



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

June 2024

Volume 54, Number 5

---

## June Club Meeting

---

**Date:** June 11th Tuesday,  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
Social at 7:00

**Location:** Roosters - Richmond Rd  
**Program:** FALL TRIP 2024

---

## President's Message

---

*By Kathryn Bowers*



Greetings from your  
President,

We have had quite a flurry of activity since our last newsletter and meeting. If you were interested in traveling to Dominica you have probably been in on some of the goings on but let me try and pull everything together for you. Our trip director Natasha put together a trip back to Dominica for March of 2025. We initially booked 8 rooms and those were literally gone in HOURS after the trip being posted on the website! We have since been able to secure additional rooms and I believe everyone who is currently registered and has a deposit into the club treasurer has a room. I'm not sure if this was due to the popularity of the location of this trip, the pent up desire to

get back in the water or some other reason but I am delighted. Dominica was my first dive trip with the club in 2017 and I have been anxious to get back. I don't know if I will partake in another lionfish hunt but the island is breathtaking and the diving superb.

Our next meeting will be June 11<sup>th</sup> at Roosters in Lexington. We have another trip to announce the details of (Mexico in October), the club pig roast is coming up on August 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as a trip to dive the Blue Herron Bridge in Florida (Mid Aug). This is shaping up to be a busy year. I hope everyone finds something to get excited about. Remember, meetings the second Tuesday of every month. If you are ever in doubt just check our website ([Club Calendar](#) | [Bluegrass Dive Club](#) ).

I look forward to seeing everyone at ROOSTER'S! 🚩

---

## The Editor's Notes

---

*By John Geddes*



The pics are from Kathryn from the last Club trip to Dominica.

Also some pics from the Meeting in May.

If you have some photos you would like to share in the Newsletter, send them to me. 🚩

---

## Vice President Report

---

*By Kris Harn*



Hope to see you at the June meeting at Roosters on the 11th. If you have any requests on programs or door prizes you would like to see offered this year, let me know your ideas. 🏊



---

## Secretary's Report

---

*By Charlie Denham*



The Bluegrass Dive Club met for their May meeting at ROOSTER'S Bar and Pub on Richmond Road in Lexington, KY on May 15, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by President Katherine Bowers. There were 21 members present and 1 participated by ZOOM. A list of those present accompanies this report. The President opened the meeting with the announcement that details of the spring trip to Dominica would be revealed. The Secretary was absent from the last General membership meeting conducted by ZOOM and no one took notes so therefore there are no minutes of this

meeting. Minutes of the April Executive Committee are available, but the President's policy is to not read them at the general membership meeting. The Treasurer, Dan Miller, was absent, but the Webmaster reported in his absence that the club had approximately \$18,000. in the bank. With \$8585. In unreserved funds, approximately \$3800. On account and approximately \$5500. held for future trips. The Trip Director Natasha Bowers, via Zoom revealed the details of the Dominica dive trip to be conducted March 8 to March 15 of next year (2025) at the Fort Young Hotel. The price of \$1518.00 for double occupancy includes 7 nights room with breakfast, 5 days of 2 tank diving, airport transfers, based on ocean view rooms. 100% refund of any payments will be allowed until December 8 of this year. She showed a few slides of a previous club trip to this location. Webmaster, Alex Fassas discussed payment for the trip and explained how rebates would be spread between the participants. This pricing compares very favorably with a similar trip by Diventures this May. He also announced planning for a Florida Bridge dive in August of this year. 1 The Vice President, Chris Harn, supervised the drawing of the door prize of a gift certificate from Rooster's. Newsletter Editor John Geddes took orders for baseball type hats with the Club Emblem. A video on Fort Smith was shown, featuring their recent remodeling and diving highlights followed by a short video of underwater scenes. The meeting was dismissed at 9:05 pm. 🏊



---

## Trip Director Report

---

By Natasha Bowers



Save the date: October 12-19, 2024, for a club trip to Cozumel Mexico! More details will be announced at the next club meeting and an email will be sent out when trip registration is open and posted on the webpage.

I was pleasantly surprised at how many, and how quickly members signed up for the 2025 Dominica trip! We filled all our requested rooms on day one of registration and we are now officially overbooked for this trip. More rooms have been requested from Fort Young Hotel. However, they run on island time, and I do not yet know if our request has been granted. Updates on this trip will continue via email to all those who have registered. 🚩



---

## From the Treasurer

---

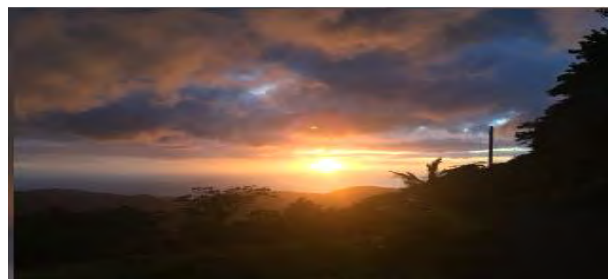
By Dan Miller



### 2024 Membership Dues

Student with ID, New Member	<b>\$10.00</b>
Single & Family (1 diver)	<b>\$20.00</b>
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](#). 🚩

---

## 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



---

## Webmaster

---

By Alex Fassas



### Tales from The Watery Web

#### 1<sup>st</sup> World Swimming Pool Woes

My swimming pool is open, clear and warm enough to swim in. My woes are related to when I opened up the pool this spring. The swimming pool pump motor had an internal electrical short and needed to be replaced. As the DOE has instituted new regulations regarding swimming pool pump motors, you are supposed to only install more energy efficient variable speed pumps. I purchased and installed a new variable speed pump motor. All went well with the installation and initial startup of the motor. I have a swimming pool automation system that should have been able to control my new variable speed motor. Getting the various pool automation to all play nice together is my woe. Pray for me and the pool equipment. In the meantime, I must walk around to the pool controls to change settings rather than touch my mobile phone screen. 1<sup>st</sup> world problems.

#### Dominica Trip Is Full, Accepting Standby Registrations

The Fort Young Hotel has extended to us 14 rooms and 1 dive boat that seats 19 divers. Within days of the Dominica dive trip, 08 March 2025 to 15 March 2025, our rooms and diver spots are full. We have 25 people registered, which includes 19 divers and 6 non-divers in 14 rooms.

We will still accept trip registrations on a Standby basis. Standby registrations will be placed on a wait list. Standby registrants should not purchase airfare that they cannot get a refund for. We do have a few people that are solo in a room. The availability of rooms or additional seats on their 2 dive boats can change as we get closer to our travel date. Not making any promises, but we may

possibly be able to accommodate additional non-divers.

There were some communications about additional room availability and a possible PM 2-tank dive boat. Both of those options dried up and became unavailable.

#### Florida Dive Trip Update

My apologies, as I have taken on the task of planning this summer's Atlantic Coast of Florida dive trip. The day job has been rather busy for the past two months and I have not been able to complete the research and pin down details for the trip yet. The proposed dates for this trip are roughly Wednesday, 14 August, 2024 to Sunday, 18 August, 2024. Stay tuned.

#### St. Maarten Snorkel Park

Dan Miller shared this news link about a new snorkel park on the island of St. Maarten. Enjoy, [Underwater Sculpture Snorkeling Adventure \(undersxm.com\)](https://undersxm.com). 🚩

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2024 Calendar

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

### September

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

---

## 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:*

#### **Diving Fundamentals: The Buddy Check**

The buddy check should always be a part of your pre-dive ritual, but many of us skip it entirely or miss key safety aspects. Here's what to watch for on your next, and every, buddy check.

The pre-dive safety check, or buddy check, is a vital part of diving. During a buddy check you'll complete a final inspection of both your equipment and your buddy's to make sure you're both ready to enter the water. The standard PADI pre-dive safety check uses the acronym BWRAF. This stands for BCD/buoyancy, weights, releases, air, and final ok. Following are some of the issues commonly seen when it comes to buddy checks, and how to address them before getting into the water.

#### **BCD/Buoyancy**

**Issue:** It's easy to overlook that the toggle for the quick-release dump valve on your right

shoulder is trapped under a shoulder strap or chest release. This can mean that the BCD won't inflate fully. You might also struggle to stay positively buoyant at the surface when you enter the water.

**Solution:** Your buddy will double-check that your quick releases and toggles are free from entanglement. Equally important, you'll locate your buddy's low-pressure inflator (LPI) hose and see how it works. Each manufacturer has a slightly different configuration, and you need to know how to help them in a hurry.



#### **Weights**

**Issue:** Many people simply double-check that their own weights are in place and secure. In an emergency, or simply when helping your buddy back onto a boat after a dive, this can leave either of you unfamiliar with how to help the other diver release their weights.

**Solution:** Modern BCD and weight systems come in all shapes and sizes. There are belts, integrated pockets, harnesses, trim weights and ankle weights, to name just a few. During the pre-dive check, be sure you both know how to release each other's weights. Show your buddy where your weights are and how to release them, and find out the same for your buddy's set-up.

#### **Releases**

**Issue:** A loose cylinder or tank band can be potentially hazardous, as well as embarrassing. On check dives it's common to see divers with loose cylinders as they return

## Safety Infor Dir Cont.

to the boat or shore.

**Solution:** When you first arrive at the resort or on the boat, and while your BCD is bone-dry, soak or moisten the band/release in some water. This relaxes and expands the webbing to its maximum size before you strap in a tank. During your buddy check, stand up and ask your buddy to give your cylinder a firm tug to make sure it's snug.

### Air

**Issue:** Checking your SPG, but not the cylinder and the regulator(s) can be an issue. Many divers take a quick glance at their SPG, determine that they've got appropriate tank pressure, and call it a day. Don't forget to make sure the cylinder valve is fully open.

Take a few normal breaths from both the primary regulator and alternate air-source. It's important to make sure the gas smells and tastes okay. A cylinder that has been closed may still read full if the system hasn't been purged of pressure. This can mean a partially opened tank still shows full, and you don't want to discover that underwater.



**Solution:** Before you put on your scuba unit, reach to the rear of the tank and make sure the valve is fully open (with potentially a mini-turn back), rather than fully closed with a half-turn open. Breathe from your primary regulator while looking at your SPG. Let your buddy try your alternative air source (or try it yourself).

Show them how and where it's clipped onto your BCD. Be sure the needle stays steady,

and don't assume the boat crew has opened your tank.



### Final Okay

**Issue:** The final okay is your confirmation to the dive group and leader that you're ready to dive. Missing accessories and gadgets are a problem in the modern diving world. Don't be the person who arrives on the dive deck and then — as the skipper brings the boat into position and with seconds to spare — discovers that you've left your dive computer in the cabin. Or that you're not set for the correct nitrox mix. Or you've not clipped on your camera correctly. Maybe you're missing your reel and SMB. You get the idea.

**Solution:** When you first arrive on the dive deck, double-check that you have everything you need before gearing up. Make sure your computer is working, and set for the right gas. Make sure your camera is ready, and that your mask is de-fogged, prepared and in place. Ensure that you've got all your accessories and that nothing is twisted or tangled.



Next time you dive, don't skip that buddy check. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as they say. By following these simple steps upfront, you and your entire dive group will have a safer, more relaxed dive. 🚩