



# Air Bubbles

The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

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September 2010

## President's Message, September 2010

### Got a diving app for that?

Many of you may have a “smart phone”, and on that phone no doubt you have all sorts of applications or “apps” in the modern parlance. Well, divers can have apps too.

Looking through the iTunes store reveals lots and lots of apps for divers. Most of these are dive loggers, dive planners or nitrox calculators. They range in price and features from free, as with iScuba Plan lite, which bills itself as a “fast, accurate, recreational SCUBA dive planner”, to \$16.99 for the Baltic Deco Planner, a “tool for planning staged decompression dives for technical divers” and everything in-between.”

Want to practice your hand signals? No problem, 99 cents will get you “SCUBA hand signals” or if you’re feeling a bit flush \$1.99 gets you “Dive Signals”. How about reading the latest issue of “DIVE”? Again, the app is available free and then 59p (90c) gets you the latest issue. Fish identification, especially tropical fish, is available in several apps and “Awesome Nudibranches”, for 99 cents, seems to have pictures of the little dudes but not much information. Still, for 99 cents what do you want?

On my phone I have “London Diving Chamber” or LDC for short and “iDive Nitrox”. LDC is a tool for diving when things go wrong. On the front screen menu are the titles, “Pre-dive Checklist” which actually is a list of body parts and what to look for to make sure they are in working order; “My Dive Logbook” which is what it says in the title; “Chamber Locator”, which will let you know where the nearest chamber is if you let it know where you are; “Diving Incident” which steps the user through an accident using yes/no questions along with the addition of symptoms, surface time, etc; “Contact Us”, phone numbers, web address and physical address of LDC; and finally the “A to Z of dive medicine”, a mini dictionary of everything from Anorexia and Diving to Women and Diving. This is the kind of free app that DAN would do well to copy.

iDive Nitrox is a dive planner that will give the mix, mod, ead and actual ppo2 for a given depth or mix.

One problem with all this is the lack of a waterproof case capable of allowing the phone to come along for the dive. I expect someone is working on one as I write, but where and when it will be available I have no idea. There’s no app for that.

**Graham Smith**



## Coming Club Events

**September 26:** Annual Club Picnic

**September (date TBD):** Presentation planned. Stay tuned for more...

**October 21:** Jerry Shine will give a presentation to our Club at the meeting on October 21. Topic of presentation TBD.



## Update from the Editor

Erika Parsons has volunteered to take over as Editor of *Air Bubbles* beginning with the January 2011 issue.

**Thank you Erika!** I’m glad to hand this job over to someone so eager and interested!

*Mary Howard*

### Contents:

- President's Message – pg. 1
- Meeting Summaries – pg. 2-4
- Activities Calendar and Listing – pg. 5
- Coming Events – pg. 6
- Night Dive 9/3/10 – pg. 7
- Down to the Sea in Ships II – pg. 8-9
- BSC Info – pg. 10



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**\*Deadline for submissions\***  
to the October 2010 issue  
of **Air Bubbles** is  
**Friday, September 24**

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

## **Meeting Summaries**

### **05-Aug-2010**

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: 4 Officers, 20 Members

Guests: 1 Larry Bettencourt,  
previously a member.

**Secretary:** Minutes read and accepted  
as amended.

**Treasurer:** report read and accepted.

#### **Committees:**

**Program:** See activities list.

-Amy has tentatively been in touch  
with Andy Martinez regarding a  
presentation and the new edition of  
his book.

-8/12 - Dive Kulture will give  
presentation at meeting.

-8/14, Sat - Jimmy Buffet Party at  
OT. There will be raffles, 50/50.

-8/29, Sun - Tropical Fish Rescue in  
RI with NEADC. See info in AB.

**Membership:** Currently doing the  
advertisizing for our "Summer Club  
Night Out/ Jimmy Buffet Luau" at  
the Overtime Sports Bar. Invites will  
be sent out tonight and tomorrow.  
Dan has 3 prospective membership  
contacts, 2 by way of VP Jesse Leslie  
and 1 referral by way of Sgt Mike  
Miller U.S.M.C

#### **Old Business:**

-Dan H wants to thank Jess and  
Markus for the awesome job on the  
Club t-shirts, and wondered if  
members would like to send a camo  
shirt to Stg. Mike Miller overseas to  
let him know we're thinking of him.  
-Should we do something to  
recognize Pat and Annette for  
hosting the Club for a week in VT?  
Contact Erika with ideas.

-9/26 - Club Picnic - the Club usually  
pays for food and raffles. Members  
bring salads, desserts, etc. We  
should invite the Finatics; Erika will  
be asked to do that. Picnic  
committee: Bill, John S. Do we want  
to coordinate the site with BSC?

-9/26 - BSC will be there also. The  
Treasure Hunt event is 9-4, \$10 for  
Scuba event; additional \$1 for snorkel  
event. There are prizes for Scuba

event and a trophy for the team that  
wins the snorkeling event.

-Dive Kulture - will give presentation  
next week - they are looking for  
equipment for the kids; if you have a  
wetsuit or anything, bring it next  
week to give to Amy.

-Website? No update.

-December Banquet update: Dawn  
has contact info for a DJ who plays at  
PCYC. She recommends we look  
into getting her for the banquet and  
she is currently free that night. Cost  
is \$300 for a specific number of  
hours, so may be a bit more. Dawn  
will contact her with date, price,  
question about play list.

#### **New Business:**

-Mary said that she is looking for a  
replacement editor for Air Bubbles.  
There was also an item in the July  
issue of AB. 8 years is enough. Erika  
Parsons has eagerly volunteered to  
take on this job.

-Should there be a committee in  
charge of the Facebook page? Invites  
on FB were not passed onto the club  
membership. Best way would be to  
post to the page directly. Or, send  
info to Air Bubbles editor.

#### **Dive Talk:**

-Mary - Sun dive w/ Amy, Roslyn,  
Mia and Bill Frank went to Pebble,  
had nice dive, saw hermit crabs. At  
21' saw a ghost trap with bug that  
had eaten another lobster

-Mike D & Jerry S. at Back Beach  
Monday morning. Mike says a black  
duck swimming around went deeper  
than Jerry was diving

-Susan - Polling on Sunday temp 50,  
vis was fabulous 30'. There is a buoy  
now. Lots of growth, saw big red sea  
raven. Seas were calm. Also a night  
dive on Friday - Jes - lot of equip  
issues, lots of issues, no one drowned  
though! Vis maybe 3'

-Erika - Loblolly cove, lots of bugs  
there. Parked at Pebble and shuttled  
people back and forth. Then, last  
night - Nubble light with Finatics,  
saw big lumpfish, vis was poor, dark  
and murky, but Nubble does Christ-  
mas in Aug, so lighthouse in lights.

## Air Bubbles – September 2010

-Paul – on Sunday preparing for St Lawrence River trip, dove at Hathaway Pond, Barnstable. Interesting. He had 1 tank (a 120) and did 1hr 40 min dive, mostly at 15-20 ft, 79°F at surface, 47°F below 40'. Saw sunken statue of Virgin Mary or Venus below a sunken pier. There was an intact cabin boat. Some have seen old car wreck. Near 50' supposed to be a kayak that is standing like a lawn dart. The main reason for the dive was to make sure still buoyant at 10' with 300 lbs in tank and have the weight right for the St. Lawrence trip.

-Bill W., Jim F, John F, Jeff L went to OGB, lifeguard asked to see his license; she said it was a private beach, but there's a sign that says it's public. She didn't check the bugs.  
-Jack and Arnie at USS NH 70s temp, vis 5-15' got some unusual stuff, buckles, trunnel pin, spikes.

-Jes – a bunch did 2 boats went to a ledge off of House, on the north side. It starts at 20' and drops to 66'. All got bugs, about 20 total between everyone. 20-25'vis. This was south of Pickets ledge. They did NH for second dive, some caught bugs, Jes got some odd pieces. Lot of growth, overall awesome day.

-Jes and Adam did Halfway Rock about 2 weeks ago, saw a cusk, small, bug eyes; first time Jes saw one, so of course he tried to shoot it.

- Vinny in VT had a bass following him, went face to face for a bit, fish let him pet it.

### General Discussion:

- Vinny has some buddy lists and courtesy cards tonight.
- There is a report that Jim D tried out new tuna rod and caught a bluefin.
- Mike's Moments:
  - Marshfield man died while diving- heart attack
  - Sharks seen at mouth of Merrimack River. Also great white sharks near Chatham.
  - Person sailed from SF to Sydney in a 60' long boat made of recycled bottles. Had onboard garden.

-Ship lost for 150yrs abandoned in ice 1853, found in arctic waters 26' deep upright in very good condition.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: John Marren  
Mystery Prize: Dodie Carvalho  
Bug Bag: Vinny Egizi

### 12-Aug-2010

#### Abbreviated meeting for presentation.

Meeting called to order: 8:07 PM  
Attendance: 4 Officers, 17 Members  
Guests: Laura from Dive Kulture;  
Steve Marshall of SS Neptunes

#### Committees:

##### Program:

-Party at OT this Saturday.  
-7:30 next week for the picnic planning. Need to start collecting prizes for banquet

#### Dive Talk:

-Dan - Poling on Sunday. Overnight in Stellwagen. Todd did bounce dive on the sand. They went fishing for tuna, but caught dogfish. Lots of fish there. 2 buoys on the Polling now, by the crack and on the stern. Saw a 5' tuna chasing the baitfish. Vis was maybe 20'.

- Amy, Roslyn and others at Pebble, saw baby monkfish, pipefish; saw baby sea robin the week before.

-Adam - Dry Salvages off Rockport with Cape Ann Charters, seals are there now, just like the Isles of Shoals - they surrounded him. One was following him - there's a video on Facebook. Did Thatcher's Island after. Big boulders

-Jes and coworkers did Lanes, saw some big bugs just walking around; got 3 pounder other one was a chick; saw tautaug. Other divers saw a torpedo ray, 30'vis.

-Jack and Arnie did USS NH got a couple of spikes in the rocks; vis 5 or so feet.

#### General Discussion:

- Fred P. has a friend who collects starfish, dries them out, if anyone finds some.
- Vinny and son made a moon snail and sea clam marinara sauce.

They're a little tough.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: Ray Porter  
Mystery Prize: Mary Howard  
Bug Bag: John Sears

**Presentation by Laura of Dive Kulture and NSF member Jay Ganson.** Great presentation detailing the work Laura is doing with these kids. Check out their website.

### 19-Aug-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:09 PM  
Attendance: 2 Officers, 18 Members  
Guests: 1 guest

**Secretary:** Not read; secretary away, Vinny E. filled in and took minutes.

**Treasurer:** report read and accepted.

**Old Business:** Website has about 6 more hrs of work to be done to it. 8/23 go live estimate. Markus wants profile pics for Website.

**New Business:** Members decided to invite Dive Kulture to our picnic - approx 6 kids

#### Dive Talk:

- Amy M - a lot of diving
- Vinny and Adam - Folly cove
- Markus in CA
- Hans in Lake Winnipesaukee
- Markus in Brownstone Quarry
- Fred Pfiel - Cleaned Salem Harbor
- Paul S - Stellwagen Bank and Poling
- Paul S - St. Lawrence River with John Ferrier, Jim Follis, Dan Turner

#### General Discussion

- Mike's Moments
  - Bluefin of 500 lbs caught in Newburyport
  - Found navy plane from 1945 in San Diego

### 26-Aug-2010

Meeting called to order: 8:06 PM  
Attendance: 4 Officers, 16 Members  
Guests: Steve Howe, cert for 31 yrs, been out for 15, getting back into it now

**Secretary:** Minutes read and accepted  
**Treasurer:** report read and accepted.

#### Committees:

**Membership:** 4 more hits, a commercial diver in Gloucester, friend of Mike Miller interested, a

## Air Bubbles – September 2010

person in Worcester who probably can't make meetings, but would like to dive with us, and **Steve Hauck** who is here at the meeting tonight. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept Steve as our newest member.

-**Air Bubbles:** Deadline is past.

-**Banquet:** The committee met before this meeting, and made some decisions. Will limit attendees to 120; tickets \$35/person before some date, \$45 after. Vinny will make tickets and will start selling tickets next week. Menu has been decided and will include Haddock and Stuffed Chicken. The DJ that Dawn suggested is playing AOH tomorrow if some want to go and check it out.

-**Program:**

-Picnic – 26 Sep 10 same day as the BSC treasure hunt  
-Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Jerry Shine will be presenting, may be talking about nudibranchs of northeast.

**Old Business:**

-Bill Gannett, life member turned 70 yesterday (25Aug10)  
-Website – Vinny sent the by-laws to Markus to post; he is currently working on the website. He will show a demo of the website when it is completed.  
-Vinny has a new power cord for projector speakers.  
-Erika has Black Wave movie on the Exxon Valdez if we want to have a movie night.  
-Jess has about a dozen Club shirts left, assorted sizes. There will be another order.  
-Someone left eyeglasses at Pat and Annette's that are still not claimed; let Dawn know if they are yours.  
-Vinny found the most dangerous find in VT, a live shell - Pat still trying to get the armory to disarm it.

**New Business:**

-Paul was in touch with Pat Madden this week. He will be mailing box of CDs of pictures from the week in VT. Paul will disburse them when he has them.

-The last couple of years we've had slide shows of pics from the year showing at the Banquet. Send yours to Graham's work email.

**Dive Talk:**

-Erika and Markus at Brownstone Quarry, trying to find pink fin she lost from the zip line, fin in 60+ feet; at 40' was pitch black, no fin was found.

-Susan dove in the rain on Wed, Cambridge FD students, met at Whites'. She never saw surfers there before! NOAA report said it was a north wind. Red tide came in so beaches closed. Went to Niles did check out dive stuff there, saw lobsters with no claws.

-Erika did Mag Rocks - difficult getting out but nice dive, vis ~10'. Also did Cathedral Rocks there was 3-4' torpedo ray, vis ok, nice dive.

-Amy did night dive last Friday at Back Beach – nice, no squid, but hake, pipefish, crabs, lobster.

-Jeff L, John F, Jim F and Dan T, Lanes Cove, 10' vis. John got lobster, one that was exactly 5", took up half the cooler! Torpedo ray is gone. Water was warm – high 50s. Bugs are either big or small, nothing in between.

-Susan went to OGB, got 7 bugs first dive to the right; she saw a big one at the fish count, was determined to get it, found it and it was filled with eggs. Second dive to the left, lots of rocks to swim around, got 3 more. There's a mussel bed around there.

-Jes dive mastered advanced OW at Paddock w/Sean instructing, supposed to be quick. Jes found camera setup camera was well known for being lost got it back to the owner on Sunday.

-Vinny went kayaking from Beverly to Coney Island was alone then multiple boats showed up, collected some trash with bug bag.

-Mary put her feet in the Mediterranean in Spain on Friday, no diving though.

**General Discussion:**

-Sat 8/28, Susan heading to King's Beach in RI, the tropical fish arrived last week. Temp now is 72°F. If interested let Sue know. This is different than the Aquarium's Tropical Fish Rescue, which is Sunday at Ft. Weatherill

-Ritchie Kohler will be speaking at Central Mass banquet in Oct.

-Mike's Moments:

-Ocean garbage patch in Atlantic has not changed size in over 20 yrs, still trying to trace source.

-S. Shore, White Horse Beach basking shark washed up,

-Short nosed sturgeon in Merrimack, now over 2000 adults; spawn in Haverhill.

-Dogfish off New Bedford, fishing limit reached in 3 months, instead of planned 6.

-Invasive shrimp in Hawthorn Cove and Palmer's Cove, eat smaller creatures that screws up the algae population. Only found in Salem harbor, could be the power plant keeping the water warm? They are edible.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: Mike Denneler  
Bug Bag: Meg Tennissen

**Please welcome  
New Club Member  
Steve Hauck**

**Who was voted in as  
newest member at the  
meeting on August 26.**

## Air Bubbles – September 2010

September 2010			1	2 8:00 PM Meeting	3	4
5 Sunday Dive	6	7	8 BSC Meeting	9 8:00 PM Meeting	10	11
12 Sunday Dive	13	14	15	16 8:00 PM Meeting	17	18 Thompson Island cleanup
19 Sunday Dive	20	21	22	23 8:00 PM Meeting	24	25
26 Club Picnic BSC Event	27	28	29	30 8:00 PM Meeting	1	2
3 Sunday Dive	4	5	6	7 8:00 PM Meeting	8	9
10 Sunday Dive	11	12	13	14 8:00 PM Meeting	15	16
17 Sunday Dive	18	19	20	21 8:00 PM Meeting PRESENTATION	22	23
24 Sunday Dive	25	26	27	28 8:00 PM Meeting	29	30
31 Sunday Dive				October 2010		

## Activities List

- Sept 3, Fri                   **“Earl” Night Dive?** (see page 7)
- Sept 8, Wed               **Bay State Council Meeting** – 7:30PM in Quincy
- Sept ?, Thur              **PRESENTATION** (date TBD, stay tuned)
- Sept 18, Sat               **Thompson Island Cleanup with SSN and Dive Kulture** (see page 6)
- Sept 26, Sun               **BSC Treasure Hunt** (see page 6)
- Sept 26, Sun               **NSF Club Picnic and joint picnic with other Dive Clubs**
- Oct 21, Thur               **PRESENTATION: Jerry Shine, Nudibranchs of the Northeast**
- Dec 11, Sat                **Annual President’s Banquet at Beverly Golf & Tennis Club**

## **Thompson's Island Cleanup**

Saturday, September 18

Steve Marshall, president of the South Shore Neptunes, is organizing an island clean-up event. They are looking for divers to participate in this event. Laura Medrano will be there with some of the kids from Dive Kulture who will be participating.

Anyone interested should contact Steve at [sdmarshall960@gmail.com](mailto:sdmmarshall960@gmail.com) or 617-833-1178.

Note that this will require that you can get to Thompson's Island. If you don't have your own boat, there is a ferry that can get you there from Boston.

They are also looking for gear for the Dive Kulture kids who will be participating in the event, so let Steve know if you have any gear to give them.



Meg did her 100<sup>th</sup> dive in Vermont while participating in the diving week with Annette and Pat.



## **The Bay State Council of Divers 25<sup>th</sup> 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

## Night Dive – Friday, September 3?

Who wants to do an "Earl" Dive Friday Night? I would suggest Race Point on the outermost arm of Cape Cod.

The excitement will begin even before you get to the dive site - you have to get past the road blocks that have been set up preventing people from getting onto the Cape which will have been evacuated. (I would suggest using the secret Cape Cod Canal Tunnel - for directions to the tunnel entrance, call 555-123-4567- use the password PLEASE to get the directions from the monkey that answers the phone.)

The next bit of excitement will be before the dive itself as you attempt to don your gear before it blows away in the hurricane force winds.

The weight of your gear will help you stand upright as you bend into the wind and slowly make your way to the water's edge where you will find:

- Ideal conditions to test your buoyancy control as your depths change back and forth from 2 to 20 feet within seconds as the surf rolls in.
- Excellent drift dive opportunities as the rip current brings you far out to sea. (You may want to bring an EPIRB if you want to be picked up the next day, or wait until Earl, and you, make landfall in Nova Scotia)
- Also a rare chance to practice your no visibility skills. Not only is it nighttime, but even with a light, you ain't gonna see nothin. We can have a contest to see who actually comes out on the same beach as their buddy.

Practice replacing your regulator and mask after they have been torn from your face by the power of the surf.

Practice your search and recovery skills when your all of gear has been ripped from your body and scattered over the ocean.

Explore brand new wrecks even as they sink - maybe even new sunken ruins as beach homes are washed into the sea.

Experience the eerie feeling that there is a 15 foot Great White Shark two feet from you and neither of you knows which direction to look.

Learn a new way to take lobster - anchor yourself to the bottom (a 2 ton mooring block would be best) and wait for the lobster to come tumbling by in the surge - remember, in these waters you are allowed to take the big ones. (Just be sure to catch them before they hit you - being hit in the head by a 15 pound lobster can really ruin your dive.)

And just think of all the fun you can have with your dive

flag/sail and all of that nice line to tie knots with in the surf and wind.

Imagine the photos you can get - sand, foam, pieces of dive gear floating by, confused sea life tumbling around, scratches on your lens, hurricane partiers searching for their beer, the tail of a great white that luckily passed you before the strobe went off, pieces of surfboards tumbling by, confused surfers tumbling by, naked divers searching for their gear, pictures of you as the camera is torn from your hand and the shutter release is hit as the camera bounces away....

If we're lucky there will be a nice storm surge that will drag us inland and deposit us right next to our cars which will dry out by morning for the drive home.

If the storm surge doesn't deposit you near shelter, be sure to save enough air for the walk to your car after you exit the water - that will be the only way you will be able to breathe in the deluge.

Keep in mind that if there are any emergencies, we cannot expect assistance from the authorities until the storm has passed because the entire Cape will have been evacuated and the only people remaining will be those hardy people having hurricane parties and a bunch of idiots wearing neoprene and lead weights on the beach. And, I'm sure, a few die-hard surfers trying to find the perfect wave.

See you all Friday Night

Roslyn Smith

**Diver of the Month  
for August 2010**

**Adam Hartnet**

**Member of the Month  
for August 2010**

**Amy Maurer**

## DOWN TO THE SEA IN SHIPS, Part II

*Retold by Jack Munro*

Harry Grossett's ship the **HMS Raglan** left Cape Helles, Anzac and Suvz Bay for an unknown destination called Salonika in Greece. Just before leaving Harry and shipwrights, while making repairs to the boat, came under fire from fritz, (German Fighter Planes). Luckily no one was hit by machine gun fire. Seaplanes came to their rescue. In Greece they went ashore. Even though Greece was neutral; it still made the Brits uneasy because both the German and the Turks were there.

They were back in battle shelling Achi Baba with the fleet with 100 shells bursting at a time. During this time, the evacuation of Anzac and Suvz Bay began. A few days later, just before Christmas, the **HMS Cornwallis** and storeship **Spey** collided and Harry and the shipwrights were back in the water with timbershield wedges and tallow. By the time they finished their repair they were preparing for Christmas, but the war kept going around them and they kept getting strafed by enemy aircraft and firing ashore four rounds, then moving anchorage several times. The **Raglan** got caught in anti sub nets and Harry went down diving during the blackout in bitter cold to free it and, getting his own dive rig caught, it took three to four hours to clean it up. The last area to be evacuated was Cape Helles where the British got their troops out and pounded the enemy with shells starting a huge fire with hundreds of shells bursting. Just before leaving the war zone Harry got hit by machine gun fire. The round went in and out without much damage, but put him in sickbay for part of a day. The next day they prepared for action by shutting ventilation and watertight doors, and then reported to the bridge, and in going through the steel skylight to go below Harry was hit again by an enemy shell that landed and **Raglan's** 14" gun fired at the same time the skylight was blown up and Harry's teeth were mashed into his jawbone and his face was peppered with cordite, which ended his time in the Dardanelles. He spent eight days on the Hospital Ship; **SS Rewa** and then back home. The **Rewa** was struck on her way back home the next time by a U-boat torpedo and sunk.

When Harry was recuperating back home at the Naval Hospital in Gillingham, England it took a year to heal up from those wounds before getting fitted for false teeth. Harry's next job was on the **HMS Platypus** a submarine tender in Killybogs on the north western coast of Ireland. He made a few dives and was sent back to Sheerness in 1915 for requalification and then on to Chatham. By January 1918 while on leave at home he found out that his old ship **HMS Raglan** had been sunk. Reggie Hall, his good friend and fellow shipwright on the **Raglan** had saved

eight men only to be killed by enemy fire. For years Harry and shipwrights like him were entered into the Navy as 1st Class Petty Officers, while boiler makers and electricians were brought in as Chief Petty Officers. He appeared before the Admiralty on board the **HMS Duncan** which he had helped build and argued the case. In due time, the Navy changed that.

Harry's next assignment was Lough Swilly, also in North West Ireland where he was diving to recover lost torpedoes and made his deepest dive of 34 fathoms (204 feet). Unlike most dives visibility was 12 to 15 feet, he felt good and had no narcosis. He was only 6 feet from the record of 35 fathoms and Haldine Decompression for saturations working limits. Harry did a total 12 dives in 4 days all about 20 minutes long but never found the lost torpedo, or went deeper. He would have liked to dive the **Laureatic** in 22 fathoms only a few miles away. It was still wartime and the Navy had other salvage jobs to do, one of these was a destroyer. Harry and another diver were working one cold morning when they got a signal to come up. When they reached the surface it was 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of November 1918, the war was over.

After the war, Harry shipped on the **SS Kashgar** and went to Hong Kong as a carpenter. While he was there he met a diver also from Chatham who had spent three weeks diving searching for a new machine gun lost in the no visibility harbor. He had Chinese tenders and went down not expecting to find anything in the muddy bottom, but to his surprise he found the wooden crate that the gun was in and brought up to the surface. When he got topside the Chinese would not go near him thinking that he was a god, or worse, the devil. He found out that the gun was in good condition. When he got home in October he had three salvage jobs waiting for him. The first was the **SS Brunswick** in 20 fathoms in the North Sea, with gold bars and ingots of tin. Harry surveyed the ship while the other divers were working and discovered that, as they expected, it was listing at such an angle that they would have to do the job in slack water so the current wouldn't take it. The divers and the salvage officer met and it was decided that Harry would blow the doors to the compartment that they were working on and when they finished there. At the next slack water they were able to get at the gold using gelignite waterproof explosives. The divers succeeded in getting the gold off just before it turned over and the heavy machinery blocked any further access to the strong room. Needless to say, they got a really decent pay check for that job.

Harry's next job took him back to the Red Sea. The ship was the French **SS Brittany**, an 8,000 ton ship that had been run aground after a collision just off Jibuti. The other diver he met was also a Scot named Jock. Harry was assigned as the lead diver even though the other diver was

## Air Bubbles – September 2010

much older. They made their way to the sight with clear warm water. When they surveyed the ship, they found a 2 foot by twelve foot gash in the hull. As Harry started to do the repairs, Jock got to work unloading cargo in the #1 and #2 hold to lighten the ship for pumping. Things were going pretty good for three days. When Harry was finishing up the patch, the salvage superintendent call him aside to talk. The supervisor said that Jock was being very rude and when he suggested that he might go a little faster, Jock told him if he felt that way then he could put a suit on and go down there himself. Harry didn't understand and put his gear on the *Brittany* and dove down to see what the problem might be. Jock went down as usual and for the first half hour cargo was coming up steadily, as fast as they could handle it. Harry thought that the supervisor was being really too critical. Then the cargo stopped coming up and Harry went down to lend a hand. Once he was down, there was a lot of natural light so no underwater lights were needed. The ship had listed with the starboard higher than the port. As Harry followed Jock's airpipe, he surfaced and the water was waist deep. There was Jock sitting on a crate, his faceplate unscrewed and a bottle of whiskey in his hand. He greeted him like he was coming over to have a drink. At this point Jock tried to unscrew Harry's faceplate. Harry was looking for Jock's faceplate and saw it slipping down between the crates when he finally got it. They both went topside and Jock told the supervisor that it had been his best dive yet. Shortly afterwards the *Brittany* was raised and the whole crew got a chance to see Jock's bar in the #4 hold. The supervisor and captain and the whole crew had a good laugh over that one and had a story for the ages.

Harry's next job was not fun at all, but a nightmare that nearly took his life. The *SV Ringdove* was a brand new salvage vessel just completely converted from an old gunboat. With the best diving equipment and salvage equipment, Harry took this job offered for full time employment in 1920. He met a fellow Navy diver Jack Brenton dock yard (rigger). They were to become lifelong friends. Their first job on the *Huntspill* was a troop carrier which had sunk not from a collision but by accident. The *Huntspill* was a coal burner and equipped with injectors to get rid of coal residue after burning it in the engine. The injector used sea water as a venture sucking up coal debris and washing it over the side. One was removed and not plugged and being so close to the water line, it took on water very fast and the ship sank. *Huntspill* had hundreds of port holes and moveable tables, chairs etc., mostly made of wood which proved to be a disaster for divers. The divers went into the *Huntspill* to work in the dark using only their air pipes and not breast ropes so as to not get fouled. The ship, on a port list, made it hard to get into and out of some compartments when shutting port holes. Harry

was in one of those pushing chairs and tables around and shutting portholes when coming out something was stopping him from moving. It turned out to be a bundle of wire from an overhead light fixture which snagged his helmut on his air fitting each time he moved. He managed to cut it with his knife after fighting with it for some time. His next brush with death came a day or two later when he plugged a vent and then the large wood hatch cover moved in the current and shut off his air pipe. He was getting some air, but could not signal with his air pipe. It took several minutes to cut away the wood with his knife before he could signal topside to send help. They sent his friend Jack with a handsaw and he took over an hour to cut him out of the hold. They finally got *Huntspill* up and salvaged but it was a very tough job.

Harry's greatest adventure was about to start at Scapa Flow where the German Naval Fleet was scuttled on 21 June 1919, totaling 72 ships. Cox and Danks. A ship breaker had been hired to salvage the fleet even though they had not done that kind of job before. They did have a team made up of Tom McKenzie as their chief salvage officer as well as Harry Grossett as well as many shipwright divers. They started with the destroyers, 26 in all, because they were smaller and were of similar design. Cox also brought submarine lifting dock and towed it to Scapa Flow where they cut it in half to use as lifting pontoons. The Germans had done a fine job of the wrecks, chaining two together, mast and funnels and rigging to make it more difficult to salvage and dangerous for the divers as well. The usual way they salvage the destroyers was to run cables under the stern between the propeller shaft so that the cable could not slip, passing the small cable first from one side to the other with a diver on both sides. After this was done a larger cable was attached to the smaller, then hove around to get a heavier cable in place of the smaller one. These cables were attached to the winches topside. This was all done at low tide by using the barges. This lifted the wreck at high tide. Once the wreck was lifted, the divers ran more cables until they had twelve large cables in place, bow to stern. When this was done, they par buckled the wreck. This was done by using air pipes on the low side and winches to bring the ship upright with no list. After the wreck was upright in the twelve wires and off of the bottom, as the tide comes in, it is raised up. It is then towed to shallower water and then grounded again for the next tide and all slack is taken out of the wires. This process is repeated until the ship is high and dry and close to shore. All the holes are then plugged and pumping begins until the ship can be towed to where they would be cut into scrap. Harry worked to get all of the destroyers up a little on the *Hindenburg* battle cruiser before leaving for other jobs. He got the ship's bell from the *Hindenburg* and a clock off of one of the destroyers for prizes.



## 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>.

## 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.

**Rumor has it that Life Member Bill Gannett recently (8/25/10) celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

**Happy Birthday Bill!!**



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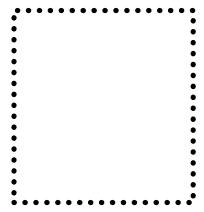


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## Air Bubbles – September 2010

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



## Upcoming Events!

- September 18: Thompson Island Cleanup
- September 26: Multi-Club Picnic
- September 26: BSC Treasure Hunt Event
- October 21: PRESENTATION: Jerry Shine

### **Sunday morning Club dives:**

Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly.  
For "Summer" dives, 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.