



UNDERCURRENTS

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

Feb 2024

Volume 54, Number 2

February Newsletter

Date: February 13 Tuesday

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



Happy February everyone! I hope you all had as good a Ground Hog Day as I did! There wasn't a single thing I needed to repeat so I guess we got everything right.

I have to tell you I am pretty much over the moon after our last meeting! It's so exciting to see so many people who are passionate about diving getting together here in the landlocked middle of the USA! We have gained so many new members there's absolutely no way we could adequately introduce them all in one newsletter, what a fabulous problem to have!

Over the next few months we will be introducing new members, a few at a time in the newsletter. If you're local and can make it to an in person meeting please introduce yourself and talk to anyone you aren't friends with yet. Also, if you are a new member, be forewarned I'll be reaching out to you so we can get you in here.

We are starting a new year with a few changes on the board. I'm new to the President's position and really want to be responsive to what you want from your dive club. Our new Trip Director is my niece, Natasha Bowers. Natasha is truly passionate about diving! I found it hilarious that when we were trying to talk her into getting certified and join us in Dominica she got halfway through the course and said "do you know how many ways we could DIE doing this?" but she kept on going, was almost run over by a gigantic cruise ship while certifying but rescued a captive octopus and never looked back.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to respond to Natasha's survey about where you want to dive I encourage you to do so. Remember, if you don't speak up when asked, you lose your right to complain if we don't go where you want to go.

This month I will be introducing Joe Mauro and Amy Hiett, two friends we met in Roatan last August and Spencer and Missy Gerondale and Steven and Michele Morrison all from Houston TX.

Spencer is the youngest son of current member Gavin Gerondale. I can't remember if we properly introduced Gavin who joined before the Bonaire trip in 2020 (and the end of travel due to the pandemic) maybe I should circle around and do that later. Bottom line is I'm excited to meet or introduce you all; I can't wait to start getting trips on the calendar! Let's get out there and see what we haven't seen or want to see again. It's a big ol' world and we all have a sell by date. We'll regret the things we didn't do, the opportunities missed, more than anything we did. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



In this issue we will put some pics from the the last meeting. It was so great to see so many out at the meeting.

In up coming issues we will featuring new members, our first one will be Amy Hiett. 🚩



Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Hope to see you at the March meeting at Roosters on the 12th. If you have any requests on programs or door prizes you would like to see offered this year, let me know your ideas. 🚩

2024 BGDC Officer's

Kathryn Bowers, President	619-0166
Kris Harn, Vice President	333-6911
Charlie Denham, Secretary	621-8655
Dan Miller, Treasurer	948-5133
Natasha Bowers, Trip Director	651-786-9574
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502-299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter	608-0682

Trip Director Report

By Natasha Bowers



Thank you so much to everyone who has provided feedback through the survey! It is incredibly value information and I hope to have some trips set up to the top-rated destinations soon. So far 21 members have completed the dive trip survey. Below is a breakdown of the survey responses. I am still taking responses so if you have yet to respond and would still like to please use this link:

<https://forms.gle/777HEvBXFbCh8hGy8>

- 91% of respondents are current divers
- 9% of respondents have never been scuba divers
- How many dive trips a year would you like to be planned each year?
 - 57% answered 1-2 trips
 - 43% answered 3-4 trips
- 76% are interest in non-dive related trips
- Top 5 international destinations:
 - Belize
 - Bonaire
 - Cozumel
 - Dominica
 - Little Cayman
- Interest in live-aboard trips?
 - 43% answered yes
 - 38% answered maybe
- 38% were interested in options to pursue advanced dive certs while on trips
- 67% are interested in continental US dive trips
 - 50% requested a trip to Florida
- Multiple people requested more budget friendly trips, so hopefully adding US based trips will provide more economical options for members. 🚩

Secretary's Report

By Charlie Denham



The Bluegrass Dive Club met for their first meeting of the year at ROOSTER'S Bar and Pub on Richmond Road in Lexington, KY on January 9, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by newly elected President Katherine Bowers.

There were 18 members present and 5 participated by ZOOM. A list of those present accompanies this report. There was no report of the previous meeting as the Secretary was absent on pressing business and no one took minutes. The Treasurer, Dan Miller, was absent. No accounting of liabilities was available.

The Webmaster, Alex Fassas, revealed plans to update the membership roster from the disabled computer in the treasurer's possession. The Vice President, Kris Harn, supervised the drawing of the door prize of a gift certificate, which was won by Priscilla Mellott.

A list of previous Club trips was distributed and reviewed by Alex, with comments of experiences on those trips by members present. The methods used to plan dive trips and a discussion of how any comps are split between the participants to greatly reduce their cost. This being one of the greater benefits of belonging to the Club. Safety Officer Bert Bertetto was absent, Natasha Bowers, Trip Director, participated by Zoom and Newsletter Editor John Geddes was present. The meeting was dismissed at 9:05 pm. 🚩

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2024 Membership Dues \$20.00

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](#). 🚩

New Member

By Kathryn Bowers



Our first new member is Amy Hiett. Some of you may have seen Amy Zooming in from her home in Colorado Springs at our last meeting. We also met Amy on our dive boat in Roatan. She and her uncle Mark were there to dive without any other family but they both quickly became part of ours.

Diving has always been a family affair for Amy. Amy's Uncle Mark who was on the trip with her, her mother Carla and her cousin Dillon are also divers. Uncle Mark has been diving for eons! I didn't get to pick Mark's brain about his diving experience but you can tell by diving with him he is very comfortable in the water.



Funny story: any of you who have been diving with me know I am pretty much a blind woman. I use a very thick prescription mask. I just got a new mask I'm a lot happier with so maybe that made me a bit cocky, but the old

one had so little volume (lens inserts on the inside of the mask) my eyelashes were constantly brushing the inside of the mask I was constantly fogged. So, anyway on one dive I grabbed my gear and jumped in the water first or second off the boat. Suddenly, Déjà vu, I'm in the water trying to clear my mask and getting no joy. No luck, my mask isn't clearing, my vision is crap! MEANWHILE UP ON THE BOAT... Mark is grabbing his gear and WHAT? Where's my mask? There's a mask here but it isn't mine. I don't have a spare mask so I'll use this one. Mark gets in the water and sees me, still fiddling with "my mask" looks at me/it and points and mouths "There's my mask"! Since I had no idea (even though I couldn't see anything) till the dive was over poor Mark had to complete the dive in my +8 prescription mask. He's a trooper!

Amy is a very accomplished diver and many of the underwater pictures from Anthony's Key in last month's newsletter, were taken by her with her little GoPro.



Amy is an IT specialist for Marathon Petroleum in Colorado Springs. She's married and met her husband Jack in the beer line at a Garth Brooks concert! If that isn't the best ever "How I met my husband" story I don't know what is.



Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Tales from The Watery Web

New Year, New Outlook

It is exciting to have so many new faces joining the club. The depth of experience among our group ranges from relatively new divers to those of us who have been diving since Sea Hunt with Lloyd Bridges was on television in 1958.



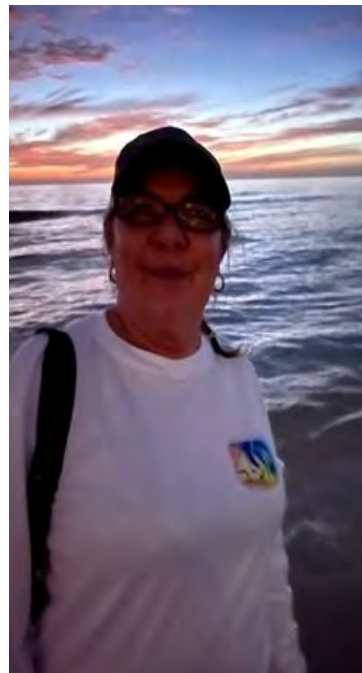
Please send your ideas for club travel to our Trip Director, Natasha Bowers, via email to TripDirector@BluegrassDiveClub.com, or our [Contact Us](#) page, or joining the Dive Committee. Be a part of the Club's Dive Trip planning by sharing your travel dreams and bucket list destinations. It takes a lot of work to discern and distill our memberships dive trip desires into a booked trip. It is my desire to



see the club have 3 dive trips in 2024; spring, summer, and fall. A spring 2024 trip can only happen if we button down details for a trip before the end of February. I am sharing my wish list with our Trip Director and I suggest you do too.

Snowbird Life / Salt Life

My wife, Kathryn, and I have recently visited our new beachfront condominium on Florida's Gulf Coast. Our 1st trip down was a short 11 days, with more time planned this winter and spring. We are enjoying this new stage of life and the freedom that it brings. Although I am not technically retired just yet, having a good team at work provides a lot of flexibility for me.



Plans don't just happen; we make them happen. Be purposeful in how you spend your time, energies, and your resources. Life is short, do more diving!! 🚩



Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertetto



I Got a Taste of Diving Safety From This SAFETY BITE

*My mission is to provide you relevant safety information for your use. Each article will be a bite size portion of 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 **SAFETY BITE** is:*

Loose Scuba Tank

Having your scuba tank come loose during a dive is a real safety risk. At best it is a distracting consuming problem that must be remedied and at worst it is a serious emergency. Anything that requires an **abort dive decision** must be prevented from happening if at all possible.



I have experienced a loose tank twice- once with my own tank and once with my dive buddy's tank. Both were memorable experiences that I do not want to repeat. There are a myriad of loose tank situations and how they can be safely resolved, or the dive aborted, based on the situation and the competency of the diver. But the purpose of this **SAFETY BITE** is to avoid a loose tank in the first place.

The three leading causes of a loose tank are:

- 1. Significant decrease in tank temperature after entering the water resulting in tank shrinkage**
- 2. Tank strap was not cinched tightly enough when mounting your BC**
- 3. Tank strap stretched excessively when getting wet.**

If two or three of these factors are at play then it becomes much more likely. The temperature decrease does not need to be that much and the tank strap can be fairly tight to start with and your tank can still come loose.

Scuba tank temperature can rise many ways. Typically, this happens when getting filled with air and is dependent on the temperature of the compressed air and the rate of fill. So how long has it been since the fill; has the tank had a chance to cool off? How about the ambient temperatures the tank has been exposed too? Has it been in hot vehicle or sat outside in the hot sun? Tanks that have been filled on the boat or filled at your station, such as most live-aboard and many multi-destination single trips may be quite warm when you get your hands on them. Consider how cold the water is in comparison. Note that a warm tank may also have an abnormally high pressure. So, what to do. First, be aware. Feel your tank first thing. If it feels excessively warm take every precaution. Does the pressure seem higher than usual? Opt for a cooler tank if possible. Soak your BC strap in the ocean water for a bit and then really cinch it up super tight on the tank. Have someone stronger assist you if necessary. The BC strap has a degree of elasticity that will compensate for tank shrinkage, but only so much. You must cinch it

Safety Info Director Cont.

up super tight! Finally, make sure your dive buddy gives your harness and cinch a good check and pull during your buddy check.

Tanks straps that are not cinched up tight enough to begin with should never happen. This is the result of complacency, or of rushing your gear setup, or not paying attention to what you're doing, or of just poor training. Do you know how to properly operate your strap latching mechanism? Don't let these things happen to you. And again, insist on a good check and pull of your harness and latch during the buddy check.

Tank straps that are totally dry or that have not been in water for some time will stretch more than a wet strap or one that has been in use. The solution is to give your straps a good dunking or hose spray before your first dive; no need to submerge the entire BC, just the straps. I make it a habit to give myself a little extra time on the first dive to do this during equipment setup. When mounting the tank, cinch it up tight and then release it a few times, in effect pre-stretching the straps. Try to make the final cinch the tightest.

Well, that's our **SAFETY BITE**. I hope everyone savors and benefits from it. Cheers!



Bluegrass Dive Club 2024 Calendar

February

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

March

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

April

9, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
23, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

May

4, Saturday Club's Derby Party
14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

June

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

July

9, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
23, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

August

13, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
??, Saturday Club Pig Roast
27, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

September

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

October

8, Tuesday NEWSLETTER
22, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

November

12, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

14, Saturday Christmas Party