

Battle of the Atlantic



Research and Expedition Group

Version 10.0

17 December 2024

1. Name. The Group will be known as the “Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group.”
2. Status. The Group will exist as a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation under the laws of the State of North Carolina dedicated to research, preservation, and education in nautical archaeology and maritime history. The Group will operate under and in compliance with all state laws in states where business is conducted.
3. Purpose. The purpose of the Group shall be to promote the increase and diffusion of knowledge of the Battles of the Atlantic, including their significance in the two World Wars of the Twentieth Century, and to contribute to the preservation of this important maritime heritage by:
 - 3.1. Conducting historical research on topics related to the maritime campaigns waged between the Allies and Axis/Central Powers during 1914-18 and 1939-45;
 - 3.2. Conducting scuba dives on wrecks associated with these campaigns and documenting their current and changing conditions via photography, videography, and/or traditional archaeological recording techniques;
 - 3.3. Presenting and publishing the results of both historical research and field work conducted by the group.
4. Scope. While the primary focus of the Group will be the Atlantic maritime campaigns of the First and Second World Wars, inquiries outside these topics may be taken on as agreed to by the Group.
5. Meetings. Meetings will be held annually, or as circumstances dictate.

6. Membership and Dues. Membership will be open to anyone having an interest in the Battle of the Atlantic, be they recreational diver, technical diver, or non-diver.
 - 6.1. A member is an individual who has paid annual dues for the current year. Annual membership dues will be due every January 1. The “dues year” will begin on January 1 and end the subsequent December 31. Dues will not be prorated. With the exception of grandfathered Life memberships, the only membership categories are Individual Annual and Family Annual memberships.
 - 6.2. Dues are \$50 for an Individual Annual and \$75 for a Family Annual memberships. For the purposes of this charter family members are defined as spouses and minor (less than age 18 years) children.
 - 6.3. Members may participate in elections for and hold office as a member of the Group Board, vote on issues raised during General Membership meetings, and participate in Group expeditions and training courses. In the event a non-member desires to participate in an expedition or training course, membership dues for one year (\$50) will be added to the cost of the activity.
 - 6.4. Dues collected from the General Membership of the Group will be deposited in a bank account owned exclusively by the Group and will be expended as decided by the Board for general operating expenses, including but not limited to:
 - Group liability insurance;
 - Annual SDI-TDI Training Facility dues;
 - Outreach materials and expenses (website operations, pamphlets, fliers, etc.);
 - Archaeological recording equipment;
 - Nautical Archaeological Society certification and other professional certification fees for training opportunities to be offered through the Group.
7. Officers. Officers of the Group (the Board) will consist of members that are both elected by vote of the General Membership and those that are appointed by Board leadership. The Operations Coordinator, Deputy Operations Coordinator, and Chief Management Officer will comprise the Board leadership and will be elected by

majority vote of the general membership. Elections will be conducted every five years, when called for by majority vote of the membership, or upon the resignation or other termination of a member of the Board leadership. The Chief Strategist, Communications Coordinator, Chief Historian, Archaeology Advisor/NOAA Liaison Officer, and Diving Officer are specialist positions on the Board that will be appointed by the Board leadership. Collectively, the Board will execute decision-making authority based on majority vote of the Board members on issues not meeting the threshold for a vote of the general membership.

- 7.1. Operations Coordinator (Elected) - responsible for executing the strategic vision and direction of the Group; calling and convening annual meetings; establishing meeting agendas; integrating and synchronizing expeditions; and other duties as required.
- 7.2. Deputy Operations Coordinator and Training and Expeditions Committee Chair (Elected) - assists the Operations Coordinator as required and Chairs the Training and Expeditions Committee.
- 7.3. Chief Management Officer (Elected) – responsible for maintaining a current and accurate roster of all active members; provides oversight over the receipt, deposit, and disbursing of all Group monies, and executes other responsibilities as required.
- 7.4. Communications Coordinator (Appointed) – plans, organizes, and conducts outreach to dive clubs, counterpart avocational historical and archaeological groups, state and local governments, US Government organizations, and other entities as appropriate on behalf of the Group’s 501(c)3 mission of promoting the increase and diffusion of knowledge of the World War I and II Battles of the Atlantic.
- 7.5. Chief Historian (Appointed) – Provides subject matter expertise and advises Group members concerning historical and archival research and publication of scholarly papers.
- 7.6. Chief Archaeologist (Appointed) – Provides subject matter expertise and advises Group members concerning archaeological methodology. Provides a conduit for communication with federal, state, and other agencies and organizations on matters relating to archaeology
- 7.7. Diving Officer (Appointed) – Provides subject matter expertise and advises the Board; Training and Expedition Leaders; and Group members on dive safety issues. The Diving Officer must be an active, certified Dive Leader at the Divemaster level or above.

8. Rules and Regulations. The Group shall issue rules and regulations for the conduct of Group activities in those cases where necessary and appropriate.
 - 8.1. There shall be a Charter, which will be the foundational organizing document for the Group. Changes to the Charter must be approved by majority vote of the Group membership.
 - 8.2. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) may be issued to provide specific guidance for the conduct of Group activities where necessary and appropriate. SOPs will be drafted as directed by the Board, coordinated with the General Membership, and approved and issued upon majority vote of the Board.
9. Outreach Committee – There will be an Outreach Committee, chaired by the Communications Coordinator, which will be comprised of those officers constituting the Board of the Group. The Outreach Committee plans, organizes, and conducts grant and donation solicitations on behalf of the Group and participates in outreach and engagement activities. Other Group members are urged to contribute to the efforts of the Outreach Committee where appropriate.
10. Research. Research undertaken under the auspices of the Group will be conducted under the following guidelines:
 - 10.1. All research projects will be self-initiated (voluntary).
 - 10.2. Members are free to consult both primary and secondary sources while conducting research and are encouraged to utilize oral histories and ethnographies as appropriate.
 - 10.3. All sources must be cited.
 - 10.4. Research will be conveyed to the Group in the manner of the originator's choosing (written article, PowerPoint presentation, roundtable discussion, etc.). Members are encouraged to document their research to the greatest extent possible.
 - 10.5. Original research will remain the intellectual property of the originator and will not be further reproduced without the originator's permission. Members are encouraged to share freely within the Group.
11. Dive Operations. Scuba diving conducted under the auspices of the Group will be carried out in accordance with the Group Standard Operating Procedures for Dive Operations and under the following guidelines:

- 11.1. All members conducting scuba dives as part of a group activity must hold certification from a recognized training agency.
 - 11.2. All members conducting scuba dives as part of a group activity must dive within their certification limits.
 - 11.3. Some Group-sponsored expeditions may require specific certification or experience levels as determined by the expedition leader. Expedition leaders have final say on an individual's suitability for participation.
 - 11.4. Photos and videos taken during scuba dives, training exercises, or other activities conducted under the auspices of the Group will remain the intellectual property of the originator and may not be further reproduced without the originator's permission. Members are encouraged to share freely within the Group.
12. Group Training Activities and Historical/Archaeological Expeditions. The Group will sponsor or conduct Training Activities and Expeditions every year. Any member can propose a Training Activity or Expedition by presentation of the proposal to the Training and Expeditions Committee and subject to approval by the Group Board. The Group annual activities calendar will maintain the schedule of Training Activities and Expeditions, and associated deadlines for participation, payment, and other important dates.
- 12.1. Historical Expeditions are those, the purpose of which is primarily the investigation or exploration of a historically-significant shipwreck. Data collection in the form of photography and/or videography may be undertaken, but data collection is not the primary purpose of the trip. Funding is provided by the individual members participating in the expedition.
 - 12.2. Archaeological Expeditions are diving projects/field work where the primary purpose is maritime archeological data collection via a variety of methods, including but not limited to photography, videography, and/or traditional archaeological recording techniques. Archaeological expeditions may be funded by the individual members participating in them or by the Group, using monies obtained via grants and/or donations.
 - 12.3. Training Expeditions are those, the primary purpose of which is to conduct scuba training or certifications under SDI-TDI auspices.
 - 12.4. For all Group activities involving scuba diving, members will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement, ethics statement, and/or liability waiver before participating.

12.5. There will be a Training and Expeditions Committee chaired by the Deputy Operations Coordinator. The Training and Expeditions Committee, in consultation with the leader of an activity, will establish the requirements for diver participation.

12.5.1 Membership on the committee is open to all active, certified SCUBA professionals at the Divemaster level and above, and all professional archaeologists.

12.5.2 Active, certified SCUBA professionals and professional archaeologists must contact the Deputy Operations Coordinator to request membership on the committee.

13. Ethics.

13.1. Members of the Group will refrain from moving, damaging, or removing object(s) from archaeological sites, including artifacts from shipwrecks.

13.2. Members of the Group will refrain from collecting, trading, selling, buying, or bartering as commercial goods any object(s) from archaeological sites.

13.3. Members of the Group will refrain from taking actions for the purpose of establishing the commercial value of object(s) from archaeological sites.

13.4. Members of the Group will strive to collect data accurately during Group activities so that reliable data sets and site documentation are produced.

13.5. Members of the Group will respect the dignity of human remains and/or war graves that may be encountered during the course of Group activities and report them appropriately.

13.6. Members of the Group will refrain from disclosing the location of sensitive archaeological sites.

14. Liability. Neither the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group, Group leaders, nor any other individuals associated with the Group assumes liability for accidents or incidents that may occur during any Group activities.