

The Scuba Sports Club

Meeting Recap February 10, 2021

Club Officers & Directors Updates

Melissa Lonquich, President

- Welcome to the first-time guests attending this month's Zoom meeting. Many new guests and members have joined us and it was great to hear where they all came from! We hope they will join us as members soon!

Ed Van Dolsen, Vice President

- New BTS date March 2022

Sheri Buchman, Treasurer

- Any checks that need to be sent to Sheri for trips please contact her to get her personal address to send it to not the PO Box
- Anyone that needs to pay for this year's membership please contact Sheri (Payments can be made using credit card, Paypal, Venmo, checks, cash)

Michelle Memoli, Secretary

- No reports

Ken Salstrom, Executive Director

- Please "like" our Facebook page and give us a review!

Kevin Cushing, Membership Director

- Reminder: 2021 Waivers need to be filled out and submitted online through our website in the join/ renew tab. All members need to fill this out.

Liza Handziak, Social Director

- Any ideas for socially distant/ covid friendly events please contact Liza directly.
- Thanks to all that came to the Pre-LIDA Zoom Cocktail hour.

Gary Lehman, Newsletter (Sea Swells publisher/editor)

- Anyone going on upcoming club trips please contact Gary to add it to the next newsletter. If you need his help writing up something he will be glad to help you.

Gene Miceli, Director at Large

- No reports

Judy Dronzek, Environmental Director

- For more info please contact Judy directly
- Info on wildlife killing contests- would like emails from people that can help her with getting the bill numbered.

Jack Ricotta, Dive Planner

- Update about Roatan trip coming- second Roatan trip cancelled, first group still going.
- Upcoming trip: Bonaire at the Plaza Resort All Inclusive July 17-24 2021, check your email for the PDF that he sent with all the details.
- Pending wreck trek II this summer, more info to come, keep an eye out for emails. Most likely August.

Joe Rinaldi, Education & Safety Director

*Joe presented the “Safety Message of the Month”

Recap below:

Pre-Dive Safety Check

I Safety issue preparing for a dive in Florida last month

- A. My dive buddy finished gearing up before me, and decided to cool off in the water before doing a Pre-Dive Safety Check
- B. His BCD inflation hose was not completely connected to his BCD, resulting in his BCD not being air tight & subsequently unable to provide lift
- C. He was wearing a Drysuit (which was probably why he was feeling the need to cool off) so he was able to ascend to the surface & request assistance

II Other Safety incidents that I have observed

- A. A very skilled Technical SCUBA Instructor jumped into the water for a decompression dive without his primary & back up computers
- B. A Rebreather Instructor jumped off a dive boat without his fins

III Every SCUBA agency teaches & recommends SCUBA divers perform a pre-dive safety check before all recreational & technical SCUBA dives

- A. Some scuba agencies teach the acronym B-W-R-A-F
 - B- BCD
 - W-Weights
 - R- Releases
 - A- Air (Breathing gas)
 - F- Final check
- B. Some scuba agencies teach A-B-C-D-E
 - A- Air on
 - B- BCD inflated
 - C- Computer on
 - D- Dive equipment complete
 - E- Enter the water
- C. Some scuba agencies teach head to toe (whole body) check

IV It should go without saying that any issues or problems observed in a Pre-Dive Safety Check should be resolved PRIOR to entering the water

A. SCUBA incidents/accidents rarely occur due to one problem, rather an initial problem cascades into additional often more serious problems

B. If you decide to jump into the water with a systems error, you might as well have one foot in the grave - Jill Heinerth

V There is no reason to fail to do a Pre-dive Safety Check, however some excuses divers have given include:

A. Being too hot (like my dive buddy)

B. In a hurry to see whatever is under water

C. Feeling rushed by your dive buddy/dive boat charter

D. Complacency

E. Pre-Dive Safety Checks need to be conducted in an unhurried manor & without pressure of needing to jump in the water - Jill Heinerth

VII Ultimately every diver is responsible for their own safety, and should take the responsibility for conducting their Pre-Dive Safety Check

Amanda Slattery, Program Speakers

- Introduced Jake Stout, thank you for securing sure a great speaker Amanda!
- If you have any ideas for new speakers, please contact Amanda
- Q & A after presentation

January's honored Guest: Jake Stout

"Stop Taking Pictures, Start Making Photos"

Jake Stout is a wildlife photographer specializing in natural history photojournalism. He is a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jake developed his love of nature by spending summers in New Hampshire. He is currently studying photography at Northeastern University. Jake has been sharpening his photography skills since 2009 and has worked across many genres of the medium.

Jake began his SCUBA journey in 2017 and never looked back. A year later, he was the recipient of the Boston Sea Rover's internship in which he traveled around the world doing underwater photography with marine scientists, BBC and National Geographic photographers and filmmakers. In 2019 Jake had the honor of presenting his work at the Boston Sea Rovers Film Festival, the longest continually running dive show in the world, and was inducted as a full active roster member in 2020.

His talk "Stop Taking Pictures, Start Making Photos" is about the concept of "making a photo". This brings creating images to a more artistic level where photographers push imagery deeper than simply rendering what is in front of the camera. Through an understanding of technical, compositional, and conceptual elements of photography you can bring your images to a new and higher level. Learn how to translate this to underwater photography and make photos rather than take pictures.

As always, thank you all for being the best part of TSSC, without each and every one of you we would not be the great club we are today!

Very Truly Yours,

*Melissa Lonquich
President, TSSC*