



# Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 45, Number 5

July 2003

## President's Message, July 2003

At this writing the first day of summer occurs this week as we continue with this "Year Without A Spring." No matter, the weather is improving and we have a full schedule of activities planned for July.

On Thursday, May 29 Movie Night, members enjoyed the PBS Nature Series program on "War Wrecks of the Coral Sea" that documented how ships and aircraft from both sides of the World War II conflict have evolved into artificial reefs sustaining vast reef communities of fish and invertebrates. Presentation Night on June 19 featured a return engagement by Jonathan Bird accompanied by his wife Christine. He delivered a slide show on diving the island of Dominica with his usual wit and enthusiasm. Following his presentation, attending members had the opportunity to purchase autographed copies of his latest book, "*Shadows and Light, A Photographic Exploration of the Sea in Black and White*".

The first of two beach meetings planned for this year will be held at White Beach in Manchester on July 10. Our Ipswich River Canoe Trip with Foote Brothers Canoe Rentals originally scheduled for June 14 was postponed until July. Hopefully, this will not have proven too inconvenient for those who signed up and just perhaps, other members unable to attend before might have the opportunity to do so now. Amy Mauer is coordinating the club's participation in this year's Great American Fish Count to be held at Old Garden Beach on July 19. Contact her for detail. Dave Smith is heading up three night dives this month. See the schedule for times and locations.

The Activities Committee continues to work on ideas for Movie Night, guest speakers, among other informative entertainment. Dave and Daryl are working on a slide show about their cruise on the "Friendship of Salem." This short presentation may be accompanied by a Sea Hunt episode. Ray Porter is working to find a guest speaker for this month as I am in communications with our August and tentative September guest speakers. John Ferrier has offered to present his video by Inner Space Divers on their Grand Bahamas trip aboard the Nekton Pilot. I am working on obtaining a Peter Gimbal DVD on the Andrea Doria. Several of us have discussed contacting members who are avid underwater photographers or simply tourist-level snapshot-shooters, assembling slides on related trips,

such as the Caribbean, Red Sea, South Pacific, Vancouver/North West, or New England and just having a show 'n-tell. Your thoughts? Stay tuned.

I am pleased to announce that July's Member of the Month is Mary Howard. One of the most noticeable changes this year has been the return of Air Bubbles to a timely and informative monthly newsletter with Mary at the helm as Editor. She remains an assiduous contributor soliciting articles from members, providing a handy calendar update and establishing innovative formats such as including Ray's Meeting Minutes for the benefit of members unable to make weekly meetings – who nonetheless wish to keep abreast of club details. The format has been well received.

Additionally, Mary is our club's main liaison with the Bay State Council of Divers as well as with the South Shore Neptunes. She tirelessly contributes to and participates in nearly all major club activities. With Ray Porter, she was a key volunteer in our club's participation at Sea Rovers last March at the same time they were preparing to host the annual St. Patrick's Day Party at her home in Reading. They have hosted this party for a number of years. Mary landed Charles Mazel of [www.nightsea.com](http://www.nightsea.com) whose fascinating April presentation on u/w fluorescent photography was so well received. Due recognition has been accorded her by members of the club at regular meetings. They are most deserved. This month, I am very pleased to extend recognition for her sustained contributions to Mary Howard.

Summer diving has finally arrived in New England. Enjoy!

Paul Sauvageau  
President NSFC, 2003

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## Meeting Summaries

### 22-May-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 14  
Total: 18

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter - Meeting minutes accepted as amended.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade - Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - E-mail contact with inquiries through web-site. Buddy List due out.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith - Calendar revised through August.
- Mass Biodiversity Days May 31- June 1
- Canoe Trip Saturday, June 14 at Foote Bros. 8:00 AM, Canoe \$10 dep, Kayak \$10 transport charge. Peter to contact Bill about food and cookout needs.
- July Movie Night - Several options available
- July Speaker - Mark Miller a possibility.
- Club Night In - Take II - No room, Poor attendance, Get bartender (confirms room). Confirm attendance. Alternative - Beach Party.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard - AB half done. Hope to get it out by next meeting. Undersea Divers ad to be updated. Buddy List to go out in AB

Old Business:

- DUI Demo Days Update. 170 people attended. NSF had booth at event. See pictures on DUI Web-site. Several Froggies included in pictures.

Dive Talk:

- BSC Treasure Hunt. Mike Turner and Mary Howard participated in "Treasure Hunt". Paul and Candi came by later for moral support. Four teams competed in snorkel event (no Froggies).
- Friendship Cleaning. Daryl did 2 dives on Saturday with Dale and Steve Levi (MetroWest). Dave Smith

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helped also. NO visibility. Small shrimp attach to dive gear even under high pressure rinse.

- Graham Smith and John Sears dove Front Beach - 2 bugs, 45oF, Vis 15 to 20 ft.,
- Memorial Day - Roslyn to meet at Burger King at 8:00 (leave by 8:30). Dive weather permitting. Dine if not.
- Sunday - Meet at Burger King by 8:00/8:30.

General Discussion:

- Holly Cassidy screened by Roslyn at Logan Airport.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Rich Kinkade

Bug Bag: On-going.

Mystery Prize: Graham Smith (again)

### 29-May-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:14 PM

Attendance: Officers: 3 Members: 14  
Total: 17

Announcements:

- Movie Night - Wrecks of the Coral Sea, footage from the war plus new footage

Correspondence:

- E-mail picture from Joe Donovan and Terry Jacobs in Hawaii
- Daily Metro - Ghosts of the Abyss IMAX Film showing at Aquarium.

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Mary Howard - None read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade - Account balances accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier saw Patty DeClue. She is now working in the Peabody P.O. where we have NSF mailbox.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith

- Mass Biodiversity Day dive - Plum Island 11 AM, shallow 30 ft should see young fish species. Joppa Flats / Carson Beach on June 8<sup>th</sup>

- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard - AB is out. Members can place free ads in AB (e.g., used dive gear etc).

Old Business:

- Updates to Buddy List - Let Mary Howard and John Ferrier know.
- Canoe Trip - Peter provided info on picnic and questions about the grill.

New Business:

- Turks & Caicos Trip (Susan Copelas) - 10/21 to 11/1, \$1799 per person for deluxe 3 boat dives per day.

Dive Talk:

- Jack Munro - Put in mooring in Rockport harbor - 45oF water - saw a cod, sea robin bunch of skates
- Daryl Findlay - Video survey under Friendship yesterday.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Mike Denneler

Bug Bag: Dive Computer On-going.

Mystery Prize: Graham Smith (yet again)

### 5-June-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:02 PM

Attendance: Officers: 4 Members: 20  
Total: 24

Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter - Meeting minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Rich Kinkade - None
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith - Boat dives are up to \$60. Sunday morning dive are now meet at 8:00 depart at 8:30. Respond to the email if you are interested in the full moon dive. Beach meeting to be planned for July and August.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Email receive requesting membership information, sent response. Buddy List updates to John Ferrier or Mary Howard.

- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard - Kyle at Undersea Divers provided ad listed in Air Bubbles. Undersea Divers web site links to our website.

Old Business:

- Canoe Trip - Foote Bros in Ipswich at 8:00AM June 14. Canoe \$30 each (\$10 dep)

New Business:

- Turks & Caicos Trip (Susan Copelas) - Flight from Bos to Provo (Main



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### 2003 OFFICERS

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Secretary: Ray Porter  
Tel: (781) 944-1292  
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### 2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: John Ferrier  
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Email: [lobstalust@juno.com](mailto:lobstalust@juno.com)

Activities:  
Daryl Findlay - 978-376-6669  
Dave Smith - [diverdave8@hotmail.com](mailto:diverdave8@hotmail.com)

Newsletter: Mary Howard  
Tel: (781) 944-1292  
Email: [mmhoward@us.ibm.com](mailto:mmhoward@us.ibm.com)

### Meeting Summaries (cont from pg 2)

Island), small plane to Grand Turk. Osprey Hotel has pool. 3 dives per day includes wall diving, night dive, and pier dive. Money due mid-July.

#### Dive Talk:

- Joppa Flats for Biodiversity Days. Daryl, John, Amy and Mike. Vis. 4" depth 18". Bob's Lobster has a clam/scallop combo plate.
- Front Beach, Shon. Vis. 35 ft. 50oF Flounder skate & lobster

#### General Discussion:

- Boston Herald. Ocean Panel backs conservation over fisherman. Pugh

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Report (56 pages) on the status of the oceans.

- July 3. Meeting will be held – social meeting if no quorum is reached.
- Popcorn at meetings. Be sure to cleanup after ourselves!!

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: John Sears

Bug Bag: Computer on-going.

Mystery Prize: Candi Souza

### 12-June-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: Officers: 3 Members: 22

Total: 25

Guests: 1 – Karen Spano - Former Froggie

#### Correspondence:

- Email. Mike Donovan's friend w/ full set of dive gear for sale \$650.
- Postcard. Fred Dion promotion for photo sessions \$10 for one day, 15 for two days, \$20 for all 3 sessions
- Postcard. Fred Calhoun – NAUI Instructor Training \$2500.00

#### Committees:

- **Secretary's Report:** Ray Porter – Meeting minutes accepted as read.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Sauvageau – Account balances for 6/5 accepted as read.
- **Membership:** John Ferrier - Email from Steven about Sunday Dives – responded. Updated Buddy List going out, see Mary Howard or John Ferrier for any additional changes.
- **Program:** Daryl Findlay and Dave Smith - See calendar of coming events.
- **Air Bubbles:** Mary Howard – Several articles already received for this month's AB. Deadline for next month's AB will be July 16th, so that AB can be completed before Mary leaves for vacation.

#### Old Business:

- Canoe Trip. Peter: clearing house for changes to canoe trip – call after 7:00am. The trip is currently on schedule. However, forecast is for unsettled weather. Peter will check with Foote Brothers to see if it can be postponed. Next available Saturday

date is July 12. If rain is likely and Foote Bros allows us to reschedule, an email will be sent. If it can not be rescheduled, attendance is optional

#### Dive Talk:

- Hans. Scalloping Sunday – 40 ft. depth, 42oF, 15 to 20 ft vis. Warm rain, strong current, spotty scalloping.
- Weds Night Dive. Dave, Daryl and Mike at Back Beach – Cloudy, 43oF 20 to 25 ft vis. Small fish. Big dead fish being scavenged.
- John & Shon – Front Beach 30 to 40 ft depth, 46 to 48oF, 20 ft vis.
- Karen Spano. Maui, Hawaii – Big turtle, reef sharks, lots of fish.
- Charlene Colella. Bali for 4 weeks, Water temp 85 to 90oF, current crazy – moves in all directions. Marine life is spectacular, color is magnificent. Presentation sometime in the future.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 PM

Raffles: Dollars Box: Peter Chapman

Bug Bag: Computer on-going.

Mystery Prize: Damian

Mangini

### **Photo Contest**

Start taking your pictures for this year's photo contest!! Photographs should be submitted as prints, maximum size to be no more than 8" x 11". Please do not mount or frame your photos. There will be five categories for the photos: (1) above water, dive-related, (2) under cold water, macro or close-up, (3) under cold water, standard or wide-angle, (4) under warm water, macro or close-up, and (5) under warm water, standard or wide-angle. Please submit your pictures to me by November 20, but you can start turning them in any time in October. This gives you plenty of time to plan, so there will be no excuses or late submissions. Voting for the best picture in each category will be held on election night for new officers, December 4, 2003.

Mary Howard



## One Day @ a Time

Hello everyone, I have a dive experience I'd like to share with fellow divers, the result of which has changed diving for me. As many of you know I purchased my very first rebreather, the Inspiration, this year. I was fortunate enough to have both the time and \$ to get out and get my certification in April. Along with several other divers, I took off to Hal Watts Forty Fathom Grotto and did 3 days, 8+ hours underwater, learning, training, and practicing rebreather skills.

You may know, I was the Production Manager @ Cis-Lunar, a fully Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR), made for the Wakulla II Project a few years ago. (<http://www.usdct.org/index.htm>, see link if you're interested). At Cis-Lunar I learned that rebreathers were going to be the future for all of us underwater. As a result, I kept a watchful eye on several of the rebreather manufacturers.

After returning from Florida, I took a weekend off and proceeded to wait several weeks for the New England weather to cooperate. I also had trouble with the unit fitting me. I installed a new hole on my custom McGrath harness and was able to solve the problem. Yes its fits now. ☺

Finally, another rebreather diver, Steve, and I, did our first New England rebreather dive together with Cape Ann Divers, on the Poling. The dive was a learning experience as we were in the COLD northeast again, 38 degrees, 70ft., and my right DRY glove wasn't on properly. As a result, within 20 minutes, my hand was freezing; time to go up! All in all, we both had an OK dive, but could see we had a way to go with respect to practicing with our new equipment.

The following Saturday, I booked both a morning and afternoon dive with Cape Ann Divers. We headed out to Kettle Island. Upon entering the water, I realized I was probably a bit lightly weighted but felt ok to continue the dive. As instructed, I did a procedure referred to as the 'duck & tuck', (head first, feet up dive, to descend, according to the Rebreather Manual). After reaching the bottom of the anchor and hooking up a reel, I headed to a little deeper water. I ended up hooking up a second reel and was able to reach a maximum of 70ft. Poor visibility, cold water, and just being bored, I turned around and headed back. During my swim back I was having trouble with my buoyancy. Upon reaching 30ft. much sooner than I would have liked, I decided to dump all the gas I could from my rebreather, in hopes to remain in the water to continue back to the anchor to retrieve my reel. Despite my efforts to remain in the water, I found myself on the surface. I vented all buoyancy, and re-descended following the 'duck and tuck' procedure. I retrieved my reel and proceeded to come up the anchor line without incident.

Once back in the boat, I noticed that my left ear was blocked. My first thought was that I had water in the ear. However, that theory felt a bit strange, since I dive with a dry hood. But not a problem, it should go away, so I thought.

We headed up to Braces Cove for a second dive. I sat out the dive, as I wanted the surface time for the next dive on the Poling. After unloading and reloading new passengers, we headed back out to the Poling for the afternoon dive. As a result of my ear being blocked, I decided to forego the 'duck and tuck' procedure. Rather, I would add a dive light for additional weight compensation to assist in my standard decent procedure. The dive was nice and easy, with one funny thing that happened. As I swam alongside the wreck, my light fell out of the harness where it had been clipped to my body. I picked it up, swam on top of the deck of the Poling, and reattached the light to my harness. I managed a couple of laps around the outside of the wreck and had finally enjoyed a dive with out any real issues.

Come morning time, my ear still was blocked. I decided to call a doctor to have it looked at, thinking perhaps there was a chance it could be infected. Upon examination as well a hearing test, the doctor's diagnosis was that I'd damaged my middle ear, permanently!

The doctor and I discussed diving and equalization. He asked me several questions about pain, vertigo, and if there had been any signs of blood. I explained I had no problems whatsoever. The doctor seemed quite puzzled that I'd not had any signs of vertigo. He noted that the outer ear was completely intact, which also seemed puzzling to him. So how/why did the inner ear get damaged? Currently, the doctor just isn't sure. He scheduled me for an MRI for additional evaluation. He also prescribed several Steroid injections to help reduce swelling and possibly bring the tubal connection back. He indicated there is a very remote possibility that time could heal the inner ear.

I'm hoping to get everyone I know to stop and think a minute next time you make a decent. I had never heard of anyone losing their hearing from diving and had I, I would have read more on the subject. I've also been reading everything I can from DAN and others who all say to descend feet first as much as possible. This allows gas to come up to the ears naturally. I have my ideas as to what happened, but they are only 'my' ideas. I wanted to give my fellow divers something to consider when descending and equalizing while diving.

Upon the advice of my doctor, I am taking time off from diving in hopes that my ear will recover. I'll be at the meetings when I can. Please pass this on to anyone who may benefit from it.

*Paul R Blanchette Jr.*

## Friendship of Salem

One of the best things I can imagine about scuba diving is that I have the ability to do and see things that many other people can only dream about. Diving has given me memories of the world above and below the water so, when I have a chance to give something back, it's an easy thing to do.

Such was my experience on the replica of the square-rigged ship, the *Friendship of Salem*. The hull of the *Friendship* was constructed between 1996 and 1998 in Albany, NY. In 1998, it was brought up to Salem and has been moored at Derby Wharf. Since that time, the National Park Service has been outfitting her with masts, sails, lines and all the necessary equipment for sailing. All this time resting in the water has covered the hull with tunicates, barnacles, algae, and various other forms of sea life. To make the most efficient use of sail power, these creatures had to be removed. Normally, the ship would have been taken out of the water but all the ramps that could handle a boat this size were occupied. So the decision was made and instead of raising the boat, they would lower the divers. Time was short, for the *Friendship* was soon to sail to Boston to participate in the 2003 Seaport Festival.

With the help of volunteers from several dive clubs and a bit of elbow grease, divers scraped the hull clean to make her ready for her maiden voyage, a short trip down the coast to participate in The Seaport Festival in Boston. When Dale and Daryl Findlay presented this opportunity to the club, I was really excited to be part of the effort. Time and schedule only allowed me to do one dive before she set sail, but it was a great one for the logbook. I went under the boat with Daryl and Dale on one of the last cleaning missions just removing some of the patches that had been missed on previous dives. The hull was very clean overall. I spent about an hour in zero-vis scraping away any patches of marine growth with a paint scraper. The bottom of the keel was at 15 feet with probably 5 feet of water and another 7 feet of muck after that.



The worst part of the dive wasn't the visibility; it was getting out of the water. I was literally carried out by thousands of tiny brine shrimp. They were all over me! We had to power wash our dry suits to get the little critters off because if they stayed, the stink would have been overpowering!

On sail day, the crew was making last-minute adjustments to the vessel as I walked along the pier. Dale and Daryl gave me a quick tour of the rigging shed where the lines used to haul the sails were put together. Finally, the last of the public tours was put off, the gangways pulled back, and with an assist from the Salem harbormaster, we were underway. We motored out past Derby Light, through the harbor and out into the open sea. We were joined by a fleet of other ships which included the *Fritha*.

Most of our journey was powered by the twin diesel engines below deck, making us one of the largest "stinkpots" on the east coast. We were moving slowly towards Boston when we snagged a lobster pot line. Even with one engine working, we were still keeping up with the rest of the boats.



Dale and Daryl Findlay hard at working hauling on the sheet

Since many of the sails for the *Friendship* are still being made, our ship was only able to hoist about 25% of the total sail capacity to the wind. All the sails have been made for the ship but it takes a lot of time and effort to "bend them on the yards" (nautical jargon for mounting them with all their lines and connection cleats and belaying points). Even the simple "stay" sails we helped hoist had three "Brail" lines each. Using only staysails and a jib, we managed to make a break-neck 0.8 knots when the engines were cut. Even with that small amount of sail power, there is nothing like the feeling of being aboard a square-rigger moving along before the wind. I tried to find a quiet place



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on deck so I could just hear the creaks of protest as the sheets strained against the sails. I closed my eyes and felt the breeze against my face followed by the list of the boat in the water. Looking off the starboard side, I could see the sunlight dancing on the water like diamonds, beckoning us to historic Boston harbor.



Dale Findlay climbing the rigging



Other ships accompanying the Friendship to Boston

Unfortunately, the reality of modern-world schedules took over and soon the one good engine was adding a 21st century push to the wind filled sails. After a few hours on the open sea, we were pulling up to dock right behind the USS Constitution. It took about an hour for the ship to be roped off to the dock. I took this time to watch the crew tie-down the sails. Everything onboard has to be done in an exacting way. The crew paid attention to every little fold in the jib, making sure that it would not catch any rainwater which would be an open invitation to

mold and rot. Once the ship was secure, we walked off the gangway at Boston Harbor.

I waited by the Constitution for twenty minutes just trying to get one last shot of the *Friendship of Salem* at berth for the evening. My patience paid off as the clouds strained the last few rays of the day out of the sun onto our ship. It gave a very soft glow to the trim and all the lines.

What lies ahead for the *Friendship*? There is much work to do before this local treasure is complete. Dale Findlay is now installing the "Chesstrees" which provide routing of the Fore and Main Courses sheets from outside the ship. This job alone will take over a month to complete so you can see its slow going when the ship doesn't have a daily, dedicated crew to perform all the tasks that need to be done.

As I walked out of the shipyard, I looked back one last time just to say a quite thanks to a new friend for a wonderful afternoon on the sea and to realize how lucky we are to have something like *Friendship of Salem* sail across the same waters that we enjoy diving in.



The Friendship under sail

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The *Friendship of Salem* is located at the National Park Service's Salem Maritime National Historic Site, 193 Derby St., in Salem. Guided tours are available year round. Call 978-740-1660 for more information or visit the National Park Service website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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The *Friendship* is managed as a partnership between the National Park Service and the Friends of Friendship, Inc., a not for profit corporation organized by the Salem Partnership. For more information contact the Friends of FRIENDSHIP, c/o The Salem Partnership, Six Central Street, Salem, MA 978-741-8100 or email [info@salempartnership.org](mailto:info@salempartnership.org).

Dave Smith  
Daryl Findlay

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JULY 2003						
		1	2	3	4	5
				8PM Meeting No business	Holiday dive 8AM Burger King	
<b>6</b> Transect Dive-SSN <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Almost Full Moon Night Dive 8:30p	<b>10</b> <b>6PM Beach Meeting</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Canoe trip resch. date 8AM
<b>13</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8PM Meeting Speaker?	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Great American Fish Count Stage Fort Park
<b>20</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No Moon Night Dive 8:30p	<b>24</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>25</b> Nubble Light night dive	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 8PM Meeting		
AUGUST 2003					1	2
						Boat Dive Cape Ann Charters
<b>3</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Almost Full Moon Night Dive 8:00p	<b>14</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Transect Dive-SSN <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6PM Beach Meeting</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Sunday Dive</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> No Moon Night Dive 7:30p	<b>28</b> 8PM Meeting Speaker: John Ganson	<b>29</b> Wells Beach Camping Wknd	<b>30</b> <b>Nubble Light Dive</b>
<b>31</b>						

**Summer Sunday Dives**

Starting June 1, the meeting time for Sunday dives is 8AM at Burger King on Route 128 in Beverly, ready to depart for the dive site at 8:30AM. A note should be left on the light post nearest the diesel pump, giving the date and the dive destination (and a cell phone number?)

**Activities**

- **July 4, "Fourth of July" dive.** Meet at Burger King at 8AM, depart for dive site at 8:30.
- **July 6,** the South Shore Neptunes will be doing a **Transect Dive** for the artificial reef project. They will be accommodating other dive clubs on their boats in order to increase the number of transects that can be dived. Mary Howard will contact Angelo Correnti for boat slots.
- **July 9, "Almost Full Moon" Dive.** Twilight dive 5/5:30, night dive 8:30/9PM. Back Beach.
- **July 10, Beach Meeting** at Whites Beach, Manchester, starting at 6PM. Bring your supper and be prepared to have some fun.
- **July 12, Canoe Trip on the Ipswich River.** This is the reschedule date for the planned June trip.
- **July 19,** at Stage Fort Park: **REEF'S Great American Fish Count.** The North Shore Frogmen will have a table at this event. Make sure to come and register and dive. There will be a lot of great prizes to win, and your ticket to enter is your fish count form! "Dive Coordinator": Amy Maurer.
- **July 23, Dive on the Dark Side** no moon night dive at Back Beach. Twi-light dive at 5-5:30, night dive scheduled for 8:30-9PM.
- **July 25,** Nubble Light Twilight/Night Dive. Meet at Danvers Plaza. Time TBD. Dave Smith.
- **Aug 2, Boat Dive** with **Cape Ann Charters**, with Fran Marcoux on Day Breaker. Sign-up sheets will be available for these events. Dive Coordinator: Dave Smith. Cost \$55 for 2-tank trip.
- **Aug 13, "Almost Full Moon" Dive.** Twilight dive 5/5:30, night dive 7:30/8PM. Back Beach.
- **Aug 17,** South Shore Neptunes **Transect Dive.** See July 6 for details.
- **Aug 21, Beach Meeting,** Whites Beach, Manchester, 6PM.
- **Aug 28,** Speaker Meeting. Sea Rover John Ganson will give presentation on "The Scapa Flow".
- **Aug 30, Nubble Light Dive.** Time tbd.
- **Aug 29-Sept1,** Wells Beach Camping weekend. Contact Dawn Denneler for more details.
- **Sept 21,** NSF **Annual Club Picnic** at Stage Fort Park.
- **Sept 21,** South Shore Neptunes **Transect Dive.** See June 1 for details.
- **Sept 27, Coast Sweep.** Come help clean up the beaches! "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- **Oct 4,** Lexington Bike Trail **Bike Ride.** "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- **Oct 11, Boat Dive** with Cape Ann Charters on Day Breaker. See Aug 2 for details.
- **Oct 25,** NSF **Halloween Party.** Host: Dave Smith
- **Nov 27,** Thanksgiving, **NO MEETING**
- **Dec 4,** NSF Officer Elections and Photo Contest balloting.
- **Dec 6,** NSF **Annual President's Banquet**
- **Dec 25,** Christmas, **NO MEETING**



## **Paradise ... found**

*By: Charlene Colella*

Many have referred to Wakatobi as the “Islands at the End of the World”. For me it is by far the most remote, untouched, pristine dive destination I have ever visited in my 13 years of diving.

As divers, many of you know when you begin planning a dive vacation well over a year in advance, anything can happen between the first flicker of excitement of the plan, right up until you hit the water for your first dive. For this article, it's important that I start at the very beginning.

In March 2002, I received a call from a very dear dive buddy who lives in Switzerland, asking me if I'd like to join him and his soon to be bride on their honeymoon dive trip to a dive resort called Wakatobi. Naturally, my first response was that I had no intention of joining them on their honeymoon, friends or not! He was quick to remind me that technically, it would be their second honeymoon as they were getting married in May, going to Africa later that year as their 'official' honeymoon and that there was just no way they'd want to go to 'Paradise' without me! I'd met John in Truk several years back, when I'd been on one of Faith's famous dive trips, and we've remained friends ever since. He proceeded to explain that his sister was a diver and she and I could be dive buddies as she was planning on going along as well. He told me the trip would be in April 2003 to a very remote island in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. I must confess I did need to consult my atlas to find out exactly 'how' remote this place was. I promised myself that if I could figure out a way to get there using my airline mileage I would consider going, as the airfare half way around the world no doubt would be very costly.

My first call was to Delta Airlines, as that's where I've logged most of my frequent flyer miles. Believe it or not with the greatest of ease, I could be well on my way to Bali in April 2003! John pointed me to the Wakatobi website, ([www.wakatobi.com](http://www.wakatobi.com)), and by the time I'd 'surfed' the site, I was signed up for a 14 day Wakatobi dive vacation. Well, actually there was one little 'hitch'. Because I was flying on my airline miles and using a partner airline for the majority of the journey, I would have to be flexible with the travel dates as well as the routing. I'd also decided that I did want to spend some time in Bali. So I booked a Business Class ticket for 95,000 miles (a must if you're going all that way), to depart on April 1 and return on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The dive portion of the trip was scheduled from April 8<sup>th</sup>-April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Wakatobi. More good news: I actually will have earned the vacation time by then, not to mention, I have a great boss which definitely helps! Life

just couldn't get any better at this point. As summer rolled around, I'd bought several travel books on Bali, relaxed on Singing Beach and read up on the history, culture, sites and of course the diving in the Indo Pacific region. I was ready, or so I thought.

Unfortunately, as Fall unfolded so did the threat of war with Iraq. The terrorism alert was heightened, Bali had been bombed, our world was spinning out of control. My final trip deposit was due February 21<sup>st</sup>. I began seeking out as much information as I could regarding Indonesia, Bali, and all the places in between that my path would cross. I contacted Americans who'd recently traveled to Indonesia, as well as to Wakatobi, to get their take on what the atmosphere was like. There were heightened security warnings from the American Government for Americans traveling abroad into 'sensitive' areas. I truly agonized over what I should do after anticipating the dive adventure of a lifetime for over a year. I told myself that if war broke out before I had to make my final trip payment, I wouldn't go. Well, unfortunately, America was at war by February 21<sup>st</sup>. I made my final payment, with the stipulation that I could forego the April trip and return anytime within a year, subject to availability at Wakatobi. Of course I knew that wouldn't be too much fun since my friends from Switzerland were definitely going as planned. Protests against the war outside the American Embassy in Indonesia, as well as around many of the American icons within Indonesia were now heating up considerably. As if security wasn't enough to be concerned with, I was now facing an outbreak of SARS, the 'mystery' disease that was rapidly hospitalizing and killing people in the part of the world that my journey was to take me through. That's when I began to wonder if this wasn't some sort of 'sign' for me.

I continued agonizing over the trip as war and SARS heated up during the month of March. This couldn't really be happening to our world, or could it? As April 1<sup>st</sup> rapidly approached I decided I would go with my 'gut' instinct right up until departure day. My bags, dive gear, trip contingencies, etc., were all in order. I was going as long as 'it' felt right to do so, inside. Needless to say, I had many opinions from my friends and loved ones, but I knew this had to be a decision from within. I'd taken extra precautions in preparation for this journey. I made sure I had emergency contacts, embassy information, healthcare information and contingency plans, more so than usual when planning a trip. I was ready.

I woke up on April 1<sup>st</sup>, did my last minute packing and set off for Logan Airport to catch my first of many flights at 3pm local time. The routing is well worth noting here. I'm still not exactly sure, but the entire journey from Boston, Massachusetts to Bali, Indonesia took about 52 plus hours

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to complete. Bali is exactly 12 hours ahead of Boston. On April 1<sup>st</sup> I flew from Boston-Atlanta-LA-Taipei-Singapore-Bali. I arrived in Bali on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm local time. Fortunately, flying Business Class allows the use of the partner airline Premier Lounges. This can be a good thing because the food, drinks, atmosphere, Internet access and SHOWERS can be a blessing when you're on a never-ending plane ride! I must also give kudos to Singapore Airlines. They are the BEST airline I've ever flown, hands down. Professional, polite, spotless, great food, all made a very long journey much more tolerable. They could really teach some of our US carriers a thing or two. I was seated upstairs on board a 'Mega-top' 767 which made for a very enjoyable flight. I was even able to catch up on every movie that's been released so far this year, some even a second time!

I had an extra-added bonus, as the stop in Taipei was not listed on my itinerary. I soon learned it was a scheduled stop never the less. So I had the chance to visit yet another country I hadn't planned on visiting...SARS and all.

While waiting for my final connection to Bali, I was told that one of my bags was not showing up in the computer as being 'accounted' for. I had just come from Taipei into Singapore and was waiting to fly to Bali. Apparently, they do a bag/passenger check for Business Class passengers and mine wasn't adding up. By the time I was ready to board the final leg of the journey in Singapore, I was told my bag had been found and was matched up with my other checked bag. Good news, at last.

Unfortunately, upon arriving in Bali, after all bags were unloaded, I was missing, of all things, the DIVE gear bag! Luckily, I had a digital photo of both of my checked bags, (thanks Paul), so the 'retrieval paperwork' process was a bit less painful. However, by the time we completed all the necessary documents to 'find' the bag at a later time, my scheduled pre-paid driver had left. My friends from Switzerland weren't arriving for another 2 days so I knew I'd be on my own in Bali for a while. No worries, the Singapore Airlines baggage dept. was more than happy to assist me in getting another Taxi lined up to take me to my hotel which was about 45 minutes away. But first, they insisted I have a 'welcome' drink, a snack, and a warm moist towel while they coordinated the Taxi ride. Worked for me!

So I hopped into my new Taxi, breathed an incredible sigh of relief, looked out the window and thought, "holy cow, I'm in Bali, finally"! I arrived at my hotel to be greeted with yet another welcome drink. I was liking this country already! The hotel was in a town called Ubud. It's in central Bali among the rain forest. It's called the Hotel Tjampuhan and I would highly recommend it. There are wonderful bungalows located throughout the property that

can accommodate families, couples or singles. The lobby is open air and the plants and flowers are in abundance. There are two swimming pools on the property, a restaurant, several out door bars and of course decorated temples everywhere. The best feature of the hotel is the Spa, which is built out of carved stone. It overlooks a river and the rain forest.

Not only are the accommodations incredibly inexpensive in Bali, but all the amenities are as well. I had a Balinese Spa treatment for 2 hours at the cost of \$35. Needless to say, it was fantastic! By the way, the cost of my bungalow was about \$70/night!

The next day, somewhat dazed and confused with the time change, I ventured out and walked the town of Ubud. The shops were great, lots of locally hand made things from clothing, to jewelry, woodcarvings, hand made shadow puppets, masks, kites, and on and on. The Balinese are very talented and resourceful people. The majority of the people are of Hindu belief, and there are spectacular temples located throughout the island, definitely worth seeing. There is always a celebration or offering of some type going on within the community as well as the homes of the people of Bali. Typically these offerings are small but extremely significant within the culture. It's worth noting here that Bali thrives on tourism, solely.



Unfortunately, in light of all that's happened over the past year and several months, they are truly suffering as a result of the loss of tourism in their economy. If you can get there, you will be pleasantly surprised at how little everything costs and how far your money will go, even in 'good' times. Although we did not dive in Bali, I'm told some of the best diving in Indonesia can be reached from Bali. So it's well worth looking into to experience the culture, history, peacefulness and of course DIVING!

Once John, his wife and sister arrived 2 days later, we rented a jeep and toured the island. Beware though, driving is on the 'other side' as we say. I decided to leave



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the driving to John! Those of you who've had the pleasure of my driving, might agree that was a good decision on my part :O). We visited several temples, a monkey forest, rice paddies, and remote villages. We observed several celebratory offerings being prepared and celebrated. One note to the 'gentlemen', be prepared to wear a sarong when entering any of the sacred temples. Men and women are required to wear them. They are standard temple offering dress for the local men. Another 'must see' in Bali is their Barong Dance. It's a traditional story told in costume, along with Balinese music. Men and woman are taught at a very young age how to dance the Barong. There are different versions of this story, some told without the Balinese music, but just dance and chanting. Never the less, worth catching if you go.



Oh and by the way, Singapore Airlines never gave up searching for and successfully retrieving my dive gear within a day after my arrival into Bali. They even delivered it right to my bungalow doorstep!

But I know what you're really waiting to read about :O)

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we made our way back to the airport where Crispin Jones, the Sales Administration Mgr from Wakatobi, greeted us. There would be 16 guests flying to Wakatobi for 14 days of diving. The resort can accommodate up to 24 so we were in luck to have a lot of 'extra' room, as we'd soon learn.

The plane is both large and comfortable, considering where it has to land. I think it holds about 30 or so people, with 2 seats, the aisle and 2 more seats across. The trip takes about 2½ to 3 hours from Bali to the dive resort. This is a good thing because prior to acquiring the airplane and building the airstrip, it was a 28-hour boat ride! Wakatobi has been described as being "hidden in the midst of a remote island archipelago known as Tukang Besi," which is North East of Bali.

The plane lands on a single runway that was built by Lorenz Mader, the owner of the Wakatobi Dive Resort.

Small vans shuttle you to the Wakatobi dive boats, and from there it's about a 20-minute boat ride to the dive resort. As the boat approaches the island and the resort, you know you've arrived in 'Paradise'. The water is crystal clear, aquamarine, and all you can see is sparkling white sand in front of several bungalows, along with the main house just beyond the resort jetty.

Your luggage is brought over on another boat soon after your arrival at Wakatobi. To cut to the chase, you arrive on the island around 12-1pm. You have lunch around 1:30-2pm, meanwhile dive certifications are being validated, and you are in the water by 3-3:30pm, for the first of many spectacular dives at Wakatobi. After a brief check out dive (be prepared to do a mask removal drill, and an out of air drill), you're on your way to exploring your first dive on House Reef. It's breathtaking and all you can think about is how worth it the long journey to get there really was, to be in that moment. Not to mention the fact that you have 13, count them, 13 more days of paradise above and below the water! Could you have died and gone to dive heaven? Is this really real? If you decide to go to 'Paradise', I highly recommend arriving several days prior to your stay at Wakatobi. Take the time not only to enjoy all that Bali has to offer, but to get acclimated to the time change, climate and peacefulness that await you on the other side of the world. It's definitely worth it!

Currently, the resort can provide accommodations for 24 people. There are 6 bungalows and the Long House. There are several rooms located on the second floor of the Long House that sleep 2 guests to a room. On the first floor there are both Men's and Women's rooms equipped with showers and toilets. Since the resort was not completely full I decided to move into the last vacant bungalow after the first week. I was pleasantly surprised as the bungalow allows for a bit more privacy and you really feel like you're on a deserted island. All rooms have nets over the beds. The bungalows have a mini bar, coffee and tea available 24 hours. The best part about the bungalows is that they are located as close to the beach as one possibly could be. The sunsets are magnificent as the resort conveniently faces the West. If you enjoy stargazing, there is no better place. The Southern Hemisphere sky is illuminated with 'lights' everywhere you look. The best part is there's absolutely nothing to get in the way of nature's brightness. The bungalows are well worth the 'extra' money. Of course if you go with that 'special someone', a bungalow is a must. :O) But enough of the mushy stuff!

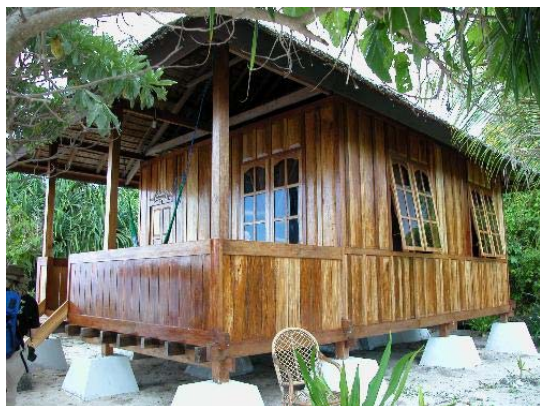
Let's go diving! The policy at Wakatobi is: you can dive anytime day or night, as long as you're with a buddy. There is ALWAYS a full scuba tank at your disposal. The standard tanks are aluminum 80's but they have some



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larger ones, and din valves are available as well. We were told that Nitrox would be available shortly.

Each diver is assigned a gear basket with a number on it, which is kept in an area along with wetsuit racks and hangers. The numbers are how the FANTASTIC dive staff keeps track of what gear belongs to what person. You'll see the importance of that point later. There is a very good size camera gear room available to anyone as well. Slide processing is available for \$10/36 roll. As I write this article the resort is in the process of expanding the photo facility, which includes none other than Mr. Steve Fish, the resident professional photo guru. (Yes his last name really is Fish!) His talent is not to be believed! You can check out much of his work on the Wakatobi website.



There are 3 very good size rinse tanks available 24 hours for rinsing all types of gear. There is a white board that is used for indicating when, where, you and your buddy are either shore diving or 'taxi' diving, as well as when you return from your dive. Each morning, you can also find a brief description of where the boat dives will be for that day on the boards. There is always a 'taxi' boat and crew at your disposal to drop divers off and if need be, depending on the current, pick them back up from any of the nearby reefs.

Anyone can do as much or as little diving as they prefer, keeping in mind the repetitive diving safety limits. Worth noting is the fact that the nearest chamber is 200 miles away. A typical dive day at Wakatobi would go something like this: You rise around 6:30am; by 7:15 at the latest you will have heard the breakfast 'gong' being rung. All meals are served in the Long House, which is an open air, wood and thatched building. On or around 7:45am you will hear the dive briefing 'gong'. Prior to every dive, a briefing is provided by one of the dive guides as to what the day's boat dives will be. A minimum of 2 boat dives per day are scheduled, often 3. Shore diving is unlimited and worth the price of admission, but I'll get to that later. We did boat night dives as well as shore night dives, again as often or not as we preferred.

Immediately following the dive briefing we board the dive boat, typically around 8-8:15am. Lo and behold, our gear baskets are on the boat along with the 'style' tank we've indicated we'd like to use for the duration of our stay. It's a good idea to 'ready' the tanks while the boat is steaming out, as is the case with most boat diving. Then it's time to relax, take in the beauty and remoteness of it all, and get to know your fellow divers from all over the world. Most dive sites are within 20 minutes to half an hour, some were a bit further. The currents in this part of the Indo Pacific have minds of their own! It's not unusual for the current to change direction, speed, up, down, and at different depths, all bets are off on a given dive. The dive operation does require that all divers carry a sausage and believe me, "the sausage can be your friend" in that part of the world. Having said that, you can also be on an incredibly calm dive with current non-existent, so anything is possible.

Pristine and diverse, diverse, diverse! Did I mention the marine life DIVERSITY? There is so much marine life and color to take in on any given dive that it's extremely difficult to know where to begin to describe it all. On House Reef alone, which is located at the end of the Wakatobi jetty, you can find turtles, batfish, crocodile fish, scorpion fish, ghost pipe fish, sea snakes, nudibranchs, leaf fish, frog fish, and on and on.

Typical wall dives consist of massive coral colonies, an abundance of reef fish, and rainbow-colored soft corals everywhere. Sponges, gorgonians, multi-colored crinoids, bubble coral. I saw many critters for the first time in this part of the world. The squat lobster, a type of crab that makes its home within the crinoid's arms and steals plankton food from its host. The Pigmy seahorse, which is incredibly small, and lives among the branches of a certain species of gorgonian. These were the tiniest critters I've ever observed underwater. Their surface texture blends in perfectly with the polyp structure of the gorgonian. One literally needs a magnifying glass to see them; standard 'dive gear' in that neck of the woods!

The pristine reefs at Wakatobi are magnificent for wide angle and macro photography. Photographers' dive fantasies come true, every dive! If 'it' exists, you'll see it at Wakatobi! Boat dives are limited to 75 minutes so that everyone can enjoy the time above and below the water. In my 14-day stay, I logged 43 dives and 40 rolls of 36 exposure slide film! I also had the opportunity to be diving over the course of a full moon. It's incredible what happens to so much of the marine life during this time. Triggerfish were nesting and 'attacking' if anything came within range of their nests. Clown and anemone fish were protecting their newly laid eggs and did not hesitate to 'snap' at a perceived threat. You could hear the clicking sounds that they make when threatened. Not to mention

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the fact that they become fearless of a framer, which made Nikonos photo opportunities quite challenging.

After the second boat dive, we would return to the resort to a hearty lunch, typically around 1:30 or so. The afternoon would be open for either a 3<sup>rd</sup> boat dive, unlimited shore diving, or just relaxing among the serenity of it all until dinner, which would be served around 7:30pm. This time would allow for a dusk/night dive before dinner, as well as an evening night dive after dinner. We also had the opportunity to rise really early and take advantage of some great dawn diving as well.

One of my most memorable dives was on the evening of April 10<sup>th</sup>. My Swiss dive buddies and I planned on diving House Reef and celebrating my birthday underwater at midnight. What we hadn't planned on was the ripping current that evening on the reef. But the good news was it was going in exactly the right direction to drop us just down the beach a ways from the resort. We entered the water about 11:15pm and did one heck of a night drift dive. We found a gully that gave us shelter from the current just in time for our midnight celebration. I was signaled to turn my light off and turn around, so I did. Meanwhile, as midnight approached, my buddies lit several glow sticks and began singing Happy Birthday underwater. I turned around and there was a huge slate with birthday wishes written all over it, shining by way of the glow sticks. After a few laughs and some underwater hugs I thought to myself "this has got to be one of the best birthdays I've ever had so far!" We made our way back to shore only to have a shore crew waiting to take our tanks and gear back to the resort. We showered and continued our celebration on our bungalow porch with champagne, appetizers that the chef helped whip up and lots of birthday goodies. Complete with an orange with a birthday candle glowing in it for me to make a wish upon.

After a few hours sleep, I awoke and proceeded to do 3 more spectacular reef 'birthday' dives, followed by a special birthday dinner and a huge 6-layer cake that the chef had made. It was packed with 40 something candles that would not blow out. (Very funny John!)

We also had the opportunity to celebrate Easter at Wakatobi. The crew had planned an all day boat trip to an uninhabited island about 2 hours away. The plan was to do our dives on a nearby reef, have a surface interval picnic on the island, and then do some exploring. Complete with an Easter egg hunt as well! Unfortunately, as we were steaming out further and further from the resort, the weather was taking a turn for the worse and the swells were growing larger and larger. Heck, we New Englanders are certainly used to 3-5 foot seas, so what was the big deal? (ha,ha.) The Captain made the decision to turn around and we decided to dive one of our many local reefs

that we'd previously enjoyed diving. One thing to note: Although the crew has a GPS with all of their dive sites programmed, there are no channel markers to follow and certainly no 'marine forecast' stations to obtain sea conditions from. In fact, I found it quite remarkable just how well these guys know every inch of the waters and reef systems. They are excellent navigators both day and night. It wasn't uncommon for a torrential rainstorm to pass through the area, but right behind it there were always blue skies and sunshine. All in all, it ended up being a great Easter Sunday, complete with decorated Easter Eggs even if we didn't get to hunt for them!

I think part of what makes Wakatobi such an incredible 'Paradise', is the approach that its founder, Lorenz Mader has taken to its continued preservation. For almost a year, Lorenz explored the remote islands and reefs of the Wakatobi archipelago looking for a combination of island serenity and unspoiled reefs. In 1994 he came upon the island of Tomia, the paradise he'd dreamed of. With the consent of the son of the last Sultan of the island, he set out to make a contribution to marine conservation in a rather unique and challenging way.



Lorenz shared his dream of replacing reef fishing and destruction with preservation, and re-occurring revenue through world class diving. "Take only pictures, leave only foot prints in the sand, and bubbles in the water." The land on which both the airstrip and the resort are located is leased from the island community. The resort employees are all local island inhabitants. The business is a 'shared' proposition with a win-win for all. There is an agreed upon and imposed penalty if a fisherman is observed fishing on any of the designated reefs. Lorenz is Counselor to the Wakatobi Foundation, advisor to the Indonesian Marine Park Development program and consultant for other start-up dive companies and marine conservation agencies worldwide. He's really got the right reef protection idea!

Sadly enough, on day 14 it was time to say good-bye to 'Paradise'. Luggage was loaded onto boats and ferried over to the airstrip around 8am or so, depending upon the tide. We ate breakfast, exchanged email information with our new found dive buddies and sadly boarded the boats to take us back to the airstrip for our noon departure for Bali. The plane arrived, unloaded the next lucky group of 'Wakatobians', and we boarded the plane and waved good-bye to Paradise from the air.

Upon arrival into Bali, I said my good-byes to my friends and headed over to the Grand Bali Beach Hotel for 2 more evenings, one more day in Bali. The hotel was very nice, with several options for room types. Again, prices very reasonable. I had a room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor with a great balcony that overlooked 2 pools and the ocean. They also have individual cottages, which unfortunately at the time, were closed due to lack of tourists. The property itself is quite large and is located on Sunur Beach. Within walking distance along the beach were all kinds of shops and restaurants. I chose to wind down and spend my last full day relaxing on the beach and reliving the spectacular diving I'd just done the past 14 days.

On the morning of April 24<sup>th</sup>, I headed to the airport to begin my long journey homeward. It was really difficult saying good-bye to Bali after having been there for almost a month. I'd forgotten that I had a life anywhere else but there. Twenty-four days of total relaxation, peacefulness, and serenity. For the first time in my life I had literally experienced the feeling of "no worries".

Upon an extensive departure delay in Bali on my way to Singapore, it was decided that my flight would be cancelled due to mechanical problems with the plane. Naturally, this concerned me because I had several connections to go before I would be back home in Boston. Once again, Singapore Airlines came through with flying colors. They put me on another airline, and flew me directly to Taipei so that I would not miss my connection on to LA. The really fun part about that leg of the journey was that I was the only person in Business Class the entire way from Bali to Taipei. There were 12 seats, 11 of which were unoccupied. Talk about feeling like you own the plane! Needless to say, the service was superb!

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am local time, I touched back down in Boston, successfully retrieved all my luggage, and headed home.

Most people that know me know that typically I don't like to go 'back' to a destination I've previously been to. Rather, I enjoy exploring new and different dive destinations. So when asked if I'd go back to Wakatobi I'm torn. The reason being is that both Bali and Wakatobi are truly the most remote, magnificent, peaceful places that

I've ever been to in my life both above and below the water. It's pretty hard to say 'no thank you' to that! Besides, Lorenz offers a discount to repeat customers. So I ask you, is that irresistible or what?

I highly recommend taking a look at: [www.wakatobi.com](http://www.wakatobi.com), but beware; you WILL be hooked if you do. So 40 rolls of underwater slides, and 1000 digital images above water later, I have memories of a dive trip of a life-time. I look back now and think of what I'd have missed if I hadn't followed my heart among all the turbulence and sadness that was going on in our world at the time. For me, after much reflection prior to my journey, it was the right thing to do, at the right time. I've learned more recently to listen to my gut and appreciate the present now more so than ever, for none of us knows what the future may hold. There's still much beauty to behold underwater all over this world. Wakatobi, hands down, is at the top of my diving list!

PS: There are two things to keep in mind about Wakatobi. If you're looking for 'big' critters it's not really the place to go. Although on occasion whale sharks and various other larger than life critters are known to have been spotted. Also keep in mind that there is absolutely NOTHING else on the island besides the dive resort and the natives. No nightlife, restaurants, shops, etc. The real beauty of the island is that those places don't exist. If that's a requirement of your stay, my recommendation would be to visit and dive from Bali. Beware though, you haven't found 'Paradise' unless you spend some time taking in Tomia Island and the Wakatobi Dive Resort. Happy and safe diving!

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### Welcome Our Newest Members

**Steve Saucier and Jennifer Ferrier** (yes, John's daughter!) were voted in as the newest North Shore Frogmen (and women) at the meeting on June 19. **Please help welcome them to the club!**

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### **Air Bubbles Deadline July 17**

Generally the deadline for submitting information for Air Bubbles for publication in the next month's edition is 18<sup>th</sup> of the month. The **absolute deadline** for submissions for August's AB will be **noontime on July 18**, as I would like to get it out before I go on vacation on July 22. PLEASE have your articles to me by that date. Earlier is preferable!

*AB Editor – Mary Howard*



### Dive Turks and Caicos

October 25-November 1, 2003

\$1799 pp includes:

7 nights/6 days deluxe accommodations

(private balconies on the beach)

Roundtrip airfare from Boston/Airport transfers

6 days 3 boat dives per day (16 total)

Unlimited Shore diving

Free kayak use

4 breakfasts, 4 lunches

2 lobster barbeques on the beach

Welcome drink and gorgeous sunsets included

Susan Copelas (one of our new members) has organized a trip to the Turks and Caicos. She had such a great time there in March that she is planning another trip in late October. Contact Susan for more information at 781-334-2006.



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Our “large” raffle prize is a Suunto Stinger dive computer from Bobby Boyle of Undersea Divers. It is Nitrox compatible and comes complete with hardware and software for downloading dive information to your PC, and a hard case. Total value \$845.99.

### Speaker Meeting August 28

John Ganson, Sea Rover, MetroWest Member and avid diver/photographer will be our guest speaker for August 28 and will give a dive presentation on “The Scapa Flow” a sheltered area of water in the Orkney Islands off northern Scotland. It was the site of the chief British naval base in both World Wars. The German fleet was scuttled here in June 1919 at the end of World War I.



The BAY STATE COUNCIL of DIVERS is a non-profit organization representing the organized divers of Massachusetts. Activities of the Council focus on diving related legislation and the promotion of recreational diving in the Commonwealth. Membership dues are \$5/ year. Please mail yours today, to: **PO Box 518, Quincy, MA 02169**

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( ) Yes

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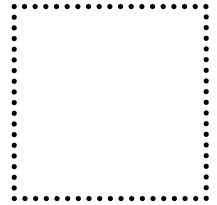
Membership type

( ) New

( ) Renewal



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



## Upcoming Events!

- July 6: Transect Dive - SSN
- July 9: Full Moon Night Dive
- July 10: Beach Meeting
- July 12: Canoe trip reschedule date
- July 19: Great Am. Fish Count
- July 23: No Moon Night Dive



**Sunday Dives: Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly at 8AM, ready to depart for dive site at 8:30.**

**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.