



UNDERCURRENTS

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

April 2024

Volume 54, Number 3

April Club Meeting and April Newsletter

Date: April 9th, Tuesday,
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7:00

Location: ZOOM Only this time
Program: Florida Atlantic Diving

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



I hope everyone has been enjoying the warmer weather, at least when Mother Nature doesn't decide we really need just one more taste of winter.

The Board decided last month we would move back to every month meetings however we weren't able to reserve the meeting room at Roosters for April. We will be moving back to monthly meetings this month! However our April meeting will be a ZOOM ONLY MEETING.


Our next in person meeting will be May 14 and every second Tuesday of the month after that.

If you are ever in doubt just check our website ([Club Calendar](#) | [Bluegrass Dive Club](#)).

With no in person meeting in April the next time we get together will be our annual Derby party. The party will take place, Derby Day, May 4 at the home of past president Tracey Combs and Alan Stubbs, 704 Andover Village Dr in Lexington. More information to come on the website but plan on coming to socialize and enjoy the race with your dive buddies.

The board heard you and we have been working hard to get some trips planned. The Trip director, will be announcing a fall trip soon but the time required to get quotes back made a spring trip impossible. We are attempting to get pricing for spring 2025.

I want to make everyone aware of a great learning opportunity this month, KET our local public television station is running a series titled Changing Planet. The episode for April 24th is Coral Special. The crew will travel to the Maldives to focus on coral reefs and the urgent efforts to help them survive climate change. The episode will air at 8pm.

I know I promised a few new member bios last month but it seems we ran out of space in the last newsletter. I hope we can fit a few in and I can catch the rest of the new members over the course of this year. 

See you all at the Derby Party!

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



I will be taking order for the new BGDC hats as shown here. Orders will taken from now to until the closing of the May meeting. Hat cost will be \$22.00 each. Text or Call, 859-608-0682.

Colors will be of White or Khaki



Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Hope to see you at the May meeting at Roosters on the 14th. 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



More to come at the meeting. 🚩

Secretary's Report

By Charlie Denham



The Bluegrass Dive Club Executive Committee met by ZOOM on April 2 ,2024 with President Kathryn Bowers presiding. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm .

Vice President Kris Harn had nothing to discuss as along with Secretary Charlie Denham, who did note that the minutes of the last general meeting has been forwarded to all Board members earlier that day..


Treasurer Dan Miller reviewed accounts and payment of dues. Questioning revealed that no accounting is made to members that have dues deducted from money on account. Dan agreed to send each individual an accounting of their funds on account.

Secretary's Report Cont.

Trip director Natasha Bowers announced she was waiting on new pricing for the Dominica trip rescheduled for February. She stated she was looking for a quote on a Cozumel beach front hotel for a Fall trip. A general discussion was held about a possible Florida trip.

Safety Director Bart Bertetto discussed a couple of potential items for his safety feature with fin and mask strap failures in particular. Newsletter Editor John Geddes stated that the deadline for articles is April 5. and monthly news letters would start in May. He showed a picture of a customized club ball cap that was available through him for Twenty two dollars (\$22.).

President Kathryn Bowers announced that the next general meeting would be April 9 via ZOOM and monthly in person meetings would begin in May.

She stated that she would contact Tracey Combs to work out details of the annual Kentucky Derby Party. Webmaster Alex Fassas was absent. The meeting was closed at 8: .

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



2024 Membership Dues

Student with ID, New Diver, 1st Year .. **\$10.00**

Student with ID **\$20.00**

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](#). 

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



[Tales From The Watery Web](#)

Spring Has Sprung

The signs of spring are surely here even though we are having a bit of a wintery and very wet blast for early April 2024. As we turn our thoughts to warmer weather, being outside

<http://diveassure.com/en/home/?pid=752more>

and possible travel opportunities we should also make sure that our dive equipment is all in good order and our skills are refreshed. If you diving equipment has not had its annual check up, get that in the works. Diverentures in Lexington, Kentucky can service Scuba Pro equipment in house and send other equipment to another shop. If you have a favorite shop, then get your equipment to them now.

The club is planning for some pool refresher dive training. Be on the lookout in the near future for this opportunity to refresh you skills. Rust and corrosion do not belong on or in either our equipment or our divers.

Insurance for Dive Accidents & Travel

DAN (Divers Alert Network) is a go to organization that most of us as divers know about, use and support. The DAN resources are incredibly helpful and their membership used to include basic dive accident insurance. Be aware that several years ago DAN changed their membership model and made any dive accident insurance an additional

Webmaster Cont.

purchase option. Formerly the DAN dive accident insurance was included with your membership. Now it is an optional and additional purchase.

Dive Assure is an alternative and longtime provider of both Dive and Travel Insurance. The Bluegrass Dive Club also has an affiliation with Dive Assure and receives a commission on any purchases made using our weblink:

<https://diveassure.com/en/home/?pid=752>

Dive Assure offers member benefits in addition to the insurance benefits which can be quite helpful. There are other insurers that offer dive accident coverage and many that offer travel insurance. Just be sure you know what is actually covered.

We will not go into detail on the various differences in types of policies and coverages in this article. We will explain a few terms and policy details that you should be aware of as you shop for coverage.

Always find the Description Of Coverage (DOC) document and use it for detailed reference. This is the document often found described as "Terms and Conditions", "Handbook", and "Plan Details" after you begin the request for a quote process.

The DOC and the Plan Coverage page are the legally binding document that describes the insurance coverages. In the United States, each state must approve and allow the insurer to sell insurance in their state. Coverage you shop for may not be the same as someone else's depending upon your state of residence.

It is important to be aware of the following terms and their definition in any policy you are considering for purchase:

Dive Accident Insurance vs. Travel Insurance that includes diving and watersports accident coverage

- ✓ Trip (defined dates) vs. Annual coverage
- ✓ Plan Coverage or Limits
- ✓ What is Covered vs. What is Excluded
- ✓ Primary vs. Secondary Coverage
- ✓ Definition of a Trip (or where coverage is afforded under the policy). Some say 50, 100, or 150 miles from home while others may require you to have traveled out of the country to be covered.

Insurance can make the financial burden and arrangements for dealing with the unexpected much easier. Out of personal experience in 2017, a prescribed treatment for DCS with the US Navy Table 6 (5 hours) in the hyperbaric chamber will set you back a cool \$5,000.00 with payment arranged before treatment begins.

If you need a low altitude evacuation flight due to medical emergency, it gets very expensive very fast. Your claim can easily jet right through \$100,000.00.

Equipment check,
Skills check,
Dive and/or Travel Insurance check,

Now let's get to planning and packing for that trip! 🚩

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:*

Broke Fin or Mask Strap

Having your fin or mask strap break 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.

Back in the day, before the advent of modern silicone materials, broken fin and mask straps were not that uncommon. Everyone watched their straps closely and carried spares. I recall a training lesson in the pool for a broken fin strap and loss of a fin where you crossed your feet and porpoise kicking with just one fin. While both straps are subject to aging deterioration and wear and tear, fin straps take more stress and are more likely to fail. I have personally experienced and seen fin straps fail during a dive and it is a show stopper. If you are in any kind of challenging situation that requires two hands and/or two legs, like a moderate current, you may lose or have to give up that fin and abort the dive. The purpose of this **SAFETY BITE** is how to avoid broken straps.

Avoiding broken fin and mask straps comes down simply to inspection and testing

periodically, especially if your equipment has been in service for a while. And not just the strap condition but also the latching and adjustment mechanism condition and function. Best to remove the straps first. Inspect for any damage- abrasions, cuts, tears, and material loss. Inspect for age deterioration- change in color or texture, loss of flexibility or stretch, and deformation of the material. Now, give them a good pull and stretch test. Look at them closely while pulling and stretching to see any wear or tear. Reassemble and examine the condition and function of the latching and adjustment parts. These plastic parts also fail from repeated use and age.

Finally, replace or upgrade your straps and/or latches if you find any defects. There are good online videos on how to do this or take your equipment to the dive shop and have them do it.

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

Welcome New Members

By Kathryn Bowers



Joe Mauro

We met Joe Mauro on the August trip to Anthony's Key in Roatan. Joe holds several certifications and is a Rescue Diver.

Joe is married and he and his wife Susan have 3 children, Mackenzie, Parker, and Turner. Joe works in Finance.

He was certified in the Red Sea in Dahab (near Sharm El Sheikh) in 1996 while on a backpacking trip. His most frequent dive buddy is his daughter Mackenzie. In fact he

Welcome New Members Cont.

says his best trip was to Belize with her Christmas 2022.

Joe and Mackenzie have a Pre-trip pedicure where and she picks the color. She gets her toes done and he will get the matching color on his big toe. I had to ask since Alex and I have a similar ritual and I noticed Joe's polished toe. He told me they got that pedicure right before she went to college. She will be playing division 3 field hockey. I think we may have the opportunity to meet her if we plan a trip that interests her.



Joe's wife Susan is also a certified diver but is no longer diving though he hopes to get her back in the water. They lived in London for 20 years and all kids were born there.

Joe told me the weirdest place he ever dove was Lake Malawi the 2nd largest fresh water lake in Africa located between, Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania). He hasn't yet been to the Galapagos or Australia But those are certainly on the bucket list.

NEXT



Spencer and Missy Gerondale

Our first two new members from the great state of Texas are Spencer and Missy Gerondale.

Spencer is the youngest son of current member Gavin Gerondale. Spencer works as a real estate agent in the Houston Texas area.

He began diving in 2003 when he was a Boy Scout. He is an avid Sailor and backpacker and has plans to hike the Appalachian Trail in 2025. Gavin may join him for part of the hike and Terri and Missy have generously offered to meet them at resorts along the way.

Missy works in HR for a National Oil Company as a training and development professional. Missy, loves to swim and visit the beach. Her love for the water and appreciation of our delicate coral reefs lead her to diving. She has many great memories of diving, including on her honeymoon and is anxious to expand her experiences.

Spencer and Missy are looking forward to diving and exploring the other 71% of the earth together. They hope to have many more diving experiences.

NEXT



Steven and Michele Morrison

Steven and Michele hail from Houston. Steven and Michele are avid sailors and are acquainted with Club members Gavin Gerondale and Terri Anderson. They have accompanied them on many fun sailing

Welcome New Members Cont.

adventures. When you find someone you enjoy spending time and traveling with it just makes sense to keep following the path, we are happy to welcome Steven and Michele to our Blue Grass Dive Club family!

Steven learned to dive in Puerto Rico at the Palmas Del Mar dive shop in 1997. Steven is looking forward to many more beautiful dives in beautiful places. Michele is not a diver but loves ocean adventures and beach time in beautiful places. I'm so excited to welcome them! I hope we can entice Michele to take a peek under the sea.

Bluegrass Dive Club 2024 Calendar

April

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

July

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

August

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

September

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

October

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
22, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

November

12, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)

26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

14, **Saturday** **Christmas Party**



Limited time to Order, get the picture!!