

AN APPEAL TO ALL SPORT DIVERS

SAN DIEGO COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS, INC

OCT-1966

FOR LACK OF QUORUM THERE WAS NO COUNCIL MEETING IN OCTOBER!

Yes, it is true, there was no Council meeting in October. This may not sound like such an earth-shattering development, and indeed it is not. It just may, however, one of these days soon, become rather important to those of us who enjoy a dive now and then.

Please let me explain. Legislative problems have a way of popping up now and then. Problems that if not handled properly will legislate us right out of the water. Neither the individual diver nor the clubs, individually, have the power to prevent this from happening. Only a Council or council-type organization has the strength to deal with these things.

You would like some proof, you say? Fine, read on. Between the years of 1958 through 1964 this Council, individually, or in cooperation with the other Councils, accomplished these things:

1. Defeated a measure that would have banned lobster diving.
2. Defeated a measure that would have banned spearing Black Sea Bass.
3. Defeated a measure that would have limited the taking of abalone to periods of minus tides. (This one probably will come up again.)
4. Twice defeated measures that would have placed State licensing and State Control over the filling of air tanks. (This one is very likely to crop up again soon.)
5. Caused the waters of Mexico to be reopened to divers after they had been closed for about 6 months. We also caused copies of their regulations to be printed in English and distributed locally. Prior to this, there were no such regulations printed in any language.
6. In cooperation with Park and Recreation Aquatic Division, made available the first public SCUBA training courses in San Diego County.
7. Opened countless miles of rivers and lakes to the spearing of rough fish.
8. In cooperation with the Water Pollution Control Board, made a significant contribution to causing the Point Loma sewage treatment plant and outfall to be redesigned for more complete treatment and further transportation to sea than was originally designed.

In that same period of time, the Council was unsuccessful in the following two items: It was unsuccessful, simply because it never was strong enough to be a winner in all the causes, no matter how just they were.

1. We lost the right to sport diving in San Diego Harbor.
2. In cooperation with Scripps Institute we attempted a voluntary program of protecting Broom Tail Grouper. The Broom Tail is now all but gone.

YES, FOR LACK OF QUORUM THERE WAS NO COUNCIL MEETING IN OCTOBER!

In case you are a stranger to the Council here are some of the activities it sponsors:

1. The SEARCH AND RECOVERY UNIT, a voluntary public service group that has given noteworthy service to the community.

2. COMPETITIVE SPEAR FISHING. Competition is available for all classes of divers from the novice on up. This is the route to the National and World Championships. (All the local competitive catch goes to the House of Hope Orphanage in Tijuana.)
3. One whale of a cioppino beach party annually.
4. Low competitive level but high fun level scatter dives for all classifications of legal game.

NO QUORUM ---- NO MEETING

Are you planning on buying more life insurance sometime in the future? If so, don't let the agent know you are a diver. If he finds out, your policy will cost you dearly, if you get it at all. Sad but true. That's the way things are these days. You are hearing from a guy who had it happen.

Something can be done about this. The councils are working on it through the Under Water Society of America and Canada. A council is not big enough to handle this one alone.

NO MEETING IN OCTOBER

What about November?

Things have been on a downhill slide for some time. This is the way with volunteer organizations; they go through cycles -- sometimes. So there is nothing to be alarmed about. Or is there? The council is at the bottom now so only one of two things can happen. It can bound back, or --- it can die. Whoever thinks there is a choice should start reading again, at the top. Or maybe diving in Imperial Valley wouldn't be too bad after all.

OH! I almost forgot this one. Have you ever heard the term "Allocation of water use sports"? It works this way. So much water; too many people. Activities have to be separated and controlled. Surfing, swimming and water skiing are examples of this. We participated in the Mayor's Committee that established present boundries. We fared well in this one (we weren't bothered) because we were strong and we were there and because we haven't been involved in conflict yet. But just stick around a while. There are lots more people on the way.

Are you getting tired of all this? I certainly am, so let's get to the point. The council is open to two classes of membership: Clubs of 5 members or more and individual associate members. Only Clubs have votes. The absence of a strong Council in San Diego is the most sure way I know of to have our sport seriously curtailed.

WILL THERE BE A QUORUM IN NOVEMBER?

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 1966, 8:00 p.m. in the Pacific Beach Community Center.

Items to be discussed will include:

1. Short presentations from prominent guests who have an interest in what we are doing.
2. Further details on many of the issues listed herein. We can elaborate on all of them if the floor so desires.

3. Reassessment of goals.
4. The proposed Conrad Linbaugh Memorial Underwater Park at La Jolla has become an issue again. The impact this can have on diving is monumental. There will be a presentation of the current proposal.
5. The secretary tells me the coffee will be hot and free.

All interested divers, whether they be council members, club members or non-affiliated, are urged to attend.

I walked into my first council meeting, a complete stranger, eight or nine years ago. Now my dearest and greatest friends, and they are many, are persons I have met through this activity.

LET'S HAVE A MEETING IN NOVEMBER

Harold Riley

HFR:lw
10-22-66