

S'NAG-A-NEWS

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

March 2011

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General Meeting Minutes

By Donn Ellerbrock

Announcements

March 1 is the deadline for the photo contest for ScubaFest. The contest is for Midwest amateurs. Details at www.scubafest.org. The grand prize this year is an all expense paid week on the new Baja Aggressor, donated by the [Aggressor Fleet](#), a program sponsor. The People's Choice Award, determined by paid attendees, will be a \$500 award towards any one of more than 50 dive trip destinations of Deep Blue Adventures, the award's sponsor, and also a program sponsor. There are five categories this year: [Great Lakes](#), including their tributaries; [Micro/Close-up](#); [General & Wide Angle](#); [Fresh Water](#), including springs, quarries, and caves; and [Point & Shoot Cameras](#), a new category for the truly amateur. Winners will be announced at the [March 19](#) banquet.

ScubaFest is March 18-20 at the Crown Plaza North in Columbus, Ohio. Volunteers are needed. Contact Gary DeMont at Volunteers@scubafest.org. Volunteers receive a t-shirt and discount on the admission. Sign-ups are specific blocks of time.

Marty Bailey is seeking information about volunteering for the Stone Lab spring cleanup. Marty is also attempting to arrange for a speaker from the Lab for April. The clean up will be in April.

Efforts are being made to arrange for possible **fall PADI First Aid and CPR**

classes, either together or separately.

Treasurer's Report: The club currently has \$2,428 in its treasury. This includes checking and petty cash. Currently, there are 30 paid members of the club; of those, 12 are also members of the Ohio Council. Last year, there were 41 paid members with 11 belonging to the council.

50/50: Joan Wooten won the underwhelming sum of \$5.50 in the 50/50 raffle. (Marty said that every bit of the club's share helps, and Joan vowed she wouldn't spend it all at once.)

In the **Member Raffle**, Joan Wooten, Laurel Sheppard, and Tami Thompson all walked away winners, thanks to book donations from Donn Ellerbrock.

Program: Mike Burton gave a slide show on his December trip to [Phi Phi Island](#), near [Phuket](#) in [Thailand](#) on the [Andaman Sea](#). He did use a projected map to aid his tale, providing those present with details of the sights, adventures, and diving during his travels. His presentation was very informative and well received. Thanks, Mike!

March Program: Debbie Maxson will share a video on the October trip to Bonaire she, her husband, Rod, and several other club members made.

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 a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$0.25 each and extra patches at a \$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.

WINTER DIVING, 2011

Circleville Twin Quarries

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(http://divecircleville.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&Itemid=27)

Cost = \$12

Open year round. **The quarry is open when the store is closed.** Please complete the liability release at the first shelter house and deposit \$12.00 in the box and dive. Please call or email in advance when you plan to dive. We will ensure the gate is unlocked. If you have additional questions - please email or call.

Gilboa (<http://divegilboa.com/>)

Cost = \$21

December 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

Winter hours = the first and third weekends of the month and will be open from 9am to 3pm.

If the weather is bad, please call the quarry ahead of time to make sure it is open.

Lakeview RV Park (<http://www.rvatlakeview.com/>)

Open year round. Cost = \$10.

Portage (<http://www.portagequarry.com>)

Reopens April 1, 2011

White Star (<http://www.whitestarquarry.com/>)

Cost = \$15

November - December 2010

Quarry Open every day for Diving 8am - Dusk - There are no concessions open November or December without prior arrangements.

January - March 2011

February 5 - 6 - Weekend Ice Diving

February 12 - 13 - Weekend Ice Diving

March 5 - Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival, Ann Arbor, MI

March 12 -13 - Weekend Ice Diving

ScubaFest in Columbus, Ohio - March 19 - 20

March 27 - Public Safety Day at White Star

April 2011

Quarry resumes Regular Diving Hours April 1

Quarry Open every day for Diving 8am - Dusk Through December 31

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2011

Mar

- 1 Deadline ScubaFest Regional Photo Competition for Midwest amateurs: details at scubafest.org
- 3 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks.** Debbie Maxson, Diving Bonaire trip video
- 4-7 Boston Sea Rovers 57 Annual Underwater Clinic; details at <http://www.bostonsearovers.com/>
- 5 Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival, Ann Arbor, MI; details at <http://www.shipwreckfestival.org/index.html>
- 18-20 ScubaFest 2011; Crown Plaza N, Columbus; details at scubafest.org

Apr

7 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks:** Stone Lab, Fools Gold, or wreck video
30 MAST dinner

May

1 **MAST workshop**

5 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks,** Stone Lab, Fools Gold, or wreck video

28 **Club dive, White Star Quarry;** www.whitestarquarry.com

Jun

2 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks; Slide show on Isla Majors, Mexico,** by Rob

11 Corn roast, gear swap & membership drive; Circleville Twin Q

Jul

7 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks, TBA**

16 **Club dive @ Portage Quarry**

16-17 DAN BBQ, Portage Quarry; www.portagequarry.com

Aug

4 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks, Social, no program**

13-14 **Legends of Diving, Portage Quarry**

Sep

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

Oct

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

Nov

3 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Plank. Elections**
19- Shipwrecks & Scuba

Dec

1 **Club General Meeting; 8:00PM; Planks**

3 **Annual Banquet/Christmas Party, Mary Kelley's Restaurant**

Executive Meeting Highlights

Rob's house, 2-17-11

Present: Marty Bailey, Jim Bergner, Glenn Mitchell, Donn Ellerbrock, Rob Robison

- The treasurer reported the club will sponsor a table at ScubaFest
- Marty has invited Stone Lab to talk at the April 7 meeting and the club will consider participation in Lab's volunteer weekend April 15-17.

Dive Reports

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

Ed. Note: Florida seems to have been on everyone's mind this month.

Spasms

None reported

Oral

See Written Reports

Written

Circleville, Feb 20, 2010

Thanks to a week long warming trend, the ice

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finally melted from the Twin Quarries enabling those of us who are non-ice divers to get wet for the first time since January 1 of this New Year. Former Sea Nag John Skobel and I teamed up to take the plunge into 41-42°F H₂O, depending upon whose dive computer you want to believe. Vis was a murky 7 – 10.' John was a bit disappointed there wasn't any lingering ice because he likes to look at it from underneath. After my exciting experience under the ice last year, I was OK with the melted conditions as found.

Suiting up in our dry suits, we hopped in. John and I both experienced a few issues as a result of the long winter layoff. John forgot to completely dump the air out of his suit before submerging and struggled with his buoyancy throughout the dive. Also, once down John discovered that one of his rock boots wasn't tied on snugly enough. Afterwards, he said it felt like it was going to fall off at any second. In my case, somehow I didn't get my mask seated completely and fought through constant leakage for half the dive before resolving it.



While under water, I noticed the small fry were very active, as were the fledgling bass and blue gill, in stark contrast to their catatonic state at the first of the year, January 1. Clearly, a week's worth of sunshine has been as beneficial to underwater critters as it has to

housebound humans.

As we debriefed ourselves after the dive, both of us observed that we are now noticing the effects of aging. Putting on gear takes longer and requires the help of a buddy; our flexibility is a bit reduced; and our manual dexterity and hand strength are beginning to deteriorate somewhat; however, our joy in the underwater world remains unbridled.

If you haven't done so already, I strongly encourage you to pull out your gear and prepare for an equally joyous return to the hydrosphere in the near future.

It is time to dive into it,

Rob

Lancaster 2/20/11

This past weekend, Dave and I once again met at Lancaster for a dive. No ice, a little disappointed, but that means that this weekend we can break out our re-breathers for the first time this year.

Dave and I signed our waiver forms, he used his doubles and I used my side mounts, this time making sure that I tested my auto inflator while on the surface and underwater (no problems this time). Dave led the dive to the culvert then to the van and over to the wheel chair reef, car, and airplane. We made a detour to look at the rowboat and about that time I was beginning to get cold (water temp still 35 F). We decided to pick up the pace, which warmed me up, but by the time we reached the boat I had another concern. I did not hook-up my p-valve and I really needed to go. I was swimming a little faster than Dave, once at the platform I waved good-bye and headed to the exit. Dave wasn't that far behind me and he surfaced as I was dropping my gear at the steps. All in all it was a good dive (49'/64min), but next week, I think I will hook-up if we plan a dive over 60minutes.

MB

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White Star Ice Dive Report.02/05/2011

With a two-hour drive behind us, Andy Silverman and I, plus seven more ice divers, arrived at White Star Quarry on 02/05/2011, for our first or second ice dive of the year. Manager Rich Synoqwiec had already cut throw 14 inches of ice, so all that was left to do was to tie off the safety lines and get the teams together and hit it. Andy and I were the first team in with the promise of a 20 min. bottom time, so I could photograph Andy under the ice. What a day: no wind and air temp in the teens and everyone had a great dive in the 80 to 100 foot vis.!

Thanks to everyone for a safe dive.

Mark Thomas

Lancaster Jan 30, 2011

On Sunday Andy Dennis and I met at Lakeview Park Lancaster for another ice dive. We were the only divers there and decided to enter near the staging platform in the usual fashion.



Once the hole was cut using Andy's ice saw (I just ordered one for myself tonight) we geared up in our side mounts. We planned to circle the quarry and hopefully get some good photos along the way.



Unfortunately, my camera froze 5 minutes into

the dive. I was able to take about four pictures when my screen would not respond to any buttons pressed. The camera wouldn't even turn off, so the screen stayed on until the batteries ran out of power. Fortunately we didn't have as good visibility as last week and I wasn't all that disappointed that my camera didn't work. The dive itself went pretty smoothly, until we were on the west side. After swimming by the line junction with the trench and ducking a few tree branches, I found myself tangled in some fishing line. Andy quickly deployed his z-knife and cut me free. We finished the circuit in 65 minutes and reached the same max depth of 47 feet, as we did last week.



Safe diving, everyone!

Marty

Environment

Submitted by Laurel Sheppard

Sea Urchins on Crusade to Save Coral Reef

Written by Megan Treacy on 03/02/11

A new project in Hawaii is releasing a massive amount of sea urchins into the sea to help the coral reef in Kaneohe Bay that is being slowly smothered by an invasive seaweed species.



The project is the culmination of years of research among the state Aquatic Resources division, The Nature Conservancy and University of Hawaii. The urchins have been raised in a hatchery and fed a diet of native seaweed. The project is actually one of the

first in the world to raise native sea urchins in captivity. The first 1,000 were released by the scientists last weekend. Some urchins will inevitably be eaten by fish and octopus. The hope is that the urchins will feed on the seaweed, specifically two species of [seaweed algae](#) called *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and *K. striatum*, to a degree that keeps the invasive species in check. The researchers say there isn't a concern for an over-population of urchins since the animals are easy to herd and relocate, and with monitoring, should stay under control.

Source: www.ecogeek.org/weird-stuff/3426

Log Book

Submitted by *Donn Ellerbrock* from:
<http://us.mg1.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch?.gx=1&.rand=eh17htfcs9chc>

U.S. Tops Worldwide Shark Attack List

by *Jennifer Viegas*, Mon Feb 7, 2011 06:04 PM ET

More [shark](#) attacks happened in the United States last year than in any other country, according to the University of Florida's [International Shark Attack File](#) annual report, released today.

Great White Shark; Image: SharkDiver.com



Worldwide, shark attacks also increased, with 79 occurring in 2010, the highest since the year 2000, when sharks attacked 80 people. Shark-related fatalities for last year were also above average, with six deaths reported.

The news might have been even worse in shark-popular spots like Florida, were it not for the lousy economy.

"Florida had its lowest total since 2004, which was 12," said ichthyologist George Burgess in a press release.

"Maybe it's a reflection of the downturn in the economy and the number of tourists coming to Florida, or the amount of money native Floridians can spend taking holidays and going to the beach," added Burgess, who is director of the file housed at the [Florida Museum of Natural History](#) on the UF campus.

Shark Attacks: What Are the Odds?

Although Florida's number of shark attacks declined in 2010, the state still led the U.S., with 13 reported attacks. Twenty-three other attacks happened in these other states:

- North Carolina: 5
- California: 4
- Hawaii: 4
- South Carolina: 4
- Georgia: 1
- Maine: 1
- Oregon: 1
- Texas: 1
- Virginia: 1
- Washington: 1

Outside of the U.S., the following countries also experienced shark attacks in 2010:

- Australia: 14
- South Africa: 8
- Vietnam: 6
- Egypt: 6

Egypt is noteworthy because five of its six attacks, which included one fatality, all happened during early December and were attributed to just two sharks. The attacks occurred within a 5-day period.

"This was a situation that was hugely unusual by shark-attack standards," said Burgess, who has researched sharks at the museum for more than 35 years. "It was probably the most unusual shark incident of my career."

He thinks a combination of natural and human factors contributed to the attacks in the Red Sea. These include higher than normal water temperatures caused by an unusually hot summer, international livestock traders

dumping sheep carcasses into the water, and divers feeding reef fishes and sharks.

"The reality is, going into the sea is a wilderness experience," he said. "You're visiting a foreign environment -- it's not a situation where you're guaranteed success." With that in mind, it might not be such a good time to swim off the coast of Florida, where 100,000 sharks were recently spotted swimming close to shore. Helicopter pilot Steve Irwin, who saw the sharks, believes they were **spinner sharks**, which received that name because of their unusual method of feeding. They swim rapidly through schools, spinning along the axis of their bodies and sometimes leaping out of the water.

Dr. Christian Lambertsen, SCUBA Inventor, Dies At 93

February 22, 2011
6:59 AM

Dr. Lambertsen served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1944-1946. (file photo)

(CBS) – The Newtown Square man who invented the first SCUBA system in 1941 has died at the age of



93. Christian Lambertsen was a scientist, doctor and a diver.

In 1941, Lambertsen was working with the Army's Office of Strategic Services to create special underwater forces. The underwater breathing equipment was used by the military in World War 2 and late the term "SCUBA", meaning self-contained underwater breathing apparatus, was coined. Lambertsen was honored for his work in 2009.

"It was designed for rescue work for swimmers, and went on from there to design

further forms of breathing apparatus aimed at military operations and swimming," Lambertsen said.

Lambertsen also studied oxygen toxicity, diving related diseases and how humans can work in hostile environments including the oceans and outer space. A memorial service is planned at the University of Pennsylvania in the spring.

Reported by Kim Glovas, KYW Newsradio 1060
<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2011/02/22/dr-christian-lambertsen-scuba-inventor-dies-at-93/>

Special thanks to Mark Thomas

Parting Shots and Thoughts



Tarpon and Silversides, Grand Cayman

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photos/best-pod-september-2010/>

Photograph by Mike Sutton Brown, Your Shot

The picture was taken at Eden Rock, Grand Cayman. For just a short time every year these silversides swarm caves and swim-throughs at Cayman's dive sites. The picture was taken late afternoon just as the sun was going down. I was hiding behind the silversides, low in the rocks. As the tarpon swam through the silversides, they eventually saw me and turned away. Just like you see in the picture.

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

Plank's Café, 8:00 p.m., Thursday, March 3 program features Debbie Maxson, Diving Bonaire in Oct 2010

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