

MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 17TH, 2025

Attendance

John Ratcliffe, Tim Vezina, Melissa Perks, Gerry Carter, Jim Dunfield, Anna Clayton, Dani Lee, Beverly Sawchuk, Barry Edgington, Harold Walker, and Christopher Holloway.

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:05. This was an in-person meeting at the Clocktower Brew Pub, Westboro (418 Richmond Rd).

Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 9, 2025

Adopting meeting minutes from April 9th, 2025, the motion was made by Tim Vezina, seconded by Jim Dunfield, and carried by all.

News and Recap of Recent Events

There have been two additional local diving fatalities since our last meeting in April, in Kingston and at Lock 21. These were experienced divers, so a reminder to everyone to consider diving more conservatively as you get older, especially early in the season when the water is cold. Larry Schnurr has written an excellent article on this.

Scuba Fanatics had a garage sale on June 7 that raised \$175 for SOS. Thank you Tim! Scuba Fanatics will have a Canada Day event at Lock 21 on July 1 - there will be \$5,000 in prizes. Over 100 divers have signed up so far. Family and friends are welcome, there will be games and free hot dogs. Thank you Tim and Melissa.

Financials

The contributions since the last meeting are:

- \$175 from Scuba Fanatics Garage sale

- \$27 from EPSO's SOS box

- \$8 from Sharkey's SOS box

- \$15 from Scuba Fanatics's SOS box

Donation Boxes

Have been picked up by Gerry and Barry from half of the sites in early June. They will visit the rest of them shortly.



T-Shirts

John has been looking at various designs and getting quotes.

Once this is done, we will share the design and take orders.

Buoys

Most of the buoys are now in and the Coast Guard has been notified so they can issue navigational warnings (NAVWARNs):

- Fred Mercur - deployed on May 11th by Seaway Valley.
- Power House - two buoys deployed on May 25th by Seaway Valley.
- Belly Dumper – deployed on June 8th by Sylvain Marcotte.
- Eastcliffe Hall – to be done shortly by Ron MacDonald.

Rothesay - we don't plan to put a buoy there this year as it gets minimal boat traffic. Tim to check with Hubert Chrétien.

Luc Martin has offered about 500 ft of polypro line to us, but it's in Brockville, so we'll need to pick it up and deliver it to Tim's shop for storage. Thanks Luc!

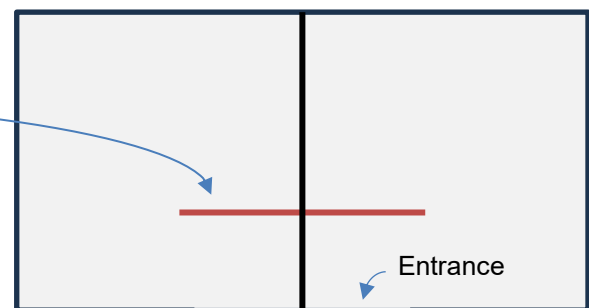
Prescott Scuba Park

There will be an official opening for the new diver bench at the Prescott Scuba Park on Saturday, June 28th at 11:00 a.m. The mayor and Dana Valentyne from the Town of Prescott will be there. It would be nice to have as many people there as possible, in dive gear would be nice for a better photo op. This is a great opportunity to highlight the partnership between SOS and the Town of Prescott to improve the diver experience at the Scuba Park. The bench was installed last fall and is already in use but we wanted to wait until the water warmed up to "officially" open it. As you may know, our chapter worked with the town to coordinate the design, funding and placement of the new bench, and contributed half of the approximately \$5k cost of the new bench, which is extremely sturdy and will last for many years. A big thank you to Jim Dunfield for his many efforts to make this project a reality. Jim was involved in everything from proposing different bench designs to following up with the fabricator and coordinating things with the town. Hope to see you there – bring your gear and enjoy a dive afterwards!

A privacy screen was proposed for the changing shelter that would be about 5 ft high and just inside the doorway.

We should check with the Town of Prescott first as this is their shelter.

The updated Scuba Park brochures in French and English were circulated for approval. Due to their popularity, we decided it was decided to print 500 in French and 1,000 in English.



Quality Inns in Prescott and Kingston are offering a diver's discount (I verified this with Prescott, and it is 15% – Excellent).

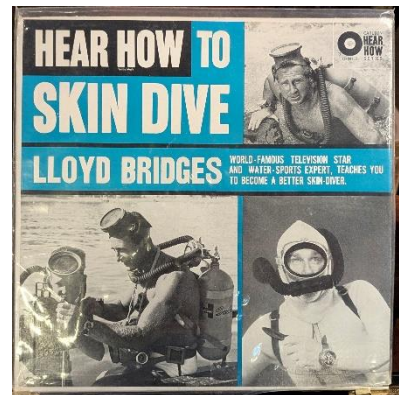


Lock 21

There have been no updates since our previous meeting in April. The old pavilion is still there but the graphics and maps have all been taken down.

BEYOND THE EDGE with Barry Edgington

Due to the popularity of the Sea Hunt presentation in April, Barry elaborated on this part of his collection. The Sea Hunt TV show ran from the late 50s to early 60s and produced all sorts of merchandising, including coloring books, comic books, magazines, and a record album labeled *Hear How to Skin Dive*. Diving certification hadn't quite got caught on at this point.



Next Meeting Date

Thanks to all that attended, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The date for the next meeting has not yet been set.