

Attendees (4): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Dennis Cartwright (Treasurer), Chris Harnett, Nancy Binnie.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:05. This was our third virtual meeting (via Zoom).

John said that he had been in touch with Bill Lewin at the Clocktower Glebe about booking his basement room for an in-person meeting (it's available), but decided to go with a virtual meeting given the current public health climate. Did a quick informal survey of attendees to see how they would feel about a return to in-person meetings – all seemed OK with the idea, with the proviso that attendees are vaccinated.



2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 29 June 2021

A motion to approve the minutes of 29 June 2021 was raised by Dennis and seconded by John – motion carried.

3. News and Recap of Recent Events

Potential NAS I Course in October

- Chris Phinney is considering holding a NAS I course in Brockville this October. John sent out an email to chapter members to see if anyone was interested – response seems minimal so far. Please get in touch if you or anyone you know may be interested.

AIA Lectures

- The Ottawa Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) continues to hold their series of online lectures. While most are on non-maritime themes, they are excellent overall. John will continue sending out invites to these.

Changes to the Ottawa Chapter Executive

- At our last meeting John mentioned that we needed a new Treasurer, as Debbie Reinhart had expressed a wish to step away from this role, and Secretary, as Jeff Porter had retired from this position at the beginning of the year. Dennis Cartwright has volunteered to be our new Treasurer, and Brennan Massey has volunteered to be our new Secretary. Thank you Dennis and Brennan, and a big thank you to Debbie for her excellent work as Treasurer over the last few years.

4. Donation Boxes

Barry Edgington has completed his annual tour to check on our donation boxes at dive shops in Ottawa and eastern Ontario, including the delivery of a donation box to Scuba Finatics in Greely. Barry collected \$113.91 from the boxes, added updated inserts to some of the display boards, and replenished the stock of Diver's Guides and stickers. Thank you Barry!



Updated donation box and display board at Kanata Dive Supply (KDS).



Updated donation box and display board at Sharky's Scuba.

5. Treasurer's Report (Dennis Cartwright)

Our new Treasurer, Dennis Cartwright, provided an update on our current financial situation.

Dennis has deposited the \$113.91 received from the donation boxes.

Our current bank balance is \$6,256.64.

6. Buoy Updates

John gave a quick summary of the mooring buoys our chapter maintains. We have moorings out at four sites this year: the Rothesay, Eastcliffe Hall, Milles Roches Power House, and the Fred Mercur.

John Mondoux from the Seaway Valley Divers Club reported that he removed the buoy from the Fred Mercur for the season. John R. has updated the SOS website and emailed the Coast Guard (NAVWARN).

Our remaining buoys will need to come in over the next month or two.

Site	Type	Status	Date	By
Fred Mercur	Conical	Removed	Sept 13, 2021	John Mondoux
Rothesay	Spar	Deployed	May 21, 2021	Dom Gingras
Milles Roches	Conical	Deployed	June 12, 2021	John Mondoux
Eastcliffe Hall	Spar	Deployed	July 2, 2021	Ron McDonald

SOS Ottawa Buoy Disposition, September 2021

7. Prescott Scuba Park

Training Platforms

John reported that Neil O'Hare constructed the two training platforms for which we had provided funding, and successfully installed them at the Prescott Scuba Park on July 17. John drove down to see the platforms go in the water and provide some shore support. The entire operation went very smoothly – a mobile crane showed up around 10am to lift the platforms into the water. (donations by KDS, Scuba Finatics, and Neil O'Hare covered the cost of the crane). Divers then swam the platforms into position and sank them using concrete blocks. The blocks will remain on the platforms for several years until the wooden frames absorb enough water to become negatively buoyant. The platforms are located fairly close to shore, at depth of about 20 ft. A new yellow line leads from the base of the dock near the entrance ramp to the platforms. These new platforms will need to be added to the map of the Scuba Park that chapter member Chris Holloway has been working on.

Neil O'Hare reports that he and some friends have recently added a Peak Performance Buoyancy course to the Scuba Park - this is a series of PVC squares for divers to swim through when developing their buoyancy skills.

Meeting Minutes 14 September 2021 Ottawa Chapter, Save Ontario Shipwrecks (SOS)

There are issues with the steel entrance ramp that the town installed at the Scuba Park in 2019. It only descends about 6" into the water, so while it's excellent for entering the water, it's almost impossible to get back onto with dive gear. Divers need to clamber over the rocks or find other methods to exit. John has raised this issue with Neil, but Neil says that he's already been in touch with one of the Prescott councillors about this and has suggested adding three or four steps.

Neil has shared a message from the Prescott town council to ask divers not to park in the spots immediately adjacent to the waterfront when diving the Scuba Park, as this area is popular with local residents for eating and watching the ships.



Training platform being lifted into the water at the Prescott Scuba Park, July 17, 2021.



Neil O'Hare (right) briefs divers installing training platforms, July 17, 2021.

8. Beavers Plaque

John and Chris Holloway had removed this plaque from the Conestoga site for maintenance earlier this summer, as algae was growing on the inaccessible inner surface of the outer plexiglass. John removed the plexiglass and replaced the screws with stainless steel ones. John and Chris returned the plaque to the site on July 28.

9. New Business / Next Meeting Date

John said that we still need to hold a chapter AGM. Would prefer to do this in person, if possible.

Chris Harnett mentioned a quarry clean up recently organized by the Scuba Finatics, KDS and EPSO shops.

Next meeting to be held in late October/early November. Motion to adjourn at 19:35.