

Attendees (16): John Ratcliffe (Chair), Dennis Cartwright (Treasurer), Bev Sawchuk, Chris Harnett, Nancy Binnie, Luc Lafontaine, Leonard Baak, Jeanette Ryken, Tim Vezina, Melissa Vezina, Shawn Girard, Lindsay Halsall, Rick Menard, Gerry Carter, Daniel Carter, Dominique Gingras.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19:02. This meeting was held in our normal spot in the basement of the Clocktower Brew Pub (Glebe location), and was our second in-person meeting since November 2019.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 1 December 2021

A motion to approve the previous minutes was raised by Dennis and seconded by John – motion carried.

3. News and Events

John gave a quick recap of news and recent events:

- The Niagara Diver's Association (NDA) is hosting their annual Shipwrecks Symposium online again this year, April 15-16. This is a great event, with some fantastic guest speakers, and is operating on a “pay-what-you-can” model again this year.
- Noted shipwreck researcher and diver Rick Neilson has passed away.
- The SOS 1000 Islands project to sink an artificial reef in Brockville is stalled, as they were not able to get government approval.



4. Treasurer's Report (Dennis Cartwright)

Dennis gave a brief summary of our finances – no new transactions since our last meeting in December. Our current bank balance is \$6,256.64.

Save Ontario Shipwrecks - Ottawa - BMO Account Summary

Date	Code	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance	Notes
2021 01 01		Balance from previous year			\$ 6,743.14	
2021 04 15	CK #56	Prescott Platforms	\$ 987.41		\$ 5,755.73	
2021 06 21	IB	United Way Donation		\$ 100.00	\$ 5,855.73	BMO ATM 1450 Mervale
2021 06 21	IB	SOS Membership Dividend 2018 - 2020		\$ 287.00	\$ 6,142.73	BMO ATM 1450 Mervale
2021 09 13	MB BR. 0081	Donation Box		\$ 113.91	\$ 6,256.64	Sharkey's, Diver's Warehouse, KDS, Deco Stop

SOS Ottawa current finances.

Dennis was wondering if there are better account options for our money, where we might earn at least some interest. Nancy says we are likely fairly tightly regulated in what we can do, as there are formal guidelines for the financial management of non-profit groups. John to follow up with SOS corporate to see what our options are, as well as status of annual membership dividends.

5. Donation Boxes

Barry was not present; but Tim Vezina, who owns the Scuba Finatics shop, confirmed that he has a SOS donation box.

Dominique Gingras, one of the owners of the EPSO shop in Gatineau, was present and said they would be interested in a donation box, if we have an extra.

Dustin Proper, who owns Proper Diving in Almonte, has been in touch with Barry about getting a donation box in his store.

6. Buoy updates

John outlined our chapter's mooring plan for the 2022 season. We plan to buoy the following sites in 2022: Rothesay, Eastcliffe Hall, Milles Roches Power House, Belly Dumper, Lock 20, and Fred Mercur.



SOS Ottawa mooring plan for 2022 season.

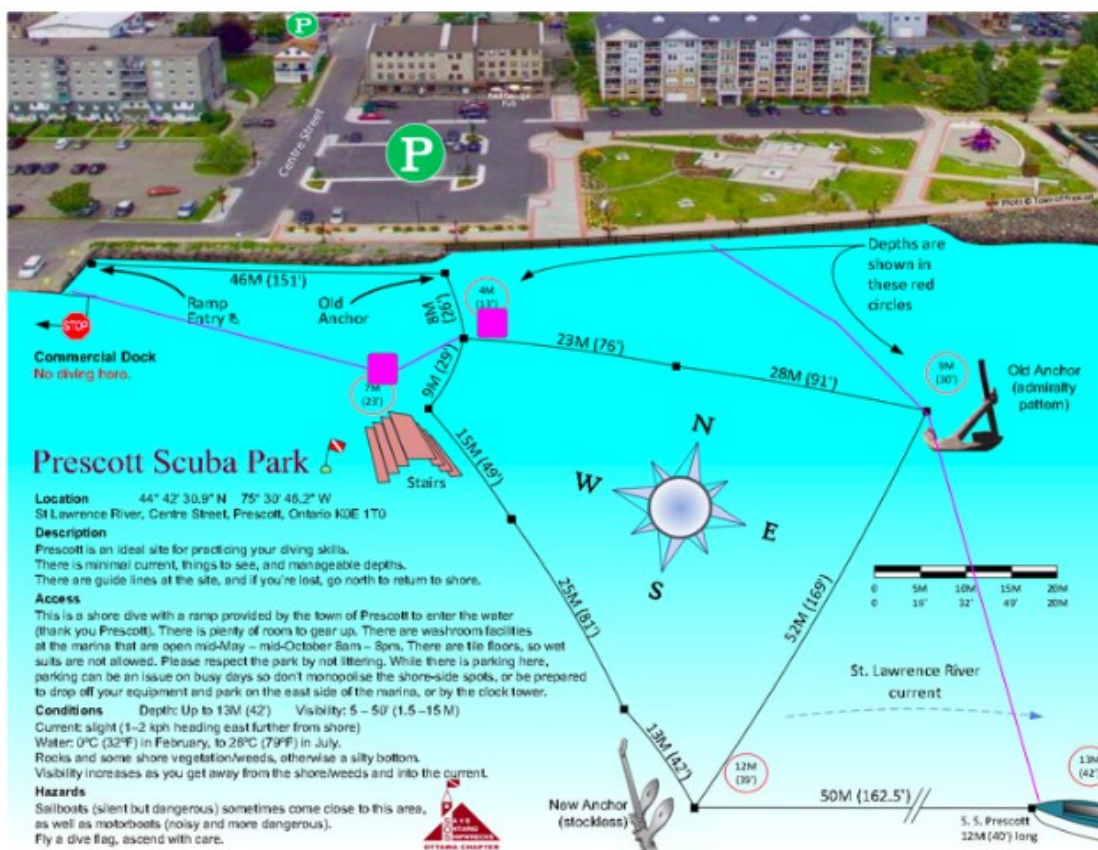
John Mondoux and the Seaway Valley Divers club in Cornwall have been deploying most of our buoys for the last few years. John M. wants to buoy Lock 20 and the Belly Dumper this year; the Belly Dumper has only had a jug for the last few years. Lock 20 is not registered as an SOS site, Luc says we will need to follow process outlined in the SOS Mooring Handbook to register it as a new site. John R. to follow up.

John M. wants to replace the lines on the Power House and Belly Dumper, as they are getting old. Chris Holloway has been working on splicing some new lines, and John R. dropped off some taglines from Murray Hollis. Chris is working on lines for the Power House and Lock 20, but we will need a longer line for the Belly Dumper, as the block is at a depth of about 80 feet. John R. to follow up with SOS Corporate to see if they can supply a longer line.

Dominique Gingras from EPSO was present and said he will deploy the Rothesay buoy this weekend.

At our last meeting Dustin Proper and Brennan Massey had expressed interest in buoying the Red Pine Bay Wreck, in the Ottawa River near Arnprior. John obtained a copy of Brian Prince's survey report on the site from 1999 and has forwarded it to Dustin, as it contains a site sketch and other information. John doesn't think the site gets much traffic due to the extremely low vis, but is willing to supply a conical buoy if the interest is there.

7. Prescott Scuba Park



Prescott Scuba Park Map (Draft), by Chris Holloway

Chris Holloway (not present) has been working on a map of the Prescott Scuba Park; John thinks there are still a few more final edits to make before we start distributing it, which we would like to do this summer.

When the entrance ramp was installed at the site in 2019 the water level was unusually high. In normal water years the ramp does not extend far enough into the water to allow divers to use it as an exit. Neil O'Hare from the 1000 Islands chapter is aware of the issue and has been in touch with Operations staff from the town of Prescott, who are getting quotes to install a ladder at the bottom of ramp, and an additional handrail. More to follow.

Tim Vezina and other instructors from Scuba Finatics report that they have been using the new training platforms, which work well, although there is some competition for space when multiple shops are doing checkout dives on the same weekend. Tim reminds everyone not to park in the row of parking spaces closest to the water, out of consideration for local residents.

Rick asks about bathrooms on site; there are bathrooms at the nearby marina, but apparently they don't like divers using them.

8. New Business / Next Meeting Date

Tim asks about NAS courses. Our chapter hasn't organized one since 2015, as there is often the potential to piggyback on other courses held in Brockville. Dominique says his shop organized a NAS I course last year, but this filled up very quickly. There is also a shortage of qualified NAS tutors – Dominique has heard that Chris Phinney has moved out of province.

Next meeting to be held in May or early June. Motion to adjourn at 19:35.

Book Table

The following books were given away, as well as some SOS t-shirts:

- *Lost Beneath the Ice: The Story of HMS Investigator* (2013), by Andrew Cohen
- *Descent: The Heroic Discovery of the Abyss* (2005), by Brad Matsen
- *Scuba Equipment Care and Maintenance* (1988), by Michael B. Farley and Charles Royer