

The Scuba Sports Club

Meeting Recap June 9, 2021

Club Officers & Directors Updates

Melissa Lonquich, President

- Welcome message, welcome and introductions of the first-time guests attending this month's Zoom meeting.
- Share out from new trips
- Save the date for the 2021 Holiday Party: December 4th, 2021 at 4 Brother Pizza Restaurant in Mahopac

Ed Van Dolsen, Vice President

- No report

Sheri Buchman, Treasurer

- No Report

Michelle Memoli, Secretary

- No Report

Kenny Salstrom, Executive Director

- Please "like" our Facebook page and give us a review! If you're not getting notifications about events posted there please follow us as well.
- If there are pictures or things you feel we should put on our Facebook page please let Kenny know.

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 even if your membership was free this year.
- If you know of fellow divers that would like to check out one of our meetings and possibly join please let Kevin know.

Liza Handziak, Social Director

- Any ideas for social events please contact Liza directly.
- Upcoming: TSSC summer BBQ July 17th, details to follow

Gary Lehman, Newsletter (Sea Swells publisher/editor)

- Anyone going on upcoming trips or have other ideas for an article they'd like to see in the newsletter, please contact Gary (his email is on our website). If you need his help writing up something he will be glad to help you.

Gene Miceli, Director at Large

- Please email Gene to let him know what your feelings are towards possibly starting to meet back in person starting September (with a Zoom option)

Judy Dronzek, Environmental Director

- For more info or ideas to help with environmental or legislative events that support our oceans, wildlife or our planet at large please contact Judy directly (her email is on the website)
- Upcoming: Plastic Cutlery law where they would ban restaurants from automatically including plastic cutlery in your order with you requesting it. Please speak to Judy for more info.

Jack Ricotta, Dive Planner

- Still looking for additional members to join on the aggressor trip to Belize. Please contact Jack if you or someone you know is interested.
- If you have ideas for upcoming trips please let Jack know.

Joe Rinaldi, Education & Safety Director

*Joe presented the “Safety Message of the Month”

Recap below:

**Surface Marker Buoy
AKA SMB/DSMB,
Safety Sausage,
Safety Tube**

I. A Surface Marker Buoy (SMB) is an essential piece of safety equipment for all scuba divers

- A. When diving in an area where there is boat traffic, it allows other boats to be alert that scuba divers are in the vicinity.
- B. When diving from a boat in conditions with waves or currents, it makes it easier for the diver to be spotted.

II. Types of SMB

- A. Open bottom
 1. Allows for filling the SMB from regulator second stage
 2. SMB may lose the gas that inflated SMB if tension is not maintained on the SMB
- B. Closed bottom

1. Requires filling of SMB from small tube
 2. Not likely to lose gas that inflated it even if tension is not kept on SMB
- C. Combination of open bottom (with one way valve/flange) and small tube for inflation
1. Best of both of the above
 2. Usually more expensive

III. SMB sizes

- A. Small (approximately 36 inches/1 meter)
1. Easy to inflate
 2. Easy to store in BCD or thigh pocket
- B. Large (approximately 60 inches/ almost 2 meters)
1. Easier to spot in large swells or from a greater distance
 2. Harder to store during dive as well as more difficult to fill during deployment

III SMB Options

- A. Over pressure valve
- B. Reflective tape
- C. Different colors
- D. Multiple means of inflation
- E. Given the wide range of SMB options & sizes, it is wise to discuss your needs/preferences with your local dive shop

IV. Important SMB skills to perfect

- A. Preparing SMB
- B. Deployment of SMB/DSMB

- C Swimming with SMB's (once it's deployed)
- D Completing Safety stop with deployed SMB's
- F. As some of the SMB skills can result in injury to the diver (or others) if performed incorrectly, it is prudent to receive proper training from your scuba instructor/local dive shop before using an SMB/DSMB

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of security” - Benjamin Franklin

June's Presenter

Diving the Magical Destinations of Socorro and the Sea of Cortez Presented by Dora Sierra Sandoval

Dora Sierra Sandoval is the owner and operator of Rocio del Mar and Quino el Guardian Liveboards Mexico. Her endless passion for diving and Mexico has helped her to design, build and launch Rocio del Mar liveboard in 2008 to visit the magical destinations of the Sea of Cortez and Socorro. In 2015, she added Quino el Guardian liveboard dedicated to citizen science expeditions enabling recreational divers to work side-by-side with scientists. Dora is also the founder of Héroes del Mar, a non-profit organization, teaching the children from small Mexican fishing villages about economics, sustainability, and business. Dora is also a member of the Women Divers Hall of Fame.



*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*