

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2006

Meeting held at the South Shore Neptunes' Clubhouse, Quincy

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:50 PM. (Minutes taken by Mary Howard)

Background: Angelo went over the events of the past several BSC meetings, getting all present up to speed.

The October 11 meeting was designed to be a meeting for the dive "industry" to update dive shops and charter captains on the situation with the dive flag law in Gloucester.

In the end of September there was a meeting of the Waterways Safety Committee in Gloucester. Angelo Correnti and John Blackadar attended, as did Wally Westphal and someone from Cape Ann divers. Wally spoke on hazards to divers. Fred Calhoun went through the history of the current state law under which no one was injured

Angelo attended the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Committee Meeting in New Hampshire on October 3. Angelo is one of four representatives to this committee, the only diver, the other three are lobstermen. The VP of the Lobstermen's Association in Gloucester is one of the reps.

October 4th was the next meeting of the City of Gloucester Waterways Safety Committee. Steve Coren attended that meeting. The Gloucester Committee has asked for a copy of the brief from the Nahant case. Steve had to find Rusty Murray to get her birth date in order to look up the brief in Salem District Court. Gloucester does not think they should have to remove the law from their books. Once they get the notification that we will be going to court, they may back down. Things are progressing and Steve is hoping to have the situation settled before next dive season.

No one has been cited by the Gloucester Harbormaster to date. The City of Gloucester does not think there will be a problem if they do actually cite people. We have no idea how much the citation would be.

The lawyer's retaining fee is \$3000; the current \$5000 will be minimum needed.

Moving forward: We need to continue to raise funds and highlight the Bay State Council.

Dive clubs and shops should send out another mailing to try to raise funds. We need to speak with our dive shops, have them speak with manufacturers. How involved different people want to get may depend on who uses Cape Ann as a diving location.

Holly Martel-Bourbon asked whether the plan was to do a mailing and then follow up with an email? She was told that was the intention. Holly will go back and see what Vin Malkoski and Dave Stillman are doing about the letter which was to be sent to dive shop owners and charter boat owners.

Wally Westphal asked that a listing of donors' names be given to "delegates" at the BSC meeting. Angelo said that he was willing to give a list of donors names, and a total of the monies collected, but would not give a listing with amounts of who donated how much.

John Blackadar noted that Paul Adler was planning to strongly support the BSC treasure hunt dive, hoping to get more dive shops and divers to show up. The way it works makes it easy for most people to win a prize. We should try the dive again next spring, pushing to all the clubs

and shops. Everyone at the meeting was encouraged to try to get a group of members from their clubs to go to the event. It was suggested that dive shops could be encouraged to have reps there to help with gear check-out. May is quiet time for the shops, a good time for a checkout dive.

The BSC Treasure Hunt will be scheduled for May 20th. Invite your club members and your dive shops. The registration fee will be \$10. We may eliminate the snorkel event. It is a great time, a chance to get together with divers from other clubs, and almost everyone wins a raffle prize.

What you get for your registration fee: When you get out of the water, raffle tickets given to everyone, chances for prizes donated by the shops, charter boats. It was suggested that \$5 of the fee go to BSC membership. This is something that can be considered.

History- back during the time the Bay State Council was working on the free-the-beaches issue, the BSC asked people to be in the water in Gloucester. Now it is a Gloucester issue again.

Meetings and memberships: How about everyone goes back to their club, gathers members for BSC membership, then forward the list to Mary Howard for keeping a central list of all BSC members.

Some meeting attendees asked what do members of the BSC get for their membership, and suggested that having access to bylaws and a method for dispersing information would be a good idea. It was noted that this was the original intent and had been done in the past when there was more activity within the BSC. It was also noted that the website is in need of updating. Karen Livesay offered her assistance with this if it would be helpful.

Questions were asked about whether we should we set up four meetings for next year now, and should we change our location to somewhere more central? The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 24th at the SSN's Clubhouse in Quincy. Most of those at the meeting expected that they would be able to attend on that date.

Mary offered to do a small newsletter for the BSC, twice a year. A committee volunteered and we will attempt to write up a newsletter by email. Possibly the newsletter will be electronic only, and dive club representatives will be in charge of forwarding to the rest of their membership.

- Newsletter committee: Mary Howard, Karen Livesay, Marty Blake, Marcie Bilinsky and Chris Hugo.

We would need to get BSC Officers and Board listing for the newsletter. The website listing <http://www.geocities.com/baystatecouncil/index.htm> should be listed in the newsletter and in the minutes for this meeting. Holly noted that in order to get more members, we need to clean up old listings and the website as the council is not currently getting information to members.

John Blackadar recommended that attendees go back to their clubs and let them know that the BSC is also working on an artificial reef project.

Next BSC meeting: Wednesday, January 24th, 7:30PM, at the SSN's Clubhouse in Quincy.