

General Council Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2015

**Meeting held at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
Called to order at 6:30 pm by Volker Hoehne**

Officers Present:

President: Volker Hoehne

Vice President: Marc Henning

Interim Secretary: Liz Tuttle

Treasurer: Joel Tracey

Directors: Scott Anderson & David Pierce



1) Introduction of Officers

- a. Volker took this time to announce to all attending members of John Leek's resignation as Secretary from the Council's Executive Board.
- b. Volker then announced the current Council Officers: President – himself, Vice Pres. – Marc Henning, Treasurer – Joel Tracey, and Interim Secretary – Liz Tuttle.

2) Rocks, Rips & Reefs Program

- a. A new marketing video of the 3R's program filmed and produced by Ms. Elke Specker was presented to members. Many thanks were expressed for Elke's donation of her time and talent to the creation of this video.
- b. Service awards were then presented by Marc Henning to 3R's instructors for their dedication to this program. Instructors included: Mark Brown, Mike Russell, Dennis Downie, Joel Tracey & Marc Henning.
- c. Remarks of Honorable Mention were made to **Mark Brown** who is now moving on to pursue other endeavors. Many thanks were professed for Mark's numerous years of tutelage and service to the program. Mark B. mentioned that Al Bruton has an archive of photos and documents about the 3R's over the years that he would like to organize and donate to the Council in order to promote and enhance the program.
- d. Jackets were then presented to the 3R's Instructors by the San Diego Freedivers Club in appreciation for their dedication to the program.
- e. Marc H. continued presentations with Certificates of Appreciation to this season's Safety Divers: Garnet West, David Pierce, Scott Anderson, Craig McDowell, John Leek, Bill Robbins, Remi LeReverend, and Clint Anderson.
- f. In addition, Marc H. expressed his thanks to participating clubs for their support at each of the 3R's events: **San Diego Dive Club** – Pres. Scott Anderson (Boomers/La Jolla Cove), **San Diego Underwater Photographic Society** – Pres. Dick Miller (North Bird Rock), **Dive Animals Scuba Club** – Pres. Kelly Fulton (Goldfish Pt./LJ Caves), **Bottom Bunch Dive Club** – Pres. Mark Pidcoe (Shell Beach), **Blue Ocean Dive Club** – Pres. Liz Tuttle (Marine St.), **San Diego Sea Dogs** – Pres. Robert Melendez, **San Diego Rainbow Dive Club** – Pres. Kathy Buocic (Sunset Cliffs), and **San Diego Freedivers** – Pres. Butch Batten (Children's Pool/S. Casa Beach).

- g. Much thanks was also expressed to Ed Harris for his service as a San Diego lifeguard and City of San Diego Council Member, and for his support of the 3R's program and guidance in obtaining a grant for this program from the City of San Diego. Mr. Harris expressed his belief to Council members present that this program is important to public safety and decreasing the number of rescues having to be performed by lifeguards.
- h. Joel Tracey presented to the Council the new Trauma Pak with AED & O₂ donated by the San Diego Freedivers Club for use at all the future 3R's events and training sessions. Volker Hoehne, a member of SDF, wanted to inform all those present that this club is founded on the principle of conservation. The funds for this donation were raised at a spearfishing meet which was a 1 kill only contest (as are all their spearfishing contests) due to the clubs belief that "you eat what you kill."

3) Treasurer's Report

a. Current account balances:

Checking \$3100.00 (\$2200 is earmarked for insurance, \$450 for 3Rs and \$450 for general fund)

Savings \$501.00 (maintaining required balance of \$500)

b. 2016 Budget:

The budget should be finalized in January 2016. Please feel free to send in suggestions for causes/events you wish the general fund to be applied toward. A donation for your cause sent along with your suggestions would be highly appreciated.

The Council is non-profit. All staff are volunteers. Donations to the Council DO NOT qualify for IRS charitable deduction as the Council is organized as an IRC 501(c)(4).

4) Membership

- a. Currently the Council has 65 active members, however a large number of those memberships are up for renewal and have received notifications.

5) 2016 Council Officer Elections

- a. Prior to this meeting, nominations were open to members and stood as follows:
President: Marc Henning, Joel Tracey
V. Pres: Mac Henning, Joel Tracey
Treasurer: Open
Secretary: Liz Tuttle
Directors: David Pierce, Cary Humphries
- b. Cary Humphries was deemed ineligible for re-election according to the bylaws due to abandonment of office by way of lack of attendance at previously scheduled meetings in 2015.
- c. At this meeting, Marc withdrew his nomination as President, and Joel withdrew his nomination as Vice Pres. During this meeting John Leek nominated himself for Director and was later nominated for Treasurer as well, Scott Anderson was nominated for Director, and Chad Jackson was nominated for Director/Webmaster.

- d. Nominations will remain open until elections are conducted at the November General Council Meeting.
- e. Joel presented a brief platform of his intentions for the Council in 2016 if he were to become President. He also passed out a survey to members to seek out what interests our members at this time and how the SDCoD could serve them better.

6) Proposed Children's Pool Policy

- a. Volker announced that the Executive Board had recently been working on a public statement that would be placed on the SDCoD website to educate divers that the Children's Pool is indeed still open to the public for use. It is the hope of this Board that in suggesting a guide of diver conduct that we are able to change the perception that divers are a problem at Children's Pool. Volker also wanted it to be known that SDCoD has no intention of abandoning the fight for continued access at public beaches as long as its members wish us to continue.
- b. This proposed statement is below. It will be posted on Facebook and sent to members via email for their viewing. Approval of this statement will be voted on at the next General Meeting.

"Attention Divers: The Children's Pool is open to the public for relaxation, swimming, snorkeling, and diving; currently a closure for harbor seal pupping from December 15 to May 15 exists.

The remainder of the year a rope may be present – with its intended purpose to "buffer" the space between seals and humans if seals are occupying the sand. Divers historically have been eco-friendly stewards and advocates of maintaining a healthy ecosystem. These guidelines below are nothing more than a request for your support in continuing our good stewardship.

When accessing the water for purposes of diving, please consider gearing up at your vehicles, checking/purging regulators and other sound producing items at the vehicle, and providing a buffer zone to the seals by using the cliff side access.

Respectfully yours,

San Diego Council of Divers"

7) Marine Protected Area Implementation

- a. Volker presented a proposal by Roman, the SDF delegate, to the Council. It has been suggested that the Council be the lead in an alliance with other organizations, such as Surfrider, United Anglers, Wild Coast, Coastkeeper and Heal the Bay, in support of consistent enforcement of MPA's. These organizations wish to send a statement to the California Fish & Game Commission and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, insisting that these agencies be consistent in their MPA signage and enforcement of the law as it stands at this time. The proposed statement reads as follows:
 - We request that California Marine Protected Area implementation activities comply with Marine Protected Areas in California: Regulations (Title 14, Section 632)(a)(1) and Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas.
 - We are concerned that the department distributes conflicting information on permissible activities within MPAs.
 - We are concerned that the department has focused on enforcing recreational and commercial fishing regulations in MPAs while neglecting the enforcement of taking or possession of geological or cultural marine resources.

- Marine Protected Areas were intended to be ecosystem-based management tools, which need to be fully implemented to realize optimal benefit. We ask protection of geological or cultural marine as well as living resources. We request equal protection from take for fish, cultural marine resources, sand crabs, birds, wrack, and shells within MPAs.
- b. The question put to members present was “Do we want to present a united front with these other organizations in possible future enforcement and political battles?” Volker will post this statement to Facebook and send it to members via email for their viewing. Approval of this statement will be voted on at the next General Meeting.

8) Roundtable Discussion

- a. Marc announced that the Santana HS Ecology Club will be hosting a beach clean-up at La Jolla Shores on Saturday, November 14th, from 10am to noon and invited any divers or clubs to join them.
- b. John Leek made a suggestion that the Council participate in the Sea Dogs annual “Depth of the Year” tradition by participating as monitor of divers and their depths at this event.
- c. Volker took an informal poll as to any interest in a ship being sunk as a new artificial reef off the coast of Rosarito, MX.
- d. Joel announced that he will be instructing a rescue diver course sometime next year at a discount for those divers who intend on becoming 3R’s instructors.

9) Next Scheduled Council General Meeting

- a. The Council’s next general public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 6:30pm to take place at Giovanni’s Italian Restaurant on Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Liz Tuttle