

Bay State Council of Divers

Meeting Minutes for November 30, 2011

Meeting held at the SSN's Clubhouse, Quincy, MA 8-9:30

Attendees:

Paul	Adler	East Coast Divers
John	Blackadar	SSN
Holly	Bourbon	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Jim	Brady	OCA
Angelo	Correnti	SSN / BSC President
Theresa	Czerepica	SSN
Mary	Howard	NSF / BSC Secretary
Chris	Hugo	MetroWest
Matthew	Lawrence	SBNMS
Vin	Malkoski	MA DMF / Boston Sea Rovers
Ted	Maney	Salem State University
Victor	Mastone	MA BUAR
Debra	Osborn	SSN
Mike	Vaughan	MBD

Clubs and organizations represented include:

Boston Sea Rovers
Mass Bay Divers (MBD)
Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources (BUAR)
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fishers (MA DMF)
North Shore Frogmen (NSF)
Old Colony Amphibians (OCA)
Salem State University
South Shore Neptunes (SSN)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)

2011 Bay State Council Treasure Hunt Dive

There were pros and cons heard on the day of the event. There were fewer people at the event, fewer in the water, approximately 40 divers.

Ideas for changes for 2012 event:

Paul suggested there be specific "treasure" items for specific prizes. The 10 best prizes donated could each have a specific bit of "treasure" in the water. That way there is actually something to really search for during the dive. Give out tickets to people who enter the event when they sign up.

Concern is that new divers will not have a chance for the best prizes. There could be an event for new divers only.

Holly suggested that we could use a transect line to keep people from going out too far, rather than trying to stop people. Vin has a lead line that would work well.

Ticket distribution was okay, one per person.

Keep the fee the same for the whole thing. Do not have an extra \$1. \$10 across the board.

Change the object being sought for during the dive so event would cost less.

Having the manufacturers there was good. Set up a few tables and let clubs and manufacturers use them. Manufacturers who get table space would need to donate a prize. All that were there this year did donate good prizes. Informational, no sales allowed. We don't want to turn this into a show.

There should be more information on the Council available. Some participants didn't know what the Council does or why they should support it.

Snorkel event:

Instead of just the trophy, have the first 3 teams get some nice prizes. 2nd & 3rd place teams can take an "improve your breath" course from Nick, a free diver at EC Divers. Have first place team get something nice. Paul will take care of the prize consideration.

Donors:

Victor made a list of the donors in an excel spreadsheet. Not yet on the website. Addresses for some of the donors are missing. John is trying to mail out thank you letters. Don't need to have what the prize was, but do need the address and donor name.

Does anyone have a copy of the photo? John wants the picture to include with an article in a publication. Also send a photo to the donors. Steve Marshall might have a disc.

Jeannine has volunteered to write an article. We need to solve the problem of not publishing an article afterwards, and advertisement before. *Sea Technology*, *Dive Training* and *Northeast Dive News* are all possible places for publication. Next meeting we should all bring a list of publications. That will give us plenty of time to advertise.

Action Items:

- Roy to design the flyer for the 2012 Treasure Hunt; the date can be updated when we decide on when it will be. Include wording "this is a real treasure hunt". We should have a flyer ready to go at Sea Rovers. Need to choose the date at the Feb meeting.
- If you have any other suggestions for changes to the event bring them to the Feb meeting and we can discuss then.
- Bring a list of publications to next meeting for advertising the 2012 Treasure Hunt.

Joint Club Dives:

Angelo would like each club to choose a date and dive site to advertise for their Dive of the Month. Then invite all clubs to include those dives as their dives for that day.

Victor (BUAR) has nominated all the exempt shipwreck sites for inclusion in the National System of Marine Protected Areas, and is developing Management Plans for the exempt sites,

which calls for monitoring. If you go to an exempt site, let them know the condition. They would encourage more visitations. Trouble is that these sites mostly involve boats.

Ted: Adopt a beach, do a cleanup, do some REEF surveys.

Paul: many of the sites we go to have limited parking. Spots have to be picked very carefully for this.

Why should we encourage clubs to dive together? To try to get divers to meet new people, dive in new areas, and promote more diving.

The difference would be the way it is advertised.

Paul: is there a liability issue?

How about a diving social? EC did one at the White Horse, had a big bunch of people. Show up at this bar and talk diving. How about a dive social at the Oceanarium? When there are events, they would be able to have liquor, though a bar across the street might be cheaper.

REEF:

Holly: REEF is trying to get away from the scan forms and trying to enlarge the program. The northwest has a good program that has fish, invertebrates and invasives. This would expand what REEF can do. They are looking for some funding to produce an ID card for our area for invasives, noting the spread of the stuff.

In Caribbean they are doing a huge study regarding the lionfish and their effect on the native fish population.

REEF has worked with many different entities, including NOAA. Ted is working to add invertebrates to the database and add education for the divers.

If a club donates, could get a number of id cards for the club.

John Blackadar might be able to get money from marine industry, send a letter with his business card. Holly needs to get together a business proposal.

REEF has a presentation about the fish count. Holly is doing a presentation at MetroWest at their meeting in February. She could do one for the BSC to give us all an idea of what the presentation is like.

Dive Flag Poster:

Roy is working to update / digitalize the poster so it is more legible. Current plan: Remove the bottom section, wording will be enlarged and cleared up, dive flag will become larger.

Stellwagen:

Dive mooring up on the “unidentified trawler wreck” which is at 105’. The mooring is not on the surface, so you need the numbers to find it. There is a page for comments, fish id.

Commemorating the 113th sinking of the *Portland* at the Irish Mossing museum this weekend.

Marine debris removal project: Matt would like images of the marine debris, like nets and traps, showing the effects on the marine life and the wrecks, to raise awareness. He is hoping for funding; if no funding is available, the project probably won't go forward.

BUAR

Marcie Bilinski's appointment to the Board is up. She is looking for reappointment to the divers seat on the Board and would like a letter from the BSC.

The original plaque commemorating the losses at Minots ledge has been found. Victor will work with the Quincy police and would like to attach the plaque to ledge, rather than to a sinker which could move around.

The North Shore Frogmen's Club are having New year's day dive at White Beach in Manchester. Open invitation to come dive with us.

Next BSC meeting:

The next BSC meeting is scheduled to be held in Quincy at 7:30PM on February 8, 2012. (Sea Rovers is the 10th and 11th of March.)