

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2010

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA
7:40 PM to 9:40 PM

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN / BSC Board Member
Al	Bozza	NEADC / BSC VP
Jim	Brady	OCA
Roy	Chamberlain	SSN & BSC Board
Teresa	Czerepica	SSN
Shawn	Cormier	NEADC
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Jim	Follis	NSF
Ted	Hotz	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	MWDC
Matthew	Lawrence	Stellwagen Bank NMS
Vin	Malkoski	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State University
Steve	Marshall	SSN
Holly	Martell Bourbon	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Joseph	McAndrew	SSN
Michael	Vaughan	MBD
Marissa	Wozniak	UDI
Carl	Yngve	SSN

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Boston Sea Rovers
Mass Bay Divers (MBD)
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fishers (MA DMF)
New England Aquarium Dive Club (NEADC)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
Salem State University
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)
Stellwagen Alive!

Guest Speaker:

Marissa Wozniak is the dive coordinator for **Stellwagen Alive**. She works at MIT during the day writing grant applications, and teaches SCUBA diving at United Divers. She is here tonight to speak to us about diving on **Stellwagen Bank**. The bank is 842 sq mi and ranges from 65 to 650 ft deep. The average diving on the Bank is at least 100 ft deep. Please make sure you are diving within your capabilities; the Bank is both deep and cold, not your average dive destination. When diving there, stick to designated dive site, and you need to fly both Alpha and Diver Down flags since the ships passing by do not necessarily recognize the Diver Down flag. Plan your dive for slack tide, and choose a day when the tidal flow will be relatively small. It is an area that has long been fished, so be prepared for derelict fishing gear. Take no artifacts. No personal moorings are allowed.

Dive Site Tides: The southern sites have more current; there is less current going north. Check the tide charts for Boston Light or Race Point, then subtract 30 min for the slack tide times.

Designated Dive Sites:

Sanctuary Hill – northeast section of SB – strong currents – 115 ft

Jeffrey's Ledge – northern edge of SB – 110 ft

Sponge Forest – middle of SB – starts at 105

Josephine Marie – 80ft trawler in 105 ft, off Scituate, near SE corner – trawl net still attached

Unidentified Trawler – 105 ft of water, 3 pieces – located in traffic separation scheme, so be aware that freighters have right-of-way – there is a mooring

Marissa volunteers at Stellwagen Alive. Their efforts include:

- Preservation and clean-up projects. So far they have collected 118k lbs of lost gear. The Thatcher Island cleanup over the summer was a great success and they are planning another one for the spring.
- Stewardship of the acoustic validation study.
- Education of public about Stellwagen's history.
- Plans to produce a supplement to open water SCUBA diving course, specifically for New England water. [Suggestion from BSC is to have workshop at Sea Rovers for instructors. People who take the course should have something to come away with. Maybe make cards for the sites at Stellwagen.

The Stellwagen Alive website: www.stellwagenalive.org Can join the newsletter list, or join the club?

Reminder: per Marine Mammal Protection Act, do not harass marine mammals! Stay completely away from Right Whales!

MWDC Wreck and Recreation Symposium –

Reports on Wrecks say it was a fun event. The lectures were great, especially the doctor from DAN, Dr. Vandermeer. Al thought it was a nice small social event. It is frustrating that there's not more participation. Need to get the clubs' officers and Board members to go. It is hard to get members to go if officers and board members don't. It seems like a lot of effort for the numbers of people that attended.

There was another conversation about how to get people into diving. Need to do something to interest young people
Paul A, EC – scuba trivia night in February.

Thompson's Island Cleanup on Sat, 9/18/10.

They had 50 people at the cleanup event.

The **Bay State Council Treasure Hunt** – on Sun 9/26/10

This was the most successful Council Treasure Hunt event in a long time; there were 70-75 divers. The Snorkel Event trophy goes to EC Divers #1 team; Salem State University team was second.

Date for next year that was put forth is Sunday, September 25, with registration beginning at 8AM. We would like to do it the same time as the Club picnics again next year, which worked out well.

Next year, how about putting out a table with flyers from all the clubs, so that information would be available for people who attend but who are not yet members of any club.

Need to get info to Michael Prange on sponsors for the website. John Blackadar has that information and will forward it to him.

Paul Adler suggesting maybe reps would like to demo gear at the event. They could go to the other beach or after the snorkel event. Or maybe they could let divers to use the gear for the event. Then they might give better prizes.

Sea Rovers

The next **Sea Rovers Show** will be held the first weekend in March, 2011, at the Ferncroft in Danvers. An email blast has not yet gone out, but the website is updated, and is up to date with the information for the show.

Dave Caldwell still needs to get in touch with the Clubs.

8PM Friday set-up for clubs. Suggested fee for clubs was \$285 by Dec 15, \$300 after. Since many clubs have not yet received registration information, this seems to be likely to be changed. Alternatives for Clubs without cost are being looked at. They are still working out details for exhibitors before they finalize plans for the clubs.

There is a pool at the facility, the Sea Rovers will have use of the pool during the event, and will be offering Discover Scuba during the event.

Set up could possibly be done on Friday, rather than all Saturday. Film night will probably be at the hotel where the facilities will NOT be as good as in the past.

Rooms are available online now. Parking is free, but no public transportation.

Our World Underwater scholarship application period is now open. Age for applicants should be 21-25 yrs.

SBNMS

The mooring idea started with Heather Knowles suggesting a mooring idea that did not involve a buoy on the surface; it is an iron block that boat ties in to by diver, a large trawl buoy at 90 ft. It is a secure place to tie in. It is on the edge of the shipping lane, so there should be plenty of room, but if there is an issue, could be a problem. It is suggested that dive boats broadcast on channel 16 to the freighters that you are setting up diving operations.

Reasons for the submerged mooring are:

- Surface moorings are expensive to maintain.
- There is too much shipping in that area.
- Weather not cooperative for maintaining a surface mooring.

The mooring was installed in mid-July. Daybreaker has used it once; Heather's boat, the Gauntlet, has used it several times. Heather will speak at Sea Rovers about how to use the mooring. There is more information on the Stellwagen Bank website, and brochure. The project was entirely grant-funded.

If it works out well, they will put more moorings out, but there is a funding issue. The block is about \$2100 (cast iron pyramid), but it should be there for a long time.

OCA: Their New Year's Day Dive will be at Fort Wetherill. Other clubs are there too. OCA has a treasure hunt that day. Registration at 11, dive at noon. Dive for scallop shells, trade for raffle prizes. It is a multi club event.

Mass Bay: Note that Pegotty Beach now has non-beach sticker parking for about 4 cars, so phone calls and persistence *has* worked.

SSN: John Blackadar will be speaking at the Boston Scuba show in February about rescue diving. Fred will be giving a plaque.

Oceanarium or Ocean Explorium at New Bedford Seaport: John Blackadar noted that Oceanarium schedule has changed. They had a bowling fundraiser which raised \$11K. They will start up a touch tank soon. This is an education center for kids with aquariums in it,

it is not an aquarium. The centerpiece is the NOAA sphere. Kids are packing in there. Their website is www.oceanexplorium.org.

U853 – The U853 submarine talk was great, lots of attendees. The years have done a number on the wreck, it is not anything like it was years ago. People who were there were at the sinking.

The next BSC meeting is scheduled for 7:30PM on February 9, 2010 in Quincy. (Snow date 2/16/11)