

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

Dec. 2016

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## General Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Laurel Sheppard, Mag Ranft, Steve Ranft, Donn Ellerbrock, John Guegold, Steve Locsey, Dave Foley, Andrea Cato, Glenn Mitchell, Ryan Jones & Marty Bailey

**Program** – Donn Ellerbrock's trip to Palau

**50/50 Raffle winner**  
**Andrea Cato**

**Member Raffle**  
**Andrea Cato & Dave Foley**

**Treasurer's Report**  
\$ 6,280.86

### Elections

The floor was opened for nominations for officers from the membership. A nomination for **President - Steve Ranft, Vice President - Ryan Jones, Secretary - Dave Foley, Treasurer - Glenn Mitchell** was made by **Ryan Jones**, seconded by **Donn Ellerbrock** and passed by the membership. **Donn Ellerbrock** made a motion to elect the slate by acclamation, seconded by **John Guegold** and passed by the membership.

### Announcements

1. Clothing embroidery is \$9.50 per item for our 3 color logo. We have 11 items but need 12, so bring your clothing in soon!
2. Our Holiday Dinner will be December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 pm at Steve Locsey's home (5400 Woodville

Court, Columbus, OH 43230). The program will be a Seacore presentation. The event will be a potluck. The club is supplying tacos & pizza. Bring a snack or dessert & your favorite adult beverage.

**3.** 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

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

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

**6.** Our World Underwater Dive and Travel Expo will be held in Chicago, February 24-26, 2017. FMI: [www.ourworldunderwater.com/chicago](http://www.ourworldunderwater.com/chicago)

**7.** Our Cozumel dive trip will be the last week of February or First week of March. Details at the November membership meeting

**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.

Dues can be mailed to:

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

**9.** 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.

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2016

Dec

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

2017

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- Jan  
5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Quarry Diving in the Midwest, Laurel Sheppard  
19 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Feb  
2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
16 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Mar  
2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
16 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Apr  
6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- May  
4 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
18 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- June  
1 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
15 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- July  
6 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
20 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Aug  
3 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
17 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Sept  
7 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
21 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Oct  
5 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
19 Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM
- Nov  
2 General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD  
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**  
November 17 @ Planks, 7:00 PM Present:

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

November Diving article by Rob Robinson, attached to the email (NovemberDivingPart1.pdf).

## Environmental News

Bizarre 'lake under the sea' kills whatever swims there

By Bryan Nelson, Nov 1, 2016



The edge of the Jacuzzi of Despair... you don't want to venture too close to this deadly place. (Photo: EVNautilus/YouTube)

It might seem weird to imagine a lake within the ocean, but things like temperature and salinity can change the density of water, and "lakes" of denser water can form within a larger pool. Scientists have recently discovered such a lake at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, but this lake also has something else very strange going on: All the creatures that enter it don't come back alive, reports Seeker.

The lake, dubbed the "Jacuzzi of Despair," is about 100 feet in circumference and about 12 feet deep, and it lies on the ocean floor nearly 3,300 feet below the surface. It's littered with the dead bodies of benthic crabs, amphipods and fish that have crossed over into its waters, lured by the warmer temperature.

The super-salty brine in the lake contains four or five times more salt than the surrounding seawater, and it stews on the bottom like a thick witch's cauldron, collecting toxic chemicals such as methane and hydrogen sulfide. The lake is also connected to a brine river that actually flows over the seafloor.

"It was one of the most amazing things in the deep sea," said Erik Cordes, associate professor of biology at Temple University who discovered the site along with several colleagues. "You go down into the bottom of the ocean and you are looking at a lake or a river flowing. It feels like you are not on this world."

The waters within the pool are dammed in place by a living mat of bacteria and salt deposits. It likely formed as seawater seeped into cracks in the seabed and mixed with the region's subsurface salt formations. Methane gas then bubbled up, taking the deadly water with it.

Life is surprisingly plentiful around the lake's borders, but creatures that cross its boundary don't come back alive due to the toxic mixture. Water in

the pool measures about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, which is like bathwater compared to the surrounding sea.

"If you muck around in the lake, you can make waves of brine that break on the shore," said Cordes.

The scene conjures up impressions of an alien world. In fact, researchers believe that studying extreme places like the Jacuzzi of Despair can give hints about the kinds of conditions that might exist on other planets.

"There's a lot of people looking at these extreme habitats on Earth as models for what we might discover when we go to other planets," explained Cordes. "The technology development in the deep sea is definitely going to be applied to the worlds beyond our own."

Source:

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources/stories/bizarre-lake-under-sea-discovered-kills-whatever-swims-there>

## Log Book

### **Battle of the Atlantic Expedition Summary**

By Joe Hoyt Maritime Archaeologist NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries



The wreck of the USS YP-389, a United States Navy yard patrol boat. Image courtesy of NOAA, Battle of the

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Atlantic expedition.

There is a constant frenzy of activity from the time I roll out of my rack in the morning until, salt caked and tired, I crawl back in late at night. Daily mission briefs, personnel transfers, coordinating submersible rotations, assigning objectives, launching subs, downloading and processing data, reconfiguring survey equipment. It is very easy to get so caught up in the mechanics of executing the day-to-day activities of a mission that you miss the wonderment of where you are.

We are nearly 40 miles out to sea. Two manned submersibles are strapped to the deck ready to carry out a mission you and your colleagues have been dreaming about for years. Nearly 800 feet below you lies something unseen for more than seven decades, a monument to World War II history and the tomb of nearly four dozen men. Simply incredible.

A precious few moments struck me where I could appreciate the enormity of it all. Looking around at the research team and the crew, I knew it must be the same for them. Such an incredibly talented and hardworking team has been put together for this mission and they were focused on doing a great job.

Jason Epp, the lead laser-scanning technician from 2GRobtics was up half the night with Mikael and Aimee from Sonardyne. They had finally integrated all of their systems with Nemo, the acoustic beacons had all been deployed and calibrated, and they were planning the first laser data collection dive. The next morning, Jason climbed bleary-eyed into Nemo juggling two-laptops. As he slipped into the acrylic sphere alongside pilot Robert Carmichael, I could tell his mind was focused solely on getting the best data possible. I poked my head into the hatch just before it closed, "Hey Jason," I said, "It's ok to enjoy it for a minute." He grinned and gave me a 'thumbs up'.

From the first dives to the last, we focused first on collecting our primary data, but I am hopeful every member of the team got a few of those moments

where they realized they were in a truly special place, and that the work we are engaged in has the potential to enhance our understanding of history and protect these unique sites.

We have now come to the end of a long and fruitful expedition. Trying new approaches and systems integrations while dodging tropical depressions and hurricanes presented some significant hurdles, all of which were navigated successfully. A complete downward-looking laser scanning survey was completed on both U-576 and Bluefields. Preliminary raw data is promising, and I am confident we will have accurate 3D models of these sites down to the millimeter.

Photogrammetric modeling was also successful. A partially complete model of U-576 was collected and will likely compliment the laser scanning point cloud data, particularly around undercuts. Likewise, the Global Underwater Explorers and Project Baseline dive team was able to conduct the first dives to YP-389 and collect stunning imagery along with a complete photogrammetric model of the site. In all, the team came together and gathered great data with incredible results.

The baseline data collected on YP-389 is of particular importance, as it is within diveable depths, yet had not been previously dived. A complete record of artifacts and site integrity is now in hand that will potentially allow us to track human impacts on site in the future.

Data collected on U-576, Bluefields, and YP-389, three sites that have never been visited by people since their loss in 1942, will prove invaluable to Monitor National Marine Sanctuary as it continues to develop approaches to better protect these resources and share this history with the broader public.

Working 800 feet deep 20 years from now may seem quite pedestrian, and we will be glad we have a complete record of the pristine remains of the KS-520 Convoy attack. These data are easily repeatable and offer an extremely accurate assessment of the status of these vessels in 2016.

Moreover, we successfully tested our methodology and found that we could reliably collect these types of data from both divers and manned submersibles in this region up to depths of more than 800 feet. This represents a significant step forward in the capacity for archaeological research and resource management at Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

Although the team achieved the primary objectives of the mission, I walk away from this project feeling as I always do when such endeavors are over: Never enough time, never enough data. Though I expect with experiences as incredible as we enjoyed during this expedition, 'never enough' is a sentiment shared amongst the whole team, and is what always compels us to return.

Source:

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/16battlefield/logs/sept10/sept10.html>

## ***Underwater Stone Age settlement mapped out***

By Lund University, Nov 14, 2016



Discoveries indicate mass fishing and therefore a semi-permanent settlement.

Six years ago divers discovered the oldest known stationary fish traps in northern Europe off the coast of southern Sweden. Since then, researchers at Lund University in Sweden have uncovered an exceptionally well-preserved Stone Age site. They now believe the location

was a lagoon environment where Mesolithic humans lived during parts of the year.

Other spectacular finds include a 9,000 year-old pick axe made out of elk antlers. The discoveries indicate mass fishing and therefore a semi-permanent settlement.

"As geologists, we want to recreate this area and understand how it looked. Was it warm or cold? How did the environment change over time?" says Anton Hansson, PhD student in Quaternary geology at Lund University.

Changes in the sea level have allowed the findings to be preserved deep below the surface of Hanö Bay in the Baltic Sea.

The researchers have drilled into the seabed and radiocarbon dated the core, as well as examined pollen and diatoms. They have also produced a bathymetrical map that reveals depth variations.

"These sites have been known, but only through scattered finds. We now have the technology for more detailed interpretations of the landscape," says Anton Hansson.

"If you want to fully understand how humans dispersed from Africa, and their way of life, we also have to find all their settlements. Quite a few of these are currently underwater, since the sea level is higher today than during the last glaciation. Humans have always preferred coastal sites," concludes Hansson.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIXINtU2EzA>

Source:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161114082236.htm>

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**NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs.,  
January 5, 2016. Quarry Diving in the Midwest, Laurel  
Sheppard**

The Columbus Sea Nags

