
Air Bubbles

The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 43, Issue 1

January, 2001

Message from the Editor

Well, this is where the message from the President *would be* if he wasn't basking in the rays of the Caribbean right now. Hmm... I didn't get an invitation to join him – I don't know about you! Perhaps we should have a word with him when he returns. :-)

Thank you to everyone who submitted material for this month's issue. I had so many articles it was a challenge to fit it all in. I would love to face that challenge every month!

Thanks also to everyone who signed up for **Air Bubbles Online**. Each issue of Air Bubbles costs as much as 66 cents to print and mail out. So far, 20 people have signed up, saving the club \$13.20 month/\$158.40 annually!! The more people who sign up, the more money we will have to put toward fun activities!!

Meg Doyon

Secretary's Report

Date & Times: Day: Thursday, 21-Dec-00
Meeting called to order: 8:25 PM **Attendance:**
Officers: 4 Members: 18 Guests/Visitors:0 Total: 22
Committees: Membership: New divers applying: None **Finance:** None **Program:** January 4th- British Columbia Slide/Video Show after regular meeting. **Other:** None **Old Business:** None **New Business:** Dale Findlay~ NE Aquarium Jan 3rd, San Diego Oceans. Forum to bring knowledge of the oceans to the general public. Joe Donovan~ Skin Diver Magazine Special Issue lists dive clubs. Pete Cassidy~

Promote a presentation night for every month. Next meeting (1/4) will be abbreviated due to slide/video show. Proposed that diver of the month be eliminated; Member of the month to encompass all. Must make a contribution to the club. Proposed increasing club dues to \$42/yr (50 cents/month). Since it was determined this would need approval by the board of directors under Article 9 #1 of the bylaws, it was suggested a committee be formed to study this further. In order to keep issues discussed at meetings on track, it was announced that this year, discussions at meetings will be restricted in length. Longer discussions will be referred to committee. Peter Chapman was selected Sergeant at Arms, responsible for pulling the door pin at 8:25PM. Bill Gannet~ Proposed selling items donated from dive shops to the "Bug Bag Raffle" at Retail for increased club income. **Dive Talk:** Daryl Findlay~ 12/16 dive @ Winter Island. 0 Vis; found bullets & 2 bottles; saw Jumper cable and a burnt old power outlet @ "the mill". New Year's Dive~ January 1st. Meet w/Rob Falk 11AM @ Back Beach. **General Discussion:** How to increase club membership: Al Morris~ Proposed "guest" evening where every member either brings a guest to the meeting or pays \$10. Mike Donovan~ Proposed nametags for guest evening. John ?~ Have a key speaker during new member night. Rob Falk~ Promoting speakers; Send a press release to the local paper; copy on website. All members were encouraged to push speaker night when they are announced. Daryl Findlay~ Discussion of club business turns off people to joining the club. Mary Howard, Candi Souza, Diane Anthony will assist the membership committee (John F.). It was proposed to announce committees & chair-people during guest night so

people will know whom to contact if they want to join. Notes for next meeting: None **Adjourn:** 9:20 PM

Date & Times: Thursday, 11-Jan-01 - **Location:** Franco Club, Meeting called to order: 8:13 PM

Attendance: Officers:4 Members: 18

Guests/Visitors: 0 Names: Total: 22

Announcements Peter Cassidy: All members are encouraged to join our host, the Franco American Club. Dawn Denneler: Comedy night Feb. 10 @ Franco's. Joey & Marie's Wedding; hot & cold appetizers before the show. Italian dinner. Candi Souza: Skating night at the old MDC rink by Breakheart Reservation on Feb. 18 from 1:50 to 3:30 PM. Cost is \$2pp; \$4 skate rental (if needed). **Correspondence:** John Sears: Year 2000 fishing and lobster permits have been extended until Feb. 28 due to computer problems at the Mass Fisheries Dept. **Committees:**

Membership: No report. **Finance:** Rich Kinkade read the report and it was accepted.

Program: Amy Maurer announced that there would be a program committee meeting before next week's club meeting at 6:30PM. If anyone wants to plan an event, please let Amy know..

Calendar: No report. **Air Bubbles:** Rob Falk says Meg Doyon is handling the newsletter fine. He will send out a "subscription" email to all members who have email and encourage them to download the newsletter from the website. Then that member will be taken off the mailing list for that issue.. Deadline for next Air Bubbles is Feb. 18. Next issue needs articles! **Old Business:** Bill Gannet: Thanks for all the bug bag raffle suggestions. Working on an awesome save-a-dive kit. **New Business** Dave Metrano: A motion to vote the article passed by the board of directors 1/8/01 by unanimous vote: dues for 2001 and thereafter until changed be \$42 for regular members, \$21 for associate members, and \$63 for couples. Motion debated for 30 minutes before voting. Motion passes on voice vote: 16 Yes ~ 6 No. **Dive Talk:** Graham Smith: 24 dives in Egypt. Water temp 81F. Vis 100ft. Saw turtles, sharks and the Thistledore, which has trucks and motorcycles inside. Roz Smith, Amy Maurer, and Mary Howard attempted to do Old Garden Beach

and Back Beach but conditions were not acceptable, very heavy surf, opted for shopping. **General Discussion:** Mary Howard: The South Shore Neptunes have invited the Froggies to their banquet on Feb. 3rd. Cost is \$30pp. See Mary for more information. Bill Gannett: Need a better selection of raffle prizes. More prizes means more variety. Members need to support the raffle prizes. Rob Falk: Has the library list and will give it to Dave Smith. **Raffles:** Mike Denmler, Dollars Box Mike Denmler, Small raffle prize (Shipwreck Book) Nancy Gannett, Mystery Prize (Canvas Bag w/scratch tickets) Notes for next meeting: None **Adjourn:** 9:13 PM

New Dive Times Effective January, 2001

Meeting times for both Sunday Mornings and Wednesday night dives have been changed.

Sunday dives are now meeting at 9:30 and departing at 10:00 AM. This will be the schedule until April.

Night dives are now meeting at 6:30 PM - still at Back Beach, except only **on Full Moon Nights.**

Deadline for Next Month's Air Bubbles

The deadline for submissions to next month's Air Bubbles is February 18th

Going forward, the deadline will be on the 18th of each month. This will make it easier to remember. E-mail articles to me at megdoyon@cs.com.

Meg Doyon

Skiing Discounts Available

Free corporate ski discount cards---good at Sunday River, Sugarloaf, Attitash. Contact Linda Piehl 978-462-0460.

Air Bubbles Electronic Get it Online!

Air Bubbles Electronic Edition will make its debut in January 2001. When you sign up for ABE not only will you be among the first people on the planet to receive your copy of the club newsletter, but you will also be saving the club and the earth some valuable resources!

When you sign up for ABE, we will stop printing your paper copy and stop mailing your copy, helping to keep both the planet and the club budget in the green! To sign up, just send email to:

airbubbles-subscribe@topica.com from the email account you want the subscription to go to. Its as simple as that! By the way, ABE is in living color!

For Sale

DUI Dry Suit. Ideal for 5'4", no more than 125 lbs. New zipper. Less than 20 dives. Very good condition. \$500. Call Patty at (978) 373-9381.

Two XL Akona Back Pack bags in new condition, never used to haul dive gear to dive sites. These were bags I used to carry samples. \$60 each or best offer. Contact Al Morris at Mycaal@aol.com

CF 200 Men's XLshort in great condition front entry color Red and Black (no rock boots) asking \$1000 or best offer.

Women's CF200 rear entry medium (about a women's size 8), black (no rock boots) asking \$1000 or best offer.

A pair of Genesis double100's oxygen clean need VIP used four times. Asking \$800 or best offer.
Miscellaneous Regulators
Contact Rodney @ Rokfish2@aol.com

Banquet report

Held in the large hall at the French Club Jimmy "C" was the DJ, and a wonderful job he did!! Dancing was in full form ALL night!! Caterer was James Perakis, same as past several years. Menu included: Caesar salad, Beef Bourguignon, Chicken Demitri (Red sweet peppers and mushrooms topped with melted mozzarella cheese!!) rice pilaf, baby carrots and pea pods with ginger terayaki sauce, and assorted mini Italian pastries for dessert!!
SEE WHAT YOU MISSED BY NOT GOING!!!

Awards that evening were the member of the year 2000- Mary Howard and the diver of the year 2000- Mike Denneler.

Receiving lifetime membership awards were: Paul Sauvageau (a year overdue), Virginia Cookson and Tom Murphy (not present)

Increased Dues!

The club passed a motion to increase the dues. This motion followed the results of the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Directors that met prior to the meeting and presented the motion. The overall process was in full compliance of the procedure set forth in the bylaws. The dues for the year 2001 are \$42 for members, \$21 for associate members and \$63 for couples.

Email Address Information

Attention Members: Does the club have your email address? Is it correct? Please visit the website and check to see that we have your current email address. Last minute announcements are sometimes made by email. Your email address is password protected and only available to NSF members. If your address is not listed, or is incorrect, please send email to webmaster@northshorefrogmen.com with the information. Thank you.

Angelo Correnti Presentation

Angelo Correnti will be speaking to the club on February 22nd. He will probably speak about a variety of subjects based out of the Bay State Council of Divers, from the artificial reef project to the 'Catch the Wave' party. Catch the Wave is scheduled for some time in April - I should have the date by meeting time next week.

Wear Freddie the Frog with pride!

Patches (3/\$10), Baseball Caps (\$10), Polo Shirts (\$10), and Enamel Pins (\$10) are for sale at the FIRST meeting of each month. See Mike Denneler to purchase these goodies!

Comedy Dinner Show

Comedy dinner show at the French Club
 Date :February 10th, Saturday
 Cost: \$15.00 per person
 Time: 6pm hot/cold appetizers
 7pm Italian buffet dinner
 8pm show-Joey and Maria's Comedy
 Wedding
 Get your tickets at the bar, or call (or e-mail)
 Dawn Denneler 978-777-2087 or
 DoubleDMD@aol.com

Ski House for Rent

Sunday River ski house for rent February vacation, various weekends, and weekdays. Two miles to the mt.;.5 mile to the Brew Pub. On the access road. For more info call Linda Piehl at 978-462-0460

Sea Rovers Presentation

David W. Morton, President of the Boston Sea Rovers will make a presentation to the club on February 1st. He says

"I would be happy to make a presentation to your club on Feb. 1.

This 25-30 minute slide show would encompass some of the history of our club, and diving in general, and also include current information regarding our 47th annual clinic, coming up March 2-4, 2001.

Your group has always been well-represented at our Clinics, and this could help your team get psyched for your booth display, as well as finding out what else will be going on.

I look forward to hearing back from you, until then, safe diving,"

David W. Morton
 President, Boston Sea Rovers

Program Committee Report

Maria Maggio will organize a gear swap if there is enough interest. The date will be March 15 at 6:00. Please notify Maria Maggio if you have stuff to sell.

We are looking for ideas of a theme for club night in (ex. Bahamas night, pajama party, etc.) Please let Amy Maurer know.

Anyone who knows the location of the club photo albums, please contact Peter Cassidy. We would like to display them and any other artifacts, etc. at Sea Rovers.

Anyone who has past or present photos of club events, please send them to Jules Pinheiro. He will scan them and save them on disk. These can be shown on a laptop at Sea Rovers, etc.

Anyone having suggestions or who would like to organize an event, please contact a member of the Program Committee. The committee is: Paul Blanchette, Peter Cassidy, Mary Howard, Linda Marshall, Amy Maurer, John McColley, Faith Ortins, Jeannie Rahilly, and Roz Smith

The Last Dive Review by Rob Falk

The Last Dive
By Bernie Chowdhury
© 2000, HarperCollins Publishers

Review by Rob Falk

It has been said that there are old divers and bold divers, but no old, bold divers. The Last Dive by Bernie Chowdhury is the story of two bold divers. Even if you have never been deeper than 60 feet, you may want to pick up a copy. Even if you haven't tried Nitrox, or trimix... Even if you have no interest in penetrating the wreck of the *New Hampshire*, let alone the *Andrea Doria*. Even if you think cavers are insane. Heck, even if you don't dive at all! Or think that all divers are insane...

A few times over the past month I have found myself in the company of non-divers who have already read this book. Some are likening it to *The Perfect Storm*, in that it makes a good read for the general public, regardless of their previous interest or experience in the topic. It leaves them filled with questions about SCUBA, and gives you a new way to talk about diving with your friends who have already heard "more than enough" about your "habit."

Nova, the PBS television series, recently ran a two-hour feature called Hitler's Lost Sub. It is the fascinating story of the 1992 discovery of an unidentified World War II U-Boat off the coast of New Jersey. John Chatterton repeatedly lead expeditions to the site, penetrating it progressively and searching for identifying material over a series of summers. He eventually came to identify the wreck known for several years as the "*U-Who*." In the course of those expeditions, three divers lost their lives on the wreck. *The Last Dive* is the story of two of those men, a father and son team, Chris and Chrissy Rouse. The author, Bernie Chowdhury, was their friend, a member of several *Andrea Doria* expeditions, and is a noted extreme diver.

Fascinating in its detail of not only the diving that these guys did, but also in the complex dynamic between a father who was only seventeen years older than his son and buddy, this book is a genuine page turner. Starting with their open water training, we follow as the Rouses get caught up first in cavern and cave exploration, then become fascinated with the excitement of even deeper and more dangerous dives. The obsession grows as they discover wreck diving and vie not just with others, but also with each other, as they take greater and greater risk in search of artifacts, recognition, and fame.

I picked up my copy of *The Last Dive* on December 22, and did not put it down again, except to eat or sleep. Although I'm not sure I would have liked to be on a boat with these guys, known to their friends as "*The Bicker Brothers*," there is no debate but that they were dedicated and capable divers. Of course, this was not enough to prevent their deaths.

Chowdhury himself almost died from a case of the bends – one, which left him hospitalized for months and required physical therapy to enable him to walk again. He offers an extremely simple reason for the severe injuries he incurred, and for the diving deaths of others. The reason for his own mishap, in his own words: "*I f*cked up*."

The book takes its time in exploring the psychology of divers and of risk-taking behavior. Nonetheless, it is also loaded with stunning descriptions of cave and wreck penetration, and, in *The Perfect Storm* fashion, speculates about the moment-to-moment activities of the Rouses during their last dive. Sometimes, in nightmarish detail: in one gripping passage, the author describes Chrissy's lingering death by severe decompression illness:

"The team needed to know the condition of Chrissy's blood and had a sample taken. The results were not good. Instead of normal blood, the syringe contained foam... While he was being slowly killed by his deep dive, the depth of that

dive was also the only thing that was keeping Chrissy alive: Because he had been under increased pressure, the oxygen ...he had breathed underwater [was still in his brain, hours later].”

The lessons learned in *The Last Dive* are not about SCUBA diving. They have more to do the dangers of over-confidence and hubris, the fickleness of fate, and the reminder that life doesn't happen as planned, regardless of how simple or well thought out those plans may be. Better to learn that lesson over the winter, curled up with a book by a fireplace in the den, than at 235 feet, with no buddy, no back gas, and no stage bottle.

New England Artificial Reef Society

The New England Artificial Reef Society (NEARS) is a newly established group with the following mission:

“Create Artificial Reefs and provide Education about these Reefs in an effort to improve Marine Habitat in coastal waters of New England and ensure the continuance of a healthy and abundant Ocean for present and future generations.”

So what does this have to do with our North Shore Frogmen's Diving Club you might be asking? Well, the answer is two-fold. First, there is little doubt in most divers minds that the waters of New England are less populated with marine life now than at any time in recorded history and the trend is fast going in the wrong direction. Second, we as divers can make a difference and by providing our Club's support to NEARS is a way to do this. Not only will members have a sense they are helping make their world a better place they can have great fun and become better divers while doing it.

I was asked by one of our more prominent members “Isn't this going to be just a drop in the bucket compared to the overall problem” My answer to this is “Maybe.” Are our direct actions of creating artificial reefs going to expand the overall fish population and return the entire benthos ecosystems to a healthy environment?

Probably not, but our actions in creating reefs in coastal waters using a variety of materials from cobblestones to derelict old warships will provide much needed knowledge of the affects; both short and long term benefits. It cannot be overstated how important this effort is. It's sort of how one needs to eat an elephant: “One bite at a time”.

I call upon all of our members to help and support NEARS, for it will be working to make our play place a better thing. NEARS will be needing divers willing to dedicate time to be trained in safety and research methods to help gather accurate data on reef sites before, during and after deployment of the reef. NEARS, a non-profit 501(c3) will be applying to other institutions for large grants of money (many hundred of thousands of dollars) needed to tow a vessel, provide a pier for working on the vessel to clean it, and pay for some professional cleaning methods needed to ensure the vessel's subsystems don't damage the environment. NEARS will need some seed moneys to become fully capable of making these large requests. Tax deductible donations from all individuals and Dive Club Organizations will be greatly appreciated.

Many divers come back from other dive places around the world relating to us about the great dive sites in those waters and all the wonders they've seen. There is no reason we can't help make New England's waters a place all divers want to come. There are few wrecks within the average diver's capability in the New England area. NEARS can help to change that if we all work together to support the Mission of NEARS.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions (E-mail: dfindlay@mediaone.net. Phone 781-246-1868).

Donations can be sent to:
 NEARS
 C/O B. Anthony Blanchette
 One Apple Hill
 P.O. Box 8180
 Natick, Ma. 01760

**Tentative Schedule for February, March and April 2001
North Shore Frogmen**

Date	Event	Place/Time
Thursday, January 25, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
January 28, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, February 01, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Thursday, February 01, 2001	Presentation: David Morton	Boston Sea Rovers
Saturday, February 03, 2001	South Shore Neptunes' banquet	Contact Mary Howard for info
Sunday, February 4, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, February 08, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Thursday, February 08, 2001	Full Moon Night Dive	Back Beach, 6:30 PM
Saturday, February 10, 2001	Comedy night	Contact Dawn Denneler for info
Sunday, February 11, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, February 15, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Saturday, February 17, 2001	Boston Scuba Show	Marlboro, 10am - 4pm
Sunday, February 18, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Sunday, February 18, 2001	Ice skating	Contact Candi Souza for info
Thursday, February 22, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Thursday, February 22, 2001	Presentation: Angelo Correnti	Bay State Council/South Shore Neptunes'
Sunday, February 25, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Wed., February 28, 2001	Bay State Council meeting	Quincy
Thursday, March 01, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Sat. & Sun., March 3 & 4, 2001	Sea Rovers	Boston
Sunday, March 04, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, March 08, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Friday, March 9, 2001	Full Moon Night Dive	Back Beach, 6:30 PM
Sunday, March 11, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Sunday, March 11, 2001	Omni Theater & Chinatown	Shackleton's Antarctica
Thursday, March 15, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Saturday, March 17, 2001	St. Patrick's Day party	6:00 at Mary's house
Sunday, March 18, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, March 22, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Sunday, March 25, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Thursday, March 29, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Thursday, March 29, 2001	Presentation: TBD	
Sunday, April 01, 2001	Sunday Dive	Burger King, 128 in Beverly meet at 9:30, depart at 10AM
Sunday, April 01, 2001	Easter egg dive & party	Raindate: April 8 – Contact Meg Doyon
Thursday, April 05, 2001	Regular Meeting	Franco American Club, Beverly, MA 8PM
Saturday, April 07, 2001	Full Moon Night Dive	Back Beach, 6:30 PM

SEWING BY JEANNIE

Drysuits, wetsuits, Jeannie Boots/Undergarments,
Seals, Zippers, etc.
Sewing and alterations of **all types** - dive related and
non-dive related.

Contact Jeannie Rahilly at
978-664-6225 or jrjmdiver@aol.com
Private or group sewing lessons available

UNDERSEA DIVERS

**15% off regulator Service for Froggie Members for
the month of February.**

BOB BOYLE
42 WATER STREET
BEVERLY, MA 01915
978-927-9551

North Shore Frogmen's Club
P.O. Box 3604
Peabody, MA 01960

Club dives are held every Sunday morning– meet at the Burger King on Rt. 128 starting at 9:30. Depart at 10 AM.

Night dives are held on the Full Moon of each month. Meet at Back Beach at 6:30 PM.

Club meetings are held every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM at the Franco American Club in Beverly. Guests are invited to attend the meetings! Directions: 128 North to Exit 20B – take 1A into Beverly, 1A becomes Rantoul Street. Take a right at the Post Office and a Right at the Depot. F.A.C. is on the left at 44 Park Street.

