

Minutes

DCB Meeting 10/8/2015

Video Conference in Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka

Members Present: Stephen Jewett, Alex Ravelo, Katrin Iken, Ginny Eckert, Max Hoberg, Brenda Konar, Sonia Ibarra, Reid Brewer, Tracy Martensen, and Sherry Tamone

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Open or closed meetings: This topic has not come up before. We discussed that we already have a large Board with 10 people and the need for further input is questionable. We decided to add a 10-minute agenda item at the start of the meeting during which the public is welcome to comment.
- 3) New DSO updates: Brenda attended the AAUS meeting and received new DSO training and attended the business meeting.
 - a. Brenda emphasized that the Board is the ultimate decision maker and she will be making more use of the board when it comes to major decisions
 - i. Visiting divers with non AAUS certification will need to be vetted by the board. We will confirm divers using email but if a meeting needs to be held, the Chair will hold a meeting.
 - b. Changes to the AAUS dive manual (for 2016). The AAUS manual was revised in 2013 and:
 - i. We need to update our existing manual.
 1. Open water training is no longer part of our AAUS training
 2. Sections 4 and 5 need to be revised. Stephen mentioned that AAUS does not approve our UA organizational manual, but the onus is on the DCB to make sure we are in compliance.
 3. 1 dive each 6 month period and 12 over the year. This can be problematic for UAF divers who don't usually dive in the winter. AAUS wants a check out dive for divers who have not been in the water in 6 months. Action Item: Brenda Konar will go to the chair of the AAUS standards committee to argue for an Alaska exemption?
 - c. Should UA become an AAUS facility and should our dive instructors become an AAUS Instructor. Students (in Brenda and Reid's scientific dive classes) can have an AAUS-ITI certification card issued. We pay ITI \$150/year and the cards are \$35 each. Benefit is that the students have a card. A benefit of having the card is that the student will be a member of AAUS and therefore be eligible for travel grants through AAUS.
 - d. New Website is posted. Everyone should look through this and send Brenda suggestions. Will be linked to SMUG BUG so divers can upload their dive photos.
- 4) Alaska Dive Classes; what is going on this year?
 - a. Sitka: Open water Diver offered in the Spring and Summer. Scientific Diving in the spring online with onsite dives over Spring Break. There are good enrollments in the UAS Sitka Open Water dive classes.

- b. Kasitsna Bay: March Scientific Diving; Field topics class for AAUS divers.
 - c. APU uses Kasitsna Bay lab for their training and will continue this in 2016.
- 5) AAUS is visiting organizational members and looking over their records. We don't know if and when we will be visited. AAUS pays for the visits. This is largely because of our OSHA waiver.
 - a. Site review may happen
- 6) New Items
 - a. Turnover of DCB members: Max Hoberg will cycle off in the Spring and it was suggested that Amanda Kelly (a new faculty member in IMS) take his place. Action Item: Sherry will contact Amanda to see if she is interested in serving on the board.
 - b. Physical Exams: make sure you are using the current physical exam forms which are available on the website
 - c. O2 instruction: In the past, Juneau divers received O2 instruction through Stephen Jewett. Reid suggested that we have a diver O2 training at AMSS. UAF faculty have challenged the course by taking the exam. Stephen would not like to see us lose out on the hands on skills. If there is an online exam, we could have divers challenge the written test and meet for hands on training.
 - d. All units should make sure that their O2 cylinders are current and that each kit includes all of the required components. A bag valve mask is required in the JNU kit.
- 7) Research
 - a. Aleutians: Konar
 - b. Invert Collections in the Spring: Tamone and Eckert
 - c. Should we have a western regional AAUS meeting to include all 3 AAUS organizations (UA, Sea Life Center, and APU)? It was noted that there currently is a NW DCB group that gets together every other year. We should be invited to this.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am