what the members value most from the club is two things; 1) plan and go on diving adventures; and 2) have good information to share about travel experiences. Having meetings without items 1 & 2 being an active part of the agenda has been a non-starter. The social part did not poll well, due to the current (cough, cough) situation. It is incredibly challenging for the club to put together club group trips at this time due to 1) the backlog of previously booked and

Webmaster - Cont.

rescheduled trips among the diver community, 2) the fluid situation with travel restrictions. With the forgoing in mind, your club officers realize that dive travel is happening currently and that we have members of our club who have been traveling. The club gladly offers to have members post about non-club planned trips, so that others may join in on a trip. To get your non-club trip communicated to the membership, reach out to webmaster@bluegrassdiveclub.com. It would be great for those that have had travels to share a little about their recent adventures. Please send an email to newsletter@bluegrassdiveclub.com with a short trip story or review. Do you have ideas for the club to be considering for a future group travel, please send an email to tripdirector@bluegrassdiveclub.com with your ideas, the more detail the better. The club's Trip Director is looking for a few volunteers for the Dive Committee too; it is your chance to get your next trip on the Club's calendar.

IRS Penalty Update

Some of you may recall that the club was penalized by the IRS for failure to file a timely Form 990 for the year 2018 and then again in 2019. The IRS waived the penalty for 2018. The IRS agreed with us that the 2019 was timely filed. On December 27, 2021, the IRS refunded 100% of the penalties and interest previously paid by your club. A huge thank you to Mike McCann for navigating the appeal process with the IRS and for a successful conclusion. 🚩



Picture from the RMS Rhone Shipwreck in the British Virgin Islands, the tile from the Dance Floor.

Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertetto



I Learned About Diving Safety From That

My mission is to provide you relevant safety information for your use. Each article will focus on a specific safety risk. I will draw from my experience, hopefully yours, and the dive community to highlight real risks that we must be aware of. So, if you see or hear of something that we could all learn from, please pass it to me. There is nothing like first-hand experience to drive a point home. This month's lesson is:

BOAT DIVING REVIEW

Note from Bart: As the Dive industry emerges from the pandemic shutdown, it appears that liveaboards are getting a lot of attention and action. The club has a number of great liveaboard trips under its belt and I'm sure more to come. This is an excellent short review of boat diving skills from Scuba Diving Magazine.

By Annie Crawley



Safety Information Cont.

I'm writing this column from the dining area of the Galapagos Sky liveaboard, reveling in some of the best dives of my life. After filming endemic species of marine iguanas feeding on algae in the shallow waters of Fernandina Island, I cruised to the famous Wolf and Darwin islands to find hammerhead and Galapagos shark cleaning stations. Like many incredible dive destinations, these are only accessible by boat. Whether you are jumping on a local day charter or a liveaboard, these tips will have you boat diving like a pro.

Know Before You Go

Before your boat trip, read the suggested pack list, ensure you have all the necessary equipment and label everything. On a boat, other divers may have the same BCD as you, and your weight pockets may get confused. Make sure you pack proper exposure protection and carry extra thermal layers with you for varying water and air temperatures, as well as a warm hat and sun hat for between dives. Weather conditions on a boat can vary throughout the day, and so can your body temperature after multiple dives.

If you don't have your own kit, many operators will offer rental gear. If you go this route, reserve sizes in advance and **give yourself plenty of time to familiarize yourself with the gear provided.**

Check your computer, sensors, lights and batteries. Carrying a spare-parts kit and extra equipment in case of gear malfunction can save a dive.

Bring gear that the boat may not have readily available, such as an extra alternate air source, computer and mask. While all boats should have a first-aid kit on board, a small personal first-aid kit can take care of discomfort or concerns that might arise. It should include decongestant, ear drops, seasickness medicine, triple-antibiotic ointment and personal medications.

What To Expect on Board

Every boat gives two briefings: a safety briefing when you board and a dive briefing when you anchor. Pay close attention to any particular practices, methods, and techniques, especially if you are not familiar with anything. Ask for clarification and review if you need it. Remember, you are responsible for your own safety.

For example, Negative entries and SMBs. In many current-driven areas, drift dives, or other advanced diving locations, divers are required to do negative entries into the water and carry SMBs (inflated Surface Marker Buoy) to mark their location during their safety stop so the boat can find them. In a negative entry, you empty your BCD completely before striding or rolling into the water and meet your buddy and the other divers down at depth. This means your gear must be thoroughly and double checked for operation, fit, and security before you hit the water and then checked by your buddy when you are down.

The safety briefing will cover the location of life jackets and rafts, emergency procedures, emergency-oxygen location and battery charging stations.

The dive briefing will cover specific dive site information and navigation tips, ocean conditions, maximum depth and time, entry and exit points, and safety-stop procedures. Many locations with a stronger current require you to have a (SMB). Depending on the boat, you may be required to stay with your guide, or be free to explore with your buddy. If you are on the boat by yourself, you will be paired with another diver or a buddy team.

Descending on a Line

When boat diving with a descent line, it can be helpful to hold the line for stability. However, when a large swell is present, holding onto the line will jerk you up and down. In case of a swell, use the line only as a visual reference and use your computer for depth. On the bottom, ensure you can navigate to and from the line so you can safely return to the boat and make your safety

Safety Information Cont.

stop on the line. If you are a beginner, practicing easy navigation patterns out and back from the line will build confidence.

SMB Tips

Your SMB is an essential piece of gear on any boat dive. Choose your SMB according to destination. For safety stops in blue water, a large SMB is preferable to allow the chase boat to follow you.



It is important to understand when and how to use it. There are many different SMBs on the market. Some can be inflated orally, while others are connected with a quick-release mechanism to your BCD (these connectors will not work with an alternate inflator second stage like the Air2). A large SMB—at least 6 feet tall—with an open bottom that can be inflated at the surface or at depth using an alternate air source or your regulator. You should carry a reel to attach to your SMB to deploy at depth, as well as a double-ender clip to attach the two pieces together.

To deploy at depth, unravel the tube and empty your BCD to become slightly negative. Make sure there are no hazards at the surface or risks of entanglement—such as kelp—before adding any air. Inflate the open end of the tube with your alternate air source or the exhaust from your regulator while gently

applying tension to the line. Hold the reel using your index finger and thumb to allow it to unspool freely. The SMB will begin to rise, and the air inside will expand. When it hits the surface, put tension on the line so the tube floats upright. The floating buoy will alert the boat to your position underwater, allowing them to locate you as you drift during your safety stop.

When not in use, the SMB can be tucked away in a BCD pocket or clipped off to a D-ring. In addition to your SMB, you should always dive with an auditory alert, such as a whistle or DiveAlert air horn. Consider taking the PADI Delayed Surface Marker Buoy Diver course to work with a dive instructor and perfect your deployment skills.

Dive Prerequisites

It's important to check dive prerequisites before booking a spot on the boat. Some dive destinations require a minimum number of dives or an advanced diver certification. It's important that the level of your dive experience matches the conditions of the destination.

Boat diving is addicting, and it will open up a new side of diving. You can travel to less explored areas of our world, often with less physical exertion. Like any sport, there is a learning curve associated with boat diving, coupled with a whole lot of fun.



Picture from the new dive site in the BVIs – The Willy T's from the BVI trip in October.

Bluegrass Dive Club 2022 Calendar

January

11, Tuesday Board Meeting
25, Tuesday NEWSLETTER

February

8, Tuesday Club Meeting
22, Tuesday Board Meeting

March

8, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
29, Tuesday Board Meeting

April

12, Tuesday Club Meeting
26, Tuesday Board Meeting

May

7, Saturday Derby Party (Pending)
10, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
31, Tuesday Board Meeting

June

14, Tuesday Club Meeting
28, Tuesday Board Meeting

July

12, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
26, Tuesday Board Meeting

August

9, Tuesday Club Meeting
13, Saturday Club Pig Roast (Pending)
30, Tuesday Board Meeting

September

13, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
27, Tuesday Board Meeting

October

11, Tuesday Club Meeting
25, Tuesday Board Meeting

November

8, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)
29, Tuesday Board Meeting

December

10, Saturday Christmas Party (Pending)
13, Tuesday NEWSLETTER



Another photo from The Willy T dive site in the BVI's. Time to throw back a beverage.