

# Bay State Council of Divers

## Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2008

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA

Meeting called to order at 7:41 PM. (*Minutes taken by Mary Howard*)

### **Attendees:**

John	Blackadar	SSN
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Jim	Brady	OCA
Paul	Adler	EC Divers
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Ted	Maney	Salem State College
Ted	Hotz	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	MWDC
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MS DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Holly	Martel-Bourbon	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Deb	Osborn	SSN
Michael	Prange	NEADC / BSC webmaster
Paul	Sauvageau	NSF
Wally	Westphal	NEADC
Paula	Carver	MBD & SSN
Victor	Mastone	BUAR
Carol	Hamilton	MBD
Adrienne	Murphy	MBD
Bill	Soto	MBD

### **Clubs and organizations represented include:**

Boston Sea Rovers  
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources (MBUAR)  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fishers (MA DMF)  
Mass Bay Divers (MBD)  
New England Aquarium Dive Club (NEADC)  
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)  
Old Colony Amphibians (OCA)  
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)  
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)  
East Coast Divers (shop)  
Salem State College

### **Bay State Council Treasure Hunt – held on Sunday, May 18**

The event was quite successful. We had 47 divers in the water, including the safety divers - ~ 54 people total participated in the event.

John Blackadar did most of the work to get the prizes. We had considered changing the way the raffle tickets and prizes were given out, but there weren't as many high end prizes as in prior years. 4 raffle tickets were given to every participant.

It would be nice to thank the prize donors in a local paper. John has a list of donors for the website and for an article.

Next year we might like to advertise in local newspapers to get a better turnout.

AI noted that with this event, same as with other events, it is the same few people who do all the work. It does come up fast, so to help with that, we should start organizing in September, set up a timetable for all parts, i.e. calling dive shops for advertising and for prizes. One person should be in charge of each task.

AGENDA ITEM for September meeting: Guidelines for BSC Treasure Hunt

### **Stellwagen Bank Draft Management Plan - Matt Lawrence**

After a number of years, they finally have draft Management plan. The document is downloadable online at <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/> and also Matt has CD Roms here with document on it. This public comment time is an opportunity for ALL to respond, to submit suggestions. Specific comments are the most useful. They will not be able to incorporate all suggestions.

Public hearings: There are public hearings scheduled which you are welcome to attend. Verbal comments can be provided at the meetings, but emailed or faxed comments are more eco-friendly and are probably more likely to be recorded.

**DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: AUGUST 4, 2008.**

### **New Coastal Management Plan in place by the State – Vin Malkoski**

This plan is not really new; it has been in process for the past four years. Ocean Management Task Force. It has been proposed several times, this is the first time it passed. Will it affect divers? Not directly. Recommendation is that you go online and check out the bill. The area covered under the plan starts 2000 feet from shore. This means all harbors and coast are NOT covered. The name suggests that harbors and islands are covered, but they are not.

Other thing to keep in mind, a lot is being said about the fact that the Fisheries will not be affected. That is true. *However*, if something is built, it will affect fisheries.

There is a link to the bill. **Vin will send link to Michael and to Mary. AI**

The bill is not looking to regulate divers, but it also is not considering recreational divers. It is mostly considering those with larger voices.

## **BUAR – Victor Mastone**

Minot's Light Project: There is an idea to have the recreational diving community follow up where the Coast Guard left off on the Minot's Light (off Scituate) search project to see what we can find. It is fairly shallow diving. The Coast Guard divers have said there is nothing much there. Boating season is here. There is a lot of nice habitat, not suited for Coast Guard diving processes. The area is now considered a memorial / gravesite even though the bodies were recovered. – It would be good to be able to relocate the bronze plaque which is on a large boulder. When it was situated, they pulled marker up because they didn't think it would be needed, but now it is missing.

BUAR will send out a generic notice: collecting at state sites is illegal, except for (40) exempt sites and "isolated finds". They encourage people to file in the case of isolated finds for small items.

Want to encourage recreational use, trying to get more recreational sites.

Will see if we can get divers out in early to mid-August, maybe on a couple of different days.

**Is this link the one that Vinnie was to send me? This was sent by Victor the day after the meeting.**

Here is a link to the (unofficial) as-enacted version of the Mass. Ocean's Act.  
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw08/sl080114.htm>

## **SUDS (Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba) – Wally Westphal**

Wally researched the possibility of working with the SUDS project. He found that there were six 6 selected amputee divers. They took them to Guantanamo Bay and trained them there. The costs of this are quite high and it is unlikely that any group (such as the BSC) could afford to do this. Wally only found the same 6 divers over and over again. His impression is that you would need cooperation from the VA to find appropriate returned soldiers. If you could get them when they join the Legion you might have a chance. It is very hard to get names, contacts.

## **Artificial Reef Project**

John Blackadar and Vin Malkoski need get together to pick some date to go out with the City of Quincy boat and camera.

## **Meeting for dive shops. Second Wednesday in October? Oct 8.**

Every diver here could work to get shop owners to come to a meeting. If shops and clubs could get together, it would be a win-win situation. Council Board should be here, also any/all divers. Three dive shops have an event at Hyannis town beach. Anyone who speaks with dive shop, invite them to attend the meeting.

Invitation to dive shops: "We realize diving community is in stress, that a joint meeting between dive shops, dive clubs and diving organizations that we might be able to come to a solution that would help the diving community to thrive."

## **Membership for the Council**

Al Bozza is going to be hounding club representatives to get your club members to join the Council. He will look for a volunteer from each club to try to expand membership.

## **Michael Prange – Website**

- If you log into [baystatecouncil.com](http://baystatecouncil.com) it will automatically forward you to the correct url of [baystatecouncil.org](http://baystatecouncil.org).
- The old website needs to be completely deleted; it still comes up first when you go to Google
- Holly sent links to shops, etc, added many more shops and clubs
- Send any charter boat lists to Michael
- Have (Mary's) old minutes on website
- Heather has sent emails on Stellwagen. Is trying to get divers involved
- Anyone can send news items for the newsblog – entry on the website, permanent
- Treasure Hunt – Michael took a bunch of photos. Needs to post an article. Trophy event. 6 teams participated in the snorkel event. Neptunes came in last. Boston Sea Rovers team won.

## **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Al Bozza - NEADC**

- Fish ID course next Weds 6/18 all invited – 6:30PM at the Education Center at the Aquarium.
- Dominica trip – 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January – would like to invite all clubs. A possibility would be to have different clubs take a year to sponsor this trip. Size: up to 26 people have gone in the past, with a minimum of 14.
- GAFC is July 19 – would like to get help with that.
- Tropical Fish hunt in September – great family event. Good press coverage last year.
- Contacted Fred Calhoun about his offer to give dive training if clubs offer membership. Al asked him for details, will get out to all the clubs.

### **OCA**

They appointed a single member of the club to attend meetings regularly – Jim Brady.

### **Paul – NSF**

We have a new location at Beverly Golf & Tennis Club – it is a much nicer venue.

6/12 – Michael Lees of Environmental Police will speak, flag regulations, what is enforceable.

6/19 – Beach Meeting at White Beach in Manchester – Coast Guard Wing from Cape Cod will give demo of search and rescue at 7:30.

### **MBD – Paula**

We have been doing a lot of diving. Have had complaints from a neighbor at Peggoty Beach who threatens to call the cops. A fisherman was illegally parked and complainer did call police who told divers there that they were okay where they were parked. Paula spoke with a selectman who said the beach neighbor is wrong. The reason those four parking spaces are there is because of FEMA. If you take funds from the public (Federal money) (FEMA), then public has right to use the beach. This is a public access that would disappear if not for this regulation.

### **Chris – MetroWest**

MetroWest Wrecks show is tentatively scheduled for November 8 at Keefe Technical High School

### **John Blackadar - SSN**

- The club is working to increase activities, also to include families.
- First Sunday in August – Annual outing at Duxbury Beach – no diving, cook-out, tug of war. \$12, lots of food. You pay to park. Enjoy! Bring your family.
- Get together during the feast season, go to North End, walk around, great time. Good night to get out.

### **Vinnie**

Patrick Scalli has sent a couple of letters to city council in a quiet fashion.  
Fred Calhoun is doing the same thing.

### **Action Items:**

Angelo will draft a letter to dive shops for emailed distribution.

Roy will put together a letter for the Underwater Rescue Unit and Mary will forward to people in attendance at BSC meetings.

Mary, email contact info to [Robert@akacademy.com](mailto:Robert@akacademy.com) - done 6/24/08

Club representative list to Deb Osborne - done 6/24/08

Mary to send out invitation to all shops to come to meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Wording from Angelo. Send out once a month, then maybe every week towards the end of September.

Add contact information for Steve Coren to minutes from last meeting. - done 6/24/08

Email BSC membership list to Al Bozza (list of NSF / BSC members?)

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held on September 10, 2008, 7:30PM, Neptunes' clubhouse.