

S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Oct. 2015

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General Meeting Minutes

By Ryan Jones

Present: Josh Carney, Andy Dennis, Dave Foley, John Guegold, Ryan Jones, Gerry Kubastka, Steve Locsey, Glenn Mitchell, Steve Ranft, Mag Ranft, Laurel Sheppard,
Special Guests: Patrick Enlow from M.A.S.T. and Rachel Kayla—WELCOME!!

Treasurer's Report

\$6,093.54

Member Raffle

Not held

50/50

Gerry Kubastka won \$15.50, a good night at the club, and donated his winnings back to the club. Thanks, Gerry! :-)

Evening Program

Patrick discussed the significance of M.A.S.T. in preserving the shipwrecks of Lake Erie. From surveying the shipwrecks themselves, to researching the origins of these scuttled vessels, M.A.S.T. works to ensure that the nautical history at the bottom of the lake is documented and preserved. The group has placed moorings at several wreck sites throughout Lake Erie so that divers can visit these sites without having to drop anchor, which can severely damage the wrecks. The buoys attached to the mooring provide information such as the name of the wreck (if known), latitude and longitude coordinates, the dimensions of the wreck site, depth, the type of ship, and the cause of its sinking. M.A.S.T. uses not only the exploration of these wrecks to gather information, but also the historic accounts

captured in newspapers and books. M.A.S.T., along with its affiliates and committed volunteers, continues to shed light on the forgotten history lying in the shallow depths of Lake Erie.

Announcements

1. HELP!!!!The club needs volunteers to help with running program events, develop program scheduling, and edit and publish the newsletter.

2. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2015 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00. *The club must have your 2016 dues in hand on or before Nov 5, 2015, to be eligible to vote for officers at the Nov 5 meeting!*

3. Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof—and extra patches for \$2.00 each while they last.

4. Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook forum by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy Dennis.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2015

Oct

- 1 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Club officer nominations. Program: Laurel Sheppard on Diving Roatan
- 15 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Nov

- 5 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Elections & video (TBA)
- 14 Annual banquet: Shade of Muirfiled (formerly known as Mary Kelly's) in Dublin. Details TBA

Dec

- 3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Awards presentations & video
- TBA Exec Meeting
- 31/Jan1 8th NYs Eve Dive-in & Celebration @ C'ville

Executive Meeting

Present: Ryan, Steve, Mag, Don, Glenn

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- Discussed contingency plans for next year's Club functions in case Todd loses the Twin Qs at the forthcoming auction.
- Discussed nominations for club officers at the October meeting.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to
<newsletter@seanags.com>

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Spasms

None reported

Oral Reports

Written Report

Diving Tobermory (Ont., CAN)

Story & photos by Steve Locsey

On Thursday, Sept 10th, Debi and I set off for the Great North, AKA Tobermory, Canada, where I was to join the gang at Divers Den for some crystal clear Great Lakes wrecks.



I have known about this destination ever since my open water training from Terry Wooten, back in 2005. Seeing that there are National Parks all along the Bruce

Peninsula, which juts out into the middle of Lake Huron, I felt this would be a fun trip for both of us. We were not disappointed, to say the least. And with an unhurried drive up, skirting Lake Huron most of the way, it didn't seem very far at all, as we arrived with some daylight left to get a glimpse of the small shore town itself.



Next morning I got to know the dive shop, Captain John, and some Canadian and English divers aboard the dive boat, and we were on our way to the wreck of the Niagara II. It's an intentional wreck 98ft deep that came from England, built in 1930, sunk in 1998.



Bow of the Niagara II

It's upright and in nearly new condition, with a lot of deck features and penetrations

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suitable for all dive skills. Water temps were surprisingly warm for all dives, the lowest being 52 degrees in this, the deepest of the four dives of the weekend.

We dove three more wrecks, a steamer and two wooden schooners. It was windy the second day, which really posed no problem, since there are some wrecks in the harbors, away from the waves. One of these was the Sweepstakes, AKA The Poster Child of Tobermory. Unbelievably, this schooner is in only 15 feet of water,

harbor, we had calm, flat water, and only a light breeze.



Diver at prop of Carolina Rose

While not diving, many land and above water activities are available, such as a trip to Flowerpot Island on a glass bottom boat.



Sweepstakes windlass



Diver & anchor of the Wetmore

in impeccable condition, with visibility of thirty feet, and temperatures of nearly seventy degrees! Winds on the open lake were twenty-five knots, but in this natural



Glass bottom boat livery

This is an excellent way for a non-diver or even non-swimmer to see these wonderful shipwrecks, and also see the island and hike some trails. [The island is] wildly popular, due to its namesake rock formations. Two sea stacks are seen as you approach, which resemble flowerpots. There is also a hike in the National Park along the shore through dense pine forests to a site called The Grotto, which is a shore-side cave that can be explored both walking and diving. This is best planned as summer trip, when all the shops and restaurants are open for your enjoyment.

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We felt there were plenty of places to patronize for a three-day trip. I could easily return several times and not exhaust the dive possibilities.

Sept. 12 Club Dive & Cookout - Circleville

Present: Mitchell, Don Ellerbrock, Gerry Kubatska, Dave Foley, Ryan and Karla Jones.

Story by Ryan Jones

We entered the water in two separate groups around 4:45 for a roughly 45 minute dive. Upon exit we proceeded to shed our gear and get ready for the goodies that Mag had set up for us while we were submerged. We all served ourselves and watched as James Cameron made his solo descent to Challenger Deep in, *James Cameron's Deep Sea Challenge*.



Photo by Glenn

After the movie, Gerry, Dave, and I suited up for an early night dive. We headed to the bathtub and then turned south. Visibility was surprisingly decent along the east side of the quarry and not pea soup on the west. We ended the dive after about 35 minutes and the battery going dead in my dive light. Vis throughout the dives ranged from 7 to almost 20 feet in spots with water temperatures in the mid 70's.

RJ

New England Diving - Sept 20 and 26.

I finally got it together and made my first dives in New England since arriving August 5. At the South Shore Neptunes meeting I learned of the Annual Bay State Divers (Ohio Council counterpart) Treasure Hunt fundraiser. Fifteen dollars purchases registration and all you can eat post-dive BBQ. Prizes range from new gear to bag tags. Held at Stage Fort State Park on the outskirts of Gloucester, all of the diving takes place in a lovely little cove adjacent of the harbor and Annisquam River out flow.



Mike Vaughn, SS Neptunes VP, registering

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Laying out the gear



Dive beach



Divers setting up



Peter Ninh (SSN) assembling tank, reg., & BC

As you can see from the dive beach walkway in the foreground, it's a long walk down to the dive spot from the hill up above. Fortunately, we were allowed to drive our cars near the long walkway to unload our gear, which made the trek to the beach tolerable for those of us far removed from our teenage years.

We dove for colored golf balls and quarried marble tailings in about 3 – 10' of water (67°, 45 min). I found two prize worthy marbles from last year's event but nothing of prize-worthy value for this one in 2015., except for a lot of fun diving!

Dive 2, a the Annual New England Aquarium-Sponsored Fish Round Up was held at a small cove at Fort Wetherill State Park in Newport, Rhode Island (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4m0O4ljvn6A>). Each year the Aquarium takes advantage of the Gulf Current, which brings warm water and tropical fish all the way to New England, to supplement its collection. This year, the aquatic museum was hoping we could help it collect these four species:

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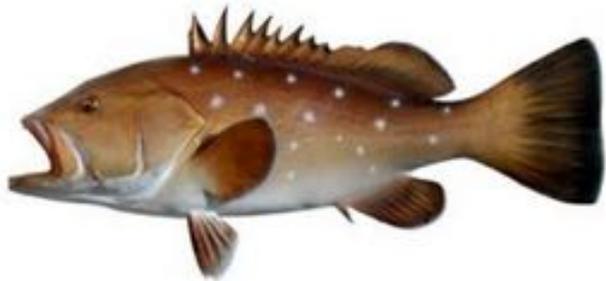
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Banded butterfly fish



Yellow cowfish



Snowy grouper



Short Big-Eyed fish

Mike Vaughn (See photo above) and I teamed up to hunt for the elusive ones and were the only dive team to find and capture ANY tropicals at the event.



Surface swimming out to the site

Together, we spotted 5-6 butterfly fish and (he) captured (I bagged in plastic Ziplocs) three common ones (66°, 85 min, max depth 24').



Mike holding up bagged butterfly fish

During the dive, I was able to spot some beautiful sea lettuce. Salad anyone?



And toward the end of the dive on our way back to dry land, we ran across a baby sea robin.



Mike spotted a small school of squid, we both saw myriad schools of slivery baitfish, and a kid seined a pipefish and squid close to shore. Also, a few common starfish were collected by others. It was a nice leisurely dive, punctuated by a cookout afterwards, enjoyed by all on a lovely fall Saturday.



Environmental News

Cashes Ledge

(Ed. Note: Cashes Ledge is a fishery area some 80 NM east of the Boston area that has been off limits to any type of fishing for the past 10 years. It has recovered to the point where commercial and sport fishermen are chomping at the bit to reopen the grounds. I have included article on the following pages that describes the entire situation.)

By Jeannine Willis, Editor, Neptunes Sounding Newsletter, 9/13/2015

Here's an excerpt from a letter that sums up the on going efforts [regarding] Cashes Ledge:

"The [Obama} Administration has indicated that it will consider permanent protection of New England's Coral Canyons and Seamounts. But Cashes Ledge is at risk of being left out. Your support is needed now more than ever.

The Cashes Ledge area provides refuge for hundreds of marine species, many of which are rare and unique, and is critical to the vibrancy of our costal communities. Under perpetual threat from human impacts, such as climate change, industrial exploitation and fishing, Cashes Ledge is a jewel that needs full protection right now.

If you have not yet done so, please sign our petition asking the President to designate Marine National Monuments for the Cashes Ledge Area and the Coral Canyons and Seamounts.

Thank you so much for your support in this critical time.

Peter Shelley, Senior Counsel
Conservation Law Foundation
<http://www.clf.org/cahses-ledge/>

Follow the efforts of the Conservation Law Foundation on energy, climate and habitat:
<http://www.clf.org/blog/clean-energy-climate-change/governor-bakers-rollback-on-environmental-progress/>

Log Book

Mysterious Blue Hole draws visitors to eastern New Mexico



ANTA ROSA, N.M. (AP) — In an otherwise arid stretch of eastern New Mexico is a seemingly bottomless, deep blue swimming hole that has built up quite a reputation.

Local legend has it that outlaw Billy the Kid would take a dip in the Blue Hole before heading into Santa Rosa. Weary railroad workers and passengers followed at the turn

of the century, and then came the flood of travelers along historic Route 66.



The artesian spring, tucked into a rock outcropping just off the highway, pumps out some 3,000 gallons (11,000 liters) of water per minute. That's enough to fill a standard swimming pool in short order so it's no wonder that the steady flow results in crystal clear conditions that have attracted divers from around the world.

Then there's the consistently cool temperature and the depth.

The bell-shaped spring gets wider as it gets deeper. At the bottom, about 80 feet (24 meters) down, there's a metal grate to keeps divers from going any farther into the maze of caves that sits below it.

The cave system has been sealed off since 1976, when two divers in training died after getting separated from their classmates. New Mexico State Police divers quickly found one of the bodies but it took several weeks to find the other. In the process, police divers were able to make a crude map of some of the unexplored passageways.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/mysterious-blue-hole-draws-visitors-eastern-mexico-161849885.html>

Parting Thoughts and Shots



NEW ENGLAND'S OCEAN TREASURES

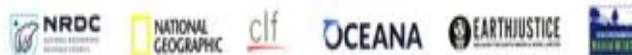
PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR NEW ENGLAND'S OFFSHORE TREASURES

Two of the nation's most spectacular ocean areas lie off New England shores: Cashes Lodge and the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts. The two areas serve as vital refuges for a staggering diversity of ocean wildlife and habitats, including delicate and ancient coldwater coral gardens, sea kelp forests, whales, dolphins, sea turtles, seabirds, and fish. The health of these areas is also important to the tourism, recreation, and other sectors of the New England economy that depend on abundant fish and wildlife. Although largely pristine currently, the Canyons and Seamounts area and Cashes Lodge are highly vulnerable to long-term harm from commercial fishing, oil and gas exploration, and other resource extraction activities. Hundreds of thousands of scientists, educators, business owners, boaters, surfers, beachgoers, and members of faith-based organizations—along with the region's leading aquaria and conservation organizations, representing millions more people—support permanent protection of these areas. We have an historic opportunity to forever protect these unique biodiversity hot spots.

WHY PERMANENT PROTECTION?

A combination of partial fishing restrictions and natural protective features has kept these special ocean places remarkably free from human disturbance to date. But the push to fish, drill, and mine in more and more places puts these fragile habitats at risk. Permanent protection of these offshore marine jewels from all commercial extractive activity will preserve them as thriving biodiversity hot spots and living marine laboratories for years to come. Such protection can also build resilience against the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

America has a long tradition of protecting our remarkable natural heritage and biological bounty. In contrast to our public lands and the Pacific Ocean, where very large areas have been protected, no fully-protected areas from commercial extraction exist in the U.S. Atlantic. Now is the time to right the balance, and safeguard these marine treasures to avoid irreversible damage to remarkable ecosystems.



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NEW ENGLAND'S OCEAN TREASURES 1407



Sea Stars



North Atlantic Right Whale



Parasitic Slug Sea Slug

CASHES LEDGE CLOSED AREA

The Cashes Ledge Area, located in the Gulf of Maine about 80 miles southeast of Portland, Maine, is a unique underwater mountain range with a virtual treasure trove of marine life living among its peaks and valleys. The steep ridge rises from basins hundreds of feet deep to a ledge that comes within 40 feet of the surface. The ledge's peak, known as Ammon Rock, punctures the ocean current. This results in a unique environment where nutrient- and oxygen-rich water mix, resulting in ideal conditions for marine life. Along the peaks and ridges of Ammon Rock grows the deepest and largest cold-water kelp forest on the Atlantic seaboard. This lush kelp provides superb habitat and serves as a food source for the vast array of ocean wildlife.

The diverse seafloor habitat of Cashes Ledge ranges from the rocky outcroppings of Ammon Rock to deep nutrient-enriched mud basins, to the fertile plateaus of Fippessies Ledge to the west. The diverse habitats of Cashes Ledge provide a place of refuge and restoration for iconic New England fish such as cod and pollock and rare species like the Atlantic wolffish. Migrating schools of bluefin tuna, sea turtles, blue and bonnet sharks are common at Cashes Ledge. Cashes Ledge is a regular seasonal habitat for a variety of whales and is located at the northwestern edge of the likely winter breeding ground for the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Cashes Ledge is important not only to marine life but also to scientists hoping to learn about the health and function of New England's oceans—many scientists believe that Cashes Ledge represents the best remaining example of an undisturbed Gulf of Maine ecosystem. As a result, scientists have used Cashes Ledge as an underwater laboratory for decades.

NEW ENGLAND CORAL CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS ARE

Approximately 150 miles southeast of Cape Cod, where the continental shelf drops into the pitch black abyss of the deep Atlantic Ocean, five massive underwater canyons plunge thousands of feet, some deeper than the Grand Canyon. Just beyond the canyons, four underwater mountains (or "seamounts")—the ones in U.S. Atlantic waters—rise as high as 7,000 feet above ocean floor, higher than any mountain east of the Rockies.

The walls of the canyons (Oceanographer, Gilbert, Lydonia, Nygren, and Hercules) and the slopes and summits of the seamounts (Bear, Physalis, Mytilus, and Retriever) are alive with vivid cold-water corals of otherworldly beauty—some 1 size of small trees and taking centuries to grow. These coral communities form the foundation of deep-sea ecosystems, providing food, spawning habitat, and shelter for an array of and invertebrate species.

The waters above the canyons and seamounts teem with life marine life. More than 320 marine species have been identified in the region's canyons and another 620 on the seamounts, with additional species discovered and described with each exploration. Upwellings of deep, cold water bring nutrients (plankton and schools of squid and forage fish, like mackerel.) concentration, in turn, attracts tuna, billfish, sharks, crab and marine mammals, such as endangered sperm whales and North Atlantic right whale, the rarest of the North Atlantic's baleen whales.

In recent years, research expeditions to these ocean oases have uncovered new and rare species, yielded new understanding about ecological relationships and the biological diversity in canyons and on the seamounts, and fueled new appreciation the uniqueness of these deep-sea ecosystems.



Blue Shark



North Atlantic Right Whale



Squid



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AD Rates

S'Nag-A-News monthly advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card \$4.00
1/4 Page \$10.00
1/2 Page \$20.00
Full Page \$30.00

Club members receive a 10% discount on advertising rates. Non-members receive a 10% discount for three months paid in advance.



NEXT MEETING: 7:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Oct.1 2015. Program: Laurel Sheppard, Diving Roatan; Club Officer Nominations

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