

1. Attendees (12): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Debbie Reinhart (Treasurer), Jeff Porter (Secretary), Chris Harnett, Jules Leduc, Guy Beauregard, Nancy Feng, Harold Walker, Peter Noel, Barry Edgington, Chris Holloway, Jeannette Rykken.

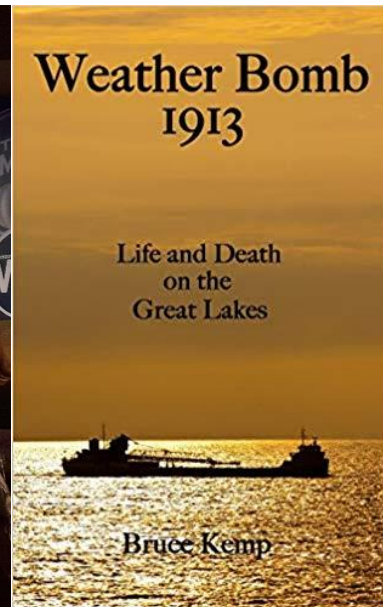
2. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:03 at our usual space on the lower level of the Clocktower Brew Pub, 525 Bank Street.

3. Guest Speaker – Bruce Kemp

“Weather Bomb 1913 – Life and Death on the Great Lakes”

Local author and historian Bruce Kemp gave a very interesting presentation on the Great Storm of 1913, touching on the storm itself, some of the research involved in tracking down eye-witnesses and others who contributed to the story, archival research to uncover various points about the storm, writing his book, meteorology then and now with an emphasis on computer modelling, and the disposition of known wrecks and the impact of the storm 100 years on. Bruce fielded questions from the audience following his presentation, and John presented Bruce with a commemorative SOS coin as a small token of thanks. Bruce had copies of his book *Weather Bomb 1913* available for purchase, which can also be found online: <https://www.amazon.ca/Weather-Bomb-1913-Death-Great/dp/1389360504>



Local author and historian Bruce Kemp gave a presentation on the Great Storm of 1913.

4. Break

5. Minutes of the previous meeting – 30 September 2019

After a short break the minutes of the 30 September 2019 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Barry Edgington and seconded by Jules Leduc – motion carried.

6. News and Events

CSL Vessel Aground Near Cardinal

The CSL vessel *Paul J. Martin* ran aground in the St. Lawrence near Cardinal on October 7. Several tugboats managed to free it about a week later.

AIA and CIMS Lectures

John reminded attendees that the local chapters of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and the Canadian Institute for Mediterranean Studies (CIMS) continue to offer free lectures, which are open to the public. While these lectures don't typically deal with maritime themes, the speakers are excellent and these talks are a great way for members to broaden their archaeological horizons.

Donation of Books and Vintage Diving Gear by Dennis Cartwright

John mentioned that he was recently contacted by Dennis Cartwright, a very active diver and member of SOS in the 1980s. Dennis donated a number of books on diving and maritime archaeology to our chapter, which John is distributing to our members. Dennis has also donated a quantity of vintage dive gear to chapter member Barry Edgington, which we hope to see in future "Beyond the Edge" segments.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Debbie Reinhart was present and provided an update.

Our bank balance is the same as at that reported at our previous meeting - \$6,693.14.

8. Donation Boxes

Barry says there are no updates regarding our donation boxes in local dive shops. Barry gave Chapter Chair John Ratcliffe a backup set of keys for the donation boxes.

9. Buoy Updates

Our mooring buoys have been removed for the winter:

- Eastcliffe Hall (removed by the Seaway Valley club on Sept 18th)
- Milles Roches Power House (removed by the Seaway Valley club on Oct 5th)
- Fred Mercur (removed by John R. and the Seaway Valley club on Oct 12th)
- Rothesay (removed by Tom Scott from the 1000 Islands Chapter on Oct 26th)

Special thanks go out to John Mondoux and the Seaway Valley Divers from Cornwall for their help with our mooring buoys this year. The Seaway Valley club deployed the moorings on the “Eastcliffe Hall,” Milles Roches Power House and “Fred Mercur” this year, and removed them in the fall.



Chapter Chair John Ratcliffe went down to Cornwall on Oct 12th with Harold Walker and dive buddy Phil Couture to meet John Mondoux and Patricia O’Hara from the Seaway Valley club. They dove the “Fred Mercur” from shore (it’s a long swim out!) to remove the mooring buoy. They also removed the remains of an American parachute flare which was tangled up underneath one of the deck beams, creating an entanglement hazard for other divers.

John Mondoux from the Seaway Valley club is storing the large spar buoy from the Eastcliffe and the small conical buoys from the Power House and “Fred Mercur” at his place in Cornwall for the winter, and says he has pressure washed them to remove the accumulated algae growth.

Tom Scott from the 1000 Islands Chapter removed the small spar buoy from the “Rothesay” on Oct. 26th while taking his boat from Brockville to Johnstown for the winter. We still need to pick this up from him – Chris Holloway says he can take care of this.

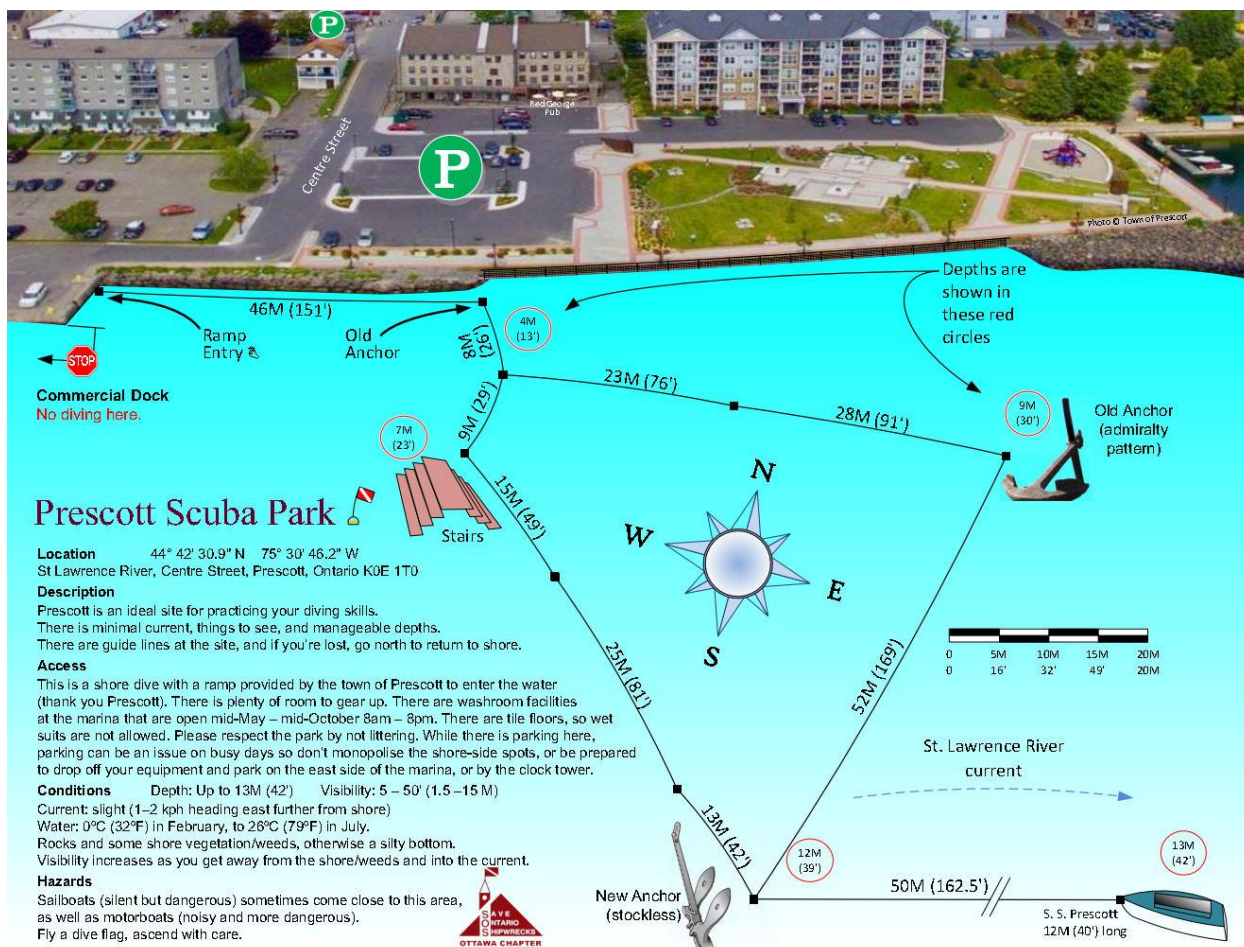
American parachute flare removed from the “Fred Mercur” on Oct 12th.

10. Prescott Scuba Park

Chapter member Chis Holloway has been working on an updated map of the newly reopened Scuba Park in Prescott, which he made using Microsoft Visio. The map is almost complete – see the latest draft version, below. Chris has received some input from city staff. Everyone in attendance agreed that the new map looks fantastic, although John mentioned that there are still a few more small revisions to make before we distribute it.

Chris mentioned that there is quite a bit of weed growth at the Scuba Park which obscures the lines near shore, so he used shears to clear them away.

Chapter member Germain Wiseman (not present) has suggested that we should organize a clean up dive at Prescott in the spring. John thinks this a good idea, although it will take some organizing. John commented that the wreck of the “Fred Mercur” (to the east of Cornwall) could also use a good clean up, as its full of plastic bottles and other debris.



Draft version of Prescott Scuba Park map by Chris Holloway.

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting to be held in February/March. Motion to adjourn at 20:40.

John gave away some books:

- *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea* (1988) by Peter Kemp
- *Marine Archaeology and the Diver* (1985) by Andy Lockery
- *Fitzgerald's Storm: The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald* (1997) by Joe MacInnis
- *The Breadalbane Adventure* (1982) by Joe MacInnis
- *Namesakes 1956-1980* (1981) by John O. Greenwood
- *Namesakes 1930-1955* (1978) by John O. Greenwood
- *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary* (1985) by Olive Jones and Catherine Sullivan
- *Ten Tales of the Great Lakes* by Skip Gillham
- *The Scrimshander* (1978) by William Gilkerson

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- *Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries* (2002) by Diver's Alert Network (DAN)
- *Diving into Darkness: The Elements of Safe Night Diving* (2001) by Robert N. Rossier
- *Diver's Navigation Manual* (1974) by Jack E. Glatt and the Dacor Corporation