

July 18, 2019. United Divers of Central MA. club meeting at Slattery's, Fitchburg was called to order at 7:20pm by Chair Jack Hinz. Attendance was 11.

A. Treasurer Jane Howard reported:

- General Fund \$1,062.05,
- Reserve Fund \$2,163.44,
- Bank Total \$3,225.49
- Cash on hand \$ 36.52

B. The June 19,2019 Meeting minutes were sent via e-mail.

C. Activities Coordinator Frank Miller high lighted the following activities:

Friday, July 24 SEAL DIVE at Isle of Shoals on Fran Linehan's "Day Breaker". Cost \$95 per diver. Two more divers are needed to fill the boat.

Saturday, July 20, FISH COUNT reporting at Stage Fort Park starts at noon.

Sunday, August 25 LOBSTERFEST pool party at Marcelle Champagne and Mike LaChance's, 31 Loring Street, Auburn, Mass. Starts at 1pm.

September NIGHT DIVE at Back Beach. ?Friday, September 27 or Saturday, Sept. 28.

Sunday, October 27, SEAFOOD COOKOFF at Jack and Jane's.

D. Membership/Publicity Coordinator Marcelle Champagne reported no changes.

E. President Jack Hinz reported

Old Business: July 13 FIREWORKS at Jeff Goodreau's was spectacular including 3 cannons. Club members thank Jeff and his family inviting us.

Leonor DesMarais e-mailed a thank you to the club for inviting her to speak in June and requested a photo of our group. Marcelle may have one.

New Business: Jack reported about 20 lobsters have been caught, precooked and are frozen for LOBSTERFEST. Marcelle requests cook pots. Frank and Jack will bring turkey cookers. 10 members were signed up to come at this meeting plus two maybes. Sign up will continue at the August 15 meeting for a final number.

DIVE TALK:The following members participated in dive talk: Frank Miller, Marcelle Champagne, Jack Hinz and Karen Ferrante.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Michael Jones and Dan Houlihan of Tactical Reintegration Project (TRP) spoke about the psychological benefits of SCUBA diving. Diving provides the connection, purpose, and mission that the soldiers had when they were in the military. Dan first had the idea for TRP at a Sea Rovers convention when he met Dr. Calvin Mires, who teaches underwater archaeology. Michael Jones is committed to organizing programs to help veterans suffering difficulty reintegrating after their service. After the initial certification course, classes are incorporated with East Coast Divers classes which train civilians including Gold Star family members who have lost a loved one. These diving skills can lead to diving instructor certification and to level one skills of the National Archaeological Society. TRP is 7 months old and has trained 20 so far. Michael and Dan report all have benefited from diving.

The club donated \$100 to TRP in lieu of speaker fees.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Slattery's in Fitchburg, Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm. Minutes taken by Jane Howard.