

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2007

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy.

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:35 PM. (Minutes taken by Mary Howard)

The Bay State Council Treasure Hunt on May 20th was a great success. We had 32 people attend and brought in \$320 in registration fees. Scuba Pro was very generous as was Paul Adler. The trip to Newfoundland was won by . Debbie won the Brownstone Quarry membership.

The Boston Sea Rovers snorkel team won the trophy by more than double the amount of marbles retrieved by all the other teams.

Thank you to all the safety divers!

It was great to see a lot of new divers at the event talking with each other and enjoying the day.

Gloucester Dive Flag Issue

Last night (June 12th) there was a meeting in Gloucester. 8:30 - 10:15. The town was going to try to push it off to another date and maybe ban divers from taking lobsters. At the meeting last night, the Water Safety Board and Harbormaster are still in divers' corner to adopt the state laws. There was some ugliness at the meeting.

Wally reported that there were 75 people there, 11 members of the Board. The meeting started off very quiet, old style meeting place on second floor, and no one spoke into the microphone. Wally had trouble hearing; everyone was polite and nice initially. Patrick Scalli, nicely dressed, brought a proposal before the meeting. He did not seem to be very effective. (He may have been blind-sided, expecting the topic to be continued, no vote taken.) Buddy Silva (diver) also got up, and changed the issue from taking lobsters to safety. People had to be a resident of the town to speak. Fred Calhoun was there and our lawyer, Steve Coren. James D'Austino. Divers seemed to know that they wouldn't make any headway, therefore made it a safety issue.

Senators had been in touch with Vin Malkoski's office regarding changes; would have to be signed off as legislation.

The vote was 6-3 against changing the legislation. City is leaving its ordinance in place.

Holly noted that Steve Coren got up and figured it was a done deal. What is his take on latest meeting? Angelo has not checked his email since the meeting last night.

Vin: Lobster boats will stay 50 ft from dive flag.

Angelo: Steve is not opposed to going to court if someone does get arrested. The Coast Guard will not enforce the local laws.

Paul Adler asked if are there police or deputy harbormasters who might dislike divers enough to arrest someone.

Vin noted that part of the arrangement between Patrick and the lobsterman was that divers would educate other divers as to what the dive flag law is. Maybe we should arrange to put a poster in shops with the flag law – maybe note at the bottom that if arrest is threatened, call BSC.

Wally questions whether it is a good idea to be negotiating with the lobstermen on the side, where we already have a lawyer to represent us.

Vin pointed out that Patrick's efforts and the Council efforts are separate. They were requested by the City of Gloucester to see if they could make arrangements that would be amenable to all.

Diver Education of State Dive Flag Laws

Paul Adler stated that he gives a copy of the lobster diving laws to each student in his shop. We could ask all shops' instructors to give a flyer to all new divers.

Al Anzuoni suggested that instructors or shop owners talk about laws, not just hand them out, and have a plastic lobster and show them how to measure.

Blackie notes maybe, besides letting divers know the flag law, might also mention the issue with the Gloucester dive flag law.

Holly notes that the BSC should educate divers and encourage clubs and shops to educate their own. Maybe we could have a contest for the poster, give a prize.

Al Anzuoni suggested that the BSC should coordinate the effort and therefore send out a coordinated message to all shops and clubs in same template / form.

Angelo: we should only put out an informational poster about what the state law is. And not tell them how to deal with a cop.

Vin: Step 1 would be to educate within our own community. Then if it works, go on out to the boaters. Take the safety issue and make it our own.

Jimmy: Maybe we could make a sticker to put on tanks to identify people who have been informed of the law, to show that they are aware of it.

Paul Adler: Make it a nice poster if you're going to do it. Something to go on a board, not just something put up with scotch tape that gets torn. Maybe there is a way to put it on the state website, click on the divers flag and see the laws.

Vin: Maybe state or PADI or DAN could put up some money.

Angelo: How about an informational letter to PADI, DAN to let them know what we have in mind, let them know we are looking for donations.

Holly: We should do some legwork first to find out numbers, cost.

Blackie: We should plan to bring ideas to next meeting so we don't spend all night doing it tonight.

Mary should email everyone to bring ideas to next meeting on what the poster should be like. The next meeting will be July 25th. Also, anybody who does not think they will be able to make it to the meeting can send an email of their ideas to Mary.

Catch the Wave: Al Bozza

Al has a vision of getting together with people and clubs like we used to do with Catch the Wave. For 5 years we had a yearly function at which we made a collection for a diver in need. It would be a great way for divers and clubs to get information. It started with just clubs and

then included shops. Kind of a way to get people hooked up, to get information sent out, have an **Information Network**. Al has started working on this and will get it going. Someone bounced an email to Angelo suggesting it was something that the Council should take on. This is more of a social network though.

Artificial Reef Project: John Blackadar:

Need to pick some dates for the camera and boat to go to the Pinthas area for video surveys. We will not have a million people going, will just have the police, Vin & Holly, Ted Maney, Victor and Jimmy go out on the boat. Later on we might get to take some others out too. City of Quincy has invested a lot of money on a remotely controlled camera. It goes on their own boat, not to be used on other boats. It can look at sonar targets and record what it sees. Position it from the top.

Miscellaneous:

Northeast Dive News: If we had someone who would be willing to write some little articles, this journal would be a good place to put information on upcoming events, like the BSC Treasure Hunt, etc.

The Cannon Story: The two urchin divers who found the cannon were interviewed. It was found off Marblehead. They wanted to have it designated as an isolated find unless there is a search done of the area. In the meantime the cannon is stable in a lobster tank in a garage. It dates to the late 1600s

Odyssey Expeditions has found a Spanish Galleon and they are bringing up lots of gold: They have a website.

Original Minots Lighthouse: Coast Guard divers will be going on the Abby Burgess (CG boat) diving for a week to see what is in the water in the area. May be able to have a little presentation at the meeting after next.

Wally: Group called **SWIM (Safer Waters in Massachusetts)** had a clean-up in Nahant last weekend. Nice event with face painting, hot dogs, etc. They were looking forward to having divers, but the divers couldn't make it on Sunday and the event was cancelled on Saturday because of bad weather. We could use the PR in Nahant.

Atomic weapons were built in Beverly. Nuclear waste was probably discarded in the water in the area. Polly Bradley is concerned about turning up the waste with the LNG terminal. Ted Maney: We will be doing another clean-up on October 6th at the Northeastern Nahant site.

Stellwagen Bank newsletter available at the meeting. There is no ban on diving in the Sanctuary to date.

Mary Helen says that NEADC is doing a bulk ordering of disposable plates, cups, forks, spoons etc. of stuff that looks like plastic but is 100% biodegradable. Since we are all interested in reducing waste, we should consider purchasing these items.

Bay State Council Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2007

Paul Sauvageau: The North Shore Frogmen will be hosting Barbara Warren tomorrow night. She will give a workshop and lecture on bio-invaders and will be bringing in some examples.

Roy Chamberlain: Paul Adler coming to Neptunes on June 19th, speaking on decompression incidents.

Roy: Neptunes beginning of summer party June 24 at his house in Marshfield. All invited.

Vinnie: a week ago, he got a phone call from assistant director – a bogus email went out stating that the DMF was going to ban diving and it caused a big ruckus. It was nipped it in the bud.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 25, 7:30PM.