



# Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 45, Number 7

September 2003

## President's Message, September 2003

The speed with which the seasons pass is underscored to me in the writing of the President's Message for this, the *September* issue of Air Bubbles. Can it really be that Labor Day is just around the corner? We all looked forward to the summer at DUI Demo Days in early May. Was that already four months ago... and our Fourth of July diving weekend nearly two months ago? Last month I reported on Ted Huemmeler's Summer Solstice Party and now we anticipate the fall. We might do well to identifying with the quote: "To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring." George Santayana, (1863-1952).

The September newsletter may seem a little late to discuss business from July, however, the newsletter editor's 18th of the month submission deadline prevented me from reporting on the Great American Fish Count held on July 19 at Old Garden Beach in last month's issue. According to John Irza of MetroWest, Bob Michelson reported that 74 divers conducted 120 surveys at 8 dive sites. Sites included: Cathedral Rocks, Folly Cove, Back Beach, Pebble Beach, Halibut Shores, Magnolia Rocks, Old Garden Beach, and Nubble Light, York, Maine. Approximately 30 species of fish were observed during these survey dives. John also reported that we still hold the designation of having THE largest GAFC event in the United States for the second year in a row! I want to give special thanks to Amy Maurer for coordinating the NSFC's participation and contribution to this successful event. Thanks Amy! Next year's survey will continue to be held on Cape Ann since plans for moving it to southern Maine near Kittery had more logistical detriments than benefits according to Bob.

Speaking of well deserved thanks, on August 2 and 3, Al Morris participated in the 24th annual Pan-Massachusetts Challenge (PMC), the nation's original fundraising cycling event or "bike-a-thon" to support and raise funds for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through its Jimmy Fund. According to news sources, the PMC raises more money than any other athletic charity event in the country. This was a grueling two-day event in less than ideal weather. The goal of the organization and its participants for this year was to pedal enough to raise \$16 million and

surpass an overall fundraising total of \$100 million. Thanks Al, for showing such heart and thanks to members who answered his call for sponsorship support donations.

Several members including Dave, John, Shon and Graham began the month of August with a great day diving aboard Fran Marcoux's, Day Breaker on August 2. This was the club's second outing with Fran. Our Vice President, Michael Donovan took charge of the evening/night dive on Wednesday, August 13 at Back Beach while Dave was away on vacation. On Sunday, August 17, Mary Howard participated in the South Shore Neptunes' sponsored transect dive for an artificial reef project southeast of Grave's Ledge.

As of this writing, members who went on the North Carolina trip are just getting back home. We look forward to hearing about their adventure. We are anticipating the second of our two Beach Meetings at White Beach in Manchester on Thursday, August 21. This event has always been popular and we hope you will make every effort to attend. Again, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dave Metrano for arranging the permits. The Wells Beach Camping weekend is Labor Day weekend, August 29 through September 1. Please contact Dawn Denneler for more details if you are interested. Paul Dumas promised to bring his telescope this year. With the planet Mars at its closest proximity to Earth in some 60,000 years, great views of little green men are anticipated. Any resemblances to our mascot, Freddie, are purely coincidental.

I am pleased to invite all club members to a house party I will host on the weekend following Labor Day. This will be Sunday, September 7 from 2:00 pm on. So, even if you plan to dive that morning, please stop by for a

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complementary Margarita to toast a farewell to the waning summer and enjoy barbeque and the camaraderie of your friends. It will be held at my Chase Street, Salem home. Details and directions will be forthcoming in a separate announcement. Please mark your calendars.

Meeting night programs have been averaging two per month and have been well received. On August 7 we watched the first half of the 25 year old broadcast of Peter Gimbel's efforts to retrieve the pursor's safe from the wreck of the Andrea Doria. A two-hour program – we anticipate showing the concluding half in the near future. It will have to be soon as lots of material for Movie Night is available. Offerings can include an outstanding program on the SS Portland from the History Channel to a variety of "Shark Week" specials from the Discovery Channel. However informative and entertaining these programs are, they only serve as counterpoints to the lineup of outstanding speakers scheduled. Our August speaker, John Ganson, is a great public speaker and lecturer as well as a Boston Sea Rover. He will discuss the Scapa Flow on August 28. Come hear about his family's odyssey to where the Scottish Orkney Islands serve as the graveyard for the World War I German Fleet. You will find his black and white underwater photography to be both unique and extraordinary.

As first reported last month, Andy Martinez agreed to speak to our club on September 18. His subject will be his underwater photo album of St. Vincent where he dived for three consecutive summers. He also has slides of Grenada where he currently is as of this writing. Put this together with Jonathan Bird, who has agreed to speak again in October for an unprecedented second NSFC engagement in one year, and you must agree that the fall lineup is something to look forward to. Jonathan, the new proud father of Elise Jeanne Bird, aka "Baby Bird" born July 22, will present on his forthcoming shark book.

This month's Member of the Month is John Sears. John remains an active diver who supports the club in a variety of ways. In past years, he and his wife Theresa have hosted Halloween Parties at their home in Danvers where members have always felt well received. At last year's club banquet, his efforts at selling tickets resulted in a full banquet table being reserved for his friends and/or extended family. Our club grew by one member due to John's recruitment of work colleague Shon Dubois, an active member in his own right who attends meetings regularly and who participates in many club sponsored dives.

One of John's most valuable contributions is in his role as liaison with Bob Boyle of Undersea Divers in Beverly, our principal benefactor and supporter. He has taken on the responsibility to purchase items for club raffle prizes and

does a commendable job as goodwill ambassador-at-large for the club. After acquiring these raffle items on the club's behalf, he has taken to promoting ticket sales at regular club meetings. Additionally, he has been involved with other initiatives to increase awareness of the club with posters and other means. Thank you John.

That's it from this corner. To be certain, it has been something of a short, wet summer. However, we can take stock in knowing that fall is the time of year for some of the best diving in New England. Enjoy!

Paul Sauvageau  
President NSFC, 2003



### Labor Day Camping/Diving Weekend

August 29 – Sept 1

Beach Acres Campground, Wells, Maine

A group of Froggies will be staying at Beach Acres Campground in Wells, Maine, over the long Labor Day weekend. For reservations call the Campground at 207-646-5612 if you would like to join the group, who will be staying in Section V, at the far end of the Campground. Contact Dawn Denneler for more information.

Some members of the club will be diving at Nubble Light on Saturday, the 30<sup>th</sup>. We will plan to get there at 9:30AM, and be ready to do our first dive by 10:30. High tide is at about 2PM, so that will put us in the water about 2 ½ to 3 hours into the incoming tide, and the second dive would be closer to high tide. Although the weather prohibited us from diving the past two years, we are hoping and planning for better conditions this year. For more details, contact Ray Porter or Mary Howard. See our website for information about the site, and directions to get there.

There will be a club dinner on Saturday at the Campground, in Section V. Those spending the day at the campground after the dive, please bring refreshments and contributions to dinner (salads, appetizers, desserts).

And Paul Dumas promises to bring his telescope, so if the weather permits, we should have a really nice view of the planet Mars!

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**The North Shore Frogmen's Club**  
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### **2003 OFFICERS**

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### **2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Membership: John Ferrier

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## **Meeting Summaries**

### **24-July-2003**

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: 4 officers, 16 members

Guests: None

**Announcements:** Baby Bird has arrived! A girl, Elise Jeanne.

### **Correspondence:**

- News Article - Free diving record depth 400 feet successful. Attempt at 561 feet unsuccessful.
- Rockport teacher missing on honeymoon vacation.

- Diver snorkeling in Antarctica was pulled down by a leopard seal.

*Secretary's Report:* Meeting minutes accepted as amended.

*Treasurer's Report:* Account balances accepted as read.

*Air Bubbles:* August Air Bubbles distributed.

### **Old Business:**

- Great American Fish Count. 74 divers participated, 120 surveys completed, 30 species sighted. Next years fish count will be on Cape Ann again. 8 Froggies participated.

### **New Business:**

Bobbie Boyle moving. Those interested in assisting contact Candi Souza and Paul Stamegna

### **Dive Talk:**

- Paul Stamegna dove at Folly Cove - Vis. 20 ft., water temp 58oF at 40 ft. Lost catch bag. Saw sea clam and sand dollar.
  - GAFC - Old Garden Beach, 8 Froggies participated. Dave and Amy - Vis. 20 ft., water temp 48oF at 40 ft. Saw strippers, skates, flounders and two Atlantic Torpedo Rays. Second dive, Vis 10 ft., saw moon snails.
- Paul Sauvageau - had free flowing octopus due to a failure in the 1st stage.

John Ferrier - had a split high pressure hose.

- Linda Piehl and Patty DeClue dove OGB. Saw a big flounder and caught 4 lobsters.
- Graham dove Mag Rocks with MetroWest.
- Dave Smith and Linda Marshal dove OGB on Sunday.
- Michael tried the Manta spring fin straps. Said they worked well, easy to get fins on and held them securely.

### **General Discussion:**

- Seamark. To be held at the Museum of Science Oct 25. 50% of proceeds go to the Cotting School.
- MetroWest. Tuesday Movie Night - Ghost film at Aquarium.

- Discovery Channel. Lost City found near Alexandria. One hour documentary of submerged city.

Meeting adjourned: 8:55

### **Raffles:**

Bug Bag - Dive computer and snorkel ongoing

Mystery Prize - Graham Smith (Again)

Dollars Box - Dawn Denneler

### **31-July-2003**

Meeting called to order: 8:09 PM

Attendance: 3 officers, 20 members

Guests: None

### **Announcements:** Al Morris

participating in the Pan Mass Challenge Bike-A-Thon. Donations to Jimmy Fund accepted.

*Secretary's Report:* Meeting minutes accepted as amended.

*Treasurer's Report:* Account balances accepted as read.

*Membership Committee:* Nothing to report.

*Air Bubbles:* Air Bubbles out. Deadline for next issue August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** September 21 NSF Club Picnic coming soon.

### **Dive Talk:**

- Shon and Hans. Boat dive out near Cat Island for scallops. Vis. 15 to 20 ft., water temp cold at 40 ft.
- Shon and John S. OGB Vis. OK, Lobsters over gauge.
- John F. Lanes Cove Vis. OK, water temp 52 to 54oF surge with current in channel. Took 6 lobsters.
- John F. (7 Froggies total) John and Jeanne present. Gap Cove. Vis. 25 to 30 ft., water temp 46oF at 20 ft., 45oF at 29 ft. No thermocline, water cold at all depths. Surface was calm.

### **General Discussion:**

- Mike Turner. Gauge lobsters right away, as you come out of the water. A cooler left unattended is an open invitation for inspection.
- Space available for Bobby Boyles Charter Dive, Sunday AM.
- Salem harbor. Big boat visiting Salem Harbor from the NY Yacht Club. Now on way to Gloucester.

## Air Bubbles - September 2003

- Aquarium Dive Club member's boat reported lost is now found. No word on the dive gear stored aboard.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45

### Raffles:

Bug Bag - Dive computer and snorkel ongoing  
Mystery Prize - Bill Werner  
Dollars Box - Nancy Gannett

### 7-August-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: 4 officers and 17 members

Guests: 2

**Announcements:** Movie night - First part of Andrea Doria video.

*Secretary's Report:* No report.

*Treasurer's Report:* No report.

*Membership Committee:* No report.

*Air Bubbles:* No report.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None.

**Dive Talk:** Yes, however detail of reported dives were not recorded.

**General Discussion:** Al rode in Pan Mass Challenge bike ride for the Jimmy Fund. He thanked the club for the support.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15

### Raffles:

Bug Bag - Paul Sauvageau won the snorkel. Dive computer ongoing  
Mystery Prize - ?  
Dollars Box - Peter Cassidy

### 14-August-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:00 PM

Attendance: 4 officers and 11 members

Guests: None

### Correspondence:

- Sunday Herald. Lobster prices rising.
- Salem News. Report about missing Rockport teacher.
- Boston Globe. Aquarium lost its accreditation due to lack of funding to construction projects.

*Secretary's Report:* No report.

*Treasurer's Report:* Account balances accepted as read. Bill of \$63 for lift bag prize.

*Membership Committee:* No report.

*Program Committee:*

Membership poll about movie nights. There is other material on Discover channel and other outlets for movies - Portland Wreck, Shark week on cable. Would the members like more movie nights or presentations. General consensus was 2 events per month of either movies or speakers. Keep a typical time limit of 1 hour.

*Air Bubbles:* Articles due on Monday, Aug 18.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Club Picnic. Champion needed to coordinate event.

### Dive Talk:

- Ray. Dove Folly Cove with Mary and Steve on Sunday. Vis. 10 to 15 ft. Water temp. 65oF at surface 53oF below 30 ft. Saw flounder, sea raven, lots of cunner and a couple of lobsters.
- Mary. Dove OGB with Roslyn on Monday morning.
- Michael. Dove Back Beach with Peter Cassidy on the Wednesday night dive. Water temp. low 50s. Orange moon.
- Linda Piehl. Dove Folly Cove.
- Hans. Lake diving in NH for bottles. Dozens of dives out on the Willows and around Marblehead, Salem, and Rockport, Lots of scallops. Cold at depth.

### General Discussion:

- Tuesday Activity. Took Jerry Southerland and Peter Chapman's father and other vets out to the Veterans Memorial in Haverhill. Peter's Cassidy's company reconstructed an old iron fence from another site for this memorial. (See picture on pg. 7)
- Paul Dumas. Will be retired in about a month.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45

### Raffles:

Bug Bag - Dive computer and lift bag ongoing  
Mystery Prize - Peter Cassidy  
Dollars Box - Peter Cassidy

## Photo Contest

I hope everyone has been taking lots of good 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. And it gives me plenty of time to prepare the display.

Voting for the best picture in each category will be held on election night for new officers, December 4, 2003.

Mary Howard

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# AUGUST 2003

<b>24</b> Sunday Dive	<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> Nubble Light Dive 9:30 AM
<b>31</b> Sunday Dive	<b>SEPTEMBER 2003</b> 					
	<b>1</b> HOLIDAY Dive 8AM Burger King	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Sunday Dive End of summer party	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Almost Full Moon Night Dive 7PM	<b>11</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Sunday Dive	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8PM Meeting Speaker: Andy Martinez	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday Dive <b>Club Picnic</b> <small>Transect Dive-SSN</small>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> No Moon Night Dive 6:30PM	<b>25</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Coast Sweep</b> Beach Clean-up
<b>28</b> Sunday Dive	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2003</b>			
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Sunday Dive	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Almost Full Moon Night Dive 6PM	<b>9</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Sunday Dive	<b>13</b> HOLIDAY Dive 8AM Burger King	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Lexington Bike Outing & Party
<b>19</b> Sunday Dive	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8PM Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Seamark Halloween Party
<b>26</b> Sunday Dive	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8PM Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Bird	<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?)

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### Activities

- Aug 27, "Dive on the Dark Side" no moon night dive at Back Beach. Twilight dive meet at 5PM, in the water at 5:30PM; night dive meet at 7:30PM, in the water at 8PM.
- Aug 28, **Speaker Meeting**. Sea Rover **John Ganson** will give presentation on "The Scapa Flow".
- Aug 30, **Nubble Light Dive**. Time 9:30AM at Nubble Light. Contact Mary or Ray for more info.
- Aug 29–Sept 1, Wells Beach Camping weekend. See pg. 2 for info. Contact Dawn Denneler for more details.
- Sept 1, **Holiday Dive (Mon)**; 8AM at Burger King.
- Aug 31, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- Sept 7, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- Sept 7, **End of Summer Bash** at **Paul Sauvageau's** house, 2PM >> on.
- Sept 10, "Almost Full Moon" **Night Dive**. Meet at 7PM at Back Beach, in the water at 7:30PM.
- Sept 14, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- Sept 18, **Speaker Meeting**. **Andy Martinez** will give a presentation on St Vincent.
- Sept 21, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- Sept 21, **NSF Annual Club Picnic** at Stage Fort Park. Bring your friends and family!
- Sept 21, **South Shore Neptunes Transect Dive**. The Neptunes will be doing a **Transect Dive** for the artificial reef project. Other clubs' divers are welcome to go along. Contact: Mary Howard.
- Sept 24, "Dive on the Dark Side" no moon night dive at Back Beach. 6:30/7PM
- Sept 27, **MCZM Coast Sweep**. Come help clean up the beaches! We aim to clean Pebble Beach starting at 10AM. "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- Sept 28, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- Oct 11, **Boat Dive** with **Cape Ann Charters/ Fran Marcoux** on Day Breaker. Dive Coordinator: Dave Smith. Cost \$60 for 2-tank trip.
- Oct 18, **Indian Summer Lexington Bike Trail Bike Ride**. "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- Oct 18, **Post-Ride Party** at Roslyn Smith's, right on the bike trail.
- Oct 25, **NSF Halloween Party**. Host: Dave Smith
- Oct 25–Nov 5, **Turks and Caicos trip**; contact: **Susan Copelas**
- Oct 26, **Pumpkin Carving Dive** at Stage Fort Park.
- Oct 30, **Speaker Meeting**. **Jonathan Bird** will come talk about sharks.
- Nov 20, **Absolute Deadline for Photo Contest** entries. See pg. 4 for details.
- 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**

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### **Korean Veterans Memorial Picture and news note....**

*Peter Cassidy*

Froggies Mike Denneler, Peter Chapman, Peter Cassidy and Rich Kinkade accompanied Jerry Sutherland and Peter Chapman's father, Richard, on a field trip to Haverhill to visit the new Korean Veterans Memorial. We're proud of the troops who serve our country today and proud of our club members who have served in the past. Jerry Sutherland served in the Korean War and was wounded. Peter Chapman's father served in Korea at the same time. Rich Kinkade served in the Vietnam War. While there, all of the Korean War vets posed for a few pictures. In the photograph above from left to right are: Bob Turcotte, Walter Millington, Raymond DeRoche, Richard Chapman, Jerry Sutherland, Russell Chaput and Don Aimaro. All but Richard and Jerry are Haverhill Korean vets who built the memorial and met us there. After pictures and some interesting war stories, we all went out for lunch to the nearby A-1 cafe.

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### **News Notes:**

#### **Champion needed to organize Club Picnic**

The Club Picnic is scheduled for September 21. At the time of publication of this newsletter, no one has volunteered to be in charge of organizing the Picnic. Is there anyone out there willing and able to take this on? You wouldn't need to do everything; knowing how to delegate could be a very useful skill.

#### **Labor Day Diving**

Roslyn Smith is hoping people will want to go diving locally on Labor Day (Monday). She has the day off from work - YAY!! - and wants to do a lot of diving. Please contact her if you would like to join up with her and dive. Contact info: home phone: 781-648-3488, email: [rossmith@rcn.com](mailto:rossmith@rcn.com).

#### **Upcoming Speakers**

John Ganson will speak to the club on August 28 on the Scapa Flow, and will show his black and white underwater photography of this graveyard of the World War I German fleet.

September 18 Andy Martinez will present his photo album of pictures from St. Vincent and Granada, sure to be a treat.

Jonathan Bird will be back on October 30 to talk about sharks, and will bring copies of his newest book on the same subject. (See the President's message for Jonathan's OTHER latest news.)

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### Cape Ann Charters Boat Dive August 2, 2003

Under cloudy showery skies, three club members, John Ferrier, Graham Smith, and myself sailed out on Cape Ann Charter's Daybreaker for a morning of diving. Because the weather wasn't the greatest, Capt Fran suggested we dive off Kettle Island Point. Normally, diving isn't recommended here due to the plethora of boat traffic but because the weather wasn't great, he figured that boat traffic would be minimal.

We anchored just off the point. My buddy was John. We dropped to about 40 feet and started out. Even with the limited visibility (15-20 ft), you could see that this location was really nice. Lots of boulders, canyons, and overhangs to explore. I sank down to the sand around 58 feet and spent most of my dive there. Only a few lobsters here but the landscape was spectacular. I blew a few PSI of air watching a tautog guard his hole; a neat sight!

N2 building up so I went shallower. Managed to bag 2 lobsters but one was set free after being judged by a jury of my peer-divers. I did a nice long safety stop at the top of a rock pinnacle at 18fsw; just observing all the little crabs and fish. Surfaced just a short swim from the boat (nav definitely getting better, Al ;^ ) ).

For the second dive, we propped up the coast a bit past Mag Rocks to a place called Popplestone Ledge. This place wasn't as deep or dramatic as the first place but nevertheless pretty. Max depth here is in the area of 35 feet unless you manage to go off the back of the ledge. Here it drops off to 50fsw. John and I swam into the shore; passing boulders, reefs and then hitting sandy areas. Lobstering was excellent here. Got 4 in the bag; net 3 making it my best one day total ever. Towards the end of the dive, went down to 38 ft; made a course correction to the right and went up onto another flat pinnacle at 15 feet for an extended safety stop. Lots of small baby mussels and crabs. Surfaced just off the boat again.

A great morning of diving!

FYI ~ Fox news says lobster counts are down this year because the water is colder for this time of year (tell me about it :^\ ) because of the colder-than-normal May & June. This makes the bugs more lethargic.

DiverDave Smith  
6-Aug-03

### "Maybe Next Time"

By Peter Cassidy

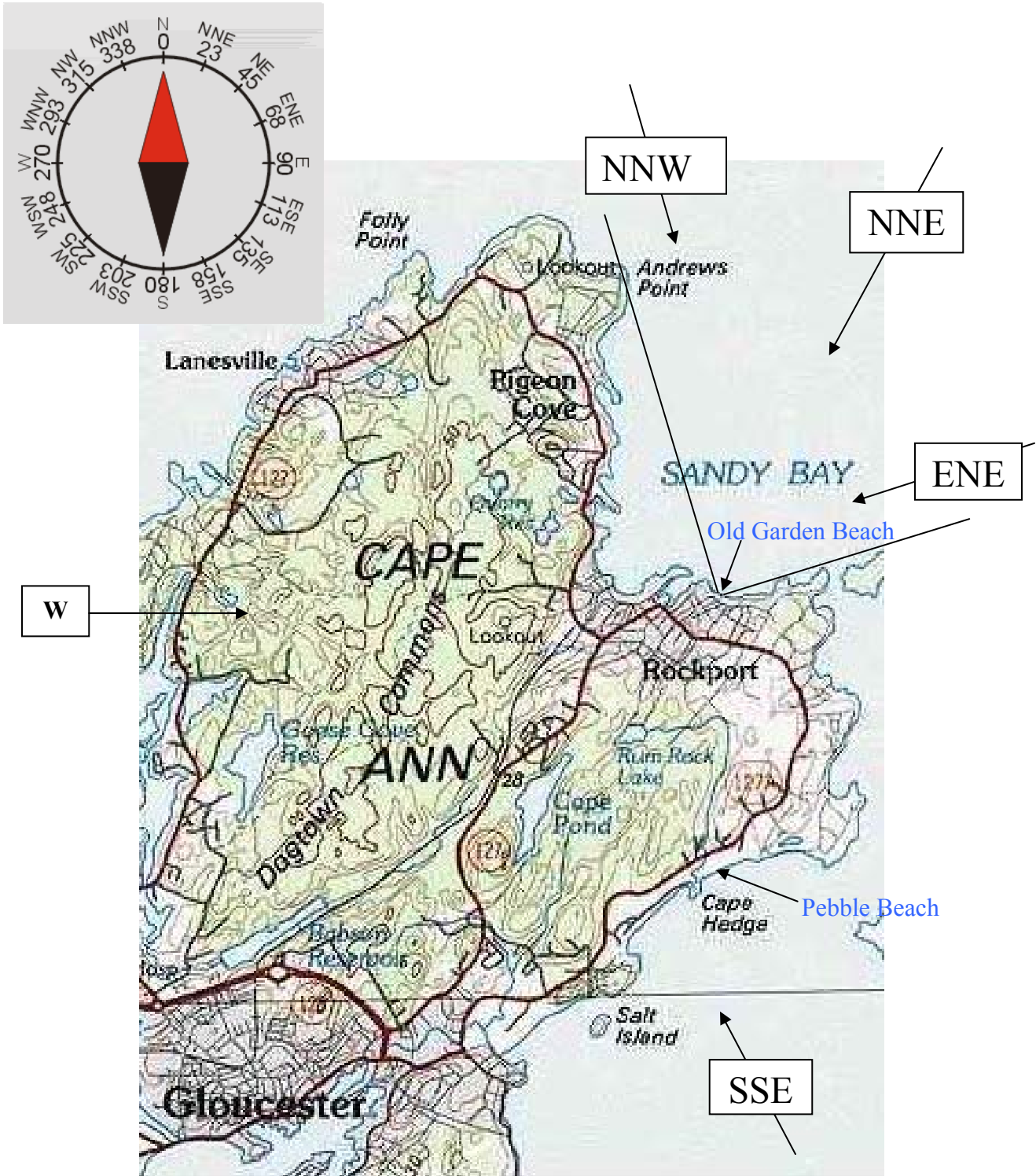
Recently, a friend apologized to me for opting out of a dive opportunity due to a weather forecast predicting the 'possibility of rain.' Although a prediction of rain implies something unpleasant to most, my response to him was that "its summer, it's warm and we're going to get wet anyway". It occurred to me while talking to him that many divers have some confusion about dive suitability and site selection as it relates to weather forecasts. Wind speed and direction have a far greater effect on the probability of a pleasant dive experience than any forecast of rain. Rain will probably have little or no effect on the prospects of a quality dive. The exception of course, would follow a torrential downpour. Then there could be poor visibility from surface runoff clouding up the water. Certainly if the overall climate is cold and damp, the pre-dive and particularly the post-dive may be increasingly more uncomfortable when you add the element of rain. If your likelihood of being miserable before, during and after a dive were assured due to a forecast of rain, I would be inclined to cancel also.

Wind will have a much more adverse effect on the quality of a dive. Wave action is enhanced if the wind is coming onshore. A protected site would be one that clearly has the wind from offshore. The morning of a dive would be a good time to check the latest forecast, paying close attention to the wind speed and direction. If the weather is calm with wind speeds from 0-5 in any direction, you are probably safe to dive anywhere you choose. If the speed is moderate (5-15) you should select a dive site where the wind will be offshore. If the wind speed is high (15 or greater) you should precisely select a protected spot or better yet, wait until another day.

Since many days have moderate wind speed, it would save time and sanity to be able to use the latest forecast with a map or nautical chart as a tool to predict the dive sites with the least probability of wave action. Consider some possible scenarios (see map pg. 9). Let's say there is a moderate wind out of the west, both Pebble Beach and Old Garden Beach are likely to be calm for diving. On the other hand, let's say there is a moderate wind from the south-southeast, then Old Garden would be a better choice. This is a simple formula to follow and can narrow site choices in minutes. I can remember many times when meeting at Burger King for a club dive that a 'look and see' approach was chosen by the group. Picture four or five cars and trucks driving from one site to another to check each prospective dive site. I call this the "grand tour". This takes a considerable amount of time and gasoline and can usually be avoided. (cont. on pg. 10)



# Air Bubbles - September 2003



**Map of Cape Ann**

(Map from website: <http://www.riverviewhill.com/cape-ann-map-directions.htm>)

## Air Bubbles - September 2003

(cont. from pg 8)

It's not a perfect world so obviously the arrival at the selected site will only give the final verification of the conditions. The above approach clearly doesn't work when there is a major storm system at sea; even a hurricane centered in Bermuda can give rough seas in what should appear to be a protected area. This article is not meant to imply any hard and fast rules for site selection but rather a guide that will often help in making pre-dive decisions.

### Great American Fish Count



### Sunday Morning at Folly Cove

By Ray Porter

My Sunday mornings often require that I choose between riding by bicycle along the roads or diving off the beaches of Cape Ann. With many of the regular Sunday morning divers on a North Carolina adventure, Mary and I decided to make diving a priority this morning. Arriving at Burger King well before the 8:30 departure time, we were soon joined by Steve Saucier and his brother who was providing shore support. The winds were from the South, so north facing dive sites would be preferable. The tide was high (or nearly so). I dove Old Garden Beach 3 of my last 4 dives, so I suggested Folly Cove. Steve and I had yet to dive there and it has been a number of years since Mary dove there.

Several divers were already in the water or preparing to enter the water when we arrived. After we unloaded the car and parked up the street in the restaurant parking lot, we suited up. Mike Tuner stopped by to provide shore support, electing not to dive because of head congestion. Mary's steel tanks were empty so she was using one of my aluminum 80's this day. The three of us entered the water and headed for the wall long the left side of the cove. The water temperature at the surface was 65° F. At our maximum depth of 32 feet, it was a chilly 53° F. The visibility was 10 to 15 feet.

To the delight of any diver who comes to Folly Cove, the sea life is just beautiful. Cunner were everywhere, darting in and out of the sea weed and hiding behind rocks of we got too close. Flounder could be seen (if you looked carefully) long the sandy bottom and around the base of the boulders. Under rock ledges were several anemone, softball size or larger. These would probably be great to come visit on a night dive. A lobster was occasionally found in cracks between boulders. Starfish and sea urchins were present in great abundance. The whole scene was more like a garden than an ocean bottom.

After about 30 minutes, Mary noticed that it was more difficult to remain submerged. At 1500 psi of air, the aluminum tank was more buoyant than the steel tank she usually uses. We head back toward the beach much closer to the surface than the bottom. Mike helped us ashore. After getting out of our dive gear, Mike treated us to cookies that his wife Jessica made (mmmmm good). Steve reported that if he had known it was going to be as good a dive, he would have gotten a second tank. Maybe next time we will.

GAFC pictures: left above: Ray, Amy, Mary and Steve fill out paperwork. Left: Steve Saucer won the dive reel. (by Daryl Findlay)

Member of the Month  
for August 2003  
goes to

**John Sears**

For his continuous support of the  
North Shore Frogmen's Club

(See President's message for details.)



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At left:  
Daryl's  
buddy on a  
recent  
Sunday  
dive on  
Cape Ann

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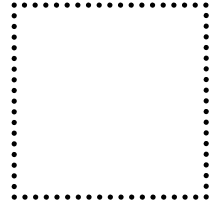
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The North Shore Frogmen's Club Inc  
PO Box 3604  
Peabody, MA 01961-3604



## Upcoming Events!

Aug 29-Sept 1: Wells Beach  
Camping Weekend  
Aug 30: Nubble Light Dive  
Sept 7: End of Summer Bash  
Sept 10: Full Moon Dive  
Sept 18: Speaker: Andy Martinez  
Sept 21: Club Picnic  
See Calendar inside for many more events.



**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.