

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2007

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

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

Review of Minutes from meeting on January 24, 2007 meeting

Mary briefly read the minutes from the January 24th meeting. Minutes had been emailed out. No one brought up any questions.

Bay State Council Treasure Hunt

- John Blackadar will coordinate the safety divers
- How it works: Registration will begin about 9AM at the beach by the concession stand and the ball park. Registrants will go to the other beach for the dive. At about 10AM participants are to be at water's edge so everyone has an even chance to get into the water, and Angelo will go over the rules. Generally Angelo puts about 1000 pieces of whatever the treasure is for this year into the water. Participants are told to come back with a specific number of the items, but everyone gets the same number of tickets after the dive.
- Paul Adler would like to see clubs and shops put together teams for the snorkel event. We didn't used to allow that because the Neptunes had an unfair advantage because of the underwater rugby team. Paul feels that if people show up for the dive, they all should be allowed to dive.
- Paul thought maybe he could get dive shops to donate things for prizes instead of trophies. Angelo still of the mind that teams would get trophies instead of individual prizes as we are already asking all the shops to donate prizes. The consensus at this meeting is to keep it the same as in past years and continue with trophies.
- The BSC did well at Sea Rovers talking to the exhibitors.
 - A company in Newfoundland donated a \$1000 dive trip to Newfoundland for one – 7 nights, Bell Island wrecks.
 - Brownstone Quarry in CT has donated a 1 year membership – diving, biking, hiking.
 - Angelo will talk to Dave Stillman about a possible prize of a dive trip to Key Largo
 - Roy and John circled the show at Sea Rovers and picked up a lot of stuff:
 - DAN donated several prizes
 - Aquaquest
 - Mares dive gear
 - 2 hoods
 - Dive light

The Battle continues in Gloucester

The Gloucester City Council is leaning towards removing their law from the books. We might have to go up to Gloucester and mitigate to make a win-win situation so the lobstermen don't think they lost. Angelo and others were in contact with Dave Clancy who is researching his paperwork about the Rusty Murray case in Nahant to see if he can find pertinent information.

According to the Gloucester Harbormaster and the Safety Commissioner, their ordinance is unenforceable. The Bay State Council and its attorney will try to complete the process peacefully to avoid ruffling feathers.

Holly Martel-Bourbon reported that Vin Malkoski had received a call from the Harbormaster from Gloucester this evening to go over his position. They may get together to go over the safety issue.

What is going on right now, Angelo is in full agreement with. If anything big happens, he will come back to the council before approving any changes in direction.

Sea Rovers

What did the Rovers think of their recent show? They were concerned about numbers and flow. This was the first showing in North America of the Shark Water movie. It is the first time there was a movie on Sunday afternoon at the Sea Rovers show, an attempt to get a larger number of people in on Sunday. It seems to have worked from that perspective, though it also meant that people were at the movie on Sunday afternoon and therefore not visiting the booths in the ballroom. The kids room was nice; it was not a place to leave your kids. It was run by Vin Malkoski and Ted Maney with the help of Boston City high school kids.

Holly cannot give a feel for how the Rovers feel until after they have their meeting tomorrow night.

Angelo noted that people from other booths on the main floor didn't even know the clubs were up on the balcony. The comment was made that there should be signage and lighting to encourage flow up the stairs to that area.

The Great Annual Fish Count

Stellwagen Bank has dropped their sponsorship of the **Great Annual Fish Count**. It has been picked up by the New England Aquarium Dive Club (NOT the New England Aquarium), with the thought in mind that an event that attracted so many divers in the past should not be dropped at this time. Bob Michelson runs this event pretty much with his own fervor. It is a great event if not rigidly scientific. **The Fish Count is scheduled July 28th** this year.

The history of the new sponsorship: Al Bozza called Bob Michelson and asked him what his plans for this year were. Last year 100 people came and a great time was had by all. Bob told Al the event would not be happening because he lost his sponsor. Al said he would talk to his club to see if they could pick it up. It will be at Stage Fort Park again this year, instead of at the visitors' center in Gloucester; there will be a lot of prizes.

The GAFC is associated with the REEF program. Data can be used by scientists.

This is a great event for encouraging interaction between dive clubs.

Interaction and Cooperation between dive clubs

Al Bozza wants to encourage cooperation and interaction between the area dive clubs, the way it was when we were working on Catch the Wave in the past. This could increase participation in each other's events, and encourage attendance at other clubs' presentations. NEADC has a

tropical fish hunt in September. Last year they sent info to RI club and had a good response from local divers.

GAFC is associated with REEF program. Data can be used by scientists.

Try to get a list from clubs

Each club should forward the BSC newsletter and other info to their club members as appropriate. We are still waiting for each club to forward a list of their Bay State Council members to Mary Howard for inclusion in a BSC distribution list. This list also gives the BSC a political basis for supporting beach access legislation, etc.

Bruce Gerhart, member of the SSN, is very sick at Brigham & Women's Hospital. If you know him, please go visit.

Holly Martel Bourbon is to be inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame at Beneath the Sea!!

Hyperbaric Chambers

Dr. Fabian at Mass Eye and Ear runs the chambers there. They are DAN trained. They have a lot of staffing that is not qualified for diving problems. For those who would like to try to book a visit to the Chamber, it cannot be in use when you go for a tour because of static electricity.

Artificial Reef Project

The council has been working on an Artificial Reef program for several years, trying to get things going to create an artificial reef in this state. Members of the BSC (SSN, NSF, MBD) have done some diving, not last year, but the year before, to see if there is a good location in the area where we could encourage generation of new life in an area where maybe there isn't any. We set transect lines, noting what life in the areas was like. The littlest amount of life made it so we didn't want to put a reef there. We dove on 100m transect lines within a 1 sq. mi. area.

At this time we are trying to get an underwater camera to do the surveying so to cover a lot more territory than divers can. Thinking that the area around the wreck of the Pinthas might be a good location as it has been described as a barren wasteland area with nothing but sand. Vin Malkoski is very particular about what the bottom must be.

We are trying to identify a site that might be conducive to having an artificial reef. The idea would be to try to build a multi-species condo, maybe beginning with some cobble and small reef balls and go forward from there. If something looks good, we could then go out and dive the area, but it would save time and divers if we could do a preliminary review by camera. Bob Gillan, a City of Quincy policeman, was at the meeting. He sees no problem with the idea of using the Quincy camera to do the preliminary surveys. Would pick a site line with GPS.

Need to burn a cd of whatever the camera finds so we can then review.

Want to see Ted Maney and Vin Malkoski on the boat.

What happens next, after a site is found by camera that looks as though it would work: Divers would go down with transect lines, looking to see what is living there. If we find a dead space, then go ahead. If that continues to look like a go, then need to raise money. Archeologists,

marine biologists, then go through permitting process through the DMF. Wally notes that paperwork part of sinking a shipwreck is intensive.

There are a couple wrecks north of the Pinthas; wouldn't want to survey there because those wrecks are already there.

After the Treasure Hunt we have a meeting and pick some dates. June, second **Wednesday, June 13** to set dates. It will also be a regular BSC meeting.

New Bedford Aquarium – John Blackadar is on the Board of the new Aquarium. There is a whole new group of people in charge. See article by Holly in the recent BSC newsletter. John met with architects from Australia. The Aquarium will be in an old bank building; will have holding tanks. Would like to have members of the dive industry and dive community come down to the building, sit with the Executive Board who will demo what they plan. Divers can state what they have to offer. It could be a big success if all could help. Woods Hole is offering a big screen. John asked that we please give a couple of dates tonight before we leave, dates when members of the BSC might be able to go to New Bedford to meet the Executive Board. All should go back and talk it up. John will go to his Board and see about **Tuesday June 26th**.

St Lucia – John B. was down in St. Lucia recently, talking to the natives about what they can do to bring in more divers to their Island where the diving is fantastic. He was told “Wrecks!” John is asking for us to help them out with how to collect fish for export for aquariums and stores. They are VERY POOR. John is involved in a library to try to help them out.

Search Again – is an organization of retired police, etc. who do searches for missing persons, etc., but when diving is required they call in John Blackadar's group. They did look for Jennifer Fay. Dive team would be all of us. The organization is funded by people with missing children. John will let us know when/if we might be called in. It is Police Departments who ask him to go in, after they have used all their resources. Volunteer time. Anyone can join the team.

Walter Westphal: UDTC has scholarships for college, but have to apply before the 19th.

Victor Mastone: BUAR is doing a cooperative program with the Coast Guard Historical Foundation looking to memorialize Mino's lighthouse and to look for remains of the first Minot's lighthouse where a couple of tenders died. It would be nice to put a plaque on the lighthouse, but then no one would really see it.

Quincy Police

Sergeant Robert Gillan, Supervisor of Homeland Security Division / Marine Unit / Scuba Unit of the Quincy Police Department attended the meeting. They have an underused community center next to Quincy Yacht Club (One Sea Street, Quincy, 02169, 617-479-1212) which holds 75 people and could be used for some events, meetings. They hold a boater safety course there, there is a Youth center in that building also, and they give harbor tours.

Regarding Exchange of Information Between Clubs:

SSN: June 19, Tuesday night, Paul Adler will give a talk about his two bends hits in South Africa.

NEADC: Brian Skerry, Marty Snyderman will be coming to meetings. Dates forthcoming.

Dates:

Council Treasure Hunt – Sunday, May 20, Stage Fort Park

Next **BSC meeting – Wednesday, June 13**, SSN Clubhouse, Quincy

Visit to new New Bedford Explorium – Tuesday, June 26; date to be verified. Need to get directions.