

Council General Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2016



**Meeting held at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant
Called to order at 6:35 pm by Joel Tracey**

Board Members Present:

President: Joel Tracey
Vice President: vacant
Treasurer/Secretary: Liz Tuttle
Delegates: Marc Henning, San Diego Dive Club – Alternate
John Leek, San Diego Sea Dogs
Craig McDowell, Blue Ocean Dive Club
Randy Thomas, San Diego Dive Club

Attendees:

Members: Ken Hunrichs
Marie Hunrichs
Mike Russell, San Diego Dive Club
Guests: Heather Best-Troiano
Robert Melendez, San Diego Sea Dogs

Minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting, previously distributed through the email list, were approved by voice vote with no objections. The minutes will be posted to the Council website.

1) Officer's Reports

a. President's Report

- i. Joel announced he is attempting to secure the Joan Kroc Center in a joint venture to create a program by the Council to bring aquatic education to inner-city kids. Anyone having suggestions on how to achieve this goal and/or assist in this goal, please contact Joel. More details to follow below.
- ii. The Rescue Diver certification class has been cancelled due to multiple students withdrawing.

b. Treasurer's Report

i. Current account balances:

Checking \$2,827.05

Savings \$ 500.67

- ii. Deposits year-to-date consisted of \$104.55 in membership dues & donations, and one payment of \$80 for the Rescue Diver class. This class payment is to be refunded due to cancellation of the course.
- iii. Expenses year-to-date in the amount of \$306.25 consisted of payment for storage facilities, annual website/domain name maintenance, annual PO Box fees, and the purchase of postage stamps.

c. Secretary's Report

- i. Correspondence – nothing major to speak of.
- ii. The SD Council of Divers now has a new mailing address – PO Box 421393, San Diego, CA 92142.

d. **Webmaster**

- i. Elke Specker's 3Rs video has now been embedded on the Council's home page as well as the 3Rs page.
- ii. The site's PayPal links have been updated and are operational.
- iii. Mike Russell pointed out to Craig that a few of the "info" links are not operating correctly. If anyone else notices problems with the website, please forward this information on to Craig at webmaster@sddivers.com.
- iv. Craig suggests that the Council set up a dedicated YouTube account and begin putting Council-related videos on this channel.

2) **Unfinished Business**

- a. **Rescue Diver Certification class cancelled.** Joel's initial idea for offering this class was to cover the Council's, and the safety swimmers', bases when it came to insurance for the 3Rs events by requiring safety swimmers to be certified rescue divers. Because "safety swimmers" are often regarded as experts in the eyes of the public, the "Good Samaritan" law may not necessarily cover them for liability in the event of a rescue, if the victim, or their family, choose to sue. Due to how the insurance industry is changing its view of the dive industry, obtaining insurance coverage is getting more difficult for professional divers and operators in the scuba industry.
 - i. How does the Council define the role of the "safety swimmer" during a 3Rs event?
 - ii. What is the safety swimmer's level of responsibility? Expert or observer only?
 - iii. Do they need to be divers?
 - iv. How does the Council go about making sure participants are fully aware of the safety swimmer's role and level of responsibility?
- b. **Catalina Weekend Dive Trip.** Currently there has not been a significant response for participation in this event. Please make sure to get the word out to your club members, otherwise the event will be cancelled due to lack of interest.
- c. **Proposed Amendments to Bylaws.** The proposed amendments from the last meeting were presented again. Some minor changes were made and then acceptance of the proposed amendments was brought to a vote. In Favor: 8 Against: 0 Abstained: 1
The amendments were approved. Changes will be made to the bylaws and distributed to the club delegates, as well as being posted on the Council website.
- d. **REMINDER FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS AND VOTES**
Only the following delegates were in attendance for the bylaws vote: Marc Henning (San Diego Dive Club – Alternate), John Leek (San Diego Sea Dogs), Craig McDowell (Blue Ocean Dive Club), and Randy Thomas (San Diego Dive Club). **If you are your club's delegate and wish for the voice of your club to be heard, but are unable to attend the meeting, please send your club's view on the matter to be voted upon to secretary@sddivers.com so that your vote may be counted.** If you have some news, event, or project you wish to share with the Council and other dive clubs, but cannot do so in person, please send the information to secretary@sddivers.com so that we may spread the word for you.
- e. **Insurance.** As of this meeting date, the Council is still without insurance for the 3Rs. Joel informed the Council that NAUI's insurance provider for dive professionals will no longer be accepting new subscribers, so the idea of making 3Rs' staff "snorkel instructors" to allow them to apply for insurance coverage is now moot. Mike Russell suggested that the Council at least obtain General Liability Insurance to cover Council funds in the event of a possible lawsuit. Does anyone have any insight or suggestions regarding this insurance coverage matter?

- f. Corporate Sponsorship Drive in March.** Joel would like to have a strong push for corporate sponsorship of the Council during the month of March.
- i. Please go to your clubs during this month and see if your club and its members can get sponsorship for any upcoming Council events/activities, such as the 3Rs. Industry-related sponsors like SCUBAPRO, AquaLung, dive shops, etc., would be great.
 - ii. We need to come up with a list of Top Ten Sponsorship Possibilities. Any suggestions?
 - iii. Does anyone know someone who is experienced in writing RFP's or donation request letters? Please send them Joel's way.
- g. Casa Reef Project Update.** Joel is currently working with a science advisor to design the project objectives. More info to follow at a later date.
- h. Children's Pool Access Update.** Beach access through the Children's Pool is currently closed due to pupping season. Ken Hunrichs informed the Council that the lawsuit against the Coastal Commission and the City of San Diego filed in October of 2014 is awaiting its first hearing in 2 weeks (March 2nd). A request of venue had been requested so the hearing will take place in Santa Ana. All motions and filings are in the hands of the judge now, waiting her decision. A second portion of the suit deals with MPA regulations which Ken said he would update us with the results at some future date.

3) New Business

- a. Partnership with Salvation Army/Kroc Community Center.** Joel has reached out the Kroc Center and has a meeting scheduled in the next 2 weeks to discuss the possibility of the Center partnering with the Council to bring aquatic education to East County inner-city kids. The proposed program would be something similar to the 3Rs but for the kids. The benefits for having such a partnership program would be:
- i. Extending the Council outreach to people who wouldn't normally access the beach. Getting the inner-city community involved would educate people and increase their appreciation of the ocean. It would also lower their risk of being injured or endangered when visiting the beach because such a program would increase their awareness of possible hazards.
 - ii. Promotion and awareness of the Council of Divers and its function within the dive community. How it offers such valuable programs as the 3Rs.
- b. Appointment of New Directors**
- i. Mike Russell was nominated and accepted the offer for the position of Director of Fundraising. He will send out an email soon, indicating the date & location of a fundraising meeting.
 - ii. Marc Henning was nominated and accepted the offer for the position of Director of the Rocks, Rips and Reefs Program.
 - iii. Heather Best-Troiano was nominated and accepted the offer for the position of Director At Large. Heather's membership dues will need to be brought current for her to accept this position.
 - iv. Craig McDowell was nominated and accepted the offer for the position of Webmaster.
 - v. The above nominations will be voted on at the next Council meeting

- c. **Public CPR Day.** This event is being hosted by the Council in partnership with San Diego Project Heartbeat on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 at La Jolla Shores from 9am to 11am**. This event is **FREE** and open to the **PUBLIC**. This will be a non-certification event. It is only being held to make the public aware of AED equipment and its use in conjunction with basic CPR. Joel and Liz will work together to create a flyer promoting the event which will be posted on Facebook and via email.
- d. **Safety Swimmer Volunteers.** Joel, Marc and Mike are working together to formalize a written program designating the official policies and procedures regarding the role of the Safety Swimmer as it pertains to the 3Rs program. This document should be completed by mid-April in preparation of the annual Safety Swimmer Refresher Training event to be held in May.
- e. **Rocks, Rips & Reefs Calendar, Site Selection & Refresher Training**
 - i. The official calendar for the 2016 3Rs season has been sent out to the clubs and posted on the website. The schedule is as follows:
 - June 11th – La Jolla Cove/ Boomer
 - June 25th – Marine Street
 - July 16th – Goldfish Point/Caves
 - July 30th – Hospital Point
 - August 13th – Children’s Pool & South Casa
 - August 27th – Sunset Cliffs
 - September 10th – North Bird Rock
 - September 24th – Shell Beach
 - ii. Marc has sent out invitations to 13 different clubs to host the 8 sites.
 - iii. No sites have been assigned yet. Marc has asked clubs to send in 3 preferences so that he may schedule host assignments. Marc is the only point of contact regarding the 3Rs scheduling and he will contact the designated hosts when things have been finalized.
 - iv. The Annual Safety Swimmer Refresher Training has been scheduled for May, with one alternative date as a possibility. Please contact Marc for more information at mhenn05@gmail.com.

3) Open Forum

- a. **San Diego Council of Divers Information Brochures.** Craig inquired into the possibility of posting Council brochures at the La Jolla Shores & Cove lifeguard towers to increase Council awareness and membership. Marie Hunrichs suggested brochures might also be posted at the Silver Strand Aquatic Center and Mission Bay.
- b. **Rocks, Rips & Reefs Presentation.** Ken Hunrich inquired as to the date when the Council might be able to bring their presentation of the 3Rs program to the Kiwanis Club.
- c. **Beach Clean-up.** Marc will be bringing his students from the Santana High School Ecology Club to La Jolla Shores on Sunday, February 21 if anyone wishes to join in on the beach clean-up.

There will be no meeting held in the month of March. The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 6:30pm at Giovanni's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Liz Tuttle