

Minutes of June 8th, 2010 General Meeting

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



1. Guest Speaker: Unified Team Diving

We had the honor of meeting the new instruction and adventure group that has recently set up in Carlsbad. Andrew Georgitsis and Jeff Seckendorf located there to open the San Diego County Chapter. Their instruction levels cover everything – wreck, nitrox, rebreather, technical, deco,

They brought a slide show of their project in Mexico to explore Mexican cenotes – mapping under water caves in the Yucatan Peninsula. They took instruments down for the Mexican government, to plot the layers of water that flow from fresh to salt down a few hundred feet. Their information allowed a new understanding of how far waste water pumped down into the ground really goes, and it does not just “go away”.

<http://www.unifiedteamdive.com/group/sandiegoutdmembers>

The “unified” part refers to a singular approach to diving, instruction and equipment usage. They figure there is a best way, so why not find it?

2. 3rs 2010 Check <http://www.sddivers.com/3rs.html> Scroll down to the Schedule.

Coming up – Shell beach on 6/26 with the Bottom bunch. Goldfish Point 7/10 with the Dive Animals.

3. Website Overhaul

The website <http://www.sddivers.com/> has been overhauled this last couple months. Check it out. How would you improve it?

4. City Council requested the Mayor rope off Children’s Pool immediately – no go.

Councilmember Frye had gotten Animal Protection and Rescue League (APRL) plans for the Children’s Pool accepted as a City “Management Plan” on 5/17.

- A. Make it illegal to access the Children’s Pool during extended pupping season
- B. Keep the rope up year round
- C. Declare the Children’s Pool a marine mammal park, encouraging MMPA enforcement

She had eliminated the Council of Divers’ plan from the agenda. The Secretary of the SDCoD reminded the City that City Code §126.0718 requires the Mayor to make rigorous factual findings of emergency and take any emergency coastal permit to the California Coastal Commission. The Mayor gave the City Attorney 2 weeks to advise him, but he had already said the same thing. The Mayor could not justify an emergency rope across Children’s Pool. The City will be applying for a normal permit which will take all summer anyway – especially since it will be subject to appeal.

By December, the City may try to enact its resolution to bar the public from that beach every year during the winter and spring. But we will be appealing any such action too. The City Attorney estimates 2 years. A lot of City resources to do something unneeded and put the City in danger of a lawsuit again – but there is hope, as Frye terms out in November and much of the drive to close Children’s Pool will go with her.

Meanwhile, an accompanying measure, to use a privately funded Park Ranger at Children's Pool will also take several months to implement. The funding for the first year is in place, so the City will likely prefer that, since it has no money for the closure efforts.

5. Next General Meeting scheduled 7/13/10 at the La Jolla Brew House

6. Visit to NOAA Long Beach

The president and Secretary visited the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration office to talk to the Administrator and staff about a letter solicited by City Council member Frye "supporting" the City's CP beach closure measures. We came to find the Administrator had viewed it as an "informational" letter and probably had not read it after the staff prepared it. He made it sound like "supported" was a nice way to say it would not be forbidden under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the City could proceed for all they cared. Well, yes.

We met the important people, exchanged views and documents and cards and came away feeling better about the NOAA relationship to the Children's Pool not being as proactive as the questions framed by Frye had made it seem.

Submitted 6/21/2010

John Leek, Secretary