

Central California Council of Diving Clubs, Inc.



Minutes of the November 24, 2019, meeting

Call to Order— at 9:00 AM President Jim Kaller and Secretary Larry Ankuda met on the phone but by 9:18 Carol Rose still hadn't called in, so they hung up and Jim dialed Carol and Larry from his phone to create a conference.

Membership—Carol

CenCal has a dozen or so clubs and 171 members.

For 2020 she plans to publish a quarterly newsletter, which would cost about \$100/issue.

Financial Report—Carol

Bank balances are about \$7000 in available funds plus \$2000 in the defense (legal) fund.

Website—Larry

If no volunteer comes forth to promote the social website activity in CenCal, Larry intends to not renew the server nor the domain name. The server expires in May; the domain name in July.

Scholarship—Jim

\$1000 isn't much these days and there are a lot of scholarships available.

Skin Spearfishing—Carol

The bank balance is about \$16K.

Old Business—Carol

A red abalone webinar will be held yet and it will be on Dec. 19. It will be the final meeting concerning the red abalone FMP.

The RAAC (Recreational Abalone Advisory Council) may meet one more time, and then disband.

New Business—

Volunteers to step up to positions within CenCal are absent so far.

Over the years some councils have folded. There are now 2 in HI, 1 in CO, 1 in MW, 1 in FL, 2 in NY, 1 in CA, said Carol.

If CenCal folded, any group needing insurance would have to join USOA directly. For a year of insurance each group would pay \$600 rather than \$300. Dive instructors are insured through their training agency.

Social media has replaced websites, Jim said, with Facebook/Twitter/et. al. being very popular lately. And this convening happens on a daily basis, not at monthly meetings.

Jim suggested one more notice go out, and it be specifically addressed to individuals in the groups that use CenCal insurance. Club Puck, Sea Bass, Sea Lions, Sharks, NorCal, and NCUPS would be at the top of that list. The notice should very clearl about the consequences to each group. Carol said she has direct contact with four clubs that use the insurance, so she will put out a January newsletter, via USPS, to include such a notice in, and send it to as many individuals in those groups as possible.

M/V Red Sea Agressor recently caught fire at night, burned, and sank, Larry found out a few days ago. A crewmember was asleep on the lid of the escape hatch but the pounding and lifting by the passengers woke him up and they escaped. One American woman was reportedly the only fatality. The Egyptian government is tight-lipped about this and have only said that the boat sank in very deep water and would not be recovered. A scuba diver later found it in 60 feet of water. Evidently, they do not want to discourage tourism. “Aggressor Adventures” will make no comments.

Next meeting

CenCal’s next meeting will be on Jan. 29. It is the fifth Wednesday of the month so no groups should be scheduled to meet then. Larry will set it up.

Adjourn at 10:28 PM.