

S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

April 2013

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General Meeting Minutes

Present: Marty Bailey, Adam Biehl, Andy Dennis, Jeff Dye, Danny & Yung Holt, Ryan Jones, Steve Locsey, Glenn Mitchell, Maggie & Steve Ranft, Rob Robison, Tom & Rebecca Zelanin

50/50

New member **Ryan Jones** took home \$8.00 from the 50/50.

Member Raffle

Adam won a sweatshirt (the editor apologizes for forgetting to note the donor of the garment) and **Yung** loaded up on a box of Girl Scout cookies.

Announcements

- Ryan Parkevich** is putting together a cave diving course. If interested, contact him at teqdiver@yahoo.com.
- Club dive trip 2013: Panama City, FL. Week of July 11-15 (Tentative. Details TBA)**

Treasurer's Report

Checking	\$6,252.79
Petty Cash	\$74.34
Grand Total	<u>\$6,327.13</u>

Additional Announcements

- 2012 Club membership dues are \$20.00. 2012 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.
- 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.

- 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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2013

Apr

4 General Meeting 8:00PM @ Plank's. Andy Dennis, Great Lakes Wreck Diving

18 Executive Meeting, 7:00PM, Plank's

27-28 GLHS/MAST workshop and dinner

(<http://www.justaddwaterscuba.com/pdf/mast.pdf>)

May

2 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Eugene Braithwaite, *Lake Erie Update Tentative*

4 or 5 Sat or Sunday club dive North Point (Newark). Details to follow

16 Exec Meeting @ TBA house 7:30 PM

18 or 19 GLHS/MAST workshop:

(<http://www.justaddwaterscuba.com/pdf/mast.pdf>)

June

1 Saturday - Club dive & cookout @ Circleville

6 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Richard Fishel, *Diving SE Asia Tentative*

20 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

July

4 or 6 (Tentative) Club General Meeting dive & cookout, @C'ville Tentative. Details TBA

11-15 Club dive trip to Panama City(Tentative) Details TBA

18 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

20-21 Dan BBQ @ Portage

Aug

1 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Social, no official program

TBA Corn Roast, Swap Meet & club dive, C'ville TQ

15 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

Sep

5 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Members Summer Diving Exploits

19 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

22 Club dive & cookout @ White Star. Details TBA

Oct

3 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Nominations for new club officers

17 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

Nov

7 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; Elections new club officers

??Annual Banquet

28 Exec Meeting 7:00PM @Plank's

Dec

5 Club General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00PM; TBA

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??Annual Christmas Party @ Marty's?
31 7th Annual New Year's Eve Dive-In @Circleville Twin
Q

Evening Program: Marty presented a very informative and entertaining slide show on his exploits from diving the U boats. Thanks, Marty!

Executive Meeting Highlights

@Planks 3-14-13: Donn Ellerbrock, Glenn Mitchell, & Rob Robison. Firmed up Scubafest activities

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to
<newsletter@seanags.com>

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Spasms

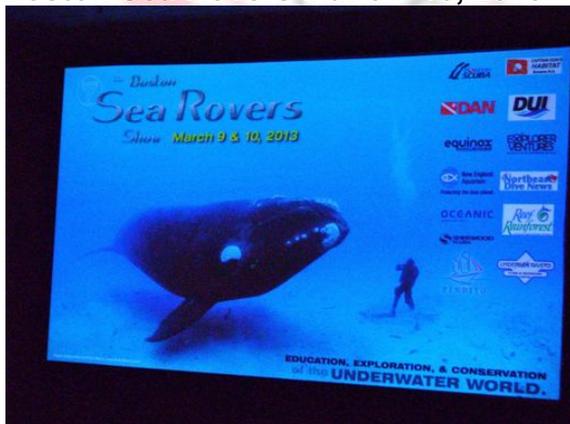
None reported

Oral

Jeff Dye repaired the coral in the Col. Zoo's aquarium; **Steve Locsey** dove the Chester A Poling in Gloucester, MA; Marty, Andy & Rob dove Lancaster (39°); Marty flooded his wide angle lens on a subsequent dive there.

Written

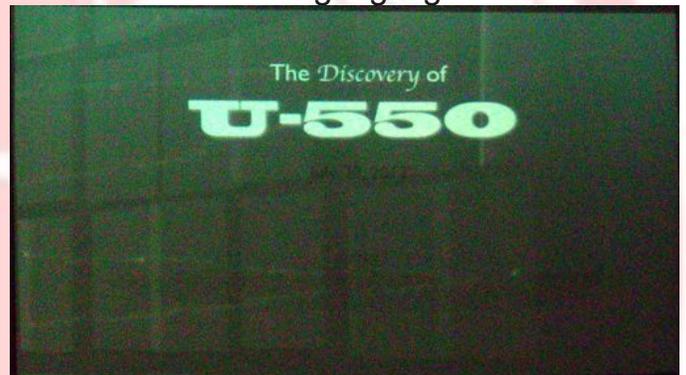
Boston Sea Rovers Mar 9 – 10, 2013



Early in the morning following our meeting, I

hopped a plane to Boston to attend the Boston Sea Rovers Show, the oldest SCUBA show in the US. The last time I attended, Bob Ballard had just returned from discovering the Titanic and gave us attendees the first public glimpse anywhere of the film footage he had amassed on his underwater discovery.

While Ballard wasn't on hand this year, the show didn't lack for great presentations and films. In particular, the discovery of the U550 was an exciting highlight.



File:U-550 crew abandons ship.jpg

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



"The wreck of U-550 was discovered on 23 July 2012. It lay off the coast of Massachusetts about 70 miles south of Nantucket. A team of seven divers, lead by

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New Jersey attorney Joe Mazraani and Capitan Eric Takajian, located the wreck using *side-scan sonar* after a multi-year search.” For the complete story see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_submarine_U-550. Also, there was a nice piece on diving the shipwrecks of Malta, by Capt. Heather Knowles and David Caldwell, who operate Northern Atlantic Dive Expeditions, Inc. out of Salem, MA.



Our own Steve Locsey dives with them regularly <<http://www.bostonsearovers.com/2012-clinic-home/daytime-seminars/#4611>>.

To be sure there were other great stories, stunning underwater photography, and dazzling videos at the evening film festival. In particular, British videographer for the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet, Michael Pitts, shared footage from Antarctica on a killer whale snatching a seal from a seal haul out, plus raw footage of his assignment filming crocodiles in the Nile with CNN reporter Anderson Cooper. Finally, Erick Higuera, presented an overpowering short video, entitled Baja, a film designed to call attention to the Sea of Cortés, the Socorro Islands, Guadalupe

Island, and the Revillagigedo Islands, all of Mexico, where giant mantas, large whales and other pelagics congregate, in an effort to encourage greater marine awareness and foster an environmental movement to protect these animals before it is too late <<http://www.bostonsearovers.com/2012-clinic-home/2012-film-festival>>.

I even ran into Capt Ed from St Croix Ultimate Blue Water Adventures diving.



The evening was capped by a tribute to renowned filmmaker, Stan Waterman, who celebrated his 90th birthday and announced that he is finally hanging up his fins, after a long and distinguished career exploring and filming the marvels of the liquid planet.



Rob

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Scuba Fest Mar 15-16. Attending the Sea Rovers Show provided a nice tune up for our own smaller but no less exciting ScubaFest gathering. Tony Gramer <http://tonygramer.com/>



Toy Gramer



Rudy Whitworth

and Rudy Whitworth <http://seahorseproductions.net/>, renowned underwater photographers and adventurers, anchored the show and regaled us with spectacular footage from their recent trips to the Socorro Islands, diving the steamer Fred McBride; diving in and around Komodo, Alor, and Flores Islands, and from the Raja Ampat live-aboard in Papua paradise. To be sure, there were many other notable sessions (www.scubafest.org/) including one from our own Mark Thomas on taking underwater photos. By the way, one of Mark's photos, *Tres Amigos* (below), was awarded first prize in the photo contest's Freshwater Category. Congratulations, Mark!



A highlight from the evening banquet included footage from the recovery of one of a number of 200-year-old British cannons from the Detroit River (See video here: <http://tonygramer.com/cannon.html>) in October 2011.

Finally, special thanks to Glenn Mitchell, Mark and Shelley Thomas, and Debbie and Rod Maxson who helped with the setup, the manning of our table, or took photos, when the editor had forgotten his camera.



Rod & Debbie Maxson



Rod, Glenn, & Rob

For more photos from Scubafest, see Parting Shots and Thoughts on p. 9 On Saturday March 10th, I finally made it to Gilboa for a deep test with the KARIK Light System. It was a perfect day, a little too perfect. With all the

sunshine, I had great vis and ambient light at 124'. You could tell that I was using the light, but unless I was inside of an object or very close, the camera reacted to the ambient light more than to the dive light. I swam to the boats in the deep section and then went through the semi-trailer. It was a great dive and I had the entire quarry to myself. If there was bad vis I could only blame myself. I swam on the bottom for about 27 minutes then headed up and finished my deco for a total dive time of 49 minutes.

Last week Maggie and I returned to Bermuda. It's my eighth trip and Maggie's ninth. Unfortunately the weather did not permit any diving, the winds were strong and the sea conditions averaged 8 to 12 foot waves, with small craft warnings the entire week. On top of that the dive store I normally use to rent gear was closed. Even though the temps averaged in the 60's for both air and water, it's still winter in Bermuda and they don't dive much in the winter. They told me that they usually begin in April and really get rolling in May.

Maggie and I concentrated on going to new sites (Spittle Pond, Jeffery's hole, Whale Bay Fort) and some of our favorites (Dockyards, Gibbs light house, city of Hamilton). I spent the mornings hiking in Blue Hole Park and searching out new caves as well as visiting some of my favorites (Cathedral, Prospero's, and Admiral Caves). On Thursday I snorkeled in the Blue Hole and a couple of caves in the park. I asked Maggie to come along not so much to rescue me, but to be able to go for help in case I climbed down into something that I couldn't climb out of. The caves were small and each had a potential lead, I took a few photos and fortunately Maggie's only job was that of a topside photographer (next time we go back I hope to dive some of the new leads, and this time I won't have to drag Maggie along). We snorkeled in Bailey's Bay

that afternoon (it has two wrecks you can reach from shore). The week went by pretty fast and we were soon back in Columbus, arriving late Saturday night.

On Sunday, I woke and saw that I still had time to attend ScubaFest in Dublin at the Embassy suites. I spent three hours going through the loop of exhibits and talking with friends, many whom I haven't seen for a while. Since the show was moved to its current date, it has coincided with the middle of my spring break, but this year with OSU going to semesters it is now at the end of spring break.

Safe Diving!

MB

Environmental News

Study: Humans Drastically Altering Wild Stingray Behavior; 'Interactive Ecotourism' Questioned by Underwatertimes.com News

Service - March 19, 2013 20:45 EST

http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=13981076405

FORT LAUNDERDALE, Florida -- Stingrays living in one of the world's most famous and heavily visited ecotourism sites — Stingray City/Sandbar in the Cayman Islands — have profoundly changed their ways, raising questions about the impact of so-called "interactive ecotourism" on marine **wildlife**, reports a new study published March 18 in the journal PLOS ONE.

Researchers from Nova Southeastern University's Guy Harvey Research Institute and the University of Rhode Island studied the southern stingray population of Stingray City — a sandbar in the Cayman Islands that

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draws nearly a million visitors each year to feed, pet and swim with its stingrays — to assess how the intensive ecotourism has affected the animals' behavior.

"Measuring that impact is important because there's a lot of interest in creating more of these interactive ecotourism operations, but we know little about the life histories of the animals involved or how they might change," said study co-author Guy Harvey, who initiated the project.



A new study has examined the impact of humans on wild stingrays. Credit Guy Harvey

The researchers found that Stingray City's stingrays show distinctly different patterns of activity than their wild counterparts, who don't enjoy daily feedings or close human contact.

"We saw some very clear and very prominent behavioral changes, and were surprised by how these large animals had essentially become homebodies in a tiny area," says study co-author Mahmood Shivji, director of the Guy Harvey Research Institute and

NSU Oceanographic Center professor, who led the study.

Wild stingrays are active at night and solitary — they forage through the night over large distances to find food, and rarely cross paths with other stingrays. To see if Stingray City's fed stingrays stray from this behavior, Mark Corcoran, lead author of the study who did the research as part of his graduate work at NSU, and the research team tagged and monitored both wild and fed stingrays over the course of two years and compared their patterns of movement.

They found that fed stingrays swapped their normal nighttime foraging for daytime feeding, and in contrast to their wild counterparts, began to rest at night. They also didn't mind rubbing shoulders with their neighbors: At least 164 stingrays abandoned the species' normal solitary behavior, crowding together in less than a quarter square mile of space at Stingray City. They even formed schools and fed together. The fed stingrays mated and became pregnant year-round, instead of during a specific mating season, and also showed signs of unusual aggression, biting each other more frequently than their wild counterparts.

These results suggest that human-provided food can dramatically change how even large, highly mobile ocean animals behave — with potentially

serious consequences, the researchers conclude. "There are likely to be some **health** costs that come with these behavior changes, and they could be detrimental to the animals' well-being in the long term," Shivji said.

Stingray City means big business in the Cayman Islands, where each stingray generates as much as \$500,000 annually in tourism income, Harvey said. The team plans to continue to monitor Stingray City's population to track its health — and the industry's impact — over time.

"Right now, these animals have no **protection** at all," Harvey said. "Without more studies like these, we won't know what that means for the wildlife or if we need to take action. It's unclear how much of the stingray's daily **diet** comes from tourism provided food, but the good news is we have seen the animals forage when tourists are absent suggesting that these animal are not completely dependent on these handouts."

Views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of UnderwaterTimes.com, its staff or its advertisers.

Palau's president proposes new marine sanctuary

Updated Sat Mar 16, 2013 3:02pm AEDT

Palau's president has proposed banning all commercial fishing in the Pacific nation's waters to create one of the world's largest marine reserves, covering an area roughly the size of France

President Tommy Remengesau, who was elected last November, says a commercial fishing ban could help Palau earn more money from tourism than it currently gets from tuna

fleets.



He says his vision is for an area "so well protected" that Palau would become the world's largest marine sanctuary.

"No longer will Palau be merely a shark sanctuary, it will be a sea sanctuary that protects all marine wildlife within Palau's exclusive economic zone (EEZ)," President Remengesau said.

Palau won international acclaim when it created the world's first shark sanctuary in 2009.

Palau's EEZ covers almost 630,000 square kilometers of the northern Pacific, including world-renowned scuba diving and snorkeling sites.

The nation of 300 islands, with a population of about 21,000, has generated negligible revenue from foreign fishing vessels plying its waters.

However, Palau has only one ageing patrol boat and President Remengesau has conceded enforcing any commercial fishing ban will be difficult.

For the video and the rest of the story, go to: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-03-16/palau-president-proposes-commercial-fishing-ban/4576974>

Log Book

Baja anglers startled as killer whales emerge just inches from boat

Sea of Cortez sighting makes for quite the tale
March 09, 2013 by [Pete Thomas](#), in **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS**, An Outdoor / Nature Blog

As their boat plowed across the Sea of Cortez toward the offshore marlin grounds, all eyes were trained off the bow, toward the more productive blue water. Suddenly, however, the captain looked behind and screamed and pointed. In the boat's prop wash were several large killer whales, including two that were just inches from the boat. The sleek mammals were so close that they seemed to be inspecting the anglers and crew.



"As the stern dipped in the waves, they would peer into the cockpit," said Bryan MacGowan, who captured the two accompanying images during a rare encounter he and his friends will not soon forget. "It was intimidating—they are big!"

(Spotting killer whales in the Sea of Cortez is not that uncommon. Seeing them riding a boat's wake like dolphins, however, is rare but boaters have enjoyed this spectacle. Having them emerge directly behind the boat close enough to touch is simply extraordinary.)

"The skipper said he sees this pod a couple of

times a year, but never had them appear in the stern wash," MacGowan said.



There were no lines in the water during the brief encounter, which occurred in Baja California's East Cape region, between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz.

There were at least 12 killer whales, or orcas, according to MacGowan, who snapped the photographs before the mammals lost interest and disappeared.

The orca in the top image seemed to glide up onto the stern transom, effortlessly, as the 31-foot boat plied at high speed. "There was another in the prop wash on the other side, but my camera could only capture the one," MacGowan said.

The photo first appeared Saturday afternoon on the Pisces Sport fishing [Facebook page](#), above a post that reads:

Look very carefully at this photo, sent to us by Brian MacGowan from Newport Beach, California, who is out today on the Tracy Ann. He was fishing at the East Cape recently, when the captain yelled for him to look back ... he did, glad the lures were not in the water, he could have had the fight of a life time on his hands.

In just a few hours, Ehrenberg said, the post had been viewed by 30,000 people and shared more than 300 times. (The Tracy Ann runs out of [Pisces Sport fishing](#).)

As for MacGowan's East Cape fishing trip,

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"After the orcas left, and they really move fast, we picked up striped marlin, which we released, and several dorado," he said. "A pretty spectacular Baja day!"

–Images are courtesy of Bryan MacGowan

Source:

<http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/nature/post/baja-anglers-startled-as-killer-whales-emerge-just-inches-from-boat/>

Parting Thoughts & Shots

From ScubaFest

(Photos by Rod & Debbie Maxson and Rob)



Marty, Andy, Rod & John Guegold



Setting up



Gary(Rec & Tec Charters) & Larry (Straits of Mackinaw)



Marty & Andy @ exhibits



Michelle T w KARIK dive lights

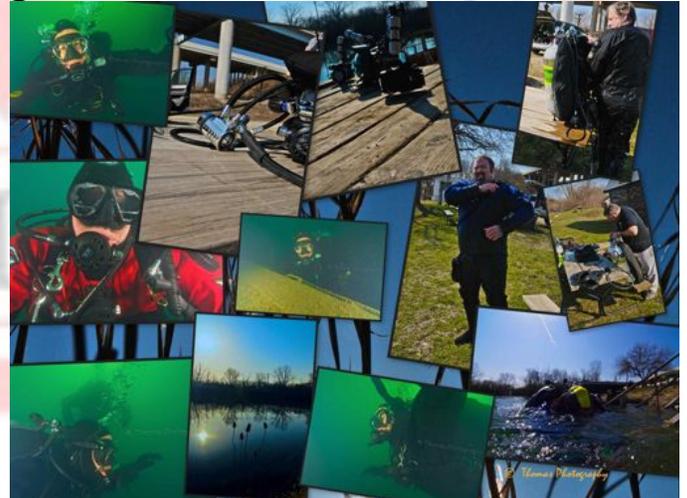
@ CirclevilleTwin Q 03/30/13. Water temp 46* vis 4' to 5'



Rod & Debbie @ Mark Thomas photography session



Rob, Mark, & Shelley @ banquet



Thomas Photography

AD Rates

S'Nag-A-News monthly advertising rates are as follows:

- 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: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., April 4, 2013. Program: Andy Dennis on Diving the Great Lakes

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