

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for January 24, 2007

Meeting held at the South Shore Neptunes' Clubhouse, Quincy.

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:40 PM. (Minutes taken by Mary Howard)

Update on Gloucester Dive Flag Issue: Angelo Correnti received a phone call from Dave Stillman on December 17 about a Subcommittee meeting in Gloucester on Monday (I think Monday?). Angelo called John Blackadar and Paul Adler and they met Dave at his store to attend the meeting. This was an informational meeting at which the Subcommittee wanted to get more information on what was going on with the Dive Flag Ordinance. The Gloucester Harbormaster and the Chairman of the Water Safety Board were there. There were several North Shore Frogmen in attendance, also Fred Calhoun and several dive masters from the North Shore. The Water Safety Board Chairman and the Harbormaster recommended elimination of city law from the books. Two people on the committee were not in favor of this, and wanted to come up with a compromise. Some lobstermen spoke, giving the same stories about divers stealing from their traps, etc. A meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 15th. This meeting was not attended by any BSC regular meeting members.

Holly Martel Bourbon noted that Patrick Scalli was trying to go to some meeting about dive flag issues.

Wally: Lobsterman brought a propeller to the meeting which was bent and mangled from running into a rock, and commented "Imagine what that would do to a diver!"

Angelo had letters from Fred Calhoun to the BSC RE: the Gloucester Dive Flag Ordinance.

Angelo has heard nothing new from our lawyer Steve Coren, and assumes he is still researching the previous case.

General Information & Updates:

John Blackadar introduced **Deb Osborn Davidson**, a member of SSN, as a new representative to the BSC meetings.

John Blackadar gave an update on the new **Aquarium project in New Bedford**. A new group of volunteers is working very hard to make a go of it. They have received a \$1.5 million grant and other monies. Things seem to be going pretty well. Purpose would be for educating kids. They have hired a consultant; they have use of an old historic building in center of town. They will need to have to be a lot of volunteers to do the work. They have changed the name as the old name had a bad rep. At this time they are looking to house cold water species.

- Maybe some of Vin M's dive program could be involved.
- Holly recommends a format for the volunteers so they know what they should do.
- NOAA is somewhat involved too.

The Sea Rovers Annual Clinic is coming up the first weekend in March. There will be a meeting tomorrow night. Holly says they will give group rates. The Sea Rovers have a new

website, so some is still a work in progress. Holly assures us that the Saturday night show will be **amazing**. A movie to be shown Sunday afternoon, *Shark Water*, will also be shown at the Aquarium on the Monday after Sea Rovers for the opening for **Lowell Lecture Series**.

The **Kids Program** will be downstairs this year. Exhibitors will include the NE Aquarium, Bob Michelson (Fish ID course), and the DMF. Kids' room is free, Sunday, 9-3. Kids accompanied by an adult.

BSC newsletter.

Holly was volunteered to write an article for the BSC newsletter.

Deadline: 3rd week of February.

Treasure Hunt: Combine treasure hunt with membership drive. Angelo is opposed. Treasure Hunt is a fund raiser, not a membership drive. There should be other ways to have a membership drive. Pros and cons.

- Treasure Hunt planned for Sunday, May 20th, rain or shine.
- Feb 21, meeting to plan Treasure Hunt, 7:30PM, so as to get to shops and push the event.
- Blackie: If we intend to do the competition, it would be nice to have a night where we do a mailing here at the SSN.

Artificial Reef:

John Blackadar and Jim Walker have been talking together and working on getting equipment to check out some sites. Jimmy feels that we should be able to get the cameras this year. He just spoke with Mr. Kelly, one of the city councilors for the City of Quincy. They had a show on wrecks which was a hit. We want to be able to use the city resources, 40'boat and robot, which is okay with Bobby Guillen. If Blackie and Jimmy can get the equipment, they can pursue this further without using divers and will be able to continue with the artificial reef project. (Vin might be able to get use of a boat.) The area to be checked out will be the area around the **Pinthas**, which by all reports is a sandy area without much sea life. They are expecting that use of this sort of equipment comes with an escort and an operator.

BSC Artificial Reef Project History: 5+ years ago Angelo Correnti and Vin Malkoski talked at Sea Rovers about building a multi-species artificial reef. Since then, before last year, divers from several clubs did some transect dives in various locations, but found the areas surveyed to already have a lot of life and be active habitat, so adding artificial reef materials would be unadvisable.

What we would like is a nice ship wreck. We could start with a cobble bottom, add things, and then maybe add a wreck to make a varied reef. Need to identify sites, and then see what materials are available. Reefs that were part of hubline mitigation project are being dived. Can get numbers for those and encourage people to go dive and see how the habitat is working.

Vin Malkoski:

- LNG terminals:

Two LNG terminals were approved. Just outside state waters, Neptune above disposal area, Gateway is below. Gateway is moving forward, they are planning to be pumping gas this time next year. They "donated" \$23 mil to the Commonwealth (\$1.3 for lobster work; money for acoustic research on whales; the Aquarium is getting some for research; lobstermen's association; fish larvae research –ichthioplankton - looking to see what will get killed by the

projects. Baseline data should be being collected for what happens after these projects are in place.) They have surveyed the route. These sites will keep everything offshore. If these projects are up and running, the question of a Brewster project should go away.

- **In Hull:** Project is looking to put windmills on Harding's Ledge. Encouraging resource agencies to get involved sooner rather than later. Hard bottom habitat, a lot of life.

- **Cape Wind** will start up their project again soon. We will see if it happens.

- **Eel grass transfer** – Money for this project goes through the end of this year; project is going well. They probably will not be using volunteers. This particular project to replace eel grass is funded by fines from pipeline project because they have not abided by regulations.

Victor Mastone:

Bureau of Underwater Archeological Resources:

The BUAR is looking to make the Barges off Calf Island available for recreational diving only, exempt. Marcie Bielinski is looking over those. Some will become "no collect" sites. They are working with Coast Guard, staff underwater archeologists, to get coasties to understand their medium.

When Vic gets to point where he has interpretive sites, BSC and club representatives should support the sites. There are divers who jeopardize preserve sites.

Matthew Lawrence:

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary:

Matt has brought newsletters for perusal. Please come by booth at Sea Rovers. Will let us know when draft management plan for the SBNMS is available for public comment.

Jimmy Walker: **The Coast Guard** had a couple of diving fatalities while diving under ice. Ice diver tenders were not certified divers, one in a series of mistakes causing the fatalities.

Angelo had a **correspondence** from Guy vanDeresk, Principal of **Trap Works**, who makes furniture out of old lobster traps (illustration shows wine bottle rack), 24 Carleton Street, Newton, MA 02458; (617) 964-1225; gvanderesk@aol.com, www.trapworks.com .

Dates for upcoming meetings:

February 21, Wednesday: BSC Treasure Hunt planning meeting, 7:30PM

March 14, Wednesday: Next regular meeting. Mary to send out reminder by March 7.

May 20, Sunday: BSC Treasure Hunt, rain or shine.