



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 52, Number 4

May 2010

President's Message, May 2010

04/25/10

Well, we did it. Froggie nation is back at Palmer Cove Yacht Club. It's been many a long year, but the stars were aligned. The temporary closing of the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club and a warm welcome from the folks at PCYC has seen Freddie's chosen people return to their ancestral home.

A couple of the fun activities we enjoyed at PCYC in the past will be making a return, notably, float cleaning and bottle diving. The floats are now supported by plastic tubs, unlike those halcyon days of yore when cleaning the foam floats felt like sticking ones head in a bucket of chum, the new floats should prove a simpler task. Bottle diving is usually conducted in winter when the boats are tucked away for the season. A lot of Salem harbour was landfill and it tends to disgorge its treasures over time. It has been several years since I was able to dive of the PCYC floats, which extend a good way into the muddy treasure trove in the middle of the harbour, so I am looking forward to a good new crop this season. So, if you have not yet sampled the delights of PCYC, I urge you to make it a must do for Thursday nights.

On other topics, we have reserved the 11th of December as Banquet Night. The reservation is at the aforementioned Beverly Golf and Tennis Club. The BG&TC appears to be getting its act together and now has a dedicated events manager as part of a new management crew. Also, this year in an effort to control costs, it is unlikely we will see the return of the seven-piece band, magnificent though they may have been.

The new web site is almost ready; I think I can safely say we are all looking forward to that happy re-birth. Many of our members can be found on Facebook. Until the website is up and running this is a good alternative to stay in touch with fellow Froggies.

Graham Smith

NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING VENUE BEGINNING APRIL 22 PALMER COVE YACHT CLUB in SALEM, MA



Coming Club Events

May 13: Faith Ortins will give a presentation on her recent dive trip to Antarctica.



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**2010 NSF CLUB DUES
ARE NOW OVERDUE**

Deadline for submissions
to the June 2010 issue
of *Air Bubbles* is
Sunday, May 23

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

Meeting Summaries

01-Apr-2010

Abbreviated Meeting for Presentation:
Slide show, Diving in Raja Ampat,
Indonesia with Roslyn, Amy, Mary &
Ray.

Meeting called to order: 8:00 PM at
Peabody VFW Hall

Attendance: 4 officers, 23 member 15
guests

Guests: Janet MacCausland, Anna,
Jacki Kronenberg (who was also on
trip), Joe, Bob Crocker, Rob Falk

Secretary: Minutes read and accepted
as amended.

Treasurer: report read and accepted.

Committees:

Program:

-4/8 - Fred Dion is coming to talk
photography and cameras.

-4/11 - Easter Egg dive and party
Announcements:

- Bob Boyle still in rehab; go visit!
- Dave Metrano had heart surgery at
Brigham & Women's

Dive Talk:

-Laura & Shon went to breakwater,
saw nudibranchs and sea raven.
Good vis; nudibranchs everywhere.

-Jess and Markus did breakwall day
before, same thing. Saw a big
lumpfish, 20-25' vis, 39°F, 50
minutes.

-Club dive to Salem Willows on
Sunday, 6 divers; not much there -
vis poor. Jack found hammer.

-This weekend is Easter, no club dive,
but Jes is planning to be at the
breakwall, in the water by 9.

General Discussion: For those doing
the buoyancy class with Al at Andy's
Sport Shop, meet at Barnes & Nobles
at 8:30, class starts at 10

Raffles: Dollars Box: Shon Dubois
Bug Bag: John Marren

08-Apr-2010

Abbreviated Meeting for Presentation:
Fred Dion of Backscatter East with
cameras.

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM at
Peabody VFW Hall.

Attendance: 4 officers, 23 member 4
guests

Guests: Janet, Mike, Andrew

Committees:

Program: Easter Egg Dive this
weekend. Eggs in the water at 9,
divers in the water at 10. Party
afterwards at Dodie's.

Old Business: The Club officers went
to Palmer Cove last night to check it
out as a possible meeting location,
they welcomed us. We can use their
facilities, can use the deck, grills, park
in the lot. We can go anytime.

Parking good, Shetland Park is an
option for extra parking; they have a
security guard. They have security
cameras. Meeting space what it was,
about half size of room in VFW.

Several former Froggies are members
of PCYC. Cash bar. No fee.

In past only 2 problems - parking (we
are allowed to park in the lot), and
neighborhood is bad. Paul lives
nearby; he always sees police around,
never known of anyone who was
accosted or had problems. Salem PD
will be putting cameras. They (PCYC)
haven't had any problems. Actual
block club is on seems better. Can
park in Harbor Sweets Parking lot.
Question, stay here or move?

Froggies were there for 20+years.
BG&TC haven't gotten back to Vinny
on their plans for the year. They may
not be open in the winter again.

Motion was made to move Club
meetings back to PCYC; motion was
seconded and passed. Probably start
there next week.

Get well card for Dave Metrano who
was released from the hospital
yesterday.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mike Denner
Mystery Prize: Harry VanGeenHoven

15-Apr-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:06 PM at
PCYC

Attendance: 4 Officers, 19Members
Guests: 4 -Luz, Joyce Pfeil, former
member Ronnie Brennan, Andrew

Announcement: Thank you to Dodie
for hosting the party after the Easter

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Egg Dive, to Meg for the beer, to Shon for the chowder and to John and Vinny for their egg laying skills.

Correspondence:

-Paul heard from the SS Neptunes that their meeting on Apr 20th, demonstration of sharpening dive knives, will be held at the Quincy YC since their clubhouse was flooded by the recent the rains.

-Mary received an email from Dave Metrano resigning from the club.

Secretary: Minutes read and accepted as amended.

Treasurer: 48 paid members now, report read and accepted.

Committees:

Program:

-Dawn asked about scheduling a couple of beach meetings in June and July. She suggested either of the last two weeks of June and the last two weeks of July. We will need to get a permit to have it at White Beach in Manchester as in the past.

-Today is April 15, so any time after today you can notify Annette and Patrick about your plans to go to Vermont for the camping and diving week of July 12-18.

Old Business:

-Fred Pfeil welcomed the Club members back to Palmer's Cove. He noted that as soon as the boats are moved into the water, in the next 6 weeks or so, we will be able to park in their lot. Can also use the Harbor Sweets lot across the street and the Shetland lot. There are grills on the deck, with propane, which we will be able to use; good idea to bring your own utensils. The bartender tonight was overwhelmed with the increased activity.

-Markus is about ready to post the new website.

-Ray brought up the suggestion that there should be an activity chairperson to coordinate activities. Jesse volunteered. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers for that committee.

-Banquet: We have held it at PCYC in the past, with over 100 people. Caterer used the kitchen facilities. What do we want to do this year? Sign up to be on the banquet committee. That committee will get ideas for music, catering, location, etc.

New Business: There will be a sign-in sheet at each meeting that NSF members need to sign to keep Palmer's Cove in compliance with the state ABC laws. Please be sure to sign in every week.

Dive Talk:

-**Mike and Dawn** were on a cruise in Hawaii, snorkeled on 4 or 5 islands, dove on 1, south of Kona, 85' vis, 90°F, turtles 1yd in diameter. Dawn walked in to the water up to her knees and two turtles came around. After the cruise they visited with past members Joe and Terry Donovan, and also with Mike O'Sullivan, all of whom are now there.

-**Laura with Markus and Erika**, yesterday at Gloucester Breakwall. Laura saw a nudibranch she hadn't seen in this area before. Emailed Andy Martinez, he'd only seen one once, in Eastport. Picture posted on facebook.

-Easter egg dive, **Jess, Graham, John, Dan H and Vinny** at Stage Fort Park, 45°F, 20' vis max probably. Got 49 of 54 eggs. Graham got the bonus numbered egg and won. Saw sculpins, small lobsters, skate, string of salps.

-Harry and Markus at Gloucester Breakwall on Sat. Saw lumpfish and the nudibranch that Laura saw.

General Discussion:

-Tuesday morning Mike visited with Bobby who is doing well, walking, no O2, still has trach tube. May be going home in a week or so. He's looking forward to getting back to work in a month.

-The question was raised: do we want to have entries and competition for biggest scallop, etc., as in the past. No resolution.

-NSF members used to attend parties on weekends at PCYC in the past, with themes. We could attend PCYC parties again now we are back.

-Jess trying to get t-shirts made up, working with Markus. Once have final design, will bring it to the meeting, take orders, hopefully next week, might take 3wks to get them made.

-Mike's Moments: 20 items – some are:

-There is now an island of garbage in Atlantic like the one in the Pacific

-Russians diverted Aral Sea – greatest manmade disaster of the 20th century

-In 1980s, people in Hawaii brought in 5 species of fish from French Indochina. They are now trying to eliminate some of them.

Raffles: Dollars Box: John Ferrier

Mystery Prize: Mike Denneker

Bug Bag: Hans Hug-regulator

22-Apr-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:07 PM at PCYC

Attendance: 3 Officers, 15Members

Guests: 2 past members

Announcement: Author Michael Tougias, who wrote *Wreck of the Can Do, Fatal Forecast*, is doing another book *Overboard*, about local sailors. He will be giving 2 free lectures, Sat at Manchester public library and Tues at Hamilton-Wenham PL

Correspondence:

-Bob is getting out of rehab, going home!

-Vinny has been in touch with BGT&C, tentatively scheduled Christmas banquet 11Dec there.

-Update from the SS Neptunes, mtg on Apr 20th, will be held at their clubhouse after all as it has been cleaned and is ready for Roy Chamberlain's knife sharpening clinic.

Secretary: Minutes read and accepted as amended.

Treasurer: Report read and accepted.

Committees:

-**Membership:** Dan Hering -. Color photo printed in newspaper,

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contacted by journalism student in BU. Website not up. A sea rover, Jay Ganson, Jr who wants to join, sent application, mailed check – he dove with us during the winter. Lots of contact on Facebook

-**Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – deadline tonight!

Old Business: Beach Meeting dates: June 17 (high tide 3:30PM) and July 29 (low tide 9PM) have been chosen as preferred dates for beach meetings. Paul will look into getting permit. Dawn knows a Manchester policeman if we need another contact.

Dive Talk:

-**Jess** with **Jim D’Urso** and his son, scallop dive Misery/Bakers. No boat traffic, went into boat channel, got over 100 scallops, Jim got 50 or so. Bottom temp 42°F. Dove the NH as well. Jess did solo dive, got 2 spikes - 1 copper, 1 bronze (Civil War era). Jim and son did sightseeing dive. His son is fairly new to diving

-**John Minnigan** – week in high springs, FL, took Cave course with Jill Highnerth, she came out with new cave book. Vis was horrible, in the 30-50’ range. Great time, learned great skills.

-**John S** – 4 members did night dive at Folly Cove. **Shon, Laura, Markus, Erika**, saw giant lobsters, good dive.

General Discussion:

-Paul went to SS Neptunes for knife sharpening clinic. Lot involved in sharpening. Neptunes had 9ft of water at their clubhouse. This is the first meeting back from Quincy YC.

-Dan H was at dive shop other day and heard that in Feb 5-6 people from Maine took fish tote of scallops by Children’s Island and had a cooler packed with meat. Environmental police caught them.

-Hans – A friend in Falmouth last yr. heard that an Environmental cop out in night with night vision goggles watching clamming beds. Caught person dumping sewage.

-Mike’s Moments:

-A Chinese ship plowed into Great Barrier Reef in Australia. A concern

is the anti-fouling paint; they don’t know what it’ll do to the reef.

-Norway – 10yr study of marine life ending this yr expecting 1bln species, may charge people to have bug named after them.

-City of Gloucester is applying for part of \$800K in Homeland Security money, since they are a high risk

target for terrorism

-Two men were canoeing off coast of P-town to see pilot whales; one died after canoe tipped over.

Raffles: Dollars Box: Graham Smith

Mystery Prize: John Marren

Bug Bag: titanium dive knife – Mike Denneler



Mike and Dawn in Hawaii with former NSF members.

Above: Mike O’Sullivan in front of his new house.

Below: Terry and Joe Donovan.



I THOUGHT OF PAUL

Almost one year ago, the Massachusetts diving community, and Froggies in particular, lost a good friend to a tragic diving accident: Paul Blanchette. At that time, I wrote a plea to the Froggies to focus on celebrating Paul's life and friendship rather than speculating about the circumstances of his death. Given the rawness of the wound that had just been inflicted, that kind of discussion would only have harmed those closest to Paul, without generating any useful lessons to be learned.

A year later, we have learned a great deal. The official report indicated that, like so many divers before him, Paul's death was attributed to diver error when Paul neglected to turn on the oxygen bottle for his rebreather which eventually led to hypoxia. This type of error from someone who successfully dove the *Portland* to 450' less than a year earlier may seem incomprehensible. However, it appears Paul was lulled into complacency by the apparent "easy" nature of the *Chester Poling* dive. This is not unusual. I certainly have done things like roll off the boat without my air on, or without my dive computer or some other key piece of equipment. I've used a new piece of gear on a relatively serious dive without checking it out in shallow water first. I've gone years without servicing equipment and then wonder why it fails on a dive trip. These types of things happen to most divers. Complacency can happen to anyone, and often, it is the more experienced diver who is most vulnerable. However, most of us live to learn from our mistakes, and hopefully, we do.

So this winter when I was getting ready for my trip to Antarctica, I thought of Paul. It would have been very easy to believe I was ready for such a trip. After all, I have over 2500 dives with most of them in a drysuit. I have done dives to over 250 feet and spent many winters diving in the frigid waters of New England. What did I have to worry about? But I thought of Paul, and remembered that it had been 8 years since diving in water as cold as we would have in Antarctica. I thought of Paul and realized it had been 8 years since wearing the extra layers of insulation needed for that type of diving. I thought of my friend and what I could learn from his tragedy.

So I spent 4 months working out the exact equipment configuration and getting as many dives with that

configuration as possible. Jeff and I even did a mini-vacation on a liveaboard to the Channel Islands so we could work out last minute bugs. Good thing we did because Jeff's gloves leaked, his camera flooded and my light flooded! The entire time, I thought of Paul.

When we got to Antarctica, we faced some challenging weather conditions and had to learn their way of diving off of Zodiacs. For Jeff and me, it was no big deal as we were familiar and comfortable with all our equipment. Imagine if we had not done the preparation and had to deal with equipment issues as well! So it was with great respect and profound sadness that I thought of Paul as I dove, comfortably, on a shipwreck in Antarctica covered in life, as well as portholes, propellers, etc. Everyone enjoyed the unique opportunity to see a shipwreck normally only accessible to scientists. It was a highlight of our successful expedition.

Thank you Paul. I wish you were there.

Faith Ortins

VERMONT CAMPING AND DIVING WEEK with ANNETTE and PATRICK

JULY 12 to 18, 2010

It is now after April 15.

Any time now you may notify Patrick and Annette if you would like to go to Vermont for the diving and camping week. Don't forget to contact them if you would like to go and let them know the dates you are planning to be there.

If you need more information about the event and happenings, ask around and find out who went last year. Seems they had such a good time they've decided to make it a week instead of a weekend!

There is a lot to do there besides diving and I hear that Hans is starting to plan something fun.

Don't forget to let Annette and Patrick know your plans!!



Backscatter East

603-432-1997

www.backscatter.com

Fred Dion – Backscatter East

Fred Dion came to our Club meeting on April 8 at the Peabody VFW Hall. He brought a selection of underwater camera options for every level of photography. From a simple point-and-shoot with its housing to options for SLR cameras in metal housings and dome port capabilities. He also showed us a variety of strobes that would work with your choice of camera.

Visit Fred at his shop in Derry, NH and he can tell you more about the cameras! Call 603-432-1997. *(Photos courtesy of Vinny Egizi)*



**Welcome our
Newest Club
Member,**

Ken Flagg

**who was voted in on
4/29/10.**

**Please greet Ken when
you see him at a
meeting or out diving.**

**Diver
of the Month
for May 2010**

John Sears

**Member
of the Month
for May 2010**

Dodie Carvalho

Air Bubbles – May 2010

May 2010						1
2 Sunday Dive	3	4	5	6 8:00 PM Meeting	7	8
9 Sunday Dive	10	11	12	13 8:00 PM Meeting PRESENTATION	14	15 DUI Demo Days
16 Sunday Dive	17	18	19 BSC meeting	20 8:00 PM Meeting	21	22
23 Sunday Dive	24	25	26	27 8:00 PM Meeting	28	29
30 Sunday Dive	31	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		

2010 Activities List

- **May 13, Thur** **Faith Ortins:** Diving in Antarctica
- **May 19, Wed** **Bay State Council of Divers** meeting in Quincy, 7:30PM
- **May 15 & 16, Sat-Sun** **DUI Rally and Demo Tour in Gloucester** (see page 8 for details)
- **May 25, Thur** **NEU MSC Summer Cinema: The Cove** (see page 8 for details)
- **Jun 17, Thur** **Beach Meeting;** time and locations TBD
- **Jul 12-18** **Vermont diving WEEK with Pat & Annette** (see page 5 for details)
- **Jul 29, Thur** **Beach Meeting;** time and locations TBD
- **Sept 26, Sat** **BSC Treasure Hunt** (see page 11) **and Club Picnic**
- **Dec 11, Sat** **Annual President's Banquet at Beverly Golf & Tennis Club**



2010 DUI Rally & Demo Tour

Come on Down and See What's Up

Stage Fort Park, Gloucester, MA May 15-16

Test dive DUI Drysuits, Dive Wear and Accessories

Things to bring:

C-card, regulator, mask, snorkel, BC, fins, weights, tank
Credit Card and/or driver's license (for DUI to hold while
you have the test equipment)

Wear bathing suit or lightweight clothing for modesty
while changing

\$10 per day advance purchase, \$15 per day on-site
purchase

Event Schedule:

Saturday

9AM Registration opens, demo dives begin
11-2 Barbecue lunch
4PM Last diver in the water
5PM Event ends for the day
6PM Catered Dinner & Presentation

Sunday

9AM Registration opens, demo dives begin
11-2 Barbecue lunch
3PM Last diver in the water
4pm Event ends

About the Event:

When you arrive, check in at the registration desk and
present your certification card and driver's license or credit
card. We'll fit your regulator with a drysuit hose and then
you will set up your BC, regulator and weights so you are
ready to dive.

Then it's off to each station where the DUI Crew will fit
you with ZipSeals, DiveWear insulation with boots and
your choice of 130 different DUI drysuits to test dive.
You'll get RockBoots and a Weight & Trim System to try,
if you want. We have drysuit hoods, wet and dry gloves,
and even extra fins if yours don't fit with Rock Boots.

At the water's edge, you will be assigned a guide who will
show you the basics of how to use the drysuit and take you
for a dive! You will not go below 40' and you will only do
what you feel comfortable doing. After returning the
equipment, have some lunch ... then do it again!

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, May 25 – "The Cove"

This academy award-winning documentary is about a
team of scientists, activists, and divers who undertook
significant risk to investigate and expose a secret dolphin
harvesting operation in Japan.

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
dives 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

Stories from
Navy Diver

By Joe Karneke

as retold by Jack Munro

The First Dives

Joe Karneke joined the Navy in 1940 after working in the Coal Mines of Pennsylvania for a short period of time. While attending Gunner's Mate School, he saw a dummy with a deep sea diving suit complete with helmet, and was changed by that encounter. His first ship, the light-cruiser *USS Savannah*, was anchored off of Haiti. Gunner Watkins was Karneke's boss and also one of the ship's divers who was trying to get volunteers to try out diving. With a few dozen men trying out, the rumors ran rampant about attacks and near misses concerning sharks and barracuda. As it turned out, Karneke was the only one still interested, but Gunner Watkins was going to make sure the sharks were not going to eat them! In those days, most people knew little or nothing about marine life so diving was a hard sell, plus as raw diving recruits they knew not much about diving either. Joe Karneke knew enough to ask questions to Watkins and in due time, made his first dive after Watkins did his dive.

Joe went down very slowly and when he reached the bottom, he stayed right there holding the down line and looking straight ahead like a statue until he received the four jerks on his line to come up. When he came up from the first 30ft dive in one piece, the crew treated him like a hero even though he was scared to death the whole time down there. To qualify as a second-class diver, it took four dives, each one being deeper and longer. The next day, they found a deep spot (60ft) and Joe made his second dive, and the pumpers in those days were 12 to 16 men, working by hand, as engines were unreliable. On this dive, Joe did the same as his first dive, so Gunner Watkins gave him the four jerks, then two for, "Are you alright?", then the signal came back by Joe. At this point, Karneke started to walk around when he sensed he was not alone as a large grouper appeared and he froze. The fish swam away and looked around at the coral and other fish and Joe started to feel better; then the grouper was back like a moored airship this time, the fish with its mouth open! It touched the helmet with its teeth and then swam away very fast. Joe was shook up but glad to be alive, and when he got topside he had a great story, but the crew topside had a better one. It seems that the water above Karneke was alive with sharks the whole time he was down and he never even saw them.

School Dives

When he got qualified aboard ship, they sent him to Navy Deep Sea Diving School in Washington, D.C. During school in D.C., the Navy would send new divers on jobs (with a chief and tenders) in the local area. One of those jobs involved a sonar barge on the Anacostia River near the Navy's underwater sound lab. Chief John Lavesque was in charge and he sent Karneke down to cover the bottom of one of the three wells in the center of the barge which had sonar equipment mounted inside of the well. The center well was used to get the divers in and out as the barge was 100 feet, or so, long and 50 feet wide; the dive barge was tied outboard to the barge, the inboard barge was tied to the pier. Karneke needed only to bring nuts and bolts, washers and wrenches, the cover being held there to one side with one bolt holding it. The only bad thing was when the cover was loosened and swung into place, it blocked out all light; Karneke and other divers had to use "Braille diving", but they had done it many times before, so it was not a problem.

The phone talker "Skill" talked to Karneke the whole time as he bolted up the flange to the bottom of the well, as Karneke worked over his head bolting up. As he worked in the darkness, he did not notice the tide going out very rapidly until he felt the barge moving down on him. In a very short time, he felt the barge pinning him by his helmet and breastplate to the bottom so he could not move up, his arms could still move. As soon as this happened, Karneke told "Skill", who informed Chief Lavesque, who put the stand-by diver underwater, but he could do nothing through the center well. He was moved to the outboard side of the

barge and started to tunnel via a jet hose toward Karneke.

In the meantime, Karneke felt his breastplate bending toward his chest and his exhaust valve, buried in the mud, was no longer working. He called topside to ask if they could attach another jet hose to his rig so he could pull it toward himself before he was crushed by the 500-ton barge. They quickly sent the hose and moved the stand-by diver

into the center well to assist Karneke. Karneke hauled the jet hose toward himself and heard and felt the jet stirring up the bottom even before it got to him. They reminded him to untie the jet hose so they could take up his slack so the rig would not get buried. Karneke had to cut it with his knife so as to not injure his lifeline. Meanwhile, the jet hose was loosening him up until he could feel his rig and body moving toward the center hole. The stand-by diver groped in the darkness, got one of Karneke's shoes, then the other, and hauled him up upside down. In very short order with many hands, they had him standing up pulling his gear off as fast as they could. Then, in a mock rage, Chief Lavesque said to Karneke, "How many times do I have to tell you not to come up upside down?" Karneke grinned, but he was really glad to be out of that hell hole. Tidal rivers can be deadly to work in.

Pearl Harbor

Joe Karneke was a diver attached to the Submarine Escape training tower at Pearl Harbor, at the time of the attack. One of his first dives was on the *USS West Virginia* to check how big the hole was in her side. The hole in the *USS West Virginia* was 105 feet long by 36 feet high, and would prove to be one of the biggest patches ever put on a ship. Karneke went from ship to ship like many other divers did. One job he did was submarine hunting at Pearl Harbor. A few small boats were equipped with hydrophones and Joe was called many times by them to check out sub contacts (using the hydrophone to listen for sounds of other submarines). Back then, sonar men were just learning about marine life and the diverse array of sounds they make, and they could easily get fooled by noises that sounded like submarines. For this work, he used small gas masks converted to air hoses and hand pumps to check out these contacts; Pearl Harbor had been attacked on the 7th by Japanese subs but the contacts were fish.

One morning he was called and they were sure they caught a sub in the net gate at the entrance to Pearl Harbor. Joe went down and in the murky waters found something caught in the net and it was big. Joe walked on and suddenly it moved and he was looking into the biggest eye he's ever seen. Up he came; it was a sea monster alright. The Chief on the small boat had him go back down with another diver, and they came up with the same story. Later, a barge and crane lifted the net to the surface and found the biggest sting ray ever seen; 17 feet by 17 feet, weighing 1800 lbs!

Karneke went into the war zone to recover a crashed airplane and nearly got eaten by sharks while on his way to Australia, where he stayed for about 1 ½ years doing salvage work and explosives work. By the end of the war, he was doing more explosives and EOD (Explosives Ordinance Details) than anything else and was very good at it. At times, other jobs needed his attention and the war effort depended on it. One of these jobs was on *Nachi*, a Japanese Cruiser. He made the first dive on her, discovering a fully-manned gun crew still on station, wearing helmets and coveralls manning their guns. He also discovered that most hatches and doors had been welded shut making her unsinkable and explaining why her gun crew was still intact. The U.S. Naval Fleet had hit her with 9 torpedoes, 13 1000lb bombs, 6 250lb bombs and 16 rockets before she went down. By comparison, the *USS Indianapolis* was sunk by 2 torpedoes, the 1st doing 90% of the damage. Karneke was given a torch to burn a hole in the bridge. He feared there could be explosives on the other side, but topside wanted him to get in there anyway. When he was almost burned thought, the phone man heard an explosion and no word from Karneke. The stand-by diver went down and found him still alive, and Karneke kept saying he was alright. Up they went doing their deco. When Karneke finally got to the sick bay he had several cuts and bruises, mostly from hitting the inside of the helmet. Next time down, they found lots of papers and the intelligence guys wanted more, so they went back and got a lot more. It seems the Japanese were attacked before they could destroy their intelligence stuff.

They never found out what the papers said until after the war. It was top secret plans for defense of the home islands, down to the last details, a "game plan" for the remainder of the war. We still have no idea how our military used this information to help us win the war. *Nachi* was the flag ship of the fleet and the luckiest ship. Because the *Nachi* had been sunk by an American submarine 10 months before, and photographed going down; our Navy couldn't believe it was the same ship. They figured the Japanese towed *Nachi* back to the shipyard, repaired the damaged, then decided to make the ship as unsinkable as possible.

This is a great little book told by a diver about himself, and also about many others he worked with. - J.M.

The BSC Treasure Hunt

The Bay State Council Treasure Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, September 26 this year for a change of scene. Please come, try it out and see how you like the date change.

This fun event will be held at Stage Fort Park in Gloucester, from 9AM to approximately 4PM, rain or shine. It is a wonderful chance to meet a lot of other SCUBA divers, dive for “treasure”, and win some great prizes. All for a nominal fee of \$10 (plus \$1 if you participate in the snorkeling event).



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>.



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2010 Hours:
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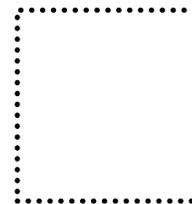
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Upcoming Events!

May 13: Presentation: Faith Ortins

May 15 & 16: DUI Demo Days

May 19: Bay State Council Meeting



Beginning with the meeting on **April 15, 2010**

the **North Shore Frogmen's Club**

will be meeting 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.