



# UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / [www.bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://www.bluegrassdiveclub.com)

February 2023

Volume 53, Number 1

## February Newsletter and March's Club Meeting

### February 14<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

**Meeting:** Tuesday, March 14  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
Social at 7:00

**Location:** Roosters **Program:** TBA

## President's Message

*By John Geddes*



HAPPY VALENTINE'S!

I am looking forward to this year with Diving opening up and people ready to go diving!

The Board is ramping and gearing up to work for you, but we need your input. Leigh Ann has a list of opportunities for trips, is this your kind of diving? Let her know. Kris is asking for request on programs, this is a hard area to do, believe me I have been there! So help her out.

The Roatan trip sounds great, I would like to dive the site of Doug's Dream.

I would like to thank Charlie for stepping up for the Secretary's spot and Bart for his last article, but we have one position open on the board, Newsletter Editor, so think about.

The pics are from Noel and Alex of the Grand Cayman trip. 🚩



## Vice President Report

*By Kris Harn*



At our November meeting the following club members were elected to serve as your 2023 officers:

President - John Geddes  
Vice President - Kris Harn  
Secretary - Charlie Denham  
Treasurer - Dan Miller  
Trip Director - Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes  
Safety Information Director - Kathryn Bowers  
Webmaster - Alex Fassas

Thank you for letting me be your Vice President during 2022 and again in 2023! Looking forward to a great year of meetings and parties!

Hope to see you at the March meeting at Roosters! If you have any request on programs or door prizes you would like to see offered this year, let me know you ideas! 🚩

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## Secretary's Report

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By Charlie Denham



Wow! I had forgotten how much work your club officers put in since my days long ago as a club officer.

On January 10, the Executive Board met and worked out a budget for the year. This required some long range planning as to what the club would be doing in the upcoming year.

On January 31, the Executive Committee again met and set the calendar for the upcoming year. The proposed budget was approved. A discussion to accept online payments for dues and trip payments was discussed. A motion for a memorial contribution in honor of Dale Anderson's wife was approved.

Sources of continuing dive education and potential future dive trips were discussed. 🚩



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## 2023 BGDC Officer's

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John Geddes, President	608-0682
Kris Harn, Vice President	333-6911
Charlie Denham, Secretary	621-8655
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
L. A. Bowe-Geddes, Trip Director	553-6251
Kathryn Bowers, Safety Info Dir.	619-0166
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
Newsletter Editor, VACANT	

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## Trip Director Report

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By Leigh Ann Bowe-Geddes



Fellow Divers,

Who is experiencing the **URGE TO SUBMERGE**?

I have several potential dive venues on my list for discussion at the next BGDC board meeting. What I would love is to hear from some of you regarding the adventures you would like.

Opportunities for 2023/2024 include:

### Roatan, Honduras

Anthony's Key Resort and Turquoise Bay Resort are two options on the agenda for discussion. Both offer the full all-inclusive packages for diving, accommodations, and meals. Roatan has amazing underwater life, and the island is a beautiful tropical delight, with activities such as ziplining through the jungle. This trip is fun for divers and non-divers alike.

How about a **liveaboard**? Our dive planning partners at Ultimate Dive Travel are suggesting liveaboard options in the Bahamas, Saba area, BVI, or Turks and Cacaos. This is a great way to maximize the dive and sailing experiences, while enjoying the comraderie of fellow BGDC members. Relax, enjoy the water, visit some islands, and bask in the beauty of the Caribbean.

We are also considering a trip to south Florida for some no-passport-required fun in the sun.

We are not limited to these choices. If you have a special dive venue you would like to experience, please let me know. Just go to [Bluegrassdiveclub.com](http://Bluegrassdiveclub.com), click on "Contact Us," then click on "Trip Director" to send me an email. Trips limited to planet earth. Otherwise, I am open to suggestion.

Happy Diving! 🚩

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## From the Treasurer

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*By Dan Miller*



### 2023 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](#). 🚩



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## Webmaster

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*By Alex Fassas*



Thanksgiving and Christmas 2022 will have come and gone by the time you all read this, but the memories will keep me warm through the rest of this winter. Memories of returning to in-person dive club meetings, a wonderful club dive trip to Grand Cayman, and a great turnout and time of fellowship at the club's Christmas party.

Your club officers and dive committee are working on some great club diving and activities in 2023. See you there! In the meantime, keep wet the best way you can.



We had a great group of 16 on the dive trip to Compass Point in the East End of Grand Cayman. The trip dates were November 12 -19, 2022. The staff at Ocean Frontiers really did their best to make it truly a valet diving experience. The group of 6 Minnesota new members on the trip fit right in and we all had a great time.

For Charlie Denham this may have been his first big travel since he lost his wife, Helen, earlier in 2022. He did some diving, a lot of reading and of course a little story telling. In planning for this trip, I learned that member Dale Anderson lost his wife rather unexpectedly during a family vacation in October of 2022. Dale had already registered for the trip and I encouraged him to get his packing done and we would see him in Grand Cayman.



## Webmaster Cont.

Dale enjoyed the trip and the diving. Dale and Charlie made for good roommates with both having their recent losses in common, not to mention that both are quite the humorists and storytellers. For Frances Woollam this was a return to diving after having a broken back 6 years ago. She has also returned to skiing as well. What a testament to not letting your past situation control your future self.



The diving was really nice. There were a few challenging dives due to currents, but no one was injured or left behind. We enjoyed several nights of group dining and some great food experiences including Tukka and the Czech Inn Bar and Grill.



### Christmas Party

The club gathered at the home of Kathryn Bowers and Alex Fassas in Richmond, Kentucky on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for annual Club Christmas Party. It was a potluck affair with smoked maple glazed ham and smoked turkey to add some weight to your plate. There were about 24 people in attendance including two new members, a daughter and father duo of Tom Harrington and Maggie Harrington. 🚩

## Safety Information Dir. 2023

*By Kathryn Bowers*



As our 2022 meeting year closes I sit down to write my final newsletter article as your club secretary. I feel like this year has been as successful as we could expect or hope for after 2 years of pandemic shut down. We are back to In-person meetings! Sure, we meet every other month, but that seems adequate given the rate that travel is returning. Hopefully as more countries continue to open and we get more comfortable with travel in general we will start getting more trips planned.



Speaking of trips, we had one of those, too. I went with the club to Compass Point on the East End of Grand Cayman last November. We had a great group of divers and a lot of group dinners in this beautiful location. I had never been to Compass Point before but can see why it's a favorite of many in the club. The facilities are very nice and the staff and diving services are outstanding! If you want to be pampered this is your resort. Once we got there we didn't need to touch our gear again. We left it outside our door the first day and it was on the boat the first morning. After diving, the staff collected and rinsed everything, hung it to dry and it was back on the boat and ready to go each morning. The diving was solid. I heard from others the visibility had been better on previous visits, but it wasn't bad. The dive profiles were well thought out and it was all in all a great reintroduction to diving after a long break.

I will keep Compass Point on my radar for a future visit. 🚩

# Safety Information Dir. 2022

By Bart Bertetto



**Note from Bart:** *This is my last safety article. Kathryn Bowers will be your new Safety Information Officer starting in January 2023. It has been a pleasure researching and writing these articles for the BGDC. I am certain it has made me a more informed and safer diver and I hope for all of you as well. Until we meet on our next dive adventure, cheers and remember- SAFE DIVING IS FUN DIVING.*

## **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:*

### **How to Be a Good Dive Buddy — Topside and Underwater**

Scuba is a team sport. Do you play well?

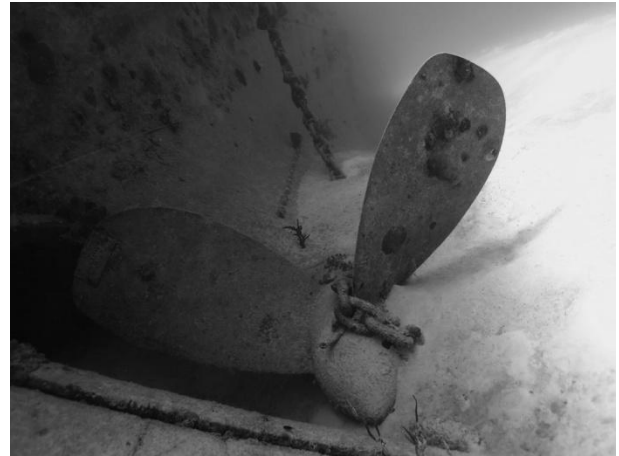
By Rachel Huber October 13, 2022



A good buddy improves the dive's safety and comfort.

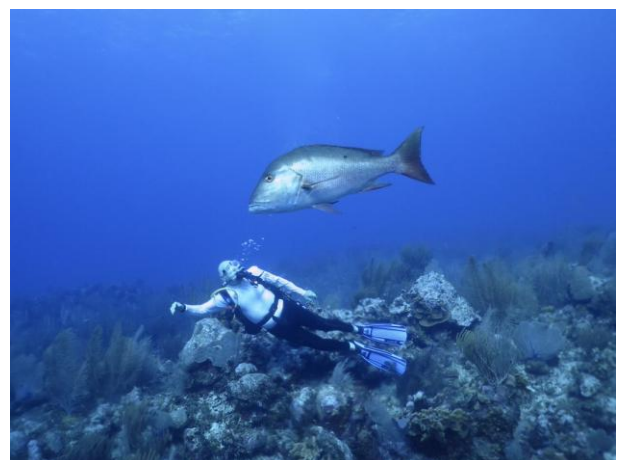
A good buddy is vital to the success of any dive. Diving in duos dramatically reduces the risk of an accident, according to DAN safety statistics, and we all know safety stops go by much faster when there's someone to play paper, rock, scissors with you.

Ask yourself the five questions below to assess how well *you're* holding up your end of the buddy bargain. If you answer 'no' to any of the below, consider tweaking your habits to become the best buddy you can be!



### **1. Can you see each other the entire dive?**

It's not 'same ocean, same dive' when you are in a pair. Situational awareness is essential from start to finish. Keep an eye on each other when descending and ascending. As a general rule, try to be no more than two seconds, or one breath, apart.



### **2. Do you help each other out?**

This question may feel like a no-brainer, but supporting your dive buddy goes further than



## **Safety Infor Dir. Cont. 2022**

the pre-dive check. Do you help them carry tanks, wait while they take pictures, or have some beer ready for a post-dive social? As a good dive buddy, you are an extra set of hands and the other memory-maker in the duo. Try to encourage a shared and supportive experience. Going above and beyond means making even better memories. Your buddy will hopefully return the favor!



### **3. Can your buddy understand you?**

Is that a dead fish or are you out of air? It's imperative to understand each other's communication underwater. Always know this will help regain a sense of calm, so you won't get caught off guard if something goes awry or something big swims by. It will keep your attention how your buddy is doing by communicating clearly and often. Before the dive, take the time to decide on the hand or torch signals you will use. Don't be afraid to get your whole body into it and add sounds to grab attention. Signals can be as flamboyant as you'd like, as long as you both understand what is being said. Your buddy won't forgive you if they miss the whale shark behind them because they can't understand you.



Advancing your dive training will also help make you more comfortable, shifting your attention away from worries and towards the tasks at hand.



### **4. Are you cool under pressure?**

The best dive buddies are dependable and relaxed. If you get panicky underwater, take a few deep breaths to clear your mind and focus your attention. This will help regain a sense of calm, so you won't get caught off guard if something goes awry or something big swims by. It will keep your attention open enough to notice if your buddy needs assistance, and to problem solve as needed. Advancing your dive training will also help make you more comfortable, shifting your attention away from worries and towards the tasks at hand.

### **5. Do you know who to call in an emergency?**

You don't need to have your buddy's mom on speed dial, but it is vital to know how to respond to who to call in an emergency. Have an emergency plan ready, and add phone numbers to your phone for local emergency response and DAN Emergency Assistance Hotline (+1 919-684-9111). Consider becoming a PADI Rescue Diver so you have the basic skills required to help your buddy in an emergency, at least until the medical professionals arrive. This all will make you a safer duo. Once you can answer 'yes' to all the questions above, you are well on your way to enjoying the ocean with friends!

**Here is the Pre-dive Buddy Check Card that we've seen before for your review: (Next page, this was blown up so it could be read)**

# Pre-Dive Buddy Check

**B** **BCD**

BCD or Buoyancy Control Device  
Check that you can fully inflate and deflate your buddy's BCD and make sure all quick releases and valves are working.

**W**  
**Weights**

Weight belt/integrated weights  
Familiarize yourself with the weight system your buddy is using and check that the quick releases work..

**F**  
**Final OK**

Are you ready to go?  
Make sure you both have mask, snorkel and fins, your computer and compass and are ready to go!



**R**  
**Releases**

**Clips and Buckles**  
Ensure that all the clips and buckles on your buddy's BCD are adjusted and tightly locked, also check the tank band which should hold your buddy's scuba cylinder in place.

**Air**

Can you both breathe?  
Make sure your buddy's tank is **fully** opened and you can both breathe at the same time from one tank.

**A**



**PLAN YOUR & YOUR PLAN**  
**DIVE**

As part of the briefing, make sure to discuss your objectives with your dive buddy (and your diving group) and do not overload your dive with too many different tasks. Always remember that if in doubt it is better to call a dive!

MASTER  **DIVERS**  
www.masterdivers.co.uk



# Bluegrass Dive Club 2023 Calendar

## January

31, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

## February

14, Tuesday NEWSLETTER  
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



## March

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

## April

11, Tuesday NEWSLETTER  
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

## May

6, Saturday Club's Derby Party  
9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
22, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



## June

13, Tuesday NEWSLETTER  
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

## July

11, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



## August

8, Tuesday NEWSLETTER  
??, Saturday Club Pig Roast  
29, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

## September

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

## October

10, Tuesday NEWSLETTER  
24, Tuesday E.C. Meeting



## November

14, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)  
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

## December

10, Saturday Christmas Party  
20, Tuesday NEWSLETTER