

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS [HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM](http://www.seanags.com)

Sept 2016

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## General Meeting Minutes

Present: N/A

Program - Diving Deep in Underwater Caves

50/50 Raffle winner

Member Raffle

Treasurer's Report

\$ 6,699.08

## Announcements

1. Want to go to Bonaire? Go with a group from the Sea Nags! Members will be in Bonaire for a total of two weeks. The first week is scheduled for Buddy Dive Resort Sept. 24 thru Oct 1, 2016 and the second week will be Oct 1 thru Oct 8, 2016. Some more information can be found in the attached pdfs (divi\_poster.pdf and buddy\_poster.pdf). To book contact Cheryl Patterson at Deep Blue Adventures Ph 1-888-266-2209 ext 101 or Email [Cheryl@deepblueadventures.com](mailto:Cheryl@deepblueadventures.com). If wishing to use airline miles, you will need to book your own flight. Fly United to New Jersey and then Bonaire. Flights appear to be around \$665 to \$842 on Expedia & United web sites depending on dates selected.

2. The cost to get shirts embroidered is \$9.50 each for a 3 color logo. The minimum number to be embroidered at one time is 12. Please bring in items to be embroidered and when we have 12, we'll get them embroidered.

3. September 24-25 is the Pennyroyal Dive Trip at Hopkinsville, KY. See **Steve Locsey** or **Ryan Jones** for details

4. Shipwrecks & Scuba is being held October 15, 2016. More information can be found at [www.shipwrecksandscuba.com](http://www.shipwrecksandscuba.com).

5. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

6. 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

7. 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.

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2016

Sept

- 1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: OSU Coral Research, Andréa Grotoli, PhD, Professor and Head of the Division of Climate Water and the Environment
- 17 Twilight Dive @ Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM
- 20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- 24 – 25 Dive Trip to Pennyroyal Quarry, Pennyroyal Quarry Hopkinsville, KY [www.pennyroyalscuba.com](http://www.pennyroyalscuba.com)

Oct

- 6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Dave Foleys Turks and Caicos trip
- 20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Nov

- 3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Quarry Diving in the Midwest, Laurel Sheppard
- 15 Shipwrecks & Scuba <http://www.shipwrecksandscuba.com>
- 17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

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Dec

- 1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD
- 3 Holiday Potluck at Steve Locsey's house
- 15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM

Monthly meeting programs subject to change without notice.

## Executive Meeting Highlights

August 18 @ Planks, 7:00 PM **Present:** Dave Foley, Donn Ellerbrock, Ryan Jones, Glenn Mitchell Steve and Mag Ranft and Gerry Kubatska

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

The next club dive will be September 17th at Circleville. Diving will start at 5:00 (some will arrive earlier) for a twilight dive, dinner (taco night) and a movie.

The Holiday Party will be December 3rd at Steve Locsey's house. It will be a potluck.

We will contact Captain Rick about diving in Ft. Lauderdale. He offered to do group dives for \$45 for two tank dives.

Our donation to SeaCore was the first private donation they had received. They are setting up a 501(c)3 charity. In conversation with them, we learned that we could go to Curacao to help with a coral restoration project.

Thanks to thank Andy Dennis for managing our Facebook page and to Josh Carney for our Twitter page. Log in information is in the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.

## 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

### August Diving

By Rob Robison

I was so looking forward to diving this August. The month of diving began with a great dive off Sandwich Beach with fellow Neptunes, Mike Vaughan, Peter Ninh, and Yuri Kalita. Shortly afterwards, my boat mechanic called to inform me my boat was back from the shop, which was just in time. My travel dive buddy and fellow Columbus Sea Nags member Donn Ellerbrock was here visiting.



Rob & Don

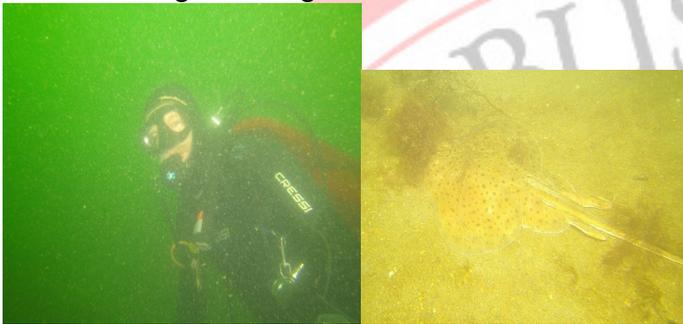


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However, the water did not cooperate. Donn and I launched (Sport) Commando III in Green Harbor and headed for Beetle Rocks two days in a row. Both days were characterized by very murky water despite previous periods of calm and usually helpful southwest winds. Vis ranged from 2' – 7'. Water temps at 36 – 54° hovered around 53-54°. No lobsters, one short flounder sighted. Sigh!!



Donn and skate



Soft corals and Commando

Fortunately, the past two weeks have witnessed a return to better days. Neptunes Peter Ninh, Mike Vaughan Erika, Bonnie, and I dove Old Garden on Sunday the 14. Vis ranged from 10' – 20' in places with water temps hovering in the mid 50s. We bottomed out at 43' and 45' on our two dives, respectively. Mike and I enjoyed a 75-minute initial dive, found a number of lobsters and a flounder apiece, which we each caught by hand! That was definitely a first for me! Peter and I dove together Dive 2 and I picked up some more flounders (total of 4). Also, we spotted a beautiful juvenile Sand Dab or Windowpane flounder in about 15' of water. It was nearly diaphanous with beautiful white speckling.

Unfortunately, I had left my camera topside to free my hands for full hunt mode, so the two pictures that follow have been borrowed from Google Images and <wildoceanphoto.com>, respectively.



Friday Aug. 19, dive buddy Brian Smith, his wife June, and I, met up at Plymouth Beach for a night dive. The tide was at its lowest ebb when we hit the water. I brought my camera along outfitted with the Sea Life Pro Flash and the Sea Dragon 1200 lumens video cam light. I am glad I remembered to bring the video cam light because it makes taking night photos a breeze. Below are three examples of how it illuminated a few lobsters and a crab in the dark.



June and Brian



Yesterday, Sunday the 21st, Neptunes Peter, Mike, Yuri Kalita, and I met up at Pebble Beach on what turned out to be a beautiful a beautiful sunny morning. The water gave evidence of strong surge and seemingly low vis due to the

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heavy concentration of particulate matter. Two divers who were just finishing their dive indicated that surge and visibility were terrible near shore but was 10' – 15' near the big rock ledge.

So we donned our gear and headed for the ledge. Because of the surge and visibility concerns and because I was in full hunt mode, my camera was left behind, no underwater pics. Walking backwards along the surge line toward the drop in point was trying as predicted. Sure enough, though, on reaching bottom in about 10' of water, we could actually see! Visibility was decent close in but quickly fuzzed at around 7' -10'. Bottom temp. was 55°. Searching the rock ledge area for 89 minutes and reaching a depth of 31' on the far side, Mike and I found anemones, 2 - 3 lobsters each, many eggars, and a flounder. Peter and Yuri dove for around 70 minutes and came back with a few as well. It was a great day to dive. With one more weekend left in August, I am hoping it will be another great one and that August will end on a very positive note! Hope to see you out there diving safely into it for some frolic, adventure, and additions to the dinner pail.

Best,  
*Rob*

## *From the Prez*

The Corn Roast and Swap Meet was a big success! Thanks to Todd for donating the corn and to Glenn for preparing it. The quarry was busy and lots of people were introduced to the Sea Nags!

We have lots of fall diving and activities coming up. There is a club dive on September 17th, a trip to Pennyroyal on September 24th & 25th, the annual dive trip to Bonaire for two weeks from September

24th thru October 8th, Ship Wrecks & Scuba on October 15th in Sandusky, Ohio and, of course, our next club meeting on September 1st! Please see the minutes and calendar in this newsletter for more details.

LOGO WEAR! We almost have the 12 items we need to submit clothing for embroidery. The 3 color logo is \$9.50 each. Please bring in your shirts, t-shirts or sweatshirts to be embroidered.

We're also planning ahead - the club Holiday Party will be a potluck on December 3rd at Steve Locsey's house. More info to follow.

Nominations for Member of the Year and the Spasm Award are needed by the October 6th meeting so we can vote on them at the November meeting. Let us know who you want to honor for their greatness or not so greatness.

Hope to see you at the September meeting.

*Steve Ranft*

## *Environmental News*

**Caught in the act: Coral's bleaching behavior**  
By Queensland University of Technology, August 12, 2016



Heliofungia actiniformis uses pulsed inflation to try to survive coral bleaching.

Coral researchers have for the first time captured the specific behaviour of a coral as it's bleaching.

The team from QUT in Australia used a clever combination of microscope, digital camera and smart tablet to record close-up, detailed time-lapse videos of a coral species' physical reaction to heat stress, showing evidence for the first time that it employs pulsed inflation.

To simulate rising sea surface temperatures, researchers Brett Lewis and Dr Luke Nothdurft from QUT's marine facility in the School of Earth, Environmental and Biological Sciences placed solitary corals, *Heliofungia actiniformis*, into controlled aquaria, before heating the water up.

Their resulting videos, described in the peer-reviewed *Coral Reefs*, show the unhappy corals belching Symbiodinium, tiny algae cells that live within coral tissue and give corals their vibrant colours.

"What's really interesting is just how quickly and violently the coral forcefully evicted its resident symbionts," said Mr Lewis, from QUT's Science and Engineering Faculty.

"The *H. actiniformis* began ejecting the symbionts within the first two hours of us raising the water temperature of the system."

Mr Lewis said previous studies had shown *H. actiniformis* was one of the very few corals on the Great Barrier Reef considered to be relatively resilient to bleaching, even as neighbouring species suffered the full effects.

"Our observations suggest this resilience could be due to the rapid expulsion of the coral's algal symbionts during thermal stress, and could very well increase *H. actiniformis*'s chance of survival during abnormally high sea temperatures."

During the experiments, the team raised the water temperature in a 10-litre aquarium system from 26°C to 32°C over 12 hours, where it remained for

up to eight days.

While scientists have known for some time that coral bleaching occurs when the relationship between the coral and their Symbiodinium breaks down as ocean temperatures rise, the QUT team's time-lapse videos show for the first time how this coral removes the algae.

"Our *H. actiniformis* used a pulsed inflation to expel Symbiodinium over time -- inflating their bodies to as much as 340 per cent of their normal size before suddenly and violently contracting and ejecting Symbiodinium through their oral openings over the four to eight day duration of the experiments" Dr Nothdurft said.

Dr Nothdurft said reef-building corals and their algal Symbiodinium had evolved to form a mutually-beneficial relationship.

"Corals provide Symbiodinium with protection and surface area for photosynthesis, while the excess sugars created by the algae supply the majority of the coral's daily food requirements," he said.

He said expulsion of the algae removed the pigment from the corals tissue, rendering them white or transparent, referred to as coral bleaching. If environmental conditions return to normal quickly enough, some corals may regain their Symbiodinium and associated colour.

"If the Symbiodinium is removed from the host and does not recolonise quickly, the corals can die. .

"Mass coral bleaching events are a concern for scientists globally with recent events on the Great Barrier Reef highlighting the threat of elevated water temperatures to the health of reef ecosystems."

Source:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/08/160812103806.htm>

## Log Book

### **How Archaeologists Discovered 23 Shipwrecks in 22 Days**

By Nick Romeo, July 11, 2016

For the second time in a little over a year, undersea explorers have found nearly two dozen sunken ships in the remote Aegean.



A diver measures a Samian amphora from the oldest of the 45 wrecks discovered so far. It dates to between 525 and 480 B.C. Photograph by Vasilis Mentogianis

One July afternoon in 2015, the maritime archaeologist George Koutsouflakis was talking with a colleague in his Athens office when his phone rang. The caller was a free diver and spear-fisher from the remote Fourni archipelago, a small cluster of islands between Samos and Ikaria in the eastern Aegean. During years of diving and fishing in the coastal waters around Fourni, the man had spotted dozens of areas where the seafloor was strewn with ancient clay vessels—the coral-encrusted cargoes from ships lost at sea long ago. Over the past year he'd made a hand-drawn map and marked the locations of nearly 40 possible shipwrecks. He wanted to show Koutsouflakis the sites.

The timing of the call was perfect: as a native Ikarian, Koutsouflakis had heard rumors of shipwrecks at Fourni for years, and that

summer he'd been trying to organize an expedition to locate them. But funding was still precarious. While Koutsouflakis listened to the spear-fisher describe everything he'd seen, he flashed his colleague a grin. He knew that the project would happen.

In just 11 days of diving in September 2015, Koutsouflakis and his co-director Peter Campbell of RPM Nautical discovered 22 shipwrecks. This June they returned to the Fourni archipelago with a team of 25 divers, archaeologists, and artifact conservators. Over 22 days of diving they found an additional 23 pre-modern shipwrecks, raising the total number identified at Fourni so far to 45, an astonishing 20 percent of all known shipwrecks in Greek waters.

### From Classical Greece to Medieval Times

The sunken ships discovered in June 2016 span more than 2,000 years of Greek maritime history. The earliest shipwreck dates to roughly 525 B.C., while the most recent is from the early 1800s. The other wrecks range across the centuries, with cargoes from the Classical period (480-323 B.C.), the Hellenistic period (323-31 B.C.), the Late Roman period (300-600 A.D.), and the Medieval period (500-1500 A.D.) Cooking pots, plates, bowls, storage jars, a palm-size lamp, and black-painted ceramic fine-ware are among the artifacts recovered from the wrecks so far.



This ship is the only wreck discovered so far at Fourni whose exposed wood has survived. It likely dates to the 18th or 19th century. Photograph by Vasilis Mentogianis

The most common artifacts that survive are clay storage jars known as amphorae. These were used by merchant ships throughout antiquity to transport cargoes of wine, olive oil, fish sauce, and other goods. It's possible to identify the place of origin for different amphorae by analyzing the style of the jars and the elements in the clay: different pottery workshops made visually distinct vessels by firing clay sourced from local soils. The amphorae recovered in 2016 originated in Cyprus, Egypt, Samos, Patmos, Asia Minor, mainland Greece, Rome, Spain, and even North Africa, revealing the vast web of trade and commerce that crisscrossed the many cultures of the Mediterranean throughout history.

## Taking a Ride With the Divers

On one of the last mornings of diving this June, I set out with four of the best professional divers in Greece in a small RIB, short for rigid inflatable boat. We were pursuing a tip from a sponge diver about an unusually deep wreck in one of the many small bays formed by the curvy coastline of the main island. The abundance of natural bays and harbors made Fourni an appealing shelter for ancient ships seeking refuge from strong winds on the open waters.

After hydroplaning across a distance of mist and spray, our driver slowed the RIB and we called the sponge diver to confirm the location. Other shipwreck survey projects use remote-sensing tools to identify aberrations on the seafloor, sometimes spending tens of thousands of dollars for each day of survey. But Campbell and Koutsouflakis depend on a decidedly low-tech method of detection:

conversation with fishermen who have spent decades in these waters.

As we hovered above the suspected site the first two divers strapped on roughly 50 pounds of gear and tumbled backward over opposite sides of the boat, leaving only a froth of surface bubbles as they descended. One of the divers was Manos Mitikas, the local Fourni free diver who called Koutsouflakis a year ago with the map of wrecks. His leads had already helped the team discover many shipwrecks. This morning they were searching a site at a depth of more than 197 feet (60 meters). Scuba tanks were essential.

We waited on the surface, the waves pushing us away from the drop point. The moments while divers are submerged are always tense. Even experts risk equipment failures, insufficient decompression, and the dangerous confusion induced by nitrogen narcosis. After 25 long minutes an inflatable red buoy finally popped above the surface of the waves. They'd found the wreck and marked its position.



Diver Manos Mitikas raises an amphora from the seafloor. Much of the cargo from this shipwreck appears to originate in North Africa. Photograph by Vasilis Mentogianis

The divers emerged from the water ecstatic. The shape of the original ship was silhouetted on the seafloor by rows of amphorae buried to their necks beneath sand. Not only were the vessels intact, they appeared to be of North African origin, a rarity this far east in the Aegean.

## Pirate Hideouts in Safe Waters

While 45 shipwrecks seems like a huge number, when spread across the centuries it's likely just a tiny fraction of the total active ships. "The waters here were actually relatively safe," Campbell said. Precise estimates on the percentage of ships lost at sea in antiquity are only conjectures, but parallels from periods with better data might support a figure around 3 percent. Most of the Fourni wrecks seem to have sunk after smashing into underwater reefs or being dashed against the rocky cliffs.

Pirates were at least as dangerous as the sea, and Fourni was long known as a pirate hideout. Manos Mitikas was in fact descended from pirates. He showed me an ethnographic history of the area documenting the 1869 execution of his great-great-grandfather for crimes at sea. "Don't worry," he said. "I'm a good boy. It was many generations ago."

Manos and other locals grew up seeing pottery on the seafloor all the time. "It's not something that surprises you, I thought the sea was just like that," he said. Nearly every house, shop, and restaurant on the main island has an amphora displayed somewhere in one of its rooms. "The fishermen caught them in their nets," he said. "It's impossible not to."

## Unusual Goodwill Between Fishermen and Archaeologists

Unfortunately, shipwreck finds have caused conflict between fishermen and archaeologists on islands and coastlines in Greek waters. Once an underwater archaeological site is discovered, the Greek government typically prohibits fishing in the area. In the recent past huge swaths of the sea could be declared protected waters, effectively ruining the livelihoods of local fishermen. Working from within the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities, Koutsouflakis has helped to drastically reduce the size of the banned areas—a vital compromise that accommodates the pressures of the past and the present.



These amphorae, probably Hellenistic, come from Knidos and Kos. They were scattered along the slope of an underwater cliff. Photograph by Vasilis Mentogianis

But Fourni is a rare case of goodwill between the locals and the archaeologists. In the closing days of the season, a 33-year-old fisherman named Smalis Olympiadis guided the team to the largest archaic stone anchor ever discovered in the Aegean. Lying 131 feet (40 meters) beneath the bay on the eastern side of the main island, the anchor was over six feet (1.8 meters) long and weighed more than 300 pounds (136 kilograms). It was covered in red and orange corals and calcareous marine algae. After Koutsouflakis wrestled it into shallower waters, six people

managed to hoist it aboard a RIB.

Olympiadis mainly catches dusky grouper, white seabream, and red porgy. But recently his haul has been decreasing by about 10 percent each year. He was pleased that the archaeologists were now working around his island, not least because the team of 25 ate each night at tavernas that bought his fish. He knows the locations of at least 10 other wrecks and plans to share them with the archaeologists next season.

## Long-Term Plans

The larger impact of the project could transform the island into the premier destination for underwater archaeology in the Mediterranean. "We really don't want to be one of those projects where a bunch of foreigners come in, find some artifacts, and then ship them back to Athens," said Peter Campbell. "We hope to support the people so they can fund and maintain a world-class maritime museum right here on the island."

Fourni's mayor, John Marousis, said that just a decade ago many Athenians, and nearly all foreigners, had never heard of the archipelago. The main island only got electricity in 1969, and today the permanent population hovers around 1,200 people. The economy depends on tourism, which has declined since the economic crisis.

He would like to see a museum on the island, but not just to draw tourists. As a tiny cluster of islands flanked by larger Samos and Ikaria, Fourni has long felt overshadowed. "Mainly, it's about identity," he said. "Samos is famous for their wine and as the birthplace of Pythagoras. Ikaria is famous for the number of old people and the myth of Icarus. Now, we have the shipwrecks." His wife nodded in agreement,

then added, "Besides, we actually have more old people than Ikaria."

The last night of the project more than a hundred local villagers gathered in a small municipal building to hear a presentation by Campbell and Koutsouflakis. They recounted the highlights of the season, showed some stunning underwater photos, and passed around artifacts for people to touch. After thanking the community for their support, Campbell weighed in on the rivalry between islands: "On Ikaria, they have Icarus. I say, let them have their myth; you have reality."

Source:

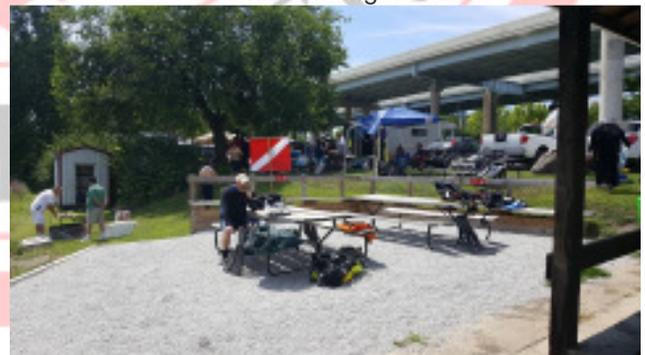
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/07/greece-shipwrecks-discovery-fourni-ancient-diving-archaeology/>

## Parting Shots

Corn Roast/Swap Meet, courtesy of **Steve Locsey**



Glenn roasting the corn



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## AD Rates

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1/2 Page \$20.00  
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Club members receive a 10% discount on advertising rates. Non-members receive a 10% discount for three months paid in advance.

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**NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., September 1, 2016.** OSU Coral Research, Andréa Grottoli, PhD, Professor and Head of the Division of Climate Water and the Environment

The Columbus Sea Nags

