



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 52, Number 6

June 2010

President's Message, June 2010

05/28/10

I see Keith Jessop has passed on, aged 77. Who was Keith Jessop? I can hear you asking. Well, Jessop was one of the greatest underwater treasure hunters ever.

HMS Edinburgh sank in the Barents Sea in 1942. After two torpedoes from the U-456 had crippled her, she was in tow back to Murmansk. Constantly harried by German attacks, the Edinburgh was hit by a torpedo meant for another ship. 880 members of her crew transferred off, but the bodies of fifty six ratings and two officers, killed in the action, remained on board. Edinburgh was then aided on her way to the bottom by ordnance from other British ships in the fleet. They fired on their own ship because on board, along with the bodies of the dead, was 4,570 kg of gold, payment from Stalin to the Allies for war supplies. The wreck lies in 800 ft of water. Jessop Marine won rights to salvage the gold as the only outfit prepared to dive for it. Other bidders wanted to use explosives to blow the wreck apart, but Edinburgh is a war grave so their bids failed. In 1981 he and his company salvaged 431 out of 465 bars of the gold bullion from the wreck. Worth some 100 million dollars, it was, and probably still is, one of the biggest diver salvaged treasures in history.

Jessop left school at 14 and worked in dead-end jobs for many years. After a friend lent him some dive gear he soon became hooked. This led to amateur salvage attempts and ultimately the decision to turn pro. The rest, as they say, is history. If you want to read that history, his amazing story is chronicled in his 2001 autobiography, "Goldfinder", and I can highly recommend it. Also, the Daily Telegraph has an excellent obituary at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/7765206/Keith-Jessop.html>. Keith Jessop's web site was dark when I last checked.

Graham Smith

**NOTE CHANGE in MEETING VENUE
to PALMER'S COVE YACHT CLUB,
Leavitt Street, SALEM, MA**



Coming Club Events

**June 7: (Monday) Seal Dive with
Fran Marcoux on Daybreaker.
Contact Jesse to see if there are
any spaces available.**

**June 17: First Beach Meeting at
White Beach in Manchester by
the Sea. Start time any time after
5PM.**

**July 29: Second Beach Meeting at
White Beach in Manchester by
the Sea. Start time any time
after 5PM.**

**Dive Kulture presentation to be
scheduled in the near future.
Watch email for updates.**





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**2010 NSF CLUB DUES
ARE NOW OVERDUE**

Deadline for submissions
to the July 2010 issue
of *Air Bubbles* is
Tuesday, June 22

Please have all articles and
information to the Air
Bubbles editor by that date.

Meeting Summaries

29-Apr-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:06 PM
Attendance: 4 Officers, 18 Members
Guests: 2- Ken Flagg, Frank – former
member, may be rejoining
Secretary: Minutes read and accepted
as amended.

Treasurer: report read and accepted.

Committees:

- **Program:** See activities list.
- **Membership:** Dan Hering – website
has new front page, link to contact
membership
- Application from Ken Flagg – Derry
NH, diving since '86 over 2000
dives, almost a divemaster. Motion
made, seconded and passed to
accept as new Club member.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – May
issue should be out soon

Old Business:

- **Beach Meetings:** Paul S left messages
with Manchester Police Chief and
Parks Department trying to get
permits for beach meetings. Still
waiting to hear back. Dawn also has
a link if this doesn't work.

- **Banquet:**

- The Club took a vote to find out if
people want to go to BG&TC for
banquet on Dec 11; they WILL be
open for functions. \$100 will be paid
to reserve the site. They have 4-5
different menus to choose from. As
it gets closer we can check budget
and pick menu options. Last year
~100 at banquet. Motion made,
seconded and passed to have
banquet at BG&TC.

- Mike Miller has contacts with local
bands may be able to get them if
we're interested. One of them plays
every Tuesday in Salem at Dodge St.

Dive Talk:

- Jess – Erika went to Back Beach few
night ago, saw some rocks, some
sand, vis about 30', but nothing
much to be seen. 46°F, no current.
Saw a few lobsters.
- Meg, Erika saw lumpfish, sea
anemone, about 25' depth max, 46ish

temp, at breakwater.

General Discussion:

- Patty DeClue has a friend's dive gear
for sale, DUI drysuit, undergarment,
BC, etc. Good prices.
- Oil leak in Gulf of Mexico: NOAA is
recruiting employees to go help.
Think it will be pretty bad and will
probably impact future off-shore
drilling plans.
- Mike's Moments:
 - S Korean warship sunk a few wks
ago, may be perfect crime for N
Korea, may have been torpedoed
 - ABC News played a video of a diver
filming an octopus, octopus took
camera out of his hands – on ABC
News website
 - Alien fish, found swimming in
waters off Greenland; have found 10
brand new species in the warmer
waters there.
 - Off coast of RI, counted 98 right
whales, biggest number counted
since '98
 - Great lakes off coast of MI, 3 new
wrecks
 - British sailor decided to sail around
UK, rescued when he ran out of fuel
in River Thames-

Raffles: Dollars Box: Adam Hartnett

Mystery Prize: Jack Munro

Bug Bag: Meg Tennissen

06-May-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:08 PM
Attendance: 4 Officers, 19 Members
Correspondence – Lonnie Letourneau
sent letter will try to make a
meeting, sent a check for rent.
Vinny will contact him.

Secretary: Minutes read and accepted
as amended.

Treasurer: report read and accepted.

50 paid members this year. Paul
Blanchette Fund, need to contact
Charlene – family trying to figure
out what to do with it – donate it to
some cause.

Committees:

- **Program:**
 - 5/13-Faith coming next week to talk
about Antarctica. DUI demo days is
on Sat & Sun
 - Vin Malkoski of MA DMF can speak

Air Bubbles – June 2010

to Club about fishing regulations 5/20 or 6/3. Club opted for earlier date if possible.

-Membership: Vinny was asked by 2 people in his office about the Club; they may be interested in joining.

-**Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – May
Air Bubbles went out the other night

Old Business:

-**Banquet:** Vinny has contract for BG&TC for banquet. Check written to reserve the date of Dec 11.

Estimated for 100 people. Need to know who's on banquet committee.

-**Beach Meetings:** Paul got a contact in Manchester for permit for the beach meetings. They only need a written request. He will get permits.

New Business: Dodie noted that life members of the Club need be reminded to pay for Bay State Council dues as they aren't paying regular dues. She asked that it be mentioned in newsletter.

Dive Talk:

-Jack, Arnie, Shawn from Undersea Divers and others went to Front Beach Sat morning early, 6-7 divers, vis 20', water 50-51°F. Saw flounder. One person got 5-6 flounder.

-Vinny & Harry at Ft Sewall, went left, got about 50 scallops each. Saw a few good size lobsters vis 15-20'

-Amy and Roslyn went to Gloucester Breakwall, great dive, even though Roslyn had hole in dry suit. Saw nudibranchs, didn't go out far, 10-12' depth 46°F tide coming in. Spoke with Security Steve, only few more weeks can dive there. Noticed a lot of trash in the water. Ros asked if we wanted to do a cleanup, could we organize a dive? He said yes. Good idea for the club to do something there. He's usually at the gate right after Niles Beach.

General Discussion:

-Summer Cinema by the sea, May 25th the Cove, 22nd Exxon Valdez at NE University Marine Science center

-John F got a call from Al Morris. DUI would like help setting up their tents on Thursday afternoon if anyone is available.

-Dave Cunningham called Susan to let her know how great Hawaii is. He's on the big island. He has 2 steel 80s for sale left in MA, have hydros.

-Dodie's cabin is available for the VT camping/diving week again this year.

-Mike's Moments:

-Person in Dominica, Whale Whisperer, goes up sings to whales, rubs their bellies

-Australian Navy just approved electronic shark repellent. Emits electronic pulses. Works 8 meters away, causes discomfort then muscle spasms as the sharks get closer.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Jack Munro
Mystery Prize: Roslyn Smith
Bug Bag: Roslyn Smith

13-May-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:12 PM

Attendance: 2 Officers, 25 Members

Guests: 12

Abbreviated Meeting – Faith Ortins presentation on Antarctica

Dive Talk:

-Amy, with Susan, Mia and Mary at Gloucester breakwater, 51°F, tons of nudibranchs. Susan saw 2 horseshoe crabs, flounder, frilled anemones, skeleton shrimp.

-Jim D Kettle Island caught bugs but had a hole in the bag and lost them. USS NH, good dive, big flounder 17.5 inches, 2.5lbs. Went scalloping on Friday another bagful.

-Susan – back beach dry suit 20' vis, 51 degree temp some flounder, beautiful seaweed no bugs yet

-Ken and Erika at Magnolia on Sun 35+vis temp 42°F, saw sea raven

-Will be diving Norman's Woe this Sat 11am BK

-Faith – 2 wks ago, San Diego, on sea cliffs crevice loaded with invertebrate life, highlight coming though crevice 8-9' 7gill shark, 4th time seeing one there. Sharks have 35-40 encounters in the last year. Faith's husband Jeff, using film, got pictures but doesn't know if they came out yet. 7 gilled sharks are

more prehistoric, deeper waters, normally scavengers. Move slowly at first, but can move fast if you disturb them. Big around 8-9 footers are probably 600-700lbs.

General Discussion:

-Lonnie Letourneau gave money to the club for rent, said we can keep it even though we don't pay rent.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mary Connolly
Mystery Prize: Jeff Lynch
Bug Bag: Jeff Lynch

20-May-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:08 PM

Attendance: 3 Officers, 19 Members

Guests: 1

Abbreviated Meeting – Vin Malkoski of MA DMF presentation on fishing regulations as they relate to SCUBA divers



Slide title: "Bringing Home Dinner, The Diver's Guide to Harvest in Massachusetts"

Dive Talk:

-Markus & Peter E. did 2 boat dives children island and rock near children's 20' vis a few days ago today 10' vis

-Markus and Laura did breakwater Sunday – probably can't dive there for the rest of the season due to the number of fishermen. They were aiming for the flag. Fishermen didn't bother the second group of divers because of surface support?

-Jack – sea clamming at Pebble had to go real early were in water at 6:30

Air Bubbles – June 2010

- Vinny – Folly Cove, took new camera out, 80 min 15-20' vis about 20 flounder, moon snails. Bunch of students and he passed on info
- Ken, Erika and Meg to Norman's Woe Sat, 43 temp 25' vis bunch of sea ravens. Well worth the effort to get in.

- Lewis dove OGB this morning 1st dry dive, not bad

- Jes went diving today with Erika and Harry, Back Beach vis ~1-2' at first all got separated, Jess went far out got 10' vis, got some flounder

Dive Plans:

- A group plans to dive at Nubble this coming Saturday at 10AM.
- Jess is planning Isle of Shoals seal dive with Fran Marcoux on 7 Jun, 4 spots left. \$110 ea for six divers, but with DM, 7th person free. Planning charter for UBoat. Fran says will do a run there.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Paul Sauvageau
Mystery Prize: Mike Denneler
Bug Bag: Peter Chapman

27-May-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:07 PM

Attendance: 3 Officers, 15 Members

Secretary: Minutes read and accepted as amended.

Treasurer: report read and accepted.

Committees:

- **Program:** See calendar
- Amy is setting up presentation from Dive Kultur, a group that teaches diving to inner city kids; teaches them self confidence and cooperation. Date she got is June 17 which is date for our first beach meeting. Will ask her to see about getting a different date.
- **Membership:** Dan Hering received an application from Jay Ganson, did winter dives with us and went with Faith on Antarctica trip. Rescue diver, Advanced Nitrox. Paid for full year. Motion made seconded and passed to make him newest Club member.

Old Business:

- **Beach Meetings:** We have permit for 17 Jun and 29 Jul beach meetings 5-10 pm, gas grills only. Need to contact

FD for grill permit – Graham will contact

- **VT Camping/Diving week:** Vinny printed out directions to Pat and Annette's. Will also email.

Reminder: let them know when you're going!

- **Banquet:** Vinny noted that the banquet committee should start meeting regularly.

New Business: Graham talked with Todd who is talking about putting together a beach meeting in Sep on a Sat with the Coast Guard coming.

Dive Talk:

- Peter Easler, John F. went to Lanes on Sunday vis 30'. John got 6 bugs, Peter 2

- Lewis and Erika went to Lanes got \$45 parking ticket. Against the stone wall is public property Police starting to ticket other places

- Vinny went walking near the beach found a small bottle and musket ball (?).

- Dan and Jes and Harry on Jes' boat - Little Misery scallop dive Jes 200+ on first dive. Took 3 people to get bag on board

- Ken, Meg, Laura, Erika, Amy, Markus did Nubble Light. 15-20' vis. Sea Ravens, nudibranchs, anemones. Great dive!

Dive Planning: Meet at BK at 8AM on Sundays for the summer.

General Discussion:

- June 19th Mike Miller all day party in Danvers at least 1 live band before going to Afghanistan. Will send more info.

- 41 year old Diver died good harbor beach – solo diver, he surfaced distressed missing fin and mask/snorkel when pulled out, he was dead

- John S – we should decide if we're going to do biggest fish biggest scallop etc. John S will run, have to bring it in to a meeting

- Peter C – went to Nubble Sun morning where it was fogged in.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mike Miller
Mystery Prize: John Ferrier

VERMONT CAMPING AND DIVING WEEK

It is now after April 15

Who: Annette and Pat

Where: 128 Parker Hill Rd
Rockingham, VT

When: July 12 to July 18, 2010

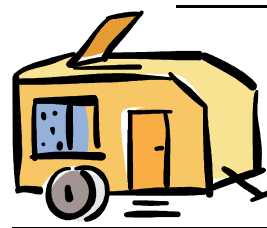
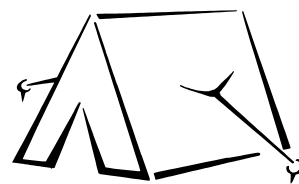
Accommodations: Plenty of room for tents, campers, etc.

Be sure to notify Annette and Pat at scubadvr1@myfairpoint.net if you plan on attending.

Food: Breakfast and dinner will be provided as well as all the fixings for lunches (same as last year).

Tanks can be filled at Dave Dodge's shop in Keene which is 1/2 hr drive.

Be sure to notify Annette and Pat if you plan on attending. Their email is scubadvr1@myfairpoint.net Let them know the dates you will be up there to visit with them. They'll need to know how many are coming.





Undersea Divers

42 Water St, Beverly, MA
978-927-9551, www.underseadivers.com

2010 Pre-Season Bob's Back Sale

June 5-6, 2010

Saturday 9-5

Sunday 9-3

Gift Certificate Special

Buy a \$75 gift certificate for \$50

Buy a \$250 gift certificate for \$200

Used Equipment

Rental Equipment

Close Outs

Air Fill Cards

Discount Rental Cards

Scuba Instruction

Bonaire Trip

New 2010 Equipment

New Tank Specials

DUI Drysuit Special



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2010

Jonathan Bird's Blue World Honored with New England Emmy Award

Contact: Christine Bird

59 Old Andover Road, North Reading, MA 01864

cbird@oceanicresearch.org, www.blueworldtv.com

FOXBORO, MASSACHUSETTS – *Jonathan Bird's Blue World* received a 2010 New England Emmy Award for the segment *Aquarist for a Day*, where series host Jonathan Bird spends the day at the New England Aquarium, where he does some cleaning, some food prep, and then dives in the Giant Ocean Tank to feed the sharks. It's a dirty job, but totally entertaining. The award was handed out Saturday, May 22, 2010, at the gala 33rd Annual New England Emmy Award ceremony at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Jonathan Bird's Blue World is an underwater adventure series for both children and families. Each episode brings viewers to the edge of their seats as they wait to find out if the mother turtle, dragging herself across the beach in the middle of the night, is able to successfully lay her eggs, or what lurks behind the next stalagmite in an underwater cave. Audiences meet Wilma the Whale, a young beluga that lives by herself in an isolated Bay in Nova Scotia for several years, befriend the local populace who come out to play with her, and then one day disappears. Stories like these engage audiences and teach them about the underwater world.

Jonathan Bird's Blue World has been running on more than 260 public television stations in the United States since May 2008. Produced by Jonathan Bird Productions, an independent production company, the series has been shown over 5,600 times in 32 states to over 160 million potential viewers. Top markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Washington DC and Atlanta have programmed the show continuously for months.

"We were thrilled to win the Outstanding Segment category," says Jonathan, "since this is not a children's category, and goes to show that *Jonathan Bird's Blue World* is enjoyed by audiences of all ages, not just kids!"

Jonathan Bird's Blue World won in the category of Outstanding Magazine/Feature Segment. The following people were named in the Award:

Jonathan Bird, Host/Producer/Cinematographer
Christine Bird, Executive Producer/Field Producer
Tim Geers Cinematographer/Field Producer
Julia Cichowski, Production Manager
Kerry Hurd, Editor/Cinematographer
Linda Hurd, Cinematographer
Arthur Cohen, Narrator/Writer

Club Seal Dive

It's time to get in the water with seals!

I'm setting up a charter with Fran Marcoux at the Isle of Shoals on Monday June 7th in the am, 2 tanks, lunch included. The boat can hold 7 so will have no problem filling it with Froggies. If you want to go email me or give me a call (978-335-1811) and I'll reserve a spot for you. Please be 100% sure you can go.

Interaction with the seals is all but guaranteed (nibbling on fins, etc.)

-Jes Leslie
Veep

ps: I'd also like to schedule a charter to the U853, with Fran. Please let me know who is interested. Date is flexible.

(Editor's note: this trip may be full by publication.)

Who is this unmasked man?



According to Mike Denneler, this picture of Jerry Sutherland was taken this century.

GREAT picture.



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www.easy-diver.com
info@easy-diver.com



**Welcome our
Newest Club Member,
Jay Ganson**

who was voted in on 5/27/10.

**Please welcome Jay when you see
him at a meeting or out diving.**

Air Bubbles – June 2010

		1	2	3 8:00 PM Meeting	4	5
6 Sunday Dive	7	8	9	10 8:00 PM Meeting	11	12
13 Sunday Dive	14	15	16	17 Beach Meeting 6PM	18	19
20 Sunday Dive	21	22	23	24 8:00 PM Meeting	25	26
27 Sunday Dive	28	29	30	June 2010		
July 2010				1 8:00 PM Meeting	2	3
4 Sunday Dive	5	6	7	8 8:00 PM Meeting	9	10
11 Sunday Dive	12	13	14	15 8:00 PM Meeting	16	18
18 Sunday Dive	19	20	21	22 8:00 PM Meeting	23	24
25 Sunday Dive	26	27	28	29 Beach Meeting 6PM	30	31

Activities List

- **Jun 7, Mon** **Seal Dive** with Fran Marcoux on Daybreaker. Contact Jesse.
- **Jun 17, Thur** **Beach Meeting** beginning at 6PM at White Beach in Manchester.
- **Jul 12-18** **Vermont diving WEEK with Pat & Annette** (see page 5 for details)
- **Jul 24, Sat** **Great Annual Fish Count – will be based at Stage Fort Park**
- **Jul 29, Thur** **Beach Meeting** beginning at 6PM at White Beach in Manchester.
- **Aug 29, Sun** **NEADC Tropical Fish Rescue, and BBQ at Fort Wetherill, RI**
- **Sept 26, Sat** **BSC Treasure Hunt** (see page 11) **and NSF Club Picnic**
- **Dec 11, Sat** **Annual President's Banquet at Beverly Golf & Tennis Club**

Bay State Council of Divers 25th Annual Treasure Hunt Dive and Snorkel Event

Date: Sunday, Sept. 26, 2010 (Rain or Shine)

Time: 9AM to 4PM

Place: Stage Fort Park, Gloucester, MA

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Free Parking (no fee until Memorial Day)
- Take-out food available
- Bring your own food and beverages (no alcohol)
- Cooking OK - bring a grill

TREASURE HUNT

- \$10 Entrance fee
- Additional \$1 per person for Snorkel event
- Objective - to find small objects in shallow water
- Independents and dive club members welcome
- Prizes - Diving equipment, dive charters, etc.
- SCUBA event - everyone will be on their own in this scramble for prizes
- 6 person max teams club or shop for Snorkel event
- Bonus tickets for in-water trash pick up
- Proof of certification required for SCUBA event

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- For SCUBA Event - Wet or dry suit with bc, tank, regulator with pressure gauge, weight belt, mask, fins, snorkel, knife and catch bag.
- For Snorkel Event - Same as SCUBA except for tank and regulator

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00-9:30AM Registration
- 10:00-11:00AM SCUBA Event
- 11:00-12:00PM Snorkel Event
- 2:00-3:00PM Trophies and Prizes

Bay State Council of Divers – DUES

If you are a **LIFE MEMBER** of the NSF Club, you have benefited from the work of the Bay State Council over the years. Since you don't pay dues to the NSF Club any longer, you will need to make a separate payment for your BSC dues.

Regular dues-paying members can pay BSC dues with their regular club dues.

NEU Summer Cinema

Dear colleagues and friends,

We would be delighted if you could help to spread the word about our upcoming "Summer Cinema by the Sea" movie series that will take place in lieu of monthly lectures this summer.

Tuesday, June 22 – "Black Wave: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez"

For twenty years, Riki Ott and the fishermen of the little town of Cordova, Alaska have waged the longest legal battle in U.S. history against one of the world's most powerful oil companies. They tell us about the environmental, social and economic consequences of the black wave that changed their lives forever.

Tuesday, July 27 – "The Fish Belong to the People"

Director Will Hyler will present this feature length documentary, which follows a group of family fishermen in Port Clyde, Maine as they work to save their fishing grounds from government, market structure, and themselves.

Tuesday, August 31 – "The End of the Line"

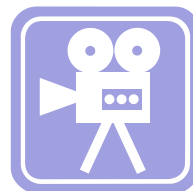
A selection of the 2009 Sundance, Toronto, and Seattle Film Festivals, and narrated by Ted Danson, this film delves beyond the surface of the seas to reveal a troubling truth beneath: an ocean increasingly empty of fish, impacted by decades of overexploitation.

EVENT LOGISTICS

- Please note that these events are free and open to the public. There is no need to RSVP.
- Screening will take place at the Marine Science Center, 430 Nahant Road in Nahant, MA 01908.
- The events will begin at 7pm, and popcorn will be served beginning at 6:30.
- Films will vary between 1-2 hours in length, and may be followed by an optional discussion led by the film's producer and/or an expert in the subject area.
- For more information, please contact me at c.mccauley@neu.edu or call 781-581-7370.

Best wishes,

Carole McCauley of NEU MSC



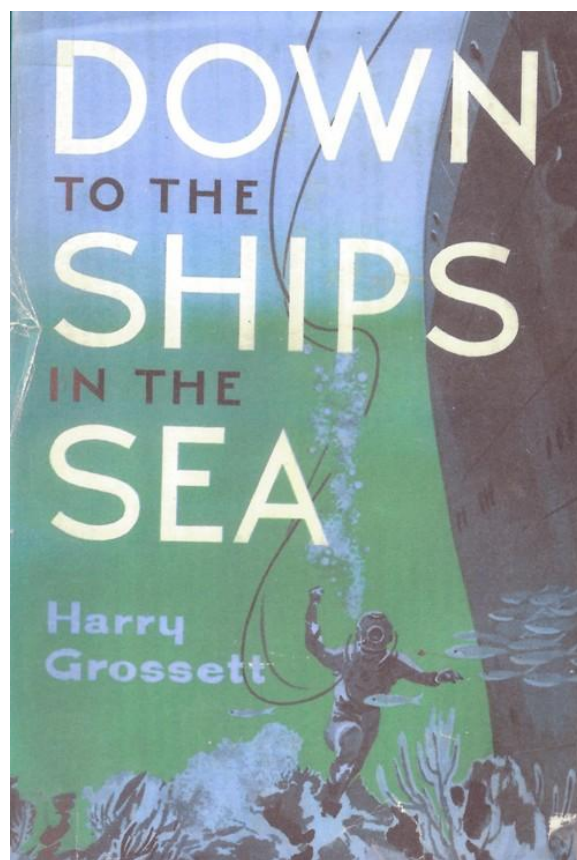
DOWN TO SHIPS IN THE SEA

HARRY GROSSETT

Jack Munro

I have written many stories about divers, but Harry Grossett (Scotsman) is by far the oldest having started his first dive in 1898. He then continued for over fifty years, diving with heavy gear, (Siebel Gorman hat with corselet (breastplate in USA), canvas suit with lead boots and chest and back weights hanging on the corselet). It wasn't until WWI that divers had communication and until the twenties before it was any good. They used air pipe USA dive hose to signal for more air or less on the bottom. Their breast rope (lifeline) was used for tools and was separate from the air pipe instead of bonded together like we do now. I think diving during Harry's time from 1840 - 1940 was very dangerous, mostly because your air was hand compressed from above. When you got to 80 feet or deeper, the topside switched to two hand compressors to give you more air. This was alright, unless you fell into a hole or off of the ship you were working on, then you got squeezed. This will happen when you go deeper than your compressor can get air to you. The water pressure exceeds the air pressure squeezing you, in some cases, into your helmet. You can get an idea about this when you go deep and don't put air in your dry suit.

Harry started diving, recovering bodies, when the battleship Albion was launched at Blackwell and it caused a backwash that got a hundred people thrown into the water. The champagne bottle didn't break as it is suppose to. Most of the men were able to get out ok, but there were approximately 34 who perished in the incident. Harry worked as an apprentice shipwright and later as a shipwright diver. The Albion was sunk by a German U-boat during WWI. After his apprenticeship, Harry went to diving school in Sheerness where the British Navy taught him to dive. During this time, the Navy had no trained divers who were shipwrights and had to hire civilians to do the work. The same thing was going on in the United States. The dive tables used determined that anything below 33 feet was the starting point for decompression. The divers were encouraged to exercise vigorously when decompressing in the water and in the chamber. After 50 or more years, the diving industry and Navy divers worldwide, changed to the current practice of being at rest when decompressing. Divers such as Harry Grossett and Commander Ellsberg always exercised during decompression. Non-return valves were used even before WWI and hand pumps were used right up until WWII. Divers were taught how to used hand tools, and air drills were starting to be used as work compressors got better. Early engine driven compressors used a drip oil system and oil in the air supply caused lipoid pneumonia, which was not good. Harry sometimes helped the instructors with the new students, to walk from the shot rope (down line) to the tool bench, because they had no vision at all. One time a student did something wrong and while the instructor was talking to him, the others stopped pumping Harry's compressor to listen; in the meantime Harry almost died. When Harry left Sheerness, he was a qualified diver and shipwright, 21 years old in 1902. Salvage work was fairly scarce at that time.



After school Harry Grossett shipped aboard several ships doing shipwright and carpentry jobs hoping that he would land a diving job. In Singapore he assisted a Scandinavian diver with an unusual job of a propeller reconfiguration. The ship had damaged one of the four blades of the propeller. No one carried spare propellers, so they had to cut part of another blade to match the broken side so that the propeller would spin properly. They did this using an air drill to make holes across the 8-10" thick blade. Working off of a swing stage only at slack water,

Air Bubbles – June 2010

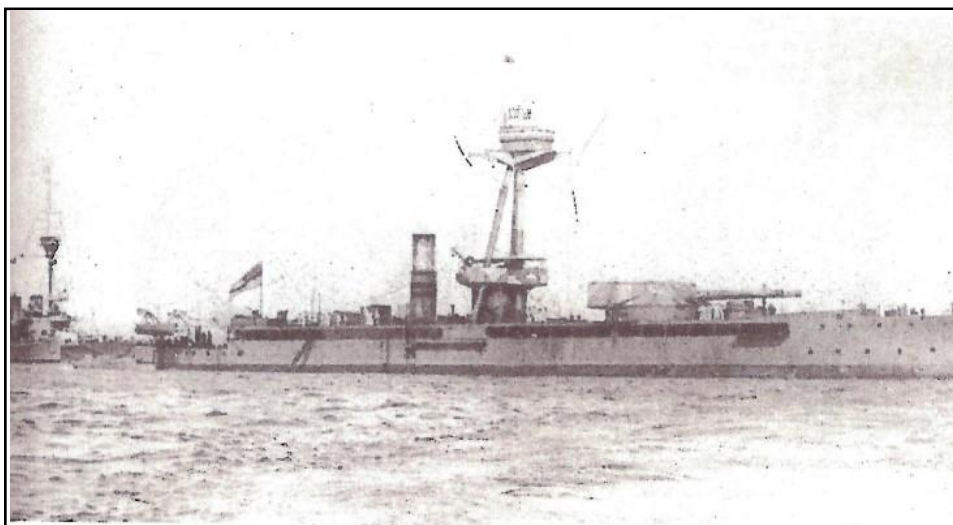
with busy river traffic, their dive rigs were constantly getting fouled. They worked with hand chisels, hacksaws and finally using the ship's winch. They broke off the bronze pieces, some 8 feet long weighing over a ton.

Harry met some famous people including Rudyard Kipling during his overseas adventures. He had an interview with Kipling and told him some of his diving ventures.

On one of his patching jobs, Harry found that the Norwegian Steamer "Oslo", had been rammed by a Swedish boat outside of Sydney harbor. The captain gave him the job but it was on a no cure, no pay basis. The patch was made of wood planks 4'x20' size. Two long protruding pieces of the hull had to be removed because they were bent out. He line drilled these and then, using the winch, he bent the pieces until they broke off. Since the patch was temporary, Harry used wire rope to hold the patch in place until they reached dry dock in Sydney. Using canvas on the edges and tallow as a final seal outside, he had them pump out the hold and the sea pressure kept the patch in place. He was paid in gold sovereigns for his work. The tallow that he used was gobbled up by the fish almost as fast as he put in on the hull. Most ships were patched this way until the invention of the Cox's Gun and steel plates that were used later.

One of Harry's jobs involved removing hundreds of tap bolts on a ship in the Red Sea. The bolts held a 5/8" plate used as a baffle above the twin screws to help the steering work better. The plate worked free and would touch one of the propellers, so it had to come off using a hammer and chisel. This was before the underwater torch. Harry did several small jobs like the ones above but had to travel far and wide until WWI started. By this time, he had a wife and a daughter. He was in Durban, South Africa when the war broke out in 1914 and his ship barely made it back to England. He and his brother-in-law were going to join the Army. As it turned out, his brother-in-law went into the Army but Harry, being a shipwright, was taken into the Navy as a first class petty officer and acting chief shipwright.

Professor Haldane had worked out a set of diving tables for deep sea diving to depths between 33 and 180 feet. The Navy had a telephone, but it was not reliable, so hose signals were used most of the time. They had underwater lights which only worked in clear water, but at least they had them. Harry was back in Sheerness in 1914 (which he left in 1903) to learn deep diving and new tools. After a refresher course at Sheerness, Harry was off to Chatham where German Zeppelins had supposedly sunk the HMS Bulwark with 800 men on board. There were only fourteen survivors. The Navy's first Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill had ordered divers to examine the ship and Harry made detailed sketches. No hull damage was found so they later concluded that the magazine had exploded. Harry was sent to the Harland & Wolff yard in Glasgow to see his first ironclad monitor, or blister ship, which was 300 feet long with 14 inch guns and 95 foot beam with water tight compartments to protect her from mines and torpedoes. The ship was the HMS Robert E. Lee later named the HMS Raglan. Harry and the other shipwrights



H.M.S. "Raglan" off the Dardanelles, 1917

worked on the ship to get it ready for war in the Dardanelles and soon they were at Gallipoli. He kept a logbook which was against regulations, but some parts were in code, his own, lest they should fall into enemy hands. No one was trained for large scale warfare, so they all did their best and reached Mudros Harbor on the Island of Limnos, about eighteen miles from the mouth of the Dardanelles. As soon as Raglan anchored, Harry got his first call to dive the Semolitch, a Russian collier (coal carrier) which had collided with a British Store ship making a 10 by 2 foot gash just forward of the bridge. Harry took measurements

Air Bubbles – June 2010

and a timber patch was made up very quickly with hook bolts; he and two other divers got the patch in place and the pump working inside the Semolitch. As soon as the pumps got ahead of the water, the patch was in place and they tightened the hook bolts and the work was done. The Russians soon had the divers full of Vodka and then they were off to their own ships, before they could not.

When finally they got into a battle with the Turks, Raglan anchored and shelled the shoreline. The Turks returned fire so they got underway and later checked for damage. Harry along with other shipwrights found a few holes from enemy fire, but far more damage was done by their own machine guns. The iron stanchions had torn the rivets loose for the second time, so Harry used heavy timber and rubber pads which were flexible to prevent the gun recoil from breaking them again. The battle got fierce for the next few days, shelling the enemy artillery so that the British troops could advance via horseback and on foot at Cape Hellas and Anzac.



Shipwrights' eleven on the "Raglan": author sitting third from left. Five were lost when the ship went down

Before August 1914, Italy declared war on Turkey, and then Bulgaria and Serbia attacked each other. The war was spreading all over Europe. A sea plane was sent from the seaplane carrier Ark Royal to Raglan to spot for their fourteen inch guns so the Raglan could center in on the enemy as they shelled them. Since Raglan was so wide, (95 feet), she was a prime target for aircraft. The seaplane helped with that as well. Harry was often over the side diving when the Raglan was attacked, and it was very dangerous for all hands.

MORE ABOUT HARRY GROSSETT IN FUTURE STORIES.....



The Bay State Council of Divers

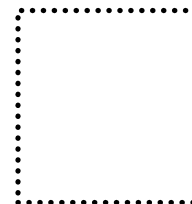


Supporting and promoting the recreational diving community in Massachusetts.

The Bay State Council of Divers (BSC) is a diver's advocacy group. The BSC monitors local, state and federal regulations that may affect the recreational diving community in Massachusetts. When required, the BSC represents the interests of the diving community in these matters.

The BSC serves as a liaison between dive clubs and dive stores to promote recreational diving activity in Massachusetts. All divers are encouraged to support the BSC with an annual contribution of \$5. Your contribution will allow the BSC to continue to be a strong advocate for the recreational diving community in Massachusetts. For more information see the new BSC website at <http://www.baystatecouncil.org>.

The North Shore Frogmen's Club Inc
PO Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01961-3604



Upcoming Events!

June 7: Club Seal Dive

June 17: First Beach Meeting

July 12-18: Vermont Camping/Diving Week

July 29: Second Beach Meeting



Sunday morning Club dives:

Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly.
Be ready to leave for the chosen dive site at 8AM.

The **North Shore Frogmen's Club**
meets at 8PM at the
Palmer's Cove Yacht Club in Salem
at 74 Leavitt Street
Salem, MA 01970

Parking is available in the Harbor Sweets lot across the street.
Parking will be more available in the PCYC lot after the boats are in the water.