



UNDERCURRENTS

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

JULY 2025

Volume 55, Number 6

Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, JULY 8
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7:00

Location: Roosters
Program: TBA

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



I hope everybody had a fabulous Fourth of July and was able to see some great fireworks if that was part of your plan.

Alex and I spent the long weekend in the Cleveland area visiting with friends. We didn't see any fireworks, but we did get to the rock 'n' roll Hall of Fame, which was a bucket list item for Alex. We will need to go back and see the rest of it as we were traveling much more slowly than our friends. If there's something to read, I will be reading it and boy was there a lot to read!

We just returned from another wonderful adventure that took up most of June, truthfully, May and June were extremely busy months for us. We travel to Minnesota in May to watch Natasha receive her doctorate of nurse practitioner. In June we returned to Greece to sail the Ionian Sea.

We had traveled to Greece last summer to sail the Aegean Sea and no, we are not planning to start

"summering in Greece", though, wouldn't that be lovely.

This trip we accompanied Natasha and Kristen to celebrate that big graduation accomplishment as well as passing her boards.

We are very proud of her. The trip was wonderful, relaxing and the weather was perfect, much cooler than Lexington. Our return was to Minneapolis and not Lexington.

On June 20 we celebrated my dad's 90th birthday! Though you don't have to do anything special, other than stay alive, that was also quite an accomplishment and the party at his favorite steakhouse was a great celebration. It was a wonderful adventure but I am ready to sleep in my own bed for a while now.

I did, however use some of my free time sitting on the airplane on the way back to dream about future dive trip destinations.

We currently still have the little Cayman trip coming up (though it's too late to join) and Cozumel. We really need to get something else in the works or we will end up with no trips coming up and nothing planned. I would like to start working on a somewhat closer trip, possibly another Caribbean location? And maybe something a little farther flung. A bigger trip could be a couple of years down the road. Bigger trips take more time to plan.

There are more logistics involved and everyone needs to assess their personal finances. Alex and I are toying with the idea of attending the DEMA show in November which could present some opportunities. Give us some ideas of where you would be interested in going so we know what to look for.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting Tuesday. 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



Alex and I still have not got the Derby pictures sorted out. 🚩

Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Hope to see you at the June meeting at Roosters on the 8th

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

Trip Director Report

By Natasha Bowers



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. 🚩

Secretary's Report

By Amy Hiatt



Board Meeting Highlights – June 2025

Meeting Summary

The June Board meeting covered travel planning, officer recruitment, financial updates, trip logistics, and club operations. The team evaluated the We Travel software platform to potentially streamline trip planning and payments. A representative will present the platform at the July meeting. The group also discussed promoting the Dale Hollow trip scheduled for July 26th and confirmed upcoming travel agent presentations.

Key Discussion Highlights

Travel planning software 'We Travel' will be presented at the July meeting to explore its potential benefits for the club.

The club is organizing a Dale Hollow trip on July 26th, led by John Geddes, with a pontoon boat rental covered by donated dive bucks and individual gas contributions.

The Cozumel trip currently has 8 participants; with a firm sign-up deadline of September 15th for the October 25th to November 1st trip.

Bart shared recommendations for Indonesia diving trips and is gathering more details for the club.

Future destinations under consideration include the Azores,

though the Red Sea was ruled out due to safety concerns.

Secretary's Report Cont

Officer recruitment was discussed, with potential candidates for upcoming positions.

Financial Updates

The board reviewed financial reports, confirming a bank balance of \$25,026.09 with no outstanding checks or deposits. Trip refunds for Fort Young Dominica were completed, and adjustments were made to trip admin fees for Cozumel and Little Cayman. Invoices for Cozumel cancellations will be issued. The board discussed continued management of club expenses and trip-related financials.

Planning Ahead

Promote the Dale Hollow trip and secure participant commitments by July 8th.

Schedule and prepare presentations for the July meeting, including the We Travel software demonstration and travel agent overview.

Coordinate upcoming trips to Compass Point, Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cozumel.

Continue officer recruitment and succession planning for key roles within the club.

Gather additional information on liveaboard trips in Indonesia and other recommended destinations. 🚩

From the Treasurer

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 Gunpowder 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](#). 🚩

Bluegrass Dive Club 2025 Calendar

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

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Tales from the Watery Web

Bon Voyage to our Cayman and Little Cayman Divers

Although we are not going on the 12 to 19 July trip to Compass Point Resort, East End, Grand Cayman or the subsequent week 19 to 26 July trip to the Little Cayman Beach Resort, I know that those who are will have a wonderful trip. There are several travelers who have never been to Compass Point and dove with Frontier Divers; prepare to be spoiled.

For those traveling to the East End there are several nearby eateries that are worth a visit. I have visited and would recommend: Czech Inn Grill, George is the proprietor Tukka East End, Big Tree BBQ, at the time literally run from their garage

La Casita, Mexican and next door to Compass Point

David's Veranda at Morritt's Resort on Mondays, 5-10PM, buffet, live music, and games. Reservation needed. Eagle Rays at Compass Point is always an option and on premise.

Little Cayman Beach Resort never disappoints. The resort, restaurant, valet diving, beverages and setting make for a winner every time.

Cozumel in October 2025

We are considering signing up for the 25 October to 1 November 2025 trip to the Iberostar Waves Resort in Cozumel, Mexico. There are 8 people signed up for this trip and there is room for more to sign up. This is an all-inclusive resort. 🚩

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:*

CONTAMINATED AIR IN YOUR TANK

Note from Bart: In my nearly 50 years of scuba diving, I have never experienced this and I never want to again. On a recent family vacation to Costa Rica, I made 4 boat dives over two days with my daughter Jolene. We used one of the best known and highly recommended dive shops in the area.

On the last dive, the air tasted terrible of some kind of oil or gas contamination. I didn't notice it until I hit the water. Being a large number of divers, we had quickly descended as instructed in order to group up. I thought about aborting the dive but did not. Instead, I elected to continue and closely monitor how I was feeling. I felt no nausea or headache and my breathing was fine although I found myself taking shorter breaths. It was foul and repulsive. I was certainly distracted, and could not focus on anything else. A very unpleasant dive and experience that could not end fast enough. Jolene said her air was fine but a couple other divers also said their air tasted

Safety Info Director Cont.

bad. I meant to bring it up to the boat crew but in the hustle to get all our gear together and then into the inflatable to drop us off on the beach to catch our van, I didn't have time to. Later that day, I texted the owner of the shop and he immediately responded with much seriousness that I appreciated. He really wished I had told the crew and had the tank flagged as that would have greatly assisted their investigation. The other divers also had not said anything and hearing that it was not just me he said their compressor operation was being shut down and a full process review, examination, and testing was underway to find and resolve the source of contamination. He said they have a rigorous air sampling quality control program but obviously this did not catch the problem and that was another issue that had to be investigated. The owner and I continued to communicate and I was impressed and confident in his response.

In hindsight, I realized that because the air was so bad that I was constantly distracted, this was an unsafe situation and I should have aborted the dive. Here is some information from DAN and other legitimate sources on the subject.

Breathing Gas Contamination

Health effects on divers vary depending on the contaminant. The most severe symptoms of breathing contaminated gas are impaired judgment/confusion and loss of consciousness, both of which may be deadly underwater. Other symptoms such as nausea, headache, dizziness, and breathing difficulties can also result in an unsafe situation and warrant aborting the dive.

Identifying contamination cases based on symptoms alone can prove difficult. The symptoms are often vague and are similar to other illnesses. If divers suspect exposure to bad breathing gas is causing their symptoms, they should seek a medical evaluation and have the gas in their tank analyzed.

Symptoms need to be evaluated in the context of the dive exposure. Typically, a group of divers will have their tanks filled from the same source. Monitoring fellow divers who had their tank filled by the same source can help determine whether symptoms are related to gas contamination.

Sources of contamination vary, but include impurities existing in the surrounding environment (engine exhaust, carbon dioxide, dust particles) and/or by-products of the hot compression process (carbon monoxide or hydrocarbons from compressor lubricants- oils and greases). Failure of compressor air filtration is also a possibility.

Recommendations:

- Get air fills from a reputable dive shop or club.
- **Conduct a pre-dive gas breathing taste check. If your breathing gas has an unusual odor or taste, do not dive with it.**
- **THIS IS GOING ON MY DIVE CHECKLIST.**
- Immediately, pre or post dive, bring any suspected contaminated tank to the attention of the crew or staff

Don't let this happen to you! See ya down there, 🚩

