

NEW YORK SEA GYPSIES  
Skin/SCUBA Diving Club

CHARTER

Article I - Name

The name of this organization is the New York Sea Gypsies Skin/SCUBA Diving Club.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to serve its members by fulfilling their desires for mutual assistance and enjoyment of skin and SCUBA diving while abiding by conservation rules. The organization aspires to fulfill these goals through regularly scheduled meetings to organize future club activities and other related business.

Article III - Membership

Section 1 - To qualify as a member of this organization, each person must be a fully certified SCUBA diver as a result of passing a SCUBA course given by one of the following qualified groups:

YMCA, NAUI, PADI, or LACDA

Section 2 - All members of this organization must be 18 years of age or older.

Section 3 - There must be an official club application for membership filed with the Membership committee on which is stated the requirements and stipulations of this organization. This application must be completed and signed by all charter and present club members as well as by those persons just applying for membership into this organization.

Section 4 - All applicants for membership after September 1, 1972 will, at the time of receipt of the completed and signed application for membership by the Membership committee, begin a required three month probationary period during which

- (a) they must attend at least 2/3 of the scheduled club meetings.
- (b) they must attend and participate in one club dive.
- (c) they will pay no dues.
- (d) they will have no official club vote although they may participate in all club activities and may raise issues to the club.

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(e) they can be dropped from consideration at the recommendation of the Membership committee and a 2/3 vote of the club membership.

Section 5 - Upon completion of the probationary period, the potential members will be voted on. With a majority vote and a positive recommendation from the Safety committee, those persons will be given the option of becoming full club members.

Section 6 - A potential member, upon the successful completion of Article III - Section 5, may exercise their option to join this organization by paying all initiation fees. Such initiation fees will not include back dues for the three month probationary period.

Section 7 - There will be up to four special memberships granted to experienced SCUBA divers who will be subject to all club regulations but will pay no club dues. They will act in an advisory capacity to the club.

Section 8 - The Safety committee can not recommend any prospective member for membership to the club without a formal written report of at least two club members who have participated in a club dive with said prospective member.

#### Article IV - Officers

Section 1 - The officers of this club shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2 - There will also be within this organization a Membership committee, a Safety committee, and an Activities committee. Each committee will consist of five members; comprised of two executive officers and three elected club members. Each committee will elect a chairman and all decisions within each committee shall be decided by a majority vote.

Section 3 - Nominations for all officers shall be accepted at the September business meeting.

Section 4 - All officers will be elected at the October business meeting. Election of officers will be by a majority vote.

Section 5 - Officers and committee members will take office on January 1st and serve for one calendar year.

#### Article V - Duties of Officers

Section 1 - The President or the Vice President will be the representing chairman at each meeting. The President and Vice President will be responsible for all activities within the club.

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Section 2 - The Secretary will be responsible for recording the minutes of each meeting and maintaining a record of the attendance at each meeting. The latter will be submitted to the Membership committee every six months.

Section 3 - The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the club. He will be required to make a financial statement at the business meeting of each month.

Section 4 - The Safety committee will be responsible for forming and reinforcing the safety rules and regulations to be followed for club dives. The Safety committee may at any time recommend a member or prospective member to the Membership committee to be considered for expulsion.

Section 5 - The Membership committee will be responsible for admitting new members and reviewing the standing of old members. It will also be responsible for contacting members for regularly scheduled and "upon request" meetings.

Section 6 - The Activities committee will be responsible for the planning of all club activities including meetings and dives. The committee will be responsible for keeping records of those signing up for charter dives, collecting the money, and handing the collected money over to the Treasurer.

Section 7 - Each committee will be required to submit a report on its proceedings when they occur. This will take place at the appropriate business meeting.

#### Article VI - Meetings

Section 1 - The regular business meetings of this organization will be held on the second Monday of each month. This will be a business meeting beginning promptly at 7:30 P.M. with the possibility of entertainment following.

Section 2 - The presence of 10% of the current voting membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3 - A quorum is necessary for voting on club issues.

Section 4 - A majority vote shall constitute the approval of an issue before the club.

#### Article VII - Finance

Section 1 - A \$10.00 initiation fee will be charged to each new member.

Section 2 - Membership dues will be \$24.00 per year payable to the Treasurer in advance or as frequently as \$2.00 monthly. Members are required to pay dues

even if he fails to attend a meeting.

Section 3 - A member three months in arrears will be suspended from the club's activities until delinquent dues are payed. A member six months in arrears will be brought before the Membership committee. All members will be notified when they are three months and then six months in arrears.

Section 4 - The use of the club dues for social and/or dive activities will be recommended during a regularly scheduled business meeting by the Activities committee if the funds are available and will require a majority vote by the club's membership attending that meeting.

Section 5 - Any allieviation of costs for activities by the club treasury will apply only to club members and not to probationary members.

Section 6 - All withdrawals from the club treasury will require a counter signature.

Section 7 - Amounts over \$500.00 in the checking account will be withdrawn and placed in an interest drawing account.

#### Article VIII - Expulsion

Section 1 - Any new member within the specified three month probationary period can upon the recommendation of the Membership committee and by a 2/3's vote of the membership be dropped from the club.

Section 2 - Any current member upon the recommendation of the membership committee and a 2/3's vote of the membership can be dropped from the club.

#### Article IX - Amendments

Section 1 - This charter may be amended by presenting the amendment at the business meeting of any month.

Section 2 - Any amendment shall become effective upon ratification by a 2/3's vote of the membership at that and the next consecutive business meeting.

#### Article X -

This charter shall become effective upon ratification by 2/3's of the membership.

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