

S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

Dec. 2013

In This Issue

General Meeting Minutes	p. 1
Calendar	p. 2
Executive Meeting Highlights	p. 2
Dive Reports	p. 2
Environmental News	p. 2
Log Book	p. 4
Parting Shots & Thought	p. 7

General Meeting Minutes

Present: Adam Biehl, Andrea Caito, Josh Carney, Jeff Dye, Donn Ellerbrock, John Guegold, Glenn Mitchell, Maggie and Steve Ranft, Rob Robison, Jim Wickline, Terry and Joan Wooten, Tom Zelanin

50/50

Donn took home the \$13.50 pot. Evidently there is some reward for running the club's elections.

Member Raffle

Not held

Announcements

- 1. Annual Club (\$20) and Ohio Council (\$9) dues will be collected at the November meeting.**
- We decided to **order full-zippered black sweatshirt hoodies** with screened white club logo on the front at the October and **November** meetings. Cost = \$32 S – XL; \$35 - 2X & 3X. The club will pay for any increase in cost beyond these figures.
- Treasurer's report:**

Checking	\$6160.56
Cash	62.46
Total.	\$6,223.02

4. ELECTION RESULTSS

Nominations for club officers took place at the September Exec Meeting and the October 6 General Meeting. Voting took place at the November 7 General Meeting, held at Planks at 8:00 PM, Columbus, OH 43235. Results were announced on Saturday Nov. 9 at the Annual Banquet. Here are the results:

2014 Club Officers

President: Marty Bailey

VP: Danny/Yung Holt

Secretary: Josh Carney

Treasurer: Glenn Mitchell

Rookie/New Diver of the Year: Ryan Jones

Spasm Award: Rob, who forgot his dry suit (Mar newsletter)

Wasserman Award No nominees.

5. The **Annual Banquet was held at The Old Bag of Nails Pub in Hilliard, OH.** Fifteen of us were on hand to feast and enjoy a video of one of Donn E's trips to Palau, plus vie for dive passes and air cards, as well as a t-shirt and brief case, donated by TQ. Thanks Todd and Joey!



Bellying up to the bar!



Andrea Caito, Steve & Maggie Ranft digging in.

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Dec. 2013

See more banquet photos in Parting Thoughts and Shots (p.7).

6. **The Christmas Party** will be held at 7 PM Saturday Dec 7, at **Rick and Michelle Thomas's home**. There will be plenty of food and soft drinks on hand. **BYOB**. Rick & Michelle live at **6011 Hathaway Ave, Dublin 43016 (614-717-9503; 614-374-1864; e-mail: DIVCHIK@columbus.rr.com)**

7. **The club's New Year's Eve dive** will be made at **CTQ Tuesday night, 12/31/13-1/1/14**. Brent Bautista, Rick Blaine, Steve Locsey, John Skobel, Rob, and...?? will take the plunge around 11:30-11:45 PM and emerge after midnight down at C'ville. We'll have a fire pit, burgers, sauerkraut, & more!. The only cost is the Quarry entrance fee of \$12.00. Let Rob know if you are diving and dining with us no later than Dec 30.

Additional Announcements

1. 2014 Club membership dues are \$20.00. 2014 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.
2. 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.
3. 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

2013

Dec

- 5 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Laurel Sheppard on Scandinavian museum & Viking wrecks.
- 7 Annual Christmas Party @ **Rick & Michelle Williams' house**. Details above under Announcement # 6
- 31 7th Annual New Year's Eve Dive-In @Circleville Twin Q See Announcement # 7 above

Program: Special thanks to **Tom Zelanin** with a delightful video on his and Rebecca's recent dive trip to Roatan.

Executive Meeting Highlights

Thurs Nov 22 at Rob's house: Andrea Caito, Donn Ellerbrock, Glenn Mitchell, Rob

1. Confirmed election results
2. Planned Dec meeting
3. Discussed awards and hoodies – black, not gray.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

[<newsletter@seanags.com>](mailto:newsletter@seanags.com)

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Spasms

None reported

Written

Circleville

The Tuesday night divers finished the season in 49 degree water with 20 – 25' vis at Circleville on Nov 20. Although bluegill and related pan fish were still plentiful, the catfish seemed to have disappeared. Thanks to Steve King and Cleeve Bartley who continued to dive with me. It was a good year.

Environmental News

Florida's coral reefs make a comeback

November 6, 2013 | William E. Gibson, Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — South Florida's coral reefs, a natural wonder worth more than \$6 billion to the local economy, appear to be rebounding after decades of damage, disease and deterioration.

The iconic reefs, which attract divers, boaters, marine scientists and fishermen from

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around the world, have been spared in recent years from major storms and ship groundings, allowing them to survive and even grow offshore.

A federal study released this month brought more good news: Coral reefs may be able to adapt to warmer sea temperatures. That's a sign they can withstand a limited degree of gradual global warming — but only if carbon emissions are restrained to prevent unhealthy extremes.

The findings raise hope for the survival of the recreational and economic resource, just as scientists and officials gather in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday and Friday for the fifth annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit. They will assess the costs and challenges of sea-level rise and global warming.

Florida — a low-lying state just above sea level and home to 84 percent of the nation's reef ecosystems — is a perfect setting to examine the progress and problems of conservation.

"We haven't had a large crash in the population of corals. And we have seen some good signs that the endangered species — stag horn coral — continues to be abundant and may even be increasing in abundance in some places," said Richard Dodge, executive director of the National Coral Reef Institute at Nova Southeastern University. "So that's the good news.



"The bad news is: There are still some coral

diseases out there. We still worry about bleaching, which appears to be caused by warmer water temperatures. But we are lucky in South Florida to avoid a lot of hurricanes and tropical storms lately. Those storms can wreak havoc on the reef."



The reef rebound also has been helped by improved sewage systems, which prevent polluted water from seeping into the ocean. Greater public awareness prompted boaters to avoid dropping anchors on the fragile reef. And a decision to move ship anchorages farther offshore from Port Everglades prevented damaging groundings.

Conservationists say the reefs also will benefit from Everglades restoration projects designed to filter out pollutants rather than channel fertilizer-laden water out to sea.

"People are aware they need to take better care of our coral reefs to help get them through what no doubt will be a stressful time, as the climate continues to change," said Chris Bergh, South Florida conservation director for The Nature Conservancy.

"We have hit bottom and are ever so slowly seeing some recovery," he said. "There are a lot of big and expensive things that still need to be done, and I guess the most expensive of all is getting a handle on the root causes of climate change, which are essentially

greenhouse gas emissions."

A study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, using computer modeling, found indications that corals are able to adapt to gradually warming water temperatures, but not if carbon dioxide emissions push temperatures to extreme levels.

"It points to some hope, especially if emissions could be kept low," Dodge said.

To help restore damaged reefs, scientists at the National Coral Reef Institute in Dania Beach are growing baby corals in indoor nurseries and transplanting them offshore. Similar transplants are replenishing reefs along the Florida Keys.

Palm Beach and Martin counties are what Dodge calls "the tree line" of coral reefs, meaning they are the northernmost limit of a semi-tropical ecosystem that supports a bounty of marine life.



The barrier reefs were formed over thousands of years when free-swimming coral larvae attached to submerged ridges in warm, shallow waters along the continental shelf. They cannot thrive in murky water because suspended sediments smother them, impair their feeding and deprive them of light.

The struggle to preserve them has turned into an economic as well as an environmental mission because of their impact on recreation and tourism.

Studies in 2000 and 2004 found that reefs along the southeast Florida coast generated \$6 billion of economic activity and supported 71,000 jobs.

"It's probably a lot more than that by now," said Jeff Torode, owner of the South Florida Diving Headquarters in Pompano Beach.

"Without reefs, you don't have fish. Without fish, you don't have divers, you don't have snorkelers and you don't have something to protect those shorelines. For me to be in business, it's in my best interest to protect the coral reefs."

Though eclipsed by other attractions, the reefs are a draw to tourists and their spending money.

"There's no doubt that if we destroy those beautiful reefs, there will be some significant economic impact," said Abraham Pizam, director of the Institute for Tourism Studies at the University of Central Florida. "It's not the magnitude of those man-made attractions that we have in Florida. But nevertheless, it's an important element that should be preserved for generations to come."

For South Florida promoters, the reefs are among the region's biggest attractions.

"It is a very marketable identity when you can say to someone that we are the home of a strong coral reef community," said Nicki Grossman, president of the Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Dive boats have certainly taken advantage of our proximity. And it is a badge of honor to be a steward for reef systems offshore in greater Fort Lauderdale."

Source: http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2013-11-06/news/fl-coral-reef-impact-20131106_1_coral-reefs-coral-diseases-chris-bergh

Log Book

Buried at sea for 500 years: *The impeccable treasure now up for sale*

A BOUNTY of 16th century treasure

discovered in a 500-year-old shipwreck is set to sell for £200,000 at auction



Specialist divers spent two years extracting the perfectly preserved pewter plates and bowls from beneath the waves of the Caribbean.

Now more than 1,200 items of the finest quality English pewter will go on sale in the UK later this month.

The haul was recovered from the wreck of an unnamed galleon, which is thought to have sunk around 1540.

They have been so well preserved in the seabed that they are said to be as historically valuable as those raised from the wreck of the Mary Rose.

It is believed the ship was transporting the incoming Spanish ambassador from Seville to his new colonial home on the island of Hispaniola, now the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Onboard were thousands of pieces of top quality dining crockery.

But disaster struck when the ship sunk after hitting rocks. The ambassador survived but his possessions could not be rescued and went down with the ship.



The wreck was only discovered in 2011 and the excavation process is still ongoing. The majority of the pieces will stay in the Dominican Republic but around 200 have made it back to Britain and will now go under the hammer in Doncaster.

The salvage team had to chisel through several inches of rock to uncover the stunning artifacts. Some pieces are said to be in as good a condition as when they were made.

Around a third of the pewter bears the mark of Sir Thomas Curtis, regarded as the most important London pewterer of the 16th Century.

Sir Thomas was Mayor of London in 1557 and his mark also appears on much of the pewter from the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's flagship, lost in the Solent in 1545.

The collection is tipped to fetch £200,000 when it goes under the hammer.

Among the highlights are a pair of 16-inch plates made by London pewterer Edward Cacher worth £15,000.

A pair of octagonal plates made by Sir Thomas could fetch £5,000.



The mark of Sir Thomas Curtis - London's top pewterer in the 1600s. [BNPS]



A brass bucket - part of the haul that could fetch £200,000 at auction [BNPS]

Yorkshire-based Wilkinson's Auctioneers has been chosen to sell the treasure trove due to its reputation for dealing in pewter.

Auctioneer Sid Wilkinson said: "The story behind these items is fantastic.

"In 2011 the wreck of a Tudor ship was discovered off Punta Cana, the easternmost point of Hispaniola, an island in the Dominican Republic.

"Divers found, to their amazement, hundreds of items of pewter tableware buried within the wreckage and incredibly many of them had been perfectly preserved.

"They spent the next two years excavating items from the shipwreck and found more than 1,200 items.

"It turned out the ship had been transporting the new Spanish ambassador to the island, which at the time was a Spanish colony.

"The pewter was of the finest quality, much of it made in England, and was destined for his mansion.

"The story goes that when the ship went down, the ambassador was the only one to survive but he had to swim to shore leaving behind his treasures.

"These items are as good if not better than the pewter found in the wreck of the Mary Rose.

"The majority of the pewter will stay in the Dominican Republic but around 200 items have come to us and will be sold in 85 lots.

"Some of the pieces are in remarkable condition given that they're 500 years old.

"It is a very significant and exciting find."

The pewter trove will be sold at Wilkinson's in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, on November 24.

Source: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/441088/Buried-at-sea-for-500-years-The-impeccable-treasure-now-up-for-sale>

Clam confirmed as the world's oldest creature at 507 - but scientists killed it when checking its age

13 Nov 2013 17:01
The mollusc nicknamed 'Ming' was previously believed to be 'only' 405 years old after researchers messed up ring count

A clam has been hailed as the world's oldest

creature at 507 years old after researchers sent to verify its age KILLED it. Christened Ming, it was found by climate change experts from Bangor University in north Wales on a trip dredging the sea beds of Iceland in 2006.

After the discovery, scientists counted the rings on the inside shell to work out Ming had been a wise old 405.



Ancient Ming

Unfortunately researchers who calculated Ming's age killed it instantly by opening its shell.

But now, seven years on, new calculations show the original age was wrong, and the clam was actually 102 years OLDER.

It means Ming, named after the Chinese dynasty, was born in 1499.

Ocean scientist Paul Butler from Bangor University said: "We got it wrong the first time and maybe we were a bit hasty publishing our findings back then.

"But we are absolutely certain that we've got the right age now.

"The nice thing about these shells is that they have distinct annual growth lines, so we can accurately date the shell material.

"That's just the same as what archaeologists do when they use tree rings in dead wood to work out the dates of old buildings."

The discovery of Ming was so eye-opening

that Help The Aged offered a £40,000 grant to the team to investigate how the mollusc, born when Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne, has survived over the centuries.

Before Ming came along, the unofficial record for the world's oldest animal was held by a 374-year-old Icelandic clam in a German museum.

The clam only grows in summer when the water is warm and it feasts on plankton, each year growing a layer as thin as 0.1 millimeter.

Source: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/ming-clam-confirmed-bangor-university-2788505>

Parting Shots and Thought



Karla & Ryan Jones



Carol Robison & Ryan



Debbie and Steve Locsey



Chinese Fighting Fish

*Happy Holidays,
everyone!*

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NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Dec 5, 2013. Program: Laurel Sheppard on Scandinavian museum & Viking wrecks.

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