



Air Bubbles



The Newsletter of the North Shore Frogmen's Club

Volume 47, Number 7

July 2005

From the President's Slate

24-June-05

Greetings!

This seems to be the year of "no spring". The weeks known as May have been all cold and rainy and now we are being thrown into the furnace that is June. All the better for diving! Warmer water temperatures, longer days, and balmy nights make for ideal diving. Who needs the Caribbean when we can have summer diving in New England!?

The past month has been the most exciting of the year; both above and below the water. At our home base, the Franco Club in Beverly, we enjoyed Mia Peluso's Honduras Presentation. Traveling south a bit down Route 1, club members took in "Sharks; 3D" at the New England Aquarium in Boston. Our annual canoe trip was launched on June 12. Everybody who went had a great time and lots of food at Foote Brother's private island. Never a dull moment, this year's event turned into an intense search & recovery effort for photography equipment.

Kicking out from shore, several Froggies participated in the annual Biodiversity Days Celebration at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Center in Newburyport on June 5. Although a dive here will not violate decompression tables, the life of the shallower depths can be interesting. There was also an interesting nature hike that few of us can experience.

Time to dump the air out of the BCD and go down. Our regular Sunday dive schedule is in full swing. New members; old members; everyone shows up to go diving! The site of the day is discussed and the Froggie caravan hits the road. Why not join us for a Froggie dive this weekend?

Also, we had our first beach meeting of the year. Although a little chilly for June, there were many past and present members meeting at White's beach in Manchester. Although White's isn't known for exciting dives, there are still interesting things to see in the sand and just out to the right and left of the cove among the rocks. I managed to

get in a "pre-party" dive and saw a good size striper and sea raven, several moon snails and a few tiny lobsters. After the dive, the masters of the grill cooked your entrée to order. Kite flying, diving, snorkeling, or just plain relaxing by the shore, the Froggie Beach Meeting is a must-attend event.

As the summer of '05 rolls on, we can look forward to Daryl Findlay's underwater digital photography presentation, our next beach meeting at White's Beach, the Great Annual Fish Count, and, of course, Sunday morning diving! Be sure to check out the activities listing in this issue for more details, or go to our constantly updated activities listing at www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/activities.html or at our official club website: www.northshorefrogmen.com.

In closing for this issue, I would like to offer a note of congratulations to our new diving instructor, Susan Copelas. Taking the diving instructor course, full time, is an intensely demanding undertaking. However, Susan managed to accomplish this feat while juggling work, home, kids, and a myriad of other responsibilities. Our "Mike Denneleer"-signature Froggie caps go off to you, Susan! Congratulations!!!

As always, we, the powers that be, are eager to listen to any of your comments, concerns, and suggestions! Come up and talk to us after a meeting or just send an email to:

DiveTalk@hotmail.com

and you WILL be heard!.

urino incumbo (Dive ON!)

Dave Smith

President

NSF '05

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Air Bubbles – July 2005

My First Trip to Bonaire

Steven A. Levy

June 16th.

Just got back from my first trip to Bonaire. My wife's cousin lined up a place to stay for me. Flying back and forth via American was uneventful. When I got off the plane the 85°F heat and humidity hit me. AC is a must! After getting into the place I am staying, I noticed immediately that the AC does not work. The remote needs 2 AAA's. (Got to bring them next time). Nothing was open that late, 9:30 PM. We found another diver who had AAA's in exchange for a tour of a "secret" spot to find an exotic fish.

My wife's cousin Sid, is part of a group of divers that stays for several months to do some serious photography. The last day I was there I went to a slide show and I saw some impressive photos.

Mostly I went to Beri Reef and across from Yellow Sub Marine where I got my tanks. I did mostly dusk and dawn dives. At yellow sub, eels hang out in the shallows. At Beri reef I thought I saw fish "commuting" at 6:15 AM.

The last day of my visit I went snorkeling with Caren Eckrich, a Marine biologist. This was the best activity of the trip. See Q & A below. (www.seandiscover.com, info@seandiscover.com) The main focus was on fish behavior. What I thought was "commuting" was really mating behavior. Caren explained that although there are many different types of fish on the reef, the numbers are really low. Bonaire has no continental shelf or estuaries to support more fish. Part of the reason for diversity might be that commercial fishing off Bonaire is not profitable. Also, because the island only has about 10,000 residents, about a tenth that of Aruba, the pollution is lower.

I saw an octopus one morning and a white spotted eagle ray. 2 Foot tarpon followed my light at night. They have learned that the light dazes some fish, which they in turn eat.

It was a little slow checking in at the airport for departure. They wanted all batteries removed from dive lights. The airline staff said that heat can cause alkaline batteries to catch fire.

Q & A from Caren Eckrich

What is the geology of Bonaire? The island rises out as the Caribbean and South American plates collide. It rises 0.8 mm per year. That's why you see corals on the hill tops. You could take a history by looking at corals at different heights.

Why are there no big fish? There is no place for fish to grow up. There is no continental shelf, no estuaries or salt marshes. Also, what fish do get big, are taken by local fishermen.

Why is there no sea weed? The water has too few nutrients. It's too clean. That is also why there are not big fish.

Why are there so many different types of fish? Very few predators and they are protected. What is really needed is a no fish AND no dive zone, so fish can be undisturbed.

Why are there so many different colors? The brighter colored males get mating preference.

Why are the critters so big in Eastport? Probably because different currents are meeting and causing upwelling and mixing. This causes nutrients to come to where they are needed.



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Meeting Summaries

Meeting summaries for May 26 through June 16 were not available at publication time. They will be published next month.

Search and Recovery in the Ipswich River

On Saturday June 11th while on the club canoe trip I managed to overturn my canoe. It was a hot day, and the water was warmer than I expected. The big problem was that even though all the gear I brought was watertight, it was not tethered to the canoe. So I lost my Digital camera (in its dive housing) to the river. Bill Werner managed to mark the location on his handheld GPS unit. Needless to say I was quite down for the rest of the trip and somehow managed to overturn the canoe again later on.

The next Morning Mary Howard, John Ferrier, Rich Kinkade, Bill Werner, Paul Sauvageau, Mia Peluso, and I met at the Topsfield fairground to mount a search for the wayward camera. We drove our vehicles across the marshy parking lot towards the river to launch Bill's canoe and Rich's Kayak. I decided to swim down the river with my fins and a small weight belt. It was harder than I thought to float down river, as there were many boulders and tree branches poking up from the bottom that I had to climb over or just bash into.

Now once I made it to the spot on the river that claimed my camera, I found that the current was quite strong and even with my weight belt I could not stand or hold position. At this point I was sure that the camera would have been washed down river in the current since the dive housing would have made it more neutral in the water and bulkier. I decided to see if I could even make it to the bottom in the current, with one hand on the stationary canoe I used my other hand as a wing in the current to pivot down to the bottom. Once the bottom was in sight I grabbed a rock and hugged the bottom of the river, with the current flowing over me to keep me down. Just for fun I hand over hand started to crawl up river. The visibility was about two feet at best down there. After crawling up river about 8 feet from where the canoe rolled over my hand landed on an odd shaped rock. It was the camera, safe and dry in its housing! I think I cussed more there on the river bottom than I ever had.

Once I popped to the surface with my lucky catch, we sent it back up river in Rich's Kayak. There was no sign of any of the other items lost, so we prepared to depart in Bill's canoe up river. Now at this point, after all that happened, we made sure to tether most every thing in the canoe. I bring this up because as we pushed off from the branch that was hanging over half the river, we flipped the canoe. This was the third time in two days, and I was the only common element, so I am now thinking my head must be made of lead to allow for such a bad center of gravity in a canoe. Anyway once we dumped the water out of the canoe and started up river we found that we needed to get out and push because of the current. This was the hardest part of the whole day, getting back up river.

I thank Mary, John, Rich, Bill, Paul and Mia for their help because at the end of the day I had not lost a single thing to the river other than my pride, but others had. Paul Sauvageau had lost a 35mm film camera, a hat, sunglasses, and a blood sugar analyzer. Bill Werner lost a rope when his canoe overturned after the rescue. Next year I will definitely be using a Kayak and strapping everything to it!



Daryl "FIN" Findlay

Pan Mass Challenge

Allen Morris 3 Main Dr. Wenham, MA. 01984

Dear Froggies;

Every spring for the past ten years I have gone to my closet looking for my bike riding shorts. Once found, I make the attempt to pull them up over my legs and hips. Once donned I get the impression that I look like an elephant trying to put on a girdle. My cycling friends say that my bike looks as though it is compressing into the earth and that they hear a distinct moan emanating from it as I straddle the seat. After about a month or so of riding, my legs, heart and body are in sync with my mind and I think I'm ready for the Pan Mass Challenge. The physical training is easy by comparison; the emotional challenge is difficult because I think about why I'm doing it. I'm doing it for the people that I've lost to Cancer.

The PMC is a 200 mile, 2 day, cycling event to raise funds for the Dana Farber Cancer Research Hospital. It is here where the story of the Jimmy Fund began over sixty years ago. Jimmy is alive and well and living in Maine. He spoke at a kick-off assembly about two years ago .He's alive because of the treatments he received as a child at the Dana Farber.

I do the ride because I love seeing the children who have had their experiences with Cancer. They cheer the loudest when we cycle by them. They wave home-made signs made of poster board and paper and each has a message of hope for a cure for Cancer. Their cheers give me a boost when my knees are aching from riding. Their faces and their messages of hope inspire me. And I know that I'm fortunate because I can ride when others can't. Please join me in supporting research for a cure by sending a tax-deductible donation to the PMC.

Thank-you

Allen Morris



**4th Annual GAFC Celebration Event
The Stellwagen Bank National
Marine Sanctuary
&
The National Marine Sanctuary
Foundation**



On July 16, 2005, The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) will host the 4th annual Northeast Great Annual Fish Count (GAFC) event.

The celebration will be centered at The Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Divers and their families will have complimentary access to all of the Heritage Center's exhibits and facilities.

GAFC dives are planned at seven (7) shore locations around Cape Ann, along with dives in the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and at Nubble Light, York, ME. There will be a picnic, free raffles and door prizes. One survey form submitted after each dive will count as an entry into the raffles for each diver. We are expecting more than 100 divers to participate in the day's celebration.

Recognized as one of the nation's most significant marine locations, the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is home to endangered whales, flocks of seabirds, schools of fish and a wide variety of invertebrates, the Sanctuary is a living classroom and laboratory for nature's wonders. In 2001, the Sanctuary joined forces with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation to bring the acclaimed REEF Fish Survey Project and the Great Annual Fish Count to New England's SCUBA-diving community. The GAFC mobilizes and trains volunteer divers and snorkelers to identify and document fish diversity and population trends in marine sanctuaries and coastal areas.

During our 3rd Annual Sanctuary/GAFC event held on July 17, 2004, 82 divers conducted 113 fish and invertebrate surveys at 7 locations around Cape Ann and southern Maine, making this the largest single day GAFC event held in the United States for the third year in a row! Join us as our celebration continues with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Great Annual Fish Count by making a donation to NMSF's Fish Counters Raffle. Prizes in the raffle will reward those divers who have undergone Northeast Fish and Invertebrate ID training and have volunteered their time by conducting survey dives. An additional raffle open to the public will seek to raise funds for Sanctuary marine education and stewardship programs.

2005 Grand Prizes include: Dive in the New England Aquarium Giant Ocean Tank, dive trip to Bonaire, BCD from Dacor, 2 Excursion rolling gear bags from Oceanic, Wetsuit from Scubapro, private Kayak Diving Specialty certification class – general raffle prizes include masks, fins, snorkels, dive lights, books, wetsuits, marker buoys, t-shirts and much more valued at over \$8,300.00!

For more information, please contact: Bob Michelson, event coordinator for the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary at (781) 848-8870, or by e-mail, pbm.inc@verizon.net.

Me and My Buddy (Inspiration Rebreather)

Because Rebreathers are more complicated than Open Circuit Scuba there have been many fatalities of very experienced divers over the past years. So understanding this, I don't take any of the training or maintenance of the rebreather lightly. Even buoyancy skills need to be relearned when using a rebreather because you can't just breathe in more to adjust your buoyancy as we all do with open circuit scuba. Training and preparation are definitely the most important life saving components of rebreather diving, because in an emergency a rebreather offers many possible ways to save your life, but you have to know what they are and you need the training and preparation to keep a cool head to think your way out of danger.

About two years ago, my father and I started taking rebreather training from Northeast Scuba. Soon after we started the class we bought Paul Blanchette's Inspiration Rebreather. Due to circumstances, we never got around to finishing the class and the rebreather lay in the corner of my apartment. A few months ago I decided it was too sad a sight to see the rebreather unused; like a guitar needs to be played scuba gear needs to be dove.

It took some time, but with Paul Blanchette's help we got the rebreather in dive shape and I did two pool dives with Tom Huff from Northeast Scuba. After reading the manual several times and gaining an understanding of how to set up and maintain the unit, it was time to do some open water dives. The class requires around 400 minutes of bottom time (or 7 or 8 dives) for the certification. Due to these long cold bottom times Tom usually conducts the class at a spring in Florida. Since I didn't know when I would be able to make it down to Florida, we did the dives here in New England.

On June 6th, my first two open water dives on the rebreather were at Mirror Lake at Fort Devon, a nice little lake with a depth of about 30 feet. Most drills we did were designed to allow the diver to become accustomed to diving and bailing out of the rebreather. Bail out in most cases means that you switch to a regular open circuit regulator, then assess the problem, fix it, and get back breathing on the rebreather as soon as possible. As I swam around the lake, it occurred to me that rebreathers have one additional benefit for cold-water divers. The reaction of the scrubber removing carbon dioxide from your breath also produces moisture and heat, so I had no dry mouth (common to diving) and I was being warmed from the inside out by the air I was breathing (open circuit divers lose a lot of heat when exhaling the warm air from their lungs out to the open ocean). I felt great after my two 1.5 hour dives in the lake.

On June 10th, Dives 3 and 4 were conducted at Nubble Light in Maine. I was one of the few divers that had never dived this spot before. Lucky for me the sea and weather were perfect. We geared up just as before, but this time we hung a 30 cubic foot stage tank on our left side to serve as a pony in case something went weird and to give us extra gas for performing the drills. The coolest part of this dive was when I picked up an unsuspecting sea raven and moved him out of my way. Don't get me wrong, marine life knows you are there, but you don't sound like a steam train constantly blowing its whistle to them with a rebreather. So you find that a lot of marine life must see you first to know you are there, and at that point they will most likely rely on their natural camouflage and sit around like lazy fish staring at you. Another notable item about these dives was that a large log had somehow entangled itself in many lobster traps and was now a menace to the boats in the area. The people that run the park in front of Nubble Light asked us to cut the log loose from the traps. Because the visibility was so good that day, I could see all the way to the surface from the sixty-foot depth we cut the huge log free from. There were so many lobster traps tangled together it looked like a 60 foot Christmas tree from the bottom. Once the log was cut loose, Tom tied any loose traps together so the lobstermen could haul them all out.

On June 13th, dives 5 and 6 took place on the wreck of the Chester Polling. We dove from the big Cape Ann Divers Charter boat. As with the last two dives, we hung a 30 cubic foot stage tank on our left side to serve as a pony in case something went weird and to give us extra gas for performing the drills. It had been about two years since I last dove on the Polling and I was interested to see how it had fared during the last few winters. My first impression of the wreck was that it lacked a lot of the life I was used to seeing on it. When I looked into the break (where the vessel has broken in two), I saw few anemones and supports left. The top deck is definitely sagging more, though the interior seems intact. Peeking in through the portholes, I could see a lot of items that I didn't remember being in the rooms. I suspect that storms had uncovered sections of the interior that were covered in silt. This thought was brought home when Tom Huff found an intact brass cage light. No one had recovered a light like this from the wreck in the last few years as far as I know.

Now, that I have finished my final training dive on the "yellow box", I plan to start from the beginning and do some long shore dives and shallow boat dives to gain more experience with the unit.



Daryl "FIN" Findlay

Live Dive to the Steamship Portland

(Email communication from Ivar G. Babb of the University of Connecticut, forwarded by Ted Maney, of the Marine Science Center of Northeastern University.)

Join the NOAA Undersea Research Center (NURC) at the University of Connecticut and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) on Saturday 9 July 2005 as scientists and archaeologists explore the steamship Portland via a remotely operated vehicle (ROV). 45 minute live Internet broadcasts from the shipwreck will take place at 11:00am and 2:00 pm (EDT). Details on how to access the live dive will be available at <http://www.nurc.uconn.edu> by July 1st.

Viewers of the live broadcast will witness the remarkable, yet fragile condition of the historic shipwreck. The Portland's remains dramatically convey the terrible ordeal its passengers experienced prior to the steamship's sinking. Furthermore, the biological diversity resident on the wreck is a snapshot of the sanctuary's ecosystem and provides a sharp juxtaposition with the human loss associated with the shipwreck.

Three years of historical and archaeological research by the SBNMS and NURC team resulted in the vessel's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Since confirming the Portland's location in SBNMS in 2002, scientists have documented the site to learn about New England's maritime heritage. The live broadcast is supported by NOAA's Preserve American Initiative Grant Program.

Launched in 1889, the Portland was one of the most palatial coastal steamships afloat as it traveled between Portland, Maine and Boston. Measuring over 280 feet long, the Maine-built wooden-hulled side paddle wheel steamship transported passengers and freight along the New England coast with a relatively uneventful record until its loss with all hands, an estimated 192 persons, in November 1898. The Portland became known as the "Titanic of New England" due to the scale of the tragedy and its impact on the region.

SBNMS and NURC have been active partners since the sanctuary's designation by Congress in 1992. Technical support from NURC has been crucial to satisfying SBNMS's mandate to inventory, assess, nominate to the National Register of Historic Places, interpret, and manage its maritime heritage resources. Through this partnership, NOAA scientists have located over a dozen potentially historic shipwrecks in the sanctuary and

completed detailed investigations of the sites with side scan sonar, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs).

Congress designated the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in 1992 as 'an area of special national significance.' Virtually the size of the state of Rhode Island, the sanctuary stretches between Cape Ann and Cape Cod in federal waters off of Massachusetts. SBNMS sits astride the historic shipping routes and fishing grounds for such ports as Boston, Gloucester, Plymouth, Salem, and Provincetown. These ports have been centers of maritime activity in New England for nearly 400 years.

As a result, the sanctuary is a repository for this nation's maritime heritage resources in the form of shipwrecks.

Historic uses of the sanctuary include fishing and maritime transportation, all evidenced by the remains of historic shipwrecks on the seafloor.

NOAA's National Undersea Research Program (NURP) funds six research centers and one institute around the country at major universities. A key strength of NURP is its partnership with the nation's science community. The National Undersea Research Center for the North Atlantic and Great Lakes is located at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. This center supports and conducts research in the waters off the northeast coast of the U.S. including the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, Southern New England Bight including Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes.



Air Bubbles – July 2005
Beach Meeting – June 23rd



Is Arnie one of triplets???



Dave Metrano enjoyed a kite



Margarita Mia



Dave, Arnie, Rich, John and Marlene cooking up a picnic
Visit our website at www.northshorefrogmen.com

Activities Calendar

July 2005

					1	2
3 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30					8	9
10 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	11	12	13	14 8PM Meeting	15	16 REEF Great Annual Fish Count
17 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	18	19	20	21 6PM Beach Meeting	22	23
24 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	25	26	27	28 8PM Meeting	29	30
31 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	1	2	3	4 8PM Meeting	5	6
7 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	8	9	10	11 8PM Meeting	12	13
14 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	15	16	17	18 8PM Meeting	19	20
21 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	22	23	24	25 8PM Meeting	26	27
28 Sunday Dive meet 8, leave 8:30	29	30	31	August 2005		

Activities List

- **Jul 7, Thu,** "Digital Photography in a snail shell" (nut shell to non-divers). Daryl Findlay is planning to give his presentation on digital photography.
- **Jul 16, Sat,** 4th Annual **Great Annual Fish Count** at Stage Fort Park, Gloucester.
- **Jul 21, Thu,** **Beach meeting, 6PM,** at White Beach, Manchester.
- **Dec 10, Sat** **Presicent's Banquet** at the Franco American Club.

Dive Belize

October 22-29, 2005

Airfare from Boston,
7 nights beachfront villa
accommodations complete with
refrigerator, stove and mini bar,
breakfast daily,
swimming pool.
5 2-tank boat dives daily.

Add-ons:
trip to the Blue Hole,
3rd tank daily.

ONLY \$1399

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Deadline for submissions
to the August issue
of Air Bubbles is
Thursday, July 21



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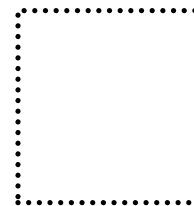
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Be sure to check out the Activities
Website at:

[http://www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/
activities.html](http://www.geocities.com/nsfrogmen/activities.html)

Air Bubbles – July 2005

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



Upcoming Events!

- July 7: Digital Photo presentation
- July 16: Great American Fish Count
- July 21: Beach Meeting



NOTE: DIVE TIME CHANGE MAY 1ST

“Summer” Sunday Dives: Meet at Burger King on Rte 128 in Beverly, at 8:00AM ready to depart for dive site at 8:30AM.

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.