



OceansWide Spring 2007 Newsletter

March sure came in fast and Summer is right on its heels. The good news is great progress is being made and we are feeling confident about this Summer's program.

News from Peter Girguis, Brian Ackerman and Buzz:

- Over the past few months Peter has been talking with the staff at Teledyne Benthos to see if it would be possible for them to lend *OceansWide* a ROV. A long story made short – Peter and the management at Benthos in North Falmouth, Massachusetts have made it happen. Teledyne Benthos has generously offered to provide us with a Benthos Stingray ROV for July, and said we could keep it for the entire summer if we could find a use for it. Believe me, we will find a use for it! Many thanks to Darren Moss of Benthos and Peter Girguis.
- Brian Ackerman and Buzz Scott have put the wheels in motion to create a Maine based commercial endeavor called *Bristol Marine Science and Survey*. This new venture will have a major beneficial impact on our efforts to get the *OceansWide* program operational. The current plan is to purchase a vessel for commercial use in Maine. We have researched the necessity and benefit of a commercial ROV system on the coast of Maine and have found there is a great deal of demand for such a system. We are now in the process of seeking funding from venture capitalists to purchase or lease a ROV and will begin work immediately. *Bristol Marine Science and Survey* will enable us to maintain a full-time presence in Maine, and will provide the means of supporting both the vessel and ROV. More importantly, with commercial success comes the opportunity to support *OceansWide* as a non-profit entity and will give us high visibility that may create more sponsors.
- Over the past month we have contacted Governor Baldacci's office. We have met with staff members from the offices of our Maine Senators, Susan M. Collins and Olympia J. Snowe. Mr. Whitney (Snowe) and Mr. Card (Collins) were enthusiastic to hear about the benefits *OceansWide* and *Bristol Marine Science and Survey* will bring to Maine. They have kindly offered their support in our efforts to bring these plans to fruition. In Augusta the Maine Emergency Management Agency, MEMA (the state equivalent of FEMA) is currently evaluating our business plans and are researching possible needs they may have for our services. The overall reply

from all these government agencies has been very positive.

- *Bristol Marine Science and Survey* will offer year-round near shore ROV operations. Since both the Benthos and VideoRay ROVs are self contained and travel easily in three weather proof cases we can easily operate out of the back of a utility truck (ideally a gas-electric hybrid) that will allow us to travel quickly and efficiently to any site in New England. With this mobility we will be able to work in lakes, rivers, harbors, next to dams and docks and offshore on vessels of opportunity.
- The benefits for starting up this new commercial enterprise were many including that the missions of the two (*Bristol Marine Science and Survey* and *OceansWide*) have areas of overlap which will augment both programs.
 1. We will have an increased ability to demonstrate our potential and expertise to local scientists, educators, state and private business
 2. We will begin working with scientists to put a program in place that will enable them to use a ROV which may enhance their research in the Gulf of Maine
 3. We will begin working with educators to design a program that will integrate easily with their curriculum, giving them a chance to improve education by bringing research,

exploration and adventure into the classrooms.

4. We will expand our program to schools further inland with our land based truck operations.
 5. We will have the freedom to spread the word through research, education, tourism and VIP tours.
 6. With this equipment we will be able to support a fulltime effort in Maine which will enable us to devote all our time to fulfilling the *OceansWide* Mission.
- We will be busy, but this work is our passion. As both these endeavors grow, new jobs and opportunities for Maine residents will continue to emerge.



Collaborations:

We at *OceansWide* feel it is crucial to work together with like minded organizations. Each of our programs has a completely unique mission, but they are designed to achieve similar goals. By pooling our resources everyone wins.

- The *Gulf of Maine Foundation* www.gulfofmainefoundation.org a privately funded charitable organization dedicated to preserving, studying, and learning about the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Partnered with the *Darling Marine Center*, they provide a summer lecture series, K-12 school programs, summer undergraduate research internships, and weekly tours of the research facility in the summer.
- The *Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute* www.mlci.org is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to understanding, protecting and sustaining the health and values of Maine's lakes and the communities dependent upon them.
- The *Maine Island Trail Association* www.mita.org helps preserve Maine's special places by promoting environmental education, volunteer stewardship, and land conservation.
- *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midcoast Maine* www.volunteersolutions.org/me/org/8763586.html promotes the healthy growth and development of children who are at significant risk of developing social, emotional, and behavioral problems. This is done by

offering services to "at-risk" children, primarily from single-parent families, through school and community based programs in order to develop friendships.

Recently we spoke with all of these organizations to see what benefit they saw in working together. We came up with what seems to achieve the goals of all and some benefits that would have been nearly impossible for any one of our organizations to accomplish alone. The *Gulf of Maine Foundation* is working to study and preserve the tidal and near coastal areas, the *Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute* the lakes of Maine, the *Maine Island Trail Association* the islands of Maine, *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Midcoast Maine* the youth of Maine and *OceansWide* the ocean of Maine. There seems to be a common thread here! If we tie all these wonderful ideas together and use them to teach our children how to preserve our natural treasures then we have all succeeded.



Grants:

Contacts: Kristy Dahl, George Matsumoto, Brian Ackerman, Peter Girguis, Buzz Scott and Traci Conlin

- From Kristy: In November, Brian and I made a visit to the Maine Philanthropy Center. We took advantage of their database of grantors and identified about 30 foundations that would be good matches for *OceansWide*. I'm combining this information with the list that Traci Conlin put together and the input I've received from George Matsumoto and others. Our first proposal of the year will go to the Maine Community Foundation. At the same time (January 15), I'll be sending out letters of inquiry to about 10 other foundations including the Horizon Foundation, from which Buzz has had some encouragement. Typical awards from most of these foundations are in the \$5-10k range. Over the next few months, we will hopefully be asked to submit formal proposals to these foundations.

Non-Grant Funding:

Contacts: Dana Orenstein, Susan Mitchell, Ellen Bunker, Christy Herren, Peter Girguis and Buzz Scott

- Peter Girguis and Christy Herren are still working to create a silent auction on E-bay to increase funding for *OceansWide*. If anyone has anything they would like to donate to the auction please let us know.

Other friends getting involved:

- Ellen Bunker and several friends from Matinicus are talking about a fund raiser on the island. They are very interested in helping out.
- Brian and Ronn are working on a web page to advertise our newest line of *OceansWide* fashions, merchandise and memorabilia. Don't forget to check it out... coming soon to a webpage near you!
- Jeff Jones is talking with local merchants who deal in ocean safety supplies to see if they might be willing to donate items for our safety course. We are asking them to supply us with ten exposure suits, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, a life raft and any other materials they might be willing to provide.
- And finally Buzz has begun work on a 2007 fundraising letter to request once again the help of our "Friends and Family". Because of their generosity during last year's efforts we were able to raise over \$7500 for the Summer program. This year we hope to break that record so we can offer up to four weekly camps. Already several friends and family have already asked when we plan to begin our fundraising attempts for the season. To that I answer: Your generosity is always appreciated so please visit our home page at www.oceanswide.org and hit the **Big RED** Donation Button. It is guaranteed secure, it's fast and easy and it automatically reminds me who I need to thank for making this all happen.

Summer Program Development:

Contacts: Mel Ackerman, Brian Ackerman, Kristy Dahl, Peter Girguis, Jeff Jones, Rich Langton and Suzy Hallett

- Mel, Kristy and I will be attending National Marine Educators Association 2007 conference in Portland in July for two reasons: 1) to spread the word of *OceansWide* and 2) to see what is new in the world of marine science education.
<http://gommea.org/downeast2007/default.html>
- During my visit to Maine last month Brian and I met with everyone involved in making the summer program a success. We visited the Darling Marine Center and made the necessary arrangements to use their facilities and to see if they would be interested in collaborating with *OceansWide* and the other organizations in the area. They were very receptive to the idea and we look forward to working with them in the future. Steve Busch, former President of the Gulf of Maine Foundation and Linda Healy at the Darling Marine Center were instrumental in making this happen. Many thanks to both of them. We are also scheduled time for the Summer Seminar Series at the Skidompha Library with Pam Gormley and for the Open House at the Boothbay YMCA with Michelle Farnam.
- Mel continues to spread the word of *OceansWide* to local

educators. She has been very successful finding many teachers, principals and school board members willing to commit to working with us to make the program a success and an integral part of the school system.

The program outline for now goes something like this:

Event (1): Two - five day mini camps, Monday through Friday. Each week we will offer ten campers the opportunity to share in an ROV experience and an adventure in maritime education. The mini camps will operate out of the Boothbay regional YMCA, the Darling Marine Center and at sea. (For this we will need publicity, transportation in the form of a van to safely move the campers on land, a boat for our at sea work, one or more ROVs, the necessary insurances, documentation and protection.)

The daily calendar will look something like this:



EVENT #1

2007 OceansWide Summer Day Camps

Participants:

Week 1: Big Brothers/Big Sisters
July 9th through the 13th

Week 2: Local kids

Ages: 9-14, Cost per child \$350

July 16th through the 20th

(A 3rd week will be considered
depending on interest.)

Day 1:

Boat safety and introduction to ROVs:

Duration 4 hours:

Shipboard safety lessons:

- Having fun is a top priority and will ensure a positive outcome for the cruise. Only one thing stands above fun and that is respect for the crew and the sea. Respect for these will keep all of us safe on board the boat and orderly actions will protect from unexpected spills. We will teach our campers that they are responsible for their partner's safety and visa-versa and to always remember one hand for you and one hand for the boat.
- What procedures do we follow in case of an emergency?
- How do we use our survival suits and safety gear?
- Getting in the pool and testing your gear. These lessons are designed to build self esteem and encourage teamwork for the voyages ahead.

What is an ROV?

- Bring the *Benthos Stingray* into the pool for demonstrations and training

Day 2:

Build your own ROV:

Duration 6 hours:

Ken Partain will join us with his ROV kits and guidance

- Demonstration and classroom building
- Flying the ROVs (in the pool)
- Training with the *VideoRay* and *Benthos Stingray* (in the pool)

Days 3 and 4:

Darling Marine Center and Offshore Cruise:

Duration 6 to 7 hours:

Tour of and Interaction with the staff at DMC:

- The tour of the DMC is not just to show our campers that such a unique educational center exists in their community, it is also show them that such careers exist!
- Live lab tours and explanations of the research being conducted.
- Meet and interact with our seminar speakers and have them explain the benefits of having such a treasure as the Darling Marine Center available.

Boat Cruises:

- Travel via boat to Monhegan giving campers a chance to learn boat handling and safety.
- Introduction and operation of the *Benthos Stingray*.

Day 5:

Nature Cruise:

Duration 4 to 6 hours

- Taking the campers out around New Harbor to see marine animals, islands and the sea

EVENT #2

Seminar Series at the Skidompha Library in Damariscotta

We have successfully gathered a wonderful group of speakers for this year's summer seminar series. This summer we're going to give the seminars an engaging theme: "Adventures and Perils of the Deep Ocean". Last year's speakers were great, but the feedback from last Summer was that the audiences would like to hear less about the technology and more about the thrills and adventure of life at sea. So here we go!

- July 6th, Dr. Sheri White will join us from WHOI to share her journey to the bottom of the sea in Alvin, WHOI's manned submersible
- July 10th, Darren Moss from Benthos will talk on the many adventures of the Stingray ROV.
- July 13th, the folks from NOAA's Archaeology department in

Massachusetts at the Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary to give a talk on the wreck of the "*S. S. Portland*" that sunk in the late 1800's and their work on the Stellwagen Banks.

- July 17th, a good friend and photographer Maria Stenzel from the National Geographic Society and the US Antarctic program will join us to share her stories of "Life on the Ice, a Penguin's Story"
- July 18th, we will have a talk on the "*Macon*", a naval aircraft carrier/dirigible that went down in 1935 off the coast of Big Sur, California.
- TBD, Dr. Kristina Dahl will present Al Gore's movie "An Inconvenient Truth" and a discussion on global warming.

EVENT #3

Open house at the YMCA.... Publicity, publicity, publicity!





Development of Marine Operations:

Contact: Captain Jeff Jones and Captain Brian Ackerman

- Dale Graves and Knute Brekke (ROV pilots from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute) recently represented *OceansWide* at the Underwater Intervention Convention (UIC) in New Orleans where they learned about the newest technologies in the ROV world and talked with dealers about possible choices for our future ROV purchases.

Publicity:

Contacts: Brian Ackerman, Ronn Orenstein and Roz Davis

- Buzz and Brian will be sending out a press release to all of the areas publications, news stations and calendars.
- Ronn and Buzz will be working on a flier for next Summer's program and another general flier explaining the program.
- Buzz, Ronn and Roz will soon begin a publicity campaign for next Summer's *OceansWide* events.

Website:

Contacts: Jessica Skillings and Buzz Scott

- Jessica continues to do an amazing job keeping the website updated. For those of you who haven't checked it out please have a look at www.oceanswide.org
- Our latest revisions include:
 1. Updates to the Vehicles and Vessels page
 2. New Home Page Text
 3. Our first donor of 2007 on the donations page (Thanks to Connor Scott for making that donation happen)