



UNDERCURRENTS

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

August 2026

Volume 56, Number 08

This Month's Meeting

Meeting: Thursday August 13,, 2026
Time: Social 7:00PM, Meeting 7:30 EDT
Place: Roosters on Richmond Rd.
Program: Doc – Bleeding & Raj Ampat vid

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



18 Days and counting.

Almost one year ago (if memory serves it was September 2025) I allowed myself to be convinced that a liveaboard would be a

good idea. I have written about this before, and in the ensuing time have vacillated between a range of emotions. I'm excited about it, apprehensive, willing to just give it a try as a new experience...

Well, as time has a way of doing it has marched on and the trip is getting closer. In fact just it's almost here! In less than 20 days I will be in Turks and Caicos. Our group will include Noel Hall, my sister Kris, her daughter Natasha, Alex and myself. We will be spending a day or two at a resort before we get on the dive boat to ensure everyone's flights have them in the correct place. I am becoming more and more distrustful of booking a trip and having everything go smoothly. It seemed prudent to make sure we were all together before stepping onto a boat

for a week. Alex and I have a few days afterwards to get our land legs back, but the Trip is at HAND. After Doc McGrady's excellent talk about conditioning for divers, I have been working on my physical fitness. I usually walk but I recently purchased a weighted vest (10 pounds). I hope taking my walks wearing that will get me used to the weight of a tank and BC. Of course, those never seem like so much weight until they get wet but that's another matter and hopefully, I'll have someone to help me out of the water. I have also been told they will have a warm towel, something to look forward to. One thing I know for sure is I don't want to gain 10 pounds! I have heard losing as little as that will make a marked difference in how your joints feel. I believe it because adding that much is extremely noticeable. So much so that I'm only wearing the vest on alternating days. Hopefully my BCD will be a minor concern and with a little luck I might increase my bone density. By the time the next newsletter is due out, I will have gone on the liveaboard and be able to make my final judgment on if it's for me or not.

But, before we leave for Turks and Caicos, there's a pig roast to attend! I'm very excited to be heading back to John and Terri's lovely home. I very much appreciate them hosting the pig roast this year. If you have not been to John and Terri's, you are in for a treat. The club will provide the protein, pulled pork (it is a PIG Roast after all) and an assortment of soft drinks. Everyone is requested to bring an

President Cont.

appetizer, side dish, salad, or desert. Of course if you wish to have a beverage other than water or a soft drink which can also serve as a mixer, you are welcome to bring that for yourselves or to share. I look forward to seeing everyone A week from Saturday!

BGDC Annual PIG ROAST

Saturday 15 August 4:00 to 8:00 EDT

2017 Lakeside Dr, Lexington KY, 40502



The Editor's Notes

By Scott Newby



Building a Well-Stocked Spare Parts Kit

No matter whether you're a scuba newbie or a trainer, all divers should be 'dive ready' by carrying a few spares for fixing 'ill-timed' gear malfunctions.

This save-a-dive kit list is the essential guide for making a scuba diving spare parts box to keep you geared up and diving - even when disaster strikes!

List of Supplies Needed for Saving the Dive
In scuba, if a piece of equipment is going to break, tear, or completely fall apart, it usually happens right before the dive.

Thus, your scuba diving equipment is not immune to the adage known as Murphy's Law.

Here's the thing:

It's very easy to assemble a small box of spare parts and backup gear.

Then, you become more self reliant and you will be able to fix many of the common equipment problems that would normally end the dive.

Pro Tip: Remember, the general wear and tear of dive gear can cause problems before, during, or after the diving has finished. Hence, regular scuba gear maintenance is important to help reduce equipment failure.

Simple Save-a-Dive Kits

A blown O-ring on the tank valve assembly, or a dead battery on the dive computer, can be very costly if it means you can't go diving.

It's a cheap and easy task to replace them, and it only takes a few minutes. But, you won't be able to handle these simple gear and

Editor's Notes Cont.

equipment glitches unless you have prepared for it.

Where to start?

You should always take proper care of the scuba gear. But, here's a checklist of essential items that all recreational divers should be putting inside a save-a-dive kit:

Adjustable wrench
Carabiners
Clips and snap hook
DIN to Yoke adapter
Disposable contacts (if diving with contact lenses)
Defog (e.g. anti-fog gel)
Dive computer batteries
Dive light batteries
Dive mask
Dive watch batteries
Dry box for storage (e.g. Pelican case)
Epoxy (water resistant superglue)
Fin straps and buckles
Lanyards
Mask strap
Mouthpiece
O-rings (various sizes)
Paper slips (e.g. for logging scuba dives)
Pencil
Port plugs (high and low pressure)
Reef safe sunscreen
Regulator mouthpiece
Sharpie (for marking your dive gear and tanks)
Silicone Grease
Snorkel keeper (double loop style)
Stainless steel O-ring pick
Tin snips
Waterproof Band-Aids
Wetsuit adhesive or repair kit
Ziploc bag
Zip ties for fastening
Zipper wax lubricant (e.g. for dry suits and wetsuits)
Scuba Repair Kit Extras

Bolt snap (including a double ender)
Bungee (e.g. for backup mouthpiece)
Christo lube (for lubricating valve and regulator components)
Dive knives
Diving-rated glow stick (for illumination)
Duct tape

Dry bag

First Aid Kit, including:
Barrier protection devices
Eye and ear drops
Household vinegar for bites and stings
Medication to prevent sea sickness
Surgical tubing

Gear bag (waterproof)
JIS screwdriver
Magic sponge
Nail clippers
Scuba seal lubricant
Silica gel packs
Spool
Tank pressure checker

Tool kit, including:
Allen keys
Duct tape
Pliers
Screwdrivers (flathead and Phillips)
Wrenches 🪛

Vice President Report

By Butch Mellott



Greetings all...it has been an interesting time lately.

Last week I had the privilege to work with the Navy Sea Cadet Corps.

We spent the first part of the week in the pool with eight 12-14 year old Sea Cadets going through their confined water skills. It was adventurous, fun and enjoyable. The Cadets are from all over the country, very polite, respectful and attentive which was unexpected. They were super excited and enthusiastic. Biggest issue wasn't with the Cadets but gear related, go figure.

All students completed their confined water on Wednesday and then we were off to Pennyroyal for the open water certs.

Thursday and Friday were a blast. Skills were a breeze for most and the quarry was the perfect place to introduce them to open water.

Vice President Cont.

Conditions at Pennyroyal were good to begin with 20-25' visibility but worsened as the day progressed, but there is much to see and do. There were several classes going on and another Cadet group showed up for their open water also. By the end of the day Friday they completed their open water skills and became certified open water divers.

This is the second time I have had the pleasure of working with the Sea Cadet Corps and it is very rewarding although physically challenging to accomplish in a week's time. The first time was spoiling as it was 15-17 year olds and they were tasked with handling all the tanks, not this year. I hope to be involved again next year if able.

Pass along your passion and invite others to learn to dive, help them along and you will see why you started and loved diving to begin with.

Happy Bubbles,
Butch 🏊

Trip Director Report

By Priscilla Mellott



Greetings from Cayman Brac!

Y'all are missing an amazing trip! The weather is beautiful, the diving is great and it's nice getting to know everyone a little better! 13 of us!

Next trip is August 22-29th
Turks & Caicos
5 going! Sold out!

Cozumel is scheduled for October 24-31st. We currently have 4 rooms sold and 3 more should be booked by August 10th (the deadline for booking and paying in full) 1 room is still available...

Playa is scheduled October 31-November 7. Currently no one has signed up. We have released most of the rooms but we DO have 4 rooms available. The deadline is August 17th. I will cancel the trip if no one is interested.

Pennyroyal is scheduled for August 28-29. The back up date is September 18-19. Please let me know if you plan to go.

Hopefully dates for 2 dive trips in 2027 will be announced soon.

Finally Fiji is June 3-10, 2028. We have 18 rooms of 18 booked. There were 2 other rooms available when I checked, if they're still available. Both are 2 bedroom.



13 BGDC members enjoying Cayman Brac
August 2026



Secretary's Report

By David Carr



BGDC Regular Meeting 07/09/2026

Meeting called to order by Kathryn Bowers
7:32p

24 members in attendance and 3 online.

Secretary

No minutes to present/review as David was not in attendance June meeting.

Treasurer

Dan reported increased trip allocation to 10,000 to adjust for increased costs, inflation and that this fund allowance had not changed in over 10 years.

New trip administration fee announce for Aggressor trips, \$10 per traveler, allowing travelers to access better Aggressor deals.

Twenty-four people have paid deposit for Fiji trip.

Balance sheets reviewed and included in financials presentation. Club and bank balances match at \$22,659.37.

President

Mid-year review to be reported at next board meeting. In summary the club is on track.

Trip Director

Cayman Brac trip going with 13 people, 2 additional possible.

Fiji trip currently 24 people. For those interested \$150 deposit to signup, with next payment due November 2027.

Cozumel and Playa del Carmen trips for Oct-Nov possibly to cancel as there is no confirmed interest. Three or 4 verbal commitments voiced.

Future trips presented to include Pennyroyal in September likely and some to work on navigation skills and there are snorkeling opportunities. Georgia Aquarium, Bonaire, and Belize.

Alex presented and refreshed our knowledge of Dive Insurance versus Travel Insurance. Be sure to know difference and cover your needs. Medical coverage being critical to understand and related to one personal insurance coverage in the states. Links for products the club benefits from are available all over the web site.

Safety Information Director

Bill presented tourniquet utilization in first aid for arterial bleeding. Tourniquet were handed out and first aid kits for those who did not already have them. Pressure points and contraindications discussed.

Webmaster

Bega Lagoon Resort promotional video shared. Trip is June of 2028, requires a \$150 deposit, airfare is included in the trip price. Some trip modifications may be possible so please speak with Priscilla for what options are possible. All must depart Los Angeles together on June 1st.

PIG Roast

August 15 at John Schimmoeller and Terri Berish home, 4-8PM. See BGDC web site for address. Members to bring dish to share and BYOBeverage.

Secretary's Report Cont.

Addendum and Corrections to Board Meeting
Minutes
05/28/2026

New Business addressed raising the future trip deposit amount from \$6000 to \$10,000. Alex proposed the change and it was seconded by Scott, All present members voted to pass this change.
Incorrect date recorded for the Fiji trip as occurring 2027 when in fact the trip is 2028. The trip leaves the USA 1 June 2028 from LAX, not DFW as incorrectly recorded.

David Carr Secretary 🇺🇸

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](#) 🇺🇸

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



Tales From The Watery Web

Chasing Leaks

For anyone who has ever owned a swimming pool, there is maintenance to go along with the periodic opportunities to enjoy the pool and the sometimes chaotic and sometimes serene environment that surrounds the pool. Swimming pool maintenance in Kentucky falls into one of three buckets; 1) opening & closing the pool, 2) routine vacuuming, water testing and chemicals, and 3) finding and repairing of problems. Numbers 1 and 2 are no big deal, number 3 can make you crazy or poorer or both.

I am chasing a problem in my home pool. A water leak. I have dye checked the usual suspect areas around steps, return jets, light, skimmer basket, main drains with no leak found. I have isolated the plumbing, both pressure and suction and the leak is in the vinyl pool liner. I have attempted to chase this leak source with visual and tactile inspections, and with the use of more dye. All to no avail.

It is time for the big guns. I have ordered a quality specification hydrophone. For less than the cost of paying a professional plumbing or pool leak detection firm, I am going to have my own testing rig. The leak detection concept is built around the fact that a significant volume leak will make an audio signature that can be heard with the correct equipment. After I use my new hydrophone to locate my leak, I can use the hydrophone for listening to other underwater sounds like whale songs and the sounds of a coral reef full of life.

Webmaster Cont.

In the end, it is just an excuse, I mean reason, for a man to buy another tool.

How many rooms are available? Is there a waitlist?

If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day. If you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime. Your club officers receive a lot of questions about club trips and their status and options. Sometimes we answer a question on an individual basis and other times we send out a trip update to answer the question for everyone.

The most common questions are how many people are already signed up, how many rooms are available and how can I be put on a waitlist for a particular type of room? This article is a recap of a recent club web posting that answers these questions. Please take a look by clicking on the [original article here](#).

All trips should have this information (see below) on the trip page; and with a little math you can get a real time count of how many are signed up. This is how your club officers find the answer, except we can see the names too.

Your Club has reserved
18 rooms for 36 travelers

We try to include this information for all trips.
How many are going? Look at real time rooms left and deduct from the total rooms reserved.

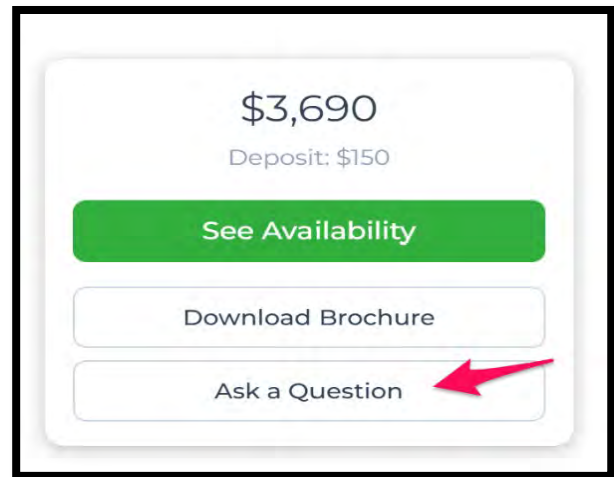
Unbooked rooms will be released on or before 15 November, 2027

For bookings after this date see the [Available Space & Roommates](#) section below.

Final Payment is due 6 March, 2028

All deposits and payments are Non-Refundable. Your payment can be transferred to a new booking and result in a refund to you.

When you have questions about a particular trip, try to use this feature (see below). That way your Club's Trip Director, Treasurer, and Webmaster will all see the question and the response. It helps everyone.



We also began including in each newsletter a snapshot of all club trips status with number of rooms reserved, number signed up, and important dates. This is a once per month snapshot. For real time information please refer to the steps in the article for your information.

Dive Accident & Travel Insurance

Your club is an affiliate partner with Divers Alert Network (DAN) and with Dive Assure. You must use our hyperlinks to begin your online purchase or renewal to benefit your club, at no additional cost to you. More information about the club's partners and links at <https://bluegrassdiveclub.com/dive-travel-insurance/>.

Do you have news or a program to share?

Your dive club has a fabulous email list with which to share news and information that would be of interest to its members and friends. If you have something to share forward it along to webmaster@bluegrassdiveclub.com or use the [Contact Us](#) web form. 📧

Safety Information Director

By Bill "doc" McGrady



5 reasons to NEVER enter a cave while in Scuba.....

[CAVEAT: Unless you are a TRAINED CAVE DIVER...]

The Maldives incident in May where 5 Italian divers lost their lives is still being investigated and is actually hard to get details—there may be litigation at multiple levels for this tragedy however I want to write this while this incident is fresh, so when all details are clarified-I will re-visit this terrible accident.

Basics are 5 recreational scuba divers are found dead in a cave approximately 180 feet below.

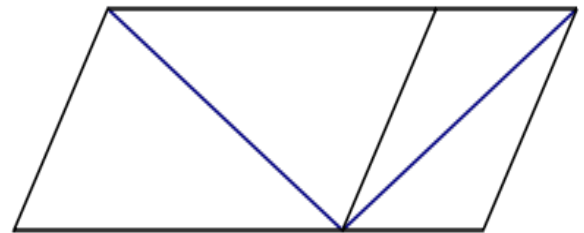
#1] do NOT exceed the recreational limits of 130 feet!!! [this is combined physics of your gear + physiology of breathing....]. Your regulator is moving 5 atmospheres of air ~130 feet [33+33+33+33] +["GAUGE ATMOSPHERE WHICH IS THE ACTUAL AIR!!]. So at ~130 feet, you are around 5 atmospheres going in and out of your tiny regulator hose. AND IF YOU BUDDY BREATHE TO RESCUE your partner—now there are twice that so 10 atmospheres of air!!!! All of our regulators are tested and designed for this minimal "safety" of 10 atmospheres.....that's why diving dry-suits, a regulator can "freeze" and literally ice up..... The physiology is "work of breathing"....the lungs work harder as muscles moving that 5 atmospheres in and out of lungs...commercial divers use helium for this reason..... When PADI came up with 60 feet limit for BASIC diving....Why 60 feet? Answer= What you can safely get to surface on a single breath of air on emergency ascent!!!

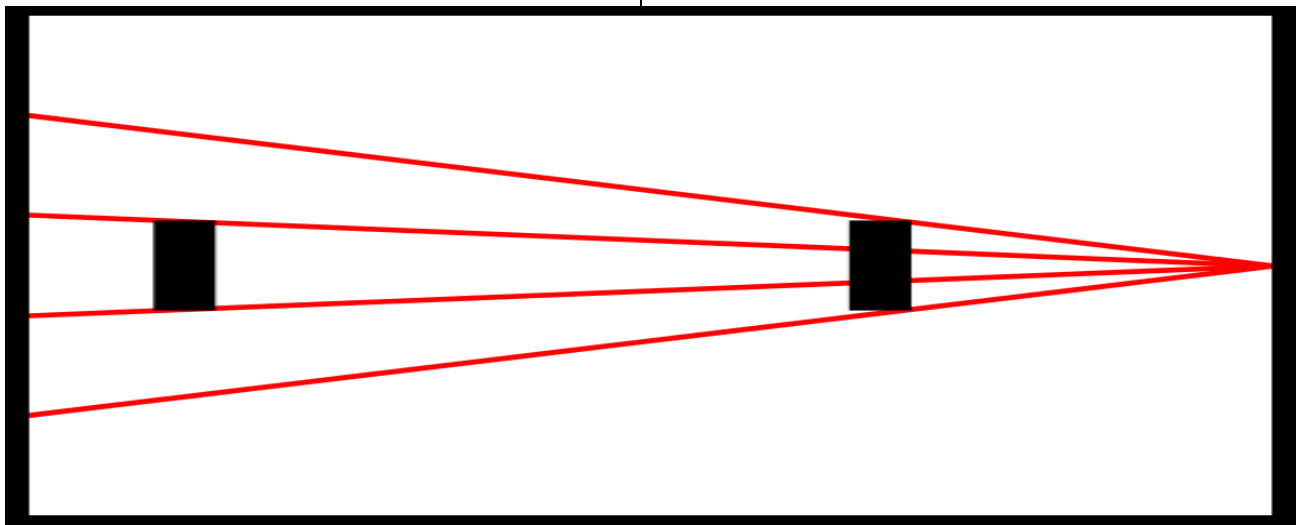
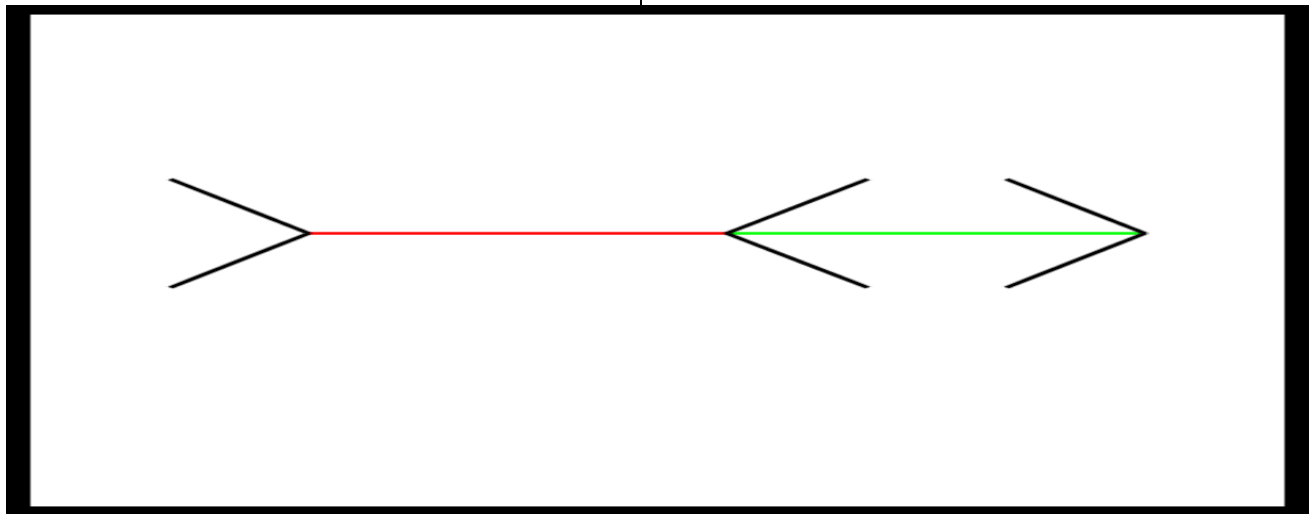
#2]. Oxygen gets hyperbaric toxicity as you dive deeper..... there are some reports that the Maldives divers had Nitrox.....it would have certainly had seizure/oxygen neurotoxicity at those depths. 180 feet is "mixed air" training and mixtures for that reason.

#3]. At that dive depth, just to get down and back up with a "normal" decompression profile [zero panic/zero "hiccups" -dice] would have required 180+ cubic feet of air.... A single scuba tank could not have been safely used!!!!!!

#4]. Cave diving requires extreme training!!!! They run lines, the lines have a way to "point" by feel since lights/extreme darkness and silt-out kill-out visibility. Cave diving can lead easily to disorientation which is a big component in this case.... Cave divers train to stop, and can dive in COMPLETE DARKNESS..... Human senses are easily "fooled" and pilots/cavers and thus cave divers need intense "mediation" and ability to ignore their senses giving them faulty data...[this is why illusions work...]

Which of these lines is longer or shorter??





#5] Decompression.... Exceeding 130 feet requires decompression mandatory to expel nitrogen.....even perfectly following a decompression schedule do NOT guarantee you won't get bent....!!!!

So DON'T GO INTO CAVES when diving!!!!!! I do a 1 body rule.....the head can be stuck in....but not a full 6 foot of diver...EVER!!!!!! [unless you do the training!!!!]

AS more details are released, will re-visit this tragedy.... One person is still alive....they decided this was "not for them" and stayed on boat..... Remember, don't dive outside your limits AND YOIUR COMFORT ZONE!!!!

-Doc 'Grady 🚩

2026 BGDC Officer's

Kathryn Bowers, President	859 619-0166
Butch Mellott, Vice President	859 621-5160
David Carr, Secretary	859 585-5105
Dan Miller, Treasurer	859 948-5133
Priscilla Mellott, Trip Director	859 553-0739
Bill McGrady, Safety Info Dir.	713 259-9701
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	859 582-1600
Scott Newby, Newsletter	859 559-5105

Trip Destination & Travel Dates	# Travelers & Rooms Reserved	# Registered On Trip	Room Release Date	Trip Page Cancel/Refund Date	Trip Page Final Payment Date
Cozumel, Mexico, 24-31 Oct 2026	16 (orig. 24) travelers, 8 (orig. 12) rooms	7 travelers, 4 rooms	10-Aug-26	31 Jul 2026, 0% Penalty,	31-Jul-26
Play Del Carmen, Mexico, 31 Oct – 7 Nov 2026	8 (orig. 24) travelers, 4 (orig. 12) rooms	0 travelers, 0 rooms	17-Aug-26	7 Aug 2026, 0% Penalty	7-Aug-26
Beqa Lagoon, Fiji, 1-10 June 2028, 7 nights at resort	36 travelers, 18 rooms	30 travelers, 18 rooms	16-Nov-27	All deposits and final payments 100% Penalty	2 nd Dep. 6 Nov 2027, Final 6 Mar 2028

Bluegrass Dive Club 2026 Calendar

August

13, Thursday Dive Club Meeting
15, **Saturday** Club Pig Roast
27, Thursday E.C. Meeting

September

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

October

15 Thursday Dive Club Meeting
24-31 Cozumel trip
29 Thursday E.C. Meeting
31-Nov 7 Playa Del Carmen trip

November

12 Thursday Club Meeting (Elections)
26 Thursday E.C. Meeting

December

??, **Saturday** Christmas Party