



# Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 56, Number 12

December 2014

## President's Message – December 2014

We are planning to have our annual pizza party on Dec.18th at Palmer Cove Yacht Club. We have decided to make the pizza party more interesting by holding an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest! That's right. Time to dig out those hideous sweaters and wear them proudly. We will also be holding an optional Yankee Swap. Bring a gift between \$10-\$20 to join the swap.

We will be having our New Year's Day Dive at White Beach on Jan 1st! More details will be sent as we get closer to the date.

Don't forget that we have moved the banquet to Jan. 24th at the Italian Community Center in Beverly. Same venue as last year, but after the holidays so that everyone can attend without worrying about conflicting holiday events.

I was on an amazing dive trip in the Philippines lead by Andy Martinez. So I was unable to get in the president's message for last month. I wanted to name Ellen Garvey and Mike Garvey as Diver and Members of the month for last month. They do so much for the club. We love you guys!

For this month I would like to name Jim Barbara as Diver of the Month. He has been amazing at running the meetings in my absence and for running for president of the club. He's going to be an awesome president. I would like to name Mary Howard as Member of the Month. She has been doing Air Bubbles for the club for the past 12 years! Thank you for all you've done!

This will be my last president's message. Thanks to my fellow officers Adam Hartnett, Ellen Garvey, Jim Barbara for all of their hard work. Hopefully we will continue with the "Wing Night" tradition. Freddy and

Francine will continue on as our mascots. Even though I will no longer be president, I'll be available to help out with club activities and events. It's been an honor to be an officer of such a great club. Thank you to all of the members that supported me for the past two years. I love you guys! :^)

- *Laura Gallagher*

President North Shore Frogmen, 2013 and 2014



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**BEST WISHES to the next  
Air Bubbles staff.**

**It's been a great 12 years!!  
I've enjoyed putting this  
newsletter together for the  
Club during this time, and  
I've learned a lot.**

*Mary Howard*

**Meeting Summaries**

**06-Nov-2014**

Meeting called to order: 8:00PM  
Attendance: 2 Officers, 15 Members  
**Secretary:** Business portion of minutes from last meeting read and accepted.

**Committees:**

- **Program:** See website for details
- 11/20: deadline for submissions for photo contest entries, biggest flounder, biggest scallop, most interesting find.
- 12/4: elections and contest voting.
- **Membership:** Mike Lodise paid his dues tonight.

**Old Business:** Jim will be organizing some dives which will start at Undersea Divers.

**New Business:**

- Nominations for Club Officers:
- President: Jim Barbara
- VP: John Sears
- Treasurer: Adam Hartnett
- Secretary: Jim D'Urso
- Possible Committees?
- Daryl and Ellen for Air Bubbles
- Mike Garvey will assume responsibility for AV equipment
- Laura for events w/ help from Amy?

**Dive Talk:**

- Float cleaning was last Sunday during the snowy nor'easter. **John Sears, Bill Werner, Rami Kakonen, Ray Porter, Jim Barbara and Alex Barbara** were in the water. Support crew consisted of Mike, Ellen, Mary and Dodie. Water was 50°F and calm despite the storm. The "land" was a different story - 30s, snowing hard at times, winds 20-30mph. PCYC was warm with nice gas fire. Mike took on grill duty and cooked the last of the picnic hot dogs; we also gobbled up John's great seafood gumbo and various other goodies. Good times!
- **Dive this weekend:** Jim has plans to dive; he'll send email

**General Discussion:**

- Art Channel came to the meeting and donated a number of items from years past: old badges, mugs from the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, etc.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: Jack Munro

**We had a PRESENTATION after the general meeting by Mike Lodise of Backscatter on underwater photo equipment.**

**13-Nov-2014**

Meeting called to order: 7:45PM  
Attendance: 3 Officers, 13 Members, 2 guests  
**Secretary:** Business portion of minutes from last meeting read and accepted.

**Treasurer:** 38 active paid members; not including life members.

**Correspondence:**

- Pat and Annette requested a list of attendees for the VT week camping/diving event.

**Committees:**

- **Program:** See website for details
- 12/11: Paul Erickson and Andy Martinez to present their new book.
- 12/18: Pizza Party
- **Air Bubbles:** November issue published online. Excellent articles by John Sears and Jack Munro.

**Old Business:**

- **Jim Barbara** will be organizing some dives which will start at Undersea Divers. Will meet there this Sunday at 9:30 with departure @10; others can meet at BK and coordinate elsewhere. Bob will do beach site tour early. This will be a winter-only meeting spot.
- **Nominations from last week, updates:**
- **Jim D'Urso** for secretary - he said he'd think about it.
- **Daryl** for Air Bubbles with **Ellen** as back-up; Daryl declined a permanent position.

**New Business:**

- Tony offered to organize winter dives and New Year's Day dive. He will do that, working with Jim on the winter dives.
- Tony has obtained donations from several dive equipment providers and a couple of restaurant gift certificates.
- Adam talked to the DJ. His rate went up from \$350 to \$400. Club voted to

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authorize up to \$400 for the DJ for the banquet in January.

### Dive Talk:

- **Laura** was in the Philippines with **Meg** and **Andy Martinez**; saw 4 types of octopus including blue ring & wonderpus; seahorses, electric clams. It was nudi heaven. We need a presentation!
  - **Susan** went to Nassau with a group from Canada which took half the boat. Lots of fun. The other passengers were from all over the world. 5 dives / day offered, as well as kayaking. Not much color, but tons of sharks, turtles, stingrays. Blue hole bounce dive to 190 ft. She has pictures from other people.
  - **Graham** and **Jim B** went to White Beach which was blown out, so they went to Cressy and saw a B42 with Jimmy Hoffa's body. Temp was 49° F; vis started at 8' but deteriorated to 1-2'.
  - **Jim D** went off Marblehead, near Tinker's Ledge, 52° F at 55-60'.
  - **Adam** went to Liberia, Costa Rica on a combination nature and dive trip. 9 dives; huge stingrays; huge school of fish size of a football field. Didn't take underwater camera. Also did a rainforest trip w/ frogs, crocs, howler monkeys, 2-toed sloths and 3-toed sloths.
  - **Dive this weekend:** Meet at Undersea Divers at 9:30
- ### General Discussion:
- Jack Lockhart, passed NSF member, passed away in September.
  - Vinny reported that someone got a 59 lb lobster somewhere in Indonesia.
  - Tony reported a lawsuit and settlement with PADI relating to a student who died during "discover scuba".
  - Tony is organizing an advanced and deco dive course. Contact him if interested.
  - Jim D proposes an "officers dive" next year.
  - Susan is going to be doing a fundraiser in Key Largo for worldwide Christian Scuba Organization. It will be a 24 hour dive marathon and Jules Hotel on Dec 27.

You can join the dive or sponsor Susan.

- Aqualung announced another recall for BCD weight pockets.
- Undersea Divers has half price service on reg, BC and tank service until the end of the month.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: John Marren  
Mystery Prize: Mary Howard  
Bug Bag: Mary Howard (Dive float/flag)

### 20-Nov-2014

(Minutes taken by Adam Hartnett)

Meeting called to order: 7:35PM

Attendance: 2 Officers, 10 Members

**Secretary:** Business portion of minutes from last meeting read and accepted.

### **Treasurer:**

- Not-profit status obtained, 501c7 status. Kudos to Ellen for spending a whole day on the phone with them.
- Q3 report passed out to Club.
- Still need money for Pat & Annette's week, from those who attended.

### **Correspondence:**

- Pat and Annette requested a list of attendees for the VT week camping/diving event.

### **Committees:**

- **Program:** See website for details
- **12/17: Cashes Ledge hearing in Gloucester.**
- **Membership:** Got correspondence on divebuddy.com
- **IT Committee:** Jim and Daryl to get in touch with Markus concerning updating the website.

### **Old Business:**

- Dive worked out well last Sunday. Time changed to 10AM since Undersea would prefer to open then. This week Jim B and others will meet at Undersea around 10 and then contact anyone who is at BK.
- Jim D'Urso accepted the Secretary nomination with Adam and Jim agreeing to help the first couple of months of the year since he may need to work night shifts here and there. Mary can also assist w/ minutes.

### **New Business:**

- Tony noted that people donating prizes for banquet will need to be recognized. Adam suggested advertising in AB for Rockafella's and the Tech Instructor along with letters of recognition, etc.
- Adam- working on banquet items, pricing and food. DJ and hall are locked in.
- New Year's Day Dive will be at White's Beach at 9AM.

### **Dive Talk:**

- Jim B met 7 other divers at Undersea Divers, went to Back Beach. Air Temp 46°, water around 50°. Moon snails and big lobsters were seen. Jim did not bring his bag.
- Meg went on Andy Martinez's Philippines trip. Saw sea horses, many nudibranchs, cuttlefish, lion fish in their natural habitat, mantis shrimp and clown fish. Did a whale shark snorkel; they are used to people and would bump into people on occasion. Also did an interesting fluorescent night dive by wearing a special tinted mask and using a special light. Started with some time in Japan first.
- Dive this weekend: 10AM at Undersea Divers or BK with discussion to determine location.

### **General Discussion:**

- Mary and Ray went to NEU Marine Science Center lecture series, which was a showing of movie "Mission Blue", about Sylvia Earle, who proposes protecting 10% of world marine habitats. EXCELLENT movie.

**Raffles:** Dollars Box: John Marren  
Mystery Prize: Meg Tennissen

### 27-Nov-2014

**Thanksgiving – no meeting.**





## Calendar of Events

30 Sunday Dive?	1	2	3	4 Elections	5	6
7 Sunday Dive?	8	9	10	11 Meeting Presentation	12	13
14 Sunday Dive?	15	16	17	18 Meeting Pizza Party	19	20
21 Sunday Dive?	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 Sunday Dive?	29	30	31	 <b>December</b> 		
<b>January</b>				1 DIVE	2	3
4 Sunday Dive?	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Sunday Dive?	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Sunday Dive?	19	20	21	22	23	24 NSF Banquet
25 Sunday Dive?	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Activities List - 2014-2015

- 12/4, Thurs      **Photo Contest Voting**
- 12/11, Thurs    **NOTE CHANGE: 2015 Officer Elections; Officer changeover (?)**
- 12/11, Thurs    **Presentation: Andy Martinez and Paul Erickson**
- 12/17, Weds      Public Hearing for Habitat including Cashes Ledge - Gloucester
- 12/18, Thurs    **Pizza Party / Yankee Swap**
- 12/25, Thurs    **Christmas - No meeting**
- 1/1/15, Thurs    **NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVE & PARTY**
- 1/24, Sat          **President's Banquet**
- 1/28, Weds        Bay State Council Meeting - Quincy

**Northeastern University College  
of Science**

**Tuesday Night Lecture Series**

*The Tuesday Night Lecture Series has been announced! All lectures take place in the Murphy Bunker Classroom at the Marine Science Center. Lectures are free and open to the public, and no RSVP is required. Light refreshments begin about half an hour before each event.*



**ORGANIC POLLUTANTS IN THE  
OCEAN: HOW DO THEY END UP ON  
OUR DINNER PLATES?**

**Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00pm  
Dr. Loretta Fernandez, Assistant**

**Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering,  
Northeastern University**

Persistent organic pollutants include pesticides, oils, flame retardants, herbicides, and innumerable other products and byproducts of modern civilization. As their name implies, these compounds are highly stable, making them long-lived and able to be transported throughout the biosphere in our fluid atmosphere and oceans. Determining how likely chemicals from a given contaminated site are to be transferred to the tissues of native organisms is a question scientists have been struggling to answer for decades. Progress in methods of sampling environmental compartments such as natural waters and sediments has identified a promising indicator of that likelihood, freely-dissolved concentrations.



**IMPACT OF OCEAN ACIDIFICATION  
ON MARINE SHELL-BUILDERS**

**Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00pm  
Dr. Justin Ries, Associate Professor of  
Marine & Environmental Sciences,  
Northeastern University**

Anthropogenic elevation of atmospheric carbon dioxide is making the oceans more acidic, thereby reducing their degree of saturation with respect to calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) minerals. There is mounting concern over the impact that future CO<sub>2</sub>-induced reductions in the CaCO<sub>3</sub> saturation of seawater will have on marine calcifiers' ability to produce their protective shells and skeletons. Experimental research in the Ries Lab strives to better understand the potential consequences that ocean acidification will have on various shelled marine organisms.



**New England Fishery Management Council**

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E.F. "Terry" Stockwell III, *Chairman* | Thomas A. Nies, *Executive Director*

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR HABITAT**

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is conducting public hearings to solicit comments on Draft Omnibus Habitat Amendment 2 including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The amendment will address habitat requirements for all NEFMC Fishery Management Plans. The hearings are being scheduled in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and will include opportunity for review and comment on the DEIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

(I have included the locations and dates most convenient for NSF Members-mh)

**Gloucester, MA, Weds 12/17, 6-8PM  
@MA DMF Annisquam Station, 30 Emerson Ave**

Webinar, Mon 1/5/15, 3-5PM

Register to participate:

[www4.gotomeeting.com/register/278328207](http://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/278328207)

Call in info:

Toll: +1 (646) 307-1706; Access Code: 911-628-108

New England Council staff will brief the public on the Habitat omnibus amendment before opening each hearing for public comments. The NEFMC Draft Habitat Omnibus Amendment 2 Environmental Impact Statement is available on the Council's website (<http://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-habitat-amendment-2>), or may be obtained by contacting the Council office at (978) 465-0492. The public hearing document, which provides a brief summary of the management alternatives and their impacts, will also be available before the hearings and will be posted on our website when available.

Written comments must be received on or before Thursday, January 8, 2015. Comments should be sent to John Bullard, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 or emailed to: [nmfs.gar.OA2.DEIS@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.gar.OA2.DEIS@noaa.gov) (attention/subject line: "OA2 DEIS Comments").

## Russian Sub – Kursk K141

with excerpts from Ramsey Flynn's Cry From the Deep &  
Captain Peter Huchthausen's (Ret.) K-19 The Widowmaker

The US and UK used High Test Peroxide (HTP) torpedoes and powered submarines during the 1950s. Many accidents had occurred, the worst being the *H.M.S. Sidon* in 1959 when they were loading a small HTP torpedo. It exploded, killing 15 men. The British investigated and shut down the program, not knowing that the Russians had had many accidents before, during, and after that. The secretive Russians had lost many more accidental boats and HTP torpedoes than the *H.M.S. Sidon*, but had covered it up. The (K-19) “The Widowmaker” was Russia's first nuclear missile boat; the book by the same name details many accidents about losses in the 1950s, 60s, 70s, & 80s.

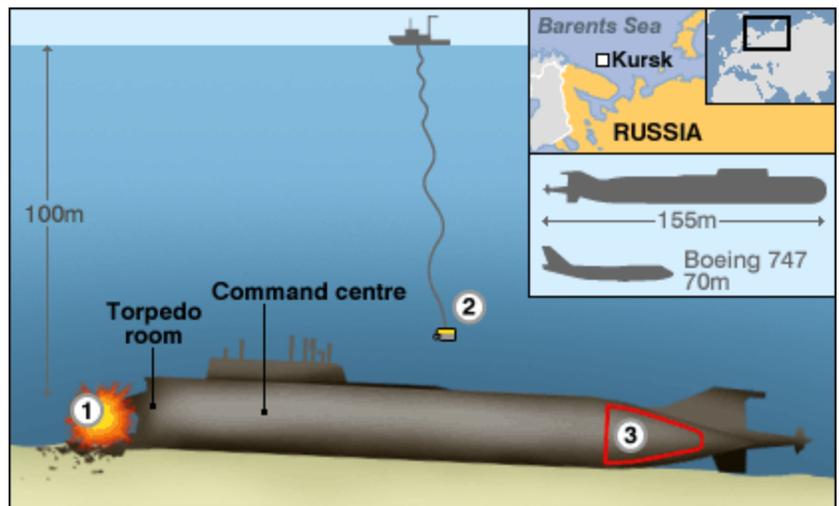
British torpedo designer Maurice Stradling revisited the *Sidon* and *Kursk* explosions and found many similarities. At the time, in 2000, the Russians were blaming the US and UK, saying we rammed the “Unsinkable” *Kursk* and sunk it. The *Kursk* was 525 feet long, 54 feet in diameter and weighed 18,000 tons, and had a double hull: US and UK boats were 360 feet long, 34 feet in diameter and 6500 tons. By comparison, that would be like ramming a fully-loaded 10-wheel dump truck with a small pickup truck. Who wins? While the Russians were trying to blame the sinking on us, their rescue sub tried to get down to *Kursk* in 350 feet of water. They got down to the *Kursk*, but lost power and barely made it to the surface again. Their rescue sub had not been used for 17 years and the batteries could only hold a charge for 30 minutes.

The Russians were getting offers for help from all over the world but refused any help. The situation aboard the *Kursk* was that 23 crew survived the 2 explosions; they had safely shut down both reactors and moved back into compartment 9. They checked out their emergency escape gear only to find all the copper and brass parts had been scavenged so they would have to wait for their rescue sub; with the reactors shut down they saved their fleet from a nuclear nightmare but were doomed without a rescue sub. They had a soda lime absorbent for the carbon dioxide and an oxygen burner to make oxygen but the compartment was cold, dark, and slowly flooding.

The 9<sup>th</sup> compartment was where both propeller shafts exit through the hull, so water was a big concern. As the oxygen clunkers (oxygen generators) left, they gave off oxygen and could react with water or oil violently. Meanwhile, on board *Peter the Great*, the flagship and HQ for the Barents Sea exercise, the Admirals had an “ace in the hole,” a small spy sub which had already surveyed *Kursk* with videos so they knew what happened and how bad the damage was; yet they still continued to blame the US and UK.

The *Kursk's* HTP torpedoes were huge compared to regular torpedoes, nearly twice the size and weight. The crew called them “Fat Girls”; 26 to 29 feet x 36 feet and 4 ½ tons (compared to 21 x 21 and 2100 lbs.). The *Kursk* torpedo had no warhead but carried 60 gallons of 81% hydrogen peroxide and 60 to 70 gallons of kerosene and was very corrosive. If handled roughly, the fittings could leak fluid which would change into a gas and expand 5000 times in volume.

When the torpedo was being loaded, it was dropped because of the small cranes at the Russian shipyard which had no maintenance. The HTP torpedo expert whom Captain Lyachin (*Kursk* Skipper) drafted aboard at the last minute was not happy, but did his duty. Part of the reason for the Barents Sea exercise was for the boats to get rid of the HTP torpedoes. Eight submarines including the *Kursk* were there. The expert was nervous about the



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torpedo and probably went to Captain Lyachin who then went to the Admirals aboard *Peter the Great* asking permission to fire the torpedo already in the tube #4 on the *Kursk*. It all happened so fast, that even though permission was given, it was probably given too late. The torpedo exploded, blowing a hole in the 3 ½ inch thick bronze inner door embedding itself in the bulkhead between 1 & 2 compartments, and registering a 2.2 on the Richter scale. At the same time, the temperature reached 3500 to 4000 degrees, incinerating the crew in both 1 & 2 compartments. The outer door on #4 blew, flooding started, and 6 more torpedoes blew a hole the size of a huge dump truck through the pressure hull, registering a 5.2 on the Richter scale. Any subs close (and there were probably 9) must have heard and felt multiple noises and rumbling. The *Kursk* was built so well that 21 torpedoes and all the missiles did not go off. Compartments 3, 4 and 5 were damaged but the reactors were safely shutdown and 23 of the crew moved back to the #9 compartment. Above compartment #2 was the sail which housed the escape pod, big enough for all 118 crew, but it was damaged severely. The crew that was left checked escape gear only to find all the copper and brass fittings missing, as if their rescue sub had not been checked and was not working when they went to sea.

The Admirals on *Peter the Great* knew a lot more than they revealed, but failed to act on anything which was more of a tragedy than anything else. It could have been far worse, the reactors, missiles, and other torpedoes could have gone off and thousands could have died.

This story is based on my interpretation of the books and internet research.

Jack Munro



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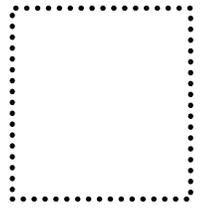
**2014-2015 Winter Hours:**  
**Tue-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-3**

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



- Dec 4: Photo Contest Voting
- Dec 11: Presentation
- Dec 11: Officer Elections
- Jan 1: New Year's Day Dive
- Jan 1: New Year's Party



### Sunday Dives:

**Winter Hours: Check with the website or with Jim Barbara for times,  
Meet at Undersea Divers, or Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly.**

### The **North Shore Frogmen's Club**

(Beginning February, 2013) has business meetings and presentations on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30PM.

Check website for updates and specifics!!!!

#### at **Palmer's Cove Yacht Club**

74 Leavitt Street  
Salem, MA 01970

Social meetings are on the alternate weeks at 7PM