

# **Bay State Council of Divers**

Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2010

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

## **Attendees:**

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN / BSC Board Member
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Richard	Bowens	SSN VP
Jim	Brady	OCA
Jim	Carozza	SSN
Roy	Chamberlain	SSN
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Michael	Donovan	NSF
Jeannine	Fabian	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State College
Stephen	Marshall	SSN
Michael	Prange	NEADC / BSC webmaster
Paul	Sauvageau	NSF
Michael	Vaughan	

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

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

### **Boston Sea Rovers**

The Sea Rovers Film Festival on March 6 is sold out!

### **Boston NAUI Scuba Show**

This show is this weekend, February 27. BSC members are ready to have a table in conjunction with the Aquarium Dive Club at this show. Flyers have been copied and are ready to go.

Roy Chamberlain will be having an open house at his house on Sunday after the show for Dave Clancy, 11AM – 6PM on 2/28. Contact Roy if you want to visit with Dave and need directions.

### **Division of Marine Fisheries**

Vin Malkoski says there are no changes in the Lobster law this year. The big change is the recreational fishing license. This year you should register with the State, but there is no license yet. Next year you will need a permit. This includes SCUBA divers who take fish while diving!

A for-hire fishing boat permit covers paying customers. All others – non-paying friends – will need to have their own permit.

The DMF website has a very good fact sheet with a section about the new recreational fishing license. Spearfishing while SCUBA diving requires a license. You can register online. Website is [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/recreationalfishing/rec\\_license.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/recreationalfishing/rec_license.htm). Vin would be happy to talk to any group about the new license requirements.

### **Two new projects for the DMF:**

Ghost Lobster Gear study: They will be putting out a couple of strings of lobster pots with tangled lines, to be left out for a couple of years, going out every week to quantify mortality, tag lobsters, etc. When they are ready, they will do a release on what the tags will look like so divers, lobstermen will know what to look for.

Horseshoe Crab study: The DMF will be radio-tagging horseshoe crabs on Cape Cod to track migration, etc. It does seem that there are fewer horseshoe crabs than there were, but the DMF will be attempting to make a scientific record. Mass Audubon on Cape will help with the tagging.

### **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

Matthew Lawrence will be at the Boston Scuba show, with information. He had a chance to apply for a grant; he does not know yet whether he will receive the grant, but hopes to know soon. Vin Malkoski gave him a letter from the BSC to include with the application. He expects to make a DVD about diving on Stellwagen Bank, and is looking to have BSC members help him distribute the 2000 DVDs.

He would like to install two dive moorings on shipwrecks in the Sanctuary. This mooring system would be different from the usual surface buoy. He is thinking of installing mooring blocks on the bottom for boats to tie into. Because of the quantity of large vessel traffic (vessels drawing up to 50 ft) etc, it would be difficult to maintain surface moorings.

## **BSC Website**

Michael Prange is keeping the website up to date. Send announcements to [announce@baystatecouncil.org](mailto:announce@baystatecouncil.org) for anything for the website and for general distribution to those who have opted to receive the announcements.

Vin Malkoski would like to put something on the BSC website about the new fishing license rules. It is suggested that there should be a short piece with a link to the MA DMF website.

## **Bay State Council Treasure Hunt**

It is time to begin work on the 2010 BSC Treasure Hunt Dive event, scheduled for September 26 at Stage Fort Park. We need to work more aggressively this year on getting the information out, advertising, promoting, and getting prizes. We will be working with the same venue, same rules, same idea as previous years. We need to start letting the clubs and shops know, ask them to put the information in their newsletters beginning asap. We should ask shops and clubs to make this their dive of the week for that week, getting the event on their schedules as soon as possible. It is possible that we won't keep the event at this time of year (it was always May in the past) so let them know that this is an experiment and change is possible in the future.

Al has a spreadsheet to keep track of who has been reached, who has put the info into their newsletters, etc., so we can track our progress.

We also have to put forth an effort to get prizes. In past years John Blackadar has gathered a lot of prizes at Sea Rovers, but we don't have that option this year, so any leg-work from others will be helpful. Some people have relationships with some industry folks and will contact those for raffle prizes.

There should be a "**Sponsor's Page**" on the website listing donors and thanking them for their donations. Michael will add that.

## **Getting the word out:**

\***Mary Howard** will send an email to the dive clubs listed on the BSC website, attach the flyer and ask them to put the flyer and/or flyer information in their newsletters along with a link to the BSC website. And also ask them to schedule this as their dive for that weekend.

\***Al Bozza** will contact dive shops. He will send them all laminated flyers for the BSC event, and also will send along a copy of the laminated dive flag poster he had made up. He also will ask that shops make this their dive of the weekend.

\***Angelo Correnti** will go on website and contact charters.

\***DUI Demo Days** will be the weekend of May 15 & 16. We will have a table there to advertise the BSC and the Treasure Hunt.

\***Al** will check on permit requirements/benefits, and parking at Stage Fort Park, and will find out if the snack shop will be open.

\*We have missed getting our event into *Northeast Dive News* every year. They say that if they have room for it, they will post it. So far no luck with that. **Steve Marshall** will contact the magazines.

\***Vin** will contact the DAN magazine to see if we can get some advertising in that.

\***Richard Bowens** will put the information on the SSN Facebook page, and he will also start a Facebook account for the BSC.

\*One of the SSN members not at the meeting will be asked to put the info on Craig's List.

### **Other Business / Updates**

**SSN:** Steve Marshall, new president of the South Shore Neptunes club, is getting involved with environmental groups, New England Coastal Wildlife and Urban Harbor Institute. They are planning to clean and monitor an area to be chosen. Steve will be meeting with a professor from U Mass Boston Environmental Earth Sciences dept who has students who are interested in learning to SCUBA dive. The Neptunes would love to involve other clubs and the BSC in their projects.

\***Mary** – email list of folks at meeting tonight to Steve Marshall, [sdmarshall960@gmail.com](mailto:sdmarshall960@gmail.com). (Done 2/25/10)

**John Blackadar** updates:

The BSC booth is done for the next Sea Rovers Show. If you have photographs, John would like to have some for the booth (mostly 5x7): pictures of past Treasure Hunt events would be great.

John recommends that you go see the Titanic show at Foxwoods, there until March 31, cost \$20.

Oceanarium (New Bedford) Educational Facility: They had a display early in its tour, and it was packed. It has been a tough struggle raising money, but the Oceanarium is still holding its own. They did sign a deal with U Mass Dartmouth who uses some of the space and helps out.

**Dive Culture Update:** Laura currently has two classes in varying stages, from the Blackstone and Baines schools. Steve will try to help her out with grant writing. Vin will try to do a snorkeling program a little later in the spring. The big issue for the classes was transportation. United Divers of Central Mass helped with transportation for previous class.

Al Bozza mentioned **Biomes, New England's only private aquarium** in a small building in RI. He has a shark touching tank, raises sea horses. He does birthday parties for kids, cub scouts, school groups. It has a great website. (<http://www.biomescenter.com/>).

Al has **posters of the Dive Flag Law**. Two kinds, one plastic one for outside at boat ramps, marinas, yacht clubs; the other laminated one for inside, shops. Wording could be larger so it would be legible. Comment made that you want people to be able to read the law, or not? Keep this in mind for next printing.

Vin noted that the **Boy Scouts have approved SCUBA diving** for a merit badge this year.

**Upcoming Events: Anyone is welcome to attend/join in the following events**

**East Coast Divers:** Paul Adler is planning a “make your own fins and mask day” using Fred Calhoun’s book ***Doing Scuba Right***, to take place on Sunday, April 18, 1-7PM. More information will be posted on the website (<http://www.ecdivers.com/>). Preregistration required; fee to cover expenses is \$15. They will take lots of pictures and put them on the website. Bring your own pair of old sneakers!

**NEADC:**

White water rafting on the Deerfield River on May 8 (reduced price of \$57)

Whale watch April 11, up to 130 people.

NEADC members will be meeting at Jose McIntyre’s for dinner before the Sea Rovers Event on March 6. You are welcome to join them.

**NSF:**

Four club members went to Raja Ampat, Indonesia in November, and plan to show pictures from the trip at their club meeting on March 11.

Faith Ortins will speak about Antarctica on May 13.

**SSN:**

Roy Chamberlain will show How to Sharpen a Dive Knife at their club meeting on April 20. He will explain how to use a stone for different types of knives.

**The next BSC meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2010, in Quincy at 7:30PM**