

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2008

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

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

Attendees:

Al	Anzuoni	South Shore Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Jim	Carozza	NEADC officer
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Michael	Donovan	NSF
Capt Dale	Freeman	Triton Marine Services
Ted	Hotz	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	MWDC
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MS DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State College
Holly	Martel-Bourbon	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Michael	Prange	NEADC / BSC webmaster
Paul	Sauvageau	NSF
Jim	Walker	SSN
Wally	Westphal	NEADC
Carl	Yngve	SSN

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Boston Sea Rovers
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fishers (MA DMF)
New England Aquarium Dive Club (NEADC)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)
South Shore Divers Divers (shop)
Salem State College

Guidelines for BSC Treasure Hunt for May 2009

This will be left as open business at this time. One ticket for grand prize will be given to each participant, then “normal” tickets as in previous years.

Question of time of year was brought up, asking whether we should change it to later in the year?

Al Bozza suggested making into more of a “family” event.

We will have another meeting to set up guidelines two to three months before the Treasure Hunt; therefore if the Treasure Hunt is to be in May, the planning meeting should be in February. Make whatever changes we come up with at that time.

Next meeting Wednesday, October 8 – 7:30PM

Please speak with owners of the shops you work with to invite them, encourage them to attend the next meeting. There will be food/dinner provided. (Mary bring dessert)

Paul Adler picked the October date thinking it would be a slow time for the shops. This, apparently, is not necessarily true.

During the next couple of weeks we need to work to get the email to shops drafted and sent out. Some here will work together after the meeting to get the email drafted.

Transect videos for Artificial Reef Project

There was an attempt to do transect videos of the area around the Pinthas with the Quincy Police using their boat and remote camera. They had a great day, but the weather was too rough to dive out there, south of Minot’s Ledge.

The attractiveness of the Pinthas site is that there is already stuff on the bottom, so fishermen already avoid the location and it therefore it would not be a bad place to add more material.

Jim Walker: We already know that the bottom around the Pinthas is sandy and flat, so it is not already good habitat. Checking charts, limited to 10-20 fathoms because of depths. A lot of these areas show as rocky on the charts. Maybe time should be spent checking the charts before wasting time going out. Need a spot that everyone has access to. Have we asked the dive shops? Wreck has to be 50 ft from the surface for clearance.

Three criteria: 1- has to be barren, 2- had to be deep enough to satisfy CG, 3- has to be practical.

Vin Malkoski & John Blackadar: Part of this is that Quincy PD is looking for some practical experience using their equipment. We cannot pick sites at random. Need to study ahead of time. Not necessarily looking to put out a wreck at this time, a wreck if we can pull it off, but we don’t have the \$\$\$. Looking to add cobble, etc. to a location that would be suitable. When we start getting really going you will see other people coming in the door. It would cost approximately \$100K for the environmental impact statement. We have been trying to chip away at the preliminary work. The more we can do with the resources we have at hand, and therefore cheaper, the better. NOTE: the Quincy Police have been very helpful.

Angelo noted an agreement with Jim, that we need eventually to involve everyone, including shops, fishermen, and the government. Has to not impact draggers, which is why we are considering the Pinthas since fishermen already avoid that location.

Al Bozza – The BSC should have a section on the website discussing what has been done, what needs to be done. (Vin M should write something up) Info can be updated as more gets done. Can show divers what we have been doing. This should invite a lot of interest.

Holly: what is the desired end result? Why suggest putting down cobble instead of a wreck?

Angelo – about 10 years ago. We wanted to give something back to the ocean which looked to be in trouble. Start with small cobble and build up to maybe include a wreck, to “rebuild” the ecosystem. - In the beginning of this project we sat with charts and squared off possible sites, did surveys of areas around Nahant and then Three Fathoms Ledge. We were looking for sites that will interest fishermen also. (NEARS was a good attempt by people trying to do fundraising and create enthusiasm. They didn’t realize how much money of his own Dick Long donated-\$400K.)

Eventually we will involve a lot of divers to do some of the work.

Other states can do it differently, but unfortunately MA does not contribute a penny to this kind of project.

Al Bozza asked what would be required to just put down a couple of reef balls? Vin responded that we would still need permits since it is “fill” being put down. Still have to go through the process, though it might be smaller. A couple of reef balls would be as hard to find again as a couple of rocks. Which is one reason to make something larger.

Is there another site to research for when the Pinthas site is blown out? Al Azuoni noted the expense in that there is not only the expense of the run out, but 4 hours to clean the ROV every time it is put into the water. We should address and look for a second site that might be good to check out for such times.

The DMF website has info on the reef that was installed previously, and also reef policy.

NJ used convict labor to make reef balls and even that was prohibitively expensive. They also used old trolley cars. Made a lot of money. NJ did it, NY did it, no reason we can’t.

Vin could put in the website article that we can use any help. Encourage people to come to us with suggestions.

Club Updates:

John Blackadar - SSN

- If you want a table at their flea market, let them know.
- 10/19 - Paula has talked to her club. Has come up with date of 10/19 for a pumpkin carving contest. Morton State Park (pond) in Plymouth. It is on the BSC website. Check it out for the next club meeting.
- The Oceanarium is open Sunday and Thursdays. Now using facility as classroom, which brings in revenue. They are trying to raise money. Will get the diving community night sometime. The kids love it to talk about any topic. It is an education center, not an aquarium. Will have a touch tank, a coral tank, four water-based tanks. John Farrington from Woods Hole is on board. Hired a new lady to work there too. Education of the ocean.

- The Neptunes are working to get Frank Dudas, who is working on the German sub, to come to their meetings. Will be a Tuesday night. Raising the Russian sub.

Al Bozza – NEADC

- Postponed the Tropical Fish dive to 9/21 at Fort Wetherill. They have never had to do this in past years.
- They should have a table at the Tropical Fish Dive with a stack of membership forms and other information about the Bay State Council. They are expecting to have close to 130 people there.
- BSC should have a table at other events such as the DUI Demo Days event, at the Great Annual Fish Count event.
- November 2 is the ORG Benefit (Oceanic Research Group). Tickets are on sale before the event for \$8; they will be \$10 at the door. Jonathan Bird's Blue World movies have been showing on TV lately.
- FEBRUARY - AGENDA – get a list of club events for the year. Get people to pledge time slots

Paul Sauvageau – NSF

- 9/21 – Annual Club Picnic with MWDC
- 9/11 – MA State Police representatives will speak at the Club meeting.
- 9/18 – Galapagos presentation by Club members in honor of our late friend Bill Whiffen who was on the trip with us.

Chris Hugo - MWDC

- 11/8 – Wrecks Show will be held again this year at Keefe Technical High School.

Other Updates:

Michael Prange – BSC Website

There is a calendar on the website with general regional events. Forward any items to him for publication.

The website also has a NEWS blog. Check it out.

Under Old Business, the old website was to be deleted as it is still getting responses when doing web searches for the BSC. Angelo had spoken to the previous webmaster and he has said he will remove the old site.

Michael is still planning to post photos of BSC treasure hunt to the website. He is hoping for a write-up about the event from someone (Mary?).

Matthew Lawrence – SBNMS

The Comment Period for The Draft Management Plan has been extended to 10/3

First 5 divers have done diving on the steamship Portland – over 400 ft – using Doug Currier’s boat. Check it out on bostondeepwrecks.com

Capt. Dale Freeman – Triton Marine Services

Several BSC members went out with Captain Dale Freeman to do some archeological diving on some shipwrecks. Wally Westphal noted that it was very interesting and they had beautiful weather. Michael Prange took pictures.

There is a Russian Sub that Dale is bidding on the rights to. If he gets it, he will recover and scrap it. Looking at it from diver’s perspective it will be too bad to scrap it. Not far out of Boston.

They found another vessel, pretty much intact, on black sand bottom. A three-masted, 150 – 250 ft long ship. Will reschedule another day to go out on it again. Undetermined what it is. Depths from divers and from charts do not correlate. Diver said 74 ft, chart says 39ft.

Jim Walker notes that there may be a lot of wrecks by Deer Island

Boston Scuba Show

Fred Calhoun has emailed Mary and offered the BSC a table at the Boston Scuba Show. Exhibitors will need to purchase tickets but there will be no other expense to the BSC. Mary will reply noting that the BSC is interested taking advantage of this option.

Action Items from June meeting:

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

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

Action Items from September meeting:

Mary to send out invitation to all shops to come to meeting on October 8th. Send out first invitation as soon as message approved by Board. Then again one or two more times. -- Initial email sent out September 20. Second email October 6.

Al Bozza – there should be a section on the website discussing what has been done so far on the Artificial Reef Project, also noting what needs to be done. Vin Malkoski will write something up. The information on the website can be updated as more gets done. Can show divers what we have been doing and should invite a lot of interest.

Mary to write up something for BSC website about the Treasure Hunt to go along with the pictures that Michael has posted. Also to give titles for pictures.

Mary to let Fred Calhoun know that the BSC is interested in his offer to have a space at the Boston Scuba Show for disseminating information.

Secretary should print upcoming agenda items in the agendas for each meeting so that we can keep them in mind. - In process.

Upcoming meetings:

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8. This meeting is designed to include dive shop owners to discuss options for dive industry. Meeting is to be held at 7:30 at the SSN's clubhouse in Quincy, corner of Quarry Street and Joyce Road.

Other meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 10 and February 11. Both meetings to be at 7:30 at the SSN's clubhouse in Quincy.