



# UNDERCURRENTS

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

JUNE 2025

Volume 55, Number 4

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## Club Meeting

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**Date:** Tuesday, JUNE 10  
**Time:** 7:30-PM (business)  
Social at 7:00

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

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## President's Message

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*By Kathryn Bowers*



Welcome to June! Before I see any of your (save the ones I'm currently with) the June Solstice, (also known as the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere) will be upon us. We will have hit the longest day of the year and the start of summer! This solstice occurs when the sun is at its northernmost point in the sky, as seen from Earth.

The June Solstice happens on one of three dates: June 20, 21, or 22, in 2025. In Richmond, Kentucky, this means the longest period of daylight will occur on June 20 at 10:41 Pm. When the solstice occurs this year I will be in the greater St Paul area of Minnesota along with my husband Alex Fassas, Nieces Natasha and Erin Bowers, Sister Kristen, Brother John, and Mother Patsy. Yes that's right we are all still kicking

like Vampires. My father John will be celebrating his 90th lap around the sun. My mother (God willing) won't catch up (because really who would want to) but will be close on his heels and mark her 90th year September 12th (that's 10 days prior to the autumnal equinox for any of you following my celestial references). 90 is a pretty auspicious milestone and not everyone gets to experience it. We are thankful my father and hopefully mother will. That indicates (as much as anything can) Kris and I might as well but who knows, that's another 23 years! That sounds like FOREVER!

I should probably explain I'm currently on an airplane flying from New York to Athens, approaching the coast of Douarnenez France and maybe more than a little sleep deprived. I had just finished watching Eternals (because I love Marvel movies) and less than 2 weeks ago attended a visitation for Russ Tucker. (Hang in there with me, I promise to pull things together, sort of).

As I reflect on my life (so far) I feel like I'm pretty well traveled. I have been to almost every state, Alaska and Hawaii included. I have seen the pyramids and traveled through the Panama Canal this movie was all over the ancient world! They were at the Assyria gate in Babylon. This lead me to think, I haven't been there, and why not (okay, I was tired, maybe because they no longer exist. They were an artist rendition. We know they existed and were they were, but they aren't now) where else haven't I been? And what haven't I seen? Russ had an Honor Flight planned and died days before he was scheduled to leave. None of us knows how long we have. Nothing is guaranteed for any of us.

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## President's Message Cont.

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We really might not have all the time in the world and we probably won't get a warning when it's winding up.

All this is a rather rambling and maybe confusing path to say "We need to know where you want to go!"

If you love your family and want to spend time with them you should absolutely do that!

But if there are a few places you really want to see, above and below the surface, while you still have the mobility to do it, what are you waiting for? I have climbed Mount Sini (I'm really glad I did them in my 30s cause I'm not sure I could get up in less than a day now) and seen the great pyramids of Giza, and the Sphinx and I've also climbed a live volcano in Papu New Guinea with Noel Hall and Bart Bertetto and I have way more memories of the latter. I think experiences shared with people you enjoy are richer and more lasting than things you do solo or with strangers you don't form a friendship with.

Let us know what's on your bucket list. Some trips take a little more time to plan. I love the Caribbean but we can't find Nemo there. 🚩

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## The Editor's Notes

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*By John Geddes*



We had pictures of the Derby Party for this issue, but sometime happen with the internet. We will try to have them next month. 🚩

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## Vice President Report

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*By Kris Harn*



Hope to see you at the June meeting at Roosters on the 10th. If you

have any requests on programs or door prizes you would like to see offered this year, let me know your ideas. 🚩

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## Trip Director Report

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*By Natasha Bowers*



Hi all,

Personal update: I graduated this past month from Winona State University with a doctor of nursing practice in acute care degree and passed my national exam so I am now a board certified nurse practitioner!

Dive club update: We still have spots available for the Cozumel Mexico trip this October. Check the website for details.

There are also plans in the works for a live aboard trip in early 2026. The board is in the process of looking for a new travel agency to partner with for future travel. Our long term partnership with UDT is coming to an end due to them retiring. If you have any suggestions please reach out. 🚩

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## Secretary's Report

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*By Amy Hiatt*



**Board Meeting Highlights**

**April 29, 2025**

*Recap of Board Activities:*

The April Board meeting covered a wide range of club business, trip planning, safety updates,

## Secretary's Report Cont.

and upcoming events. The team reviewed and approved the March meeting minutes and finalized plans for the upcoming Derby party.

Discussions also included potential travel presentations, future dive destinations, safety concerns, and newsletter improvements.

### *Upcoming Trips & Deadlines:*

- Cozumel – Final payment due July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Future Trips – Planning discussions began for 2026 destinations including Egypt, Thailand, and Indonesia

### *Planning in Motion:*

- Travel Presentations: The board is exploring presentations from various travel agencies.
- Trip Compensation: Updates were shared about admin fees, commissions, and refund structures from the Dominica trip.
- Cozumel Trip Prep: Amy Hiatt is preparing a presentation on diving, cenotes, ruins, and local activities to help members get the most out of their trip.
- Dale Hollow Lake Trip: Planning is underway for a July or August outing—more details to come.

### *Safety Corner:*

- Bart will contribute an article on proper weighting for diving—a crucial safety topic based on recent experiences.
- The board also discussed hiking preparedness, inspired by a challenging trail in Dominica.

### *Administrative Updates:*

- The club will continue its affiliate partnership with DAN—members are encouraged to use affiliate links when renewing memberships.

- A reminder was made to submit digital logos for use in club media and merchandise, including Dominica T-Shirts.

Thank you for staying involved and helping us make BGDC a strong and adventurous community!

## Board Meeting Highlights – May 27, 2025

### *Board Meeting Recap:*

The May Board meeting focused on planning the upcoming June meeting at Roosters, trip coordination for Cozumel, Grand Cayman, and Little Cayman, financial updates, technical preparations for presentations, and future planning activities. Room allocations and refund logistics were discussed, and members continued exploring liveaboard options for 2026 and the potential pig roast event. The club also finalized a \$50 donation to Honor Flight Kentucky in memory of Russ Tucker.

### *Key Takeaways.*

- Final planning is in progress for the Grand Cayman and Little Cayman trips. Dan will serve as trip lead.
- Natasha is researching liveaboard options for early 2026 based on member suggestions.
- The club approved a \$50 memorial donation to Honor Flight Kentucky for Russ Tucker.
- The group then discussed the Dale Hollow Club trip, which Kris confirmed he would continue planning, and explored the possibility of hosting a pig roast at Harrington Lake in August or early September, with Alex suggesting they could coordinate with members who have lake accommodations.

### *Planning Ahead:*

- Members are encouraged to continue submitting ideas for 2026 dive destinations.
- Current ideas include the Red Sea, Maldives, Turks and Caicos, and Belize. 🇵🇸

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## From the Treasurer

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By Dan Miller



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

**2025 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](#). 🚩

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## Webmaster

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By Alex Fassas



[Tales from the Watery Web](#)

*Tech Corner: Windows 10 EOL (End of Life) and You*

If you are a Microsoft Windows computer owner with Windows 10 as the operating system, then most likely you have received numerous notifications of one sort or the other regarding the End Of Life of Windows 10 and the need to upgrade to the next greatest thing

Windows 11. With this short article I will try to demystify what this all means to you.

Here is a direct quote from Microsoft: "After October 14, 2025, Microsoft will no longer provide free software updates from Windows Update, technical assistance, or security fixes for Windows 10. Your PC will still work, but we recommend moving to Windows 11. Windows 11 offers a modern and efficient experience designed to meet current demands for heightened security."

Some truths and myths surrounding this topic:

1. Some newer PC's may be able to upgrade to Windows 11. Some older PC's will not support running Windows 11. You can find out using this weblink [End of support for Windows 10, Windows 8.1, and Windows 7 | Microsoft Windows](#)

2. Your PC will still work. If you continue to use Windows 10 it would be most important to have installed and active 3<sup>rd</sup> party antivirus and antimalware protection program with real time detection and scheduled scans. This security protection will be continuing to try and keep your PC with Windows 10 safe from attack.

*Club Partnerships for Dive Accident & Travel Insurance*

Your club has professional partnerships for membership and insurance with both Dive Assure and the Divers Alert Network (DAN). When you use our club's partner referral weblink to access these services you are benefiting your club and helping to keep dues costs down, while not costing you anymore for membership or premiums. Use the links found on this page for our partner weblinks: [Dive & Travel Insurance | Bluegrass Dive Club](#) Be sure to use the partner link and then handle your membership or coverage quoting and renewal from inside that web browser tab. Our partner ID is embedded in your web browser session.

I personally find that the Dive Assure annual travel insurance, for both travel and dive accident protection, is a better value for us. It used to be that the DAN annual travel and dive accident insurance was the better value.



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## Webmaster Cont.

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It appears that the DAN rates increase more steeply with age than the Dive Assure plans. YMMV.

### *Club Derby Party Round Up*

The annual derby party on May 3<sup>rd</sup> was a success. Those who turned out enjoyed the food, friends, and fellowship. I have provided pictures from the day's event which hopefully will be included in this edition of the newsletter. Our hosting does come with some benefits, leftovers, both food and beverages. All the leftovers were enjoyed and did not go to waste. Thank you for the opportunity to host. 🚩

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## Safety Information Director

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*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:*

#### **DIVER'S UNDERWATER SCISSORS**

*Note from Bart:* For the first 20 years or so of my diving I carried a knife. I started with a big knife strapped to my leg. That tended to snag the California kelp so I went with a smaller

knife on my weight belt. That eventually became a smaller and smaller knife that ended in my BC pocket out of the way. California shore and rock breakwater diving was relatively shallow and meant the possibility of encountering fishing line and gear, especially in a strong current.

Entanglement was something that you had to deal with once in a while. And it could just as easily be your buddy who needs your help. When I did have to use my knife, it was never easy. For one thing, it took two hands and if you have something in one hand like your light; it could be a real pain. Then a fellow diver showed me what scissors could do and wow, what a difference. I've never dove with a knife since.



Diving scissors, also commonly referred to as dive shears or diving shears, are a great addition to any avid scuba divers gear kit. Crafted specifically for underwater use, these robust shears are designed to offer versatility and reliability beneath the waves. Unlike regular scissors, dive scissors are engineered to cut through tough materials like fishing lines, nets, kelp, and even thin ropes, which can become a hazard during dives. Their stainless-steel construction ensures resistance to rust and corrosion, key features given the salty sea environment in which they operate. The ergonomic design of these tools allows for easy handling, even when wearing thick diving gloves, making them an

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## Safety Info Dir. Cont.

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indispensable companion for both safety and convenience in any underwater environment.

They also work well topside and come in handy when you have to cut anything.

Having a good pair of underwater scissors can make all the difference. There are many accounts of turtles or dolphins entangled in fishing line that were saved by divers. Just a few snips from the diving scissors is all it takes. But it's not just about functionality; it's about being prepared to handle unexpected challenges that may arise while exploring the underwater world. These tools are not only practical but also add much to a diver's readiness and safety.

As diving often involves encountering situations where entanglement could occur, such as exploring shipwrecks, shore diving near popular fishing spots, night diving, or navigating through dense underwater forests of seaweed, having a pair of dive scissors handy could literally be a lifesaver. Consider investing in a pair of quality diving scissors that will enhance your diving experience and your safety by ensuring peace of mind and preparedness when under the sea.

See ya down there. 🚩

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## 2025 BGDC Officer's

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Kathryn Bowers, President	859 619-0166
Kris Harn, Vice President	859 333-6911
Amy Hiatt, Secretary	303 815-8375
Dan Miller, Treasurer	859 948-5133
Natasha Bowers, Trip Director	651 786-9574
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502 299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	859 582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter	859 608-0682

A long time member of the BGDC



Russ Tucker 1946-2025

INDONESIA 09

## Bluegrass Dive Club 2025 Calendar

### June

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

### July

8, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
12-19, Grand Cayman Trip  
19-26, Little Cayman Trip  
22, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### August

12, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
??, Saturday Club Pig Roast  
26, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### September

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

### October

14, Tuesday Dive Club Meeting  
25 -11/1 Cozumel Trip  
28, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### November

11, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)  
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

### December

13, Saturday Christmas Party