



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 45, Number 6

August 2003

President's Message, August 2003

With real summertime weather finally arriving in New England at long last, members wasted little time in getting into their dive gear and enjoying the warming water temperatures. The summer dive season has at long last arrived!

Several of us celebrated the official first day of summer on June 21, by signing onto Dave Smith's sponsored boat dive aboard Fran Marcoux's, Day Breaker. Those signed on got to enjoy a great day of diving at Halfway Rock and Kettle Island. That same evening, Ted Huemmler and Karen Spano sponsored a "Solstice Day Party" at Ted's home in South Eliot, Maine complete with tequila-sipping, BBQ, live-band music and as they described it, pagan rituals. Needless to say, a great time was had, but it was especially gratifying to see long-standing froggies from the past once more.

Summer in New England is always too short and pagan holidays rapidly turned into national holidays with divers taking advantage of the long Fourth of July weekend to get in an extra day of diving as several of us did at Old Garden Beach. Mary kept pace leading a contingent of members on the South Shore Netunes' sponsored Artificial Reef Survey. Our first beach meeting of the year took place on July 10 at White Beach in Manchester where a good turnout insured a great time. We're indebted to Dave Metrano for permits and very much so for his grill! Thanks Dave! The following Saturday, July 12 was our rain date for the Foote Brothers' Canoe Trip down the Ipswich River. This was my first year participating and I can see why members have made it an annual event. Conditions were ideal and it was as near perfect a day as one could ask. I'll have more to say on this event below.

In the meantime, Dave Smith has been busy coordinating evening and night dives at Back Beach since early June with another scheduled on July 23 and two days later a Twilight/Night Dive at Nubble Light in York, Maine. Consult the events calendar.

Our guest speaker in June was the irrepressible Jonathan Bird of the Oceanic Research Group who presented yet another fabulous slide show on diving the island of Dominica. We have come to expect great photographs and a dynamic presentation whenever Jonathan comes to

speak to our club and he didn't disappoint. Accompanied by his wife Christine and their soon-to-be family member, Jonathan also availed himself to a book signing of his latest work: "Shadows and Light, a Photographic Exploration of the Sea in Back and White."

At the July 17 meeting our Activities Committee co-chairs Dave and Daryl treated all present with a multimedia presentation on their adventures aboard (and below) the three-masted reproduction of the East India trading vessel, Friendship. We also got to see Mike Nelson save the day in another exciting Sea Hunt episode. In terms of guest speakers, education and/or entertainment, I am committed to keeping up the pace in the months ahead. Harvard-educated John Ganson is one of the more fascinating wreck divers, Sea Rovers and photographers I know. He will speak on the Scapa Flow in late August. Andy Martinez has just agreed to speak to our club on September 18. His subject will be diving St. Vincent where he has been diving for the last three summers and perhaps even Grenada where he will have spent the third week in August.

In August, a number of our members will be heading down to North Carolina with Paul Blanchette for some interesting wreck diving. We'll look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return. Don't forget that our second beach meeting for the season will take place on August 21 at White Beach again. We'll conclude the month with one of the more enjoyable outings that has become a club institution over the years. I'm speaking of the Nubble Light Camping weekend that the Dennekers have always done a great job in organizing. There is a lot to do, please get involved.

A few words about July's Member of the Month: As mentioned above, the Ipswich River (continued next page)

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Air Bubbles – August 2003

Canoe Trips have become a staple of our summer schedule. Peter Cassidy has done an outstanding job in coordinating this event and those who participated this year can attest to that fact. He and I were in communications prior to the originally scheduled date of June 14 debating whether to postpone the event due to ominous weather forecasts. When it hadn't rained I then was second guessing if July would mean a lower river with navigational obstacles. As it turned out, the greater than usual spring rains made for a high river and nearly perfect conditions. Folks who couldn't participate on the originally scheduled date got to join us and a great time was had by all. Additionally, this past president has remained involved with various committees such as Membership to help promote the club with poster designs and printing. I would also like to point out that as your newly elected president last January, I relied heavily on Peter's experience and consultation. Sharing his president's electronic files and folders with me was of invaluable assistance when I was organizing my notes, memoranda and correspondence templates for this year. He with his wife Holly have opened their home to the membership for the past several years by hosting the New Year's Day Dive receptions. I am very pleased to recognize Peter Cassidy as July's Member of the Month. Thank you Peter!

Best wishes to all for a safe and pleasant summer dive season.

Paul Sauvageau

President NSFC, 2003



Meeting Summaries

19-June-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:06 PM

Attendance: 4 officers and 20+ members

Guests: 5 Jonathan Bird – speaker, Christine Bird, Steve Saucier from Waltham, Patty DeClue, and Susan's son

Announcements: Presentation by Jonathan Bird – abbreviated meeting format.

July speaker needed. Sept Andy Martinez to speak.

Correspondence: Turks & Caicos Flyers available

Secretary's Report: Not read.

Treasurer's Report: None

Membership Committee: Applications from Jennifer Ferrier and Steve Saucier received. Motion to accept applications for membership. Seconded. Motion passed

Dive Talk:

- John & Shon. Sunday at Old Garden Beach Vis. 5 to 8 ft. Water temp upper 40's. Flounder, 1 lobster.

- Peter w/ Steven. Old Garden Beach Vis. 3 to 5 ft. Water temp 49 to 50oF.
- Daryl. Out on scooter. Good Vis further out 35 ft depth.

General Discussion:

Boston Herald: Plans to change limits on lobster shelved. Strong turnout by divers reason for not setting a bag limit for lobsters by divers. No change in lobster sized in Area 12

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 - Followed by Presentation by Jonathan Bird

Raffles:

Bug Bag – Dive computer ongoing

Book by J. Bird – John Sears

Mystery Prize – Paul Sauvageau

Dollars Box – Mike Donovan

26-June-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:08 PM

Attendance: 3 officers and 13 members

Correspondence:

- Bobby Boyle/Undersea Divers: sale this weekend
- Email received from Nan Paget, RE: Fred's 80th Birthday. Fred used to bring lights he made at GE (where he worked for many years) diving. Would have 5 or 6 car batteries in an inner tube, cord & lights so bright you couldn't turn them on out of water.

Secretary's Report: Mary Howard presiding – did NOT read minutes of previous meeting

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as read

Membership Committee:

- Last ditch effort for buddy list underway.
 - Patty DeClue paid her dues!
 - Application given to Steve Saucier for his friend Mike
- Old Business: Canoe trip rescheduled to July 12. Meet at Foote Brothers at 8AM.

New Business: John Sears: dive flag story: got separated from his buddy w/ flag, boater drove around him on surface and called the harbormaster. Asst harbormaster said selectman in Rockport wants more tickets issued to divers.

Dive Talk:

- Peter Cassidy: Last Sunday at Lanes Cove, 4 divers (John F. Jack M. and Daryl). Good vis, lots of life, good sized bugs. John got lobsters. "Rainy" when we got out.
- Saturday: Boat dive with Fran Marcoux. Nice boat! Divers treated well! Daryl, Paul S., Kevin, Shon, Jack and Mike T. 1st dive at Halfway Rock. 85ft dive, 52-48°F, 45°F below 40 ft, anemones and urchins. Daryl brought scooter. 2nd dive at Kettle Is (leeward side). Daryl found Shon with his head in a hole looking at a huge lobster. Jack found a dive knife.



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2003 OFFICERS

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Secretary: Ray Porter
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2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: John Ferrier
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Activities:
 Daryl Findlay - 978-376-6669
 Dave Smith - diverdave8@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Mary Howard
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 Email: mmhoward@us.ibm.com

- Tuesday John Sears dove Back Beach w/ Shon. Warm (his ankles didn't get cold when wet suit unzipped), great flounder. Went way around to right. Had to let one (of 4) lobsters go because it was too big by 1"!

General Discussion: Peter Chapman's Birthday!

Meeting adjourned: 8:45

Raffles:

- Bug Bag - Dive computer ongoing
- Mystery Prize - John Sears
- Dollars Box - Bill Frank

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3-July-2003

No business meeting because of holiday on 4th. Social meeting at Beverly Depot Bar. Club meeting room being used by FAC.

10-July-2003

No business meeting. Beach Meeting held at White's Beach in Manchester. (See pictures on page 8)

17-July-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05PM
 Attendance: 4 officers and 19 members

Guests: 2 - John Connors and Susan Lyon

Announcement: Great American Fish Count: Amy Maurer coordinator. 8:30AM Old Garden Beach for survey dives. Stage Fort Park for raffle and picnic. NSF to have table with info.

Correspondence:

- email. Andrew Martinez confirmed presentation on St. Vincent and maybe Grenada September 18th.
- North Shore Sunday. Article on the Ipswich River by Audubon Society
- J. Bird still has openings on the Dominica Trip. See web site.
- Misc. Articles: Sperm Whale carcass found on beach; Orange lobsters captured; Woman free diver reached 510 feet.
- Send note to Dave Metrano thanking him for his support on the beach meeting.

Secretary's Report: Not read.

Treasurer's Report: Account balances accepted as read. Bills received: Peter Cassidy \$44.27 for Canoe Trip items, Paul Sauvageau \$9.92 for Beach Meeting items.

Old Business: Canoe Trip Report. 19 people, 11 canoes and kayaks. Morning was overcast; afternoon was sunny and warm. Tree blocked river on the lower section. Close-up views of various birds. A cookout was held on Colt Island.

All who attended had a great river adventure with friends.

Dive Talk:

- Jim Burt and Hans Hug dove in Marblehead scallop diving. Depth 35 ft., Vis. 20 ft., Water temp chilly. Saw sand shark.
- Paul & Candi. Folly Cove at low tide. Vis. 30 ft., Water temp 58oF.
- Jack, Daryl, Amy and others. Lanes Cove scootering. Vis. 20 ft., Water temp 62oF near surface, 54oF at 40 ft.
- Mary, Dave & Daryl. Transect dive w/ SSN Club July 6th. Depth 99 to 104 ft. Vis. Low. Water temp 43 at depth
- July 4th Dive. Old Garden Beach. A good number of Frogmen participated.
- July 6th. Back Beach. Peter, Steve and Mike Turner attended.
- Almost Full Moon Dives July 9. Back Beach - 6:00PM: Dave Smith and Linda Marshall dove. Vis 30 to 40 ft. Saw a couple of striped bass.
- 8:00PM: Dave, Mary and Michael dove.
- Beach Meeting. Whites Beach. John and Mike dove and caught flounder (11 total). One flounder was caught bare handed by John. Peter dove along shoreline. Water temps warm to the right and more normal to the left.

General Discussion:

- Ski tickets. Sunday River has \$300 Season Pass w/ black out dates.
- Undersea Divers. New compressor being installed. Should be ready this weekend.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35

Raffles:

- Bug Bag - Dive computer and snorkel ongoing
- Mystery Prize - Peter Cassidy
- Dollars Box - Rich Kinkade



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Ipswich River Adventure July 12, 2003

By Peter Cassidy

Eleven canoes and kayaks with nineteen Froggies, carrying everything from gas grilles to water canons, paddled on a one-way journey down the Ipswich River last Saturday. The group of happy paddlers departed from Foote Bros. Canoe Rental at 8:30 AM. We were transported in a Foote Bros. bus, with canoes in tow, to a point a short distance upstream from the Topsfield Fairgrounds. Although the water level of the river is declining daily, thanks to the higher than average rains this year, there was plenty of water at that time. The current was not strong. There were very few bugs. The weather was perfect. Starting out a little overcast in the sixties and rising to the low eighties during lunch. The scenery was lush with close-up views of birds, turtles and blooming water lilies around every bend.

Our four-hour canoe paddle was pleasantly interrupted for a brief cookout on Colt Island. This little island is owned by Foote Bros. and is about half way down the river from our starting point. Several members pitched in by carrying an item or two in their canoe for the cookout. Bill Werner took charge of the grille and filled all the hungry bellies with hot dogs and cheese covered burgers. There were cookies and Pam's fabulous home-baked brownies for dessert. Daryl Findlay captured the event with his keen eye and a sharp Nikon lens. It was hard to believe we were "roughing it" through the wilderness.



Group shot taken by Maddie Cassidy (using Daryl's camera)

The trip was a tranquil journey where we each enjoyed the company of our canoe-mate or the company of one or two other canoes. The group as a whole was pleasantly spread out with the occasional greetings of a passing paddler. A few got cooled off when the temperature rose and friendly water squirmishes erupted. Everyone was challenged from time to time by the tangles of the usual sagging branches

and fallen trees. The worst blockage occurred in the final hour of the trip from a large tree that had fallen to a horizontal position and completely blocked the river at about waist high. Some canoeists bravely walked through six inches of mud to avoid it while others surgically slipped their canoes under the trunk and climbed over the hulk. Maddie Cassidy insisted on the clarification to this entry that she in fact, limboed backwards into the canoe and cleared the tree.



Candi and Diane enjoying the day (Daryl Findlay)

All who attended had a great river adventure with friends and will surely return again next year.



A couple of Pauls spending some time together (Daryl Findlay)

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AUGUST 2003



					1	2 Boat Dive Cape Ann Charters
3 Sunday Dive	4	5	6	7 8PM Meeting	8	9
10 Sunday Dive	11	12	13 Almost Full Moon Night Dive 7:30p	14 8PM Meeting	15	16
17 Sunday Dive Transect Dive-SSN	18	19	20	21 6PM Beach Meeting	22	23
24 Sunday Dive	25	26	27 No Moon Night Dive 7:30p	28 8PM Meeting Speaker: John Ganson	29 Wells Beach Camping Wknd	30 Nubble Light Dive
31 Sunday Dive	<h1 style="margin: 0;">SEPTEMBER 2003</h1>					

<h1 style="margin: 0;">SEPTEMBER 2003</h1>						
1						
2						
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4 8PM Meeting						
5						
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7 Sunday Dive	8	9	10 Almost Full Moon Night Dive 7PM	11 8PM Meeting	12	13
14 Sunday Dive	15	16	17	18 8PM Meeting Speaker: Andy Martinez	19	20
21 Sunday Dive Club Picnic Transect Dive-SSN	22	23	24 No Moon Night Dive 6:30PM	25 8PM Meeting	26	27 Coast Sweep Beach Clean-up
28 Sunday Dive	29	30				

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?)



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Activities

- **July 25, Nubble Light Twilight/Night Dive.** Meet at Danvers Plaza at 3PM. Dive Coordinator: Dave Smith.
- **Aug 2, Boat Dive with Cape Ann Charters/ Fran Marcoux on Day Breaker.** Sign-up sheets will be available for these events. Dive Coordinator: Dave Smith. Cost \$60 for 2-tank trip.
- **Aug 13, "Almost Full Moon" Dive.** Twilight dive 5/5:30PM, night dive 7:30/8PM. Back Beach.
- **Aug 17, South Shore Neptunes Transect Dive.** The Neptunes will be doing a **Transect Dive** for the artificial reef project. They will be accommodating other clubs' divers on their boats in order to increase the number of transects that can be dived. Contact: Mary Howard.
- **Aug 21, Beach Meeting,** Whites Beach, Manchester, 6PM.
- **Aug 27, "Dive on the Dark Side"** no moon night dive at Back Beach. Twilight dive 5/5:30PM, night dive 7:30/8PM.
- **Aug 28, Speaker Meeting.** Sea Rover **John Ganson** will give a 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 10, "Almost Full Moon" Dive.** 7/7:30PM. Back Beach.
- **Sept 18, Speaker Meeting.** **Andy Martinez** will give a presentation on St Vincent.
- **Sept 21,** NSF Annual Club Picnic at Stage Fort Park.
- **Sept 21,** South Shore Neptunes **Transect Dive**. See Aug 17 for details.
- **Sept 24, "Dive on the Dark Side"** no moon night dive at Back Beach. 6:30/7PM
- **Sept 27, Coast Sweep.** Come help clean up the beaches! We aim to clean Pebble Beach. Check next month's newsletter for final details. "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- **Oct 11, Boat Dive** with Cape Ann Charters on Day Breaker. See Aug 2 for details.
- **Oct 18,** Indian Summer Lexington Bike Trail **Bike Ride**. "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- **Oct 25,** NSF Halloween Party. Host: Dave Smith
- **Oct 25-Nov 5,** Turks and Caicos trip; contact: **Susan Copelas**
- **Nov 27,** Thanksgiving, **NO MEETING**
- **Dec 4,** NSF Officer Elections and Photo Contest balloting.
- **Dec 6,** NSF Annual President's Banquet. At the Franco American Club.
- **Dec 25,** Christmas, **NO MEETING**



By The Way

By Daryl Findlay

By the way the diving on Sunday (July 6) was a lot of fun, wish you were there. Paul Blanchette and I met at the BK at 8:15 and left around 8:40. I needed to run some U/W tests on some new equipment so we headed to Back Beach, where I normally first test new ideas. Back Beach was swamped with divers, so we moved on to Old Garden Beach. OGB had a few dive classes camped around but didn't look bad for a test dive.

All winter and spring I have been working on a Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV or Scooter) that some might have seen at one of our meetings. Well this was its first dive since the rebuild. Though the vehicle is heavy on land, it is only a few pounds negative underwater. Once Paul hauled it down to the shore for me I waddled into the surf carrying the 60lb vehicle. In about four feet of water I submerged, clipped the vehicle to my BCD waist strap, and carefully squeezed the hand trigger as I turned the throttle knob up to full speed. The vehicle towed me straight and fast out past the sand and rocks as I followed the terrain within inches. I am not sure how fast I was traveling, but I know it was faster than I could swim for that duration of time. One also should know that I was towing a large dive flag behind me, as this was the first test of the vehicle. The max possible speed was hard to figure but I found that the vehicle could haul a lot of drag (People are always telling me I am a drag). Anyway when I stopped to ascend and spy-hop my location, I found myself very far away from the beach. As I was heading back to the beach I came upon a few fish to race, me being such a drag they won eventually. I can't wait to fit a video camera on the vehicle and do a survey of some of our favorite sites/wrecks.



Reason 38:
Dinner for two.



Reason 57:
No more
tears!



The DPV, or Scooter (What IS its name?)(Daryl Findlay)

By the way, if I told you where the lobsters are would you try to swim way out there to find them? No? How sad. :-P

Earth Day Fish Count “Dive”-June 1



Michael LOOKS like he's having fun!! (Daryl Findlay)

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Beach Meeting July 10 at Whites Beach, Manchester



Panoramic photo is by Daryl Findlay. Group photos by Peter Cassidy.



Transect Dive with the South Shore Neptunes Dive Club on July 6

"View from the Waterline"
Photo by Dave Smith

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.

Member of the Month
for July 2003 goes to

Peter Cassidy

For putting together a fabulous
Canoe Trip for the Club.

**Underwater fluorescence news
from Charles Mazel**

Beautiful new photographs on the site contributed by Marcelo Mariozi. These are the first fluorescence images we have seen from Brazilian waters.

<http://www.nightsea.com/mariozi.htm>

A new barrier filter for use with the Nikonos close-up kit: This new filter makes it easy to switch back and forth between fluorescence and white-light imaging.

<http://www.nightsea.com/bbcu.htm>

The DarkBat is back. We had temporarily discontinued production of the DarkBat, but now it's back. The DarkBat converts any light with 4 C-cells into a custom light that makes it much easier to work in the dark to take fluorescence photographs.

<http://www.nightsea.com/photoblue.htm#darkbat>

NightSea in the diving press - Fluorescence night diving is featured in the article 'Nine things to do on a night dive' in the July 2003 issue of Rodale's Scuba diving.

NightSea founder Charlie Mazel recently returned from a research cruise in which he used manned submersibles to explore for fluorescence at depths of up to 2,750 feet (850 meters). Stay tuned - there will be more about the expedition in an upcoming news mailing, and a page about the trip on the NightSea web site.



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OUR WEBSITE IS
ALL NEW FOR 2003!
WWW.UNDERSEADIVERS.COM

Sales ♦ Service ♦ Rentals
AQUA LUNG ✪ SEAQUEST ✪ SUUNTO
GENESIS * DUI * VIKING * HENDERSON
VISA 🏠 MASTERCARD 🏠 AE 🏠 DISCOVER

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

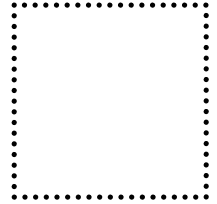
Welcome drink and gorgeous sunsets
included

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.

**Don't forget to take your pictures for
the Photo Contest!! See more about it
in last month's issue of Air Bubbles.**



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



Upcoming Events!

- Aug 13: Full Moon Dive
- Aug 17: Transect Dive - SSN
- Aug 21: Beach Meeting
- Aug 28: Speaker: John Ganson
- Aug 27: No Moon Night Dive
- Aug 30: Nubble Light 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.