

Bay State Council of Divers
Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2009

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

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:37 PM. (*Minutes taken by Mary Howard*)

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN / BSC Board Member
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Shawn	Cormier	NEADC
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Ted	Hotz	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	MWDC
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State
Steve	Marrball	SSN
Holly	Martel Bourbon	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Victor	Mastone	MBUAR
Laura	Mediano-Hernández	Dive Kulture
Deb	Osborn	SSN / BSC Board Member
Michael	Prange	NEADC / BSC webmaster
Paul	Sauvageau	NSF
Richard	Tharin	MWDC

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Boston Sea Rovers
Dive Kulture
East Coast Divers
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources (MBUAR)
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fishers (MA DMF)
MetroWest Dive Club (MWDC)
New England Aquarium Dive Club (NEADC)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)

Minutes from June 10, 2009 meeting accepted as presented.

Things that have happened since the last meeting

Review:

The project for the summer was to go out with Vic to find the plaque at Minot Light. The Neptunes made 5 attempts to go out, but didn't make it out at all because of bad weather and sea conditions.

Two people died diving this summer.

The BSC booth that is used at the Sea Rovers Show has been stripped and repainted. Al will get a dive flag law poster for the booth. Anyone with any ideas about what else should be on it, please let the officers know. We can make arrangements for the booth to go to Wrecks if Al Bozza wants to take it, though it still needs a little time to finish it up.

BSC Treasure Hunt: There has been discussion about moving this event from May to September.

John Blackadar concurs and thinks we should at least try it once, to see if it helps. Maybe consider giving Club awards at the BSC Treasure Hunt? Do we want to spice up the Treasure Hunt?

We could try to get some shops involved and ask them to call it their dive of the week.

John Blackadar made a motion that the Treasure Hunt be scheduled for September 26, 2010. We could run as we normally do. If it doesn't work, doesn't get more interest from the divers in the area, we can rethink again for the next year. John's motion was seconded and passed. We should start now emailing shops with the information. **Mary to email Roy with the date so he can make up the flyers.** John will plan to coordinate the prizes.

John Blackadar – SSN:

Roy is having his Halloween party on **10/24**. He has over 4000 props, and has the whole house is painted like a dungeon. This will be his 25th annual party.

Artificial reef project didn't make progress this summer because trying to go for the plaque.

This coming Sunday there will be Pumpkin Carving down in Plymouth at Morton's Pond. Run by South Shore Skin Divers and East Coast Divers. Shops donate prizes this event.

The Oceanarium is now open. Not an aquarium, it is an education center. Seahorse display, jellyfish display, artificial reef is gorgeous.

The Neptunes are having a flea market this coming Saturday at Bldg 19 in Hanover.

North Atlantic Scuba has come out with a POLICY: They will no longer service anyone's equipment unless you bought it from him. So you can't get stuff fixed if you bought it from a friend.

New on the market: John B. puts a 5 lb weight on the back of his tank. This item is now available commercially.

Vin Malkoski – DMF: There are no major changes to the lobster laws.

The Annual Lobster Survey: Lobsters did not look very good this year, we are not getting much for new young lobster.

The lobster population south of the Cape is in very bad shape.

A lobsterman was lost yesterday.

There is nothing new agency-wise.

Vin has been receiving emails: Apparently divers have been taking lobsters from traps. Let him know if you have ANY information on this issue. The people complaining are in Chelmsford, so the assumption would be that the problem is on the North Shore. They can't do anything until someone actually catches someone.

Peggotty beach in Scituate – Vin contacted the folks in Scituate. They admitted that there were supposed to be spaces for general public, but signs have gone up saying no public access. MEMA people said it is their issue. Scituate is supposed to be making updates by next summer that will include more parking spaces for out of town folks, maybe up to 6 spaces. The town, when it allocated the spots, put the parking spaces on private property. DMF will continue to monitor. If it doesn't change, we can contact the conservation committee.

Matthew Lawrence – SNMS: The Sanctuary will be exhibiting at the archeological fair at the Museum of Science, Friday and Saturday this weekend, all day on Saturday. Check out the MOS website. Part of the exhibit will be some marine stuff from Victor Mastone.

There will be two archeological shipwreck presentations at Wrecks.

The past winter a fishing vessel sank in the Sanctuary. Now there is a 60' steel trawler sitting in 100 ft of water on sandy bottom, 15 miles out of Gloucester. They are looking to see what the next steps will be, to make this tragedy into something positive. Already there are a lot of fish swimming around it. Fishing nets are already hung up on the wreck.

Victor Mastone – MBUAR: They will probably start enforcing looting rules regarding wrecks. People should report to MBUAR when you find something. We should have a copy of the law to post on the BSC booth. FAQ sheet.

Michael Prange – BSC Website: feel free to send information to announce@baystatecouncil.org if you want something posted on the website.

Dive Kulture – Laura Medrano-Hernandez (laura.medrano@lhi.org) spoke to those in attendance about her project Dive Kulture, which is a very worthwhile organization looking to give inner city disadvantaged youth the opportunity learn to SCUBA dive and through that to gain self confidence, teamwork, reliance on others, etc.

The next BSC meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2009.