

S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

June 2015

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General Meeting Minutes

By Laurel Sheppard

Present: Andy Dennis, Glenn Mitchell, Marty Bailey, John Guegold, Rick Blaine, Laurel Sheppard, Adam Biehl, Gerry Kubatska, Dave Foley, Bob Bailey, Donn Ellerbrock, Meg and Steve Ranft.

Announcements

1. **Steve** is still promoting the club at Underwater Connection. Schedules and newsletters are passed out every month. Two more people may be interested in joining.
2. Don't miss the June 4 meeting with the Franklin County Sheriff Department's Dive Recovery Team. They will be bringing their 30-foot long dive truck with state-of-the-art equipment. Invite friends and relatives so we have a good turnout.
3. Sept. 11-13 Port Sanilac dive trip or twilight dive at Circleville on Sept. 12
4. 2015 Club membership dues are \$20.00, \$30 for husband/wife. Please note 2016 club dues will increase to \$30 for individuals and \$40 for husband/wife. 2015 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

5. **Marty** mentioned **two possible dive trips** he may be taking: **June 27** to the *Bonne Terre Mine in Missouri* for their treasure hunt and **Sept. 25-27** to Texas to dive the *missile silo*. **Contact Marty** for details if interested.

6. Bonaire trip: See previous newsletters.

7. Tuesday afternoon/evening dives are back in progress at Circleville. Contact Rob if interested.

8. 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.

9. 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.

Treasurer's Report

\$5,994.54 total

Member Raffle

50/50 (AKA The Pot of Gold)

A total of \$32 was made; Dave Foley won the raffle but gave his share back to the club. Thank you Dave!

Evening Program

The members in attendance enjoyed the **Ranfts'** program **on Barbados**, which is the only limestone island in the Caribbean and is near the equator. The island is about 21 by 14 miles in size and most of the dive sites are off the west coast; the east coast is famous for surfing with a world competition in September.

The Ranfts completed six dives in three days. Depths ranged from 45 to 80 feet, with a Greek freighter at 130 feet with vis. up to 100 feet. Although the coral wasn't very colorful, they saw lots of blue chromis, eels, lionfish (they are good to eat, especially the smaller

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ones), turtles, seahorses and lizardfish. Air temperature was around 85°F and water temperature was around 80°F.



<http://thediveshopbarbados.com>

Other activities included turf horse races, polo, George Washington House, and several caves right on the coast. They dove out of Spice Town and stayed at South Gap, with a hotel at \$150 per night complete with kitchen, along with other shops and restaurants. Steve and Meg said they had a great time and would go back.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2015

- Jun**
- 4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Columbus Police Recovery Dive Team (Steve)
 - 18 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
 - 20 Twilight dive /cookout, & movie: *Sanctum*, Circleville (Ryan Jones)
- Jul**
- 2 TBA Social @ Planks, 7:00 PM. No Program!
 - 16 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
 - 18-19 Weekend Nat'l Museum of the Great Lakes \$12 adults, \$11 seniors & kids: (www.inlandseas.org) (Toledo) & White Star overnight twilight dive & movie, *The Abyss*. See <http://whitestarquarry.com/fees.html> for dive & camping fees
- Aug**
- 6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: *Minnedosa* (Wreck of the) video or DAN video
 - 20 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
 - 22 7th annual corn roast, gear swap, twilight dive, & movie, *Into the Blue* (Circleville: Glenn, Steve, Ryan)
- Sep**
- 3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: MAST Update by Patrick Enlow
 - 11-13 Port Sanilac (L. Huron) weekend dive trip or
 - 12 Twilight dive cookout & movie (Sea Hunt episodes)

- Oct**
- 17 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
 - 1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Club officer nominations Sea Grant (Lake Erie) Update or or Battelle commercial diver (TBA)
 - 15 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Nov**
- 5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Election & video (TBA)
 - 7 or 14 Annual banquet: TBA
 - TBA Exec Meeting
- 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 Highlights

May 21 7PM @Planks. Present: Donn Ellerbrock, Glenn Mitchell, Mag & Steve Ranft.

- Confirmed Police recovery team for June 4 Meeting; June 20 twilight dive, cookout, and movie—Sanctum--@ C'ville Twin Q. Details at General Meeting June 4 & follow-up email.

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

newsletter@seanags.com

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Spasms

Oral Reports

Andy Dennis, Karen, and Jordan went on a Blackbeard cruise in the Bahamas, where they did up to four dives per day. Because of the winter weather, their original flight got canceled so they had to fly to Toronto, Canada first. Despite that, they still managed to have a good time.

Written Reports

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Lancaster – 2015 Club Dive # 1

Story by Rob; photos by Karla Jones & Rob

This year's first club dive and cook out was held at 10 AM at Lancaster on a beautiful sunny day. Divers included **Marty Bailey, Ryan Jones, Steve Locsey, Rob Robison and John Skobel**. Our presidential couple, **Steve and Mag Ranft, along with spouses Karla Jones and Debbie Wamsely**, showed up as well to be sure the post dive grill was up to snuff.



John Skobel ready to dive into it



Steve Ranft lending Rob a helping hand



L – R: Marty, John S, Rob, & Steve Locsey

John and I hit the water first to cool off from the morning sun, followed by Ryan, who quickly caught up with us just past the cabin cruiser on the way to the twin Beech. Vis was murky above the thermocline and even cloudier below. Water temps ranged from 47–49° below the thermocline, depending on the depth and location, to 51-52° above it. Same with the vis. All of us wore dry suits and were quite comfortable. In 7mm or thicker wet suits diving would have been tolerable for a one tanker but miserable on dive #2. Except for in the very shallow water, John and I saw virtually no fish life until the very end of the dive. Steve claimed to have found large catfish. How he could see it in the murk is beyond me.



Semblance of fish life in the shallows

John Skobel discovered Jack the Twin Beech pilot's skull had somehow migrated to the Frito-Lay truck. I wondered where Jack had wandered off to (Sorry, no photo to confirm his partial migration).

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John entering the conduit (above), where the best vis could be found, and in F-L truck cab (below)



Much to our happy surprise, Mag and Steve had set up our mini grill event under the pavilion by the time the dive was over. We were hungry, the "dogs" were ready, and we all spent a lovely time picnicking and shooting the breeze together while enjoying the noontime sun and shade.



Steve, Ryan, Karla Mag & John



Steve Ranft and Ryan Jones



Mag Ranft and Marty



Steve Locsey and Mag Ranft
For those of you who were unable to attend

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this event, not to worry. Our next one promises to be even better: a twilight dive, cookout, movie (*Sanctum*), and a possible post-movie night dive for those who can stay out late, on Saturday June 20th at Circleville's Twin Qs. Splash time TBA. Stay tuned for more info. Dive into it everyone. The water's fine!

Rob

Northern Ohio: (Photos by Marty & Maggie) On Friday, Maggie and I drove up to the Winkels' for a visit, and I also brought my side mount gear to do a little underwater work in their basement (the old Crystal Rock Cave). We arrived about 1:30 and Jim & Dian were showing their properties to a family who hope to buy the hall to put in a high performance engine parts business. As luck would have it they also took a tour of the house and cave, and were more than happy to carry my gear into the cave. The father was an ex -Navy Seal and he was very interested in what I was doing.

We chatted as I prepped my gear and laid out my dive plan. I had a little setback as I lost an O-ring somewhere in the transport of my regulator in the cave, and had to make another trip back to the truck for my spare parts kit. After all my gear was checked and placed in the water, I then got in my wetsuit, put on my side mount harness, and crawled over the wall down to the water.



My first job was to place the line with the intake/flapper valve in the water. We decided to put it in a place where it would be easier to maintain, but it required rerouting it around the old well casing. After that was in place I attached both tanks and headed into the cave in the middle entrance. A quick turn to the right and I was in the east room. I had brought six 5lb weights attached to ropes to use to corral the intake and outtake lines for the heat exchangers, but needed to use one to help set the new valve in position.

I first positioned the valve inside the coils of the first heat exchanger and then tied off the line to the top coil. My next job was looping the rope/weight around the intake lines. I would pull the weight through the loop of rope securing it to one of the lines, and then I would gather two more lines and wind the loop around them. I was very happy when I saw that 5lbs was enough to hold the lines in place. I swam around installing the weights in what I thought were strategic places creating a nice swim

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through over the lines. Unfortunately I underestimated how many weights I would need to create that path. So another dive will be in order to complete that job. The next order of business was using a pair of dikes [Ed. note: This word has 2 spellings. I have used an "i" to avoid confusion with the slang interp. of the word] to cut all the tails on the cable ties that we used to install the coils, and once that was completed, I did a complete swim though of the cave adjusting the guideline as necessary (23'/60min). I want to try to reroute some of the guideline around the coils, and install another guideline over the corralled lines, but that will have to be on another dive.



After exiting the cave and storing my

equipment, we all went out to dinner at Margaretville. Then we returned to the house and discussed various trips that we are planning. Jim and Dian are thinking about a 6 months cruise around the world visiting 45 countries. Maggie talked about her upcoming trips to Brussels and Bulgaria, and I talked about my recent trip to Florida and maybe a trip to Texas in the fall. A good time was had by all.

Safe diving,

Marty

Circleville. May 12. It looked like old home week as the regular Tuesday night crowd returned to the Twin Qs. Present were Randy Beck, Clive Bartley, Rick Blaine, Ron Coleman, a diver who joined us late in 2014, Barry Miller, Eric and Terry Norman, plus newcomer John Skobel. At the same time, this dive's reunion sprit missed the presence of John Sanders and his witty repartee about all things local and political, who passed away last fall.

Water conditions update: Water temps have risen to 70° – 72° depending on depth and location, with vis increasing from 8' – 15', again depending on depth and location as of Sunday May 31.



JS with Tub Lady who has hair again
(Below: Lou, lou, skip-to-my lou)

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A big bass and the pan fish flotilla were back in action, much to everyone's delight.



April 28. Tuesday nite divers Cleve Bartley, Steve Wood, and I suited up and took the plunge around 4:30 on April 28. Steve cut his dive short due to buoyancy issues, while Cleve and I continued. Water visibility had cleared somewhat to around 8 – 10' with water temps rising to 55° on the periphery of the South Q. The armada of pan fish had reformed and was following us around like a miniature wolf pack. I notice that water temps have risen since then to a reported 64°

Environmental News

Drone films two sharks feeding off Gloucester (MA) coast

By Chris Caesar [@Chris Caesar](#)

Boston.com Staff | 05.16.15 | 5:32 PM

Looks like we won't need a [bigger boat after all](#).

Gloucester resident and [drone enthusiast](#) Martin Del Vecchio captured this incredible footage of two basking sharks feeding off

the city's coastline Friday.



Del Vecchio said his drone was nearly 2,000 feet from shore at one point and hovered a mere ten feet above the sea creatures. Onlookers watched the footage from the drone's camera live on the shore.

The basking shark is big—most adults are 20 to 25 feet, rivaling the size of the lobster boat in the video—but mostly harmless, feeding on zooplankton, small fish, and other invertebrate sea life.

To watch the video, go to: http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2015/05/16/drone-films-sharks-feeding-off-gloucester-coast/XJidP1HDSMnjdTaKLWYVDI/story.html?p1=feature_stack_1_hp

Blue Whales have tough time avoiding cargo ships by Jacqueline Howard (jacqueline.howard@huffingtonpost.com)

Blue whales and cargo ships don't mix. In fact, scientists say [frequent collisions](#) between the whales and giant ocean-going vessels may help explain why blue whale populations remain low despite efforts to protect the [endangered species](#).



Now a new study reveals why ocean-going ships pose such a big threat to the whales:

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the gentle giants simply don't know how to get out of the way.

Smart but vulnerable. Like all whales, blues are smart. But since they're the **largest animal on Earth**, they've never had to defend themselves against "predators." "It's not part of their evolutionary history to have cargo ships killing them, so they haven't developed **behavioral responses to this threat**," Dr. Jeremy Goldbogen, **assistant professor of biology at Stanford University** and a co-author of the study, said in a written statement. "They simply have no compelling response to avoiding these dangerous ships."

How do blue whales respond to oncoming ships? For the study, the researchers used suction cups to attach GPS (global positioning system) devices and dive-logging units to blue whales off Long Beach, Calif., **one of the world's busiest ports**.

The researchers observed 20 ships passing by nine whales, at distances ranging from 60 meters to more than 3 kilometers, and analyzed how the whales responded. It turned out that the whales tended not to swim to the side to avoid a ship -- but to make a slow dive.

"We also observed the slow-dive response, or the sinking behavior, during tagging," Dr. Megan McKenna, a research biologist at the National Park Service and the study's senior author, told The Huffington Post in a phone interview. "In some cases, after we placed the suction cup tags on the animal, the animal would sort of sink out of our vision, possibly to get out of the way... So, it could be evidence for a 'startle response' to a disturbance at the surface."

Not fast enough. A whale must dive about 30 meters below the surface to escape a moving ship. The whales observed in the study sank only about a half-meter per

second -- barely fast enough to move out of a ship's path.

The researchers concluded that the slow-dive response is likely a factor in making not only blue whales but also possibly other big whales more vulnerable to ship strikes than other marine creatures.

"The limited avoidance of ships by blue whales was somewhat surprising in that we sometimes expect an intelligent species like blue whales might be expected to better understand this threat and how to avoid it," study co-author John Calambokidis, a research biologist and one of the founders of the **Olympia, Wash.-based Cascadia Research organization**, told The Huffington Post in an email. "These are animals supremely adapted to surviving in a challenging marine environment and fast, large ships is something they have not had to deal with or are evolved to deal with."

Solving the problem. The researchers plan to keep tracking the whales for several weeks. In addition, they plan to extend their research to include humpback whales. The hope is that the data they collect will help the shipping industry figure out ways to minimize the risk of collisions by either rerouting ships or lowering their speeds through waters where whales roam.

"We know now, at least in the case of blue whales, that they're not reacting in the way to allow them to avoid collision," McKenna said. "So now the conversation should be to come up with solutions to minimize that encounter."

The study was published online in the journal **Endangered Species Research** on April 29, 2015.

Log Book

South Shore Neptunes (Quincy, MA)

Photos by Jeannine Fabian & John DeMasi

While many of you were attending the Sea Nags Thursday night meeting, I was driving

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back to Columbus from our retirement home in Kingston, MA. During my weeklong stay there, I attended and began the process of joining the South Shore Neptunes, the oldest dive club on the South Shore in Massachusetts.



Established in 1955, they are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year.



(By the way, let's not forget our own upcoming anniversary in 2017. What kind of a logo should we create to commemorate the event?) What a great fun-loving, dive-happy group of 131 members who meet regularly in their own club house, presumably a gift from the Quincy Underwater Dive Recovery Team, which the city has lost track of sort of.



The Neptunes hold up to three meetings per month—business, exec board, & program—celebrate their year annually, hold a family day beach outing to raise extra money for their club, and above all, dive year 'round including on New Year's Day! One of the ever-present problems in Massachusetts is access to public beaches, which is locally controlled to a large extent by historical precedent, despite state laws to the contrary. The Neptunes help lobby for greater beach access via the Bay State Council of Divers.

Finally, I would like to take this moment to thank them for their inclusiveness and generosity—they gave me a SS Neptunes logo-emblazoned t-shirt—and helped me begin the process of becoming a member. I look forward to joining them in Massachusetts when my wife and I make the final move, hopefully some time this summer, while remaining a Sea Nag for life.

R

Captain Kidd's 'treasure' found by divers off Madagascar May 07, 2015. FoxNews.com



Treasure said to belong to infamous pirate Captain Kidd has been found by divers in the waters of the Indian Ocean off Madagascar.

The BBC reports that underwater explorers found the 110 lb. silver bar off the coast of Madagascar's Sainte Marie Island. The ingot is being guarded by soldiers on the island.

Famed American underwater explorer Barry Clifford led the team that discovered the bar,

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which he believes is from the wreckage of Kidd's ship Adventure Galley. Clifford has an impressive reputation as an underwater archaeologist - in 1984, he discovered the wreck of the pirate ship Whydah, which sank off Cape Cod in 1717.



Martin Vogl
@martinvogl

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Divers just pulled this 50 kg silver bar out off Sainte Marie island Madagascar. Say it could be pirate treasure.

5:10 AM - 7 May 2015

The silver ingot is believed to be from 17th century Bolivia.

The suspected booty was received by the President of Madagascar Hery Rajaonarimampianina and diplomats from the U.S. and U.K. in a ceremony on Sainte Marie island Thursday.



Martin Vogl
@martinvogl

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The spot where the silver bar was found. Just off the coast in shallow water.

Born in Scotland in 1645, William Kidd was tried and executed for piracy in London in 1701.

Source:<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/05/07/captain-kidds-treasure-found-by-divers-off-madagascar/?intcmp=trending>

[captain-kidds-treasure-found-by-divers-off-madagascar/?intcmp=trending](#)

Divers discover 1468 wreck that could hold millions in coins By Elizabeth Armstrong Moore * Published May 06, 2015 Newser

(NEWSER) – An international team of divers has discovered a long-sought 15th-century shipwreck just south of the island of Jussarö in Finland. When the Hanneke Wrome sank in 1468 during heavy storms in the Baltic Sea on its way from Germany to Estonia, it was considered one of the biggest maritime disasters of its era—and not just because 200 passengers and crew went down with the vessel. The ship was also carrying coveted cargo, including 200 parcels of fabric, 1,200 barrels of honey, jewelry, and 10,000 gold coins thought to be worth more than \$56 million today, reports [Ancient Origins](#).



Finnish diver Rauno Koivusaari came across the long sought-after shipwreck near the island of Jussar in Finland. (Rauno Koivusaari)

The divers, led by renowned Finnish wreck researcher Rauno Koivusaari (who found the treasure ship Vrouw Maria in 1999), began looking for the Hanneke Wrome last year. They came across a vessel roughly 100 feet long that includes three decently preserved sections—a keel, mast, and anchor—that were "scattered in east-west direction, confirming the dynamic of the sinking during the eastern storm," Koivusaari tells [Discovery News](#). Named

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after the ship's captain, the Hanneke Wrome was actually one of two ships caught in the same storm, though the other managed to reach the destination port in Tallinn, Estonia. While the divers have found a barrel lid, roof tiles, and a lead object, they have yet to uncover the gold coins, though Koivusaari appears confident they, too, are preserved. (Millions in silver have just been recovered from a WWII wreck.

Source:http://www.newser.com/story/206310/divers-find-1468-wreck-that-may-hold-millions-in-coins.html?utm_source=part&utm_medium=foxnews&utm_campaign=rss_science_syn

Parting Shots

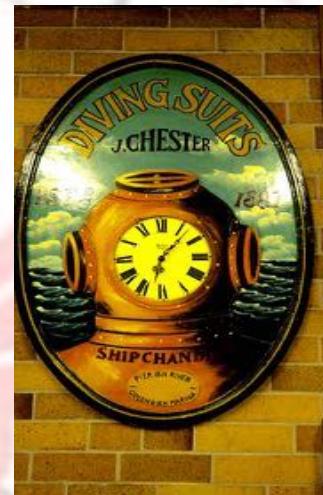
Arial Views of New England/Massachusetts & Cape Cod
Photos by John DeMasi, South Shore Neptunes



NE/Mass



Cape Cod



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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: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., May 7, 2015. Program: The Ranfts on Diving Barbados

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