



UNDERCURRENTS

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

July 2024

Volume 54, Number 6

July Club Meeting

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

Location: Roosters
Program: Bahamas Aggressor

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



This month finds me thinking about change. I am personally going through some changes which have prompted some introspection. I will look somewhat changed when I see you all at the next meeting. I look different to myself, I'm not entirely used to this new look but I guess that will come. This change is that I am no longer wearing glasses. That's right, after almost 60 years of needing to wear glasses to navigate my world I am able to go about my day without. Last week I had cataract surgery on my right eye, the left will come in a few more weeks. I was not reluctant to do this as some people (my father for one) are, as I had long hoped to escape the requirement to always wear glasses. My vision was really bad, far past what could be corrected by anything short of lens replacement. Now, for the first time I can remember I can walk across a room without wondering if I'm going to bump into or trip over

something. I still can't read, or see as well as I did with my glasses, but I'm far better than I was. I'm looking forward to getting regular sun glasses, and taking the corrective lenses out of my mask. Who knows, I will probably be able to identify my mask without assistance.

The other change I have been thinking of is a shift in thinking and planning we may need to make as a club. One thing I have noticed in my time on the board is that we seem to be running into a time crunch on our travel planning. Especially since the pandemic, we haven't planned long range enough. We don't anticipate how long it may take for resorts (often operating on "Island Time") to get back to us. Having successfully planned trips is probably going to take more than the tenure of one board. If we want several trips a year, to allow people the opportunity to plan their schedules and budgets we need to plan trips years ahead, instead of months. I know when I first joined the club there was a trip to Africa planned around 3 years in the future. I didn't go, as my brain couldn't wrap around anything so far in the future. I have since realized that planning time moves at warp speed. How we do this is up for discussion, longer tenure of board members, additional people serving on a trip planning committee, several months of overlap for incoming and outgoing board members. I don't presume to have the answer. I'm putting this out as food for thought. I look forward to hearing your input and seeing everyone on July 9th at ROOSTER'S!

Remember, meetings the second Tuesday of every month.

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

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



In this issue some pics of critters by Noel Hall in Grand Cayman. 🚩



Photo by Kris Harn

Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Hope to see you at the July meeting at Roosters on the 9th. 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



Due to some unexpected complications **the Cozumel trip is on hold**. We have received some poor feedback about the hotel and have encountered difficulties securing discounted rates for Mexico. The trip may continue in Mexico with individuals booking directly through the hotel to achieve the best price OR the trip destination will be changed. Stay tuned for more information. Hopefully this will be cleared up in the next week or two and an email will be sent out with definitive information. Thank you for your patience and understand as I navigate this trip director role and work to obtain the best prices possible for the club.

There will be a **trip planning meeting via zoom on August 1st @ 830pm**. I invite and welcome all of you to attend. At this meeting we will talk about future destinations and potential trip dates. I would also love some volunteer that are willing to help me plan these future trips and serve on the trip committee. Time commitments are flexible. Even if you are not interested in joining the committee please consider joining the meeting and providing your input. 🚩



Secretary's Report

By Charlie Denham



The Bluegrass Dive Club Executive Committee met by Zoom on June 25, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 pm by President Kathryn Bowers. All Board members were present with the exception of Safety Director Bert Bertetto. President Kathryn Bowers, who is recuperating from cataract surgery, presented the meeting agenda.

Alex Fassas made a motion to approve and it was seconded by John Geddes.



Secretary Charlie Denham reviewed the minutes from the Board meeting of May 29, 2024 and they were accepted by the Board.

Vice President Kris Harn Announced two new members, David Carr and wife. She set the next general membership meeting for July 9th at Roosters Restaurant on Richmond Road. She will be contacting Travis and Lavon for some donated door prizes.

Dan Miller reviewed the current financial statement of which the most notable items were the payment of dues by the Carr's and the big increase in funds as a result of the tremendous response of deposits for Dominica.

Charlie Denham pointed out that by action of a past board, members over 80 years of age are exempt from dues and that the entire amount of his payment should be credited to his Dominica deposit. Treasurer Miller said he would correct this item. The current bank balance is \$22,571.34.

John Geddes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Natasha Bowers and approved unanimously.

Miller announced that the next payment on the Dominica trip would be due September 1, 2024.

At this point the President interceded to bring up the subject of doing biographies on our new members and discussed with Kris Harn that they split up the interviewing.

Trip Director Natasha Bowers announced that she is seeking a new quote on the Cozumel trip as details do not make the Hyatt appear very favorable. She is now talking to Occidental Cozumel.

John Geddes announced a deadline of June 30 for items for the next newsletter.

Webmaster Alex Basses announce that the Florida trip was a no go for this summer. The Pig Roast has been moved to August 17 at the home of Sherry McCann. John Geddes will see what is available at Dale Hollow for an outing there and work on dates. The meeting was dismissed at 8:55 pm. 🚩



From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



Student with ID, New Diver, First Year **\$10.00**

2024 Membership Renewal **\$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](#).

Dan sent this and wanted me to include it in this month issue of the Newsletter, check it out. 🚩

[Memorial Reefs International - Reef Ball Memorial Creation & Dedication](#)

[Eternal Reefs » Living legacies that memorialize our loved ones](#)



Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Tales from the Watery Web

It's Hard Being #1

I promised myself that I would never talk or write about politics among friends or enemies.

These United States of America will have just celebrated another Independence Day by the time you read this. Our two main political parties are putting forth their best to seek the office of President in this fall's election. When your home country is one of the largest economies globally and a proponent of freedom and democracy for themselves and others around the world; well it puts us in the focus of a lot of eyeballs. Thank goodness that our upcoming election of leadership is but one of several around the globe. Our country is not alone during this time of discernment and choosing of direction for the days ahead. I pray for a peaceful election process, results, and transitions around the world.

No Club Organized Florida Dive Trip for Summer 2024

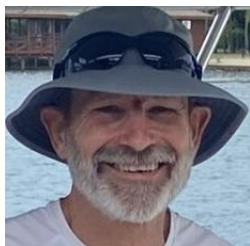
My apologies for all of the hype and hopes for a summer club dive trip to the Atlantic Coast of Florida. I have found myself completely overbooked both for personal plans and time to plan for the club trip. I will be rolling the planning forward for the summer of 2025.

Dive Club Pig Roast

Save the date for the 2024 edition of the Bluegrass Dive Club Pig Roast on Saturday, August 17, 2024. Usually between the hours of 4 - 8 PM. Sherry McCann will be our host this year at her lovely home and swimming pool. More details to come. Our club parties and social events are not to be missed. 🚩

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



Safety Info Dir. Cont.

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. 🦋

Bluegrass Dive Club 2024 Calendar

July

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

August

13, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting
17, 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

