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General Meeting Minutes

By the ever acerbic Donn Ellerbrock

Present: Rob Robison, Adam Biehl, Donn Ellerbrock, Glenn Mitchell, Rick Blaine, Richard Hand, Jim Bergner, Joan and Terry Wooten, Marty Bailey, Steve Locsey, Andy Dennis.

50/50 and Member Raffle

There was no Member Raffle because there was nothing on hand to give away. Adam Biehl won the 50/50 raffle. While he took home the princely sum of \$8.75, he failed, fortunately, to display the exuberance of Laurel S. in similar circumstances, to everyone's relief.

Treasurer's Report

See Executive Meeting for the dollars and cents of it.

Announcements

Rob called for announcements: the DAN barbeque festivities will be held on July 16-17. Club members are meeting on July 16 at 10:00a.m. to dive and will have a cook-out at 2:00p.m. Members are encouraged to attend.

A questionnaire was mailed to the paid members to request suggestions regarding the disposition of any or all of the money bequeathed to the club by Tommy Finneran, one of the founding members of the club. Rob briefly discussed the member responses, which were varied. Of those received only three received more than a single vote: the purchase of decent AV equipment (3), renaming the rookie of the year award after Tommy (2), and retention of the funds as a reserve (5). Following a request for

recommendations from the floor from members who has not previously participated, the expenditure of funds for AV equipment and the retention of the funds received an additional 3, 0, and 4 votes respectively. Robison advised that the topic would be on the agenda at the next Executive Committee meeting and suggested that members interested in the matter contact him about attending. His also assured those present that they would be kept fully informed of action on the matter through the newsletter and at subsequent meetings.

Andy Dennis reported that he had followed through investigating the opportunity for the club to create Google accounts for club members. He had cleared all of the necessary steps and had registered the club, as requested at the May meeting, for the opportunity to establish the 50 free accounts. He said that he would be able to provide additional information to the club at the Executive Committee meeting.

Additional Announcements

- **2011 Club membership dues are \$20.00**
2011 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 \$0.25 each 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.
- Stone Lab, Gibraltar Island, Lake Erie: Spend a weekend on the Lake Erie islands at the Buckeye Island Hop, October 7 - 9, 2011, sponsored by the [Arts and Sciences Alumni Society](#) and the [Friends of Stone Laboratory](#). This annual event gives alumni

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and friends of Ohio State a chance to check out Gibraltar and South Bass islands, take part in an outdoor volunteer project, and meet new people. For more information go to: <http://stonelab.osu.edu/events/island-hop/>

Evening Program

Having dispensed with the announcements, or at least those he was willing to countenance, Robison then launched into his tales of adventure on virtually, uncharted shoals in Mexico, where the refugees from the lights of Cancún wash up on the sands: *Isla Mujeres*, the eastern most point of Mexico.

He and his wife vacationed at a very attractive resort on the island in May, and he dove with a local dive operation for several days. The weather was excellent; on 2 of 3 days, there were no other divers on the dive boat, and the air and water temperature was about 80 degrees for snorkeling, diving, wandering around town, or touring by golf cart.

The water was clear with fish and turtles in abundance, but there were few large fish, the usual consequence of over fishing. One attraction was a sculpture garden in the channel between the island and Cancun. He recommended island for its diving and ambiance, but suggested visiting during two late spring periods when billfish and whale sharks congregate. The location was quiet and laid-back, ideal for those whose better days are history.

Marty will share slides of his and Maggie's recent trip to Egypt and the Red Sea in August.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2011

Aug

4 Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks, Social, wreck dive video

13-14 Legends of Diving, Portage Quarry

Sept

1 Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks, summer dive stories from members/video

Oct

6 Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks. Nominations for club officers

6-7 Buckeye Island Hop @ Stone Lab, Lake Erie. For info go to: <http://stonelab.osu.edu/events/island-hop/>

Nov

3 Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Plank. Elections

12 Annual Banquet/Mary Kelley's Restaurant, tentative?

19-20 Shipwrecks & Scuba

Dec

1 Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks

9 Christmas Party, Marty's house

31 4th annual club night dive into the New Year

2012

Jan 1 @ Circleville. See Rob for details

Executive Meeting Highlights

Jim Bergner's House, 7/21/11 – Thanks, Jim!

Present: Marty & Maggie Bailey, Jim Bergner, Andy & Jordyn Dennis, Donn Ellerbrock, Rob Robison

- Discussed Portage Club dive and DAN BBQ @ Portage; Dennis family won a football, a cap, a t-shirt and assorted gewgaws
- Treasurer reported \$7,251.50 in checking; 148.30 in petty cash
- Determined to research new projector for club and retain remainder of Finneran bequest in reserve based on club input
- Determined to purchase plastic or vinyl stickers because the new paper based ones are disintegrating, as well as consider distributing club fliers to various local shops for display and distribution
- Andy reported he has secured 50 free domain address names from Google for the club's use if needed
- Annual banquet tentatively Nov 12 and Christmas party moved to Dec 9 @Marty's
- Discussed new quarries near Newark & south of C'ville

Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to

<newsletter@seanags.com>

Oral

Rob next called for June dive reports. The response was immediate and chaotic, as if a great barrier had finally been removed from a surging press of self-expression. And out of

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this maelstrom emerged what can only be described as a confusing mess: Steve Locsey and two others dove on the USS Oriskany off Pensacola, FL. They dove on tri-mix for reasons that are unclear, except that he could, to 177 ft. But details concerning the water, weather, or duration seems to have been lost or missing. The ship sits in 210 feet. They also did two other dives on the trip/day to 90-110 ft. Details to follow.

Andy Dennis made a number of dives in a number of places. In addition to several dives in Gilboa, he did a number of dives off New Jersey: the Texas Tower (150 ft.), the USS Murphy and another freighter (2 dives)(250 ft.), two U-boats (4 dives).

Steve, back for more, reported on a lousy dive in Lancaster in very low viz.

Jim Bergner, prepping for his Rescue Diver class, dove CTQ with Ellerbrock on Sunday. The following Wednesday, Robison dove in CTQ with Mitchell. Unsure about whether he might have missed something, he returned the next week with Ellerbrock to investigate.

Marty reported on several dives in Egypt. In weather, slightly worse than Columbus in July (air 105-110 degrees, water 77 degrees), he dove the harbor of Alexandria and the Red Sea. In the harbor, his \$200/dives took him to the ruins of a lighthouse and other features of the sunken city of Cleopatra and a more modern feature, a wrecked Italian plane. The \$100/dives in the Red Sea made from an excellent vessel and were much better. Marty also reported details of the land portion of his trip with Maggie.

There being no further business a motion was made at 9:15pm to adjourn the meeting. Without objection, the motion was agreed to.

Written

Lake Erie (Cleveland) 7/2 to 7/16/11

*Story & photos by
Laurel Sheppard*

I made three dives at the zoo, two in June

and one in July with the new communication mask. The crowds enjoyed it and the fish were hungry. During July 4th vacation, I made two shallow (9 ft. or less, viz the same or less) off the beach in



Madison, OH. I practiced with my compass and looked for part of the stairs that got washed away. Did not find that and only saw a couple fish, along with sand, logs or planks, and rocks. I also joined the MAST team on 7/16 to help survey a new wreck off of Cleveland that CLUE had discovered.



After staying at my sister's the night before, it was up at 7am to head to the

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Flats the next morning to meet the rest of the divers at the boat, The Holiday. The Sea Nags' very own Linda and Scott Pansing were on board to take pictures and run the project. I got there at the meeting time of 8am and unloaded my gear, taking some of it in a shopping cart down to the dock since there was a relatively long wooden path to get there. Another diver took the cart while I pulled my bag, which was on wheels. Most of the other divers had beaten me there and we soon had all the gear on board. We had to wait for the captain who arrived about 10 minutes before the 9am departure. He gave his safety spiel after Scott went over the plan for the day.

rebreather. He said he had been diving with it for a year. We found out we would be working on the 20-40' SE section of the baseline, measuring the location of the ribs using trilateration.

We were the second group of divers to go in and headed down the line to the wreck. After finding our section, we began our measurements. I held the end of the tape and Tim was moving the other end to two different points on the baseline for each rib. The viz was its usual 5-10 feet so I couldn't see my buddy on the other end. Fortunately, he had a dive light with him, which he flashed when it was time to move to the next rib. We had a time limit of 30 min so did not get done with our second task, measuring the width and height of the ribs. We were both only wearing wetsuits so the 54° water got us cold pretty fast. Most of the other divers were wearing dry suits.



It took us about an hour to reach the dive site and several minutes to position the boat in a good location. We were surveying an unknown wreck found by a local dive club, which was named the Cleveland East Break Wall Barge because of where it was located. It was in 40 feet of water. On the way there I met my buddy for the day, a guy named Tim who was diving with a



Back on board we filled out the dive notes and data sheets and ate a quick lunch before it was time to get back in. The captain needed to get back to the dock by 5pm since a group had chartered his boat.

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This time our dive was only 20 min because we got down with the rib dimensions and couldn't do our other task because we weren't sure what to measure. We were supposed to measure the centerlines of the planks from the baseline but at the location we were given there appeared to be no planks to measure. We probably should have moved down the baseline but didn't think of that until back on board. Hopefully the data we did get will help identify the boat. There wasn't much structure left, which was mostly covered with zebra mussels, but it was still neat to dive an almost virgin wreck. Some of the other MAST divers had done some preliminary work the weekend before so they could lay the baseline and do a rough sketch. It was also a beautiful day to be on the water, although hot on shore there was a nice breeze on the lake plus a sailing regatta to watch. Back on shore we loaded up our gear and went our separate ways.

Laurel Sheppard

Portage (7/16/11)

Story by Rob; photos by Rob, Glenn, Andrea, & Rick
A picture perfect day greeted those who drove to Portage on Saturday. Despite the fact that only four members committed to the club outing, many present and former Sea Nags were at the quarry. Andrea Caito, Glenn Mitchell, and I car-pooled together and reached Portage @ 9:30AM, a bit before Rick Blaine, who was meeting us there. Decent parking was still available behind the scuba shack, but it didn't last long. Shortly thereafter, cars were lined up two rows deep! While we were unloading and starting to set up, former Sea Nag president, Mike Kitchen, who was camping out at the site for the weekend,

dropped by, as did former Sea Nag Don Snyder, who was happy to let us know of his impending retirement at the end of December. Jeff Dye, Randy Beck, and John Guegold from the C'ville Landsharks showed up dripping wet. Apparently, they had already finished their first dive and were getting ready for another.



The Wootens, who decided to come at the last minute, also appeared around mid morning, as did Danny and Yung Holt, former Sea Nags, who emerged from the water and hopped right back in. Andy and Karen Dennis and family were camped out on the west end not far from Mike's tent. Also on hand were Michelle and Rick Thomas, along with their daughter, Margo. It was good to see everyone on such a glorious day.



Diving was less than spectacular, given the tremendous amount of silt in the water. Below 15 feet, vis dropped from 15-20' to a very hazy 5-7' or less. At the base of the Silo @ 53-54',

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H₂O was 57°F. During our first dive, Glenn's dive computer locked up forcing us to abort half way through. After switching to Andrea's, we plunged back in and made a short dive along the east bank to the empty semi box trailer in order to finish our tanks. By then we were reading for some food and drink.



Rob (L) & Rick (R) celebrate Rick's 400th logged dive!

Circleville (7-1 to 7-10)

Diving in Circleville at both the North and South Quarries has been fun and warm, with variable visibility. Having made 3 or 4 dives there on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings and weekends thus far this month, we've seen the monster catfish, some lunker bass, clouds of blue gill pan fish, a few crappie, and lots of thermo cline-induced marbling of the waters. Here are some random photos of the scenes.



Guess who: Bergner in glory or Capt'n Bob?



Afterwards, Andrea tried out her new custom wetsuit (above), while Rick and Rob celebrated Rick's 400th logged dive. Congratulations, Rick!



Return of the Creature or Dapper Donn?



A Glenn-induced feeding frenzy or the Pillsbury doughboy?

Environment

By Donn Ellerbrock

A humpback whale is saved

Watch the stirring video clip of an entangled humpback whale being saved from drowning by Great Whale Conservancy researchers in the

Sea of Cortez, Mexico:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBYPlcSD490>

Lionfish population explodes

BY WILLIAM E. GIBSON
SUN SENTINEL, 7-10-11

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/07/10/2307673/lionfish-population-explodes.html#ixzz1SOjDppZ>

WASHINGTON -- Beware the lionfish.

The pretty-but-voracious aquarium favorite, which has been gobbling other reef fish throughout the Caribbean, is swimming up South Florida's estuaries, invading the Gulf of Mexico and spreading along the South American coast.

Scientists say the East Coast has never seen a mass marine invasion of this kind before, and they worry that it will set off a cascade of ecological damage to native fish, coral reef and their delicate habitat.

Lionfish have been multiplying in the Caribbean and along the Carolina coast for

more than a decade, probably after a few were dumped from somebody's aquarium off the shores of South Florida and their offspring rode north and east on ocean currents.

Now the foot-long fish are coming full circle back to South Florida carried by currents from the Caribbean. Their numbers are growing along ocean reefs, and some have traveled into Biscayne Bay and up the Loxahatchee River.

The invader likely will establish itself along Florida's east coast and the entire Gulf Coast within the next five to 10 years and spread as far south as Brazil, marine scientists predict.

"I don't see anything stopping them," said Matthew Johnston, a research scientist at the National Coral Reef Institute in Dania Beach, Fla. ... "In South Florida," he said, "the lionfish population is just exploding now."

Lionfish eat just about anything that fits in their mouths, Johnston said, and they have few if any predators outside their native habitat in the Pacific around Australia and Indonesia.

Scientists speculate that the East Coast invasion began in South Florida in the 1980s or early '90s when aquarium fish may have been dumped into the ocean or in Biscayne Bay. Or they may have come in ballast water discharged by ships crossing from the Pacific through the Panama Canal.

... Lionfish have reproduced with abandon. A female produces roughly 2 million eggs a year. The larvae spread quickly once caught up in the Gulf Stream, a powerful current that rushes along the Florida coast up to the Carolinas.

The only limits appear to be colder waters, which have stopped the invasion in the North Atlantic, and fresh water with little salt content. Lionfish have been sighted as far north as Long Island in New York, but they do not live long or regenerate during the winter.

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Somehow along their pathway, lionfish drifted toward the Bahamas, where they reproduced quickly, decimated native fish and disturbed the habitat for corals and other species in ways scientists are still discovering.

The lionfish have virtually stripped some reefs of other small fish, depriving bigger fish of a food supply. They also eat the fish that clean the reefs by feeding on algae, leaving corals smothered and depleted.

South Florida, though probably the origin of the invasion, had relatively few of these critters once they rushed north with the Gulf Stream.

...

Last summer, while doing other research along the oyster reefs near Jupiter, Craig Layman discovered lionfish as far as 3.5 miles up the Loxahatchee River. It was clear evidence that the invader also thrives in the brackish waters of estuaries.

...

"By moving into estuaries, perhaps in high numbers, they are consuming juvenile fish, which reduces the food source for other native fish," he said.

...

Lionfish range so far and can swim so deep - as much as 1,000 feet - that eradication is virtually impossible, said James Morris, an ecologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Source: <<http://www.newmanpr.com/2010/10/05/divers-to-target-lionfish-in-nov-13-lower-keys-derby/>>

The best hope for containing the invasion may come from larger native fish - such as grouper - if they learn to prey on the lionfish. Meanwhile, the government is looking to human predators to take up the theme: "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em."

...

"For nutritional quality, it's very much comparable to snapper and grouper," he said. "It's one of the greener choices you could have on the menu."

Ed. Note: For more information on how to prepare Lionfish, Tami Thompson sent in this tidbit for your dining pleasure:

In an effort to curb the overwhelming invasion of Lionfish in the Caribbean, [Reef.org](http://www.reef.org) has come out with a Lionfish cookbook.

*<<http://www.reef.org/catalog/cookbook>>
Catch'em, eat'em, and enjoy!*

Tami

Log Book

DUI Recalls Weight And Trim Systems Due To Drowning Risks

By Underwatertimes.com News Service - July 13, 2011
16:04 EST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Diving Unlimited is recalling about 1,500 Weight & Trim System Classic and DUI Weight & Trim System II **weight** systems sold in the United States and Canada. The recall is because manufacturing defects in the lanyard connecting the handle to the pocket or the cable securing the



DUI Weight & Trim System Classic is being recalled due to manufacturing defects



Weight & Trim System II is being recalled due to manufacturing defects

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pocket to the harness can prevent the weight pockets from easily detaching from the harness and releasing the weights when the handle is pulled. The CPSC is poses a drowning hazard to consumers.

The weight harnesses are made of heavyweight nylon and are black in color with gray handles. The DUI logo appears on the pockets. [The Weight & Trim System Classic](#) has two small weight pockets on each side. The [Weight & Trim System II](#) has one large weight pocket on each side. Systems with large silver stripes on the sides have been inspected or repaired and are not affected by this recall.

Consumers should immediately stop using the systems and call DUI at (800) 325-8439 Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT to receive a free repair of the system.

For additional information, contact DUI [Customer Service](#) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday at (800) 325-8439 or visit the [DUI's website](#)



Parting Shots and Thoughts

Although Sea Nags and other similar-minded divers travel the world in search of great diving, past president Mark Thomas sent in these photos to remind everyone that Ohio diving can be wonderful, too:



Thanks, Mark!



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., Aug. 4 program, Diving the Red Sea w Marty Bailey

The Columbus Sea Nags
c/o Rob Robison
6803 Maplebrook Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43235

OFFICERS 2011

President & Newsletter Editor

Rob Robison
614-798-1206
president@seanags.com

Vice President

Jim Bergner
614-937-4339
vicepresident@seanags.com

Treasurer

Marty Bailey
614-866-9943
treasurer@seanags.com

Acting Secretary

Donn Ellerbrock
614-294-7540
secretary@seanags.com

