



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 45, Number 1

January / February 2003

President's Message, January/February

As your newly elected club president, I want to thank the membership for the faith and confidence you have entrusted in me for moving the club forward with an ambitious agenda in the upcoming dive season. I look forward to working with Vice President Michael Donovan and Treasurer Rich Kinkade who have generously volunteered to remain in their respective positions, as well as with Ray Porter our newly elected club Secretary.

With the transition to Mary Howard as our new club newsletter editor, this message includes information since the beginning of the year. Many club members participated in the first scheduled activity of this year at the beginning of January. Of course I am speaking of the New Year's Day Party held at the home of Peter and Holly Cassidy in Georgetown. They have hosted this event for the third year running and I want to thank them for their hospitality. Their contribution was all the more noteworthy given the recent addition of a new family member to the Cassidy clan. As in years past, it was a great success made even more so by the many members and their families who participated. Thanks to all of you!

With the club's difficulties of the past couple of years coming to a satisfactory resolution, it is time to plan activities unfettered by these considerations. Concerned members are formulating fund raising ideas and strategies. These include redoubling our efforts to increase membership, intensifying approaches to advertise the club as well as other initiatives still in the offing. Ideas floated include private auctions, yard

sales and expanding raffle prize offerings. Stay tuned. Suggestions? Please contribute any ideas of your own.

Current and last year's officers, committee chairs and members convened for a planning meeting on January 12 at my place to discuss and then organize all the committees, set goals and agendas as well as strategize new ideas for the coming dive season. One of the more challenging committees to organize was the Activities Committee owing to the scope of its responsibilities and role as an umbrella for other events and club dealings.

Prior to the regular club meeting on Thursday, January 16, members convened an Activities Committee meeting on at the Franco American Club. Many details were discussed which can be read in the minutes. I thank Ray Porter for taking meticulous notes. Highlights include former president Daryl Findlay and former secretary Dave Smith agreeing to co-chair the Activities Committee. See the club minutes of February 6 for details of a "bunker session" meeting that Dave hosted at his home on February 2 despite a snowstorm that day.

Ray Porter agreed to coordinate the club's participation to the Boston Sea Rovers clinic beginning March 8. Thereafter, Mary and Ray will host the annual St. Patti's Day Party the following weekend at Mary's home. While the weather may not have been conducive to winter diving, dive related programs continue apace. The Underwater Club of Boston sponsored the Boston Scuba Show at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro on February 15. See accompanying article.

We have many presentations to look forward to that include the North Carolina trip taken by several members, Bill Werner's Galapagos Islands adventure, and perhaps a lecture on tri-mix or NITROX by one of the club's most experienced wreck divers, Paul Blanchette. As in past years, plans are to have a monthly presentation night throughout the year on the last Thursday of each month. We will have abbreviated meetings on these nights. If you would like to make a dive related presentation or have any ideas for guests, contact our Activities Committee co-chairs Dave or Daryl.

(continued on page 2)

In This Issue

- Meeting Summaries — pgs. 2-4 and 7-8
- Activities Calendar — pg. 5-6
- President's Last Message — pg. 9
- Boston Scuba Show — pg. 10
- Division of Marine Fisheries Hearings — pg. 12
- Bay State Council Meeting — pg. 14
- Membership Renewal Form — pg. 15

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

John Ferrier has agreed to chair the crucial Membership Committee again. This year many of us have pledged our support to boost membership. Dave Smith is creating new pamphlets to leave at local dive shops and sporting goods stores, John Ferrier and Mary Howard will get out new courtesy cards and Peter Cassidy will be working with others to produce some high-impact posters also to display at dive shops. To coordinate these efforts, a Public Relations subcommittee is planned within the Membership Committee.

Within the Newsletter/Webpage Committee, Rob Falk has graciously volunteered his indispensable skills to continue as web master of the NSFC web site. Mary Howard will become the Air Bubbles editor tasked with getting the newsletter out on the monthly basis as specified by the club's bylaws.

With the holidays behind us, other committees will be meeting and planning. We want to push the idea of more boat dives. They have been rare since Faith Ortins and Jeff Hannigan took their boat Extremis and headed west. Suggestions for non-dive related activities range from IMAX viewings to bowling and horseback riding. Certain activities that were so successful in the past may become regular annual events. Look for another canoe trip in June and beach meetings at White Beach, Manchester in mid-summer.

It is my hope that active members such as Amy Maurer whose contributions last year were deservedly recognized with her being awarded "Member of the Year" will continue to give of her time and talent for locating guest speakers for presentations. It is my further hope that Roslyn Smith's new career will not make her as scarce as her previous schedule at Genuity.

Networking for contacts at the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries hearing in Gloucester and the Bay State Council of Divers in Quincy this February have landed us authoritative professionals willing to volunteer their expertise as future guest speakers. These include Lt. John Tulik of the Mass. Environmental Police and David W. Trudey, Mass. Deputy Director, Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources.

Finally, I would like to see more members donate their time and efforts on the various committees or in other ways. These could include some of the more narrowly focused committees such as the Picnic or Photo Contest Committees. With so many underwater

photographers in the club, the competition should be intense! You may wish to submit an article, photo or suggestion for the club newsletter or web page. Join us on the regularly scheduled Sunday morning club dives. Participate with your families in our non-dive events. Become active in dive-related political and environmental organizations that we affiliate with, such as The Bay State Council of Divers, The New England Artificial Reef Program, and the Coast Sweep Beach Clean-Up Program.

On behalf of your new executive board, I want to extend my heartfelt best wishes to all club members and their families for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2003. Dive smart and safely.

Regards,

Paul Sauvageau
President NSFC, 2003

Meeting Summaries

16-January-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:29 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 19 Total: 24

Guests: 1 – John Prevencchi

Announcements:

- Banquet – December 6th – Afternoon reserved until 5:00 PM. Possibilities are:
 - 1) Start later – 7:00 PM
 - 2) Move cocktail hour to smaller room
 - 3) Help clean-up
 - 4) Move to Dec. 13th.

Correspondence:

- E-Mail from Bob Michaelson – Reef survey results in Stellwagen Bank Invertebrates count to be added.
- Sea Rovers Promotional material arriving in all forms.
- Letter about hearing in Gloucester on limits on lobster/scallops taken by divers – First week in Feb. Once established, the Director of Marine Fisheries may change the limit at will (without public hearing)

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Check from Charlene Colella received. (continued on page 3)

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003



The North Shore Frogmen's Club
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Peabody, MA 01961

2003 OFFICERS

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Committee Chairs

Membership: John Ferrier
Tel: (781) 858-9182
Email: lobstalust@juno.com

Activities: Daryl Findlay
Dave Smith

Newsletter: Mary Howard
Tel: (781) 944-1292
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- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Air Bubbles Deadline Jan 18th. December / January issue due out soon.

Old Business:

- **2003 Banquet Room Reservation** - Partial conflict with Dec 6th date. Preference expressed for an arrangement that keeps Dec 6th as the Banquet Date. The time needed for a band to break down and a new bank to set up may be the limiting factor. Club election is Dec 4th. John Sears to speak with Sandy to reach some accommodation.
- **2003 Planning Session** - Summary of Planning Meeting held presented Jan 12th. Committee appointments and some subcommittee appointments have been made.
- Membership – John Ferrier
- Program - Daryl Findlay & Dave Smith
 - Subcommittees:
 - Presentations – Ray Porter
 - Club Picnic – Michael Donovan
 - Canoe Trip – Peter Cassidy & Bill Gannett
 - Photo Contest – Mary Howard
 - Banquet Coordinator – Paul Sauvageau (Interim)
 - Sea Rovers – Ray Porter
 - Dive Boat Coordinators: Dale Findlay, Paul Blanchette, John Ferrier
 - Shore Dive Coordinators – John Ferrier & Roslyn Smith
- Newsletter / Web page – Mary Howard & Rob Falk.

New Business: None

Dive Talk:

- Daryl Findlay dove Winter Island in Salem – found cell phone and coke bottle. Very silty.
- Damien Mangini has been diving in Salem Harbor – mainly to retrieve articles lost by Palmer's Cove Yacht Club members.

General Discussion:

- Diving Under the Antarctic – PBS-2 special- ¼ mile visibility.
- E-Bay - Bottle with message to be auctioned with a \$10K minimum. Bottle was found in the person's yard after a hurricane
- NG Pipeline to pass through Salem Harbor – Paul Blanchette to take pictures of construction
- NPR – National Marine Fisheries to hold changes to fish catches for 5 years to allow scientist to assess fish populations.

Member of the Month for January is Daryl Findlay

for leading the club as president in 2002 with such success. He is to be commended for his leadership in seeing the club through a difficult year. Daryl has volunteered to co-chair the Activities Committee with Dave Smith and the two of them have already co-sponsored a successful Movie Night with Sea Hunt videos.

Member of the Month for February is Dave Smith

for taking on the role of Activities Committee co-chair with Daryl, for his continuing contribution on a wide range of club activities from being last year's secretary, coordinator of Coastal Sweep, host of the Halloween party and hosting an Activities Committee meeting at his home this February.

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

- Oceanic Research Group – Presentation by Jonathan Bird was good. Candi won a silent auction, Daryl won force fins and Paul won a homemade apple pie. Candi to write an article for Air Bubbles.
- Skiing – Paul and John planning a tripe to Loon on Monday. The trip to Loon last Sunday was cold 24oF in Boston, 11oF with a 10 mph wind at the mountain.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Nancy Gannett
Bug Bag: Daryl Findlay – Dive Slate
Mystery Prize: Paul Sauvageau

23-January-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:20 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 15 Total: 19

Guests: 1 – Bob Sibel

Announcements:

- Banquet – Received room confirmation for 2003

Correspondence:

- E-Mail - Personal Water Craft launch procedure distributed.
- Bay State Council Postcard – Sent to divers to announce hearing on diver limits on lobsters and scallops. Feb 3rd Monday, 7 to 10 PM.
- North Reading Transcript – Article on Jonathon Bird's presentation for the benefit of Oceanic Research Group school film project.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read. Payments made: \$150 Banquet Room Res., \$85 Bug Bag Item, \$30 Mystery Prize Items
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Check from Carmen Henriques. Renewal form prepared and will be distributed to members. Buddy list to be updated. Poster completion targeted for Sea Rovers.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith - Sunday, Feb 2nd, planning meeting.
- Sea Hunt Presentation – Copyright infringement – fair use.
- No admission charge, no general broadcast to the public, announce only as “Movie Night”.
- Sea Rovers - Flyer to be prepared. Draft flyer on front table for review. Comments to Dave Smith.
- IMAX Theater – Museum of Science, preferred nights – mid-week (Tues / Weds?)

- Canoe Trip – Called Foote Brothers. Closed for the season. Will call again in March.
- Club Night In – May 18th last year. Need room reservation. Bartender came without prior agreement. Proposed for May 17th this year. Fee for event?

- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Dec/Jan issue due out soon.

Old Business:

- **2003 Banquet Room Reservation** - Contract for Dec 6th received for 70 people and bar. Times 7 to 11 PM. John Sears to check if a midnight deadline can be agreed to. Motion - Authorize Paul Sauvageau to hire Band for up to \$1200 with for Dec 6th 2003 Banquet. Motion seconded and passed.

New Business:

- **Division of Marine Fisheries** - Notice of Public Hearing February 3 & 4, 2003
- Monday, Feb. 3, 2003 (7 to 10 PM) at Gloucester High School
- Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003 (7 to 10 PM) at Plymouth North High School
- Proposed restrictions on Diver takes for lobster and scallops. Discussed drafting a position statement. Coordinate with Bay State Council on statement. Mary Howard and Dale Findlay to report back to group.
- DMF Hearing posted on Website. For more info see: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries
- **Renewal of Domain Name.** Domain name separate from website host, which has been paid for the coming year. Search for new website host has been initiated.
- Motion – Approve payment for renewal of “northshorefrogmen.com” domain name for the next three years. Seconded and passed.

Dive Talk:

- Mike Denneler reports on Pebble Beach – Shore observation – Road has been washed out and filled with gravel. Road officially closed. Ocean was calm. Air was very cold.

General Discussion:

- Nova – Special on Coelacanth (lobe finned fish with oil filled bladders for deep water). Previously thought to be extinct. Found off the coast of Madagascar.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Peter Chapman
Bug Bag: Postponed to next week
Mystery Prize: Dave Smith

(continued on page 7)

North Shore Frogmen's Club Activities



March 2003

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Boston Sea Rovers
9 Boston Sea Rovers	10	11	12	13 Ski trip to Stowe 8PM Meeting	14	15 St Pat's Party Mary Howard's
16	17	18	19	20 8PM Meeting Presentation: Board U/W Archeology	21	22
23	24	25 8pm Omni Movie Museum of Science	26	27 Ski trip to Sun River 8PM Meeting	28	29
30	31	<h2>April 2003</h2>				



		1	2	3	4	5 "Wrecks" Metrowest Dive Club
6	7	8	9	10 8PM Meeting	11	12
13 Easter Egg Dive Party- Carvalhos'	14	15 Dive Into Earth Day week begins	16	17 8PM Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 8PM Meeting	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Other dates for your calendar:

- May 3-4 DUI Demo Days at Stage Fort Park
- May 14 Season's first FULL MOON DIVE
- June ? Canoe trip on the Ipswich River – Peter Cassidy / Bill Gannett
- July 19 Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Celebration – Dive at Old Garden
- Aug 30 Nubble Light Dive
- Sep 21 Annual Club Picnic
- Sep 27 Coast Sweep
- Oct 25 Halloween Party
- Dec 6 Annual Club Banquet

*** See over for more Activities information **

North Shore Frogmen's Club Activities

- **February 27** at 8:45 at Presentation Meeting, Bill Werner will be showing his slides taken in the **Galapagos** Islands, and maybe also some from Dominica. This should be a great presentation, so make a point of attending!
- **March 8-9** is the Boston **Sea Rovers** show in Boston at the Copley Plaza Hotel. As in previous years, the North Shore Frogmen will have a booth in the club section up on the balcony. Come and sit at the booth for a while and help out, and attend some of the sessions. The Saturday evening film event is always a great take! - We will be raffling off an Apex regulator at our booth at Sea Rovers. If you can't make Sea Rovers, but you need a new regulator, you can purchase raffle tickets at the two club meetings before the show, Feb 27 and March 6.
- **March 13** and **27**, John Ferrier is organizing ski trips to Stowe and Sunday River respectively, on the Ski Market buses.
- **March 15** will be the Club **St Patrick's Day Party** at Mary Howard's house. Come any time after 6PM. Mary will provide a "boiled dinner", so BYOB and some other form of food to share. Directions are available at club meetings.
- **March 20** at a Presentation Meeting, **Victor Mastone**, Director, and **David Trubey**, Deputy Director of the **Board of Underwater Archeological Resources** will give their presentation, An Overview of Marine Archeology in Massachusetts, and some Inland projects.
- **March 25**, Tuesday evening some members are getting together to see the **Omni movie "Coral Reef Adventure"** at the Museum of Science at 8PM. Come to a meeting and sign up, or contact Mary Howard. We may go to dinner somewhere before the movie. (Prices: \$6.50/adult, \$4.50/children and \$5.50/seniors.) See www.mos.org for more details.
- **April 5**, the Metrowest Dive Club will hold their Annual Diving Symposium **WRECKS 2003** at Keefe Technical High School, 750 Winter St in Framingham, from 8:30 – 3:30. Speakers: Tom Mount (Rebreathers), Kevin McMurray (Empress of Ireland), Christina Young (New York/New Jersey Wrecks) and Cris Kohl (Great Lakes Shipwrecks). This show is always a good take and includes equipment, artifact and photo displays. Price \$15 for non-members.
- **April 13** is the date for the **Easter Egg Dive and Party**. The party will again be hosted by Frank and Dodie Carvalho. More information in the next newsletter about the diving!
- **July 19** – **2nd Annual Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Celebration** in conjunction with the Great Annual Fish Count. Celebration will be centered at Stage Fort Park, with exhibits, workshops, raffles and door prizes, as well as an update on fish sightings from the Fish Count program. Amy Maurer will be organizing a dive at Old Garden Beach in conjunction with this celebration.

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

30-January-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:17 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 12 Total: 16

Guests: None

Announcements: None

Correspondence: None

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read. Domain name renewal \$135 for 9 years.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Reviewing membership list for the last 3 years. Plan to contact "lost" members. Flyers are being prepared, John Ferrier to publish.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith Planning meeting Sunday, Feb 2nd, club members welcome. Amy to contact Jonathan Bird of ORG to present in April.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Old issues of Air Bubbles brought in for members to review.

Old Business:

- **Poster for Placement in Dive Shops** – Draft prepared for review by members. Complements flyer
- **2003 Banquet Room Reservation** - Deposit for room sent. Paul Sauvageau called Sandy and spoke with Bill Gates who confirmed 12:00 AM OK. Contacted TC & Torpedos. Tom confirmed by e-mail that the date of Dec 6th is reserved and price would remain as previous year \$1,000, cash
- **Department of Marine Fisheries Position Statement.**
- Mary Howard reports Angelo of the BSC has not prepared a formal statement but "the're a'gin it".
- 6 club members planning to attend the Feb 3 public hearing
- Talk about raising the size limit on lobsters for divers only
- Proposal to limit commercial fishermen to current actual trap limits.

New Business: None

Dive Talk:

- Daryl Findlay provided surface support on a Winter Island dive. Water temps are 42°F.
- Daryl Findlay completed pool session with re-breather. Controlling buoyancy at shallow depths is difficult.

General Discussion:

- Rodale's Bulletin Board - A great picture of a diver under about 8 inches of ice.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 PM

Dollars Box: Paul Dumas

Bug Bag: Daryl Findlay – Save-a-Dive Kit

Mystery Prize: Mike Denneler

6-February-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 20 Total: 24

Guests: None

Announcements: Paul Sauvageau reported that several members requested that meetings be concise and discussions focused. Paul stated in response to the feedback that he will be firmer in keeping to meeting start times and in following meeting agenda

Correspondence: None

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as read
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Nothing to report.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith - Attempted to cancel the Feb 2 planning meeting due to stormy weather. Still, several people gathered and progress was made in planning club activities. See above for list of upcoming events.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Deadline for the March Issue of Air Bubbles is Feb 18th. Still needed for that issue are (continued on page 6) the President's message, Secretary's minutes and a Summary of the Boston Scuba Show.

Old Business:

- **Department of Marine Fisheries Hearing.** – Summary of meeting by those in attendance.
- The proposal is full of contradictions
- Recreational limit for traps versus scuba diving. If you are trapping but have scuba equipment on board, does the 10 a day limit apply?
- 97% of the catch is by commercial fisherman, 3% is by divers. Yet, the proposal is focused only on diver limits, which would only have a limited impact on conservation efforts.
- Area 1 (Cape Ann) has different size limits for lobsters than the other areas (South Shore and Cape Cod). The proposal would increase the size limits

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

for scuba divers only. A lot of sentiment was expressed to keep the limits the same for both commercial and recreational activities.

- Bay State Council only diver lobbying group. Several commercial fishermen lobbying groups.
- Mostly divers spoke. Only one commercial fisherman was present.
- Proposed scallop limit was an attempt at reciprocity with the ME and NH restrictions on MA fisherman.
- Scallop proposal was too complicated and not well presented.

Decision on proposal due this week. See website www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

New Business: None

Dive Talk:

- Mike Turner. Was in Florida for 3 weeks in January. Went to Key Largo for diving. The weather was good. Dove the French reef and the Spiegel Grove (a military landing ship). Vis 50 ft. Water temp. 68oF. Strong current on the way down. Not a problem once you were behind the ship.

General Discussion:

- Meeting Speaker. Lt. John Tulik of the Mass Env. Police willing to speak to club.
- Educate club members on laws. Show new divers how to measure a lobster.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Dave Smith

Bug Bag: Postponed to next week

Mystery Prize: None

13-February-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 13 Total: 17

Guests: None

Announcements: Diver lost on the Polling

BSC – DMF Feedback

Correspondence: Seamark Exhibition – Received promotional flyer.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Minutes accepted as amended
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade – Account balances accepted as read.
- \$25 for Bug Bag prize
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Nothing to report.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith
-John Ferrier suggests possible Ski Market Ski Trip dates are March 13 & 27.

- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Next Air Bubbles will be out March 1st. Deadline for articles is Feb 18th. President's message and meeting minutes are needed.

Old Business:

- **2003 Banquet.** E-Mail from TC & Torpedoes seeking confirmation of Dec. 6th event. Paul to provide confirmation. Bill Gannett to coordinate payment of initial deposit of \$100.

New Business:

- **Bay State Council Meeting.** Report from members who attended BSC Meeting in Quincy
- DMF report Area 2 (South Shore) lobster Fishing has crashed. Lobsters found dead in traps.
- DMF will likely set bag limits for divers in some form.
- NG Pipeline from Canada to Hingham will come out at the Beverly/Salem line.
- Bass Rock in Hingham may be "missing" as a result of pipeline work and may need to be "replaced" even though it poses a navigational hazard.
- Scallop limit proposed by Ray Bates, a commercial diver, to limit scalloping by NH & ME divers. Ray has proposed several limits in the past to limit takes by recreational divers.
- BSC need funds. Application to be included in Air Bubbles. Membership is \$5.

Dive Talk: None.

General Discussion:

Gloucester Times & Salem News. Story about diver who died on the Chester Polling dive is unclear. Diver was 52 yrs old. Diving for only one year. Open water certified. Had dry suit and steel 100 tanks. Possible cause was a frozen or free flowing regulator.

- **Boston Globe Magazine.** Dave Barry column Sunday quotes Chris Hugo (Metro West Diver) about legend of Babe Ruth's piano in a pond in Sudbury.
- **PBS Special.** Raising of the U-534 Submarine (9C40 German submarine). British produced documentary.
- **Jack Munro Interviewed.** Jack was interviewed about the damage to the Motif #1 in Rockport during the Blizzard of '78.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Paul Sauvageau

Bug Bag: Paul Stamegna - Dive Light

Mystery Prize: Paul Ferrier

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

12-18-02 President's Last Message:

Well this is it, my last official presidential message to the club for sometime. I have greatly enjoyed my time as club president. The club has made many strides this year; we have kept our heads up in the bad times and celebrated the good times.

I salute Mr. President "**Paul Sauvageau**" for his participation in dives and events this year, his active role as event coordinator for our beach meetings, and his willingness to step up to a much more active roll in the club. I know the club is in good hands with Paul at the helm.

Michel Donovan was happy to fill in several times this year for board members and eventually accepted the position of Vice President earlier this year. He had so much fun; he is staying on for another term.

Dave Metrano helped me work through learning how to conduct club proceedings and votes, his help was much appreciated and I wish him the best as he takes on an active role in the community on the Manchester police force.

Richard Kinkade has been a valuable resource for me this year and I am most happy he will be our treasurer for another term.

Ray Porter has also stepped forward to become our next secretary. I wish him luck as he brings his own style to club proceedings and events.

Dave Smith maybe taking a break from the role of secretary but I am sure he will be active in our club committees and events this coming year.

I would like to acknowledge our Members of the Months again:

January: **Amy Maurer** for her dedicated work leading our presentation committee.

February: **Roslyn Smith** for organizing and decorating our Sea Rovers scuba show booth in Boston.

March: **Ray Porter** for tirelessly manning our Sea Rovers booth as members attended presentations and lectures.

April: **Paul Dumas** for helping distribute eggs for our underwater Easter egg hunt.

May: **Roslyn Smith** for her work coordinating our Club Night In Party.

June: **Bill Gannett** for arranging a fun filled day floating down the Ipswich River.

July: **Paul Sauvageau** for coordinating our beach meetings.

August: **Mike Donovan** for stepping in when his club needed a Vice President.

September: **Dodie Carvalho** for arranging for us to use Stage Fort Park for our picnic.

October: **Nancy Gannett** for organizing the club banquet

November: **Paul Sauvageau** for his numerous contributions to our newsletter.

December: **Dave Smith** for his excellent job as our secretary and the numerous contributions he has made to the club.

If I have succeeded in any of the goals I set for myself this year it has been because of the support the club has given me and the tireless work of our members.

Best wishes to all the current, new board Officers and all our members this holiday season.

Voting Frogs:

On December 5th our members came together to vote for their favorite Photos in our Photographic Contest and to vote on their new board members. **Mary Howard** setup a large display of Froggy Photographic art around the meeting room and I supplied some lighting. There were many photographs submitted by six or more contributing members: **Amy Maurer, Michel Donovan, Paul Blanchette, Roslyn Smith, Paul Sauvageau,** and **Daryl Findlay** to name a few. Mary organized a great contest, which members enjoyed a lot even when they found it hard to choose their favorite photos.

The voting on the club board officers was swift and concise. I have already mentioned some of the winners above, but here is the full list:

President	:	Paul Sauvageau
Vice President	:	Michel Donovan
Treasurer	:	Richard Kinkade
Secretary	:	Ray Porter
Member of the Year	:	Amy Maurer

Banquet Frogs:

On December 8th we had our holiday banquet and what a fun time was had by all. The band played as we snacked on scallops and shrimp appetizers. The fantastic photographic contest entries lined a nearby wall for all to see. After a great meal I presented the awards to our current Officers and they in turn presented me with a presidential plaque as is our custom. I announced the new club officers, and then **Mary Howard** presented the photographic contest winners. Of these winners, your new president "**Paul Sauvageau**" by far had the most awards. I got one first place award for surface photography, second, and third place in under water photography categories.

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

Unfortunately I was unable to present **Amy Maurer** with her Member of the Year Award, but by the next meeting I hope to present it. As I said it was a great time and we should all thank **Nancy Gannett** for all the hard work she put into making our banquet such a success.

Thank you all.

I would like once again to call on all our Froggy members to lend a hand this year, so we can all enjoy in the fun. Even the smallest donation of time or thought goes a long way to improving the club, here are a few ways in which you can help:

- Submit a paragraph, article, picture or suggestion for the club newsletter or web page, this could simply be something small written on paper or a picture and brought to a meeting.
- Participate in club dives this year, most require no more than you and your dive gear.
- Come to some of our Non-Dive events, many would be a lot of fun for family members.
- Volunteer some of your time to a club committee, such as the Activities, Membership, Calendar, Picnic, Banquet, or Photo Contest Committee.
- Share your experiences and knowledge with our less traveled members.
- When a new member or guest comes to the club, try to make them feel at home.
- Join or participate with one or more of the environmental organizations that we are affiliated with, such as The New England Artificial Reef Program, Bay State Council of Divers and the Coast Sweep Beach Clean-Up Program.
- Take an active interest in Your Club, for it is a great club.
- Take it easy on your new club officers; there is plenty of time to break them in.
- Be excellent to one and another !!
- Party on dudes !!!

See you on the wet side soon!

Daryl K. Findlay

2002 President - North Shore Frogmen's Dive Club
Underwater Videographer / Photographer

2003 DUES ARE DUE. Have you paid yours?

Boston SCUBA Show - February 15, 2002

Paul Sauvageau

The Boston SCUBA Show took place at the Holiday Inn and Resort in Marlboro on Saturday, February 15, 2003. This year's event highlighted David Doubilet, the award-winning National Geographic Society underwater photographer who was presented with the Underwater Club of Boston's Paul Revere Spike Award.

Introductions

First among the speakers was Fred Calhoun who skips the "Easy Diver" for his company, Cape Ann SCUBA Charters in Gloucester. He is in the process of writing a new book with the theme of "doing scuba right." Fred is concerned that the sport has grown unduly complicated in recent years with dive computers and a plethora of new equipment that has introduced as much complexity as it has sophistication. His latest mission would be to get "back to the basics" and simplify things a bit. He is concerned that even as equipment sophistication evolves, tourists without a serious commitment to the sport have never found it easier to obtain c-cards through resort-package diver certification programs. This is the underlying motivation for the initiative to reconstitute NAUI, the National Association of Underwater Instructors discussed later.

Following Fred's talk, the audience was treated to a vintage video of Cape Ann Diving that was largely a promotional program on diving from his boat the Easy Diver. Along with the sea ravens and sculpins, marauding cunners and torpedo rays, there were many shots of Fenzi BCs and Poseidon UniSuits that look more "historical" as time passes.

If the preceding was not enough of the scuba equivalent of a trip down memory lane, another presentation followed showing a 1954 Popular Mechanics-type magazine article on building your own dive gear including homemade fins, a land-based pump and a look-box for viewing the watery realm from the convenience of your boat. This talk was worth a few chuckles but Dave Norman's slide presentation on Folly Cove was a treat with a variety of fish and colorful invertebrate life. A Q&A followed with individuals in the audience keenly interested in Dave's take on the newly emerging innovations in digital underwater photography.

The Metro West Dive Club Vice President, Bob Carr followed with an announcement on the 11th Annual Wrecks scuba show and lectures on April 5.

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

I knew the name Gene Parker from my earliest days diving. His book, "The New Science of Skin and Scuba Diving" was a classic even back in my early years of diving. Prior to listening to his presentation, "Father of the Divers Flag," I never realized these many years that he was instrumental in having the flag with the red field and the transverse white stripe being adopted internationally as the official diver's flag.

As we closed in on the noon hour, Cliff Simoneau of C2 Educational Expeditions, Inc. who is also a manufacturer's representative for Buddy/Inspiration Rebreathers gave a fascinating presentation on the latest innovations in closed circuit rebreather technology. Cliff explained the advantages of closed circuit systems using mixed gases compared to other configurations such as semi-closed as well as open circuit systems. These included expanded bottom time, greater depth while incurring less dissolved nitrogen resulting in less deco penalty, and of course, how a bubble-free breathing system facilitates approaching marine creatures for study and photography. The key to safety and success is training. He showed slides from the Shark Research Institute that included whale sharks and other creatures from previous Galapagos Islands expeditions. He concluded his presentation with the quote comparing closed circuit rebreathers to open circuit scuba:

"Rebreathers make you a citizen of the sea, rather than a mere visitor."

Award Presentation

Fred Calhoun and Alan Budreau presented the "Paul Revere Spike Award" to David Doubilet on behalf of the Underwater Club of Boston and the Boston SCUBA Show. The award was a plaque with a mounted spike salvaged from the USS New Hampshire that recognized his outstanding contributions in underwater photography.

Mary Wins Big

Following the award was the drawing of the door prizes. Four tickets would be drawn to win a free introductory course on the Buddy Inspiration closed circuit rebreather the subject of which Cliff Simoneau just lectured. Who was the first name picked in the drawing but our own Mary Howard. Congratulations Mary!

David Doubilet

The main speaker of the day started his underwater photography career shooting black and white photographs in the (not so) tropical south of "New

Jersey." He started his presentation by saying that: "*underwater photography is done within an element like no other photography in the world.*" He is primarily interested in light and as such, in the upper edges of the sea, not the deep. He spent the next hour and more proving the point with a visually stunning presentation of slides.

From Papua New Guinea to the Tasman Sea, he illustrated life layering upon life, patterns atop patterns and the behavior of marine animals interacting with their environment. One does not have to subscribe to National Geographic Magazine to recognize his award-winning photographs. Many are iconic and have become widely disseminated in the media. Whether the agape jaws of a Great White breaching the surface with the camera seemingly inches from its teeth to schools of barracuda encircling a woman diver in an amazing ring of shimmering silver that dissolved moments after he tripped the shutter, we've all seen these photographs. David's assignments are as wide ranging as the Florida Keys to the world's "*Crystal Aquarium*" employing the poetic term that Japanese use to refer to the Red Sea that receives no inflow from rivers or tributaries. His subjects are as diverse as pot-bellied seahorses and red-lipped batfish to giant manta rays. His methods are as varied and unorthodox as using the services of a model with toenails painted with red nail polish for a below the knees, sub-surface feet-in-the-sand shot to employing black lights and ultraviolet filters to illuminate fluorescent corals.

In the question and answer period that followed, David revealed that assignments with National Geographic typically run from four to six weeks with extended assignments lasting anywhere from ten to twelve weeks. He will typically burn through 300 to 500 rolls of film but more than 500 rolls during the longer assignments. This fact should ease the frustrations felt by aspiring underwater photographers. The volume of frames taken helps one gain experience and bracketing shots aid in bettering exposure and focus. Quantity of shots taken is no substitute for talent but with practice comes experience. Following the Q & A, I learned that Jim Church, a name known to many of us through his books, training programs and courses in underwater photography, passed away on December 31, 2002.

Referring to the coral reefs within the tropical seas that encircle the world at the equator, Doubilet called them "*The Crown Jewels of the Planet Earth.*" Upon viewing

(Continued next page)

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

the gallery of art that was his slide presentation, one can only conclude that he aptly made the point.

The Rebirth of NAUI?

Angelo Fiore who is the Northeast Territory Representative for the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) gave the afternoon's final presentation. Many of us who have been diving for decades can remember when they were head-to-head rivals with PADI but for whatever reasons lost that competition. Angelo reported their efforts to reconstitute and reassert themselves. This initiative is motivated by a perceived lack of adequate training of new divers. His presentation was laced with comments such as "we would rather train one diver well than to train many divers," "over the years, the sport has become watered down," together with his affirmation to teach Rescue at every level.

It will be interesting to see if NAUI can seize a portion of the diver certification market based on the current state of diver training and qualifications and if the internal difficulties that led to its initial demise in the past can be overcome. The idea of focusing on training is a good foundation on which to build.

After the presentations, vendors were available to talk about gear and the latest products on offer. This being my second consecutive year attending the show, I can say that the headlined speakers were of high quality. While much smaller than other dive shows such as the Sea Rovers or Beneath the Waves, there is still plenty to see and learn.

The Club will be raffling off an **APEX regulator** at the Boston Sea Rovers Show on March 8-9. If you are unable to attend the show, raffle tickets for the regulator will be sold at the two meetings before the show, February 27 and March 6. Don't miss out! Ticket prices are \$2/each, \$5/three tickets and \$10/eight tickets.

John Ferrier is planning two **ski trips**, to Stowe on March 13, and to Sunday River on March 27. Skiers will be going to the mountains on the Ski Market buses. The trips are about \$55/person, and include the bus ride up and back AND the lift ticket. Contact John SOON for more information and to sign up.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries – Public Hearings

Mary Howard

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Marine Fisheries Commission recently held two public hearings regarding regulatory proposals that affect scuba divers. The first of these hearings was on Monday evening, February 3, 2003, at Gloucester High School and was well attended by members of the North Shore Frogmen's Club and other recreational divers. Several divers from the western part of the state came to the hearing to voice their opinions. The second hearing was held Tuesday evening, February 4, at Plymouth North High School. This article is primarily about the meeting in Gloucester, as that is the one I attended.

Paul J. Diodati, Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, presided at the meeting in Gloucester on February 3. The first order of business was to show some slides and give some statistics. There are 1550 commercial lobster permits sold in the Commonwealth, each with an 800-trap limit. Not all of these are fully utilized. The average number of traps fished per fisherman is about 400. [These commercial permits are responsible for 97% of the lobsters taken.] There is a plan to cap the total number of commercial traps allowed to the actual number currently fished, which is about 465,000. There are about 12,000 non-commercial 10-pot lobster permits sold per year. Of these, 20,000 pots are reported fished per year (approximately 17% of the number permitted). And there are approximately 4000 permits issued to divers.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Dept includes seven lobster management areas, four of which are in Massachusetts' waters. It is the aim of this department to increase the minimum lobster gauge size to 3 3/8" for all areas by 2004. In spite of this, Area 1, where the current minimum size limit is 3 1/4", has no increase scheduled for commercial lobstermen for 2003. At this time Massachusetts is not in compliance with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries requirements in all four areas.

The proposals of most interest to divers were introduced one at a time and were open for discussion one at a time. The first proposal for discussion was to reduce the non-commercial lobster pot limit from 10 to 5. The next proposal was to create a daily possession limit of 10 lobsters per permitted diver. And the third proposal for discussion was to increase the minimum lobster size in Area 1, for non-commercial permit

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

holders only, to 3 11/32" in July of 2003. The response from the scuba diving public at the hearing was overwhelmingly consistent throughout. All were against the proposed decrease in non-commercial permit pot numbers. One justification for the proposed reduction was the potential decrease in numbers of lobsters taken by as many as 60,000. As one diver said, just because 60,000 fewer lobsters would be taken by non-commercial fishermen, there was no guarantee that those same lobsters would not find their way into commercial pots, and it was not proven that these lobsters would not be harvested. All who spoke at the meeting were against the proposed 10 lobster/day limit. Most pointed out that usually the take in any one-day was well below the suggested limit, and therefore the limit was a penalty for the occasional time when a diver might be able to catch more. And those who spoke were all against the minimum size change for taking lobsters being applied to divers only, and not to commercial lobstermen. Everyone seemed more than accepting of the idea that minimum lobster gauge sizes and maximum size caps are good for the lobster fishery. Nobody liked the idea that a new size restriction should apply only to divers. The main argument against all the lobster questions was that since the proposals were presumed to be conservation issues, where is the conservation benefit when the issues concern only 3% of the lobsters harvested? After lengthy discussion of the proposed changes to the lobster regulations, those subjects were put to rest for the evening, and many attendants departed.

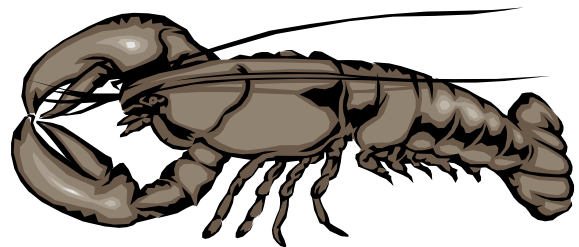
The next subjects for discussion were the proposals regarding scalloping and scuba diving. The proposals in this area appeared to be less well formulated than those concerning lobsters. This may have been a presenter issue (Dan McKiernan of DMF presented), or it may be fact. This is the third time that Ray Bates, a commercial scallop diver and "clam cop" has submitted a proposal to limit scallop diving. This time the proposal is in direct response to the fact that divers from Maine come to Massachusetts (where they do not need a permit to take scallops) to do several dives during which they take a lot of scallops, take them off to Maine, and leave the empty shells. It is assumed that these divers sell the scallops to markets in Maine, which, by definition, makes them commercial scallop divers. As Maine does not allow Massachusetts residents to dive commercially in Maine, it is the desire of the Massachusetts DMF to act reciprocally, and not allow the reverse. In order to define a commercial scallop diver, the proposal would limit a non-commercial scallop diver to possession of no more than 1-2 bushels in the shell, or no more than 2-4

quarts of shucked scallop meats. Anyone taking more would be considered a commercial fisherman and would require a commercial scalloping permit. Maine divers would be refused the commercial permit. Again, the reaction of those who spoke on this issue was mostly against the proposals. They did not think that there should be a scallop limit for non-commercial divers.

An argument put forth by the divers from western Mass, on both the lobster and scallop issues, was the question of what limits would prevail for them for a weekend of diving. They come to Cape Ann (mostly) to dive both Saturday and Sunday. Would they then be penalized because they could not take their Saturday catches home before diving again on Sunday? If they had their six Saturday lobsters with them on the boat on Sunday, would they be limited to only four on Sunday because of the 10-lobster possession rule? The same question was raised regarding scallops. The men from the Division of Marine Fisheries had no immediate answer for this question.

After the scallop question was put to rest, Mr. Diodati brought up the weakfish, tautog and black sea bass proposals, which were also among those on the agenda for the evening. None of the divers present were interested in discussing those issues, and most of them left the meeting. The meeting was then closed.

Based on an email that I received on Wednesday morning from Roy Chamberlain, president of the South Shore Neptunes, the Tuesday hearing in Plymouth was also well attended by our fellow divers.



Bay State Council of Divers Meeting notes, February 12

Mary Howard

The most recent Bay State Council Meeting was held on February 12, 2003, at 7:30PM at the South Shore Neptunes' Club House in Quincy, MA.

Angelo Correnti opened the meeting noting that the Neptunes had chosen an alternate site for doing transect dives, and they had picked dates for doing the dives. He also mentioned that he had attended a "Lobster Meeting" held by Atlantic Marine Fisheries Department in Rhode Island, and that lobsters in Long Island Sound are very

Air Bubbles - Jan-Feb 2003

scarce, and most of the ones being caught are not taken alive.

There was a discussion of the open hearings brought by Paul Diodati, director of the Mass Division of Marine Fisheries in Gloucester on February 3, and in Plymouth on Feb 4. An estimate was that there were about 35-40 attendees at the Gloucester meeting, and more at the Plymouth meeting. Vincent Malkoski of the DMF told us that Paul Diodati would bring his decision to the Commission when he was ready, but that as of our meeting time, no decisions had been made. Stating that tremendous cuts were already in effect for the commercial fisheries, he noted that "effort across the board" would be required of lobster fishermen for the same reasons. We were told, "Area 2 has crashed, and that Area 1 is in trouble". Comments were made about the scallop proposals, suggesting that it would be unfair to require commercial licenses of all divers on a dive charter if there were only one diver taking more than the non-commercial limit.

Another topic mentioned was the dredging for the natural gas pipeline, for which detailed side-scan sonar is being performed of the route across Boston Harbor. To answer a question posed by one of our members, the pipeline (after passing by Kelly's restaurant in Danvers) will enter Massachusetts Bay at "Beverly-Salem". It will be coming out of the water very near to Bass Rock in Hingham, at the entrance to the Fore River channel. Also mentioned was the ongoing issue of the proposed cobble and gravel mining for the Winthrop Shores Protection project. This project, if allowed to happen, is expected to impact 180 to 360 acres of bottom. This substrate is important lobster and juvenile cod habitat.

A sad subject brought up was about the diver who died Feb 9 off Cape Ann. The Belmont man was said to be 52 yrs old, and had been diving about a year. He was diving in a dry suit and had new equipment "in good working order". He was diving off the charter boat Cape Ann II, on the wreck of the Poling, and was found in 85 feet of water, his mask off and regulator out of his mouth. It was not known at the time exactly what happened, but one theory is that his regulator free-flowed in the cold. There was mention that he had attempted buddy-breathing with another diver, but there were no details.

David Trubey, Deputy Director of the Board of Underwater Archeological Resources, attended the meeting in place of his boss, Victor Mastone. He told us that information on the Portland was available on the NOAA/Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary website at www.stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov, and said that they are

planning to go back out in the late spring to do more filming on the Portland. He also told us that Vic Mastone was scheduled to speak at Sea Rovers, probably on Sunday, in a forum with the Maryland Dept of Underwater Archeology.

The dates that the South Shore Neptunes Club is planning to do transect dives are: June 1, July 6, August 17, September 21, and possibly a date in October. Members of the North Shore Frogmen's Club are invited to go with them. They would need to know ahead of time the number of Froggies who want to go, so please contact Mary Howard if you are interested. The new location for the transects is SE of Graves.

The Bay State Council has a new mailing address! Anything sent to them within the past couple of months did not reach them! New address: Bay State Council of Divers / PO Box 518 / Quincy, MA 02169. Annual membership dues are \$5.

Presentation March 20

David Trubey, Deputy Director of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archeological Resources, will be bringing his boss, Victor Mastone, Director of same "Board", to our meeting on March 20. They will give us an Overview of Marine Archeology in Massachusetts, including some information on inland projects.

This should prove to be a very interesting and informative presentation, and I hope will be well-attended by our members.

Dear Froggies,

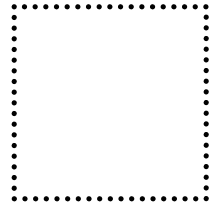
This issue of Air Bubbles is my first attempt at a newsletter. It is full of print, as there were several meetings of interest to the dive community in the past month or two that begged for coverage. It is my hope that you will find it interesting and not too crowded.

Please bear with me through the next few "learning experience" issues.

Mary Howard
Air Bubbles Editor

ps: The deadline for submissions to the next issue of Air Bubbles will be March 17

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



Upcoming Events!

- Mar 8/9: Boston Sea Rovers
- Mar 15: St. Patrick's Day Party
- Mar 25: IMAX - Coral Reefs Adventure
- Mar 13 & 27: Ski Trips
- Apr 13: Easter Egg Dive/Party



2003 Dues are Due

The North Shore Frogmen's Club Meetings
are held every Thursday night at 8PM (except Thanksgiving) at:

The Franco-American Club
44 Park Street
Beverly, MA

Directions: From Rte 128, take the Rte 62 exit, #22E, towards Beverly. Turn RIGHT onto BRIDGE ST at the new light after Danversport Yacht Club. At the end of Bridge St, turn LEFT onto RIVER ST. Turn RIGHT onto FEDERAL ST, turn RIGHT onto PARK ST. Free parking in lot across from Franco-American Club.