



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 45, Number 8

October 2003

President's Message, October 2003

Another summer season of diving is coming to a close, yet some of the best diving of the year can be anticipated when autumn approaches. This of course is notwithstanding the fact that these last few weeks have been the height of hurricane season and an active one indeed. So, here's hoping that Fabian, Henri and Isabel have not stifled your weekend dive plans much. Choose your dive sites carefully. Just keep your sails set:

*"One ship drives east and another drives west
With the selfsame winds that flow.
'Tis the set of sails and not the gales
Which tells us the way to go."* -- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Our activities calendar has remained busy. Turnout for the second Beach Meetings at White Beach in Manchester on Thursday, August 21 was very good establishing these annual events as among the more popular of the summer. (See Daryl's photos in this issue).

In my humble opinion, our Guest Speaker Series reached new heights when John Ganson presented his program on the Scapa Flow. This area off northern Scotland between the Orkney and Shetland Islands was the home of the British fleet as well as the graveyard for Germany's surrendered WWI fleet following that war. As something of a history buff, I was surprised how much I learned from John's informative video and slide program. As of this writing, John is back in Scotland diving those wrecks again.

Dawn Denneler coordinated the Wells Beach Camping weekend over Labor Day, August 29 through September 1. This event has become an institution over the years. The following weekend, Sunday, September 7, Daryl Findley and I hosted an end-of-summer barbeque at my place in Salem. Recognizing the hospitality of couples like the

Carvalhos, the Cassidys, the Smiths, the Sears as well as Mary Howard and Ray Porter who have perennially hosted annual club events in their homes, I wanted to reciprocate with an open house while I still held the gavel as club president. I want to thank all of you who accepted our invitation with the volumes of food you contributed. A good time was had by all and the weather cooperated perfectly. This same weekend Dave Smith orchestrated another dive on Fran Marcoux's boat, the Daybreaker with John Ferrier among others to the Dry Salvages. Dave has also been keeping a steady schedule of weekly night dives practically every other Wednesday throughout the summer.

As of this writing, plans are being formulated for the Club Annual Picnic at Stage Fort Park on Sunday, September 21. The weather promises to be beautiful even though Isabel's churning of the seas may make for less than ideal diving conditions. I want to thank Daryl for seizing the initiative by orchestrating the logistics for this event. Club participants who have contributed to the ongoing successes of this annual event with food and supplies deserve recognition as well.

On September 11 we watched the second half of Peter Gimbel's exploration of the wreck of the Andrea Doria hosted by George Plimpton. Programs for Movie Night viewing are multiplying faster than the opportunities we will have to show them. The PBS NOVA series has recently rebroadcast "Hitler's Lost Sub." The film follows a six-year odyssey by a group of divers to identify a mysterious U-boat they discovered in 1991 off the coast of New Jersey. Like so many of these specials, this program that uncovered the mystery of U-869 is unfortunately two hours in length and like the Doria program, may have to be viewed over a two meeting period. We can add it to our growing video library that includes the History Channel program on the SS Portland and "Shark Week" specials from the Discovery Channel.

Andy Martinez's presentation on September 18 of St. Vincent where he dived for three consecutive summers was outstanding. His macro shots of frog fish, sea horses, and pipe fish, among others were wonderful. It was great to see Bob Boyle show up for the presentation. Andy's slides of Grenada may have wait until next year as many of them are still being developed.

In This Issue

- MCZM Beach Cleanup — pg. 4
- Activities Calendar — pg. 5-6
- Letter to the Editor — pg. 7
- Jonathan Bird Oct 30 — pg. 7
- Beach Meeting, Aug 21 — pg. 7
- Diving with Myrtle — pg. 8
- Labor Day Diving at Nubble Light — pg. 9
- "End of Summer" Party — pg. 10
- Club Picnic — pg. 11

Air Bubbles – October 2003

On the subject of guest speakers, Jonathan Bird will make a return engagement on October 30 to show his video, “Jonathan Bird’s Blue World. And I am thrilled to announce that our own Charlene Colella will be our featured speaker for November when she will give a presentation on her trip to Wakatobi Island in the Indonesian archipelago on November 20. Please refer to her article in the July issue of Air Bubbles. More details will follow next month.

Don’t forget that SEAMARK will be held at the Museum of Science in Boston on October 25 to benefit the SEAMARK Vision Clinic at the Cotting School. The featured speaker will be Jean-Michel Cousteau.

It is something of an achievement when the Membership Committee and the good word of members can promote the club’s growth this late in the year. That is exactly what has occurred last month with the return of former member Raymond Mount of Salem and new member Dan Hering of Beverly. It gives me great pleasure to welcome them both.

September’s Member of the Month is Dave Metrano. This active diver and former president has had difficulty making meetings lately due to his evening work shift with the Manchester-By-The Sea Police Department. However, that has not deterred him from the valuable help he continues to contribute for the club this year as in so many years past. Dave is responsible for our two beach meetings becoming realities this summer. He obtained the permits from the town for the White’s Beach meetings held on July 10 and August 21. He also provided his grill, tables and other necessary supplies. Dave then contributed the same for our Annual Club Picnic on September 21. In what free time he has, Dave continues to work as a dive instructor at Bob Boyle’s Undersea Divers in Beverly. His knowledge of dive equipment is widely known with his experience tuning, maintaining and rebuilding regulators among other equipment. When I mentioned above how members’ positive expressions can help us recruit new members, recall that David was responsible for Susan Copelas joining our club earlier this year. - Thanks Dave!



...and thank you all. Safe body surfing until next month!

Paul Sauvageau
President NSFC, 2003



Please welcome our newest member:

Dan Hering

and

Returning member

Ray Mount

Meeting Summaries

21-August-2003

Beach meeting and cookout at White’s Beach in Manchester.

No club business was conducted.

28-August-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: 4 officers and 13 members

Guests: Jason Copelas (Susan’s son), John (Linda’s friend), Dan Hering, Paul’s family and friends

Announcements: John Ganson, guest speaker, abbreviated meeting format.

Presentation on Scapa Flow

Correspondence:

- Jeannine Fabian email – Woman’s underwater rugby, Sat @ 7:41 CBS
- SEAMARK flyer available

Secretary’s Report: No report.

Treasurer’s Report: No treasurer’s report. Bill for web hosting \$254.49. Motion to pay. Seconded. Approved.

Air Bubbles: Air Bubbles sent and received.

Dive Talk:

- Trip to Singapore – 10 days inclusive except for airfare. \$900 for trip plus \$800 – 1400 for air (Susan Copelas)
- John & Bill – Thermocline at 27 ft., 10oF drop
- Daryl – Check for crustaceans on Friendship
- Paul S. on Easy Diver off Manchester (near Magnolia rocks) water temp 50oF
- Paul S – La Jolla (San Diego) low vis. 3- 5 feet, lots of sea grass
- Linda – Cape Ann Divers 1st dive at Paddock’s rock 65oF
- Mary – Transect dive 2 boats, 6 to 7 divers
- Rockport – Proposal for permits for big groups (20 to 30) at Old Garden Beach.

General Discussion:

- Al Morris – Dad’s car for sale.

Meeting adjourned: 8:27

Raffles:

- Bug Bag – Dive computer Shon Dubois. Lift bag ongoing.
- Mystery Prize – None
- Dollars Box – Ray Porter



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

2003 OFFICERS

President: Paul Sauvageau

Tel: (978) 744-4840

Email: psauvage@attbi.com

VP: Michael Donovan

Tel: (978) 664-3509

Email: mjdonovan@juno.com

Treasurer: Rich Kinkade

Tel: (978) 374-1650

Email: richkinkade@aol.com

Secretary: Ray Porter

Tel: (781) 944-1292

Email: rporter@ch2m.com

2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: John Ferrier

Tel: (781) 858-9182

Email: lobstalust@juno.com

Activities:

Daryl Findlay - 978-376-6669

Dave Smith - diverdave8@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Mary Howard

Tel: (781) 944-1292

Email: mmhoward@us.ibm.com

4-September-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:03 PM

Attendance: 4 officers, 15 members

Guests: 4 - Jeff & Maggie Wroth, Mike Smith and ?

Announcements: Paul Sauvageau to host open house Sunday September 7

Correspondence: Acadia Weekly - Lobstering article on Maine
Rob Falk - Letter to the editor on Seamark and Halloween Party.

Secretary's Report: Meeting minutes accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Account balances accepted as read. \$31.10 for Wells Beach Picnic.

Air Bubbles - October 2003

Dive Talk:

- John F. Saturday with Metro West at Cathedral Rocks. Low vis post point and old pottery factory, water temp 49-51oF. Got one lobster.
- Ray, Mary and Michael - Saturday at Nubble Light - Vis 10 to 12 feet, water temp 42 to 43oF at 40 feet.
- Dave S. Sunday Club Dive with Daryl, John and Al at Magnolia Rocks. Low vis., water temp over 50oF. Lots of lobsters. Boats in water for Harbor Fest
- Mary & Roslyn. Labor Day at Old Garden Beach - water temp mid 50's. Large striper .
- Paul B., John F., Jack, Daryl, and Graham - Cape Hatteras Trip. Green water 69 - 71oF, Blue water 82oF. Tuesday at Dixie Arrow - Only one shark. Played with scooters. Wednesday at Tarpon - Vis 100 feet at depth. Saw dolphins at surface. 8 of 10 dives completed.

General Discussion:

- Bobby Boyle moved to Rockport on Labor Day. Several Froggies helped with the move.
- Wells Beach - Evening view of Mars through Paul's telescope.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45

Raffles:

Bug Bag - Lift bag ongoing
Mystery Prize - Paul Blanchette
Dollars Box - Paul Dumas

11-September-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:05 PM

Attendance: 3 officers, 12+ members

Announcements:

- Second half of Andrea Doria Video to be shown tonight.
- On behalf of the club, Paul Sauvageau, club president wishes to offer our condolences and prayers to the victims and families of those directly affected by the terrorist attack. Today is the second anniversary of 9/11. Rick Burns' PBS Program: "The Center of the World" was broadcast this week on American Experience. I have what I believe to be on of the

best quotes from it by Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo. He speaks of how 9/11 demonstrates the ephemeral nature of life and how fast it can be snuffed out. Therefore, do something with your life and do it quicker and better.

Secretary's Report: Minutes not read.

Treasurer's Report: Account balances accepted as read.

Membership Committee: Dan Hering voted in as newest member.

Air Bubbles: Deadline next week.

Dive Talk:

- John F. Saturday at Lanes Cove w/ Metro West. Saw lobsters and torpedo ray. When they came out, a board with nails was placed behind the wheel of someone's car.
- Linda & John went with Cape Ann Divers to Thatcher Island and Bass Rocks.
- John s. and Shon dove Back Beach Tuesday - bad vis.
- Michael, Dave and Jack went on the Night Dive Wednesday - tons of lobsters, all sizes and one squid.
- Mike D. went body surfing.

Meeting adjourned: 8:31

Raffles:

Bug Bag - Lift bag ongoing
Mystery Prize - Mike Denneler
Dollars Box - Paul Sauvageau

18-September-2003

Meeting called to order: 8:10 PM

Attendance: 4 officers, 19 members

Guests: 4 - Andy Martinez - Featured Speaker, and Shawn Cavanaugh & Margaret Walsh Cavanaugh and John (Linda's friend)

Announcements: Abbreviated meeting format - Andy Martinez presentation on St. Vincent.

Correspondence:

Boston Herald Articles -

- Massachusetts leading in fishing revenue, New Bedford leading with scallops harvest.

- Univ. of CT reports that the Portland was damaged by a large wave.

Membership Committee: Responded to an email for more info about club.

Air Bubbles - October 2003

Program Committee:

Reviewed commitments for annual picnic at Stage Fort Park.

Air Bubbles: Tonight is the deadline for articles.

Dive Talk:

- Roslyn went to Roatan on an Aggressor Live-Aboard trip. She did 21 (out of 27) dives. Water was hot - upper 80s at surface lower 80's below 40 feet.
- John F. dove with Cape Ann Charters. Dove at Dry Salvage and Thatcher Island. Vis was low. Got 6 bugs.
- Dodie, Daryl and John F. dove Old Garden Beach Sunday. Frank provided shore support. Vis was poor near shore, better near the big rocks. John got another 6 bugs (12 for the weekend).
- Mary dove the NE Aq Giant Ocean Tank. Water temp 77oF, max depth 23 feet, dive time 45 minutes, and vis excellent. Saw 5 turtle, three porcupine fish and many other Caribbean creatures.
- Linda and John dove with Cape Ann Divers. Went to Egg Rocks - vis 30 feet. Got 4 lobsters

General Discussion:

- NOAA buoy off Hatteras report 40 foot waves during Hurricane Isabel.
- Daryl presented his British Columbia trip to the Central Mass Dive Club.

Meeting adjourned: 8:30

Raffles:

Bug Bag - Lift bag - Jack Munro

Mystery Prize - Jack Munro

Dollars Box - Michael Donovan

Photo Contest

I hope everyone has been taking lots of good pictures for this year's photo contest!!

Photographs must be by club members. 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 starting 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.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

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

Mary Howard

Come help clean up the Beaches! *Dave Smith*

Come join the Froggies on Saturday September 27th for our annual beach cleanup; part of the statewide CoastSweep effort sponsored by the Mass Coastal Zone Management. We will be at Pebble Beach in Rockport at 10AM to 2PM both ABOVE and BELOW the water. Come as you are! We will supply all bags, gloves, data sheets, and pencils. All you need to bring is a desire to help clean-up our valuable coastline.

We are indeed lucky to be stewards of one of the prettiest shorelines in the nation. This treasure in our own "backyard" needs our help if it is to be there for future generations to enjoy. If you have even admired a picture of our coastline, won't you come and help maintain its beauty? - Hope to see you there!

DIRECTIONS:

Take Route 128 North past both the Grant and Blackburn traffic circles.

At the set of lights at the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Route 127 North.

After about half a mile, (and shortly before Cape Ann Divers) turn right on Marina Drive.

Follow Marina Drive to the end, then make a left onto 127A.

Follow 127A until you see the Rocky Shores Inn and Turk's Motor Lodge. Take a right on South Street at this intersection.

Follow South Street until you get near the end, where you will take a left onto Penzance.

(Caution: Penzance intersects South Street Twice. Do not take the first turn onto Penzance near 127A).

Follow Penzance until you will see Pebble Beach on your right.

CoastSweep will be set up on the beach after the rocky area.



Air Bubbles - October 2003

28 Sunday Dive	29	30	Sept 2003			27 MCZM Coast Sweep Beach Clean-up
October 2003			1	2 8PM Meeting	3	4 Cape Ann Charters Boat Dive
5 Sunday Dive	6	7	8 Almost Full Moon Night Dive 6PM	9 8PM Meeting	10	11
12 Sunday Dive	13 HOLIDAY Dive 8AM Burger King	14	15	16 8PM Meeting	17	18 Lexington Bike Outing & Party
19 Sunday Dive	20	21	22 No Moon Night Dive 5:30PM	23 8PM Meeting	24	25 Seamark Halloween Party
26 Pumpkin Carving Dive Stage Fort Park	27	28	29	30 8PM Meeting Speaker: Jonathan Bird	31	
November 2003						1
2 Sunday Dive	3	4	5 Almost Full Moon Night Dive 5PM	6 8PM Meeting Begin nominations	7	8
9 Sunday Dive	10	11	12	13 8PM Meeting	14	15
16 Sunday Dive	17	18	19	20 8PM Meeting Photo contest entries due	21	22
23 Sunday Dive	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving no meeting	28	29
30 Sunday Dive						

Sunday Dive Times

Until October 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. Starting in October, the dive time changes by a half an hour, so plan to arrive at Burger King at 8:30 to discuss destinations and to be ready to leave for the dive site at 9AM. A note might be left on the light post **nearest the diesel pump**, giving the date and the dive destination (and a cell phone number?)

Air Bubbles - October 2003

Activities

- **Sept 24**, Wednesday, "**Dive on the Dark Side**" no moon night dive at Back Beach. 6:30/7PM
- **Sept 27**, Saturday, **MCZM Coast Sweep**. Come help clean up the beaches! We aim to clean Pebble Beach starting at 10AM. "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith (See page 4 for more info.)
- **Sept 28**, **Sunday Dive**. Meet at Burger King at 8AM.
- **Oct 4**, Saturday, **Boat Dive** with **Cape Ann Charters**/ Fran Marcoux on Day Breaker. Dive Coordinator: Dave Smith. Cost \$60 for 2-tank trip.
- **Oct 5**, **Sunday Dive**.
- **Oct 8**, Wednesday "**Almost Full Moon**" **Night Dive**. Meet at Back Beach at 6PM, in the water at 6:45PM
- **Oct 12**, **Sunday Dive**.
- **Oct 18**, Saturday, Indian Summer Lexington Rail Trail **Bike Outing**. Meet at Danvers Plaza at 9AM, or contact "Dive Coordinator": Dave Smith
- **Oct 18**, Post-Ride Party at Roslyn Smith's, right on the bike trail in Arlington after the bike ride.
- **Oct 19**, **Sunday Dive**.
- **Oct 22**, Wednesday, "**Dive on the Dark Side**" no moon night dive at Back Beach. 5:30/6:30PM
- **Oct 25**, Saturday, **Sea Mark** at the Museum of Science, benefit for the Cotting School, 6:30-10:30PM. Tickets \$55/person.
- **Oct 25**, Saturday, NSF **Halloween Party**, starts at 7PM. 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 be showing his "Blue World" television pilot.
- **Nov 5**, Wednesday "**Almost Full Moon**" **Night Dive**. Meet at Back Beach at 4:30PM, in the water at 5PM
- **Nov 6**, Thursday meeting, begin **NOMINATIONS for 2004 Club Officers**.
- **Nov 20**, Absolute Deadline for **Photo Contest** entries. See details pg. 4. **Charlene Colella** will be our November guest speaker. She'll present on her "**Paradise Found**" trip to Wakatobi, Indonesia.
- **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. The Band will be "TC and the Torpedoes".
- **Dec 25**, Christmas, **NO MEETING**
- **Jan 1**, **New Year's Day Dive and Party**.
- **Jan 1**, **New Year's Day, NO MEETING**

Air Bubbles – October 2003

To the Editor of Air Bubbles:

I noticed in the September Air Bubbles, that the NSF Halloween Party has been scheduled for the same night as Seamark - an important event to the dive community that has been on the calendar of every diver in New England for the better part of the past year. It has, in fact, been on the front page of our website, and on the club calendar, since March of this year!

Please consider this, from the Seamark website:

"Since 1975, the Seamark Vision Clinic has supplied 700 pairs of eyeglasses, provided vision therapy to 900 children with disabilities, examined more than 2,500 students, and repaired more than 15,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

Seamark was started in 1975, when noted diver and Boston Sea Rover Frank Scalli brought a group of volunteers together who raised \$7,000 to help secure a loan to build the first Vision Clinic at the School. In the 27 years since, Seamark has grown to become a major fundraising event for the Cotting School, where hundreds of SCUBA divers and their friends, local business owners, underwater equipment manufacturers and distributors, SCUBA instructors, and members of the scientific underwater community enjoy a fun, entertaining, and educational night of lectures, exhibits, raffles, music, and entertainment. The highlight of the Seamark fundraiser is a featured guest speaker. Past speakers include Jacques Cousteau, Dr. Robert Ballard, and Emory Kristof. This year's speaker is Jean-Michel Cousteau, the world-renowned environmentalist.

Proceeds from the Seamark fundraiser range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 each year. All funds go directly toward the clinic's operating expenses and capital requirements."

Of the \$55 ticket cost, \$25 is tax deductible. Your ticket includes access to the Blue Wing of the Museum, a presentation by Jean-Michel Cousteau, a full dinner and dessert buffet, two alcoholic drinks, and free parking in the Museum of Science garage.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the scheduling of the NSF Event, and to throw your full support behind Seamark.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Falk
Webmaster
North Shore Frogmen's Club

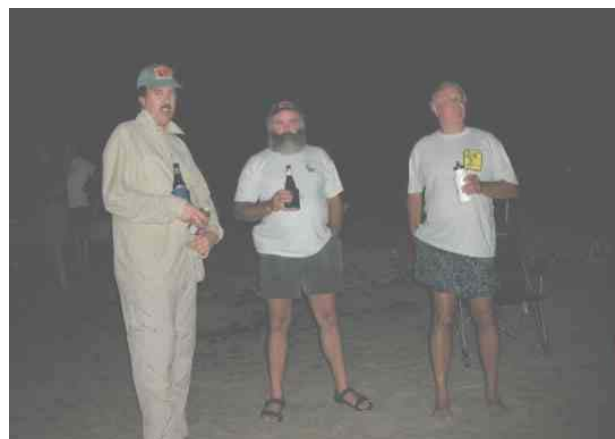
Jonathan Bird's Blue World October 30th

Jonathan Bird's Blue World is a television series for family audiences with Jonathan Bird as the host. Oceanic Research Group has produced a pilot and is currently seeking funding for the series. The pilot features Jonathan swimming with Blue sharks in Rhode Island, exploring a fresh water spring in Florida and swimming with Sperm whales in the Caribbean. The pilot has already won the coveted CINE Golden Eagle Award and has been accepted for showing at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival.

Don't miss it -- showing October 30th only at the NSF meeting!

(ps – Jonathan's also rumored to be bringing copies of his new Shark book to sell)

Beach Meeting, August 21, 2003



Air Bubbles – October 2003

Diving with Myrtle

Mary Howard

On Sunday morning, September 14, I dove with huge sea turtles, various-sized puffer fish, large silver tarpon, and French and queen angel fish. The water temperature was 77°F and visibility was as far as the wall. My total dive time was 45 minutes (on a 50 cu ft tank) to a maximum depth of 23 feet. And all this in Boston!

I was the lucky winner of the Giant Ocean Tank dive raffled off as one of the prizes at the Boston Sea Rovers show last March. I had bought my raffle tickets on Sunday afternoon from a roving member of Sea Rovers who was trying to make a few last minute sales. The grand prize (a week of diving for two to some fantastic tropical dive site) was announced and that wasn't me, but the second announcement for first prize had my name mentioned along with it. Wow! I went downstairs from where I was hanging around our booth on the balcony and accepted the certificate and had my picture taken. I checked the certificate soon after the show and noted that the dive had to be completed by the end of September. And then I kind of kept forgetting about it and putting it off, thinking I would call about it when I became less busy. (HAH!) In mid-August I realized my time was getting short and I had better call and schedule my dive soon. When I spoke with Holly Martel-Bourbon, we were able to schedule the dive for a day that worked into my schedule AND the Aquarium's. After winning the mini-rebreather course from Cliff Simoneau at the Boston Scuba Show in February, and having that never actually materialize, I really wasn't expecting this prize to work out either.

On Saturday night last weekend, after an already busy day and an evening dancing, I stayed up late putting together my tropical dive gear and changing around the lead on Ray's weight belt to what I hoped was approximately the correct amount for the wet suit I had just acquired from Roslyn's mother. Sunday morning I got up early and fussed some more, and told Ray we were leaving at 8 for my 9:15 appointment to do a 10AM dive. We were a *LITTLE* early, so I got to sit and wait until the Aquarium officially opened. When the time was right, Leah, a member of the Aquarium Dive Club and Aquarium volunteer diver, came down to escort me upstairs to the divers' quarters. She showed Ray and me around, made me sign all the necessary waivers, introduced me to Mike, also an Aquarium Dive Club member and volunteer diver, who was to be my escort in the tank, and gave me a little information about the protocol for the dive. The usual 10 o'clock feeding was to be postponed until 11 so there would not be food in the water when a guest diver was in there. Although the "coral reef" in the tank is not real and it wouldn't hurt it if I touched it, it was recommended that

I look before I touch anything because someone might be living there. Leah mentioned that Myrtle, the large turtle that has lived at the Aquarium for a long time, thinks that all the divers are there for her benefit and that she would come by for a handout, but that since she is practically blind I should not touch her without Mike telling me it was okay. I was also told that the sharks were NOT in the tank at this time as the water was being treated with some chemicals to which they did not react well, and they had been temporarily removed. (Too bad!)

Back in the divers' area, I suited up, adjusted my bc to handle the 50 cu ft tank that had a boot on the top as well as on the bottom because of the close quarters in the tank, and hoped that my new wetsuit would be warm enough and that my weight belt would work, but not too well! They said that the water was warm enough that I wouldn't need gloves or a hood, but I could wear them if I wanted. Not likely!! The regular GOT divers, who might be in the water for several hours in a day, doing up to 5 dives, do wear full 7 mil suits, but I expected to be okay with the 3 mil I had. Mike did a giant stride into the tank and made sure that I wouldn't jump on anyone when I went in. And then I was in! With turtles and puffer fish! At first we descended to the largest sand patch to make sure I was okay, and Myrtle came by for the lettuce which Mike had brought for her. I followed Mike once around the tank and he showed me where the four filter vents were. These cause a small clockwise current in the tank against which most of the larger fish swim around and around. We went by the lowest part of the tank where two large sea turtles were sleeping with their faces against the wall, and we went through the swim-through in the middle of the tank. Then we went back to the sand and Mike rubbed his hand in the sand, and a French angel fish came over to have sand poured over its back, and other fish came along for the same massage treatment. Later, Myrtle asked for a back scratch too, and Mike took sand and rubbed it on the back of her shell, which she appeared to enjoy greatly. At one point when Mike was pouring sand over some other fish, Myrtle rubbed her shell against the "reef" (rather the way you might have seen a pig scratch its back on a fence), causing the rocks to rock and roll and shift a little.

Several times while I was swimming around variously sized puffer fish would swim right up to me, face to cute ET face, with little ET smiles, hoping I had offerings for them. Their iridescent blue eyes are really gorgeous! One of them, Porky, is over a foot long, and is the only animal in the tank with a name besides Myrtle. He had been in a movie and had been given the name at that time. The stingray didn't want to have much to do with me though, and made a point of avoiding me. The rest of the fish were either curious or ignored me. I wouldn't have even seen the two moray eels if Mike hadn't coaxed them out

Air Bubbles – October 2003

of their hiding places. The small spotted moray lived in one of the window frames around the outside of the tank. I'm not sure where the big green one came from, but when I saw it Mike was stroking it. After that it found a "hiding" place behind some "rocks" and opened its mouth for a cleaning (fish?).

I brought the camera that I won in the club raffle, and shot off the 20 pictures in really short order. I was afraid that I wouldn't remember to take *any* pictures, so I took care of that problem right away! Mike took one of me posing with Myrtle. And I tried to take one through the glass of Ray's 2-year-old nephew who had come to watch. We'll have to see how they turned out!

In short order my time was up and it was time to let the next batch of divers in the water to feed the fish. Mike was going to feed the tank inhabitants krill from the surface while Leah and another diver took food into the tank. I went back to the locker room and took a nice fresh shower with my dive gear on (YAY, no rinsing at home!), packed up my stuff and left.

It was interesting and fun swimming around in the tank and looking at all the big fish, and the little fish too, who are a little more elusive. At first you feel as though you are in a realistic environment. But after a while you realize that there aren't any little communities. There are no anemones for little fish or shrimp to live in, and no coral for parrot fish to eat. No sea fans or soft corals or sponges for the fish to hide in. Therefore there are also no anemone fish, or anemone shrimp, or parrot fish. I don't even think there are any sea stars. In spite of this, I would love to go into the tank again and look and see more than I did the first time, and to know better what all the different kinds of fish are.

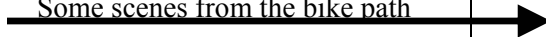
Fall Foliage Bike Ride

Come join the Frogmen as they trade their fins for forks; bike forks, that is. We will gather at Danvers Plaza (intersection of Rte 62 and Rte 1) at 10AM on Saturday, October 18. From here, we will head to Rosyln Smith's place in Arlington and hop on the Minuteman Bikeway to Bedford. Upon our return, Rosyln has graciously provided her place to rest and recap the day.

If you need assistance in transporting your bike, please contact Dave Smith.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!!!

Some scenes from the bike path



Labor Day Weekend at Nubble Light

By Ray Porter

Labor Day weekend for several club members means a camping weekend at Beach Acres in Wells, Maine. While the invitation to join them is always extended, only a core group makes the annual outing. A few headed to Wells for a day with a dive at Nubble Light included in the list of activities. This year the day-trippers were Michael Donovan, Mary Howard and Ray Porter.

Diving at Nubble Light is not always predictable. In the past three years, conditions suitable for diving were found only once. Leaving the Boston area under cloudy skies did not assure diving was possible this year, but Saturday is the only day on Labor Day Weekend on which diving is permitted at the lighthouse site. As we headed north the skies were clearer and the possibility of getting to actually dive seemed hopeful.

Mary and I arrived at Nubble around 10:00 AM. Michael was already parked and assembling his dive gear. The winds were from the southwest to northwest. The tide was incoming with modest swells. Reports from divers coming up from their dives were that the water was cold, visibility was poor, and the surge was mild. PERFECT NEW ENGLAND DIVING.

Mary, Michael and I began to suit up. Before I wiggled into my wet suit, Mary asked if I brought weight belt. It's not in the car?? No, the weight belt was safely on the porch at home. Mary and Michael did the first dive. Heading closer to the shore than lighthouse, they were followed by a small striper. I joined Mary on the second dive borrowing Michael's weight belt. (Michael brought only one tank of air.) A flounder and sea raven were observed and lobsters were picked up for our momentary amusement. The water temperature was in the mid-40's, visibility was between 10 to 12 feet and Nubble is still one of the nicest dive sites in New England.

After the dive, Mary and I headed to Beach Acres to join the campers. Bocce ball and volleyball were played, food and beverages were available, and Mars was brought into view by Paul Dumas's telescope. What a great way to end the summer!



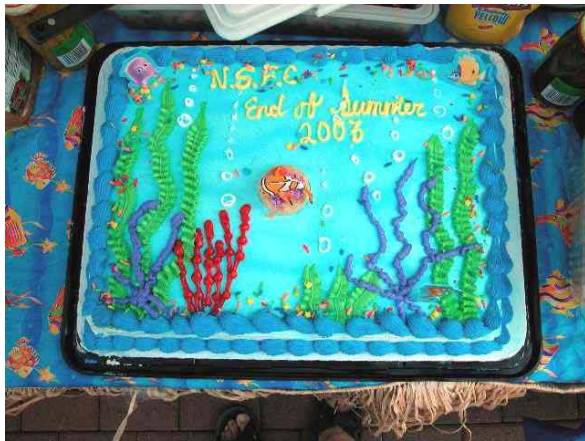
Air Bubbles - October 2003

End of Summer Bash at President Paul's



←
Clockwise from upper left:
Bill Werner, Karen Spano,
Paul Blanchette, Sandra
Ferrier, Charlene Colella,
John Ferrier, Rich Kinkade,
Patty DeClue, Lou, Joe
Terra and Ray Mount

Frank Carvalho and
Joe Terra
↓



Halloween Party

This year's annual Halloween Party will be hosted by Dave Smith in Middleton on October 25th. Be sure to don your very scariest costume for an evening of enchantment! Activities start at 7PM.

This will be a "caldrion-luck" supper so be sure to bring your very best concoction!!! Prizes will be awarded for the scariest, most original, and funniest costumes.

This is sure to be a SPOOKTACULAR evening!



42 Water St.
Beverly MA

1-978-927-9551

DIVE@underseadivers.com

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

Air Bubbles - October 2003
Annual Club Picnic, Stage Fort Park



Amy

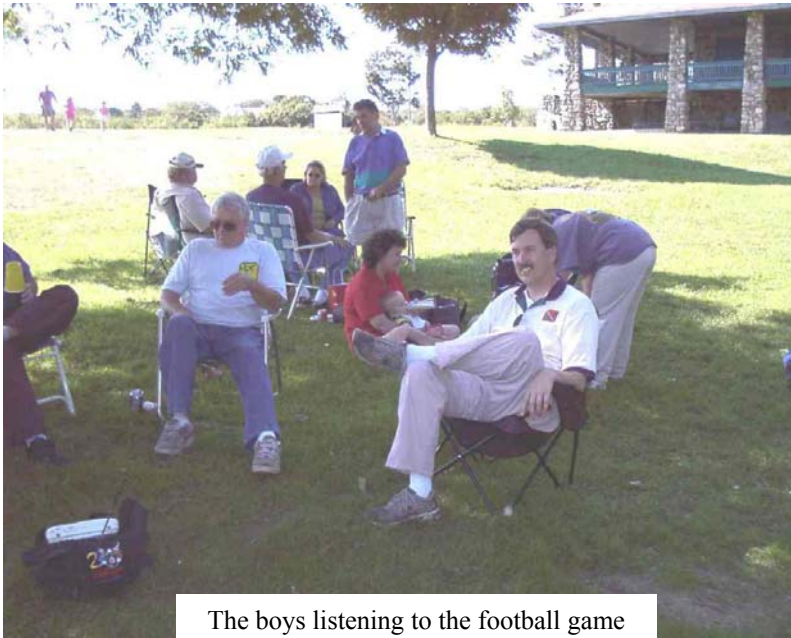


Holly and Cameron



Roslyn

Rich and Paul



The boys listening to the football game



Picnic Coordinator
- Daryl

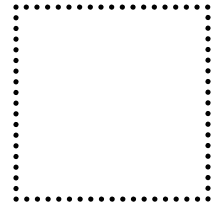
**Member of the Month
September 2003**

Dave Metrano

(See President's message for all the details.)



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



Upcoming Events!

- Sept 28: MCZM Beach Cleanup
 - Oct 8: Full Moon Dive
 - Oct 18: Rail Trail Bike Ride
 - Oct 25: Sea Mark
 - Oct 25: Halloween Party
 - Oct 30: Speaker: Jonathan Bird
- See Calendar inside for many more events.



**Sunday Dives: Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly.
After Oct 1, 8:30 AM, ready to depart for dive site at 9AM.**

The **North Shore Frogmen's Club** Meetings
are held every Thursday night at 8PM (except Major Holidays) 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.