

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

Sept. 2015

## This Issue

General Meeting Minutes	p. 1
Calendar	p.1
Executive Meeting Highlights	p. 1
Dive Reports	p. 2
Environmental News	p. 3
Parting Thoughts & Shots	p. 8

## General Meeting Minutes

By Mag Ranft

Present: Marty Bailey, Donn Ellerbrock, Dave Foley, John Guegold, Gerry Kubatska, Steve Locsey, Deb Maxson, Glenn Mitchell, Mag &; Steve Ranft, Laurel Sheppard.

Our guest, **Phil Rudin**, was introduced. Phil joined the Sea Nags in 1962, at the age of 15. Meetings were held at the YMCA and he was the Sargent at Arms. In 1966, he joined the Navy and after his service he joined the West Palm Beach Police Department. During his 30 years of police work, he served as a member of the dive team, doing over 500 dives. He is now retired, very active in the South Florida Underwater Photography, and travels the world doing photography. He is the senior reviewer for *Underwater Photography Magazine*, [www.uwpmag.com](http://www.uwpmag.com), and teaches underwater photography all over the world. He gave us a brief summary of his current work and mentioned several favorite dives sites. He promised to let us know when he is in this area again and offered to do a program for us. Great guy!

### Announcements

- Club dues will increase in 2016 to: Single - \$30, Family - \$40 with \$9 additional for the Ohio Council.
- Members were reminded of our Twitter page <@CbusSeaNags>, and our Facebook page, <<http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>>. Use them to post comments on your diving

experiences with the club or other diving excursions.

- Members were reminded of the Tuesday evening dives at Circleville Twin Quarries at 3:30 with a post dive gathering at Gibby's in Downtown Circleville.

**The Executive Committee** voted to allocate \$50 for Silver Level Sponsorship at Shipwrecks and Scuba. Our ad will be on the slideshow. More information as soon as we have it.

**Marty Bailey** provided information on a dive trip to Texas on September 25-27. Diving will be a full day on Saturday and ½ day on Sunday with marathon driving before and after. Please contact Marty for pricing and more information.

Members and friends are invited to a Bonaire Dive Trip on October 3-10. FYI: Contact Cheryl Patterson at Deep Blue Adventures.

The calendar of events was reviewed and times for the August 22nd dive and corn roast were discussed.

### Treasurer's Report

\$6,045.54.

### Member Raffle, 50/50

#### Evening Program

Everyone enjoyed watching a video on the *Wreck of the Minnedosa* (Lake Superior), donated by Rob Robison.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2015

### Sep

3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: MAST Update by Patrick Enlow

12 Twilight dive cookout & movie (*Sea Hunt* episodes)

17 Exec Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

### 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

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Sept. 2015

Nov

5 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Elections & video (TBA)

14 Annual banquet: TBA  
TBA Exec Meeting

Dec

3 General Meeting@ Planks, 8:00 PM. Program: Awards presentations & video

TBA Exec Meeting  
31/Jan1 8<sup>th</sup> NYs Eve Dive-in & Celebration @ C'ville

## Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to  
<[newsletter@seanags.com](mailto:newsletter@seanags.com)>

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### Spasms

None reported

### Oral Reports

**Steve Locsey** reported on his August 6th dive in Lancaster with a water temp of 79 degrees.

**Laurel Sheppard** and her husband, **Mike, Ryan Jones, Glenn Mitchell, Marty Bailey and Steve Ranft** attended the club outing on July 18th. On Saturday, the group drove to Toledo to visit the **National Museum of the Great Lakes**, Tony Packo's (famous restaurant), Ft Meigs, and enjoyed a cook out at White Star Quarry. On Sunday, several members dove at White Star.

Laurel Sheppard mentioned her week in Roatan that will be the subject of our October meeting.

**Marty** reported on his trip in June to Germany, France and Belgium. Diving was not the primary purpose of the trip, but he did dive at Nemo at 33 meters deep

### Written Reports

#### Club Gear Swap and Hot Dog Roast

Story by Glenn Mitchell, Photos by Steve Ranft

Those of you who could not find your way down to the Twin Qs for this year's Swap Meet and Corn Roast missed a great time and a bevy of good deals, thanks to Todd Tomlinson who donated the corn for the fest and offered tremendous price reductions for anyone in need of new gear or an affordable opportunity to upgrade to new equipment. This year, participants consumed more than 6 dozen ears of corn, roasted by Glenn Mitchell, while Ryan Jones grilled nearly 7 dozen hot dogs. Drew Tomlinson, Todd's son, sold soft drinks at bargain prices. To see what you missed, check out the photos below.



Glenn checking the corn



Steve Locsey, Marty Bailey, unk., Laurel Sheppard, & Gerry Kubatska enjoying the sun and fun.

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Sept. 2015



Karla Jones and John Skobel catching up.



Steve Locsey and Ryan Jones chewing the fat.

## Environmental News

*Ed. Note: I have been following the blogs of several sailing vessels (S/V) this summer. One in particular is highly imaginative, inspirational, and at times very provocative and insightful. The following is reprinted with permission from the blog of S/V Delos, a 53' double-masted sailboat full of young people sailing and diving around the world. The article has been slightly edited for length.*

**When the lungs of the world collapse...**

*By Brady Trautman, Oct. 2013*

Source: <http://svdelos.com/2013/10/when-the-lungs-of-the-world-collapse-by-brady/>

They are the front line. They are the reason Raja Ampat is what it is and continues to be a world-class dive destination. Without this

group of dedicated conservationists the apex of the coral triangle would be over fished. Dynamite fishing and netting would quickly turn this paradise into a barren underwater environment void of the wonders that make this place the best in the world for diving.

We met Steve, Simon, Steph and Dr. Matt (from left to right below) at the northern tip of Fam Island as Josje and I were in Maggie, our tender, trying to lead Delos into a safe spot for the night...After exchanging names and talking a bit about what they were doing out here and the amazing underwater world around us, they went back to their home base, motor vessel Hang Tuah anchored a few bays over. Two days went by at our secluded anchorage in Northern Fam Island where we enjoyed the beach complete with a bonfire and amazing snorkeling. With diving on our mind we headed north to Penemu to track down our new friends. Not that we don't all love each other's company [on board], but it is nice to sometimes interact with people from outside the walls of Delos, especially fellow divers!



(Steve, Simon, Steph and Dr. Matt)

(Steve, Simon, Steph and Dr. Matt)

Hang Tuah is home to the Sea Sanctuaries Program. Simon has spent over 3 years out

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Sept. 2015

here trying to get their message across and give hope to the future of this area. Hang Tuah was moored right in the center of a few islands on the Eastern side of Penemu in plain sight, as if they wanted to be seen from all directions. We thought it was an interesting place to moor, not very protected from the wind or swell and not really near land; but maybe they were over a sweet dive spot? We dropped the hook on the Eastern side of Penemu as well, a mile or so away from their mooring and hailed them on the radio. Right away Simon welcomed us on board and invited us to tag along with them on a dive later that afternoon.

"How's it going?" I said from the dinghy as we pulled up alongside Hang Tuah. "Ah, ya know, just saving the world" Steve replied, with a slight smirk. Not in an egotistical way but in a very genuine way that made you realize, all at once, he was telling the truth, joking and saying something very cliché. "This is the bulls eye of the coral triangle! This is the exact point where the highest density of fish and coral species are found in the world!" Simon explained to us as we got a tour of the 42 meter research vessel. You could instantly feel all of their excitement and passion when they explained to us what they were doing out here and why they were doing it. Steve, the photographer of the boat, went on to show us heart-breaking pictures of dolphins, pilot whales, thresher sharks, manta rays, turtles, and countless other species, all being slaughtered for their meat to be sold at the worst fishing market in the world located in Tanjung Luar, Lombok, Indonesia. "They put long nets out in the water, huge nets, and circle the biggest area they can around reefs and coral. Whatever they pull in, is sold, most of which are endangered species" Steve added as he flipped through

the terrible pictures.



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Sept. 2015



Once underwater you are overwhelmed with the amount of life. I find myself thinking of the reefs here as a huge overpopulated city. Just as crosswalks in New York City are filled with 1,000's at a time all going in opposite directions, so to is the reef. Every animal is on a mission. From the giant hump head wrasse to the tiniest plankton, everything has a place to be and a task at hand. The walls are like huge sky rise buildings with every square inch of real estate occupied by hard corals, soft corals and an assortment of critters, all different colors and sizes. This is exactly why these fishermen want to come here, and collect whatever they can to be sold on the black market.

So how do they combat this destruction of the marine environment? First and foremost they are setting up patrols and getting the local villages involved. They are even building a watchtower from which the entire area can be observed and protected. The biggest problem they run into is getting the local villages involved in the cause. Dr. Matt is in the process of researching the area and determining what species are specifically in danger. Then he will be able to propose a plan for the locals to follow.

For centuries all the fishermen in Indonesia have fished sustainably until international

*(I know the pictures above are terribly gruesome but this is the reality of what is happening?)*

This is exactly why Hang Tuah is moored in the open at the apex of it all! They want to be seen! And they want to see everything as well. Not only are they in the Coral Triangle, which stretches from Singapore to S. Japan then to the Great Barrier Reef, but they are in the exact center of this triangle! As Simon puts it, "The bulls eye of the bulls eye of marine bio-diversity of the entire world!" That's a pretty intense statement to take in but he's right; the bio-diversity of this area truly is mindboggling. Delos is anchored about a mile from a small rock island, Batu Rufus, that doesn't look like much from the surface but turns out to be the second largest count of marine species in the world. The spot that takes the number one for most species is a mere 15 miles away at Cape Kri.

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Sept. 2015

demand rose and motorized boats came into the picture. These fishermen still have the same mindset to catch and sell fish to make a living and feed their families. But the main difference is with the advent of dynamite, motorized boats and massive nets, the amount they take is no longer just to feed their village or their families; it is no longer sustainable and greed begins to take over.

I think it's the most basic of human instincts; to always want more, to be greedy, to have as much as you possibly can. It is exactly what happens to any culture, whether it be logging unsustainably or drilling for oil, the consequences and impacts on future generations are hazed over with the thoughts of a new house, a new car, a new cell phone, new clothes and satellite TV. In saying this, the local fishermen in the surrounding area are only a small, small percentage of the bigger picture. They are not the biggest part of the problem and for the most part use traditional single line fishing methods. It is in fact the larger and greedier international groups that are coming in for the big kills. The Chinese, Vietnamese, and Thai, just to name a few, are illegally coming into areas like Raja Ampat, dragging nets and using dynamite, killing anything in their path and leaving behind a trail of barren dead coral and irreversible impacts in the local fish population that the local villages rely so heavily on. All for the thought of a little bit of money.

The idea of the Sea Sanctuaries Program is to get volunteers involved from all over the world and educate the local villages about the impacts of these actions. They are really trying to promote conservation for future generations. "One man in a near-by village spoke of a time when they would put the rice on then go out and fish, knowing

that they would return with dinner by the time the rice was done. Now it is the opposite. Hours and hours can be spent trying to catch enough fish for a single family," Simon explained to us.

It's really tough out here for the Sea Sanctuaries crew though. They take 3 steps forward and 2, sometimes 4 steps backwards. While we were there they received what seemed like an "extortion" letter. A local village seemed to get a bit jealous that Hang Tuah had recently visited a neighboring village, buying coconut oil and showing them other ways of making an income. The second village wants their cut too. Steph spoke of times when they were threatened and actually felt scared. "It's a fine line to balance." Steve added. "We try and hand over hard cash as a last resort. Instead, we give them things or do things for the village that shows our respect for them and that we are thankful to be here," Simon explained. From the locals' point of view these guys look like rich tourists that are coming in and telling them how to handle their native area and when and where to fish. Imagine someone coming into your neighborhood, not speaking your language and trying to convince you that the things you and your ancestors have been doing for centuries may not be possible anymore and need to change.

It is working though. Slowly but surely progress is being made. Other areas of Raja Ampat like MER (Misool Eco Resort) and Sorido Bay on Kri Island are seeing huge results from their conservation efforts. All of the "good" pictures on this blog were taken in some form of protected area. Misool Eco Resort has created a massive no take zone encompassing 1,000 SQKM and slowly the shark population is rebounding. Same with Sorido Bay. Because they employ locals

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Sept. 2015

there is no longer a need to make money from over fishing the area. Indonesians are brought in and taught skills like boat building and construction. With the help of the locals they also build small resorts and get them involved in patrolling the newly formed protected areas.



The diving out here is truly incredible. ... [P]ictures and video just don't do it justice. We were lucky enough to go on a few dives with the Sea Sanctuaries crew and see exactly what it is they are working so hard to protect. Coral, critters and fish cover every square inch of the underwater topography. In fact, two new species were found in February and countless more are most likely hiding in the jumble of living organisms we pass over on every dive. It's breathtaking and you can easily catch the "conservation fever". Although we can't hang around and really help these guys out on the front line, hopefully we can spread the word and pass on the Sea Sanctuaries message. Dr. Matt put it very simply "If the reefs die, we die; the oceans are the lungs of the world and when the lungs collapse everything will come to an end." Almost TWICE as much oxygen comes from the

ocean than from the rainforests of the world so it doesn't take a rocket scientist to connect the dot



If things continue the way they are, unfortunately, the same coral and animals that are in these pictures will most likely be gone, gone forever, within a generation. The Sea Sanctuaries crew and the other conservationists are doing their best to protect this extremely important part of our world. The fact of the matter is that they are only slowing this inevitable destruction. Unless...people like you and me actually do something about it.

So what can you do? Open your mind a bit and check what is sustainable and what isn't. Keep up with what seafood is ok to eat and what isn't. Learn to scuba dive and be part of a reef conservation group. Clean up a local beach. Better yet, come out here and volunteer!! Check out some of the sites below for more info.

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

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Sept. 2015

**To Volunteer** – [www.seasanctuaries.org](http://www.seasanctuaries.org) \*

(Ed. Note: since the article, Sea Sanctuaries may have folded due to finances. Here is another link that may be of interest:

<http://www.reefcheck.org.my/media-information/report-fish-bombing-activity>

Sustainability in Australia –

[www.Sustainableseafood.org.au](http://www.Sustainableseafood.org.au)

World guide to seafood restaurants –

[www.fish2fork.com](http://www.fish2fork.com)

Seafood guide –

[www.nrdc.org/oceans/seafoodguide/](http://www.nrdc.org/oceans/seafoodguide/)

Seafood guide – [www.coral.org](http://www.coral.org)

**TAKE ACTION** –

[www.wikihow.com/Take-Action-to-Save-Coral-Reefs](http://www.wikihow.com/Take-Action-to-Save-Coral-Reefs)

A special thanks to Steve Woods for letting us share some of his photographs –

[www.stevewoodsphotography.com](http://www.stevewoodsphotography.com)

*Parting Thoughts and Shots*

**Special Thanks!**

Finally, before the summer is out, be sure to thank Todd for all of his support of diving, divers, and our club through the years in general and the Corn Roast/Gear Swap in particular. As many of you who frequent the Twin Qs are aware, there is doubt whether or not the site will be open for scuba after this season.



Todd Tomlinson with his son Drew  
Photo by Ryan Jones





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## AD Rates

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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., Sept. 3, 2015. Program: MAST update by Patrick Enlow or DAN video.**

**The Columbus Sea Nags**  
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