
Air Bubbles

The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 41, Issue 3

March, 1999

President's Message

Since it is March 17th, I would like to say, as they do over there....."top of the morning to ya" and also a happy St. Patrick's Day to all the Irish Froggies, and those of us who want to be. Speaking of St. Patrick's Day, my wife and I had a wonderful time Saturday night. We were honored to host the party of the green and thank everyone for coming. It was the first time my wife ever got to know any of the members first hand. She now knows why I enjoy the company of all the club members.

I would like to thank Maria Maggio for running the first annual "Gear Swap." I know this will be an annual event and will give all the club members a chance to exchange and replace their well-used equipment. Along with running the club swap, Maria is our March "Member of the Month." She has contributed many hours of her time and is an example of a dedicated club member.

Two weekends ago we had the opportunity to have a booth at the 45th annual Sea Rovers exhibition. This past club meeting I reported that I gave out 35 Membership Applications. I expect to hear from some of the people in short order. Everyone I met was impressed with the club's agenda and past activities. Talking to the other club representatives, I am convinced that we have the most active dive club anywhere.

While we are on the subject of the Sea Rovers, I want to thank Ros Smith and Linda Marshall for all the time they spent at the booth. I think both of these members are deserving of the Diver of the Month. Candi Sousa, Mike Turner, Mary Howard and Mark Miller also unselfishly donated much of their time to make the booth successful. I thank all, in the name of the club, for a job well done.

On March 25, Blake Gilmore of the Massachusetts State Police will be at the club meeting as our guest speaker. Blake is the Senior Underwater Training Officer for the Department of Public Safety and a very interesting speaker. All members and their guest are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Just a reminder, get out your U/W cameras and start taking those pictures! Before you know it, the photo contest will be upon us. Better still, join me in Bonaire for some great U/W shot opportunities. The trip is planned for October 20 to the 27th.

Dave Metrano

No Club Meeting On April 1st

The Knights of Columbus has a conflict on Thursday, April 1st. **Therefore, we will be unable to host our club meeting.**

We are planning a bowling evening instead. Plan to meet at the Wakefield Bowladrome on Water

Street in Wakefield at 8 PM. Contact Dave Metrano for further information.

Membership Dues Are Due!!!

Annual membership dues are now due! Please get your check to Mary Howard as soon as possible. Dues are \$36.00 per person, or \$48.00 for a married couple.

If you have not paid your annual dues by the next Air Bubbles mailing, this will be the last copy you will receive until they are paid. Please pay your dues and remain a member of the club.

Checks can be brought to a meeting or mailed to:

North Shore Frogman's Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01961

Club Trip to Bonaire

Join us for our 2nd trip to the beautiful island of Bonaire.

We will leave on October 20th and return on the 27th. The package includes: 7 nights at the Flamingo Beach Resort, breakfast buffet daily, casino coupon, \$50.00 food/beverage credit, tax and service charge, 6 days of 1 tank boat diving and unlimited shore diving.

We will be using the Peter Hughes diving center right at the resort. There will be a limit of 16 spots available for this trip. The price is \$1,115.00 per person double divers. For non divers, subtract \$198.00. I will need a deposit of \$200.00 per person. This should be paid as soon as possible to reserve our spots. I have requested upgrades to timeshare units and it looks good, but, no guarantees at this time. Brochures are on their way and I will give them out when I get them.

Anybody who is interested in going or wants more information, see me.

Dave Metrano

CONGRATULATIONS!

**ROS SMITH &
LINDA MARSHALL**

**DIVERS OF THE
MONTH**

MARCH, 1999!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

MARIA MAGGIO

**MEMBER OF THE
MONTH**

MARCH, 1999!!

Recipe Corner Shrimp Destin

1/4 cup chopped scallions or green onion
 2 tsp minced garlic
 1 cup butter or margarine
 2 lbs large shrimp, peeled and de-veined
 1 tsp lemon juice
 1 tbs white wine
 1/2 tsp salt
 Coarsely ground black pepper
 1 tsp dried whole dill weed
 1 tsp chopped fresh parsley
 3 long French rolls, split lengthwise and toasted

Saute scallions and garlic in butter until scallions are tender. Add shrimp, lemon juice, white wine, salt, and pepper; cook over medium heat about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in dill weed and parsley.

Spoon shrimp mixture over the toasted rolls and serve immediately. Serves 6.

Space Available on Sea of Cortez Trip

There are still (7) seven spaces available for the 8 day (Aug 20 -27th) liveaboard "Solmar V" in the Sea of Cortez leaving from Cabo San Luis on the southern most tip of the Baja (California) Peninsula.

The Cost is \$1600.00 plus 10% Federal Tax (Mexican). Airfare is separate and should be about \$600.00 round-trip.

Daryl Findlay, Bill Werner and myself from the Club are currently joining 5 others from MWDC on the trip.

Dale Findlay

Deadline for April Air Bubbles

The deadline for submissions to next month's Air Bubbles is April 15th. Get those articles, recipes, and other items in early!

E-mail to meg.doyon@fmc-na.com preferably in Microsoft Word or simple text format. For those folks not on-line, please submit any handwritten material at one of the weekly meetings.

Meg Doyon

Gear Bag

Dacor Extreme BCD Men's ML
 Barely used, asking \$175

Call Diane
 978-927-7385

Who says Frogs aren't Patriotic?



Here's a well-known Froggie being very patriotic in honor of Patriot's Day.

Volunteers needed for Marine Biology Research Project.

As was announced at our last meeting, I am working on a research project that is being sponsored by Salem State College to study the symbiotic relationship between a fish called the red hake, and sea scallops.

The hake spends most of the first year of life taking shelter in the mantle cavity of the sea scallop, where it hides to avoid predators. In an effort to better understand this behavior and the consequences of scallop harvest on the hake population over time, we are going out on scallop dives once per month for the next year.

We have reserved the boat "Extremis" out of Beverly for the third or fourth Sundays of every month until next January, and will have 4 open seats on most dive days.

The volunteers will need to pay for their own charters (\$50.00), but will keep all the scallops they take. We will need to measure the scallop shells and keep all the little fish that are found inside, but since the scallop must be opened to extract the fish, the meat can be retained.

Photographers are in special demand, so if you want to get the old camera out and rinse off the dust, give us a call.

In addition, I am working on developing a training program (hopefully for no cost to the participants) that will enable divers to participate in the study independent of our scheduled dives and enable us to expand our database over a larger area.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, call me at (978) 741-7106 or email me at GravRbr@aol.com. If you can't catch me at home or email, drop by Northeast Scuba's North

Reading store on Saturdays. The number there is (978) 276-0535.

So far we have done several days of diving and except for one day of rotten weather, we have all had loads of fun. We often average 100 scallops per diver per dive, and this really makes the trip worth while given the price of scallops at the local market!

Mark Miller

Wrecks '99

April 10th is the date for the "Wrecks 99" event. Last year close to two hundred divers (including about 10 froggies) attended.

It will be held at the O'Keefe Technical School in Framingham and the price will be about \$15.00 per/person.

For more information, contact me. I am the coordinator for the event with the Froggies.

Dale Findlay

www.northshorefrogmen.com

Our dive club has been brought into the 20th Century! Thanks to Rob Falk and Dale Findlay for creating such a fantastic and useful website. We are sure to get a lot of traffic and maybe some new members.

Thanks again, Rob and Dale. You guys did a **great** job!!

Meg Doyon

Program Committee Report

The 1999 NSF Program Committee met on Thursday, March 11, 1999. Nine members were present. We've got some exciting stuff coming up, so get ready to have some FUN!

There will be no meeting on April 1, as the K of C has a conflict that evening. It was decided that the club would hold a **bowling night** at the **Wakefield Bowladrome** on Water Street. The time will be 8:30 PM, the usual meeting time.

From now on, the meeting spot for the **night dives** will be **Burger King**. This will be the meeting spot indefinitely or until further notice.

Do you own a drysuit or would you like to? If you answered yes, then don't miss the club meeting on **April 15th** when Jeannie Rahilly will host a discussion on **dry suit care and feeding!** Jeannie will offer some important tips on caring for and maintaining drysuits. This is a very important topic for drysuit owners and wannabes.

We were able to get a **great price** on Jeff Hanigan's boat, **Extremis**, for a one-shot deal. On **Sunday, May 2nd**. The NSF price for a two-tank boat dive will be \$45, for a savings of \$5 per diver. Sign up soon because there are only 6 spots available.

Mary Howard is organizing an evening out to the **Omni Theater**. The date will be **Saturday, May 1st**. More information will be forthcoming on this as soon as it's available. Let Mary know if you're interested in attending this event.

Also, on **Saturday, May 1st**, **Sunday River** is offering a "**Ski for Free Day**". This is a great way to get one more day on those slopes before you trade in your skis for your fins.

Ric Stamegna is organizing a **canoe trip** out of Ipswich, MA. The date for this fun event will be **June 5th**. More information will be available in the next Air Bubbles. Stay tuned!

Each year, the Town of Wakefield holds a fantastic **4th of July Parade**. Committee members thought it would be a great idea if we found a way to participate in this event. Don't worry - we promise you don't have to march in your drysuit and fins (well, you can if you want to...). Contact Dale Findlay if you'd like to be involved in planning our share of this event.

Keep you calendar clear for **Labor Day Weekend**. Dawn Denneler is organizing another **camping/diving weekend** at Beach Acres in Wells, ME. This plans to be a great weekend. Contact Dawn for more information.

Ric Stamegna is heading up the **annual picnic committee**. It will be held at **Stage Fort Park** on **Sunday, September 19th**. If you'd like to join Ric in organizing this event, please let him know.

If you've never been diving in tropical waters, Rhode Island is a great place to spot some **tropical fish** and the **end of summer** is the time of year to spot them. Jeannie Rahilly is organizing a dive weekend to visit for this, so let her know if you're interested in going.

Dave Metrano has been drafted, uh..., I mean volunteered to organize a **white water rafting weekend**. No specific dates yet, but he's looking at **late summer/early fall** time frame.

That's going to be a busy time for Dave, as he is also planning a second annual **Bonaire trip**. The dates are **October 20th – October 27th**. There will be a **16 person maximum** for this trip, so contact Dave ASAP if you are interested. The folks who went on this trip last year had a great time, so don't miss out! Boanire offers great shore diving and fantastic photo opportunities.

The next meeting of the 1999 NSF Program Committee will be held on Thursday, April 8th at 7:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus. Please join us if you're able.

Meg Doyon

Shark (tooth) Diving in the Cooper River?!

One of the advantages of my job as a field service rep for DUI is that I get to visit many different parts of the country and try new dive sites. Though they rarely approach our own local beauty and diversity, they are definitely “different”. From cave diving to Great Lakes shipwrecks to Dutch Springs, I have now tried river diving.

On a recent trip to Charleston, South Carolina, I decided to try their version of local diving- the Cooper River. This dive site is a very popular one especially in the winter when the offshore waters are too rough to dive the shipwrecks. The 50 degree water temperature and 5’ visibility reminded me of home, but the object of the dive was new to me- shark teeth. Yes, shark teeth in a river. One of the local dealers enticed me with a 5 gallon pail full of teeth collected from the river near their store as well as assorted fossilized bones. No one seemed to know why they were so plentiful except that the water was much higher millions of years ago and the area might have been a breeding ground. They offered me as many as I wanted but I had to get my own and see this for myself.

Since I was short on time, I suited up and jumped in at their boat dock. They had warned me of the water conditions, but being a New England diver, I assured them I could handle it. I was surprised at the strength of the current as I swam towards the middle of the river, but it wasn’t too bad as I could use the bottom to pull myself along. After going about 20 yards, I stopped and began digging. Almost immediately, I found a large tooth almost 2” long. After about 10 minutes and 6 teeth later, I

decided I had enough goodies and it was time to get in and get to my next appointment.

I was very excited, as I had not really believed it would be that easy. I would have liked to spend more time and maybe find some bones as well, but maybe the next time. The locals thought it was great that I was willing to do a dive in an unfamiliar area by myself... especially with the alligators in the river. I responded by saying that no one had mentioned anything about alligators. They said not to worry as they never attack people, and anyway, they are very rare especially in the winter.

Well, I will still go back but maybe with a buddy next time so we can watch each others back.

Faith Ortins

Seal Dive

When: April or May, 1999

Where: Boone Is., Isle of Shoals

Leave from: Newburyport (I will get the name of the marina later)

Boat: Salvage 1. Slow boat but large and stable with lots of deck space. Limit of six passengers. Large, heated cabin and hot shower. **Lunch** is provided.

Cost: \$50

Time: Boat leaves the dock at 7:30 AM and arrives back at 6 PM or later.

The water will be cold and sitting still to attract the seals can be a chilling experience. A dryuit is recommended.

The diving is shallow and advanced certification is not necessary. Patience is.

Contact Bill Werner at bwerner@erols.com or 781-245-2692 if interested.

Tentative Schedule of Events for 1999-North Shore Frogmen

Things to put on your calendar

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	TIME	Additional Info
Thursday, April 8	Program Committee Meeting	K of C, Wakefield	7:30 pm	Meg Doyon
Saturday, April 10	Wrecks '99			Dale Findlay
Thursday, April 15	Club Speaker – Dry Suit care and Feeding	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	Jeannie Rahilly
Friday, April 16	New Moon Night Dive	Burger King	7:00 pm	
Friday, April 30	Full Moon Night Dive	Burger King	7:00 pm	
April/May	Seal Dive	Maine		Bill Werner
Saturday, May 1	Saturday Evening Event	OMNI Theater	TBD	Mary Howard
Thursday, May 13	Program Committee Meeting	K of C, Wakefield	7:30 pm	Meg Doyon
Saturday, May 15	New Moon Night Dive	Burger King	7:00 pm	
Sunday, May 2	NSF Boat Dive – Extremis	Port Marine, Beverly	TBD	Meg Doyon
Thursday, May 20	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Sunday, May 30	Full Moon Night Dive	Burger King	7:00 pm	
Saturday, June 5	Canoe Trip	Ipswich	8:30 am	Ric Stamegna
Sunday, June 13	New Moon Night Dive	Burger King	7:00 pm	
Thursday, June 17	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Sunday, July 4	4 th of July Parade	Wakefield	TBD	Dale Findlay
Thursday, July 15 th	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Thursday, August 19 th	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Aug 20 -27 th	Sea of Cortez			Dale Findlay
Fri-Sun. Sept. 4,5&6	Camping/Diving weekend	Wells Beach, ME		Dawn Denneker
Thurs, September 16 th	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Sunday, September 19	Annual Picnic	Stage Fort Park, Gloucester	12 Noon	Ric Stamegna
End of Summer	Trip to see Tropical Fish	Rhode Island		Jeannie Rahilly
Late Summer/Early Fall	White Water Rafting Trip	Maine		Dave Metrano
Thursday, October 21 st	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
October 20 th -27 th	Bonaire Trip	Bonaire		Dave Metrano
Thurs, November 4 th	Photo Contest Viewing	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Thurs, November 11 th	Photo Contest Viewing & Voting	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Thurs, November 18 th	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD
Sat., December 11 th	Annual Club Banquet	K of C, Wakefield	TBD	TBD
Thurs, December 16 th	Speaker night – TBD	K of C, Wakefield	9:30 pm	TBD

Club dives are held every Sunday morning at 9:30 AM – meet at the Burger King on Rt. 128.

Club meetings are held every Thursday evening at 8:30 PM at the Knights of Columbus in Wakefield. Guests are invited to attend the meetings!