

Minutes of Jan 12th, 2010 General Meeting

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



1. Honored Guest

Paul Kennerson was given a plaque designating him as Man of the Year for contribution to diving for his legal fight with the City for 4 years to get Children's Pool restored for public use. The issue was undone by action by the City and animal rights groups to get the trust altered in Sacramento. He took the time to explain how the odds of an appeal might go, which must be entered by 1/18 or not be possible. The wording of the amended trust was shown, which is being interpreted various ways because it is contradictory and has not been tested in court. Mr. Kennerson received a huge ovation.

2. Next General Meeting scheduled 2/9/10 at the La Jolla Brew House

Guest speaker, TBA. If you have suggestions for a guest speaker, please email us at: info@sddivers.com.

3. Children's Pool

The City requested a permit for a rope across beach at CP again this year, but this permit to also be for every winter forever. The City held a public hearing on 12/2 and nobody was there to oppose it. Acting on his own, John Leek wrote in an opposing view which qualified him file an appeal with Development Services. On Dec 14, the City realized it was illegal for it to proceed while the appeal was pending, and the rope installation was delayed a day. Then the City Attorney declared an emergency and allowed the rope to go up without a Coastal Permit. The SaveSanDiegoSeals website bragged that the APRL lawyer had threatened the City with legal action to pressure him. It also revealed the hearing would be 1/21, well before the City let anyone know.

It was affirmed the City would now be seeking a Coastal Permit to make it all legal. That permit can be appealed by any citizen, but after the City appeal hearing and the inevitable rejection.

4. Future events

April 3, the annual Easter Egg hunt and pancake breakfast at the Shores, by the San Diego Dive Club. Freedivers, annual awards banquet 2/26. Meetings are being switched to the La Jolla Brewhouse.

March 17, lobster season ends.

Bottom Bunch, meeting 2/3, at Casa Machado.

5. 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.

6. Survey of members present

A survey sheet was passed out to get some feel for what the Council might do in 2010. Perhaps half filled one out. This was a small anonymous set (16) and needed a larger sample size.

9 were members of the Council

10 belonged to a dive club

10 expressed disappointment in the MLPA process

11 were aware the Council had submitted a suggested map to the MLPA RSG committee
7 were aware stories were floating that the Council had thrown in on the side of fishermen
7 were aware the CP seal colony had been created by diverting human imprinted rehab seals from Seal World rescue program to the La Jolla area for 11 years.
14 would dive Children's Pool if not hassled when there; & 1 would have the beach closed for seals.
4 had reasons they would share why more divers do not join the Council
10 were aware any member of the Council could start an action committee and run it semi-autonomously.
8 were in a dive club with a delegate to the Council.
12 were looking forward to the 3rs this year
9 were aware of a proposal set to go before the City to set a 50' distance from seals, close the beach at night, and restrict fishing.
14 would go to City Hall to stand against abandonment of the City shared use policy at CP
All 16 said they eat ocean life, taken, or from a market or restaurant
7 considered themselves consumptive divers, and 5 considered themselves non-consumptive.
None considered consumptive divers to be the greatest cause of decrease of fish in the ocean, but 2 would have consumptive diving outlawed.

Conclusions: few

It seems clear divers want to be able to dive Children's Pool, but not under the current threat of intimidation.

It seems the Council has not done enough to inform divers about what it has been doing for them.

Many divers consider themselves non-consumptive, though they pay other people to get fish for them.

Consumptive is not a clear enough definition of dive style or diver.

1/15/2010 John Leek, Secretary