

Bay State Council of Divers
Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2009

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

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

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Jim	Carozza	NEADC officer
Roy	Chamberlain	SSN
Shawn	Cormier	NEADC
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Tom	Curran	SNN
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Michael	Donovan	NSF
Capt Dale	Freeman	Triton Marine Services
Ted	Hotz	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MS DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State College
Victor	Mastone	MBUAR
Uma	Mirani	NEADC
Michael	Prange	NEADC / BSC webmaster
Jim	Walker	SSN
Wally	Westphal	NEADC
Carl	Yngve	SSN

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Boston Sea Rovers
East Coast Divers
Massachusetts Bureau of Underwater Archeological Resources (MBUAR)
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)
Salem State College
Triton Marine

UPCOMING PROJECTS / EVENTS

BSC Membership

Al Bozza: Plan to make VP of each club be the contact person for between clubs and the Council; that person will be membership contact.

Sea Rovers: Saturday and Sunday, March 7&8, Boston Copley Plaza Hotel

A check has been mailed to the Boston Sea Rovers for payment for the Council booth. Steve Coren has paid for it. He has asked for tickets (we'll get them through Vinny) to the event. He will be going out to dinner with a group from NEADC.

The Council booth is here. This year we would like to re-do the booth, which needs to be repainted, have new pictures; include the flag law, etc.

Vin Malkoski has tickets at the meeting tonight at the following prices: full package \$50 (Sat day \$20, Sat night \$20, Sun day \$15)

There will be a kids' event on Sunday 9:30AM to 3PM; it *is* on the flyer, in really tiny print.

There is a sign-up list going around to help man the Council booth. Please sign up to help out, give your hours.

The Council booth and the various dive club booths are still upstairs on the balcony.

Boston Scuba Show – Al Bozza told Fred Calhoun that he would have a Council booth at the Boston Scuba Show. **He was requested to please have flyers for the BSC Treasure Hunt dive at the booth. (AI)**

Clubs – Al Bozza suggested that the clubs see about getting together to plan dates for events together, which can also be done along with shops. If one club has a great event scheduled, other club members are more than welcome to attend, so think about scheduling your own club events around the other clubs' events. It is suggested that each club could take a month to plan a group event for members of all clubs to attend. To that end, the following events were already put forth:

- NEADC-Fish Count – Sat, July 25 at Stage Fort Park.
- NEADC-Tropical Fish Hunt – Sat after Labor Day, Sept 12, at Fort Wetherill in RI.
- SSN – River Run – float down the river – Oct 11 on the North River in Scituate

Mary email the clubs for a month each would like to organize a joint club event. (AI)

Artificial Reef Project – Those currently working on the Artificial Reef Project will come up with dates for camera surveys when they know what the Quincy Police schedule is like. They need to have a second option for survey location for days when the weather is too rough to use the remote camera at the selected location.

BUAR – There is a possibility of using more divers to do the surveys with Victor Mastone. This will be purely surveying, no artifacts will be taken. Objective is to have a good day diving and also to help Victor with a specific project. Vic will be in charge of what diving is

done, how and where. There will be some training before doing the dives. Talk at this time is about doing more diving at Minot's Light; other sites to be determined in the future.

Vic will have projected dates for these dives at Sea Rovers. (AI)

Guidelines for BSC Treasure Hunt for May 2009

Al Bozza suggested we add "family oriented" events to the BSC Treasure Hunt event. His idea is to add a little "touch tank" for kids and others who are interested. This was very successful at the tropical fish count. The plan is to get a couple of board members to help Al collect some items for the tank earlier in the morning, before the official event begins. Roy will add that information to the flyer.

There will be two sets of tickets at the event, one for the Grand Prizes and one for the other prizes. Everyone who qualifies will get on Grand Prize ticket and then several of the other type.

It was asked if it would make sense to sell hot dogs. We can ask for donations, but we probably don't want to upset the guy with the shop nearby who lets us use his portapotties.

MINUTES: Vin Malkoski made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 10, 2008 meeting, Jim Corozza seconded the motion, and the minutes were accepted as distributed.

UPDATES

Dive Flag Poster

Al Bozza has made progress with the Dive Flag Poster. He can have made a heavy poster that is laminated. The plan is to put them in dive shops and some dive locations. Would we need permission from public access board to put the signs on boat ramps? **Vin Malkoski can have the answer to that question to us by Sea Rovers. (AI)** There also would be the option to have "sponsored by" and have information of clubs who pay for space on bottom of the signs.

The signs could be placed wherever we think it should be. Yacht clubs, Harbormasters, etc.

The sign addresses one of the issues of the problem of boats coming too close to divers, but it does not address whether the flags are visible to boaters.

Stellwagen Bank Update – Matthew Lawrence

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary received 25,000 comments during the public comment period last year. Right now there is no update on when the final draft of the SBNMS Management Plan will be ready.

Matt will be giving a presentation at Sea Rovers on the recreational diving opportunities in the Sanctuary.

BUAR – Victor Mastone

There will be more information coming out. They had a successful dive on Eaton. Good Indian dug-out canoes on Quinsigamond.

Fishing Vessel Patriot – Capt. Dale Freeman

The Patriot sank about a month ago, with two lives lost. Capt Lee was hired to video the wreck, and then the Coast Guard went out with an ROV. They think it was caught by tug and barge, or a couple of dragger trawls, and was rolled over. At this time it is being considered a crime scene. Capt Dale was asked to go out to take a look. He got some good video footage. He also plugged vents to prevent pollution to nearby Stellwagen. There was 14,000 gallons of fuel onboard.

There is pretty good evidence that the Patriot was hit by a cable, according to the damage to the boat. There was no damage to the hull; the boat looks pristine below waterline. All damage is above the waterline. Dale is pushing to recover the wreck which is in a pristine area and is a significant pollutions threat.

DMF – Vin Malkoski

Vin suggests keeping an eye on any ocean planning stuff coming up, and be ready to make comments when the time comes.

Oceanarium – John Blackadar

The new president of the executive board of the Oceanarium is from Woods Hole. They have signed contracts with UMass Dartmouth. There is a new filtration system. They are working with a lot of grants, so that may be a problem, since their donors have lost a lot of money in the current financial situation.

SSN – John Blackadar

The Neptunes' objective is to dive with the clubs. We are flexible, can change dates of events if they conflict with events of other clubs that are open to members of all clubs.

The Neptunes are going to get a new website and will be able to post their scheduled events. All their Club events will be open to all divers.

Frank Dudas is working on an update of the dive tables. He will give a presentation to the Neptunes and everyone will be invited to that event.

They have a Paintball activity scheduled in September

NSF – Paul Sauvageau

The Froggies have Stan Waterman scheduled to give a presentation at their meeting on April 23 at 8PM. (AI - Mary will send the flyer out to everyone on her BSC list) Admission is \$5 ahead of time, and \$10 at the door. Their meetings are now held in the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club where there is a bar and dinner available before the meeting.

NEADC – Al Bozza

They have a whale watch every May.

They are supporting the Cotting School; both the Annual Fish Count and the Tropical Fish hunt are Seamark events.

BSC Website – Webmaster Michael Prange

Keep Michael updated with the events of your club and he will keep the website updated with your Club's information. The "new" site is now the #1 site that comes up when you search for the Bay State Council through Google. If you type in the url, you can get to the website by either .com or .org.

Salem State College – Ted Maney

Ted has established a dive club at Salem State.

Next meeting Wednesday, April 29 – 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)

Note: The DUI Drysuit Demo event will be first weekend in May.

Action Items (AI) – Mary needs to send out an announcement about the BSC "Industry" meeting on April 29.

2009 BSC Schedule of meetings and events:

April 29 – Dive Industry meeting – Need to get flyers etc. Paul Adler: Clubs and shops need to work better together. All sit down together to see if we can work together to get divers to use shops and shops to encourage clubs. Dinner meeting (Angelo will be cooking)

May 13 – Board meeting for Board Members only – at this meeting we will finalize the BSC treasure hunt dive – May 17 is the council dive (week before Memorial Day weekend – port a potties are open, parking is still free) – John Blackadar handles safety. Anyone who works at the event will also get raffle tickets.

May 17 – BSC Treasure Hunt Dive & Snorkel Event

June 10 – BSC meeting

Sept 9 – BSC meeting

Dec 9 – BSC meeting