

General Meeting Minutes of November 9th, 2010

Meeting held at Brick House Pizza.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

We haven't decided on where the December 14th General Meeting will be held. The La Jolla Brew House after six years has given our reserved backroom to another group without notifying us. So we are looking for a New Meeting Place. If anyone can recommend a meeting place please let us know. December meetings are usually a social event rather than business, a time to let everyone know what we have accomplished during the year



BOAT POOLING: Only the larger dive clubs have enough members to charter a dive boat and in the winter a charter can be difficult to fill. A couple of them are considering initiating a cutoff date at which time untaken boat tickets will be offered to other dive clubs to get a good boatload. The benefits are clear. More charters will happen if clubs can diminish the risk of paying for empty seats.

UNDERWATER SANTA: Ho, ho, ho. San Diego Dive Club will be holding the annual Underwater Santa Photo Event, Saturday December 4th, 2010, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. So please bring an unwrapped gift and have your photo taken on Santa's Lap underwater. The gifts will be delivered to Father Joe's Saint Vincent De Paul Village and will most likely make a child very happy this Christmas.

OCEAN ACCESS: The City measure to cordon off Children's Pool every day forever was appealed by the La Jolla Community Planning Association which had voted against it 10-1 in its public hearing. There will be a public appeal hearing before the Planning Commission December 9th, 2010 at 9:00 am in the City Council chambers, 12th floor 202 C Street. Divers will be there with reasons such a permanent "advisory barrier" conflicts with the Local Coastal Plan, and so the Coastal Act. Anyone can speak for 3 minutes (or less).

The Council of Divers worked with groups putting up information tables and signs all over the Children's Pool sidewalk to encourage the City to take control of the sidewalk back, especially from the anti-public-access activists. There was a lottery on November 2nd, 2010 for 2 small table spaces at Children's Pool. We and another pro-beach-access group won the 2 permits.

COLLABORATION WITH SEAL PROTECTION: To show support for the ranger program and City policy, the San Diego Council of Divers has created and donated sidewalk signs to moderate seal supporters advocating the City shared use policy. The ranger liked them and hopefully the seals got some good out of them. Hopefully you like them.

Remember the San Diego Council of Divers has worked on behalf of the Divers and Swimmers Not to Remove the Seals, but to guarantee beach access. One of the great benefits of having seals there is the ability to swim and dive with them. Please check out our Website to view the seal videos.

<http://www.sddivers.com/Seal%20Videos.html>



CHILDREN'S POOL DOCENT PROGRAM: The Park Ranger program is to be augmented with unpaid City employee volunteer docents at Children's Pool, unlike any unofficial docent groups that have been there. These City volunteers must adhere to the City policy of Joint Use with seal protection, advising the public of the open status of the beach and of responsible beach sharing with protected seals.

Reproduced below is a flyer requesting interim volunteers to contact a pre-screening agent. Requirement would be a minimum of 2 each 4 hours shifts a month.

TEMPORARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S POOL

People and seals can and need to share Children's Pool beach in peace.

A volunteer docent program to diminish conflicts through on-site public education needs your participation.

Volunteers show people how to share the beach with protected seals to the benefit of all; just by explaining what the "comfort distance" is for seals, and how Shared Use works.

Volunteers would do just as park ranger trained docents would do. Greet folks and answer questions, nothing more.

The law requires the beach be open to the public, and, allows federally protected seals to stay.

Alternative measures to cordon off the beach or legally close it are held up in the permit process and might never happen.

Conflicts and beach closure can be avoided - if people demonstrate they will share the beach and protect the seals on their own. The public only needs information, not coercion.

cpivolunteers@yahoo.com to learn more. Or 858 717-2794 to apply.