

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

May 2017

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## General Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Steve Ranft, Glenn Mitchell, Ryan Jones, Laurel Sheppard, Dave Foley, Marty Bailey, Maggie Bailey, Don Ellerbrock, John Guegold, Steve Locsey, Gerry Kubatska

**Program** – “Malta” – Presented by Marty and Maggie Bailey

### 50/50 Raffle winner

**Glenn Mitchell** (winnings \$8.50)

### Member Raffle

- 1) **Steve Locsey**, Prize = “National Audubon Society” windbreaker donated by **Donn Ellerbrock**
- 2) **Laurel Sheppard**, Prize = Small Waterproof bag donated by **Donn Ellerbrock**
- 3) **Maggie Bailey**, Prize = “DAN” T-shirt donated by **Donn Ellerbrock**
- 4) **Marty Bailey**, Prize = “Diving Bermuda” book donated by **Gerry Kubatska**
- 5) **Donn Ellerbrock**, Prize = “Diving Ontario” book donated by **Gerry Kubatska**
- 6) **Gerry Kubatska**, Prize = Short swim fins donated by **Laurel Sheppard**

### Treasurer’s Report

\$ 6,726.86

### Announcements

1. 2017 marks 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Columbus Sea Nags. Steak Dinner July 29<sup>th</sup> at

the Ranft residence. Free to club members and \$15 per person for non club members.

2. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

3. Please contact Laurel Sheppard and Dave Foley with any program ideas for 2017.

4. Please contact Ryan Jones and Steve Locsey with any activities and dive ideas for 2017.

5. 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.

Dues can be mailed to:

Glenn Mitchell  
120 N. Warren Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43204

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

7. Twitter page!! Thanks to **Josh Carney**, the club now has a **Twitter page**: <@CbusSeaNags>. Check it out today!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2017

### May

4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Underwater Photography by Mark Thomas

18 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

21 Club Dive at Lake View RV Park, Lancaster Ohio

### June

1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Cozumel Dive trip

10 Dive In at Circleville Dive Center

15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

### July

6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: No Program Only a social meeting

8 – 9 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Club Dive Weekend at White Star Quarry

20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

29 Sea Nags 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### Aug

3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Dave Foleys

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**St Croix trip**  
17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM  
18 – 21 Club Dive at Pennyroyal Quarry Hopkinsville, KY  
26 Corn Roast/Swap Meet

## Sept

7 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Great Lakes  
Acoustic Telemetry Observation System  
21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

## Oct

5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Pennyroyal  
Revisited

19 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

## Nov

2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Sea Hunt  
episode

16 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

## Dec

7 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD

21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Monthly meeting programs subject to change without notice.

## Executive Meeting Highlights

March 16 @ Planks, 7:00 PM **Present:** Steve Ranft, Mag Ranft, Glenn Mitchell, Donn Ellerbrock, Dave Foley, Andrea Caito

### 60th Anniversary of Columbus Sea Nags

More discussion necessary regarding place of purchase for steaks and other items for Anniversary Dinner.

60th Anniversary logo T-shirt - Club will be purchasing 4 XXL and 4 XL T-Shirts.

More discussion necessary regarding Anniversary Dinner attendance.

Due to high cost of lodging in Hopkinsville, KY area, the date of the Sea Nags Club Dive at Pennyroyal may be changed to possibly increase member participation.

**All members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings**

## Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

<[ColumbusSeaNagsNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ColumbusSeaNagsNewsletter@gmail.com)>

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### Spasms

None reported

### Oral Reports

None reported

### Written Reports

None reported

## Environmental News

### Whale sharks' secrets revealed by live-tracking aquatic drones

By Alex Matthews-King, Jan. 23, 2017

Cover from Sharkwater when the club watched it at the June Dive-In 2016.



Where's it going?

Wave-powered drones are being used to provide live tracking of the world's largest fish, the whale

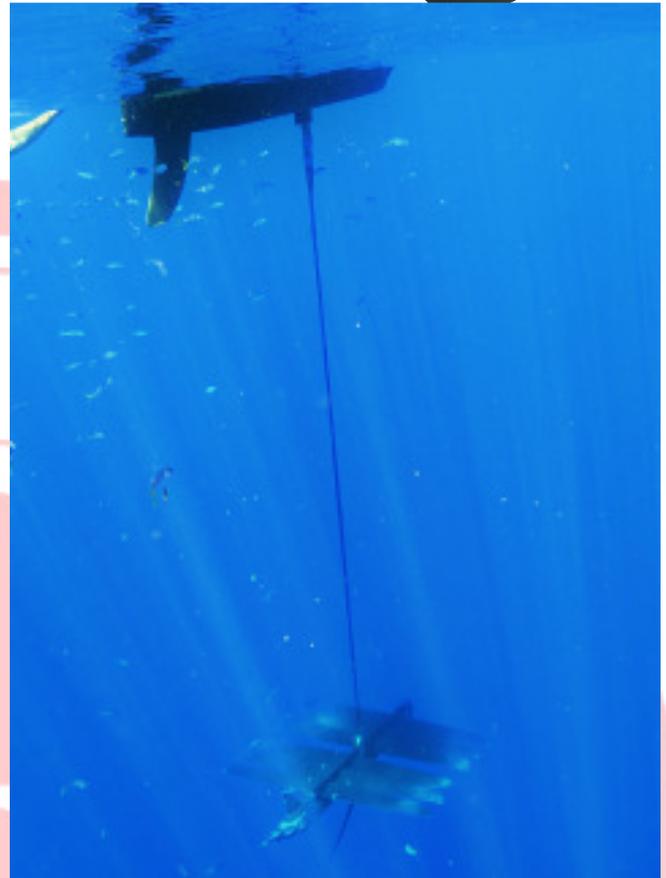
shark, for the first time.

Researchers at the Whale Shark and Oceanic Research Center (WSORC) on the island of Utila, Honduras, have just finished a year-long project using autonomous “Wave Glider” drones to patrol for whale sharks and report back on their movements. The team was able to follow along in real-time as the drones relayed the depth and minute-by-minute position of individual sharks.

They found whale sharks feeding off the coast of Utila at unexpected times of year, which shows the potential for this technology to fill some significant gaps in our understanding about the endangered species.

Konrad Madej, former research director at WSORC and lead researcher on the Wave Glider project, says the drones spotted one shark at a depth of 90 metres in July, when it was thought the whale sharks had migrated north toward Mexico.

“With the turbulent weather during these months, it’s difficult to find whale sharks feeding as rough waters prevent the plankton, roe and coral spore they feed on from settling at the surface,” he says. “So it’s great to see they’re still swimming at depth, for the first time, via the Wave Glider.”



Listening out for whale sharks.

Mature whale sharks can dive to depths of 1.5 kilometres or more and swim 10,000 kilometres a year, making it difficult to locate and follow them. “Just being able to track them over longer periods while sampling oceanographic data would improve our insight into which habitats they use, why and what threats they might be particularly susceptible to,” says Simon Pierce, principal scientist at the Marine Megafauna Foundation.

To collect data on the sharks, the WSORC project used Wave Glider SV3 drones, built by California-based Liquid Robotics. These can operate uninterrupted for up to 12 months at a time and use wave energy to propel themselves. A surface float, which houses solar panels, sensor equipment and transmitters, is attached to a finned sub-unit below the surface. The sub’s fins pivot up and down as the

waves lift the float and drive it forward at up to 3 knots (5.5 kilometres per hour).

The team set the drones to patrol 5 kilometres off Utila's north shore, where whale sharks are commonly seen. Each drone towed a receiver unit that can pick up signals from any shark with an acoustic tag.

Acoustic tags can be fitted to a whale shark's dorsal fin and release a sonic pulse every 60 seconds. These tags are cheaper than more sophisticated satellite tags and can better handle the pressure when whale sharks dive, says Madej.

Pierce says that there is still some way to go to live-monitor whale sharks – the longest continuous tracking in this project was 25 minutes – but he is “hugely interested” in the findings of these initial studies.

Source:

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2118755-whale-sharks-secrets-revealed-by-live-tracking-aquatic-drones/>

## Florida Aquarium salsa dances and expands coral research in trip to Cuba

By Paul Guzzo Apr. 3, 2017



“Coral trees” made of plastic pipe are the backdrop for divers from the Florida Aquarium and Cuba's National Aquarium. The Florida Aquarium

TAMPA — The Florida Aquarium's most recent trip to Cuba marked the eighth time scientists from the Tampa center worked with counterparts from Cuba's National Aquarium in Havana on restoring coral reefs in the Caribbean.

The trip March 21-26 brought both scientific and personal advances for the teams — construction of Cuba's first underwater coral nursery and progress toward communicating with one another in Spanish and English.

The language progress, it turns out, is all above the water. Under the surface, it hasn't really mattered since the day the teams started working together in November 2015.

"You can't talk underwater," said Margo McKnight, vice president of biological operations at the Florida Aquarium. "All divers speak the same language with their bodies. Being underwater is a great language neutralizer."

The new coral nursery is in the Gulf of Mexico off the island nation's westernmost point — the coast of Cuba's Guanahacabibes Peninsula National Park.

The nursery is made up of 20 "coral trees" — structures made primarily of plastic pipe that are 15 feet long and anchored to the sea floor. Fragments collected from healthy coral reefs off the southwest tip of Cuba are hung from the trees. Each tree can hold up to 60 fragments.

When fragments mature in a year or two, they are replanted on depleted natural reefs.

The nurseries provide a benefit Mother Nature does not: The fragments can be separated so they don't compete for light or space, McKnight said.

"They can grow faster and healthier in this way," she said. "And can be better protected from

predators."

[research-in-trip-to-cuba/2518920](http://www.seanags.com/research-in-trip-to-cuba/2518920)

The setup mimics an underwater nursery in Key Largo built and maintained by the non-profit Coral Restoration Foundation. The Florida Aquarium provided the structures and know-how and taught the entire process to the Cuba aquarium.

Among the most memorable moments of the recent collaboration, McKnight said, were when the Cubans broke out on the boat deck with a salsa dance.

By week's end, she said with a chuckle, the Florida Aquarium team was joining in with their Cuban colleagues.

"They are super fun and hard workers," McKnight said.

More than half the Caribbean's coral reefs, home to more than 4,000 species of fish and countless species of plants, have died since 1970, according to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. The Caribbean region includes Florida.

Yet, the only place in Cuba where coral is dying is in the water off Havana, the island's busiest city. The rest of Cuba's reefs remain nearly pristine, likely due to less pollution and development.

By studying Cuba's healthy reefs, the Florida Aquarium hopes to learn ways of bringing back the Sunshine State's coral.

Meantime, the two aquariums will continue to work together on how to reproduce coral in a controlled setting and on designs for a land-based coral greenhouse to be built in Havana in the next two to three years.

Source:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/florida-aquarium-salsa-dances-and-expands-coral->

## German spelunker discovers first known cave fish in Europe

By AP, Apr. 5, 2017



In this March 15 photo, a cave fish swims in an aquarium at the University of Constance, Germany. A German man who goes underground diving for a hobby has discovered what scientists say is Europe's first known cave fish. In an article published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*, scientists from the University of Constance who studied the fish concluded that it is a genetically distinct species. | FELIX KAESTLE / DPA / VIA AP

BERLIN – A German man who goes diving underground for a hobby has discovered what scientists say is Europe's first known cave fish.

Spelunker Joachim Kreislermaier chanced upon the fish in August 2015 while exploring the Danube-Aach cave system in southern Germany.

It resembled stone loaches found in nearby rivers, but with smaller eyes, longer whisker-like barbels, larger nostrils and almost no color on its body.

In an article published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*, scientists from the University of Constance who studied the fish concluded that it is a genetically distinct species.

It likely arose within the last 20,000 years and has adapted to life underground.

Cave fish have been discovered in other parts of the world, such as the Pennsylvanian cave sculpins, but never so far north, researchers say.

Source:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2017/04/05/world/science-health-world/german-spelunker-discovers-first-known-cave-fish-europe/#.WQZpQNY1uUI>

## Log Book

### 'Perfect Storm' ship to be sunk for artificial reef

By Scott Fallon, USA Today, Apr. 12, 2017



The Tamaroa on patrol.

WOODLAND PARK, N.J. — After several months delay, the ship that helped rescue seven people during The Perfect Storm is scheduled to be sunk off the New Jersey and Delaware coast next week, state officials said Tuesday evening.

The Coast Guard cutter Tamaroa will join other ships forming an artificial reef about 26 miles off Cape May at a ceremony Tuesday, barring bad weather, said Larry Hajna, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency.

The 73-year-old ship, which also had a distinguished career in World War II, had been

scheduled to be sunk late last year. It was delayed when lab tests confirming the ship was free from cancer-causing PCBs — a prerequisite before sinking — came in later than expected.

The sinking comes a few months after the 25th anniversary of storm, a confluence of three weather systems off the New England coast in October 1991 that generated 40-foot waves and wind gusts over 70 mph.

The Tamaroa's crew helped save three people on a sailboat before rescuing four of five crewmen of an Air National Guard helicopter that had to be ditched in the ocean when it ran out of fuel during a similar rescue mission. The ship gained fame when its exploits were documented in Sebastian Junger's 1997 book, *The Perfect Storm*, and three years later in a film starring George Clooney.

News of the Tamaroa's sinking generated significant interest among former crew members. Many would rather see the ship used as a reef than demolished for scrap metal.

The ship already had a decorated history as the Navy's USS Zuni, towing crippled U.S. warships across the Pacific in World War II and aiding in the invasion of Iwo Jima. It was transferred to the Coast Guard shortly after the war and spent almost a half-century conducting search and rescue operations along the East Coast.

The Tamaroa was decommissioned in 1994. A decadelong effort by a group of veterans to restore the ship ended when its hull sprang a significant leak in 2012, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage.

The Tamaroa will join the Navy destroyer USS Arthur W. Radford 120 feet below the ocean's surface on the Del-Jersey-Land Reef, which is managed by Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland.

Source:

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/%e2%80%98perfect-storm%e2%80%99-ship-to-be-sunk-for-artificial-reef/ar-BBzJK5L?li=BBnb7Kz&ocid=iehp>

## *Dive tours of the Titanic wreck to begin in 2018*

By Kathryn Curzon, Apr 4, 2017

If you've got the cash — \$105,129 to be exact — you can become one of only a few people to ever participate in a dive tour of the Titanic-, starting in 2018

Luxury travel company Blue Marble Private will offer diving expeditions to the world-famous Titanic wreck site beginning in May 2018. For a mere \$105,129 per person, tourists can explore the wreck off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada during an 8-day expedition. Participants will descend more than two miles (3.2 km) below the surface of the Atlantic in a titanium and carbon-fiber submersible to see the shipwreck and surroundings. With the Titanic continually deteriorating, this is an opportune time to see it before it disappears completely.

OceanGate Expeditions created the purpose-built submersible, which is fully booked with nine people for the first voyage. Blue Marble has further expeditions planned for the summer of 2019. Blue Marble says the ticket costs the same as a first-class ticket on the Titanic's maiden voyage, once adjusted for inflation. A ticket on the one and only voyage cost \$4,350.

Numerous expeditions have visited the ship, including controversial salvage trips for public displays since a joint French-American expedition discovered the wreckage in 1985. Tourists have rarely visited the wreckage however. The last was a group in 2012, hosted

by Deep Ocean Expeditions at a cost of \$59,000 per person.

“Since her sinking 105 years ago, fewer than 200 people have ever visited the wreck, far fewer than have flown to space or climbed Mount Everest,” says Stockton Rush, CEO of OceanGate Expeditions. “This is an incredible opportunity to explore one of the most rarely seen and revered landmarks on the planet.” What does \$105,129 buy?

Tourists joining the 2018 expedition will get a helicopter or seaplane flight from St. John's in Newfoundland to the expedition support yacht above the wreck. They'll spend three days learning about the ship's workings, and how to operate the sonar and underwater navigation systems. The tourists will help the expedition team with during the dives.

There will be three potential days of diving, conducted day and night for three passengers at a time. The descent time will be approximately 90 minutes and dive time will be three hours. Divers can expect to explore different regions of the wreck, including the deck, bow, grand staircase cavern and an extensive debris field. Blue Marble Private's founder Elizabeth Ellis stated the submersible crew may conduct 3D- and 2D-sonar scans or searches for the ship's boilers, propellers and other landmarks during the dives.

The Titanic lies in two main pieces, around 1900 feet (600 m) apart, with the bow in good condition. The stern disintegrated during impact with the seabed in April 1912, and the midships lies as scattered pieces on the seabed. The debris field of hundreds of thousands of artifacts covers an area of 3 by 5 miles (4.8 8 km). It includes passengers' personal effects, machinery and furniture.

Los Angeles-based luxury-travel company Bluefish is also taking reservations for their 2018-19 expedition. Their trip features a similar itinerary and includes one 11- to 12-hour dive on Titanic for \$59,680.

Source:

<http://scubadiverlife.com/dive-tours-titanic-wreck-begin-2018/>

## Deepest pool in the world may be built in Aurora

By Denise Crosby, Aurora Beacon-News, Feb. 7, 2017



Diveheart volunteers teach members of the DuPage County Veterans Center the basics of scuba diving in a recent class at the Fox Valley Park District Vaughan Center in Aurora. (Denise Crosby / The Beacon-News)

Jim Elliott's interest in Aurora runs deep.

I met the founder and president of Diveheart at poolside Saturday at the Fox Valley Park District's Vaughan Center, where he and his volunteers were teaching a class from the DuPage County Veterans Center the ins and outs – and unders – of scuba diving.

Diveheart, founded by Elliott in 2001, has created an impressive name for itself throughout the country by helping those with illnesses and disabilities discover the therapeutic wonders that this underwater activity can provide.

But Elliott's interest in Aurora goes far deeper than a park district pool.

For the past year he has been in close discussions with Shodeen Inc., the Geneva company that has been working with city officials to develop 34 acres on the east side of the Fox River in downtown Aurora.

Elliott's goal: to build what he said would be the world's deepest warm-water pool – 150 feet, to be exact – at the corner of Broadway and North Avenue that would be used for research, rehabilitation, education and training.

For those with limited mobility, the benefits of physical therapy in a zero gravity environment is well-documented. And more recent research from leading universities, including Johns Hopkins, shows that scuba diving has unique effects on the minds and bodies of those with many types of disabilities, including chronic pain, spinal cord paralysis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, autism, PTSD and brain injuries.

Elliott, whose group works extensively with Midwestern University in Downers Grove and is recently partnering with the engineering department at Northwestern University to develop scuba diving equipment for quadriplegics, said deep water not only offers hyperbaric oxygen therapy – "We are only at the tip of the iceberg there," he noted – but also the release of serotonin, a feel-good neurotransmitter that can do wonders to also combat depression.

In addition to physical benefits, "the confidence and independence" this activity builds can create a "paradigm shift in their potential," Elliott insisted. "When he comes out of the water, he's no longer Johnny in a wheelchair. He's Johnny the scuba diver."

Diveheart works to train those with disabilities in pools across the suburbs; and takes many of them on location to such places as Cozumel, Mexico. Saturday's training at the Vaughan Center was the

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first time the group worked with the DuPage vet center, and it will continue to do so in Aurora on the first Fridays of every month.

Elliott's desire to build a deep warm-water pool is not new. He'd been working with the Veterans Administration to build a 44-foot pool after the VA had "mothballed its own" warm water pool decades earlier, he said. But in 2010, about the same time he and the VA were making presentations in Washington, D.C., to fund this project, he said, new research showed that in order to "get that serotonin fix" you had to go at least 66 feet. And to do any technical diving, which leads to more commercial opportunities, you have to go beyond 130 feet.

Extending the plans to 150 feet was made after Elliott learned of a 137-foot facility in Italy. "Why not go deeper," he asked, in order to lay claim to the world's deepest pool.

Elliott became interested in Aurora after speaking at a Rotary meeting over a year ago. Charlie Zine, a member of the FoxWalk Overlay District Design Review Committee, pointed out some reasons Aurora would make an excellent choice. Not only is the city close to Chicago's world-class medical research institutions, it had its own airport, a train station within walking distance and a parcel of land – near the river, no less – that had once been a landfill, which would make that deep dig less difficult.

Zine put him in touch with Dave Patzelt, president of Shodeen, who they said saw the potential of this project immediately. Elliott has also met with all four mayoral candidates, who he described as "very excited" about the project

According to Aurora spokesman Clayton Muhammad, Diveheart has been engaged in preliminary talks with the city, but have filed no formal plans yet.

"Once that happens," he noted, officials "will be able to have more in-depth discussions with the Diveheart team."

Zine, in the meantime, is both optimistic and excited about the way this project could develop.

"I'm always looking for things that make sense in downtown Aurora," he said. "And this is the spark that could really make a difference."

Not only is it a well-researched and compelling project, Diveheart already has what he described as "a world-class team" in place – including architects Perkins + Will, the medical consulting firm Prism Healthcare Partners and CASE Construction – to turn the dream into a reality.

While Elliott's goal is to eventually offer four pools on a three-acre site near the river, the current plan is for a beginner pool that will go down 20 feet and a second pool that, for the first 33 feet will be housed "in glass above-grade" and will contain ledges every 33 feet thereafter. The bottom, he said, would be at least 20 feet wide and be able to hold eight divers.

"Putting a Starbucks in downtown Aurora may be a lot easier," noted Elliott, but the payoff on this unique project could be a game-changer.

"It could have a huge impact on this city," agreed Zine. "It would be a unique institution and Aurora would be uniquely qualified to make it a success."

Source:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/opinion/ct-abn-crosby-deep-pool-st-0308-20170208-column.html>

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**NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., May 4, 2017. Underwater Photography by Mark Thomas**

The Columbus Sea Nags

