

Minutes of Nov 10th, 2009 General Meeting

Meeting held at La Jolla Brew House – called to order at 7:00 pm by Scott Anderson, president.



1. MLPA Decisions

The final round of public input to the Regional Stakeholder's Group was tumultuous, with 3 maps to advocate by large groups of interested parties from all over So. California. In the end, the RSG could not pick one and so forwarded all 3 to the Blue Ribbon Task Force of appointed deciders. They went over the 3 maps and chose for themselves pieces of each to make into the final map to be submitted to DFG. Nobody knows what DFG will do. The decision affecting San Diego diving most was to have the major MPA in south La Jolla and leave Point Loma kelp beds unprotected in preference. The La Jolla reserve was also expanded even more than the RSG had requested, to the north and out to sea.

2. The Council in 2010

The membership was shown a review of what the Council had done this year, since some of the actions were unknown outside the Board of Directors.

The floor was open to comment and the first question was of what a dive club, and a Council, would be in the future. As life becomes more "virtual", it becomes harder for any dive organization to gather people together for monthly events. As a fanciful question: is Divebums a dive club, because it has lots of diver "members". If it were to request Council membership status, could such an entity claim to be a dive club with no declared officers or meeting place or elections?

It was suggested the bylaws define a member club more closely. It was also suggested the Council indeed could profit by conducting more business over an interactive website, but some areas still should be handled in face to face meetings, with emphasis on ways to come up with reasons divers would be attracted to physical meetings.

3. A Possible Project

A guest from Encinitas stood up to introduce himself. He was looking for a way to get some backing to approach DFG with a better way to increase lobster population besides just restricting take. In other places, lobster hunting was better because the rule was no taking females. He wanted to see if this idea could come to California. He was welcomed as just the sort of diver the Council was invented for. He became the leader of his own action committee under the Council, to garner supporters and use us for a vehicle.

4. Children's Pool

The City has requested a permit for a rope across beach at CP again this year, but this permit to also be for every winter forever. The same extended period adding a month on each side of the official pupping season remains. The advocates of preservation of the seal display at CP are adamant that a new law to become effective in January will allow creation of a "seal sanctuary" there, even though the term is not found in that law. The law requires a "marine mammal park" which the City has not defined.

The new judge on the O'Sullivan case ruled this amendment to the Land Grant Trust was legal, though not yet law, nor tested in court, and allowed the terms of the judgment requiring the City to restore Children's Pool to public use to be nullified. The new text of the trust requires the City declare a marine mammal park at Children's Pool and continue to allow public access as well.

5. The "Consumptive Diver"

A poll was taken of the divers there. A small set of questions was asked, "In the last year, how many have speared fish, taken lobster, or bought ocean fish at a market or restaurant?"

It was found that over 90% of those present were consumptive divers.

6. Next General Meeting scheduled 12/8/09 at the La Jolla Brew House

Guest speaker, you decide. Someone in your club might be relatively unknown to the rest of the Dive Community. If you have suggestions for a guest speaker, please email us at: info@sdivers.com.

At the 12/8/09 meeting the president and secretary will tender their resignations and if no replacement nominations are produced, further meetings will be curtailed while the Council website is updated to become a virtual Council meeting place and blog.

7. Future events

The San Diego Dive Club announced its underwater Santa experience would be Dec 5 at the Point Loma Sport Chalet. Photo Shoot and Toy Drive for St Vincent De Paul Homeless Center. <http://www.dive-club.org/club/events/Santa/index.htm>

8. Membership Cards

Membership cards in the Council have been made, and members in good standing are able to pick theirs up at any meeting. If you don't know if you are a current Council member, inquire at JLeek001@san.rr.com.

Submitted 11/16/09

John Leek, Secretary